

**Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Report
Land adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial
Hailsham, East Sussex**

NGR 558983 107983 to 559164 108286

**ASE Project No: 5331
Site Code: CTH 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012039
OASIS ID: archaeol6-118843
Eastbourne Museum Service, Accession No: 2012.01**

**By
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by
Luke Barber, Trista Clifford
Karine Le Hégarat and Sarah Porteus**

March 2012

**Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Report
Land adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial
Hailsham, East Sussex**

NGR 558983 107983 to 559164 108286

**ASE Project No: 5331
Site Code: CTH 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012039
OASIS ID: archaeol6-118843
Eastbourne Museum Service, Accession No: 2012.01**

**By
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by
Luke Barber, Trista Clifford
Karine Le Hégarat and Sarah Porteus**

March 2012

**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 Clancy Docwra Ltd. to undertake a metal detector survey (MDS) and archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial, south of Hailsham, East Sussex on part of the route of the Lyndholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme.

The MDS resulted in the recovery of a range of objects, mostly post-medieval or modern in date. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the overburden during the SMS, and one undated feature, a possible hearth was recorded towards the northern end of the monitored area.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Sample**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive
- Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts
- Table 3: MDS Assemblage by Material
- Table 4: Overview of the MDS assemblage
- Table 5: Sample Quantification

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site plan showing MDS and SMS areas
- Figure 3: Plot of MDS results
- Figure 4: Plan and photos of pit [003]

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd. to undertake a metal detector survey (MTS) and archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) adjacent to the Cuckoo Trail, south of Hailsham, East Sussex (NGR 558983 107983 to 559164 108286; Fig. 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The area under consideration consists of a group of low-lying pasture fields through which the 30m wide easement of the pipeline was to be excavated, to the east of the line of the Cuckoo Trail. Field boundaries consist of fences and low banks, some with associated shallow ditches.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. There is no recorded superficial geology at the site (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The current archaeological work was carried out as part of the Lyndholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme. The majority of the groundworks followed the line of the Cuckoo Trail, the former railway line between Polegate and Hailsham. However some of the work was 'off-line' involving excavation of pipe trenches across agricultural land.

1.3.2 Although the development is permitted work, falling outside the usual planning regulation framework, Clancy Docwra commissioned a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) of the route (Atkins 2011), which recommended the implementation of a geophysical survey of areas of potential archaeological potential to be impacted by the scheme (ASE 2012a). Given the results of this survey, and following consultation with East Sussex County Council, it was agreed that a metal detector survey and strip map and sample exercise would be undertaken in advance of the laying of the pipework in the northern part of the scheme.

1.3.3 Archaeology South-East prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation for this work which was approved by East Sussex County Council in advance of the commencement of work (ASE 2012b).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the strip map and sample exercise, as given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

- To record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains identified in advance of and/or during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.
- To assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- To test the results of the magnetometry survey and establish the source of the measured magnetic responses in so far as is possible.

1.4.2 The aims of the metal-detector survey were:

- To identify any significant spatial concentrations and provide a broad indication of periods represented.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the metal detector survey and archaeological strip, map and sample carried out during late January and early February 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by members of the Independent Historical Research Group (IHRG) and by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist, ASE). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A full appreciation of the archaeological background information for the length of the scheme was provided in the DBA (Atkins 2011) and is repeated with additions below with due acknowledgement. Numbers from the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) are also included.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A finds scatter including Mesolithic flints was discovered west of Downash (HER No. MES5159). A number of flint artefacts of the Neolithic period have been found in the environs of Polegate, including at Greenleaf Garden, during work on the Polegate Bypass and at Bluebells Development at Dittons Road, Polegate (HER No. MES15779; Stevens 2007; Stevens forthcoming).

2.3 Iron-Age/Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Excavations carried out in advance of residential housing at the Bluebells Development uncovered a complex of ditches, gullies and post-holes, making up the remains of a settlement or farm dating to the late Iron Age-early Roman period (*ibid.*). A Roman coin hoard of the 3rd century AD was found in the mid-20th century in Victoria Road, Polegate

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 A scatter of pits dating to the Anglo-Saxon period was uncovered during the Bluebells Development excavations. Radiocarbon samples returned dates of 670AD to 880AD and 660AD to 870AD, both at 95.4% probability (*ibid.*).

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 The current site lies close to an Archaeological Notification Area (East Sussex County Council No. 215) that relates to medieval features at Freshfield Farm consisting of traces of ridge and furrow, the remains of a possible chalk causeway, possible wooden causeway and hollow way associated with the Medieval farmstead here (HER Nos. MES5171, MES5172, MES5173, MES5174).
- 2.5.2 There is place name evidence of a possible 10th century farmhouse at Ersham (HER No. MES 19187). West of Downash, medieval pottery was found in a ploughed field (HER No. MES5159). Evidence of a medieval farmstead was uncovered at the western end of the Polegate Bypass (Stevens 2007), and medieval pottery was recovered at the Bluebells Development (Stevens forthcoming)

2.6 Post-Medieval

- 2.6.1 There is documentary evidence of 19th and early 20th century industrial complexes within the general area, including brickworks (HER No. MES 19194) and ropewalk (HER No. MES 19195) at Coldthorne Lane, Hailsham, brickworks and tramway at Station Road, Hailsham (HER No. MES 19191) and brickworks at Oaklands, Ersham (HER No. MES 19193). The now demolished Ersham Lodge is recorded on 19th and early 20th maps of Hailsham. A post-medieval brick kiln with an associated lime kiln was recorded during the archaeological work on the Polegate Bypass (Stevens 2007).
- 2.6.2 A WWII aircraft crash site and anti-tank cubes are known to have existed at Ersham, Hailsham (HER Nos. MES7927, MES 7910).

2.7 The Geophysical Survey

- 2.7.1 A magnetometry survey of the site detected limited evidence for possible archaeological activity. This evidence was largely restricted to a number of discrete positive anomalies and a single linear negative anomaly. Faint evidence for agricultural activity in the form of plough marks was also identified (ASE 2012a).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Based on the findings of the magnetometer survey, Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) required the following archaeological mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the construction programme:

- A metal-detector sweep of the northern easement.
- A mechanical strip of the northern easement under archaeological supervision down the top of archaeological layers or, if not present, to natural geology.
- Archaeological excavation, sampling and recording of all identified features.

3.1 The Metal Detector Survey

3.1.1 A team of experienced metal detectorists systematically surveyed the easement in 50m long blocks. Each metal detectorist was responsible for removing identified metallic objects from the topsoil or subsoil during the course of the survey.

3.1.2 Each artefact was then individually numbered, bagged and its location was plotted onto a scale plan of the easement. All artefacts were then retained for further study at ASE's offices with the exception of obviously modern objects of no intrinsic archaeological value (i.e. drinks cans, bottle tops etc.).

3.2 The Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

3.2.1 The easement for the scheme was stripped by a Caterpillar 311c 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.

3.2.2 The mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of the 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 were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.

3.2.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record was also kept.

3.3 Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at their offices in Portslade, and will be deposited in Eastbourne Local History Museum under Accession No. 2012.01 in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	4
Watching Brief Record Forms	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	1
Digital Photographs	32
Bulk finds	1 bag
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	1 bag

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE RESULTS (Fig. 2 and 4)

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

4.1.1 The easement was stripped to the surface of the underlying geological deposits. The overburden consisted of a mid-brown humic silty clay topsoil, context [001]. A small group of artefacts was recovered from this deposit, mostly late post-medieval in date, but also including a flint scraper. The underlying 'natural' clay varied in colour between orangey brown and greyish yellow, context [002].

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Topsoil	350mm
002	Layer	Natural Geology	-
003	Cut	?Hearth	-
004	Fill	?Hearth	50mm

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Pit [003]

4.2.1 The only recorded feature was a small circular pit [003] encountered towards the northern end of the stripped area. The top of the feature was encountered at a height of 10.13m AOD. The feature had steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base. Discolouration of the surrounding clay and at the base strongly suggests heating of material *in situ*, perhaps suggesting that the feature represents a small hearth. The single fill, context [004] was a charcoal-rich blackish grey silty clay, which was retained in its entirety as an environmental sample.

4.2.2 No datable artefactual evidence was recovered either by hand-collection of from the environmental sample, and therefore the isolated feature remains undated.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Metal Detected Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.1.1 A total of sixty nine objects were recovered during the metal detector survey (MDS) Copper alloy, iron and lead are the primary materials represented. One composite bone and white metal knife and an object of uncertain alloy are also present. A summary of the assemblage by material is shown in Table 3.
- 5.1.2 Overall the objects are in good condition. No active corrosion was noted on the non-ferrous objects. Registered Find numbers were assigned on site, which refer to the Area (A to G) where they were found, followed by a find number (plotted in Fig. 3). Where two objects were found together, a lower case suffix has been added to the RF number. All objects have been recorded in full on pro forma archive sheets
- 5.1.3 The vast majority of the assemblage is made up by modern objects, whilst a small number are of earlier date (Table 4). Very few could not be assigned a function and remain unidentified. A brief summary is given below by period.

Material	Count
Alloy	1
Composite	1
Copper Alloy	29
Iron	13
Lead	26
Total	69

Table 3: MDS assemblage by material

RF No.	Object	Material	Period	Weight (g)	Comments
A1	KNIF	COMP	MOD	30	
A10	BULL	LEAD	MOD	6	.32 pellet
A11	BOLT	IRON	MOD	82	
A12	SPOO	COPP	PMED	12	handle fragment
A12a	VESS	COPP	MED-PMED	96	pot leg
A2	BUTT	COPP	MOD	4	tinned
A3	BUTT	COPP	MOD	<2	
A4	RING	IRON	PMED	28	
A5	KEY	COPP	MOD	6	
A6	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
A7	BUTT	COPP	PMED	<2	integral loop
A8	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
A9	TOKEN	LEAD	MED-PMED	6	M and two pellets
B1	RING	COPP	PMED	<2	
B2	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
B3	BELL	COPP	PMED	22	crotal bell fragment
B4	BUCK	IRON	PMED	26	pin present
B5	BUTT	COPP	MOD	<2	
B6	STUD	COPP	PMED	<2	
C1	WAST	LEAD	MED-PMED	<2	droplet
C10	BULL	LEAD	PMED	6	musket ball
C11	MOUN	IRON	PMED	4	
C12	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
C2	HING	COPP	MOD	14	
C3	COIN	COPP	PMED	6	halfpenny
C4	FERR	IRON	PMED	26	internal screwthread
C5	UNK	COPP	PMED	10	rod fragment
C6	HING	COPP	PMED	4	decorative fragment
C7	VESS	COPP	MED-PMED	26	pot leg
C8	UNK	LEAD	PMED	4	conical
C9	WAST	LEAD	MED-PMED	6	
D1	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
D10	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
D11	BULL	LEAD	MOD	<2	22mm pellet
D12	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
D2	STUD	COPP	PMED	10	? Draw handle
D3	BULL	LEAD	MOD	32	17mm slingshot
D4	RING	COPP	PMED	4	
D5	HAMM	IRON	MOD	598	
D6	BUCK	IRON	PMED	32	pin missing

RF No.	Object	Material	Period	Weight (g)	Comments
A1	KNIF	COMP	MOD	30	
A10	BULL	LEAD	MOD	6	.32 pellet
A11	BOLT	IRON	MOD	82	
A12	SPOO	COPP	PMED	12	handle fragment
A12a	VESS	COPP	MED-PMED	96	pot leg
A2	BUTT	COPP	MOD	4	tinned
A3	BUTT	COPP	MOD	<2	
A4	RING	IRON	PMED	28	
A5	KEY	COPP	MOD	6	
A6	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
A7	BUTT	COPP	PMED	<2	integral loop
A8	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
D7	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	
D8	BULL	LEAD	MOD	20	16mm slingshot
D9	RIVE	COPP	PMED	4	
E1	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
E10	FITT	IRON	PMED	36	swivel fitting loop
E2	TAP	COPP	PMED	16	barrel tap fragment
E3	LOOP	IRON	PMED	24	figure 8 loop
E4	?WAST	COPP	PMED	136	fragmentary folded sheet
E5	NUT	IRON	MOD	130	square
E6	UNK	LEAD	PMED	16	cylindrical object
E7	WAST	LEAD	PMED	18	casting waste
E8	RING	IRON	MOD	180	
E9	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
F1	UNK	COPP	MOD	4	?hairclip
F10	BOLT	IRON	MOD	<2	
F11	BUTT	COPP	MOD	<2	
F12	MOUN	COPP	PMED	8	
F2	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
F3	UNK	COPP	MOD	88	iron strap with rivet ?knife
F4	NUT	ALLOY	MOD	<2	
F5	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
F6	COIN	COPP	MOD	<2	cut in half
F7	FERR	COPP	MOD	8	
F8	COIN	COPP	MOD	<2	halfpenny
F9	BUCK	COPP	PMED	4	D shaped
G1	WAST	COPP	MED-PMED	2	strip
G2	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot

RF No.	Object	Material	Period	Weight (g)	Comments
A1	KNIF	COMP	MOD	30	
A10	BULL	LEAD	MOD	6	.32 pellet
A11	BOLT	IRON	MOD	82	
A12	SPOO	COPP	PMED	12	handle fragment
A12a	VESS	COPP	MED-PMED	96	pot leg
A2	BUTT	COPP	MOD	4	tinned
A3	BUTT	COPP	MOD	<2	
A4	RING	IRON	PMED	28	
A5	KEY	COPP	MOD	6	
A6	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
A7	BUTT	COPP	PMED	<2	integral loop
A8	BULL	LEAD	MOD	22	16mm slingshot
G3	WAST	LEAD	MED-PMED	40	
G4	BULL	LEAD	MOD	32	17mm slingshot

Table 4: Overview of the MDS assemblage

Medieval to Post-Medieval

5.1.4 Seven objects fall within this broad date range due to lack of diagnostic characteristics. Pot legs A12a and C7 date from the 13th to the 17th century. Lead token A9 could be of similar date but is likely to date from the latter part of the range. The remaining objects are metalworking waste fragments.

Post-Medieval

5.1.5 The twenty six objects from this period include dress accessories, ammunition and household objects. Two large iron buckles, B4 and D6, are likely to be from horse furniture. A smaller D shaped copper alloy buckle, F9, is more likely a dress accessory. A single button, A7, is plain with an integral loop.

5.1.6 Household objects include an 18th-19th century spoon handle, A12, various fixtures and fittings and a barrel tap fragment, E2, dating to the 19th century. A fragment from the lower quadrant of a large copper alloy animal or 'crotal' bell, B3, is of 17th-19th century date, as is a small lead musket ball, C10. The only complete coin of this period is a halfpenny of unidentified ruler.

Modern

5.1.7 Thirty six objects are of late 19th to 20th century date. The modern assemblage is dominated by 16mm lead slingshots, a standard type. In addition, structural fittings such as nuts and bolts were numerous. Other finds include an iron hammer head, a small copper alloy key and several copper alloy buttons.

Significance and Recommendations on Discard

- 5.1.8 The objects have limited potential to inform on the range of activities on site. They are not of local or regional significance. All objects have been recorded for the archive. It is recommended that objects of modern date are discarded.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 Topsoil context [001] was the only deposit on site to produce pottery. The sherds are of small/medium size (to 40mm across) and consist of a typical domestic mix that can be placed between c. 1890 and 1940. Coarsewares include a 54g sherd of local glazed red earthenware as well as fragments from two English stoneware preserve jars (38g) (one with close-set vertical ribbing). Finewares consist of three sherds (20g) of blue transfer-printed ware (including a willow-pattern side plate), one of green transfer-printed ware (6g), two pieces from a moulded and green-highlighted tureen lid in refined white earthenware (22g) and three plain white sherds of English porcelain (including a saucer) (16g).

5.3 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.3.1 A single struck flint, an end-scraper, weighing 12g, was recovered from topsoil context [001]. The piece is manufactured from a light grey flint with a thin buff abraded outer surface. The artefact is in a moderate state of preservation, though it displays minimal signs of weathering on the right-hand edge. The retouched piece is not characteristic of a particular period.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.4.1 A total of seven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 207g were recovered from topsoil context [001]. All the fragments were peg tile in a fine orange sandy fabric with sparse rich iron rich pellets. The tile is of 18th to 19th century date. The assemblage has been discarded.

5.5 The Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 One upper and one lower valve of the common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) were recovered from the topsoil [001]. Some parasitic activity is evident suggesting a post-medieval date

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE by Karine Le Hégarat

6.1 Methodology

6.1.1 A soil sample was taken from the fill of pit [004] during the archaeological Strip Map and Sample exercise undertaken at the site to establish evidence of environmental remains and to recover dating evidence. The 10L sample was processed in a flotation tank and the flot and residues captured on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the sample contents is presented in Table 5.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Sampling produced a moderately large flot (120ml) which contained a small amount of fine rootlets and uncharred weed seeds. Wood charcoal fragments were frequent in the flot and residue. A very small amount of non-diagnostic amorphous pieces of burnt clay <12mm in size were also noted in the residue. No other artefacts or charred plant remains such as charred crop remains or weed seeds were present.

6.2.2 The relatively rich assemblage of wood charcoal fragments contained large-sized pieces >25mm. No round wood fragments were noted and the assemblage consists of amorphous fragments. The majority of the charcoal assemblage was in a poor state of preservation with a large proportion of the fragments percolated by sediments. This could be an indication of fluctuating ground water or it might indicate repetitive flooding events. In damp environments, sediments often percolate charred remains, including charcoal, which can result in poor preservation characterised by internal damage to the anatomical structures. Although the assemblage may contain some fragments with anatomical features sufficiently clear for identification no identifications have been obtained for this feature as the value of identifying charcoal from an isolated feature and potential interpretations of the material are limited. Although the assemblage may contain taxa suitable for radiocarbon dating, it was considered likely that percolation by sediments might result in contamination, meaning that any resultant dates may be unreliable.

Table 5: Sample Quantification (1 = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Flot								Residue				
					Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1001	004	Hearth	10	10	22	120	30	2	* cf. <i>Atriplex</i> sp. (2)	***	****	****	***	100	***	164	B. Clay **/10g

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 The multi-disciplinary approach applied at the current site provided a thorough examination of the area of the easement, with the geophysical and metal detector survey encompassing the entire width of the area and the watching brief able to examine the stripped element.

7.2 Results from the geophysical survey (ASE 2012a) did not immediately suggest that the area would be rich in archaeological remains. However, a survey on similar geology to the south at Dittons Road, Polegate showed no distinct patterning on a site which actually contained a range of archaeological features (ASE 2009; Stevens forthcoming).

7.3 Metal Detector Survey

7.3.1 The results of the metal detector survey were disappointing. Most of the material was late post-medieval or modern in date. Even given the impoverished nature of metalwork assemblages known from local rural sites (e.g. the medieval farmstead recorded on the Polegate Bypass: Stevens 2007) the assemblage did not suggest the presence of an archaeological site of a metal-utilising period.

7.4 Strip, Map and Sample Exercise

7.4.1 The results of the directed mechanical stripping of the topsoil confirmed the results of the geophysical and metal detector survey; only one archaeological feature was encountered in the entire stripped area. The paucity of material recovered from the topsoil suggested that this was not due to a high level of truncation, and that the area has simply never been the focus of occupation (arguably even at its periphery).

7.4.2 However, the feature is clearly indicative of human activity, if only at a very limited scale. The absence of dating evidence is clearly problematic.

7.4.3 The recent excavation work at Dittons Road (*ibid.*) uncovered similar burnt features. Radiocarbon dating showed that these were Middle Anglo-Saxon in date. Unfortunately the charcoal from the current feature was too percolated by sediments to provide reliable material for dating. It must therefore be concluded that the single encountered feature is undated and given its isolation is arguably of limited significance.

7.4.4 It was unfortunate that the all-too-rare opportunity to study a Wealden rural site produced such negative results. However it is possible that the planned archaeological project towards the southern end of the present scheme (and close to the aforementioned Dittons Road site) will yield a more positive outcome.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ASE 2009. *Results from a Magnetometer Survey of Land at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2009203
- ASE 2012a. *Detailed Magnetometer Survey Lynholm Road Pump Station to Hailsham South WTW Rising Main Northern Section, East Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2012015
- ASE 2012b. *Lynholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme Written Scheme of Investigation for Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*. Unpub. ASE document
- Atkins 2011. *Lynholm Road Pump Station to Hailsham South WTW Rising Main Heritage Desk-Based Appraisal*. Unpub. Atkins document ref. 002_Cuckoo Trail
- BGS 2012. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 06.02.2012 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html
- Butler, C. 1997. A Mesolithic site at Streat Lane, Streat, East Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **135**, 7-31
- Stevens, S. 2007. Archaeological Investigations on the A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **145**, 119-35
- Stevens, S, forthcoming. Archaeological Investigations at the Bluebells Development, Dittons Road, Polegate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his input at various stages of the project. The co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors is gratefully acknowledged.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	CTH12					
Identification Name and Address	Land adjacent to the Cuckoo Trail, south of Hailsham					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 558983 107983 to 559164 108286					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5331					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	MDS ✓	SMS ✓
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. Jan. 2012 – Feb. 2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd. to undertake a metal detector survey (MTS) and archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) adjacent to the Cuckoo Trail, south of Hailsham, East Sussex on part of the route of the Lyndholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme.</p> <p>The MDS resulted in the recovery of a range of objects, mostly post-medieval or modern in date. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the overburden during the SMS, and one undated feature, a possible hearth was recorded towards the northern end of the monitored area.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-118843

Project details

Project name	A Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial, Hailsham, East Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd. to undertake a metal detector survey (MTS) and archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial, south of Hailsham, East Sussex on part of the route of the Lyndholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme.</p> <p>The MDS resulted in the recovery of a range of objects, mostly post-medieval or modern in date. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the overburden during the SMS, and one undated feature, a possible hearth was recorded towards the northern end of the monitored area.</p>
Project dates	Start: 29-01-2012 End: 02-02-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5331 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CTH12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation','Systematic Metal Detector Survey'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN HAILSHAM Cuckoo Trail Northern Area
Postcode	BN27 3LE
Site coordinates	TQ 558983 107983 50.8750429404 0.216116044193 50 52 30 N 000 12 58 E Line

Site coordinates TQ 559164 108286 50.8753103410 0.216386054496 50 52
31 N 000 12 58 E Line

Project creators

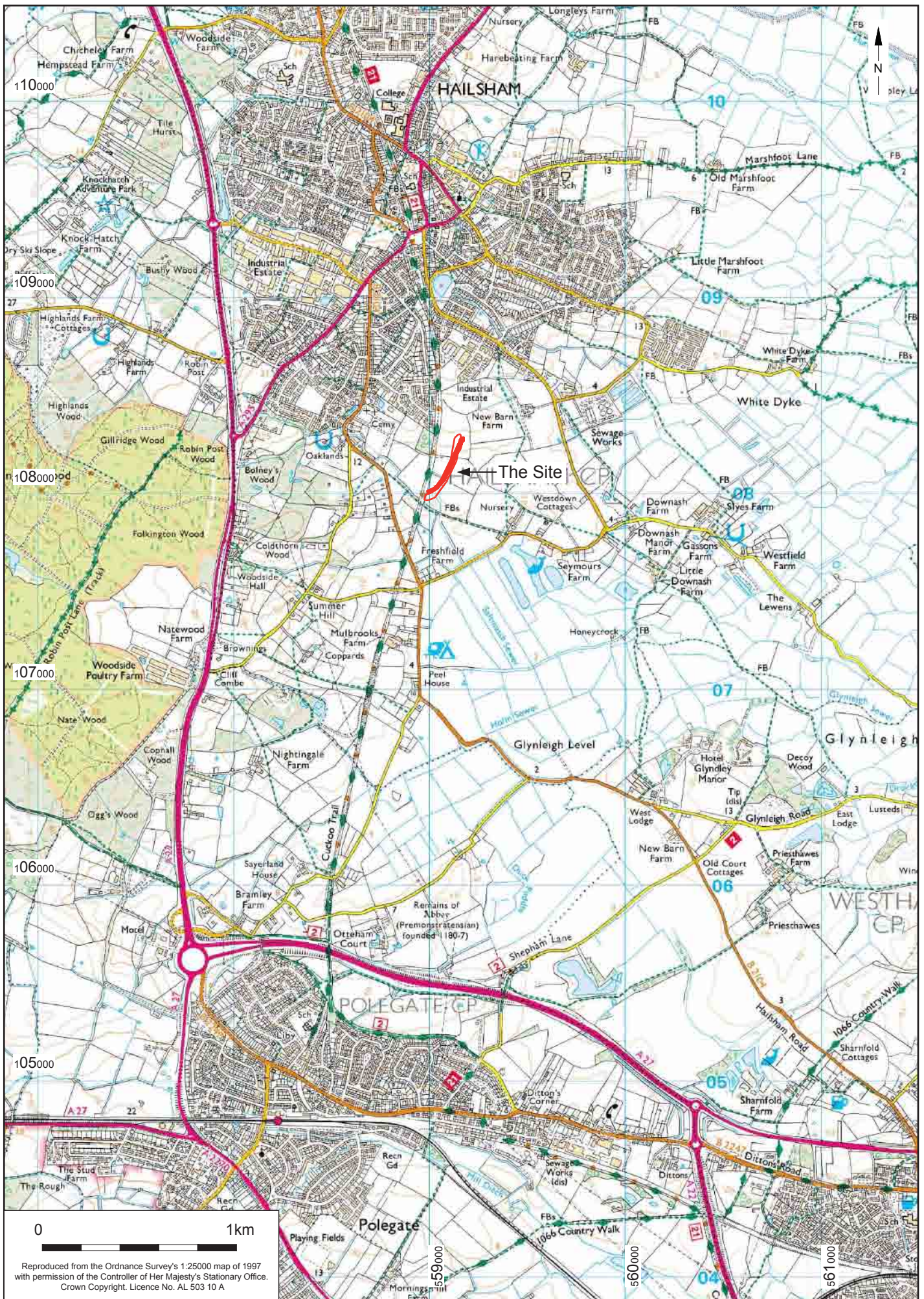
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clancy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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	Acc. No. 2012.01
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	Acc. No. 2012.01
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	Acc. No. 2012.01
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Survey','Unpublished Text'

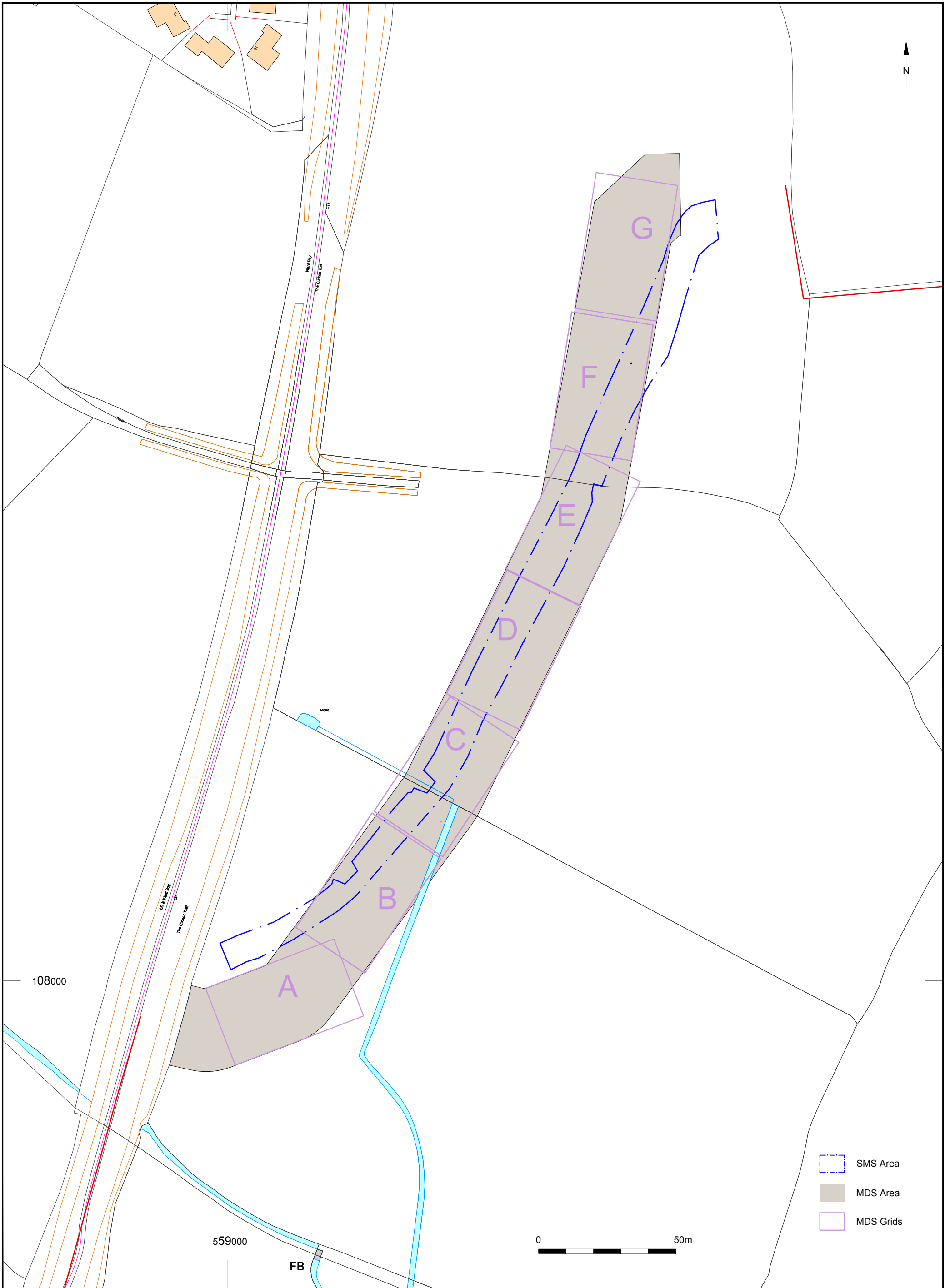
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample adjacent to the Cuckoo Trial, Hailsham, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2012039
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE Client report. A4-Sized with cover logos.
<hr/>	
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	10 February 2012

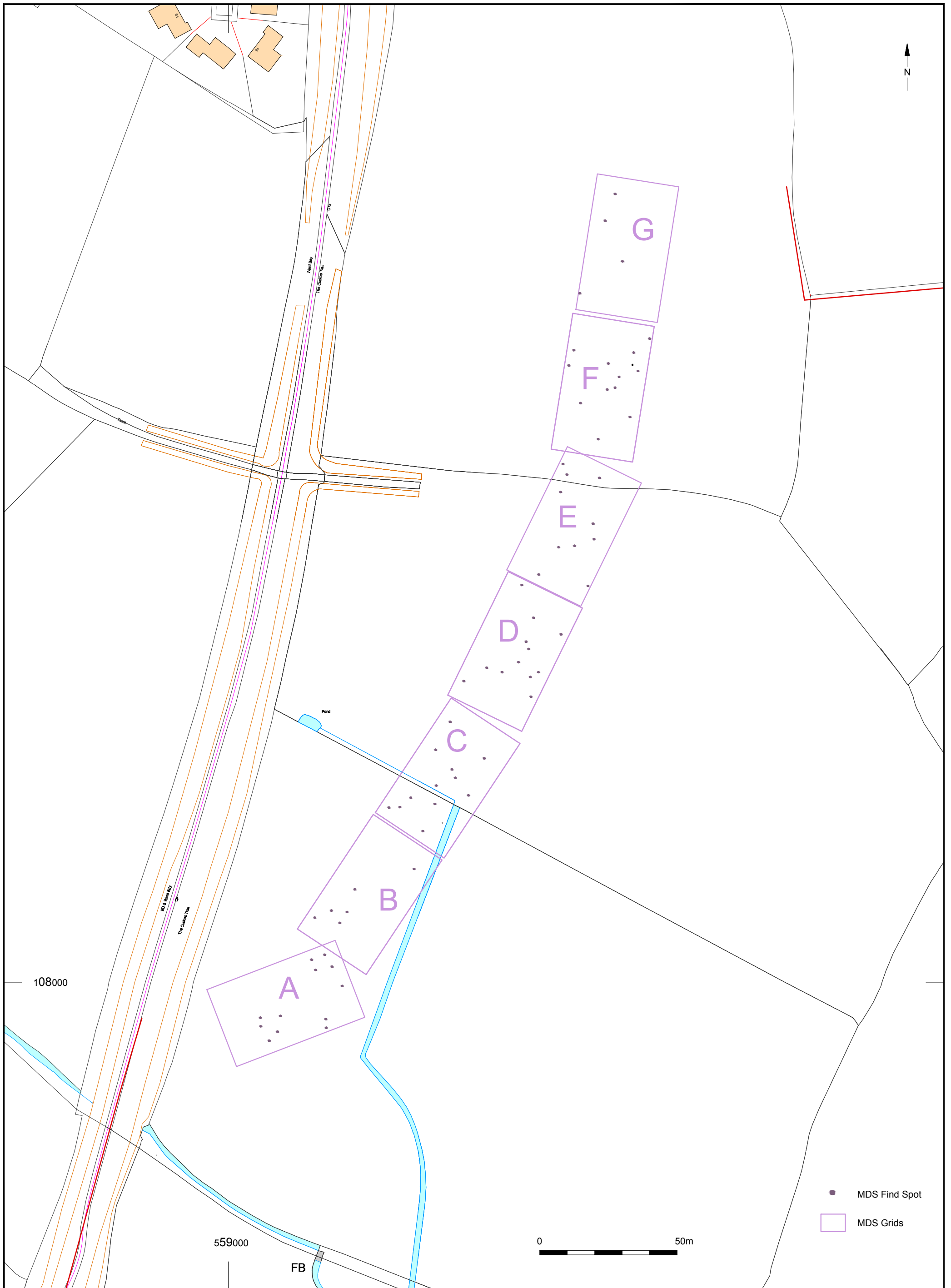


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

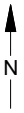
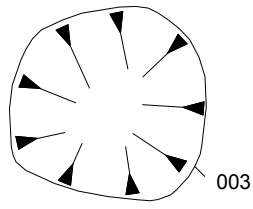
© Archaeology South-East		Northern Area, Cuckoo Trail, Polegate		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5331	March 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012039	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Northern Area, Cuckoo Trail, Polegate	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5331	March 2012	Site plan showing MDS & SMS areas @1:1250	
Report Ref: 2012039	Drawn by: FEG		



© Archaeology South-East		Northern Area, Cuckoo Trail, Polegate	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5331	March 2012	Plot of MDS results @1:1250	
Report Ref: 2012039	Drawn by: FEG		



0 0.5m



Pit 003 pre-excitation looking west



Pit 003 post-excitation looking west

© Archaeology South-East		Northern Area, Cuckoo Trial, Polegate	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5331	March 2012	Plan and photos of pit [003]	
Report Ref: 2012039	Drawn by: FEG		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

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

©Archaeology South-East