GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
12 PARK VIEW, THE STREET
SEDLESCOMBE, EAST SUSSEX

NGR 578297 117795
TQ 783 178

Planning Ref: RR/2010/1131/P

ASE Project No: 4798
ASE Report No: 2012072

Site code: SMM 12
OASIS ID: archaeol6-121060

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake a programme of geoarchaeological mapping on land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex. The work was undertaken in order to map the extent of alluvial deposits, including peat layers, which had previously been identified in evaluation trenches excavated by Wessex Archaeology. The geometry of the underlying bedrock surface and the alignment of surviving peat along a north-south axis suggests that the alluvial sedimentation relates broadly to a feeder channel (the Sedlescombe Stream) of the main River Brede. However, one core (WS10) showed a slightly deeper and more complex sedimentary picture, including organic gravels deposits, a confluence sedimentary environment

Both peat and organic alluvium deposits mapped at the site have excellent potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and could be subjected to systematic assessment and dating. Even if high energy environments seen at the base of each sequence, equate with the removal of early Holocene sedimentation, equivalent sequences in other East Sussex river valleys have shown excellent preservation of Late Prehistoric peat deposits. The localised nature of the channel suggests some specific palaeoenvironmental reconstruction work, relating directly to the valley catchment of Sedlescombe, could be undertaken at the site; a meaningful local sequence to set alongside the wider landscape sequence of the Brede Valley.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Brite Design and Development Ltd., on behalf of their client F.C Stark Limited to undertake a programme of geoarchaeological mapping on land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex (Figure 1) hereafter described as 'the site', ahead of residential redevelopment.

1.2 Planning permission has been granted by Rother District Council (RDC) under planning reference RR/2010/1131/P (renewal of consent RR/2004/3717/H) construction of residential dwellings with associated access, car parking and services. The following planning condition (Condition 3) was attached to the consent.

> *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.*
>
> *Reason: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, as the development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest, in accordance with requiremenst within PPS5 'Planning for the Historic Environment' and Policy GD1 (viii) of the Rother District Local Plan.*

1.3 Consultation between ASE, the previous developer (Constantgreen Homes Ltd) and Casper Johnson, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeologist in his capacity as advisor to RDC on archaeological planning matters took place in 2008 following an initial phase of archaeological investigation and recording (see below). Following this consultation ASE produced a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation (ASE 2008) which was duly approved by the ESCC Archaeologist on behalf of RDC in compliance with the archaeological planning condition.

1.4 Following a change in site ownership ASE, Brite Design and Development Ltd and Casper Johnson met on site on 5th April 2011 to discuss whether the scope of archaeological work could be re-assessed. In order for an informed decision to be made Casper Johnson requested that an Archaeological Impact Assessment document (ASE 2011) be produced.

1.5 ASE duly completed this document (*ibid*.) and submitted it to Casper Johnson for review and a further site meeting was held (between ASE, Brite Design and Development Ltd and Casper Johnson) in order to agree the appropriate scope of archaeological mitigation.

1.6 Subsequently a *Brief for Archaeological Mitigation in Advance of Development at Land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex* was produced by Casper Johnson (ESCC 2011; hereafter referred to as 'the ESCC brief'). This set out the requirement to undertake an initial auger survey in order to map the extent of organic deposits preserved at the site. This information is necessary in order for the RDC planning officer and the County Archaeologist to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy for the site.

2.0 Background

2.1 Topography

2.1.1 The site is approximately 0.20ha in area and slopes very slightly from north-west to south-east at an elevation of approximately 11.5m O.D. The site lies on the southern fringe of the village on the edge of the former floodplain of the River Brede which lies *c*. 100m to the south. The western boundary of the site is formed by existing properties fronting The Street, whereas open fields lie to the north, east and south.

2.1.2 The site occupies a superficial north-south orientated valley. This valley is mapped as containing head deposits and a small stream which currently runs to the immediate east of the site.

2.1.2 Current land use at the site comprises scrub over former areas of building and gardens, with backfilled evaluation trenches dating from the work by Wessex Archaeology in 2008 (Figure 2). The water table at the site is near to the ground level in winter and the site is crossed by a mains sewer pipe.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS Sheet 320/321: *Hastings and Dungeness*), the underlying geology at the site comprises clay in Ashdown Beds with potential for head deposits. This mapping is almost certainly simplistic but does show clearly that the site occupies the confluence zone between the main River Brede and the feeder valley of Sedlescombe (Figure 3).

2.2.2 Previous work on site undertaken by Wessex Archaeology confirms that the site straddles the boundary between the marshy floodplain of the River Brede to the south and east of the site and the drier high ground in the western and northern areas of the site. The stratigraphic sequences identified in the evaluation trenches (below topsoil and silty-clay subsoil) might suggest a series of flooding events and the burying of decayed trees and plants at the edge of fen or wet woodland. Notably, an environmental sample from the peat layer in Trench 5 (506) suggests that it formed under alder carr while the species recovered from the clay layer in Trench 2 (204) are more indicative of more open conditions. Wessex Archaeology's evaluation report states:

> *"Within the region, important sequences have been studied which show the consistent development of organic deposits during the Middle to late bronze Age (Preistley-Bell 2009; Pope 2009). Sometimes these are associated with exceptional pollen signatures (Burrin and Scaife 1983) indicating that, after this point in time riverine woodland is often gradually removed, part of a process seen across Southern England (e.g. Allen and Robinson 1993; Sidell et al. 2000). In such sequences, the upper clay layers indicate a largely open, disturbed environment and the presence of wood charcoal is indicative of quite high levels of human activity in the vicinity. While cereal remains were absent even the presence of charcoal can be related to probable settlement. The samples are then likely to be no*

earlier than the Late Bronze Age, but if truncation has occurred could be much more recent."

2.2.3 Of importance is to establish the degree to which deposits relate to the main Brede River channel or to the north-south stream which follows the superficial dry valley of Sedlescombe. This has importance in understanding the fluvial dynamics of the site and evolution of the landscape from a geomorphological perspective.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The site was identified as being of archaeological interest since it is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area, designated as such due to the presence of a former tannery or fellmongers on the site (see below). The tannery is depicted on the 1843 Tithe map, although documentary sources indicate it was a tannery since *c*. 1630 (David Martin *pers. comm*.). Furthermore, the site of a medieval tannery owned by Battle Abbey until the Dissolution may also occupy the site (Stevens 2003).

2.3.2 Full details of the archaeological background of the site are found in the Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2007). Subsequently, a programme of archaeological fieldwork was carried out at the site, comprising the recording of an outbuilding and house prior to their demolition and a watching brief during subsequent demolition (Wessex Archaeology 2008a) and an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2008b). The programme of building recording identified that the former outbuilding probably dated from the 17th century, but had undergone several phases of alteration. Two of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) revealed evidence of tannery/fellmonergy-related structures and evidence of two buildings and an associated brick floor. Trenches 2 and 6 located a disused drainage ditch and Trenches 2 and 5 established the presence of an organic-rich peat deposit provisionally dated to the Bronze or Iron Age (Figure 2). The trial trench results are summarised below.

2.4 Archaeological Background

2.4.1 The 2008 evaluation (Wessex 2008b) involved excavating six trenches across the Site (Figure 2). The results are summarised below by trench. Depth measurements are calculated in relation to Ordnance Datum (OD) with reference to Appendix 1 of the Wessex Archaeology evaluation report (*ibid*.):

Trench 1

- No archaeology
- Natural was reached at a depth of 11.21m OD

Trench 2

- No archaeology
- Alluvium at a depth of 11.00m OD
- Peat at a depth of 10.90m OD
- Alluvium at a depth of 10.79m OD
- Peat at a depth of 10.69m OD
- Natural river terrace deposits were reached at depth of 10.15m OD

Trench 3

- Tanning pits found at depth of 11.07m OD (and c.0.9m deep)
- Wall footings exposed at ground surface to depth of 10.67m OD
- Natural reached at depth of 10.50m OD

Trench 4

- Tanning pits found at depth of 10.88m OD (unknown depth but possibly 0.9m like those in Trench 3)
- Natural reached at depth of 10.88m OD

Trench 5

- No archaeology
- Alluvial clay found at depth of 10.64m OD
- Iron pan at 10.58m OD
- Alluvial clay at 10.51m OD
- Peat at 10.42m OD
- Natural blue-grey clay found at 9.42m OD.

Trench 6

- Barn foundations at 11.25m OD (unknown depth)
- ditch from surface to depth of 10.65m OD
- Natural from 10.79m OD

3.0 Project Aims

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the geoarchaeological investigation was to achieve the following evaluation aims:

- to establish the extent of waterlogged deposits and their interface with the drier, higher northern part of the site
- To use an initial assessment of the results to inform the excavation set out below.
- To obtain samples from the peat and clay layers for pollen analysis and insect remains
- To establish the overall stratigraphic framework of the sediments and correlation with other local sequences
- To assess the presence of former alignments of the River Brede or associated palaeochannels through the study area and to recover stratified samples from organic sediments with the potential to preserve environmental indicators

3.2 Site Specific Objectives

3.1.1 The mapping and characterisation exercise is seen as the first stage in fulfilling the following archaeological research objectives:

- Is there evidence of activity at the site earlier than the medieval period and if so what form did this activity take?
- Is there evidence of how the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental history of the site determined the scope of past human activity at the site?
- To sample and record the peat deposits in more detail in order to better understand its character, date and significance in terms of its relationship with the wider landscape
- To investigate whether the infilled drainage ditch defines the boundary of tanning/fellmongering activities
- How was the fellmongering and tanning industry laid out at this site, what stages of the process are represented and how did it change and develop over time?
- What is the nature of the evidence for medieval and post-medieval fellmongering and tanning at the site?
- To better understand the range of features and artefacts present on site and ensure that they are meaningfully preserved either by record or in situ beyond the limits of excavation

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Twelve geoarchaeological augur samples were undertaken under direct geoarchaeological supervision (Dr Matt Pope and Liz Chambers) in the positions shown on Figures 2 and 4, using a GeoTool GTR780 dynamic probing/window sampler rig capable of recovering sleeved cores. One location (WS11) was not successful due to the presence of concrete at depth, all the other holes penetrated into the underlying solid. Other locations were assayed below top soil using a hand augur.

4.2 Sediments were recorded in the following manner. Beneath the modern horizons, the running section was recorded to allow the development of a series of detailed sediment logs. These comprised detailed sediment descriptions at 0.25m intervals or at the junction of major stratigraphic or lithological boundaries. The descriptions comprised matrix lithology, coarse components, sediment cohesion as well as characterisation of superficial structures and likelihood of decalcification/oxidisation.

4.3 Recording, reporting and post excavation work was undertaken in accordance with the ESCC brief (ESCC 2011). The current programme of work thus created a lithological record and archive of a representative sequence as recovered sleeved samples.

5.0 Results

5.1 The following observations were made:

LOCATION	**WS1**	OSNGR	578277,117825	ELEVATION	11.90mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.3	Made Ground	-	-	Concrete and brick sub-base
0.5	Weathered Alluvium	Silt	Dark Yellow Brown	Fe pan development
1	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Yellow Brown	
2.1	Alluvial Sand	Medium Sand	Light Grey	Clean
2.7	Alluvial Gravel	Coarse Sand	Light Yellow Brown	High Energy Gravels of local lithology
2.8	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock
3.0	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS2**	OSNGR	578290,117817	ELEVATION	11.48mOD

o

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.3	Made Ground	-	-	Concrete and brick sub-base
0.9	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	Flecks of organic material
1.5	Alluvium	Clay with fine sand	Yellow Brown	
2.1	Alluvial Sand	Medium Sand	Light Grey	Clean
2.3	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
3.0	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS3**	OSNGR	578295,117813	ELEVATION	11.47mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.3	Made Ground	-	-	Concrete and brick sub-base
0.6	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	Flecks of organic material
1.0	Alluvial Sand with organics	Silty sand	Mid Grey	Flecks of organic material
1.6	Alluvial Sand	Silty Sand	Light Grey	Clean
2.35	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
3.0	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS4**	OSNGR	578300,117820	ELEVATION	11.31mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.4	Weathered Alluvium	Silt	Dark Yellow Brown	Fe pan development
0.9	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	Flecks of organic material
1.25	Peat (Organic Beds)	Silty Clay	Very Dark Grey	Fibrous organic deposit
1.6	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	
2.2	Alluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	High Energy Gravels of local lithology
2.8	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
3.0	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS5**	OSNGR	578293,117824	ELEVATION	11.44mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.4	Weathered Alluvium	Silt	Dark Yellow Brown	Fe pan development
0.8	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	Flecks of organic material
1.1	Peat (Organic Beds)	Silty Clay	Very Dark Grey	Fibrous organic deposit
1.6	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	
2.2	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
2.8	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS6**	OSNGR	578287,117827	ELEVATION	11.70mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.4	Made Ground	-	-	Concrete and brick sub-base
0.5	Weathered Alluvium	Silt	Dark Yellow Brown	Fe pan development
0.7	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	CBM noted (contamination)
1.1	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	Some gravels seams noted
1.7	Alluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	High Energy Gravels of local lithology
2.2	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
2.9	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS7**	OSNGR	578309,117804	ELEVATION	10.87mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.4	Made Ground	-	-	Concrete and brick sub-base
1	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	CBM noted (contamination)
1.5	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	CBM noted possibly in situ @2.1m
1.1	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	Some gravels seams noted
1.7	Alluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	High Energy Gravels of local lithology
2.2	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
2.9	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS8**	OSNGR	578306,117816	ELEVATION	11.19mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Too soft for window sampling, core retained.			
2	Well-developed peat bed noted at 1m.			

LOCATION	**WS9**	OSNGR	578321,117797	ELEVATION	10.74mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.4	Weathered Alluvium	Silty Clay	Yellow Brown	
1m	Anerobic Alluvium	Silty Clay		
1.2	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Blue Grey	Peat development
1.5	Alluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown	High Energy Gravels of local lithology
1.7	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)
2.9	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS10**	OSNGR	578327,117808	ELEVATION	10.75mOD

DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown	
0.2	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	Flecks of organic material
0.6	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Mid Grey	
1.0	Alluvium with Organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	
1.5	Alluvium with Organics	Clay	Dark Grey	Clean
2.5	Alluvial gravel with organics	Clay	Yellow Brown	High Energy Fluvial gravel
3.0	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven

LOCATION	**WS11**	OSNGR	578298,117802	ELEVATION	11.25mOD
DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES	
0	Situated on concrete raft. Impenetrable.				

LOCATION	**WS12**	OSNGR	578319,117808	ELEVATION	10.71mOD
DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHY	LITHOLOGY	COLOUR	NOTES	
0	Topsoil	-	Dark Brown		
0.3	Weathered Alluvium	Silt	Dark Yellow Brown	Fe pan development	
0.8	Alluvium with organics	Silty Clay	Dark Grey	Flecks of organic material	
1.1	Peat (Organic Beds)	Silty Clay	Very Dark Grey	Fibrous organic deposit	
1.7	Alluvium	Silty Clay	Light Yellow Brown		
2.3	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock (Weathered)	
2.8	Ashdown Beds	Clay	Yellow Brown	Bedrock Proven	

5.2 The observations showed a broad and consistent phasing of deposits at the site:

I. Solid Geology: Ashdown Beds encountered at depths between 2.3m and 3.0m below existing ground level, surface falls to south east as fluvial channel cut

II. Alluvial Gravel: High Energy fluvial gavel comprising local lithologies. Rarely exceeding 0.25m in thickness

III. Alluvial sands: Medium energy mineralogenic deposits

IV. Peat. Localised development to the east and south of the site (WS12, 5, 4) of peat beds up to 0.4m thick. These are the equivalent of peats located in Wessex Trench 2 in 2008

V. Organic Alluvium: Grey silty clay with organics flecks, the latter possibly reworked peats

VI. Anaerobic/Mineralgenic Alluvium Blue to Grey Alluvium, unoxidised with good potential for pollen recovery

VII. Weathered Alluvium: oxidised shallow water alluvium with localised iron pans

VIII. Made Ground: 20th century concrete foundations

IX. Modern Topsoil

6.0 Conclusions: Interpretation and Significance

6.1 The fieldwork successfully mapped the distribution of alluvial sedimentation across the site. It was successful in broadly isolating the distribution of organic peat deposits and the wider distribution of alluvial sedimentation with potential for preserving organic material and palaeoenvironmental evidence (Figures 4-7).

6.2 The geometry of the underlying bedrock surface and the alignment of surviving peat along a north-south axis suggests that the alluvial sedimentation relates broadly to the feeder channel of the Sedlescombe Stream. The modern stream is a misfit Chalybeate spring-fed stream of small flow volume and runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

6.3 The BGS mapping (Figure 3) shows this stream occupies a much larger valley which drains a portion of Wealden Ashdown beds ridge to the north of the site, the valley formed by this river comprising the etymological 'coombe' element of the place name Sedlescombe. The alluvial sedimentation therefore may largely relate to the development of this minor channel and not the main Brede River.

6.4 However WS10 showed a slightly deeper and more complex sedimentary picture, including organic gravel deposits. A confluence-related sedimentary environment might exist in this part of the site with potential to show interplay between both the main river and the feeder stream.

6.5 Both peat and organic alluvium deposits have excellent potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and should be subjected to systematic assessment and dating.

6.6 Hand auguring can, if necessary, be further used to identify the concentration of organic peat. Surface vegetation in the form of sedge grasses also seem to conform tightly to the deepest development of peat in the underlying stratigraphy.

6.7 The excellent organic preservation as part of a complete sequence from high-energy mineralgenic gravels through to low-energy fine clays opens the possibility that a relatively complete Holocene sequence is preserved at the site. Even if high energy environments at the base of the sequence removed any early Holocene sedimentation, equivalent sequences in East Sussex river valleys have been show to preserve Late Prehistoric peat deposits. The localised nature of the channel suggest some specific palaeoenvironmental reconstruction work relating directly to the valley catchment of Sedlescombe could be preserved at the site, a meaningful local sequence to set alongside the wider landscape sequence of the Brede Valley.

6.8 The methodology allowed for the retention of complete sleeved cores through those parts of the sequence which contained well-preserved organic deposits (peat) as part of the sequence. Complete cores for WS4 and WS5 are retained intact in storage facilities at ASE. They can be subjected to continuous or close-interval sampling for palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating, the deposits being suitable for insect, pollen, microfaunal and

sedimentary analysis. A programme of continuous column and bulk sampling can be implemented during the main excavation phase of the project in order that a high-quality and representative palaeoenvironmental data set can be obtained from the site.

6.9 The recorded logs should now be integrated further with datasets recovered during previous geotechnical and archaeological work at the site to develop correlated sediment logs which can be used to inform the onsite excavation strategy.

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Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Brite Design and Development Ltd., on behalf of their client F.C Stark Limited for commissioning the work and Casper Johnson for his continued guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Identification Name and Address	Park View. The Street, Sedlescombe					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex. Rother.					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 578297 117795					
Geology	Ashdown Beds					
Type of Fieldwork	**Eval.**	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other **Augur survey**
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other **Former light industrial & garden**		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. **17-20 Feb 2012**	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Brite Design and Development Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Matt Pope					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	**Neo.**	**BA**	**IA**	**RB**
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		

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Both peat and organic alluvium deposits mapped at the site have excellent potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and could be subjected to systematic assessment and dating. Even if high energy environments seen at the base of each sequence, equate with the removal of early Holocene sedimentation, equivalent sequences in other East Sussex river valleys have shown excellent preservation of Late Prehistoric peat deposits. The localised nature of the channel suggests some specific palaeoenvironmental reconstruction work, relating directly to the valley catchment of Sedlescombe, could be undertaken at the site; a meaningful local sequence to set alongside the wider landscape sequence of the Brede Valley.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-121060

Project details

Project name	Geoarchaeological evaluation at 12 Park View, Seddlescombe
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake a programme of geoarchaeological mapping on land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex. The work was undertaken in order to map the extent of alluvial deposits, including peat layers, which had previously been identified in evaluation trenches excavated by Wessex Archaeology. The geometry of the underlying bedrock surface and the alignment of surviving peat along a north-south axis suggests that the alluvial sedimentation relates broadly to a feeder channel (the Sedlescombe Stream) of the main River Brede. However, one core (WS10) showed a slightly deeper and more complex sedimentary picture, including organic gravels deposits, a confluence sedimentary environment Both peat and organic alluvium deposits mapped at the site have excellent potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and could be subjected to systematic assessment and dating. Even if high energy environments seen at the base of each sequence, equate with the removal of early Holocene sedimentation, equivalent sequences in other East Sussex river valleys have shown excellent preservation of Late Prehistoric peat deposits. The localised nature of the channel suggests some specific palaeoenvironmental reconstruction work, relating directly to the valley catchment of Sedlescombe, could be undertaken at the site; a meaningful local sequence to set alongside the wider landscape sequence of the Brede Valley.
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2012 End: 25-02-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SMM 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER SEDLESCOMBE 12 Park View, Seddlescombe
Postcode	TN33 0QG
Study area	1200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 783 178 50.9314529838 0.537666963697 50 55 53 N 000 32 15 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Matt Pope
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	SMM 12
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	SMM 12
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	SMM 12

Paper Contents	'Survey'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Geoarchaeological evaluation report 12 park view, the street Sedlescombe, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	pope, m
Other bibliographic details	ASE report no: 2012072
Date	2012
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	grey lit bound rep

Entered by	d (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	15 March 2012

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4798	March 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: JLR		

N

ROUGH GROUND

SMALL TREES 6.0m

HEDGE 2.0m

DITCH

PIPE 650ø IL10.71

1

GRASS

6

5

Trench 1

GARAGES

RH 17.94

EH 14.60

OHC

4

SMALL TREES

605?

8

Trench 2

SMALL TREES 6.0m

2

3

BANK

WPF 2.0m

Trench 6

605

606

12

10

7

Park View

322

11

CPF 1.0m

TP

TRL 1.8m

MH CL11.47 IL9.99

150ø

IC CL11.39 IL9.92

323

311

Trench 3

GRASS

314

326

310

320

Trench 5

9

RG

GARAGES

ELEC

IC CL11.38 IL10.08

100ø

C

GY 11.23

404

407

415

414

410

412

417

Tanyard Cott

Kester House

WPF 1.7m

100ø

150ø

IC CL11.25 IL10.20

BW

Trench 4

Sewer exclusion zone

OHC

BW 1.8m

SMALL TREES / BUSHES

ELEC

CPF 1.0m

TP

Digital data reproduced from Ordnan
This material is for client report

SMALL TREES / BUSHES

Probable maximum extent of strip, map and sample excavation

Borehole (x denotes not undertaken)

0 5m

- Drainage channel
- Sondage
- Tanning/fellmonger pit
- Clay lining for tanning pit
- Possible tanning related feature
- Waterlogged deposits (including wood/peat elements)
- Modern disturbance
- Wood
- Structural elements
- Brick floor/footing
- Related to house demolition

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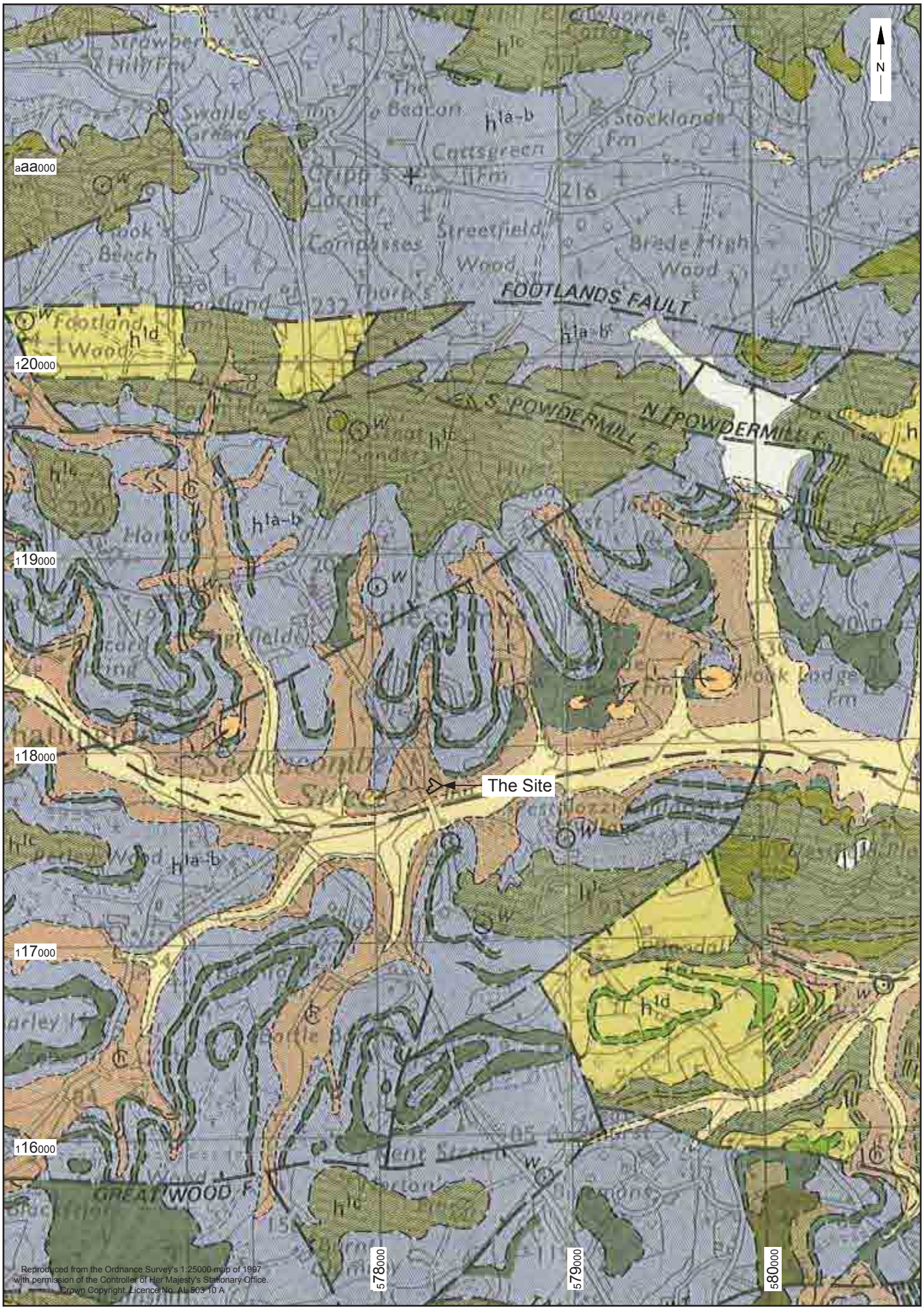
Project Ref: 4798	March 2012	Site plan showing Wessex trenches and new borehole locations	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FEG		



© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4798	March 2012	Geology map (BGS Sheet 320/321: Hastings and Dungeness)	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FEG		

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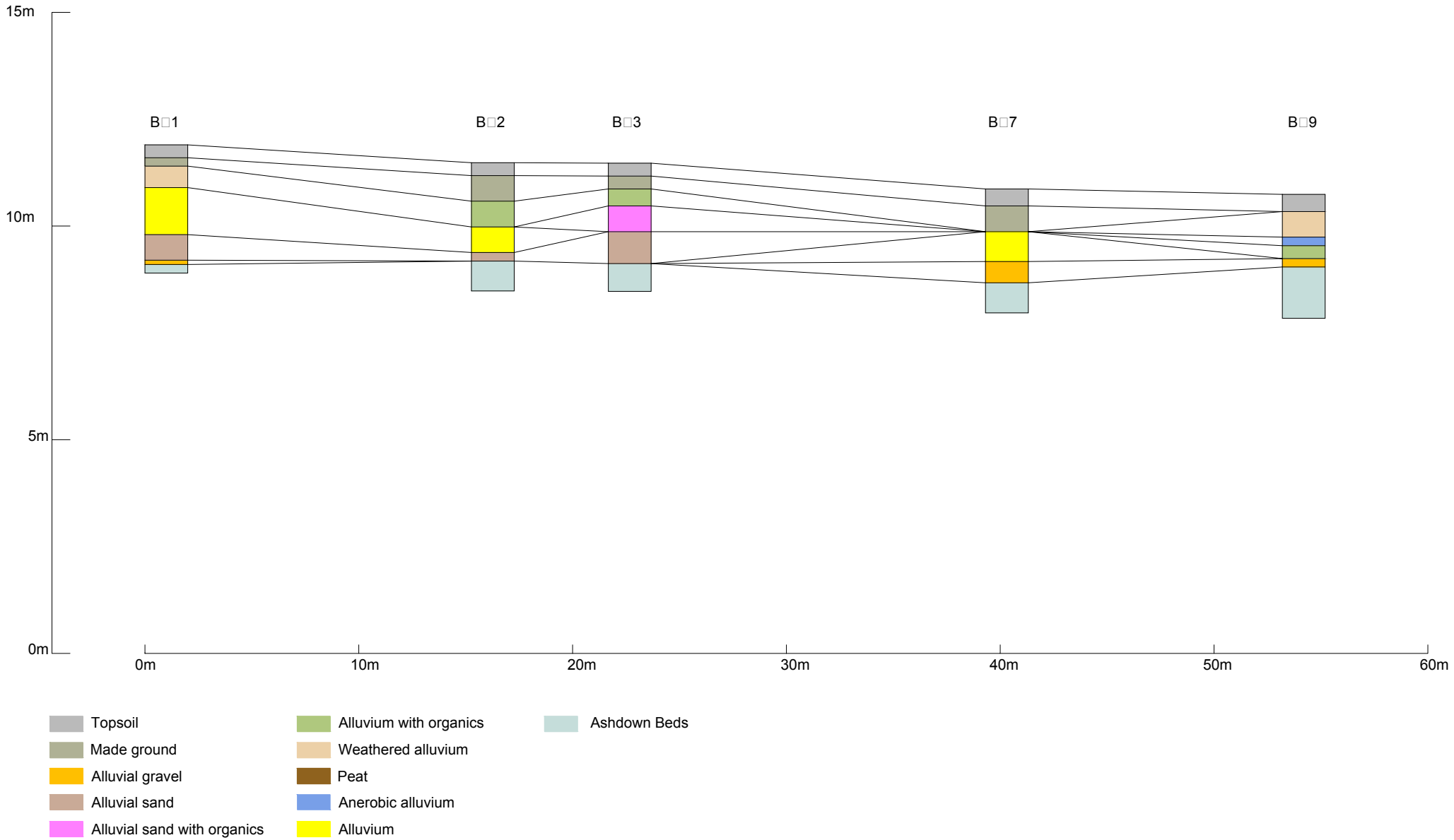
Project Ref: 4798	March 2012	Site Plan showing the extent of deposits	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FEG		



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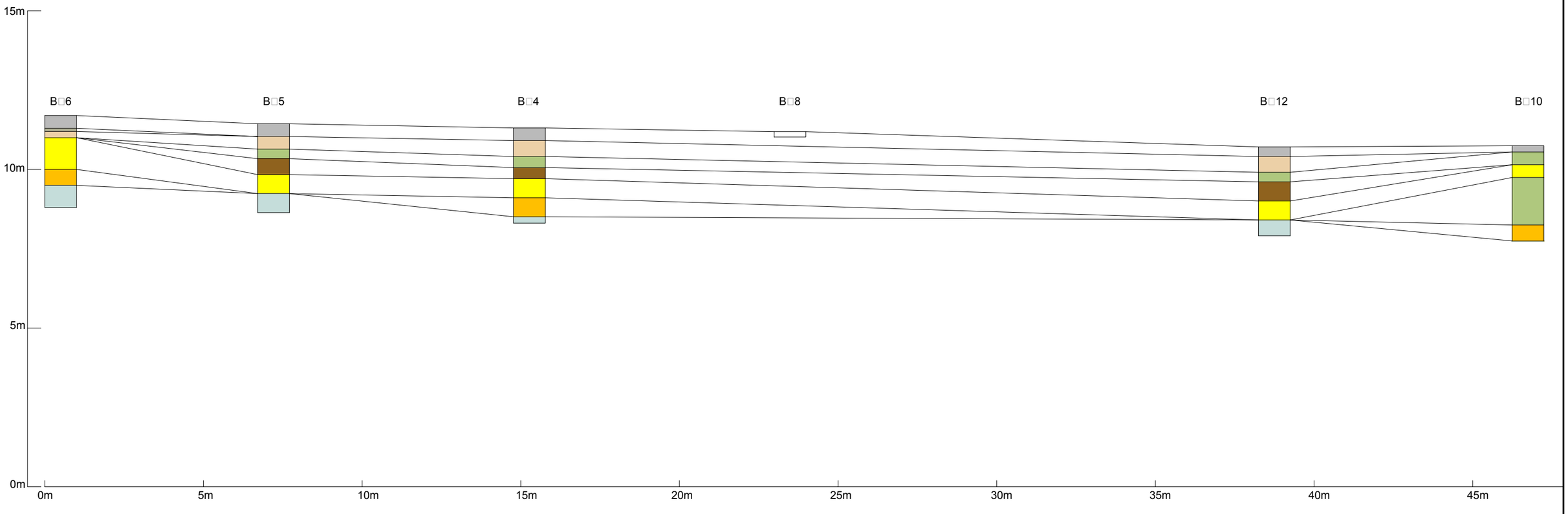
Project Ref: 4798	April 2012	Transect 1	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FEG		



Topsoil
Made ground
Alluvial gravel
Alluvial sand
Alluvial sand with organics
Alluvium with organics
Weathered alluvium
Peat
Anerobic alluvium
Alluvium
Ashdown Beds

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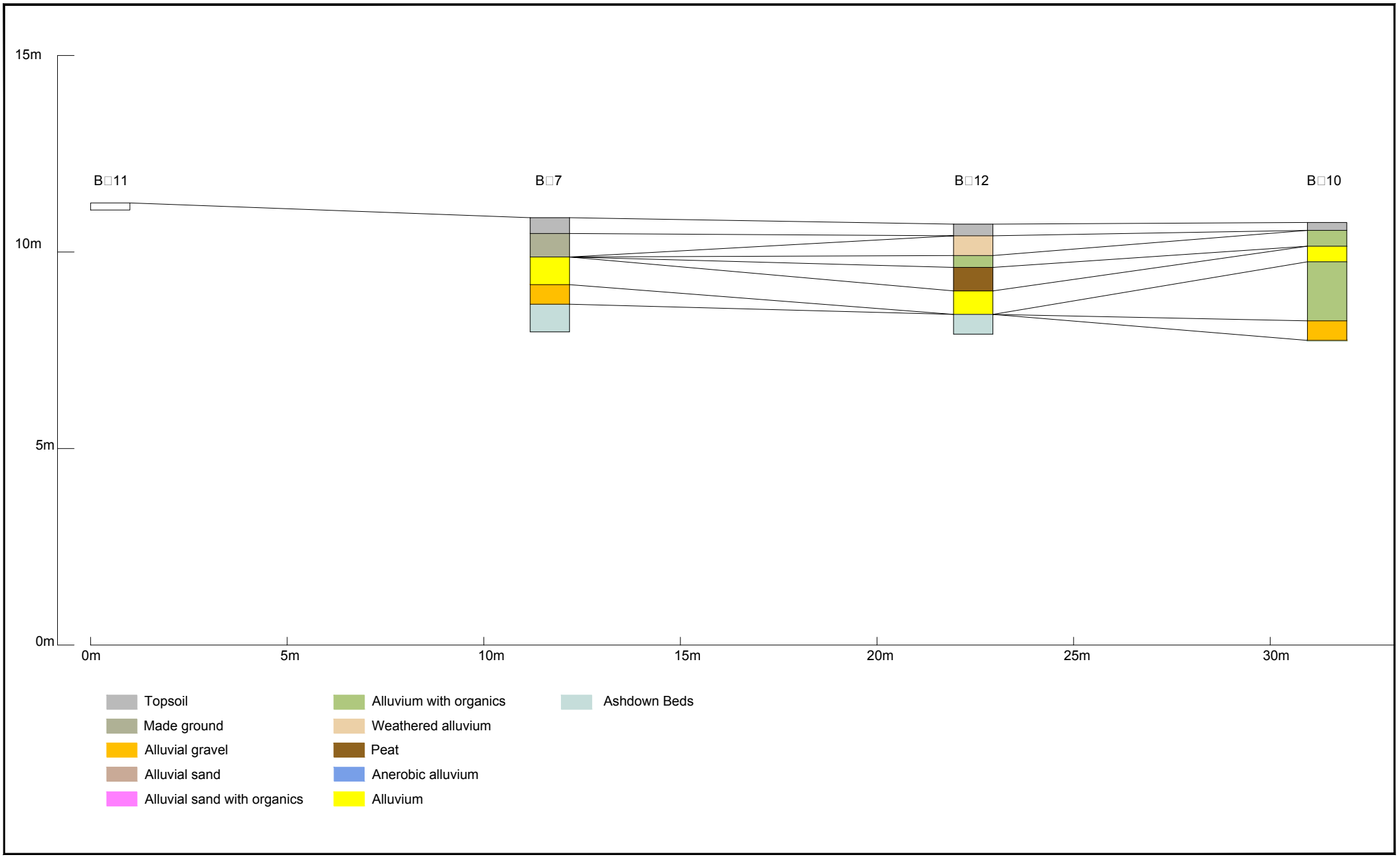
Project Ref: 4798	April 2012	Transect 2	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FG		



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Project Ref: 4798	April 2012	Transect 3	
Report Ref: 2012072	Drawn by: FEG		