

**Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation Report
The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston
East Sussex, BN26 5TU**

NGR TQ 5040 0190

**ASE Project No: 5438
Site Code: REA 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012089
OASIS ID: archaeol6-124297**

**By Chris Russel
With Contributions by Luke Barber
Karine Le Hégarat and Sarah Porteus**

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

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

Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of the Rathfinny Estate to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex, in advance of the development of the site.

The watching brief noted evidence of a probable defunct undated field system(s). Excavations in and around the derelict farm buildings to the west of the site revealed that the foundations for the barn were very shallow and had been constructed using a variety of materials and techniques. It also appeared that there had once been internal divisions within the structure and that sometime after construction the floor level had been raised by roughly 0.60m. Excavations in the east of this range of structures uncovered the probable western wall of a now demolished dairy along with associated drainage features. Test pits along the southern yard wall revealed that the foundations of this structure were far more substantial than those noted in the nearby barn and sufficiently different in construction to suggest that the wall was a slightly later addition to the complex.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 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 Buro Four on behalf of the Rathfinny Estate to undertake a programme of archaeological work (evaluation and watching brief) at the Rathfinny Estate in Alfriston (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 5040 0190 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.0.2 Although the overall site area is substantial, the areas of interest/impact are localised and have been identified as five key areas which will be referred to as below throughout this document:

- A: New workers accommodation at Rathfinny Farm on the site of a former barn
- B: New build winery, water storage facility and solar arrays (NP/2011/0093/MAJ)
- C: New house on the site of an existing dwelling (Rathfinny Lodge) (NP/2011/0026/F)
- D: New office building on a greenfield site west of Windy Ridge (NP/2011/6500/F)
- E: New access road approximately 540m in length extending from the existing public highway north of Dukes Green to join the existing access track east of Windy Ridge

1.1 Geology and Topography

1.1.1 According to the latest data of the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012), the site lies for the most part on Seaford Chalk Formation with deposits of clay with flints to the north and north-east and head deposits in the south-east of the investigation area.

1.1.2 The site is situated between 65m and 75m AOD and investigations were centred on open ground surrounding existing on-site structures (Fig. 2).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Previous archaeological work undertaken at the site includes a Desk Based Assessment (ASE 2011) and Built Heritage report (ASE 2012a). Having considered those documents and the proposals of the relevant planning application the East Sussex County Archaeologist, who advises the South Downs National Park Authority on their archaeological obligations, recommended a programme of archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. Consequently the following condition has been attached to the relevant planning consent:

No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the South Downs National Park Authority in writing.

REASON: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of structures on the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with Policy EN25 of the Wealden Local Plan.

- 1.2.1 Originally the intention was that the programme of archaeological work should comprise evaluation by trial trenching. This trenching work identified archaeological remains and a further phase of mitigation work was required.
- 1.2.2 A detailed programme of both trenching and watching brief was agreed at an on-site meeting, the details of which are set out in the methodology below.
- 1.2.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) outlining the requirements and scope of the archaeological work was prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2012b) and approved by ESCC. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant Standards and Guidance papers issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2012b).
- 1.3.2 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were to ascertain:
- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the character, date, survival and condition of ancient remains and deposits
 - Assess how they might be affected by the proposed works on the site
- 1.3.3 The specific aims of the archaeological investigation were to:
- To establish the presence of any remains of prehistoric occupation within the development impact areas
 - To establish whether any prehistoric occupation of the landscape continued into the Roman period
 - To enable the ESCC Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to what level of archaeological mitigation (if any is appropriate).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The watching brief took place intermittently between the 30th of March and the 3rd of April 2012 and was undertaken by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Ben Sharp (Archaeologist) and the evaluation phase took place between the 11th of April and the 13th of April 2012 and was undertaken by Chris Russel (Archaeologist), Liz Chambers and Catherine Douglas (Assistant Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A full archaeological background to the site is available in the companion desk-based assessment (ASE 2011) and a historic building assessment (ASE 2012a) details the standings structures. A brief summary of the archaeological potential of the site is detailed below.

2.1.2 Overall the site is considered to:

- Have high potential for the survival of prehistoric remains
- Have a considerable amount of evidence for prehistoric occupation in the form of Bronze Age round barrows and field systems has already produced. Although these have been largely ploughed out they are still visible as prominent cropmarks on aerial photographs
- Have some potential for Roman remains. The Roman period is not represented in the archaeological record of the site to date but the known continuation of occupation for early field systems indicates that the potential for Roman archaeology to be present on the site is also high.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figures 2 - 4)

- 3.1 The work comprised the mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, of:
- seven evaluation trenches, totalling 60m of trenching
 - a water pipe trench from the western end of the existing cattle shed to a borehole in the valley bottom to the south and the excavation of up to ten structural engineer's test pits designed to determine the integrity of the barn foundations
 - nine trial pits to inform the renovation strategy for the barn complex in the extreme south-west of the site.
- 3.2 All work was carried out in following the methodology laid out in the WSI (ASE 2012b) and in line with East Sussex County Council (ESCC 2003) and Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) standards.
- 3.3 Evaluation trench locations were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE context sheets, with colours recorded using visual inspection. A digital photographic record of the work was compiled during the course of the fieldwork.
- 3.4 Trenches were backfilled and compacted by machine but no further reinstatement was undertaken.
- 3.5 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices but has been offered to Lewes Museum at the end of the project.

Number of Contexts	98
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	5
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	143 digital
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Site Archive Quantification

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2 - 14)

4.1 The Watching Brief Phase (Figure 2)

- 4.1.1 A watching brief was carried during intrusive works to the south of the complex of farm buildings in Area B. Two rectangular areas had been stripped (one 15x5m the other 10x5m) *prior* to the commencement of the watching brief. A section of pipe trench measuring approximately 559.0m long, 0.30m wide and 0.50m deep running north-south away from the building complex was excavated under archaeological monitoring. Due to a misunderstanding an approximately 136m long east-west section of trench of similar dimensions was excavated between the southwest corner of the existing cattle shed to the southwest corner of the existing grain dryer without an archaeologist in attendance. This trench had *already* been backfilled by the time this oversight had been identified and the ESCC Archaeologist informed accordingly. Given that this area of the site will be covered by future archaeological monitoring associated with future expansion of the winery, no further action was deemed appropriate by the ESCC Archaeologist.
- 4.1.2 The chalk geological substrate [002] was encountered at around 61.72m AOD in the north of the pipe trench falling away to 28.34m in the south. In the north of the trench this was directly overlain by topsoil [001] which was made up of a mid grey brown fine silt with chalk fleck inclusions. A colluvial layer [021] was noted towards the south of the pipe trench comprised of a mid to dark orangey brown clay silt with sub angular flint inclusions. This layer was noted to a maximum depth of 0.30m.
- 4.1.3 *Ditches*
- 4.1.4 Seven probable linear features were identified in the pipe trench. The northernmost linear feature noted consisted of a wide but shallow cut [004] with gradually sloping sides and a rounded concave base which appeared to run on an east-west orientation. This linear feature was filled by a friable orange brown fine silt [003] with frequent chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.1.5 Another linear feature was noted further south. This had a similar profile to ditch [004] and consisted of a wide but shallow cut [007] with moderately sloping sides and appeared to be on a more northwest to southeast alignment. The full extent of this feature was not revealed by the excavation. This was filled by a friable mid reddish brown fine clay silt with common inclusions of natural flint. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 4.1.6 A third linear feature to the south showed a similar profile to those to the north although it was slightly narrower. It was made up of a cut [009] with moderately sloping sides and appeared to be on a northwest to southeast course. It was filled with a friable dark reddish brown clay silt [010] with flint inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 4.1.7 To the south of ditch [009] was another linear feature consisting of a wide, shallow cut [013] with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a friable dark brown fine clay silt [014] with flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

- 4.1.8 Further south was a much narrower linear feature. This was made up of a steeply sided cut [017] with a rounded concave base filled by a mid orange brown clay silt fill with flint inclusions [018]. This too appeared to run on a northwest to southeast course.
- 4.1.9 The penultimate ditch had a similar wide, shallow profile to those noted above. The cut for this feature [019] had moderately sloping sides and was filled by friable mid orange brown clay silt fill. This feature was not seen to its full extent and no finds were recovered from its fill.
- 4.1.10 The last ditch, furthest to the south, appeared sharper in profile and narrower than [019]. It consisted of a sharply sided cut [022] running on a northwest to southeast course filled by a sterile mid orange brown fine clay silt.
- 4.1.11 *Pits*
- 4.1.12 Three discrete features were noted along the course of the pipe trench. The furthest north sharply sided cut [006] filled by a mid brown fine silt [005] from which no finds were retrieved.
- 4.1.13 The next discrete feature to the south was only partially revealed and was noted truncated by the eastern trench section. It was made up of a steep sided cut [011] with a concave base filled by a friable dark brown clay silt [012] from which no finds were recovered.
- 4.1.14 The final pit appeared quite substantial and was made up of a cut [015] with gently sloping sides filled by a mid orange brown fine clay silt [016]. The fill of this feature did not produce any finds.

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	62.36m
002	Layer	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.72m
003	Fill	Fill of 004	Tr.	3.0m	0.60m	61.57m
004	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	3.0m	0.60m	61.57m
005	Fill	Fill of 006	Tr.	0.70m	0.30m	57.70m
006	Cut	Cut of Pit	Tr.	0.70m	0.30m	57.70m
007	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	2.00m	0.35m	56.75m
008	Fill	Fill of 007	Tr.	2.00m	0.35m	56.75m
009	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	1.50m	0.35m	54.71m
010	Fill	Fill of 009	Tr.	1.50m	0.35m	54.71m
011	Cut	Cut of Pit	Tr.	0.70m	0.50m	50.83m
012	Fill	Fill of 011	Tr.	0.70m	0.50m	50.83m
013	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	2.25m	0.30m	46.39m
014	Fill	Fill of 013	Tr.	2.25m	0.30m	46.39m
015	Cut	Cut of Ditch/Pit	Tr.	1.2m	0.32m	47.37m
016	Fill	Fill of 015	Tr.	1.2m	0.32m	47.37m
017	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.30m	41.80m
018	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.30m	41.80m
019	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	2.00m	0.42m	40.54m
020	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	2.00m	0.42m	40.54m
021	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	40.66m
022	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	1.80m	0.50m	40.48m
023	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	1.80m	0.50m	40.48m

Table 2: List of contexts for the watching brief phase

4.2 The Evaluation Trenches: Area A (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1

Length: 10.00m total Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.25m
Orientation: northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m	59.60m
1/002	Layer	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	59.43m

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 1

4.2.2 Natural Chalk geology [1/002] was recorded at a maximum height of 59.43m OD in the northeast of the trench falling away slightly to 59.06m in the southwest. This consisted of geological chalk with occasional flint nodule inclusions. This was directly overlain by topsoil [1/001] which was made up of a light to mid grey fine silt. This contained localised beach gravel and flint nodule inclusions. No archaeological features were observed.

4.2.3 Trench 2 (Figure 5)

Length: 10.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.44m
Orientation: east-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	57.63m
2/002	Layer	Made Ground/Levelling Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	57.48m
2/003	Layer	Head Deposit Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	57.52m
2/004	Masonry	North-South Wall	1.65m	0.29m	0.18m	57.35m
2/005	Masonry	Culvert & Drain	1.03m	0.39m	0.18m	57.39m
2/006	Cut	Cut of N-S Foundation Trench	1.65m	0.29m	-	57.36m.
2/007	Masonry	Brick Floor	0.40m	Tr.	0.12m	57.63m
2/008	Cut	Construction cut of 2/005	0.95m	0.60m	-	57.13m
2/009	Fill	Fill of 2/008	0.95m	0.60m	-	57.13m
2/010	Fill	Fill of 2/006	1.65m	0.29m	-	57.36m.
2/011	Layer	Layer	0.35m	Tr.	0.15m	57.48m

Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 2

4.2.4 Geology and Overburden

4.2.5 The geological substrate [2/003] was encountered at 57.63m OD in the east of Trench 2 and at approximately 57.11m in the west. This was made up of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk fleck inclusions. Overlying the substrate along most of the trench length was a levelling or made ground deposit [2/002] comprised of light to mid grey silty clay with sub angular chalk and flint inclusions. A further made ground deposit [2/011] was observed to the east of the structures described below. This deposit consisted of loose mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk

fleck inclusions. The sequence was capped by dark grey brown silty topsoil [2/001].

4.2.6 *The Structures*

- 4.2.7 Structural features were observed in the eastern end of Trench 2. The earliest of these appeared to be a double skin north-south brick wall [2/004] of probable 19th to 20th century date. The wall was contained within a construction cut [2/006] which was linear in nature with almost vertical sides and a flat base. The wall itself was built into this and was constructed using a header bond core fronted by a stretcher bond course on its eastern and western edges. An analysis of a brick sample taken from this wall suggests that the bricks were manufactured in the late 19th or early 20th century. The construction trench was then backfilled with a loose mid grey brown silty clay [2/010] with pea grit and chalk fleck inclusions.
- 4.2.8 In close physical association with this was a brick soak away and associated culvert/pipe. This was built into a construction trench [2/008] which was 'u' shaped in profile with a rounded concave base. The drainage structure itself [2/005] consisted of a sub square brick structure built using stretcher bond coursing bonded with a light grey mortar. This was fed by a fired ceramic glazed pipe and appeared to drain away through a similar pipe towards the southern boundary wall of the yard. Both these structures appeared to have been truncated along their southern extents. Unfortunately no clear stratigraphic relationship could be established between this structure and the wall [2/004] described above.
- 4.2.9 The structural sequence was capped by a brick floor [2/007] which had been laid directly onto the made ground layer [2/011] which is described above. This floor was made up of a single layer of red brick bonded by light grey mortar.

4.3 The Evaluation Trenches Area B (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 3

Length: 10.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.78m
Orientation: northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	66.82m
3/002	Layer	Colluvial Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	66.67m
3/003	Layer	Colluvial Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	66.29m
3/004	Deposit	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	65.99m

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 3

4.3.2 The natural chalk geology [3/004] was encountered at around 66.82m AOD in the north of the trench falling away with to approximately 65.25m in the south. This context was similar to that described above as [1/002]. This was overlain by a colluvial deposit [3/003] which was made up of a mid grey brown fine clay silt with sub angular flint inclusions. Above this was a separate colluvial layer [3/002] which consisted of a friable mid grey brown fine silty clay. This upper colluvial layer was distinct from the similar context beneath in that it contained a higher percentage of chalk flecks which were concentrated in a band at the base of the context. It is possible that this layer was formed, at least in part, during the construction of the nearby farm buildings. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.3.3 Trench 4

Length: 5.00m total Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.28m
Orientation: east-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	69.67m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m	69.55m
4/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	69.47m

Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 4

4.3.4 The geological substrate [4/003] was encountered at approximately 69.47 in Trench 4. This was identical to the geological chalk described above. Above this was a thin subsoil [4/002] which was identical to that described above as [3/003]. The sequence for Trench 4 was capped by topsoil [4/001] which was identical to that described above as [1/001]. No archaeological features were observed although two periglacial fissures were noted in the western end of the trench.

4.3.5 Trench 5

Length: 5.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.42m
Orientation: east-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	71.78m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m	71.58m
5/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	71.46m

Table 7: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 5

- 4.3.6 Chalk geology [5/003] was encountered at approximately 71.40m in the east of Trench 5 falling away slightly to around 71.20m AOD in the west. This was identical to the context described above. Overlying this was a subsoil deposit [5/002] identical to that described above as [3/003] with the sequence capped by topsoil [5/001] identical to that described above as [1/001]. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.4 The Evaluation Trenches Area D (Figure 6)

4.4.1 Trench 6

Length: 10.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.40m
Orientation: north-south

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	80.48m
6/002	Layer	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	80.18m

Table 8: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 6

4.4.2 Chalk geology [6/002] identical to that described above was encountered at 80.48m AOD in the north of Trench 6 falling away to 79.62m in the south. This was overlain by topsoil/garden soil [6/001] which produced two complete colourless glass bottles of mid to late 20th- century date. This consisted of a friable dark brown silty clay loam which contained frequent tree roots. No archaeological features were observed.

4.4.3 Trench 7

Length: 10.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.37m
Orientation: northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m	79.77m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	79.63m
7/003	Layer	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	79.43m

Table 9: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 7

4.4.4 The geological chalk substrate [7/003] was encountered at approximately 79.43m in the west of Trench 7 falling away to around 78.88m in the east. This was identical to the context described above. This was overlain by a subsoil [7/002] which was identical to the context [3/003] described above with the sequence capped by topsoil identical to that described above as [6/001]. [7/002] contained two fragments of peg tile in a high fired red fabric with moderate black iron rich inclusions of 19th to 20th century date No archaeological features were observed.

4.5 The Test Pits (Figure 3)

4.5.1 A series of test pits were dug around the barn complex in Area A to allow a structural engineer to assess the extent and preservation of the structures in this area. These test pits were excavated under archaeological monitoring and were numbered in sequence with the evaluation trenches.

4.5.2 Test Pit 8

Length: 1.04m Width: 0.78m Depth: 0.58m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
8/001	Masonry	Brick Floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	58.81m
8/002	Masonry	Wall Foundations	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	-
8/003	Deposit	Head Deposit Geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	58.71m
8/004	Deposit	Chalk Geology	0.27m	0.27m	0.30m	58.46m
8/005	Masonry	Concrete Pillar				

Table 10: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 8

4.5.3 The north and east facing sections of test Pit 8 showed very similar sequences with Chalk geology [8/004] overlain by head deposit geology [8/003] being the lowest deposits. These contexts were identical to those described above. The north facing section contained a concrete pillar [8/005] which appeared to be a fixing point for a gate or door. The sequence in these sections was capped by a brick floor [8/001] which had been constructed using stretcher bond with no visible mortar.

4.5.4 The east facing section contained the wall foundation for the western wall of the barn [8/002]. This only extended three courses below ground level and was constructed of red bricks laid in a stretcher bond and bonded by light grey mortar.

4.5.5 Test Pit 9

Length: 1.82m Width: 0.77m Depth: 0.70m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
9/001	Masonry	Brick Floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	59.10m
9/002	Masonry	Wall Foundations	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	59.10m
9/003	Deposit	Head Deposit Geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	59.00m
9/004	Deposit	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	58.70m

Table 11: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 9

4.5.6 Chalk geology [9/004] was noted at around 58.70m AOD in Test Pit 9. This was overlain with Head Deposit geology [9/003] which appeared to contain a natural sink hole or similar geological feature. The foundations of the western wall of the barn [9/002] at its junction with the northern gable end of the building were observed resting directly onto the geological substrate and only penetrating approximately 0.10m below ground level. The sequence for Test Pit 9 was capped by a brick floor [9/001] similar to that described as [8/001].

4.5.7 Test Pit 10

Length: 1.50m Width: 1.30m Depth: 0.92m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
10/001	Masonry	North-South Wall	Tr.	-	0.71m	58.64m
10/002	Masonry	Mortar Render	Tr.	-	0.71m	58.64m
10/003	Masonry	East-West Wall	Tr.	Tr.	0.43m	58.64m
10/004	Masonry	Concrete Floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m	58.64m
10/005	Masonry	Chalk Block Foundation	Tr.	-	0.22m	58.15m
10/006	Layer	Buried Soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29m	57.93m
10/007	Deposit	Chalk Geology	-	-	-	57.64m
10/008	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m	

Table 12: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 10

- 4.5.8 Chalk geology [10/001] was noted at around 57.64 AOD in a limited portion of Test Pit 10. This was similar to the contexts described above and was only noted in the north and south facing sections of the pit. Above the chalk was what appeared to be a buried soil [10/006] made up of a loose dark grey brown fine silty clay with occasional chalk and flint fragment inclusions. The south facing section contained an east-west wall [10/003] constructed of a double skin of red brick laid in an irregular fashion bonded with a yellow mortar. Overlying the buried soil in the north facing section was a made ground/ demolition deposit [10/008]. This consisted of a very loose light grey chalk rubble with very frequent brick rubble inclusions.
- 4.5.9 The west facing section of Test Pit 10 revealed chalk geology [10/007] at around 57.64m AOD. Above this had been constructed a course of roughly worked chalk blocks [10/005] with no visible bonding material. A red brick wall had been laid on top of these chalk blocks [10/001]. The lower courses of the wall had been constructed using English bond and the visible upper courses were laid using the same herringbone pattern visible above ground. These courses were bonded by a light grey mortar with pea grit inclusions. The wall had then been rendered using a yellowish grey cement [10/002] to a depth of approximately 0.70m below ground level. The sequence in all sections was then capped by a concrete floor [10/004] noted to a depth of 0.12m.

4.5.10 Test Pit 11

Length: 1.55m Width: 0.70m Depth: 0.60m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
11/001	Masonry	North-South Wall	Tr.	-	0.60m	58.64m
11/002	Masonry	Mortar Render	Tr.	-	0.60m	58.64m
11/003	Masonry	East-West Wall	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	58.64m
11/004	Masonry	Concrete Floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m	58.64m
11/005	Masonry	Slab Flooring	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	58.64m
11/006	Masonry	Concrete Floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m	58.64m
11/007	Deposit	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	58.00m
11/008	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	58.54m
11/009	Deposit	Head Deposit Geology				

Table 13: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 11

4.5.11 The east facing section of Test Pit 11 revealed the chalk geology [11/007] at around 58.00m AOD. Atop this natural chalk were the foundations for the western wall of the barn [11/001]. This had been rendered using yellow grey mortar [11/002] of a very similar composition to that noted in Test Pit 10. This almost completely covered wall [11/001] to its full extent.

4.5.12 The south facing section showed the geological substrate at around 58.00m again. Above this was an east-west red brick wall [11/003]. This was similar in construction to the feature noted above as [10/003]. Although it could not be established conclusively that the two structures were part of the same wall they appeared to be on the same alignment. Above this east-west wall was a made ground deposit [11/008] which seemed identical to that noted in Test Pit 10 as [10/008]. A cement floor [11/006] had been laid over this made ground and this was identical to the floor noted in Test Pit 10.

4.5.13 The west and north facing sections showed very similar sequences. Head deposit geology [11/009] being the lowest layer in the north facing section and chalk geology the lowest in the west facing section. Above the geological substrate was between 0.10 and 0.60m of made ground [11/008] with the sequence in the north facing section capped by a concrete floor [11/004] and the sequence in the west facing section capped by a flagstone floor [11/009].

4.5.14 Test Pit 12

Length: 1.52m Width: 0.90m Depth: 0.50m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
12/001	Cut	Construction Cut	Tr.	-	0.30m	58.58m
12/002	Fill	Fill of 12/001	Tr.	-	0.30m	58.58m
12/003	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	58.63m
12/004	Deposit	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	58.28m
12/005	Masonry	Bonded Composite Wall	Tr.	-	0.50m	58.63m

Table 14: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 12

4.5.15 The geological substrate in Test Pit 12 was observed at around 58.28m AOD and this was localised to the western portion of the pit.

4.5.16 The west facing section of Test Pit 12 revealed the foundations for the western wall of the barn [12/005] which were constructed using roughly worked flint nodules and included two string courses of red bricks. The whole had been bonded using a light greenish grey mortar. Visible in plan and running parallel to [12/005] was a linear cut [12/001]. This was also visible in both the north and south facing sections in which it appeared to be straight sided. Although the full extent of this feature was not excavated it was seen to a depth of 0.30m. The feature was filled by a loose mid grey brown fine silt with very frequent unbonded flint nodule inclusions and one almost complete brick. It is possible that this is the original construction cut for wall {12/005} but it is equally feasible that it represents a later attempt to consolidate the wall using local materials. The sequence was capped by a layer of made ground [12/003] made up of loose grey brown fine silt with very frequent flint nodule and CBM inclusions

4.5.17 Test Pit 13

Length: 0.88m Width: 0.79m Depth: 0.60m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
13/001	Masonry	North-South Wall	Tr.	-	0.40m	57.60m
13/002	Layer	Remnant Subsoil	Tr.	-	0.20m	57.40m
13/003	Deposit	Chalk Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	57.10m
13/004	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	57.60m

Table 15: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 13

4.5.18 The chalk geological substrate [13/003] was revealed in Test Pit 13 at approximately 57.10m AOD. Above this was a subsoil [13/002] made up of a friable mid orange brown fine silt with very common chalk fragments. The east facing section revealed the foundations of the east wall of the barn [13/001] close to its junction with the southern gable end. This had been constructed using roughly worked flint nodules bonded with a yellowish mortar. The sequence was capped by a layer of made ground [13/004] which was made up of a mid grey brown fine silt with common CBM and flint inclusions.

4.5.19 Test Pit 14

Length: 1.88m Width: 0.77m Depth: 1.95m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
14/001	Masonry	East-West Yard Wall	Tr.	-	0.11m	57.40m
14/002	Masonry	Concrete Gutter	Tr.	-	0.55m	57.40m
14/003	Masonry	Concrete Yard Surface	Tr.	Tr.	-	57.40m
14/004	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	57.25m
14/005	Layer	Remnant Soil	Tr.	Tr.	-	56.70m

Table 16: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 14

4.5.20 The geological substrate was not observed in Test Pit 14 which was excavated to reveal the foundations of the southern yard wall. These foundations [14/001] appeared to extend to a much greater depth than those observed in the nearby barn structure (roughly 1.95m BGL) and the wall itself was constructed using red bricks laid in a herringbone coursing bonded with off white mortar. There was a visible 'lip' in the brickwork approximately 0.25m BGL probably caused by movement within the structure post construction. A soil [14/005] (which may have been the remains of construction backfill) surrounded the wall. This soil layer was made up of dark brown fine silt and had been capped by made ground [14/004] which consisted of a loose dark brown silty clay with very frequent CBM and chalk fragment inclusions. This layer may have been intended as a base for concrete guttering [14/002] which was laid along the base of the wall and may have been roughly contemporary with the surrounding concrete yard surface [14/003].

4.5.21 Test Pit 15

Length: 0.91m Width: 0.73m Depth: 0.39m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
15/001	Masonry	East-West Wall	Tr.	-	0.20m	56.79m
15/002	Deposit	Chalk Geology	Tr.	-	0.20m	57.59m
15/003	Cut	Cut of Shallow Gully	Tr.	Tr.	-	56.79m
15/004	Fill	Fill of 15/003				56.79m

Table 17: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 15

4.5.22 The geological chalk substrate was encountered at around 57.00m AOD in Test Pit 15. The south facing section revealed the foundations for the southern gable end of the barn [15/001] which were constructed directly onto the substrate of roughly worked chalk blocks and was seen no deeper than 0.20m BGL. The east and west facing sections revealed a shallow gully running along the base of the wall consisting of a moderately sided cut [15/003] with a rounded concave base filled by a loose mid grey brown fine silt [15/004] with flint and chalk inclusions.

4.5.23 Test Pit 16

Length: 1.37m Width: 1.07m Depth: 0.63m

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
16/001	Masonry	East-West Wall	Tr.	Tr.	0.63m	56.75m
16/002	Deposit	Head Deposit Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	56.25m
16/003	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.55m	56.75m

Table 18: List of Recorded Contexts for Test Pit 16

4.5.24 The geological head deposit geological substrate was encountered at around 56.25m AOD in Test Pit 16. This was overlain by topsoil [16/003] in the west and east facing sections. This topsoil was similar to that described above as [1/001]. The south facing section revealed the foundations of the southern yard wall [16/001] which were identical to the structure described above as [14/001] and appeared to have been built into a step cut into the Head Deposit geology rather than a construction trench.

5.0 THE FINDS

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
7/002	2	126				
U/S			1	522		
6/001					2	576
2/004	1	3134				
Total	3	3260	1	522	2	576

Table 19: Finds Quantification Table

5.1 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.1.1 A total of three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered. An unfrosted brick sample from context [2/004] measured 222 by 116 by 62mm and in a pinkish fabric with abundant cream silt streaks and pellets. The brick has well formed edges and sharp arises and is mortared with a cement-based mortar and is of probable 19th to 20th century date. Context [7/002] contained two fragments of peg tile in a high fired red fabric with moderate black iron rich inclusions of 19th to 20th century date. The assemblage holds no potential for further research and has been recorded on pro-forma record form for archive and discarded.

5.2 The Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A single multiplatform flake core weighing 520g was recovered from unstratified deposit. It displays heavy edge damage which probably results from ploughing activities. The raw material is characteristic of chalk derived flint. The light grey flint with a relatively thin off-white cortex is partially recorticated white. Rust marks which are often associated with ploughing activities were present. The piece indicates Prehistoric activities but is not otherwise closely datable.

5.3 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [6/001] produced two complete colourless glass bottles of mid to late 20th-century date. The first (154g) is of cylindrical form with the body merging with a long tapering neck (190mm tall with a 43mm diameter base and 24mm diameter rim). The closure appears to be of cork/crown type and there is an oval raised panel for a paper label on the front of the body. The exact commodity contained is uncertain but it may well have been a sauce bottle. The other bottle (425g) is of rectangular section with external aluminium screw cap (printed Boots) and measures 228mm tall with a base of 82 by 49mm. On the front of the bottle is a 125 x 43mm recessed panel for a paper label. This example is undoubtedly for medicine.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Geology and Overburden

6.1.1 The chalk geological substrate was encountered at a depth of roughly 80.18m AOD in Area D falling away to around 59.43m AOD in Area A and 28.34m AOD in the extreme south of the watching brief area. Head deposit geology was encountered in Area A at a maximum height of 59.00m AOD. Trenches 1 and 6 contained topsoil immediately overlying the chalk geology whilst Trenches 4, 5 and 7 revealed a subsoil layer between the chalk geology and the topsoil. Colluvial deposits were noted in Trench 3 and in the south of the pipe trench monitored during the watching brief phase. Made ground deposits were observed in and around the structures in Area A. In Test pits 10 and 11 this made ground had been used to raise the floor level within the barn by around 0.60m. The made ground in Test Pit 12 may have been an informal yard surface of loose locally sourced flint nodules and that in Test Pit 13 may have been formed by dumping of material in this area or as a further attempt to strengthen the barn wall. Trench 2 revealed a made ground deposit immediately overlying the head deposit geology hinting that any original topsoil within the yard had been terraced away.

6.2 The Watching Brief

6.2.1 The watching brief undertaken on the excavation of a pipe trench detected several linear features. The limited nature of the excavation meant that these were only revealed to a small degree and could not be fully recorded due to space constraints. This said it appeared that the majority followed a similar northwest to southeast alignment with similarly wide, shallow profiles. It might be reasonable to assume that these are part of a now defunct field system(s). The watching brief also uncovered three discrete cut features. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features observed so it is impossible to date any of them.

6.3 The Evaluation Phase

6.3.1 Of the seven evaluation trenches only Trench 2 produced notable archaeological features. These were in the form of a probable 19th to 20th century north-south wall which lay immediately below a brick surface within the farm complex in Area A. This wall almost certainly once formed one side of a dairy that once stood on the site. In association with this wall was a brick drain with associated glazed ceramic pipes draining east to west before turning to drain towards the southern yard wall. This drain was probably intended to serve facilities within the dairy structure. These features and the brick floor that overlay them are almost certainly contemporary. Curiously, however, the wall and pipes appear to have been truncated in the south whilst the brick floor did not show signs of having been disturbed. This disturbance to the wall may have occurred during demolition of the dairy. Two glass vessels of late 20th century date were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 6. 19th to 20th century peg tile were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 7.

6.4 The Test Pits

- 6.4.1 Test pits 9 & 8 revealed that the barn walls at the northern end of the barn were resting on very insubstantial foundations which were constructed of red brick. Test Pits 10 and 11 both revealed evidence for an east-west wall forming an internal division inside the southern range of the barn. The depth of the render still adhering to the walls revealed the extent to which the floor level had been raised in this area (roughly 0.60m).
- 6.4.2 Test pit 12 outside the western wall of the barn revealed a linear cut feature which may have either been the original construction trench for the barn or may equally have been a later attempt to strengthen the foundations by adding loose flint to their base. The made ground deposit seen overlying the cut feature possibly represents an informal yard surface constructed using readily available local flint. Test pits 13 and 15 revealed that the foundations along the southern extent of the barn were also insubstantial. Unlike the footings noted inside the barn structure those outside were constructed chiefly of roughly worked flint nodules hinting that the barn walls were built in two distinct 'skins'. The inner 'skin' (at least at foundation level) appears to have been constructed of relatively expensive bricks whilst the outer 'skin' has been constructed chiefly of locally sourced flint nodules.
- 6.4.3 The two test pits dug either side of the southern yard wall (14 & 16) revealed that it had substantial footings that were constructed of red brick laid in herringbone pattern to their base. The fact that they are significantly different in construction to the foundations noted around the barn further strengthens the theory put forward in the Historic Building Assessment (ASE 2012a) that they were built at a later date. Even though these footings had been constructed in a relatively substantial manner, the wall has visibly listed to the south, probably along the pronounced lip noted in the brickwork. This movement was almost certainly caused by stresses placed on the wall by a range of buildings (now demolished) that had been built up against it. A shallow gully was noted running east-west along the southern barn wall which may have had a drainage related function.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Although the watching brief phase appeared to have identified several cut features probably relating to a now defunct field system(s), no dating evidence was recovered from these features. It was not possible therefore, to identify these as prehistoric or to discern any continuation of use into later periods as set out in the site specific aims. A single struck flint core does suggest prehistoric activity in the area.
- 7.2 Excavations around the derelict barn complex in Area A served to reinforce the conclusions reached by the Historic Buildings Assessment (*ibid*).

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Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Buro Four on behalf of the Rathfinny Estate for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter of ESCC for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	REA 12					
Identification Name and Address	The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN 26 5TU					
County, District &/or Borough	ESCC					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 5040 0190					
Geology	Seaford Chalk Formation and Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number						5438
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. 30/03/12- 13/04/12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Buro Four					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other:		

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of the Rathfinny Estate to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex, in advance of the development of the site.

The watching brief noted evidence of a probable defunct undated field system(s). Excavations in and around the derelict farm buildings to the west of the site revealed that the foundations for the barn were very shallow and had been constructed using a variety of materials and techniques. It also appeared that there had once been internal divisions within the structure and that some time after construction the floor level had been raised by roughly 0.60m. Excavations in the east of this range of structures uncovered the probable western wall of a now demolished dairy along with associated drainage features. Test pits along the southern yard wall revealed that the foundations of this structure were far more substantial than those noted in the nearby barn and sufficiently different in construction to suggest that the wall was a slightly later addition to the complex.

OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-124297

Project details

Project name	An archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation at the Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of the Rathfinny Estate to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex, in advance of the development of the site. The watching brief noted evidence of a probable defunct undated field system(s). Excavations in and around the derelict farm buildings to the west of the site revealed that the foundations for the barn were very shallow and had been constructed using a variety of materials and techniques. It also appeared that there had once been internal divisions within the structure and that some time after construction the floor level had been raised by roughly 0.60m. Excavations in the east of this range of structures uncovered the probable western wall of a now demolished dairy along with associated drainage features. Test pits along the southern yard wall revealed that the foundations of this structure were far more substantial than those noted in the nearby barn and sufficiently different in construction to suggest that the wall was a slightly later addition to the complex.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2012 End: 13-04-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	5438 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	REA 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	National Park
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS Modern
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods &	'Targeted Trenches'

available

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Report'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological watching Brief and Evaluation at The Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Russel,C.

Other bibliographic details Rep No:2012089

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South East

Place of issue or publication Portslade

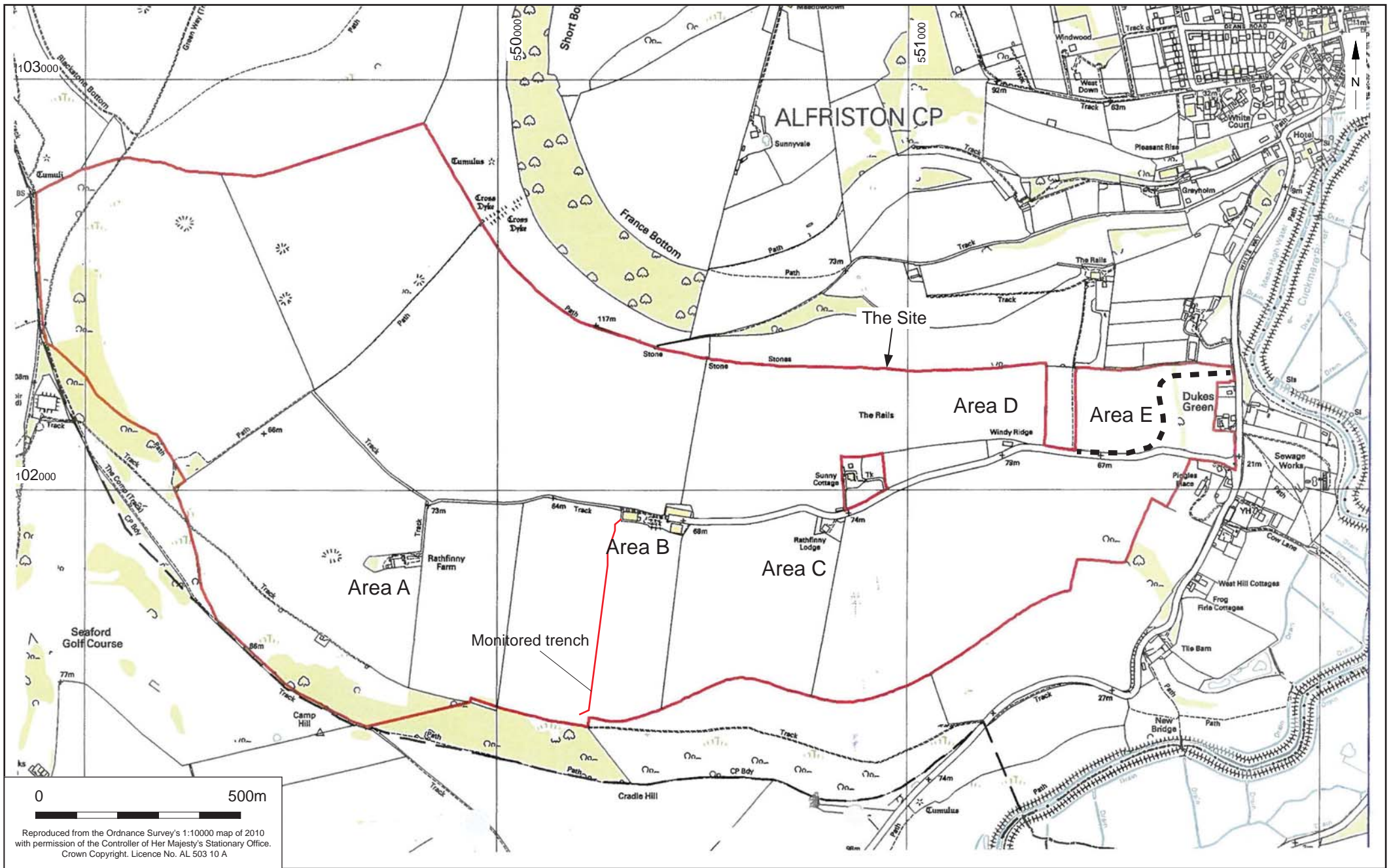
Entered by C.Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 25 April 2012



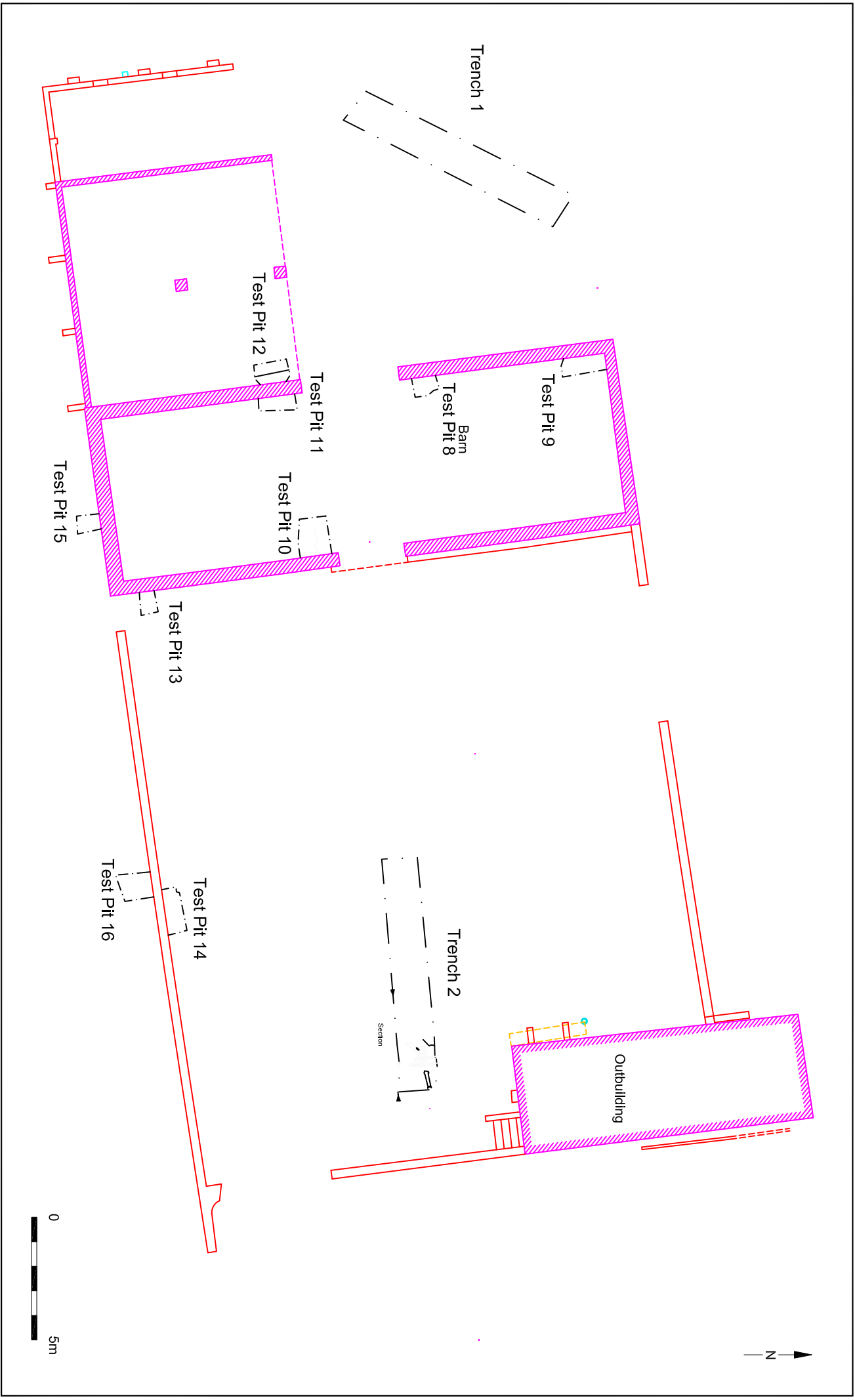
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Project Ref: 5438	April 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012089	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



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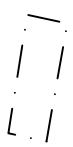
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Project Ref: 5438	April 2012	Site detail	
Report Ref: 2012089	Drawn by: JC		



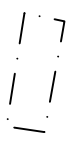
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Project Ref: 5438	April 2012		
Report Ref: 2012089	Drawn by: JC	Area A - trench location	
			Fig. 3



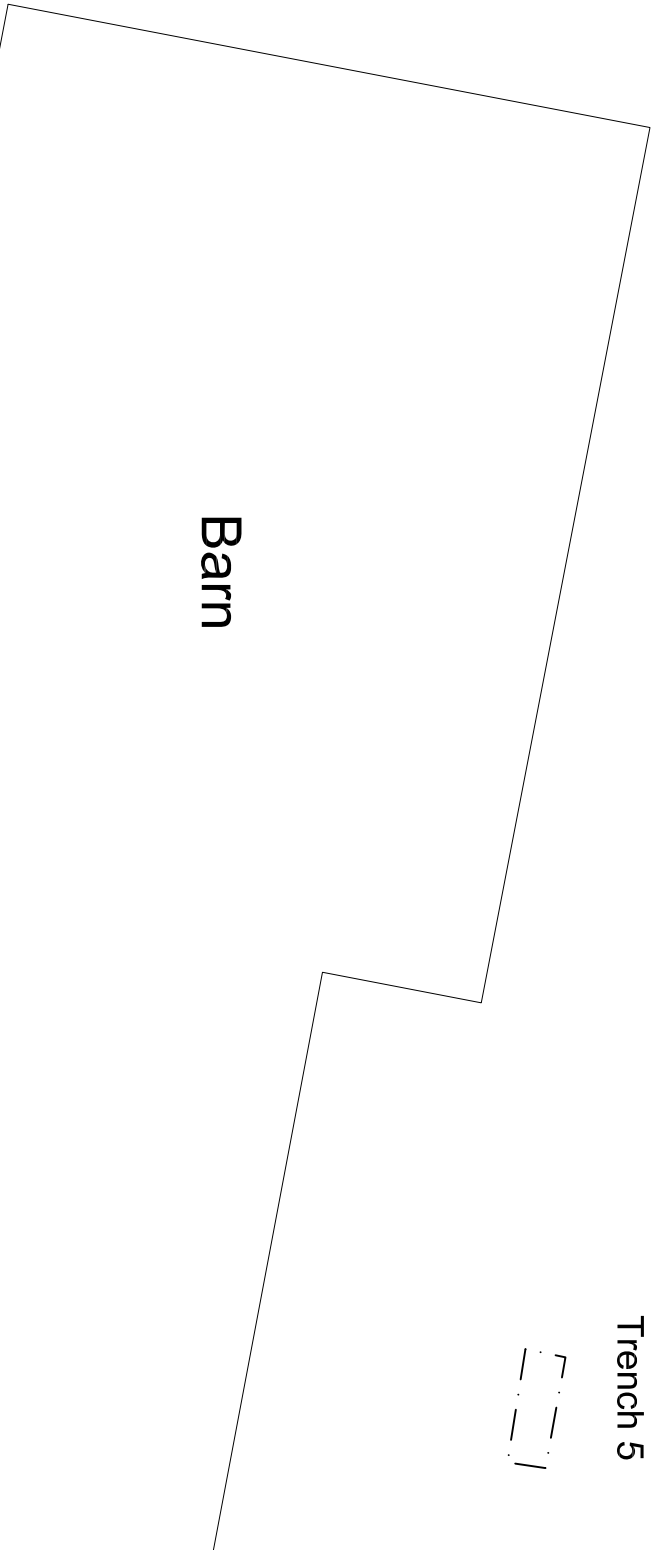
Trench 4



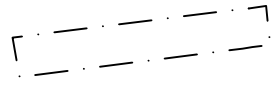
Trench 5



Barn



Trench 3



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Project Ref: 5438	April 2012		
Report Ref: 2012038	Drawn by: J.C.	Area B - Trench Location	

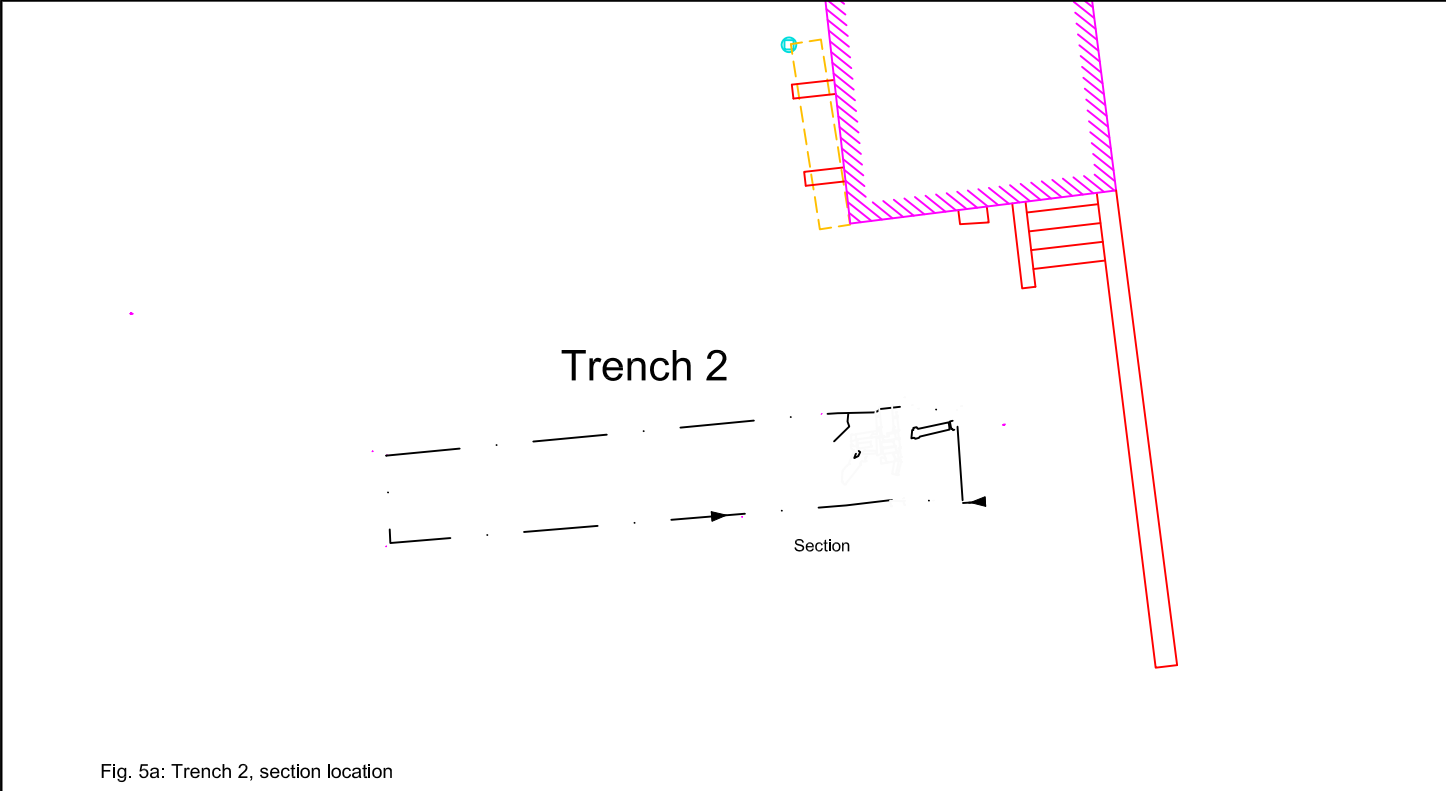


Fig. 5a: Trench 2, section location

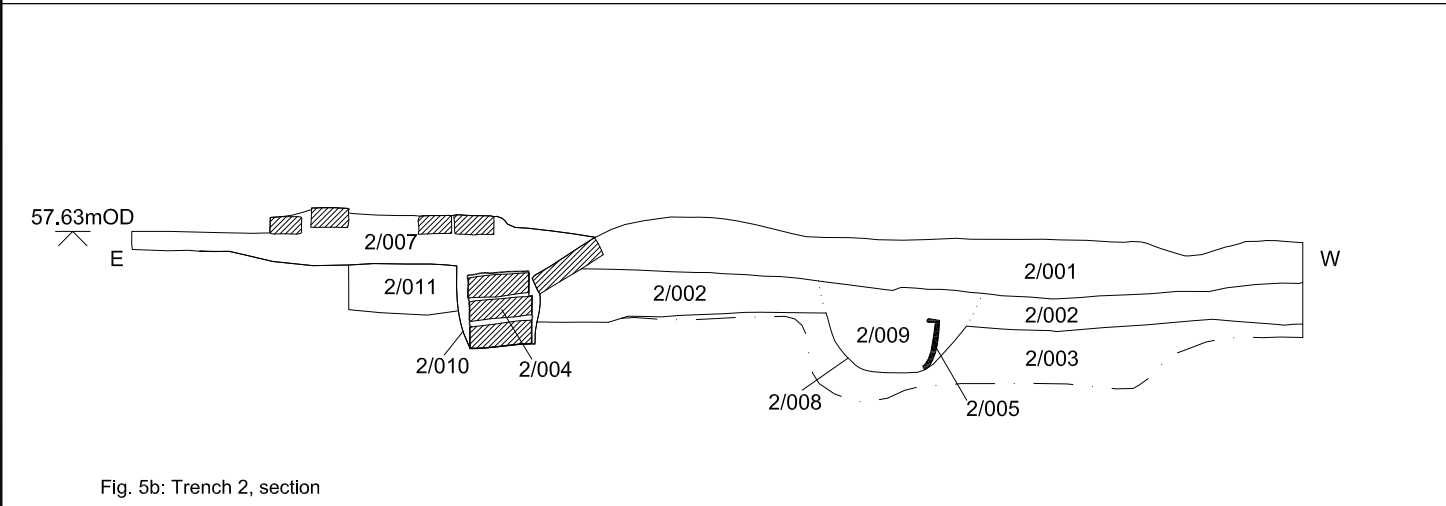
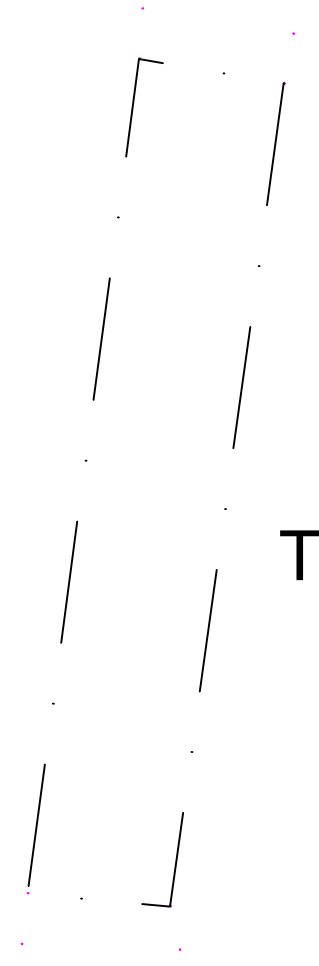
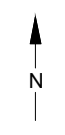


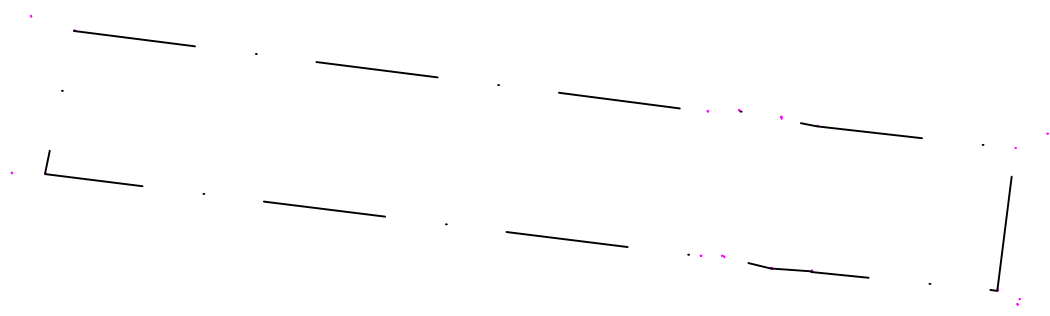
Fig. 5b: Trench 2, section



Fig. 5c: Trench 2, facing east, soakaway



Trench 6



Trench 7

Road



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Fig. 7a: Trench 1, facing north east



Fig. 7b: Trench 2, facing west

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Fig. 8a: Trench 3, facing east



Fig. 8b: Trench 4, facing south east

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Report Ref: 2012089	Drawn by: JC		



Fig. 9a: Trench 5, facing east



Fig. 9b: Trench 6, facing south

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Fig. 10a: Trench 7, facing east



Fig. 10b: Test Pit 8, facing west

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Fig. 11a: Test Pit 9, facing west



Fig. 11b: Test Pit 10, facing east

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Fig. 12a: Test Pit 11, facing west



Fig. 12b: Test Pit 12, facing east

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Fig. 13a: Test Pit 13, facing west



Fig. 13b: Test Pit 14, facing south

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



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

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