Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex

NGR TQ 084 246

ASE Project No: 4320
Site Code: MBL 11

ASE Report No: 2012104
OASIS id: archaeol6-121460

By Andrew Margetts
With contributions from Luke Barber
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex.

Though there was an absence of subsoil the natural horizon appeared intact and untruncated beneath good thicknesses of topsoil. Late post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in the eastern part of the site and one undiagnostic worked flint was recovered –also from topsoil.

The evaluation has revealed only very limited archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a post-medieval ditch that probably represents an original field boundary before the railway was built and a large clay oven of unknown date within Trench 8. Much of the previous geophysical survey results remain unaccounted for or are the consequence of post-medieval land-drains filled with deposits similar to the surrounding clay natural. Thus they have given the appearance of linear features filled with archaeological deposits. The only significant feature to be related to the geophysics comprised the clay oven that showed as a large thermo-remnant anomaly. The samples taken from the undated oven contain charcoal, bone, burnt clay and magnetised material but the charcoal fragments are too limited and too small to provide identifications or for scientific dating purposes.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) on land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex (NGR TQ 084 246; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on the southern limit of the large village of Billingshurst. It is bounded by a railway to the west, Groomsland Drive and an industrial estate to the north, Marringdean Road and a farm access road to the east and fields to the south. The land is gently sloping with a small watercourse running through the middle of the site.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 301 Haslemere) maps the underlying geology at the site as Weald Clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This stage of trial trenching is the third stage in the archaeological evaluation process. The first stage of work requested by West Sussex County Council was a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) completed by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2011). A subsequent second stage of magnetometer survey was undertaken between 29th November and 5th December 2011 (ASE 2011) and several of the trial trench locations were based on the results of this survey. The evaluation was undertaken to inform whether any further archaeological mitigation would be necessary in advance of the new development.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE/CgMs 2011) relating to the archaeological evaluation was prepared. All works were carried out in accordance with the WSCC *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC Version 2b; 2007).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation as set out in the WSI (ASE/CgMs 2011) were to:

- determine as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed new development.

- to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report outlines the results of the evaluation, undertaken by Andrew Margetts (Senior Archaeologist), Cat Douglas (Assistant Archaeologist) and Jon Cook (Surveyor), from the 23rd to the 30th of April 2012. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is taken from a preceding DBA (CgMs 2010) with due acknowledgement.

Prehistoric

2.1.2 A hoard of five palstaves was found at Billingshurst in 1877-1909 although the exact location is unknown. In the prehistoric period the study site is likely to have lain within a wooded landscape but it is clear that some form of occupational activity was taking place some distance to the west of the study site.

Roman

2.1.3 The alignment of Stane Street, the Roman Road from London to Chichester runs along the A29 approximately 70m from the western boundary of the study site. The alignment of the road was identified during trial trenching in 1984, 200m to the north of the study site, that found an agger comprised of iron stone and crushed flints. A similar surface was found in 2004, 500m north of the site, that possibly located associated road side ditches though dating was not secure. A ditch and associated find of coin were discovered approximately 350m to the northeast of the site.

2.1.4 Roman coins, pottery and tesserae were found along Billingshurst High Street (which follows the line of Stane Street) over 1km north of the site. These finds have been interpreted as representing the site of a possible villa, though it is perhaps more likely that a small rural roadside settlement is represented.

Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval

2.1.5 No evidence for the Anglo Saxon/Early medieval periods has been found within the 750m radius of the study site. Further afield two late Saxon/early Norman pits containing pottery were exposed during an archaeological monitoring exercise at the Billingshurst bypass approximately 1km south west of the study site. During these periods the site is likely to have comprised of woodland or agricultural land.

Late Medieval and Post Medieval

2.1.6 The settlement of Billingshurst is not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The church was originally constructed in the 12th century and the focus of Billingshurst slowly developed around the church and along the High Street during the Medieval and post-medieval periods. An archaeological evaluation at Stane Street, found evidence of a medieval field system suggesting a rural nature to this area of Billingshurst in the period. The 1795 Gardener and Gream map (Figure. 2) shows the site located across three parcels of agricultural land. The land at this time is situated to the south of Billingshurst north of Denham Farm and to the east of Andrew Hill. The Billingshurst Tithe of 1841 provides more detail on the site and shows the individual parcels of the site divided by substantial hedgerows or wooded belts. All parts of the site are listed on the Tithe apportionment as arable.

Magnetometer Survey

2.1.7 The magnetometer survey identified several anomalies; the majority of which were linear in form and positive in response (Figure 2; ASE 2011). A single area of possible thermoremanence was noted in the north of the survey area. A large area of magnetic disturbance was also evident in the east of the survey.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 The evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of 19 30m x 1.8m trenches, one 50m x 1.8m trench and one 20m x 1.8m trench as shown on Figure 2.

3.1.2 The trenches were accurately located by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station.

3.1.3 The trench locations were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.

3.1.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological deposits, whichever was uppermost. Machine excavation proceeded with caution and in spits of no more than 200mm depth.

3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was spoil derived from excavated features

3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion but no formal re-instatement (e.g. re-turfing, re-seeding, etc.) was be undertaken.

3.1.7 A Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) was produced and agreed with CgMs prior to the commencement of the work.

3.2 Recording Methodology

3.2.1 Excavation strategy was in accordance with Annexe A of the Standard Conditions (WSCC 2007). Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned, recorded and excavated sufficiently to characterise them.

3.2.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.

3.2.3 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned in relation to the trench and the trench planned onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map not smaller than 1:2500 scale. Sections of each trench, or representative sections where uniform deposits were encountered, were properly drawn and recorded.

3.2.4 A photographic record was made of all archaeological features. Photographs, except working shots, included a board that detailed: the site code, date and context number, a scale and a north arrow.

3.3 Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and will be submitted to a suitable museum or archive repository at the end of the project.

Number of Contexts	52
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and section sheets	1
Bulk Samples	3
Photographs	18 digital images
Registered finds	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 EVALUATION RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trenches encountered little disturbance apart from the presence of post medieval land-drains, vegetation disturbance and indications of past ploughing activity. The natural horizon was intact. Removal of *c*. 0.15m of natural clay was necessary for clarification of archaeological features. Trenches 12 and 13 were not excavated due to the presence of dense vegetation and trees

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
1/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
1/003	Cut	Ditch	n/a	1.10m	n/a
1/004	Fill	Ditch	n/a	1.10m	0.50m

Table 2: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 Natural Weald Clay [1/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone inclusions was cut by:

4.2.3 Linear ditch feature [1/003]. This had sharp steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by mid-brown-grey silt-clay [1/004] that contained occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks as well as manganese fragments. The ditch had a post-medieval land-drain inserted prior to silting. The ditch accounted for one of the two geo-physical linear anomalies targeted by the trench the remaining anomaly could not be accounted for.

4.2.4 Overlaying the natural clay was topsoil [1/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 55m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
2/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 2

4.3.2 Natural Weald Clay [2/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.3.3 Topsoil [2/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.3.4 The geophysical anomalies targeted by the trench were derived from land-drains filled by deposits similar to the surrounding natural. The circular anomaly is perhaps the result of farm vehicles turning in the corner of the field.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

4.4.1 Trench 3 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/003	Cut	Ditch	n/a	0.65m	0.38m
3/004	Fill	Ditch	n/a	0.65m	0.38m

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 3

4.4.1 Natural Weald Clay [3/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone inclusions was cut by:

4.4.2 Linear ditch feature [3/003]. This had sharp steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by mid-brown-grey silt-clay [3/004] that contained occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks as well as manganese fragments. The ditch had a post-medieval land-drain inserted prior to silting. The ditch accounted for the geo-physical curvilinear anomaly targeted by the trench.

4.4.3 Overlaying the natural clay was topsoil [3/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 4

4.5.2 Natural Weald Clay [2/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.5.3 Topsoil [2/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.5.4 The geophysical anomalies targeted by the trench were derived from land-drains filled by deposits similar to the surrounding natural.

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
5/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 5

4.6.2 Natural Weald Clay [5/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.6.3 Topsoil [5/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.6.4 The extension of the post-medieval land drain ditch encountered in Trenches 1 and 3 was located in the northeast of Trench 5 but was not recorded.

4.6.5 The geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench could not be accounted for but perhaps were derived from land-drains filled by deposits similar to the surrounding natural.

4.7 Trench 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
6/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 6

4.7.2 Natural Weald Clay [6/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.7.3 Topsoil [6/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.7.4 The geophysical anomalies targeted by the trench were derived from two parallel land-drains filled by deposits similar to the surrounding natural.

4.8 Trench 7

4.8.1 Trench 7 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
7/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 7

4.8.2 Natural Weald Clay [7/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.8.3 Topsoil [7/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.8.4 As was the case in Trench 2, it is considered that the circular anomaly targeted by this trench was perhaps the result of farm vehicles turning in the corner of the field also a land-drain filled with similar deposits to the

surrounding natural was encountered.

4.9 Trench 8 (Figure 5)

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
8/003	Cut	Oven	1.50m	1.50m	n/a
8/004	Fill	Oven	1.14m	1.14m	0.23m
8/005	Fill	Oven	1.00m	1.00m	0.07m
8/006	Layer	Scorched Natural	1.70m	1.70m	0.10m

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 8

4.9.2 Natural Weald Clay [8/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone inclusions was cut by:

4.9.3 Circular oven [8/003]. This had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by two distinct deposits. The earliest of these [8/005] comprised the fired clay base and part of the walls of the oven. This was overlain by [8/004] that comprised degraded fired clay that represented the remains of the collapsed oven roof and walls.

4.9.4 The oven was obviously heated to a high temperature as much of the surrounding natural comprised a ‘halo’ of fired clay [8/006]. The only charcoal derived from the feature was on the north-eastern side and was probably ‘rooted’ into the burnt natural although this area may also represent the location of the flue. The oven seemed to have been cleared out prior to demolition. The oven was completely excavated after recording in section but remains undated.

4.9.5 Overlaying the natural clay was topsoil [8/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.9.6 The two linear geophysical anomalies targeted by the trench were derived from land-drains filled by deposits similar to the Weald Clay natural. The thermo-remnant remains described in the magnetometer report (ASE 2011) were explained by the presence of the oven.

4.10 Trench 9

4.10.1 Trench 9 measured 20m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon but was shortened due to the presence of trees.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
9/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 10: Context Register, Trench 9

4.10.2 Natural Weald Clay [9/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.10.3 Topsoil [9/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.10.4 The circular anomaly targeted by this trench was not investigated due to obstructions the linear anomaly was derived from a land-drain filled by deposits similar to the Weald Clay natural.

4.11 Trench 10

4.11.1 Trench 10 measured *c*. 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon but was slightly shortened due to the presence of trees.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
10/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 11: Context Register, Trench 10

4.11.2 Natural Weald Clay [10/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.11.3 Topsoil [10/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.11.4 Only one of the linear anomalies targeted by this trench could be explained by the presence of a land-drain.

4.12 Trench 11

4.12.1 Trench 11 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
11/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 12: Context Register, Trench 11

4.12.2 Natural Weald Clay [11/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.12.3 Topsoil [11/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.12.4 None of the geo-physical anomalies targeted by this trench could be explained.

4.13 Trench 12

4.13.1 Trench 12 was not excavated due to dense vegetation and trees.

4.14 Trench 13

4.14.1 Trench 13 was not excavated due to dense vegetation and trees.

4.15 Trench 14

4.15.1 Trench 14 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
14/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 13: Context Register, Trench 14

4.15.2 Natural Weald Clay [14/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.15.3 Topsoil [14/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.16 Trench 15

4.16.1 Trench 15 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
15/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 14: Context Register, Trench 15

4.16.2 Natural Weald Clay [15/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.16.3 Topsoil [15/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.17 Trench 16

4.17.1 Trench 16 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
16/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 15: Context Register, Trench 16

4.17.2 Natural Weald Clay [16/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.17.3 Topsoil [16/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.18 Trench 17

4.18.1 Trench 17 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
17/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 16: Context Register, Trench 17

4.18.2 Natural Weald Clay [17/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.18.3 Topsoil [17/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.19 Trench 18

4.19.1 Trench 18 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
18/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 17: Context Register, Trench 18

4.18.2 Natural Weald Clay [18/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.18.3 Topsoil [18/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.20 Trench 19

4.20.1 Trench 19 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
19/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 18: Context Register, Trench 19

4.20.2 Natural Weald Clay [19/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.20.3 Topsoil [19/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.21 Trench 20

4.21.1 Trench 20 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
20/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 19: Context Register, Trench 20

4.21.2 Natural Weald Clay [20/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.21.3 Topsoil [20/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.22 Trench 21

4.22.1 Trench 21 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
21/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 20: Context Register, Trench 21

4.22.2 Natural Weald Clay [21/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.22.3 Topsoil [21/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.23 Trench 22

4.23.1 Trench 22 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
22/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
22/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 21: Context Register, Trench 22

4.23.2 Natural Weald Clay [22/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.23.3 Topsoil [22/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.24 Trench 23

4.24.1 Trench 23 measured 30m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
23/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 22: Context Register, Trench 23

4.24.2 Natural Weald Clay [23/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.24.3 Topsoil [23/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

4.25 Trench 24

4.25.1 Trench 24 measured 20m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
24/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 23: Context Register, Trench 24

4.21.2 Natural Weald Clay [24/002], a compact, mid-orange-yellow clay with very occasional sandstone was overlain by:

4.21.3 Topsoil [24/001] which comprised mid-grey-brown silt-clay topsoil with occasional inclusions of chalk fragments, angular flint and sub-rounded pebbles.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was collected during the evaluation at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst. An overview is shown in Table 24.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Plastic	Wt (g)
1/004			1	1018												
14/001			2	10			1	30								
15/001	2	4	1	60												
16/001							3	26								
17/001					1	<2	3	8	1	<2						
18/001	2	10	1	26			2	68								
19/001	1	<2	1	16			1	20	1	10						
21/001	2	68					1	14	1	22						
22/001	1	<2					1	30					1	4	1	<2
23/001	3	30	1	78												
8/001											1	2				
Total	**11**	**112**	**7**	**1208**	**1**	**0**	**12**	**196**	**3**	**32**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**0**

Table 24: Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.2 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the topsoil across the eastern part of the site, all of which is of late post-medieval date. The material exhibits slight to moderate signs of abrasion suggesting it has been reworked. The earliest sherd consists of a bodysherd from a mug in late creamware, likely to belong to the early 19th century (context [19/001]). The two sherds of glazed red earthenware from [21/001] include the club rim from a large dish. Although possibly of later 18th- century date they could easily be of the 19th century. A further sherd of glazed red earthenware (from a bowl) was recovered from [23/001] along with a 3g fragment from an early/mid 19th-century pearlware plate with purple stencilling and a 10g fragment from a blue transfer-printed plate with Asiatic pheasant pattern. This sherd carries the maker's initials C & E equating with Cartwrights & Edwards Ltd of the Borough Pottery, Staffordshire, working from *c.* 1881 onward (Godden 1991, No 796). Another fragment of transfer-printed earthenware plate, this time with floral design, was recovered from [22/001]. Context [15/001] produced two small conjoining sherds of refined white earthenware while [18]001] produced part of a plate with brown floral transfer-print likely to be of late 19th- to early 20th- century date.

5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [8/001] produced a single heavily abraded stem fragment of general 18th- century type.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Context [22/001] contained a 4g fragment of colourless glass from a cylindrical bottle of mid 19th- to 20th- century date.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [1/004] produced a complete unglazed earthenware land drain pipe section. This measures 302mm long with an external diameter of 64mm (internal diameter 42mm) and probably dates to the mid/late 19th century. The remaining pieces all consist of somewhat abraded peg tile fragments of 19th- to 20th- century types. Three different fabrics were noted:

T1 – sparse fine sand with clay pellets to 3mm. Well made and fired. 10mm thick. (context [14/001])

T2 – sparse fine sand with iron oxides to 2mm and marl streaks. Well made and fired. 10mm thick. (contexts [14/001], [15/001], [19/001] and [23/001])

T3 – sparse fine sand with abundant marl streaks/pellets. Well made and fired. 12mm thick

5.5.2 No complete dimensions or fixing holes are present in the assemblage.

5.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Three fragments of fired clay weighing a total of 32g were hand collected from topsoil contexts [17/001], [19/001] and [21/001]. The fabric is fine sand tempered with moderate iron rich inclusions up to 1mm, poorly sorted. No diagnostic characteristics were observed.

5.6.2 Additionally, fired clay with a total weight of 9.8kg (maximum mean fragment weight 19.6g) was collected from the <8mm fraction of environmental samples <1> [8/005] and <2> [8/004]. A rapid visual inspection of the material confirmed that the fabric is similar to that of the hand collected fragments, if a little lower fired. No diagnostic features were observed.

5.7 The Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.7.1 Twelve fragments of burnt unworked flint were recovered from seven individually numbered contexts. In addition, a single struck flint weighing <2g was hand collected from top soil context [17/001]. The artefact consists of a secondary flake. It is made from a dark grey flint and is otherwise undiagnostic.

6.0 Environmental Samples By Karine Le Hégarat

6.1 Introduction and Methods

6.1.1 Both the primary fill [08/005] and upper fill [08/004] of undated oven [08/003] as well as its burnt natural surrounding ([08/006]) were sampled during the evaluation work at the site to establish the presence of environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macroplant remains, bones and shells as well as to obtain material suitable for dating. Samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500 and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the samples is recorded in Table 24.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Sampling produced small to large flots which were dominated by uncharred vegetation. Although no uncharred weed seeds were recorded, the flots contained a large quantity of modern fine rootlets. Charred macroplant remains were absent from these samples and charred wood fragments were very scarce. They were only present in samples <1> and <3> including principally infrequent small-sized fragments. Sample <1> produced a single small fragment of unburnt bone. Large quantities of fired clay were present in the residues from samples <1> and <2> and a smaller amount was recorded in sample <3>. Although no industrial debris was noted, small quantities of magnetised material were recorded in these three samples.

6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 Sampling confirmed the presence of charcoal, bone, burnt clay and magnetised material. No identifications have been provided for the small assemblage of charcoal as the fragments are too limited and too small to provide significant information regarding fuel use and local woody vegetation.

6.3.2 The assemblage is also too small to provide material suitable for dating. The scarcity of charred plant remains confirmed the onsite observation that the oven had probably been cleaned and its content redeposited somewhere else.

					Flot							Residue				
Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	8/005	Primary fill of oven [8/003]	20	20	2	50	50	99	1			*	<2	*	<2	B. Clay ****/5344g - Mag. material ***/4g
2	8/004	Upper fill of oven [8/003]	40	40	12	300	100	99	1							B. Clay ****/4484g - Mag. material ***/20g
3	8/006	Layer [8/006]	<1	<1	<2	10	10	98	1	* (1)	* (2)	*	<2			B. Clay */2g - Mag. material **/4g

Table 24: Sample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Though there was an absence of subsoil the natural horizon appeared intact and untruncated beneath good thicknesses of topsoil. Late post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in the eastern part of the site and one undiagnostic worked flint was recovered –also from topsoil.

7.2 The evaluation has revealed only very limited archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a post-medieval ditch that probably represents an original field boundary before the railway was built and a large clay oven of unknown date within Trench 8.

7.3 Much of the previous geophysical survey results remain unaccounted for or are the consequence of post-medieval land-drains filled with deposits similar to the surrounding clay natural. Thus they have given the appearance of linear features filled with archaeological deposits. The only significant feature to be related to the geophysics comprised the clay oven that showed as a large thermo-remnant anomaly.

7.4 The samples taken from the undated oven contain charcoal, bone, burnt clay and magnetised material but the charcoal fragments are too limited and too small to provide identifications or for scientific dating purposes.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	MBL 11					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex					
County	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 084 246					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4320					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 23rd – 30th Apr	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other undated		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Though there was an absence of subsoil the natural horizon appeared intact and untruncated beneath good thicknesses of topsoil. Late post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in the eastern part of the site and one undiagnostic worked flint was recovered –also from topsoil. The evaluation has revealed only very limited archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a post-medieval ditch that probably represents an original field boundary before the railway was built and a large clay oven of unknown date within Trench 8. Much of the previous geophysical survey results remain unaccounted for or are the consequence of post-medieval land-drains filled with deposits similar to the surrounding clay natural. Thus they have given the appearance of linear features filled with archaeological deposits. The only significant feature to be related to the geophysics comprised the clay oven that showed as a large thermo-remnant anomaly. The samples taken from the undated oven in Trench 8 contain charcoal, bone, burnt clay and magnetised material but the charcoal fragments are too limited and too small to provide identifications or for scientific dating purposes.

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-125664

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Marringdean Rd, Billingshurst
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Though there was an absence of subsoil the natural horizon appeared intact and untruncated beneath good thicknesses of topsoil. Late post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in the eastern part of the site and one undiagnostic worked flint was recovered -also from topsoil. The evaluation has revealed only very limited archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a post-medieval ditch that probably represents an original field boundary before the railway was built and a large clay oven of unknown date within Trench 8. Much of the previous geophysical survey results remain unaccounted for or are the consequence of post-medieval land-drains filled with deposits similar to the surrounding clay natural. Thus they have given the appearance of linear features filled with archaeological deposits. The only significant feature to be related to the geophysics comprised the clay oven that showed as a large thermo-remnant anomaly. The samples taken from the undated oven in Trench 8 contain charcoal, bone, burnt clay and magnetised material but the charcoal fragments are too limited and too small to provide identifications or for scientific dating purposes.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2012 End: 30-04-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MBL 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 1 - Heathland
Monument type	OVEN Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	FCF Uncertain
Significant Finds	MAGNETISED MATERIAL Uncertain

Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	unknown
Prompt	unknown
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM BILLINGSHURST Marringdean Road
Postcode	RH14 9HF
Study area	30000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 084 246 51.0100081734 -0.454651454625 51 00 36 N 000 27 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.00m Max: 22.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

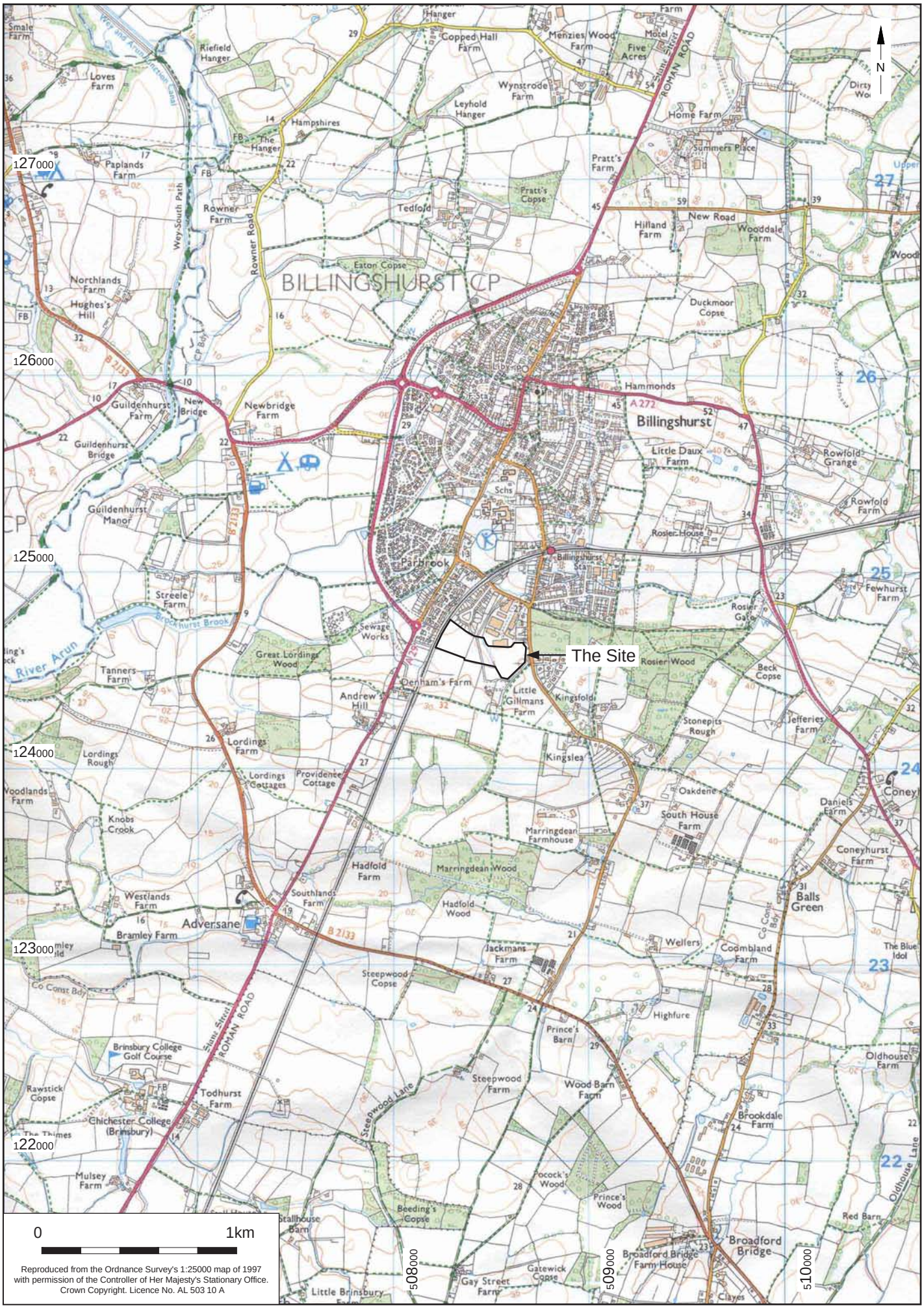
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	MBL 11
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','other'

Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	MBL 11
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','other'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	MBL 11
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

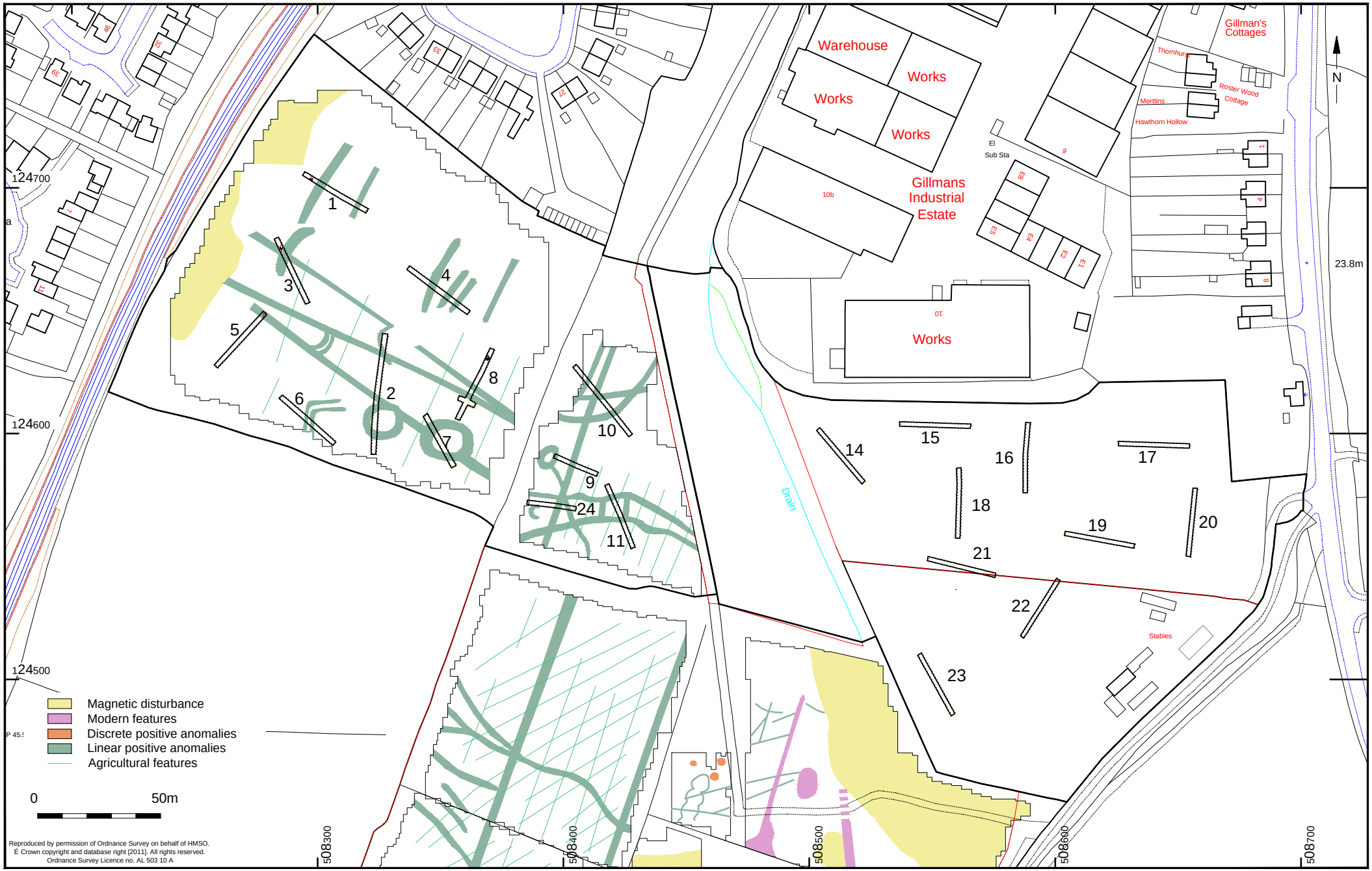
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2012104
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	grey lit bound rep

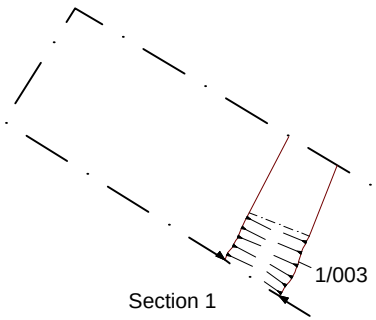
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	11 May 2012



© **Archaeology South-East**		Marringdean Road, Billingshurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4320	May 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012104	Drawn by: JLR		

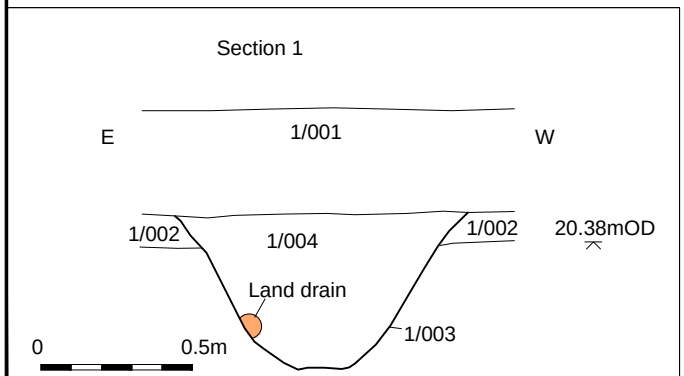


Archaeology South-East		Marringdean Road, Billingshurst	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4320	May 2012	Trench location and geophysical interpretation plan	
Report Ref: 2012104	Drawn by: AR		



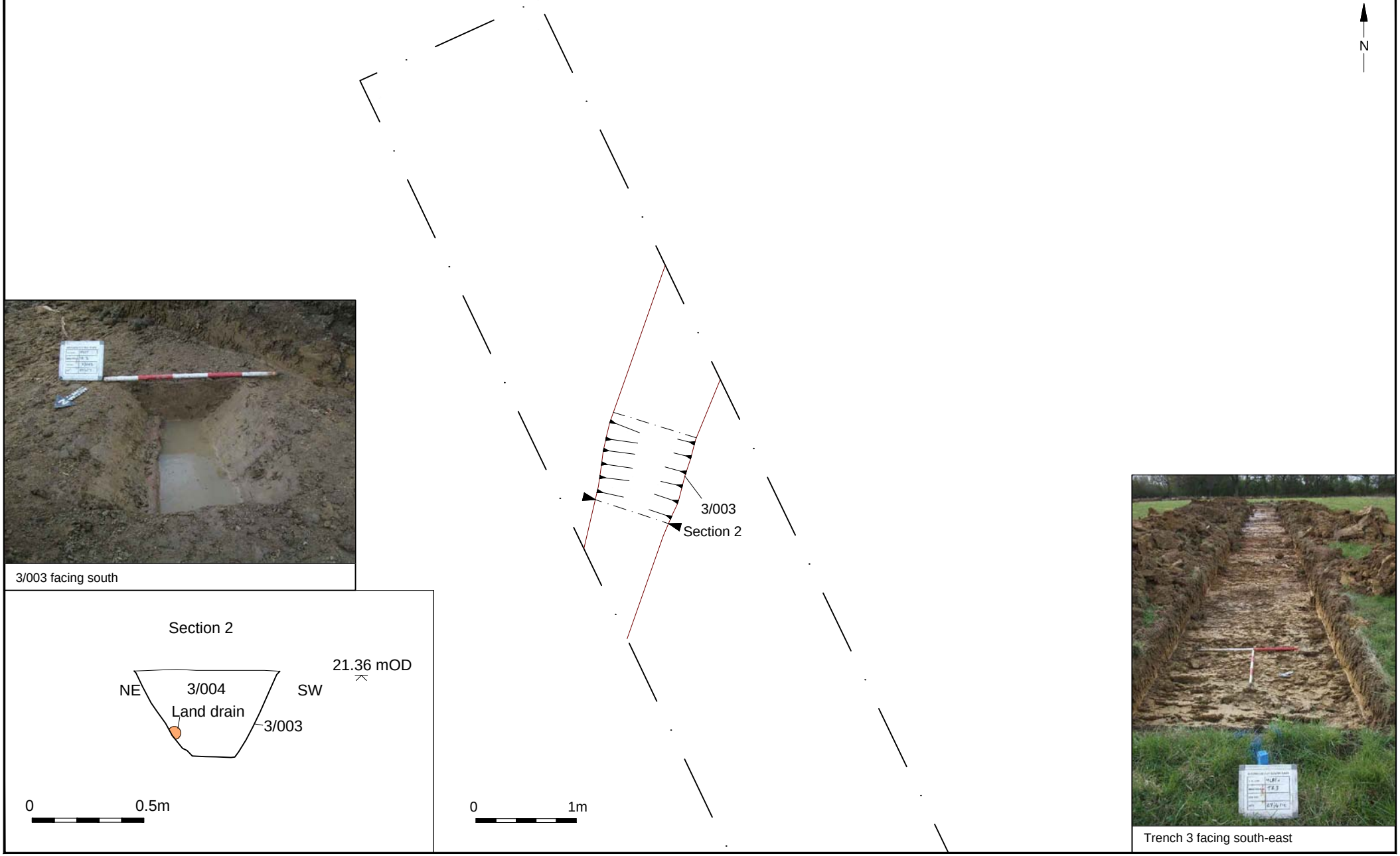
Trench 1 facing south-east

1/003 facing south



É **Archaeology South-East**		Marringdean Road, Billingshurst	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4320	May 2012	Trench 1: Plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2012104	Drawn by: AR		

3/003 facing south

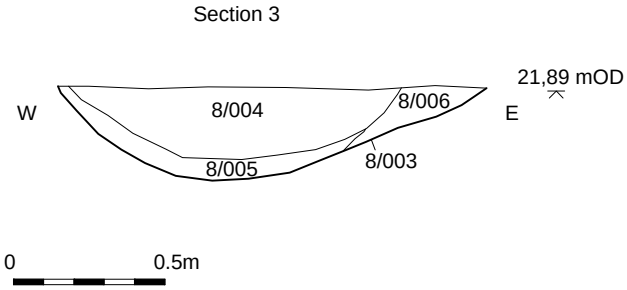


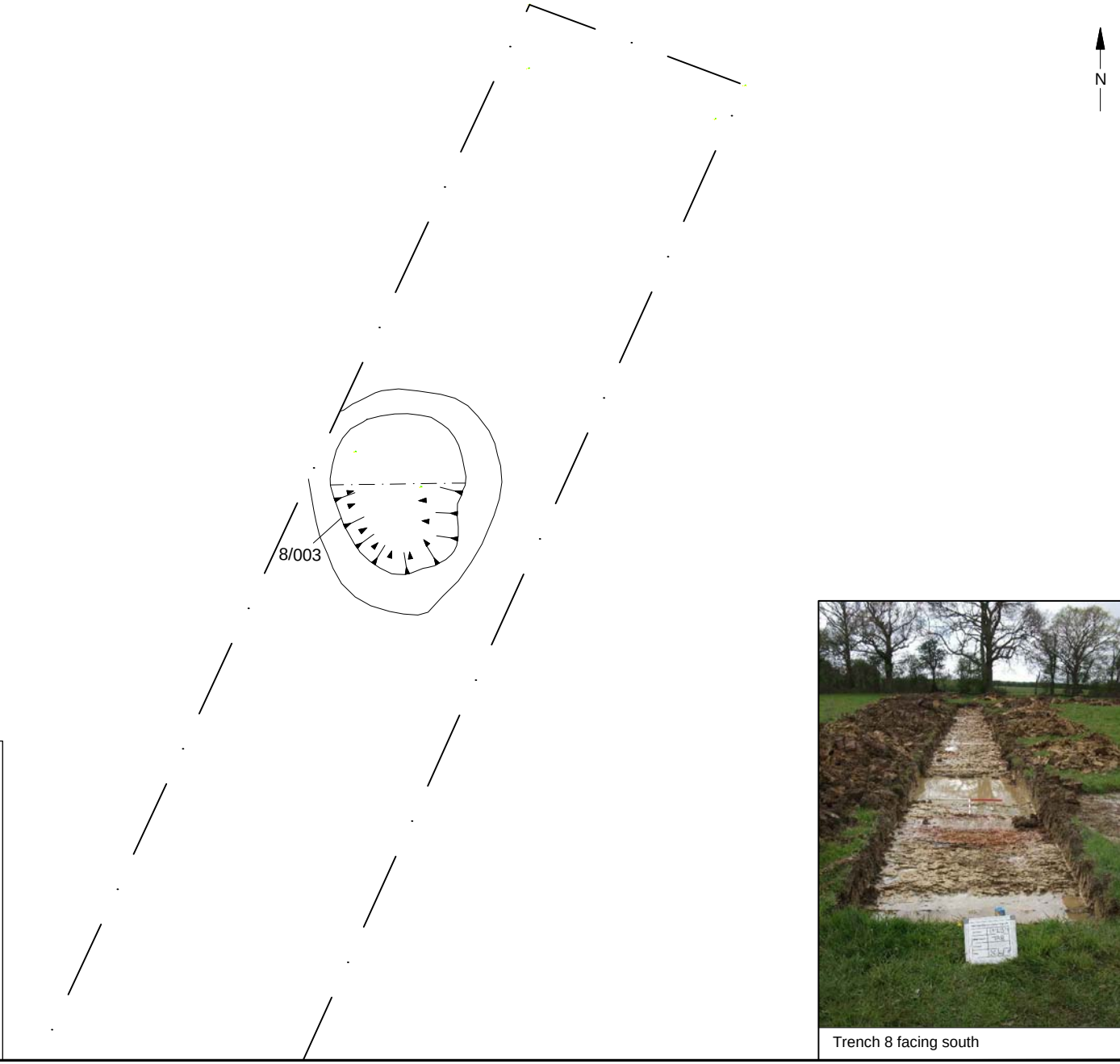
Trench 3 facing south-east

É **Archaeology South-East**		Marringdean Road, Billingshurst	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4320	May 2012	Trench 3: Plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2012104	Drawn by: AR		

Trench 8 facing north

Trench 8 facing north





Trench 8 facing south

É **Archaeology South-East**		Marringdean Road, Billingshurst	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4320	May 2012	Trench 8: Plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2012104	Drawn by: AR		

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