

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
'The Ridings' Development
(Formerly 'Oddstones'), Stane Street,
Pulborough, West Sussex**

NGR 505340 119783

**Horsham District Council Planning Reference
DC/09/0488 (APP/Z3825/A/09/2114137)**

**ASE Project No: 4904
Site Code: ODD11**

**ASE Report No: 2012157
OASIS ID: archaeol6-130987**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions by
Luke Barber and Karine Le Hégarat**

July 2012

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their clients, Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 'The Ridings' development (formerly 'Oddstones'), Stane Street, Pulborough, West Sussex.

Four features were recorded in the watching brief. The finds appear to suggest that further elements of the field system perpendicular to Stane Street previously identified in the evaluation as possibly prehistoric in origins may actually be of a medieval date (11th-13th century). The watching brief did yield some further prehistoric material; one unstratified and two worked flints from feature [108] (only seen in section). When taken with the results from the evaluation it does appear that some Neolithic/Bronze Age and possibly Middle to Late Iron Age activity occurred on the site, although interpreting exactly what this was is hard to define from the available results. No other significant remains were recorded at the site.

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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 on behalf of their client Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 'The Ridings' Development (formerly 'Oddstones'), Stane Street, Pulborough, West Sussex (NGR 505340 119783; Fig. 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The 2.39ha site lies on the western side of Stane Street (the modern A29) to the north of the settlement of Pulborough on the northern side of Stane Street Close. Before the commencement of the development, it consisted of the buildings and former gardens of a large detached house called 'Oddstones', and a pasture field to the west. The site slopes gently from west to east at heights varying between c.48m AOD and c.43m AOD.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock consists of the Hythe Formation of sandstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the erection of 87 dwellings and associated access and parking was refused by Horsham District Council in 2009 (planning ref. DC/09/0488). There was a subsequent appeal, which was successful (ref. APP/Z3825/A/09/2114137). Following consultation between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council (Horsham District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) a condition was attached to the original application requiring a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of the development, and this was included as Condition 11 in the later permission.

1.3.2 Initial archaeological work consisted of the production of an archaeological assessment of the potential of the site (Howland 2009). A specification for the archaeological evaluation of the site was produced by CgMs in 2011 (Bourn 2011). This was followed by the completion of a resistivity survey at the site in late February and early March 2011 (ASE 2011a), followed by an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation completed in late March and early April 2011 (ASE 2011b).

1.3.3 Twenty-six evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated to a cumulative length of 613m providing a c.5% sample of the site. The positions of most of the trenches were based on the results of a previous geophysical survey of the site. A number of archaeological features were encountered, excavated and recorded. Most were ditches or gullies, with some pits and post-holes, as well as limited remains of a farmhouse known to have occupied part of the site since at least the 19th century.

- 1.3.4 Dating evidence from the features was extremely sparse, but suggests prehistoric activity in the area represented by the remains of a field system(s), possibly realigned at some point, perhaps after the construction of adjacent Stane Street. Geological features of potential geoarchaeological significance were also identified during the geoarchaeological work, and were partially investigated in two of the evaluation trenches.
- 1.3.5 Following a site meeting held between representatives of CgMs, ASE and West Sussex County Council, it was agreed that, given the results of the evaluations, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained on groundworks in a specified area of the site in order to meet the requirements of the planning condition (Fig. 2). A *Supplementary Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was duly produced by CgMs outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive (Dicks 2011).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Supplementary Written Scheme of Investigation* (*ibid.*) were:

'to record any archaeological artefacts and ecofacts and their context. In addition, the archaeological monitoring will have the following objectives:

- *To determine if possible the date of the earliest human activity in this area and the subsequent sequence of occupation.*
- *To help further inform our understanding of past activity in this area of West Sussex.*
- *To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction work'*

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site during visits between May 2011 and July 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by a team including Giles Dawkes, Greg Priestley-Bell and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists), Nick Garland, Kathy Grant, Sarah Porteus, Ben Sharp, Gary Webster. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed archaeological background of the site may be found in the DBA (Howland 2009), a summary of which is provided below.
- 2.2 There are no reported sites or finds within the boundaries of the site. However, the site is adjacent to the Roman road from Chichester to London known as Stane Street, which runs from broadly from north to south immediately to the east, under the course of the modern A29.
- 2.3 However, cartographic research and the survival of standing masonry suggest that the site holds some potential for the survival of buried remains. Soper's Farm stood within the site until the 1960s. Buildings are shown on the site on historical maps from 1795 onwards, and the farm may have been of a much earlier date, possibly associated with a local (West Chiltington) family named Soper, recorded in 1699 (*ibid*). A wall built in stone and brick survived in the south-eastern corner of the site. The house called 'Oddstones' itself appears to be have been post-war in date.
- 2.4 In the wider area, finds and sites ranging from Neolithic flints to medieval buildings have been recorded within 1km of the site although the majority of these are concentrated in Pulborough; a village located some distance to the south. A recent study has also highlighted the potential for the discovery of Palaeolithic assemblages in fissures in the local geological deposits (Pope 2010).
- 2.5 A recent geophysical survey to the south of Stane Street Close (Archaeological Surveys Ltd. 2011) uncovered a number of anomalies but a subsequent evaluation showed that most were modern in origin (ASE 2011c). An associated campaign of fieldwalking resulted in the recovery of a range of artefacts including Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, Romano-British pottery and later medieval post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material (tile, brick etc), post-medieval building stone (slate etc.), bottle glass, clay tobacco pipe and modern items (ASE 2011d).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the mechanical reduction of the ground level and the mechanical and manual excavation of strip footings. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade. The archive has been accepted for deposition at Horsham Museum under the accession number 2011.129. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	11
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	digital images
Bulk finds	1 box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Site visits were undertaken to monitor the groundworks at the site between May 2010 and July 2012. Although some ground reduction for access routes was observed, the majority of the archaeological monitoring was carried out during the mechanical excavation of footings for the properties under construction at the site.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
100	Deposit	Topsoil	400mm
101	Deposit	Subsoil	600mm
102	Deposit	'Natural'	-
103	Deposit	Made Ground	300mm
104	Cut	Gully	-
105	Fill	Gully	230mm
106	Cut	Gully	-
107	Fill	Gully	450mm
108	Cut	Gully	-
109	Fill	Gully	350mm
110	Cut	Gully	-
111	Fill	Gully	500mm

Table 2: Recorded Contexts

4.2 The Watching Brief

4.2.1 Footings for the house plots were mechanically excavated to a width varying between 600mm and 900mm, to a maximum depth of 1.5m. Service pipe trenches were 600mm in width and c.1m in depth. The access road reduction strip was taken down to the surface of the underlying 'natural' Greensand.

4.2.2 The recorded stratigraphy was similar in character in all of the monitored areas and consisted of a layer of humic topsoil, context [100], which was a maximum of 400mm in thickness, which directly overlay a layer of subsoil, context [101], with a maximum thickness of 600mm, which in turn directly overlay the 'natural' geological deposit of Greensand, context [102]. These layers were consistent with those encountered during the evaluation phase (ASE 2011b).

4.2.3 In all, four archaeological features were recorded.

4.2.4 Gully [104] was recorded during the footings excavations in the central part of the site. It was 500mm wide and 230mm deep with a broadly 'v'-shaped profile, and ran roughly south-west to north-east. The single fill was context [105] a yellowish brown silty sand. Pottery from [105] was mid 12th- to mid 13th- century. The results of the analysis of an environmental sample proved disappointing.

4.2.5 The feature appeared to be the continuation of undated Gully [12/004]

encountered during the evaluation in Trench 12. It might also have continued to the north-west where it may have been recorded as one of the undated linear features in Trench 11 (Gully [11/004] or [11/006]).

- 4.2.6 Gullies [106] and [108] were encountered during the machining in the west of the site. Both ran broadly south-east to north-west. Gully [108] terminated within the examined area.
- 4.2.7 Gully [106] was 1.2m wide and 450mm deep with concave sides and a flat base. The single fill was context [107], a mid-greyish brown silty sand. The only material recovered from the feature was a piece of local stone. The ditch is probably the extension of undated ditch [2/004] recorded in evaluation trench 2.
- 4.2.8 Gully [108] was 1m wide and 350mm deep. The single fill was context [109], a greyish brown silty sand, which contained two pieces of worked flint. Again the results from the analysis of an environmental sample were disappointing.
- 4.2.9 The other feature recorded in this part of the site [110] was 1.3m wide and 500mm deep, with a broadly 'u' shaped profile. This was only seen in the section. The single fill was context [111], an orangey brown silty sand. Two small sherds of likely 11th to 12th century were recovered from the feature.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief and is tabulated below.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)
105	3	18				
107					1	198
109			2	20		
111	2	<2				
U/S			1	8		

Table 3: Finds Quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of three struck flints weighing 28g were recovered during the watching brief. The first piece was found unstratified. It is in a poor condition displaying extensive edge damage. The artifact is made from a fine grained light brown flint with a thin abraded cortex. It consists of a fragmentary flake. The remaining two pieces came from context [109]. The ditch terminus produced a blade-like flake fragment and a small flake fragment. These pieces are in a relatively fresh condition with unabraded edges implying that the material had undergone minimal post-depositional disturbance. They are manufactured from light grey flint. Small ferruginous concretions were noticed on their surface.

5.2.2 None of these artefacts are chronologically diagnostic. However, based on technological grounds, a broad Neolithic/Early Bronze date is possible for the fragmentary blade-like flake ([109]).

5.3 The post-Roman pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a fairly small assemblage of pottery, most of which was recovered from unstratified deposits. However, three contexts produced a small quantity of medieval material.

5.3.2 The earliest sherds, all of which are slightly abraded/adversely affected by an acidic burial environment, appear to be of the 11th to 12th century. Too few sherds are present to refine this dating – the two pieces from [111] being mere granules tempered with sand and flint.

5.3.3 Context [107] produced the only early feature sherd – the flaring rim from a reduced, sand with flint/chalk tempered cooking pot (probably residual in this deposit).

- 5.3.4 As well as the Saxo-Norman sherd noted above, context [107] also produced two small (2g) coarse sand tempered oxidised sherds probably of the mid/late 12th to 13th centuries.
- 5.3.5 Context [105] produced a single abraded sherd from an oxidised cooking pot tempered with moderate/abundant alluvial flint grits with sand. A mid 12th- to mid 13th- century date is likely.
- 5.3.6 The remaining pottery was recovered from unstratified deposits. The earliest piece consists of a 34g rim sherd from an oxidised painted ware bowl on mid 15th- to mid 16th- century date. This piece is relatively fresh. Three (36g) sherds of early post-medieval pottery are present, all coming from glazed redware vessels not closely datable within a mid 16th- to mid 18th- century period. The late post-medieval period is represented by nine sherds. These include three small fragments from creamware vessels and a small piece of early transfer-printed pearlware saucer. These can be seen as representing later 18th- to early 19th- century activity. The remaining late post-medieval pottery can best be placed between the mid 19th century and early 20th century. This material includes local redwares (3/28g), refined white earthenware (1/8g) and a sherd of English stoneware with Bristol glaze (1/52g).

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 All of the tile from the site is unstratified. The earliest pieces consist of two low/medium-fired small (8g) abraded fine sand tempered fragments. Although not diagnostic of form an early post-medieval date is considered likely. Three peg tile fragments (104g) are present that are well formed and fired, being tempered with sparse/moderate quartz and measuring between 12 and 13mm thick. One has the remains of a round peg-hole. Overall these would be in keeping with an 18th- to 19th- century date. The single piece of ridge tile (48g) is in a similar fabric and is probably of the same date. The remaining two pieces of tile consist of two fragments from 20th- century white glazed floor tiles.

5.5 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 A single piece of ferruginous sandstone (carstone) was recovered from medieval context [107]. This material almost certainly derived from beds within the Lower Greensand and is local to the site.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

- 6.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken during the watching brief at Oddstones, Pulborough to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. Sample <01> was extracted from the single fill [109] of ditch terminus [108] and sample <1004> came from the fill [105] of ditch [104]. The samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their content recorded (Table 5).
- 6.2 The small flots (<2mm in size) were dominated by uncharred vegetation (90% and 82% respectively) including very fine roots as well as uncharred seeds such as blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*). As the deposits were not waterlogged or well enough sealed for anaerobic preservation, this could indicate some post-depositional disturbance and potential modern contamination. The archaeobotanical remains were restricted to infrequent and predominantly small fragments of wood charcoal measuring <2mm in size as well as flecks. Sample <1004> produced a single charred seed from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family as well as a low quantity of LSS. A single fragment of pottery was recovered from the residue of sample <1004>.
- 6.3 Sampling from the ditch fill deposits has confirmed the presence of a very small quantity of environmental remains including occasional charred botanical remains and infrequent land snail shell. The charcoal fragments are too fragmented and insufficient to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or the vegetation environment and the presence of modern disturbance limits their dating potential. The charred macrobotanical remains have no potential to provide detailed information regarding the past vegetation environment or the infilling of the features.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	109	Fill of ditch terminus [108]	10	10	*	<2	**	<2	
1004	105	Fill of ditch [104]	20	20	*	<2			Pottery */4g

Table 4: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells
1	109	<2	10	10	90	2	* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg./ <i>idaeus</i>	*	*				
1004	105	<2	25	25	82	2		*	***	*	Chenopodiaceae (1)	+	*

Table 5: Flot Quantification (*=1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Four features were recorded in the watching brief.
- 6.2 The finds from the watching brief appear to suggest that further elements of the field system perpendicular to Stane Street previously identified in the evaluation as possibly prehistoric in origins may actually be of a medieval date (11th-13th century).
- 6.3 The watching brief did yield some further prehistoric material; one unstratified and two worked flints from feature [108] (only seen in section).
- 6.4 When taken with the results from the evaluation it does appear that some Neolithic/Bronze Age and possibly Middle to Late Iron Age activity occurred on the site, although interpreting exactly what this was is hard to define from the available results.
- 6.5 No other significant remains were recorded at the site.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	ODD11					
Identification Name and Address	'The Ridings' Development, Stane Street, Pulborough					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	505340 119783					
Geology	Hythe Formation Sandstone					
ASE Project Number	4904					
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.	Excav.	WB. ✓	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting on behalf of Taylor Wimpey					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Four features were recorded in the watching brief. The finds appear to suggest that further elements of the field system perpendicular to Stane Street previously identified in the evaluation as possibly prehistoric in origins may actually be of a medieval date (11th-13th century). The watching brief did yield some further prehistoric material; one unstratified and two worked flints from feature [108] (only seen in section). When taken with the results from the evaluation it does appear that some Neolithic/Bronze Age and possibly Middle to Late Iron Age activity occurred on the site, although interpreting exactly what this was is hard to define from the available results. No other significant remains were recorded at the site.</p>						

OASIS Form (ready for editing)

OASIS ID: archaeol6-130987

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at 'The Ridings', Stane Street, Pulborough, West Sussex

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their clients, Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 'The Ridings' development (formerly 'Oddstones'), Stane Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. Four features were recorded in the watching brief. The finds appear to suggest that further elements of the field system perpendicular to Stane Street previously identified in the evaluation as possibly prehistoric in origins may actually be of a medieval date (11th-13th century). The watching brief did yield some further prehistoric material; one unstratified and two worked flints from feature [108] (only seen in section). When taken with the results from the evaluation it does appear that some Neolithic/Bronze Age and possibly Middle to Late Iron Age activity occurred on the site, although interpreting exactly what this was is hard to define from the available results. No other significant remains were recorded at the site.

Project dates Start: 16-05-2011 End: 18-07-2012

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes 4904 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes ODD11 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes DC/09/0488 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type GULLY Uncertain

Monument type GULLY Uncertain

Monument type GULLY Uncertain

Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM PULBOROUGH 'The Ridings' (formerly 'Oddstones')
Postcode	RH20 1BQ
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 05340 19783 50 0 50 58 02 N 000 29 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 42.00m Max: 48.00m

Project creators

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

Project archives

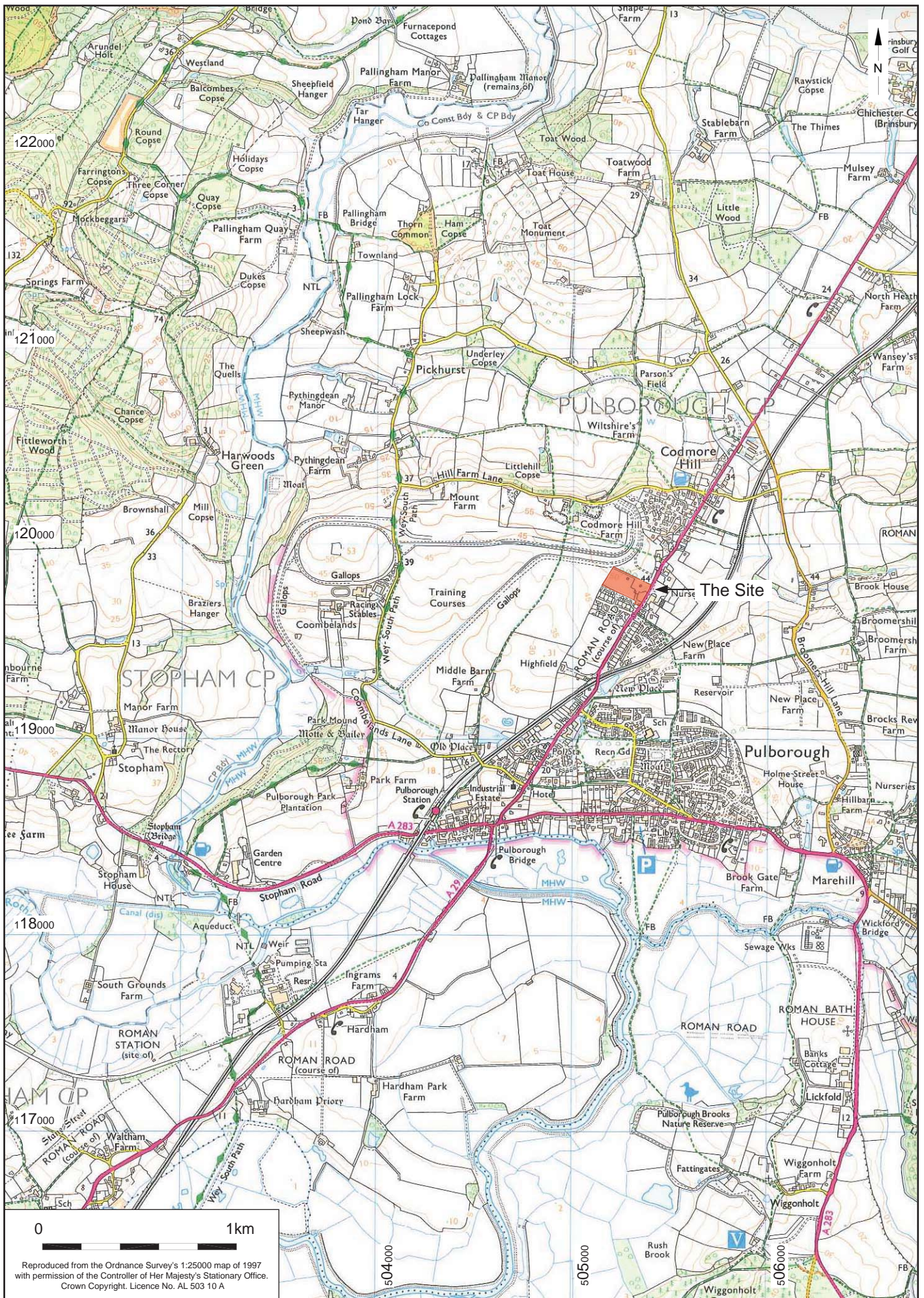
Physical Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Physical Archive ID	2011.129
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Digital Archive ID	2011.129
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Archive ID	2011.129
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered on	31 July 2012



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Project Ref: 4904	July 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012157	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1

119900

Track

119800

El Sub Sta

119700

505100

505200

505300

505400



 Monitored areas
 2011 Evaluation trenches

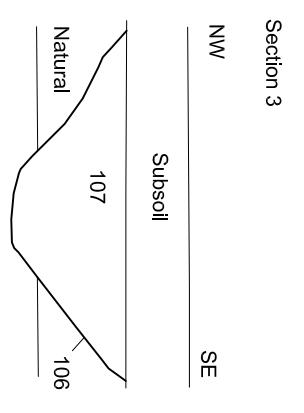
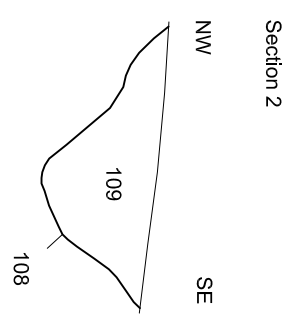
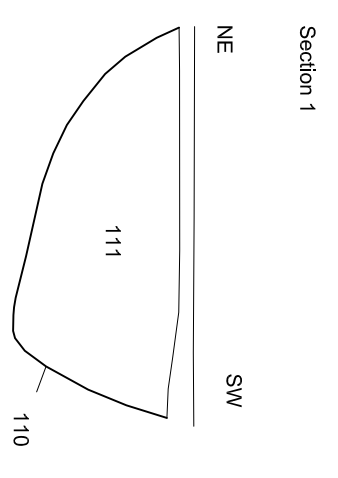
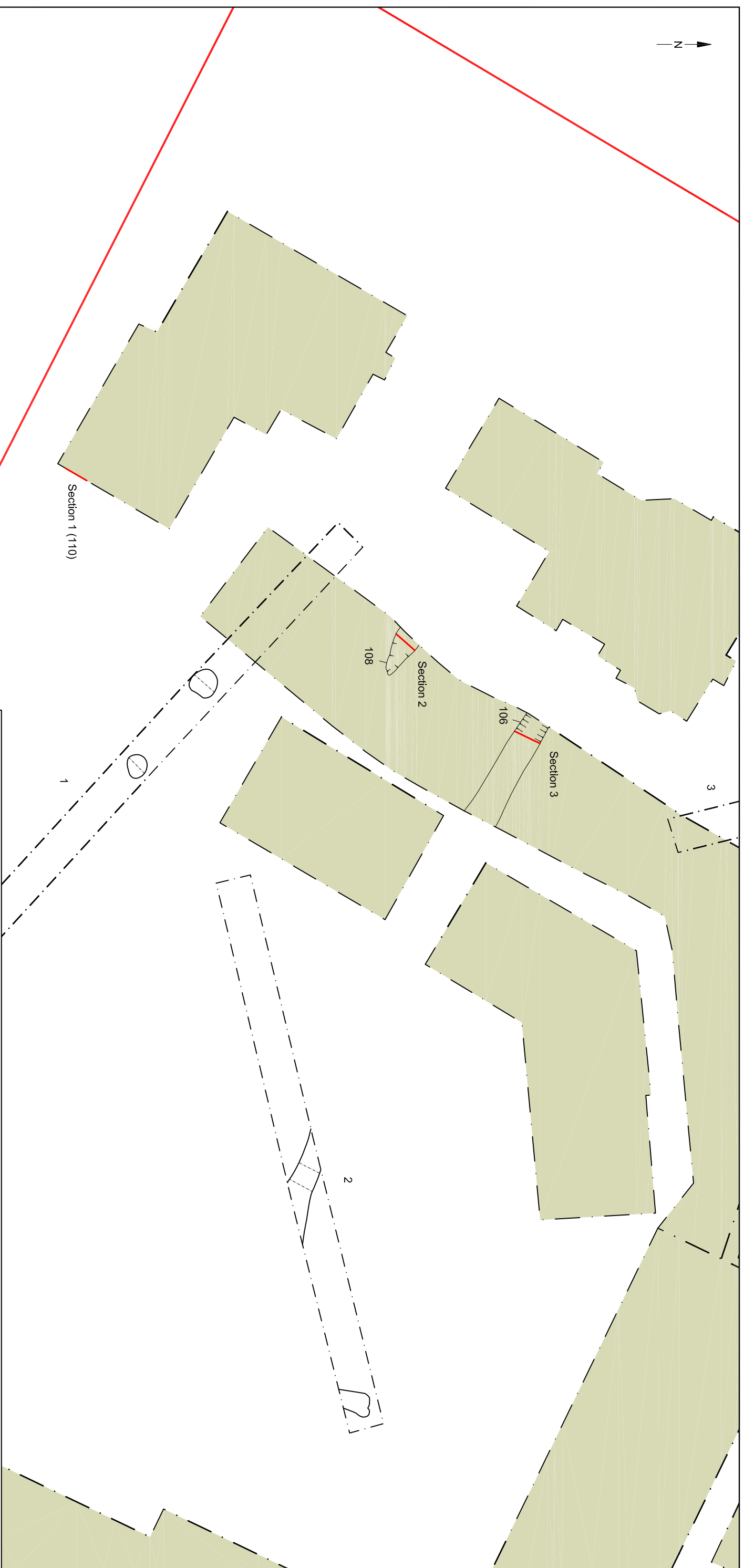
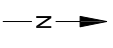
0 20m

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		Fig. 2	



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Report Ref: 2011157	Drawn by: JLR	Areas monitored in watching brief	
			Fig. 4



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Project Ref: 4904	July 2012		
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			Fig. 3

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