

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Martindale Farm, Southwater
Horsham, West Sussex**

**NGR 51623 12796
(TQ 1623 2796)**

Planning ref: DC/12/0579

**ASE Project No: 4900
Site Code: MFS12**

**ASE Report No: 2012168
OASIS ID: archaeol6-131997**

By Diccon Hart



August 2012

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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 CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

Four trenches measuring 30.00m by 1.60m were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural Weald Clay between 67.75m OD in the northeast of the site and 66.51m OD in the southwest. No archaeological features or finds were observed during the course of the investigation. A series of 19th-20th century land drainage features and a single 20th century pit were recorded.

Field observation indicates that much of the topsoil horizon of the site had been stripped prior to the fieldwork but that the subsoil remained largely intact.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London (UCL) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 51623 12796 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies to the rear of Martindale Farm and is surrounded by trees on all sides. To the east lies Blakes Farm Road and to the west, Worthing Road. To the south is Oakhurst Business Park. The site is broadly level at around 67m OD and at the time of the fieldwork comprised a grassed paddock.

1.2.2 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology of the site consists of Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to Horsham District Council for the redevelopment of the site with the construction of 44 dwellings on the (Planning Reference: DC/12/0579). Horsham District Council consulted West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist who has recommended that a programme of archaeological work be implemented prior to redevelopment due to the archaeological potential of the site.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2012) outlining the scope of a trial trench evaluation was submitted to and approved by the WSCC Archaeologist in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and the WSCC *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007)

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the programme of trial trenching were outlined in the WSI (ASE 2012) and are reproduced in full below:

- *The evaluation will aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened will be studied.*
- *The evaluation will enable a decision to be made by Horsham District Council's*

archaeology advisor as to the requirement for any future mitigation work should significant archaeological remains be present on site.

- *The evaluation will also seek 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.*
- *Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:*
 - 1) *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains of Late Iron Age/Romano British or medieval date.*
 - 2) *Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.*

1.5 Scope of report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, carried out on 7th and 8th August 2012 by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist) and John Cook (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Dan Swift (Post-excavation Manager).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2012), with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The agricultural landscape around Southwater is largely a fossilised late medieval landscape, comprising small irregular fields carved from the surrounding woodland, much of which has been left as shaws, often managed for woodland products through coppicing – woodland remained an important resource until modern times, with the woods in the area supplying timber for the naval dockyards along the Thames in the 17th century. The farming regime was largely pastoral, including some sheep farming, although arable land increased to form half the parish by 1844. This trend reversed in the second half of the 19th century, as the land reverted to dairy pasture to provide London with milk. Poultry farming and market gardening was also important from the mid-19th century, with Southwater becoming known for its geese.
- 2.3 Scattered across the landscape are a number of large farms, often comprising buildings of early post-medieval date, but occupying much older sites. Smaller building plots along the roadsides often represent illegal encroachments (squatter settlements) onto former wasteland. Some modification of the field pattern, including the grubbing out of shaws and hedgerows, took place during the 19th century when advances in technology allowed arable farming to be carried out on a much greater scale than before.
- 2.4 A settlement grew up at Southwater Street along the main road from Horsham to Arundel – this process became more marked following the turnpiking of the road in 1764. Mill Straight itself dates from this time, as a link road between two older stretches of road. The population increased during the 19th century, resulting in the creation of a new church (Holy Innocents) in 1850. The railway station was built in 1861 along the Shoreham to Horsham railway, closing in 1965. A further catalyst for population growth was the development of the brickmaking industry on the southern edge of Southwater from the 1890s, finally closing in 1982. A windmill was constructed in 1806 at Cripplegate, immediately outside the south-western edge of the site.
- 2.5 A programme of archaeological investigations at land to the west of Southwater recently culminated in the discovery of a concentration of Late Iron Age/Romano British, medieval and post-medieval features, corresponding to enclosures/field systems, ponds and other features.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four 30m by 1.6m trial trenches across the site, utilising an 8 ton tracked excavator, fitted with a smooth blade ditching bucket. The trench locations were surveyed using GDPS (Figure 2). Slight modifications to some trench locations were required in order to avoid damage to the root systems of protected trees.
- 3.2 All excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2011). All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.4 A full photographic record of the work, comprising digital images, was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive, which has been quantified in the table below, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	N/A
Photographs	23 digital images
Bulk finds	N/A
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Length: 30.00 Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.40m max
Orientation: NE-SW

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	67.22m
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	67.17m
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	67.12m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts Trench 1

Summary

- 4.1.2 Natural Weald Clay, consisting of light yellow stiff clay [1/003], was encountered at a maximum height of 67.12m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 66.51m OD to the south. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [1/002], through which a modern drainage trench was cut on a broadly NNE-SSW alignment. The feature was filled with vegetation, including root masses and turf, indicating relatively recent infilling (see Figure 3).
- 4.1.3 The sequence was capped by the topsoil horizon of the site, consisting of mid greyish brown silty clay [1/001]. Although this survived to a depth of 0.25m at the northern end of the trench, the topsoil horizon measured around 0.05m thick across the majority of the trench, indicating a previous episode of soil stripping across much of the area of the trench.
- 4.1.4 No archaeological features or finds were present

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Length: 30.00 Width: 3.00m max. Depth: 0.50m max
Orientation: NW-SE

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.5m	67.16m
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10.	67.11m
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	67.01m
2/004	Deposit	Pit fill	0.68m	0.53m	0.38m	67.12m
2/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.68m	0.53m	0.38m	67.12m

Table 3: List of recorded contexts Trench 2

Summary

- 4.2.2 Natural Weald Clay [2/001] was recorded at 67.12m OD at the north-western end of the trench and 66.51m OD at the south-eastern end. This was overlain by a very thin horizon of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [2/002], through which a small sub-circular pit or root bole was cut [2/005]; the feature had a very irregular profile indicating a possible natural origin. The feature was filled with mid greyish brown silty clay [2/004] with frequent charcoal flecks. A 20th century tea-pot lid recovered from this fill (not retained) indicates a modern date for the feature.
- 4.2.3 Other features recorded within this trench included a variety of recent land drainage features, including clay drains and a drainage ditch on a similar NNE-SSW orientation to that observed in Trench 1 and with a similar recent infilling of turf and vegetation (see Figure 4).
- 4.2.4 A very thin layer of topsoil [2/001] sealed these features and, again, indicates prior soil stripping of the area.
- 4.2.5 No archaeological features or finds were present.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Length: 30.00 Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.40m max
Orientation: E-W

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m	67.87m
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m	67.81m
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	67.75m

Table 4: List of recorded contexts Trench 3

Summary

4.3.2 Natural Weald Clay [3/003] was recorded at 67.75m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 67.23m OD at the western end. This was sealed by a thin horizon of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [3/002], through which several recent land drainage features were cut, including a French drain (see Figure 5). The sequence was capped with a very thin horizon of topsoil [3/001] measuring up to 0.06m deep.

4.3.3 No archaeological features or finds were present.

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Length: 30.00 Width: 1.60m. Depth: 0.16m max
Orientation: N-S

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	67.76m
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	67.66m
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	67.61m

Table 5: List of recorded contexts Trench 4

Summary

4.4.2 Natural Weald Clay [4/003] was recorded at 67.61m OD at the northern end of the trench and 67.23m OD at the southern end. This was sealed by a thin horizon of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [4/002], in turn sealed by the topsoil horizon of the site [4/001]. Again, although the topsoil horizon survived to a depth of 0.20m at the southern end of the trench, prior soil stripping had reduced this to just 0.05m across the majority of the trench. (Figure 5)

4.4.3 No archaeological features or finds were present.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The only features observed during the course of the evaluation consisted of a number and variety of recent land drainage features and a single irregular pit of 20th century date that probably represents the grubbing out of a small root bole.
- 5.2 It is notable that the topsoil horizon only survived to any appreciable depth around the perimeter of the investigated area (i.e. the southern ends of Trenches 1 and 4) and suggests that much of the site has been stripped of topsoil prior to the current investigation. The survival of a thin subsoil horizon across the entire investigated area, however, demonstrates that such soil stripping was not of sufficient depth to truncate any potential archaeological horizons. The absence of archaeological features in the evaluation trenches, therefore, may be taken to suggest that the site was not the focus of any significant activity prior to the late post-medieval/modern period.

References

ASE 2011 *Martindale Farm, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex. Written scheme of investigation for a trial trench evaluation.* Unpub. method statement

IfA 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_field_eval.pdf. Accessed 7 2 12

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 13 8 12

WSCC 2007 *Recommended standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording, and post-excavation work (development control)*

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and WSCC for their guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	MFS12					
Identification Name and Address	Martindale Farm, Southwater					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 51623 12796					
Geology	Weald Clay - Mudstone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4900					
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. 07-08.08.12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other ✓ Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Four trenches measuring 30.00m by 1.60m were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural Weald Clay between 67.75m OD in the northeast of the site and 66.51m OD in the southwest. No archaeological features or finds were observed during the course of the investigation. A series of 19th-20th century land drainage features and a single 20th century pit were recorded.</p> <p>Field observation indicates that much of the topsoil horizon of the site had been stripped prior to the fieldwork but that the subsoil remained largely intact.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-131997

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater, West Sussex. Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of the redevelopment of the site.
Short description of the project	Four trenches measuring 30.00m by 1.60m were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural Weald Clay between 67.75m OD in the northeast of the site and 66.51m OD in the southwest. No archaeological features or finds were observed during the course of the investigation. A series of 19th-20th century land drainage features and a single 20th century pit were recorded. Field observation indicates that much of the topsoil horizon of the site had been stripped prior to the fieldwork but that the subsoil remained largely intact.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2012 End: 08-08-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MFS12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4900 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DRAINAGE DITCH Modern
Monument type	FIELD DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Martindale Farm, Southwater.
Postcode	RH13 9AS
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 162 279 51 0 51 02 17 N 000 20 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.51m Max: 67.75m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Diccon Hart
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Project	

bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological evaluation at Martindale Farm, Southwater,
 Horsham, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hart, D

Other
bibliographic 2012168
details

Date 2012

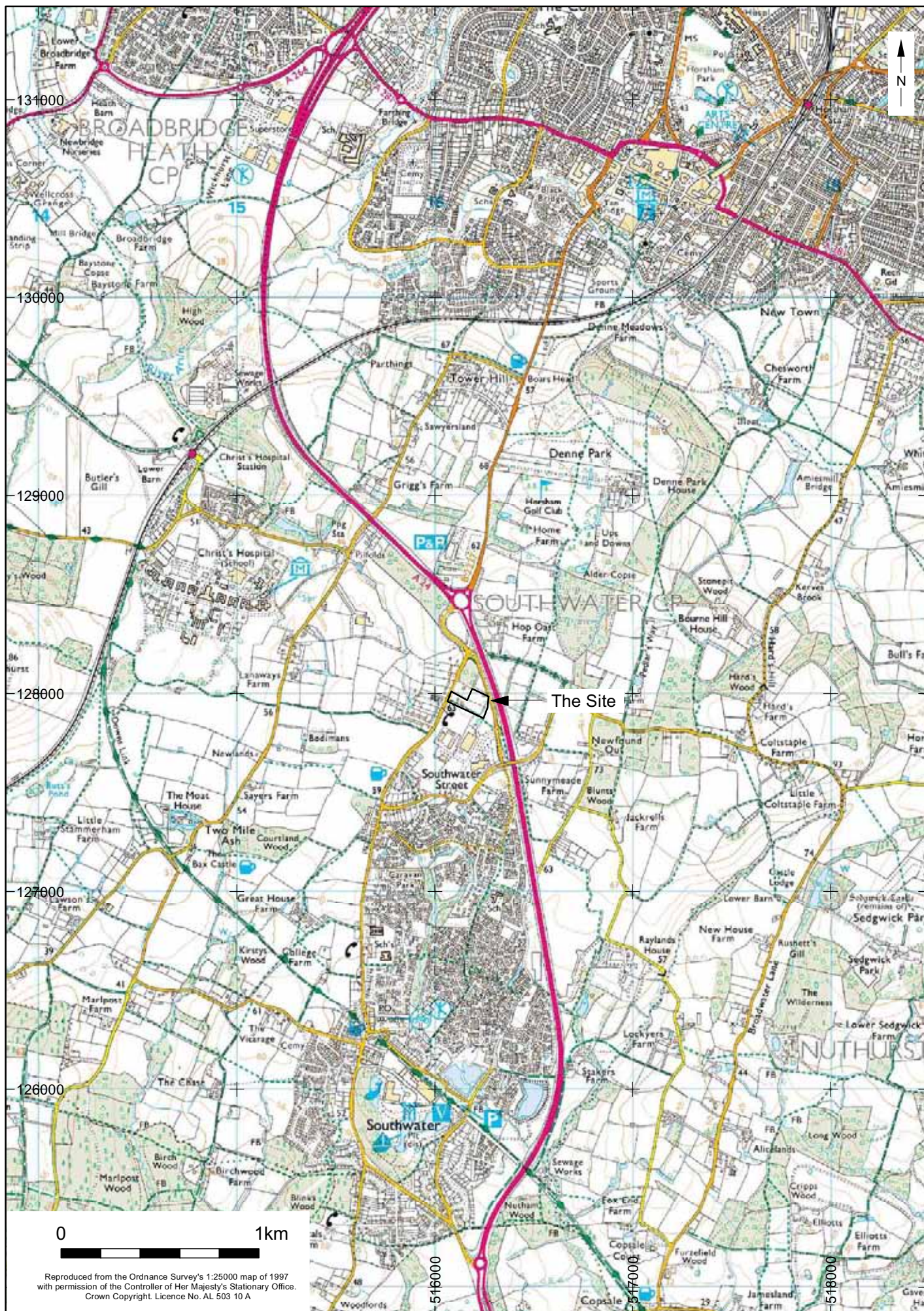
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or
publication Archaeology South-East

Description A4 booklet

Entered by D Hart (d.hart@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 9 August 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Martindale Farm, Southwater	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4900	Aug 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012168	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 4900	Aug 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012168	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 1



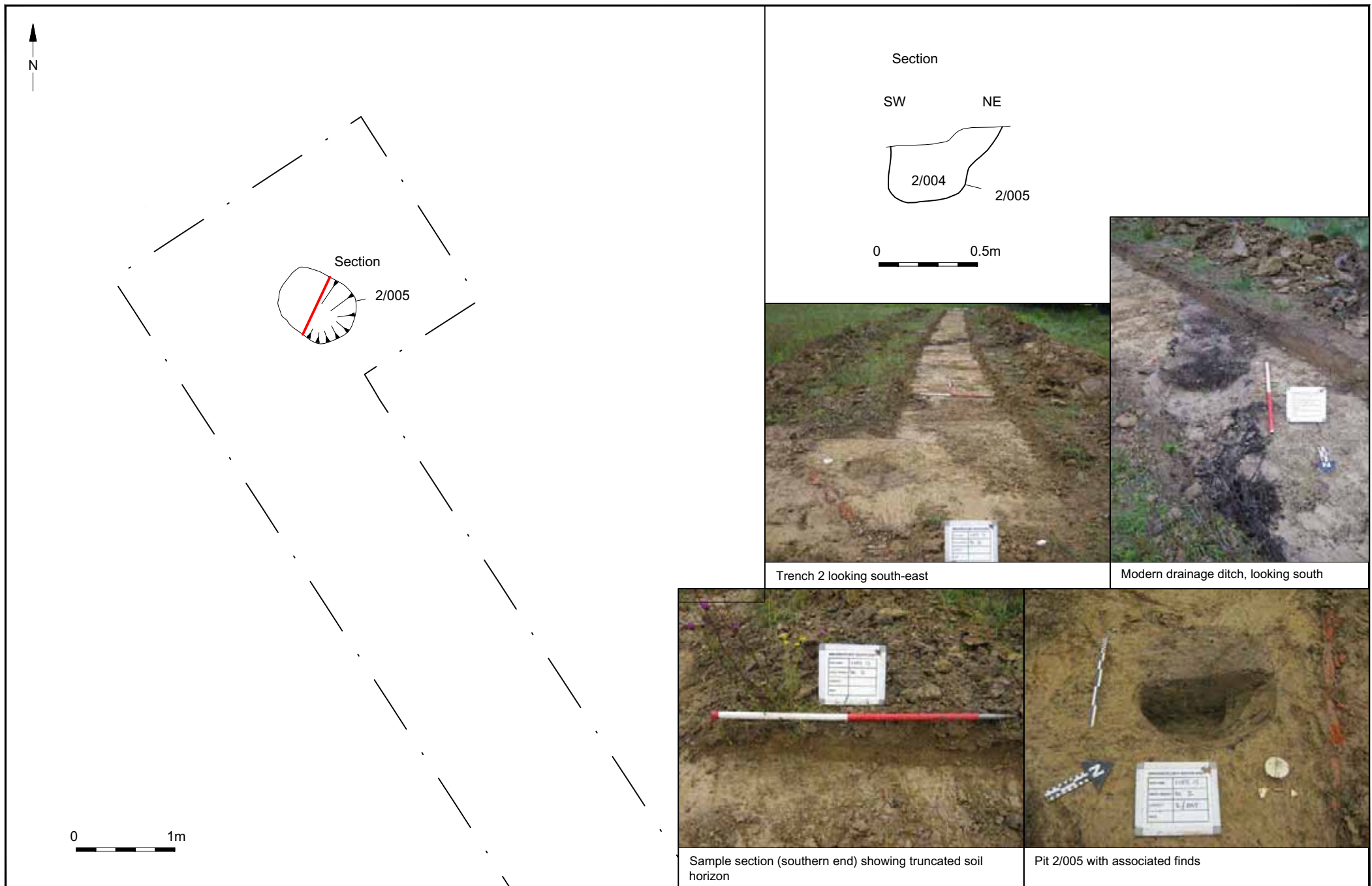
Trench 1, modern drainage ditch



Trench 1, sample section (southern end) showing intact soil horizons



Trench 1 sample section (northern end) showing truncated soil horizons



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Project Ref: 4900	Aug 2012	Trench 2: plan, section and photographs		
Report Ref: 2012168	Drawn by: JLR			



Trench 3



Trench 3, sample section (west end) showing truncated soil horizon




Trench 4

© Archaeology South-East		Martindale Farm, Southwater	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4900	Aug 2012	Trenches 3 and 4: photographs	
Report Ref: 2012168	Drawn by: JLR		

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



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

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

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