

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**Land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane,
Littlehampton
West Sussex**

NGR TQ 5032 1035

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Planning Application Ref: LU/152/10/**

**ASE Project no: 5590
Site Code: LTL 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013184
OASIS ID: archaeol6-155428**

By Giles Dawkes BA MIFA

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on Land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches.

The only archaeological feature recorded was a medieval hollow way identified in Trenches 1 and 2. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation on land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex (hereafter 'the site') in advance of residential development (centred NGR TQ 5032 1035; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is level and British Geological Survey Sheet 317/332 (Chichester and Bognor 1996) shows the underlying geology of the site to comprise Aeolian Brickearth above the Upper Chalk.

1.2.2 The site is grass lawn bordered by trees and shrubs.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of 5 dwellings, parking and access has been granted (Reference: LU/152/10/). However, due to the potential for archaeological remains on the site, WSCC as archaeology advisor to Arun District Council, recommended that the following condition be placed on the planning permission:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure appropriate investigation and recording of archaeological heritage assets on the site prior to commencement of new building works in accordance with Arun District Local Plan Policy GEN7 and AREA17 and PPS5 Archaeology & Planning.

1.3.2 The evaluation (Stage 1) was necessary in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site and entailed the excavation of three trenches.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was prepared by CgMs (2012) and approved by John Mills prior to the commencement of works. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI, as well as with the *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Excavations* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2012), and other codes of practise and relevant documents of English Heritage (2002, 2006, 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation by record.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation aimed 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.
- 1.4.3 The evaluation sought 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.
- 1.4.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation sought to address the following objectives:
- 1) To establish the presence or otherwise of Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Post Medieval or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.
 - 2) To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.
 - 3) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
 - 4) Provide sufficient information to construct a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy if required.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on 16th July 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2012). The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Vasilis Tsamis (Archaeological Surveyor); and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the site was outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2012) and is included here with due reference:
- 2.2 Archaeological works at the Toddington Nurseries to the east of the study site revealed archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age/Roman and medieval periods. At 6-18 Holmes Way immediately south of the site, a gravel-metalled sunken roadway, field boundary ditches and pits containing medieval pottery were identified.
- 2.3 A review of Ordnance Survey maps from the later nineteenth century until the present day indicates that the central and eastern parts of the study site have remained undeveloped land, latterly garden, throughout this period. Buildings have been present on the western and northeastern side of the site from at least the later nineteenth century.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Three evaluation trenches, measuring 10m by 1.6m, were located in the footprint of the proposed buildings and access road. These are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.2 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a JCB machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.4 The excavation was taken down in small spits to the top of the underlying geology to identify archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy.
- 3.5 All removed spoil was scanned for the presence of stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.6 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI (CgMS 2012) using *pro-forma* ASE recording sheets.
- 3.7 All features were investigated by hand excavated sondage and planned using digital survey equipment.
- 3.8 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.9 The site archive, which has been quantified below, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum or archive repository at the end of the project.

Number of Contexts	16
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	12
Bulk finds	2 bags
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 A total of eight contexts were recorded in trench 1 and these are tabulated below.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Concrete slab	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
1/002	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.4m
1/003	Fill	Hollow way fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.7m
1/004	Cut	Hollow way	Tr.	Tr.	0.7m
1/005	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.7m
1/006	Fill	Grave fill	0.74m	0.36m	0.1m
1/007	Skeleton	Dog skeleton	0.74m	0.36m	-
1/008	Cut	Dog Grave	0.74m	0.36m	0.1m

Table 2: Trench 1 recorded contexts

4.1.2 The natural brickearth [1/005] was encountered at 4.04m AOD (Figure 3).

4.1.3 Cutting the natural brickearth and seen throughout the trench was north-south hollow way [1/004]. The gently sloping edge of the hollow way was identified at the western end of the trench and the eastern edge was recorded in Trench 2 (see below).

4.1.4 Dug into the base of this broad flat-bottomed feature was grave [1/008] containing dog skeleton [1/007]. This was backfilled with grey brown clay silt [1/006] containing no finds. The dog skeleton was exposed but not lifted and left *in situ*.

4.1.5 Overlying the dog burial and filling the hollow way was grey brown silt [1/003] containing a small, mixed, finds assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) ranging from late medieval to late post-medieval in date. This silt layer represents the gradual silting of this large landscape feature.

4.1.6 Overlying the hollow way fill was a thick deposit of subsoil [1/002] (c. 0.4m) and topsoil [1/001].

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 A total of five contexts were recorded in trench 2 and these are tabulated below.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.51m
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/004	Fill	Hollow way fill	Tr.	4.3m	0.3m
2/005	Cut	Hollow way	Tr.	4.3m	0.3m

Table 3: Trench 2 recorded contexts

- 4.2.2 The natural brickearth [2/003] was encountered at 4.51m AOD (Figure 4).
- 4.2.3 Cutting the natural brickearth at the west end of the trench was the eastern side of hollow way [2/005]. The hollow way was filled with grey brown clay silt [2/004] with no finds.
- 4.2.4 Overlying the hollow way fill was a thick deposit of subsoil [2/002] (c. 0.5m) and topsoil [2/001].

4.3 Trench 3

- 4.3.1 A total of three contexts were recorded in trench 3 and these are tabulated below.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
3/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 4: Trench 3 recorded contexts

- 4.3.2 The natural brickearth [3/003] was encountered at 4.90m AOD. The subsoil was slightly less thick in this area compared to the southern trenches.
- 4.3.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage was recovered during the archaeological work on land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane. An overview can be found in Table 5. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. Finds are all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
1/003	2	58	9	384

Table 5: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Only two sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the site, both coming from context [1/003]. The earliest sherd consists of a somewhat abraded fragment from a shallow dish with simple rim and external sooting. The fabric is a very fine sand tempered well-fired buff earthenware, with thin internal olive green glaze. A 16th- to 17th- century date range is likely. The other sherd consists of the base from an unglazed earthenware bowl with neat foot-ring. This piece is much fresher and can be assigned an 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [1/003] produced a small assemblage of brick and tile. The brick (6/234g) all consists of amorphous worn pieces from low/medium fired 'friable' hand-made red bricks tempered with moderate/abundant fine/medium sand and sparse iron oxides to 1mm. These are likely to date to between the mid 16th and mid 18th centuries. The same context produced three different types of peg tile. The earliest (27g) consists of a worn fragment, measuring 11mm thick, tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and common iron oxides to 1mm. The piece, which is quite well formed and fired, could be of 14th to 15th century date. The second piece of peg tile (65g) is much fresher and in a buff fabric tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with some marl streaks. The piece, which measures 13mm thick and has the remains of a circular peg-hole, is of 15th- to 16th- century type. The final piece of peg tile (57g) is well formed and fired, measures 11mm thick, and is tempered with sparse fine sand, sparse marl streaks and rare iron oxides to 0.5mm. An 18th- to mid 19th- century date is probable for this tile.

5.4 Summary

5.4.1 The pot and tile from the site comprise an unstratified assemblage of late medieval/early post-medieval date. The material does not hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken during the current phase of work. The assemblage will be discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has shown that the site has not been truncated. The integrity of the natural horizon was good.
- 6.2 Natural brickearth deposits were seen in all three trenches, sloping from north to south.
- 6.3 Despite the substantial size of the hollow way (c. 17m wide and 0.7m deep) it was almost certainly not formally excavated by hand, but rather formed by the slow erosion of traffic, both human and animal. This medieval route is a likely precursor of Toddington Lane, and may have connected the fishing community of Littlehampton with Arundel and other inland settlements.
- 6.4 The occurrence of a dog burial in the base of the hollow way is unusual but not entirely without precedent: animal burials have been identified in association with routeways, especially in Germany in the earlier medieval period (Hamerow 2006).
- 6.5 The natural slope of the land seems to have been redressed by the importation of a thick deposit of subsoil, which levelled the garden of New Cottage. This was probably undertaken in the recent period as these levelling deposits abutted the rear of the garage building, which was likely to have been constructed in the 19th century.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and WSCC for their assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LTL 13					
Identification Name and Address	Land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	5032 1035					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5590					
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. July 13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation on land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex.</p> <p>The only archaeological feature recorded was a medieval hollow way identified in Trenches 1 and 2. No other archaeological features ore deposits were present.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-155428

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on Land at New Cottage, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches. The only archaeological feature recorded was a medieval hollow way identified in Trenches 1 and 2. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.
Project dates	Start: 16-07-2013 End: 16-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2013184 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	5590 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	HOLLOW WAY Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN LITTLEHAMPTON Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex
Postcode	BN17 6JT
Study area	480.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5032 1035 50 0 50 52 20 N 000 08 12 E Point

Project creators

Name of	Archaeology South East
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Organisation	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

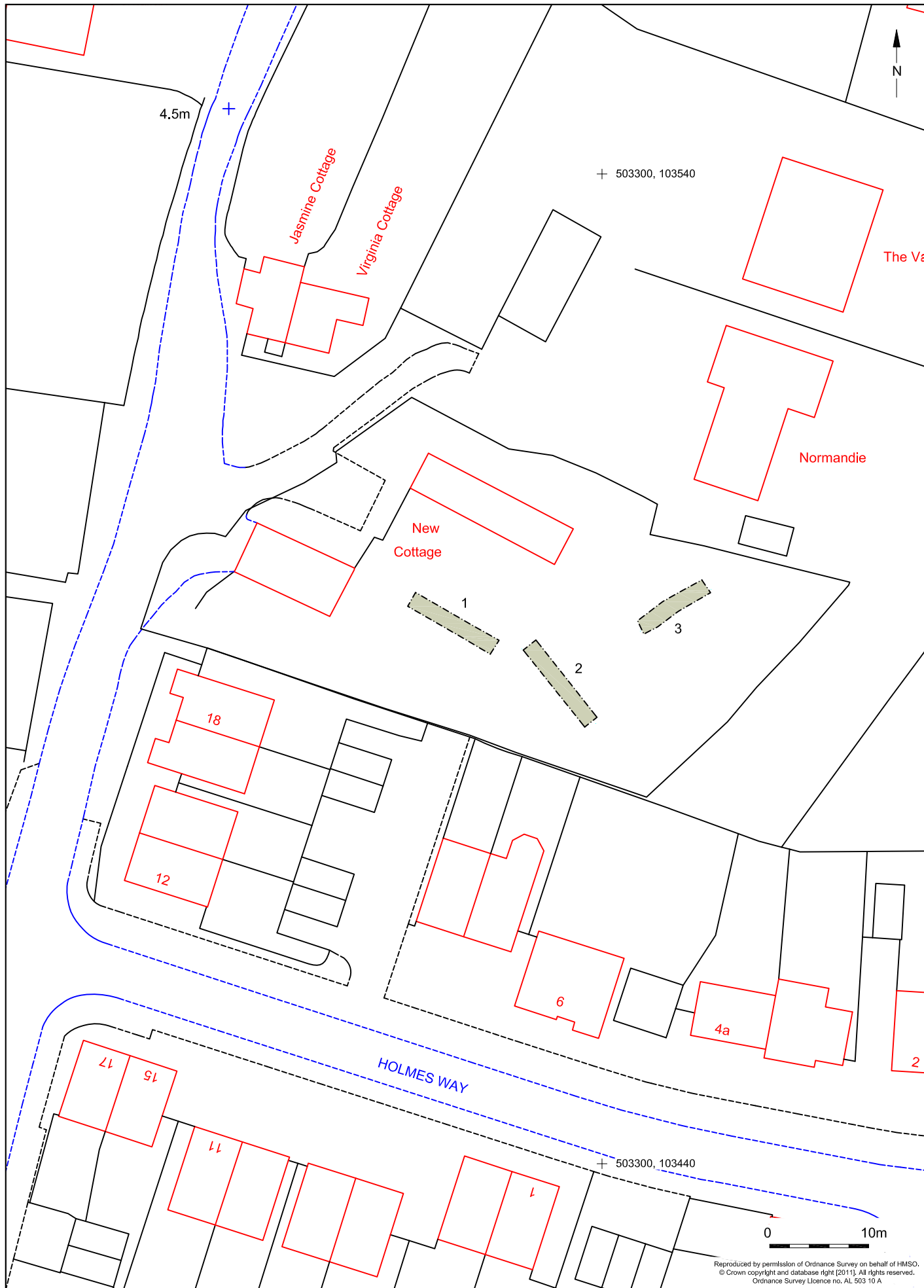
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report, Land at New Cottage Lane, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dawkes, G
Other bibliographic details	2013184
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Client report, detail of works, illustrations

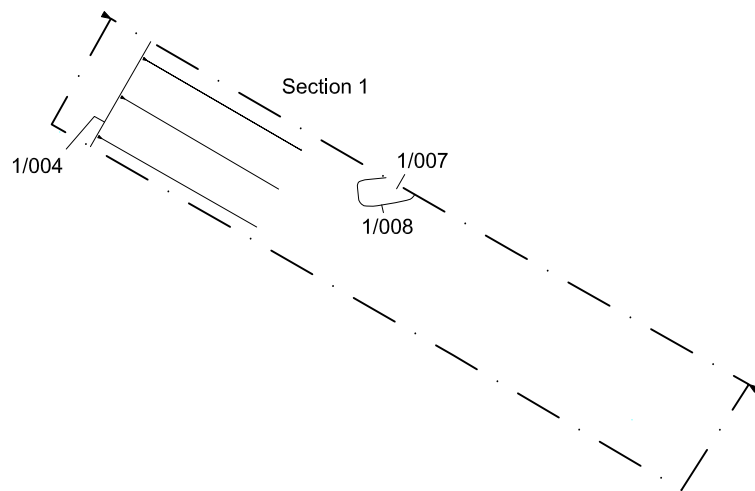


© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5590	July 2013	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5590	July 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013184	Drawn by: JLR			

+ 503290, 103500



Trench 1 looking south-east

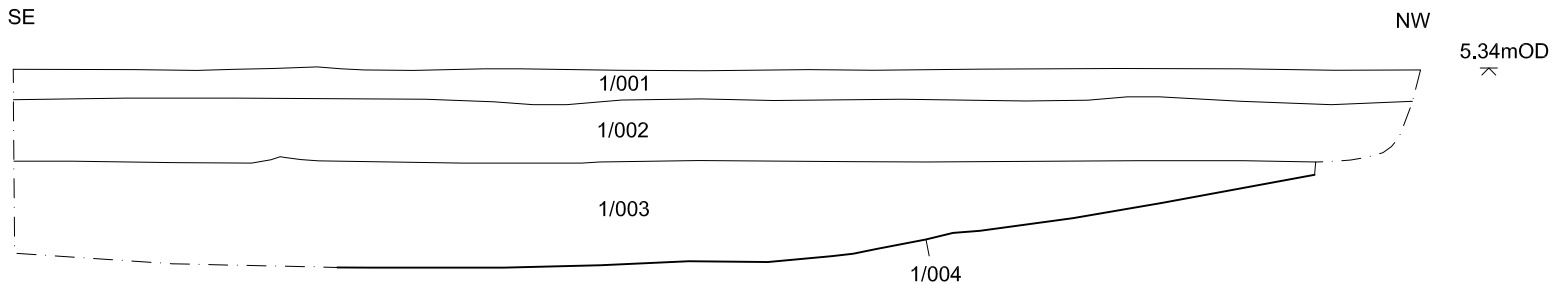
1/007 dog burial

0 2m

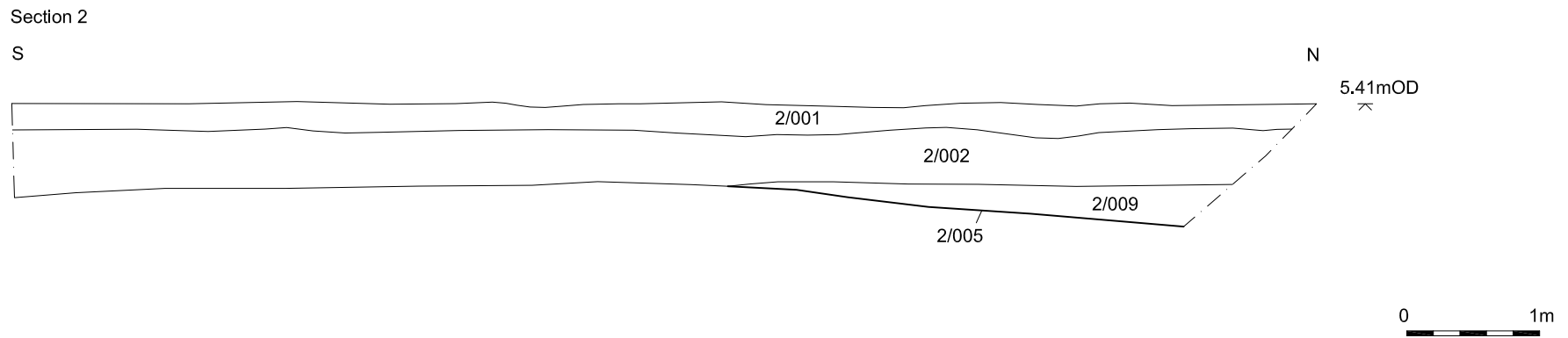
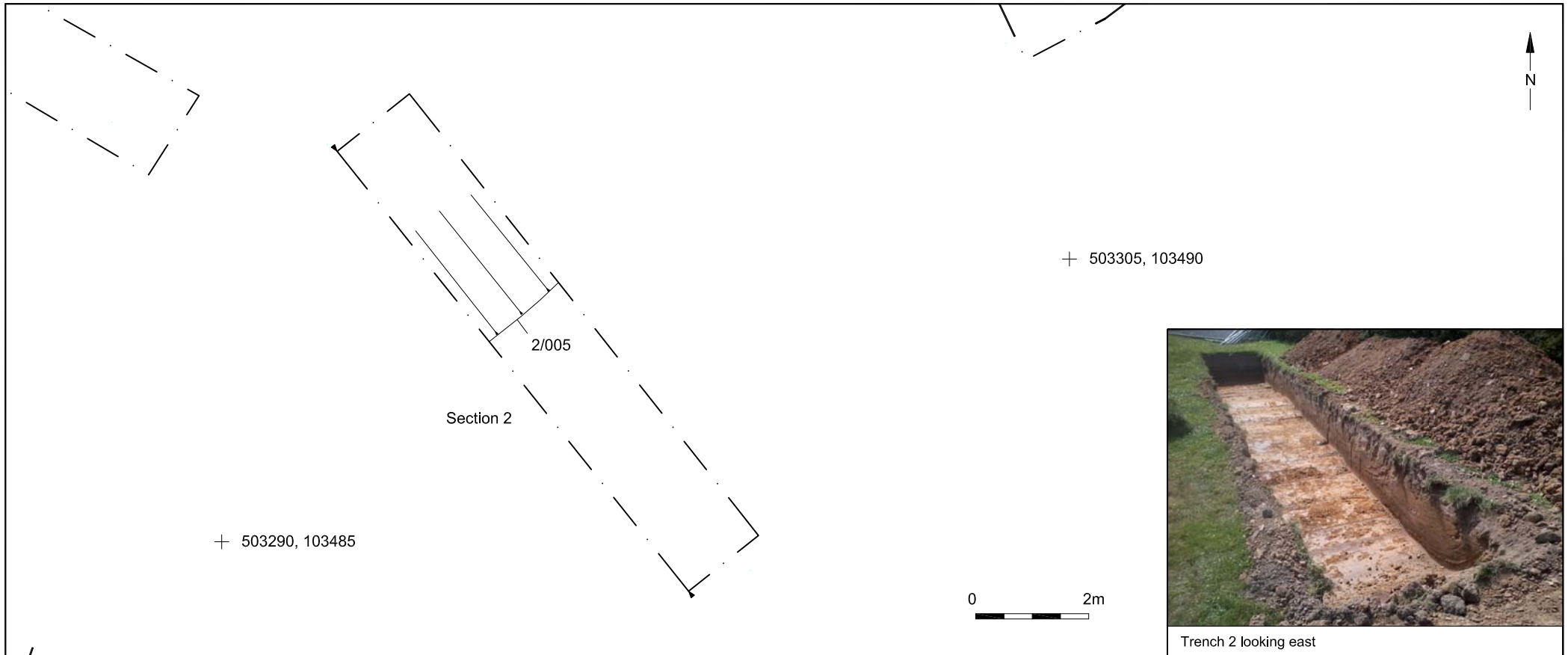
+ 503285, 103490

Section 1

SE



0 1m



© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5590	July 2013	Trench location	
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Trench 1 facing west



Trench 2 facing north-west



Trench 3 facing south

© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5590	July 2013	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2013184	Drawn by: JLR		

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