

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land adjacent to Stafford House
Hassocks, East Sussex**

**NGR: 531370 115510
(TQ 31370 15510)**

**ASE Project No: 6222
Site Code: OCH 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013201
OASIS id: archaeol6-158630**

**By Gary Webster and Diccon Hart
With contributions by Luke Barber, Susan Pringle
and Elke Raemen**



September 2013

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land adjacent to Stafford House
Hassocks, East Sussex**

**NGR: 531370 115510
(TQ 31370 15510)**

**ASE Project No: 6222
Site Code: OCH 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013201
OASIS id: archaeol6-158630**

**By Gary Webster and Diccon Hart
With contributions by Luke Barber, Susan Pringle
and Elke Raemen**

September 2013

**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 Asprey Homes Southern Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex. A Total of 11 trenches were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural geology at a maximum height of 50.72m OD in the southeast of the site, falling away to 47.82m OD to the north and 48.19 to the northeast.

Although several features were identified in the east of the site, these proved to be almost exclusively of later 19th-early 20th century date. An undated east-west aligned ditch was also identified though this is thought unlikely to represent a Roman roadside ditch associated with the Greensand Way which is projected to run through the site in this area.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts
- Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts
- Table 5: Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 list of recorded contexts
- Table 6: Quantification of the finds

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench location
- Figure 3: Trench 3 plan and photo
- Figure 4: Trench 4 plan section and photos:
- Figure 5: Trench 8 plan, section and photos
- Figure 6: Photos of negative trenches

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE; a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Asprey Homes Southern Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation on land at Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (hereafter 'the site'), in advance of residential development (centred NGR 53135 13050; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies in a playing field in a suburban area toward the west of Hassocks, in Keymer. The site is just north of the B2116, which runs east-west.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey website lists the underlying geology as being formed of the Lower Greensand Group, a silty sandstone. There are no superficial geological deposits recorded in the area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of 16 dwellings and associated access roads has been granted (Reference 12/00637/FUL). Due to the archaeological potential of the site, A condition of the planning permission stated that:

An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out at the expense of the developer in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing before the commencement of building works.

Reason: To ensure the appropriate investigation and recording of archaeological Heritage Assets on the site prior to the commencement of development and to comply with policy B18 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently produced by ASE, which outlined the scope of the archaeological investigation (ASE 2013). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the West Sussex County Council Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions, version 2b (WSCC 2007) and relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- The aims and objectives, as stipulated in the WSI (ASE 2013), are reproduced below with due acknowledgement
- 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 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 deposits
 - 2) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development. The aims of the archaeological works are to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features and to inform as the need for any further mitigation as necessary.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report outlines the findings of the archaeological evaluation carried out between the 12th August 2013 and the 15th August 2013, by Gary Webster (Archaeologist), Cat Douglas (Archaeologist) and Vasilis Tsamis (Surveyor).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This archaeological background is taken in full from the WSI (ASE 2013), which itself was based on a search of the West Sussex Historic Environment Record, with a radius of 1km centred on the site.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The West Sussex HER records three finds of Palaeolithic date within the 1km radius of the site (HER 4123 TQ 3000 1500), (HER 4140 TQ 3001 1580) and (HER 4132 TQ 3076 1517). These were chance finds of hand-axes found in residential areas, and are unlikely, given the geology, to be from undisturbed *in situ* contexts. They may be derived from the nearby Adur terrace gravels.

2.2.2 A Mesolithic flintworking site and pit are recorded at Stonepound sandpit c.100m east of the site (HER 3780 TQ29601540), possibly representing the remains of a single hut occupation site. Several Mesolithic findspots of flint tools and flakes found along the Greensand ridge are recorded on the HER (HER Nos 4120 TQ 30510 15460; 4133 TQ 30760 15170, 5064 TQ 30050 15420, 5075 TQ 29970 16190).

2.2.3 Four Neolithic findspots of flint artefacts are recorded along the ridge to the south of the site (HER Nos: 3781 TQ 29600 15400; 3783 TQ 29340 15540; 4134 TQ 30760 15170; 5822 TQ 30600 16100). These findspots include a Neolithic axe that was recovered from Stonepound pit c. 100m east of the site (HER 3781; grid ref TQ29601540).

2.2.4 Early Bronze Age settlement sites are still poorly represented in Sussex. However by the middle Bronze Age, settlement spread from the Downs onto the Coastal Plain to the south, increasing in density in the late Bronze Age period. The area north of the Downs is characterised by a few isolated findspots of bronze axes perhaps indicating some utilisation of woodland resources, probably associated with woodland camps.

2.2.5 A collection of large Bronze Age cinerary urns and cups were found during excavations at the Roman cemetery in Hassocks in 1925 (HER: 3799 TQ 29670 15540), and three Bronze Age flints and a quartz pebble were recovered from Stonepound Pit (HER: 3782 TQ 29600 15400). Further evidence of Bronze Age activity was found at Friars Oak in 1994, c. 500m north-east of the site, suggesting that some small scale activity, perhaps hunting, was taking place in the woodland north of the sandstone ridge (HER: 7219 TQ 2997 1619).

2.2.6 Few Iron Age sites are recorded from north of the Downs, apart from a few Iron Age hillforts in the High Weald, perhaps associated with increased exploitation of the Wealden iron ores in the later Iron Age. Most of the settlement evidence from this period has come from the Downs and, increasingly, the Coastal Plain.

2.2.7 A late Iron Age Lynch pin from a chariot, and was found in a Roman rubbish

pit c. 500m north-east of the site (HER: 3784 TQ 29400 15500). A Late Iron Age trackway is recorded beneath the Roman road from London to Brighton, c.500m north-east of the site (HER 7220, TQ 2997 1619).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The Hassocks area was focus of Roman activity, with the siting of a Roman cemetery at the cross-roads of two major Roman roads some 1.5km to the west of the site. The main London to Brighton road was thought to follow the line of the present A273 c. 1.5km west of the site. More pertinently, the east-west aligned Greensand Way, which extended between Barcombe Mills and Hardham is shown to run directly through the subject site (Margary 1965, 171). Other Roman finds in the vicinity include a Roman coin of Antoninus Pius (AD138-161) recovered during house building by the crossroads (HER:3797 TQ 29880 15470).

2.3.2 A *mansio* (imperial posting station) may have been established at Hassocks because of its position at a crossroads 9 miles from possible Roman settlements to east and west. Fieldwork to the west of the cemetery has revealed occupation deposits associated with pits and a ditch.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

2.4.1 A pagan Saxon cemetery was discovered at Hassocks (HER: 3800; TQ 29670 15540).

2.4.2 The Buttinghill, a natural mound, lay to the north of the Saxon cemetery (HER: 3789 TQ 29630 15710) and was used in the Saxon and Medieval periods as the meeting-place of the Hundred Court.

2.4.3 Evidence of Saxon activity was recorded during the 1994 Friars Oak excavations, with a number of features, including a sunken-floored building, a ditch and concentrations of post-holes (Butler 2000).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The evaluation consisted of 11 trenches of varying sizes, totalling 240 linear metres of trenching. These were spread across the development area, as set out in Figure 2, with regard to the footprints of the proposed buildings and roads and the root protection zones of the surrounding trees. Many of the trenches had to be moved slightly to avoid the trees and dense bushes and brambles or cut short.
- 3.2** The trenches were accurately laid out using a Global Positioning System (DGPS). This can tie in the ordnance survey grid.
- 3.3** All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) before excavation commenced, to ensure that live services were not encountered.
- 3.4** Trenches were dug using a toothless ditching bucket, down to the top of the archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. All excavations were monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 3.5** Upon completion of the evaluation the trenches were backfilled and then compacted, but no formal re-instatement took place.
- 3.6** The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Lewes Museum has been notified of the fieldwork and the archive will be deposited at Lewes museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	47
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	39
Bulk finds	3 Bags

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4 RESULTS

Only Trenches 4 and 8 contained archaeology. Trench 3 was archaeologically negative but contained modern made ground and Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 were archaeologically negative.

4.1 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Deposit Thickness (m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23
3/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/004	Layer	Made Ground	3	Tr.	0.47
3/005	Layer	Made Ground	5.5	Tr.	-

Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 This trench was orientated NE-SW and was 13m in length. The natural substrate, [3/003], a yellowish orange compact clayey sand, was encountered at around 47.82 AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil, [3/002], a greyish yellow compact silty sand. The topsoil, [3/001], a mid greyish brown clayey silt, capped the sequence.

4.1.2 There was an area of made ground toward the north end of the trench. A layer of made ground [3/005] composed of mixed, light brownish grey silty sand with modern material, including pottery and brick (not retained) was identified in the base of the trench. This was overlain by a further layer of made ground [3/004], a mixed dark brownish grey sandy silt. This was found directly beneath the topsoil [3/001].

4.2 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Deposit Thickness (m)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.4
4/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
4/004	Cut	Linear	>1.6	1.6	-
4/005	Fill	Of 4/004	>1.6	1.6	0.6
4/006	Cut	Modern Spread	>1.6	2	-
4/007	Fill	Fill of 4/006	>1.6	1.3	0.21
4/008	Fill	Fill of 4/006	>1.6	2	0.39
4/009	Cut	Modern Pit	6	1.2	-
4/010	Fill	Fill of 4/009	5.3	0.6	-
4/011	Fill	Fill of 4/009	6	1.3	>1
4/012	Layer	Redeposited Natural	5.5	Tr.	0.3

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 This trench was orientated broadly east-west, and was 20m in length. The natural substrate, [4/003], yellowish orange compact clayey sand, was encountered at 48.22 AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil, [4/002], a greyish yellow compact silty sand. The topsoil, [4/001], a mid greyish brown clayey silt, capped the sequence.

- 4.2.2 There were several areas of modern truncation throughout this trench. A layer of re-deposited natural [4/012], a clayey sand containing angular flints which was c 0.3m thick, was identified in the centre of the trench. A modern pit [4/009] cut through this redeposited natural, and truncation was identified in excess of 1m. The primary fill [4/011] was moderate greyish brown silty sand. Above this was fill [4/010], which contained a variety of 20th century rubbish, including iron waste, modern pottery and glass.
- 4.2.3 This modern truncation continues to the west of the trench, and includes [4/006], a sharp right angle cut into the natural that is c.0.6m in depth, and filled with [4/007] a friable, reddish mixture of crushed brick and burnt clay. This was overlain by fill [4/008], a mid slightly reddish brown sandy silty clay which was 0.39m thick. A range of finds were recovered from this feature, including pottery, brick clay tobacco pipe and stone, which indicate a later 19th-early 20th century date for the feature.
- 4.2.4 A linear feature [4/004] stretched across the trench along a broadly north-south alignment. It cut sharply into the natural and had steep sides, with a more gradual break of slope towards a concave base. The fill [4/005] was a very compact, but friable, mid grey brown silty sandy clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate manganese and occasional flints. A single small sherd of pottery dated to c. 1850-1925 was recovered from this feature as well as some small crumbs of undatable Ceramic Building Material (CBM).
- 4.2.5 The feature [4/004] was overlain to the east by [4/012], a layer of redeposited natural clayey sand.

4.3 Trench 8 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Deposit Thickness (m)
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3
8/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
8/004	Cut	Linear	6	0.66	-
8/005	Fill	Of 5/004	6	0.66	0.2

Table 4: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 This trench was orientated east-west, and was 20m in length. The natural substrate, [8/003], yellowish orange compact clayey sand, was encountered at 49.45 AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil, [8/002], a greyish yellow compact silty sand. The topsoil [8/001] a mid greyish brown clayey silt, overlay the subsoil.
- 4.3.2 A linear feature [8/004] was identified in this trench, on an east-west orientation. It was 6m in length and 0.66m wide and 0.2m deep. The break of slope at the top was moderate, with gradual sloping sides leading down to a concave base. The fill [8/005] was a compact, pale brownish grey silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.4 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 (Figures 2 and 6)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Deposit Thickness (m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.44
1/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.44
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/004	Deposit	Made Ground	c.3	Tr.	0.47
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36
5/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31
6/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
7/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.6
9/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
10/003	Layer	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.58
10/004	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48
11/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 5: Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 These trenches are devoid of archaeology, and all follow the same stratigraphic sequence, with the exception of Trenches 2 and 10. The natural substrate, a yellowish orange compact clayey sand was encountered between 48.19m AOD and 50.65m AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil, a greyish yellow compact silty sand. The topsoil overlay the sequence.
- 4.4.2 Trench 2 has a deposit of modern made ground [2/004], toward the north-west of the trench, directly underneath the topsoil [2/001]. It contains degraded brick above a compact dark blackish grey ashey silt, and is 0.47m thick. It directly overlay the natural substrate [2/003].
- 4.4.3 Trench 10 has a layer of colluvium [10/004], overlaying the natural substrate [10/004]. The colluvium is a dark orangey brown slightly silty sand. It is 0.58m at its thickest, towards the west of the trench. This is overlain by the subsoil [10/002] and topsoil [10/001].

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation, summarized in Table 6. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and finds were bagged by material and context. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
4/005	1	<2	3	4						
4/007	4	22	2	614	5	14	1	8		
4/010	2	50							6	2330
Total	7	72	5	618	5	14	1	8	6	2330

Table 6: Quantification of the finds

5.2 Post-medieval pottery by Luke Barber

Spot Dates

4/005 – c. 1800-1925 (burnt sherd)

4/007 – c. 1850-1925

4/010 – c. 1850-1925

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a very small assemblage of late post-medieval pottery from the site. Context [4/005] contained a small burnt rim sherd from a bowl in refined white earthenware. Unfortunately the burning has discoloured the glaze to such an extent only a general 19th- to early 20th-century date can be given to the piece.

5.2.2 Context [4/007] produced three unglazed earthenware flower pot sherds together with a 3g fragment from a transfer-printed cup with blue line decoration. All sherds from this deposit can be placed between 1850 and 1925 and although small are not heavily abraded. A similar date can be ascribed to the two larger fresh sherds from context [4/010]. Both are of black transfer-printed vessels: one a plate with pattern design, the other a large bowl/wash basin with cottage views in rectangular cartouches, surrounded by twisting foliage design.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Susan Pringle

5.3.1 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) assemblage weighed 0.61kg and consisted of a fragmentary brick and five crumbs of brick and tile.

5.3.2 The brick, which was recovered from context [4/007], is 105mm wide and 68mm thick. The header and stretcher are flat and smooth; the bed faces too abraded to provide any typological information. The fabric is orange-brown with a soft texture, characterised by abundant fine quartz and some red iron-

rich inclusions. The date range for bricks of this type is c. 1650 to 1850; this brick is likely to be of 18th century date.

- 5.3.3 The crumbs of tile from context [4/005] are in two fabrics: orange with abundant fine quartz and light orange with common fine to medium quartz. Both contain some red iron-rich material. These fragments are not datable.

5.4 Clay tobacco pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Five plain and unmarked clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments were recovered from [4/007]. All five date to between c. 1750-1910. Included is a fragment with adhering fuel ash slag.

5.5 Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Context [4/010] contained six complete and near complete bottles. Included is a green beer bottle dating to the second half of the 20th century. The remaining bottles are likely to date to the late 19th to early 20th century. Included is another green beer bottle with in situ vulcanite stopper. An aqua cylindrical bottle, probably for mineral water, was recovered as well as a square aqua jar which would probably have contained preserves. An oval bottle in green blue glass with alloy wire twisted around the neck is included as well as a cylindrical, aqua bottle embossed "SANITAS" "THE BEST DISINFECTANT".

5.6 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [4/007] produced a white, heavily burnt, fragment of coal shale with the impressions of the fire grate on its reverse. Such material is fairly typical waste from the burning of coal in the 19th and 20th centuries.

5.7 Summary

- 5.7.1 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The investigation has succeeded in identifying several features on the site, all of which are clustered in the far east of the site and all but one of which have proved to be later 19th or early 20th century in date. This includes a sequence of made ground in Trench 3 and a range of features in Trench 4, including ditch [4/004], rubbish pit [4/009] and an extensive cut of uncertain function and origin [4/006]. Ditch [4/004] lies on an alignment parallel to Ockley Lane, which forms the eastern boundary of the site and is likely to represent a boundary ditch, clearly infilled in the later 19th-20th century but perhaps of earlier origin. Cut [4/006] is difficult to adequately interpret within the confines of the evaluation trench but may be structural in origin, perhaps representing the evidence for the grubbed-out foundations of a brick building, given the quantities of brick and tile observed in its backfill. .
- 6.2** The remaining feature consisted of an east-west aligned ditch recorded in Trench 8. This feature is undated. It may represent evidence of a former boundary, perhaps extending back from Ockley Lane, although given that it does not lie exactly perpendicular to the road itself it may represent an earlier boundary that pre-dates the road.
- 6.3** The absence of any convincing archaeological remains from earlier periods suggests the site lay beyond any *foci* for earlier activity. Much of the prehistoric evidence in the vicinity indicates fairly sporadic and small-scale activity in the local Wealden landscape, which clearly does not extend onto the subject site.
- 6.4** The lack of any evidence for Roman activity on the site is somewhat more problematic, given that Margary, in his comprehensive survey of Roman roads in the Weald (Margary 1965) shows the east-west aligned Greensand Way to run directly through the subject site. While the undated ditch [8/004] lies on a similar alignment and position to the supposed line of the Greensand Way, it does not appear to be of sufficient size to constitute a Roman roadside ditch and, at any rate, no other associated evidence for the road or any Roman artefacts, residual or otherwise, was observed in any of the evaluation trenches.
- 6.5** Given that the line of the road through the subject site is shown as inferred only in Margary's book, in conjunction with the lack of any evidence for the road on the site it seems probable that the line of the road diverges from the projected route suggested by Margary, perhaps to avoid or otherwise negotiate the stream which runs to the north of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2013 *Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished method statement

IfA 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Margary, 1965. *Roman Ways in the Weald.*, London, J.M. Dent and son.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Asprey Homes Ltd. for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	OCH13					
Identification Name and Address	Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex.					
OS Grid Refs.	53135 13050					
Geology	Lower Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6222					
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	Asprey Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Asprey Homes Southern Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex. A Total of 11 trenches were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural geology at a maximum height of 50.72m OD in the southeast of the site, falling away to 47.82m OD to the north and 48.19 to the northeast.</p> <p>Although several features were identified in the east of the site, these proved to be almost exclusively of later 19th-early 20th century date. An undated east-west aligned ditch was also identified though this is thought unlikely to represent a Roman roadside ditch associated with the Greensand Way which is projected to run through the site in this area.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-158630

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation report: Land adjacent to Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Asprey Homes Southern Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex. A Total of 11 trenches were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural geology at a maximum height of 50.72m OD in the southeast of the site, falling away to 47.82m OD to the north and 48.19 to the northeast.</p> <p>Although several features were identified in the east of the site, these proved to be almost exclusively of later 19th-early 20th century date. An undated east-west aligned ditch was also identified though this is thought unlikely to represent a Roman roadside ditch associated with the Greensand Way which is projected to run through the site in this area.</p>
Project dates	Start: 12-08-2013 End: 15-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OCH13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6222 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	RUBBISH PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HASSOCKS Land adjacent to Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex
Postcode	BN6 8BA
Study area	1.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 313 305 51 0 51 03 29 N 000 07 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47.82m Max: 50.72m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Asprey Homes Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation report: Land adjacent to Stafford House, Ockley Road, Hassocks, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Webster, G and Hart, D

Other
bibliographic
details

2013201

Date

2013

Issuer or
publisher

Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or
publication

Archaeology South-East

Description

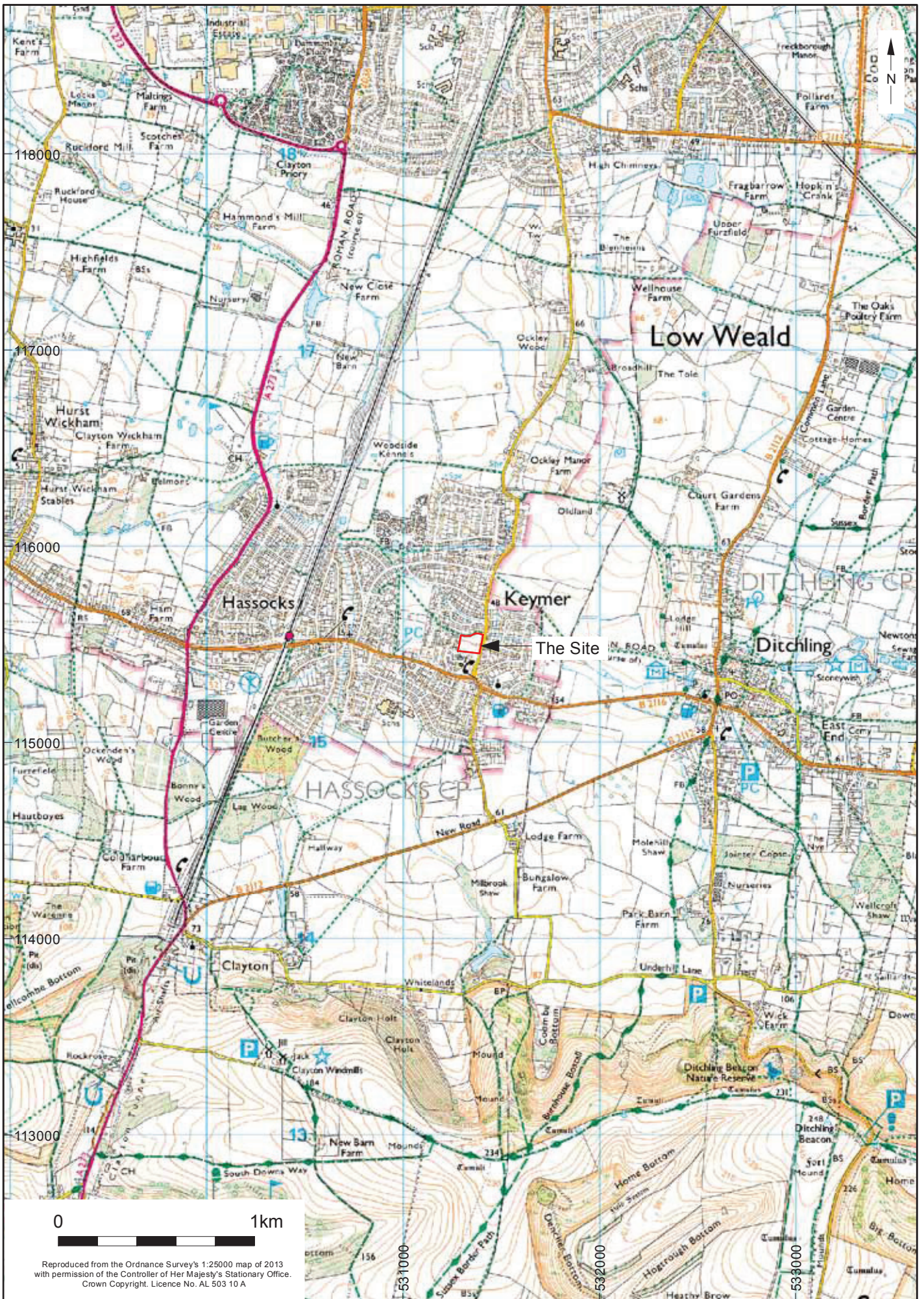
A4 bound report

Entered by

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

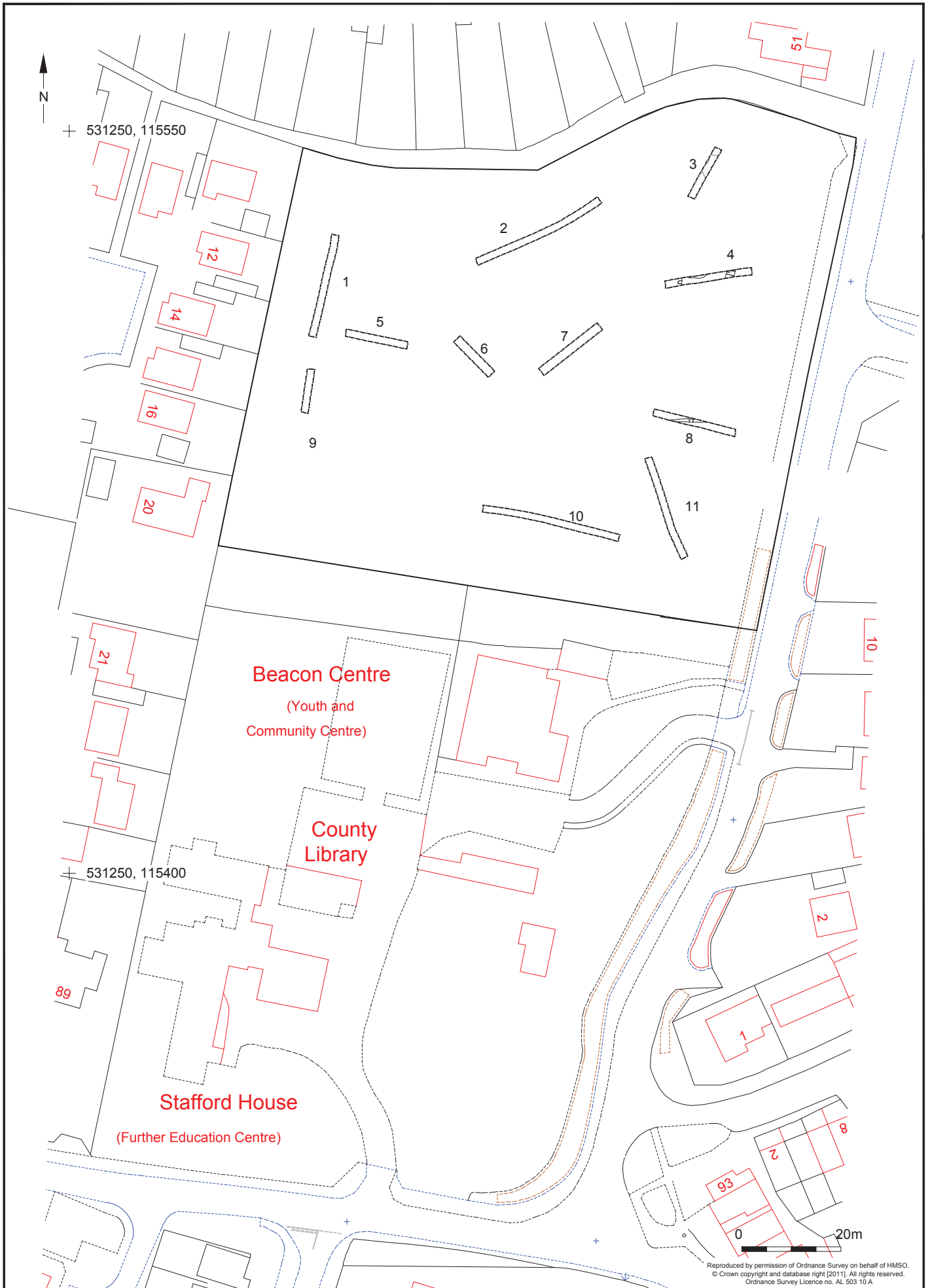
Entered on

5 September 2013



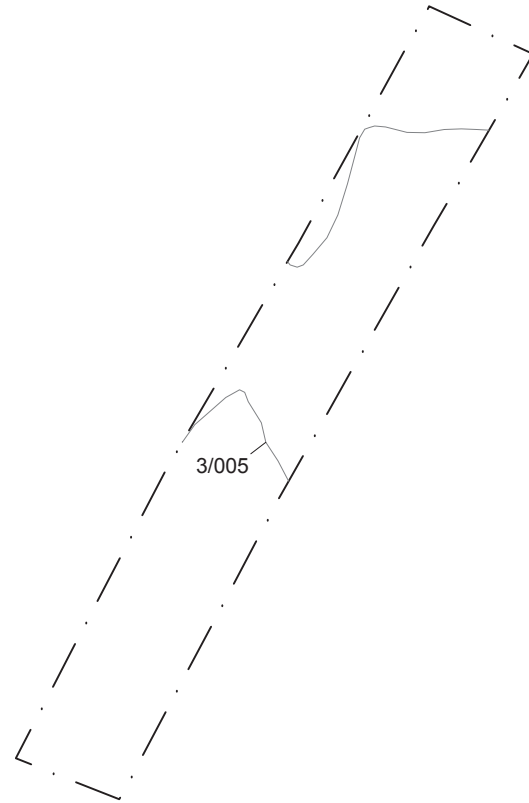
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 2013 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Stafford House, Hassocks	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6222	Sept 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013201	Drawn by: JLR		



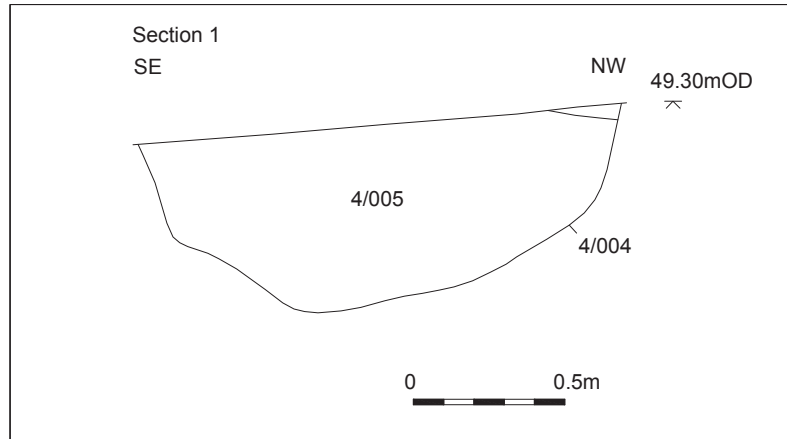
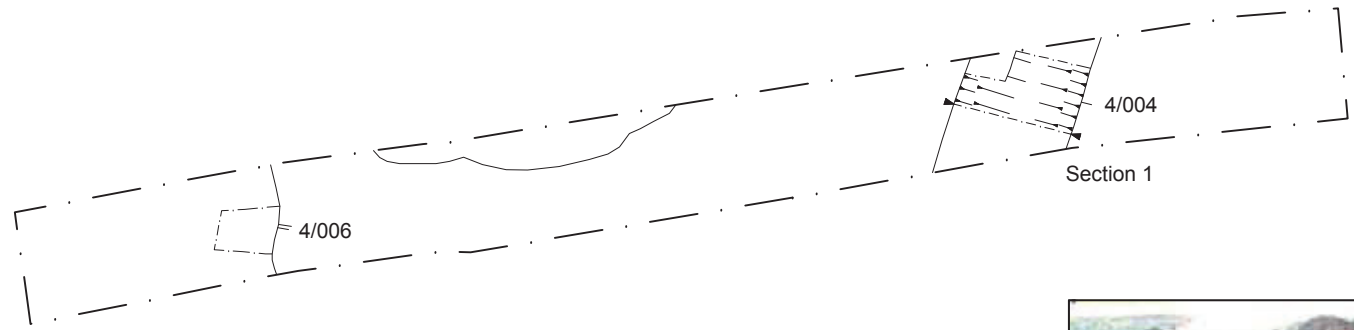
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 © Crown copyright and database right [2011]. All rights reserved.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Stafford House, Hassocks	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6222	Sept 2013	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2013203	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 3 looking south-west, showing made ground 3/005

© Archaeology South-East		Stafford House, Hassocks	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6222	Sept 2013	Trench 3 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013203	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 4 looking west



Trench 4 looking east



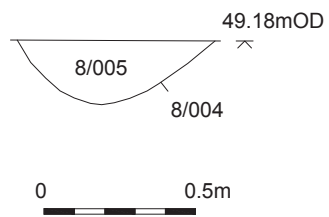
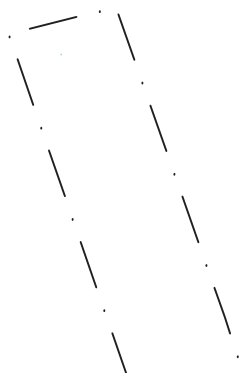
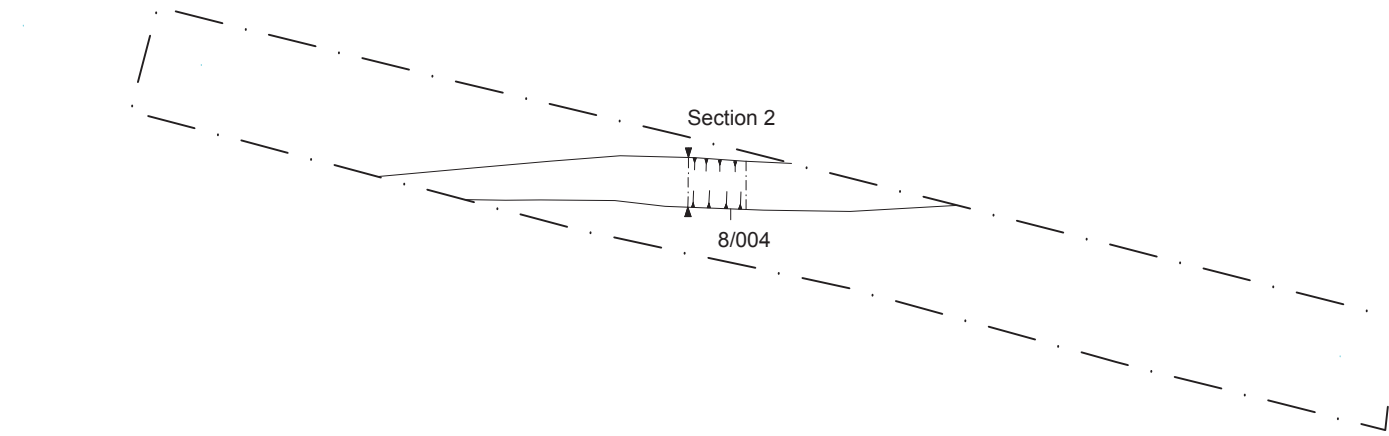
North-east facing section, ditch 4/004



Cut 4/006 looking north



Pit 4/009 looking north-east



Trench 8 looking east



Ditch 8/005 looking east

© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 6222

Report Ref: 2013203

Sept 2013

Drawn by: JLR

Stafford House, Hassocks

Trench 8 plan, section and photograph

Fig. 5



Trench 1 looking north



Trench 2 looking north-west



Trench 5 looking east



Trench 6 looking north-west

© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to Stafford House, Hassocks	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 6222	Sept 2013	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2013201	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 7 looking east



Trench 9 looking north



Trench 10 looking east



Trench 11 looking south-east

© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to Stafford House, Hassocks	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 6222	Sept 2013	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2013201	Drawn by: JLR		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

