

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham,
East Sussex, BN1 8PP**

**NGR: 530561 109516
(TQ 305 095)**

Planning Ref: SDNP/13/04626/FUL

**ASE Project No: 7057
Site Code: HAO15**

**ASE Report No: 2015007
OASIS id: archaeol6-201863**

Tom Munnery and Diccon Hart

Illustrations by Rob Cole and Nathalie Gonzalez



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Horsdean Traveller site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex. Three trenches were mechanically excavated at the site. Natural chalk was tentatively identified only in the far north of the site (Trench 3) at 62.66m AOD. Elsewhere on the site the trenches were not of sufficient depth to prove natural geology and the earliest deposits encountered consisted of a possible subsoil or colluvial horizon, which was also seen to seal the possible natural chalk in Trench 3. In Trench 1 a probable buried topsoil horizon was observed, sealed by a later of recent made ground. In Trenches 2 and 3, made ground was seen to directly overlie the probable subsoil/colluvial horizon. In all three trenches, the sequence was capped by the topsoil horizon of the site.

No finds or features were encountered on the site, but as the archaeological horizon was not encountered across much of the site, archaeology, if present, may still survive.

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation prior to the expansion of Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 8PP (NGR 530561 109516; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is currently set amid scrubland adjoining the existing traveller site situated to the north of Braypool Lane. It is surrounded by agricultural fields to the north, east and west.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015), the underlying geology consists of Seaford Chalk Formation, with possible head deposits of sandy silty clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment for the site was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2012). It concluded that the site had a high potential for containing archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric and Romano-British agricultural activity, with lower potential for Anglo-Saxon activity.

1.3.2 Planning permission has been granted for the provision of 12 permanent residential traveller pitches, managers office, play area and foul and surface water treatment, landscaping and access (Application No: SDNP/13/04626/FUL). The following archaeological conditions were attached to the permission:

6. No demolition or development shall commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the South Downs National Park Authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

- (i). The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- (ii). The programme for post investigation assessment*
- (iii). Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording of the site investigation*
- (iv). Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- (v). Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan 2005 and the NPPF.

7. No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 5.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan 2005 and the NPPF.

8. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 6 and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan 2005 and the NPPF.

9. Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the development hereby permitted shall be retained in-situ and reported to the South Downs National Park Authority in writing within 7 working days. Works shall be halted in the area affected until provision has been made for the retention and/or recording in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing by the South Downs National Park Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan 2005 and the NPPF.

1.3.3 Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), has been consulted and stated that the development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area defining an area of Prehistoric and Romano-British activity. There is thus a potential for archaeological deposits to exist on this site which will be impacted/destroyed by the development. A trial trench evaluation of the site (5% sample) was therefore proposed.

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2014a) and duly approved by the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeology Section in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI, as well as the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b) and the ESCC recommended standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording, and post-excavation work (ESCC 2008).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken in January 2015. The archaeological work was undertaken by Tom Munnery (Senior Archaeologist), Laura McArdle

(Assistant Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site is detailed in the Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2012). The following summary is paraphrased from that document, but enhanced with detail from a subsequent excavation undertaken at 145 Vale Avenue, Patcham by Archaeology South-East in 2013 (ASE 2014b). This site lies c. 500m to the south of the proposed development area.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The area in the vicinity of the site has produced considerable evidence for prehistoric activity, containing examples of funerary sites and field systems in close proximity. In addition, investigations into the dry valley sediment sequences elsewhere along the bypass route has demonstrated their archaeological potential. Field systems have been recorded in close proximity to the site, some of which may extend into the northern part of the site as buried archaeological features.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Many of the field systems and other archaeological features in proximity to the site are undated and may equally be of Romano-British date.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

2.4.1 Little is known about the site during the Anglo-Saxon period, with any contemporary settlement likely to lie nearer the church in Patcham. At 145 Vale Avenue the earliest stratified evidence included two Middle Saxon sunken featured buildings and a number of pits which were widely dispersed across the watching brief area. There was a very small quantity of Late Saxon pottery from the site, including two 10th century sherds which were stratified in a pit containing an animal burial (ASE 2014b).

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 While Patcham was a documented medieval settlement, most of the archaeological evidence for this period is likely to survive in and around the medieval village core. The site itself is likely to have been used as open arable or as sheepwalk at this time. At 145 Vale Avenue two north-south oriented timber buildings were recorded with evidence for sill beams, a construction method which broadly accords with the small assemblage of medieval pottery from the site which generally dated to c.AD1225-1350 (ASE 2014b).

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 The site has been used as open agricultural land (arable and pasture) until the 1970s, when it was modified for use as a sports pitch.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

2.7.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the draft South East Research Framework:

- To better understand the long term history of the land divisions laid out in the MBA/LBA
- To further understanding of the transition to the Roman period
- To further understanding of medieval life in the area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Four trenches were proposed to be excavated for the evaluation, each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m (Figure 2). However, due to the significant depths of made ground encountered across the site, which exceeded the impact depths of the proposed development, the scope of the trenching was substantially reduced, in agreement with the ESCC Archaeology Section. Consequently, only three trenches were excavated, measuring 8.2m by 1.8m (Trench 1), 11.5 by 1.8m (Trench 2) and 30m by 1.8m (Trench 3), with smaller, deeper sondages excavated in each trench to determine the depth of overburden present (Figure 3).
- 3.1.2 Mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to a maximum depth of 1.20m. Spoil and was visually scanned for the presence of artefacts
- 3.1.3 The trenches and features were planned using digital survey technology. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and of the site in general.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	7

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3

4.1.1 None of the trenches revealed any archaeological evidence and natural geological deposits were only encountered in Trench 3 in the far north of the site. However, some variation in the sequence of overburden was noted across the site (see Table 2 below).

The most complete sequence was observed in Trench 3. Here, the earliest deposit comprised a thick layer of loose chalk [3/006], which may be either redeposited or, perhaps more likely soliflucted natural chalk. This was overlain by a layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay [3/005] which may represent a remnant subsoil or colluvial horizon, in turn overlain by a layer of recent made ground [3/002], sealed by the topsoil horizon of the site [3/001]. In Trenches 1 and 2, on the other hand, the earliest deposits consisted of possible subsoil or colluvial horizons of mid yellowish brown silty clay [1/004] and [2/004]. In Trench 1, this deposit was overlain by a buried topsoil horizon [1/003], in turn sealed by recent made ground [1/002] and the current topsoil horizon of the site [1/001]. In Trench 2, no evidence of any buried topsoil horizon could be identified however and the subsoil/colluvial horizon [2/004] was directly sealed by modern made ground [2/002], in turn capped by topsoil horizon [2/001]. It seems likely that here, the pre-existing topsoil horizon of the site was removed prior to the deposition of made ground.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
Trench 1				
	Layer	Topsoil	0.33	62.36
1/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.43	62.03
1/003	Layer	Original Topsoil	0.14	61.60
1/004	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	>0.38	61.46
Trench 2				
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	63.04
2/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.80	62.84
2/003	-	-	-	
2/004	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	>0.20	62.04
Trench 3				
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	63.59
3/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.33	63.29
3/003	-	-	-	
3/004	-	-	-	
3/005	Layer	?Subsoil/colluvium	0.30	62.96
3/006	Layer	?Natural chalk	>0.80	62.66

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 Little variation was noted in the topsoil of the site, but the stratigraphy beneath this did vary between trenches. Possible natural chalk was observed in Trench 3 at a maximum height of 62.66m AOD but elsewhere on the site natural geological deposits were not reached. Probable subsoil or colluvium was recorded in all three trenches, however. This was seen to slope down from a maximum height of 62.96m AOD in the north of the site (Trench 1) to 61.46m AOD to the south (Trench 3). A buried topsoil horizon, above this probable subsoil/colluvium, was present in Trench 1 only; elsewhere on the site the absence of any such buried topsoil suggests some degree of horizontal truncation prior to the deposition of sequences of modern made ground (see below)
- 5.1.2 No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed across the evaluated portion of the site.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 Evidence suggests the site had been subject to a considerable degree of landscaping and levelling, with the absence of a buried topsoil horizon in the south of the site suggestive of soil stripping prior to ground raising through the deposition of thick layers of made ground. This landscaping may have happened either during the widening of the A27 or when the site was landscaped into a sports pitch. However the survival of a subsoil/colluvial horizon in all three trenches may be taken to indicate that any such landscaping was not of sufficient depth to fully obliterate any potential archaeological horizons which may be present on the site.

5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains

- 5.3.1 No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the evaluation, although possible colluvial horizons were tentatively identified in all three trenches.

5.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 5.3.2 The development includes the provision of 12 permanent residential traveller pitches, managers office, play area and foul and surface water treatment plant. It is understood, however, that the impact depths of the proposed development are not of sufficient depth to affect any archaeological horizons which may be present on the site.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

- 5.4.1 The evaluation did not determine whether any archaeological remains survive on the site as natural geology was tentatively identified in Trench 3 only. Elsewhere on the site, the trial trenching was not of sufficient depth to reach undisturbed natural deposits. Consequently, it is not possible to address any of the research aims outlined in Section 2.7 above.

5.5 Conclusions

- 5.5.1 No archaeological evidence was identified during the investigation. However, it should be noted that the limited nature of the investigation means that it is impossible to categorically discount the possibility that archaeological remains exist on the site, although it is understood that any such evidence will not be affected by the proposed development.

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ESCC. 2008. *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Brighton and Hove City Council for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter County Archaeologist East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Tom Munnery. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the project; Rob Cole, Nathalie Gonzalez and Diccon Hart, who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	HAO15					
Identification Name and Address	Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex, Brighton and Hove City Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 30561 09516					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7057					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 12/01/2015					
Sponsor/Client	Brighton and Hove City Council					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Tom Munnery					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Horsdean Traveller site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex. Three trenches were mechanically excavated at the site. Natural chalk was tentatively identified only in the far north of the site (Trench 3) at 62.66m AOD. Elsewhere on the site the trenches were not of sufficient depth to prove natural geology and the earliest deposits encountered consisted of a possible subsoil or colluvial horizon, which was also seen to seal the possible natural chalk in Trench 3. In Trench 1 a probable buried topsoil horizon was observed, sealed by a layer of recent made ground. In Trenches 2 and 3, made ground was seen to directly overlie the probable subsoil/colluvial horizon. In all three trenches, the sequence was capped by the topsoil horizon of the site.</i></p> <p><i>No finds or features were encountered on the site, but as the archaeological horizon was not encountered across much of the site, archaeology, if present, may still survive.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-201863

Project details

Project name	Horsdean Traveller site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Horsdean Traveller site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex. Three trenches were mechanically excavated at the site. Natural chalk was tentatively identified only in the far north of the site (Trench 3) at 62.66m AOD. Elsewhere on the site the trenches were not of sufficient depth to prove natural geology and the earliest deposits encountered consisted of a possible subsoil or colluvial horizon, which was also seen to seal the possible natural chalk in Trench 3. In Trench 1 a probable buried topsoil horizon was observed, sealed by a layer of recent made ground. In Trenches 2 and 3, made ground was seen to directly overlie the probable subsoil/colluvial horizon. In all three trenches, the sequence was capped by the topsoil horizon of the site. No finds or features were encountered on the site, but as the archaeological horizon was not encountered across much of the site, archaeology, if present, may still survive.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2015 End: 12-01-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7057 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HAO15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Horsdean Traveller site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex. Three trenches
Postcode	BN1 8PP
Study area	2.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 305 095 50.8696822151 -0.145166079052 50 52 10 N 000 08 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 62.66m Max: 62.66m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Brighton and Hove City Council

Project archives

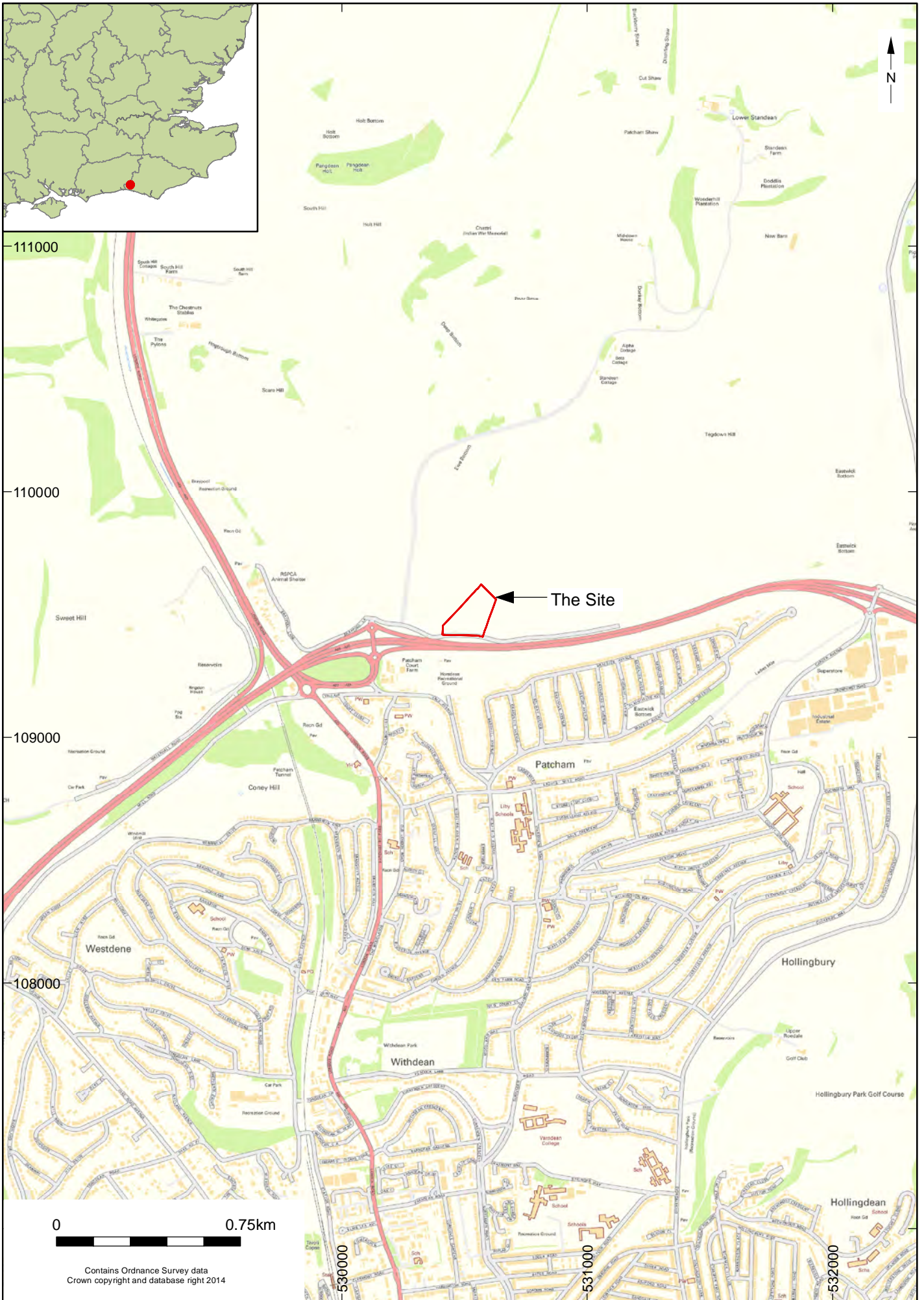
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Brighton and Hove Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Brighton and Hove Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph"

Project

bibliography 1

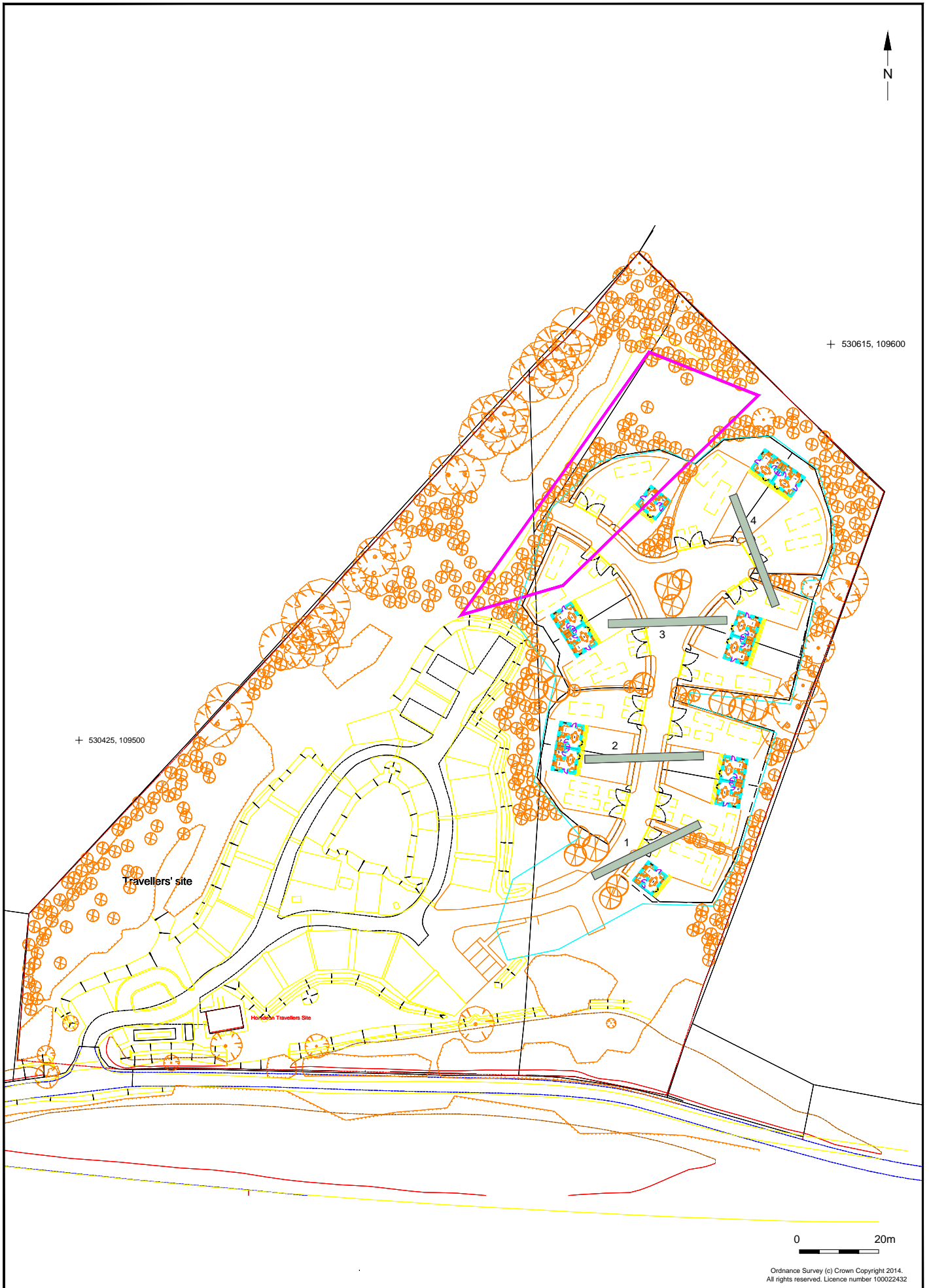
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham, East Sussex, BN1 8PP
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Munnery, T
Other bibliographic details	2015007
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	A4 bound report
Entered by	D Hart (d.hart@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	28 January 2015

Appendix 1

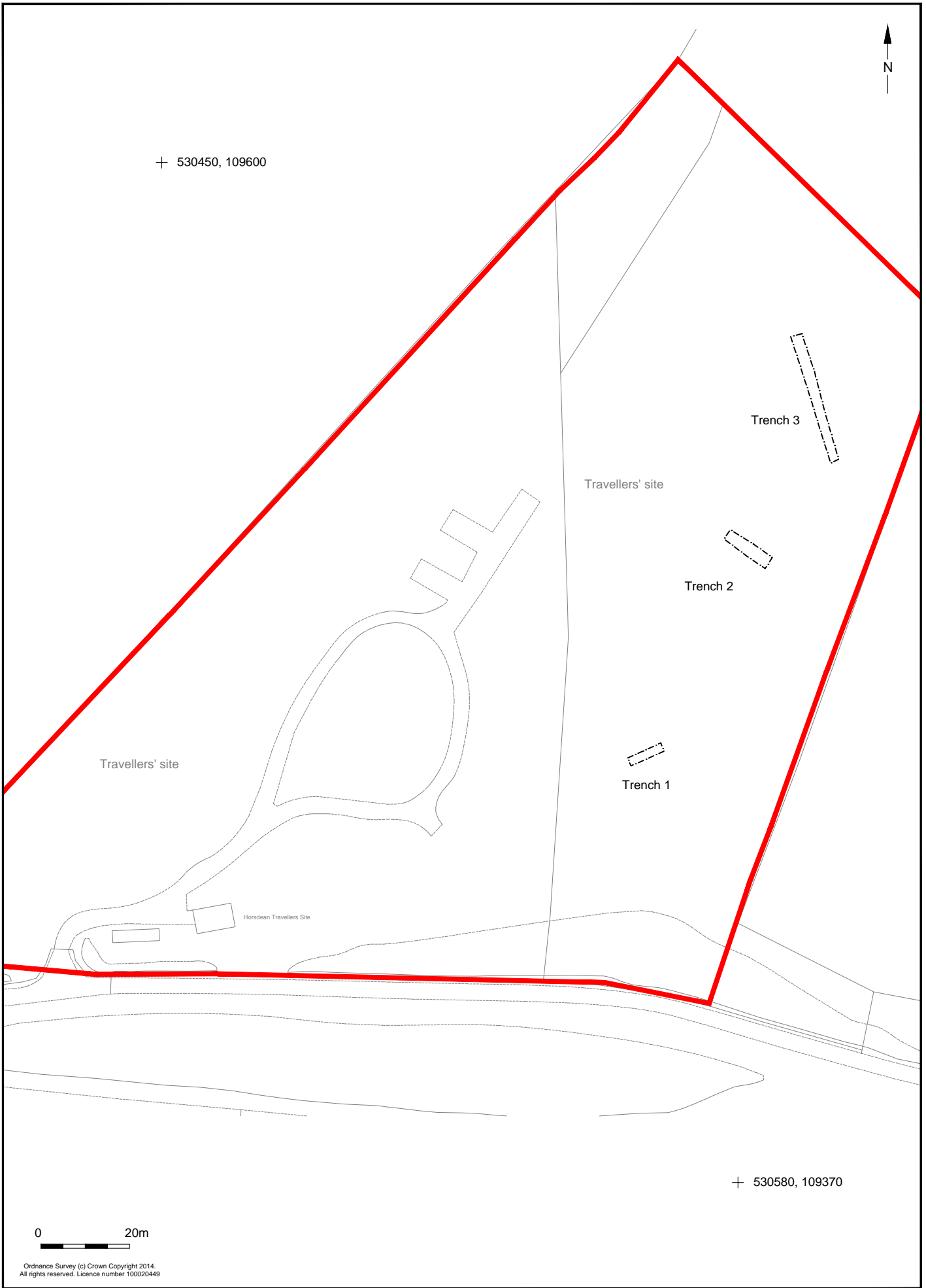


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© Archaeology South-East		Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7057	January 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015007	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Brighton, Horsdean Traveller Site	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7057	3/12/2014	Proposed trench layout	
Report Ref: 2015007	Drawn by: NG		



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© Archaeology South-East		Horsdean Traveller Site, Braypool Lane, Patcham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7057	January 2015	Actual trench layout	
Report Ref: 2015007	Drawn by: RHC		



Trench 1 looking east



Trench 1 section looking south-east



Trench 2 looking south-east



Trench 2 section looking south-west



Trench 3 looking south



Trench 3 section looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Horsdean Travellers site, Braypool Lane, Patcham	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7057	Jan 2015	Selected photographs of Trenches 1, 2 and 3	
Report Ref: 2015007	Drawn by: DAH		

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