

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham, West Sussex.**

**NGR: 482398 100921
(SU 82398 00921)**

Planning ref: 13/00316/FUL

**ASE Project No: 7799
Site Code: BIR16**

**ASE Report No: 2016063
OASIS id: 242581**

Kristina Krawiec

February 2016

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Revision:			

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham, West Sussex on behalf of AB Heritage Ltd.

The evaluation comprised a single trench inside Building 5, a 3 bay concrete framed boat shed. The concrete was removed prior to excavation and the trench was terminated at 1.14m deep due to water ingress. The underlying Head deposit was only encountered in the western end of the trench which sloped towards the Marina pool to the west. The deposits overlying the geology comprised a series of mixed gravely clay made ground layers which exhibited a strong hydrocarbon odour, probably deriving from boat fuel.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by AB Heritage Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham, West Sussex prior to redevelopment (Figure 1, NGR 482398 100921).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located within the boatyard of Birdham Pool Marina, which lies to the south of the Chichester Channel, itself an arm of Chichester Harbour. The marina is 600m to the north of the village of Birdham.

1.2.2 The site is located on the superficial deposits of Raised Beach and Head (BGS Website accessed 9/2/2016). These deposits overlie the London Clay bedrock.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 There are proposals to develop the site for residential buildings and with extensive development of Building 5. A full breakdown of the details of this development can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AB Heritage 2016).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report covers the results of the evaluation carried out in February 2016 by Kristina Krawiec (Senior Archaeologist), assisted by Nathalie Gonzalez (surveyor). The project was managed by Paul Mason and the post excavation was managed by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background information is derived from the WSI ((AB Heritage 2016) with due acknowledgment.

2.2 Background

2.2.1 The site lies at the boundary of the Manhood Peninsula and is recorded by the BGS as being located on an area of Raised Beach (Pagham raised beach). These deposits are well recognised as having the potential to preserve Palaeolithic artefacts and environmental remains and several handaxes have been recovered from the Peninsula.

2.2.2 The earliest archaeological evidence recorded in the vicinity of the site were early Iron Age features, including post holes, a pit and pottery were identified during archaeological works, c.1km to the south of the proposed development site (West Sussex Archaeology, 2013).

2.2.3 The location of a Roman road is suggested between Birdham and Bracklesham. The position of a Roman port is also suggested in the location of the mill pond, to the south of the boatyard. Several findspots of Roman pottery have been identified within the vicinity of the proposed development site. The closest of these is located c.650m to the south (West Sussex Archaeology, 2013).

2.2.4 Birdham was included among the places given for the endowment of the monastery of Selsey. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and already had a mill and two fisheries at this time. Over the proceeding centuries, the manor was divided into three principle manors including Court Barns.

2.2.5 The Church of St James, the earliest part of which is 14th century, is located c.600m to the south of the proposed development site. A 13th century chapel is recorded c.1km to the south-east of the proposed development site (West Sussex Archaeology, 2013).

2.2.6 The area surrounding the mill underwent redevelopment during the post-medieval period. The mill is 18th century and Grade II listed (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) No.1228313). The Grade II listed Red House (NHLE 1026445) & Well House (NHLE 1026444), are also 18th century and located c.200m to the east. (West Sussex Archaeology, 2013).

2.2.7 The mill ceased operations in 1935 and the mill complex together with the two mill pools and 200 acres of land was sold. Birdham Estates Ltd developed the land for residential housing and converted the outer pool into a yachting basin.

2.2.8 The marina was taken over during World War Two by the Combined Operations Command for the training of troops in amphibious landings. This usage involved a significant expansion of the boatyard on the south-west

side of the old mill pool. After World War Two the marina reverted back to private ownership and continued to be altered and expanded (West Sussex Archaeology, 2013).

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The main aims of the projects were to;

- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- These results will be used to inform any potential need for further archaeological evaluation or mitigation works.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The trench was located inside Building 5 and the concrete floor slab was broken out prior to the excavation. The trench was 15m long and 1.80m wide and was unable to be excavated beyond 1.14m in depth due to water ingress.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were scanned using a CAT cable avoidance tool prior to excavation and the trench locations were further modified due to the presence of possible services. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.1.3 Where necessary the surface and sections of trenches were hand-cleaned in order to better clarify the extent of the archaeological remains.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were located using RTK GPS and Total Station to accurately locate the area with Ordnance Survey co-ordinates.
- 3.1.7 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.8 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket, no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at an appropriate repository. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	9
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	10
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	1

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds	2 small bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample	0

samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Finds	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Concrete floor slab		15m	1.80m	0.15m	4.18m
1/002	Layer	Rubble layer		4.58m	1.80m	0.10m	4.02m
1/003	Layer	Gravelly silt clay (made ground)		15.00m	1.80m	0.34m	3.92m
1/004	Layer	Yellow silty clay (made ground)		4.30m	1.80m	0.34m	3.76m
1/005	Layer	Gravelly silt clay (made ground)		11.00m	1.80m	0.30m	4.02m
1/006	Layer	yellow silt clay (made ground)		10.50m	1.80m	0.22m	3.82
1/007	Layer	Disturbed alluvium	Pottery	3.00m	1.80m	0.22m	3.37m
1/008	Layer	Light brown silt clay	CBM	10.00m	1.80m	0.22m not bottomed	3.40m
1/009	Layer	Head deposit					3.68m

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The underlying geology of Head deposit, an orange brown stiff silt clay [1/009], was encountered at 3.68m OD within Trench 1. The trench was orientated east to west and was located within Building 5. The concrete slab [1/001] was broken out prior to excavation and was 0.15m thick.
- 4.1.2 The lowest deposit encountered was a pale brown silt clay [1/008] which sloped to the west. This deposit was unable to be fully excavated due to water ingress but a small fragment of CBM was recovered. This was overlain by a thin layer of disturbed alluvial silt clay [1/007] which was 0.22m thick from which a single sherd of pottery was recovered which dated to the 18th-20th century.
- 4.1.3 The alluvial deposit was overlain by a yellow brown silt clay layer [1/004] which was overlain by a dark brown gravelly silt clay [1/003]. At the eastern end of the trench this was overlain by a deposit similar in composition to [1/004], also a yellow silt clay [1/006].
- 4.1.4 Finally, [1/006] was overlain by a dark brown gravelly clay [1/005] which in turn was overlain at the western end of trench by a rubble layer [1/002]. This contained frogged, red, machine-cut brick stamped 'Marston'. The brick had traces of cement adhering to the surfaces and was not retained.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Two finds were recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
1/007	1	12		
1/008			1	36
Total	1	12	1	36

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery

5.2.1 A single sherd of blue and white porcelain of likely 18th-20th century date was recovered from context [1/007].

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 Context [1/008] produced a small fragment of brick with no original surfaces remaining. As such the piece is not closely datable

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 The evaluation carried out at Birdham Pool Marina has demonstrated a substantial depth (up to 1.14m thick) of made ground is present along the front of the marina. The made ground deposits are relatively recent in date, containing modern brick and concrete fragments (not retained) and exhibited a strong hydrocarbon odour, probably deriving from boat fuel.

6.1.2 The underlying Head deposit was encountered at the eastern end of the trench, however, water ingress prevented deeper excavation at the western end. This was due to the ground surface sloping westwards towards the marina.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were found. This lack of archaeological remains may be due to disturbance caused by the 20th century development of the site.

6.3 Consideration of research aims and conclusions

6.3.1 The evaluation has addressed the aims of the project in that the archaeological potential of the site has been characterised. The topographic variation in the trench indicates that the underlying geology may be at a significant depth at the western end of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AB Heritage 2016. Historic building photographic survey and Trench evaluations WSI.

CIfA 2014. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials

West Sussex Archaeology 2013 Heritage Assessment of Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham, West Sussex

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Kerry from AB Heritage for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and James Kenny Chichester City Archaeologist for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	BIR16					
Project code	7799					
Planning reference	13/00316/FUL					
Site address	Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham					
District/Borough	West Sussex					
NGR (12 figures)	482398 100921					
Geology	Raised Beach; Head					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	February 2016					
Sponsor/client	AB Heritage					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Kristina Krawiec					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	In February Archaeology South East was commissioned by AB Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Birdham Pool Marina. A single trench was excavated within a boatyard building and recorded a series of 20 th century made ground deposits. These deposits demonstrated a strong hydrocarbon odor indicating fuel contamination. No archaeological features were recorded.					
Museum/Accession No.						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-242581

Project details

Project name	an archaeological evaluation at Birdham pool marina
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East on behalf of AB heritage at Birdham Pool Marina, Birdham, West Sussex. The evaluation comprised a single trench excavated inside an existing boat shed. The trench was unable to be fully excavated due to water ingress and the deposits recorded comprised made ground of recent date. In addition the made ground was contaminated with hydrocarbons, most likely boat fuel. No archaeological features were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2016 End: 09-02-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER BIRDHAM Birdham pool marina
Site coordinates	SU 82398 00921 50.801416299238 -0.830586470103 50 48 05 N 000 49 50 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	AB Heritage
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Kristina Krawiec

Project archives

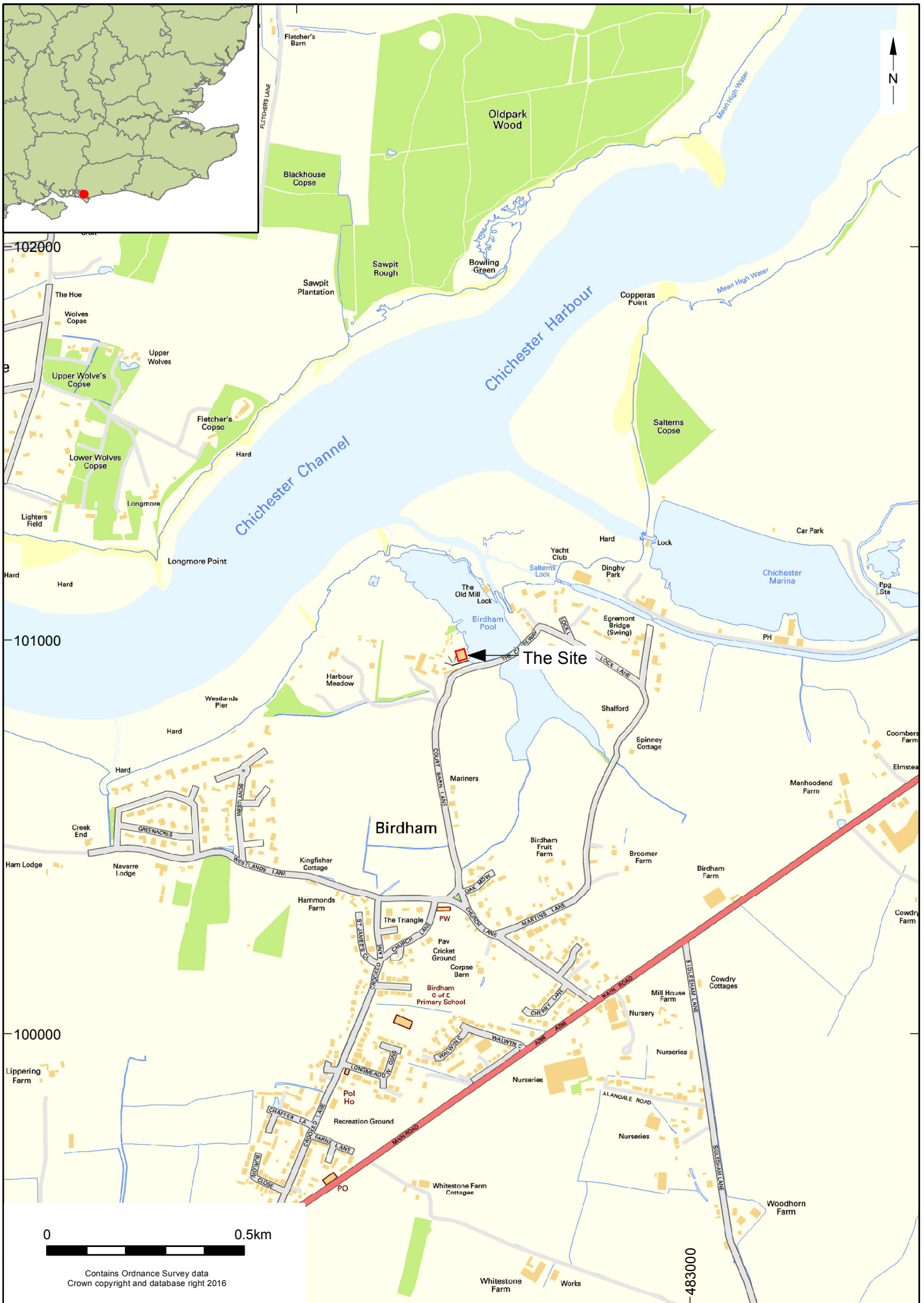
Physical Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"

Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

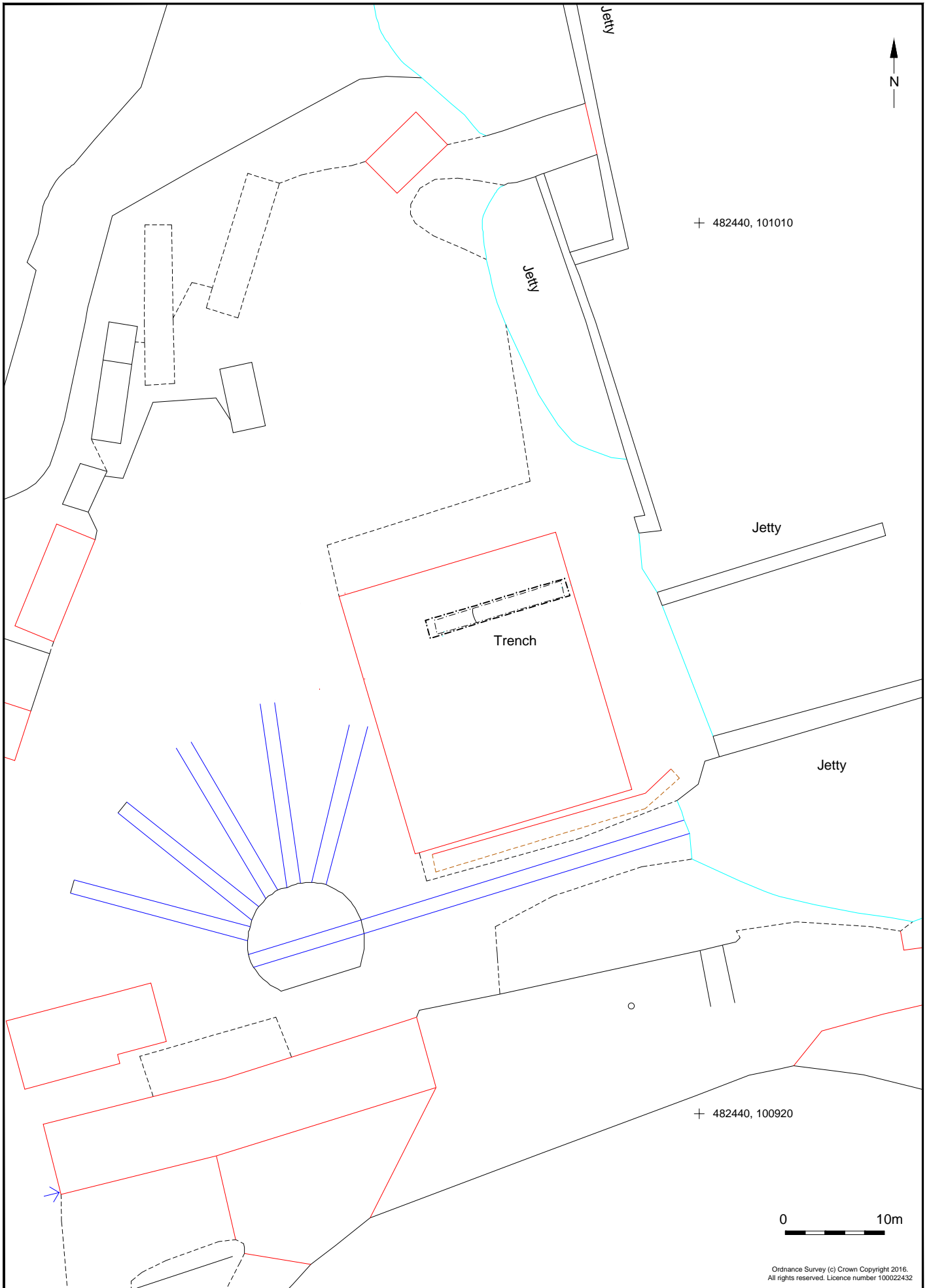
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	an archaeological evaluation at Birdham pool marina
Author(s)/Editor(s)	k.krawiec
Other bibliographic details	2013063
Date	2016

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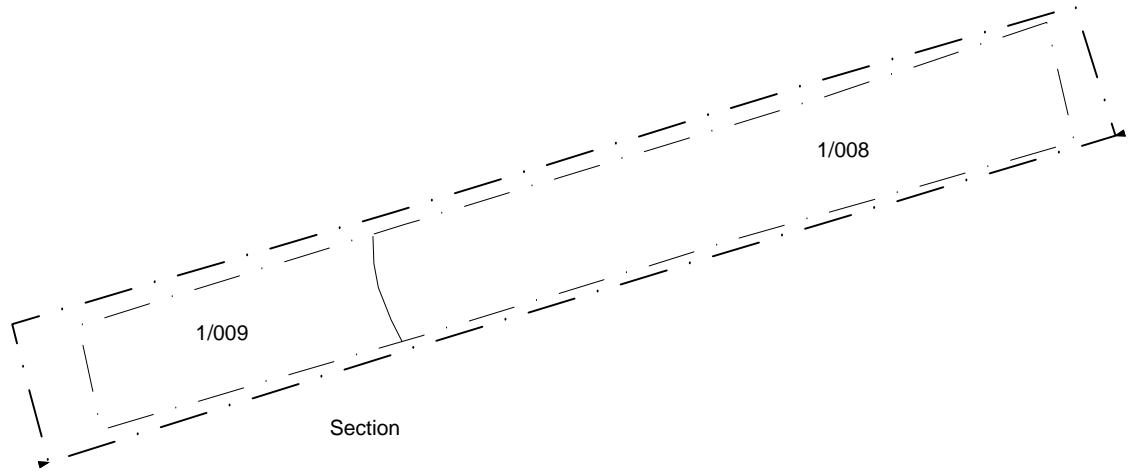


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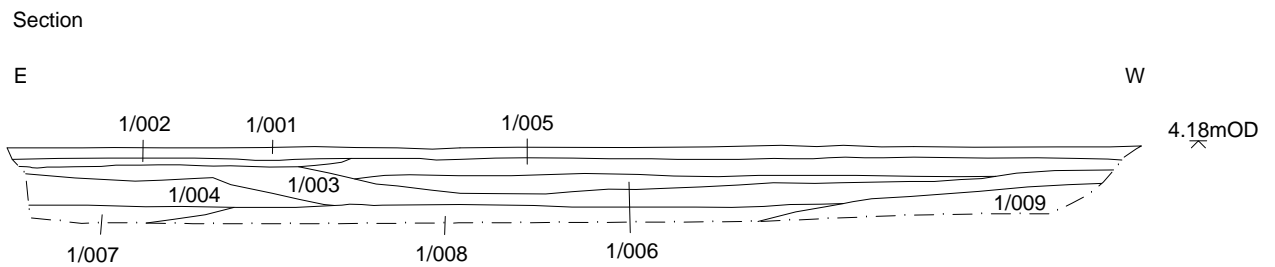
© Archaeology South-East		Birdham Pool Marina	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7799	Feb 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016063	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Birdham Pool Marina	Fig.
Project Ref: 7799	Feb 2016	Trench location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 1 looking north-west



© Archaeology South-East		Birdham Pool Marina	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7799	Feb 2016	Trench 1: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016063	Drawn by: JLR		

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