

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Weald and Downland Open Air Museum
Singleton, West Sussex**

**NGR: 487502, 112801
(SU8750212801)**

**ASE Project No: 7554
Site Code: WDM 15
ASE Report No: 2016112
OASIS id: 245976**



By Pip Stephenson

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**NGR: 487502, 112801
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Planning Ref. SE/11/00561/FULNP

**ASE Project No: 7554
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OASIS ID: archaeol6-245975**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Conservation Plus on behalf of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a new development at the museum site, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex. Two 30 x 2m trenches were excavated.

The evaluation recorded a probable 16th century colluvium at depth in the north and extensive truncation in the south. To enable construction of the recently demolished buildings, the site was probably built-up in the north and levelled in the south to provide a level building horizon. No archaeological finds, features or deposits considered of any great significance were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Conservation Plus on behalf of the client the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a new development at the museum site, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 487502, 112801 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.1.2 The Weald and Downland Museum is bounded by the A286 to the north, Town Lane to the east, woodland to the south and open fields to the west.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2015), the site lies on the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium overlying head deposits. The site lies on the southern flank of the River Lavant valley as it cuts through the Downs.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application was submitted for new refreshment and dining facilities for visitors to the museum, with associated kitchen and toilets and car parking facilities (Planning Ref. SE/11/00561/FULNP; Figure 2). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including a requirement for a programme of archaeological work (Conditions 9, 10 and 11). The archaeological conditions are as follows:

9. *No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the SDNPA 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

(vi) Works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with the NPPF.

10. *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 9 and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with the NPPF.

11. *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/part of the building affected until provision has been made for the retention and/or recording in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority*

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with the NPPF.

1.3.2 Consultation between ASE and James Kenny, Archaeology Advisor Chichester District Council (CDC) (who acts as SDNP Archaeology Advisor in the CDC areas of the SDNP) established that an archaeological evaluation would be required during the proposed development.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a comprehensive *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2015) for archaeological evaluation was submitted to the SDNP for approval. All work was undertaken in accordance with this and with the *Sussex Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork*, (2015), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and their *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014b).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

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

- To determine the location, 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

1.4.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research questions:

- Is there further evidence of Roman activity and/or settlement on the site?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological work carried out at the site between 15-03-2016 and 16-03-2016. The fieldwork was directed by Philippa Stephenson. The project was managed Jon Sygrave (fieldwork), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

2.1.1 There is some evidence for prehistoric activity on the margins of West Dean Park. A flint arrowhead and a Neolithic/early Bronze Age scraper were recovered in the 1970s (MWS1332). The wider landscape includes a number of important prehistoric monuments, including an early Neolithic causewayed enclosure and Middle Iron Age hillfort at The Trundle. Bow Hill to the south-east and Harting Beacon to the north-west have evidence of activity during the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age periods.

2.1.2 The HER records a number of earthwork fields systems, including Levin Down (MWS2059) and within West Dean Park (CD1223 and CD4838). Many of these archaeological features have been ploughed out since the middle of the 20th century but well preserved parallel lynchets remain on the south facing slope of Hat Hill to the north of West Dean Park. Recent archaeological investigations of lynchets on Little Combes Hill on the north-west flanks of the Trundle suggest that these features date from the early Neolithic through to the Roman period. Although dating these earthwork features typologically is problematic, it is thought that the long parallel type lynchets originated in the Bronze Age. Dating evidence suggests that some of these systems continued in use through to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

2.2 Roman

2.2.1 Excavations in West Dean Park in 1910 revealed foundations of a building, several Roman tiles and pieces of pottery (CD1227). The site has been interpreted as a Roman villa. A Roman tile used in the construction of the Saxon tower of Singleton Church provides further evidence of Roman activity to the east of West Dean Park.

2.2.2 A Roman building was found in 1974 when a mill pond was being constructed to provide power for the Lurgashall watermill (CD1240). The excavations revealed a fragment of wall foundation aligned roughly east-west with some indications of a hearth. This has been interpreted as a small building due to the absence of large quantities of material.

2.3 Saxon

2.3.1 The earliest evidence for Saxon activity in the area is a saucer brooch which was found during terracing for the new Singleton School in 1964 (MWS2081). It is considered to be an early Saxon artefact, i.e. mid-5th to 7th centuries.

2.3.2 At the time of the Norman Conquest the manor of Singleton, which included East and West Dean, was held by Earl Godwin. A survey carried out on Singleton church tower in 1985 revealed two major phases of construction (MWS4119). Phase one is thought to be pre-Conquest and extends up to 2m above the string course and is built in herring bone style with large quoins.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 West Dean is recorded as a hunting park in the Domesday Book (1086) and was held by the earls of Arundel and the dukes of Norfolk throughout the medieval period. A document dating from 1372 provides the earliest reference to West Dean as a deer park. The location and extent of the deer park is currently unclear. The nearby Downley deer park is shown on Speed's Map of Sussex (1610) whereas West Dean is not represented. Deer parks fell out of favour during the 16th century and were generally incorporated within later landscape garden schemes or were grubbed up for farming as is the case for West Dean.

2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 Under the ownership of the Lewkenor family a new house was built at West Dean in 1622. A 'survaye of the manors of Westdeane and Stoughton belonging unto Reichard Lewknor' (1623) shows the layout of fields to the east of the main house. These appear to be former strip fields or common meadows that had been enclosed by an informal agreement (possibly 'consolidated strip fields'). The area to the north-east towards Town Lane is recorded as being part of Greenways.

2.5.2 A parliamentary survey dating from 1649 described 'the capital messuage and mansion house called West Deane Cannon-house or the manor of West Deane Cannon' as 'a great and fair stone-built house with stables, various outbuildings including a brewhouse, a fair courtyard, three gardens, a long orchard with small hop ground at end – 4 acres and 16 acres land.'

2.5.3 William Weekes's 'True Groundplot and Contents' of land in West Dean dating from 1673 provides the first detailed record of the gardens and house plan. The principal façade of the house faces the road which would have afforded views to the south over the Lavant meadows. Substantial outbuildings and walled enclosures are recorded around a courtyard to the east of the house, with a small formal garden to the west. The wider gardens include terracing to the north-east of the house, with formal steps and lawn plats or productive gardens in an area known as 'The Back yard.' A further garden, hopp garden, orchards, gateroomes, and a service entrance are located to the far east of the Back yard. The most striking feature of this landscape are the two tree-lined avenues; east-west, north of the gardens, possibly labelled the Gardon; and running northwards across The Bottom Fields.

2.6 18th century

2.6.1 A plan of Goodwood Park and Warren (1731) records how much of the present park belonged to the Goodwood estate at this time. The north-eastern part of the park is recorded as farmland and was leased to Mrs Lermon.

2.6.2 In 1738 the estate passed to the Peachy family and under Sir John alterations to the Jacobean house and the laying out of the grounds adjacent to it were carried out. Between 1794 and 1808 the house was rebuilt in the Gothic style to a design by James Wyatt. Other developments included the rebuilding of the

kitchen gardens and the extension of the estate southwards and eastwards. The second Lord Selsey further enlarged the gardens and began major planting in the park.

- 2.6.3 An undated map of c.1835 shows the park greatly enlarged, incorporating all the downland up to Town Lane, enclosed by extensive plantations, incorporating Old Warren Copse, and crossed by a number of rides. A plantation belt runs around the southern perimeter of the park. The eastern riverside section of the park is subdivided and managed as water meadows. The north-eastern extent of the parkland is shown with Gonville Cottage and a regular arrangement of outbuildings forming a courtyard on a U-plan positioned along the boundary. The field immediately to the north-east has been altered with the removal of a hedgerow to create one relatively large field. There appears to be a row of trees along Town Lane which provides the earliest evidence for enclosure of this north-eastern tip of the park.
- 2.6.4 The Tithe maps (1846-1851) show a much altered park landscape which included new estate buildings and model farm to the east, a fence erected across the main parkland, creating Home Park and The Par, and plantation in the southern parkland infilled the downland bowl to create the arboretum. The large enclosure of pasture called Cotlands and the U-shaped outbuildings associated with Gonville Cottage is shown screened by clumps of trees.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Two trenches measuring 30m x 2m were excavated as set out in Figure 2 along the long axis of the footprint of each building. Trench 2 was extended slightly to the north to compensate for services encountered along its length. Their locations were recorded using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.1.2 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were excavated using a suitable 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.4 Undifferentiated topsoil, and made ground deposits were removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken down in spits of no more than 0.25m, down to the top of the underlying geology where this was attained.
- 3.1.5 In Trench 1, substrate depth exceeded 1.2m. A strategy was agreed by Jon Sygrave in consultation with the Archaeological Consultant, Jason Lowe, to excavate two deep sondages at either end of the trench, remaining at a depth of no more than 1.2m along the rest of the trench length.
- 3.1.6 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.1.7 The SDNP Archaeology Advisor was kept informed of progress and findings so that he could monitor the archaeological work and advise of any areas within the site where further archaeological monitoring may be curtailed as development progresses.
- 3.1.8 On conclusion of the excavation, the spoil was backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface.
- 3.1.9 All recording and analysis was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015) using pro forma ASE paperwork. A full photographic record was maintained throughout the works: however, the cameras were stolen and this record was lost.
- 3.1.10 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the work.

3.2 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the museum in due course.

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

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Natural substrate [1/008] comprising a compact, sterile, light brown clay-silt with frequent chalk nodules. It was exposed over a distance of 5.0m at the south end of the trench.
- 4.1.2 A compact mid-dark brown clay-silt deposit with frequent chalk nodules [1/006] measuring 0.25m thick, sealed the chalky substrate. This was recorded over a distance of c. 5.0m at the south end of the trench. It contained occasional charcoal inclusions (<0.01m) and a very small quantity of mixed pottery.
- 4.1.3 Deposit [1/006] was sealed by layers of modern made-ground [1/009] and [1/005] and a rubbly concrete surface [1/007] followed by a series of further modern made-ground layers [1/002, 1/003, 1/004], relating to construction works for a modern pond and then by topsoil [1/001]

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil/made ground	30	2.0	0.35 – 0.90
1/002	Layer	Made-ground	10	2.0	0.30
1/003	Layer	Made-ground	17	2.0	0.25
1/004	Layer	Made-ground	17	2.0	0.25
1/005	Layer	Made-ground	20	2.0	0.60
1/006	Layer	Layer	25	2.0	0.30
1/007	Construction	Concrete surface	13	2.0	0.20
1/008	Layer	Natural substrate	5	2.0	0.20 max
1/009	Layer	Made-ground	5	2.0	0.20

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Natural substrate [1/002] was identified at a depth of 0.50m - 0.60m BGL (below ground level).
- 4.2.2 This was sealed by topsoil [1/001].
- 4.2.3 A skim of loose tarmac [1/003] 0.01m thick sealed topsoil to the south end of the trench.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological activity was present. A recent deep trench c. 1.0m wide traversed the northern end of the trench. Containing fresh grass; it results from the destruction of the buildings demolished in preparation of the site for the proposed development.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	2.0	0.50
1/002	Layer	Natural substrate	10	2.0	0.20 max
1/003	Layer	Tarmac	17	2.0	0.01

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All 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	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
05			8	1671		
06	3	17				
07			8	302	1	51
Total	3	17	16	1973	1	51

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A single sherd of prehistoric pottery weighing 3g was noted in context [006]. It is a featureless bodysherd in a flint-tempered fabric with moderate ill-sorted inclusions of 0.2-3mm in a very silty, slightly micaceous matrix. The sherd is not very certainly datable because flint-tempered wares across many prehistoric periods; however, the combination of a relatively coarse grade of flint-tempering on fairly thin-walled vessel is typical of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The sherd is highly abraded and was found in association with post-Roman pottery and is almost certainly residual.

5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery – both deriving from context [6]. Although the bodysherd is somewhat worn the base sherd is in better condition suggesting that only minor/moderate reworking to have occurred. The sherds are both in a fine oxidised well-fired earthenware with deliberately reduced exterior. The base sherd, possibly from a jar, has unintentional green glaze on its underside exterior. Such earthenwares are difficult to date closely but a c. 1575 to 1700 date range is likely.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Fifteen fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1916g were recovered from two evaluation contexts: [05] and [07]. Two fragments of post-medieval floor tile with residue of sandy lime mortar still adhering to the base and edges, two large brick fragments with cement mortar on multiple surfaces (including broken surfaces), and three very broken and generally undiagnostic fragments ('spall') were recovered from [05]. The cement on the brick fragments suggests a 20th century date for this context; the presence of cement on multiple surfaces indicative that these fragments were used as hard core or

similar rather than facing bricks. Both the bricks and floor tile were formed from nearly identical fabrics (FT1 and B1, see Table 5), suggesting they were manufactured contemporaneously, although the brick fragments may have been incorporated into a later-built structure.

- 5.4.2 Several pieces of abraded roof tile in fabric T2 were retrieved from [07]. These may be residual medieval material, but the fragment of chimney pot found in the same context looked post-medieval. It was wheel-thrown with a lipped edge, and the interior heavily blackened and sooted. Further spall fragments were also collected from [07]. Examples of forms and fabrics have been retained, but much of the assemblage is recommended for discard.

Fabric	Description
FT1	Very dense dark red fabric with sparse burnt oxides and medium-coarse quartz.
T1	Dense pinkish-red fabric with moderate black oxide speckle and sparse coarse dark red clay pellets.
T2	Pale brown-orange clay with common fine quartz and sparse coarse quartz. Faint marbling of paler clay.
B1	Same fabric as FT1.

Table 5: CBM fabrics descriptions for WDM15

5.5 The Bulk Iron by Elena Baldi

- 5.5.1 Only one iron nail was recovered from the evaluation from context [07]. This piece is covered with iron corrosion products and soil/pebbles which prevent detailed analysis. The nail seems to have a flat rectangular head and a rectangular section at the shaft. It measures 95 mm in length and the head is ca. 30 mm wide. The object is undiagnostic.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The evaluation was located in the north-east extreme of the grounds of the Weald and Downland Museum. Two trenches were recorded.
- 6.1.2 Natural geology was recorded at the base of the sequence in both trenches.
- 6.1.3 Overlying this in the northern trench was probable colluvial layer [1/006] at the base of the natural slope that contained a sherd of residual LBA/EIA pot and 16th century medieval pot. This was overlain by modern made-ground, a concrete surface and topped by topsoil.
- 6.1.5 In the south of the site, in Trench 1, the natural substrate was sealed by 0.50m of topsoil and a thin tarmac surface.
- 6.1.6 No significant archaeological features were observed.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 In the northern part of the site, an apparently undisturbed colluvial layer contained 16th century pot and a LBA/EIA sherd of pottery. This layer may represent an undisturbed c 16th century subsoil horizon. It was overlain by more than a metre of modern made ground.
- 6.2.2 In the southern part of the site, no colluvium/subsoil horizon was recorded and here the natural substrate was directly overlain by c. 0.50m of topsoil.
- 6.2.3 The results therefore seem to imply that truncation has occurred in the south of the site (upslope) whilst levelling and building-up has occurred to the north (downslope) in order to provide for the buildings that were demolished prior to this evaluation.

6.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 6.3.1 The impacts of the proposed development will of course depend on the projected depth of the foundation trenches and any other deep excavations anticipated.
- 6.3.2 To the north of the site, any excavations required to attain natural substrate will truncate the possible 16th century colluvium.
- 6.3.3 However, in the southern part of the site the likelihood of any archaeological impact is considered to be very low.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The evaluation identified apparently undisturbed possible 16th century colluvium at depth in the northern trench. This deposit is not considered to be of any high archaeological significance, but it should be noted that any deep

construction activity will impact this deposit. The south of the site appears to have been truncated into the underlying natural substrate.

6.6 Conclusions

- 6.6.1 The evaluation recorded a possible 16th century colluvium at depth in the north and extensive truncation in the south. To enable construction of the recently demolished buildings, the site was probably built-up in the north and levelled in the south to provide a level building horizon. No archaeological finds, features or deposits considered of any great significance were recorded.

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CIfA 2014b. Code of Conduct

ESCC, WSCC 2015 Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork and Reporting in Sussex

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HER Summary

Site Code	WDM 15					
Identification Name and Address	Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	487502 112801					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7554					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site						
Dates of Fieldwork	15-16/3/16					
Sponsor/Client	Conservation Plus on behalf of the client the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Pip Stevenson					
Period Summary						
			PM	Modern		
Summary	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Conservation Plus on behalf of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a new development at the museum site, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex. Two 30 x 2m trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded a possible 16th century colluvium at depth in the north and extensive truncation in the south. To enable construction of the recently demolished buildings, the site was probably built-up in the north and levelled in the south to provide a level building horizon. No archaeological finds, features or deposits considered of any great significance were recorded.</p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-245975

Project details

Project name Singleton, Weald and Downland Museum

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Conservation Plus on behalf of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a new development at the museum site, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex. Two 30 x 2m trenches were excavated. The evaluation recorded a possible 16th century colluvium at depth in the north and extensive truncation in the south. To enable construction of the recently demolished buildings, the site was probably built-up in the north and levelled in the south to provide a level building horizon. No archaeological finds, features or deposits considered of any great significance were recorded.

Project dates Start: 15-03-2016 End: 16-03-2016

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status National Park

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Significant Finds POT Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POT Medieval

Methods & techniques ""Test Pits""

Development type Rural commercial

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

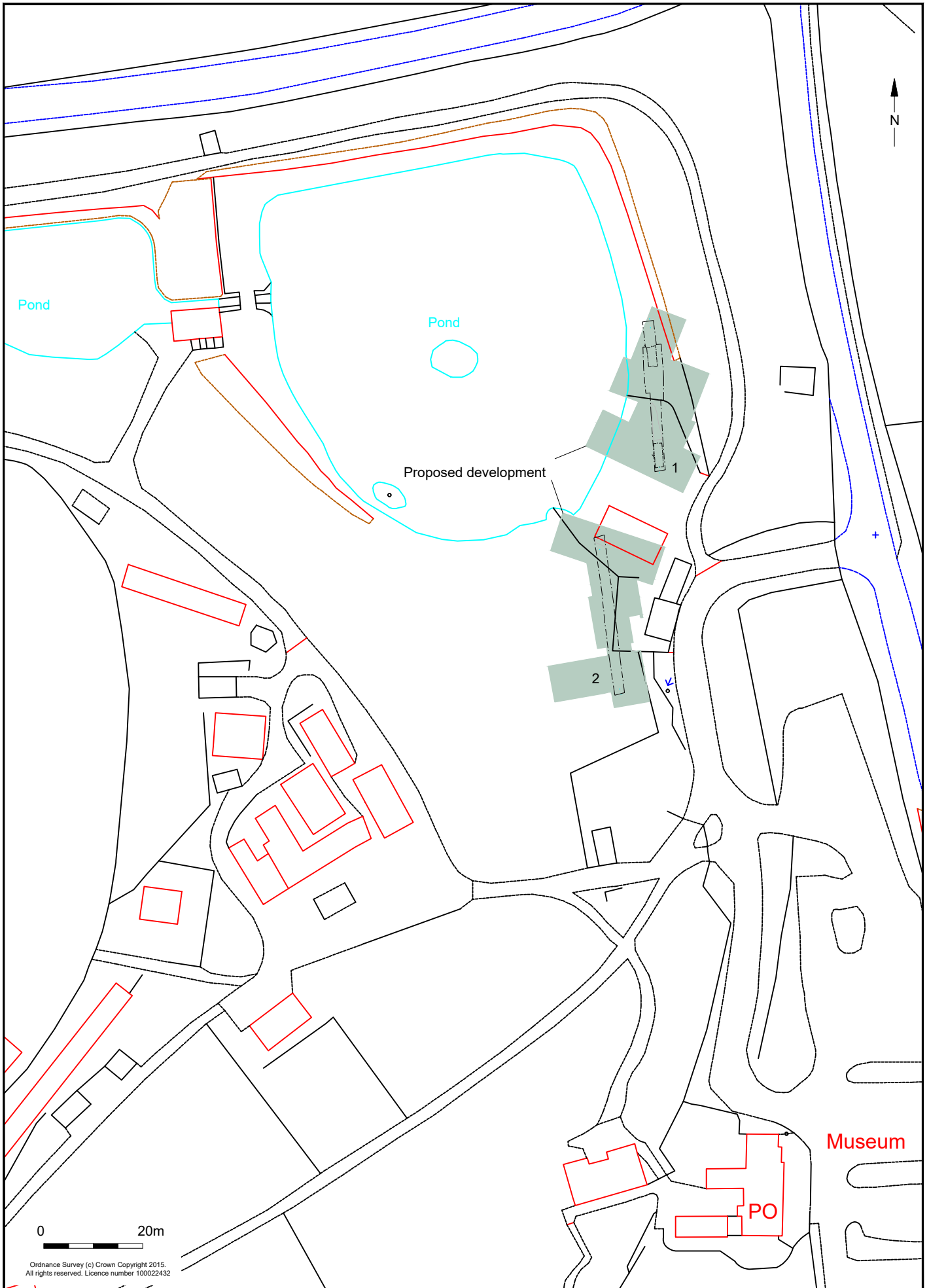
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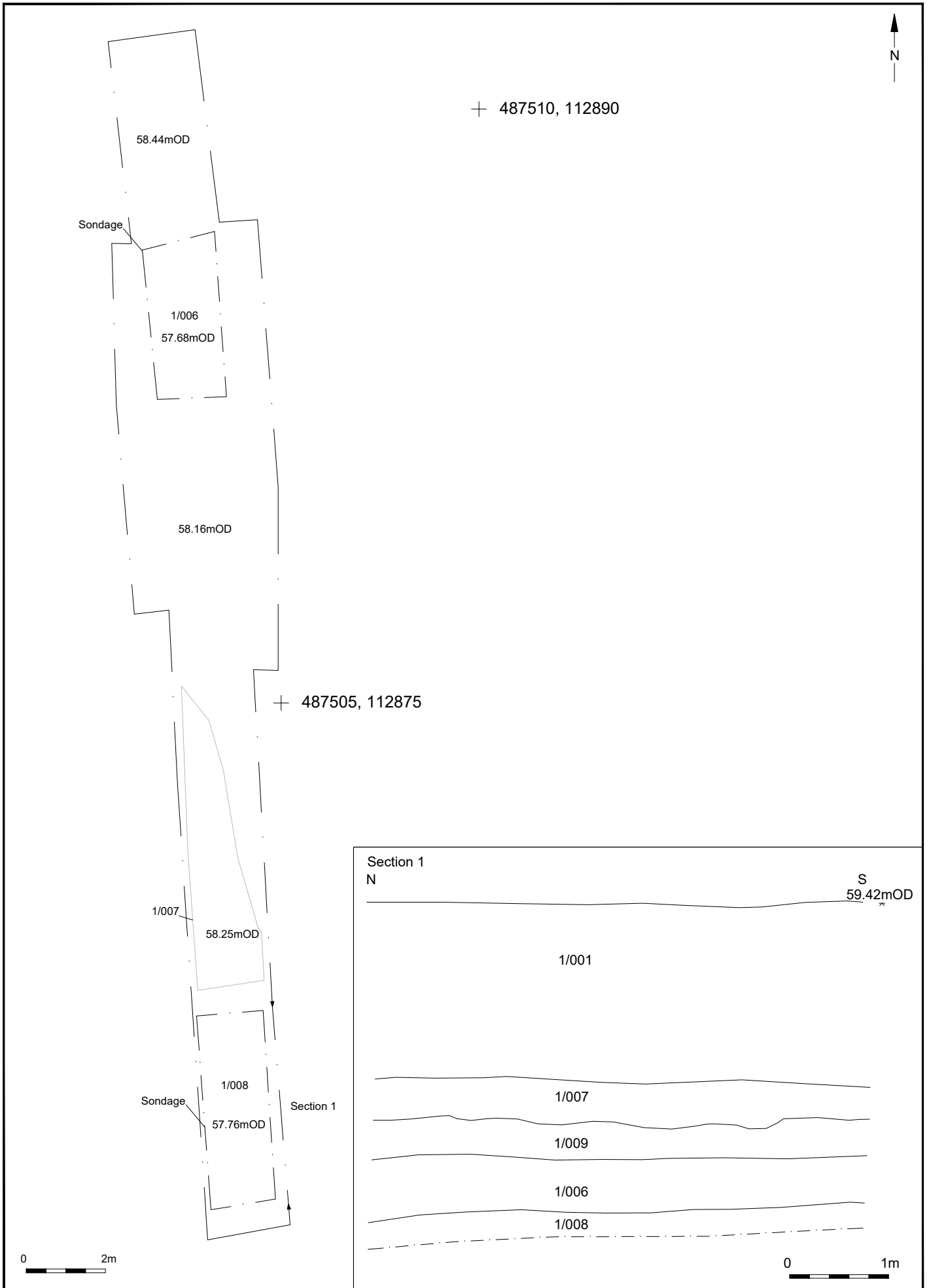


© Archaeology South-East		Weald and Downland Open Air Museum	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7554	03 - 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016112	Drawn by: NG		



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© Archaeology South-East		Weald and Downland Open Air Museum		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7554	03 - 2016	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2016112	Drawn by: NG			



© Archaeology South-East		Weald and Downland Open Air Museum	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7554	03 - 2016	Trench 1 : plan and section	
Report Ref: 2016112	Drawn by: NG		

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