

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Bardown Oast, Stonegate, Wadhurst, East Sussex**

**NGR 566435, 129300**

**Project No. 2766  
Site Code: BOS 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008048  
OASIS id: archaeol6-42211**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Gethin Davies (High Voltage Maintenance Services on behalf of EDF Energy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of groundworks associated with a new energy supply at Bardown Oast Farm, Stonegate, East Sussex.*

*The trenching initially followed the line of the power cables across two fields. However, during initial excavation of trenches a pit containing a high quantity of slag material, a possible Romano-British wall and an associated layer of burning was encountered towards the north end of the field. It was decided that these remains would be preserved insitu due to their significance to the area.*

*The cable trenching was directed along a new route around the edges of the two fields. From this excavation three features were discovered. Two possible drainage channels were discovered in trenching to the far south-eastern corner of the fields while a possible trampled trackway leading to the large slag bank was found in trenching in the far south-western corner of the fields.*

*All work was undertaken between the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.*

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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, University College London (CAAUCL), were commissioned by EDF Energy Networks Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new underground mains electricity cable to replace an existing overhead cable at Bardown Oast, Stonegate, Wadhurst, East Sussex (NGR 566435, 129300) (see Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is situated covering two green fields used for grazing farm animals. The field slopes at a 35 degree angle from the south down to the north. The River Limden bounds the site to the north, while Bardown Oast Farm lies to the south. Further green fields used for pasture lay to the east and west of the site.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site consists of Ashdown Sand (British Geological Survey Sheet 303). The site lay just to the south of a geological fault along the River Limden between Ashdown sand to the south and Wadhurst clay to the north.

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives**

1.3.1 The aims and objectives of this archaeological investigation (watching brief) were outlined in the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation (Sygrave 2008) and are reproduced below with due acknowledgement.

#### 1.3.2 Research Aims

- To understand the prehistoric development and land use of this area of East Sussex
- To understand the use and development of the Roman landscape in relation to the Romano British settlement known to exist on the site.
- To investigate the post-Romano British landscape of the area.

#### 1.3.3 Specific Research Objectives of the watching brief:

- To investigate and record any prehistoric flint and/or any other artefact scatters present in the top soil and that are impacted by the easement, compound and any other soil strips.
- To investigate and record any buried deposits of geo-archaeological or palaeo-environmental importance to be impacted by the cable trench.
- To investigate the extent of remains relating to the Roman settlement in relation to Cleere's excavations of 1960-68.

- To compare the nature of Roman finds from the site to other nearby sites to investigate the presence of trade grounds associated with the settlement.
- To investigate the extent of Roman industrial activity in the area associated with iron workings.
- To investigate evidence relating to the involvement of the British Fleet on the site.
- To investigate evidence relating to Romano British roads in the vicinity of the site.
- To investigate the post-Romano British development of the area, in particular evidence associated with industrial practices.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Nick Garland and Andi Margetts between the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 This site is situated in the High Weald area of Kent and Sussex, an area well known for iron industry throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods due to the abundance of raw materials. Industrial activity in the south-east had started on a large scale immediately after the Roman invasion of Britain and initially was confined to Coastal areas (Cleere & Crossley 1995). However, by the mid second century, industrial activity had spread into in the High Weald and continued until the 'deforestation and over-exploitation of the ores' (Cleere 1971) led to a movement to a new location by the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

2.2 An excavation at Bardown was carried out in several phases between 1960 and 1968 by Professor Henry Cleere (Figure 2). The result of these excavations are summarised below (Cleere 1970).

### **2.2.1 The Slag Bank**

A large slag bank measuring approximately 100 m in length, 50 m in width and 3 m in depth, lay at the very north of the site along the southern bank of the River Limden. Cleere states that, through a series of trenches excavated on and around the bank, a difference in the dumped material was noted, with industrial slag residues being more abundant on the western half of the bank while residential waste (such as pottery, bones and coins) was more abundant on the eastern side of the bank. A man-made causeway was discovered adjacent to the eastern side of the bank. Cleere suggests that this was to dam the river as well as allowing travel from the northern bank (where principle iron ore extraction would have taken place) to south of the river where iron manufacturing was located. This hypothesis is however 'highly conjecture', as stated by Cleere, due to the lack of evidence.

### **2.2.2 Industrial Area**

An industrial area was located to the west of the site. Two timber construction buildings were discovered, labelled buildings I and II. Building I was located to the far west of the site and overlay an earlier ore roasting pit. It appears to have been burnt down at approximately 200 AD, discovered through coin evidence. Building II was located to the east of Building I. It also went out of use by 200 AD but probably collapsed or was deconstruction as not burning evidence was present. A forging hearth was found to the north or the interior of this building and an ore-roasting furnace to the south of the structure. A roadway which 'runs down the hillside skirting building II' was also uncovered. It was constructed with a sandstone foundation and had approximately 1 foot of slag material as its surface. Cleere suggests this material must have been tipped to form the roadway when it was very hot but not molten.

### **2.2.3 Residential Area**

The residential area of the settlement was located to the east of the site. Aerial photographs of this area of the site indicated several potential structures running down the slope. Trial trenches at these locations uncovered two phases of timber building. The primary stage was a building destroyed by fire indicated by a large amount of burnt daub and a charred oak beam. The second phase of construction was similar with the addition of a cobbled floor, however, it was not uncovered to its full extent. Strong evidence for the existence of pottery kilns in this area of the site come from the discovery of several pot wasters.

#### 2.2.4 Classis Britannica

Over 20 tiles have been found at Bardown bearing the stamp CL BR, the mark of the *Classis Britannica*, the Roman fleet in Britain. The abundance of these tiles not only indicates possible tile production at this site but also close tie with military involvement. Other nearby mass iron production sites such as Beauport Park have also produced tiles of this sort, indicating the fleets intimate involvement in the mass production of iron in this area . Cleere argues that because the iron production was on such a mass scale in this area that a highly organised unit such as the army would be needed for control and distribution. Whether or not this was initially a military site is still unknown.

**2.3** The site at Bardown Oast was at one time a main area of iron manufacture in the High Weald due to the abundance of iron ore and forests for raw materials. Established in the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Cleere estimates that 'at least 10, 000 tons of iron were made during its existence' (Cleere 1970). Despite iron working ceasing here in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century, habitation of the site continued possibly, as Cleere suggests, as a centre for a number of 'satellite sites' such as Holbeanwood approximately one mile to the north. The use of the site for iron production for approximately a hundred years would have established it well as a centre for exporting iron and explains its continuation of occupation as a centre for the satellite sites. This is further supported by the suggestion that the satellite sites around Bardown were directly connected to it via 'rough slag-metalled tracks' (Cleere & Crossley 1995).

**2.4** More recent investigation of the area by local archaeological groups has led to further discoveries using metal detecting. Most notably a rare 2nd century Roman copper alloy medallion was discovered, one of only three found in Europe.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The general objective of the archaeological investigation was to monitor the excavation of groundworks associated with the placement of a new cable trench and the installation of two poles at either end of the trench until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils). This was in order to ensure that any archaeological deposits, artefacts or structural elements exposed by work associated with the earth-moving were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. The mechanical excavator used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket whenever practicable.
- 3.2** The County Archaeologist was notified in the event that any significant archaeological remains were encountered during the stripping. Any decision regarding the best way to proceed in this instance remained with the County Archaeologist.
- 3.3** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections generally drawn at a scale of 1:10. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists visually and with a metal detector to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.4** A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.5** The original proposed route for the trenching encountered archaeological remains including a possible roman masonry wall, most probably associated with the known archaeological site discussed above (Figure 2). Following discussions with the County Archaeologist, it was decided that the route should be altered to leave the roman wall encountered insitu as well as to try and avoid as much archaeology as possible. The new route traced around the southern edges of the fields A and B (Figures 3).

Number of Contexts	15 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 site folder
Plan and sections sheets	3 drawing sheets - plans and sections
Bulk Samples	3 bulks samples
Photographs	78 photos
Bulk finds	37
Environmental flots/residue	3

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The excavation of 497 metres of trenching led to the discovery of a single pit associated with iron working, a masonry wall and associated layer of burning and three linear features (Figure 4).

### 4.2 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18 m	113.264m
1002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	112.994m
1003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.09 m	113.084m
1004	Layer	Occupation layer	Tr.	Tr.	0.08 m	97.974m
1005	Cut	Cut of pit	1.46 m	0.2 m	0.12 m	97.664m
1006	Fill	Fill of pit	1.46 m	0.2 m	0.12 m	97.664m
1007	Cut	Cut of linear	0.7 m	0.72 m	0.23 m	108.843m
1008	Fill	Fill of linear	0.7 m	0.72 m	0.23 m	108.843m
1009	Cut	Cut of linear	0.6 m	1.26 m	0.29 m	108.847m
1010	Fill	Fill of linear	0.6 m	1.26 m	0.29 m	108.847m
1011	Wall	Masonry wall	Tr.	0.7 m	N/A	98.164m
1012	Layer	Layer of burning	1.94 m	1.34 m	N/A	97.864m
1013	Cut	Cut of linear	1.2 m	3.0 m	0.30 m	112.994m
1014	Fill	Fill of linear	1.2 m	3.0 m	0.10 m	112.994m
1015	Fill	Fill of linear	1.2 m	3.0 m	0.20 m	112.914m

Table 2: Context register

### 4.3 Summary

4.3.1 The natural (**1002**), a light orangish yellow silty clay with occasional large blocks of sandstone (bedrock), was observed between 97.664 m OD to the south of the site and 112.994 m OD to the north of the site.

A subsoil layer (**1003**), a mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebble inclusions, overlay the natural and was observed between 98.164 m OD to the south of the site and 112.994 m OD to the north of the site.

The subsoil lay underneath the topsoil (**1001**), a light greyish brown clayey silt, which was observed between 98.274 m OD to the south of the site and 113.264 m OD to the north of the site.

#### 4.3.2 Masonry wall and possible hearth

The first trench excavated was in a south-east to north-west direction following the proposed route across the field. In this location an additional layer (**1004**) was observed underneath the subsoil (**1003**) and over the natural (**1002**). It was a dark grey silty clay layer containing moderate flecks of charcoal, ceramic building material (CBM) and slag material. This stretch of trench also uncovered three features cut into the natural; a possible hearth/pit, a possible masonry wall and an associated layer of burning

(Figure 4, Plan B).

Pit **[1005]** was only partially revealed underneath the north-eastern baulk, with only 0.2 metres of the full width of the feature revealed. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave profile. The single fill within the feature was a dark greyish black sandy silt with inclusions of slag material and moderate amounts of charcoal material (**1006**). A single iron nail was found within this fill.

Approximately 0.5 metres to the north-west of pit **[1005]** lay a concentration of large sub-angular sandstone blocks (approximately 0.4 metres in diameter) with some large pieces of slag (**1011**). Although this feature appeared to resemble a masonry structure no discernable bonding was noted. It was orientated in a north-east to south-west direction and measured 0.7 metres in width.

Against (**1011**) to the north-west was a distinct layer of burnt material (**1012**). It was a layer of dark grey silty sand with abundant inclusions of sub-angular small stones and moderate amounts of slag material and mortar inclusions. The relationship between the layer and possible masonry structure (**1011**) was uncertain.

#### 4.3.3 Field A

Two linear features were uncovered during trenching in the south-east corner of field A (Figure 4, Plans C & D).

Linear **[1007]** was orientated in a north to south direction across the trench and measured 0.72 metres in width. It had moderate to steeply sloping sides and a concave profile. The single fill was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded small stone inclusions (**1008**).

Linear **[1009]** was parallel to linear **[1007]** at a distance of approximately 5 metres. It was also orientated in a north to south direction across the trench and measured 1.26 metres in width. The single fill was a mid brownish grey silty clay with very occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. (**1010**).

#### 4.3.4 Field B

A single linear feature was uncovered in the trenching in the south-west of the corner of field B (Figure 4, Plan A).

Linear **[1013]** was orientated in a north to south direction across the trench and measured 1.2 metres in width. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave profile. The primary fill was a light to mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sandstone fragments and daub and charcoal flecking (**1015**). Pottery and slag material were recovered from this fill. The secondary fill was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and daub inclusions (**1014**). Pottery and CBM were recovered from this fill.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Bardown Oast, Sussex. The assemblage is characterised in Table 1.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
1001	2	6	3	200					2	382	2	78
1003	1	440							1	1682		
1004									2	400		
1008	1	4										
1010	1	4										
1014	1	82	1	230								
1015	9	78	4	90	1	40	1	50	3	900		
u/s	2	36	2	436								
Total	17	650	10	956	1	40	1	50	8	3364	2	78

Table 3: Quantification of bulk finds

## 5.2 Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

The assemblage consists of 17 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 648g. Most is heavily abraded, some sherds are burnt and there is quite a spread of datable material, possibly indicating that it has been redeposited. However, it is striking, even in such a small assemblage, that imported vessels, fine wares, mortaria and amphora are all present, whilst only two coarse-ware vessels are represented. This would seem to suggest high-status activity in the vicinity, even it does not relate directly to the features excavated.

Context [1015] can be dated to after around AD270 by the presence of a Late Roman grog-tempered bowl imitating a black-burnished ware bead and flange bowl. Other grog tempered sherds in the context are probably of a similar type although the fabric is not as sandy and high-fired as some late Roman grog-tempered wares and is not easily distinguishable from 'Belgic' style wares of the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman period and one rim sherd from a small necked jar, from context [1010], can probably be dated to this period. Also represented are an East Gaulish samian Dragendorff 36 dish dated to AD150-250, and a North Kent poppy-head beaker with a long flaring rim, dated to around AD100-160, both of which are heavily abraded.

Abraded East Gaulish samian was found in context [1008], and a Central Gaulish Dragendorff 18-31R dish in context [1014]. A very similar vessel was also found in an unstratified context, together with a burnt sherd of Baetican amphora.

A very large base sherd from an unsourced Romano-British mortarium was recovered from context [1003]. Most mortaria were produced in a small number of highly specialised industries which traded over relatively long-distances, but this example is almost certainly a more local product. It is a buff/orange sandy fabric with common, ill-sorted quartzite grits, varying between 2-10mm. Red argillaceous inclusions, which are naturally occurring within the fabric, also seem to be more concentrated on the interior surface.

No further work is necessary.

### **5.3 Ceramic building material (CBM) by Trista Clifford**

A small CBM assemblage of ten fragments weighing 956g was recovered from four contexts. The earliest stratified material consists of a piece of Roman box flue tile with part of a rectangular vent from [1014], in an orange, silty fabric with moderate orange-red clay/siltstone inclusions and cream silty streaks. Scored keying of the outer surface suggests an early date for this piece, perhaps 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (pers. comm. S Pringle). Two pieces of unstratified Roman brick in a similar fabric were also recovered. Both have very reduced surface which may indicate reuse as a hearth (pers. comm. S. Pringle). The largest fragment shows a signature mark in the form of three parallel finger streaks. Context [1001] and [1015] contained fragments of medieval peg tile in a sparse fine sand tempered fabric with moderate iron rich inclusions up to 1mm. Fragments of Roman brick and post medieval high fired brick were also recovered from [1015].

### **5.4 Iron by Trista Clifford**

A single heavy duty nail with circular head and square section was recovered from [1015].

### **5.5 Slag by Trista Clifford**

A small slag assemblage indicative of iron smelting was recovered. Context [1015] produced a piece of tap slag and two undiagnostic slag fragments. Context [1003] produced a large piece of furnace base, and [1004] contained fuel ash slag/ vitrified clay and undiagnostic slag. Given the proximity of this site to the Roman iron working site at Bardown (Cleere 1971) the presence of such redeposited material is not unexpected.

### **5.6 Glass by Trista Clifford**

Two fragments of glass were recovered from [1001], a green wine bottle fragment and the base of a pale green bottle of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

The assemblage has some local significance but holds little potential for further work.

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

- 6.1** Three samples were extracted during this watching brief to establish evidence for environmental remains within pit fill context [1006], and linear fill contexts [1008] and [1010]. These samples were bucket floated, the flot and residue were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting.
- 6.2** Charcoal fragments are common in the flots and residues of all three samples. On the whole the assemblage is composed of small charcoal fragments (<4mm) and very fine charcoal flecks. Sample <1> produced some burnt clay and a large amount of industrial waste material weighing 1336g similar to the furnace base material documented from context [1003] in the finds report. A single pot fragment was noted in sample <3>. No other archaeological remains were recovered. Occasional plant remains including charred cereal grains (*Triticum aestivum* - bread wheat) and weed seeds (Chenopodiaceae & Gramineae types) were noted in the flots (samples <2> and <3>) from the fills of linears [1008] and [1010].
- 6.3** Environmental remains retrieved from these samples hold little potential for further analysis. Some charcoal identifications could be obtained if it is considered beneficial to understanding the industrial activities taking place at the site.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Flot Volume( ml)	Flot weight (g)	Flot description	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charred Crop Seeds	Charred weed seeds
1	1006	Pit Fill	80		Small charcoal flecks dominant	*	***	-	
2	1008	Linear Fill	85		Charcoal common, uncharred veg (40%)	**	***	1 <i>Triticum aestivum</i>	*
3	1010	Linear Fill	70		Uncharred vegetation and sediment rich, occasional charcoal	**	***	-	* (1) Chenopodiaceae, (1) Gramineae & unidentified others

Table 4. Flot quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other
1	1006	Pit Fill	10	10	****	25	****	41	Industrial (**/1336), burnt clay

						0		2	(* / 30)
2	1008	Linear Fill	10	10	***	10	***	6	
3	1010	Linear Fill	10	10	**	8	***	4	Pot (1/4)

Table 5. Residue quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250) and weights in grams

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The presence of the possible sandstone wall (**1011**) and the layer of burning (**1012**) gave a glimpse of the archaeology in the north of the areas. The blocks probably represent a wall, perhaps a boundary or structure. The layers of burning and slag material suggest iron working activity, probably associated with the Roman occupation of this area. The close proximity of Pit **[1005]** to the south-east supports this. Pit **[1005]** may represent a feature of primary iron working activity, however, too little of the feature was observed within the trench to be certain of this. Finds within the pit (slag material and a single iron nail) only indicate its relationship to iron working activity. The presence of unstratified slag material across the trenches, gives an indication of the quantity of metal working activity that took place on this site.
- 7.2 The two parallel linear features to the south-east of field A, **[1007]** and **[1009]**, probably represent two drainage channels, partially due to their shape and size as well as the sterile nature of their fills. Both channels are believed to be contemporary with the iron working site given their proximity to it and the sparse dating evidence available.
- 7.3 The linear feature in the south-west corner of field B, **[1013]**, possibly represents a trampled trackway. The shallow nature of the feature and its orientation towards the large slag heap to the north-east, suggest that this may have been an un-metalled track used in connection with the iron working to the north of the site. Although the fills did produce some 3<sup>rd</sup> century pot, the post-medieval finds recovered from it suggest a later date for its use.
- 7.4 While Cleere's investigation of Bardown in the 1960's indicates several slag metalled trackways especially in field A, the excavation of trenches across the southern end of the field revealed no evidence of such a track. However, the disturbance at the southern end of the field, including the erection of farm buildings, excavations for a swimming pool and the laying of field drains, may account for its' absence.
- 7.5 Unfortunately, due to the limited nature of the works, there is little that can be confidently stated about the archaeology recorded except the likelihood that it is associated with the known Romano-British activity at the site. The placement of the masonry wall and the associated layer of burning indicate a structural element associated with iron working in this area. Its position to the west of the slag bank indicates that this most likely falls within the 'Industrial area' as stated in Cleere's excavations at Bardown (Cleere 1970). While stone walls were not uncovered by Cleere, the proximity of this feature to the 'Industrial area' indicates possible further structures, in addition to the timber buildings, related to iron production.
- 7.6 The length and location of the trenches has allowed a greater view of the area surrounding this important site and the fact that most of the trenching along the southern field boundary did not uncover any archaeology may indicate that the settlement does not extend this far south.
- 7.7 These works have demonstrated that the scope and quality of the archaeology at Bardown is high. However, as a result of re-routing the electric cable trenches, their impact on the archaeological remains was

minimal.

- 7.8 An archaeological watching was appropriate for these works and the confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance Steve Morrice of Morrice Contractors Limited, Gethin Davies of High Voltage Maintenance Services and Greg Chuter, Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	BOS 08					
Identification Name and Address	Bardown Oast, Stonegate, Wadhurst, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wadhurst, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	566435, 129300					
Geology	British Geological Survey Sheet 303 - Ashdown Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2766					
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. 31/3/08 to 11/4/08	Other		
Sponsor/Client	EDF Energy Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Gethin Davies (High Voltage Maintenance Services on behalf of EDF Energy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of groundworks associated with a new energy supply at Bardown Oast Farm, Stonegate, East Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>The trenching initially followed the line of the power cables across two fields. However, during initial excavation of trenches a pit containing a high quantity of slag material, a possible Romano-British wall and an associated layer of burning was encountered towards the north end of the field. It was decided that these remains would be preserved insitu due to their significance to the area.</i></p> <p><i>The cable trenching was directed along a new route around the edges of the two fields. From this excavation three features were discovered. Two possible drainage channels were discovered in trenching to the far south-eastern corner of the fields while a possible trampled trackway leading to the large slag bank was found in trenching in the far south-western corner of the fields.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-42211**

### Project details

Project name            Bardown Oast, Stonegate

Short description of the project    *Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Gethin Davies (High Voltage Maintenance Services on behalf of EDF Energy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of groundworks associated with a new energy supply at Bardown Oast Farm, Stonegate, East Sussex.*

*The trenching initially followed the line of the power cables across two fields. However, during initial excavation of trenches a pit containing a high quantity of slag material, a possible Romano-British wall and an associated layer of burning was encountered towards the north end of the field. It was decided that these remains would be preserved insitu due to their significance to the area.*

*The cable trenching was directed along a new route around the edges of the two fields. From this excavation three features were discovered. Two possible drainage channels were discovered in trenching to the far south-eastern corner of the fields while a possible trampled trackway leading to the large slag bank was found in trenching in the far south-western corner of the fields.*

Project dates            Start: 31-03-2008 End: 11-04-2008

Previous/future work    Yes / No

Type of project        Field evaluation

Site status            None

Current Land use      Other 15 - Other

Methods & techniques    'Visual Inspection'

Development type    Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)

Prompt Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

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### Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN WADHURST Bardown Oast

Postcode TN5 7

Study area 54485.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 566435 129300 50.8939976591 0.227614452405 50 53 38 N  
000 13 39 E Point

Height OD Min: 97.66m Max: 112.99m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator EDF Energy Ltd

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Jon Sygrave

Project supervisor Nick Garland

Type of sponsor/funding body Edf Energy Ltd

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Lewes Museum

recipient

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'

Digital Archive recipient Lewes Museum

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Lewes Museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

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### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at

Author(s)/Editor(s) Garland, N

Other bibliographic details 2008048

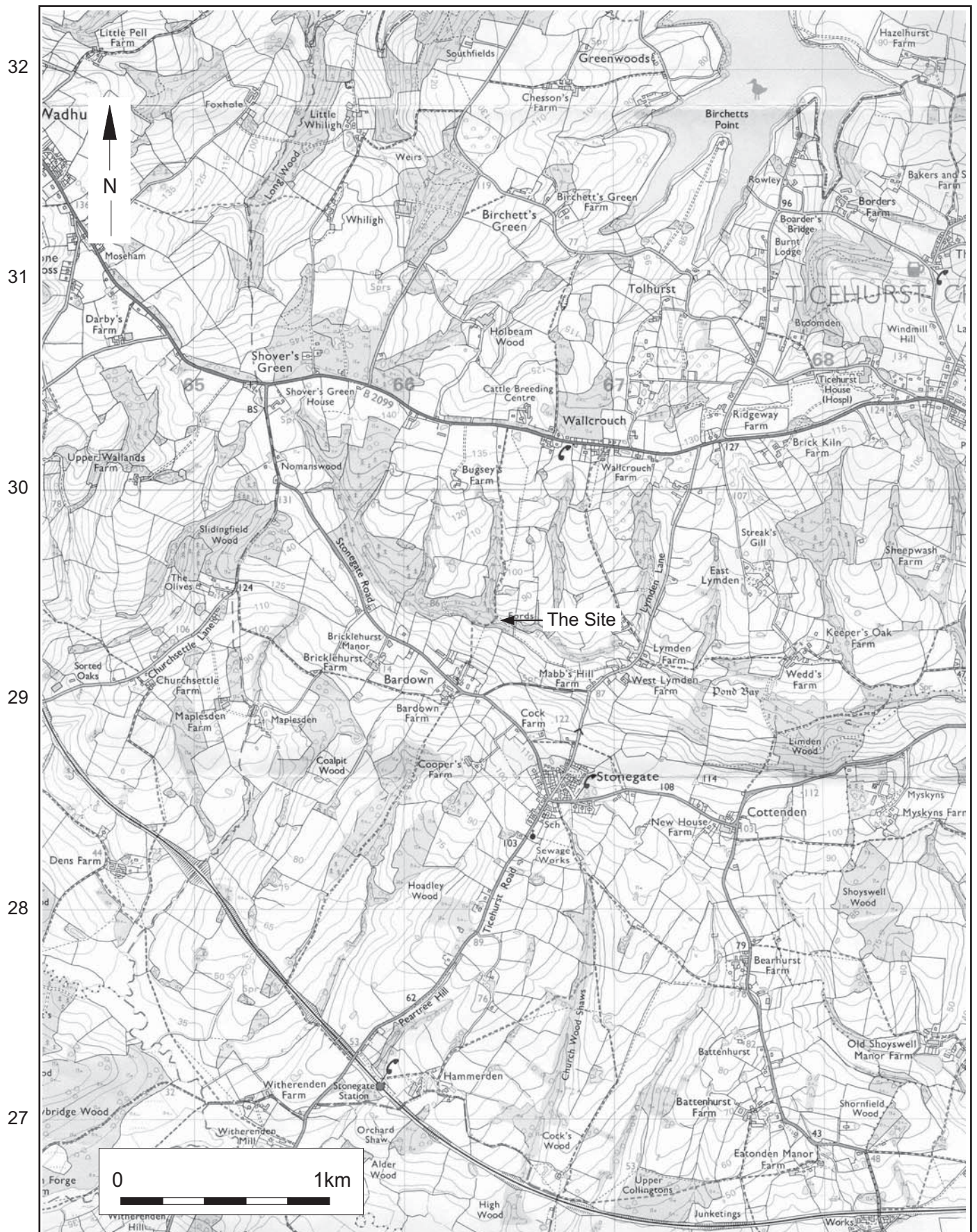
Date 2008

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

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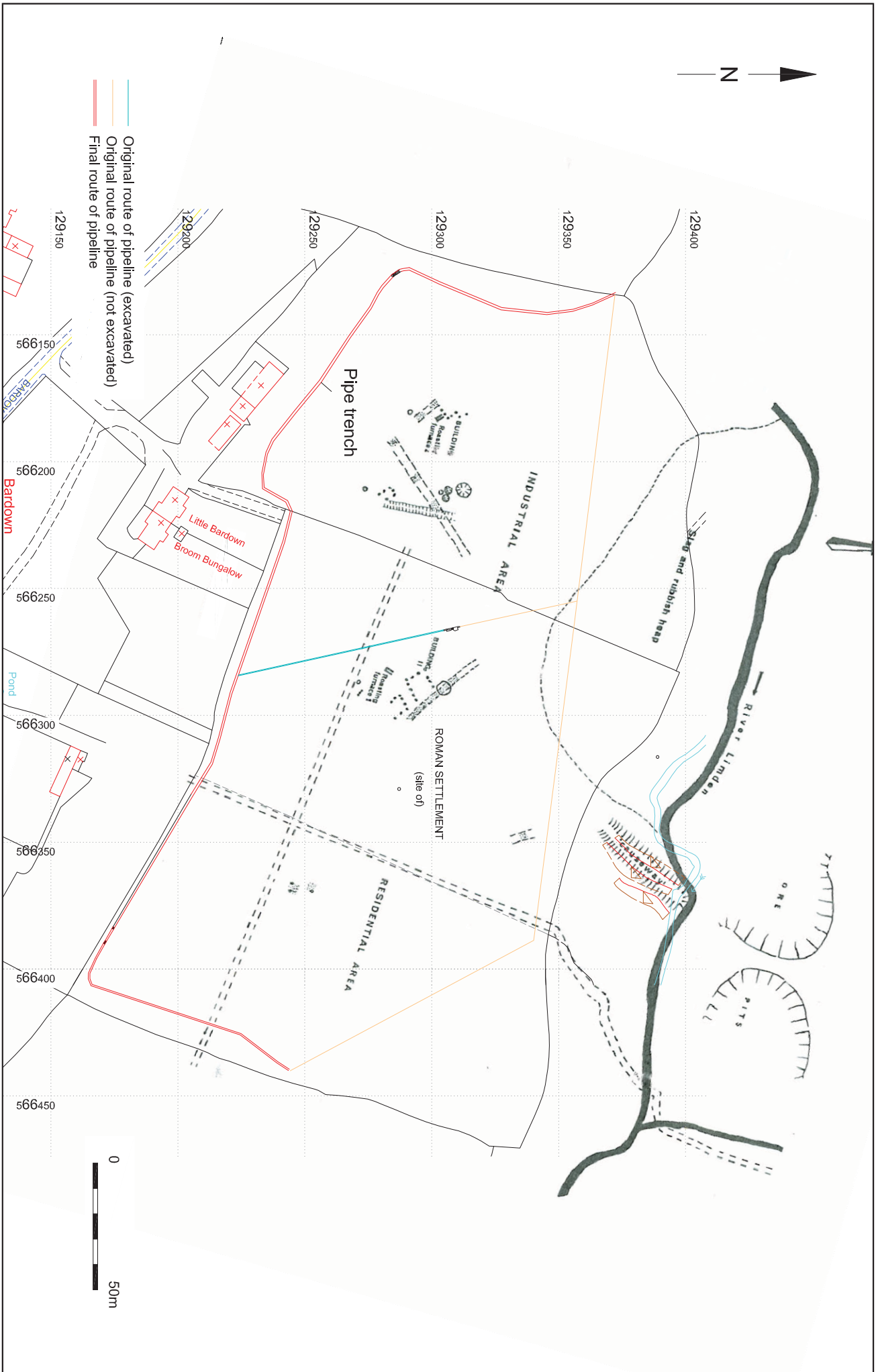
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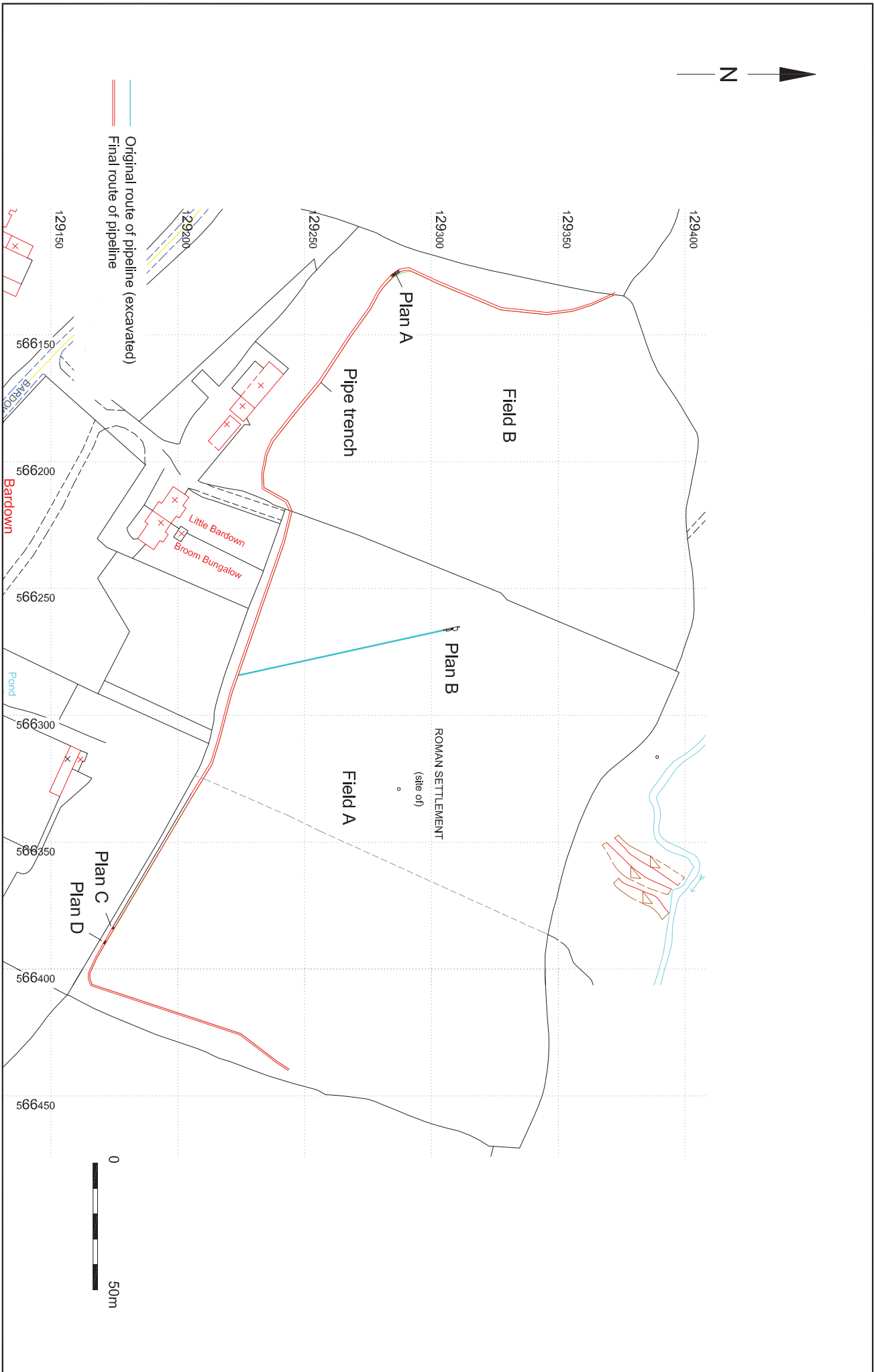
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© Archaeology South-East		Bardown Oast, Stonegate	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2766	July 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008048	Drawn by: JLR		

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 Bardown East, Stonegate  
 Site plan showing pipeline routes Cleere's excavation plan  
 Fig. 2



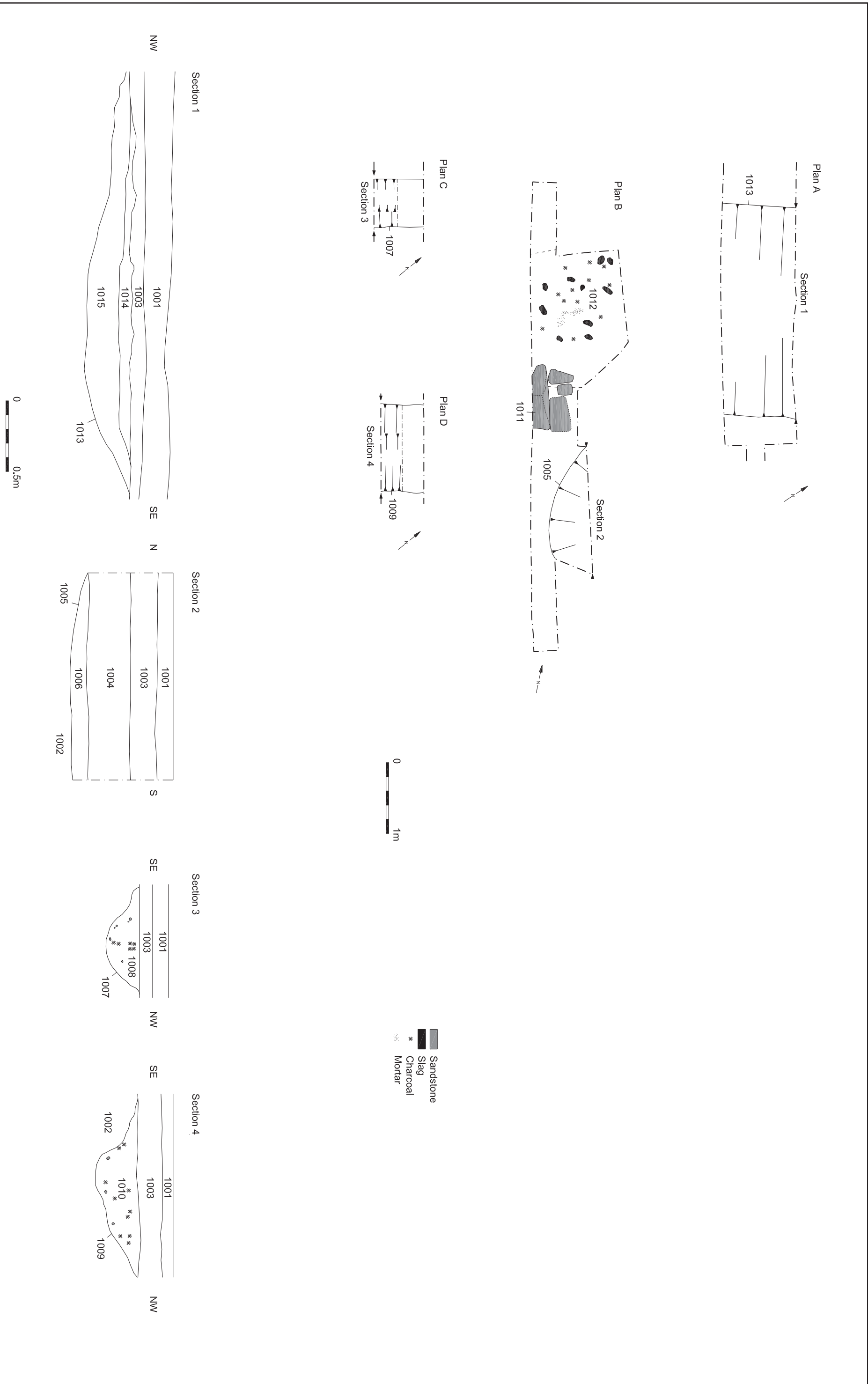
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 Report Ref: 2008048 Drawn by: JLR

Bardown East, Stonegate

Site plan with location of trenches and features

Fig. 3





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 Bardown East, Stonegate  
 Plans and sections  
 Fig. 4