

Surface Artefact Collection at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex

**Planning Reference DC/07/0729
HORSHAM: Southwater**

NGR 517478 128419

**Project No. 3058
Site Code: KLH 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008179
OASIS id: archaeol6-49210**



Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions by
Chris Butler and Luke Barber**

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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

A small-scale programme of Surface Artefact Collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in September 2008. A scatter of Mesolithic flintwork, fire-cracked flint and a small quantity of post-medieval material were recovered. The flintwork included a scraper, a microburin and a retouched bladelet, suggesting local tool manufacture.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Anders Dahl to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham (centred at NGR 517478 128419) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 In general the site shows a marked slope from west to east as the ground drops to form the valley of a small stream close to the modern alignment of Kerves Lane.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 302, *Horsham*) the underlying geology at the site is Horsham Stone.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application has been granted by Horsham District Council for the extension of Bourne Hill House, demolition of existing derelict stables, conversion of shop into two units of accommodation, upgrade equestrian facilities to create private equestrian Olympic training yard, landscape and woodland glade improvements (planning ref. DC/07/0729)
- 1.3.2 Owing to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site (see below) John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (Horsham District Council's adviser on archaeological issues) recommended that the following planning condition be attached to the planning consent when granted in accordance with PPG16, sections 28-30; West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, Policy CH7; and Horsham District Local Plan Policy EDC27:

'No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

- 1.3.3 The scope of the programme of archaeological work was established during the course of a site meeting between Trevor Furse (Furse Landscape Architects Ltd.), John Mills (WSCC) and Neil Griffin (ASE) on 3rd August 2007. These were subsequently written up into a Scoping Document (ASE 2007), which highlighted the potential need for further archaeological work at the site subject to the results of the initial investigations. The surface artefact collection forms one part of the initial stage of work.
- 1.3.4 Following further discussions between John Mills and Neil Griffin it was agreed that a programme of surface artefact collection (otherwise known as '*field-walking*') was appropriate as an initial stage of archaeological ground investigation. The methodology for this work was agreed in an email sent from John Mills to interested parties on 11th September 2008.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The systematic surface artefact collection aimed to establish whether concentrations of worked flint (or of other artefacts) survive within areas where significant groundworks will take place during the proposed development. This was aimed to facilitate decisions regarding mitigation measures and/or the need for further archaeological fieldwork.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of systematic surface artefact collection at the site undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) in September 2008. The site grid was laid out by Lesley Davidson (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed examination of available cartographic, documentary and archaeological background was undertaken in 2004 in connection with a separate proposed development scheme (ASE 2004).
- 2.2 The report noted that the site lies in an area of the Sussex Weald that has yielded evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of scatters of Mesolithic flintwork in the past. There are no indications of Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon occupation in the vicinity, and medieval remains are limited to scant evidence of agriculture. The Bourne Hill House estate itself illustrates the level of post-medieval activity in the area.
- 2.3 In summary, based on the available evidence, the report concluded that the estimated potential for archaeological sites and/or findspots being located at the site was:
- Palaeolithic - Low
 - Mesolithic – Moderate
 - Neolithic – Low
 - Bronze Age – Low
 - Iron Age – Low
 - Roman - Low
 - Anglo-Saxon – Low
 - Medieval – Low/Moderate
 - Post-Medieval – Moderate/High
- 2.4 As part of the current programme of archaeological recording, Bourne Hill House has been the subject of an historic building survey (ASE 2008).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The basic field-walking methodology was that usually used by ASE during fieldwalking projects, itself based on the standard practice utilised by the Archaeological Field Projects Service of Essex County Council. In this case there was a modification which involved orientating the grid to suit the site topography rather than adhering to the national grid. This methodology was agreed with John Mills prior to the commencement of the project.
- 3.2 In short, the method involved dividing the accessible area into numbered squares each measuring 20m by 20m (Fig. 2). Based on this grid, transects measuring 20m long, 2m wide and 20m apart were walked from south-west to north-east on the north-western edge of each grid square. All encountered archaeological artefacts were collected and bagged according to grid square, resulting in a 10% sample collection policy.

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 - 7)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 For the purposes of on-site recording the locations to be walked were divided into three separate areas (numbered **Area 1**, **2** and **3**). All of the areas had been ploughed, harrowed and allowed to weather for a short period, providing ideal soil conditions for the recovery of artefacts.

4.2 Area 1

- 4.2.1 This area was divided into two separate parcels of land, and displayed a marked slope from west to east, with a notable 'dip' in the north-eastern corner of the larger parcel.
- 4.2.2 There was a clear concentration of worked flint in this part of the site, which providing the majority of this class of material recovered during the current work, although there was no corresponding concentration of fire-cracked flint. Other artefacts were rare, perhaps reflecting the distance of this part of the site from any known buildings.

4.3 Area 2

- 4.3.1 Area 2 also consisted of two separate parcels of land. The larger area sloped from west to east, but the smaller parcel was located nearer the top of the valley side and was noticeably flatter. Much of the central part of the larger parcel had previously been an area of possible hardstanding with adjacent trees, which reduced visibility of artefacts, as much of the surfacing material had become incorporated into the soil during ploughing.
- 4.3.2 Nevertheless, worked flint and fire-cracked flint were recovered from the ploughsoil right across both parcels of land, with a marked concentration of fire-cracked flint in the higher, flatter portion.
- 4.3.3 This area also produced the highest quantities of post-medieval material recovered from the site, reflecting the proximity of *Bourne Hill House* and associated outbuildings.

4.4 Area 3

- 4.4.1 Area 3 also showed a clear slope from west to east, and was the most low-lying of the three areas. This was reflected in the partial flooding of Squares **3K**, **3L** and **3M**. This part of the site had also been wooded until recently, resulting in a high level of branches and woodland debris having been incorporated in the ploughsoil. Hence these transects were not walked.
- 4.4.2 The other transects in this area produced little of archaeological interest. The limited quantity of post-medieval material arguably reflects the proximity of *The Lodge*.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Flintwork by Chris Butler

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 A small assemblage of 21 pieces of worked flint weighing 151g was recovered during the fieldwalking at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham (Table 1).

5.1.1.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of each bag, counting the number of pieces of each type of worked flint present, noting details of the range and variety of pieces, general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. A hand written archive of the assemblage was produced at this stage, together with an Excel database.

5.1.2 The Assemblage

5.1.2.1 The raw material comprised a typical range of flint that is found on sites around Horsham. Most of the flintwork was a patinated white to light blue-grey colour, whilst many of the pieces in Area 2 were black flint, which may indicate that they derive from a different period to the patinated material.

Hard hammer-struck flakes	6
Soft hammer-struck flakes	5
Soft hammer-struck blades	1
Soft hammer-struck bladelet	1
Bladelet fragment	1
Flake/blade fragments	3
Microburin	1
Crested blade	1
Bladelet core	1
End scraper	1
<i>Total</i>	21

Table 1: The Flintwork

5.1.2.2 This small assemblage is predominantly, or probably completely, of Mesolithic date. The debitage comprises both hard and soft hammer-struck flakes and blades, many of which have evidence for platform preparation. A single bladelet core and a crested blade are also of Mesolithic date.

5.1.2.3 A microburin and a bladelet, which has some retouch and is possibly a microlith blank, provide evidence for microlith production, whilst the only definite implement is a small expedient scraper, again typical of those found in the Mesolithic period.

5.1.3 Discussion

5.1.3.1 The presence of Mesolithic flintwork in the Horsham area should not be unexpected as there have been numerous finds of Mesolithic flintwork to the south-west of Horsham, as well as to the east of the town (Butler;

forthcoming). These suggest that there were numerous short-stay camps, and hunting camps, located generally close to streams, on which Horsham Points were one of the dominant microlith types. The small assemblage found here might indicate the presence of a Mesolithic hunting camp.

5.1.4 ***Research Potential***

- 5.1.4.1 This assemblage is probably too small for any further meaningful analysis, unless further archaeological work at the site produces a larger assemblage into which this could be incorporated. It is recommended that no further detailed work be undertaken on this assemblage at present, although the flintwork should be retained for possible further study in the future.

5.2 **The Other Finds** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 ***The Pottery***

- 5.2.1.1 The pottery from the site is all of the 19th- to early 20th centuries. A range of domestic wares is represented including unglazed earthenware (flower pots), local glazed red earthenware (jars), English stoneware (bottles) and a range of table/teawares in transfer-printed pearlware, white and coloured china and English porcelain. The majority of the material is likely to be of mid 19th- to early 20th- century and was probably derived from manuring the fields with 'night-soil'.

5.2.2 ***The Ceramic Building Material***

- 5.2.2.1 A small quantity of brick and tile was recovered during the work. All are of late post-medieval date spanning the mid 18th to early 20th centuries (though none need be earlier than the 19th century). Fabrics usually consist of sparse fine sand with moderate iron oxide inclusions to 2mm and off-white clay streaks or slight variations of this general type. Both the bricks and peg tiles are well-made with the bricks being medium/well fired and the peg tile usually hard fired. Only a very sparse scatter is present. There are also at least two pieces of ceramic 19th- century land drain (e.g. 2H and 3J).

5.2.3 ***The Glass***

- 5.2.3.1 The very small assemblage of glass consists of cylindrical bottle fragments in clear (?milk), aqua (mineral water), white (?vase) and green (wine/beer) glass. All of the material is of the later 19th to early 20th centuries.

5.2.4 ***The Geological Material***

- 5.2.4.1 The few pieces of stone recovered are all imported types of the 19th century. They consist of coal shale (2B) and Welsh slate (3B & 3H) only.

5.2.4 ***Discussion***

- 5.2.4.1 None of the material holds any potential for further analysis and it is recommended that it is discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The datable material recovered during the small-scale programme of surface artefacts collection at the site dates from two periods: the Mesolithic and the post-medieval. Despite the excellent conditions for the recovery of artefacts, no assemblages of finds from any other periods were retrieved.
- 6.2 The post-medieval material is mostly 19th and 20th century in date and is of limited archaeological significance. However the recovery of Mesolithic flintwork from the site is of importance and strongly suggests activity at this date within the boundaries of the site.
- 6.3 Assemblages of flintwork of this date are not uncommon in the Horsham area in general (Butler *op. cit.*); there are three known Mesolithic sites within a 1km radius of the site (ASE 2004, 9). The topographical situation of the Bourne Hill material corresponds to a long-recognised pattern of Mesolithic activity in the Weald, comprising flint scatters that are thought to be the surviving remnants of hunting activity closely related to the system of river valleys in the area (Tebbutt 1974).
- 6.4 Recent work has highlighted the fact that such scatters can be associated with buried archaeological features (Butler 2007). It has been recognised since the 1930s that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers operating in the Weald were capable of building shelters (Clark and Rankin 1939), and work in the Horsham area (at Rock Common near Washington) has also shown evidence of hearths of this date (Harding 2000).

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Surface artefact collection offered an efficient methodology for the identification of the Mesolithic material present in the ploughsoil. Although this method has limitations in regard to issues such as character, quality, and degree of survival of buried archaeological remains, it is a useful tool in the detection of scatters of artefacts.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council is gratefully acknowledged, as is the Co-operation of Mr Anders Dahl.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	KLH 08					
Identification Name and Address	Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	517478 128419					
Geology	Horsham Stone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3058					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	SAC ✓	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other <i>September 2008</i>		
Sponsor/Client	Anders Dahl					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>A small-scale programme of Surface Artefact Collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in September 2008. A scatter of Mesolithic flintwork, fire-cracked flint and a small quantity of post-medieval material were recovered. The flintwork included a scraper, a microburin and a retouched bladelet, suggesting local tool manufacture.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-49210

Project details

Project name	Surface Artefact Collection at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex
Short description of the project	A small-scale programme of surface artefact collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in September 2008. A scatter of Mesolithic flintwork was recovered, as well as a small quantity of post-medieval material,
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2008 End: 16-09-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3058 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	KLH 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Mesolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking'

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane
Postcode	RH13 6RJ
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 517478 128419 50.8945166540 0.158010068273 50 53 40 N 000 09 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.00m Max: 60.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief
originator Archaeology South-East

Project design
originator Archaeology South-East

Project
director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of
sponsor/funding body Client

Name of
sponsor/funding body Mr Anders Dahl

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Horsham Museum

Physical Contents 'Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive
recipient Horsham Museum

Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Database','Spreadsheets','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography

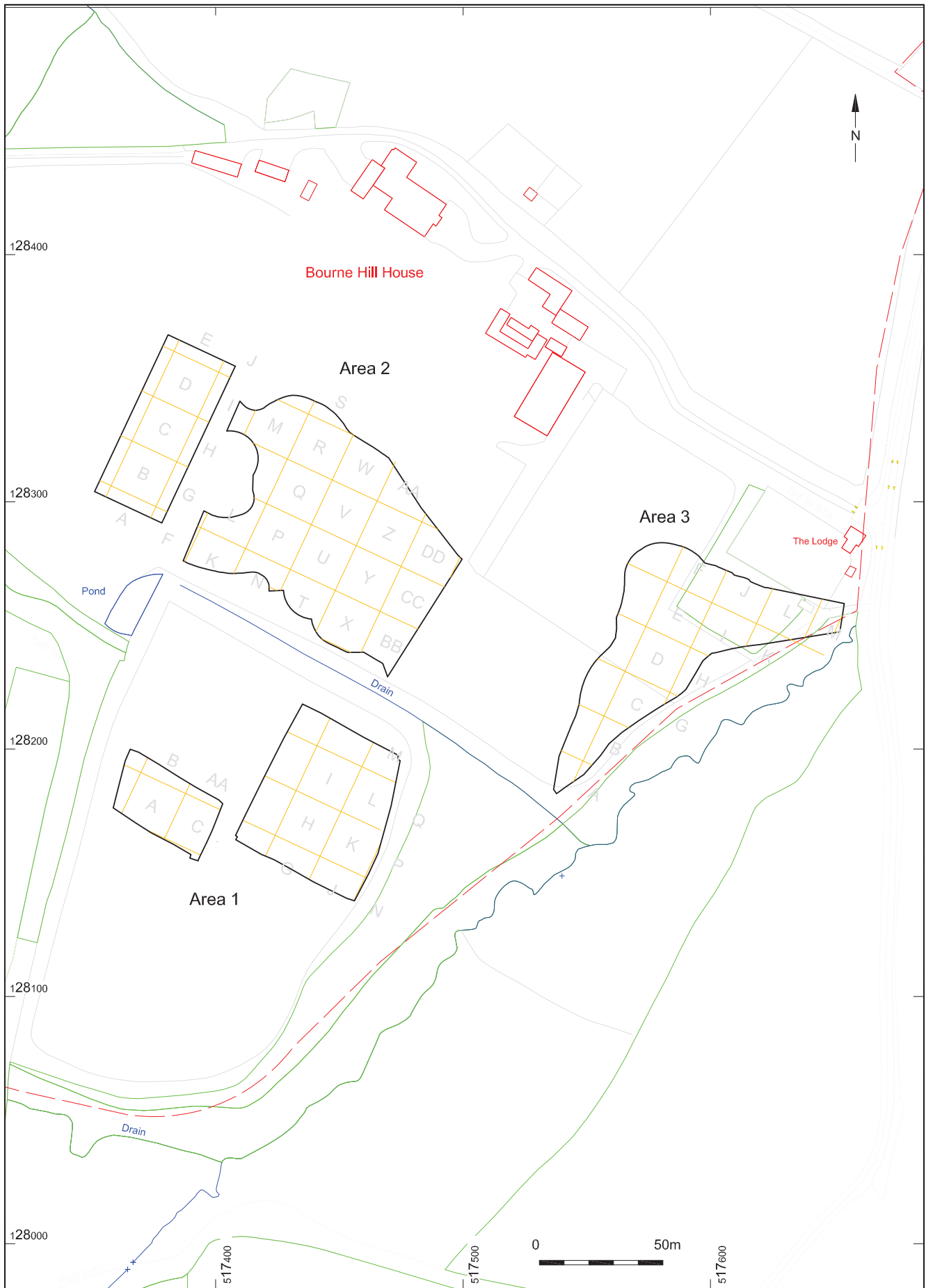
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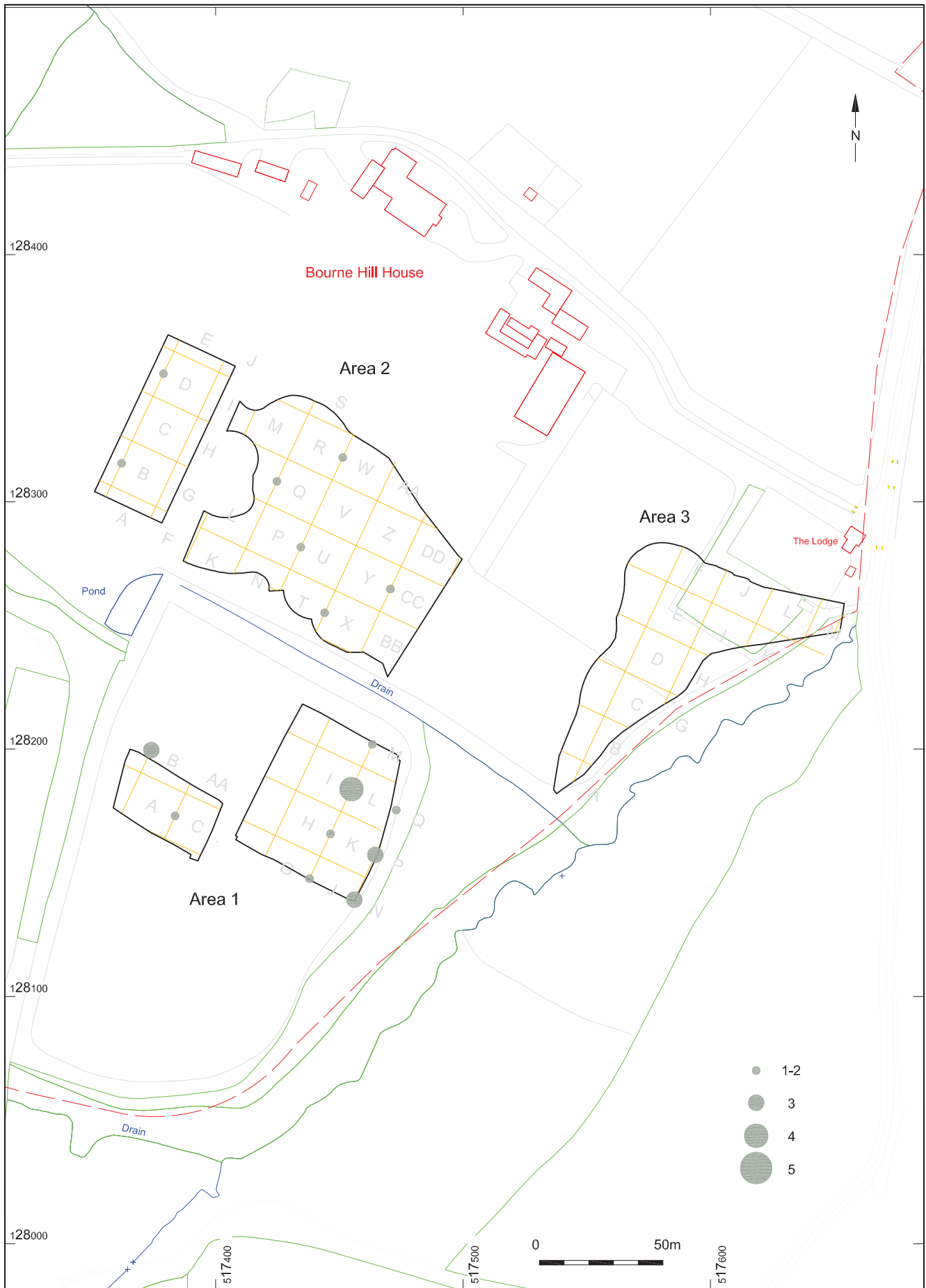
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Surface Artefact Collection at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 2008179
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE A4 Client Report. ASE logo on cover.

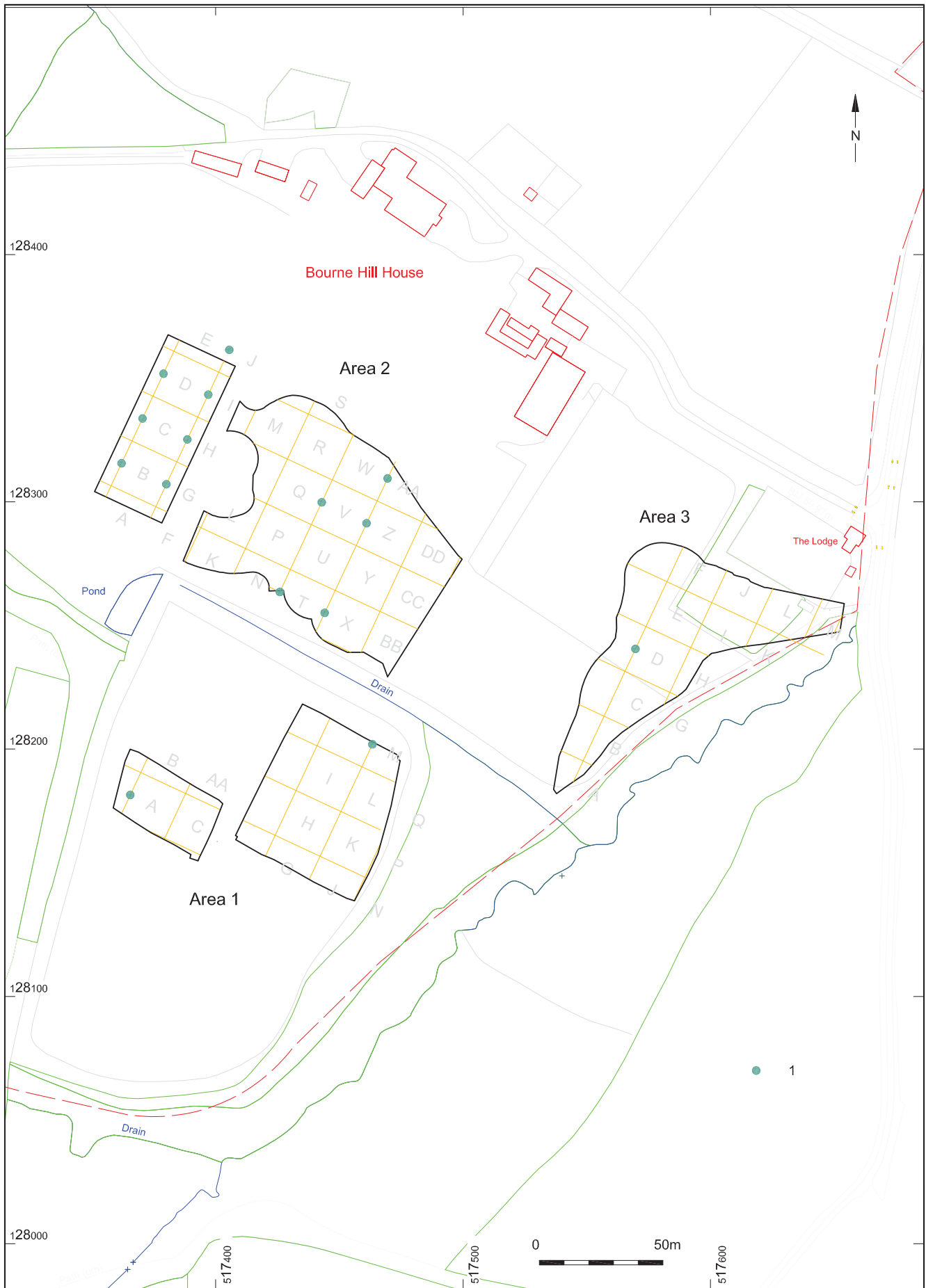


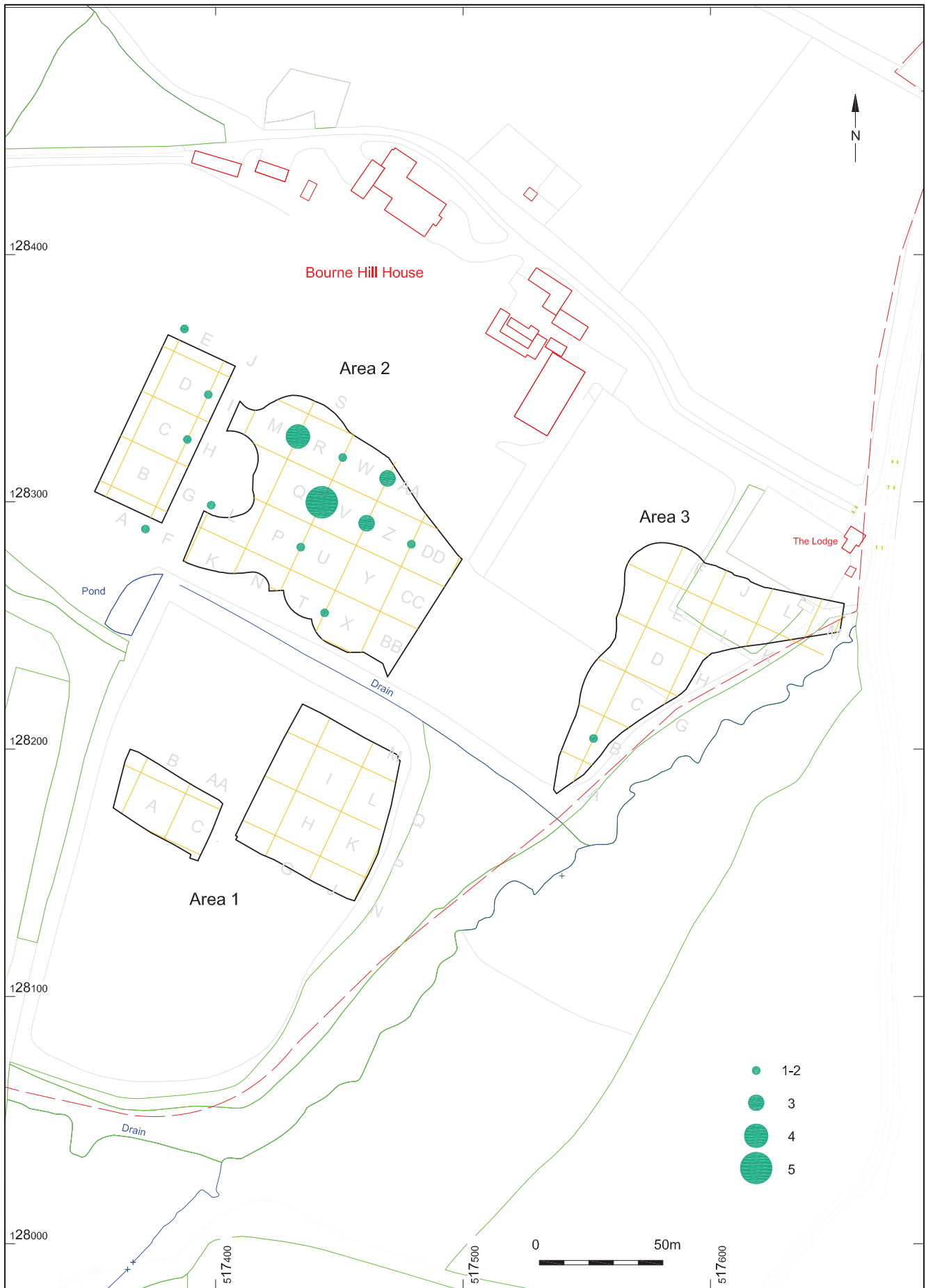
© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3058	Oct 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

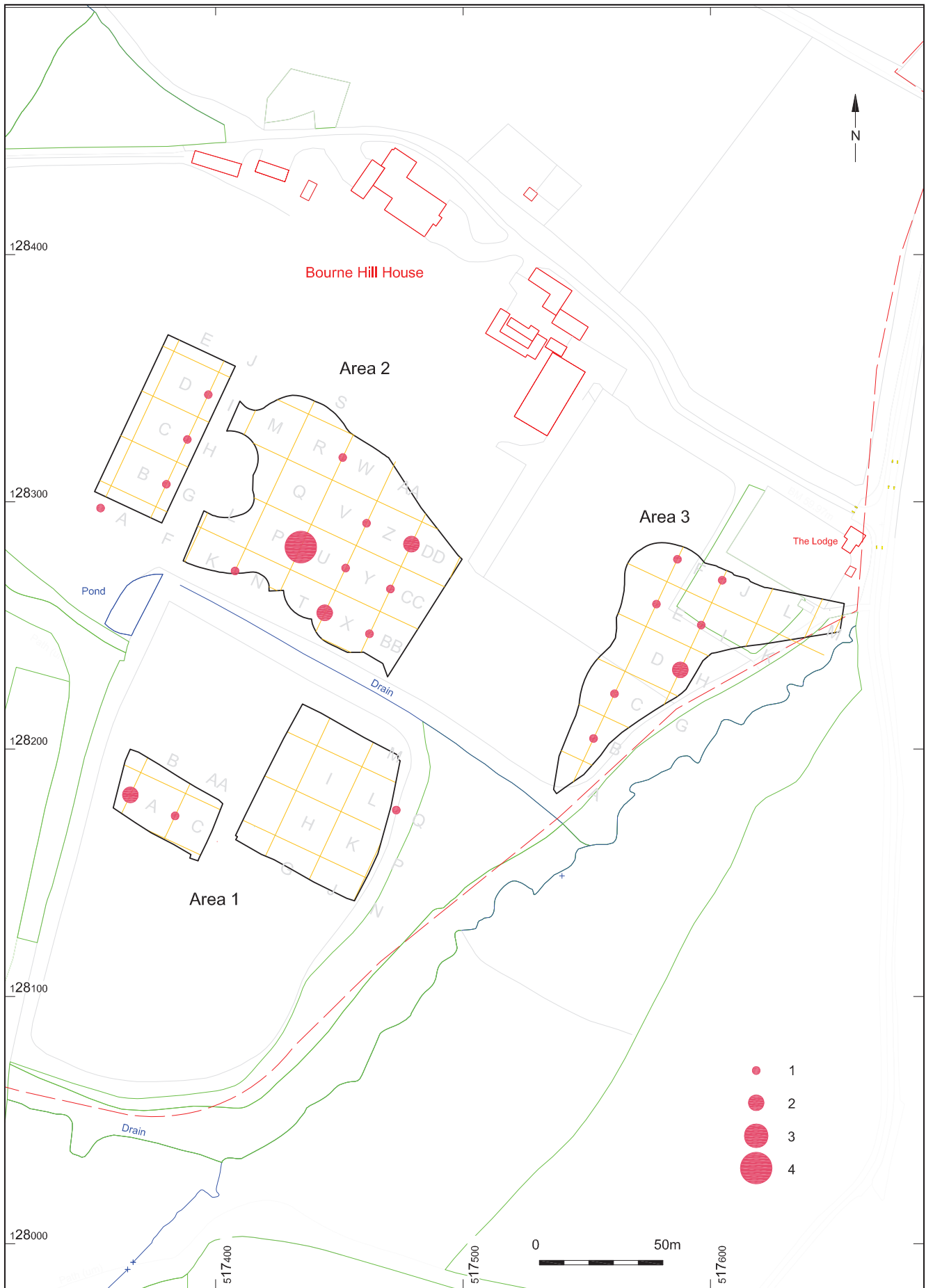
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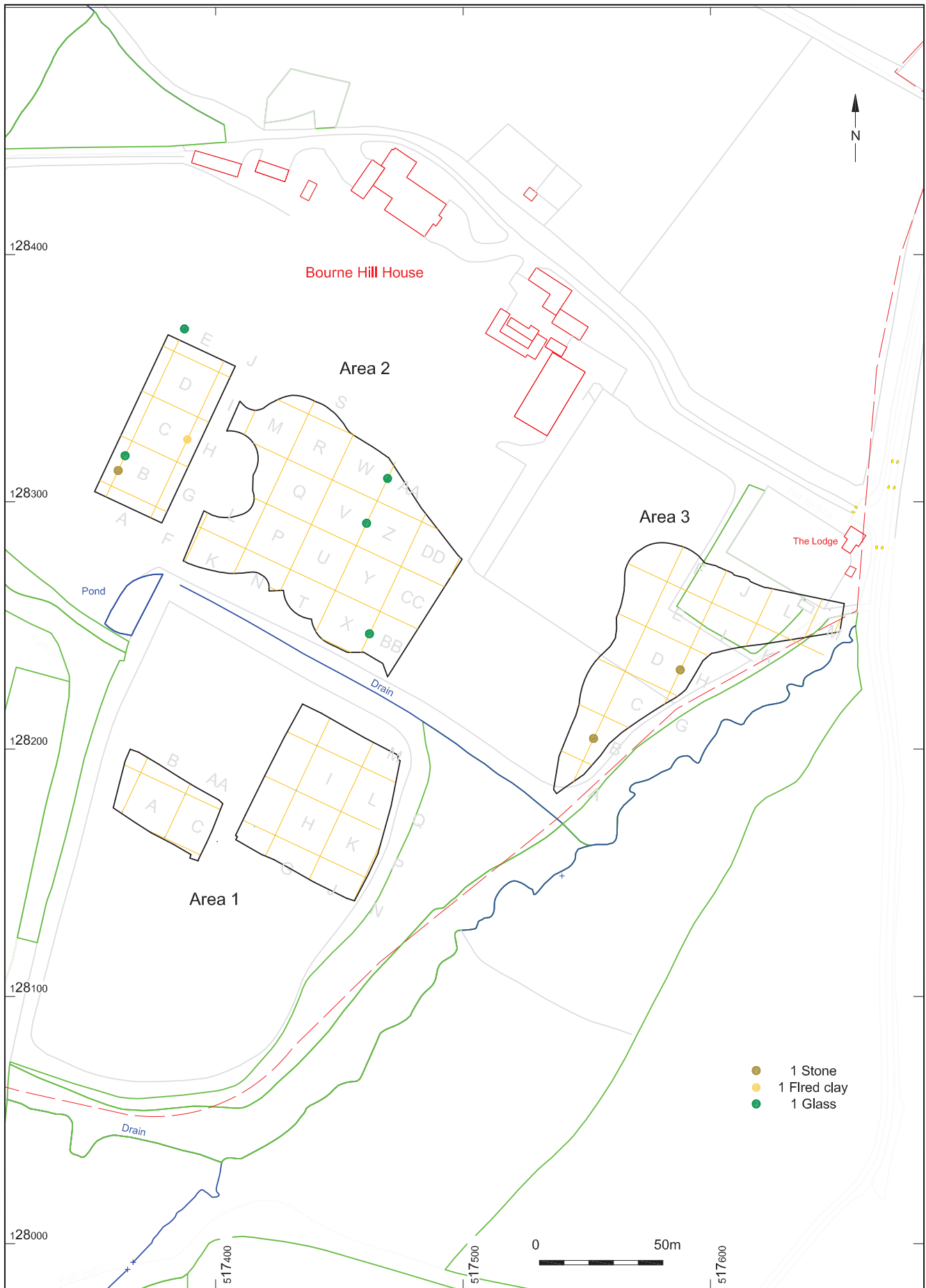












Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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