

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Shoreham Toll Bridge  
Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex**

**NGR TQ 520625 105957**

**Listed Building Number 297270**

**ADUR: Adur**

**Planning Ref:ADC/07/0321/07**

**Site Code: STB 08**

**ASE Project No. 3378**

**OASIS No. archaeol6-49419**

**ASE Report No. 2008147**



**David Fallon**

**September 2008**

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## **Abstract**

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Shoreham Toll Bridge, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex on the 30th July 2008. This work was commissioned by Haskoning UK Ltd and entailed the inspection of repair works at both the east and west ends of the bridge. The repair works consisted of the replacement and strengthening of the bridge superstructure and the erection of a new hand rail at both ends of the bridge.

There was the potential that any works which resulted in ground disturbance would have an impact upon any of the Second World War defences that remained beneath the current ground level such as the extant fragment of the Rail Road Block at the western end of the bridge. However, the ground disturbance required to carry out the repair work was minimal and no archaeological deposits were disturbed during these works.

In addition to the inspection of the repair work the extant fragment of the Rail Road Block was surveyed and drawn and a digital record produced from the results.

## **CONTENTS**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 3. Methodology**
- 4. Results**
- 5. Conclusion**

## **Bibliography**

## **OASIS Form**

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1:** Site Location
- Figure 2:** Site Plan
- Figure 3:** Rail Road Block Plan
- Figure 4:** Rail Road Block Elevation

## **LIST OF TABLES**

- Table 1** HER Data

## **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), were commissioned by Haskoning UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on repair works consisting of the replacement and strengthening of the bridge super structure and the erection of a new hand rail at both ends of the bridge at Shoreham Toll Bridge, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex (NGR 520625 105957), henceforth called the site (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The site lay in a recreational area to the west of Steyning Road. It was bounded to the west by a residential development and to the east by light scrub and a public footpath.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

1.2.1 The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area and required Listed Building Consent before any work could commence. Therefore, a planning condition, requiring an archaeological watching brief, was imposed upon the on the renovations (planning reference ADC/07/0321/07).

### **1.3 Scope of the Report**

1.3.1 This document details the results of the works undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared in response to the condition placed upon the redevelopment works by John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council.

1.3.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by David Fallon (Field Officer), Justin Russell (Archaeological Illustrator) and Lesley Davidson (Survey). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A detailed archaeological background was included within the Written Scheme of Investigation written for these works. It is reproduced here with due acknowledgement (Hart 2008).
- 2.2 Shoreham Toll Bridge (Table 1, No. 1), now a Grade II\* structure (Listed Building Number 297270) comprises a timber bridge originally constructed in 1781 by an Act of Parliament in order to provide a safe crossing over the Adur river. The importance of the bridge as one of the key crossing points of the Adur is underlined by the fact that it continued to carry vehicular traffic until the construction of the present A27 road bridge to the north in 1970. Though heavily restored during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the bridge is considered to have largely retained its original design and therefore now comprises one of the last and best remaining examples of a type of bridge common during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Haskoning UK Ltd 2006).
- 2.3 Known archaeological remains within a 0.5km radius of the site are dominated by anti-invasion features surviving from the Second World War: a reflection of the perceived vulnerability of this particular section of coastline. For the most part these are comprised of features associated with the perimeter defences of the nearby Shoreham Airfield and include a variety of pill boxes and gun emplacements (e.g. Table 1, Nos. 4 to 9 and 11).
- 2.4 The situation of many of these features along the eastern perimeter of the airfield also allowed them to fulfil the secondary functions of defending the river Adur and the Toll Bridge itself. The bridge was also defended by means of anti-tank vertical rails, set into the roadway at each end of the bridge. Today only one such rail survives *in situ* at the western end of the bridge (Table 1, No. 10), though the scars of others remain visible at ground level at the eastern end.
- 2.5 Other sites or find spots recorded within a 0.5km radius of the site include the 10<sup>th</sup> century St. Nicholas' Church immediately to the east of the bridge (Table 1, No. 3) and the find-spot of a Roman coin some 500m to the east at Adur Avenue (Table 1, No. 2). In addition, a variety of listed buildings, largely comprising houses of 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date are recorded to the east of the bridge in Old Shoreham town, much of which now comprises a conservation area.

No	HER No	Type	Date	Description	NGR
1	3667	Monument	Post-Medieval	Bridge	TQ 20610 05960
2	3686	Find Spot	Roman	Coin	TQ 21080 06090
3	3690	Monument	E. Medieval	Church	TQ 20800 05990
4	6549	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 20614 05672
5	6550	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 20690 05476
6	6552	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 20532 05815
7	6553	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 20614 05671

8	6554	Monument	WW2	Gun Emplacement	TQ 20469 05923
9	6555	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 20467 05909
10	7461	Monument	WW2	Anti Tank Vertical Rail	TQ 202 058
11	7531	Monument	WW2	Pillbox	TQ 206 058

Table 1: Tabulation of HER Data

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any artefacts or ecofacts of an archaeological interest encountered during the repair work were located and recorded to appropriate standards. Specifically, the main aims of the archaeological works was to establish the location, extent and condition of any Second World War defensive features present and to ascertain at what depth they are present beneath the current ground level and to record in-situ the extant Rail Road Block.
- 3.2 The repair works consisted of the replacement and strengthening of the bridge super structure and the erection of a new hand rail at both ends of the bridge (Figs. 3 & 4). These works included the clearing of the current tarmacadam road surface and the excavation of a shallow channel either side of it to facilitate the laying of the new road surface and the excavation of small post sockets to the west end of the bridge.
- 3.3 All intrusive ground works associated with the above works were monitored by a member of Archaeology South-East staff.
- 3.4 The drilling of the boreholes was carried out by the geotechnical contractor and comprised the mechanical boring of five window sample boreholes (BH 1 - 5) spaced throughout the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 2). The boreholes were 3.00m deep except BH 1 which continued to a depth of 5.00m.
- 3.5 A log of the work was kept and each borehole recorded using a pro-forma Archaeology South-East borehole record sheet. A digital photographic record was kept of the works.

### **4.0 RESULTS**

- 4.1 The excavation of the small post sockets was too limited in scale to allow for any observation of the underlying deposits to be made. Upon consultation with John Mills, West Sussex County Council, it was decided that no further observation of these excavations was necessary.
- 4.2 The excavation of the shallow channel either side of the road was such that it did not reveal or have any impact upon the underlying deposits. Therefore, upon consultation with John Mills, West Sussex County Council, it was decided that no further observation of these excavations was necessary.

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The aims of the Watching Brief have been addressed by these works and the information recorded.
- 5.2 The repair works did not encounter any archaeological remains. Nor were any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest recovered during these works.



## **Bibliography**

Hart, D. 2008. Shoreham Toll Bridge, Shoreham West Sussex. Archaeological  
Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation

Haskoning UK Ltd 2006, Shoreham Tollbridge Conservation Design Statement v 1.4,  
unpubl document

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-49419**

**Project details**

Project name	Shoreham Toll Bridge
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Shoreham Toll Bridge, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex on the 30th July 2008. This work was commissioned by Haskoning UK Ltd. The Watching Brief entailed the inspection of repair works at both the east and west ends of the bridge. The repair works consisted of the replacement and strengthening of the bridge's super structure and the erection of a new hand rail at both ends of the bridge.
Project dates	Start: 30-07-2008 End: 30-07-2008
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	. None
Significant Finds	. None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Listed Building Consent

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA Shoreham Toll Bridge
Postcode	BN
Study area	2.00 Square metres

Site coordinates      TQ 20625 05957 50.8399818858 -0.286620219868 50 50 23 N  
000 17 11 W Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 0m Max: 0.10m

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**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      David Fallon

Type of sponsor/funding body      Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body      Haskoning UK Ltd

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive recipient      Local Museum

Digital Contents      'other'

Digital Media available      'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive Exists?      No

Paper Contents      'other'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report'

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

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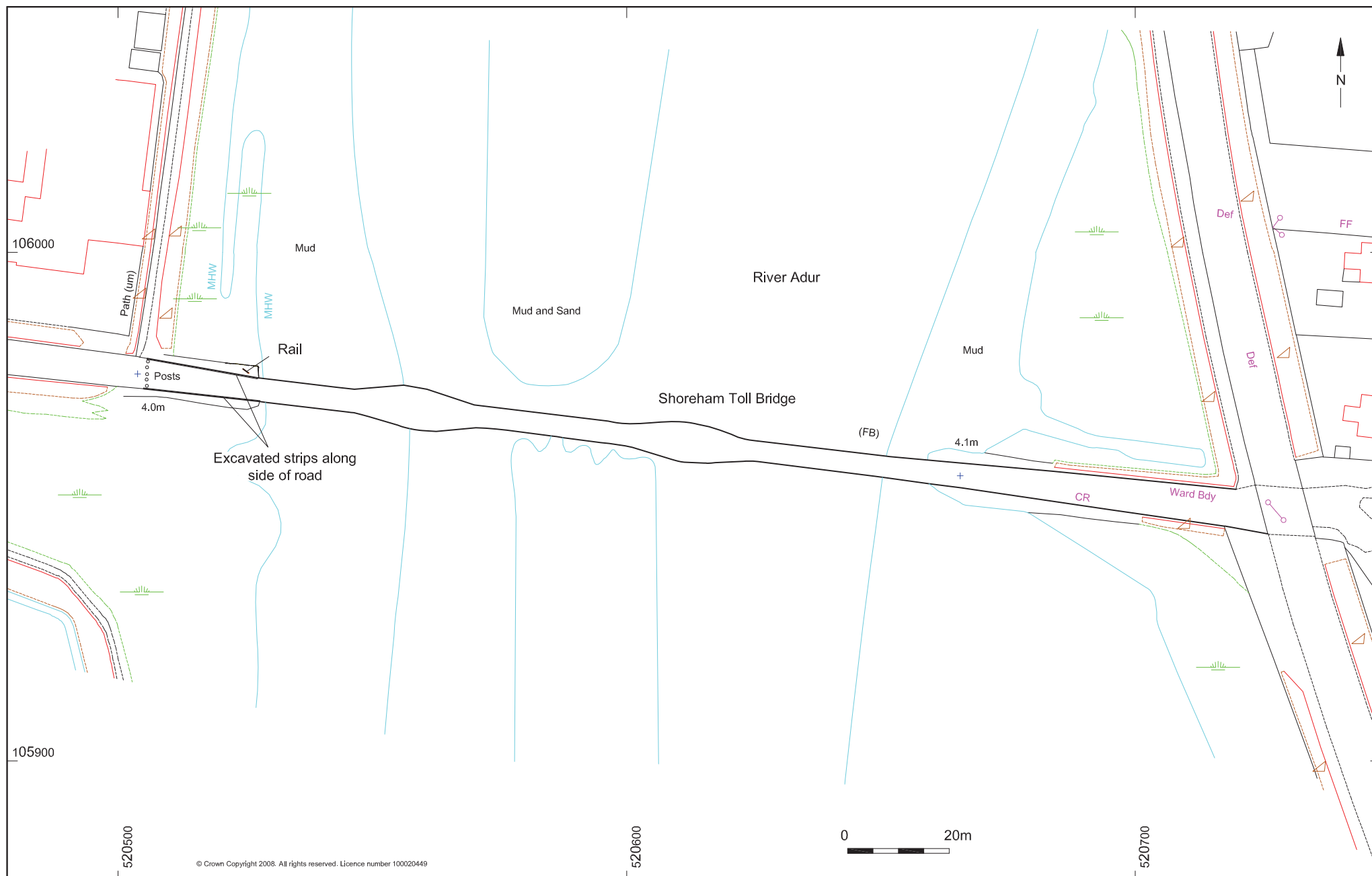
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Entered by      Dave Fallon (D.Fallon@ ucl.ac.uk)

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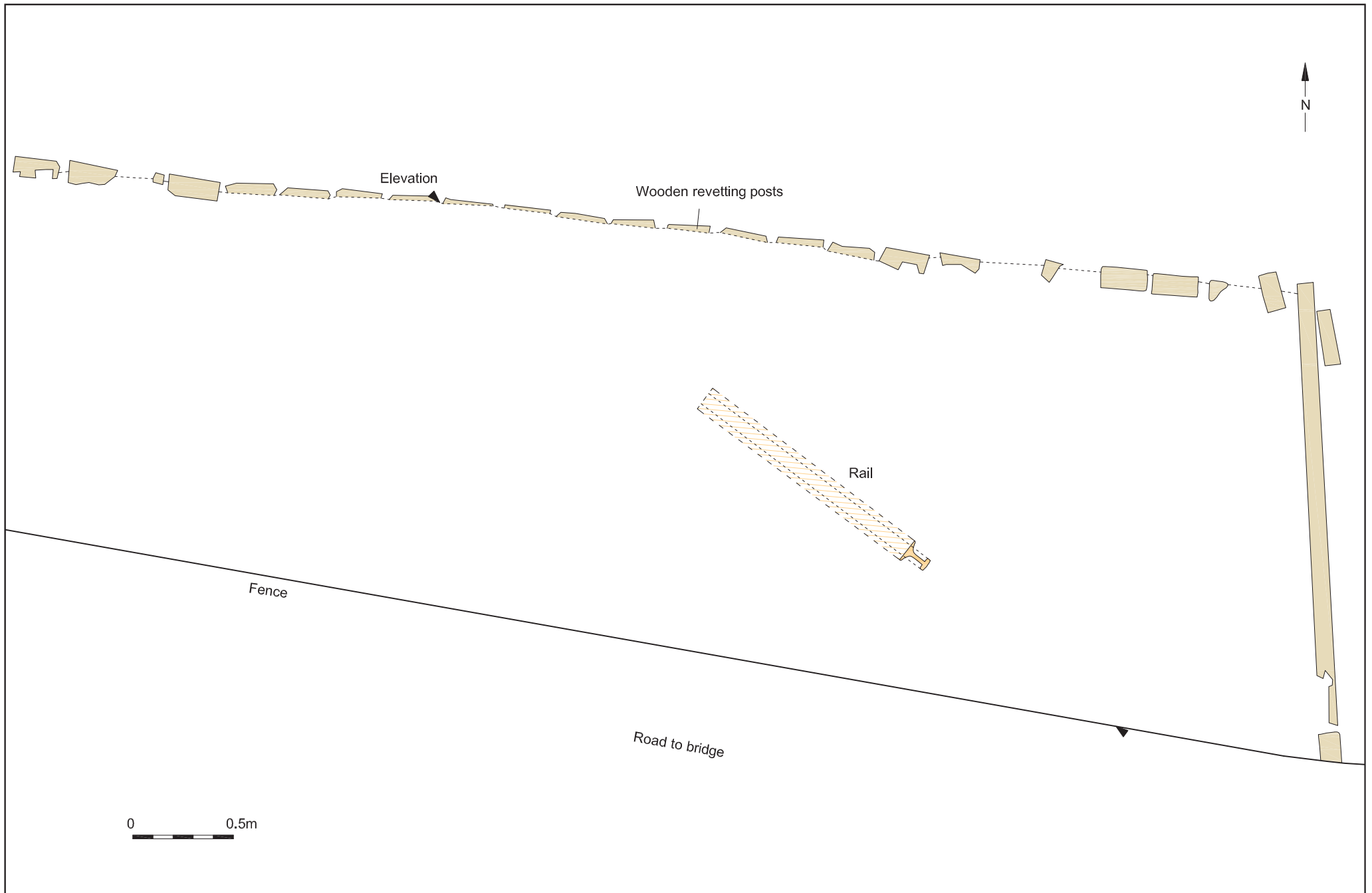
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Shoreham Toll Bridge

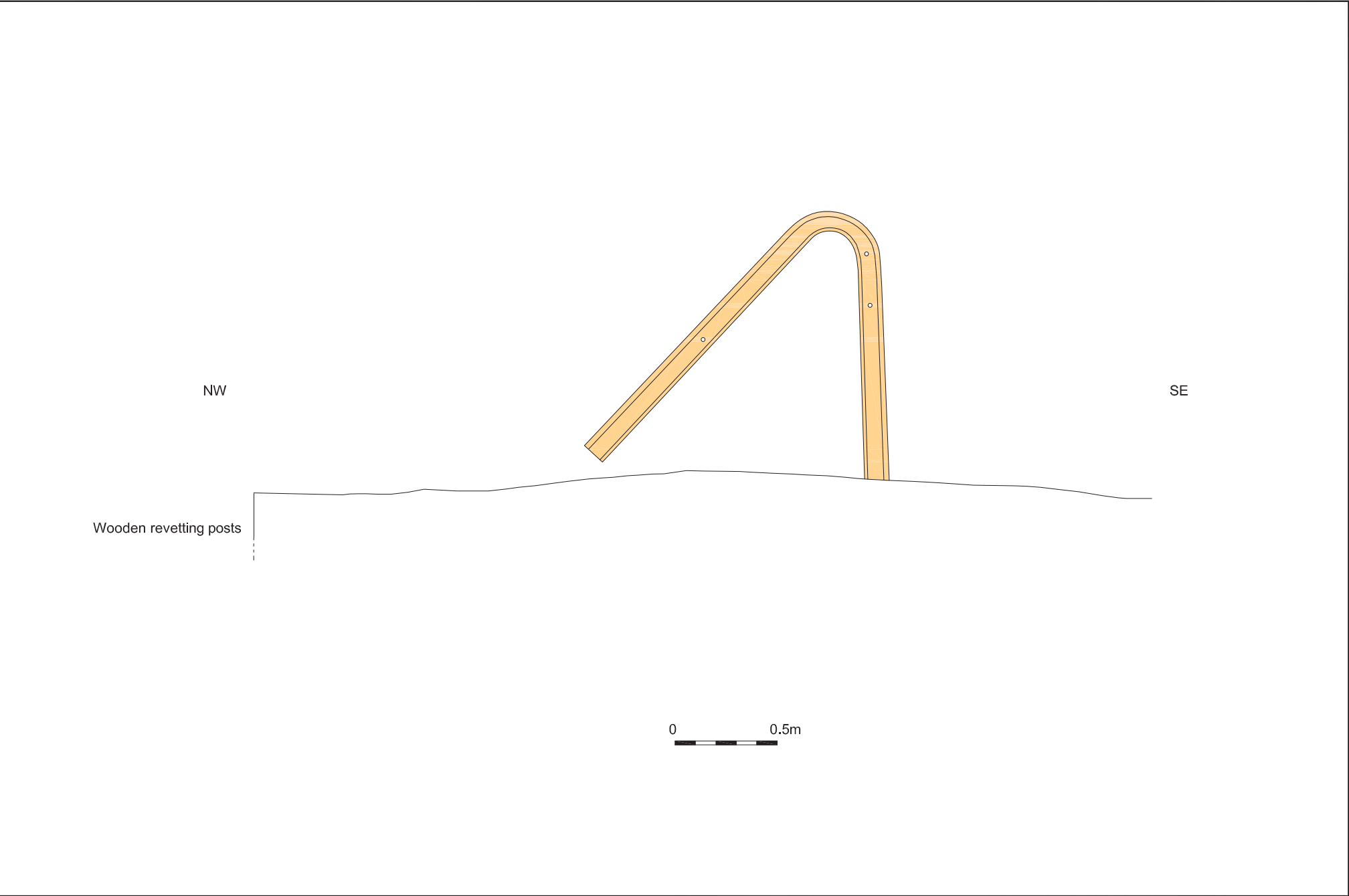
Site plan

Fig. 2





© Archaeology South-East		Shoreham Toll Bridge	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3378	Sept 2008	Rail road block: Plan	
Report Ref: 2008147	Drawn by: JLR		





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