

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land to the South of Broomers Hill House  
Broomers Hill Lane, Pulborough  
West Sussex**

**NGR: 506419 119164  
(TQ 06419 19164)**

**HDC Planning Ref: DC/21/0163**

**ASE Project No: 210380  
Site Code: PUL 21**

**ASE Report No: 2021166  
OASIS id: archaeol6-502189**

**By Simon Stevens**

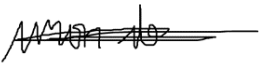

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<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Simon Stevens</b>	<b>Senior Archaeologist</b>	
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	<b>Dan Swift</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	
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**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830**

**Fax: 01273 420866**

**Email: [ase@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ase@ucl.ac.uk)**

**[www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east)**

**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land to the south of Broomers Hill House, Broomers Hill Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex. The fieldwork was commissioned by Dove Associates in advance of the construction of an irrigation storage reservoir.*

*Fifteen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.6m were mechanically excavated, recorded and backfilled between 26th July and 30th July 2021. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the site which was found to be largely undisturbed with the exception of the south-eastern corner.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Dove Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Broomers Hill House, Broomers Hill Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex (centred at NGR 503825 131335; Figure 1)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site consists of a c.2ha field surrounded by hedges and trees, which lies on the eastern side of Broomers Hill Lane. There is parkland immediately to the north, open fields to the east, and the boundary with Brocks Rew Farm to the south.

1.2.2 According to the latest data available from the British Geological Survey (BGS), the underlying geology at the site consists of the sandstone of the Hythe Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2021).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application for the construction of an irrigation storage reservoir at the site has been submitted to Horsham District Council (planning reference DC/21/0163). The site lies within an *Archaeological Notification Area* relating to Roman settlement at Pulborough. Following consultation between Horsham District Council and Essex County Council (ECC) Place Services (Horsham District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) it was recommended that an archaeological condition be placed on any planning consent in line with local and national planning policy:

- i. No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- ii. The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the archaeological 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 [i] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.*

*Reason: This matter is fundamental as the site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).*

- 1.3.2 The requirement and scope of the archaeological works was set in a Brief produced by ECC Place Services. This outlined the need for an archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches (ECC Place Services 2020).
- 1.3.3 Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ASE which set out a detailed methodology and included details of reporting and archiving of the results (ASE 2021)

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

- 1.4.1 The current report details the results of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching undertaken at the site between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following is taken directly from the WSI (ASE 2021), much of the information derived from the Brief (ECC Place Services 2020), itself utilising data from the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 In the general area of the site there is evidence for earlier settlement activity to the north and west with evidence of Upper Palaeolithic lithic working site, prehistoric woodland clearance, late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flintwork, a middle Bronze Age bucket urn, and an Iron Age / Early Roman field system with some associated pits and postholes.

### **2.3 Romano-British**

2.3.1 The site lies within the locally-designated *Archaeological Notification Area* associated with the known Romano-British settlement at Pulborough (reference no. DWS8563)

2.3.2 There is a nearby barrow/temple which is a Scheduled Monument (List No. 1015233). This is situated c.250m to the south-east of the centre of the site. The list description is as follows:

*'The monument includes a barrow constructed during the Roman period, situated on the southern slope of a sandstone hill which forms part of the Sussex Weald. The barrow lies around 170m east of a north-south aligned, minor Roman road between Codmore Hill and Marehill which joins Stane Street, the main Roman road between Chichester (Noviomagus) and London (Londinium), around 2km to the north. The barrow has been partly levelled by past ploughing and survives as a low, circular mound c.19m in diameter and 0.2m high.*

*Excavations in 1815 and 1817 revealed the mound to have been constructed over a circular chamber, surviving in the form of buried, mortared-brick footings c.3.5m thick. Blocks of squared tufa originating from Italy were also used in the construction of the barrow. The mound is likely to be surrounded by a now infilled construction ditch up to 2m wide.'*

2.3.3 A scheduled early Romano-British villa complex has been located at Borough Farm (List No. 1015234) c.1km to the north-east. Roman buildings were identified to the south-west during excavations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (HER NO. MWS5807). Stane Street, the Roman road which linked Chichester and London runs through Pulborough

2.3.4 A stone building, interpreted as a temple, was excavated at *Glebelands* and roof tile has been located at the church. Other notable sites in the Pulborough area include the Stane Street posting station at Hardham, a circular tower temple at Homestreet and Wiggonholt bath house. Overall the available archaeological evidence suggests the site lies within a settled and busy Romano-British landscape

## 2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 There are no archaeological records of medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

## 2.5 Post-Medieval

2.5.1 Broomers Hill House is a Grade II listed building with elements dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Historic England list no.1354021). Reference to historic Ordnance Survey maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards show the site to have been part of an agricultural field, originally part of larger field which extended to the west and north-west. No features are mapped within the field.

## 2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general objective of the archaeological work given in the WSI (ASE 2021) was

*'to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed by the evaluation are recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards and to enable appropriate mitigation methods.'*

2.6.2 Site-specific research aims were proposed with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF). These are primarily related to the Roman period but the possibility that remains of other dates may be present cannot be discounted. Should such remains be present they will be considered in relation to the SERF Research Agenda.

*'Examples of continuity and change in rural settlement patterns and types throughout the Roman period are important. All instances of rural settlement sites are valuable resources that require mapping, phasing, dating and comparison with other known examples in order to determine patterns of change or regionality.'*

*What building types are used on rural settlements? How common are roundhouses and how late do they remain in use?*

*Craft, Industry and Domestic Consumption*

*Field systems, and their relationship to preceding and succeeding systems, need to be better understood.'*



### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Fifteen trenches measuring 30m by 1.6m were mechanically excavated according to the plan provided in the WSI (ASE 2021).
- 3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*), with regard to Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2019) and the Regulations, Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2019).
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, under constant archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was undertaken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits. Care was taken not to damage potential archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned in order to identify any potential archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.5 Trench locations were planned using digital survey technology and a digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and the site in general.

#### 3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Horsham Museum in due course, although it is understood that the museum is not currently in apposition to accept archives. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	52
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	c.30
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	15

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

3.2.2 A countywide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South-East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The fifteen trial trenches were excavated, recorded and backfilled between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Weather varied between strong sunshine and light rain, affording good conditions for the recognition of archaeological deposits.

### **4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence**

4.2.1 Ten of the trenches (T1, T3-8, T11-13) showed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence of a dark brown sandy silt topsoil, which overlay a mid-orangey brown silty sand subsoil, which directly overlay the yellowish sand and sandstone of the Hythe Bed Formation.

4.2.2 Trenches T2 and T9 showed deposits of made ground above the topsoil or subsoil, while Trenches T10, T14 and T15 contained deposits of highly mixed recently deposited made ground and redeposited 'natural' yellow sand and sandstone below the topsoil, suggesting localised truncation in the recent past. The truncation in T15 was more than 1.2m in depth and was not fully investigated.

4.2.3 No archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds were recovered from the overburden in any of the trenches. A full list of recorded contexts (including measurements) is appended below.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.1.1 The majority of trenches showed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence, with topsoil and subsoil directly overlying the 'natural', which was encountered at heights in a range between c.45mAOD and c.54mAOD.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered, and given the spread of trenches across the area this strongly suggests that no archaeological remains survive within the boundaries of the site.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 5.2.1 The presence of an intact subsoil layer (sometimes c.0.40m in thickness) in the majority of the trenches shows that there has been no detectable wholesale earthmoving at the site. However, there was notable local recent truncation/disturbance in the south-eastern part of the site, in Trenches T10, T14 and T15.

### **5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 5.3.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

### **5.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

- 5.4.1 The excavations for a new reservoir are considered highly unlikely to impact on archaeological remains.

### **5.5 Consideration of research aims**

- 5.5.1 Given the absence of archaeological deposits none of the research aims can be addressed.

### **5.6 Conclusions**

- 5.6.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the site which was found to be largely undisturbed with the exception of the south-eastern corner.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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WSCC, ESCC, CDC 2019 *Sussex Archaeological Standards*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Dove Associates for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Essex County Council Place Services for their guidance. The excavation was directed by Tom Simms and Jake Wilson with trench recording by Adam Cheshire and Elise Unwin. Lauren Gibson produced the figures for this report, Paul Mason managed the evaluation; Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

<b>Site code</b>	PUL 21					
<b>Project code</b>	210380					
<b>Planning reference</b>	DC/21/0163					
<b>Site address</b>	Land south of Broomers Hill House, Broomers Hill Lane, Pulborough					
<b>District/Borough</b>	Horsham District					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	506419 119164					
<b>Geology</b>	Hythe Formation (sandstone)					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval					
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	26.08.2021 - 30.08.2021					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Dove Associates					
<b>Project manager</b>	Paul Mason					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Tom Simms/Jake Wilson					
<b>Period summary</b>						
						None
<b>Project summary</b>	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land to the south of Broomers Hill House, Broomers Hill Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex. The fieldwork was commissioned by Dove Associates in advance of the construction of an irrigation storage reservoir.</i></p> <p><i>Fifteen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.6m were mechanically excavated, recorded and backfilled between 26th July and 30th July 2021. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the site which was found to be largely undisturbed with the exception of the south-eastern corner.</i></p>					
<b>Museum/Accession No.</b>	N/A					

## **OASIS Form**

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-502189

Project Name: Evaluation at Broomershill House, Broomershill Lane, Pulborough

Activity type: Evaluation

Project Identifier(s): An Archaeological Evaluation on land to the south of Summershill House, Summershill Lane, Pulbrough, West Sussex

Planning Id: DC/21/0163

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Between application and determination

Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East

Project Dates: 26-Jul-2021 - 30-Jul-2021

HER: West Sussex HER

Project Methodology: Fifteen trench evaluation

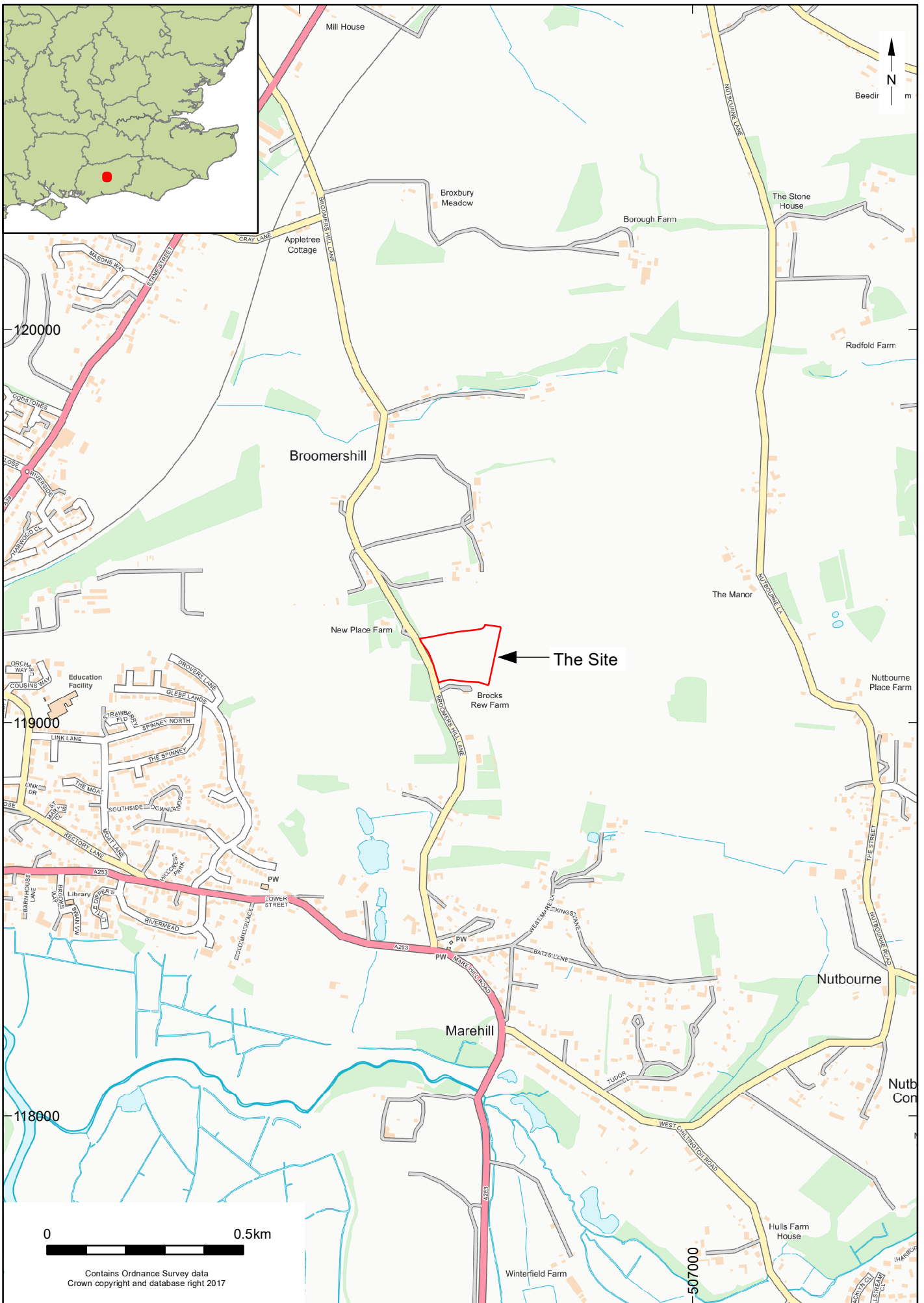
Project Results: Fifteen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.6m were mechanically excavated, recorded and backfilled between 26th July and 30th July 2021. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the site which was found to be largely undisturbed with the exception of the south-eastern corner.

**Appendix 1: list of recorded contexts**

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Thickness (m)	Height (mAOD)
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.40	50.95 - 51.15
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.40	-
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	-	50.35 - 50.54
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	50.65 - 52.94
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	-	50.31 - 52.31
2	2/004	Layer	Made ground	0.20	-
2	2/005	Layer	Redeposited natural	0.11	-
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	49.57 - 50.16
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.32	-
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	-	48.89 - 49.71
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27	46.51 - 48.68
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
4	4/003	Layer	Natural	-	46.13 - 48.18
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	45.52 - 45.80
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.34	-
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	-	44.85 - 45.02
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	52.71 - 54.41
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21	-
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	-	52.40 - 54.01
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23	51.75 - 52.02
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19	-
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	-	51.40 - 51.60
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23	48.80 - 51.18
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16	-
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	-	48.47 - 49.85
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26	47.93 - 48.15
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18	-
9	9/003	Layer	Natural	-	47.74 - 47.84
9	9/004	Layer	Made ground	0.26	-
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34	45.66 - 47.30
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08	-
10	10/003	Layer	Natural	-	45.01 - 47.02
10	10/004	Layer	Made ground	0.34	-
10	10/005	Layer	Made ground	0.25	-
10	10/006	Layer	Made ground	0.13	-
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	54.77 - 54.82
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.32	-
11	11/003	Layer	Natural	-	54.30 - 54.44

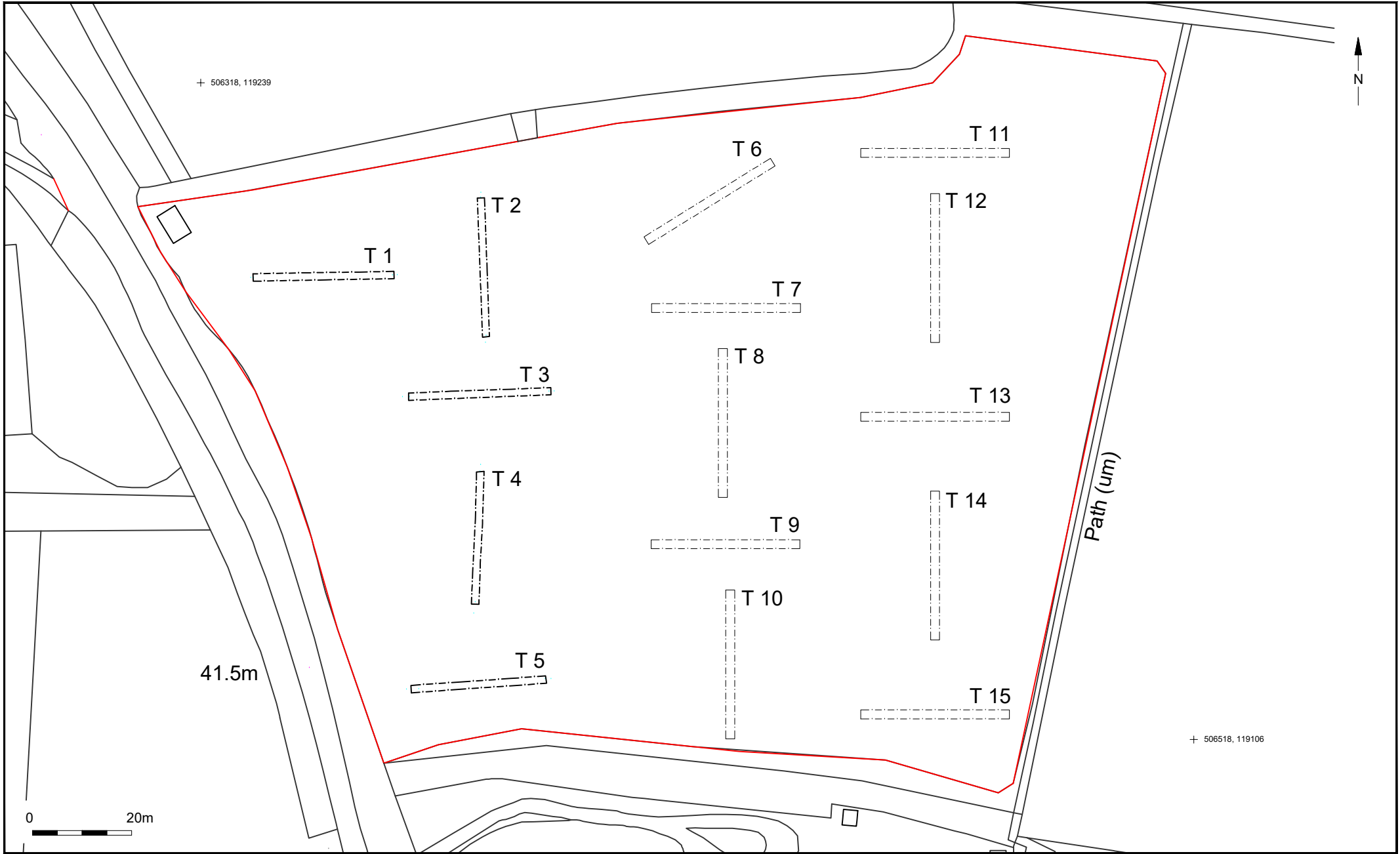


<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Max. Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Height (mAOD)</b>
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22	51.55 - 54.19
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.38	-
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	-	50.95 - 53.62
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35	50.33 - 50.38
13	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.48	-
13	13/003	Layer	Natural	-	49.92 - 49.51
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.06	47.20 - 49.27
14	14/002	Layer	Made ground	1.14	-
14	14/003	Layer	Natural	-	46.01 - 49.07
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	45.92 - 46.40
15	15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.40	-
15	15/003	Layer	Natural	-	45.22 - 45.20
15	15/004	Layer	Made ground	1.15	-



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Project Ref: 210380	August 2021	Site Location		
Report Ref: 2021166	Drawn by: LG			



© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Land South of Broomers Hill House, Broomershill Lane, Pulborough	Fig.2
Project Ref: 210380	August 2021	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2021166	Drawn by: LG		

**Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
tel: +44(0)1273 426830  
email: [ase@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ase@ucl.ac.uk)  
[www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east)

**Essex Office**

27 Eastways  
Witham  
Essex  
CM8 3YQ  
tel: +44(0)1376 331470  
email: [ase@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ase@ucl.ac.uk)  
[www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east)

**London Office**

Centre for Applied Archaeology  
UCL Institute of Archaeology  
31-34 Gordon Square  
London WC1H 0PY  
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
email: [ase@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ase@ucl.ac.uk)  
[www.ucl.ac.uk/centre-applied-archaeology](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/centre-applied-archaeology)

