

DRAFT

**An Archaeological Investigation 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. 2008213
OASIS id: archaeol6-52411**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With a contribution by
Chris Butler**

January 2009

**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, and identified the presence of a scatter of Mesolithic flintwork. Further field-walking and the manual excavation of four 1m by 1m test-pits in October and November 2008 led to the recovery of over 300 pieces of Mesolithic flintwork. Although no archaeological deposits or features were identified in the test-pits, the presence of the flintwork is indicative of the likely presence of a Mesolithic hunting camp.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results : Further Field-Walking**
- 5.0 Results : The Test-Pits**
- 6.0 The Finds**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Conclusion**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Original Surface Artefact Collection Grid
- Figure 3: Further Surface Artefact Collection Grid
- Figure 4: Distribution of Worked Flint
- Figure 5: Distribution of Fire-Cracked Flint
- Figure 6: Test-Pit Locations

TABLES

- Table 1: Test-Pit Results
- Table 2: Flintwork from Further Surface Artefact Collection
- Table 3: Flintwork from the Test-Pits

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 Planning permission has been granted by Horsham District Council for the extension of Bourne Hill House, demolition of existing derelict stables, conversion of a shop into two units of accommodation, upgrade of equestrian facilities to create private equestrian Olympic training yard, and 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 (WSSC) 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.

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. The field-walking was carried out in later in the month and resulted in the recovery of a significant assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork (ASE 2008a).

- 1.3.5 At the request of John Mills, and in accordance with the terms of the Scoping Document (ASE 2007), a programme of more detailed surface artefact collection was undertaken at the site in October 2008, followed by the manual excavation of four test-pits during the following month.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aim of the additional surface artefact collection at the site was to further define the area of potential Mesolithic activity identified during the initial field-walking programme (ASE 2008a). The aim of the test-pits was to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological features associated with this activity.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The current report provides results of the detailed systematic surface artefact collection and the excavation of test-pits at the site undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist) during October and November 2008. The surveying was carried out by Lesley Davidson (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Louise Rayner (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 The results of the initial programme of field-walking carried out at the site in September 2008 (ASE 2008a) partially supported these conclusions, although no medieval artefacts were recovered. Post-medieval material, mostly of 19th and 20th century date was retrieved from all areas, but the most archaeologically significant material present was Mesolithic flintwork. There was a thin scatter of struck flint across the majority of the examined areas at the site, but there was a notable concentration in the southernmost area (ASE 2008a, Fig. 3, Area 1)
- 2.5 In addition, as part of the current programme of archaeological recording, Bourne Hill House has been the subject of an historic building survey (ASE 2008b).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The initial field-walking methodology was that usually used by ASE during surface artefact collection 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 (ASE 2008a) (Fig 2).
- 3.2 In short, the method involved dividing the accessible areas into numbered squares each measuring 20m by 20m. 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.
- 3.3 Following discussions with John Mills, it was agreed that four of the grid squares walked in September 2008 would be subjected to more thorough scrutiny: in essence the majority of the eastern portion of Area 1 (Grid Squares H, I, L and K) (Fig. 2). Although based on the usual ASE system, the number of transects per square was increased, so that material was collected and bagged every 2m on grid lines which were 2m apart, leading to 100% coverage of the subject areas (Fig 3).
- 3.4 Subsequently four test-pits were excavated in an attempt to identify buried archaeological features associated with the flintwork. The test-pits were targeted at concentrations of flintwork recognised during the field-walking, and were also aimed to provide an even coverage across the west to east slope at the site (Fig. 6). Each of the four test-pits measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to the top of the 'natural' deposits, or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was the higher.
- 3.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6 All of the test-pits were levelled to the Ordnance Datum. A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the retained finds from all phases of the work) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to Horsham Museum in due course.

4.0 RESULTS : FURTHER FIELD-WALKING (Figs. 4 and 5)

- 4.1 The majority of the largest portion of Area 1 was subjected to 100% recovery (as outlined in Paragraph 3.3 above). The area had been ploughed and harrowed previously, and allowed to weather for a longer period than for the initial field-walking, providing near perfect soil conditions for the recovery of artefacts.
- 4.2 Nearly 300 pieces of worked flint were recovered, although as before, there was no particular corresponding concentration of fire-cracked flint. Other artefacts were extremely rare, and were discarded in the field. The majority of the flintwork was picked up in Grid Square H, the topographically highest point in the re-examined area.

5.0 RESULTS : THE TEST-PITS (Fig. 6)

- 5.1 Four test-pits (**TP1 – TP4**) were excavated to a pattern agreed with John Mills (see paragraph 3.4 above). The encountered stratigraphy in each of the interventions was identical, and consisted of a yellowish brown, humic sandy silt ploughsoil (**TP1** : Context [100], **TP2** : Context [200], **TP3** : Context [300], and **TP4** : Context [400]), which directly overlay the light yellow sandstone ‘natural’ geological deposits (**TP1** : Context [101], **TP2** : Context [201], **TP3** : Context [301], and **TP4** : Context [401]).
- 5.2 Small assemblages of struck flint and fire-cracked flint were recovered from the ploughsoil, but no significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered in any of the test-pits. The results are given in Table 1 below.

TP Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Deposit Depth	Height aOD
TP 1	100	Deposit	Ploughsoil	330mm	77.08
	101	Deposit	‘Natural’	-	
TP 2	200	Deposit	Ploughsoil	350mm	77.91
	201	Deposit	‘Natural’	-	
TP 3	300	Deposit	Ploughsoil	250mm	77.64
	301	Deposit	‘Natural’	-	
TP 4	400	Deposit	Ploughsoil	280mm	77.61
	401	Deposit	‘Natural’	-	

Table 1 : Test-Pit Results

6.0 THE FINDS

The Flintwork by Chris Butler

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1 An assemblage of 284 pieces of worked flint weighing 1.6kg was recovered during the second phase of field-walking at the site (Table 2), and an assemblage of 45 pieces of worked flint weighing 197g was recovered from the topsoil during the excavation of the four test pits (Table 3).

6.1.2 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. Classification followed Butler (2005). A hand written archive of the assemblage was produced at this stage.

Grid Square	H	I	K	L	Total
Hard hammer-struck flakes	9	5	2	4	20
Soft hammer-struck flakes	31	13	10	12	66
Hard hammer-struck blade	1	-	-	-	1
Soft hammer-struck bladelets	6	3	5	2	15
Bladelet fragments	29	8	8	1	46
Flake/blade fragments	52	16	19	6	93
Chips	6	4	1	1	12
Shattered pieces	1	1	-	-	2
Microburins	2	-	-	-	2
Cores	10	3	-	-	13
Core fragments	2	1	1	-	4
Scrapers	1	3	1	-	5
Microliths	1	-	1	-	2
Notched pieces	2	-	-	-	2
Total	153	57	48	26	284

Table 2: Flintwork from Further Field-Walking

Context	100	200	300	400	Total
Hard hammer-struck flakes	1	1	-	-	2
Soft hammer-struck flakes	1	6	3	-	10
Soft hammer-struck bladelet frags	5	1	1	-	7
Flake/blade fragments	3	4	2	4	13
Chips	2	1	2	2	7
Microburins	1	-	-	-	1
Cores	-	1	2	-	3
Core fragments	-	-	1	-	1
Microliths	-	-	1	-	1
Total	13	14	12	6	45

Table 3 : Flintwork from the Test-Pits

6.2 The Assemblage

- 6.2.1 The raw material comprised a typical range of flint that is found on sites around Horsham. Most of the flintwork was patinated white to various shades of blue-grey, with a minority of pieces in a mottled grey or black flint. This assemblage is almost completely of Mesolithic date. The debitage comprises predominantly soft hammer-struck flakes, many of which have evidence for platform preparation, together with bladelets and bladelet fragments. There are few hard hammer-struck flakes, and most of the flake and blade fragments appear to derive from soft hammer-struck pieces. The large number of bladelets, bladelet fragments and the two microburins provide evidence for the manufacture of microliths. Two fragments from Context [200] have been fire-fractured.
- 6.2.2 The cores are all of Mesolithic types, comprising single and multiple platform flake and bladelet cores all with platform preparation. There were also two discoidal cores and four core fragments. Sixteen pieces of debitage, including two cores, had been fire-fractured.
- 6.2.3 The implements included five end scrapers, one of which was broken. Two of the scrapers were small expedient types, and all of the scrapers would not be out of place in a Mesolithic assemblage. The notched pieces comprised a notched flake and a soft hammer-struck blade with a utilised lateral edge and a notch.
- 6.2.4 The three microliths (two from the field-walking and one from **TP3**) were broken fragments. Of those from the field-walking, the first had an obliquely blunted end, but the opposite end had been recently broken; this could have been a Horsham Point. The second also had an obliquely blunted end with retouch on the leading edge, and had a broken tip and missing opposite end both of which may have been contemporary with its use.
- 6.2.5 The presence of Mesolithic flintwork in the Horsham area is not unusual, 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; 2008), whilst a small assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork was found during earlier fieldwalking at this site. These suggest that there were numerous short-stay camps, and hunting camps, generally located close to streams, on which Horsham Points were one of the dominant microlith types.
- 6.2.6 The assemblage found here might indicate the presence of a Mesolithic hunting camp as there is a limited range of implements, no tranchet adzes, and evidence for the manufacture and repair of hunting equipment.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological fieldwork carried out at the site has resulted in the discovery of a hitherto unknown potential Mesolithic hunting camp. The initial phase of field-working identified the potential of the site (ASE 2008a), and further field-walking and test-pitting led to the recovery of a significant assemblage of flintwork, indicative of Mesolithic activity. 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).
- 7.2 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); the concentration of Mesolithic material at the site is located on high ground overlooking a stream.
- 7.3 Although recent fieldwork has highlighted the fact that such scatters can be associated with buried archaeological features (Butler 1997), based on currently available evidence, it does not appear that this is the case at Bourne Hill. It has been recognised since the 1930s that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers operating in the Weald were capable of building shelters (Clark and Rankine 1939), and work in the Horsham area (at Rock Common near Washington) has also shown evidence of hearths of this date (Harding 2000). However, no hearths (or any other features) were identified in the test-pits, and arguably the notably small quantity of fire-cracked flint recovered during both phases of the field-walking and in the test-pits suggests that no such features survive in the vicinity.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The initial phase of 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. The further programme of more detailed field-walking narrowed the area in which such features might survive.
- 8.2 This area was then investigated by hand-dug test-pits, again offering an efficient methodology, this time in the identification of buried archaeological features. None were identified. Hence, the archaeological work at Bourne Hill House identified the presence of a probable Mesolithic hunting camp, but given the absence of physical archaeological features, development work will not result in the destruction of any conservable archaeological remains.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2004. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on Land at Bourne Hill House Estate & Horsham Golf Park, West Sussex*. Unpub. Report No.1960

ASE 2007. *Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6RJ Scoping Document For Archaeological Investigation*. Unpub. Document

ASE 2008a. *Surface Artefact Collection at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex*. Unpub. Report No. 2008179

ASE 2008b. *Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham. Historic Buildings Survey*. Unpub. Report No. 2008093

Butler, C. 1997. A Mesolithic site at Streat Lane, Streat, East Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter SAC) **145**, 7-31

Butler, C. 2005, *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Stroud, Tempus Publications Ltd.

Butler, C. 2008. A collection of Mesolithic flintwork from the Horsham area – The Standing Collection, SAC **146**, 7-18

Clark, J & Rankine, W. 1939. Excavations at Farnham, Surrey (1937-38): the Horsham Culture and the Question of Mesolithic Dwellings, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 5(1), 61-118

Harding, P. 2000. A Mesolithic site at Rock Common, Washington, West Sussex, SAC **138**, 49-48

Tebbutt, C. 1974. The Prehistoric Occupation of the Ashdown Forest Area of the Weald, SAC **112**, p.34-43

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. Nov. 2008	Excav.	WB.	Other : SAC October 2008		
Sponsor/Client	Anders Dahl					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens/Louise Rayner					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>A small-scale programme of Surface Artefact Collection (field-walking) was undertaken at the site in September 2008, and identified the presence of a scatter of Mesolithic flintwork. Further field-walking and the manual excavation of four 1m by 1m test-pits in October and November 2008 led to the recovery of over 300 pieces of Mesolithic flintwork. Although no archaeological deposits or features were identified in the test-pits, the presence of the flintwork is indicative of the likely presence of a Mesolithic hunting camp</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-52411

? Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Investigation 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, and identified the presence of a scatter of Mesolithic flintwork. Further field-walking and the manual excavation of four 1m by 1m test-pits in October and November 2008 led to the recovery of over 300 pieces of Mesolithic flintwork. Although no archaeological deposits or features were identified in the test-pits, the presence of the flintwork is indicative of the likely presence of a Mesolithic hunting camp.
Project dates	Start: 20-10-2008 End: 12-11-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / No
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	Flint Mesolithic
Significant Finds	Fire Cracked Flint Neolithic
Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking',' Test Pits'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Status Complete

? Project location

Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane
Postcode	RH13 6RJ
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 517478 128419 LL - 50.894516654 0.158010068273 (decimal)

LL - 50 53 40 N 000 09 28 E (degrees)
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 50m Max: 60m

Status Complete

? Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
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	Anders Dahl

Status Complete

? Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Physical Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Report'

Status Complete

? Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1 

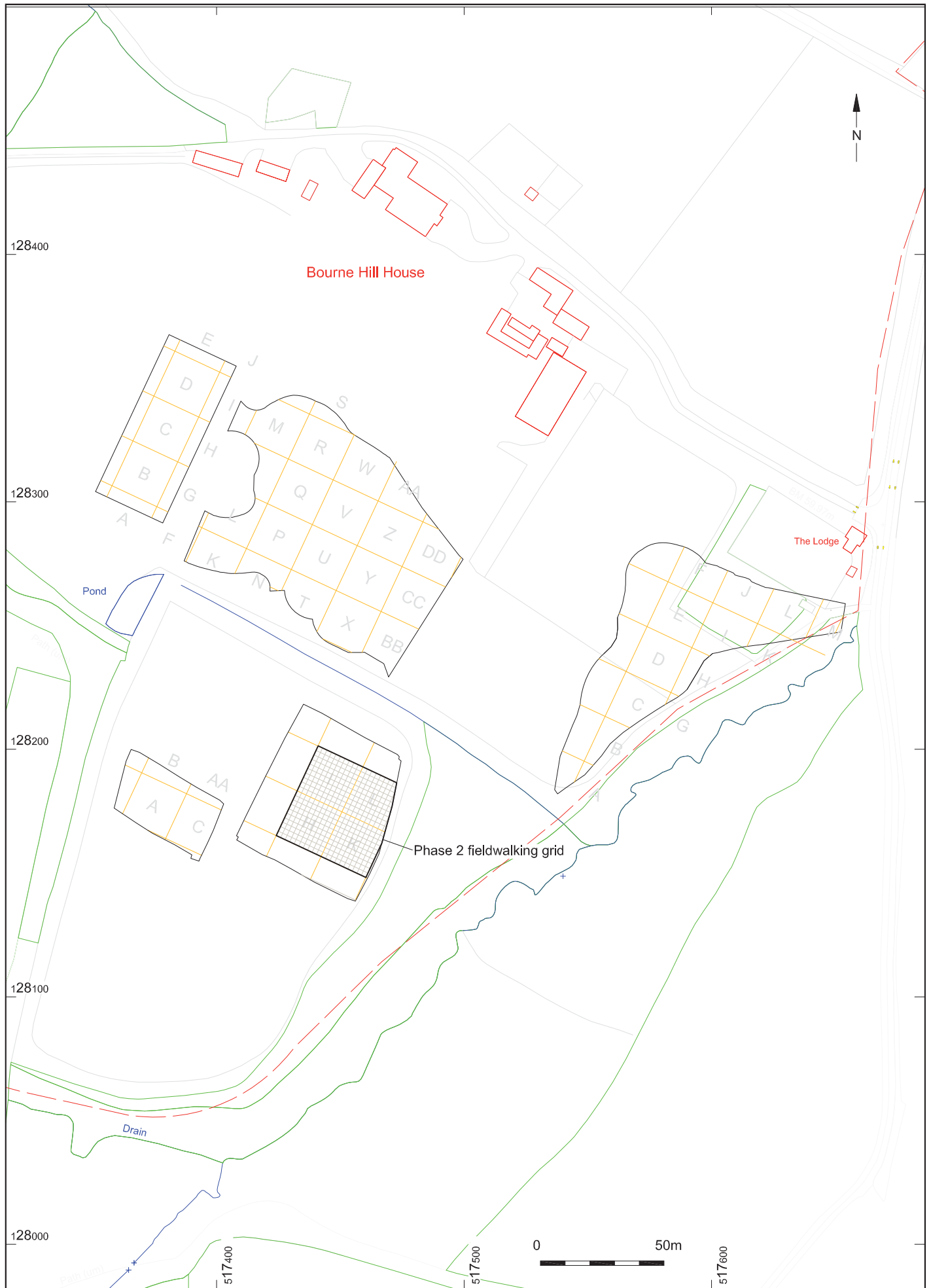
Title An Archaeological Investigation at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane,

	Horsham, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 2008213
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4 sized with cover logo.
Status	Complete

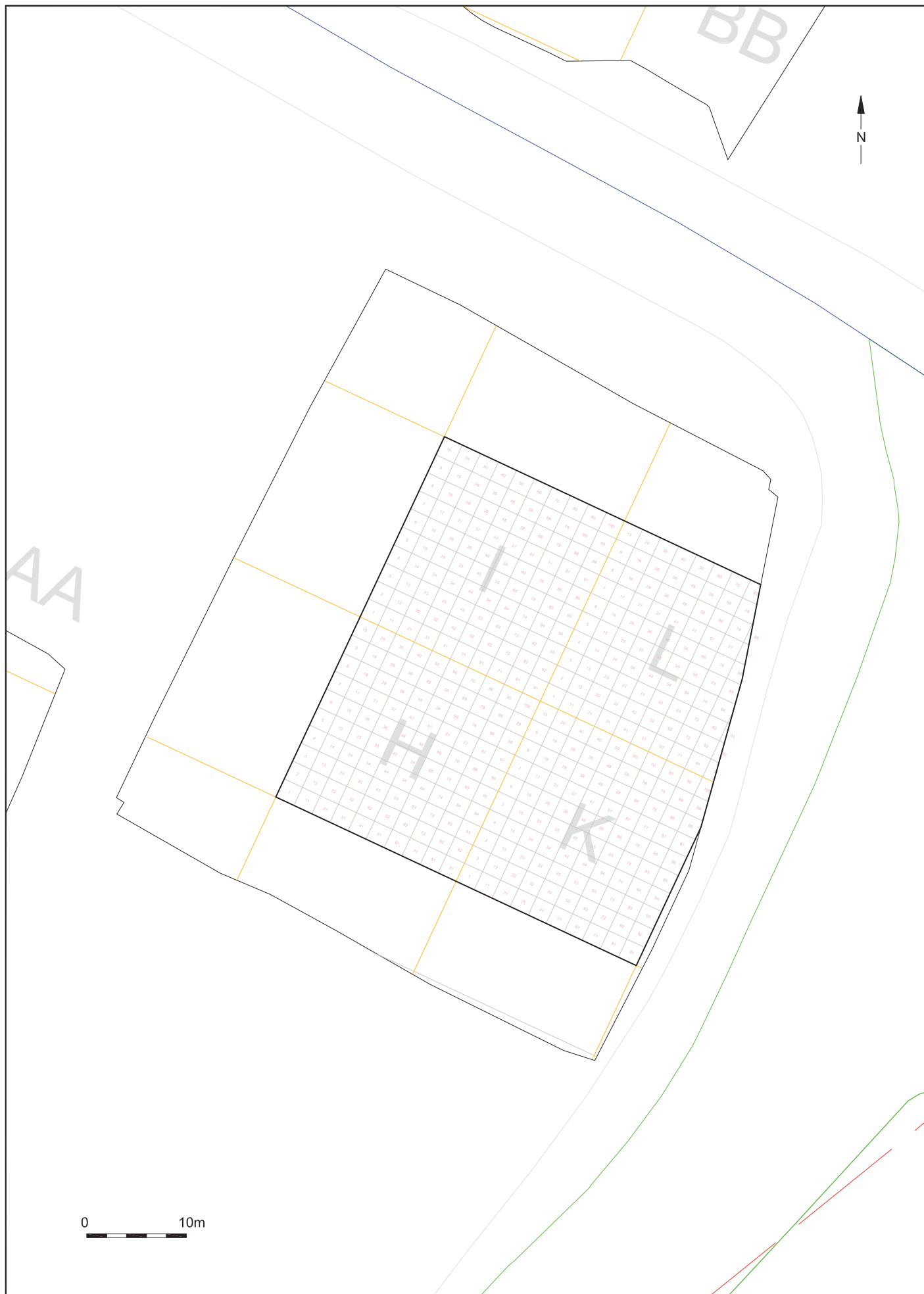


© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3058	Jan 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008213	Drawn by: JLR		

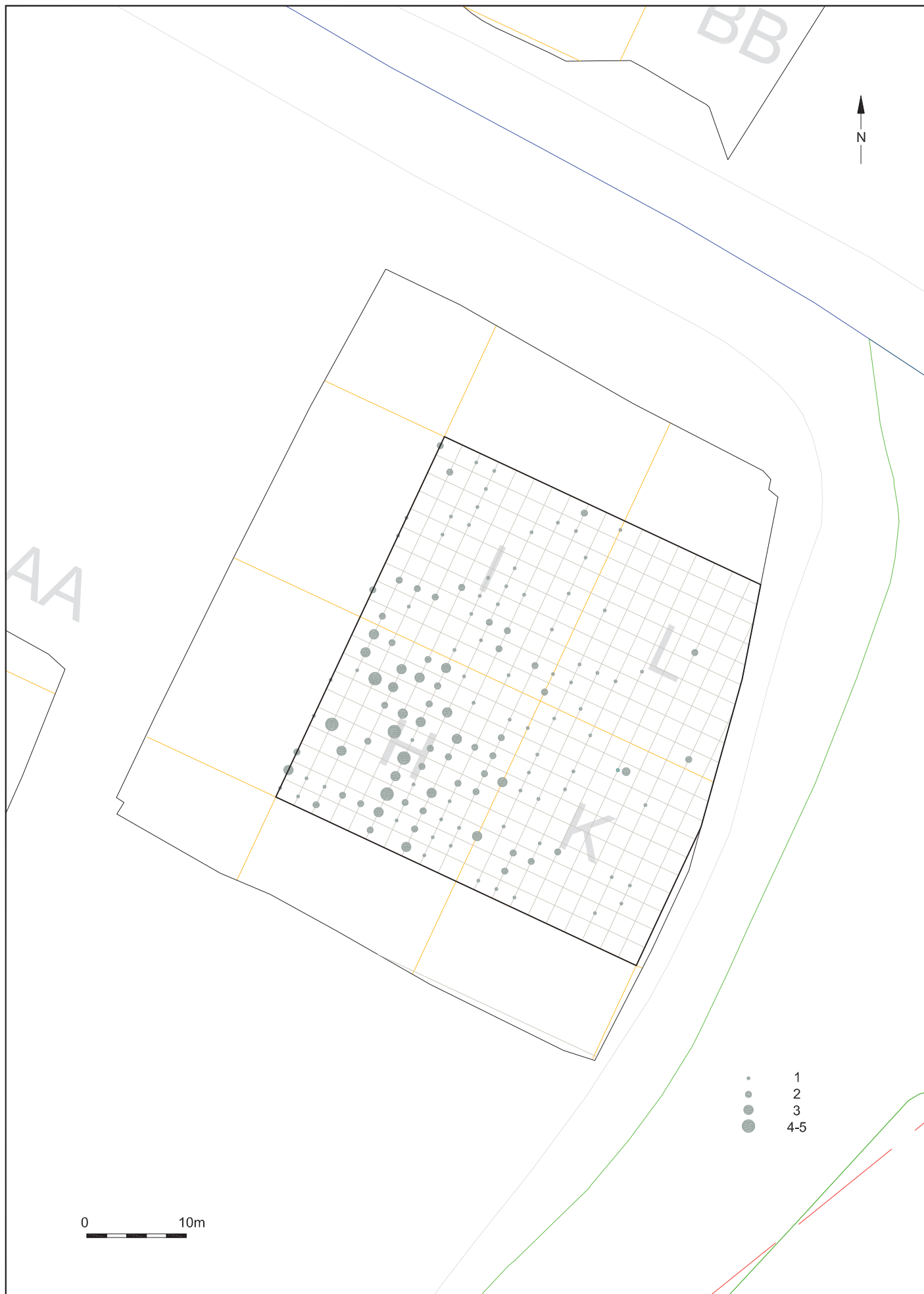
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

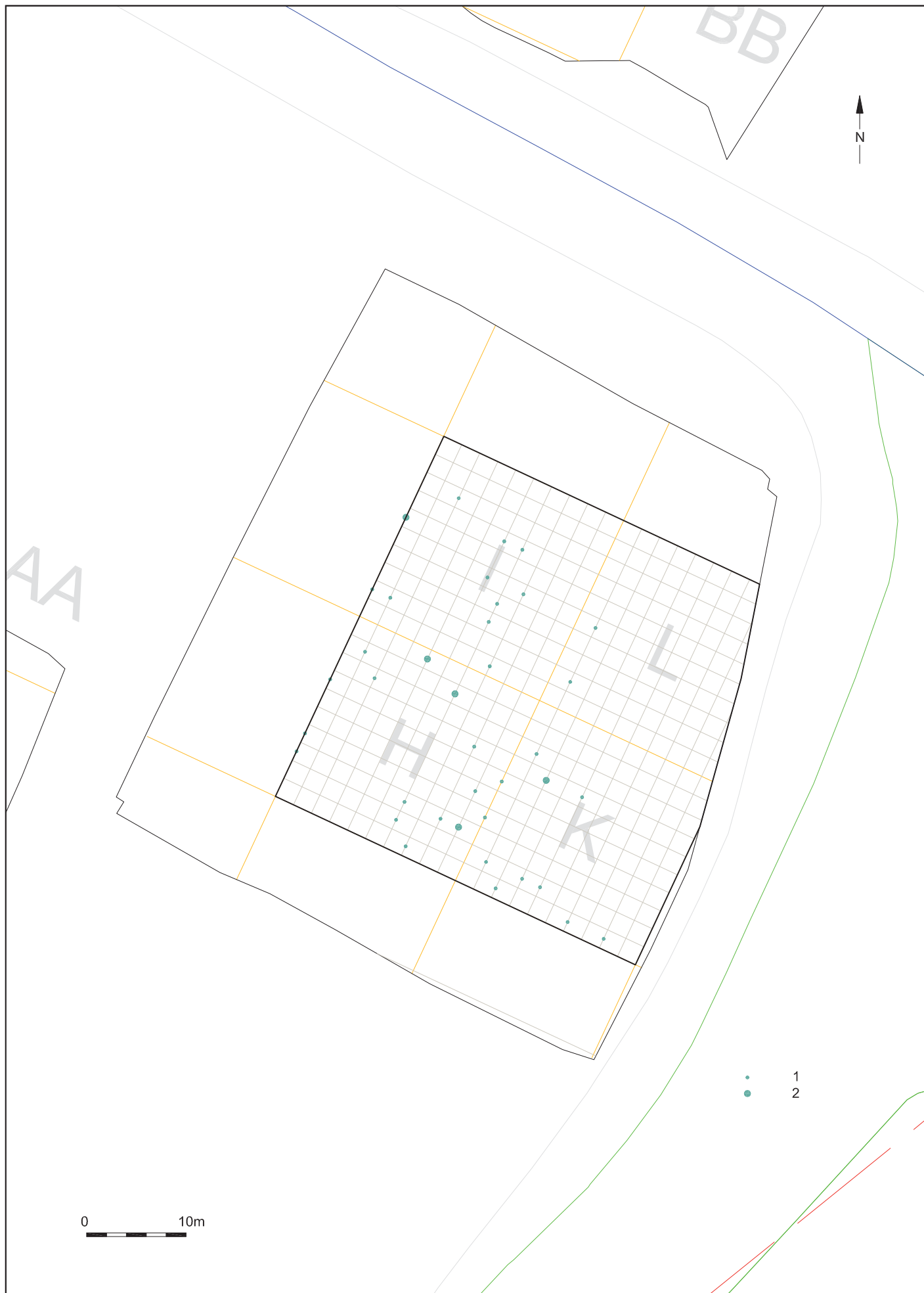


© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House Phase 2	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3058	Jan 2009	Original Surface Artefact Collection Grid	
Report Ref: 2008213	Drawn by: JLR		

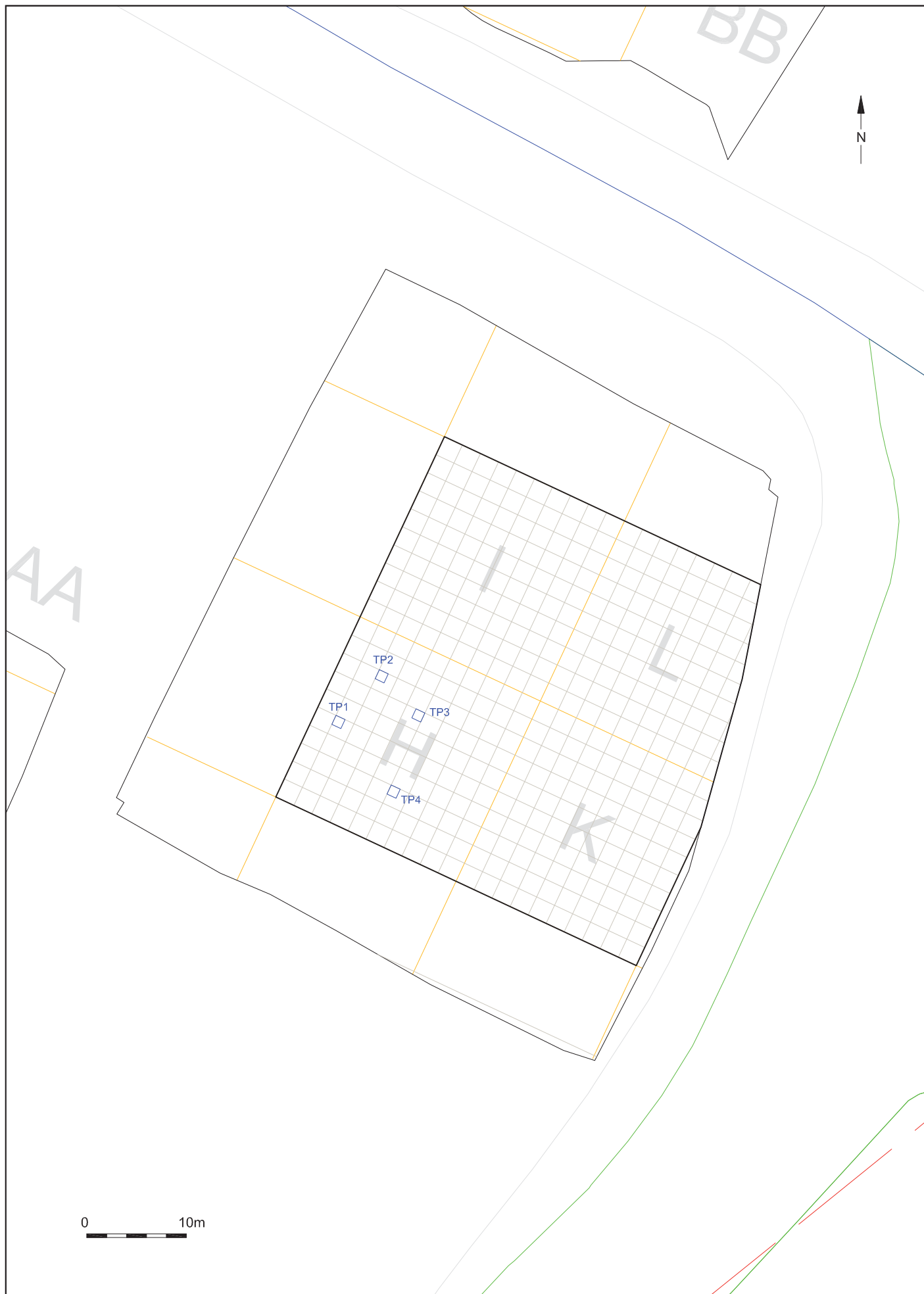


© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House Phase 2	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3058	Jan 2009	Further Surface Artefact Collection Grid	
Report Ref: 2008213	Drawn by: JLR		





© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House Phase 2	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 3058	Jan 2009	Distribution of FCF	
Report Ref: 2008213	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Bourne Hill House Phase 2	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3058	Jan 2009	Test Pit Locations	
Report Ref: 2008213	Drawn by: JLR		