

1796

FIELD
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UNIT



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
HILDON CLOSE, DURRINGTON, WEST SUSSEX.**

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN

Project No. 1796

by
**Simon Stevens BA MIFA
&
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ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London, one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, the Field Archaeology Unit retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Introduction*

1.1.1 Given the limited range of features and artefacts encountered at the site it is not considered appropriate to produce a full Post-Excavation Assessment document, based on the guidelines laid out in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edition).

1.1.2 However, the ultimate aim of this limited document is to provide a suitable framework for carrying that report through to publication, including the cost of full post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving.

1.2 *Background*

1.2.1 The site lies in West Durrington, to the north-west of the modern centre of Worthing, on the northern side of the A2032 trunk road, and in an area of the coastal plain rich in prehistoric and Romano-British remains (NGR TQ 1160 0430) (Fig. 1). According to the British Geological Survey 1:50 000 map (Sheet 318/333 *Brighton and Worthing*), the underlying geology at the site is Brickearth overlying undifferentiated Upper and Middle Chalk.

1.2.2 Planning permission was granted by Worthing Borough Council for a residential development at the site (ref. WB/03/0039/FULL). Following consultation between Worthing Borough Council and West Sussex County Council (Worthing Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues), an archaeological condition was attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological work at the site prior to the commencement of development. The initial phase of the work (Stage 1) consisted of a field evaluation which aimed to assess the sites archaeological potential (Fig. 2).

1.2.3 Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by Osborne Housing to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the site in August 2003. The evaluation was carried out according to the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork Version 2b* for West Sussex and a site-specific Brief prepared by John Mills, Archaeological Officer, Environment and Development Department, West Sussex County Council. In accordance with this Brief, a specification for the Stage 1 was prepared by Neville Hall of Archaeology South-east and duly approved by John Mills. As a result of the subsequent Stage 1 evaluation significant archaeological remains were encountered.¹

¹ R. James. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Hildon Close, Durrington, West Sussex*. Unpub. Archaeology South-East Report No. 1728

1.2.4 Subsequently Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Osborne Housing to undertake an archaeological excavation (Stage 2). Following discussions between Neville Hall of Archaeology South-East and John Mills of West Sussex County Council, it was agreed that two discrete areas would be mechanically stripped, excavated and recorded (Fig. 2). A Specification for the work was produced by Neville Hall and duly approved by John Mills prior to the commencement of the Stage 2 fieldwork.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 *The Evaluation (Stage 1)* (Fig 2)

2.1.1 Of the eight planned Stage 1 evaluation trenches at the site, five were archaeologically sterile (Trenches **T1**, **T2**, **T4**, **T5** and **T6**), and further trench yielded only a post-medieval field boundary ditch (Trench **T3**). Trench **T8** could not be excavated owing to problems with site access.

2.1.2 Trench **T7** contained four archaeological features. Three linear features running roughly north to south were encountered (Cuts 5, 7 and 12). Two of these contained pottery of an early Romano-British date (Cuts 5 and 7, Contexts 6 and 8 respectively). A small pit containing late 1st- to 2nd-century pottery was also encountered (Cut 9, Contexts 10 and 11). All of the features contained residual prehistoric material (see below).

2.2 *The Excavation (Stage 2)*

2.2.1 *Area A* (Fig. 3)

2.2.1.1 Area A was the most northerly of the two areas excavated and re-exposed a short length of Stage I evaluation Trench **T7**. It contained only limited archaeological remains. Two post-medieval ditches extended across the area, from east to west (Cut 183, Context 184) and from north to south (Cut 185, Context 186).

2.2.1.2 The only archaeological feature of note was a ditch, Cut 181 that ran from north to south across the area (Fig. 5, S1). Pottery of probable Late Bronze Age date was recovered from its single fill (Context 182). The ditch may have either terminated at or turned beneath the baulk between Areas A and B, as it was not subsequently encountered within Area B.

2.2.2 *Area B* (Fig. 4)

2.2.2.1 Area B was located to the south of Area A and re-exposed the southern end of the Stage 1 evaluation Trench **T7**. A number of archaeological features were encountered in the stripped area including small pits, post-holes and gullies (Fig. 4).

2.2.2.2 Notable features included two of the early Romano-British ditches previously encountered during the Stage 1 evaluation, which continued to the south of Trench T7 and into Area B (re-contexted as Cut 187, Context 188 and Cut 189, Contexts 190 and 191) (Fig 5, S2). Two small pits (Cut 126, Context 127 and Cut 140, Context 141) contained fragments of medieval tile, but the majority of the datable features in Area B were prehistoric in origin.

2.2.2.3 Pottery provisionally dated to the Middle to Late Bronze was recovered from a slightly curving ditch (Cut 158, Contexts 159 and 174) (Fig. 5, S3). Pottery of probable Late Bronze Age date was also found in a number of post-holes such as Cut 162 (Context 163), Cut 168 (Context 169) (Fig. 5, S4), Cut 170 (Context 171) (Fig. 5, S5) and Cut 177 (Context 178).

2.2.2.4 With the exception of the post-medieval field boundary (Cut 172, Context 173) previously recorded within the Stage 1 evaluation Trench T3, the remainder of the archaeological features encountered within Area B could not be dated with any degree of certainty.

3.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The evaluation and subsequent excavation produced small finds assemblages. These are quantified in Tables 1 and 2.

Context	Pottery	CBM (Tile)	Worked Flint	F. C. F	Other	Deposition Date
U/S	2/5g		5/215g	16/525g		-
Tr. 1	1/5g	1/20g	10/190g	7/170g		Med/ early PM CBM
T. 3 1 & 2		4/149g	9/290g	6/210g		Med/ early PM CBM
T. 3 4 slot 2	2/2g		4/40g	7/130g	Coal 2/2g	Medieval C13th-C14th
T. 5 2	1/3g			2/25g		P M prob C19th
T. 6 2	3/18g	2/75g	7/80g	5/105g		P M CBM C19th
T. 7 6 Slot 1	2/5g			11/15g		Late C1st-C2nd
8 Slot 2	11/34g		4/55g	8/95g	F. Clay 1/1g	Late C1st-C2nd
T. 7 8 surface	3/3g					C1st-C2nd
T.7 8 Slot 1	2/8g					Late C1st-C2nd
T. 7 10 surface	4/75g					Late C1st-C2nd
T. 7 10 Slot 1	2/2g			4/143g		Late C1st-C2nd
T. 7				17/175g		

10 Slot 2					
10 Slot 2	7/35g				Late C1st- C2nd
10 Slot 3			3/35g		

Table 1: Stage 1 Evaluation: Finds Quantification (excluding those from environmental samples)

Context No	Pottery	Worked Flint	F.C.F	Other	Deposition Date
U/S TB	8/40g	4/65g			LBA (x1 R-B)
101		2/20g	2/15g		
121			1 / 2g		
127			12/110g	Tile 1/24g	Medieval tile
139		1/24g			
141			1/20g	Tile 1/25g	Medieval tile
159	1/10g	1/3g	2/60g		MBA/LBA
159 sl. 1		6/26g			
159 sl. 2	1/5g		118/1725g		LBA?
159 sl3			6/200g		
159 terminal			1/5g		
161			1/2g		
163	2/5g		2/30g		LBA
167			10/75g		
169	6/23g		6/140g		LBA
171	3/8g		15/100g	Stone 1/10g	LBA?
173 sl1		1/25g	2/20g	Wood 1/1g clinker 1/1g	C19th?
178	1/2g				LBA?
179			1/2g		
182 sl.1	5/24g		5/65g		LBA?
182 sl.2			3/25g		
184				Brick 1/380g Bone 2/20g	C18th/19 th brick
186	6 / 277g			Bone 2/23g	C19th
188			3/200g		
190	3/30g	3/60g	26/620g		R-B (late C1st- 2 nd)
191		2/47g	9/475g	Stone 1/2g	

Table 2: Stage 2 Excavation: Finds Quantification (excluding those from environmental samples)

3.2 *The Pottery*

3.2.1 The pottery from the site is generally in poor condition with extensive abrasion and attack from acidic ground conditions. Sherd sizes range from very small to medium (to 50mm across) and with the exception of the 19th-century material, virtually no feature sherds are present.

3.2.2 The vast majority of the assemblage from the evaluation is of Roman date, most probably later 1st to 2nd century. These include a number of sandy wares, both reduced and oxidised, probably from the 'Arun Valley' industries. A single sherd of South Gaulish Samian was recovered from Trench 7, Context 8. Interestingly very little Roman material was recovered from the Stage 2 excavation, the bulk of this assemblage being composed of

very small sherds and chips of a number of flint tempered fabrics of prehistoric date. No diagnostic pieces are present, though most could be placed within the Late Bronze Age.

3.2.3 A little medieval material is present in the evaluation assemblage. These consist of a coarse sand with flint sherd of 12th- to early 13th- century date (Trench 1) and a fine sand-tempered glazed jug of 13th- to 14th century date (Trench 3, Context 4). Both sherds are small and could result from manuring. Indeed, a couple of very abraded medieval tile pieces were recovered from the Stage 2 excavation. The post-medieval pottery was recovered from both the evaluation and excavation phases though only in small quantities. During the evaluation Context 2 (Trenches 5 and 6) produced some high-fired earthenware, probably from 19th- century flower pots, while Context 186 produced a small group of 19th- century china, yellow ware and earthenware.

3.2.4 The pottery from the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further detailed analysis due to the small size of the sherds, the degree of abrasion and the lack of larger groups and diagnostic pieces. Some limited further work will be needed in order to try to refine the dating on some of the material. As such it is proposed to check the dating of some, namely the prehistoric, sherds and write a summary of the ceramics for publication. No material is envisaged for illustration.

3.3 *The Tile*

3.3.1 The tile assemblage from the evaluation consists of a small quantity of late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile fragments (Trench 3, Context ½) and a piece of post-medieval brick from Context 2 (Trench 6).

3.4 *The Flint*

3.4.1 A small assemblage of worked flint was also recovered from both phases of fieldwork. Although beach cobbles appear to be the primary source of this material some good quality downland flint is also present. The assemblage consists virtually exclusively of hard-hammer waste, including a couple of crude cores, which would not be out of place in the Late Bronze Age.

3.4.2 A single broken blade fragment from the evaluation (Context 2, Trench 6) hints at earlier Mesolithic/Neolithic activity. However, the flintwork appears to be fairly typical of the background spread of such material expected on the coastal plain. A scatter of fire-cracked flint, probably associated with the flintwork, was also noted.

3.4.3 The flintwork from the site is not considered to hold any potential for further detailed study due to the lack of diagnostic pieces. It is proposed to list the material for archive and produce a short note outlining the assemblage for

publication. This will add to the growing quantity of published flintwork from the coastal plain. No pieces are proposed for illustration.

3.5 Miscellaneous Artefacts

3.5.1 The remainder of the artefact categories are only represented by odd pieces including coal, small sandstone fragments, burnt clay, abraded medieval tile or post-medieval tile/brick. The only bone material present is from 19th-century contexts – all earlier material having dissolved in the acidic soil. None of this material is considered to hold any potential for further study.

3.6 *The Environmental Samples*

3.6.1 Although the environmental samples from the Stage 2 excavation are yet to be processed, the two samples from the evaluation (see below) indicate the site does not hold any significant potential for this sort of analysis. This fact is amplified by the lack of enough large or diagnostic sherds of pottery to reliably date the deposits. Despite this all carbonised seeds extracted from samples from dated contexts will be fully studied due to the paucity of material of this type from the coastal plain, particularly for the prehistoric period. It is not proposed to undertake any further work on the charcoal from the site due to its poor condition small assemblage size.

Context No.	Sample No.	Sample Size (litres)	Sub-Sample Size
8	1002	14	7
11	1001	14	7

Table 3: Stage 1 Evaluation: Environmental Samples

Context No.	Sample No.	Sample Size (litres)	Sub-Sample Size
			-
			-

Table 4: Stage 2 Excavation: Environmental Samples

Context	Modern Roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Residue (*retained)
8	*	* to 3mm	- Cereal * Wild (modern)	
11	**	* to 6mm	- Cereal * Wild (modern)	Burnt clay 1/1g

Key: - : None * : Very Low ** : Low *** : Moderate **** : High (frequency)
(Wild - non-cultivated plants)

Table 5: Stage 1 Evaluation: Results of Environmental Samples: Flots and Residues

Table 6: Stage 2 Excavation: Results of Environmental Samples: Flots and Residues

4.0 ARTEFACTS AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

4.1 Following completion of the post-excavation work, the artefacts recovered during the evaluation and excavation phases and the site archive will be placed in a suitable local museum, to be agreed with the landowner and the County Archaeologist for West Sussex. It is initially proposed to deposit the archive and retained finds in Worthing Museum.

5.0 REPORT AND PUBLICATION

5.1 The site and finds have the potential to add some limited new information to the ever growing body of data on the early division and settlement of the coastal plain in the Late Bronze Age and following periods. As such the site should be as a concise (estimated 3,500-4,000 words) article in the county journal (*Sussex Archaeological Collections*). This will outline the geological, historical and planning background to the site. A site and trench location plan, together with selected sections will be produced. The discussion will take into account other recent discoveries from the surrounding coastal plain. The finds reports will summarise the assemblages but will not utilize illustrations. A provisional publication synopsis is given below.

<i>Introduction (inc. methodology)</i>	<i>300 words</i>
<i>Archaeological Background</i>	<i>350 words</i>
<i>Results</i>	<i>1,750 words</i>
<i>Pottery</i>	<i>150 words</i>
<i>Flintwork</i>	<i>150 words</i>
<i>Carbonised Remains</i>	<i>300 words</i>
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>650 words</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>100 words</i>

Figures:

Site Location

Evaluation Trench and Excavation Area Location

Trench Plan of Area A

Trench Plan of Area B

Selected Sections

The proposed resource allocation to achieve this is tabulated below.

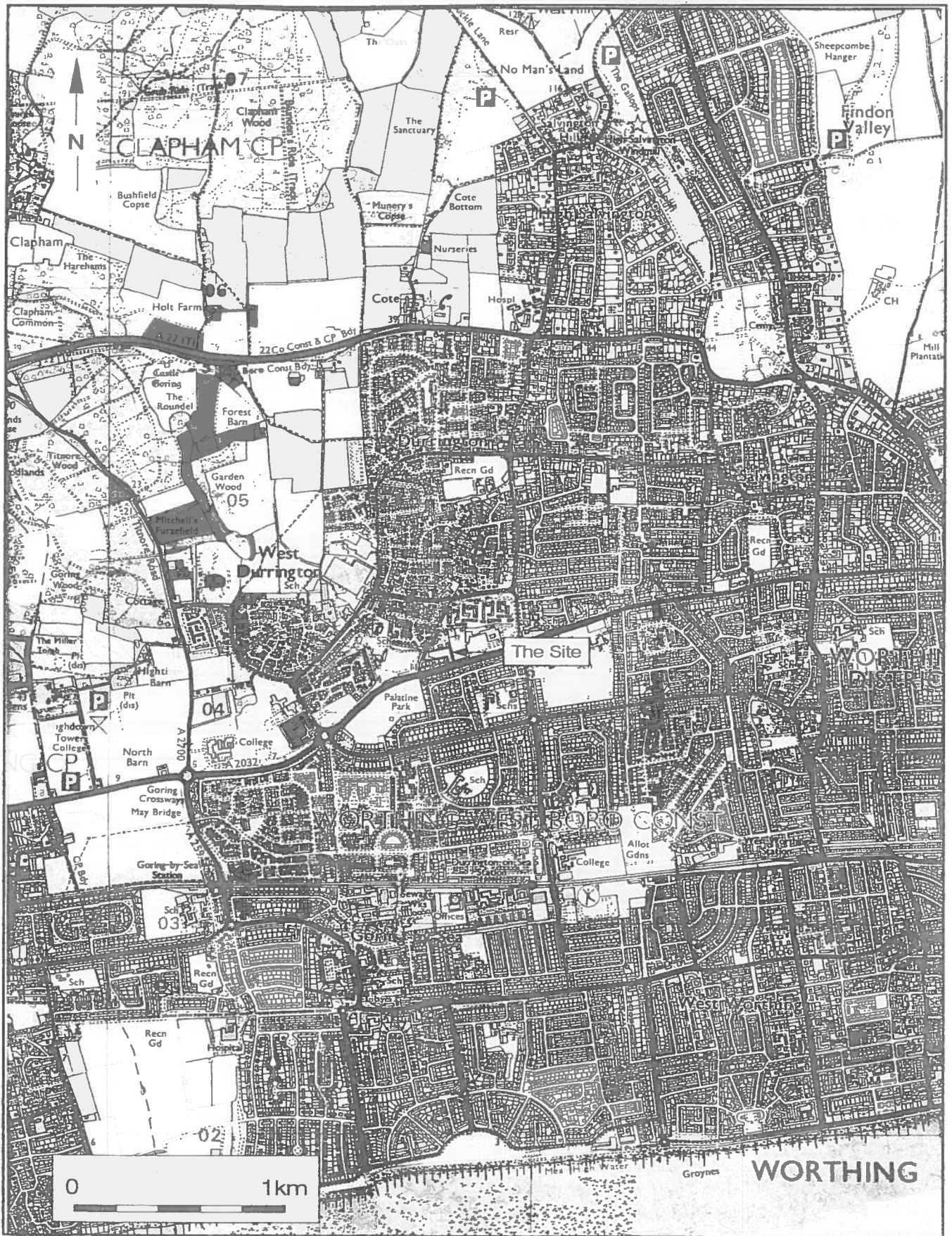
NB. Figures in italics indicate completed tasks

Task	Staff	No. Days	Cost
<i>Finds Processing/assessing</i>	<i>various</i>	<i>complete</i>	<i>£184</i>
Processing environmental samples	various	complete	£180
<i>Rapid P/X Assessment</i>	<i>various</i>	<i>complete</i>	<i>£304</i>
Pottery report	L. Barber	0.5	£90
Pottery: prehistoric spot-dates	M Seager Thomas	Fee	£35
Flintwork	C. Butler	Fee	£85
Miscellaneous material listing for archive	L. Barber	0.5	£89
Carbonised plant material	L. Gray	Fee	£180
Report writing	S. Stevens	7	£868
Background Research	S. Stevens	2	£248
Illustrations	J. Russell/F. Griffin	3.5	£367
Project Management	L. Barber	2	£360
Editing for publication	L. Barber/ S. Stevens	1	£180
Archive	S. Cawt	1	£90
Travel/Expenses	Various	-	£60
Total (exc. VAT)		-	£3,320

Table 7: Proposed Resource Allocation

NB. Prices valid for 3-month period from 4/2/04. If a works order has not been received within this period costs may need to be revised.

07
06
05
04
03
02



10

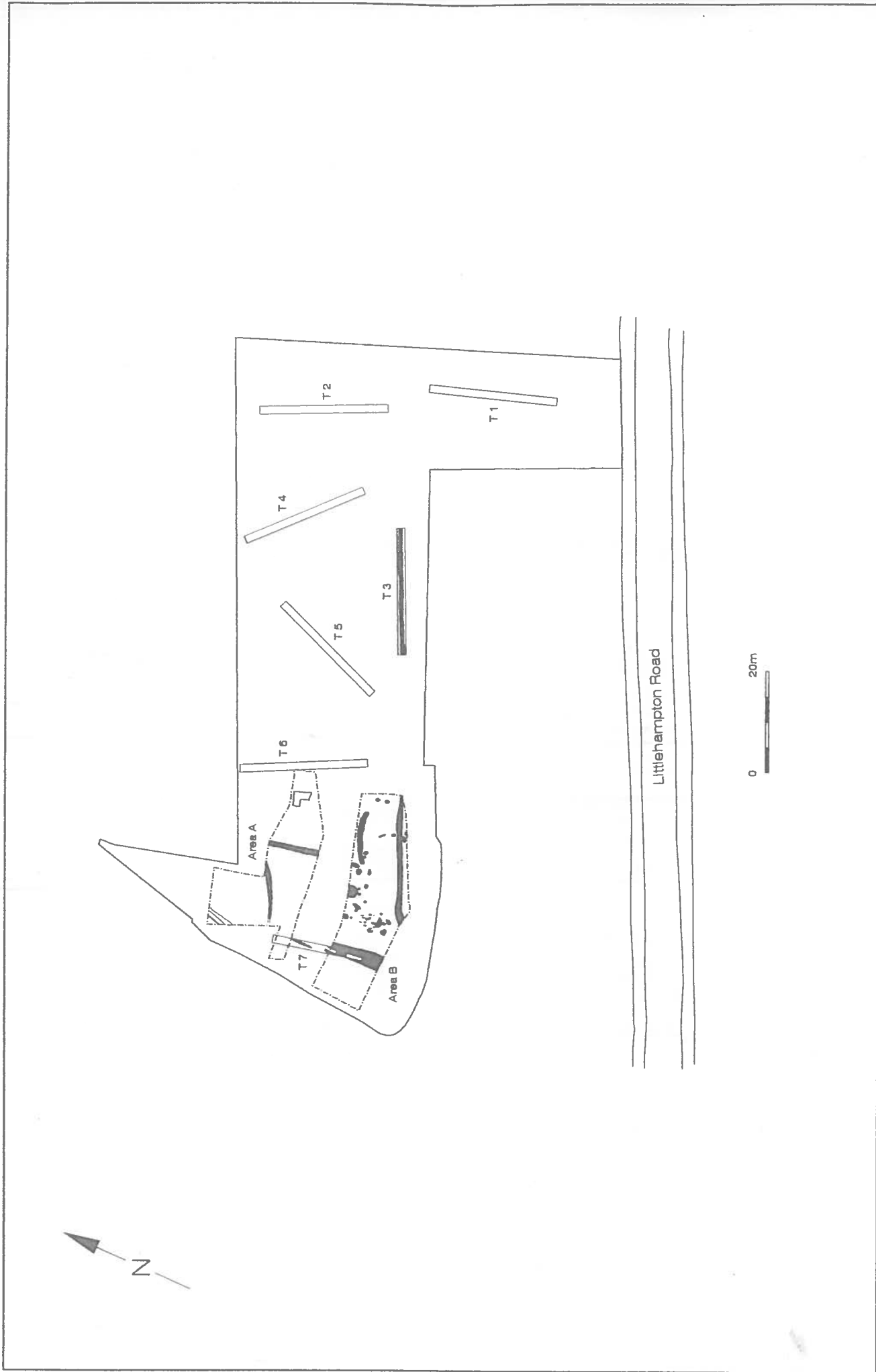
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12

13

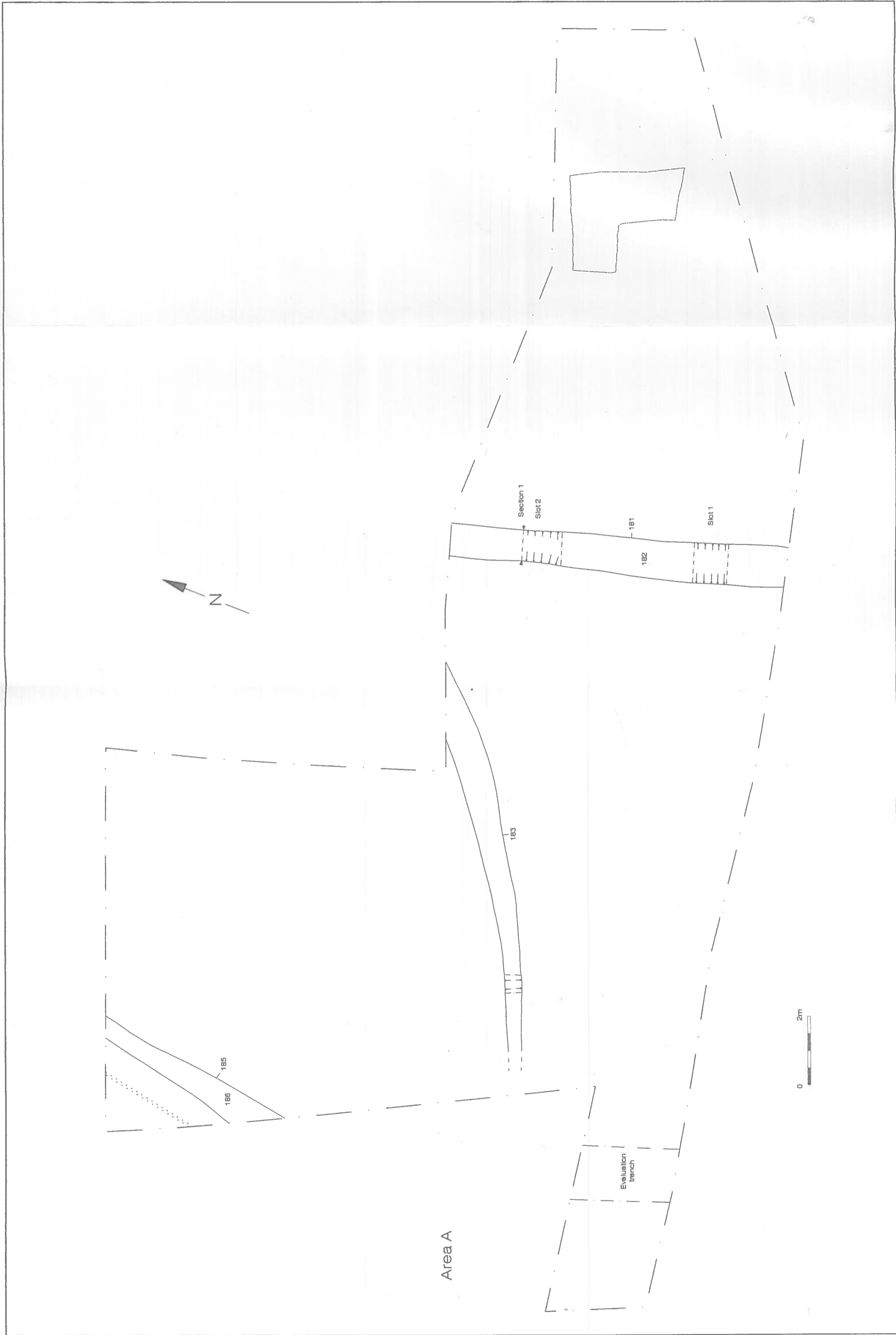
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Hildon Close, Durrington	Fig. 1
Ref: 1796	Feb 2004	Site Location Plan	

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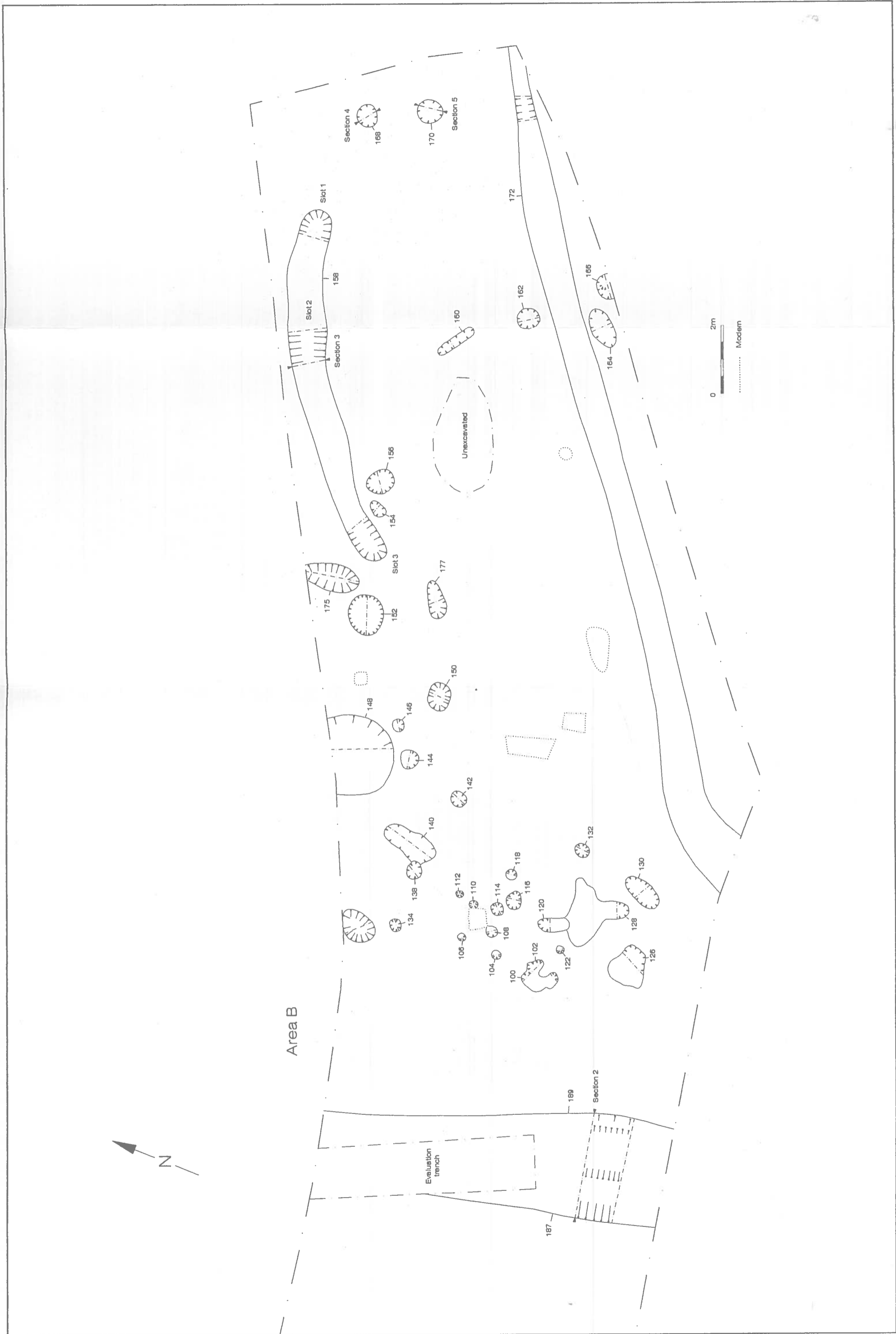


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Hildon Close, Durrington	
Ref: 1796	Feb 2004	Plan showing Evaluation Trenches and Excavation Areas	

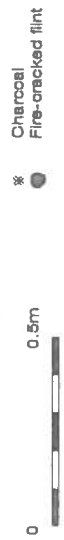
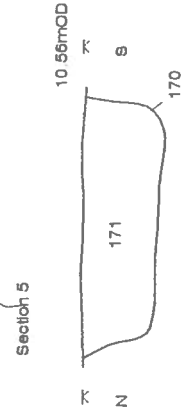
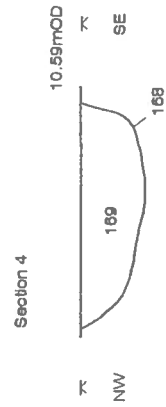
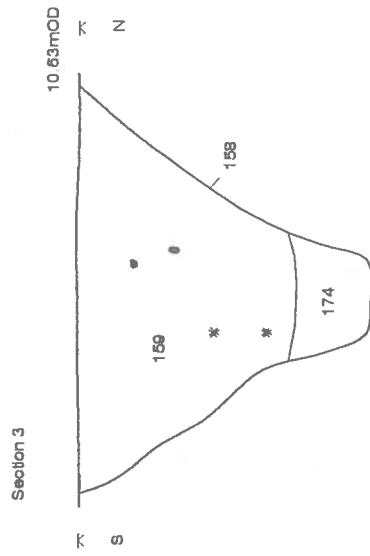
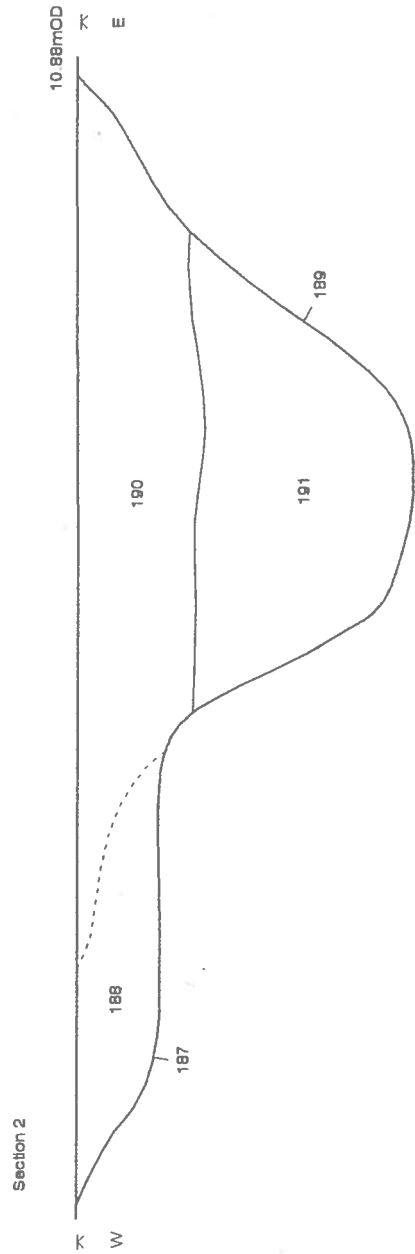
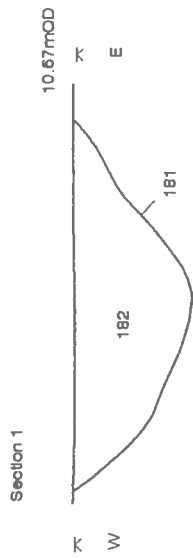
Fig. 2



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Hildon Close, Durrington		Fig. 3
Ref: 1796	Feb 2004	Area A Plan		



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Hildon Close, Durrington	
Ref. 1796	Feb 2004	Area B Plan	



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Hildon Close, Durrington	
Ref: 1796	Feb 2004	Selected sections	

Fig 5