

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Rushlake Green,
East Sussex Ahead of a First Time Sewerage Scheme**

Planning ref: Permitted development

**NGR 562725 118431
(TN 62725 18431)**



**Project No: 3581
Site Code: RUG 08**

**ASE Report No: 2009035
OASIS id: archaeo16-56378**

**By
Andrew Margetts BA (Hons)
With contributions by Lucy Allott,
Sarah Porteus and Elke Raeman**

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

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

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV), on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the location of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex. The work took place from the 23rd of February to the 3rd March 2009.

A total of 15 trenches were excavated by machine across the site. Natural Ashdown Beds were encountered at a maximum height of 85.45m AOD to the south of the site, falling away to 69.41m AOD to the east. A total of 14 features were recorded during the investigation, including ditches or gullies, pits and postholes.

The archaeological investigation succeeded in its general aim of ascertaining the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site. Although a moderate quantity of features were encountered only a minority of these produced datable material. This said two trenches (15 and 10) produced concentrations of features and Trench 7 revealed a potentially interesting gully terminus. These areas could certainly be considered for Stage 2 mitigation as further characterization of these features would seem prudent.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV), on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the location of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex, henceforth referred to as 'the site' (centred NGR TQ 627 184; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was being carried out in response to a Cultural Heritage Assessment by Atkins Heritage (2008) of the site and discussions with the East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Archaeologist, Greg Chuter.
- 1.1.3 The site consists of a c.15m wide pipeline easement with associated contractor's compound and waste water treatment works situated on sloping open pasture on the edge of the village of Rushlake Green.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them and to record all archaeological features that will be impacted by the scheme.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British and Geological Survey Sheet 319 shows the site lies on Ashdown Beds. Rushlake Green occupies a ridge-top location with the topography sloping away either side to the east and west. The trench locations are sited in areas of sloping pasture.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The General Research Aims for the evaluation included:
- To understand the prehistoric development of land use in the area
 - To understand the use and development of the Roman and Anglo-Saxon landscape
 - To understand the development of the medieval village
 - Investigate the post-medieval landscape of the area
- 1.3.2 The Specific Research Objective of the evaluation comprised:
- To investigate and record any buried deposits of geo-archaeological or palaeo-environmental importance

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This document represents the required Evaluation Report described in section 7.0. of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by ASE and subsequently approved by Surrey County Council (SCC) prior to commencement of the work (ASE 2008).

1.5 Project Staff

- 1.5.1 The on-site archaeological work was carried out from the 23rd of February to the 3rd March 2009 by Andrew Margetts (Archaeologist) and Greg Priestly-Bell (senior Archaeologist) with on site assistance provided by Liane Peyre and Lesley Davidson (Assistant Archaeologist and Surveyor respectively). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For full discussion of the archaeological and historic background of the site, reference should be made to the Cultural Heritage Assessment (Atkins Heritage 2008), summarised below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 Whilst Sussex is rich in prehistoric remains there have been only a few discoveries in the area of the site, these comprise lithic find-spots close to the Cuckmere Stream dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.
- 2.3 Iron-working sites are abundant throughout the Weald during the Iron Age and Roman periods, possibly as parts of Imperial estates. The poor soils of the heavily wooded Weald restricted the density of population and there is little known sizeable settlement activity during these periods.
- 2.4 Rushlake village formed during the medieval period along the junction of two roads as a linear settlement.
- 2.5 Post-medieval iron bloomeries have been found c. 300m to the west of the village

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A detailed magnetometry geophysical survey of the site was undertaken on the 8th and 9th of September 2008 the results of which formed the basis for the archaeological trial trenching (Stratascan 2008). These trenches consisted of a 2.2% sample of the site area, totalling approximately 400m², and were located on identified geophysical anomalies and in apparently blank areas to fully assess archaeological potential.
- 3.2 The location, number and length of the trenches was determined at a meeting between Greg Chuter (ESCC), Tom Ryan (HMPJV) and Neil Griffin (ASE) in consultation with the Stratascan report. A subsequent site meeting between Casper Johnson (ESCC), Tom Ryan and Neil Griffin resulted in minor amendments to the trench layout, taking into account on site constraints and site topography. A plan of the trench locations was approved by Greg Chuter, ESCC, before the commencement of the fieldwork. The trench locations may be found on Figure 2.
- 3.3 The trenches were located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station.
- 3.4 The location of the trenches was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.5 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine. Excavation proceeded with the removal of spits of topsoil, subsoil and/or overburden of recent origin of no more than c. 0.25m in thickness, either to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the top of underlying 'natural' sediments, whichever was uppermost. Minor modifications to the agreed trench locations

were made where unavoidable obstructions were encountered. Any significant variations to the trench layout were discussed with HMPJV and the ESCC Archaeologist.

- 3.6 Spoil was divided into topsoil, subsoil and made ground, as appropriate, to be backfilled sequentially.
- 3.7 Backfilling and compaction were undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but no reinstatement to pre-existing conditions took place or was required.
- 3.8 Spoil heaps, trench bases and the entire route of the easement were scanned by volunteer metal detectorists, as was any spoil derived from excavated features in order to maximize the retrieval of metal artefacts.
- 3.9 The above strategy enabled archaeological deposits and features, disturbed during the proposed works, to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in PPG16 (the Government's advice on *Archaeology and Planning*).
- 3.10 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.11 The Archaeologist of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) was kept informed of progress by ASE so that he could monitor the archaeological work from the outset of ground works and inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA) of developments as necessary. A site meeting was arranged to allow ASE, the ESCC Archaeologist and HMPJV to discuss the results and establish the requirement of further Stage 2 mitigation measures during the main construction program.
- 3.12 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings were at 1:10, unless impractical. Drawings were completed on permatrace sheets. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were leveled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record was made in monochrome, color transparency and digital format.
- 3.13 Where deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered bulk soil samples (40 litres or 100% of smaller features) were taken for environmental analysis.
- 3.14 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex (2003)*.

4. RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.1.1 **Trench 1** was excavated to a length of c.20 metres and to depths of between c.0.63m (69.41m A.O.D) at the eastern end and to c.0.68m (70.82m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which point Brickearth Head deposits and the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
1/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.35m thick Extent of trench
1/002	Layer	Brickearth subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.23m thick Extent of trench
1/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
1/004	Cut	Linear	1.8m long, 0.8m wide, 0.4m deep N.F.E
1/005	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay, occ. Sub-angular flint nods.	1.8m long, 0.8m wide, 0.4m deep N.F.E

Context [1/004] was a linear feature running the width of the trench and cutting from high within the section. It had sharp steeply sloping sides and was filled by context [1/005], this comprised a mid brown grey firm silt clay that contained occasional inclusions of sub-angular flint nodules and was found to contain a modern drain. Once the drain pipe was exposed excavation of the feature ceased.

4.1.2 **Trench 2** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.39m (77.35m A.O.D) at the south-eastern end and to c.0.41m (78.08m A.O.D) at the northwestern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
2/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid brown grey.	0.25m thick Extent of trench
2/002	Layer	Subsoil, Firm mid grey brown clay silt	0.19m thick Extent of trench
2/003	Layer	Natural. Compact mid brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

4.1.3 **Trench 3** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.42m (79.47m A.O.D) at the northeastern end and to c.0.32m (79.55m A.O.D) at the southeastern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. Context [3/004] was a linear feature located at the southwestern end of the trench. It had gradually sloping sides and was filled by context [3/005], this comprised a mid brown yellow firm silt clay that contained occasional inclusions of manganese flecks as well as finds of Post-Medieval pot and ceramic building material (CBM).

This ditch like feature was located close to an existing northwest-southeast orientated field boundary ditch and probably relates to drainage.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
3/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.17m thick Extent of trench
3/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.25m thick Extent of trench
3/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
3/004	Cut	Linear	0.5m long, 1.4m wide, 0.22m deep
3/005	Fill	Mid brown yellow firm silt clay, occ. manganese flecks.	0.5m long, 1.4m wide, 0.22m deep

4.1.4 **Trench 4** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.57m (84.52m A.O.D) at the northern end and to c.0.51m (84.95m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
4/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.21m thick Extent of trench
4/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.35m thick Extent of trench
4/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
4/004	Cut	Pit	0.8m long, 0.4m wide, 0.24m deep
4/005	Fill	Mid yellow brown firm silt clay, with moderate lenses of burnt clay and charcoal flecks.	0.8m long, 0.4m wide, 0.24m deep

Context [4/004] was a pit like feature located at the northern end of the trench. It had slightly stepped sides, an undulating base and was filled by context [4/005], this comprised a mid yellow brown firm silt clay that contained moderate lenses of burnt clay and charcoal flecks. Context [4/004] was interpreted as the result of stump burning and removal.

4.1.5 **Trench 5** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to a depth of c.0.51m (85.45m A.O.D) at the northern end and the same (85.26m A.O.D) to the south, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
5/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.36m thick Extent of trench
5/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.26m thick Extent of trench
5/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

4.1.6 **Trench 6** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to a depth of c.0.51m (85.40m A.O.D) at the eastern end and the same (84.74m A.O.D) to the west, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
6/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.36m thick Extent of trench
6/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.2m thick Extent of trench
6/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
6/004	Cut	Disturbance	0.52m long, 0.4m wide, 0.1m deep
6/005	Fill	Mid grey brown firm clay silt	0.52m long, 0.4m wide, 0.1m deep
6/006	Cut	Pit	0.65m long, 0.6m wide, 0.16m deep
6/007	Fill	Mid grey brown firm clay silt	0.65m long, 0.6m wide, 0.16m deep
6/008	Cut	Posthole	0.3m square, 0.16m deep
6/009	Fill	Mid grey brown firm silt clay	0.3m square, 0.16m deep

Context [6/004] had gradually sloping sides and an undulating base, it was filled by context [6/005], this comprised a mid grey brown firm clay silt. Context [6/004] was interpreted as disturbance possibly the result of rooting. [6/005] was cut by context [6/006]. This feature had gradually sloping sides with a rounded base and measured 0.65m long, 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep. This shallow pit like feature was filled by context [6/007] that comprised a mid grey brown, firm, clay silt that contained no finds. Context [6/008] consisted of a feature square in plan with near vertical sides and a stepped side to the south. It measured 0.3m square and 0.16m deep and was filled by a mid grey brown firm silt clay that contained no noticeable finds. This feature was

interpreted as a fence posthole probably of modern origin, the stepped side of which was possibly caused during the posts removal. In addition to these features it was noted that at the western end of the trench the natural ground sloped away (see Fig. 4) this was partly due to the topography of the site itself but also due to the proximity at this end of the trench of a past sandstone quarry cutting.

- 4.1.7 **Trench 7** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.6m (72.55m A.O.D) at the southern end and to c.0.52m (72.8m A.O.D) at the northern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
7/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.34m thick Extent of trench
7/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid yellow brown clay silt,	0.28m thick Extent of trench
7/003	Layer	Natural. Mixed mid red brown clay silt and mid grey yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
7/004	Cut	Linear	1.2m long, 0.43m wide, 0.16m deep
7/005	Fill	Mid grey brown firm silt clay	1.2m long, 0.43m wide, 0.16m deep

Context [7/004] was a linear feature located at the southern end of the trench. It had sharply sloping sides and a tapered base and was filled by context [7/005], this comprised a mid grey brown firm silt clay that contained no noticeable finds. This linear feature was interpreted as a gully terminus of unknown date or function.

- 4.1.8 **Trench 8** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.43m (73.87m A.O.D) at the southern end and to c.0.4m (74.18m A.O.D) at the northern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
8/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid brown grey.	0.23m thick Extent of trench
8/002	Layer	Subsoil, Firm mid grey brown clay silt	0.19m thick Extent of trench
8/003	Layer	Natural. Compact mid brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

4.1.9 **Trench 9** was excavated to a length of c.20 metres and to a depth of c.0.54m (76.13m A.O.D) at the northern end and 0.39m (76.21m A.O.D) to the southern, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
9/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.33m thick Extent of trench
9/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid grey brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.21m thick Extent of trench
9/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
9/004	Cut	Posthole	0.44m diameter, 0.11m deep
9/005	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay	0.44m diameter, 0.11m deep
9/006	Cut	Linear	0.2m long, 0.2m wide, 0.05m deep
9/007	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay mod. manganese flecks	0.2m long, 0.2m wide, 0.05m deep

Context [9/004] was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.11m in depth. It had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by context [9/005] that comprised mid brown grey firm silt clay. This feature was interpreted as a possible posthole. Context [9/006] comprised an irregular linear feature. It had gradually sloping sides, a rounded base and was filled by context [9/007], this comprised a mid brown grey firm silt clay that contained moderate manganese flecks but no archaeological finds. This linear feature was probably natural in origin. In addition to these features the trench was also disturbed by the presence of two land drains.

4.1.10 **Trench 10** was excavated to a length of c.10 metres and to depths of between c.0.45m (78.56m A.O.D) at the western end and to c.0.32m (78.1m A.O.D) at the eastern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
10/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.23m thick Extent of trench
10/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid grey brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.19m thick Extent of trench
10/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
10/004	Cut	Linear	1m long, 1.1m wide, 0.1m deep
10/005	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay with moderate inclusions of iron panning and charcoal flecks	1m long, 1.1m wide, 0.1m deep
10/006	Cut	Linear	0.6m long, 0.45m wide, 0.1m deep
10/007	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay mod. manganese flecks	0.6m long, 0.45m wide, 0.1m deep
10/008	Cut	Linear	1m long, 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep
10/009	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay mod. manganese flecks	1m long, 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep

Context [10/004] was a linear feature located approximately mid trench. It had gradually sloping sides and a slightly undulating base. It measured 1m long, 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep and was filled by context [10/005], this comprised a mid brown grey firm silt clay with moderate inclusions of iron panning and charcoal flecks no noticeable finds were collected from the fill. At the eastern end of the trench two linear features (contexts [10/006] and [10/008]) were recorded these continued beyond the limit of excavation and had no noticeable relationship. They each had gradually sloping sides and undulating bases and were filled by mid brown grey firm silt clay that contained moderate manganese flecks but no archaeological finds (contexts [10/007] and [10/009]). In addition to the archaeological features a single land drain crossed the trench.

4.1.11 **Trench 11** was excavated to a length of c.20 metres and to depths of between c.0.3m (83.24m A.O.D) at the northwestern end and to c.0.4m (81.78m A.O.D) at the southeastern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
11/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.26m thick Extent of trench
11/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid grey brown silt clay	0.18m thick Extent of trench
11/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however it was crossed by two land drains.

4.1.12 **Trench 12** was excavated to a length of c.20 metres and to depths of between c.0.42m (83.36m A.O.D) at the southwestern end and to c.0.33m (83.81m A.O.D) at the northwestern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
12/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	0.3m thick Extent of trench
12/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid grey brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.12m thick Extent of trench
12/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however it was crossed by two land drains.

4.1.13 **Trench 13** was square in plan to accommodate the location of a new pumping station. It measured approximately 5 x 5m and was excavated to a depth of c.0.45m (73.55m A.O.D) at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and machine excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
13/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid brown grey.	0.3m thick Extent of trench
13/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid red brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.12m thick Extent of trench
13/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

4.1.14 **Trench 14** was excavated to a length of c.15 metres and to depths of between c.0.44m (73.21m A.O.D) at the southwestern end and to c.0.52m (73.83m A.O.D) at the northwestern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
14/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid brown grey.	0.3m thick Extent of trench
14/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid red brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.12m thick Extent of trench
14/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
14/004	Layer	Colluvium. Compact mid red brown silt clay,	0.8m thick Extent of trench

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however it was crossed by two land drains.

4.1.15 **Trench 15** was excavated to a length of c.17 metres and to depths of between c.0.5m (80.53m A.O.D) at the northern end and to c.0.64m (79.50m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which point the natural Ashdown Beds were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
15/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid brown grey.	0.28m thick Extent of trench
15/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact mid red brown silt clay, occ. gravel inclusions	0.32m thick Extent of trench
15/003	Layer	Natural. Light brown yellow sandy clay	Not excavated
15/004	Cut	Linear	0.72m long, 0.8m wide, 0.4m deep
15/005	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay	0.72m long, 0.8m wide, 0.4m deep
15/006	Cut	Linear	1m long, 0.48m wide, 0.08m deep
15/007	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay	1m long, 0.48m wide, 0.08m deep
15/008	Cut	Linear	1m long, 0.5m wide, 0.23m deep
15/009	Fill	Mid brown grey firm silt clay occ. manganese flecks	1m long, 0.5m wide, 0.23m deep

Context [15/004] was linear in plan and measured 0.72m long, 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. It had sharp sloping sides and a tapered base. It was filled by context [15/005] that comprised mid brown grey firm silt clay. This feature was interpreted as a probable boundary or drainage ditch of unknown date. Context [15/006] comprised a shallow linear feature. It had gradually sloping sides, a rounded base and was filled by context [15/007], this comprised a mid brown grey firm silt clay that contained no noticeable inclusions. Context [15/008] measured 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.23m deep. It had sharp sloping sides and a sloping base. Context [15/008] was filled by [15/009] which comprised a mid brown grey firm silt clay with occasional inclusions of manganese flecks. This gully like terminus is possibly natural in origin. In addition to these features the trench was also disturbed by the presence of an earthenware drain, a possible water pipe and an uninvestigated probable modern service at the northern end.

5. THE FINDS & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLAGES

by Lucy Allott (environmental), Sarah Porteus (CBM) and Elke Raeman (pottery and other finds)

Only a small stratified assemblage was recovered during the archaeological work. An additional metal detector survey produced a small assemblage of metalwork of mainly 18th- and 19th- century date. An overview of all the finds can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 *Pottery*

[3/004] (fill [3/005]) contained a single piece of red-glazed earthenware. The fragment is from a dish or shallow bowl and dates to the 19th century. No other pottery was recovered.

5.2 *CBM*

A total of four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from the two contexts weighing a total of 149g. All the material is made of very similar poorly mixed, orange silty fabric, with sparse calcareous and moderate coarse to very coarse black and red iron rich inclusions and moderate cream clay marbling. Context [3/005] from trench 3 contained one fragment of brick with fine sanding and well formed arises of 59mm thickness, and one fragment of peg tile with a thickness of 12mm, both of mid 17th to 19th century date. Two fragments of pegtile of 11mm thickness were recovered from GPS6264818136, and is probably of 19th to early 20th century in date.

5.3 *Coins*

A small assemblage of 56 coins was recovered during the excavations. The earliest of these are of 18th-century date. The acidic nature of the soil means many are in poor state of preservation.

5.3.1 Coins of 18th-century date dominate with 26 examples. Included are a total of 21 18th-century halfpennies and two 18th-century farthings. Three 1st issue (1770-75) George III halfpennies were recovered as well.

5.3.2 Only 11 coins of 19th-century date were recovered. These consist of an early 19th-century penny (possibly 1806-1807), with Victorian coins including a shilling (1846) and a farthing (1863). Four Victorian "young head" halfpennies (1860-90s) and two "young head" pennies (1874, 1885) were found, as well as an "old head" penny (1899) and halfpenny (1897).

5.3.2 In addition, 19 coins of 20th-century date were recovered, mainly consisting of pennies and halfpennies and mostly dating to the first half of the 20th century

5.4 *Metalwork*

The metalwork assemblage is dominated by 92 copper-alloy objects, weighing 1296g. A further 28 lead objects (wt 1382g) and three iron objects (wt 504g) were recovered as well. None of the finds are stratified.

5.4.1 *The Dress Accessories*

Buckles include a shoe or hat buckle (GPS6263518124), a hat buckle (GPS6264818136) and two shoe buckles. All of these are in copper-alloy and date to the 18th century.

Buttons were present as well, with a total of 32 pieces mostly in copper-alloy, although a few lead alloy examples are noted as well. Of these, 14 date to the 18th century, 15 to the 19th century and three are of 20th century date. The majority of these are plain undecorated pieces. 19th-century examples include a gilded naval tunic button and livery buttons. A General Service tunic button was recovered as well.

5.4.2 *Furniture Fittings*

Furniture fittings include a copper-alloy drop handle and furniture mounts, all of 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.4.3 *Weights*

The area contained various weights, including home made lead weights and a copper-alloy weight with stamp, all of 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.4.4 *Horse Equipment*

Harness decoration consists of large copper-alloy leather stud heads, and various decorative mounts. Apart from an oval example and the studs, which date to the 18th-to 19th-century, all are of 19th-century date.

A total of nine copper-alloy horse harness buckles was recovered as well, all of which date to the 19th to early 20th century. One of these shows traces of tinning. An unusually large D-shaped iron buckle is likely to represent a heavy duty oxen or horse harness buckle.

Finally, an iron horseshoe fragment is of post-medieval date.

5.4.5 *Miscellaneous*

A copper-alloy possible pipe tamper (GPS6262118125) dates to the 18th to 19th century. Later finds include 19th-century pulley wheels, possible from servant bells and a lead dress or curtain weight of 19th- to early 20th-century.

Musket/pistol shot is probably all of 19th-century date. A total of six .20 mm cannon shells were recovered as well.

Other finds include various lead strip fragments, lead waste, an amorphous iron lump, various discs and suspension loops.

Objects of 20th-century date include three fragments from Primus gas burners, two copper-alloy compacts, a chromed copper-alloy fob watch back plate, a copper-alloy compass, a lead toy deer and a gilded copper-alloy locket.

5.5 The assemblage as it stands has no potential for further analysis. No further work is required and it is recommended the assemblage be discarded.

5.6 *Environmental Samples*

Two samples were taken during archaeological works at Rushlake Green. They were processed in a flotation tank, the flots (Appendix 2) and heavy residues (Appendix 3) being retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes and scanned for environmental and artefact remains once dried.

- 5.6.1 A small to moderate quantity of wood charcoal fragments (identified as oak - *Quercus* sp.) are present in sample <1> from pit-like feature (4/005). Charcoal layers in (4/005) were interpreted onsite as evidence for stump burning and although no root wood fragments were recorded it remains possible that the assemblage derives from stump burning. Sample <2> from linear feature (10/005) contains a small quantity of charcoal fragments, mostly <4mm in size. Some of the charcoal is vitrified which may result from burning at high temperatures. Unfortunately no other artefacts or environmental remains are present in this small assemblage and the sample does not further our interpretation of the feature.
- 5.6.2 The small assemblages of charcoal in these deposits have no potential to provide detailed information about the vegetation environment, the function of these features or wood selection.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the evaluation mainly comprised Ashdown Beds however deposits of Head Brickearth were encountered in the location of Trench 1.
- 6.2 It was found during the project that the site had received some degree of disturbance of fairly modern origin. This included heavy draining of the site as attested by the large amount of field-drain evidence found within the trenches. This is unsurprising given the impermeable nature of the upper levels of the Ashdown Beds encountered during the work. Additional disturbance occurred through root action and the presence of services.
- 6.3 This investigation succeeded in identifying archaeological features on the site. For the most part, these appear to comprise linear features (quantity 10) with two discreet postholes and two pits. Features were distributed throughout the site however trenches 15 and 10 show a particular concentration.
- 6.4 The majority of remains uncovered consisted of ditches or gullies. Generally, dating for these features was poor and they were mostly unproductive of artifacts despite extensive sampling. It seems probable that these features were mainly related to systems of water management, considering the water retaining qualities of the upper levels of the underlying geology, the sloping topography and the ridge top location of Rushlake Green itself.
- 6.5 There was not only a paucity of finds from the features but also from the overburden. No artifacts earlier than post medieval in date were noted from these contexts and although particular attention was paid to the recovery of prehistoric flintwork from spoil heaps not a single piece was found.
- 6.6 Although no prehistoric finds were recovered during the evaluation a short gully terminus (Context [7/004]) is characteristic of features that the author has encountered elsewhere. An extremely tentative suggestion of a prehistoric date could be assigned to this feature. This suggestion is supported when viewed in conjunction with trench sevens location close to the east of the Cuckmere Stream the course of which has produced lithic findspots in the past.
- 6.7 No evidence of Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity was encountered during the course of the evaluation.
- 6.8 No clear evidence of medieval activity was encountered during the course of the evaluation.
- 6.9 A programme of systematic metal detecting was carried out at the site by a group of volunteers. This resulted in the collection of a large amount of metal finds from the area of the easement relating to the more recent history of the village.
- 6.10 No significant buried deposits of geo-archaeological or palaeo-environmental importance were encountered

- 6.11 In conclusion the archaeological investigation succeeded in its general aim of ascertaining the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site. Although a moderate quantity of features were encountered only a minority of these produced datable material. This said two trenches (15 and 10) produced concentrations of features and Trench 7 revealed a potentially interesting gully terminus. These areas could certainly be considered for Stage 2 mitigation as further characterization of these features would seem prudent.
- 6.11.1 Prehistoric evidence at the site was scarce and it seems plausible that due to the heavily wooded nature of the Weald, and the unsuitability of the underlying geology for early farming, activity of this date would be limited in nature. However the Cuckmere Stream seems to be a focus of activity at this period, probably due to its value as both a water source and a natural penetration route into the forest of the Weald. Parts of the scheme in the vicinity of this landscape feature may shed more light on the development of prehistoric landuse in the area.
- 6.11.2 Evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity at the site was not encountered during the work. Although iron exploitation in the Roman period is well attested in this area (e.g. Bardown) no evidence for similar activity was found at the site.
- 6.11.3 The development of Rushlake Green seems to have remained fairly intact from the medieval and post medieval periods. Trenches 4 and 5 were sited close to the village and produced no evidence of plot boundaries extending beyond the current footprint of the village. This suggests (at least in this location) that Rushlake Green has received little change to the layout of the village over time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) and Southern Water who commissioned the work. Thanks are also due to Robin Hodgkinson, D. White, R. White, C. Smith, T Hollamby and C. Hollamby for conducting an extensive metal detecting survey in the area of the easement. Greg Chuter and Casper Johnson of East Sussex County Council are thanked for his help and guidance throughout the project.

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Appendix 1: Finds Quantification

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	Cu Al.	wt (g)	Pb Al.	wt (g)	Coins	wt (g)	
3/005	1	36	2	140									
Trench 13, 14							62	996	19	842	40	234	
Easement Area													
Trench 15						1	124	11	60	1	42	10	42
Easement Area						1	26	7	36	3	104	2	10
Trench 1													
Easement Area						1	354	8	82	5	394	4	22
Trench 6,5,4,3,8								1	12				
Easement Area								1	<2				
GPS6262118125								1	2				
GPS6263518124								1	108				
GPS6264818136			2	36									
GPS6258218151													

Appendix 2: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	4/005	2	<5	95		**	**
2	10/00 5	4	15	98	* (1)	*	**

Appendix 3: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)
1	4/005	fill of pit-like feature	6	6	**	16	**	4
2	10/00 5	fill of linear feature	40	40	*	1	**	1

SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	RUG08					
Identification Name and Address	Rushlake Green, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden, East Sussex					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	TN 6272 1843					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	3581					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 23.02.09- 03.03.09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) and Southern Water					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary. <i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV), on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the location of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex. The work took place from the 23rd of February to the 3rd March 2009.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 15 trenches were excavated by machine across the site. Natural Ashdown Beds were encountered at a maximum height of 85.45m AOD to the south of the site, falling away to 69.41m AOD to the east. A total of 14 features were recorded during the investigation, including ditches or gullies, pits and postholes.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological investigation succeeded in its general aim of ascertaining the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site. Although a moderate quantity of features were encountered only a minority of these produced datable material. This said two trenches (15 and 10) produced concentrations of features and Trench 7 revealed a potentially interesting gully terminus. These areas could certainly be considered for Stage 2 mitigation as further characterization of these features would seem prudent.</i></p>						

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeo16-56378

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at Rushlake Green, East Sussex Ahead of a First Time Sewerage Scheme

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV), on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the location of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex. The work took place from the 23rd of February to the 3rd March 2009. A total of 15 trenches were excavated by machine across the site. Natural Ashdown Beds were encountered at a maximum height of 85.45m AOD to the south of the site, falling away to 69.41m AOD to the east. A total of 14 features were recorded during the investigation, including ditches or gullies, pits and postholes. The archaeological investigation succeeded in its general aim of ascertaining the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site. Although a moderate quantity of features were encountered only a minority of these produced datable material. This said two trenches (15 and 10) produced concentrations of features and Trench 7 revealed a potentially interesting gully terminus. These areas could certainly be considered for Stage 2 mitigation as further characterization of these features would seem prudent.

Project dates Start: 23-02-2009 End: 03-03-2009

Previous/future work Not known / Yes

Any associated project reference codes RUG08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Monument type FEATURES Post Medieval

Significant Finds FINDS Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Metal Detectors','Targeted Trenches'

Development type Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the
planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN WARBLETON Rushlake Green

Postcode TN21 9XX

Study area 3.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 562725 118431 50.8843308614 0.221877783627 50 53 03 N 000
13 18 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 69.41m Max: 85.45m

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 Andrew Margetts

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Southern Water

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV)

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Rushlake Green, East Sussex Ahead of a First Time Sewerage Scheme

Author(s)/Editor(s) Margetts, A

Other bibliographic details 2009035

Date 2009

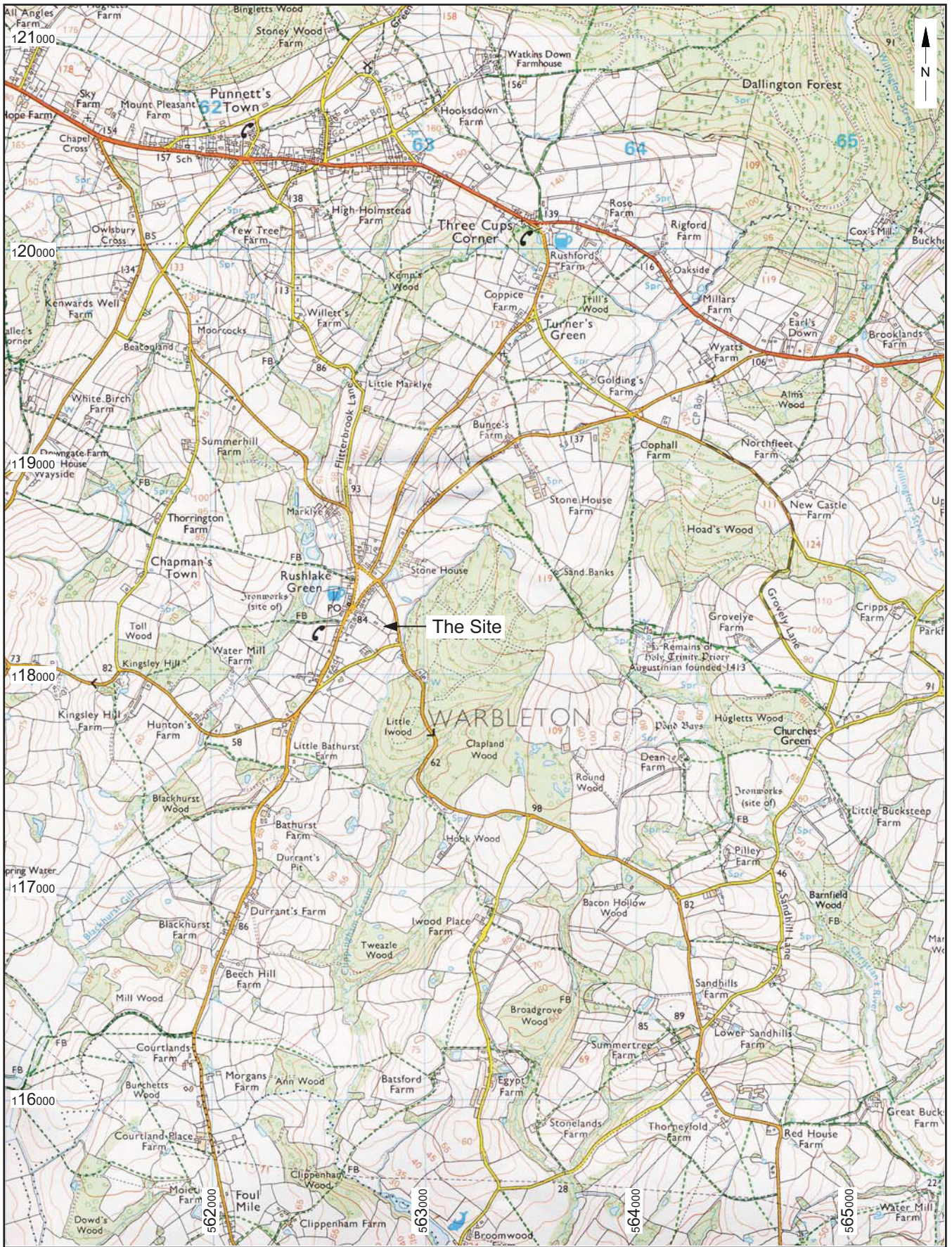
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South East

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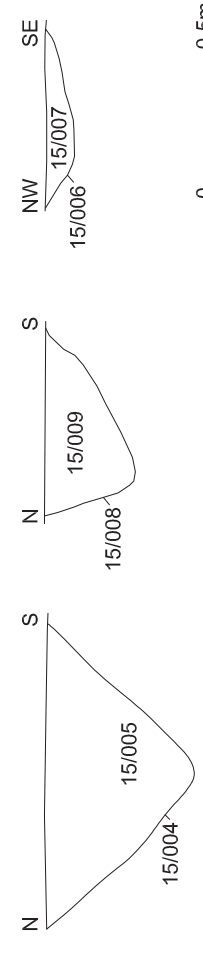
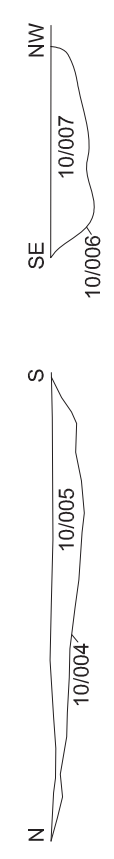
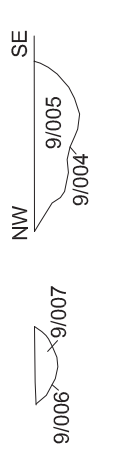
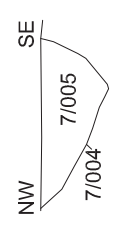
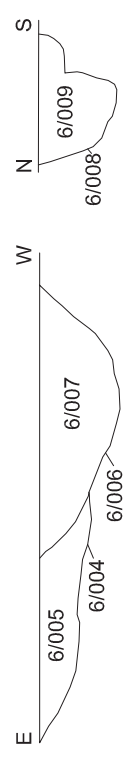
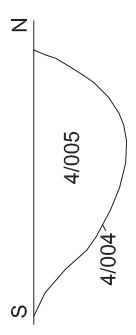
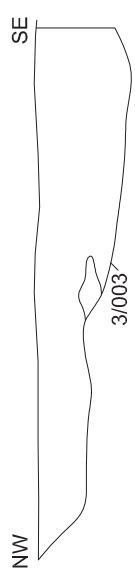
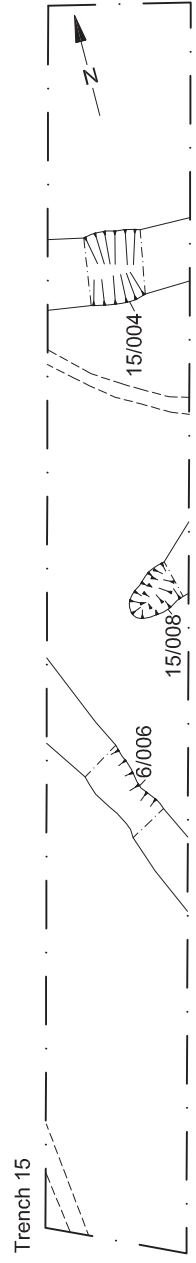
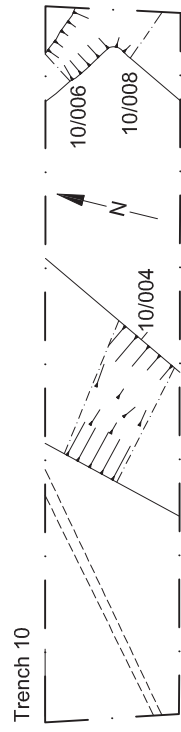
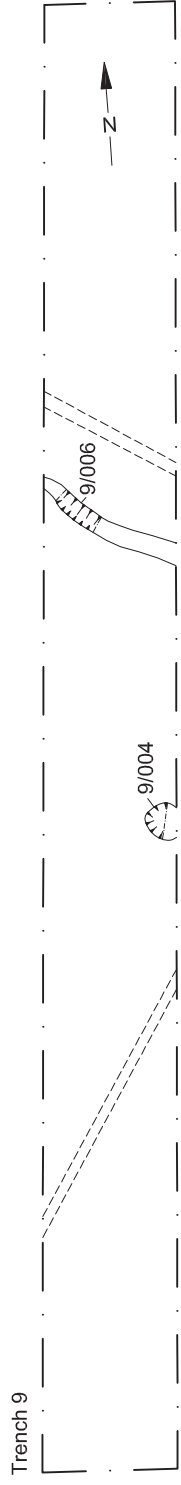
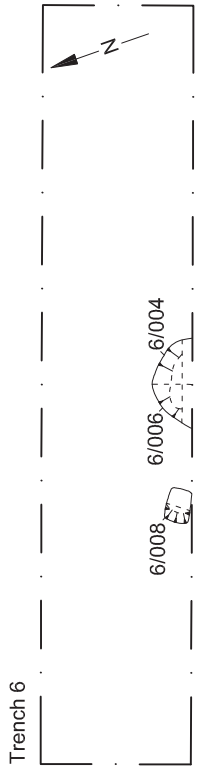
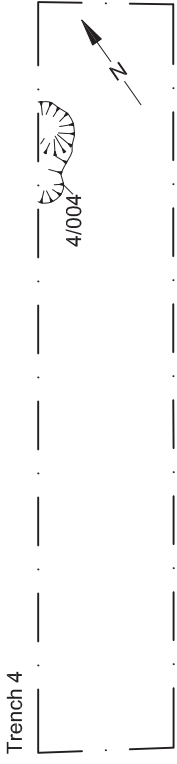
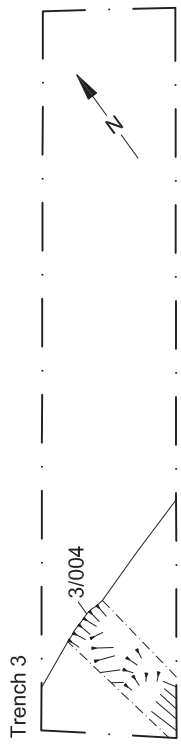


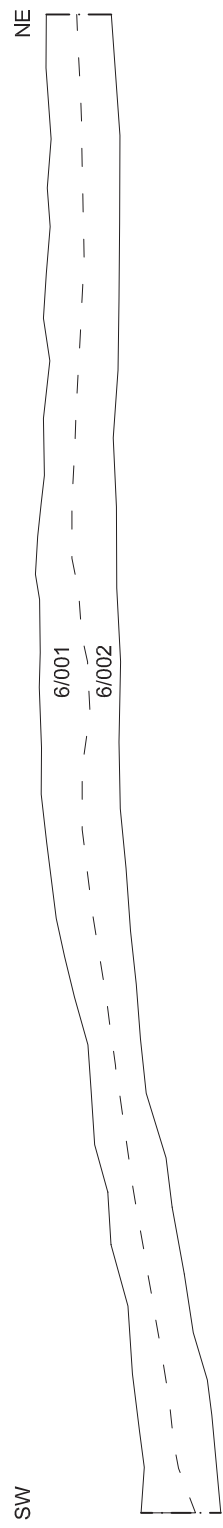
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Project Ref: 3581	March 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2009035	Drawn by: JLR		

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Project Ref: 3821	March 2009	Site Plan	
Report Ref: 2009035	Drawn by: FEG	Fig. 2	





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		Trench 6 profile		
Project Ref: 3581	March 2009			
Report Ref: 2009035	Drawn by: HLF			

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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