

**An Evaluation on Land to the rear of The Secret Garden  
60 – 61 High Street, Brading  
Isle of Wight**

**NGR: 46070 08720**

**Project No. 4099  
Site Code: SGB10**

**ASE Report No. 2010117  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-80998**

**Alice Thorne, AIFA**

**With contributions by  
Elke Raemen, Lucy Sibun  
Luke Barber, Lucy Allott & Sarah Porteus  
With Illustrations by Justin Russell**

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***Abstract***

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East to the rear of The Secret Garden, 60-61 High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 607 872). The evaluation confirmed both the presence of archaeological features dating to the late post medieval period, and identified a sequence of buried soil deposits dating back to the early medieval period.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University College London, have been commissioned by Mr Lee Jones to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of The Secret Garden, 60-61 High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight (NGR 46070 08720).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which two trial trenches were investigated. The trenches measured a cumulative length of 6m with a width of 1m.

### **1.2 Site location, geology and topography**

- 1.2.1 The site is bounded to the west by the High Street, to the north and east by open ground and to the south by gardens to the rear of adjacent properties. The settlement of Brading lies between the Downs and the Eastern Yar River, which occupies a gap in the East Wight Chalk Ridge.
- 1.2.3 According to Sheet 344 and 345 of the British Geological Survey (BGS 1996), the site lies on the Bagshot Beds, and close to the location of a series of geological boundaries, including Osbourne and Headon Beds, London Clay, and the drift alluvium of the Yar valley.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 This evaluation was undertaken ahead of the submission of a planning application for the redevelopment of the land to the rear of The Secret Garden so that informed decisions can be made regarding the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.3.2 Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to survive on the site, the Isle of Wight Council suggested that a Stage 1 archaeological field evaluation was carried out in order to establish the presence, or absence, of archaeological deposits on the site. The results of this evaluation report can be used to assess the impact of the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2010a) was submitted and approved by Owen Cambridge, County Archaeologist of The Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Environment Service. The WSI outlined the strategy for the fieldwork and reporting which has been followed throughout the work and in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation are 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 publish the results.

## **1.5 Scope of the Report**

- 1.5.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land to the rear of the secret garden on the Isle of Wight between the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>h</sup> of July 2010.
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist) and Chris Russel (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager), and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The site of the proposed development is situated within an area known to contain archaeological remains. A summary of the archaeological background of the area has been included below and is described by period. This information was largely drawn from the Victoria County History: *Parishes: Brading* (1912) and Archaeological Data Services (ADS). The information has therefore been reproduced with all due acknowledgement.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age burial mound and a prehistoric or Romano-British field system lie within 1km to the west of the development site (Scheduled Ancient Monuments 30279 and 22040 respectively). The Bronze Age bowl barrow (ADS Record ID - NMR\_NATINV-461153) known as The Devil's Punchbowl is located on Nunwell Down. The mound was excavated during the 19th century and the remains of a child and a hammer head deer antler were found. The field system is located on Brading Down, overlooking the floodplain of the River Yar (ADS Record ID - NMR\_NATINV-461226). Extending for approximately 800m across the south and south east facing slopes of the Down, the field system follows a NNE to SSW alignment, generally orientated at right angles to the slope. The field system includes both long, narrow rectangular enclosures and smaller square examples ranging from 0.08ha to 0.7ha in area. The field boundaries are represented by lynchets up to 2m in height and 2m in width. A Bronze Age hoard comprising bracelets and a spearhead was also found c1830 in Brading (ADS Record ID - NMR\_NATINV-461916).

### **2.3 Roman AD 43 – 410**

2.3.1 Brading Roman Villa, c. 1km south of the site (SMRSAM 30278), is situated between the lower slopes of Brading Downs and the floodplain of the River Yar, overlooking the former coastal inlet at Brading Haven. Excavations have revealed evidence of occupation between the second and fourth centuries AD. Numerous finds such as high quality mosaic floors, painted wall plaster and window glass further indicate the high status of the villa, which perhaps controlled Brading Haven, likely to have been an important seaport at this time.

### **2.4 Early medieval AD 410 - 1066**

2.4.1 During the early medieval period, higher sea levels covered 700 acres of what is now fertile meadowland between the town and sea, allowed Brading to remain an important island port after Roman times. It is possible that St Wilfred established the first island church here in 7th century. The ancient name of *Bredynge*, from which "Brading" is derived, probably meant "the people living by the ridge of the downs " and dates from at least 683, although the history of the settlement goes back much further.

### **2.5 Late medieval AD 1066 – 1539**

- 2.5.1 Brading grew and prospered during medieval times and into the Elizabethan era as a small commercial port with a thriving market, and an economy based on agricultural produce, fish, oysters, beer, coal and stone amongst other things (Brading Town Council 2010). In 1285, Edward I granted a market to be held at Brading. This was still a regular event until 1835. The linear form of the town centre along the High Street took shape during this period, and in the surrounding farms and fields corn was grown and cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry were reared, as well as activities such as quarrying, forestry, brewing, salt-making and woollen textile weaving (Brading Town Council 2010). In the reign of Henry II, Brading's status as a 'town' was confirmed by the overlord of the Manor of Whitefield
- 2.5.2 The haven level is said to have been first reclaimed from the sea by William Russell, an early lord of the manor of Yaverland, who at the end of the 13th century made the causeway across the marsh to his manor of Yaverland.
- 2.5.3 The 12<sup>th</sup> century Church of St. Mary stands on high ground at the head of the main street (ADS Record ID - NMR\_NATINV-461876) to the north of the proposed site and Quay Lane.

## **2.6 Post-medieval 1539 – 1900**

- 2.6.1 The oldest part of the town is the High Street on the slope of the hill running south from the church to the Bull Ring; and many houses here are half-timbered and date from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17th centuries. In 1562 George Oglander of Nunwell and German Richards of Yaverland reclaimed the north marsh and some of the adjoining land. Thirty-two years later Edward Richards added the Mill Marsh to the cultivated land. In 1616 Henry Gibb of the king's bedchamber obtained a grant of 'lands called Brading, Isle of Wight, which have been much overflowed by the sea and are to be enclosed at his expense.' He sold this right to Sir Bevis Thelwall, who, assisted by Sir Hugh Middleton of New River fame, made an embankment right across the mouth of the haven in 1620. Ten years later a spring tide and storm breached the bank and once more reduced the haven to a tidal estuary. An attempt was again made in 1699, but nothing further was done till Jabez Balfour took the matter in hand in 1877, completing the present embankment in 1880; the railway opened for traffic in 1882.

## **2.7 Listed and historic structures**

- 2.7.1 The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Records (HER) and the Isle of Wight Historic Buildings Record records a number of entries within c.250m of the proposed development site. A record of masonry within the garden of 65 High Street may relate to the remains of a sea wall alluded to in the memoirs of Sir John Oglander, a civil servant involved in administering the Isle of Wight in the first half of the 17th century (SMR No. 4005).



## 2.8 Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.8.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East in 2008 to the rear of 67-68 High Street (NGR 460662 871080), located to the south of the proposed site. The excavations revealed a 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century north-south ditch, post-medieval garden features and undated wall foundations and pits (ASE 2008). Observations on initial geotechnical investigations within the site by Owen Cambridge, Isle of Wight Council, revealed stratified deposits within a possible channel or ditch containing pottery sherds dating from the Roman period to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century, although the majority was of 13<sup>th</sup>-century date (Owen Cambridge, *pers. comm.* and SMR No. 6157).
- 2.8.2 An evaluation was undertaken on the adjacent site 'Land to the rear of The Brading Experience' (ASE 2010a). Three archaeological trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 43m in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. A single mid 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century pit was encountered in Trench 1 and post-medieval stratigraphy and surviving layers of buried Neolithic/Early Bronze Age soil containing organic materials and worked flints were recorded in all trenches. All of the trenches revealed a notable dearth of any medieval horizon, although medieval finds were found residually. The natural clay geology was encountered at a maximum height of 1.35m below ground level at 6.9m AOD in the north of the site, falling away sharply to a depth of 2.4m at 2.63m AOD to the south.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Methods employed**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 3m by 1m wide, which were excavated under constant archaeological supervision by a 1 tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned within the footprint of the proposed new build (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The locations of potential below-ground services were scanned and located using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).
- 3.1.3 Due to the considerable depth of overburden material encountered during the excavations (up to 2.4m), it was necessary to step the trenches in order to establish the depth of the undisturbed natural horizon. The depth of deposits in Trench 2 meant that safe access into and out of the trench was not possible and therefore all recording was carried out from the top of the trench.
- 3.1.4 The removed spoil was scanned, both by eye and metal detector, for the presence of unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were planned on permatrace at a scale of 1:20. The height above ordnance datum at each end of the trenches was established using a level. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were planned by hand and sections were drawn at 1:10. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) single-lens reflex (SLR) photographic record of all archaeological features. Samples of archaeological deposits were collected for environmental processing.
- 3.1.6 Trench sections were drawn, and each trench was fully recorded on trial trench record sheets and ASE context sheets. Each context was given a unique identity denoted by the prefixed trench number.

### 3.2 The Archive

3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

Number of Trenches	2
Number of Contexts	19
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 Sheet
Bulk Samples	3
Photographs	1 Colour film & 22 digital photographs
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	2
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The results of each trench are presented below.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated east – west, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m. Natural clay geology was encountered at 4.49mOD.

4.2.1

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness	Height m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.10m	5.29
1/002	Deposit	Garden Soil	0.35m	5.19
1/003	Deposit	Deposit	0.35m	4.84
1/004	Deposit	Deposit	0.30m max	4.84
1/005	Fill	Fill of possible ditch	0.30m max	4.49
1/006	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	4.49
1/007	Cut	Cut of possible ditch	0.30m max	4.49

Table 2: List of contexts for Trench 1

### 4.2.2 Summary of Contexts

The sequence of deposits observed in this trench is listed below:

- Context [1/001] comprised a 0.10m thick deposit of dark silty turf and topsoil.
- Below this, [1/002] was a mid greyish brown silty garden soil, containing frequent chalk fragments and occasional sub angular unsorted flint fragments. Animal bone, slate, oyster shell, 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile, a fragment of a post-medieval pottery bowl, and a fragment of a 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century stoneware jar was recovered from this deposit.
- Below this [1/004] was a friable and mottled mid orangish brown clayey silt layer located at the eastern end of the trench. This deposit had an irregular and ephemeral lower horizon, and may represent an area of rooting disturbance at the surface of the underlying deposit [1/003].
- Deposit [1/003] comprised a friable fine silty clay deposit containing occasional fragments of chalk and flint. Cattle and sheep bone, oyster shell and a fragment of residual 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from this deposit.
- The natural geology was a mid reddish brown fine sandy clay [1/006].

4.2.3 At the eastern end of the trench part of a feature was observed cut into the underlying natural geology extending from the eastern baulk. The cut, [1/007], had a concave western edge, leading to a flattish base. An area of the feature measuring 1.10m in length/width by 0.30m in depth was observed. It was filled by friable fine silty clay containing a fragment of slate, a single fragment of late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a copper alloy bar

mount and a fragment of ceramic pipe dating to 1660-1680, several fragments of animal bone and small mammal, bird and fish bone [1/005]. As this feature was only partially exposed, its character cannot be identified with certainty. It appears probable however, that this feature may represent a part of a north-south orientated post medieval ditch.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 2 was also orientated east – west, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.40m. Natural clay geology was encountered at 2.34mOD.

4.3.1

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness	Height m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Garden soil	0.20m	4.68mOD
2/002	Deposit	Boules Court	0.28m	4.58mOD
2/003	Deposit	Made ground	0.30m max	4.28mOD
2/004	Deposit	Buried Soil	0.20m	4.08mOD
2/005	Cut	Cut of gully	0.09m	3.78mOD
2/006	Fill	Fill of gully	0.09m	3.78mOD
2/007	Cut	Cut of pit	0.35m	3.78mOD
2/008	Fill	Fill of pit	0.35m	3.78mOD
2/009	Deposit	Buried Soil	0.30m	3.78mOD
2/010	Deposit	Buried Soil	0.30m	3.48mOD
2/011	Deposit	Buried Soil	0.84m	3.08mOD
2/012	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	2.34mOD

Table 3: List of contexts for Trench 2

### 4.3.2 Summary of Contexts

The sequence of deposits observed in this trench is listed below:

- Context [2/001] comprised a 0.20m thick deposit of dark silty garden soil. Beneath this was a creamy- white crushed chalk and brick deposit [2/002], which formed two west-east orientated linear surfaces located on either side of the trench. The current owner of the property identified these modern surfaces as French boules courts.
- Below this, context, [2/003] comprised a compact, mottled and mixed orangish brown silty clay deposit containing frequent fragments of brick, tile, iron, window glass, and modern china. This deposit formed a made ground layer, which may have been deposited to raise and level the ground surface within this area of the garden.
- Below this, [2/004] comprised a very dark grey plastic clayey silt, with orangish brown mottling. This deposit contained fragments of chalk, slate, oyster shell, bone, occasional fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile, English porcelain plate and fragments of local earthenware pottery. The deposit had been heavily root disturbed.
- Below this, [2/009], comprised a loose mid grey sandy silty clay, which became gradually lighter in colour towards the base of the deposit. This deposit contained occasional fine gravels, small chalk fragments, frequent patinated flint fragments, cattle and sheep bone, mortar, and oyster shell. Substantial rooting was also observed within the deposit, with good preservation of the root wood. This layer is

thought to represent an alluvial accumulation of silts, with increased organic content towards the upper levels of the deposit.

- [2/009] had a very indistinct lower horizon to context [2/010] below. [2/010] comprised a mid grey sandy silty clay containing fine gravels and small chalk fragments, which became gradually darker in colour towards the base of the deposit. Two fragments of residual roman tile were recovered from this layer, in association with small highly abraded fragments of pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> to probable 12<sup>th</sup> century date. This layer is also thought to be alluvial in origin.
- Below this, [2/011], was a loose dark reddish brown sandy silty clay, which contained well preserved pieces of root wood, and frequent patinated subangular flints and small gravels. Four fragments of cattle and sheep bone, a piece of fuel ash slag, and three very small sherds of probable later 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this deposit. This slightly fibrous, dark deposit may represent alluvial accumulation, possibly within a marshland/ scrub woodland environment.
- Below this the bright creamy yellow sand natural was observed at the very base of the trench [2/012].

4.3.3 Two features were observed within this trench at a height of 3.78mOD. Both features were sealed below deposit [2/004] and cut the underlying layer [2/009].

4.3.4 Context [2/005] represented a small south-west to north-east orientated gully, measuring 0.38m wide by 0.09m deep. It had gradual concave profile, and was filled by a very dark grey plastic clayey silt [2/006], which contained fragments of local earthenware, 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile, a piece of glazed brick, animal bone and a fragment of a leather shoe.

4.3.5 Context [2/007] was a small sub-circular feature, partially exposed, extending from the southern baulk of the trench. It had tapered edges and a concave base. It was filled by very dark grey plastic clayey silt, which contained pig bone [2/008]. This feature is thought to represent the remains of a small pit.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site. A summary is given in Appendix 1. In addition, two finds recovered from the environmental residues were issued a Registered Finds number (RF <00>; Table 4).

### 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery, the majority of which came from Trench 1. Although the sherd sizes vary from small (< 30mm across) to large (> 60mm across) most show no/little sign of abrasion suggesting the material has not been extensively reworked. No large context assemblages were recovered – the largest consisting of seven sherds from [1/004].
- 5.2.2 The earliest pottery present was recovered from [2/010] which produced a small and slightly mixed assemblage of slightly abraded sherds. Amongst these is a well fired partially oxidised bodysherd (10g) tempered with moderate multicoloured flint to 2mm which is quite probably of 10<sup>th</sup>- to mid 11<sup>th</sup>- century date. However, the remaining sherds in the deposit, although smaller, suggest a slightly later date for deposition. These include fabrics tempered with sand and rare flint (1/1g), shell and sand (2/2g) and sand only (1g). Without larger sherds they are impossible to date closely, but a mid 11<sup>th</sup>- to 12<sup>th</sup>- century date is probable. A small assemblage of slightly later pottery was recovered from [2/011]. This group consists of three very small reduced cooking pot body sherds tempered with moderate medium sand and sparse flint/quartz grits to 1mm. A later 12<sup>th</sup>- to later 13<sup>th</sup>- century date is probable. Later medieval pottery was recovered from [1/003]. This deposit contained two tiny abraded oxidised medium sand tempered sherds and a larger (39g) unabraded thumbled base fragment from an oxidised jug/pitcher tempered with fine sand. A later 13<sup>th</sup>- to 14<sup>th</sup>- century date is probable for this vessel.
- 5.2.3 The post-medieval period is better represented on the site. Most of the material consists of local earthenwares that have a wide chronological range, with most probable dating to between the late 16<sup>th</sup> and mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Context [1/007] contains several sherds from the base of a single storage jar with internal glaze and external reduced surfaces tempered with fine sand and iron oxide pellets. A bowl with club rim was recovered from [1/002] with a similar vessel, in a slightly micaceous very fine sandy fabric, being recovered from [1/005]. There are also a few buff sandy earthenwares which are almost certainly the products of the Verwood industry, some of which may be as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Examples were recovered from [2/004] and [2/006]. The remaining post-medieval pottery is late in date and consists of a fragment of English porcelain plate ([2/004]) and an English stoneware preserve jar ([1/002]), both of which are likely to be of later 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 638g were recovered from four contexts, a small quantity of mortar was also recovered from a further two contexts. The earliest fragments were of broad Roman date and were recovered from context [2/010] (2/66g), both fragments of tile were in a pale creamy orange fabric with moderate to coarse cream silt inclusions and abundant poorly sorted fine to medium quartz. Fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile were recovered from contexts [2/006] (1/90g), [1/002] (2/92g) and [2/004] (1/12g). All peg tile was in a fine orange fabric with moderate medium sized quartz inclusions. Two fragments of brick in a coarse fabric with abundant coarse quartz were recovered from context [2/006], one fragment was reduced with a glazed vitrified header, the fragments are likely to be of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Mortar recovered from context [2/009] was a soft white lime mortar with abundant coarse rounded sand inclusions, a second fragment from context [21/006] was also of white lime mortar though contained abundant small angular flint inclusions and a series of plaster scrim layers were visible on a flat surface. The date of both of these fragments is unknown.

#### **5.4 The Leather** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A leather shoe heel of late 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered from undated context [2/006]. The iron heel plate is still in situ together with the nails holding it in place. A further two nails hammered through the central part may represent repairs.

#### **5.5 The Animal Bone** by Lucy Sibun

5.5.1 The hand collected assemblage from the evaluation produced a total of 75 fragments of animal bone weighing 470 grams. A small quantity of bone was also recovered from the environmental samples.

5.5.2 Single contexts from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries [2/011] and 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries [1/003] produced a small quantity of fragments identified as cattle and sheep. The hand collected assemblage from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century contexts [1/004], [1/005] and [2/006] produced cattle, sheep and dog but in addition, the environmental sample from [1/005] contained small quantities of small mammal, fish and bird. The fragments from late post-medieval contexts [1/002] and [2/004] were identified as domestic fowl and cattle respectively.

Undated context [2/009] also produced fragments of cattle and sheep, whilst [2/008] produced the only pig from the site, represented by two mandibles and maxillary dentition.

5.5.3 Nothing of significance was noted in the assemblage, with a variety of skeletal elements present and only one fragment, a cattle metatarsal from [1/004], showing signs of butchery. All the bone is in a good state of preservation but there is a distinct discolouration to the bone recovered from Trench 2, consistent with a waterlogged or wet preservation conditions.

#### **5.6 The Registered Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Two fragments were assigned unique registered finds numbers (Table 4). Included is a small, copper-alloy bar mount with terminal and central lobes



and rivets in situ. The mount, probably for a leather strap, represent a medieval type (Egan and Pritchard 2002: Fig 134, nos. 1160-1161; Fig 138) and is likely to be residual.

The same context also contained a bowl fragment (AO type 15; Atkinson and Oswald 1969) with initials "IS" and dating to c. 1660-80. There is no known maker in the area with these initials for this period.

SITE CODE	RF No	Sample No.	CONTEXT	OBJECT	MATERIAL	PERIOD	Wt (g)
SGB10	1	1	1/005	MOUN	COPP	PMED	<2
SGB10	2	1	1/005	PIPE	CERA	PMED	4

Table 4. Summary of the Registered Finds.

### 5.7 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.7.1 A single piece of fuel ash slag was recovered from context [2/011] dated by the associated pottery to the medieval period. The piece is adhering to a patch of dull red sandy clay hearth lining. This slag type is not diagnostic of process - it can be derived from a number of high temperature activities, from domestic hearths to metalworking.

### 5.8 The Geological Material by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 Welsh slate, four pieces in total, was recovered from [1/002], [1/005] and [2/004]. In addition, a shale fragment was recovered from subsoil [1/002].

### 5.9 The Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A small assemblage of ten pieces of marine shell was recovered during the evaluation. The entire assemblage consists of oyster valves, mostly immature upper valves. A few contain evidence of parasitic activity (e.g. [2/004], [2/009]). Shell was recovered from medieval (i.e. [1/003]), late post-medieval and undated contexts.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

### 6.1 Methodology

6.1.1 Three samples were taken during archaeological works to assist recovery of environmental remains. Sample <1>, [1/005] was taken from a linear shaped feature, while samples <2> and <3> were extracted from alluvial layers [2/010] and [2/011] with the specific aim of recovering evidence that would assist in dating the accumulation of these layers.

6.1.2 The samples were processed in a flotation tank and the flots and residues were retained on 250 and 500µm meshes respectively. Samples <2> and <3> were from waterlogged contexts and therefore 10 litres of each sample were wet sieved through geological sieves to ensure recovery of fragile saturated remains. The flots and wet sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Residues were sieved through 2mm and 4mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for artefact and environmental remains. Preliminary identifications have been made for the macrobotanical remains through reference to modern comparative material at University College London and taxa documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Charcoal fragments from each sample have been fractured following standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000), viewed under an incident light microscope at 50, 100, 200 and 400x magnifications, and have been identified. Identifications have been made through comparison with modern reference specimens and identification atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.2 Results

6.2.1 Sample <1>, [1/005] contains a small assemblage of poorly preserved charred cereal grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and other indeterminate charred macrobotanicals. Uncharred seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), and daisy (Apiaceae) family taxa are relatively common in this sample. Fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) wood, small indeterminate round wood and vitrified charcoal are also present in small quantities.

6.2.2 Samples <2>, [2/010] and <3>, [2/011] are dominated by uncharred macrobotanical remains including several monocotyledons such as reeds. Uncharred seeds including elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and nettle (*Urtica* sp.) are also common however no charred macrobotanical remains are evident in this sample. Oak (*Quercus* sp.), alder (*Alnus* sp.) and ash (cf. *Fraxinus excelsior*) are present in the small assemblage of wood charcoal from these samples. Several fragments of waterlogged oak (*Quercus* sp.) wood were hand collected from context [2/011] and possible yew (*Taxus bacatta*) are evident in hand collected waterlogged wood fragments from context [2/006].

## 6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Environmental remains in these samples are relatively few and can therefore only provide limited information regarding land use, agriculture and vegetation. Occasional cereal grains in deposit [1/005] suggest evidence for agricultural activities in the area contemporary with the infilling of the linear feature. Given the evidence for waterlogging at the site, uncharred botanical remains present in each sample (but particularly of the alluvial deposits) may be contemporary with the accumulation of these deposits. Several of the taxa present are from hedgerows while others provide evidence for disturbed ground often associated with settlements or agricultural land use. Sedge nutlets and alder (in the charcoal) provide evidence for damp ground. Oak and ash wood may have been used for fuel or for structural purposes.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The evaluation has confirmed the presence of late post-medieval archaeological activity to the rear of the Secret Garden, in association with a sequence of buried soil deposits, thought to have accumulated during the medieval to post medieval periods.
- 7.1.2 The natural geology was observed at between 4.49m and 2.34mOD, indicating a substantial drop in the height of the underlying natural horizon from south to north across the site. This change in level mirrors the geological boundary of the Yar Valley alluvial drift deposit to the south-west of Bradings church, and is thought to mark the location of a silted up stream or river channel feeding eastwards into the Yar Valley

### 7.2 Stratigraphy

- 7.2.1 Trench 1 (located in the southern part of the gardens) has indicated the presence of archaeological activity here at approximately 0.80m below the current ground level. A sequence of topsoil and turf [1/001], garden soil [1/002], and a buried soil layer containing residual medieval pottery [1/003] was found to seal an archaeological feature of late 17<sup>th</sup> century to eighteenth century date. This feature was not fully exposed in plan, but its straight western edge and regular concave edges may indicate that the feature is part of a north-south orientated ditch.
- 7.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the gardens, and showed a far deeper sequence of stratigraphy. In this trench, modern topsoil [2/001] and a boules court [2/002] were found to overly a late 19<sup>th</sup> century/ modern made ground layer, which is thought to have been deposited to raise, level, and possibly provide a dry base for the garden in this area of the site [2/003]. Below this was an 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century dark organic buried soil layer [2/004]. The dark organic nature of 2/004 suggests that the layer may have formed within a marshy or scrub vegetation context.
- 7.2.3 This layer sealed two small archaeological features, observed at a height of 3.78mOD. A shallow gully and a small pit, possibly for drainage and refuse disposal, are both thought to be of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and indicate a late post-medieval archaeological horizon at this level, marking a break in the sequence of soil accumulation within the line of the valley. The fills of these features were very similar to the overlying deposit [2/004].
- 7.2.4 These features had been cut into an underlying soil layer [2/009], which was damp, with good preservation of root wood. In association with layer [2/010], these layers are thought to represent alluvial silts, possibly accumulating within wet and marshy conditions. The environmental data recovered from this deposit included uncharred seeds including elder, bramble, buttercup, sedge and nettle. Records of marshland reclamation within Bradings Haven dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (perhaps particularly significant may be the embankment constructed from Quay lane by Edward Richards to create grazing) may help explain this

substantial depth of silting.

- 7.2.5 At the base of the trench, between 3.08m and 2.34m OD, the earliest deposit was identified on site [2/011]. This damp, wet layer, with extremely good preservation of oak root wood, contained three very small sherds of probable later 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This slightly dark and slightly fibrous deposit also contained un-charred seeds of elder, bramble, buttercup, sedge and nettle. This layer represents the earliest identifiable phase of silting within the base of the valley. Of potential relevance within this context are records of reclamation of the Brading Haven by William Russel in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The natural sand [2/012] was observed at the very base of the trench at 2.34m OD.

### **7.3 Conclusions**

- 7.3.1 The evaluation has confirmed both the presence of archaeological features dating to the late post medieval period, and a sequence of buried soil deposits, dating back to the early medieval period.
- 7.3.2 Within Trench 2, a gully and a small pit indicate a late post-medieval archaeological horizon at 3.78mOD. Within Trench 1 a probable ditch of late 17<sup>th</sup> century to eighteenth century date was identified at 4.49mOD. These features are thought to relate to drainage and refuse disposal at the rear of properties fronting Brading High Street.
- 7.3.3 The deep sequence of deposits in Trench 2 is thought to represent phases of silting and soil accumulation within the line of an old stream bed or river channel at the edge of the Yar river valley. The process of silting is thought to have begun during the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may correspond with the records of reclamation of Bradings Haven during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.3.5 No earlier deposits, features or structures were identified within the trenches, although two fragments of Roman tile and small abraded fragments of 10<sup>th</sup> to probable 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery found residually within layer [2/010] provide indication of earlier archaeological activity within the area.

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### **ONLINE SOURCES**

Archaeology Data Service (ADS) - Date accessed: 24/05/10

URL: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

Brading Town Council – History of Brading – Date accessed: 10/08/10

URL: <http://www.bradingtowncouncil.org.uk/history.php>

'Parishes: Brading', A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 5 (1912),  
Page, W. (ed.), pp. 156-70 - Date accessed: 10/08/10

URL: <http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42066#s1>

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SGB10					
Identification Name and Address	Secret Garden, 60-61 High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight					
County, District &/or Borough	Isle of Wight					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: SZ607 872					
Geology	Bagshot Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4099					
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. 14 – 15 /07/10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Lee Jones					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East to the rear of The Secret Garden, 60-61 High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 607 872). The evaluation confirmed both the presence of archaeological features dating to the late post medieval period, and identified a sequence of buried soil deposits dating back to the early medieval period.</i></p>						



## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID:**  
**archaeol6-80998**

### Project details

Project name	The Secret Garden
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East to the rear of The Secret Garden, 60-61 High Street, Brading, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 607 872). The evaluation confirmed both the presence of archaeological features dating to the late post medieval period, and identified a sequence of buried soil deposits dating back to the early medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 14-07-2010 End: 15-07-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SGB10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DEPOSIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT BRADING 60-61 High Street
Postcode	XXXXXX

Study area	6.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SZ 607 872 50.6807097343 -1.140747545760 50 40 50 N 001 08 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.00m Max: 5.00m

---

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lee Jones

---

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Leather'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Leather','Stratigraphic','Survey','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey',

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of The Secret Garden
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thorne, A

Other bibliographic details	2010117
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South - East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South- East
Description	grey literature

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Entered by	Alice Thorne (tcrnath@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	12 August 2010

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**APPENDIX 1: Quantification of finds**

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Leather	Wt (g)
1/002	2	54	2	94	2	6	1	26			2	38								
1/003	3	42			2	14	1	<2												
1/004	7	316			3	92														
1/005	1	42			8	134					1	10								
2/004	2	56	1	12	2	40	6	106	1	10	2	28								
2/006	2	36	3	464	1	18	1	14							1	34	3	54	1	148
2/008					47	114														
2/009					6	38	3	36							1	56				
2/010			2	68																
2/011	3	4			4	14							1	76			9	88		
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>148</b>

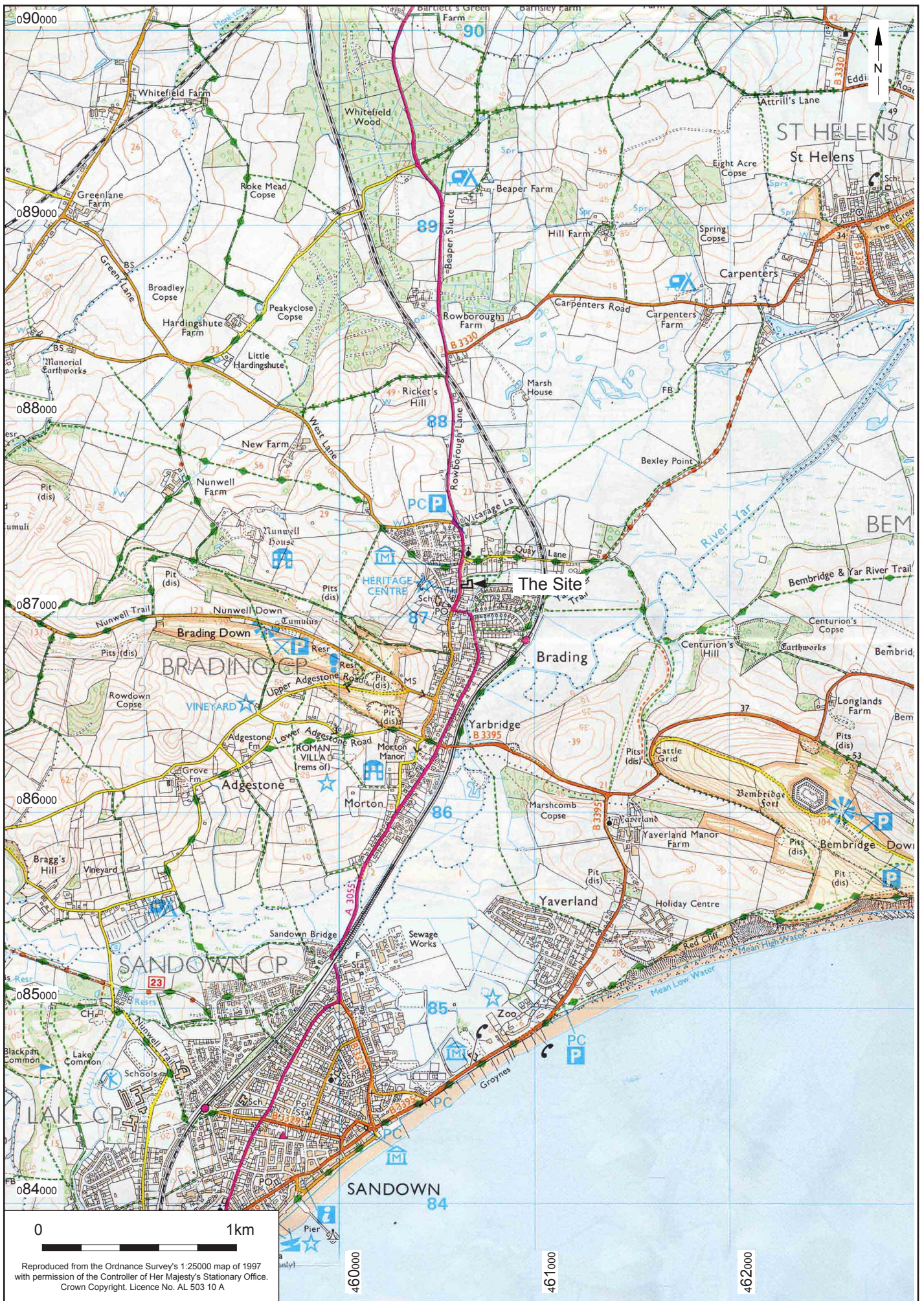
**APPENDIX 2: Environmental Data**

Table 1: Residue Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

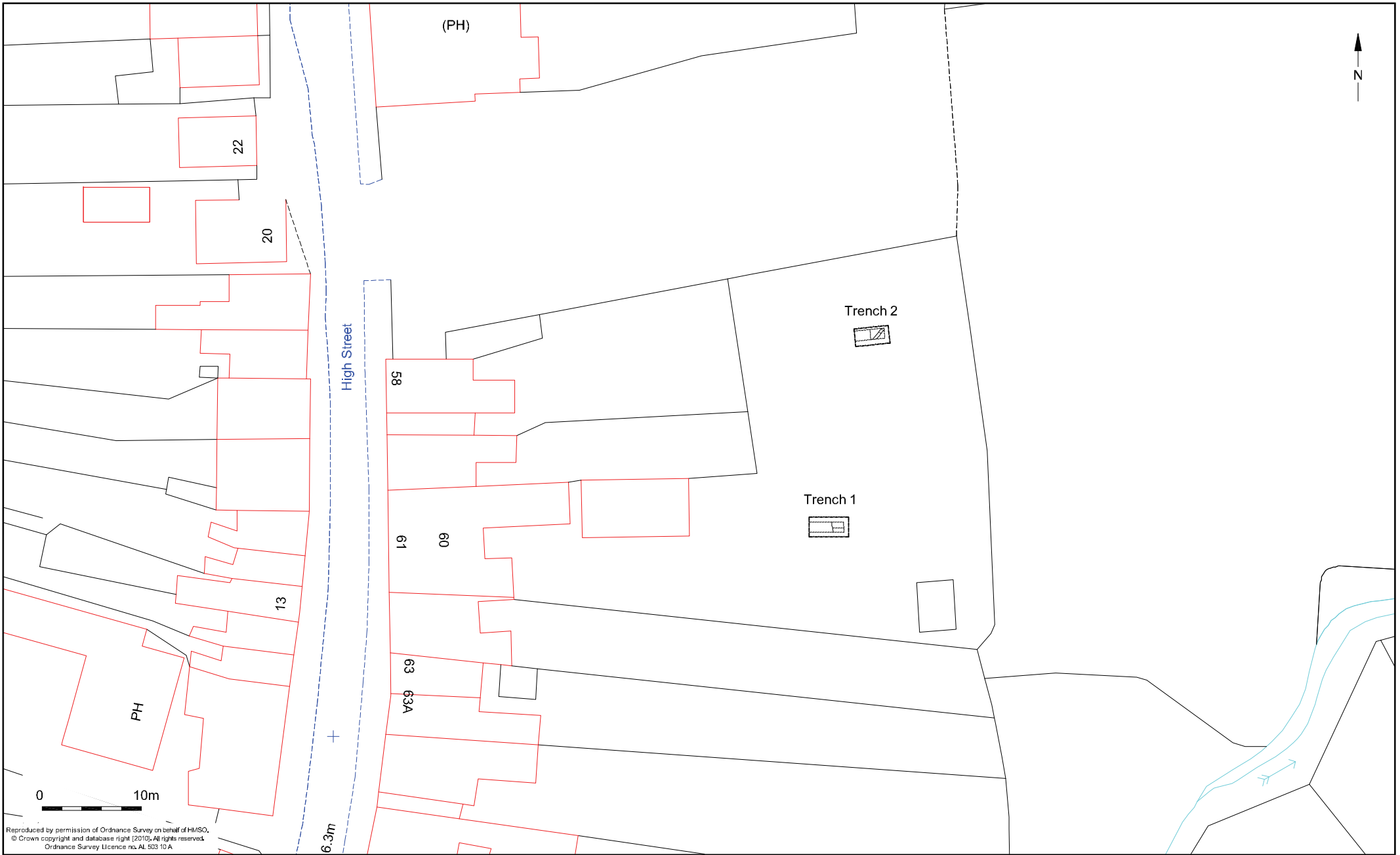
Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/005	fill of linear feature	40	40	**	<2	***	2	*	32	**	<2	**	18	*	<2	Flint */28g, Pottery */14g, Clay pipe */4g, F.clay */10g, Stone*/<2g, Glass */<2g, Metal */<2g, Slag ***/10g, Leather mount */<2g, FCF **/10g
2	2/010	alluvial layer	20	20	*	<2	***	<2									Pottery 5/14g, Uncharred wood */<2g, slag */<2g
3	2/011	alluvial layer	20	20	*	<3	**	<3									

Table 2: Flot quantification (\*=1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* =- 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) & preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Identifications	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed/ wild seeds and other charred remains	Identifications	Preservation	LSS	Ind debris hammerscale
1	1/005	2	<5	95		*** <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Rubus</i> sp., Apiaceae, & catkin frag.			**	<i>Quercus</i> sp., & small indet. round wood, & vitrified	*	cerealia, including <i>Hordeum</i> sp. & <i>Triticum</i> sp.	++	*	indet cpr	+	*	* slag/ clinker
2	2/010	4	<5	95		*** <i>Sambucus</i> <i>nigra</i> , <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Ranunculus</i> sp., <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp. & reeds			**	<i>Quercus</i> sp., <i>Alnus</i> sp.								*
3	2/011	4	<5	98	<2	*** <i>Sambucus</i> <i>nigra</i> , <i>Ranunculus</i> sp., <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Carex</i> sp. & reeds			**	cf. <i>Fraxinus</i> <i>excelsior</i>								



© Archaeology South-East		60-61 High Street, Brading		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4099	July 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010117	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		60-61 High Street, Brading	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4099	July 2010	Trench location and proposed development	
Report Ref: 2010117	Drawn by: JLR		



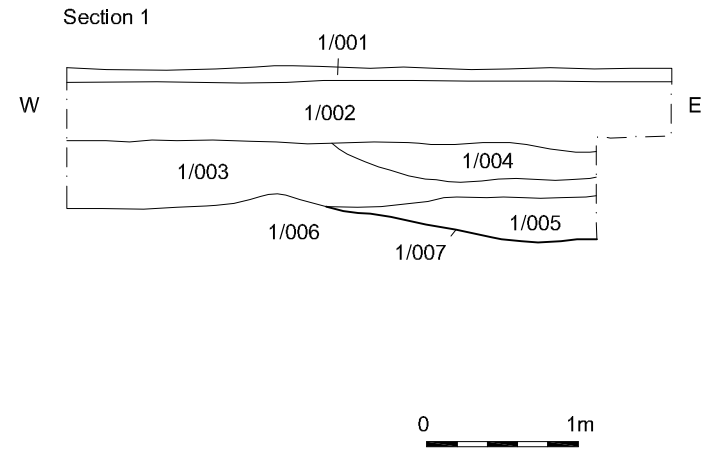
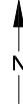
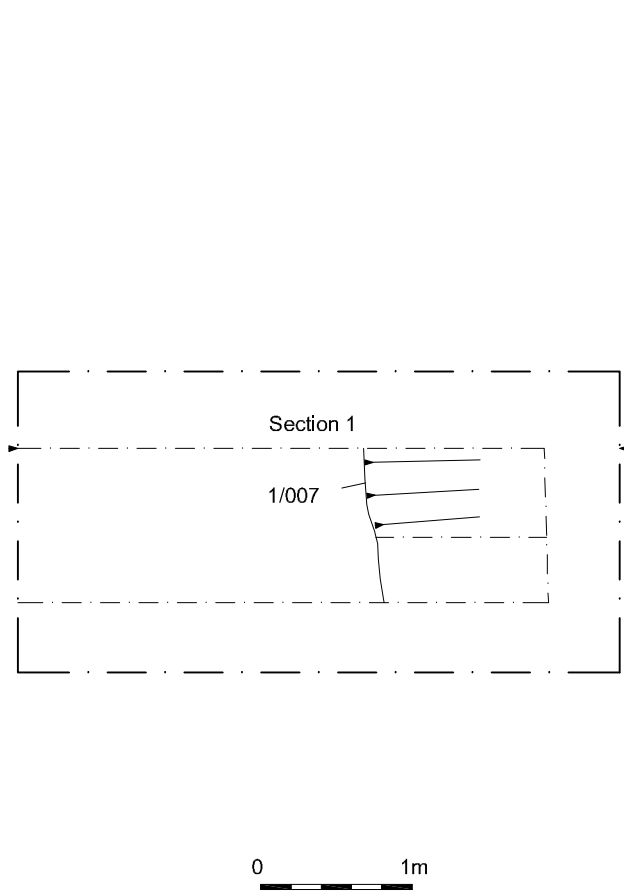


Fig. 3.1: Trench 1 looking west



Fig. 3.2: 1/004 looking north

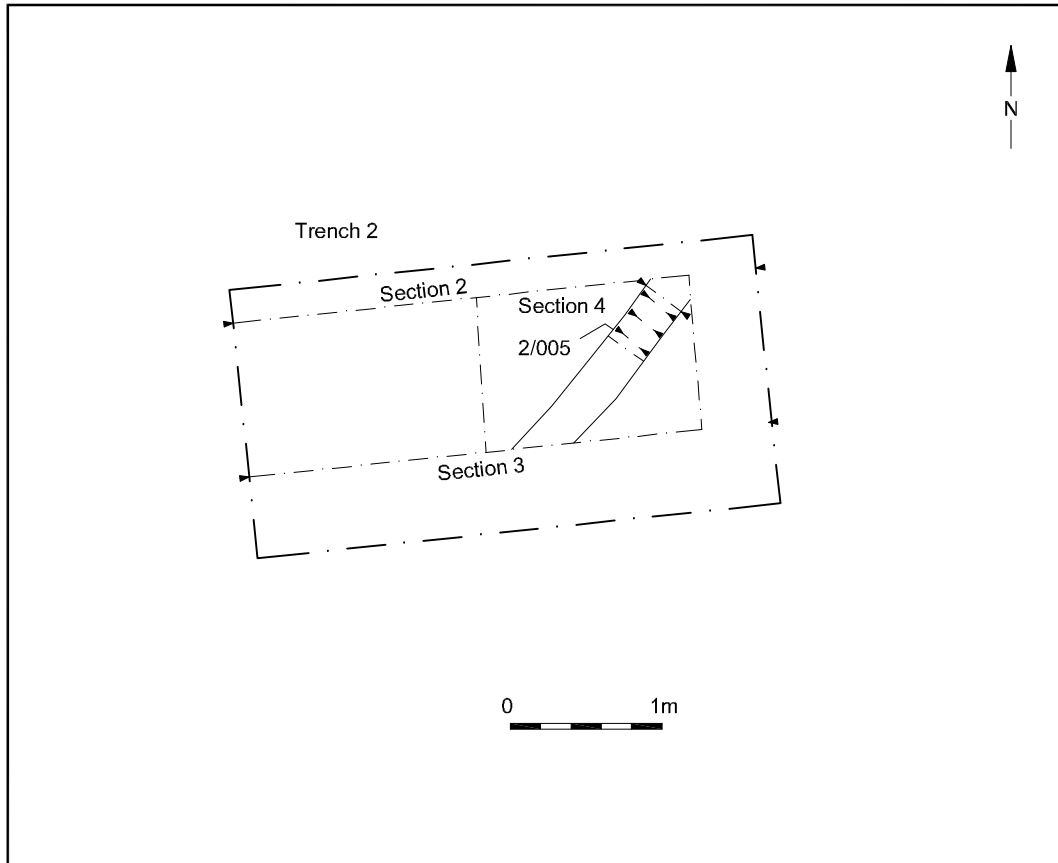
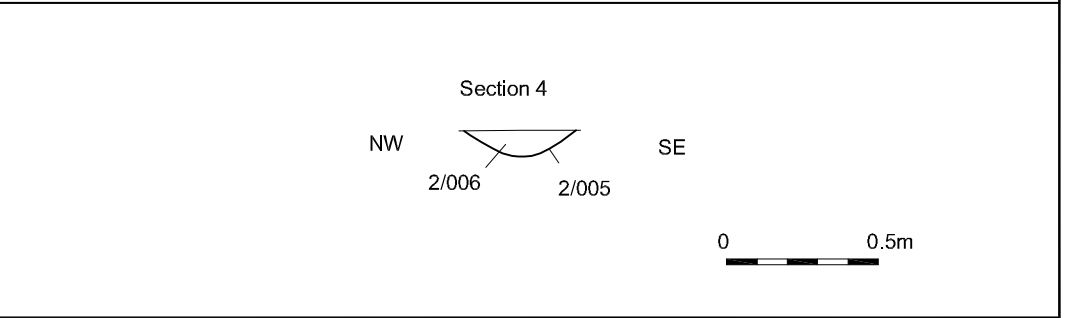
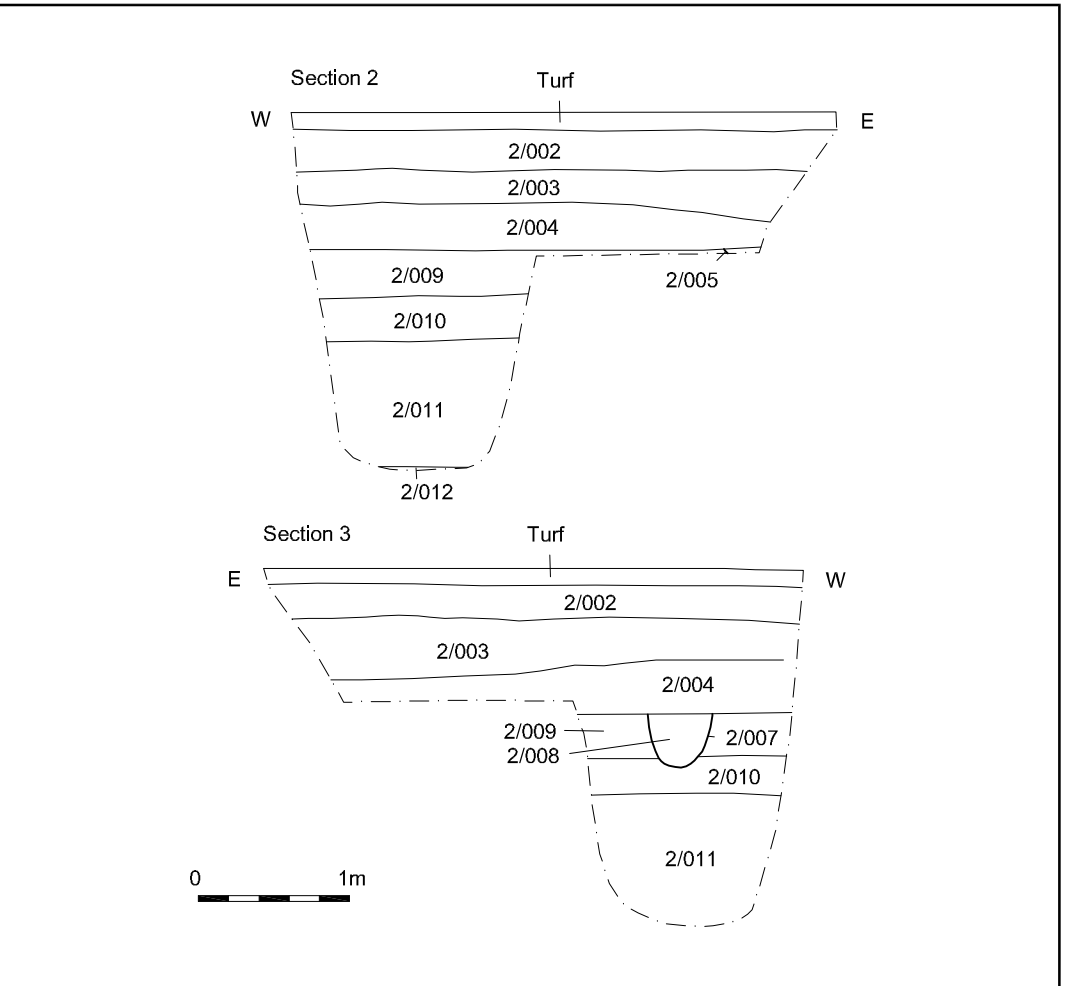


Fig. 4.1: Trench 2 looking north

Fig. 4.2: 2/005 looking north-east



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