

An Archaeological Excavation at Manor Farm, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire

NGR: 473279 115978 (SU 732 159)

Planning Reference: 28619/002
Site code: MFC10
Project No. 4388
ASE Report No. 2010107
OASIS id: archaeol6-81030



by
Kathryn Grant, MSc, AIFA
With contributions from Karine Le Hégarat,
Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen and Lucy Sibun
Illustrations by Justin Russell

**July 2010** 

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## **Abstract**

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Manor Farm, Chalton, Hampshire (NGR 473279 115978). The excavation was commissioned by Simon Budden and took place between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.

Natural chalk geology was encountered at 113.80m AOD at the east of the site sloping gradually down to 111.91m AOD in the west. An undated north-south ditch was encountered across the area on the same alignment as an existing field boundary in the adjacent field to the south. An undated shallow pit was also revealed in the north of the excavation area. Archaeological finds from the site included animal bone fragments, fragments of ceramic building material, flint and shell.

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Simon Budden of the Netherley Farm Partnership to undertake an archaeological investigation in advance of construction of a new barn at Manor Farm, Chalton, Hampshire hereafter referred to as 'the site' (centred NGR 473279 115978; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is located on the eastern outskirts of Chalton village, on Chalton Lane, on undeveloped farmland. The investigation area is fairly flat with a very gradual downward slope to the west. The area measured approximately 60m north-south and 23m east-west.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development involves the construction of a new detached barn for grain storage on the site.
- 1.1.4 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 316), the underlying geology at the site is Upper Chalk which lies at *c*.100 110m OD.

#### 1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning consent for the development was granted by East Hampshire County Council (Planning Application No: 28619/002) with several conditions. Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council, in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority asked for the following condition (Condition 4) which relates to archaeology:

No work shall start on site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and recording which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason - To ensure that any archaeological interest of the historic site is properly safeguarded and recorded.

- 1.2.2 Hannah Fluck requested that the area within the footprint of the proposed barn be subject to an archaeological strip and map exercise to be conducted under the terms laid out within an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.2.3 Following this request a WSI for a strip and map exercise was prepared by ASE (2010) for approval. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI as well as the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Excavations of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and other codes and relevant documents of the IfA.

#### 1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aim of the archaeological work as stipulated in the WSI (ASE 2010) was to identify and plan any archaeological remains present within the excavation area with a view to formulating a strategy to mitigate any proposed impacts on such remains should they exist.
- 1.3.2 Given that the area is so rich in archaeology, particular care would be given to ensure that any finds or remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were properly recorded. Specifically, it was thought that there was a high potential for Saxon burials to exist on the site.
- 1.3.3 The objective of the archaeological excavation was to identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the proposed development. The physical archaeological remains would be replaced by a detailed record and a better understanding of the past activities that have taken place on the site, thereby contributing to an increased knowledge of Chalton's past and providing a resource for future research and education.

# 1.4 Scope of the Report

- 1.4.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological excavation carried out at Manor Farm, Chalton, between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) with the assistance of John Cooke (Assistant Archaeologist). The illustrations included within this report have been digitised by Justin Russell. The project was managed by Andy Leonard and Jim Stevenson.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following information has been sourced from the online Archaeology Data Service (ads) (ads.ahds.ac.uk)

- 2.1 The site lies within an area which is extremely rich in archaeological and historical sites and findspots dating from the Palaeolithic to post-medieval periods.
- **2.2** A Palaeolithic handaxe was found at Clanfield as were Mesolithic and Neolithic flint-knapping sites.
- 2.3 The surrounding area is rich in Bronze Age settlement sites and earthworks, most notably various types of barrows including Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) 34155 a bowl barrow c. 270m south east of Manor Farm and SAM 34156, 3 bowl barrows c. 960m south east of the site as well as other barrows in Clanfield.
- 2.4 The surrounding area is rich in Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology with field system crop marks and excavations, providing settlement and agricultural evidence.
- 2.5 Roman settlements are known at Clanfield and at Rowland Castle and a Roman building and corn-drying kiln were excavated at Manor Farm itself in 1972 as well as an earlier 1954-5 excavation on the site of a Roman settlement. It is not unreasonable to assume that a farm has operated at the site since Romano-British times.
- an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (SAM 33410) is located directly across the road from the proposed development site and a burial was found during evaluation work at the site in 2003.
- 2.7 The monument includes the known extent of the buried remains of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Chalton Peak. The cemetery, which is situated on chalk Downland east of Chalton village, was identified through metal detecting in 2002, when a shield boss, spear heads and other fittings were discovered. The site was further investigated in February 2003 by means of a magnetometry survey, revealing a large number of geophysical anomalies, which were interpreted as the locations of graves. A small scale excavation followed leading to the discovery of an inhumation burial containing the skeleton of a female aged 25 or over, and traces of the ditch fill of a second grave, which were left unexamined. The female skeleton was aligned north-south with the head at the southern end of the grave. The grave contained no other artifacts except a Saxon pottery fragment in the grave fill.
- 2.8 The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Chalton Peak is situated about 150m north east of Manor Farm, where between 1967 and 1972 the remains of late Saxon timbered structures were excavated. Approximately 1km to the south, on Church Down, the remains of 61 separate buildings were discovered, dating to the sixth and seventh centuries AD, suggesting that the nucleus of Chalton's settlement moved northwards towards the location of the modern village between the seventh and thirteenth centuries.
- 2.9 The pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Chalton Peak survives well, preserving

both human remains and artefacts. The archaeological evidence contained within the cemetery is particularly valuable in association with that from nearby settlements. This unique combination of evidence provides a rare insight into the demography and spatial organization of the area during the Saxon period. In addition, human remains can be expected to provide information on the Anglo-Saxon standard of living, diet and health, while artefactual evidence will shed further light on social structure, ritual and beliefs systems, as well as trade connections operating at the time.

2.10 Chalton itself is therefore probably mid-Saxon in origins and excavations at Manor Farm itself have uncovered early medieval settlement evidence and a corn-dryer. The village church, St Michael's, is thought to have 13<sup>th</sup> century origins, though these probably overlie an earlier, possibly timber, church. Also between 1967 and 1972, two aisled halls of the 13th and 14th centuries, partly incorporated into the modern farmhouse, were recorded at Manor Farmhouse. The earlier medieval settlement is undoubtedly part of a wider network of villages and hamlets with other known excavated examples at Glebe Farm and Rowland Castle motte and bailey c. c. 1km to the south of the site.

#### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

# 3.1 Methods Employed

- 3.1.1 The complete adopted methodology may be found in the WSI (ASE 2010). This section is a brief précis of the detail within the WSI. The excavation work comprised one stripped area, excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Due to the negative effect any proposed ground reduction would have on any potential archaeological deposits and features within the site it was agreed that the footprint of the proposed new barn be defined as the limit of the archaeological strip and map exercise. The agreed extent of archaeological investigation is shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Any unclear areas were manually cleaned to identify individual archaeological features present. The sections of the excavated area were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts. Once the area was stripped no dumpers were permitted to run over the area, to prevent rutting and disturbance of any archaeological deposits beneath.
- 3.1.4 The area was located and levelled using a Total Station and tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were drawn by hand in plan and section. Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological excavation was assigned its own unique context number starting at [001]. The revealed contexts were fully recorded on ASE context sheets and the trench was planned. These illustrations have been digitised and can be seen at the end of this report.
- 3.1.6 An extensive digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) SLR photographic record of all trenches and archaeological features.

#### 3.2 The Site and Project Archive

3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	21
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 plan sheet at 1:20& 1 Section sheets @ 1:10
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	5 b&w film , 5 colour film & 40 digital
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

#### 4.0 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The excavation area measured approximately 60m north-south by 23m east-west. Twenty-one contexts were recorded during the archaeological excavation. These contexts have been tabulated in 4.1.2 (Table 2) and summarised in 4.2.

#### 4.1.2

Number	Type	Description	Deposit	Heights
			Thickness	m AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil	250-350mm	-
002	Layer	Natural Chalk	-	111.91 - 113.80
003	Fill	Upper fill of 005	230mm	-
004	Fill	Lower fill of 005	320mm	-
005	Cut	N-S Ditch Cut	-	113.48
006	Fill	Upper fill of 008	240mm	-
007	Fill	Lower fill of 008	520mm	-
008	Cut	N-S Ditch Cut	-	113.61
009	Fill	Upper fill of 011	260mm	-
010	Fill	Lower fill of 011	200mm	-
011	Cut	N-S Ditch Cut	-	113.28
012	Fill	Fill of 013	230mm	-
013	Cut	Pit Cut	-	113.06
014	Fill	Fill of 015	250mm	-
015	Cut	E-W gully	-	113.06
016	Fill	Fill of 017	510mm	-
017	Cut	E-W gully	-	112.68
018	Fill	Fill of 019	140mm	-
019	Cut	E-W drainage gully	-	-
020	Fill	Fill of 021	210mm	-
021	Cut	E-W drainage gully	-	-

Table 1: List of Recorded Contexts in the Excavation Area

# **4.2 Context Summary and Feature Descriptions** (Figures 3, 4)

- 4.2.1 Natural chalk geology [002] was encountered 250-350mm beneath the ground surface. This was overlain by a thin layer of light gray silty topsoil [001]. Several undated linear features and one pit were observed cutting into the chalk.
- 4.2.2 A substantial linear ditch with north-south orientation was encountered across the entire excavation area. Three slots were hand-excavated through this ditch as a means of sample investigation (contexts [003-011]). This ditch contained two fills: a primary basal fill comprising mid greyish brown friable silt with frequent chalk fragments, occasional natural sub-angular flint stones and rare rooting; and a secondary upper fill consisting of mid greyish brown friable silt with occasional small chalk flecks, rare animal bone fragments, rare small natural flint stone inclusions and occasional rooting. No

archaeological finds were revealed in this ditch and as such it is undated. The profile of this ditch in section suggests that at some point it may have been re-cut prior to the second phase of infilling. The ditch corresponds with an existing hedged boundary which can be seen to the south of the excavation area and it is therefore thought to have been a continuation of this boundary at some point in the past.

- 4.2.3 A sub-circular pit with a diameter of c.1.1m and a depth of 230mm was encountered at the northern end of the excavation area [013]. The pit contained loose light brown find sandy silt fill [012] with occasional chalk fragments and rare natural flint stones. No archaeological finds were recovered from the feature which was half-sectioned, recorded and then fully excavated. A small modern disturbance was observed on the eastern edge. This feature was cut by an east-west aligned gully (contexts [015/017]) on its northern edge.
- 4.2.4 In total, four east-west aligned linear gullies were recorded crossing the excavation area. Slots were hand-excavated through all of these features in order to characterise them. One was found to contain a water pipe. The other three (contexts [014-021]) were shallow (maximum 250mm deep) and cut high up into the topsoil layer (beneath the turf) and were as such recorded as modern drainage gullies.

#### 5.0 THE FINDS

#### 5.1 Overview

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work. A summary can be found in Table 3. Finds were all washed, dried as appropriate, counted, weighed, bagged by material and stored according to IFA guidelines.

#### 5.1.2

		wt		wt		wt		wt		wt
Context	CBM	(g)	Bone	(g)	Shell	(g)	Flint	(g)	FCF	(g)
u/s	12	908	2	<2						
003			4	46	2	20	1	10	1	118
006			42	154						
009			1	74						
Total	12	908	49	274	2	20	1	10	1	118

Table 3: Quantification of the Finds.

# **5.2** The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 A total of twelve fragments of unstratified ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered with a combined weight of 908g. The assemblage included a fragment of brick, a piece of possible deflanged *tegula* and another fragment of Roman CBM. All the Roman material was in an orange fabric with moderate fine silt inclusions and sparse coarse red silt. Four fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile in a sandy orange fabric with abundant fine to medium coarse quartz inclusions were identified and an undated fragment of sandy orange brick, and three undated peg tile fragments were also recovered.

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

5.3.1 A total of 49 bone fragments were recovered, weighing 274 grams. [003] produced cattle and pig long-bone fragments and a single fragment identified as cattle was recovered from [009] .The majority of the assemblage was recovered from [006] and whilst this included one or two fragments of cattle and pig, most were identified as adult dog and are presumed to represent the partial skeleton of a single animal.

# **5.4** The Flintwork by Karine Le Hegarat

5.4.1 A single struck flint weighing 10g was recovered from the upper fill [003] of ditch [005]. The same context produced one piece of fire-cracked flint weighing 118g. The struck flint consists of a broken tertiary unretouched flake, the distal end of which is absent. The raw material is chalk flint and light grey to white in colour. Although the flake is patinated, it exhibits a dull

area on the dorsal surface. This implies some post-depositional disturbance at some point in the past. The flake is unmodified. However, the right-hand edge shows signs of having been utilised and the flake is therefore classified as an implement. The artefact is undiagnostic and represents an isolated find.

# **5.5** The Shell by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 An abraded upper valve from an oyster shell was recovered from [003]. The same context also contained a landsnail.

# 5.6 Finds Potential

5.6.1 The assemblage is too small to be of any significance. There is no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Considering the potential of the area in relation to its archaeologically rich surroundings, only a few features were encountered during the archaeological investigation on the site of the proposed barn. Investigation of the east-west linear gullies demonstrated that these features are likely to be of fairly recent origin; the shallow profile and orientation on the downward slope indicating a probable drainage function for standing water in the fields.
- 6.2 The most promising archaeological feature revealed during the archaeological investigation was a north-south linear ditch from which no datable finds were recovered and as such it is unclear when this ditch went out of use. It is likely that this ditch functioned as an old field boundary, a continuation of which can be seen on the same alignment in the adjacent field to the south.
- 6.3 The only other feature encountered during the archaeological investigation at the site was a shallow sub-circular pit which also lacked datable finds.

## **REFERENCES**

ASE 2010. New Barn Site, Manor Farm, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Investigation (Prepared by Dan Swift). Unpublished ASE Document. Project No. 4388.

BGS (British Geological Surveys) 1996. Sheet 316 (Solid and Drift Edition – 1:50 000 Series.

English Heritage 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects.* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: English Heritage.

IFA 2000. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

IFA 2001. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance documents.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank all those involved with the project with particular thanks to Simon Budden and his staff at Manor Farm for their cooperation and assistance throughout the archaeological investigation. Many thanks also to Hannah Fluck (Hampshire County Council) for her advice and guidance.

# **HER Summary Form**

Site Code	MFC 10							
Identification Name and Address	Manor Farm, Chalton							
County, District &/or Borough	Waterlooville, I	Waterlooville, Hampshire						
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 473279	NGR: 473279 115978						
Geology	Upper Chalk							
Arch. South-East Project Number	4388							
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Wato Brief	_	Standing Structure	-	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urba		Other			•
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. 21-23 June 2010	WB.		Other			
Sponsor/Client	Simon Budden	Simon Budden						
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jon Sygrave							
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant							
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.		Neo.		ВА	IA	RB
	AS	MED		PM		ЮИ	NE	

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Manor Farm, Chalton, Hampshire (NGR 473279 115978). The excavation was commissioned by Simon Budden and took place between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.

Natural chalk geology was encountered at 113.80m AOD at the east of the site sloping gradually down to 111.91m AOD in the west. An undated north-south ditch was encountered across the area on the same alignment as an existing field boundary in the adjacent field to the south. An undated shallow pit was also revealed in the north of the excavation area. Archaeological finds from the site included animal bone fragments, fragments of ceramic building material, flint and shell.

#### **OASIS Form**

#### OASIS ID: archaeol6-81030

**Project details** 

Project name Manor Farm, Chalton

Short description of An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Archaeology

the project

South-East (ASE) at Manor Farm, Chalton, Hampshire (NGR 473279 115978). The excavation was commissioned by Simon Budden and took place between 21st and 23rd June 2010. Natural chalk geology was encountered at 113.80m AOD at the east of the site sloping gradually down to 111.91m AOD in the west. An undated north-south ditch was encountered across the area on the same alignment as an existing field boundary in the adjacent field to the south. An undated shallow pit was also revealed in the north of the excavation area. Archaeological finds from the site included animal bone fragments, fragments of ceramic building material, flint and shell.

Project dates Start: 21-06-2010 End: 23-06-2010

Previous/future

work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

MFC 10 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Investigation type 'Open-area excavation'

Prompt Planning condition

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE EAST HAMPSHIRE PETERSFIELD Manor Farm,

Chalton

Postcode SG5 3

Site coordinates SU 732 159 50.9373435247 -0.958103903089 50 56 14 N 000 57

29 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 11.91m Max: 113.80m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South East

Project

director/manager

Andy Leonard

# **Archaeology South-East**

Manor Farm, Chalton: ASE Project No. 2010107

Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Entered by Kathryn Grant (Kathryn.Grant@ucl.ac.uk)

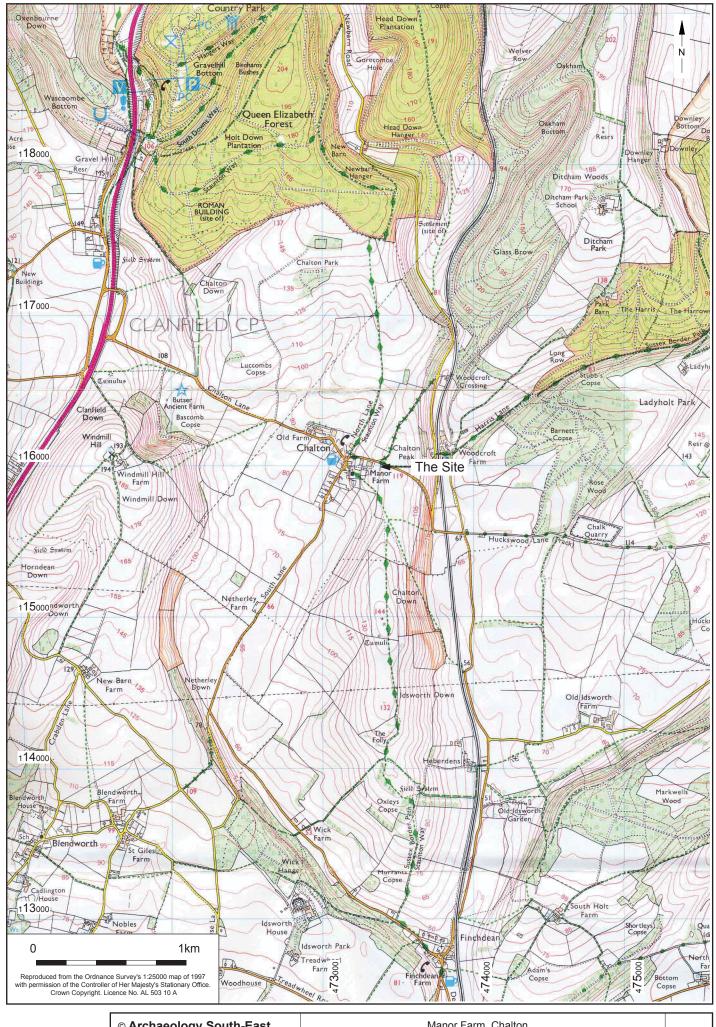
Entered on 13 August 2010

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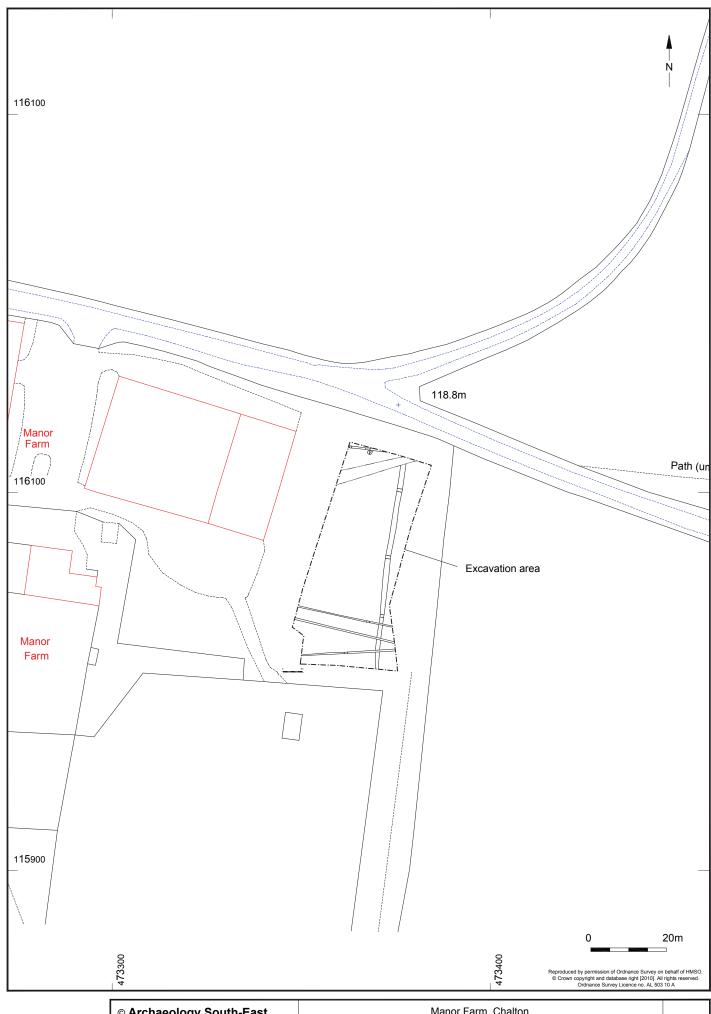
Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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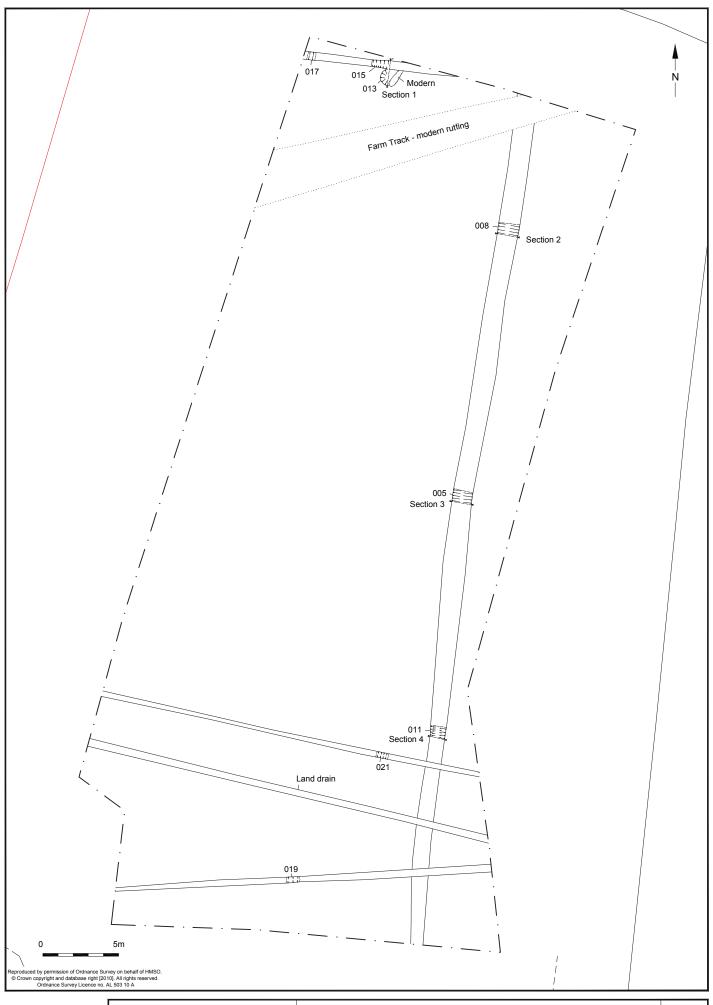
Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page



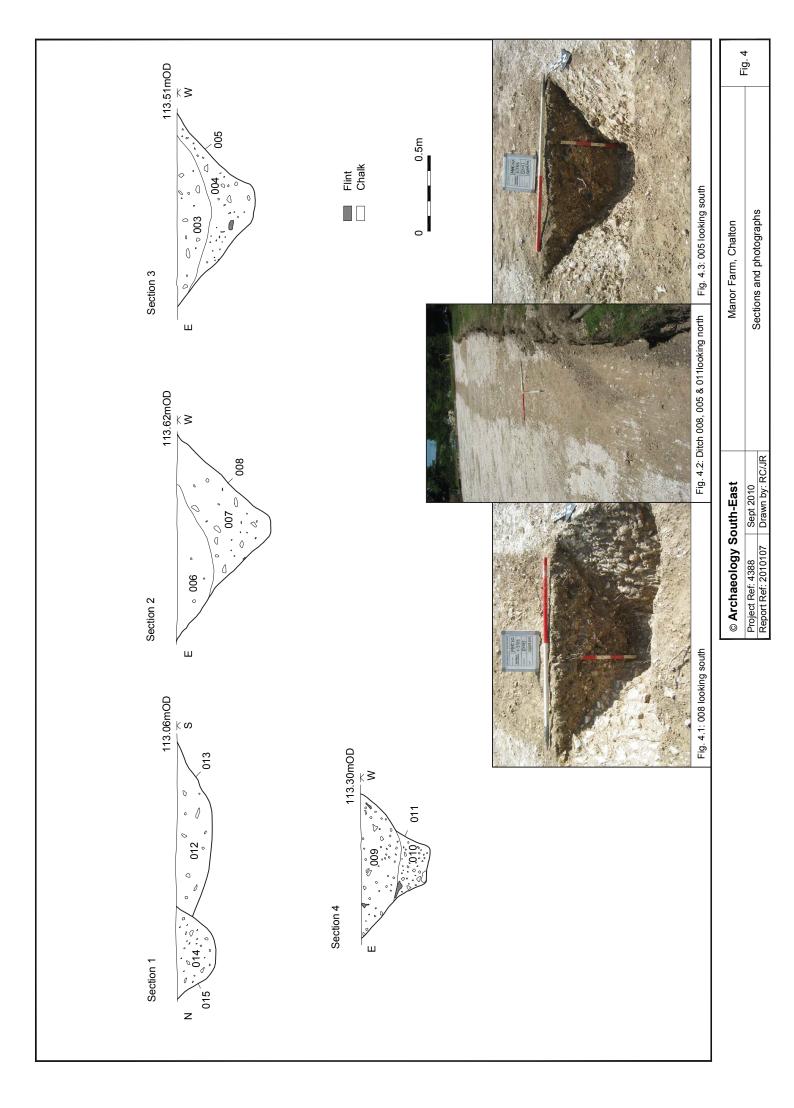
© Archaeology S	outh-East	Manor Farm, Chalton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4388	Sept 2010	Cita location	i ig. i
Report Ref: 2010107	Drawn by: JLR	Site location	



© Archaeology South-East		Manor Farm, Chalton	
Project Ref: 4388	Sept 2010	Trench location	Fig. 2
Report Ref: 2010107	Drawn by: RC/JR	rrench location	



© Archaeology S	outh-East	Manor Farm, Chalton	
Project Ref: 4388	Sept 2010	Trench plan	Fig. 3
Report Ref: 2010107	Drawn by: RC/JR	Tienon plan	



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