Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Iping Road, Milland

Scheduled Monument Consent: HSD 9/2/9832

NGR 484259 126285
to 484460 125953

Project No. 3151
Site Code: IRM08

ASE Report No. 2010217
OASIS id: archaeol6-88640

Chris Killeen
With contributions by
Sam Whitehead, Anna Doherty, Sarah Porteus

January 2011

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Iping Road, Milland

Scheduled Monument Consent: HSD 9/2/9832

NGR 484259 126285
to 484460 125953

Project No. 3151
Site Code: IRM08

ASE Report No. 2010217
OASIS id: archaeol6-88640

Chris Killeen
With contributions by
Sam Whitehead, Anna Doherty, Sarah Porteus

January 2011

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

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

A watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of the, University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), on a 400m length of pipe trench being excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m for the laying of a new sewer main. This trenching was done in the roadway itself or in the verge on the eastern side of the road. This area was of particular archaeological interest because it ran on the suspected line of a roman road and through a scheduled monument and a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242).

During the course of the trenching, it was discovered that the majority of the trenched area was previously disturbed by services already laid in the road. A fragment of amphora was found in the backfill of one of these service trenches.

In the undisturbed areas, three linear features and a pit were seen in the section of the trench, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features.

CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South East, a division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) were commissioned by Clancy Docwra on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake a watching brief on the excavation of 400m of trenching for a replacement sewer main at Iping Road, Milland.

1.1.2 The area of Iping Road to be trenched for the replacement sewer main passes through a scheduled monument, a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242). It was therefore decided by English Heritage's Inspector of Monuments that archaeological investigation and monitoring should be carried out inside the scheduled area. The Chichester District Archaeologist, James Kenny, also decided that intrusive work outside of the scheduled area should be covered by a watching brief to record any uncovered archaeology.

1.1.3 The project was managed by Neil Griffin and supervised by Chris Killeen and Sam Whitehead. The watching brief was carried out between 27th of October 2010 and the 22nd of November 2010.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The excavations at this site were undertaken for the purpose of laying a sewer main.

1.2.2 Scheduled Monument Consent for the scheme has been granted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under reference HSD 9/2/9832.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The Aims of the archaeological watching brief were recorded in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* (ASE, 2008) and are reproduced below;

1.3.2 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the ground works specified below in order to ensure that any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.3.3 Site specific aims were to:

- Establish through monitoring the initial programme of site investigations whether or not a watching brief will be sufficient mitigation within the SM during the main pipeline construction works
- Establish the character, condition, significance, depth below ground and date of archaeological remains associated with the Mansio, the Roman road and the immediate environs

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The *WSI* (ASE 2008) describes the archaeological background to the site, which is reproduced here with due acknowledgement.

2.2 The monument includes a mansio, or Roman posting station, situated on the course of a Roman road which ran northwards from Chichester (Noviomagus) 21km to the south. The northwest - southeast aligned, rectangular mansio, discovered during aerial reconnaissance carried out in the 1950s, survives as an uneven, raised area of about 0.9ha, containing the buried remains of buildings and structures. This is enclosed by a bank *c.* 8m wide and up to *c*. 1m high, levelled and partly disturbed in places by the subsequent construction of Weston's Farm, Weston's Farm Cottage and their associated gardens and outbuildings. The bank is surrounded by a ditch up to *c*. 20m wide and *c*. 0.5m deep, flanked by a low counterscarp bank on its north western and south western sides. A simple gap in the north western ramparts near the north eastern corner has been identified as the original entranceway. The construction of the modern Iping-Milland road and the farm track which cross the monument have partly disturbed the remains of the mansio. A small part of the south western sector of the mansio, occupied by a modern timber mill, has been substantially levelled by modern activity and is therefore not included in the scheduling. The buildings of Weston's Farm and Weston's Farm Cottages, their associated outbuildings and barns, all modern fences, gates, walls and garden structures, the modern surfaces of all roads, tracks, hardstanding, patios and paths, the roadside bollards, signs and telegraph poles are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath all these features is included. (ASE 2008)

2.3 Mansiones were substantial, mostly masonry, buildings of varying size and plan providing facilities, including accommodation and stabling, for travellers associated with the Cursus Publicus (the provincial postal service of Roman Britain). Constructed on or adjacent to major contemporary roads, they are usually found in urban contexts or within forts, although some examples lie between towns on roads which cross the more sparsely settled rural areas. They are found throughout England. Dating from the second to mid-fourth centuries AD, mansiones were often amongst the largest buildings of the town. The largest recorded urban example is at Silchester, where the mansio covers an area of c.0.4ha. Most examples survive in the form of buried foundations. Few examples have been positively identified and, in view of this rarity, all mansiones with surviving remains are considered to be of national importance. (ASE 2008)

2.4 Despite some disturbance, the mansio at Weston's Farm, a large example of this type of monument, survives particularly well as an upstanding earthwork. It will also contain important, buried archaeological and environmental evidence relating to the original layout and use of the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed. The mansio forms one of a group of three mansiones clustered within West Sussex on major roads leading northwards from Chichester and is one of the few known examples constructed in an isolated rural context. (ASE 2008)

2.5 A magnetometry survey was carried out immediately south of the Scheduled Monument and to the west of Iping Road in January 2007 (Dicks and Haskins 2007). The results provided evidence for occupation outside of the main defensive Mansio. This includes a possible additional ditched enclosure, a series of parallel ditches, a possible trackway and two large round magnetic responses interpreted as possible pits or wells. (ASE 2008)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The trench was monitored as it was excavated by the contractors with either a JCB or mini digger, both with toothless buckets. The trench was 0.30m wide.

3.2 Reasonable time was given to the archaeologist to investigate any features or potential features being uncovered during the excavation. All recording was undertaken on pro-forma record sheets designed for use by ASE.

3.3 Prior to the excavation of the trench itself, five test pits (TP1 to TP5) were excavated under the supervision of ASE staff. The test pits measured 1m by east to west by 2m north to south with the exception of TP1, which measured 1.4m east to west by 2.0m north to south. Test pits 1 and 2 were situated to the north of the scheduled area, test pits 3 and 4 were situated inside the scheduled area and test pit 5 was situated to the south of the scheduled area (Fig. 2).

3.4 The site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, pending submission to a suitable local museum. The contents of the site archive are summarised below in Table 1

Number of Contexts	29
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	114
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	1
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site record

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 2-6)

Number	Type	Description	Max length (m)	Max Width (m)	Max Depth (m)
001	Deposit	Road surface (tarmac)	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
004	Deposit	Geology: Clay	Tr.	Tr.	-
005	Deposit	Bedding layer for road	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
006	Fill	Fill of ditch [006]	-	0.53	0.44
007	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	0.53	0.44
008	Fill	Fill of ditch [009]	-	0.80+	0.35+
009	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	0.80+	0.35+
010	Fill	Fill of ditch [011]	Tr.	0.80+	0.40+
011	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	0.80+	0.40+
012	Cut	Cut of pit	-	1.03	0.18
013	Fill	Fill of pit [012]	-	1.03	0.18
014	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	1.03	0.30
015	Fill	Fill of ditch [014]	Tr.	1.03	0.30
016	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	2.46	0.81
017	Fill	Fill of ditch [016]	Tr.	2.46	0.81
018	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	2.60	0.79
019	Fill	Fill of ditch [018]	Tr.	2.60	0.79
020	Fill	Fill of ditch [023]	Tr.	1.76	0.15
021	Fill	Fill of ditch [023]	Tr.	1.76	0.44
022	Fill	Fill of ditch [023]	Tr.		0.13
023	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	1.76	0.77
024	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
025	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
027	Deposit	Buried road surface	c.30	Tr.	0.15

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.1 Test pits

4.1.1 Test pit 1 (Fig. 3, Section 1)

Test pit 1 was excavated through the road, immediately to the south of the first entrance to Fairfax farm. Beneath the tarmac [001] and road bedding [005], was natural clay [004], which had been heavily disturbed by a modern service trench. No archaeological features or deposits were noted but the test pit did produce an unstratified sherd of roman pottery and a fragment of ceramic building material of uncertain date.

4.1.2 Test pit 2 (Fig. 4, Section 2))

Test pit 2 was also excavated through the road, to the south of Fairfax Farm. The natural [004] was located at the base of the trench. Cut into the natural and beneath the road layers [001] and [005] was a ditch ([006] and [007]) which was also seen in the pipe trench excavation and described below (see 4.2.3). No other features or deposits were located.

4.1.3 Test pit 3 (Fig. 5, Section 8)

Test pit 3 was excavated within the scheduled area. Cut into the natural was possible ditch ([009]), not noted in the excavation of the pipe trench. This feature was orientated north to south, with gently sloping sides, and was

exposed for a length of 2.0m, was at least 0.8m in width and 0.35m in depth. It was filled with loose dark brown grey silt [008], similar to the topsoil noted at the road edge. No finds were recovered from [008].

4.1.4 **Test pit 4 (Fig. 5, Section 9)**
Test Pit 4 was also situated within the scheduled area. Natural [004] was located at the base of the test-pit. A linear feature [011] approximately 0.40m in depth was orientated north to south through the test pit. This was filled with yellow silty sand containing occasional sandstone cobbles and boulders. This feature had been cut by a continuation of the modern service trench originally located in test pit 1, and was sealed by the road bedding and surface layers.

4.1.5 **Test pit 5 (Fig. 6, Section 10)**
Test pit 5 was situated to the south of the scheduled area The natural geology [004] was located directly beneath the road surface and bedding, and no archaeological features or artefacts were located in this test pit.

4.2 The pipe trench

4.2.1 The excavation of the entire pipe trench was monitored by an archaeologist. This trenching was excavated to a width of 0.30m using a toothless bucket.

4.2.2 The north end of the trench started at the pumping station itself and was dug through the entrance of Fairfax farm and into the road (Fig. 3). The area between the pumping station and the road was heavily disturbed by the construction of the pumping station itself and the laying of concrete in the entrance of the farm. The geology underneath the modern roadway [004] was also heavily disturbed, primarily by a modern service trench, also located in test pit 1, which was running along the eastern section of the trench.

4.2.3 The western section of the trench in the road was less disturbed. The edge of a linear ditch [006] was seen, which continued the length of the trench as far as the second entrance to Fairfax farm, where it terminated. This ditch, also recorded in Test pit 2, contained large quantities of post-medieval and modern brick rubble. The rubble and the fact that the ditch respects the modern farm entrance suggests that this feature is modern in date.

4.2.4 Further to the south, there was less disturbance from modern service trenching. Ditch [006], re-appeared and continued for around 16m, following the line of the roadway (Fig. 3).

4.2.5 Four metres to the south was pit [012]. This pit was visible beneath the road in the western section only, and contained a dark grey silty clay fill but no artefacts (Fig. 4, Section 3).

4.2.6 Another 5m to the south of pit [012] a linear feature [014] was seen crossing the trench. The feature had a ‘V’ shaped base and contained a dark grey silty clay fill (Fig. 4, Section 4). There was no dating evidence recovered from this feature.

4.2.7 Two additional linear features [016] and [018] were seen to south of [014] crossing the trench at right angles. These features had similar dimensions, were located approximately 2m apart and appeared to be running parallel to one another (Fig. 4, Sections 5 & 6). They both contained fills of re-deposited natural but neither contained any dating evidence.

4.2.8 One further linear feature was recorded approximately 20m north of the scheduled area [023] (Fig. 4, Section 7). This linear feature contained three distinct fills, a primary fill of dark grey silty clay with frequent pebble inclusions [022], a secondary fill of dark brown silty clay with frequent pebble inclusions [021] and a tertiary fill of yellowish white clay [020]. There was no dating found in any of the fills but the clarity of the edges of the cut and the nature of the fill suggests that this feature is modern in date.

4.2.9 Once inside the scheduled area, the ground became heavily disturbed by modern drainage and service trenching. There was however, a c.30m gap in obvious disturbance in the western side of the trench. This revealed a 0.15m thick strip of clay containing occasional flint cobbles [027] directly below the bedding for the modern road. There was no dating evidence found in the layer, although a degraded and consequently undated agricultural tool was found on the top of this layer. This layer was only observed in the western side of the trench as the opposite section had been severely disturbed by a modern drainage ditch. It is likely that this layer corresponds to feature [011], previously recorded in TP4.

4.2.10 The area to the south of the scheduled monument was also heavily disturbed by a sewer main and buried cables. This disturbance appears to have destroyed any potential for archaeological remains being found in the roadway to the south of the scheduled area.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
Modern service trench	1	262	1	44

Table 3: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 A single fragment of ceramic building material CBM was recovered from the modern service trench backfill. The fragment of under-fired tile in a fine orange sandy fabric with sparse poorly sorted quartz and sparse black iron rich inclusions is possibly of Roman date though this is uncertain and a later date cannot be entirely ruled out.

5.3 The Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 The watching brief produced a single sherd of Roman pottery which had been redeposited in the backfill of the modern pipe-trench. It is the handle of a Dressel 20 amphora, associated with the importation of olive oil from the province of Baetica, in southern Spain, between c.AD40-170. However, owing to very bulky nature of these vessels, they were commonly reused, for example as building material, and often seem to have been in contemporary usage in 3rd and 4th century deposits in Roman Britain.

5.4 Registered finds by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 A single Registered find, RF<1> came from the surface of context [027]. The object is iron, a highly corroded, probable hooked tool blade with the majority of the object obscured by corrosion product. The date of the object is ambiguous and it could conceivably be of Roman or later date.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Due to the narrow nature of the area of excavation, it was difficult to get a clear picture of the archaeology in the trench. This was compounded by large parts of the excavation work being done in previously disturbed parts of the road. There was however some evidence of human activity found in the trenching.

6.2 Roman

6.2.1 Due to the sites proximity to a known Roman monument, a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242), it is not surprising that finds of Roman date were recovered. However, both came from the backfill of a modern pipe trench.

6.3 Modern

6.3.1 Ditch [006] was seen respecting the entrances of Fairfax farm and the modern stable and farm buildings in the northern part of the trench. The fill of this ditch contained modern CBM and probably represents a roadside ditch, in use prior to the modern road surface.

6.4 Undated features

6.4.1 There were several features that could not be dated. These included four linear features running at right angles to the road. Three of these features were backfilled with redeposited natural which contained no dating evidence.

6.4.2 The fourth linear feature [023] was clearer in section. The clarity of the edges of the feature suggests that this feature was recent in date, although the lack of dating evidence cannot support or disprove this assertion.

6.4.3 The pit recorded towards to northern end of the trench was also backfilled with redeposited natural. As with the linear features, the lack of dating evidence made any meaningful interpretation impossible.

6.4.4 The only possible feature recorded within the scheduled area was layer/ditch [011]/[027]. This silty sandy layer was located directly beneath the modern road surface and produced no finds, with the exception of a degraded and undateable iron tool.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 What little archaeology that was uncovered was entirely undated, with no definitive dating evidence being found in any of the features. There were some archaeological finds uncovered during the excavation, but these all came from the backfill of a modern service trench, suggesting that if there had been features of archaeological interest in the study area, they may have been previously disturbed and destroyed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dicks, J. and Haskins, N. 2007. *The Vicus at Iping/Milland. A Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished survey report.

ASE 2008 N. *Replacement Rising Main at Lyford's Bridge, Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex, Written Scheme of Investigation,* Archaeology South East, Unpublished document

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	IRM08					
Identification Name and Address	Iping Road, Milland, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	484259 126285 to 484460 125953					
Geology						
Arch. South-East Project Number	3151					
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.	Excav.	WB. 27/10/10-22/11/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Chris Killeen					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		

100 Word Summary.

A watching brief was carried out by archaeologists from Archaeology South East, a division of the Institute for Applied Archaeology, University College London, on a 400m length of pipe trench being excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m for the laying of a new sewer main. This trenching was done in the roadway itself or in the verge on the eastern side of the road. This area was of particular archaeological interest because it ran on the suspected line of a roman road and through a scheduled monument, a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242).

During the course of the trenching, it was discovered that the majority of the trenched area was previously disturbed by previous services already laid in the road. A fragment of amphora was found in the backfill of one of these service trenches.

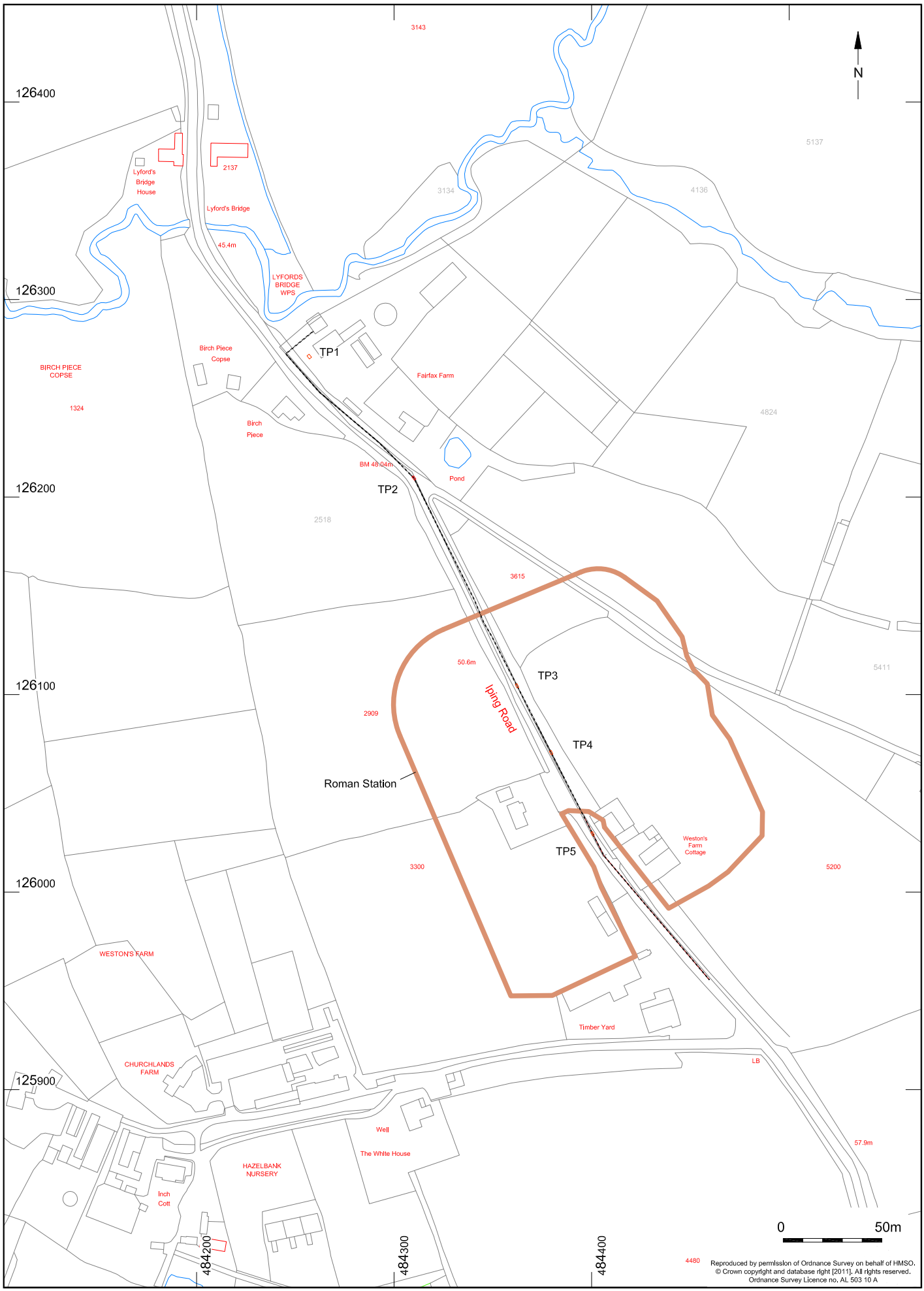
In the undisturbed areas, three linear features and a pit were seen in the section of the trench, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features.

OASIS ID: archaeol6-88640

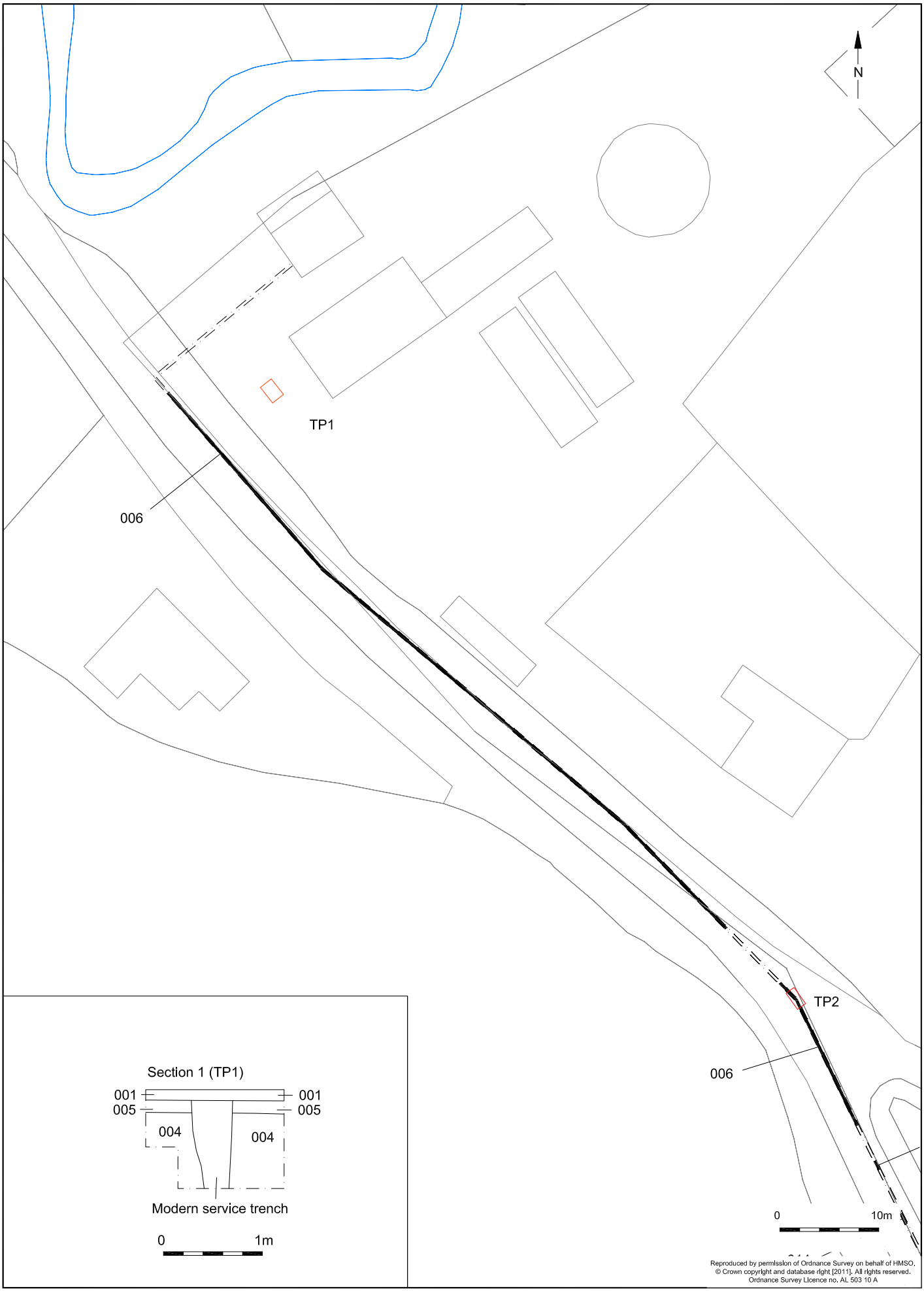
Project details	
Project name	Iping Road, Milland
Short description of the project	A watching brief was carried out by archaeologists from Archaeology South East, a division of the Institute for Applied Archaeology, University College London, on a 400m length of pipe trench being excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m for the laying of a new sewer main. This trenching was done in the roadway itself or in the verge on the eastern side of the road. This area was of particular archaeological interest because it ran on the suspected line of a roman road and through a scheduled monument, a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242). During the course of the trenching, it was discovered that the majority of the trenched area was previously disturbed by previous services already laid in the road. A fragment of amphora was found in the backfill of one of these service trenches. In the undisturbed areas, three linear features and a pit were seen in the section of the trench, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features.
Project dates	Start: 27-10-2010 End: 22-11-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SM 29242 - SM No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER MILLAND Iping Road, Milland
Postcode	GU30 7NA
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	484259 126285 484259 00 00 N 126285 00 00 E Line
Site coordinates	484460 125953 484460 00 00 N 125953 00 00 E Line
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	Chris Killeen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive	Local Museum

recipient	
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Photograph','Unpublished Text'
Entered by	Chris Killeen (Chris__killeen@hotmail.co.uk)
Entered on	6 December 2010

© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Plan of segment 1	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		

N

TP2

006

012
Section 3

014
Section 4

016
Section 5

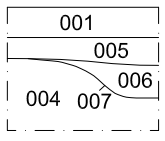
018
Section 6

023
Section 7

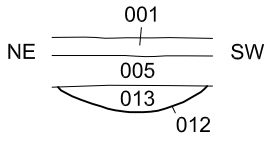
TP3

0 10m

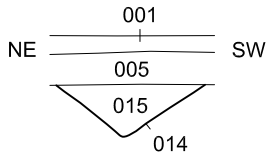
Section 2 (TP2)



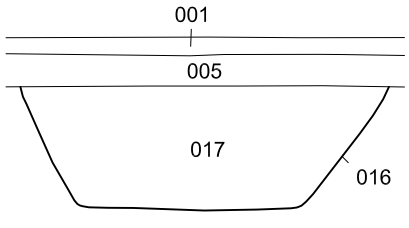
Section 3



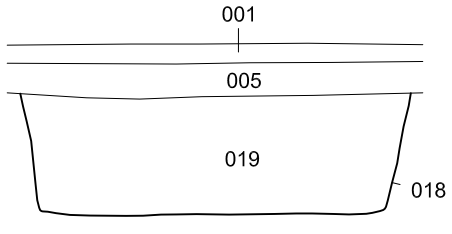
Section 4



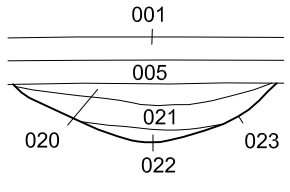
Section 5



Section 6

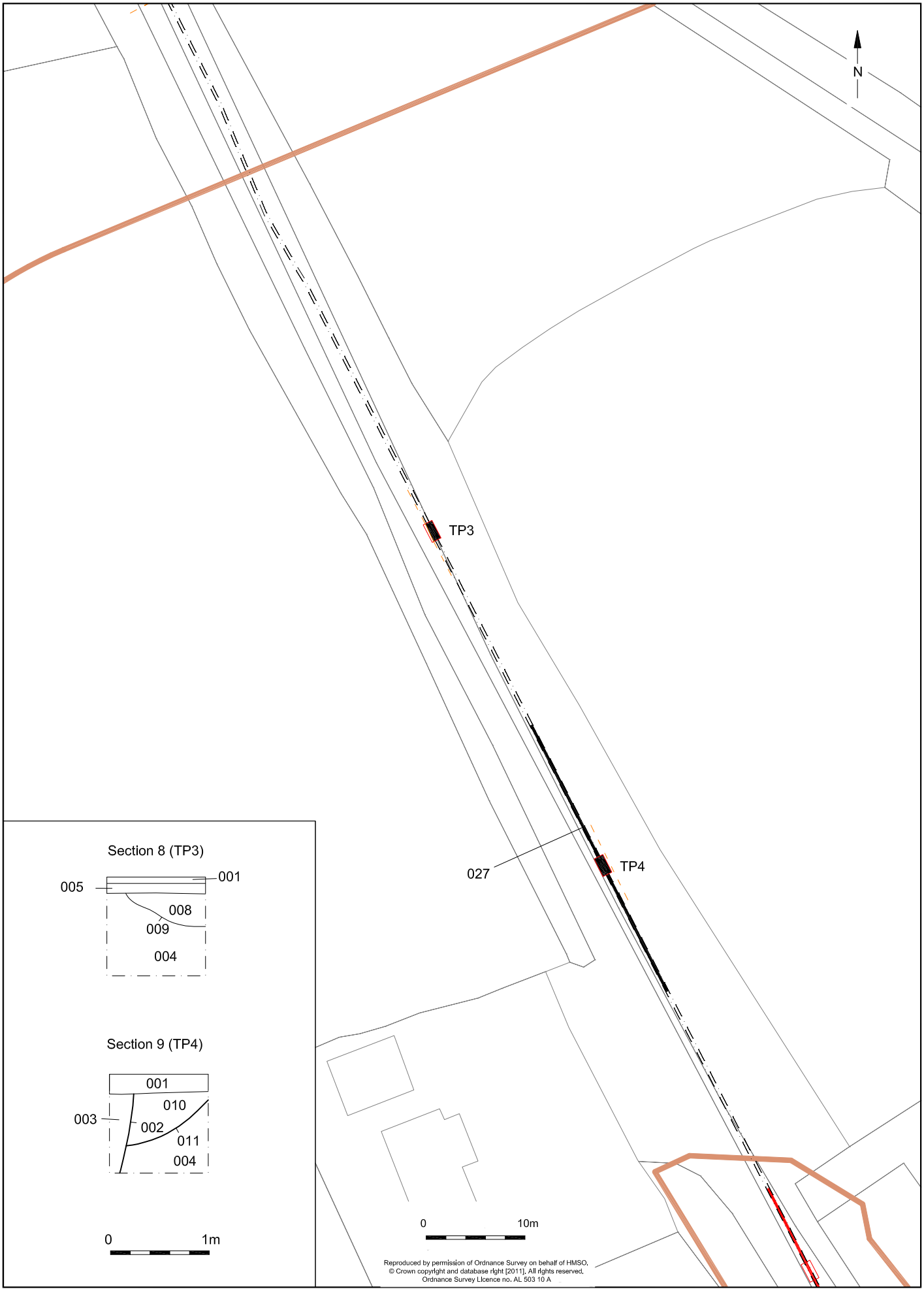


Section 7



0 1m

© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Plan of segment 2	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Plan segment 3	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		

© Archaeology South-East		Iping Road, Milland	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3151	Jan 2011	Plan segment 4	
Report Ref: 2010217	Drawn by: JLR		

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