

**Archaeological Evaluation at Townland, Coombe Hill,
Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9NU**

Planning Refs: APP/Z3825/A/09/2106405 & DC/08/2073

**NGR TQ 08810 26250
NGR 508810 126250**

**Project No: 4537
Site Code: COO 10**

**ASE Report No: 2010218
OASIS ID: archaeol6-89831**

Dylan Hopkinson MA

December 2010

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of the former Sheltered housing 'Townland', Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex. The work was carried out between 22nd and 23rd November 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of their client Saxon Weald prior to the construction of terraced houses, flats and associated parking. A total of 3 trenches measuring 20 metres in length were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site in order to fulfil the planning condition.

The site lies on the Weald Clay Formation, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 301, and lies adjacent to the High Street which is the probable centre line of the alignment of the Stane Street Roman road connecting London and Chichester.

The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 31.90 mAOD in the north of the site and 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site.

A number of archaeological features were identified including a curved alignment of postholes, a beam-slot, a shallow linear cut and a group of stake-holes; no overall interpretation of these features has been possible and dating evidence suggests a post-medieval date at the earliest.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Saxon Weald (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of the former Sheltered Housing Block 'Townland' Coombe Hill, Billingshurst (NGR 508810 126250; Fig. 1) prior to the construction of terraced houses, flats and associated parking.

1.1.2 A total of three 20 metre evaluation trenches were excavated.

1.2 Location and geology

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Survey Sheet 301, Haslemere) the site lies on the Weald Clay Formation.

1.2.2 The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 31.90 mAOD in the north of the site and 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site.

1.2.3 The site was formerly occupied by a block of sheltered housing that was located along the western side and the mid northern area of the site; while the remainder of the site was occupied by gardens.

1.3 Planning background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted (DC/08/2073) by the Planning Inspectorate of West Sussex County Council on appeal (APP/Z3825/A/09/2106405). This allowed the construction of terraced houses, flats and associated parking.

1.3.2 On the basis of present archaeological information regarding the route of Stane Street Roman road, the Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council (WSSC), in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council, recommended that the site should be subject to a condition of the planning approval in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. This condition states that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant or their Agents or successor in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority”.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation was developed by the client in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition (WSI 2008), and this was submitted to John Mills, Senior Archaeologist at WSSC (in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council) for approval prior to the commencement of works.

1.3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with this document and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

1.4 Scope of the report

1.4.1 This report provides a detailed account of the archaeological evaluation. The work was undertaken between 22nd and 23rd November 2010 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), and Lesley Davidson (Surveyor).

1.4.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is updated from a Desk Based Assessment undertaken on a nearby site by Archaeology South-East and is summarised here with due acknowledgement (ASE2008b).

2.1.2 The Sites and Monuments Record maintained by West Sussex County Council, and held at Chichester, was consulted, together with the NMR National Inventory and Excavation Index. Listed Building and Conservation Area data was acquired from English Heritage and West Sussex County Council. Details were taken of all archaeological sites and Listed Buildings within a one kilometre radius of the centre of the site (hereafter referred to as the Study Area). The identified sites are tabulated in Appendix 1 and shown plotted on Fig. 1.

2.2 Mesolithic (c. 10,000 BC - c.5,000 BC)

2.2.2 Two Mesolithic sites may be recorded within the Study Area. Site 1 relates to some flakes and blades, possibly Mesolithic, which were discovered in the back garden of a new residential building, 700 m to the south of the Site. Site 2 refers to the possible soft hammer Mesolithic flake found during an archaeological strip and map exercise of land around 750 m to the southwest of the Site.

2.3 Neolithic (c. 5,000 BC - c.2,300 BC)

2.3.2 One Neolithic site is recorded, 3, refers to four Neolithic polished flint axes that were found in 1852 during the excavation of a ditch.

2.4 Bronze Age (c. 2,300 BC - c. 600 BC)

2.4.1 A watching brief between 1998 and 1999, which monitored the groundworks for the construction of the A29 Billingshurst western bypass, recorded a small area of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age activity close to the southern roundabout, around one kilometre to the southwest of the Site (Place 1999). This comprised concentrations of burnt material with carbonised plant remains and pottery, with sufficient in situ burning to suggest the remains of a small hearth.

2.4.2 Site 2 is a small assemblage of hard hammer-struck flint waste, of possible Late Bronze Age date, recovered during a strip and map exercise of land that extends into the southwest fringe of the Study Area (Worrall and Griffin, 2004). Site 4 is the findspot of five Bronze Age palstaves that were discovered at 'Hammer Farm'.

2.5 Iron Age (c. 600 BC - AD 43)

2.5.2 No Iron Age sites are recorded within the Study Area.

2.6 Romano-British (AD 43 - c. AD 410)

2.6.2 Billingshurst formed along the line of the London to Chichester Roman road (Stane Street), which is believed to date to the 1st century AD. The stretch of this Roman road, which is aligned beneath the old A29, is unlikely to survive underneath the modern road, and was likely destroyed during its construction. It is possible that where the modern road diverts from the original course of the Roman road then traces of the earlier road structure could still survive.

2.6.3 Three Romano-British sites are recorded within the Study Area. Site 5 refers to a stretch of the Roman road which lies within the Site. The SMR records that Roman coins of 1st - 4th century date and tesserae were found in 1819 or thereabouts '...by the road side near the Dissenter's Chapel' (Martin 1859, 127-146). This chapel, now the Unitarian and Free Christian Church (26), is at TQ 085900 258540 and the probable findspot 'by the roadside' is considered by the SMR to be at TQ 086600 258500.. One Roman pottery sherd was found at 2 and probably derived from manuring of the land.

2.7 Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 410 - AD 1066)

2.7.1 No Anglo-Saxon sites are recorded within the Study Area.

2.8 Medieval (AD 1066 - AD 1485)

2.8.1 On the basis of documentary sources, Billingshurst as a recognisable settlement dates back to at least the 13th century, with the first mention of the name occurring on the Curia Regis Rolls in 1203.

2.8.2 One medieval site is recorded within the Study Area. St Mary's Church on East Street, around 400 m to the south of the Site, is a parish church with a 12th century tower and a 13th century south chapel (7). It is a Listed Building, graded I for its good medieval tower.

2.9 Post-medieval (AD 1486 to date)

2.9.1 Billingshurst was a small, but prosperous, market centre strategically located on one of the main coaching routes from London.

2.9.2 Forty-six post-medieval sites are recorded within the Study Area (7 - 50). Thirty-six are Listed Buildings (7 - 39, 42 - 43 and 50). All are Grade II, with the exception of St Mary's Church (7), which is Grade I, and Ye Old Six Bells (11), which is Grade II*.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI 2008) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2001).
- 3.1.2 A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated using a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket, each 20 metres long (Fig. 2). These were recorded over two days by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival, and all the trenches were left open for at least two days to allow features to weather out.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets. Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale on plastic drafting film, and a full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts. The trench and feature locations were recorded using GPS surveying equipment and all features were planned in relation to Ordnance Datum heights.

3.2 Aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to record assess the presence or absence of any significant archaeological deposits on the site that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2.2 Further aims were:
- To assess the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
 - To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - To assess how such remains might be affected by the development of the site and what options, if any, should be considered for mitigation.

3.3 Site archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).
- 3.3.2 Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Trench Record Sheets	3
Number of Context Sheets	30

Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	3
Drawing Sheets	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	58

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Natural and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology was bluish orange clay with areas of manganese mineralisation and occasional zones of decaying sandstone or sandstone pieces. This Weald Clay was identified at 31.90 mAOD in the north of the site and sloped slightly down to 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site.
- 4.1.2 In Trenches 2 and 3 the clay was overlain by a layer of mid brown sandy silt subsoil between 0.20 and 0.50 metres in depth. This was in turn sealed by a deposit of topsoil between 0.10 and 0.38 metres in depth.
- 4.1.3 The stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 had been heavily truncated; removing the topsoil and subsoil and replacing it with made ground.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 The location of Trench 1 was moved slightly due to the presence of site accommodation in the north-eastern corner of site. The natural clay was identified at 32.00 metres AOD.
- 4.2.2 A modern drain was identified in the northern end of the trench, which stopped midway and was evidently therefore redundant. The drain had been set within a cut excavated into the natural clay; however the majority of the natural clay horizon had been horizontally truncated and the marks of a toothed machine bucket could be seen in places. This is likely to have occurred during the clearance of the sheltered housing that previously occupied the site.
- 4.2.3 The machine excavated truncation removed the topsoil and subsoil layers seen elsewhere on the site and these were replaced with made ground containing common gravels and frequent building rubble [1/002]. A topsoil layer was recorded but was little more than made ground which had become overgrown.

4.2.4 Table 2: List of recorded contexts in Trench 1

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.10 m	32.43
1/002	Deposit	Made Ground	-	-	0.30 – 0.60 m	32.33
1/003	Deposit	Natural	-	-	0.35 m +	32.00

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

- 4.3.1 The Weald Clay was identified in Trench 2 at 31.60m AOD. A number of cut features were observed in the natural horizon and these suggested that further remains may survive just beyond the trench edge. An additional area of trenching was therefore excavated in the northern end of the trench to try to identify these features.
- 4.3.2 Within the initial trench three similar postholes were identified roughly 3 metres apart. These features measured 0.27m in diameter and 0.08m to 0.17m in depth ([2/006; 2/008; 2/010]). An additional posthole ([2/024]) was also identified in the trench extension, measuring 0.28m diameter by 0.06m in depth. All four postholes were filled with mid brown silty clay [2/007; 2/009; 2/011; 2/025]; fill 2/009 contained pottery dating to 1300 – 1450 while fill 2/011 contained 17th to 19th century CBM. Two residual flakes of flint characteristic of the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods were also recovered from fill [2/024].
- 4.3.3 Within the trench extension a number of additional features were identified. Adjacent to [2/024] was a short section of a linear cut [2/014; 2/016]. This measured 2.60m extending to the southwest into the trench section and with a terminus at its northeast end. It measured 0.47m wide and 0.10m in thickness.
- 4.3.4 The fill of this feature was pale greyish brown silty clay [2/015; 2/017]. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 4.3.5 On the western edge of [2/014], was a group of three small stake-holes [2/018; 2/020; 2/022]; two of which were cut into the edge of the linear feature, and as a result the stake-hole group is thought to postdate [2/014; 2/016]. The stake-hole group measured on average 0.05m in diameter and 0.05m in thickness and were filled with light greyish brown clayey silt [2/019; 2/021; 2/023], no finds were recovered.
- 4.3.6 A localised area of pale clay was investigated at the junction between the trench and its extension. This feature [2/029] was slightly undercut and appeared to be limited in its depth by a stratum of gritty clay within the natural. This gritty layer seems to have formed a shearing horizon and the feature was interpreted as a tree bowl.
- 4.3.7 The tree bowl was only half visible but appeared to be sub-circular with a diameter of 1.25m and a depth of 0.48m.
- 4.3.8 A north-south aligned linear cut ([2/012]) was identified to the west of this tree bowl. The cut measured 2.03m in length and continued into the trench sections to the north and south; its width was 0.18m and the cut was 0.13m in thickness. The profile of this linear was squared with near vertical sides and a flat base, and it was interpreted as a possible beam-slot.
- 4.3.9 The fill of this cut was mid brown silty clay and contained an iron nail and a small undated fragment of CBM ([2/013]). It is possible that the nail originated

from a wooden beam within the cut and may support the interpretation as a beam-slot.

4.3.10 All the features described were sealed by the subsoil and topsoil, however In the western end of the trench extension a feature was observed to have been cut from the level of the subsoil. This cut was at least 0.50m in depth and 2.26m in length but was not investigated fully due to its evident modern origin [2/026], possibly formed during the demolition of the sheltered housing that previously occupied the site. The cut was filled with dark brown silty clay and was mottled with grey and orange clay which contained pottery dating to 1550-1700; CBM from between 17th and 20th centuries, iron wire mesh and glass [2/027].

4.3.11 A final linear feature was identified within the southern part of the main trench. Cut [2/004] measured 2.22m in length and 0.94m in width and was at least 0.54m in depth. This feature was also cut from the level of the subsoil and was not excavated due to its modern origin and the fact that it continued into Trench 3 where it had been investigated. The cut had vertical sides and was interpreted as a service trench and can be seen on the site survey drawings of the buildings that previously occupied the plot.

4.2.12 Both [2/026] and [2/004] were sealed by the topsoil.

4.2.13 Table 3: List of recorded contexts in Trench 2

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.38m	32.45
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	0.33m	32.07
2/003	Deposit	Natural	-	-	0.12m +	31.60
2/004	Cut	Modern cut	2.22m +	0.94m	0.54m +	31.50
2/005	Fill	Modern fill	2.22m +	0.94m	0.54m +	31.50
2/006	Cut	Posthole cut	0.27m	0.27m	0.08m	31.52
2/007	Fill	Posthole fill	0.27m	0.27m	0.08m	31.52
2/008	Cut	Posthole cut	0.27m	0.27m	0.17m	31.55
2/009	Fill	Posthole fill	0.27m	0.27m	0.17m	31.55
2/010	Cut	Posthole cut	0.29m	0.29m	0.16m	31.57
2/011	Fill	Posthole fill	0.29m	0.29m	0.16m	31.57
2/012	Cut	Beam-slot cut	2.03m +	0.18m	0.13m	31.54
2/013	Fill	Beam-slot fill	2.03m +	0.18m	0.13m	31.54
2/014	Cut	Linear cut	2.60m +	0.47m	0.10m	31.45
2/015	Fill	Linear fill	2.60m +	0.47m	0.10m	31.45
2/016	Cut	Linear cut	2.60m +	0.36m	0.06m	31.45
2/017	Fill	Linear fill	2.60m +	0.36m	0.06m	31.45
2/018	Cut	Stake-hole cut	0.07m	0.07m	0.03m	31.45
2/019	Fill	Stake-hole fill	0.07m	0.07m	0.03m	31.45
2/020	Cut	Stake-hole cut	0.06m	0.06m	0.05m	31.45
2/021	Fill	Stake-hole fill	0.06m	0.06m	0.05m	31.45
2/022	Cut	Stake-hole cut	0.05m	0.05m	0.05m	31.46

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
2/023	Fill	Stake-hole fill	0.05m	0.05m	0.05m	31.46
2/024	Cut	Posthole cut	0.28m	0.28m	0.06m	31.45
2/025	Fill	Posthole fill	0.28m	0.28m	0.06m	31.45
2/026	Cut	Modern cut	2.26m +	1.80m +	0.54m +	31.83
2/027	Fill	Modern fill	2.26m +	1.80m +	0.54m +	31.83
2/028	Fill	Tree bowl	1.25m	0.66m +	0.48m	31.53
2/029	Cut	Tree bowl	1.25m	0.66m +	0.48m	31.53

4.4 Trench 3 (Fig.4)

- 4.4.1 No features were identified in Trench 3 that cut into the natural clay. The clay was overlain directly by the subsoil and two modern features were identified that were cut into the subsoil.
- 4.4.2 The first of these modern features was a rectangular cut feature that continued into the south-eastern edge of the trench [3/005]. This measured 2.45m by at least 0.46m and was excavated to a depth of 1.00m. The feature was not fully excavated but it was satisfactorily shown to be of late origin and appeared to have been initially excavated by machine; having vertical sides.
- 4.4.3 This feature was filled with pale orangey brown silty clay that was not well compacted and appeared to be a mixture of excavated natural clay mixed with topsoil and subsoil [3/004]. A local resident recounted that there had been a geological test-pit survey on the site; and this feature fitted this type of activity creating a rapidly machine excavated pit backfilled with the unconsolidated risings.
- 4.4.4 A second feature was cut from the subsoil level; this was a linear feature that cut right across the trench [3/007]. This cut could be seen to continue to the north-west into Trench 2 as [2/004]. The feature was 2.45m long and 0.75m wide and was partially excavated to a depth of 0.90m. The fill was pale orangey brown silty clay [3/006], containing pottery dating to 1700-1825.
- 4.4.5 This linear cut extending into Trench 2 was overall 4.45m long and was interpreted as a modern service trench seen on site survey drawings as a drain run.

4.4.6 Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Trench 3

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
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Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.16m	32.54
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	0.50m	32.44
3/003	Deposit	Natural	-	-	0.30m +	32.14
3/004	Fill	Modern pit fill	2.45m	0.46m +	1.00m +	31.91
3/005	Cut	Modern pit cut	2.45m	0.46m +	1.00m +	31.91
3/006	Fill	Modern fill	1.80m +	0.75m	0.90m +	31.68
3/007	Cut	Modern linear cut	1.80m +	0.75m	0.90m +	31.68

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage was recovered during the evaluation, largely of late post-medieval date. Finds have all been washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context. They are stored according to IFA guidelines and none of the finds need further conservation. An overview of the assemblage can be found in Table 5.

5.1.2 Table 5. Quantification of the finds.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CB M	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Cement	Wt (g)
1/001			3	2354								
2/001	3	26	3	1754								
2/009	1	<2										
2/011			1	4								
2/013			1	<2					1	4		
2/025					2	2						
2/027	2	36	2	34					3	312	2	276
3/001	1	126										
3/006	1	22					1	20	18	130		

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the site. Sherd sizes tend to be small to medium (to 50mm across) and most show at least some signs of abrasion suggesting some reworking. The earliest sherd was recovered from [2/009]. This consists of a very small (1g) body sherd in a buff fine sandy ware of probable 14th- to mid 15th- century date.

5.2.2 The remaining pottery is of post-medieval date. Local glazed redwares, notoriously difficult to closely date, dominate this assemblage. Well-fired fine types, with internal green glazing were recovered from [2/001] (a bowl with horizontal rim: 1/12g) and [2/027] (a jar/bowl base and hooked club rim of a plate: 2/36g). These are likely to date to between the mid 16th and 17th centuries. The glazed red earthenwares from [3/001; 2/001] and [3/006] consist of clear glazed types with slightly sandy fabrics, which, based on their finish and glazing, are most likely to be of 18th- to early 19th-century date. The latest pottery from the site consists of small fragments of yellow ware mixing bowl (4g) and transfer-printed ware plate (8g) from [2/001]. These are likely to be of mid to later 19th- century date.

5.2.3 All in all the pottery assemblage suggests perhaps limited manuring activity spanning the 14th to 19th centuries.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of twelve fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered with a combined weight of 4416g. The material is all of post medieval date. The material has been examined and samples of fabrics have been retained with the remainder of the material discarded. A full quantification is available as part of the archive.
- 5.3.2 Posthole fill [2/011] contained a fragment of brick in an orange sandy fabric with moderate coarse black iron rich inclusions and fine cream silt of 17th to 19th century date.
- 5.3.3 The fill of possible beam slot [2/013] contained a tiny fragment of CBM, the fabric was similar to the 17th to 19th century brick from context [2/001] with silt streaking, but no firm date can be given and an earlier date cannot be ruled out. The fragment is also small enough to be intrusive to the context.
- 5.3.4 Context [1/001] contained two fragments of 'WARNHAM SBC' brick the Warnham brickworks became part of the Sussex Brick Company in 1899 (Beswick 1993), these bricks are most likely 20th century in date. Context [2/001] contained material of 17th to 19th century brick including unfrogged brick in a pale orange fabric with moderate to abundant cream silt streaking and sparse very coarse white quartz and a second brick fragment in an orange sandy fabric with moderate coarse black iron rich inclusions and fine cream silt and a totally vitrified brick with shallow rectangular frog. Context [2/027] contained a fragment of 20th century pantile and a fragment of 17th to 19th century peg tile in an orange fine fabric with sparse very fine black iron rich inclusions.

5.4 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A small assemblage of 22 iron fragments was recovered from three individually numbered contexts. Context [2/013] contained a general purpose nail fragment. The piece is not intrinsically dateable. All other fragments consist of early 20th-century wire fragments. Included are three clusters of probable wire mesh from [2/027]. Wire is all circular-sectioned with a diameter of ca. 1.15mm.

5.5 The Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.5.1 The evaluation produced two struck flints weighing 2.7g, both of which came from post-hole feature [2/024] (fill [2/025]). The material consisted of a chip of light grey flint and an unclassifiable retouched piece manufactured from a fine grained dark brown flint with thin buff cortex. The soft-hammered broken blade with remnants of cortex displayed direct semi-abrupt retouches on the right-hand edge. Although undiagnostic, the piece is most characteristic of the Mesolithic/early Neolithic. This assemblage is too small to have any potential for further study but should be retained to allow integration with any assemblage recovered in the event of further work.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 From the various features identified on the site, only those in Trench 2 were of archaeological origin. A curved alignment of postholes; a small group of stake-holes and two linear cuts one of which may have been a beam-slot were identified.
- 6.2 The datable material from these features did not clarify the interpretation; one of the postholes [2/008] contained pottery from 1300-1450 as well as 17th to 19th century CBM while another contained Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint flakes. The beam-slot was undated but contained a fragment of iron nail and CBM; and neither the stake-hole group or shallow linear feature contained any dating.
- 6.3 Evidence from Trench 1 suggests that any archaeological remains within the footprint of the now removed sheltered housing would have been destroyed either during the construction or demolition phases of the buildings.

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Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Saxon Weald for commissioning the project and John Mills, Senior Archaeologist at WSCC (in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council) for his guidance throughout the project.

Appendix 1 - Summary Table of SMR/NMR and Listed Building Entries (refer to Fig. 1)
(NMR numbers are in *italics*)

Site No.	SMR/NMR No.	NGR (TQ)	Description	Period
1	5243 - MWS4176	08780 25580	Some flakes and blades, possibly Mesolithic, were found in the back garden of a new house/terrace.	Mesolithic
2	7838 - MWS7929	08042 26148	An archaeological strip and map exercise at the proposed Billingshurst waste disposal site revealed an undated ditch. The work produced a Mesolithic flake and a small assemblage of worked flint of possible Late Bronze Age date. The pottery assemblage dated mostly to the late 17 th and 18 th centuries. It included a Roman sherd probably derived through occasional manuring of the land. The site lies partly within the Study Area.	Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Romano-British and Post-Medieval
3	2903 - MWS181 <i>NMR_NATINV-393320</i>	09000 26000	Four Neolithic polished flint axes were found while excavating a ditch near Billingshurst in 1852. These probably include the two recorded by the NMR at grid ref. TQ 09 26.	Neolithic
4	<i>NMR_NATINV-393321</i>	0914 2594	Five Bronze Age palstaves were found at Hammer (Hammonds?) Farm.	Bronze Age
5	-	-	Stane Street (Roman road) - a stretch of the Roman road from London to Chichester lies within the Site.	Romano-British
6	2898 - MWS3698 <i>NMR_NATINV-393305</i>	08620 25880	Roman (?) tesserae were found by the roadside, near the Unitarian Chapel (26) in c. 1819. Possible site of a villa. Archaeologically Sensitive Area.	Romano-British
7	2906 - MWS5112 299080 <i>NMR_NATINV-393327</i>	08750 25920	St Mary's Church, East Street - parish church with 12 th century tower and 13 th century south chapel. The remainder was largely rebuilt in 1866. <i>Grade I Listed Building</i>	Medieval and Post-Medieval
8	299095 <i>NMR_NATINV-1325244</i>	08707 25950	63 (Causeway Cottage) and 65 (Tithe Cottage) High Street - a Wealden timber-framed hall-house that was built in the 15 th century (NMR) or 16 th century (SMR and Listed Buildings Online). Underwent alterations between 1525 and 1550. Probably divided into cottages in the 18 th century. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
9	299105	08610 25938	78 High Street (Bell Cottage) - 16 th century timber-framed cottage. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
10	299085	08985 25963	35 and 37 (Gore Farmhouse) and 39 (Gore House) East Street - 16 th century timber-framed building farmhouse. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
11	299104 <i>NMR_NATINV-393334</i>	08628 25957	76 (Ye Old Six Bells Inn) High Street - good 16 th century timber-framed inn. <i>Grade II* Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
12	299091	08796 26151	13 High Street - probably a 16 th century L-shaped timber-framed house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
13	DWS6482	08684 25942	67 (The Hermitage) High Street - 16 th century or early 17 th century L-shaped timber-framed house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
14	299121	08249 25887	Bank Side, Newbridge Road - 17 th century or earlier timber-framed cottage. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
15	299103	08726 26069	42, 44 and 46 High Street - 17 th century or earlier timber-framed building. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
16	299092	08779 26124	17 (Middle Gingers), 19 (Stow Cottage), 21 (The Old Coach House), 23, and 25 and 27 (Oak Cottage) High Street - three 17 th century or earlier timber-framed blocks. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
17	299101	08845 26307	10 and 12 (Oakwood Cottages) High Street - 17 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval

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Site No.	SMR/NMR No.	NGR (TQ)	Description	Period
18	299108	08638 25868	92 and 94 High Street - 17 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
19	299084	09289 25522	Little Daux Farmhouse, East Street - 17 th century farmhouse with 18 th - 19 th century additions. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
20	299082	08778 25947	Churchgate and Churchgate Cottage, East Street - L-shaped block with east wing probably 17 th century and southwest wing 18 th century. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
21	299106	08641 25925 08654 25925	80 (The King's Arms Inn) High Street - probably a 17 th century inn, with 19 th century sash windows. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
22	299094	08711 25977	59 High Street - probably a 17 th century timber-framed house, with 19 th century features, including shop windows. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
23	299086	09007 25957	45 and 47 and 49 East Street - possibly a 17 th century house, with no. 49 being a latter addition. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
24	299083	08837 25938	12 (Robin Cottage) and 14 (Chine Cottage) East Street - 18 th century or earlier house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
25	479559	08868 26368	The Manor House, Stane Street (including attached outbuilding and garden wall with pump and tank) - early 18 th century house, refronted in early 19 th century, with later 19 th century modifications and some 20 th century restoration. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
26	299110	08590 25854	The Unitarian and Free Christian Church - small mid 18 th century nonconformist meeting house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
27	299098 361806	08650 25779	87 and 89 High Street - 18 th century house, restored around 1830. Two Listed Building entries given. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
28	299093	08763 26074	35, 35A and 35B High Street - 18 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
29	299088	09046 25946	55 (Vine Cottage) East Street - 18 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
30	299107	08649 25906	82 (Southdown House) High Street - L-shaped 18 th century house with modern shop front. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
31	299090	08875 26305	1 (Highseat) High Street - 18 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
32	299089	09142 25940	57 (Hammonds) East Street - 18 th century farmhouse. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
33	299099	08640 25741	103 High Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
34	299087	09031 25947	51 and 53 East Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
35	299096	08710 25941	69 (Botterells House) High Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
36	299109	08640 25846	98, 100 and 102 High Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
37	299100	08860 26326	4 (The White Cottage) High Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
38	299081	08748 25964	2 (High Bank) East Street - early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
39	299102	08732 26083	The King's Head Inn, High Street - early 19 th century inn. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
40	2913 - MWS184	08450 26050	A windmill is shown at Billingshurst in the 1813 OS map.	Post-Medieval

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Site No.	SMR/NMR No.	NGR (TQ)	Description	Period
41	2914 - MWS4511 NMR_NAT/INV- 981398	09140 26000	Hammond's Mill - a smock mill, built in 1825, which ceased working in 1895. NMR - largely destroyed by fire in 1915. SMR - demolished in 1906. Only the base remains.	Post-Medieval
42	299738	09462 27163	Summers Place - country house built c. 1865 in a Neo-Gothic/French Renaissance style. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
43	299739	09438 27032	Garden Building at Summers Place (42) - built c. 1865 in a Moorish-Gothic style. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
44	2682 - MWS2	097 271	A parkscape is shown at Summers Place (42) in the 1872-4 OS map and seen extended in the 1898-9 OS map.	Post-Medieval
45	2683 - MWS4	08670 25470	A parkscape is shown at Broomfields in the 1898-9 OS map.	Post-Medieval
46	2681 - MWS1	08310 26760	A parkscape is shown at Tedfold in the 1898-9 OS map.	Post-Medieval
47	7152 - MWS7207	08826 26214	An evaluation at 3 High Street discovered a field boundary and the wall of a building.	Post-Medieval
48	6495 - MWS5255 CBA_DOB-8035	08637 25754	Four WWII anti-tank blocks ('pimple' type) in front gardens of 99 and 101 High Street. Constructed between 1941 and 1942 to block off the High Street.	Post-Medieval
49	7441 - MWS7513 CBA_DOBNAI- 3852	0965 2583	Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (Cold War)	Post-Medieval
50	299760	08676 25981	Telephone Kiosk, High Street - type K6 designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
51	7149 - MWS7204 EHNMR-1174901	08933 26522	An evaluation (1997), prior to the construction of the bypass, extended into the Study Area. Two shallow 'channels' and a third linear feature, which contained a medieval sherd, amongst other finds, were found within a trench in the Study Area, at the proposed northern roundabout. A flint end scraper was recovered from the topsoil in this trench. SMR - records post-medieval drains with finds comprising pottery, clay pipes and one large flint waste flake. NMR - records a post-medieval ditch and a series of post-medieval land drains. With Archaeology South-East reports on the bypass being the more accurate, the SMR and NMR data is not used.	Undated

HER Summary Form

Site Code	COO 10					
Identification Name and Address	Townland Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9NU					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 508810 126250					
Geology	Weald Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4537					
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. 22/11/10 - 23/11/10	Excav.	W.B.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Saxon Weald					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern ✓		
<p>Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of the former Sheltered housing 'Townland', Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex. The work was carried out between 22nd and 23rd November 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of their client Saxon Weald prior to the construction of terraced houses, flats and associated parking etc. A total of 3 trenches measuring 20 metres in length were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site in order to fulfil the planning condition.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies on the Weald Clay Formation, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 301, and lies adjacent to the High Street which is the probable centre line of the alignment of the Stane Street Roman road connecting London and Chichester.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 31.90 mAOD in the north of the site and 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A number of archaeological features were identified including a curved alignment of postholes, a beam-slot, a shallow linear cut and a group of stake-holes; no overall interpretation of these features has been possible and dating evidence suggests a post-medieval date at the earliest.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-89831

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Townland, Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9NU
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of the former Sheltered housing 'Townland', Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex. The work was carried out between 22nd and 23rd November 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of their client Saxon Weald prior to the construction of terraced houses, flats and associated parking etc. A total of 3 trenches measuring 20 metres in length were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site in order to fulfil the planning condition. The site lies on the Weald Clay Formation, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 301, and lies adjacent to the High Street which is the probable centre line of the alignment of the Stane Street Roman road connecting London and Chichester. The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 31.90 mAOD in the north of the site and 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site. A number of archaeological features were identified including a curved alignment of postholes, a beam-slot, a shallow linear cut and a group of stake-holes; no overall interpretation of these features has been possible and dating evidence suggests a post-medieval date at the earliest.
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2010 End: 23-11-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	COO 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM BILLINGSHURST Townland', Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9NU
Postcode	RH14 9NU
Study area	2900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	0 0 508810 00 00 N 126250 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.01m Max: 31.90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Saxon Weald

Project archives

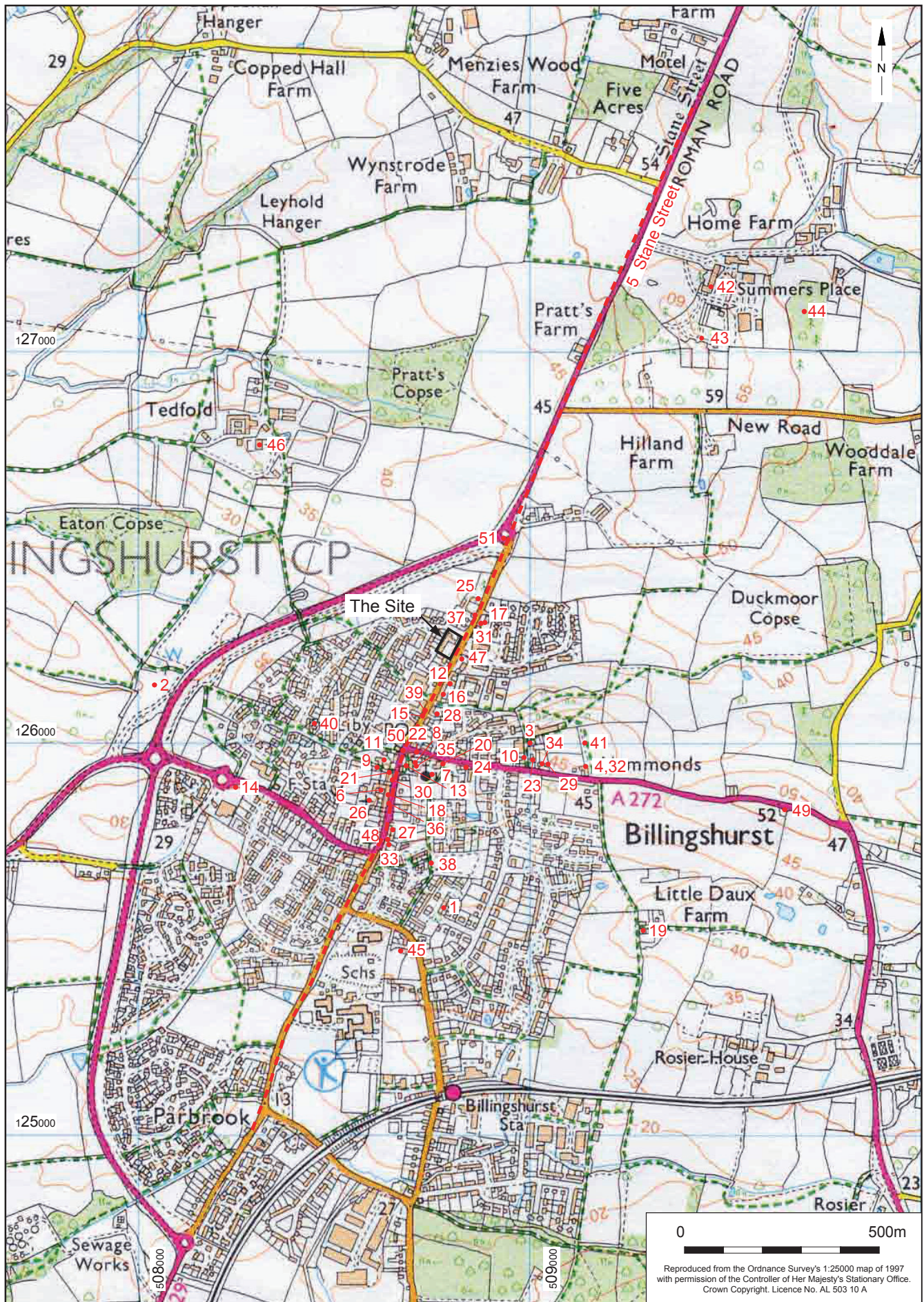
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Survey '

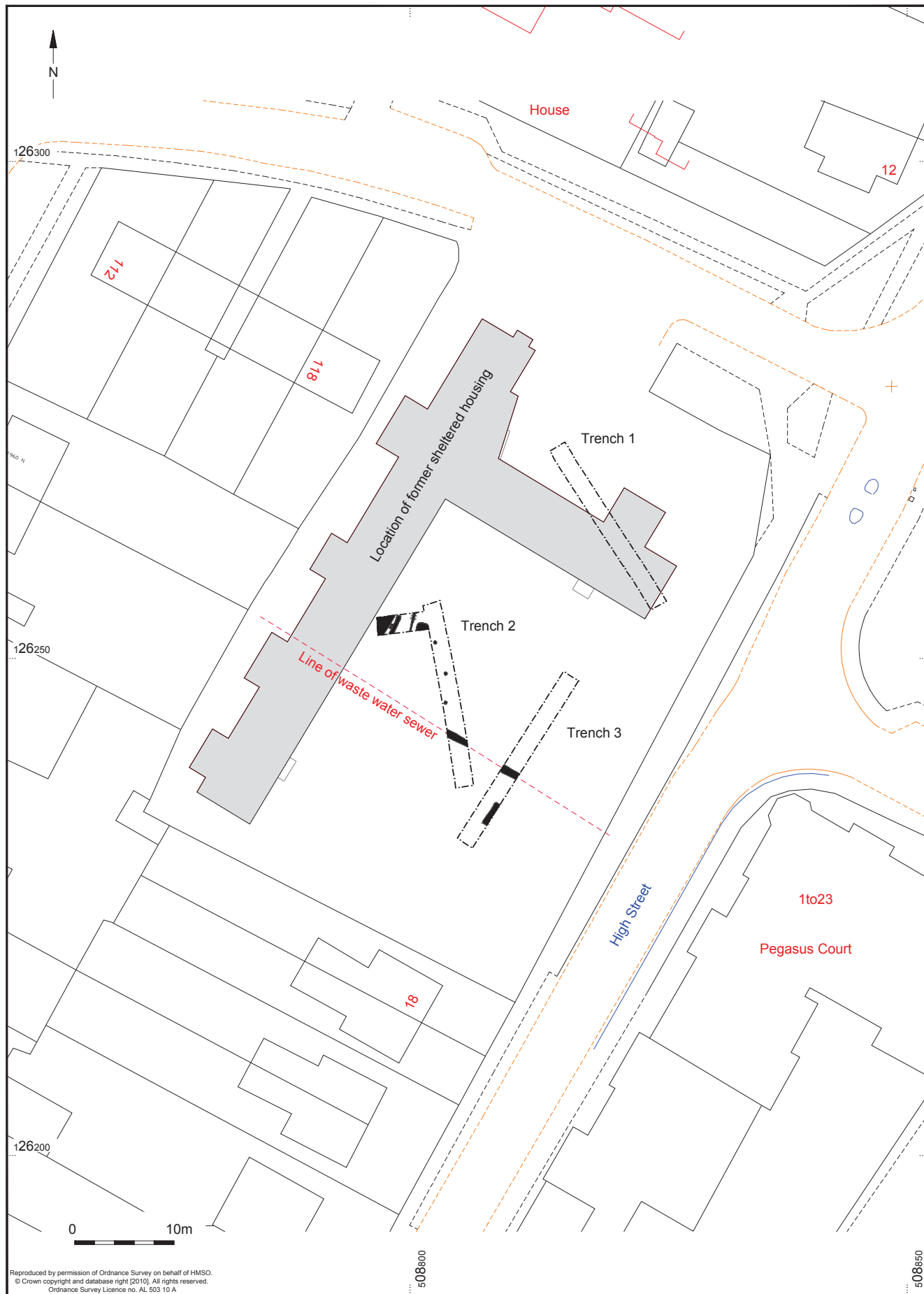
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological Evaluation at Townland, Coombe Hill,
Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9NU
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hopkinson, D.
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Description 33 page bound A4 report with 7 pages of illustrations.

Entered by Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 15 December 2010

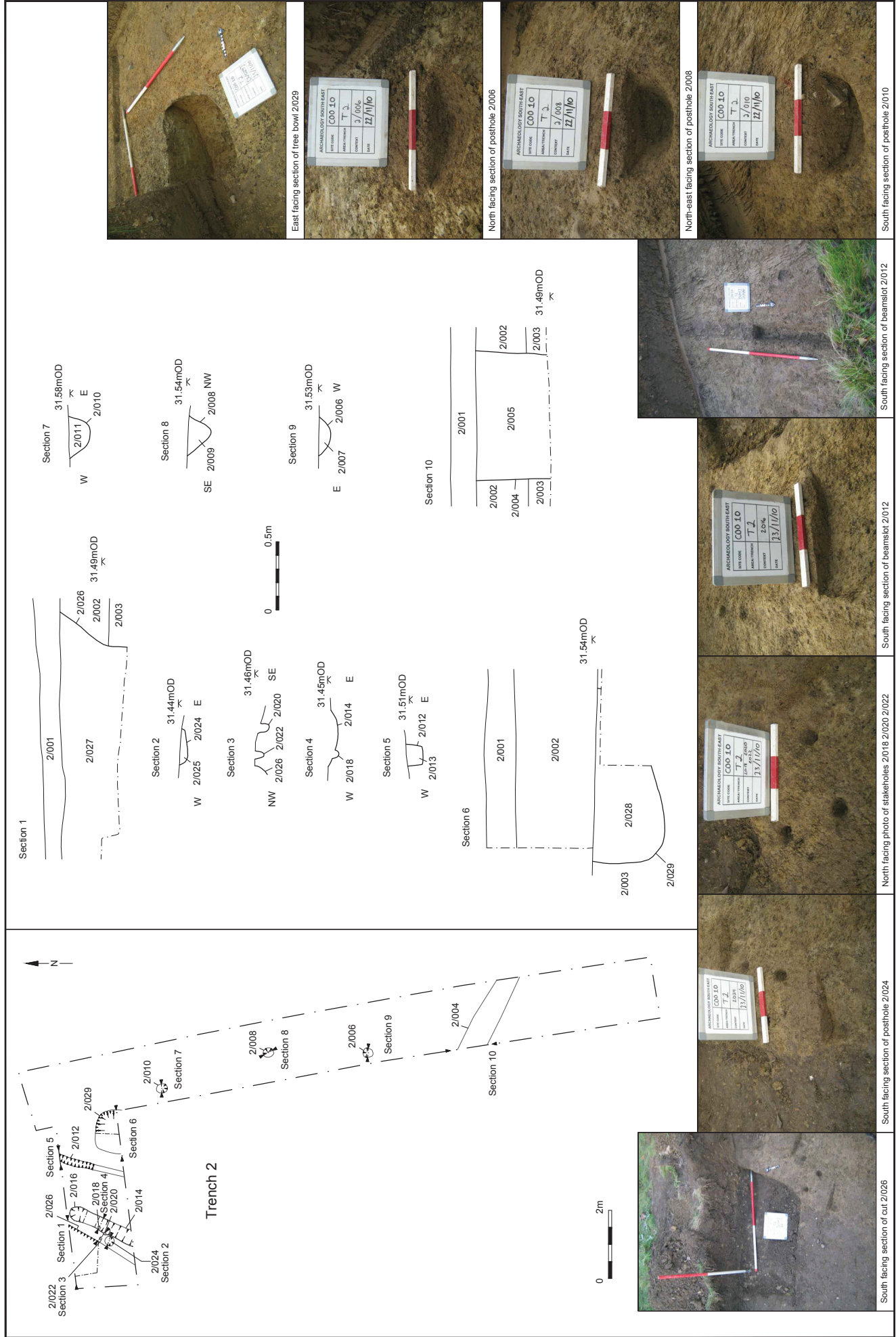


© Archaeology South-East		Townland, Coombe Hill, Billingshurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4537	Dec 2010	Site location and HER data	
Report Ref: 2010218	Drawn by: JLR		



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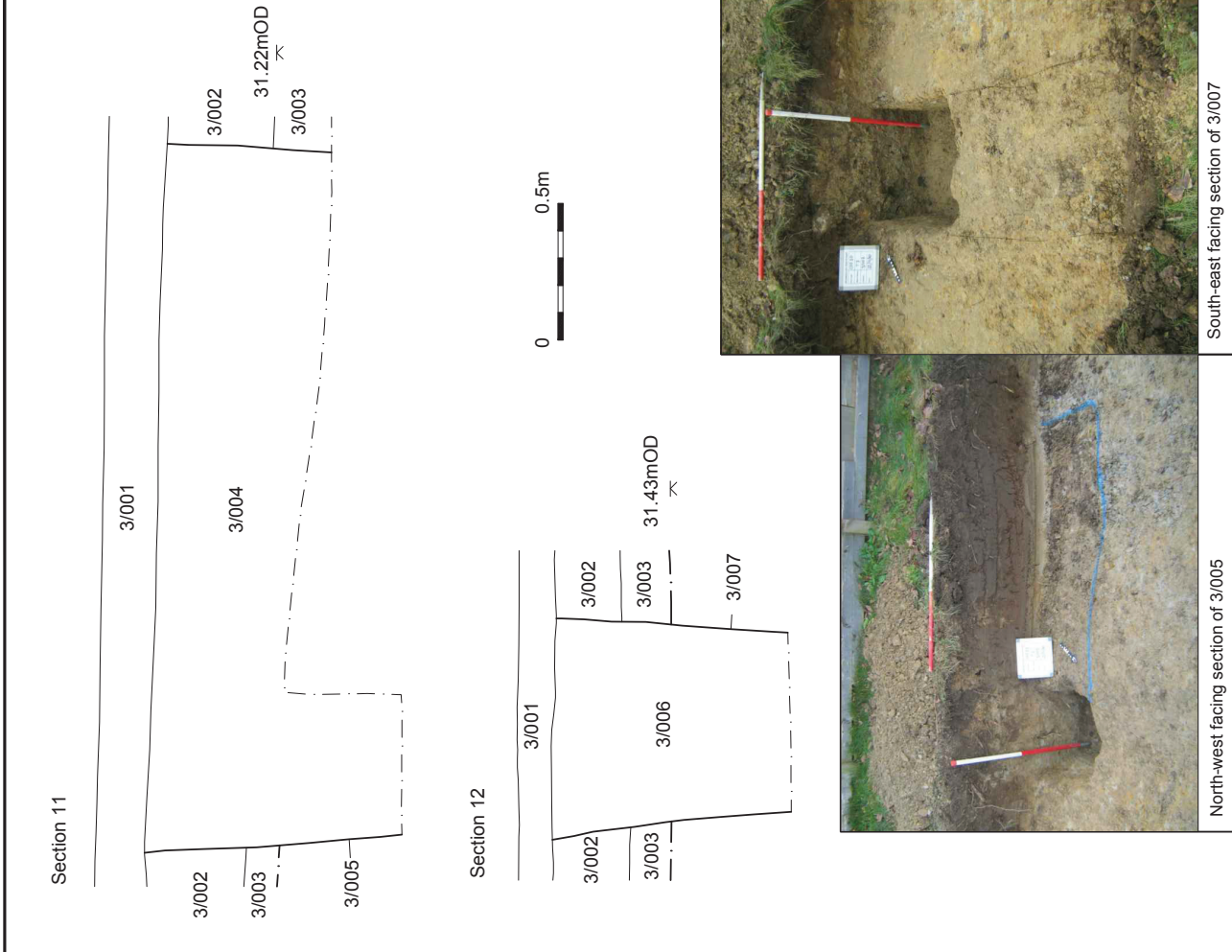
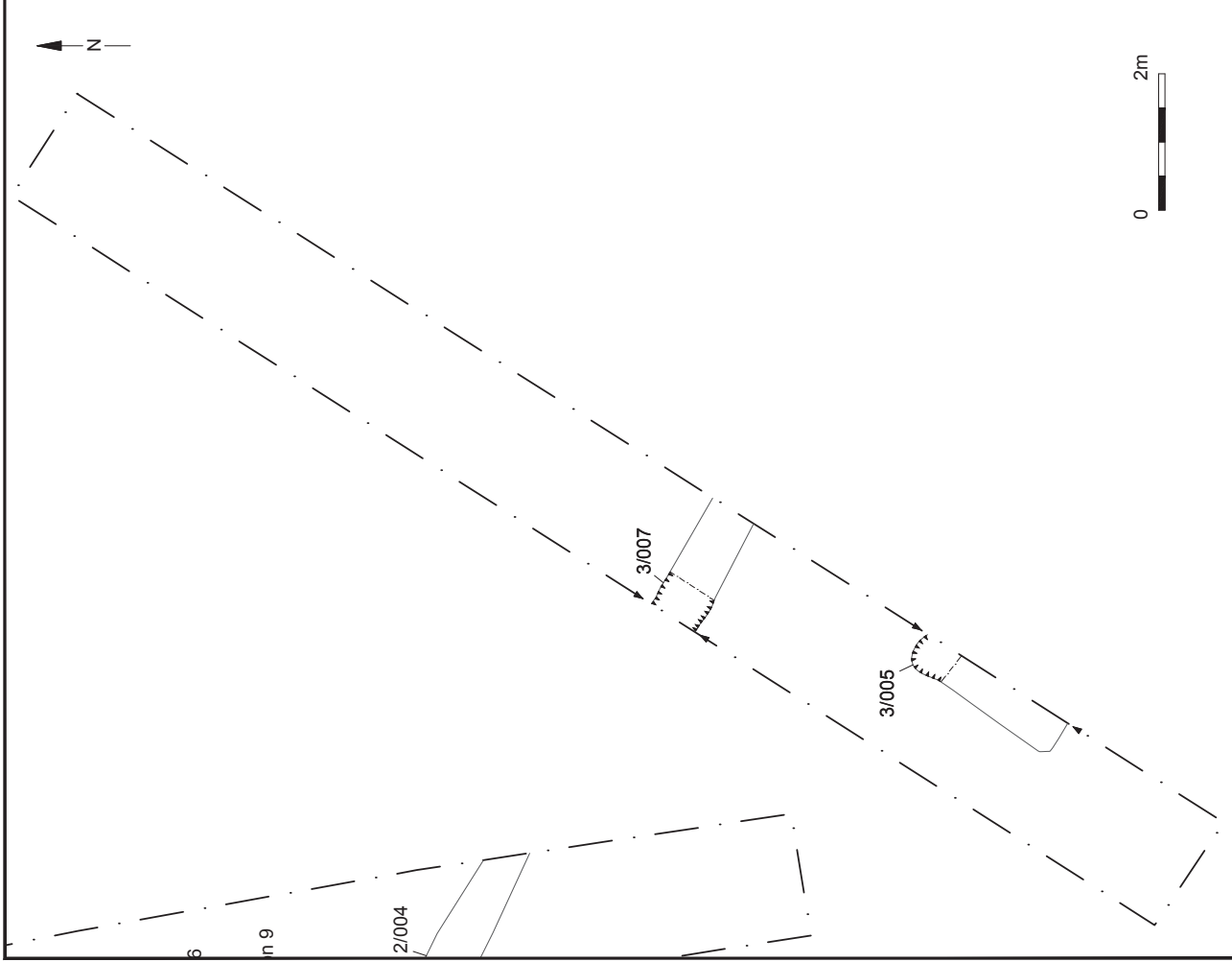
© Archaeology South-East		Townland, Coombe Hill, Billingshurst		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4537	December 2010	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2010218	Drawn by: JLR			



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 Project Ref: 4537 Dec 2010
 Report Ref: 2010218 Drawn by: JLR

Townland, Coombe Hill, Billingshurst
 Trench 2: Plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 3



© Archaeology South-East		Townland, Coombe Hill, Billingshurst	
Project Ref: 4537	Dec 2010	Trench 3: Plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2010218	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 4

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