

**An Archaeological Evaluation
On Land at Andrew Road
Southborough, Kent**

(NGR 559181 141824)

(Phase 2)

Planning ref: TW/08/00616

**Project No: 3719
Site Code: ARS10**

**ASE Report No: 2011094
OASIS id: archaeol6-100147**

**By Diccon Hart
With contributions by Sarah Porteus
and Elke Raemen**

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**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

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Appledore Developments Ltd. on land west of Andrew Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. A single trial trench measuring 20.00 by 1.80m was excavated towards the northern end of the site.

Several natural root features were cut into the geology sealed by a subsoil and topsoil, into which 3 18th/19th century postholes were cut. The postholes were sealed by a further layer of redeposited topsoil associated with the recent clearance of the site.

No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the investigation.

Tunbridge Wells Sand was exposed at between 105.42m and 105.12m AOD.

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-
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Appledore Developments Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land west of Andrew Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (NGR 559181 141824; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (HCG KCC) advised that the following condition, for a programme of archaeological work, should be applied to any consent for the development of 7 family houses, 4 flats and 1 bungalow together with an access road (ref TW/08/00616):

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors 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 by the Local Planning Authority.'

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.1.3 A specification outlining the requirements was prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group at KCC (HCG KCC 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the appropriate Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 2009)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located around 500m north west of High Brooms railway station and a kilometre east of the centre of Southborough. The topography of the site is largely flat, with a slight drop to the south.

1.2.2 According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Tunbridge Wells Sand although Wadhurst Clay is recorded on the site to the immediate east.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The aims of the programme of trial trenching included:

- Assessing the likely impact of the development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork
- Assessing the impact of past development on the site's archaeological potential, especially from farming.
- Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains
- Establishing the degree of Roman and medieval activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of prehistoric activity on the site
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area

1.4 Scope of report

1.4.1 This report details the results of a second phase of archaeological evaluation on the site, consisting of a single trial trench measuring 20.00m by 1.80m (Trench 4). The work was carried out on 27th April 2011 by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist) and Lesley Davidson (Archaeologist). The first phase of evaluation, comprising three 20.00m by 1.80m trenches (Trenches 1-3) was carried out between 31st January and 2nd February 2011, the results of which are detailed in an earlier report (ASE 2011). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The following information has been reproduced from the HCG KCC Specification (2011), with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** In 1910 a collection of Iron Age finds was found 300m to the north (Kent HER no. TQ 54 SE 6) on Powder Mill Lane while an Early Bronze Age mace in Tunbridge Wells Museum was recovered in Barnetts Wood, 150m north (Kent HER no. TQ 54 SE 20). Further prehistoric tool finds are known within a 1km radius of the site, on a similar geology and topography occupied by Andrew Road.
- 2.3** From a brief examination of superseded Ordnance Survey maps, it appears that the site has remained undeveloped in the modern era and that, therefore, its archaeological potential is likely to remain intact. Historic clay and sand quarrying nearby does not appear to have impinged on the site boundaries.
- 2.4** The initial phase of archaeological evaluation of the site comprised the excavation of some 60m of trial trenching across all but the northernmost part of the site (ASE 2011). No archaeological features or finds were found during the course of this fieldwork.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** This phase of fieldwork consisted of the excavation of a single 20m long by 1.8m wide trial trench utilising a 8 tonne tracked excavator, fitted with a smooth blade ditching bucket). The trench location was surveyed using GDPS (Fig. 2).
- 3.2** All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3** The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.5** A full photographic record of the work, comprising both digital and 35mm film was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive, which has been quantified in the table below, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	18
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	N/A
Bulk Samples	N/A
Photographs	6no digital 2no colour slide 2no black & white
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 4

4.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated north-south at the northern end of the site. A total of 17 contexts were recorded and are detailed below (Table 2).

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	Max 0.50m	105.82
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	Max 0.35	105.72
4/003	Fill	Fill of [4/004]	0.50m	0.26m	0.10m	105.20
4/004	Cut	Rooting	0.50m	0.26m	0.10m	105.20
4/005	Fill	Fill of [4/006]	3.10m	1.20m	0.15m	105.19
4/006	Cut	Rooting	3.10m	1.20m	0.15m	105.19
4/007	Fill	Fill of [4/008]	1.10m	0.75m	0.12m	105.12
4/008	Cut	Rooting	1.10m	0.75m	0.12m	105.12
4/009	Fill	Backfill of [4/012]	0.55m	0.22m	0.60m	105.72
4/010	Fill	Post packing in [4/012]	0.34m	0.20m	0.16m	105.22
4/011	Timber	Post in [4/012]	0.60m	0.10m	-	105.72
4/012	Cut	Posthole	0.55m	0.22m	0.60m	105.72
4/013	Fill	Posthole fill	0.46m	0.35m	0.60m	105.82
4/014	Cut	Posthole	0.46m	0.35m	0.60m	105.82
4/015	Fill	Posthole fill	0.42m	0.35m	0.07m	105.24
4/016	Cut	Posthole	0.42m	0.35m	0.07m	105.24
4/017	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	105.42
4/018	Deposit	Wood mulch/redeposited topsoil	10.00m	Tr.	0.20m	106.04

Table 2: List of recorded contexts; Trench 1

Summary

4.1.2 Natural geology, comprising mid yellow silty sand with frequent fragments of sandstone (4/017) was encountered at 105.42m AOD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 105.12m AOD to the south. Several highly irregular natural features cut into the underlying natural geology were investigated within the trench and include [4/004], [4/006] and 4/008]. All proved to be the result of rooting and contained sterile fills of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent manganese flecking (4/003), (4/005) and (4/007) respectively. These rooting features were sealed by a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt subsoil (4/002) which was in turn overlain by a layer of dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (4/001).

4.1.3 A group of three modern postholes were cut into the topsoil horizon (4/001) towards the southern end of the trench. The best preserved of these consisted of a sub-rectangular posthole [4/012] which still contained the heavily degraded remains of a timber post (4/011) of uncertain conversion, held in place with a packing of 18th-19th century bricks (4/010) and backfill (4/009). The associated postholes [4/014] and [4/016] were of similar size

and shape, though no posts or packing survived in these features. Glazed red earthenware of later 18th-19th century date was recovered from posthole [4/014]. These features were sealed by a layer of redeposited topsoil and wood mulch (4/018) related to the recent clearance of the site.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation, mainly consisting of CBM (Table 3). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
4/010			1	1698
4/013	2	16	3	24
4/015			1	120

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 Two fragments of glazed red earthenware were recovered from [4/013]. Pieces date to the later 18th to 19th century.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 1842g were recovered from three contexts. Contexts [4/015] and [4/013] both contained fragments of brick in an orange sandy fabric with abundant chunky silt inclusions, the fragment from context [4/015] retained a complete thickness of 70mm. The fragments are of 18th to 20th century date. A partial brick with 110mm width and 70mm thickness was recovered from context [4/010] is in a fabric similar to Museum of London fabric MoL3032 and has a shallow rectangular frog with well-formed arises and is likely to date from the mid-18th to 19th century.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1** With the exception of a handful of natural features that are the result of rooting on the site, the only features observed during the course of the fieldwork comprised three postholes of probable later 18th-19th century date. These are probably related to the relatively recent usage of the site for smallholdings. Certainly, given that they were cut through the topsoil horizon on the site, they are of no great antiquity.

References

ASE 2011. *An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Andrew Road, Southborough, Kent*. Unpub.client report number 2011030

HCG KCC 2011, *Specification for an archaeological evaluation on smallholdings and land at Andrew Road in Southborough near Tunbridge Wells in Kent*

IfA 2009: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_field_eval.pdf. Accessed 7th February 2011

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Appledore Developments Ltd. for commissioning the work and HCG KCC for their guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	ARS10					
Identification Name and Address	Andrew Road, Southborough, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 559181 141824					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3719					
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. 28.04.11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Appledore Developments					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Appledore Developments Ltd. on land west of Andrew Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. A single trial trench measuring 20.00 by 1.80m was excavated towards the northern end of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Several natural root features were cut into the geology sealed by a subsoil and topsoil, into which 3 18th/19th century postholes were cut. The postholes were sealed by a further layer of redeposited topsoil associated with the recent clearance of the site.</i></p> <p><i>No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the investigation.</i></p> <p><i>Tunbridge Wells Sand was exposed at between 105.42m and 105.12m AOD.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-100147

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation on land at Andrew Road, Southborough, kent.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Appledore Developments Ltd. on land west of Andrew Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. A single trial trench measuring 20.00 by 1.80m was excavated towards the northern end of the site. Several natural root features were cut into the geology sealed by a subsoil and topsoil, into which 3 18th/19th century postholes were cut. The postholes were sealed by a further layer of redeposited topsoil associated with the recent clearance of the site. No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the investigation. Tunbridge Wells Sand was exposed at between 105.42m and 105.12m AOD.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2011 End: 27-04-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	3719 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ARS10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 1 - Allotment
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS SOUTHBOROUGH land at andrew road
Postcode	TN4
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 591 418 51.1527544904 0.275189116265 51 09 09 N 000 16 30 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 105.12m Max: 105.42m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Diccon Hart
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	appledore developments ltd

Project archives

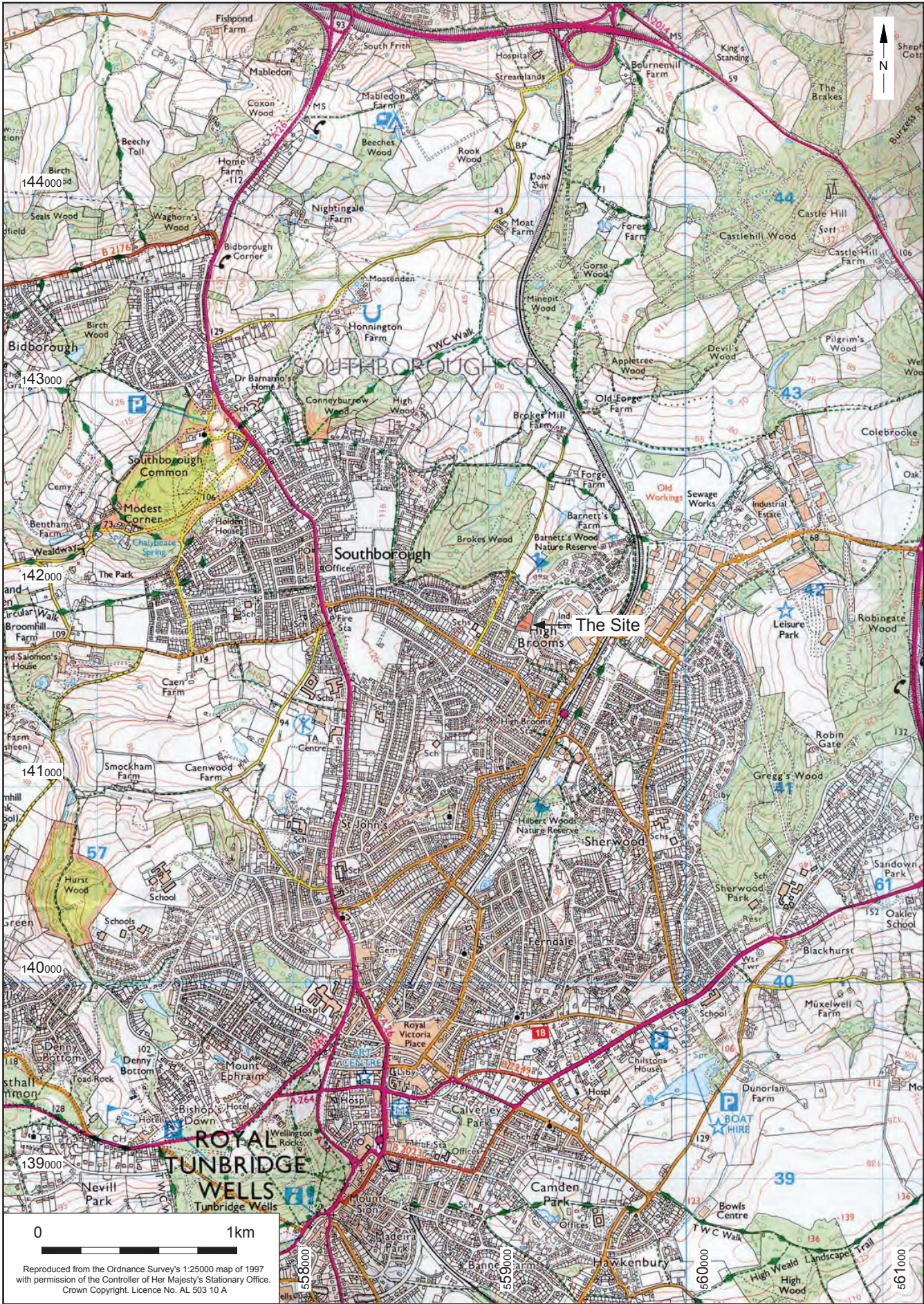
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images vector','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

available

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation on land at Andrew Road, Southborough, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hart, D
Other bibliographic details	2011094
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	A4 booklet

Entered by	D Hart (d.hart@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	28 April 2011



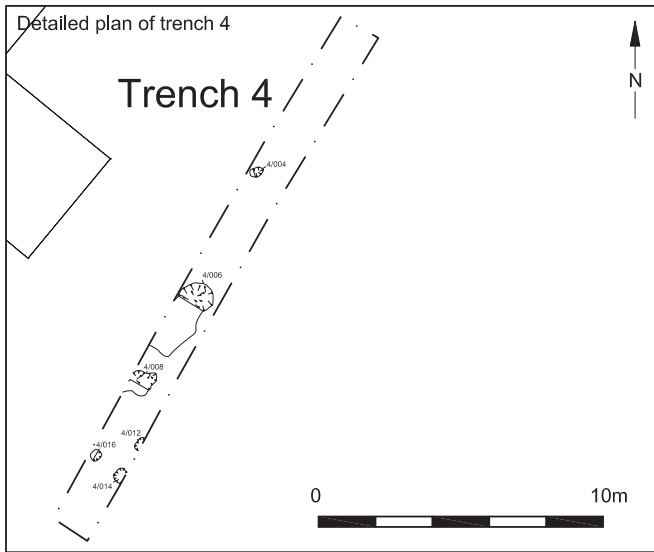
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Andrew Road, Tunbridge Wells	
Project Ref: 3719	May 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011030	Drawn by: JLR		

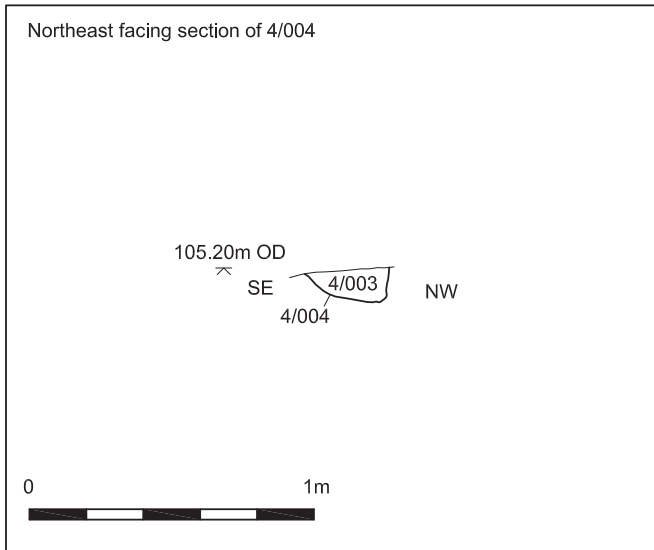
Fig. 1



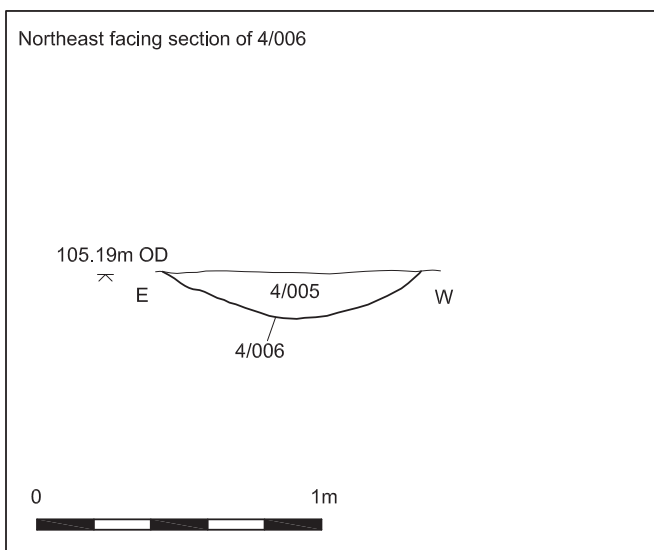
© Archaeology South-East		Andrew Road, Tunbridge Wells	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3719	May 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011030	Drawn by: LD/JR		



Trench 4 looking North



Southwest facing photo of 4/004



South facing photo of 4/006

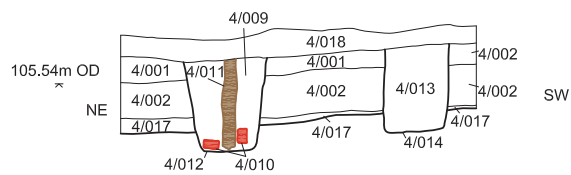
© Archaeology South-East		Andrew Road, Tunbridge Wells	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3719	May 2011	Detailed trench plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011030	Drawn by: LD/JR		

Northeast facing section of 4/008



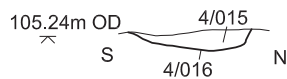
Southwest facing photo of 4/008

Northwest facing section of 4/012 and 4/014



Southeast facing photo of 4/012 and 4/014

Southeast facing section of 4/016



Northwest facing photo of 4/016

© Archaeology South-East		Andrew Road, Tunbridge Wells	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3719	May 2011	Sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011030	Drawn by: LD/JR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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