

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Barnabas House:  
Proposed New Temporary Footpath at Lower Northbrook Farm, Durrington**

**NGR: TQ 1044 0384**

**Planning No. WB/10/0731/FULL**

**Project No:4642  
Site Code: SBD 10**

**ASE Report No. 2011032  
OASIS id: archaeol6 - 93528**

**Liane Peyre**

**February 2011**

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OASIS id: archaeo16 - 93528**

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**February 2011**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by RLF Construction and Property Consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a temporary new footpath at Lower Northbrook Farm, Durrington, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 1044 0384). Construction of a temporary footpath connecting the bus stop on the A259 to St. Barnabas' Hospice at Lower Northbrook Farm was monitored between December 2010 and January 2011. The only archaeological deposit identified was a layer adjacent to the balancing pond, which contained few finds. Unstratified worked flint, fire cracked flint and Roman pottery were also recovered. This evidence, although minimal, corresponds with previous excavation results at Northbrook College and St Barnabas Hospice which suggested the area was in use throughout the Roman period as a domestic and agricultural site with later post medieval inclusions incorporated into the ploughed subsoil.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by RLF Construction and Property Consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a temporary new footpath at Lower Northbrook Farm, Durrington, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 1044 0384). See figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site at West Durrington, according to the British Geological Survey Sheets 318/333, is head deposit typical of dry chalk valley, consisting of sand – silt clay with flint or chalk inclusions. Immediately to the south are Aeolian (brickearth) deposits consisting of sand – silts and to the north is Spetisbury Chalk.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The site of the temporary footpath connecting the bus stop on the A259 to St. Barnabas' Hospice at Lower Northbrook Farm lies in an archaeologically sensitive area. Consequently, the West Sussex County Archaeologist recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the works.

1.3.2 A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Archaeology South East in November 2010 (ASE 2010) in advance of the ground works and was submitted to West Sussex County Council and Giffords for approval prior to the commencement of the site works.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of surviving archaeological remains on site, and to record them appropriately. Significant findings may have warranted full publication in addition to the final report.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist) and Liane Peyre (Archaeologist) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The project was managed by Andrew Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The temporary footpath (subsequently the 'site') lies within an Archaeological Sensitive Area and has been subject to both evaluations and small scale investigations in the past. The archaeological background is compiled from excavation results in writing (AOC), previous work conducted by ASE at Northbrook College (2004) and the Design and Access Statement: St Barnabas House, Proposed development of new temporary footpath at Lower Northbrook Farm, Durrington (RHP 2010).
- 2.2** Scheduled archaeological evaluation trenching followed by small-scale excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on the east part of the Northbrook College site (ASE 2004). Evidence of prehistoric remains, in the form of Neolithic pits, were exposed on the St Barnabas Hospice site during an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeology South-East. In addition, a series of ditches and gullies were recorded of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age date, which were considered to be associated to domestic dwellings. Further work in 2008, to the north of the 2004 excavations, located several ring ditches (AOC *in prep.*). These later excavations elucidated the theory that exploitation of the St Barnabas site was continued throughout the prehistoric period, with the exception of the late Neolithic period, into the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Prior to the Mid Bronze Age the area was a temporary site defined by trackways and driveways for the movement of livestock between pastures. By the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, however, settlement evidence on the site is apparent with the construction of two roundhouses and associated occupation debris, such as waste pits and animal pens.
- 2.3** Earlier excavations undertaken between 1978 and 1987 conducted prior to the construction of Northbrook College itself revealed a small corridor villa and related bathhouse dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. These were associated with a range of post-built ancillary structures, corn drying ovens and other features forming the focal element of a Romano-British villa estate (RH Partnership 2010). Evidence of Roman settlement activity was later found during the 2004 phase of works on the east part of the college, corroborating the earlier interpretations of Roman land use. Ditches for enclosures and field systems demonstrate that the land underlying the Hospice was widely used during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries, however, only the Northbrook College site contains evidence of continued Roman activity into the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.
- 2.4** Medieval activity at the Hospice site is dominated by a large enclosure ditch dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and covering an area of approximately 45m by 30m. Medieval use of the site continued for a further 300 years before the site was largely abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Groundworks were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. These ground works were monitored by an archaeologist until archaeological features or deposits, the undisturbed natural substrate or the development formation level were reached. Smaller areas of excavation undertaken by hand were also monitored unless the depth penetrated did not reach the archaeological or natural strata.
- 3.2** Where new excavations revealed significant archaeological remains, an opportunity was made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time was given where necessary, for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information (ASE 2010).
- 3.3** The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and routinely scanned with a metal detector (ASE 2010).
- 3.4** The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a cable trench adjacent to the temporary footpath (to the west) for the laying of an electricity cable and the subsequent hand excavation of the post holes for the lighting bollards (figure 2) in line with the path.
- 3.5** A digital photographic record was kept throughout the works.
- 3.6** A plan was kept of the location of intrusive modern disturbances and potential archaeological features found on the site. All contexts were recorded on standard pro forma recording sheets.
- 3.7** The site archive, which has been quantified in the table below, is currently held at the Archaeology South East offices in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	11 Digital Photographs
Bulk finds	2
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The site has suffered from a moderate quantity of modern disturbance. The southern area covered by the cable trench, adjacent to the balancing pond, consisted of redeposited natural or subsoil built up to create a bank. The northern end of the cable trench ran across flatter land but did not exceed the depth of subsoil at 500mm. The final portion of the trench at the north end reached a maximum depth on 1m. A total of four contexts were recorded, tabulated below (Table 2).

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	50 – 100mm
002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	350 – 550 mm
003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	500 – 550mm +
004	Deposit	Layer	12m+	Tr.	200mm

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## 4.2 Cable Trench

4.2.1 The areas excavated for the cable trenching consisted of a simple stratigraphy of clean natural [003], covered with subsoil [002] and sealed with re-deposited natural or built up subsoil [001]. The trenching rarely exceeded the depth of subsoil and was a maximum of 300mm. Unstratified finds were recovered from the northern section of trenching.

4.2.2 One possible archaeological deposit [004] was uncovered in the cable trench section, beneath the subsoil, adjacent to the 'balancing pond'. This layer was at least 12m in length and produced a single pot sherd of Roman date, a fragment of ceramic building material, fire-cracked flint and probable post-Roman mortar.



## 5.0 THE FINDS

A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. A summary is given in 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)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	F. Clay	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)
001	2	148	9	310	2	76	14	382	10	462	1	8	1	6		
u/s North			1	14					9	192						
u/s South							1	74	5	110			2	6		
004	1	2	1	18					3	76					1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

### 5.1 The Roman Pottery by Louise Rayner

5.1.1 Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered: a single sandy greyware ([001]) of probably local Arun Valley production and an abraded La Graufesenque samian rim sherd from a Dragendorff type 35/36, identifiable by the surviving remains of the trailed barbotine decoration on the rim ([004]). The greyware sherd is not more closely datable than a broad 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries date. The samian vessel dates from AD 70 -100.

### 5.2 Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A single sherd of post-Roman pottery was recovered from made-ground [001]. This consists of an abraded base sherd from a large internally glazed bowl in local glazed red earthenware. A 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date is probable for the vessel.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of eleven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 342g were recovered from made-ground [001], layer [004] and an unstratified area. The material ranges in date from Roman to post-medieval in date. Context [004] contained a single abraded fragment of CBM of unidentified form (1/18g). The fragment is in an orange fabric (T1) with moderate medium sized quartz and moderate voids and is likely to be of Roman date. A fragment (1/14g) in a similar fabric to that from [004] was recovered unstratified in the northern section of trench, again form could not be identified though a Roman date is likely. Fragments recovered from the made-ground [001] included medieval peg tile fragments in two different fabrics; T2, a brownish orange fabric with abundant coarse rose quartz (4/134g), and T3 a brownish fabric with abundant fine quartz and sparse very coarse flint inclusions (1/66g), both of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date. Post-medieval material recovered from [001] consisted of peg tile fragments in fabric T4 (2/32g), a pale orange and cream silt marbled fabric, a fragment of

peg tile (1/60g) and a fragment of unglazed ceramic field drain (1/20g) both identified in an orange fabric T5 with sparse coarse quartz and sparse calcareous inclusions. All the post-medieval material is of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The assemblage represents the range of activities around the site though none of the material represents in situ deposition.

#### 5.4 The Flintwork by Karine le Hégarat

5.4.1 A small collection comprising just fifteen struck flints weighing 456g and 24 burnt unworked flints weighing 764g were recovered during the course of the watching brief (Table 4). Most of the struck flints were collected from the made-ground [001]. The condition of the flintwork varied within the assemblage. Signs of weathering are expected in disturbed, redeposited deposits and while several flints displayed minimal edge damage, the majority of the pieces exhibited moderate to heavy post-depositional edge abrasion. Although most of the edge damage originated from surface rolling, deeper edge nicks were also noticed. The majority of the assemblage was uncorticated with only two pieces displaying incipient traces of bluish white surface discolouration. The majority of the pieces were manufactured from mid to dark grey to almost black fine-grained to very fine-grained flint with infrequent light grey mottled patches, occasional inclusions and buff or grey cortex, mostly weathered to a thin smooth but also occasionally slightly rolled off and pitted surface. Although some of the material might have originated from locally available gravel sources and Head Deposits, the good quality raw material used for several pieces derived most probably from chalk flint sources.

5.4.2 The small group of flint comprised five flakes, three shattered pieces, one core, two scrapers and four miscellaneous retouched pieces. None of the flakes were chronologically diagnostic. The large two multi-directional platform flake core weighing 95g, displayed signs of having been subsequently used as a hammerstone. Both scrapers were manufactured from the same fine-grained flint. An end-and-side scraper on an elongated flake exhibited continuous heavy direct abrupt retouches along the right-hand edge, most probably for backing. The second scraper consisted of a side scraper manufactured on a flake which displayed previous flake scar removals on the upper face. Both these pieces are probably of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The remaining miscellaneous retouched pieces were heavily damaged and provided no dating evidence.

5.4.3 The small assemblage of flintwork recovered provides limited evidence for Prehistoric activities. Unfortunately, the disturbed nature of the site suggests that although the flints might not be necessarily far from their original location of deposition, they could also derive from further afield.

Context	Flake	Shattered piece	Core	Misc. retouched piece	Scraper	<i>Total</i>
001	4	3	1	4	2	<b>14</b>
U/S South	1					<b>1</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 4: The flintwork

## **5.5 The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A fired clay fragment was recovered from the made-ground [001]. The piece is in a reduced, fine sand-tempered clay with rare organic temper and although featureless, is likely to represent daub. More unusual are two unstratified rod fragments (L 29+ and 27.4+mm; diameter 7.5 and 9.75mm) similar in appearance to clay tobacco pipe stem fragments but unpierced. The pieces are in a crude, red clay lacking any inclusions or tempering, more akin to CBM and pot fabrics of the period than the fine red clay occasionally used for stem fragments. The fragments are non-conjoining, dating to the mid 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century and of unknown function.

## **5.6 Other Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Two common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) right valves were recovered from [001]. Both are mature, with the younger example displaying low level infestation.

5.6.2 A base fragment from an olive green glass octagonal bottle (e.g. for household products or medication) was recovered from [001]. No complete dimensions survive. The fragment dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

5.6.3 In addition, [004] contained a fragment of red mortar of probable post-Roman date.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1** The monitored groundworks were excavated both by hand and by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 1.0m in the north end of the trench but no more than 500 - 600mm elsewhere. The subsequent excavations for the postholes did not extend further than the previously excavated cable trench.
- 6.2** The only archaeological deposit identified was a layer adjacent to the balancing pond, which contained both Roman and post-Roman finds. Unfortunately, the small quantity of finds recovered makes precise dating of this layer impossible. Unstratified worked flint, fire cracked flint, ceramic building material and post-medieval pottery were also recovered during the work. This evidence, although minimal, corresponds with previous excavation results at Northbrook College and St Barnabas Hospice which suggested the area was in use throughout the Roman period as a domestic and agricultural site with later utilisation during the post-medieval period. Due to the confined area of trenching it was not possible to delineate the extent of spread [004] and the results of the monitoring confirmed previous knowledge of the site history but did not contribute further.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South East would like to thank RLF Construction and Property Consultants for commissioning the work, the West Sussex County Council Archaeologist and Gifford for their advice and assistance throughout the project.

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**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SBD10					
Identification Name and Address	St Barnabas House, Durrington.					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	51044 10384					
Geology	Brickearth over Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4642					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b> ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Brown Field	<b>Shallow Urban</b> ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. Dec 2010 - Jan 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	RLF Construction and Property Consultants					
Project Manager	Andrew Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley Bell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	<b>RB</b>
	AS	MED	<b>PM</b>	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Construction of a temporary footpath connecting the bus stop on the A259 to St. Barnabas' Hospice at Lower Northbrook Farm was monitored between December 2010 and January 2011. The only archaeological deposit identified was a layer adjacent to the balancing pond, which contained few finds. Unstratified worked flint, fire cracked flint and Roman pottery were also recovered. This evidence, although minimal, corresponds with previous excavation results at Northbrook College and St Barnabas Hospice which suggested the area was in use throughout the Roman period as a domestic and agricultural site with later post medieval inclusions incorporated into the ploughed subsoil.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-93528**

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**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Barnabus House, Durrington
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by RLF Construction and Property Consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a temporary new footpath at Lower Northbrook Farm, Durrington, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 1044 0384). Construction of a temporary footpath connecting the bus stop on the A259 to St. Barnabas' Hospice at Lower Northbrook Farm was monitored between December 2010 and January 2011. The only archaeological deposit identified was a layer adjacent to the balancing pond which contained Samian pottery. Unstratified worked flint, fire cracked flint and Roman pottery were also recovered. This evidence, although minimal, corresponds with previous excavation results at Northbrook College and St Barnabas Hospice which suggested the area was in use throughout the Roman period as a domestic and agricultural site with later post medieval inclusions incorporated into the ploughed subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 23-12-2010 End: 10-01-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	New Path network
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN FERRING St Barnabas House, West Durrington
Postcode	BN126NU

Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 510400 103828 50.8726024959 0.146935579128 50 52 21 N 000 08 48 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	RLF Construction and Property Consultants
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	RLF

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#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Physical Archive notes	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Archive notes	Digital Photos
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report'
Paper Archive notes	n/a

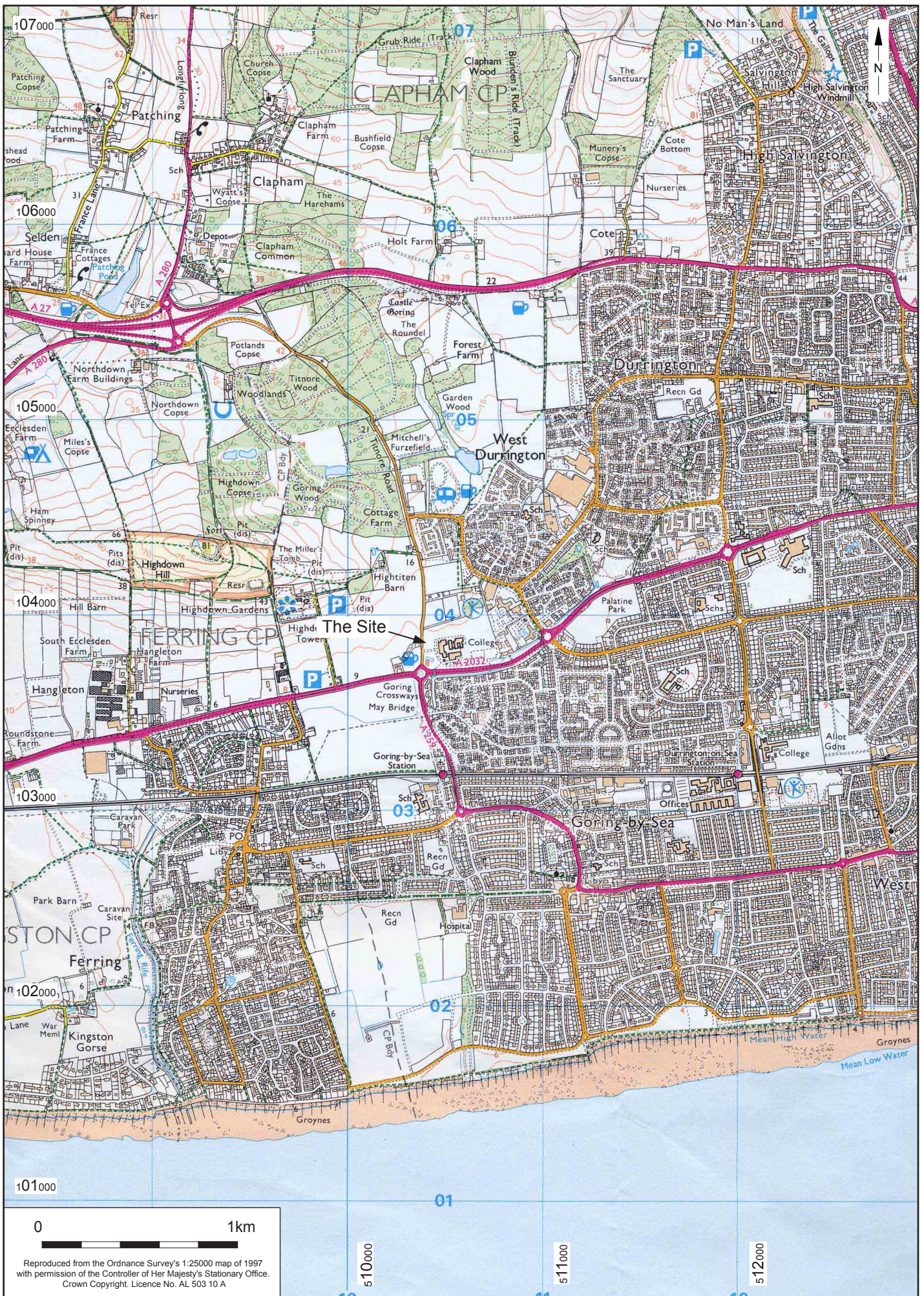
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#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		St. Barnabas House, Lower Northbrook Farm		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4642	Feb 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011032	Drawn by: JLR			



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