

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive,  
Worthing, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: BHW11/34**

**(TQ 1160 0457)**

**St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive,  
Worthing, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Geoffrey Osborne Ltd**

by JamesMcNicoll-Norbury  
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices  
Ltd

SiteCodeBHW 11/34

**July 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive, Worthing, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 1160 0457

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 20th July 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** BHW 11/34

**Area of site:** c. 0.6 ha

**Summary of results:** A single undated gully and a modern posthole were identified in two of three trenches dug.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Worthing Museum in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 25.07.11
	Steve Preston✓ 25.07.11

# **St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive, Worthing, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

**Report 11/34**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive, Worthing, West Sussex (TQ 1160 0457) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jamie Skates, of Geoffrey Osborne Limited, Wray Coppice, Oak Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0LE.

Planning permission (WB09/0800/FULL) has been gained from Worthing Borough Council to redevelop the former hospice site for residential use. This permission is subject to a condition (29) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in the form of a watching brief during the groundworks phase of the development. However, in consultation with the West Sussex Archaeological Officer it was decided that the work should take the form, initially, of an investigation by trial trenching, based on the results of which a further phase of investigation might be required..

This was in accordance with Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) (although it is acknowledged that this has now been superseded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010)), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Dan Bray on 20th July 2011 and the site code is BHW 11/34. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Worthing Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located at St Barnabas Hospice, on the north side of Columbia Drive in the Durrington area of Worthing (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by the former hospice building and associated car parking with the structure taking up a significant proportion of the site area (Fig. 2). The natural geology is described as Brickearth (BGS 1993) and the site lies at 49.24m above Ordnance Datum.



## **Archaeological background**

The general archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the archaeologically rich coastal plain of West Sussex (Rudling 2003). A variety of sites and finds of prehistoric and later periods have been recorded from Worthing as a whole, mostly discovered during post-war suburban development (those within the historic core of the town are summarized in Harris 2009). Cissbury Ring to the north of the town is a major prehistoric site with Neolithic and Iron Age evidence. Durrington was historically a separate parish, originally part of Tarring; a church is listed as early as Domesday Book (AD 1086), when two separate estates under the same ownership are listed, although neither was of much note (Williams and Martin 2002, 68–9). There has been little archaeological investigation within Durrington.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the investigation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits adjacent to the area of development.

This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*. If any archaeological features were revealed which do not warrant preservation *in situ*, they were to be recorded under conditions pertaining to full excavation, in compensation for any archaeology that may have been affected by the extension. The work was to be carried out to comply with the West Sussex County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork (WSSCC 2007).

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Four trenches, 20m long and 1.8m wide, were proposed to be dug and were to be located in an area which has not obviously been substantially affected by the existing care home complex. This was to be carried out using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

Three trenches were dug as intended but one trench could not be dug due to extensive work carried out by the groundworkers in the immediate area (Fig. 3). Trench locations also had to be shifted slightly due to site constraints. The trenches ranged in length from 19.0m to 22.9m and in depth from 0.50m to 0.60m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 presents a list of all excavated features.

#### Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SE–NW and was 21.3m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of upper made ground comprising loose gravel and brick and 0.29m of lower made ground consisting of bricks, gravel and clay overlying brickearth natural geology. A gully (1) was recorded which was 0.48m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with mid brown grey silty clay. A single fragment of burnt flint was recovered. The gully was fully excavated within the trench but no dating evidence was present. A concrete footing (52) which was 0.30m wide and 0.15m high was also recorded that cut gully 1.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SE–NW and was 22.9m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of Tarmac, over 0.25m of made ground over and 0.10m of clay stained a blue-grey, overlying brickearth natural geology. A concrete footing (53) was recorded which was 0.60m wide and 0.20m high. No archaeological deposits were recorded.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 5; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SE–NW and was 19.0m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil above 0.30m of brown silty subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A posthole (2) was recorded which was 0.3m wide and 0.11m deep and filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (51). A fragment of glass and three modern nails were recovered from its fill 51. No archaeological deposits were recorded.

### **Finds**

All of the finds were of modern date and were retained on site.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation has revealed that archaeologically relevant levels have survived on site, although it is possible that these levels may have been affected during the construction of the hospice, as modern made ground directly overlay the natural geology in two of the trenches. Two cut features were identified. One was a modern posthole-sized feature of no archaeological . The other feature was an undated, but not necessarily modern gully, which is possibly of archaeological interest. However, due to the extensive disturbance or truncation of the site caused by the previous development, it is considered that the site has low archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 318, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Harris, R B, 2009, *Worthing Historic Character Assessment Report*, Worthing
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Brighton
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London
- WSSC 2007, 'Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work (development control)', West Sussex County Council, Chichester

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

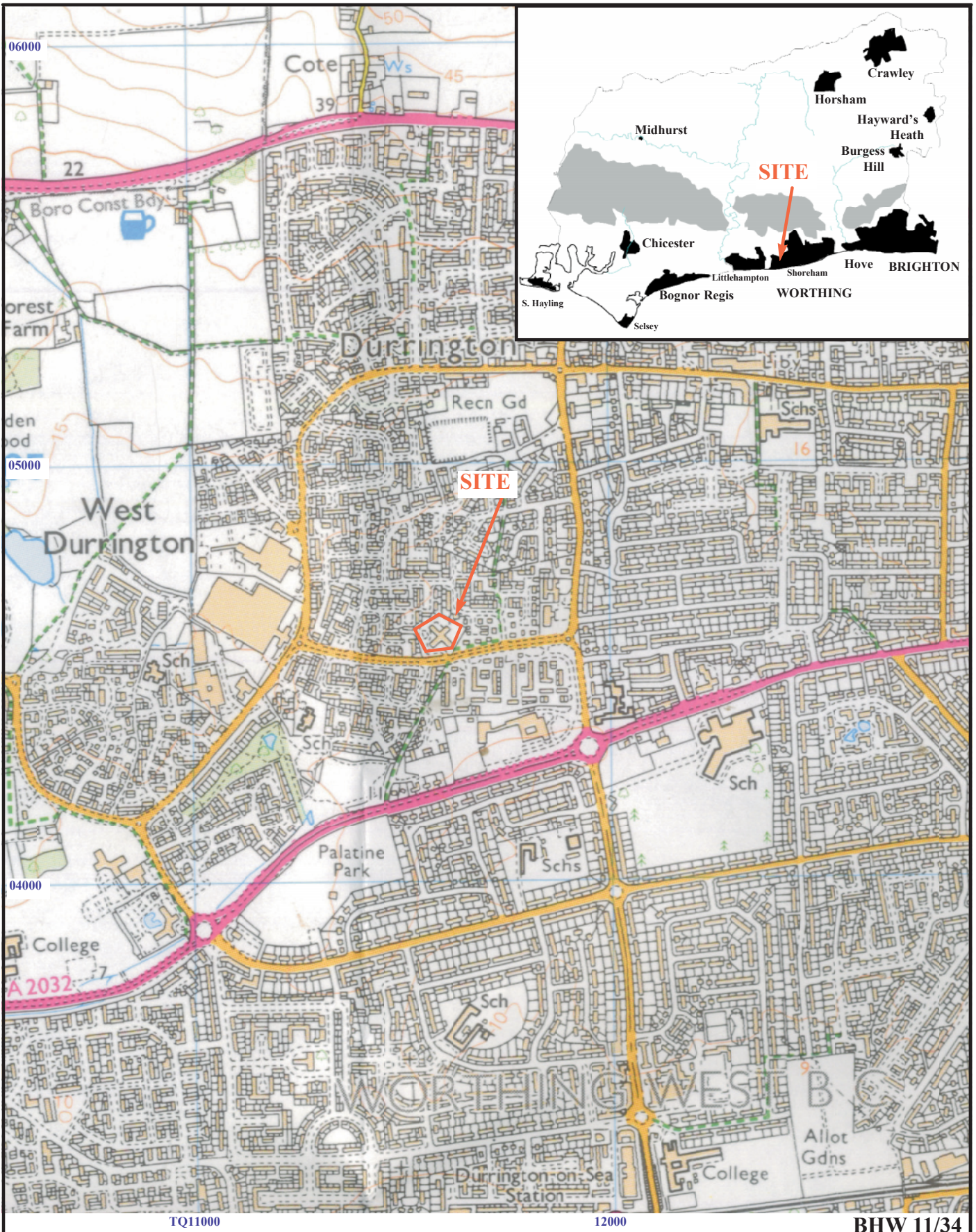
0m at SE or SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.3	1.8	0.60	0–0.20m made ground; 0.20-0.49m made ground; 0.49m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully 1 and Footing 52 <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	22.9	1.8	0.52	0-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10-0.35m made ground; 0.35-0.45m blue-stained clay; 0.45m+ brickearth natural geology. Footing 53.
3	19.0	1.8	0.50	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ brickearth natural geology. Posthole 2 <b>[Pl. 2]</b>

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	50	Gully	Unphased	None
1		52	Footing	Modern	Concrete
2		53	Footing	Modern	Concrete
3	2	51	Posthole	Modern	Modern nails, glass





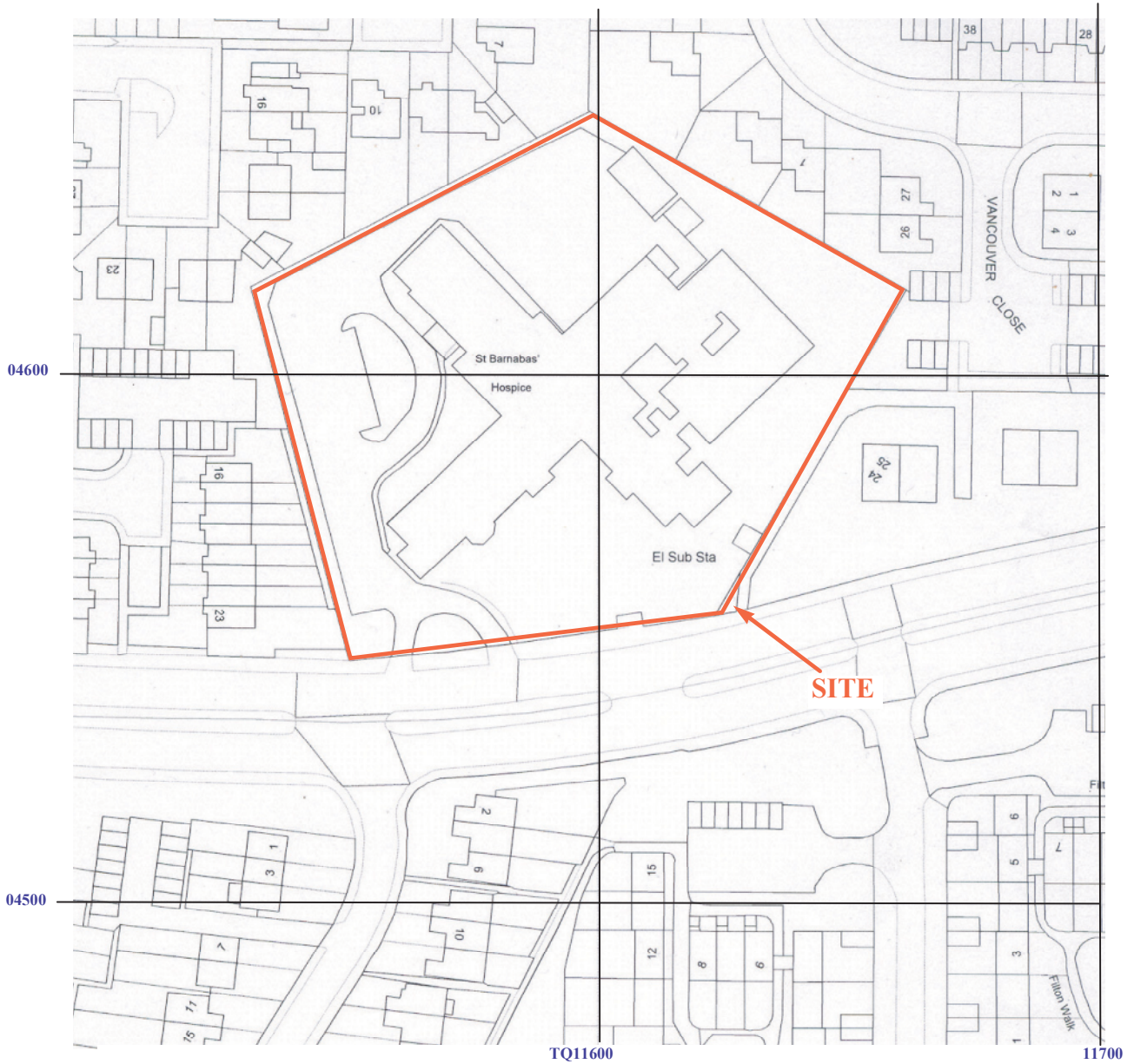
**St Barnabas Hospice, Columbia Drive,  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Worthing and West Sussex.

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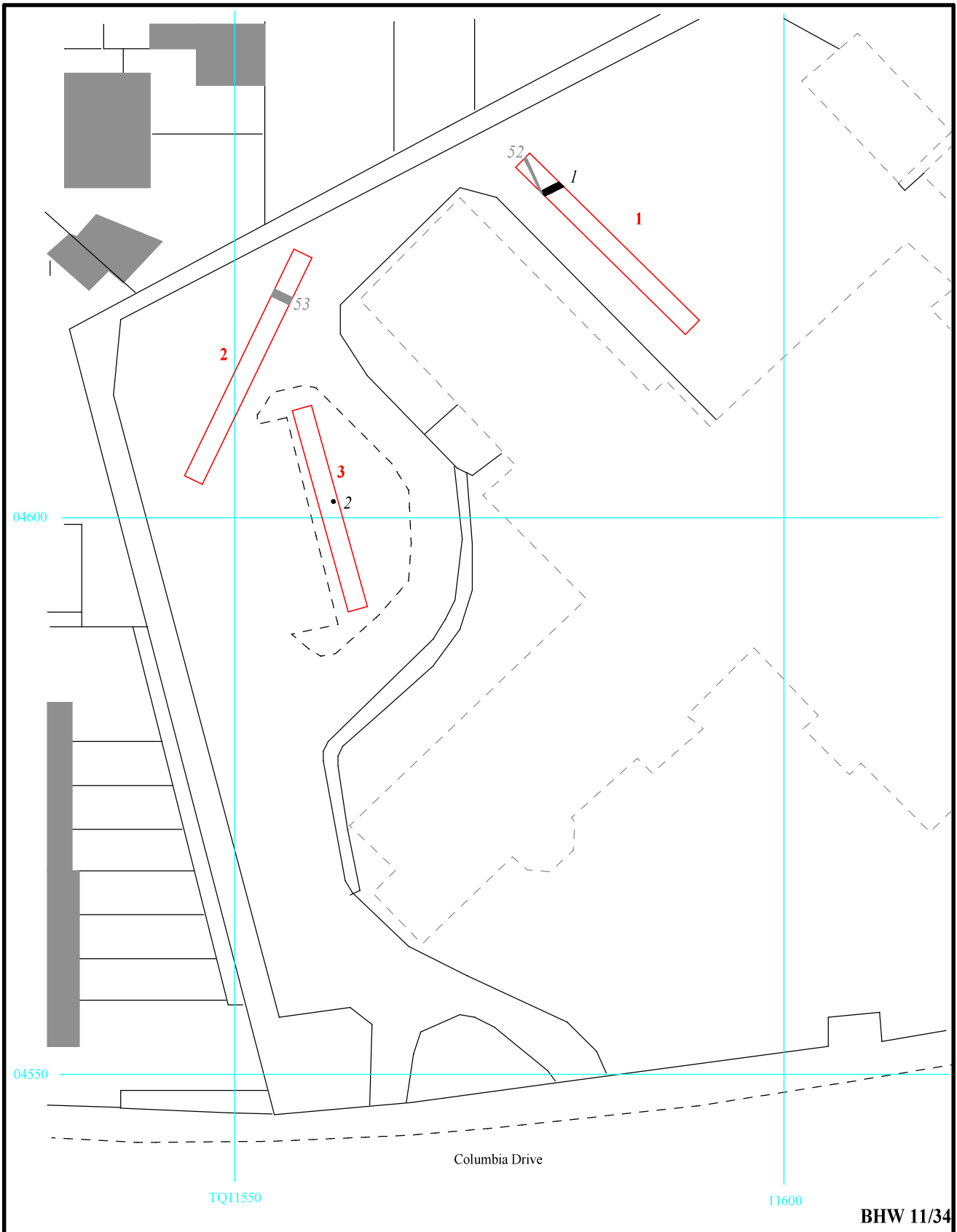


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Columbia Drive.

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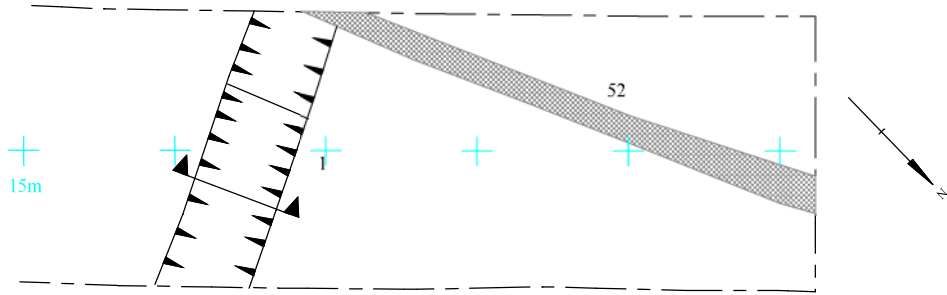
Figure 3. Trench Locations



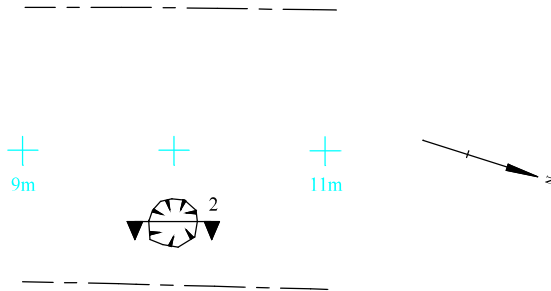
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Trench 1



Trench 3



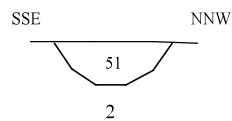
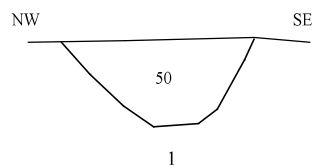
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Figure 4. Trench Details



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Figure 5. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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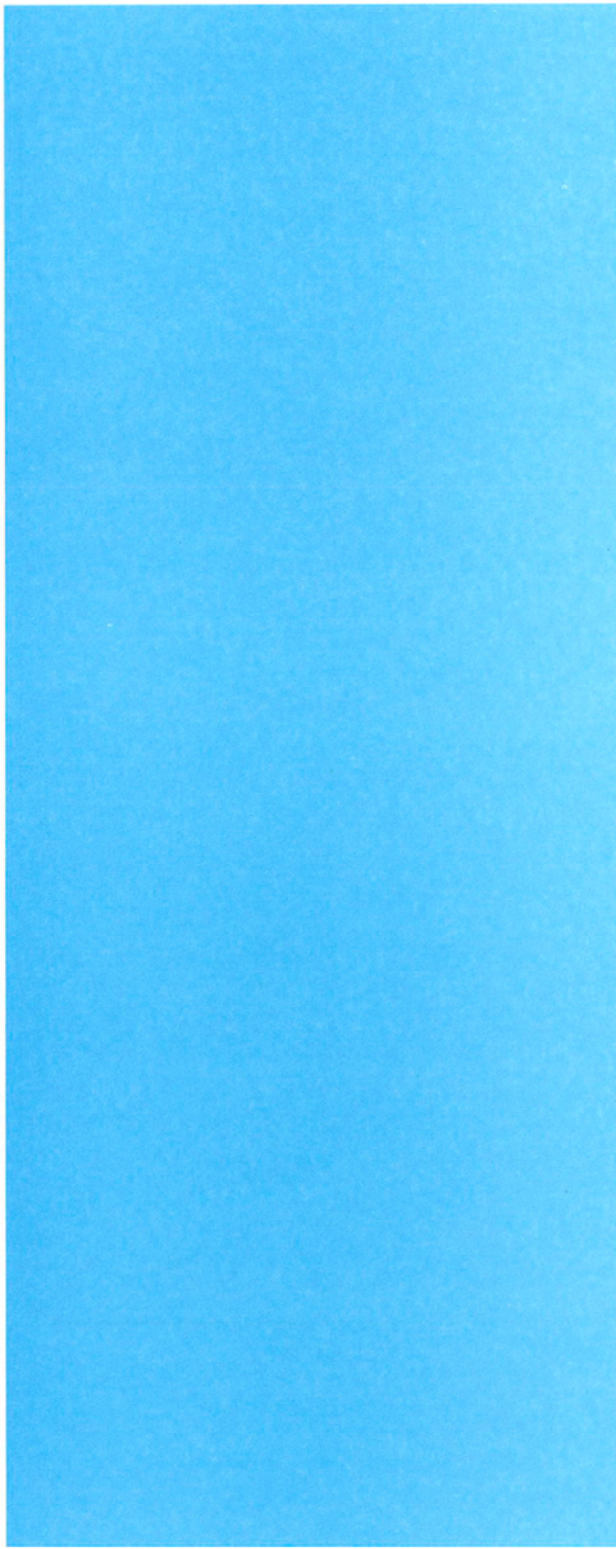
Plates 1 and 2

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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