

**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**

**Land off Grange Road,  
Crawley Down, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Monitoring**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Application: 09/01885/OUT**

**Site Code: CDC11/103**

**(TQ 3440 3730)**

# **Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Monitoring  
For Redrow Homes Eastern**

by Sean Wallis  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code CDC11/103

**January 2012**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 3440 3730

**Planning reference:** 09/01885/OUT

**Site activity:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date and duration of project:** 15th December 2011 – 12th January 2012

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** CDC 11/103

**Area of site:** c. 2.48 ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the monitoring exercise, which investigated several of the new roads within the site whilst they were being stripped down to formation level.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 20.01.12 Steve Preston✓ 20.01.12
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# **Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex Archaeological Monitoring**

by Sean Wallis

**Report 11/103**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological monitoring exercise carried out at land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex (TQ 344 373) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lorraine Mayo of CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Redrow Homes Eastern, 2 Aurum Court, Southfields Business Park, Basildon, SS15 6TU.

Planning permission (09/01885/OUT) has been gained from Mid Sussex District Council to redevelop the site for residential housing. The permission is subject to a condition (24) relating to archaeology, which requires that an archaeologist observe the excavations associated with the new development, and record any buried archaeological remains that are uncovered.

This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010), and the District Council's policies on the historic environment. The monitoring exercise was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, advising the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Sean Wallis between 15th December 2011 and 12th January 2012, and the site code is CDC 11/103. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Crawley Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site lies to the south-east of the village of Crawley Down, which is a relatively modern settlement approximately 2.5km west of East Grinstead, West Sussex (Fig. 1). Prior to redevelopment, the site consisted of an area of rough ground, immediately to the south of Grange Road (Fig. 2). The site lies on a north-east facing slope, with the height above Ordnance Datum varying from about 130m in the south-western corner, to approximately 125m in the north-eastern corner. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of the mixed sandstone and clay of the Upper Tunbridge Wells sand (BGS 1972). The natural geology observed during the monitoring exercise generally consisted of light yellow brown sandy clay.



## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a previous desk-based assessment (Darton 2009). In summary, the site is regarded as having a generally low potential for archaeological remains for most periods being present, although, due to the geology of the area, there is the potential for evidence of prehistoric and later iron working being identified.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the monitoring exercise was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including the machine stripping of access roads, and the excavation of foundation trenches and service runs. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

## **Results**

The main access roads within the site were stripped of topsoil and overburden, using a 360°-type machine, under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). As no archaeological deposits were revealed along these road areas, it was agreed with Mr John Mills of West Sussex County Council that the minor roads and foundation trenches did not have to be monitored, as the site clearly had very little archaeological potential.

The road areas monitored varied in width between 6m and 7m, and the total depth of material removed differed depending on the required formation level of the roads, and the suitability of the underlying natural geology (Pl. 1). The depth of topsoil and overburden also varied across the site, although it was generally thicker towards the north-east corner. The topsoil in this corner measured about 0.25m in depth, and lay above a subsoil deposit which was up to 0.05m thick (Pl. 2). This lay directly above the natural sandy clay. In contrast, the topsoil in the southern parts of the site was sometimes only 0.15m deep (Fig. 4).

No archaeological finds or features were recording during the monitoring exercise, with the only features noted being modern field-drains.

## **Finds**

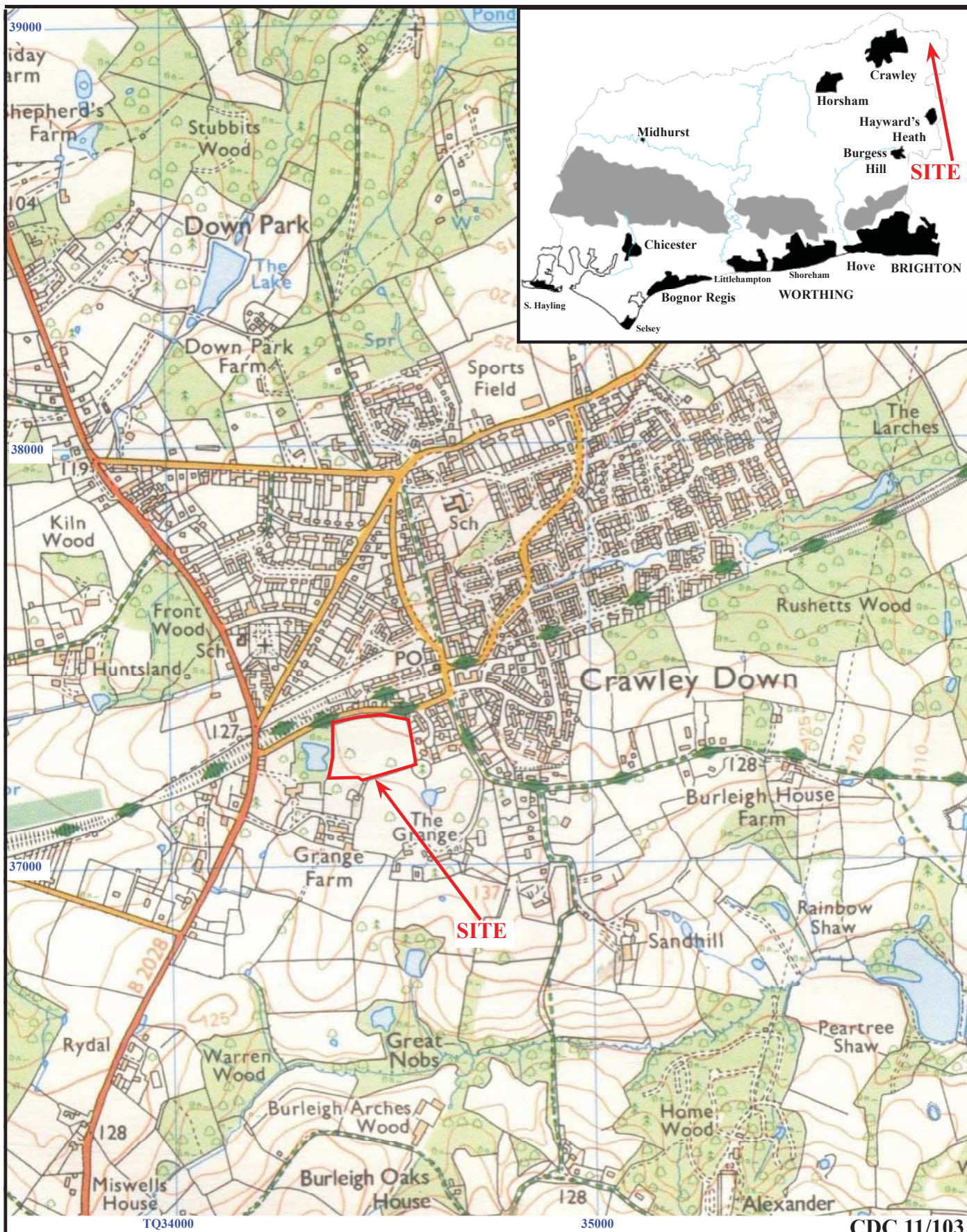
No archaeological finds were recovered during the monitoring exercise.

## **Conclusion**

The monitoring exercise at this site successfully examined a relatively large percentage of the overall area which will be affected by the development. The fact that no archaeological finds and features were recorded in these areas indicates that the site has very little archaeological potential.

## **References**

- BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,360, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Darton, L, 2009, 'Land at Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex; an archaeological desk-based assessment', CgMs Consulting report
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning Policy Statement 5, The Stationery Office, Norwich



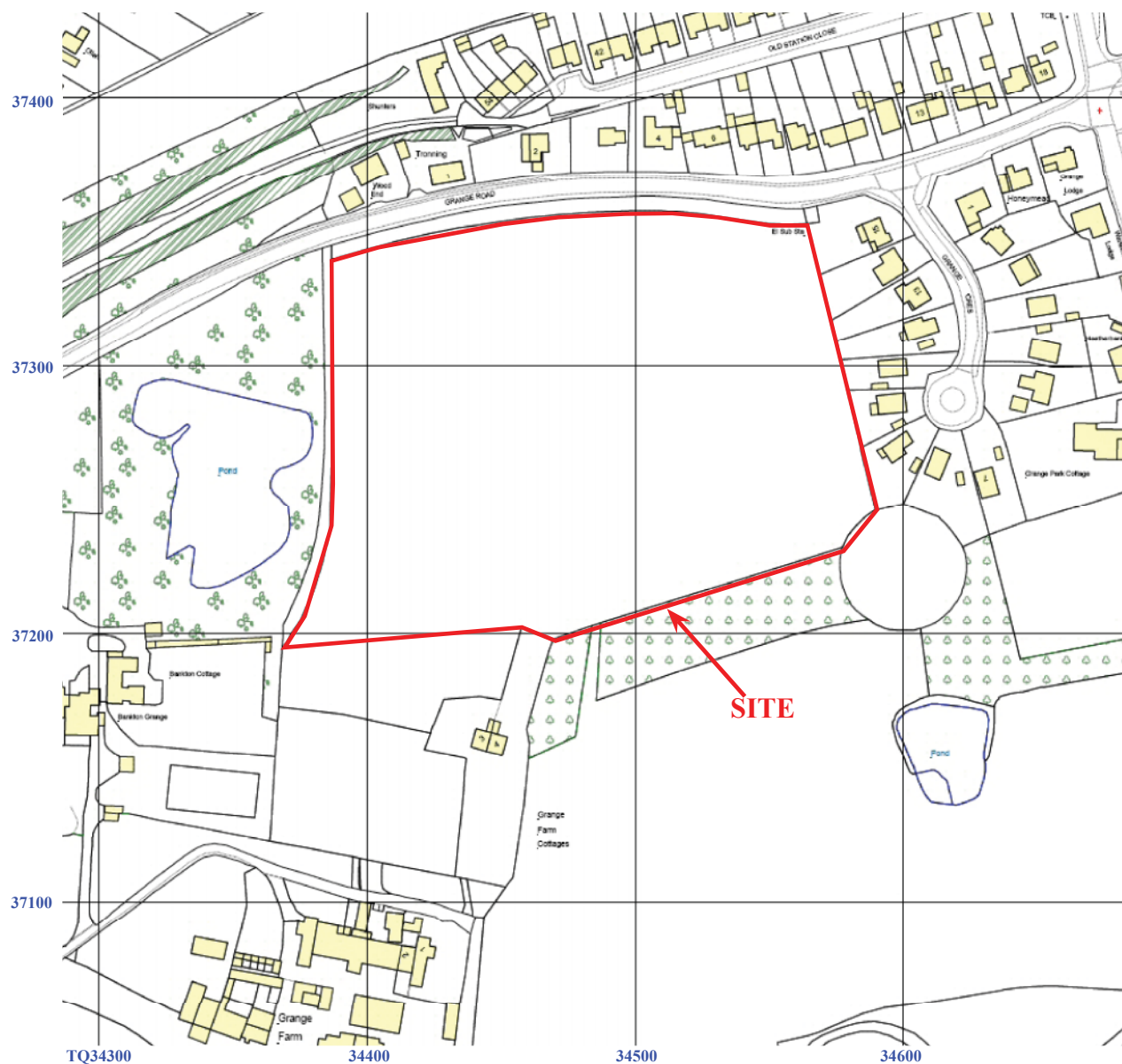
**Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex, 2012  
Archaeological monitoring**

Figure 1. Location of site within Crawley Down and West Sussex.

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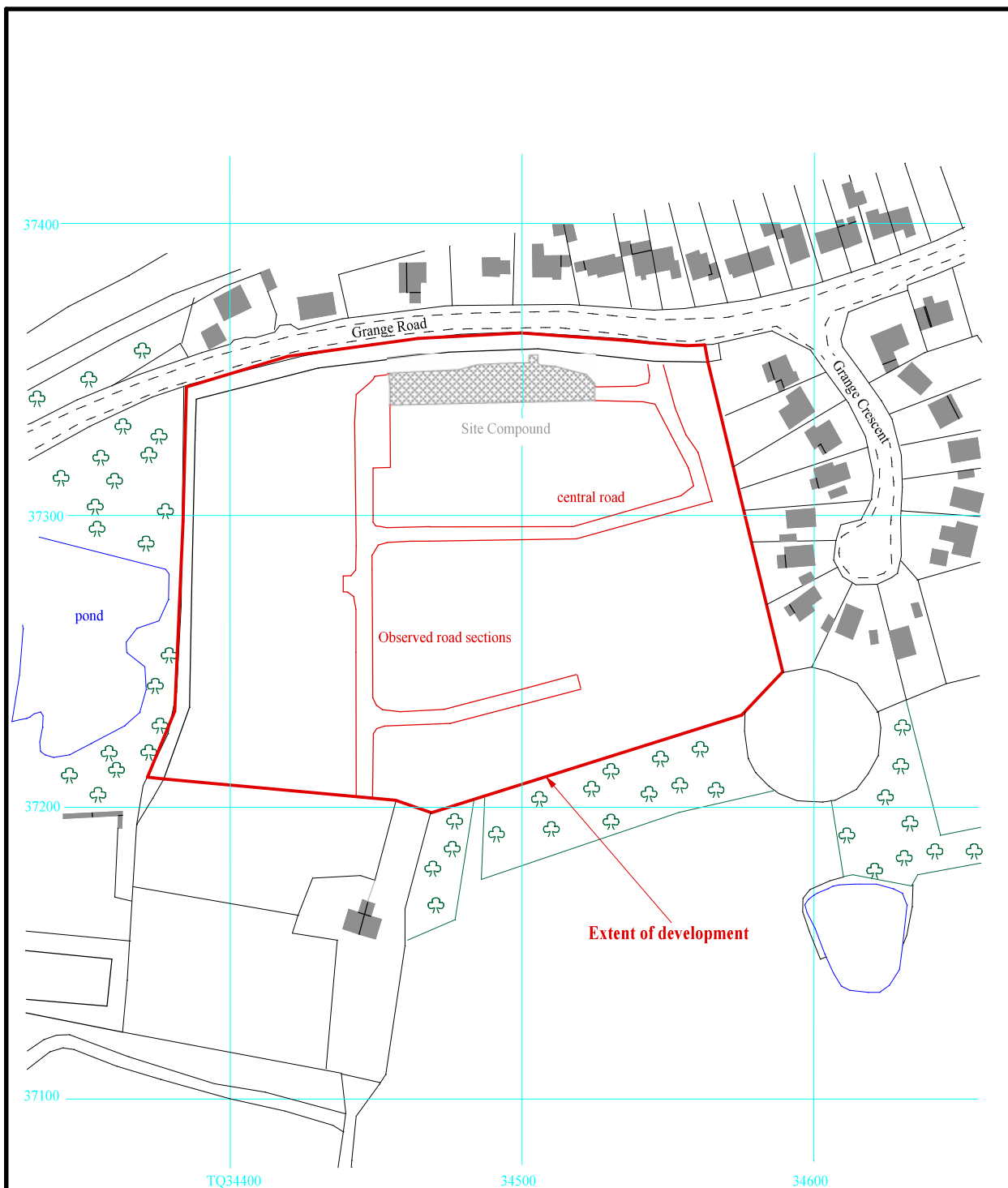


## Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex, 2012

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Grange Road.

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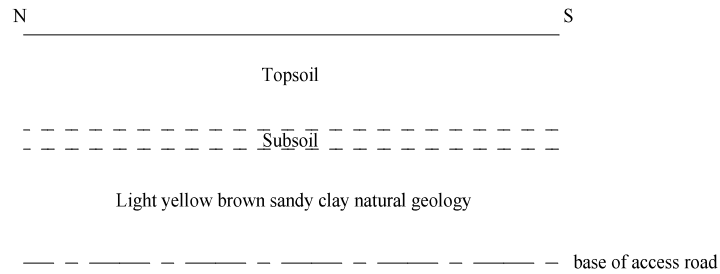
# **Land off Grange Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex, 2012** **Archaeological monitoring**

Figure 3. Location of areas observed during groundworks.

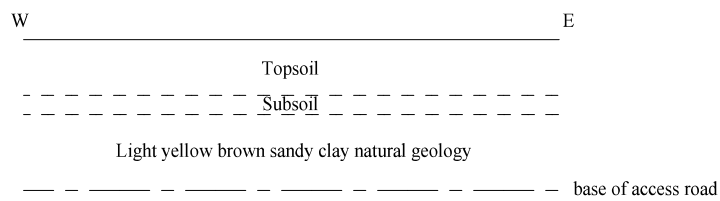


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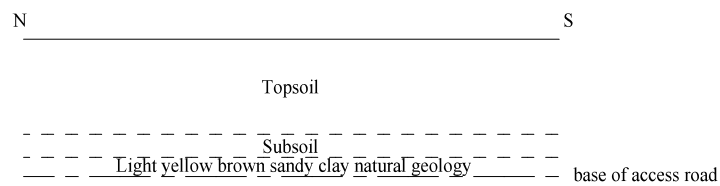
Northern Access Road (North-west corner)



Central Access Road



North-South Access Road (Southern End)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Central road, looking east. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking north, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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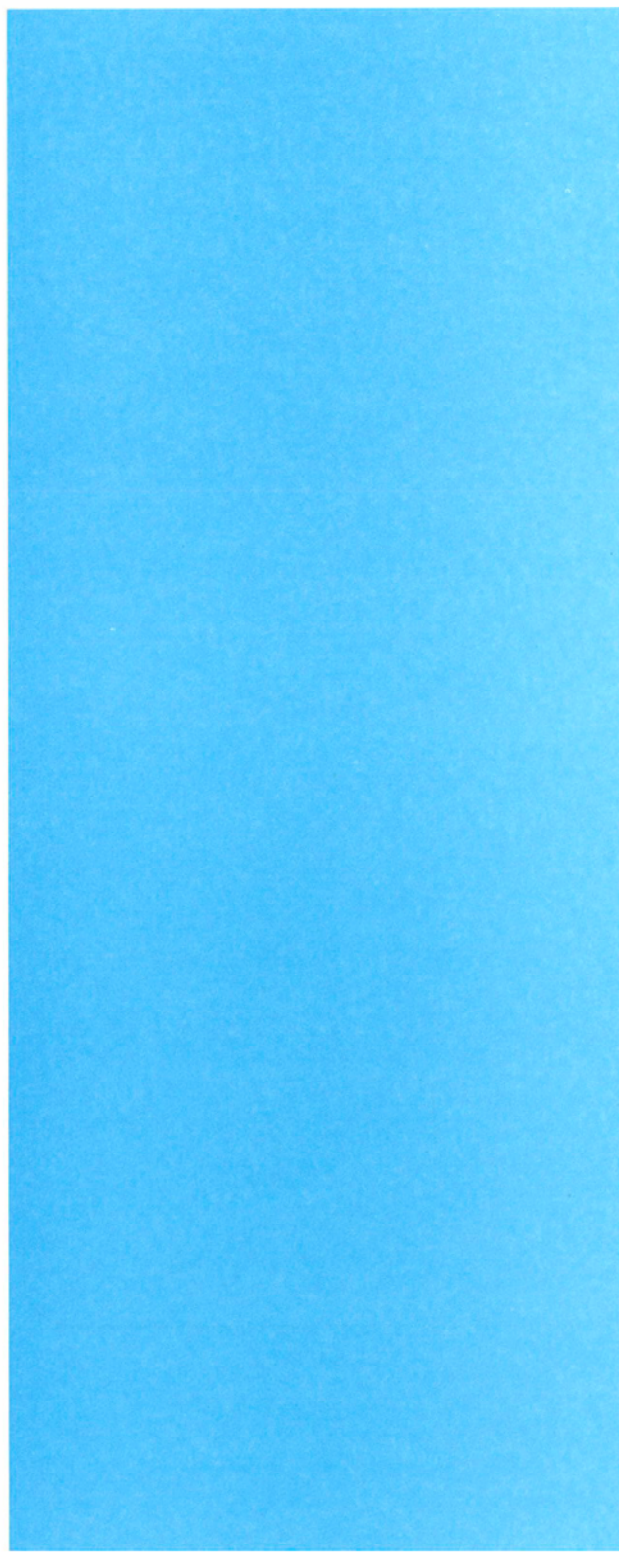
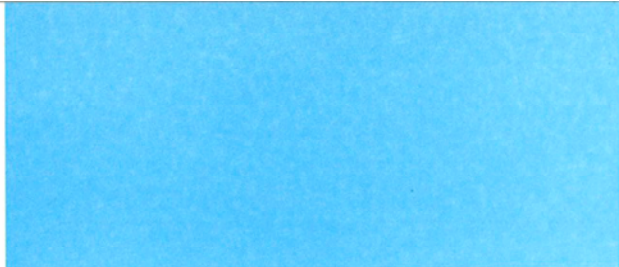
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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