

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

**Heath Barn Farm, Billingshurst Road,
Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: HBH12/177

(TQ 1430 3160)

**Heath Barn Farm, Billingshurst Road,
Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for A2 Dominion Developments Ltd**

by Susan Porter
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code HBH12/177

November 2012

Summary

Site name: Heath Barn Farm, Billingshurst Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1430 3160

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21-23rd November 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: HBH 12/177

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.11.12

Heath Barn Farm, Billingshurst Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 12/177

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Heath Barn Farm, Billingshurst Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex TQ 1430 3106 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Wayne Ashton of A2 Dominion New Homes, Capital House, 25 Chapel Street, London, NW1 5WX.

Planning permission (DC/12/1172) has been gained from Horsham District Council to demolish the existing buildings on the site and construct new housing. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed redevelopment of the site, a field evaluation was carried out to better inform the planning process and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Horsham District Council as advised by Mr John Mills, West Sussex County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Aiden Colyer from 21-23rd November 2012 and the site code is HBH 12/177. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Horsham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south west of Broadbridge Heath, c.4km from the centre of Horsham. The River Arun lies 0.5km to the west (Fig. 1). The site lies on an area of relatively flat land on the south side of the A264 at a height of c.31m above Ordnance Datum, sloping down towards the west. The underlying geology is recorded as Weald Clay (BGS 1972) and this was observed within the trenches. The land currently forms part of an extensive garden to the existing house (Fig. 2). A large number of trees and shrubs divide this garden into several separate areas. To the north of the site a gravel and Tarmac driveway leads to the eastern end of the site where a number of garages used as car maintenance workshops still stand.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the area stems from its location on the site of a former farm of post-medieval date but possibly which had late medieval origins. Recent archaeological fieldwork to the south has revealed the unexpected presence of medieval settlement (J Mills pers comm.) and these deposits could extend further and into the proposal site. Until recently, The Weald claylands were not noted for their wealth of archaeological deposits. However recent fieldwork carried out prior to development has begun to locate prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites in this region (cf Wallis 2011). An exception to this statement is for the presence of iron production sites dating from all periods from the Iron Age up until early post-medieval times.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the southern part of the proposed area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner that would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that warrant preservation in-situ. The work was to be carried out to comply with the West Sussex County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork, (WSCC 2007).

The specific research aims of this project were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

To determine if any medieval occupation deposits were present.

To determine if any archaeological deposits dating from the medieval period were present and if so did they relate to iron production.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities set out in English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 2005), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary (eg Rudling 2003).

It was proposed to dig ten trenches, 17m long 1.6m wide covering 4% of the site. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 17m of trenching was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify any deposits found within the initial trenching. Topsoil and overburden was removed by a JCB-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. The excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision and both the spoil heaps were searched for finds, with a metal detector used to enhance recovery of metal artefacts.

Results

All 10 trenches were dug as intended, (Fig. 3) with the exception of trench 2 which was moved to the south in order to avoid possible electric services below the driveway. However, trench 2 still encountered an electric cable along the edge of the driveway and was split into two shorter trenches to cover the overall length, leaving a 1m space between the two sections for this electric cable. As such it was recorded as two separate trenches 2A and 2B. Following consultation with the monitor, trench 11 was added in order to attempt to trace a ditch that had been observed in the excavations to the south. The trenches ranged in length from 6.10-19.90m and in depth from 0.30-0.50m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig 3, Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned east - west and was 15.50m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of dark grey brown silty sand topsoil (50), and 0.35m mid brown grey silty clay similar in consistence to the natural geology subsoil (51) overlying mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology. The natural geology was extensively root disturbed. A possible gully was excavated at 14.20-15m but this was found to be root disturbance. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2A (Fig. 3)

Trench 2A was aligned north east – south west and was 12.60m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil (50) and 0.25m mid brown grey silty clay subsoil (51) overlying natural geology with root activity to the northern end. A telephone/ internet cable was observed at 0.50-1.10m and a modern drain at 11.10-12.20m. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2B (Fig. 3)

Trench 2B was aligned north east – south west and was 6.10m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m gravel driveway, overlying 0.03m of cement/pebble made ground (52), which in turn overlay very dark brown grey (almost black) made ground consisting of crushed Tarmac with modern frogged brick fragments and pea gravel (53), above bluish-stained natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned east – west and was 17.60m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy of the north facing section consisted of 0.04m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m scalpins (54), overlying 0.08m mid brown/grey silty clay subsoil (51), which in turn overlay bluish-stained natural geology. The trench encountered a brick and Tarmac driveway to the north, between 0.00 and 15.40m as such the stratigraphy of the south facing section consisted of 0.04m topsoil (50) and 0.26m crushed Tarmac and brick with half brick and gravel inclusions (55) overlying the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned north – south and was 18.70m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m pea gravel and Tarmac driveway (56), and 0.15m mixed crush (57), overlying 0.10m of bluish grey silty clay, which in turn overlay bluish stained and mottled natural geology. A brick driveway (59) was observed at 10.80-12.30m, this was likely the same as that observed in trench 3. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned north – south and was 18.20m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m mid brown/grey silty clay subsoil (51) overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned north - south and was 18.10m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.17m of subsoil (51) overlying natural geology. A modern drain slot was observed between 0.90-1.10m. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 and 4, Pl. 2)

Trench 7 was aligned north west – south east and was 19.20m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.25m of subsoil (51) overlying the natural geology which was heavily root disturbed. A modern ceramic drain was observed at 4.20m. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned north – south and was 19.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil (50) and 0.28m of subsoil (51), overlying the natural geology. Two possible linear features were observed at 5.50-6m and 8-8.60m but both were confirmed as root disturbance. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned east – west and was 19.90m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51) overlying the natural geology. A possible linear at 5.50-6m was investigated but found to be the result of root activity. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3, Pl. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned east – west and was 15.30m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil (50) and 0.19m of subsoil (51) overlying the natural geology which was partly root disturbed. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 11 (Figs. 3 and 4, Pl. 4)

Trench 11 was excavated in order to attempt to trace a ditch found in the excavations to the south and whose projected line continue into the proposal area. Trench 11 was aligned east – west and was 8m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of subsoil (51) overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Although there was potential for archaeological deposits on the site, none were observed. Within the initial ten trenches all possible features were subject to investigation but all proved to be naturally occurring, generally associated with tree or shrub root activity. Trench 11 was positioned and excavated with the intention of intersecting a ditch of medieval date observed in the field to the south. This trench was placed as close to the boundary of the site adjacent to the recorded position of the ditch but it was not observed. This suggests that the ditch in question either turns or terminates to the south of trench 10. It would appear that the northern limit of the medieval settlement recorded to the south has been reached. On the basis of these results, the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

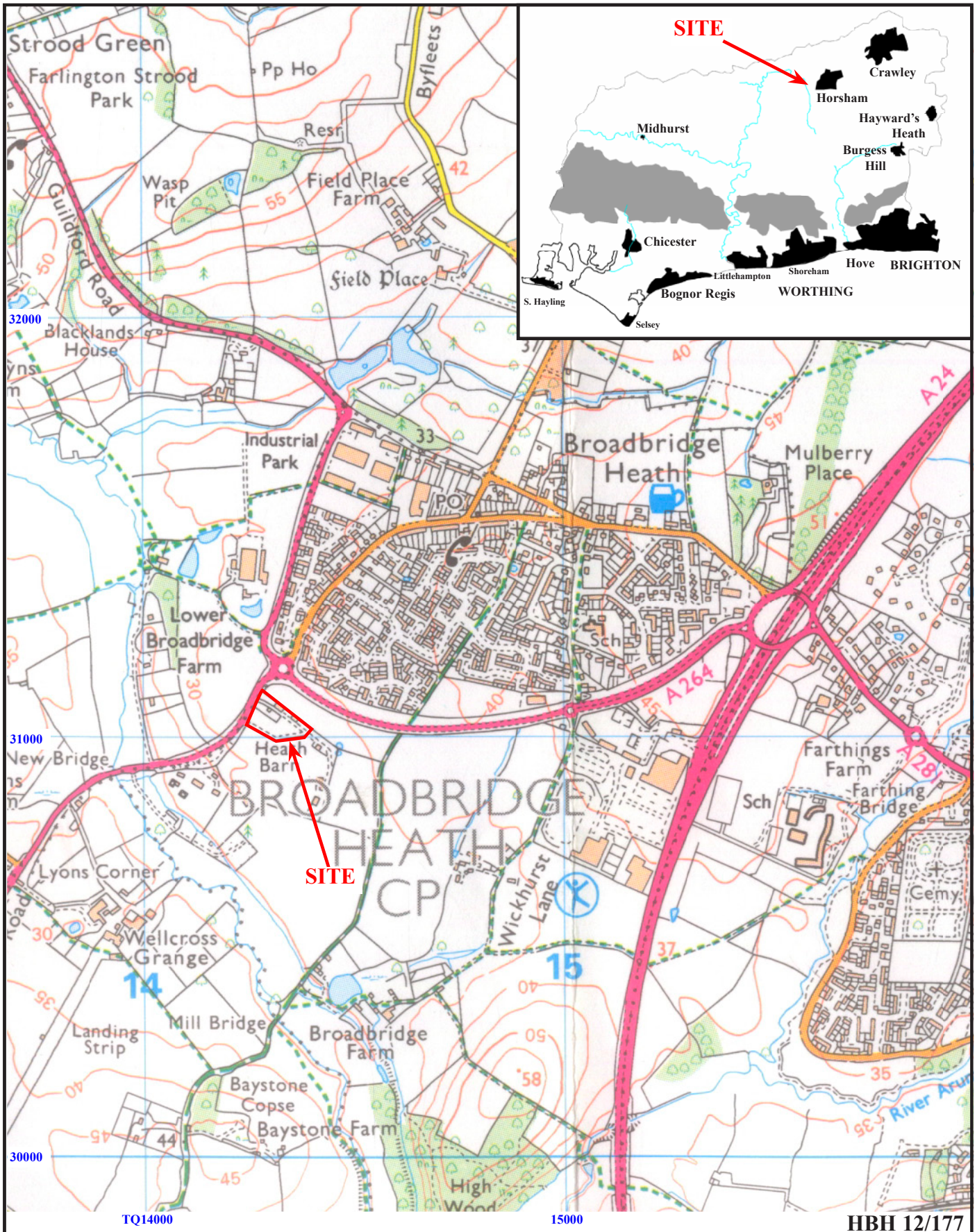
References

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- English Heritage, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Rudling, D (ed), 2003, *The archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Brighton
- Wallis, S, 2011, Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex; an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 10/93b, Reading
- WSSC 2007, Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work (development control), West Sussex County Council, Chichester

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

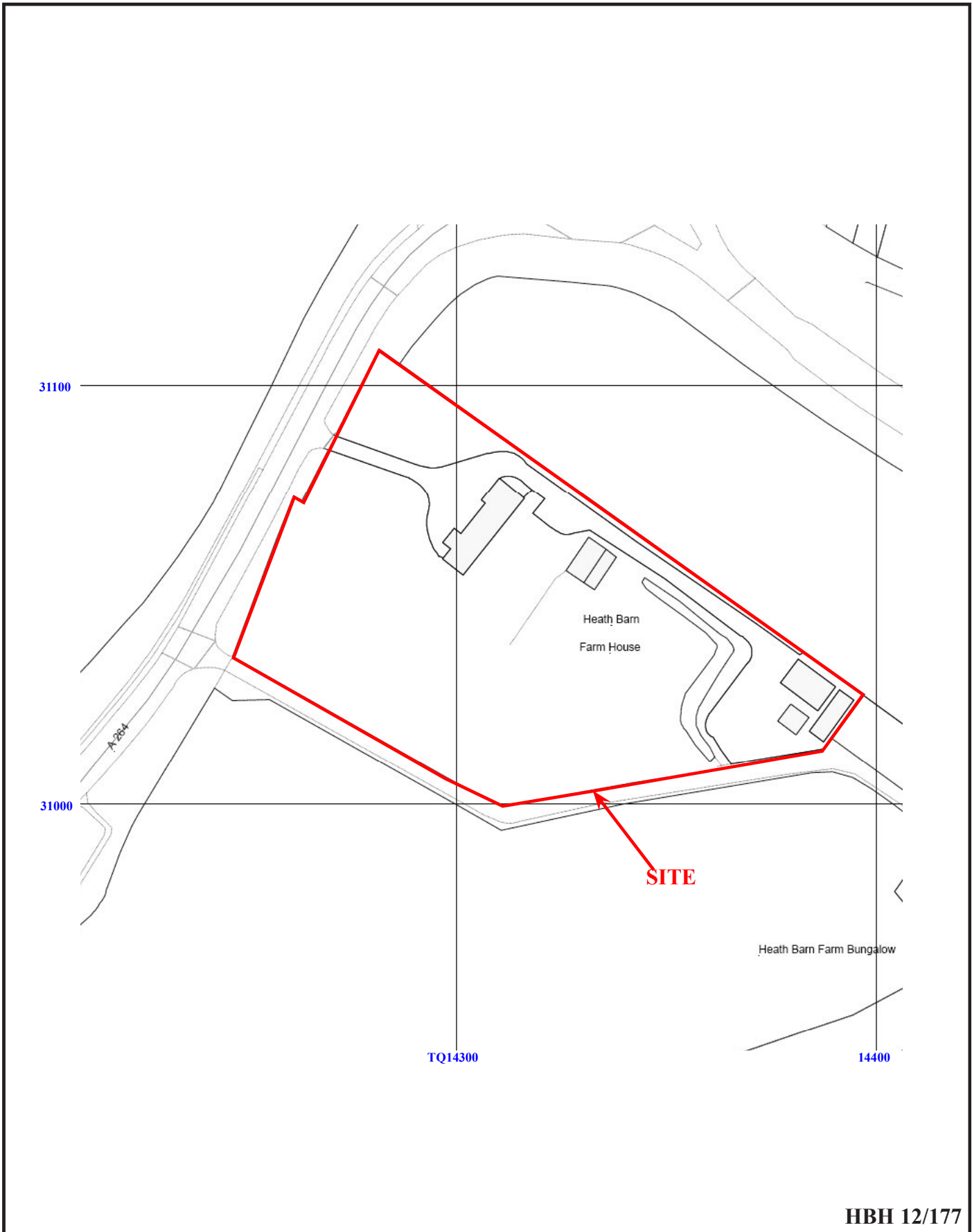
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	15.50	1.60	0.50	0–0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.40m mid brown grey silty clay subsoil (51); 0.40+m mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology with root disturbance throughout. [Pl. 1]
2A	12.60	1.60	0.40	0–0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.35m subsoil (51); 0.35+m natural geology with root disturbance throughout. A modern drain was encountered at 11.20m and a telephone cable at 0.50m
2B	6.10	1.60	0.30	0–0.08m gravel driveway; 0.08-0.11m pinkish cement and pebble made ground (52); 0.11-0.28m very dark brown grey made ground consisting of crushed Tarmac modern frogged brick and pea gravel (53); 0.28+m natural geology with bluish patches.
3	17.60	1.60	0.30	0–0.04m topsoil (50); 0.04-0.20m scalpins (54); 0.20-0.28m mid brown grey silty clay subsoil (51); 0.28+m natural geology.
4	18.70	1.60	0.40	0–0.15m Pea gravel and Tarmac mix (56); 0.15-0.30m mixed crush (57); 0.30-0.40m blue grey silty clay (58); 0.40+m natural geology. Hydrocarbon contamination.
5	18.20	1.60	0.32	0–0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30+m natural geology.
6	18.10	1.60	0.35	0–0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32+m natural geology. Modern drain at 0.90-1.10m
7	19.20	1.60	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40+m natural geology with some with root disturbance. Modern ceramic drain at 4.20m. [Pl. 2]
8	19.80	1.60	0.40	0–0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38+m mid natural geology.
9	19.90	1.60	0.35	0–0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30+m natural geology with root disturbance throughout.
10	15.30	1.60	0.35	0–0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.33m subsoil (51); 0.33+m natural geology with some root disturbance. [Pl. 3]
11	8.00	1.60	0.30	0–0.07m topsoil (50); 0.07-0.27m subsoil (51); 0.27+m mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology with heavy root action throughout. [Pl. 4]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Broadbridge Heath and West Sussex.

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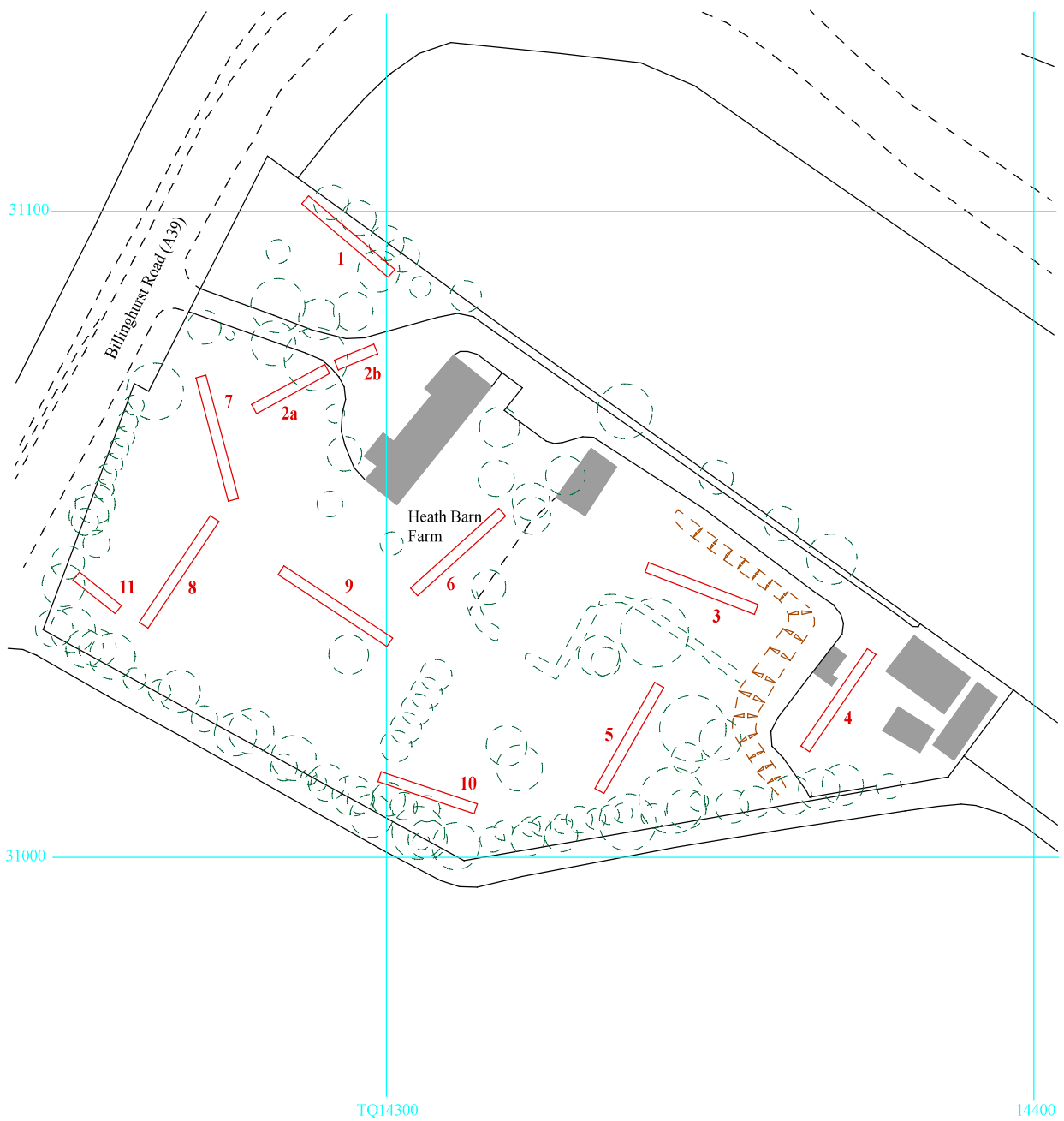


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Billingham Road.

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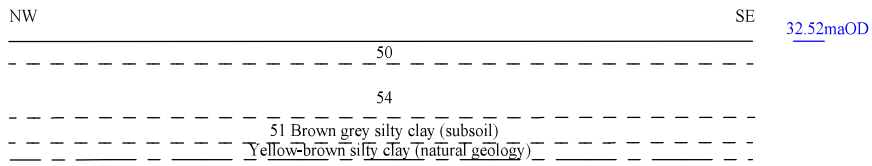
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

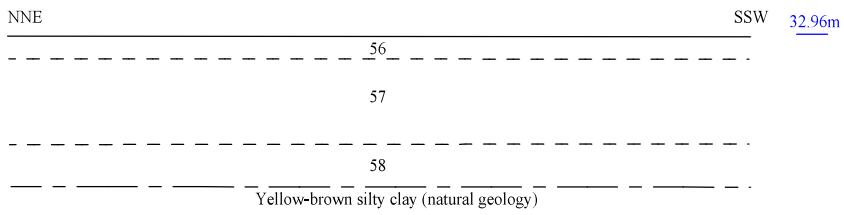


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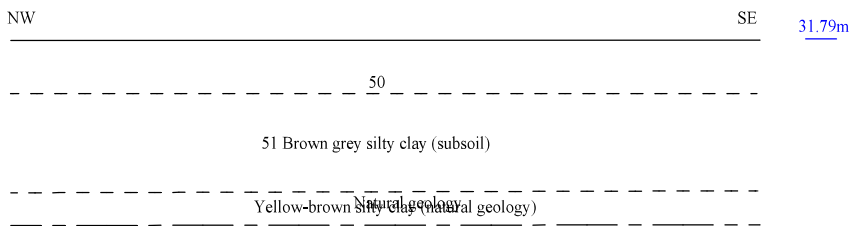
NW end Trench 3



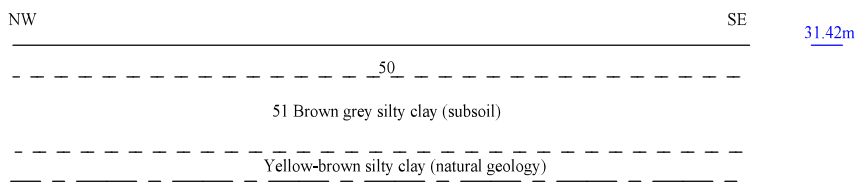
Trench 4



Trench 7



Trench 11



HBH 12/177

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Horsham, West Sussex, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 7, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

HBH 12/177

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Horsham, West Sussex, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 10, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

HBH 12/177

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Archaeological Evaluation

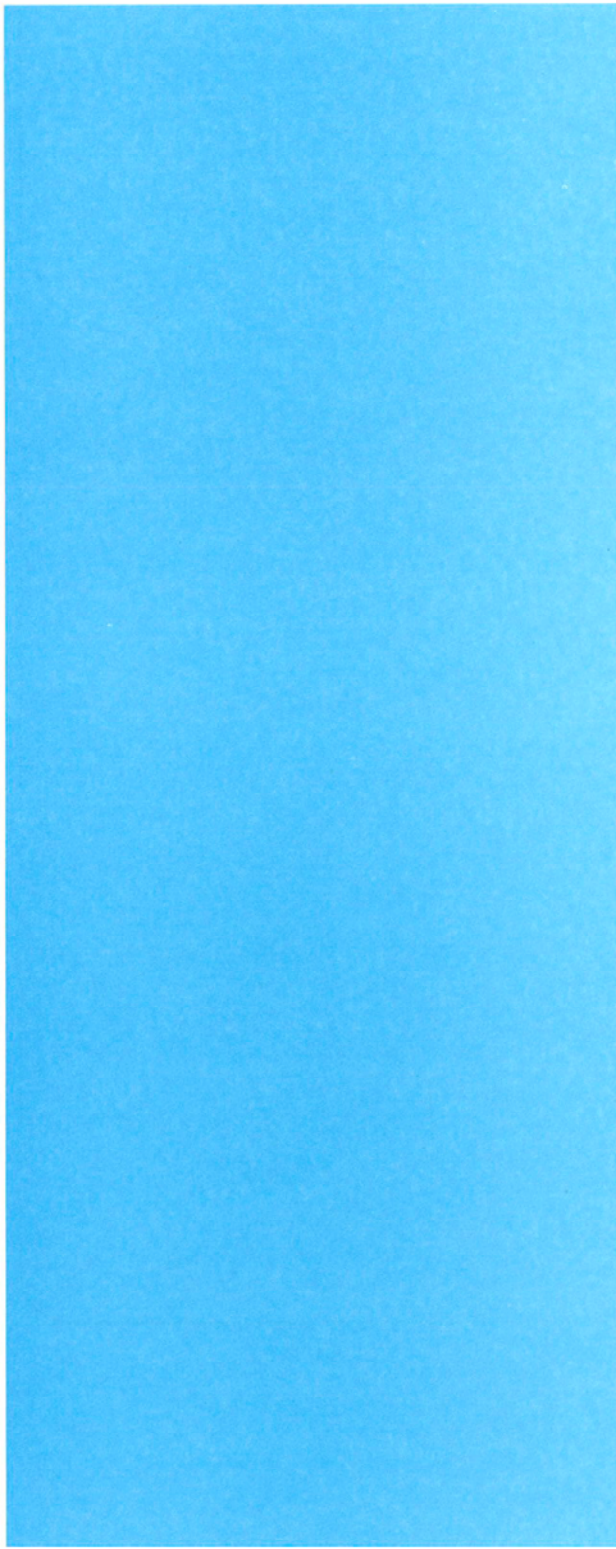
Plates 3 and 4.

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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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