

**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**

**Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane,  
West Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: LNF14/58**

**(SU 7810 7380)**

**Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane,  
West Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For J W Stratton Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code  
LNF 14/58

**July 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane, West Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 1043 0410

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Planning reference:** AWDM/1385/13

**Date and duration of project:** 2nd – 3rd July 2014

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** LNF 14/58

**Area of site:** c. 1930 sq m

**Summary of results:** The evaluation at Lower Northbrook successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by its redevelopment. Despite the fact that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with 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✓ 18.07.14
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# **Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane, West Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Sean Wallis

**Report 14/58**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane, West Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex (TQ 1043 0410) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Bates of J W Stratton Ltd, 1 Mill Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5AB.

Planning permission (AWDM/1385/13) has been gained from Worthing Borough Council to demolish the existing house on the site and construct five new residential dwellings. The consent is subject to a standard condition (13) relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in advance of groundworks. This took the form of a field evaluation, based on the results of which further work might be required to mitigate the effects to the development on any archaeological remains that might be present.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, who act as archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis on between the 2nd and 3rd July 2014, and the site code is LNF 14/58. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worthing Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site lies to the east of Titnore Lane, approximately 4km north-west of the historic core of Worthing, West Sussex, and the development area is centred on TQ 1043 0410. At the time of the evaluation the site was occupied by Lower Northbrook Farmhouse and its associated gardens. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 14m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Aeolian Deposits (Brickearth) (BGS 1992), and this was confirmed during the evaluation as a mid orange brown silty sandy clay, which was recorded in all the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is considered to be rich in archaeological deposits of all periods (Rudling 2003). Of particular relevance to the site itself, numerous features dating from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods were recorded during recent archaeological investigations at St Barnabas Hospice, which is located immediately to the south of the proposed site. One large feature, interpreted as a possible pond, seemed to be the focus for much activity during the Iron Age (Clarke 2009). Slightly further afield, a Roman villa was identified during the construction of the present Northbrook College buildings, to the south of the current site. Subsequent fieldwork in the areas to the north, north-east and east of the college has revealed further evidence for activity during the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods (James and Barber 2004, Wallis 2011, Wallis 2012a, Wallis 2012b, Wallis forthcoming). Further features were revealed during an evaluation of the part of Lower Northbrook Farm which was formerly an industrial estate. However, the two trenches closest to the current site contained no archaeological deposits (Wallis 2012c).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Neolithic period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Bronze Age period are present;
- to determine whether any evidence of late Iron Age and Roman occupation is present; and
- to determine if any archaeological deposits dating from the medieval period are present.

Five trenches were to be dug, each measuring 12m in length and 1.80 - 2m in width (depending on the size of the machine), targeting those parts of the site that would be most affected by the proposed development. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## Results

The five trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3), although Trench 4 was moved slightly to avoid tree stumps and Trench 5 was shifted northwards because of a telegraph pole in the south-east corner of the site. All the trenches were 1.90m wide, and measured between 10.30m and 12.80m in length, and between 0.80m and 1.10m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and was 12.40m long, and up to 0.90m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.40m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were observed, but it was noted that the natural Brickearth contained frequent manganese inclusions in the northern part of the trench.

### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 10.30m long, and up to 1.05m deep. The trench could not be excavated to its full intended length due to site logistics. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although some modern disturbance was noted at the southern end of the trench.

### Trench 3 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S, and was 12.80m long. The trench was generally 0.65m deep, but a test pit was dug at the southern end to a depth of 1.10m. The trench had to be excavated in two sections, as a pipe (presumed to be a live water pipe) was encountered close to the southern end. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### Trench 4 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 12.80m long, and up to 0.85m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, although a modern field drain was noted.

### Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately N-S, and was 12.30m long, and up to 0.80m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.40m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were observed, but a modern field drain and water pipe were noted.

## Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

## Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, which was rather surprising given the amount of evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement recorded during recent fieldwork projects nearby. However, this lack of archaeological features is, in itself, notable, as it suggests that the activity recorded to the south, east and south-east did probably not extend into the western part of Lower Northbrook Farm.

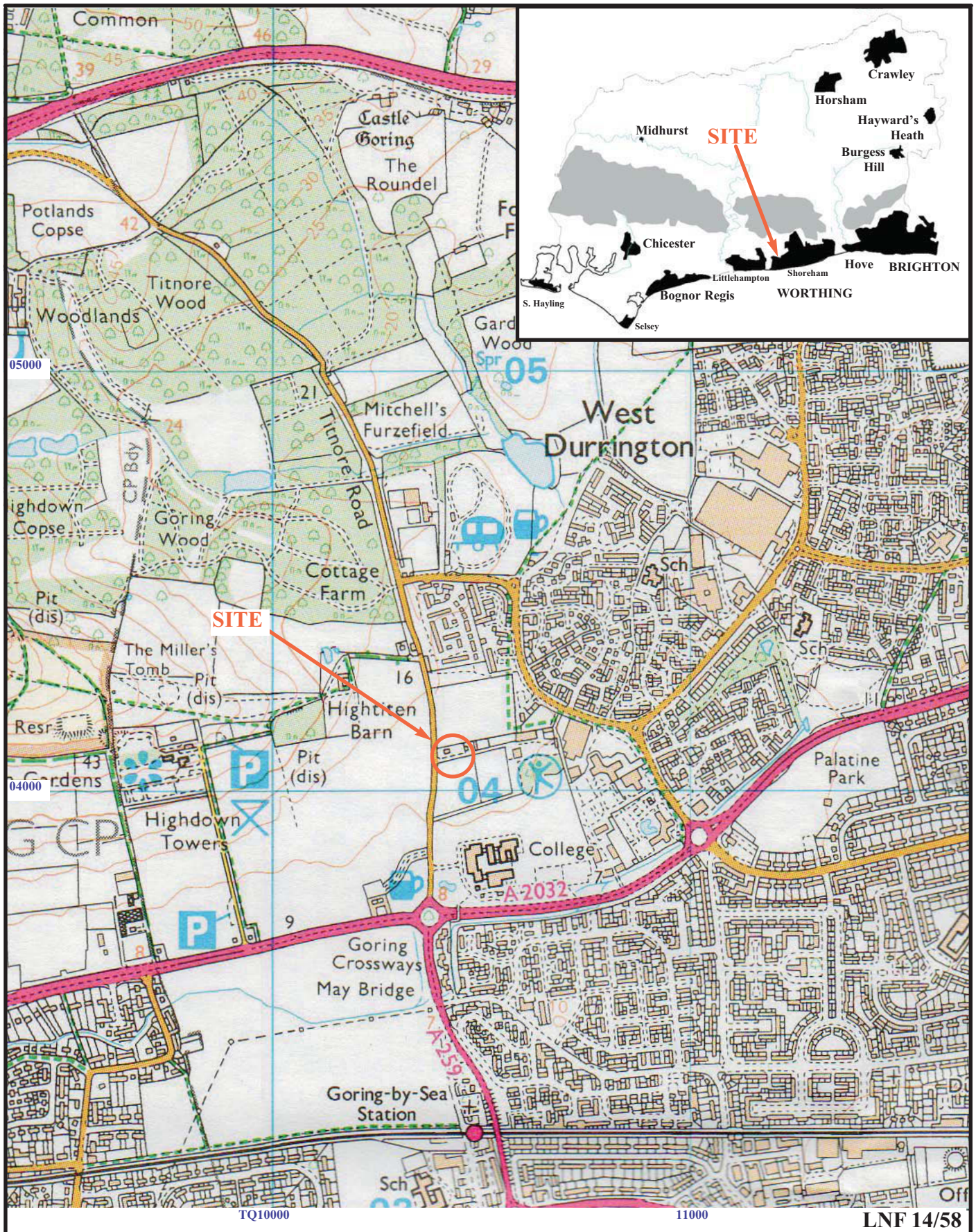
## References

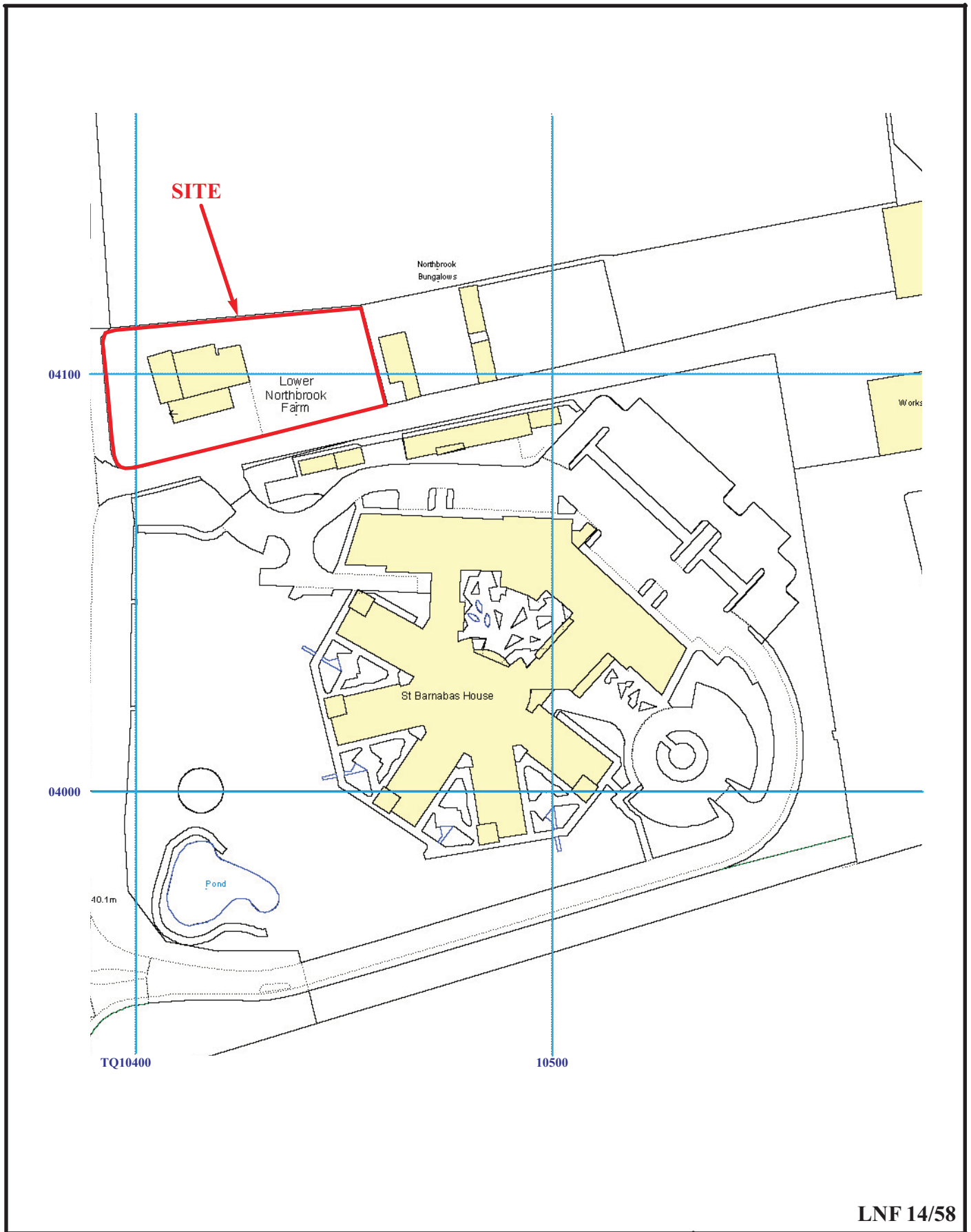
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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12.40	1.90	0.90	0-0.40m turf and topsoil; 0.40-0.75m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.75m+ natural geology (Brickearth). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	10.30	1.90	0.90 (NW) 1.05 (SE)	0-0.35m turf and topsoil; 0.35-0.75m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.75m+ natural geology (Brickearth). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
3	12.80	1.90	1.10 (S) 0.65 (N)	0-0.35m turf and topsoil; 0.35-0.60m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.60m+ natural geology (Brickearth). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
4	12.80	1.90	0.85	0-0.35m turf and topsoil; 0.35-0.70m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.70m+ natural geology (Brickearth). <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
5	12.30	1.90	0.80	0-0.40m turf and topsoil; 0.40-0.70m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.70m+ natural geology (Brickearth).



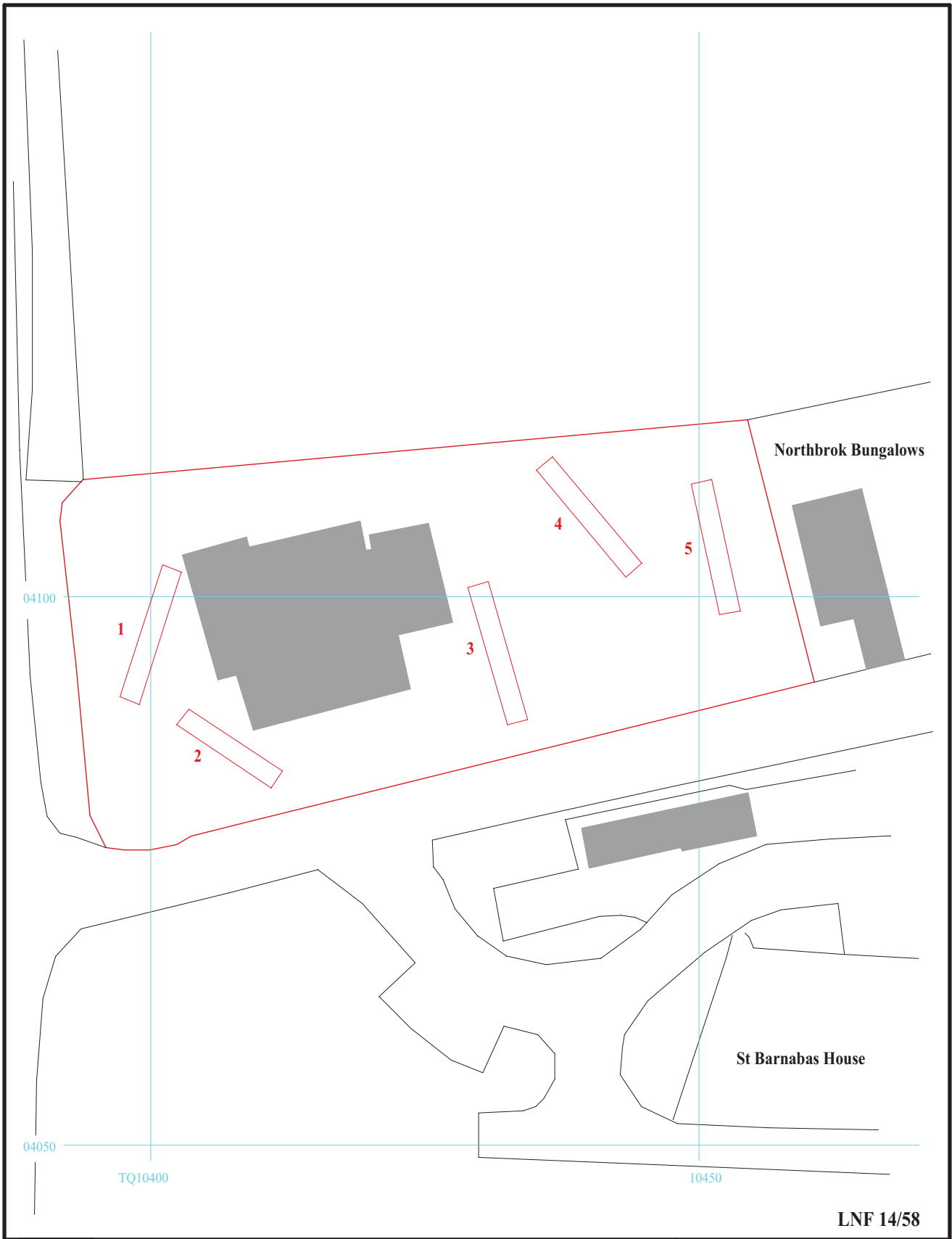




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**Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane,  
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Historic Building Recording**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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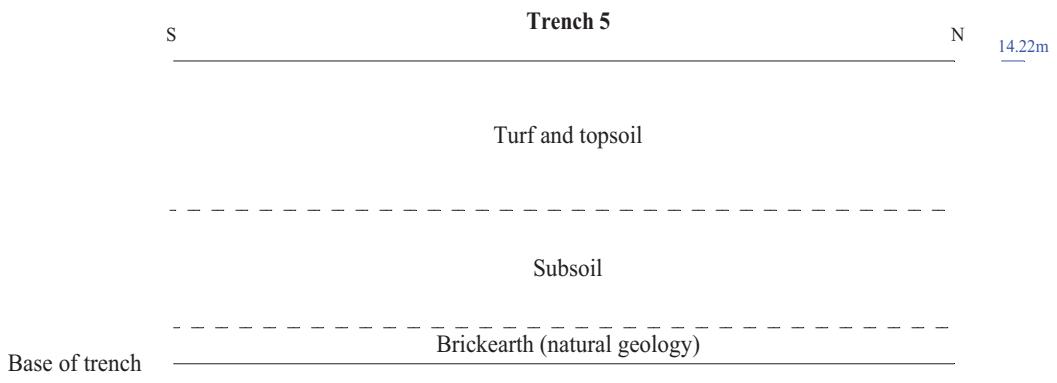
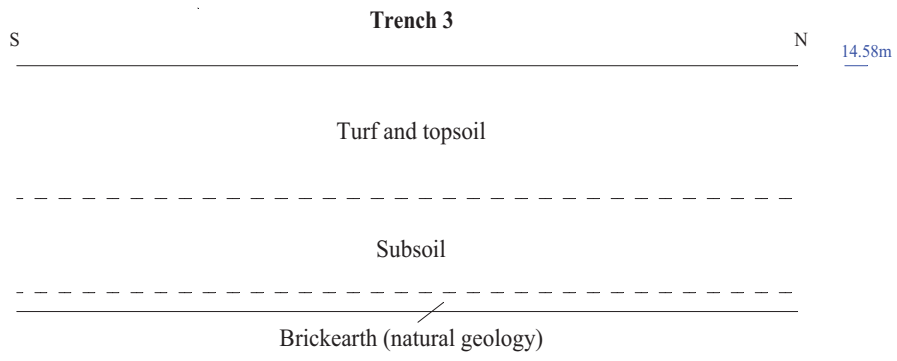
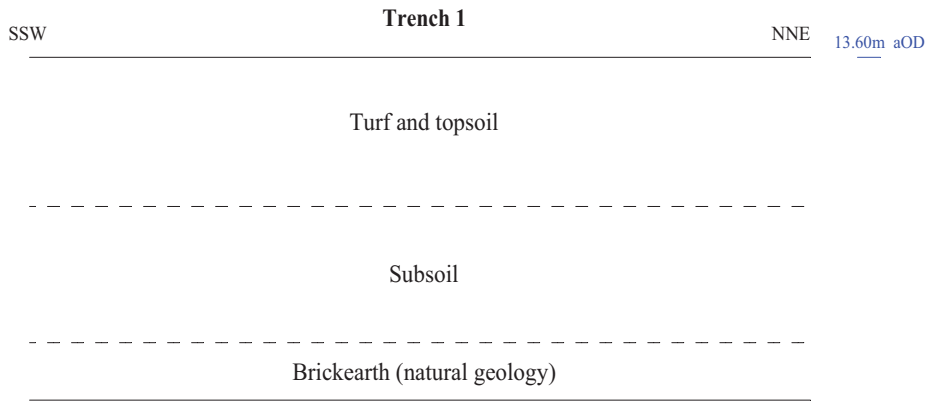


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.





14.22m 5

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Figure 4. Representative sections.





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



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

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**Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane, West Durrington,  
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Plates 1-2**

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



Plate 4. Trench 4 looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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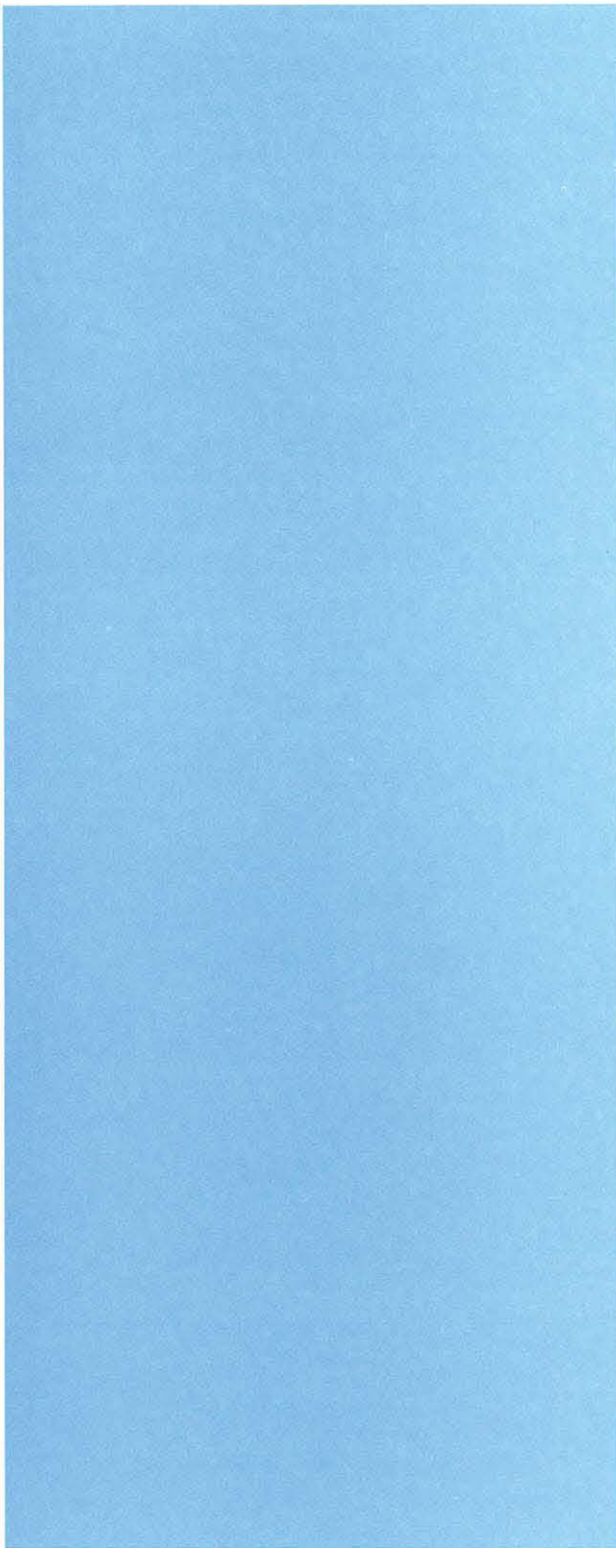
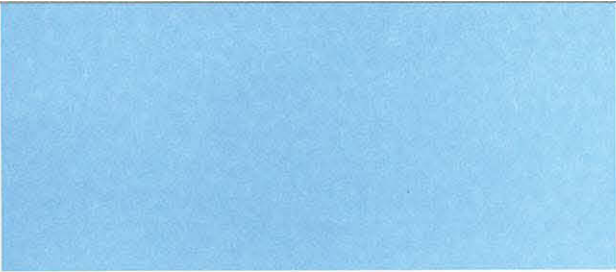
**Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane, West Durrington,  
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Plates 3-4**

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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