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An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex

DC/15/1382

Project No. CBAS0868

by
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out at Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex in advance of groundworks for the construction of a residential development. Nineteen non-targeted trenches were opened across the site. Very little of archaeological note was found on site. The only exceptions were a late 19th or 20th century linear within Trench 4, two linear features in Trench 16, one of which contained a single piece of 19th or 20th century glass, an undated feature in Trench 12 that may be geological rather than archaeological, and a clearly 20th century feature in Trench 10 that contained concrete and kitchen tile. Other than some stray finds from the topsoil there was no evidence of any earlier activity on Site.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by Riverdale Developments Ltd (The Client), to carry out an archaeological evaluation excavation at Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex (Fig. 1), in connection with a planning permission (DC/15/1382) for the erection of 45 dwellings and associated landscaping and parking (Fig. 2). The following archaeological condition was placed on the approval:

i) No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

ii) The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [i] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: As this matter is fundamental as the site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

1.2 The Site is located on the eastern edge of the urban development of Billingshurst, to the south of Roman Way, measuring approximately 1 hectare in area, separated by a broadly north-south running boundary ditch and currently parcelled up into smaller allotments. The Site is centred at TQ 09047, 26167. The Site slopes gently downwards from north to south from a height of between 32-36mAOD at its northern end to between 29-33mAOD.

1.3 The Site is within an Archaeological Notification Area (DWS8539), comprising probable Late Iron Age occupation, Romano-British settlement, two medieval historic farmsteads, post-medieval settlement and stray finds of Bronze Age and Roman material - centred on TQ 0927 2552.

1.4 The geology of the Site is Weald Clay formation with interbedded Sandstone and Siltstone crossing the Site.

1.5 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation excavation were to establish whether any archaeological remains are present within the footprint of the proposed development, which would thus require sample excavation and recording. The results are to inform whether archaeological mitigation work is required, thereby ensuring that any archaeological remains under threat of the proposed development are either excavated and recorded or preserved *in situ* and protected.

1.6 The evaluation excavation was undertaken by Diccon Hart and David Atkin between the 26th and the 29th June 2017.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation are to:

1. Establish whether there are any archaeological features present within the site, and the effect of past impacts on any archaeological horizons; and

2. Ensure that any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed groundworks are excavated and recorded.

2.2 The specific research aims are:

1. To record any archaeological remains that may add to our understanding of the prehistoric activity and settlement in the area; and

2. To record any archaeological remains relating to Roman settlement and to determine its relationship with the nearby Roman Road; and

3. To add to the archaeological and historical knowledge regarding the medieval and post medieval development of the landscape on and around the site.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 A Heritage Statement has been prepared on the site[1], and should be referred to for an understanding of the archaeological and historical background to the site. The Heritage Statement concluded that:

> The Site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA);
>
> There are no known non-designated assets within the Site;
>
> The Site has the potential for non-designated heritage assets (archaeological remains), to be present;
>
> The Site has a moderate potential for archaeological deposits of early prehistoric date, a moderate-high potential for later prehistoric and Romano-British deposits, and low potential for medieval and post-medieval deposits;
>
> Where such remains are present they may be impacted on by groundworks;
>
> Long term use of the Site as allotment gardens may have had some impact on the archaeological resource at the Site;
>
> No significant setting issues have been identified in relation to nationally designated assets.

[1] Sheehan, G. 2015 *Land to south of Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex*. ASE Report No. 2015117

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (December 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014); the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2015) (the *Recommended Standards*); and the *Treasure Act* (1996).

4.2 On arrival, it was observed that the topsoil had been reduced across the whole of the site with further excavation into the underlying natural to create three piling mats on the western side of the site (see Fig. 3 for location). This ground reduction work was of an unknown depth, but it appeared to cut into the natural and had not been archaeologically monitored. The eastern side of the side had no piling mats but the spoil from the ground reduction had been dumped in three large spoil heaps. A drainage ditch in this area appeared to have been cleaned out and deepened slightly.

4.3 A total of 19 evaluation trenches, each measuring 20m by 2m, were excavated (Fig. 3) with the excavation beginning on the west of the site. Due to the presence of the piling mats and spoil heaps some of the trenches were moved from their proposed positions and were surveyed in using a Leica GPS. All excavations were carried out under archaeological supervision using a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Due to heavy rainfall during the course of the evaluation excavation, some of the trenches became filled with water. An opportunity was given for features to weather out after the rain, but no new features were noted.

4.4 The spoil and surviving topsoil was visually searched for finds on a regular basis. Due to the presence of 20th and 21st century debris across the site, including numerous metal objects, the trenches and spoil heaps were not metal detected.

4.5 All deposits were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A digital photographic record of the fieldwork was taken and will be kept as part of the site archive.

4.6 The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of ROM17 was allocated. The archive will be deposited with Horsham Museum. The Historic Environment Record (HER) will be provided with a CD containing the report in PDF (archive) format and a selection of digital photographs.

5.0 Results

5.0.1 The results of each trench are discussed below in separate sub-headings.

5.0.2 The remaining topsoil was a loose to friable dark grey clayey silt with a strong clay component with occasional ceramic building material (hereafter CBM) inclusions, along with very occasional modern material such as clinker and coal. The underlying subsoil was a friable mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks (up to 2mm³) and occasional to frequent manganese flecks and inclusions (up to 5mm³). The natural deposit was a firm mottled mid orange-yellow clay along with patches of sandstone, silt stone and manganese.

5.0.3 There was also the presence of a modern construction deposit comprising of crush mixed in with topsoil in places. This was mainly prevalent around the piling mats and in an area north to south in the middle of site, separating the eastern and western areas.

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated southwest – northeast (Plate 1). The modern made-ground, a mix of topsoil, crush and concrete (Context **1/001**) survived at the south-western end of the site and had disappeared by the middle of the trench as by this point the ground had been badly truncated by the modern construction works. The underlying subsoil (**1/002**) was firm and contained manganese pieces. Situated below this was the natural clay deposit (**1/003**). No features seen.

Context	Depth
Modern made-ground (**1/001**)	340mm
Subsoil (**1/002**)	20mm-290mm
Natural (**1/003**)	120mm-200mm limit of excavation

Table 1: Trench 1 contexts

Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north

5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 Trench 2 was orientated north-west – south-east (Plate 2). Context **2/001** was a very thin, truncated mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit recorded running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**2/002**) was a firm clayey-silt with no inclusions and had disappeared towards the south-eastern end of the trench leaving the topsoil above the stiff natural clay deposit (**2/003**). No features seen.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**2/001**)	60mm
Subsoil (**2/002**)	100mm
Natural (**2/003**)	140mm to LOE

Table 2: Trench 2 contexts

Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north-west

5.3 Trench 3

5.3.1 Trench 3 was orientated east – west (Plate 3). Context **3/001** had already been stripped of its topsoil, but some survived at the western end with some crush mixed in but had disappeared by the midpoint of the trench leaving just the subsoil (**3/002**) and natural (**3/003**) to continue to the eastern end in section. No features seen.

Context	Depth
Made-ground/topsoil (**3/001**)	100mm
Subsoil (**2/002**)	70mm
Natural (**3/002**)	120mm to LOE

Table 3: Trench 3 contexts

Plate 3: Trench 3, looking east

5.4 Trench 4

5.4.1 Trench 4 was orientated northeast – southwest (Plates 4 & 5). Topsoil (**4/001**) survived in the south-eastern end of the trench becoming the modern construction made-ground (**4/006**) by the north-eastern end. The subsoil (Context **4/002**) was not recorded overlying the natural deposit (Context **4/003**) at the northeast end of the trench with just Context **4/006** above the clay natural.

-

5.4.2 A 350mm wide linear (**4/004**) ran east-west across Trench 4 (Fig. 4) for approximately 500mm and had a mid yellow-grey fill (**4/005**) containing occasional charcoal and CBM at 1%, two pieces of glass and a single piece of unidentified copper-alloy. The base was very irregular and it probably represents a 20th century feature or possible hedge line.

Plate 4: Linear [**4/004**] looking southeast

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**4/001**)	60mm
Subsoil (**4/002**)	90mm
Natural (**4/003**)	170mm to LOE
Linear cut (**4/004**)	n/a
Fill of Cut (**4/005**)	n/a
Topsoil/Modern made-ground (**4/006**)	250mm

Table 4: Trench 4 contexts

Plate 5: Trench 4, looking northeast

5.5 Trench 5

5.5.1 Trench 5 was orientated northwest – southeast (Plate 6). The topsoil (Context **5/001**) survived along the length of the trench with the subsoil (Context **5/002**) disappearing by the midpoint of the trench and just the topsoil and natural surviving at southeast end of the trench. No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**5/001**)	50mm-200mm
Subsoil **5/002**)	190mm
Natural (**5/003**)	140-220mm to LOE

Table 5: Trench 5 contexts

Plate 6: Trench 5, looking south-west

5.6 Trench 6

5.6.1 Trench 6 was orientated northwest – southeast (Plate 7) and comprised of the mixed modern construction/crush deposit (Context **6/001**) along the length of the trench directly overlying the natural (**6/002**). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Made-ground (**6/001**)	170mm
Natural (**6/002**)	110mm-160mm to LOE

Table 6: Trench 6 contexts

Plate 7: Trench 6, looking south

5.7 Trench 7

5.7.1 Trench 7 was orientated north – south (Plate 8). A modern construction deposit of natural clay had been used to level this area of the site (Context **7/001**) and overlaid the topsoil (Context **7/002**). Below the topsoil was the subsoil (Context **7/003**) containing chalk flecks, and which was slight deeper towards the southern end of the trench. Below this was the natural clay (**7/004**). A sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench to test the natural to an overall depth of 640mm.

Context	Depth
Re-deposited natural (**7/001**)	300-500mm
Topsoil (**7/002**)	180-240mm
Subsoil (**7/003**)	50-180mm
Natural (**7/004**)	50-640mm

Table 7: Trench 7 contexts

Plate 8: Trench 7, looking north.

5.8 Trench 8

5.8.1 Trench 8 was orientated west – east (Plate 9) and comprised of the mixed modern construction/crush deposit (Context **8/001**) along the length of the trench directly overlying a geotex/terram membrane. This was placed on top of a thin surviving subsoil (**8/002**) which in turn was above the natural (**8/003**) although at the eastern end of the trench this had been removed and replaced by the modern construction deposit above the natural. No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Construction/Made-ground	30mm
Subsoil (**8/002**)	10mm
Natural (**8/003**)	10-150mm to LOE

Table 8: Trench 8 contexts

Plate 9: Trench 8, looking north

5.9 Trench 9

5.9.1 Trench 9 was orientated north-west – south-east (Plate 10). Context **9/001** was a truncated mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit recorded running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**9/002**) was a firm clayey-silt with no inclusions and had disappeared towards the south-eastern end of the trench leaving the topsoil above the stiff clay natural (**9/003**). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**9/001**)	120-150mm
Subsoil (**9/002**)	120mm
Natural (**9/003**)	160mm to LOE

Table 9: Trench 12 contexts

Plate 10: Trench 9 looking west

5.10 Trench 10

5.10.1 Trench 10 was orientated north – south (Plate 11) and comprised the mixed, very loose, construction/crush deposit (Context **10/001**) along the length of the trench directly overlying a very compact dirty and mixed dark grey topsoil (Context **10/002**) containing fragments of glass and china. Below the topsoil was a disturbed, dirty, subsoil (**10/003**) which in turn was above the natural (**10/004**).

5.10.2 A terminus of a modern linear was present just inside the edge of the eastern limit of excavation towards the southern end of Trench 10, along with a land drain which crossed the trench on a southwest-northeast alignment. The modern feature had a very loose fill and contained modern concrete and kitchen or bathroom tile and due to its modern dating was not allocated a context.

Context	Depth
Construction/Made-ground (**10/001**)	70mm
Topsoil (**10/002**)	120-150mm
Subsoil (**10/003**)	100mm
Natural (**10/004**)	20-50mm to LOE

Table 10: Trench 10 contexts

Plate 11: Trench 10, looking north

5.11 Trench 11

5.11.1 Trench 11 was orientated west – east and comprised of a truncated dark grey topsoil deposit above the mid yellow natural (Plate 12). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**11/001**)	250mm
Natural (**11/002**)	10mm

Table 11: Trench 11 contexts

Plate 12: Trench 11 looking west

5.12 Trench 12

5.12.1 Trench 12 was orientated northwest – southeast (Plate 13) with the dark grey topsoil (**12/001**) overlying the natural (**12/004**). This trench also had a sub-square feature (Context **12/003**- see Fig. 5) with very rounded corners partially exposed at the southeast end of the trench and in the southwest section. Although interpreted as a pit at the time of excavation, with no charcoal or finds forthcoming from its fill it is feasible that this feature is entirely natural in origin (Plate 14).

Plate 13: Trench 12 looking north-west

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**12/001**)	220mm
Fill of (**12/002**)	520mm
Cut of feature (**12/003**)	520mm
Natural (**12/004**)	100mm to LOE

Table 12: Trench 12 contexts

Plate 14: Possible pit looking north-east

5.13 Trench 13

5.13.1 Trench 13 was orientated north-east – south-west (Plate 15). Context **13/001** was a mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit recorded running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**13/002**) was a firm clayey-silt with frequent manganese inclusions above the natural clay deposit (**13/003**).

5.13.2 A land drain running east to west was noted crossing the northern end of the trench.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**13/001**)	300mm
Subsoil (**13/002**)	100mm
Natural (**13/003**)	100mm to LOE

Table 13: Trench 13 contexts

Plate 15: Trench 13 looking northeast

5.14 Trench 14

5.14.1 Trench 14 was orientated north – south (Plate 16) and comprised of a truncated dark grey topsoil deposit (**14/001**) above the mid yellow natural (**14/002**). A land drain running northeast to southwest was noted running across the southern end of the trench. No other archaeology was present

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**14/001**)	150mm
Natural (**14/002**)	70mm

Table 14: Trench 14 contexts

Plate 16: Trench 14 looking south

5.15 Trench 15

5.15.1 Trench 15 was orientated west – east (Plate 17) and contained a truncated mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit (Context **15/001)** recorded running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**15/002**) was the same firm clayey-silt with occasional chalk and manganese flecks along with CBM fragments inclusions although these were only present in the first 6m from the eastern end. The subsoil had disappeared towards the western end of the trench leaving the topsoil above the stiff natural Wealden clay deposit (**15/003**). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**15/001**)	160mm
Subsoil (**15/002**)	100mm
Natural (**15/003**)	100mm

Table 15: Trench 15 contexts

Plate 17: Trench 15 looking west

5.16 Trench 16

5.16.1 Trench 16 was orientated north – south (Plate 18). The stratigraphy consisted of the dark grey topsoil (**16/001**) above the mid yellow silty-clay subsoil (Context **16/007**) which in turn overlaid the clay natural (**16/006**). Cut into the natural were two ditches or gullies (see Fig. 6).

5.16.2 The first of these (Context **16/005**) was orientated east-west across Trench 16 and had a width of 550mm and a depth of 80mm (Plate 19). It was filled by Context **16/004**, a soft, dark yellow-brown clayey-silt that contained a single piece of glass and was interpreted as a relatively modern field boundary or gully.

Plate 18: Trench 16 looking southwest

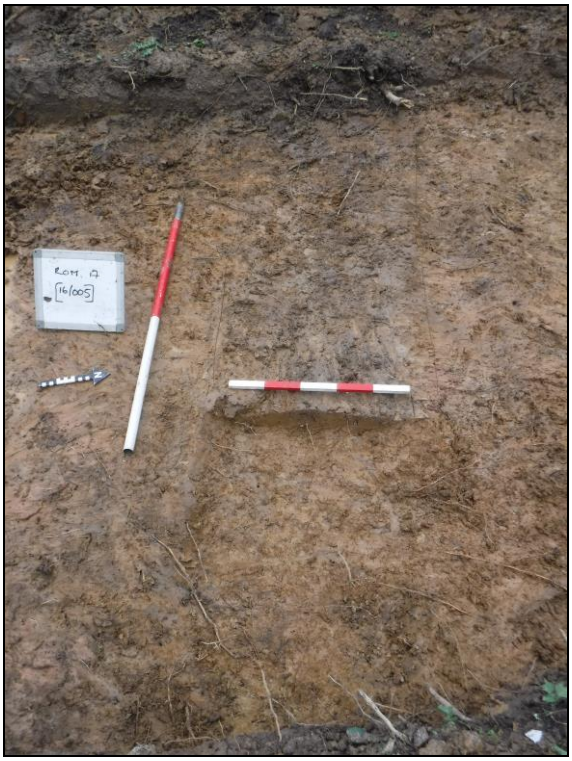


Plate 19: Linear [**16/005**]

5.16.3 The second of these features was a gully like feature that run almost parallel and partially under the eastern baulk at the northern end of the trench (Plate 20). Two slots were excavated through this gully, Contexts **16/003** and **16/009**. It was 8.7m in length and 400mm at it its widest point. It was filled with a light yellowish-brown fill (**16/002** & **16/008**) that contained no finds or charcoal but had natural manganese flecks.

Plate 20: Linear [**16/003**]

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**16/001**)	250mm
Fill (**16/002**)	n/a
Cut (**16/003**)	n/a
Fill (**16/004**)	n/a
Cut (**16/005**)	n/a
Natural (**16/006**)	160mm
Subsoil (**16/007**)	320mm
Fill (**16/008**)	n/a
Cut (**16/009**)	n/a

Table 16: Trench 16 contexts

5.17 **Trench 17** (Plate 19)

5.17.1 Trench 17 was orientated east - west (Plate 21) and contained a truncated mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit (Context **17/001)** running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**17/002**) was a clayey-silt with occasional chalk and

manganese flecks along with CBM fragments inclusions above the natural Wealden clay deposit (**17/003**). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**17/001**)	160mm
Subsoil (**17/002**)	120mm
Natural (**17/003**)	40mm

Table 17: Trench 17 contexts

Plate 21: Trench 17 looking south (photographed after rain)

5.18 Trench 18

5.18.1 Trench 18 was orientated southwest - northeast (Plate 22) and contained a mid greyish-brown topsoil deposit (Context **18/001)** running the length of the trench. The underlying subsoil (**18/002**) was the same mid yellowish-brown firm clayey-silt. Below the subsoil was the natural Wealden clay (**18/003**). There was significant rooting present throughout. No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**18/001**)	160mm
Subsoil (**18/002**)	100mm
Natural(**18/003**)	130mm

Table 18: Trench 18 contexts

Plate 22: Trench 18 looking west-southwest

5.19 Trench 19

5.19.1 Trench 19 was orientated northwest – southeast (Plate 23). The stratigraphy was consistent with other trenches across the site with the stratigraphy across the trench the same dark grey topsoil (**19/001**) above the mid yellowish-brown clayey-silt subsoil (**19/001**) and the clay natural (**19/003**). No archaeology was present.

Context	Depth
Topsoil (**19/001**)	130mm
Subsoil (**19/001**)	130mm
Natural (**19/002**)	100mm to LOE

Table 19: Trench 19 contexts

Plate 23: Trench 19 looking west-southwest

6.0 Finds

6.0.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation excavation, and are discussed further below. None of the finds have potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and have all been discarded.

6.0.2 Spot dating:

U/S	– c.1750-1900
Tr 12 U/S	– c.1675-1750
4/005	– C19th – 20th (resid C18th)
13/002	– C18th – 19th

6.1 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

A 4g bodysherd from a tavern pot in London stoneware was recovered from unstratified deposits in Trench 12. The sherd, which has a mottled iron wash under a salt glaze, is best placed between c. 1675 and 1750.

6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

A 2g stem fragment, measuring 36mm long with a 1.6mm diameter bore, was recovered from unstratified deposits (2g). The piece can be placed in a c. 1750-1900+ date bracket and shows slight signs of having been reworked.

6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 Just three pieces of ceramic building material were recovered during the evaluation. Context **4/005** produced two of these. The largest was a 44g fragment from a 14mm thick well formed/medium fired mid orange flat tile (probably peg) tempered with moderate red iron oxides to 3mm. An 18th to mid 19th century date is likely for this tile.

6.3.2 The other fragment from Context **4/005** consists of a 6g scrap from a well formed and fired land drain tempered with sparse iron oxides to 2mm. A 19th century date is probable though it could be intrusive.

6.3.3 Context **13/002** produced a 42g amorphous lump of brick. This was tempered with common orange iron oxides to 1mm and moderate marl streaks. The piece is well formed and fired – an 18th to 19th century date is suggested.

6.4 **Prehistoric Flintwork** by Chris Butler

6.4.1 Context **13/002** produced a single soft hammer-struck flake (41g). This has a smooth white cortex and appears to have derived from Downland flint, although it has suffered some fire fracturing. It has no retouch or platform preparation, and may have come from the initial working of a core. It is not possible to assign a date to this piece.

6.4.2 An unstratified hard hammer-struck flake on a piece of grey pebble flint with a rough cortex, and iron staining below the cortex (91g). It may be a flake from a hammerstone as there is abrasion at both ends, but it could easily the result of an accidental impact breakage.

6.5 **Glass** by Jan Oldham

A quantity of glass was recovered during the archaeological evaluation. Context **4/005** produced a single sherd of clear flat window glass, weight less than 1g. From Context **16/004**, a piece of dark green bottle glass, weight 9g. The glass fragments are of 20th century date and require no further scrutiny.

6.6 **Metal** by Jan Oldham

From Context **4/005**, two unidentified fragments of degraded thin copper alloy, combined weight 2g. These could not be attributed to any period.

6.7 **Other finds** by Jan Oldham

Context **4/005** produced two pieces of household coal, combined weight 8g.

7.0 Discussion

7.1 Prior to commencement of the evaluation excavation, the topsoil had been reduced across the site and it had been totally stripped of topsoil and some subsoil in some isolated areas, to expose the natural deposit, notably in the areas adjacent to the piling mats and along the northern boundary. This groundwork was not archaeologically monitored as it has commenced prior to an archaeological condition being applied to the planning permission.

7.2 A total of 19 trenches were opened across the site, revealing one undated feature and three late 19th or 20th century features and a late 20th or 21st century feature in trench 10 which was not contexted.

7.3 The feature in Trench 4 had very diffuse edges with the subsoil above and in section on its southern cut through the natural. The finds recovered date the feature to the late 19th or 20th century and the irregular base and diffuse edges may suggest a hedgerow that has been grubbed out allowing the CBM and other cultural material to work its way into the voids left by the grubbing out.

7.4 The sub-square or rectangular feature in Tench 12 extended out of the southwest facing section of the trench, however the part within the trench was excavated revealing a mid grey-yellow fill in section with good sharp edges cut through the clay natural, however due to its location at the edge of the trench, it was not possible to reach the bottom of the feature. No dateable material was recovered from the clean fill (apart from the frequent manganese flecking) nor was any charcoal that might suggest human activity. This puzzling feature may well be as a result of natural processes as evidenced by the manganese flecking and the lack of cultural material, although the cut of the feature was very sharp which may suggest it is man-made. Taking into account the nature of fill and the lack of finds, on the balance of probabilities, it is suggested that this feature is natural in origin.

7.5 The two linear features in Trench 16 can safely be assigned to the 20th century, as evidenced by the find of glass from this feature. Of course this shallow feature may be a grubbed out hedgerow similar to the feature in Trench 4, or a very shallow drainage ditch. The colour of the fill and its very shallow nature would suggest the former is more likely than the latter.

7.6 The other feature in Trench 16 was the linear running approximately north-south. It failed to produce any finds and although has a convincing concave shape to it, it may be geological rather than archaeological. There is plenty of root activity within and surrounding the feature, so this may be a contributing factor.

7.7 With regard to all other periods, notably the Iron Age and Romano-British period, there was unfortunately no evidence for any activity within the area under examination suggesting that this parcel of land was not utilised until its probable use as arable fields in the post-medieval period and as allotment gardens in the 19th century. If the linear features found are old hedge lines, then they predate the available mapping information (1841 onwards), which only shows the single north-south field boundary across the central part of the site[2].

[2] Sheehan, G. 2015 *Land to south of Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex*. Fig. 6 ASE Report No. 2015117

8.0 Acknowledgments

8.1 We would like to thank Riverdale Developments Ltd for appointing CBAS Ltd to undertake this project. The project was managed by Chris Butler. Diccon Hart and David Atkin carried out the evaluation excavation, and it was monitored by Martin Brown on behalf of Horsham Borough Council.

8.2 Luke Barber, Jan Oldham and Chris Butler reported on the finds. The drawings were digitised by Andy Bradshaw. Bartek Cichy surveyed in the trenches.

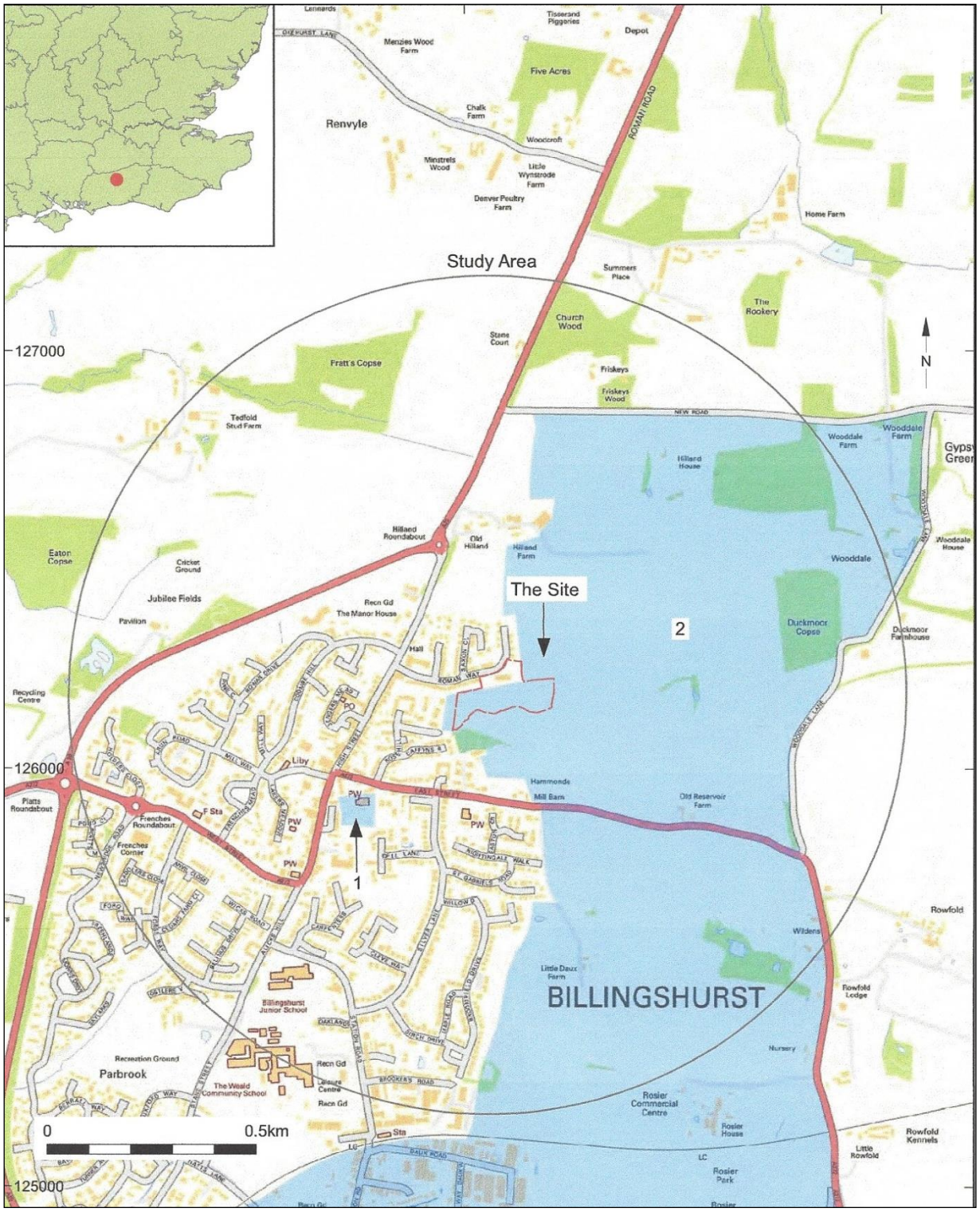


Fig. 1: Land at Roman Way, Billingshurst: Site Location Map.
(Adapted from map in ASE Heritage Statement)

Fig. 2: Site Development Plan
(Adapted from architects drawing)

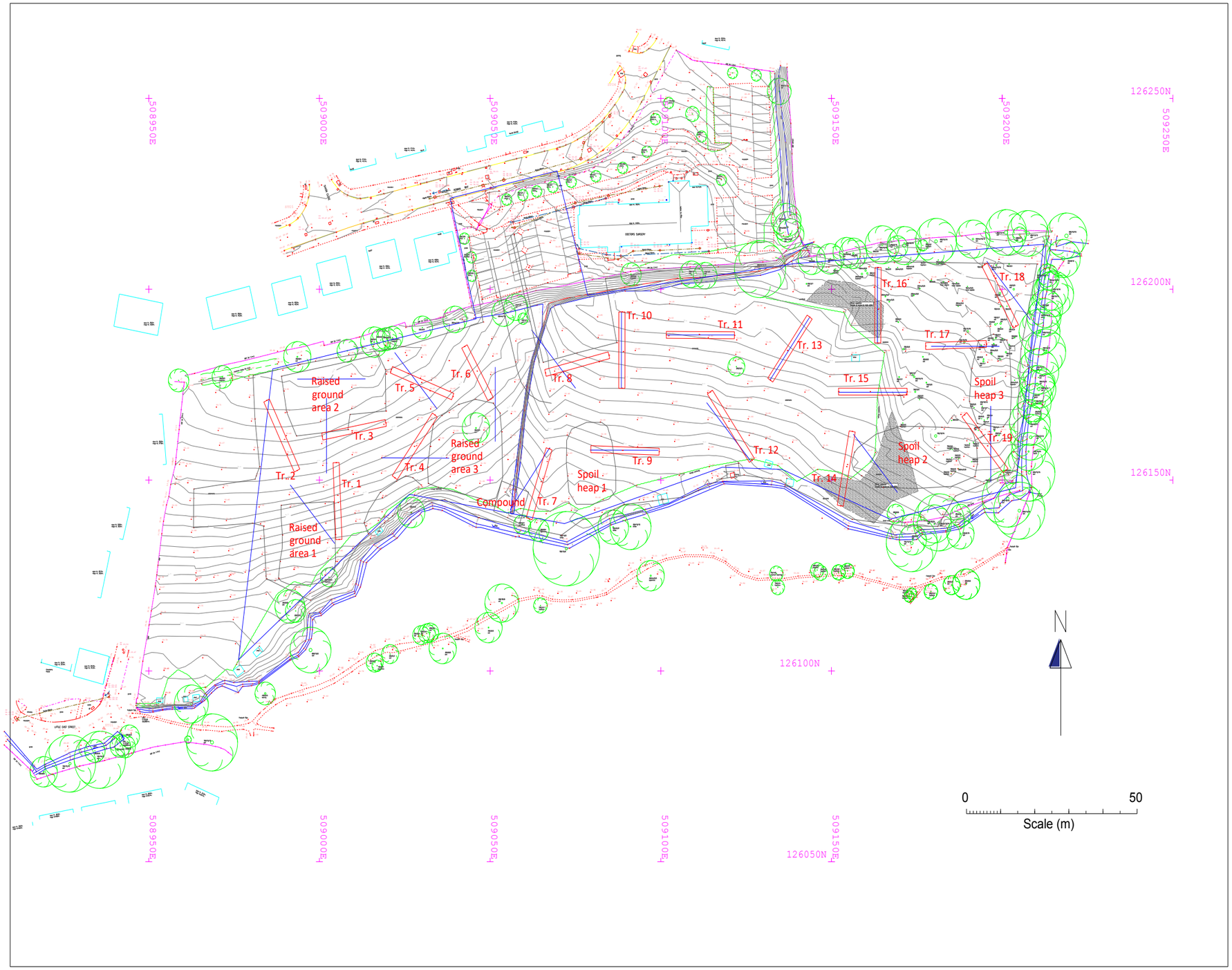
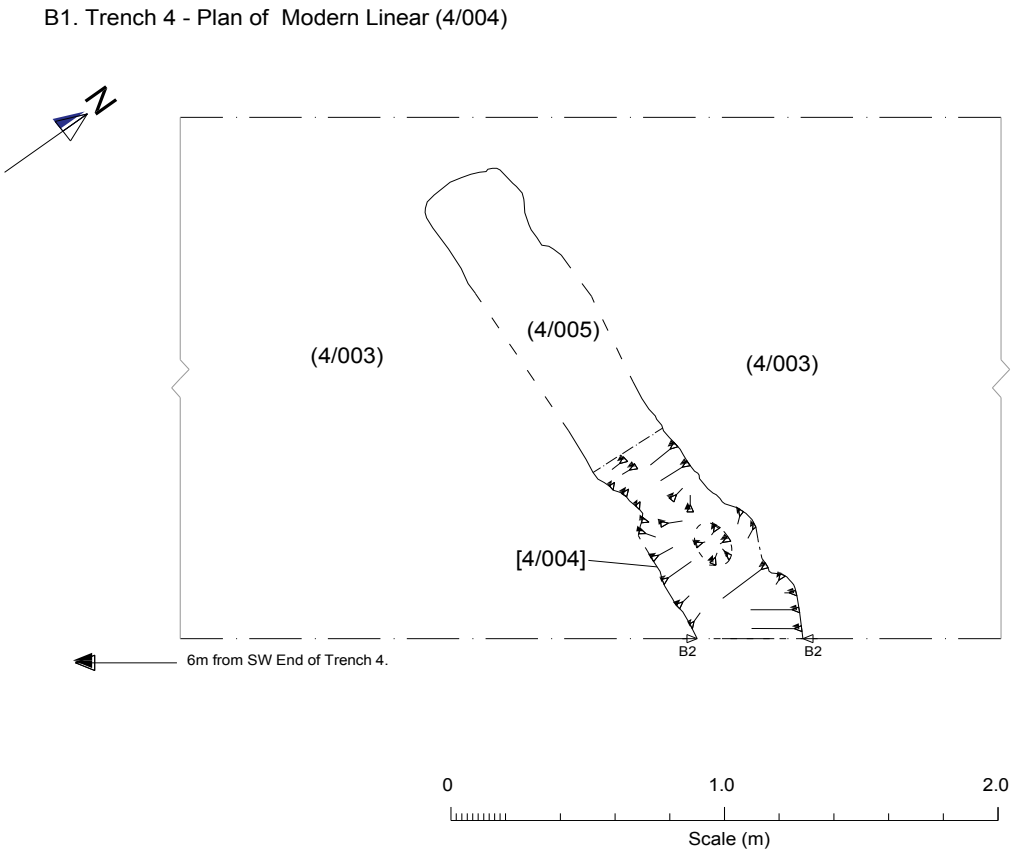


Fig. 3: Plan of site showing the location of the evaluation trenches

ROM.16 - Trench 4 Part Plan & Section



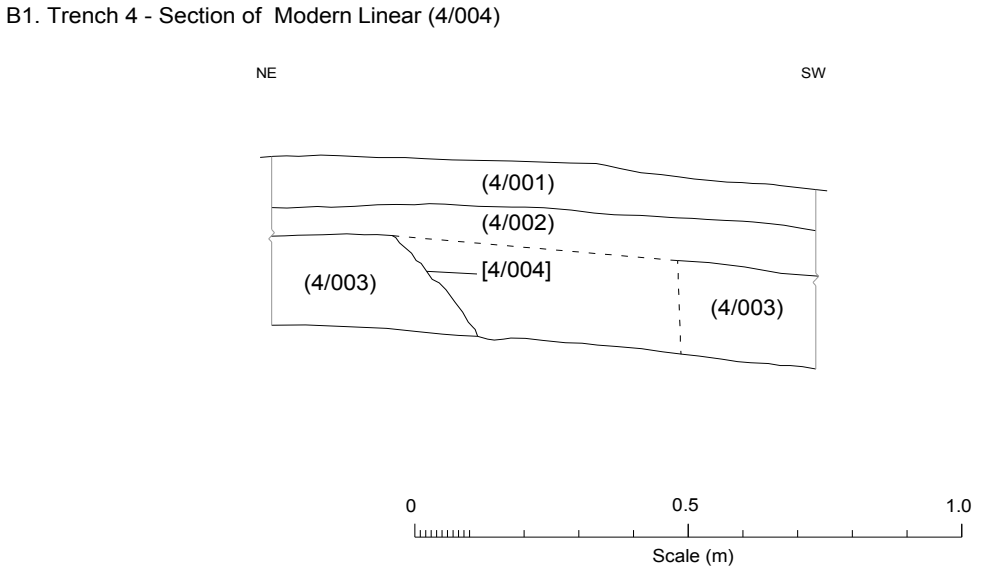


Fig.4: Trench 4 - Part Plan & Sections.

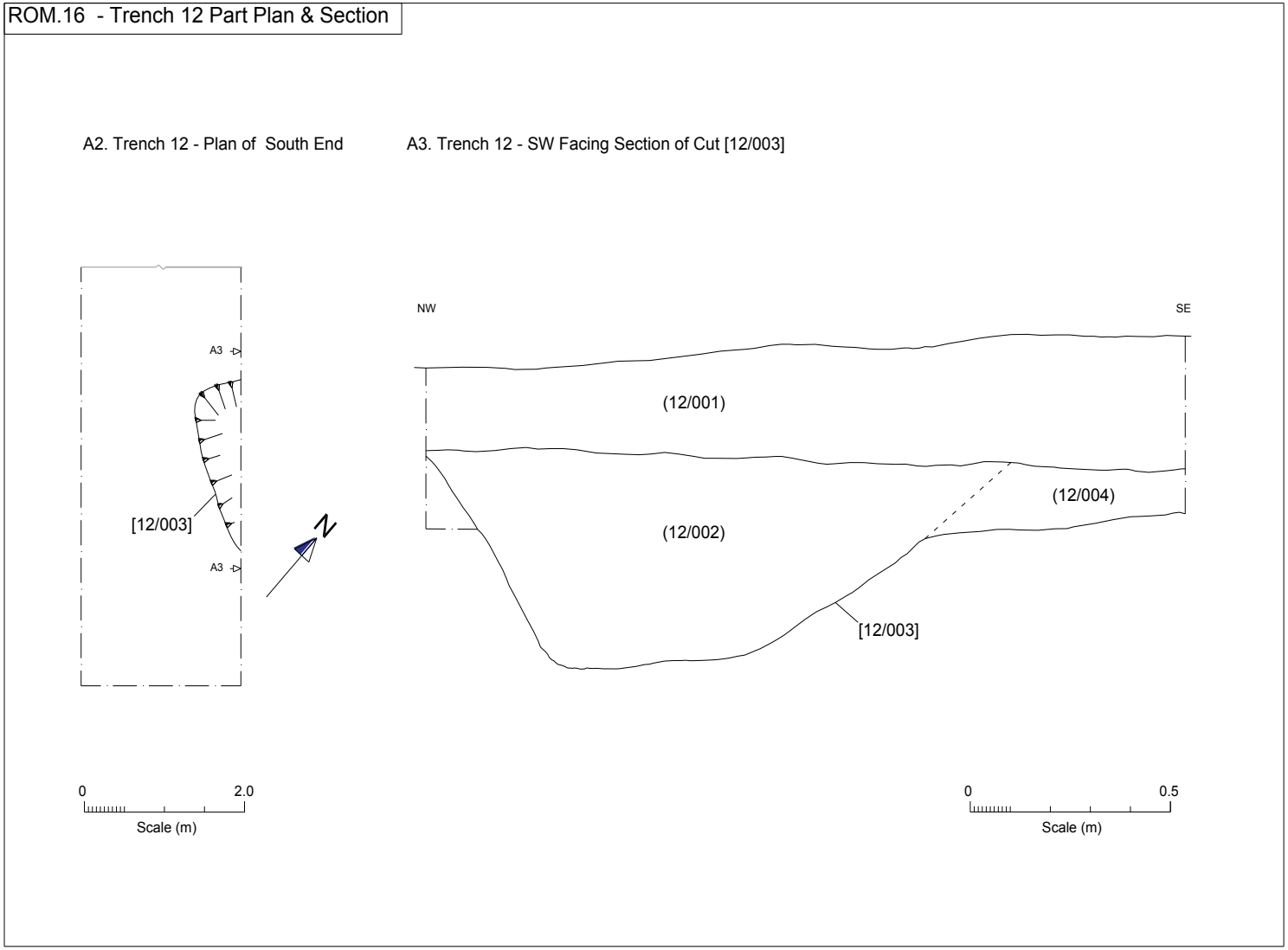


Fig .5: Trench 12 – Part Plan & Section

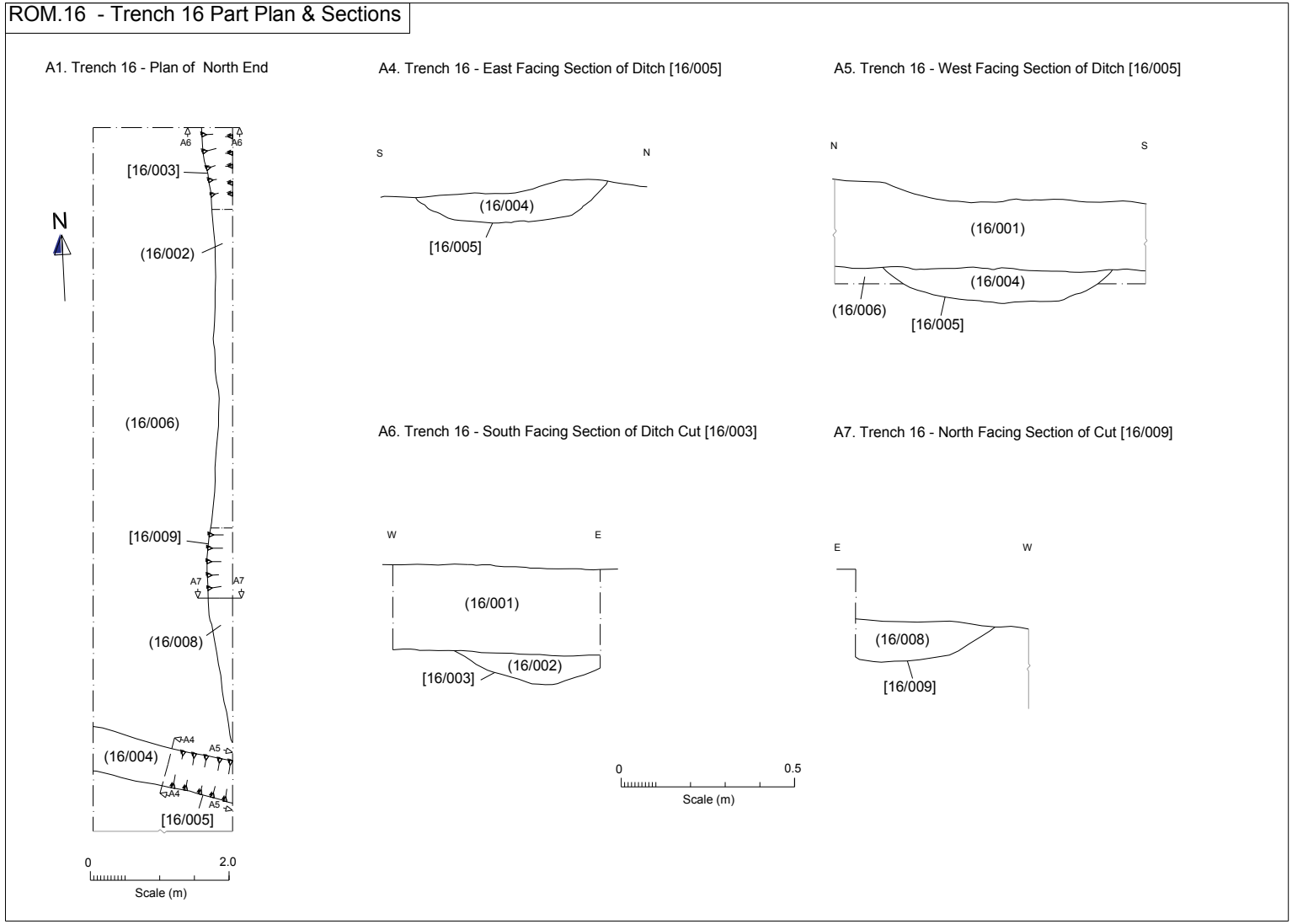


Fig.6: Trench 16 – Part Plan & Sections

Appendix 1: Levels

Trench No.	North	South	Mid	West	East
1	32.96	31.61	31.82	-	-
2	33.97	33.00	33.53	-	-
3	-	-	33.36	33.50	33.24
4	33.09	32.25	32.65	-	-
5	-	-	33.64	34.15	33.11
6	33.75	32.79	33.38	-	-
7	32.31	31.22	31.91	-	-
8	-	-	-	33.45	32.89
9	-	-	-	-	32.42
10	34.24	33.20	33.76	-	-
11	-	-	34.12	34.04	34.16
12	33.20	32.32	32.78	-	-
13	35.00	33.58	34.12	-	-
14	33.42	32.37	33.00	-	-
15	-	-	34.07	33.71	34.50
16	36.05	34.84	35.38	-	-
17	-	-	-	35.18	36.24
18	41.34	38.57	-	-	-
19	35.41	35.15	35.29	-	-

Trench Levels in Metres aOD. on ground surface

Trench No.	Context	Level on top of Feature
4	4/005	32.22
12	12/003	32.19
16	16/003	35.65
16	16/006	35.20
16	16/009	35.31

Appendix 2 HER Summary Form

Site Code	ROM17					
Identification Name and Address	Land adjacent to Roman Way, Billingshurst.					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 09047, 26167					
Geology	Weald Clay formation with interbedded Sandstone and Siltstone.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. **X**	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field **X**	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 26/06/17-29/06/17	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Riverdale Developments Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM **X**	Other		

100 Word Summary

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out at Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex in advance of groundworks for the construction of a residential development. Nineteen non-targeted trenches were opened across the site. Very little of archaeological note was found on site. The only exceptions were a late 19th or 20th century linear within Trench 4, two linear features in Trench 16, one of which contained a single piece of 19th or 20th century glass, an undated feature in Trench 12 that may be geological rather than archaeological, and a clearly 20th century feature in Trench 10 that contained concrete and kitchen tile. Other than some stray finds from the topsoil there was no evidence of any earlier activity on Site.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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