

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land at Forge Way,  
Billingshurst, West Sussex

Planning Ref: BL/160/02

NGR 508210 125740 (Centred)

Project No: 2782  
Site Code: FWB 07

ASE Report No. 2008140  
OASIS id: archaeol6-48146



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**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client Barratt Homes. The work was undertaken between the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 and comprised four stages of monitoring visits. An area encompassing c.1.3ha was monitored, mainly comprising of a topsoil strip with some further reduced level stripping. The underlying natural was encountered between a maximum height of 26.38m OD falling to 25.86m OD.*

*Archaeological monitoring revealed four linear features of which three were intercutting. Two of the linear features produced pottery dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD, one to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD and the other was undated. It is possible that all four relate to continued activity on the site. Sixteen discreet features were recorded comprising of a possible hearth, seven pits/possible pits and eight postholes. The discreet features were fairly widely dispersed across the site and it was not possible to establish if they were contemporary with each other and the linear features. Collectively the discreet features produced only a very small artefact assemblage. One posthole contained an abraded sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date along with early prehistoric flint and a possible pit/tree throw produced a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD date. The pottery assemblage recovered during the watching brief spans the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, the earliest piece and the later pieces could be resultant of various phases of manuring or similar activity and the pottery recovered indicates that the main phase of activity on the site dates to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD. A small assemblage of residual flint was recovered, mostly from the subsoil and was not considered diagnostic but included two possible Mesolithic pieces. Other isolated finds of Mesolithic date are recorded 600m to the east of the site further indicating the presence of early prehistoric activity in the area.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**SMR Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

**APPENDIX 1:**  
List of Recorded Contexts

## **FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site Location Plan
- Figure 2: Site Plan showing monitored areas and archaeological features
- Figure 3: Detail plan of archaeological features
- Figure 4: Selected sections

## **TABLES**

- Table 1: HER data of a 1km search around the study area
- Table 2: Quantification of site archive
- Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts (Appendix 1)
- Table 4: Finds Quantification
- Table 5: The flintwork
- Table 6: Flot Quantification
- Table 7: Residue Quantification

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of their client, Barratt Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex, (NGR 508210 125740) during the residential development of the site (Fig.1).

1.1.2 The site comprised of a playing field and is bounded to the east by Forge Way, to the west, south and northeast by residential property and to the northwest by warehousing.

1.1.3 The work involved the monitoring of an initial topsoil strip for access roads and ten house plots, which informed any requirement for further work. The results of the initial topsoil strip were reviewed and discussed with the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Archaeologist by CgMs Consulting.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies on Weald Clay as shown on the British Geological Survey Sheet for Haslemere (England and Wales Sheet 301 Haslemere).

1.2.2 Preliminary ground investigations comprising of the excavation of six geotechnical trial pits undertaken by Archibald Shaw in April 2005 revealed topsoil overlying firm orange brown mottled light grey silty clay natural.

1.2.3 The site lies on ground which slopes from the south west at around 27m OD to the north east to 24m OD.

1.2.4 The site lies approximately 1.5km east of the River Arun and a small tributary is known to have flowed approximately 200m to the east prior to development of the surrounding area in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

1.2.5 Three Temporary Benchmarks (TBM's) relative to Ordnance Datum were established during the course of the monitoring works using benchmarks set up by the building contractors. The values which were 25.55m, 24.77m and 26.16m.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the residential development of the site comprising of 59 residential units and associated services, access roads, parking and landscaping (Planning Ref: BL/160/02). A Condition of this permission was the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation.

1.3.2 A first stage of the archaeological investigation was An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) of the site undertaken for David Wilson Homes (now Barratt Homes) by Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Consulting Limited in April 2006 (Gailey 2006a).

1.3.3 Following this DBA, John Mills, Archaeologist WSCC (in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Horsham District Council), recommended that an Archaeological Watching Brief on the groundworks associated with the development would form appropriate mitigation. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), outlining the requirements of the watching brief, was prepared by Jon Sygrave of ASE (Sygrave 2007) in response to the *Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise* (Gailey 2006b) prepared by Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Consulting Ltd. The WSI was submitted and duly approved by the WSCC Archaeologist prior to the archaeological works taking place.

1.3.4 The fieldwork initially involved monitoring a topsoil strip for access roads; this informed any requirements for further work. The results of the initial topsoil strip were reviewed and discussed by the WSCC Archaeologist and by CgMs Consulting Ltd to determine the requirements for further work.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The Aims and Objectives of the watching brief were laid out in the *Specification for An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise* (Gailey 2006b) and the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Sygrave 2007) and are reproduced below.

1.4.2 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological and palaeoarchaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.3 The site specific requirements were to:

- To monitor topsoil stripping associated with access roads to establish the presence of any Bronze Age or Iron Age activity, in relation to known activity in the area

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the Watching Brief undertaken during the course of the development works. The fieldwork was initially carried out by Diccon Hart between the 29<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and by Greg Priestley-Bell on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 with on site assistance provided by Dave Atkins. Subsequently, by Michelle Collings between the 27<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 and the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and by Deon Whittaker from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007, with on site assistance provided by Dave Atkins. A final monitoring visit was undertaken by Giles Dawkes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The study site comprised of a grass covered playing field with a children’s play area prior to the commencement of development works. It was formerly agricultural land for a long period of time as detailed below.

2.2 The archaeological background for the site was obtained from the preceding Desk Based Assessment (DBA) prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (Gailey 2006a) and is reproduced below with due acknowledgement. The DBA incorporated a review of a 1km radius search of the West Sussex County Council’s (WSSCC) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the following table contains a summary of the entries detailed. The location of these sites is plotted on Figure 1.

No	SMR No.	NGR	Description	Period
1	SMR 5243-WS4176	TQ087 82558	Isolated finds comprising of Mesolithic flint flakes and blades within the garden of Clewards House, 600m to the east	Mesolithic
2	SMR 29003-WS181	TQ090 02600	Isolated finds of four Neolithic polished flint found near Billingshurst in 1852.	Neolithic
3	SMR 7838-WS7929	TQ080 42614	A linear feature identified during archaeological works in 2004, along with some worked and fire cracked flint possibly of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age date, 500m to the north.	Late bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
4	SMR 7147-WS7202	TQ079 82595	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age deposits identified 400m to the west of the study site, along with burnt sandstone identified as a possible hearth. Associated artefacts of pottery and charcoal recovered.	Late bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
5	SMR 7352-WS7420	TQ082 82506	A part of Stane Street, the Roman Road that running from London to Chichester revealed about 700m to south of the site.	Roman
6	SMR 2898-WS3698	TQ086 22588	Roman artefacts including coins, pottery and tesserae found along the High Street in Billingshurst, following the line of Stane Street, interpreted as representing a possible villa site.	Roman
7	SMR 7145-WS7200	TQ079 02530	Two Late Saxon/ Early Norman pits containing pottery revealed along the Billingshurst bypass.	Late Saxon/ Early Norman
8	SMR 2906-WS5112	TQ087 52592	Medieval Church, dating to the 12 <sup>th</sup> Century probably serving a parish of dispersed farmsteads.	Medieval
9	SMR 7140-WS7195	TQ 08052 581	Post Mediaeval building material recovered during archaeological fieldwork 200m to the west of the site.	Post Medieval

Table 1: HER data of a 1km search around the study area

- 2.3** The *Desk Based Assessment* (Gailey 2006a) identified the site to have a low archaeological potential for all periods except for some low to moderate potential for the Bronze Age to Iron Age.
- 2.4** Isolated finds dating to the early prehistoric period were found 'near Billingshurst' in 1852 (Gailey 2006a, 6) as detailed in Table 1 (SMR 29003-WS181, Fig. 1; Point 2) and in a closer proximity to site, Mesolithic blades and flakes were recovered from a garden 600m to the east (SMR 5243-WS4176, Fig. 1; Point 1).
- 2.5** Recent archaeological fieldwork carried out in the vicinity of the site in 2004 revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age activity 500m to the north of the site (SMR 7838-WS7929, Fig. 1; Point 3) and previous work carried out in 1999 during monitoring, 400m to the west of the site uncovered Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age remains including a possible hearth (SMR 7147- WS7202, Fig. 1; Point 4). It is thought that the study site would have lain within a wooded landscape during the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age with evidence of occupational activity deriving from the surrounding areas to the north and the west (Gailey 2006a).
- 2.6** The study site lies 300m to the west of the alignment of Stane Street, the Roman Road running from London to Chichester and part of the road was revealed about 700m to the south of the site (SMR 7352- WS7420, Fig. 1; Point 5). Further, Roman artefacts have been recovered from the High Street which follows the line of Stane Street; it has been suggested that these could indicate the presence of a villa in the vicinity (SMR 2898-WS3698, Fig. 1; Point 6). It is thought that the study site would have remained as woodland during the Roman period or would possibly have been agricultural land (Gailey 2006a).
- 2.7** Late Saxon/ Early Norman remains were revealed during archaeological monitoring 400m to the south of the site (SMR 7145- WS7200, Fig. 1; Point 7).
- 2.8** Billingshurst was not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The church was constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD (SMR 2906- WS5112, Fig. 1; Point 8) most likely serving a parish of dispersed farmsteads at this time. It is considered likely that the site was occupied by woodland or farmland throughout the Anglo-Saxon to Post-Medieval period (Gailey 2006a).
- 2.9** The Tithe Map of 1839 shows that the study site was occupied by farmland to the west of the village of Billingshurst, encompassing part of an arable field known as Fourteen Acres and was bounded to the west by cottages (Gailey 2006a). The Ordnance Survey Map of 1897 shows the site occupied part of Frenches Corner, with Frenches Farm located approximately 400m to the north. The site remained as rural land from this period until the late 1970's (Gailey 2006a).
- 2.10** Recent archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the site has revealed limited archaeological evidence. Two watching briefs undertaken in 1998, 200m to the southwest by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) only produced post medieval building material (SMR 7140-WS7195, Fig. 1; Point 9) and by ASE slightly further afield during the

construction of the Billingshurst Housing development revealed negative evidence.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

Number of Contexts	97
No. of files/paper record	1 ring binder
Plan and sections sheets	9
Bulk Samples	3
Photographs	B& W 3 partial films; Col 4 partial films and digital images
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	1
Environmental flots/residue	3

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

- 3.1** The Methodology for the watching brief was laid out in the *Specification for An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise* (Gailey 2006b) and the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Sygrave 2007).
- 3.2** The initial scope of the work involved the archaeological monitoring of a topsoil strip associated with the construction of access roads in the southeastern corner of the site to allow for the subsequent construction of ten houses (Fig. 2). This initial archaeological monitoring was designed to inform further mitigation strategies. During these preliminary works CgMs Consulting Ltd and the WSCC Archaeologist were kept informed of progress. Following consultation between CgMs and the WSCC Archaeologist the ensuing strategy was developed during the course of the watching brief.
- 3.3** All new ground work excavations undertaken by the engineering contractors were subject to monitoring and were carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any machine used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket of appropriate width whenever practicable.
- 3.4** Excavations were monitored at all times, mostly comprising of a topsoil strip to the interface with the underlying natural, sufficiently allowing for the identification of any exposed archaeological features but with further ground reduction to clean natural in some areas as required by the building contractors or as requested by the attending archaeologist (Fig. 2). Where further reduction was undertaken, works were monitored by the attending archaeologist until/unless it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils).
- 3.5** Exposures were hand cleaned by the archaeologist as necessary to clarify the presence/absence and nature of any features. Where new excavations revealed significant archaeological features, machine or hand excavation by the contractor's staff was stopped. The features were then hand excavated and recorded to archaeological standards by the archaeologist in attendance. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information, where necessary. The removed spoil from

the excavations was scanned by the archaeologist for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

- 3.6** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:100 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250 and section drawings were made 1:10. All drawings were on plastic draughting film. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum as previously detailed.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.8** Environmental samples were taken where appropriate comprising of bulk soil samples (40 litres or 100% of smaller features). Material obtained from environmental samples can provide information on the palaeo-vegetation and climate of an area as well as the economy and diet of a population. Three contexts were suitable for environmental sampling.

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2-4)

### 4.1 List of recorded contexts

4.1.1 A full context listing is given in Appendix 1, Table 3

### 4.2 Summary of stratigraphic sequence and archaeological features

4.2.1 The watching brief was maintained during various phases of groundworks, as detailed above (Fig. 2). The initial stage encompassed the monitoring of a topsoil strip across the site in advance of the construction of access roadways revealing c.0.30m thickness of topsoil, (100), with a thin spread, 0.15m thick, of underlying subsoil (101), overlying the natural substrate (198). During the following stages of work the machine excavation of the remnant topsoil, (100), and subsoil, (101), was observed. In places, the topsoil directly overlay natural substrate.

4.2.2 The topsoil, (100), was a mid brown clayey silt with occasional chalk gravel inclusions and occasional fragments of brick and tile. There was frequent evidence of root disturbance. The subsoil, (101), was a slightly greyish mid brown clayey silt. The natural, (198), varied from a light greyish yellow mottled mid brown clay to an orangey brown mottled light grey silty clay. A layer of made ground, (167), was identified to the north of the site and in this vicinity the underlying natural was not reached. This was an irregular spread extending along a 32m length of the northern site boundary, measuring 5.20m at the widest point (Fig. 3). The made ground (167) was a mid brown mixed silty clay and clayey silt with frequent lenses of re-deposited natural and lenses of small pebble gravel.

4.2.2 The subsoil, (101), contained a mixed assemblage of pottery comprising of two sherds of mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date, two mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD sherds possibly deriving from manuring and three 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century fragments. This was collected along with Ceramic Building Material (CBM) of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century date and 19<sup>th</sup> Century glass and one piece (89g) of iron forging slag and a single piece (885g) of irregular Wealden sandstone. The piece of sandstone possibly had a sawn/chiseled groove in one surface measuring, c. 50mm long, 4mm wide and 3mm deep. It is possible the mark was made during quarrying work to extract rough walling material from nearby Wealden Beds.

4.2.3 Four linear features (ditches) of archaeological significance were revealed; these have subsequently been issued with feature letters (Features A-D) as shown on Figure 3.

4.2.4 The initial stage of monitoring revealed the terminus of a ditch extending from the southern boundary of the site (Feature D) and an East-West aligned ditch (Feature A) running along the route of the access road from Forge Way through the centre of the site. It also uncovered a small segment of a parallel ditch (Feature B) and gully (Feature C) intersecting to its western extent (Fig. 3). The continuation of the latter two linear features was identified during ongoing monitoring and they were further investigated. Sixteen discreet features were recorded throughout the course of the watching brief (Figs 2 and 3), fairly widely dispersed across the area

investigated.

### 4.3 Feature A (Figs 2-3 and Fig. 4, Sections 1-4)

4.3.1 Feature A was an east-west aligned shallow ditch running across the entire site from the entrance off Forge way to the western site boundary. Twelve sections [107] (106), [115] (114), [133] (132), [135] (134), [142] (141), [144] (143), [147] (148), [149] (150), [153] (154), [155] (156), [157] (158) and [159] (160) were excavated and one partial section [161] (162) to allow for the examination of a burnt deposit within the fill of the ditch.

4.3.2 The ditch was observed to have a variable profile, ranging from a 'U' shaped or elongated 'U' shaped to a shallower 'D' shaped profile. Some slightly more irregular sections such as [147] showed evidence of root disturbance. The ditch ranged in width from 1.00m at the widest ([155]) to 0.55m at the narrowest ([133]). The widest section, [155]; (Fig. 4, Section 1) was also the shallowest, measuring 0.10m. Four sections were the maximum depth of 0.20m [107], [135]; (Fig. 4, Section 2), [142] and [147].

4.3.3 Two intersections were investigated. The first, [125]; (Fig. 4, Section 3) with Feature B and the second [127]; (Fig. 4, Section 4) with Feature C. Feature A cut gully feature C but was truncated by a ditch, Feature B.

4.3.4 Ditch A contained a single fill. This was fairly homogenous along the length of the ditch in all twelve sections and was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions and flecks of charcoal (for example in sections [107] (106) and [115] (114)). Moderate manganese flecking was observed in the fills of two sections [142] (141) and [144] (143). One partial section, [161], was excavated to examine a small burnt deposit, (162), which was a reddish orange silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. This was oval in plan and was aligned northwest-southeast across the ditch, possibly representing in-situ burning.

4.3.5 Pottery was recovered from the fills of three sections, [107] (106), [147] (148) and [159] (160) and from intersection [125] (124). These finds comprised of a small abraded sherd of mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date from (106), three abraded sherds of later 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date from (160), and one abraded sherd of 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date from (148) and the intersection [125] (124) produced four possible mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD pieces. Two sections, [147] (148) and [159] (160), produced slag comprising of a large piece (2,100g) of dense, but aerated, iron slag probably derived from smelting, along with a 15mm thick (68g) fragment of waste copper alloy. A single piece (59g) of iron smelting slag was collected from section [159] (160).

4.3.5 The recovery of such a small assemblage allows for minimal discussion of these finds and detailed interpretation would be ambiguous. However, the presence of smelting slag (bloomery) is not unexpected in the vicinity of the site as there were many small production sites in the area during the Roman and Medieval period, with the slag often being reused for building and hardcore and it is possible that these artefacts were residual but they could also relate to the possible hearth [136] and to the burnt material recorded within the fills of several of the discreet features and within linear feature A, (162) in partial section [161] detailed above.

#### 4.4 Feature B (Figs 2-4, Sections 3, 5 and 6)

- 4.4.1 Feature B was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and was observed running from the southern site boundary towards the north of linear feature A. Five sections [109] (108), [176] (177), [184] (185), [186] (187) and [196] (197) and one intersection [123] (122) were excavated.
- 4.4.2 The ditch was observed to have a generally elongated, 'U' shaped, profile and ranged in width from 1.40m [184]; (Fig. 4, Section 5) to 0.80m [196]; (Fig. 4, Section 6) and in depth from 0.35m, [186], to 0.22m, [109] and [176].
- 4.4.3 The intersection of Feature B with Feature A was investigated, [123]; (Fig 4, Section 3) (122). This showed that it cut Feature A, making it the latest in the sequence of three inter-cutting linear features: A, B and C.
- 4.4.4 Ditch, Feature B contained one fill. This was a variable yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and manganese, (108), to a mottled light greyish yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small pebble inclusions and charcoal and manganese flecking, (177).
- 4.4.5 Pottery was recovered from the fills of three sections: [109] (108), [176] (177) and [196] (197). This comprised of a small abraded rim from a cooking pot of mid 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date (177), a mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD abraded bodysherd from a cooking pot (197) along with CBM and a small abraded sherd of later 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD date from (108).

#### 4.5 Feature C (Figs 2-4, Sections 4, 7 and 8)

- 4.5.1 Feature C was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and was observed running towards the southern site boundary, north of Feature A. Six sections [121] (120), [182] (183), [188] (189), [190] (191), [192] (193) and [194] (195) and one intersection, [129] (128), were excavated.
- 4.5.2 The gully was observed to have a variable profile; this was mostly a shallow 'D' to shallow 'U' shape, ranging from 0.90m, [190]; (Fig. 4, Section 7) at the widest to 0.26m, [192], at the narrowest and was 0.22m, [194], at the deepest to 0.06m [188]; (Fig. 4, Section 8) at the shallowest.
- 4.5.3 An intersection, [129] (128); (Fig. 4, Section 4) with Feature A showed that Feature C was truncated by Feature A, making it the earliest in the sequence of the three inter-cutting linear features A, B and C.
- 4.5.4 Feature C contained one fill. This was a mixed mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and moderate manganese flecking, to a mottled light greyish yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and manganese flecking, (183). No artefacts were recovered from linear feature C.
- 4.5.6 Whilst Feature C runs parallel to Feature B and it would seem likely that the two were related, it is also possible that Feature C dates to an earlier period of activity.

#### 4.6 Feature D (Figs 2-4, Section 9)

4.6.1 Feature D was observed extending from the southern site boundary, at the eastern end of the site, running in a north-northeast-south-southwest alignment. One terminus section was excavated, [105]; (Fig. 4, Section 9). It had a shallow 'D' shaped profile with a rounded base. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions and flecks of charcoal, producing two slightly abraded conjoining sherds of pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD (104).

#### 4.7 Modern drain (Figs 2 4, Section 10)

4.7.1 A modern drain was identified within the Northern extent of the development area and one section [163]; (Fig. 4, Section 10) was excavated and recorded. The linear was narrow with almost vertical edges tapering inwards towards a fairly flat base; it was filled by a yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and frequent lenses of re-deposited natural, (164).

#### 4.8 Discreet Features (Figs 2- 4, Sections 11-26)

4.8.1 Sixteen discreet features were recorded throughout the course of the watching brief, comprising of one possible hearth [136] (137) (138), eight postholes [103] (102), [110] (111), [113] (112), [117] (116), [119] (118), [139] (140), [145] (146) and [151] (152) and seven pits/possible pits, [131] (130), [171] (172), [180] (181), [173] (175) (174), [178] (179), [165] (166) and [168] (169) (170) (several of which, the latter two in particular were considered more likely to be tree throws). The discreet features were fairly widely dispersed across the area monitored and only two contained artefacts: posthole [103] and possible pit or more likely tree throw [165]. Therefore, whilst it is possible that some of the discreet features relate to the linear features A-D, it is difficult to ascribe them to the same phase of activity with any certainty.

#### 4.9 Possible Hearth [136] (Figs 2-4, Section 11)

4.9.1 Possible hearth [136]; (Fig. 4, Section 11) was circular in plan with a gentle profile. It contained two fills. The lower fill, (138) was a very dark greyish black silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions and lenses of burnt clay and slumped along the southern edge of the feature and across the base to the northern edge. The upper fill, (137), was a mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. An environmental sample recovered from the lower fill, (138) produced frequent charcoal fragments. Neither fill contained any artefacts.

#### 4.10 Pits/ Possible Pits (Figs 2-4, various sections)

4.10.1 Shallow pit [131], (Fig.4, Section 16), was sub circular in plan with sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and burnt clay inclusions (130). Pit [131] was located within an area partially enclosed by linear features A, B and C and may be associated with the same phase of activity.

4.10.2 Pit [171], (Fig, 4, Section 23), was an irregular oval shape in plan, truncated on its southern edge by the modern drain. It had an irregular U shaped

profile with fairly steep sloping sides, containing a mottled greyish brown and greyish black silty clay with moderate lenses of burnt material, (172).

- 4.10.3 Pit [180], (Fig. 4, Section 19), was an irregular oval shape in plan with a shallow U shaped profile and an uneven base. It was filled by a mottled greyish brown and blackish brown clayey silt with moderate flecks of charcoal and lenses of burning with fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM).
- 4.10.4 Pit [173], (Fig. 4, Section 17), was sub circular in plan with a shallow u shaped profile, containing two fills. The lower fill (174) was a black gravelly silt and the upper fill (175) was a greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and lenses of burning.
- 4.10.5 Pit [178], (Fig. 4, Section 18), was an irregular sub circular shape in plan, with an irregular profile. It was filled by a mottled greyish brown and greenish greyish brown silty clay with occasional lenses of burnt material. There was frequent evidence of root disturbance and it is possible that [178] represents the remains of a tree throw.
- 4.10.6 Possible pit or more likely tree throw [165], (Fig. 4, Section 25), was an irregular oval shape in plan, with an elongated U shaped profile, the eastern edge sloping more steeply to a slightly uneven base. It was filled by a yellowish brown clayey silt, producing a fragment of German stoneware of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD date (166).
- 4.10.7 Possible pit or more likely tree throw [168], (Fig. 4, Section 24), was sub oval in plan with an elongated U shaped profile, with the southern edge sloping more steeply. It contained two fills. The lower fill (169) was a mottled greyish yellowish brown silty clay and the upper fill was a greyish brown slightly clayey silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and lenses of re-deposited natural (170).

#### 4.11 Postholes (Figs 2-4 various sections)

- 4.11.1 Posthole [103], (Figure 4, Section 21), was sub circular in plan with a U shaped profile. It was filled by a mid brownish grey clay with frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional small pebbles, producing a very small abraded sherd of pottery of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD date (102) along with a broken Mesolithic tranchet adze or small pick. It is most likely that both the flint and the pottery are residual however it is also possible that the pottery is intrusive. Both pieces indicate that there may have been earlier phases of activity on the site and it is possible that agricultural land use has had a detrimental effect on the survival of early prehistoric and earlier medieval remains. Posthole [103] is located in close proximity to two others [113] and [110] in the southeast corner of the site and it is possible that all three are related. Posthole [110]; (Fig. 4, Section 20) was sub circular in plan with sloping sides and a flattish base; it was filled by a mid yellowish brown clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, (111). Posthole [113]; (Fig. 4, Section 22) was circular in plan with a rounded profile; it was filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, (112).
- 4.11.2 Posthole [117], (Fig. 4, Section 14), was oval in plan with sloping sides; it was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate flecks of

charcoal, (116).

- 4.11.3 Posthole [119], (Fig. 4, Section 26, was oval in plan with sloping sides; it was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, (118).
- 4.11.4 Posthole [139], (Fig. 4, Section 12), was sub rectangular in plan; it had an irregular profile with the eastern side undercutting; it was filled by a light greyish yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, (140).
- 4.11.5 Posthole [145], (Fig. 4, Section 13), was circular in plan with a u shaped profile; it was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, (146).
- 4.11.6 Posthole [151], (Fig. 4, Section 15), was circular in plan with a broadly U shaped profile; it was filled by a reddish orange silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal (152).

## 5.0 THE FINDS

A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations, summarised in Table 4, below.

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	Slag	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)	Cu. Al.	wt (g)
101	10	298			12	136	1	882	1	2	3	138	1	2	1	8
102	2	<2														
104	2	14														
106	1	2														
108	1	4														
124	4	<2														
148	1	<1									2	2208				
160	3	18			1	<1					1	60				
166	1	4														
177	1	10														
181			1	10												
197	1	2	1	4												

**Table 4** Quantification of the finds

### 5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The excavations recovered 23 sherds of pottery, weighing 248g, from 11 individually numbered contexts. The material spans the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries though the majority can be placed in a mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date range. The pottery, most notably the medieval assemblage, is in poor condition with sherds tending to be small and heavily abraded. This is due both to reworking and the acidic nature of the ground. Context groups are always small – the largest datable group, excluding the subsoil [101], consisting of a mere three sherds (ditch [159], fill [160]). The majority of contexts produced only single sherds making dating uncertain.

5.1.2 The earliest pottery consists of a chip (<1g) of low-fired chalk tempered cooking pot from post-hole [103] (fill (102)) (Fabric WS: C/M3). The piece is so small it could easily be residual from 11<sup>th</sup>-/12<sup>th</sup>- century manuring activity in the area. The majority of the assemblage consists of sand tempered wares of the mid 13<sup>th</sup>- to mid 14<sup>th</sup>- centuries and it is during this period that the site appears to have seen notable activity. Cooking pot and glazed jug sherds in medium sand tempered wares (eg WS: Q/M15) were recovered from a number of excavated slots across the ditches: eg ditch [196], fill (197); ditch [176], fill (177); ditch [159], fill (160); ditch [107], fill (106); ditch [109], fill (108). The majority of the sherds are bodysherds though that from (177) is from a cooking pot with thickened club rim and one from (160) is from a jug with collared rim. The assemblage is quite plain with virtually no decoration (excluding glazing) apparent. The one exception to this is a jug bodysherd from ditch [147], fill (148) which has a painted white slip line below a thin clear glaze. Such decoration is quite typical of 14<sup>th</sup>- century jugs on the Coastal Plain to the south where they have been noted at Middleton

(Barton 1979). Indeed it is interesting to note two conjoining 14<sup>th</sup>- century cooking pot base sherds with internal green glaze (WS: Q(f)/M26) from ditch [105], fill (104) and a glazed jug sherd from (101) are also similar to types found on the Coastal Plain (Barber 2006, Fabric 6).

- 5.1.3 Three sherds (76g) of mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>- century date were also recovered. These consist of a bodysherd from a Cologne/Frechen bottle in pit [165], fill (166) and two somewhat abraded local glazed red fine sand tempered earthenware jar sherds from the subsoil (101). The latest pottery consists of two 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century glazed red earthenware jar sherds (99g) and a piece of 19<sup>th</sup>- century blue transfer-printed pearlware (3g) from the subsoil (101).
- 5.1.4 The assemblage from the site is too small to draw firm conclusions from, though some initial observations may be made. The earliest activity suggested by the pottery is of 11<sup>th</sup>-/12<sup>th</sup>- century date though this may represent no more than very sporadic farming activity. Activity appears to have dramatically increased, probably toward the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, though the quantities of pottery involved are still low, suggesting the domestic source of the material was a little way from the excavated area. The assemblage of the mid/late 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century is quite plain, devoid of imports and shows no obvious signs of being of high status though a larger sample may alter this. Interestingly, although the majority of the pottery is probably of local manufacture, there appears to be a notable element of wares coming from the Coastal Plain area, perhaps from the vicinity of Middleton. Although some distance from Billingshurst, material could probably have been transported up the Arun relatively easily. It is a pity larger assemblages of medieval pottery from the town are rare as a larger sample is needed to test this apparently southward facing supply source. At Crawley, the medieval wares from this period are derived both from West Sussex and Surrey sources suggesting it is situated on the watershed between two ceramic marketing areas (Barber 1997). No Surrey material is present in the current assemblage though a much larger sample would be needed to categorically establish the source of supply for Billingshurst at this time. There is no pottery in the assemblage that need be later than the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. The small quantities of mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century pottery probably derive from manuring from nearby farms.

## 5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 The excavations produced only a small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM). Subsoil (101) contained three tile fragments, all dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fragments are high fired with sparse fine sand-tempering, occasional clay pellets to 1 mm and iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm.
- 5.2.3 Two brick fragments were recovered as well, both too fragmentary to take any measures. A sparse fine sand-tempered fragment from (101) is vitrified, both externally and on the broken surfaces, implying that it is either a waster, or has been incorporated into a high temperature fire after breakage. The second brick fragment is high fired with sparse fine sand-tempering and occasional iron oxide inclusions to 2 mm. Both fragments date to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

5.2.4 In addition, linear Feature B [196] (fill (197)), dated by the pottery to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, contained an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material. The fragment is medium fired with sparse fine sand-tempering and occasional clay streaks.

**5.3 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A single piece of white glass from a cylindrical vessel was recovered from the subsoil. The fragment is of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date.

**5.4 Prehistoric Flintwork** by Chris Butler

5.4.1 A small residual assemblage of 11 pieces of worked flint (weighing 334g) was recovered during the fieldwork at Billingshurst. The raw material comprised a mixture of lightly patinated light grey flint, grey mottled flint and dark grey-black flint.

	Flintwork		
Hard hammer-struck flakes			4
Flake fragments			4
Blade fragment			1
Core fragment			1
Tranchet adze			<u>1</u>
<i>Total</i>			<i>11</i>

**Table 5** The flintwork

5.4.2 The majority of the flintwork (nine pieces) in this assemblage is undiagnostic debitage from the subsoil, (101), and it is difficult to assign these pieces to any period. One flake from this context has some platform preparation, and together with a blade fragment which narrows at one end with retouch and abrasion on its lateral edges, could be Mesolithic in date.

5.4.3 A broken Mesolithic tranchet adze or small pick was recovered from the fill of posthole [103]. This piece weighs 218g and has a triangular section with a rounded and abraded butt end. The cutting end has been broken off, and there has been an attempt to resharpen it with a tranchet flake removed on one face and some removals from the cutting edge on the opposite face.

5.4.4 The final piece in the assemblage is a small undiagnostic fragment from Context [160].

5.4.5 There have been a number of finds of Mesolithic flintwork in the Billingshurst area in the past (Wymer 1977), so it is not surprising to find further evidence of Mesolithic activity at this site. It is possible that all of the pieces found could be Mesolithic, but the undiagnostic nature of much of the debitage means that it is not possible to be certain about this.

**5.5 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 All metalwork was recovered from the subsoil and may have originated from nearby farms. Only three pieces were recovered, including a general purpose iron nail fragment and a fragment of copper alloy molten waste. In addition, the subsoil produced an iron oval-shaped heavy duty fitting with three fixing holes (RF <1>), weighing 114g.

**6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Lucy Allott

**6.1** Three environmental samples were taken to establish the presence of environmental remains. Samples were processed using tank flotation. Residues (heavy fraction) and flots (light fraction) were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively. The flots and residues were air dried and passed through graded sieves to aid the sorting process. Flots were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10-40. Botanical remains have been identified where possible using modern and archaeological comparative material and reference texts (Martin & Barkley 2000). Wild plant classifications are according to Stace (1991). Archaeological and environmental remains are recorded in Tables 6 and 7.

Sample No.	01	02	03
Context No.	130	106	137
Volume	100	75	190
Total Weight	44	36	74
Uncharred %	5	5	5
Sediment %		85	
Charcoal >4mm frags	****		****
Charcoal <4mm	****		****
weed seeds charred	**	**	**

**Table 6** Flot Quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

Sample No.	01	02	03
Context No.	130	106	137
Charcoa I >4mm	***/10	*/<2	***/56
Charcoa I <4mm	***/8	**/<2	****/88
Charred Plant Remains	*		
CBM	*/2	*/<2	
Fe		*/<2	
Burnt Clay	**/32		*/6

**Table 7** Residue Quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* =

>250) and weights (given in grams).

- 6.2** These samples have confirmed the presence of charred botanicals. Samples <01> and <03> were predominantly composed of charcoal fragments. Small amounts of charred seeds (including *Brassica* sp. - cabbages) were also noted but no cereals were recorded. Uncharred weed seeds, land snails and other modern intrusive remains were absent in from samples suggesting good integrity of the deposits. Sample <02> contained very few archaeobotanical or other environmental remains. The flot was very sandy and only small charred weed seeds were noted.
- 6.3** The charcoal fragments from these samples hold some potential for further work. Other environmental remains are very limited although a more detailed assessment of the charred seeds may enable further taxa to be identified.

**7.0 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1** The small pottery assemblage recovered during the watching brief suggests that the main phase of activity on the site occurred during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries. However, much of the pottery was abraded and some was recovered along with pottery of later date so this evidence is not definitive. Of the four linear features identified, two were dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century (Features A and B), one to 14<sup>th</sup> Century (Feature D) and the other was undated (Feature C) although their spatial relationships suggest that they represent a similar phase of activity.
- 7.2** There is little that can be said regarding the discreet features. Fourteen of the sixteen were undated. Of the two features containing datable artefacts, one posthole, [103], produced mixed dating evidence, an abraded sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date along with early prehistoric flint. the other possible pit [165] producing a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD date was considered more likely to be a tree throw.
- 7.3** Whilst several zones of archaeological activity were apparent, such as that located within the south eastern corner of the site, comprising of a cluster of three small postholes and a ditch terminus (linear feature D), the discreet features were fairly widely dispersed across. It was not possible to establish if they were contemporary with each other and the linear features.
- 7.4** A further zone of activity was defined towards the centre of the site, in the area of the access road, represented by intercutting ditches. Feature C runs parallel to Feature B and it would seem likely that the two were related, perhaps forming a trackway. Stratigraphically, however, Feature C dates to an earlier period of activity and may instead represent an earlier alignment of the north-south boundary. It is probable that these ditches represent field boundaries, indicating the use of the site as farmland.
- 7.5** In addition, a number of discreet features were located towards the south eastern extent of Feature A. No clear patterning was evident in any of the pits and postholes investigated although it would seem likely that they relate to the possible field system, (perhaps, for example, forming internal divisions / fences).

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1** The results of the monitoring exercise do not correspond with the potential outlined in the preceding Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (Gailey 2006a). It was suggested that there was moderate potential for the Bronze Age and Iron Age but low potential for all other periods. It is possible that Feature C is prehistoric rather than Medieval. However it seems more likely that it immediately pre-dates the other two linear features in the sequence of intercutting linear features and that all three represent the remains of a Medieval field system.
- 8.2** It is considered likely that the site was occupied by woodland or farmland throughout the Anglo-Saxon to Post Medieval period (Gailey 2006a). The results of the watching brief indicate that the site possibly served as farmland during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century, perhaps deriving from earlier origins in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. The abraded nature of the small pottery assemblage recovered does not allow for any detailed consideration of phasing. It is merely possible to suggest that the site was in use, most likely as farmland possibly from as early as the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. If the site had served as farmland the paucity of artefacts recovered is unsurprising. Further, it is possible that subsequent agricultural use of the land has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.
- 8.3** The church at Billingshurst is known to date to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD (SMR 2906- WS5112, Fig. 1; Point 8) most likely serving a parish of dispersed farmsteads at this time (Gailey 2006a). The results of the watching brief are indicative of this suggested settlement pattern within the wider vicinity during this period. Furthermore, the presence of Late Saxon/ Early Norman remains were revealed during archaeological monitoring 400m to the south of the site, (SMR 7145- WS7200, Fig. 1; Point 7), suggesting earlier dispersed activity within the immediate vicinity of the site indicating the possibility of continuity of settlement within the surrounding area.

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**Archaeology South-East**  
Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex ASE Project No. 2782

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	FWB07					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex: Horsham District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 0821 2574 (Centred)					
Geology	Weald Clay (British Geological Survey Sheet for England and Wales, Sheet 301 Haslemere)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2782					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan- 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2007, 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb -3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2007, 27 <sup>th</sup> March- 30 <sup>th</sup> March & 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2007 & 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisors	Diccon Hart, Greg Priestly-Bell, Michelle Collings, Deon Whittaker and Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client Barratt Homes. The work was undertaken between the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 and comprised four stages of monitoring visits. An area encompassing c.1.3ha was monitored, mainly comprising of a topsoil strip with some further reduced level stripping. The underlying natural was encountered between a maximum height of 26.38m OD falling to 25.86m OD.</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological monitoring revealed four linear features of which three were intercutting. Two of the linear features produced pottery dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD, one to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD and the other was undated. It is possible that all four relate to continued activity on the site. Sixteen discreet features were recorded comprising of a possible hearth, seven pits/possible pits and eight postholes. The discreet features were fairly widely dispersed across the site and it was not possible to establish if they were contemporary with each other and the linear features. Collectively the discreet features produced only a very small artefact assemblage. One posthole contained an abraded sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date along with early prehistoric flint and a possible pit/tree throw produced a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD date. The pottery assemblage recovered during the watching brief spans the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, the earliest piece and the later pieces could be resultant of various phases of manuring or similar activity and the pottery recovered indicates that the main phase of activity on the site dates to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD. A small assemblage of residual flint was recovered, mostly from the subsoil and was not considered diagnostic but included two possible Mesolithic pieces. Other isolated finds of Mesolithic date are recorded 600m to the east of the site further indicating the presence of early prehistoric activity in the area.</i></p>						



## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-48146**

### Project details

Project name            An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Short description of the project    *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client Barratt Homes. The work was undertaken between the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 and comprised four stages of monitoring visits. An area encompassing c.1.3ha was monitored, mainly comprising of a topsoil strip with some further reduced level stripping. The underlying natural was encountered between a maximum height of 26.38m OD falling to 25.86m OD.*

*Archaeological monitoring revealed four linear features of which three were intercutting. Two of the linear features produced pottery dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD, one to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD and the other was undated. It is possible that all four relate to continued activity on the site. Sixteen discreet features were recorded comprising of a possible hearth, seven pits/possible pits and eight postholes. The discreet features were fairly widely dispersed across the site and it was not possible to establish if they were contemporary with each other and the linear features. Collectively the discreet features produced only a very small artefact assemblage. One posthole contained an abraded sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date along with early prehistoric flint and a possible pit/tree throw produced a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD date. The pottery assemblage recovered during the watching brief spans the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, the earliest piece and the later pieces could be resultant of various phases of manuring or similar activity and the pottery recovered indicates that the main phase of activity on the site dates to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century AD. A small assemblage of residual flint was recovered, mostly from the subsoil and was not considered diagnostic but included two possible Mesolithic pieces. Other isolated finds of Mesolithic date are recorded 600m to the east of the site further indicating the presence of early prehistoric activity in the area.*

Project dates            Start: 29-01-2007 End: 22-05-2008

Previous/future work    Not known / No

Type of project        Field evaluation

Site status            Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use    Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type        RT Medieval

Monument type        RT Medieval

Monument type	RT Medieval
Monument type	SN Early Medieval
Significant Finds	NT Medieval
Significant Finds	CL Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM BILLINGSHURST Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex
Postcode	RH20 2
Study area	12764.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 508214 125745 50.8923568257 0.144735165294 50 53 32 N 000 08 41 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.86m Max: 26.38m

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#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design	CgMs Consulting

originator

Project director/manager JON SYGRAVE

Project supervisor Michelle Collings

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient Horsham Museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient Horsham Museum

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets','Text','Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Horsham Museum

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Description	Grey literature unpublished client report, including site and planning background, archaeological background, methodology and results.

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Entered by	Michelle Collings (tcrnmlc@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 September 2008

**APPENDIX 1**

### List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
100	Layer	Topsoil	Entire site	Entire site	0.30m
101	Layer	Subsoil, Similar to topsoil	Entire site	Entire site	0.15m
102	Fill	Fill of [103] posthole	0.35m	0.25m	0.15m
103	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.35m	0.25m	0.15m
104	Fill	Fill of [105] ditch terminus, Feature D	1.00m section	0.50m	0.10m
105	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus, Feature D	1.00m section	0.50m	0.10m
106	Fill	Fill of [107] ditch, Feature A	1.50m section	0.73m	0.20m
107	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	1.50m section	0.73m	0.20m
108	Fill	Fill of [109] ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	0.93m	0.22m
109	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	0.93m	0.22m
110	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.38m diameter	NA	0.12m
111	Fill	Fill of [110] posthole	0.38m diameter	NA	0.12m
112	Fill	Fill of [113] posthole	0.20m diameter	NA	60mm
113	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.20m diameter	NA	60mm
114	Fill	Fill of [115] ditch , Feature A	1.50m section	0.70m	0.13m
115	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	1.50m section	0.70m	0.13m
116	Fill	Fill of [117] posthole	0.40m	0.27m	0.15m
117	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.40m	0.27m	0.15m
118	Fill	Fill of [119] posthole	0.60m	0.46m	0.11m
119	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.60m	0.46m	0.11m
120	Fill	Fill of [121] gully, Feature C	1.20m section	0.40m	0.15
121	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.20m section	0.40m	0.15
122	Fill	Fill of [123] ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	0.60m	0.77m
123	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B In intersection with Feature A	1.00m section	0.60m	0.77m
124	Fill	Fill of [125] ditch, Feature A	1.00m section	0.58m	0.14m
125	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A In intersection with Feature B	1.00m section	0.35m	0.14m
126	Fill	Fill of [127] ditch, Feature A	1.00m section	0.35m	0.14m
127	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A In intersection with Feature C	1.00m section	0.35m	0.14m

**Archaeology South-East**  
Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex ASE Project No. 2782

128	Fill	Fill of [129] gully, Feature C	0.70m section	0.30m	0.16m
129	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C In intersection with Feature A	0.70m section	0.30m	0.16m
130	Fill	Burnt Fill of [131] pit	0.60m	0.45m	0.10m
131	Cut	Cut of shallow pit	0.60m	0.45m	0.10m
132	Fill	Fill of [133] ditch, Feature A	1.50m section	0.55m	0.17m
133	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	1.50m section	0.55m	0.17m
134	Fill	Fill of [135] ditch, Feature A	1.00m section	0.60m	0.20m
135	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	1.00m section	0.60m	0.20m
136	Cut	Cut of possible Hearth	1.34m diameter	NA	50mm
137	Fill	Upper Fill of [136] possible Hearth	1.34m diameter	NA	50mm
138	Fill	Lower fill of [136] possible Hearth	1.34m diameter	NA	50mm
139	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.33m	0.25m	0.15m
140	Fill	Fill of [139] posthole	0.33m	0.25m	0.15m
141	Fill	Fill of [142] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.20m
142	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.20m
143	Fill	Fill of [144] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.80m	0.14m
144	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.80m	0.14m
145	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.27m diameter	NA	0.18m
146	Fill	Fill of [145] posthole	0.27m diameter	NA	0.18m
147	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.20m
148	Fill	Fill of [147] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.20m
149	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.16m
150	Fill	Fill of [149] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.16m
151	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.20m diameter	NA	0.15m
152	Fill	Fill of [151] posthole	0.20m diameter	NA	0.15m
153	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.12m
154	Fill	Fill of [153] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.12m
155	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	1.00m	0.10m
156	Fill	Fill of [155] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	1.00m	0.10m

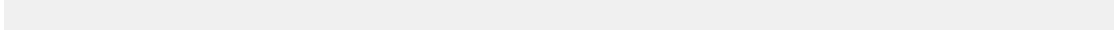
**Archaeology South-East**  
Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex ASE Project No. 2782

157	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.80m	0.16m
158	Fill	Fill of [157] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.80m	0.16m
159	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.15m
160	Fill	Fill of [159] ditch, Feature A	2.50m section	0.70m	0.15m
161	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature A (not complete section)	0.45m	0.30m	80mm
162	Fill	Burnt fill of [161] ditch, Feature A	0.45m	0.30m	80mm
163	Cut	Cut of modern drainage gully	1.00m section of 25m+ drainage gully	0.20m	0.40m
164	Fill	Fill of [163] modern drainage gully	1.00m section of 25m+ drainage gully	0.20m	0.40m
165	Cut	Cut of pit/ tree throw	1.20m	0.60m	0.17m
166	Fill	Fill of [165] pit/ tree throw	1.20m	0.60m	0.17m
167	Layer	Made Ground to North of site	32m	5.20m	Not Excavated
168	Cut	Cut of pit/ tree throw	0.74m	0.56m	0.20m
169	Fill	Lower fill of [168] pit/ tree throw	0.74m	0.56m	0.11m
170	Fill	Upper fill of [168] pit/ tree throw	0.74m	0.56m	0.14m
171	Cut	Cut of oval pit	1.20m	0.45m	0.25m
172	Fill	Fill of [171] oval pit	1.20m	0.45m	0.25m
173	Cut	Cut of possible pit	0.41m	0.49m	0.10m
174	Fill	Lower fill of [173] possible pit	0.41m	0.49m	50mm
175	Fill	Upper fill of [173] possible pit	0.41m	0.49m	60mm
176	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	1.06m	0.22m
177	Fill	Fill of [176] ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	1.06m	0.22m
178	Cut	Cut of pit	1.05m	0.67m	0.13m
179	Fill	Fill of [178] pit	1.05m	0.67m	0.13m
180	Cut	Cut of oval pit	1.30m	0.70m	0.10m
181	Fill	Fill of [180] oval pit	1.30m	0.70m	0.10m
182	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.50m	0.11m
183	Fill	Fill of [182] gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.50m	0.11m
184	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	1.40m	0.30m
185	Fill	Fill of [184] ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	1.40m	0.30m
186	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	1.10m	0.35m
187	Fill	Fill of [186], Feature B	1.00m	1.10m	0.35m

**Archaeology South-East**  
Land at Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex ASE Project No. 2782

			section		
188	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.32m	60mm
189	Fill	Fill of [188], Feature C	1.00m section	0.32m	60mm
190	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.90m	0.15m
191	Fill	Fill of [190], Feature C	1.00m section	0.90m	0.15m
192	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.26m	0.10m
193	Fill	Fill of [192], Feature C	1.00m section	0.26m	0.10m
194	Cut	Cut of gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.50m	0.22m
195	Fill	Fill of [194] gully, Feature C	1.00m section	0.50m	0.22m
196	Cut	Cut of ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	0.80m	0.27m
197	Fill	Fill of [196] ditch, Feature B	1.00m section	0.80m	0.27m
198	Deposit	Natural	Entire site	Entire site	NA





28

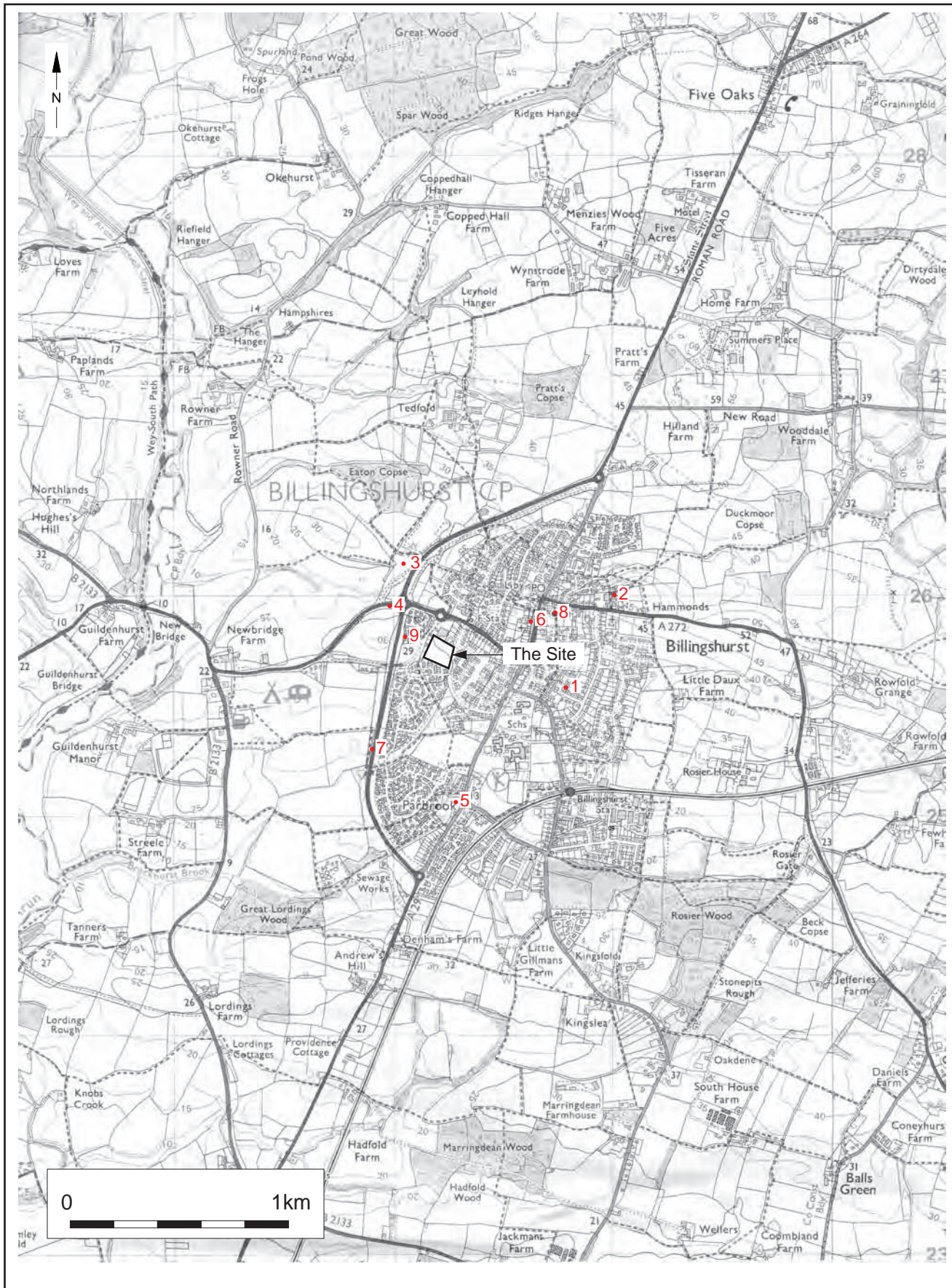
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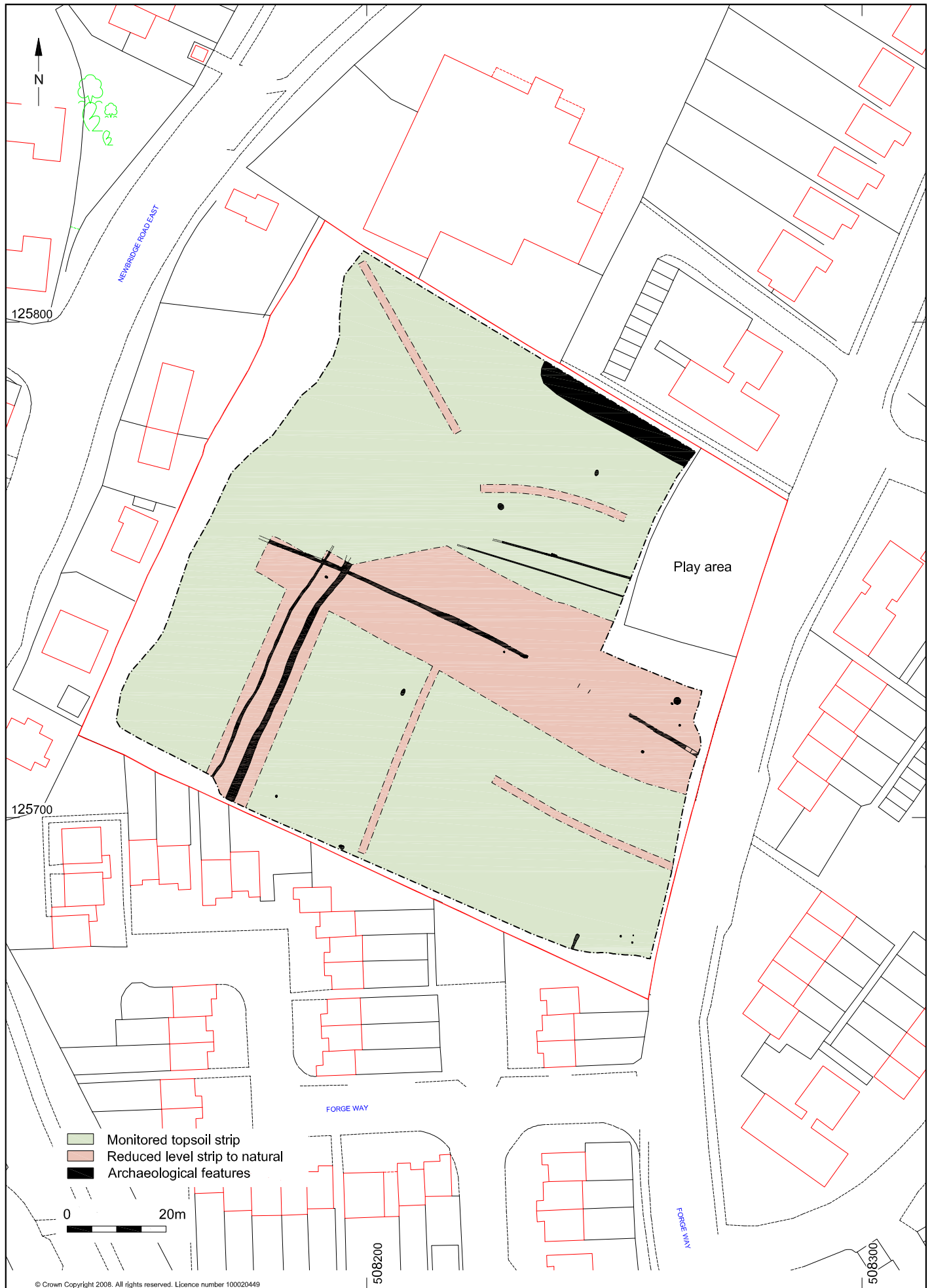
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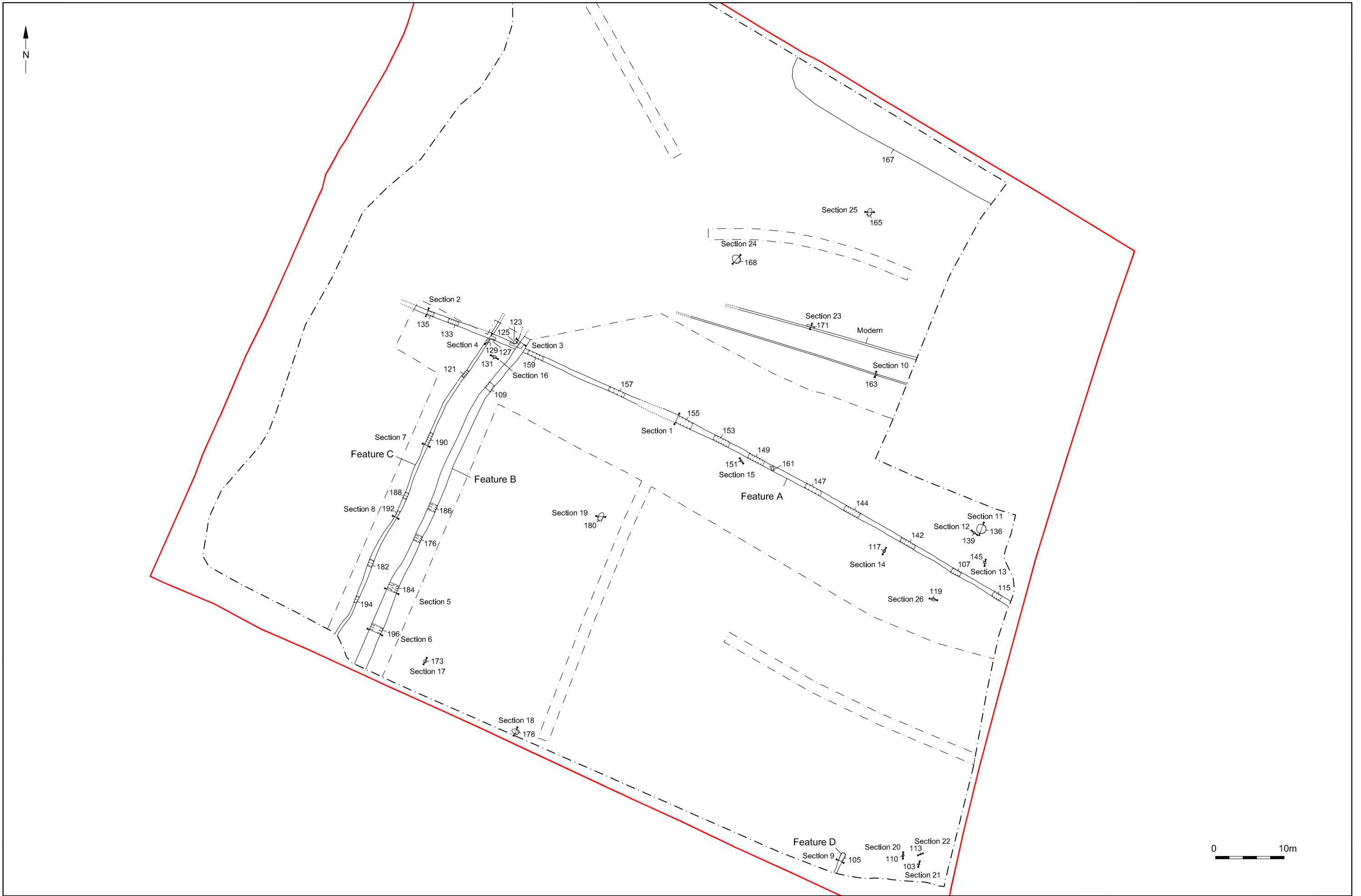
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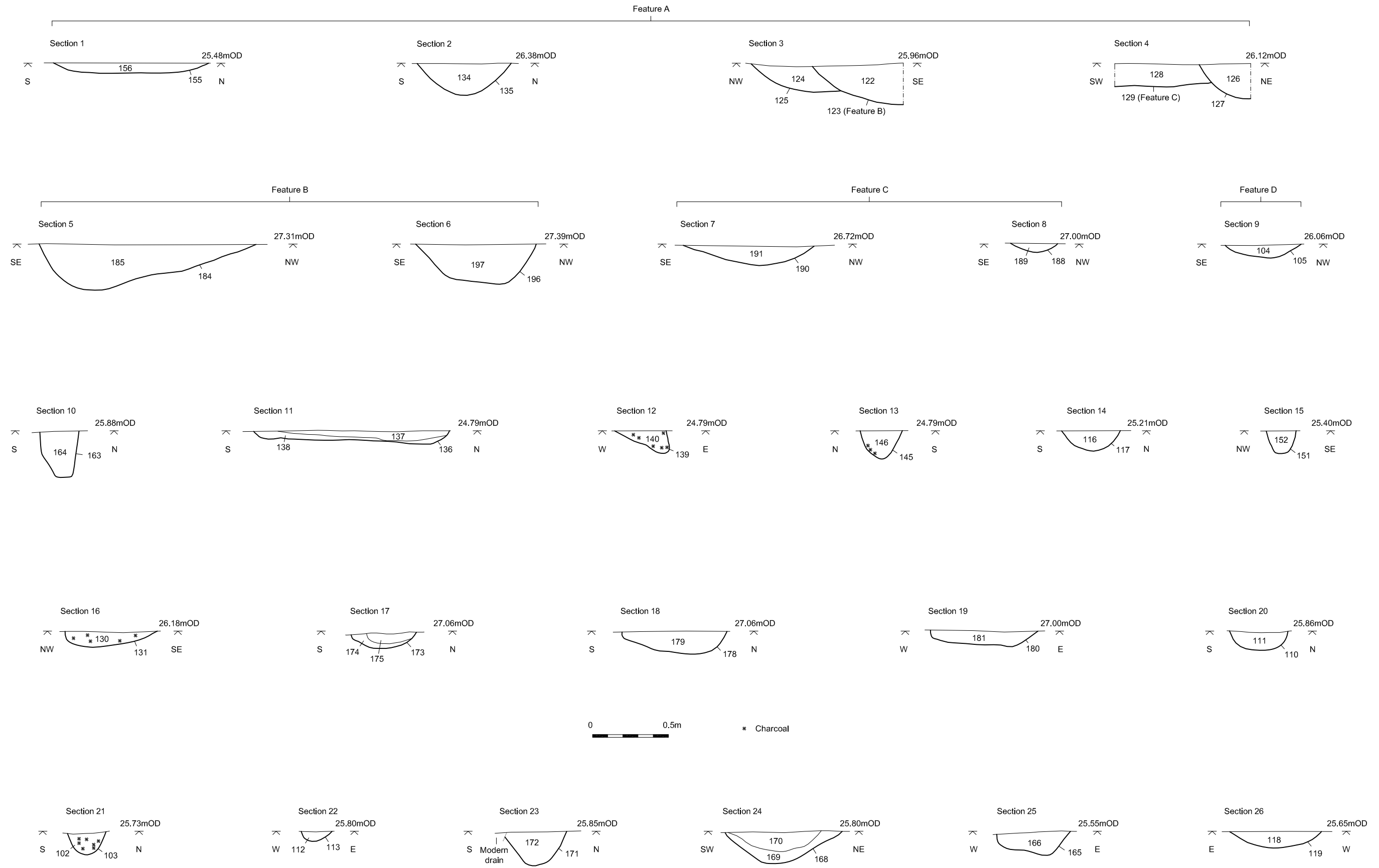
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Project Ref: 2782	Sept 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008140	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Forge Way, Billingshurst		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 2782	Sept 2008	Plan showing monitored areas and archaeological features		
Report Ref: 2008140	Drawn by: JLR			





Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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