

**Land to the rear of The Brading Experience
Brading High Street
Isle of Wight**

NGR: SZ 6066 8724

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**Project No. 4351
Site Code: BEB 10**

ASE Report No. 2010067



**Kathryn Grant, MSc, AIFA
With contributions by
Elke Raemen, Gemma Ayton, Jim Stevenson,
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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
website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk**

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East to the rear of The Brading Experience, Brading High Street, Isle of Wight between 10th and 12st May 2010 for Aceport Property Limited.

Three archaeological trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 43m in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. A single mid 16th to mid 17th century pit was encountered in Trench 1 and post-medieval stratigraphy and surviving layers of buried Neolithic/Early Bronze Age soil containing organic materials and worked flints were recorded in all trenches. All of the trenches revealed a notable dearth of any medieval horizon though medieval finds were founds residually.

Modern intrusion was only found in the eastern end of Trench 3 where two service pipes were present. The natural clay geology was encountered at a maximum height of 1.35m below ground level at 6.9m AOD in the north of the site, falling away sharply to a depth of 2.4m at 2.63m AOD to the south.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Aceport Property Limited on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment works on land to the rear of The Brading Experience, Brading High Street, Isle of Wight, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (NGR: 6066 8724; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which three trial trenches were investigated. The trenches measured a cumulative length of 43m with a width of 1.8m

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is bound to the north by Quay Lane, to the east by domestic properties, to the south by domestic properties and a wooded area, and to the west by Brading High Street. The settlement of Brading lies between the Downs and the Eastern Yar River, which occupies a gap in the East Wight Chalk Ridge.

1.2.1 The majority of the site is currently used for car parking and hard standing.

1.2.3 According to Sheet 344 and 345 of the British Geological Survey (BGS 1996), the site lies on London Clay and Bagshot Beds.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Due to the archaeological potential of the site an archaeological field evaluation was recommended prior to commencement of proposed development works.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2010) was submitted and approved by Owen Cambridge, County Archaeologist of The Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Environment Service. The WSI followed a written brief by Owen Cambridge. The WSI outlined the strategy for the fieldwork and reporting which has been followed throughout the work and in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The evaluation set out to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened would be studied, and attention would be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).

1.5 Scope of the Report

- 1.5.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land to the rear of The Brading Experience on the Isle of Wight between the 10th and 12th of May 2010.
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist/Field Officer) with the assistance of Chris Russel. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The site of the proposed development is situated within an area known to contain archaeological remains. Study of the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that prehistoric, medieval and post medieval remains may exist on or near the site. The land immediately adjacent to the site was the subject of a previous archaeological watching brief (Isle of Wight County HER; KTAS report no.78 June 2005) and is recognised by English Heritage as a Site of High Archaeological Potential.
- 2.1.2 A summary of the archaeological background of the area has been included below and is described by period. This information was largely drawn from *Parishes: Brading* (1912) and Archaeological Data Services (ADS). The information has therefore been reproduced with all due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age burial mound and a prehistoric or Romano-British field system lie within 1km to the west of the development site (Scheduled Ancient Monuments 30279 and 22040 respectively). The Bronze Age bowl barrow (ADS Record ID - NMR_NATINV-461153) known as The Devil's Punchbowl is located on Nunwell Down. The mound was excavated during the 19th century and the remains of a child and a hammer head deer antler were found. The field system is located on Brading Down, overlooking the floodplain of the River Yar (ADS Record ID - NMR_NATINV-461226). Extending for approximately 800m across the south and south east facing slopes of the Down, the field system follows a NNE to SSW alignment, generally orientated at right angles to the slope. The field system includes both long, narrow rectangular enclosures and smaller square examples ranging from 0.08ha to 0.7ha in area. The field boundaries are represented by lynchets up to 2m in height and 2m in width. A Bronze Age hoard comprising bracelets and a spearhead was also found c1830 in Brading (ADS Record ID - NMR_NATINV-461916).

2.3 Roman AD 43 – 410

- 2.3.1 Brading Roman Villa, c. 1km south of the site (SMRSAM 30278), is situated between the lower slopes of Brading Downs and the floodplain of the River

Yar, overlooking the former coastal inlet at Brading Haven. Excavations have revealed evidence of occupation between the second and fourth centuries AD. Numerous finds such as high quality mosaic floors, painted wall plaster and window glass further indicate the high status of the villa, which perhaps controlled Brading Haven, likely to have been an important seaport at this time.

2.4 Early Medieval AD 410 - 1066

2.4.1 During the early medieval period, higher sea levels covered 700 acres of what is now fertile meadowland between the town and sea, allowed Brading to remain an important island port after Roman times. It is possible that St Wilfred established the first island church here in 7th century. The ancient name of *Bredynge* from which “Brading” is derived probably meant “the people living by the ridge of the downs “ and dates from at least 683, although the history of the settlement goes back much further.

2.5 Late Medieval AD 1066 – 1539

2.5.1 Brading grew and prospered during medieval times and into the Elizabethan era as a small commercial port with a thriving market, and an economy based on agricultural produce, fish, oysters, beer, coal and stone amongst other things (Brading Town Council 2010). In 1285, Edward I granted a market to be held at Brading. This was still a regular event until 1835. The linear form of the town centre along the High Street took shape during this period, and in the surrounding farms and fields corn was grown and cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry were reared, as well as activities such as quarrying, forestry, brewing, salt-making and woollen textile weaving (Brading Town Council 2010). In the reign of Henry II, Brading’s status as a ‘town’ was confirmed by the overlord of the Manor of Whitefield

2.5.2 The haven level is said to have been first reclaimed from the sea by William Russell, an early lord of the manor of Yaverland, who at the end of the 13th century made the causeway across the marsh to his manor of Yaverland.

2.5.3 The 12th century Church of St. Mary stands on high ground at the head of the main street (ADS Record ID - NMR_NATINV-461876) to the north of the proposed site and Quay Lane.

2.6 Post Medieval 1539 – 1900

2.6.1 The oldest part of the town is the High Street on the slope of the hill running south from the church to the Bull Ring; and many houses here are half-timbered and date from the 16th – 17th centuries. In 1562 George Oglander of Nunwell and German Richards of Yaverland reclaimed the north marsh and some of the adjoining land. Thirty-two years later Edward Richards added the Mill Marsh to the cultivated land. In 1616 Henry Gibb of the king’s bedchamber obtained a grant of ‘lands called Brading, Isle of Wight, which have been much overflowed by the sea and are to be enclosed at his expense.’ He sold this right to Sir Bevis Thelwall, who, assisted by Sir Hugh Middleton of New River fame, made an embankment right across the mouth of the haven in 1620. Ten years later a spring tide and storm breached the bank and once more reduced the haven to a tidal estuary. An attempt was

again made in 1699, but nothing further was done till Jabez Balfour took the matter in hand in 1877, completing the present embankment in 1880; the railway opened for traffic in 1882.

2.7 Listed and Historic Structures

2.7.1 The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Records (HER) and the Isle of Wight Historic Buildings Record records a number of entries within c.250m of the proposed development site. Whilst the majority of these relate to the 12th-century Church of St Mary (Grade I) and associated tombs and monuments located slightly north of the site, 66 High Street (Grade II) lies immediately adjacent to the site boundary. The existence of masonry within the garden of 65 High Street may relate to the remains of a sea wall alluded to in the memoirs of Sir John Oglander, a civil servant involved in administering the Isle of Wight in the first half of the 17th century (SMR No. 4005).

2.8 Recent Archaeological Investigations

2.8.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East in 2008 to the rear of 67-68 High Street (NGR 460662 871080), located to the south of the proposed site. The excavations revealed a 13th-14th century north-south ditch, post-medieval garden features and undated wall foundations and pits (ASE 2008). Observations on initial geotechnical investigations within the site by Owen Cambridge, Isle of Wight Council revealed stratified deposits within a possible channel or ditch containing pottery sherds dating from the Roman period to the 18th-century, although the majority was of 13th-century date (Owen Cambridge, *pers. comm.* and SMR No. 6157).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods Employed

- 3.1.1 The evaluation work comprised three archaeological trenches (with lengths of 10m, 15m and 18m, all with a width of 1.8m) which were excavated under constant archaeological supervision to a cumulative length of 43m using an 13 tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The trenches were positioned across the development area so as to ensure that an optimum sample of the area was investigated (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The locations of potential below-ground services were scanned and located using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and highlighted with yellow spray-paint.
- 3.1.3 Prior to excavation, the area was secured using *Heras* type fencing. After excavation, hazard tape was used around the trenches to warn the public of deep excavations.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were located approximately according to the proposed trench location plan, flexibility for the trench locations having been approved in the case of unexpected onsite constraints.
- 3.1.5 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned, both by eye and metal detector, for the presence of unstratified artefacts which were then recovered and bagged for dating and analysis.
- 3.1.6 The trenches were planned on permatrace at a scale of 1:20. The level (heights above ordnance datum) at each end of the trenches was established using a Level. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were planned by hand and sections were drawn at 1:10. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) single-lens reflex (SLR) photographic record of all archaeological features. Samples of archaeological deposits were collected for environmental processing.
- 3.1.7 Where only simple stratigraphic sequences were revealed, representative sections (c.1.0m wide) at the end of each trench were drawn. Each trench was fully recorded on trial trench record sheets and ASE context sheets. Each context was given a unique identity denoted by the prefixed trench number.
- 3.1.8 On completion of all excavation and recording, the consulting archaeologist, Owen Cambridge, (Isle of Wight County Council) was informed. Permission was obtained to begin the reinstatement of trenches.

3.2 Onsite Constraints

3.2.1 Due to the considerable depth of overburden material encountered during the excavations (up to 2.4m), it was necessary to step the trenches in order to establish the depth of the undisturbed natural horizon. This was to ensure that overlying deposits were stable and that safe access into and out of the trench was available where necessary. The depth of deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 meant that safe access into and out of the trench was not possible and therefore all recording was carried out from the top of the trench.

3.2.4 Due to the level of modern rubbish, scrap metal and made ground at the site a full metal detecting survey was compromised. However, all clear archaeological horizons and features were scanned for the presence of artefacts.

3.3 The Archive

3.3.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

Number of Trenches	3
Number of Contexts	23
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 Sheet
Bulk Samples	5 (9 Buckets)
Photographs	1 Black and White film, 1 Colour film & 70 digital photographs
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 Only Trench 1 contained any archaeological feature, although all trenches revealed interesting stratigraphic layers of naturally accumulated and deliberately deposited make-up/made ground.
- 4.1.2 Twenty-three contexts were recorded during the archaeological evaluation. These have been tabulated and summarised below by trench.
- 4.1.3 Natural clay geology was encountered at a maximum height of 1.35 m below ground level at 6.90m AOD in the north of the site, falling away fairly steeply to a depth of 2.40m at 2.63m AOD in the south.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 4.2.1 Trench 1, measuring 10m north-south with a maximum depth of 1.7m in the south, was located on hard-standing between two buildings towards the northern edge of the site. A single archaeological pit was recorded in this trench. The eight recorded contexts from this trench are summarised below.

4.2.1

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	0.05m	7.15 – 8.25
1/002	Layer	Made-up under 1/001	0.3m	-
1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.4m-0.6m	-
1/004	Layer	Buried Soil	0.4m-0.6m	-
1/005	Layer	Natural Interface	0.15m-0.35m	-
1/006	Fill	Single fill of pit 1/007	0.1m	-
1/007	Cut	Cut for Pit	-	6.02 (top)
1/008	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	5.89 – 6.9

Table 2: List of contexts for Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural clay geology [1/008] was encountered at 1.35m below ground level in the north of the trench at 6.9m AOD falling away to 1.7m below ground level in the south of the trench at 5.89m. Above the natural was a thin layer/interface [1/005] of light brownish yellow weathered clay/dirty natural.

A small, shallow, sub-circular pit [1/007] was cut into layer [1/005] at a depth of c.1.35m below the surface. This pit was filled with mid to dark bluish grey firm clay [1/006] which contained occasional sub-angular flint, chalk, oyster shells, animal bone fragments, pottery sherds, slate and brick fragments, slag, peg tiles and a fragment of preserved timber. This fill was sampled <1> for environmental processing (see 6.0). The majority of the finds from this feature were dated to the mid 16th to mid 17th century with the exception of a single residual 11th – 12th century pottery sherd.

Sealing the pit was a layer of mid brownish bluish grey peaty clay buried soil [1/004] with occasional chalk flecks and rare fragments of charcoal. This layer was overlain by a layer of dark brownish grey made ground [1/003] containing frequent chalk flecks, frequent 19th century building material and occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying this layer was modern make-up [1/002] and a thin layer of Tarmac [1/001].

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 2, measuring 15m northwest-southeast with a maximum depth of 2.4m, was located on hard-standing to the south of Trench 1 to the east of The Brading Experience and The Bugle Inn. No archaeological features were encountered within the trench. The nine recorded contexts are summarised below.

4.3.1

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	0.05m	5.18 – 5.88
2/002	Layer	Made-up under 2/001	0.25m	-
2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.9m-1.1m	-
2/004	Layer	Made ground	0.4m-0.5m	-
2/005	Layer	Buried Soil	0.4m-0.5m	-
2/006	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	2.78 – 3.85
2/007	Deposit	Chalk Lens	0.1m	c.4.68
2/008	Fill	Cut for wall footing?	-	-
2/009	Cut	Possible wall	-	c.4.68

Table 3: List of contexts for Trench 2

4.3.2 Summary of Contexts

The natural clay geology [2/006] was encountered at 2.2m the below ground level in the northwest of the trench at 3.85m AOD falling away to 2.4m below ground level in the southeast of the trench at c.2.78m. Above the natural was a buried soil [2/005] consisting of fairly sterile light brownish grey mottled clay, which was sampled <5> for environmental processing (see 6.0). Context [2/005] was overlain by dark grey peaty clay made ground [2/004] which contained frequent inclusions of building materials, animal bone fragments, glass, chalk flecks and pottery sherds of post-medieval date. Context [2/004] was sampled <4> for environmental processing (see 6.0).

A thin lens of loose chalk [2/007] was encountered sporadically at c.4.68m AOD. This was located in mostly in the north of the trench and was not observed beyond the mid-way point. It may be associated with a possible wall footing [2/008]/[2/009] uncovered at the same level in the north-western corner on the trench. This comprised of what appeared to be sandstone materials, but due to the depth and loose nature of the surrounding overburden, it was not possible to record this in any further detail.

The chalk lens and possible wall footing was overlain by a layer of dark brownish grey made ground [2/003] containing frequent chalk flecks, frequent building materials and rare charcoal flecks. Overlying this layer was a further

layer of modern make-up [2/002] which was covered by a thin layer of Tarmac [2/001].

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

4.4.1 Trench 3, measuring 18m on a rough east-west alignment with a maximum depth of 2.4m, was located east of Trench 2 in the central part of the hard-standing car park. No archaeological features were encountered within the trench. The six recorded contexts are summarised below. The layers revealed within this trench closely resemble those in Trench 2. Excavation in the eastern end of this trench revealed two modern service pipes at a depth of c.1m, which meant that the excavations could not extend beyond 1.2m at this end. The trench was therefore left at 1.2m in the eastern end and was then taken deeper to reveal the undisturbed natural horizon in the west and extended as agreed with the County Archaeologist.

4.4.1

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	0.05m	4.77 – 4.96
3/002	Layer	Made-up under 2/001	0.25m	-
3/003	Layer	Made ground	0.9m-1.1m	-
3/004	Layer	Made ground	0.4m-0.5m	-
3/005	Layer	Buried Soil	0.4m-0.5m	-
3/006	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	2.63 – 2.72

Table 4: List of contexts for Trench 3

4.4.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural clay geology [3/006] was encountered at 2.3m the below ground level in the middle of the trench at 2.72m AOD falling away to 2.4m below ground level in the west of the trench at c.2.63m. Above the natural was a buried soil [3/005] consisting of light brownish grey mottled clay [3/005] which was fairly sterile but contained a few shells and some Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints. [3/005] was overlain by dark grey peaty clay made ground [3/004] which contained frequent inclusions of building materials, animal bone fragments, glass, chalk flecks and pottery sherds of 18th – 19th century date. Context [3/004] was sampled <2> for environmental processing (see section 6.0 of this report for more details). Context [3/004] was overlain by a layer of dark brownish grey silty clay made ground [3/003] containing frequent chalk flecks, frequent building materials and rare charcoal flecks. Overlying this layer was a layer of modern make-up [3/002] which was covered by a thin layer of Tarmac [3/001].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. A summary of the finds is given in the appendix of the report.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery covering a wide chronological range. On the whole all of the material is in good fresh condition suggesting it has not been subjected to repeated redeposition even if some is clearly residual. The earliest sherd is from a reduced low/medium fired shell and sand tempered cooking pot with simple out-turned rim of 11th- to 12th- century date. The piece is residual in [1/006]. The only other medieval sherd from the site was residual in [3/004] and consists of an oxidised medium fired rod handle from a green glazed jug tempered with fine sand with occasional iron oxide inclusions.

5.2.2 The early post-medieval period is represented by the small group from [1/006]. With the exception of the residual medieval sherd already mentioned this assemblage is totally composed of fine sandy post-medieval redwares of probable mid 16th- to mid 17th- century date. The rims of a pipkin and a jar/pipkin are present along with the flared base of a probable candlestick.

5.2.3 The late post-medieval period is represented by two contexts. The earliest of these is from [3/004] where, apart from the residual medieval sherd, the group is likely to date between 1760 and 1810. This assemblage is dominated by seven sherds (158g) of creamware, representing at least one serving dish and tea bowl. The only other contemporary sherd is from a buff sandy earthenware dish of 18th- to 19th- century type. The only other context to produce pottery was [1/003] which yielded a single sherd from an English porcelain saucer of 19th- century date.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of 12 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 3156g were recovered from two contexts on site.

5.3.2 Context [1/003] contained a single incomplete brick with extensive vitrification of upper surface, stretcher and headers. The brick measured 49mm in thickness by 113mm breadth, and was unfrogged with a slight indented margin was visible, the hard firing of the brick meant that only basic observations on the fabric as having some silt streaking and coarse iron rich inclusions could be made. The extensive vitrification probably originates from the addition of salt to the kiln during the firing process. The brick is most likely of 19th century date, from the gothic revival of the earlier medieval practice of using vitrified headers for diaper work.

5.3.3 Context [1/006] contained brick fragments in three different fabrics. Brick in an orange fine sandy fabric with sparse very coarse iron rich black inclusions with sparse to moderate fine quartz, was represented by four fragments. One

brick had a heat affected blackened header and all bricks were unfrogged, a likely 16th to 18th century date is likely for brick in fabric B1. Brick fabric B3 is an orange sandy fabric with sparse very coarse rounded rose quartz and fine cream silt streaks. A single fragment of brick in fabric B3 is also of probable 16th to 18th century date. Two abraded fragments of brick in fabric B2, a fine pale brownish orange silty fabric with moderate coarse silt inclusions could not be dated. Four fragments of peg tile were also recovered from context [1/006], some had reduced cores and all were in an orange fabric with moderate fine quartz and sparse fine voids and sparse coarse black iron rich inclusions. The fragments are probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date, 15th to 17th century.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Eight fragments were recovered from [3/004], all from the same green glass wine bottle and including conjoining pieces. The bottle is of late 18th- to 19th-century date.

5.5 The Flint by Jim Stevenson

- 5.5.1 Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from context [3/005]. Two pieces were undiagnostic struck flakes, one with white patination, suggesting that it came from chalk downland. One tool was present in the small assemblage, an end scraper of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

5.6 The Stone by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 A small assemblage of stone was recovered from [1/006], dated to the mid 16th to mid 17th century. The material includes a weathered piece (831g) of notably glauconitic greensand (probably Upper Greensand) as well as four pieces of slate. Two of these are quite typical of West Country types and perhaps indicate trade routes with the mainland at this time, though the provenance of the other two, which are less finely laminated and more matt-surfaced, is less certain.

5.7 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Context [1/006] produced three pieces of iron slag which are undiagnostic of process. All are quite dense with some signs of having had molten flow on their upper surfaces, but they could derive from either smelting or, perhaps more likely, smithing.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.8.1 The animal bone assemblage contains 7 fragments recovered from 3 contexts. Context [1/006] produced a distal fragment from a cattle (*Bos taurus*) tibia. Context [3/004] produced a complete left dog (*Canis familiaris*) tibia and three small, unidentifiable fragments. Context [1/006] produced a fragment from the shaft of a cattle metatarsal and a cattle-sized long-bone fragment. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology has been noted.

5.9 The Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 An upper valve fragment from an oyster shell was recovered from [1/006]. Context [3/004] contained a land snail fragment.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Methodology

- 6.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken during archaeological work at the site to systematically recover environmental remains such as botanical remains, fauna and mollusca. Samples were taken from each of the three trenches; from the fill [1/006] of pit [1/007] in Trench 1 and from made ground [2/004] and [3/004] and buried soil deposits [2/005] and [3/005] in Trenches 2 and 3. Fragments of uncharred wood were hand collected from context [1/006].
- 6.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (4mm and 2mm) to aid the sorting process and environmental and artefact remains were removed (Table 6 – see Appendix). Flots were scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x7-45 and environmental remains were recorded (Table 7 – see Appendix). Preliminary identifications have been given for the macrobotanicals through comparison with modern reference material at University College London and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, NIAB 2004). Faunal remains have been incorporated into the finds report (see above).

6.2 Results

- 6.2.1 Sample <1>, [1/006] from pit feature [1/007] produced a small amount of wood charcoal, faunal remains and oyster shell. The flot from this sample was dominated by humic matter and small roots with occasional land snail shells. Small charcoal flecks and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were also recorded.
- 6.2.1 Small assemblages of charcoal, fauna, land snails and marine shells including oyster and cockle were noted in samples <2> and <3> from made ground deposits [3/004] and [2/004] and samples <4> and <5> from buried soil deposits [3/005] and [2/005]. Uncharred botanical remains including small roots were common in each of the flots although small charcoal flecks and macrobotanical remains (Cerealia in sample <2>; *Triticum* sp. and *Vicia* sp. in sample <4>) were also present.
- 6.2.3 Fragments of uncharred wood were recovered from sample <4>, [2/004]. These are from small unworked branches and twigs and are well preserved although no identifications have been given at this stage. The hand collected wood sample from context [1/006] is part of a larger timber. It displays no evidence for working; the wood is poorly preserved and slightly distorted through compression. Identifications could be obtained for the fragments from [2/004] however the wood in [1/006] may be too poorly preserved to identify.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims and objectives set-out in the WSI (ASE 2010) in that the nature and date of human activity on the site has been characterised and recorded.

7.1.2 Only one archaeological feature, in Trench 1, was recorded in the evaluation, a single pit of probable mid 16th to mid 17th century date.

7.2 Stratigraphy

7.2.1 Even with a scarcity of archaeological features evidenced within the sample trenches, the site has proved to be interesting stratigraphically. The excavations revealed a layer of potentially prehistoric buried soil overlying the undisturbed natural geology. This layer was dated by the worked flint inclusions which it was found to contain. This layer was certainly present in both Trenches 2 and 3 ([005]) and there is a possibility that the ambiguous interface layer [005] in the base of Trench 1 may also be a related context. Cutting into this layer in Trench 1 was a mid 16th to mid 17th century pit which was sealed by a layer of late 18th to early 19th century (more specifically 1760-1810) made ground ([004] in all trenches). This layer was later overlain by a secondary layer of made ground ([003] in all trenches), perhaps in the 19th century, which was more recently overlain by make-up ([002] in all trenches) and covered with Tarmac hard-standing ([001] in all trenches).

7.2.2 Although a couple of residual medieval pottery sherds of 11th to 12th century date were found during the excavations in Trenches 1 and 3, there is little surviving evidence of medieval occupation on the site. This is not to suggest that the site was not active during the medieval period, but there were little surviving archaeological remains within the sample trenches to demonstrate a patent presence.

7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 The evaluation at the proposed site to the rear of the Brading Experience has proved informative and has provided valuable archaeological information and raised some questions pertaining to the nature and date of human activity on the site. This may prove to be useful in our understanding of activity/occupation within a wider, more regional context.
- 7.4.2 The evaluation has provided evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of Early Neolithic / Late Bronze Age worked flints found within a surviving horizon of potentially undisturbed prehistoric buried soil.
- 7.4.3 The presence of the early post-medieval feature in Trench 1 suggests that further archaeological features may survive on the site. Obscurely, although medieval finds were retrieved from post-medieval layers at the site indicating medieval activity, no layers were specifically identified as distinctly medieval, indeed the stratigraphy clearly appears to show that late 18th to early 19th century made ground deposits directly overlie prehistoric horizons. The reasons for this are unclear, but may be the result of some 18th or 19th century activity which has resulted in the removal or disturbance of any possible medieval layers.

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URL: <http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42066#s1>

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Adam (Frampton Plant Hire Ltd).

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BEB 10					
Identification Name and Address	Brading Experience, Brading High Street					
County, District &/or Borough	Isle of Wight					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 6066 8724					
Geology	London Clay and Bagshot Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4351					
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. 10-05-10 – 12-05-10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA Neo/EBA Flints	IA	RB
	AS	MED Residual Pottery	PM 1 pit Mixed finds	Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East to the rear of The Brading Experience, Brading High Street, Isle of Wight between 10th and 12st May 2010 for Aceport Property Limited.</i></p> <p><i>Three archaeological trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 43m in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. A single mid 16th to mid 17th century pit was encountered in Trench 1 and post-medieval stratigraphy and surviving layers of buried Neolithic/Early Bronze Age soil containing organic materials and worked flints were recorded in all trenches. All of the trenches revealed a notable dearth of any medieval horizon though medieval finds were founds residually.</i></p> <p><i>Modern intrusion was only found in the eastern end of Trench 3 where two service pipes were present. The natural clay geology was encountered at a maximum height of 1.35 m below ground level at 6.9m AOD in the north of the site, falling away sharply to a depth of 2.4m at 2.63m AOD to the south.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-77911

Project details

Project name	Land to the rear of The Brading Experience
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East to the rear of The Brading Experience, Brading High Street, Isle of Wight between 10th and 12st May 2010 for Aceport Property Limited. Three archaeological trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 43m in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. A single mid 16th to mid 17th century pit was encountered in Trench 1 and post-medieval stratigraphy and surviving layers of buried Neolithic/Early Bronze Age soil containing organic materials and worked flints were recorded in all trenches. All of the trenches revealed a notable dearth of any medieval horizon though medieval finds were founds residually. Modern intrusion was only found in the eastern end of Trench 3 where two service pipes were present. The natural clay geology was encountered at a maximum height of 1.35m below ground level at 6.9m AOD in the north of the site, falling away sharply to a depth of 2.4m at 2.63m AOD to the south.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2010 End: 12-05-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BEB 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	HORIZON Post Medieval
Monument type	HORIZON Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINTS Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England
 Site location ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT BRADING The Brading Experience
 Postcode PO30 4
 Study area 80.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates SZ 4700 8810 50.6900721746 -1.3345505266 50 41 24 N 001 20 04 W
 Point
 Height OD / Min: 2.63m Max: 6.90m
 Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East
 Project brief originator Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service
 Project design originator Archaeology South-East
 Project director/manager Andy Leonard
 Project supervisor Kathryn Grant
 Type of sponsor/funding body private client
 Name of sponsor/funding body Aceport Property Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient local museum
 Physical Archive ID BEB 10
 Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
 Digital Archive recipient Local Museum
 Digital Archive ID BEB 10

Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEB 10
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Grant, K
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2010067
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	bound grey lit report

Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	28 May 2010

APPENDIX

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CB M	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shel l	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FC F	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Sla g	Wt (g)	Glas s	Wt (g)	Woo d	Wt (g)
1/003	1	8	1	1830																
1/006	5	168	13	1374	3	212	1	4			1	82	5	1208	3	100			14	88
3/004	9	322			4	20	1	<2									8	168		
3/005									3	38	1	28								

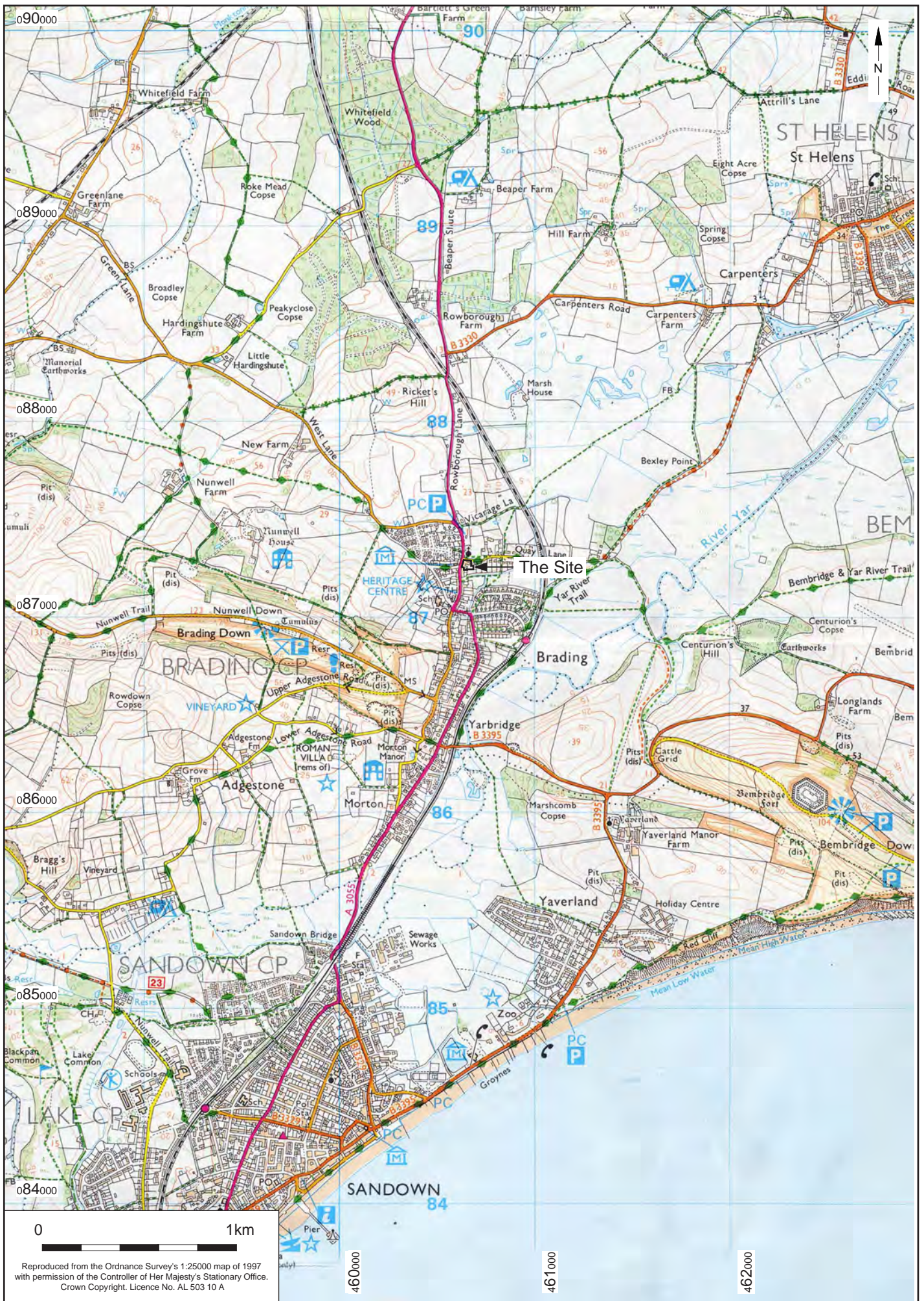
Quantification of finds

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/006	fill of pit [1/007]	20	*	1			*	26	*	24			SLATE*/6 POT*/8
2	3/004	made ground	20			**	2	*	8			*	1	CERAMIC*/4 GLASS*/24 CBM*/84
3	3/005	buried soil beneath [3/004]	20	*	1	**	1					*	1	
4	2/004	made ground	10	*	1	*	2			*	38			SLAG*/8 GLASS*/1 POT*/8
5	2/005	buried soil beneath [2/004]	20			*	1							FCF*/34

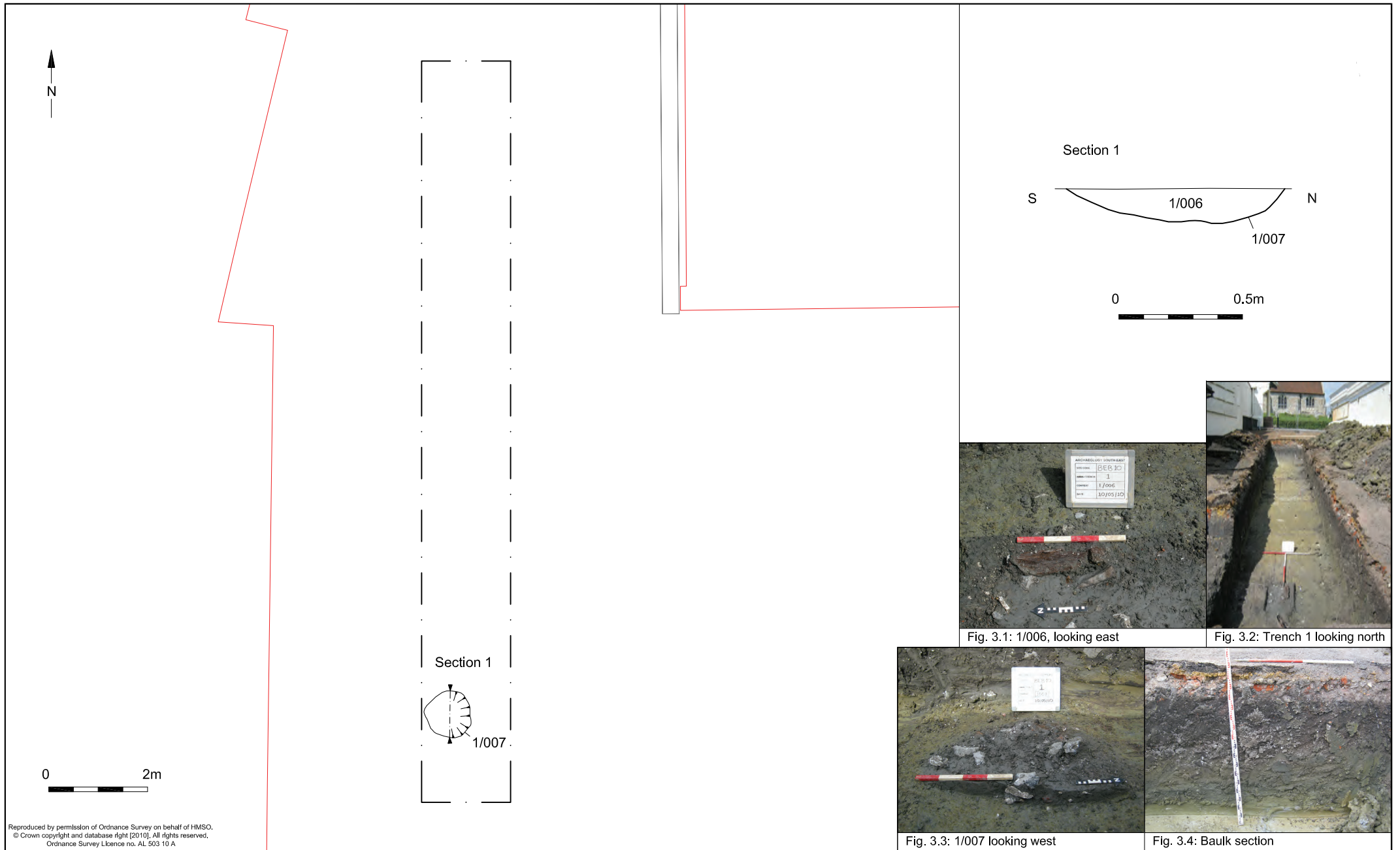
Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51-250, **** = >250)**

Sample Number	Context	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	Uncharred composition	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Uncharred wood	Land Snail Shells
1	1/006	<5	80	5	humic matter and small roots		*	**	*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	++		*
2	3/004	30	70	<5	humic matter and small roots			**	1	Cerealia indet.	+		**
3	3/005	10	95		humic matter			**					*
4	2/004	10	85		humic matter and wood flecks			*	*	<i>Triticum</i> sp. & cf. <i>Vicia</i> sp.	++	*	
5	2/005	25	95		humic matter			**					

Flot Quantification (*=1-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)**



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Project Ref: 4351	May 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010067	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		The Experience, Brading	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4351	May 2010	Trench 1: Plans, Sections and Photos	
Report Ref: 2010067	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 4.1: Trench 2, looking south



Fig. 4.2: Trench 2 baulk section

© Archaeology South-East		The Experience, Brading	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4351	May 2010	Trench 2 - photos	
Report Ref: 2010067	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 5.1: Trench 3, looking east



Fig. 5.2: Trench 3, baulk section

© Archaeology South-East		The Experience, Brading	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4351	May 2010	Trench 3 - photos	
Report Ref: 2010067	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
Web: 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

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

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