

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at
Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Lane
Wivelsfield, East Sussex**

NGR 535228 119752

Planning Reference: LW/09/1323

**ASE Project no: 4736
Site Code: WCF11**

**ASE Report No: 20011122
OASIS ID: archaeol6-101926**

Giles Dawkes BA MIFA

May 2011

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation of 6 trial trenches was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Road, Wivelsfield, East Sussex, on the 16th and 17th May 2011. The work was commissioned by Provian Construction Ltd.

No archaeological features or finds were identified during the evaluation.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Conclusions**

References

Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet

OASIS Form

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench location plan

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: HER monuments within 1km search radius
- Table 2: Quantification of the finds

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by Provian Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of land at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Lane, Wivelsfield, East Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 535228,119752 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British and Geological Survey (Sheets 318/333) shows the site lies on Weald Clay, with a narrow band of Horsham Stone Member in the north of the site. The site lies on a south western facing slope from 50.1m OD in the north western corner of the site dropping to c. 44.0m OD in the south western.

1.2.1 The site lies in the north western corner of a large field to the south of Wivelsfield Green to the south of the junction of hundred acre lane and south road. The proposed development comprises the construction of a series of new residential properties.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of works to satisfy Condition 3 of the granted planning permission ref: LW/09/1323:

No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has/have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and carried out in accordance with that approval.

Reason: To facilitate the recording of finds of archaeological interest having regard to PPG16.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeology South-East, 2011) was prepared and approved by Greg Chuter (ESCC). All work was carried out in accordance with this document

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 16th and 17th May 2011.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A 1km radius HER search was conducted and the following records returned (Shown on Figure 1):

Monument/Event no.	Monument/Event Type	Description
MES2086	moated homestead	medieval
MES2089	House platforms	undated
MES4599	Trackway	Post-medieval?
MES7327	Coin	Roman
MES7328	Brooch	Roman
MES7397	Flintwork	Late Neolithic/Early BA
MES7398	CBM scatter	Post-medieval
MES7399	Flintwork	Mesolithic
MES7400	Settlement - Features and finds scatter	Late Iron Age/ Romano-British
MES7401	Iron working	Roman?
MES7486	WW2 Airfield (Spitfire)	
MES7506	Settlement/Iron Working - Features and finds scatter	Roman?
MES11390	Coin	Post-medieval
MES11448	Lead weight	Post medieval
MES12389	Brooch	Roman
MES12880	Cu Metal working debris	Roman?
MES13987	Spoon	Post-medieval
MES14007	Coin	Roman
MES16380	Farmstead	Saxon?
MES16692	Flintwork	undated

Table 1: HER monuments within 1km search radius

2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is limited to two flint scatters (MES7397 - Neolithic/Early BA, MES7399 - Mesolithic). The Weald, with its heavy clay soils, has historically been thought as having a limited potential for prehistoric archaeology, apart from on sandstone outcrops of adjacent to water courses. However, only limited archaeological fieldwork has been conducted in the vicinity of the site and the character of prehistoric activity in the area is not well understood.

2.3 The site lies c. 4 miles to the east of the north-south Roman Road thought to have passed through Haywards Heath. Evidence of settlement and metal working from this period has been recorded nearby (MES7400 and MES7506). The wider Wealden area is well known for its iron working tradition thought to date from the later Iron Age.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The WSI, (ASE 2011) outlined the aims and objectives. These are detailed below

- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.
- How they might be affected by the development of the site
- What options should be considered for mitigation

3.2 Six trenches were excavated in the field of the proposed development area (Figure 2). The trenches were 20m long and 2m wide apart from trench 5 which was 14m long.

3.3 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) ensuring the geophysical anomalies were accurately targeted. Trench 3 was moved approximately 10m further east to ensure there was no disturbance to a badger set.

3.4 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were cut by 13 tonne machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

3.5 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was higher. 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 their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts. Subtle differences in the natural were drawn as they may represent possible prehistoric features which are difficult to identify in trial trenching.

3.6 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the agreed specification of the works using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.

3.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including any 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 and in the amount and regularity specified in the agreed specification of the works.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
1/004	Cut	Land drain	Tr.	0.2m	0.1m
1/005	Fill	Land drain fill	Tr.	0.2m	0.1m

4.1.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [1/003] was encountered at 51.32m OD. North-south land drain [1/004] was filled by brown clay [1/005] with a find of a two-pence coin dated to 1971.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.2.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [2/003] was encountered at 52.15m OD.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.3.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [3/003] was encountered at 51.45m OD.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.4.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [4/003] was encountered at 51.28m OD.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.5.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay [5/003] was encountered at 50.90m OD.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
6/003	Fill	Land drain fill	Tr.	0.2m	0.1m
6/004	Cut	Land drain	Tr.	0.2m	0.1m
6/005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.6.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay [6/003] was encountered at 51.29m OD. East-west land drain [6/004] was filled by brown clay [6/003] with finds of modern ceramic building material fragments.

No archaeological features were observed.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered, a summary of which can be found in table 2. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Cu. Al.	Wt (g)
1/003					1	6
4/001	1	10	3	84		
6/003			1	6		
Total	1	10	4	90	1	6

Table 2: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 An unglazed red earthenware flowerpot rim was recovered from the topsoil ([4/001]). The piece dates to the 19th to early 20th century.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 90g were recovered from two contexts. All the fragments are of later post-medieval date, 19th or 20th century date. The fragments were all in an orange sandy fabric with very coarse black iron rich inclusions and red iron rich silt. Context [6/003] contained a fragment of brick and context [4/001] contained fragments of brick and tile.

5.4 Other finds by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A modern (1971) coin was found in context [1/003].

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 There were no archaeological features and finds from the evaluation and the site is considered to be devoid of archaeological potential.

REFERENCES

Archaeology South-East May 2011 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, (Stage 1) at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Lane, Wivelsfield, East Sussex*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Provian Construction for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his assistance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WCF 11					
Identification Name and Address	Coldharbour Farm Hundred Acre Lane Wivelsfield					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	535228 119752					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4736					
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. May 11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Provia Construction					
Project Manager	John Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern✓		
100 Word Summary						
<p>An archaeological evaluation of 6 trial trenches was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Road, Wivelsfield, East Sussex, on the 16th and 17th May 2011 and was commissioned by Provia Construction Ltd.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were identified during the evaluation.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-101926

Project details

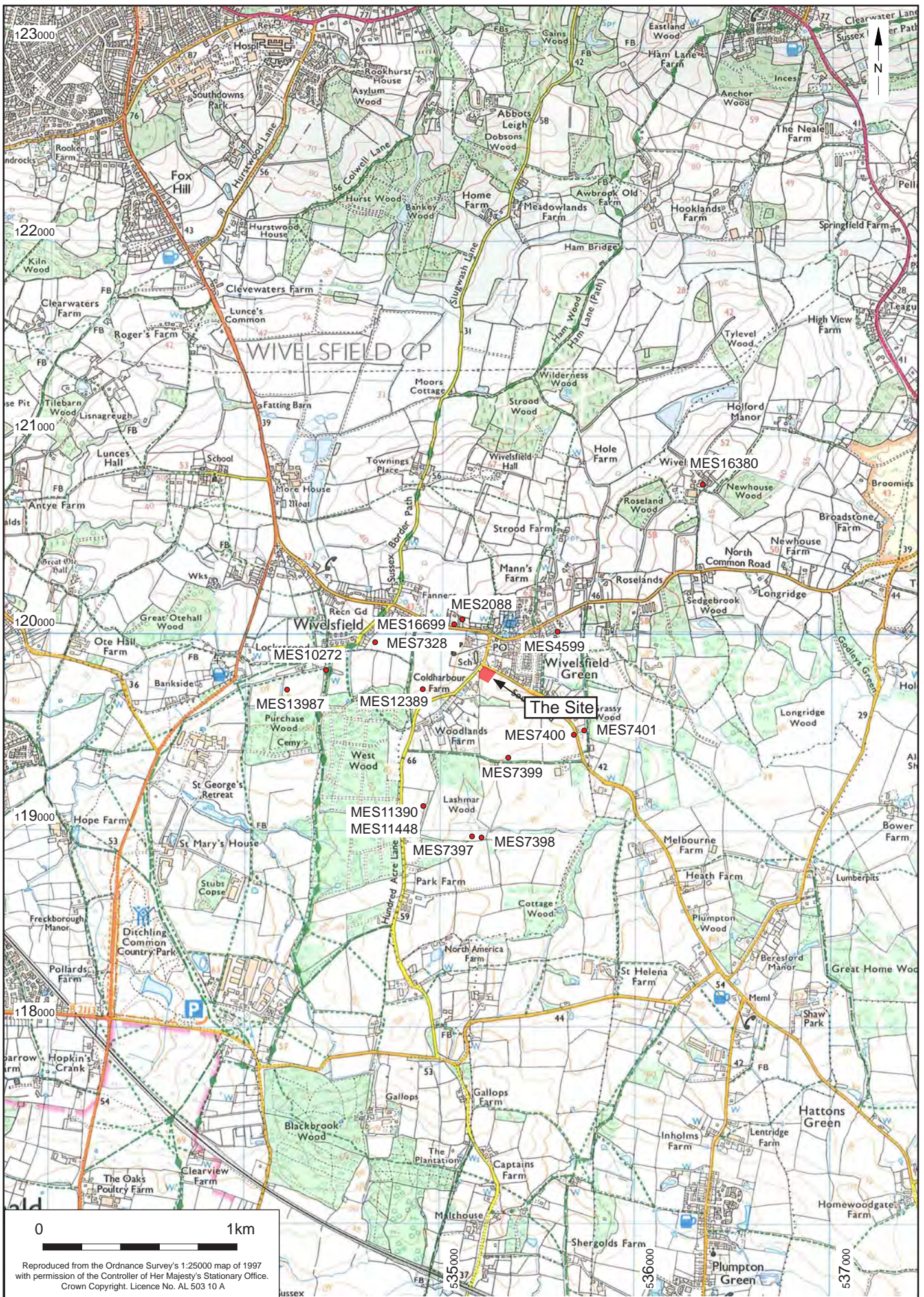
Project name	Coldharbour Farm
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of 6 trial trenches was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Road, Wivelsfield, East Sussex, on the 16th and 17th May 2011 and was commissioned by Provian Construction Ltd. No archaeological features or finds were identified during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 16-05-2011 End: 17-05-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	4736 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WCF11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES WIVELSFIELD Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Lane
Postcode	RH17 7QE
Study area	0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 535228 119752 50.8862573279 0.182868692932 50 53 10 N 000 10 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.00m Max: 52.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council

Project design originator East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body private client

Project archives
Physical Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Physical Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Digital Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Media available 'Database','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Paper Contents 'Ceramics'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report'

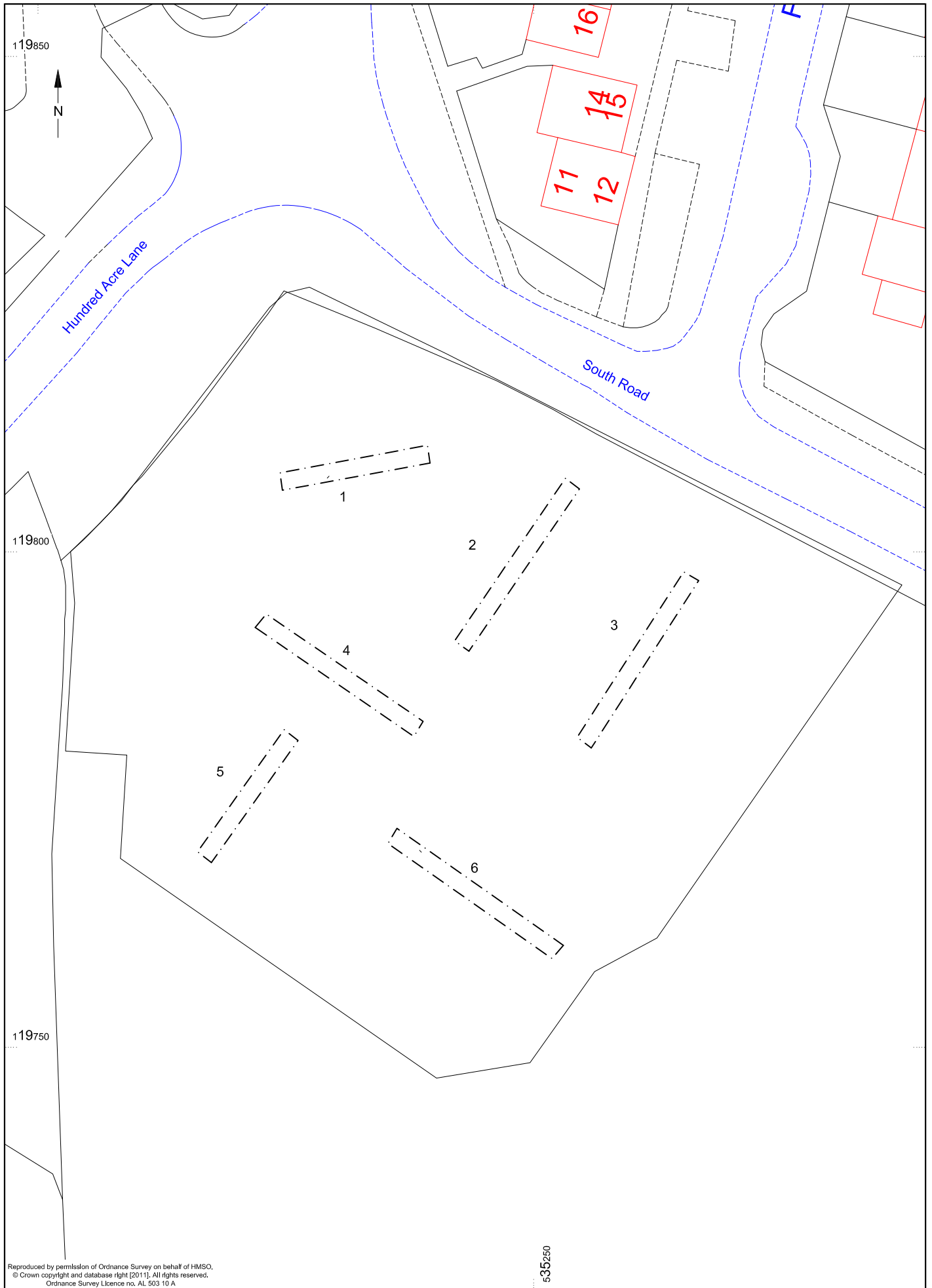
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Coldharbour Farm, Hundred Acre Lane, Wivelsfield, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s) Giles Dawkes
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Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication Portslade
Description grey report
Entered by Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 27 May 2011



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© Archaeology South-East		Coldharbour Farm, Wivelsfield		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4736	May 2011	Site location and HER Data		
Report Ref: 2011126	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		Coldharbour Farm, Wivelsfield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4736	May 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011126	Drawn by: RHC		

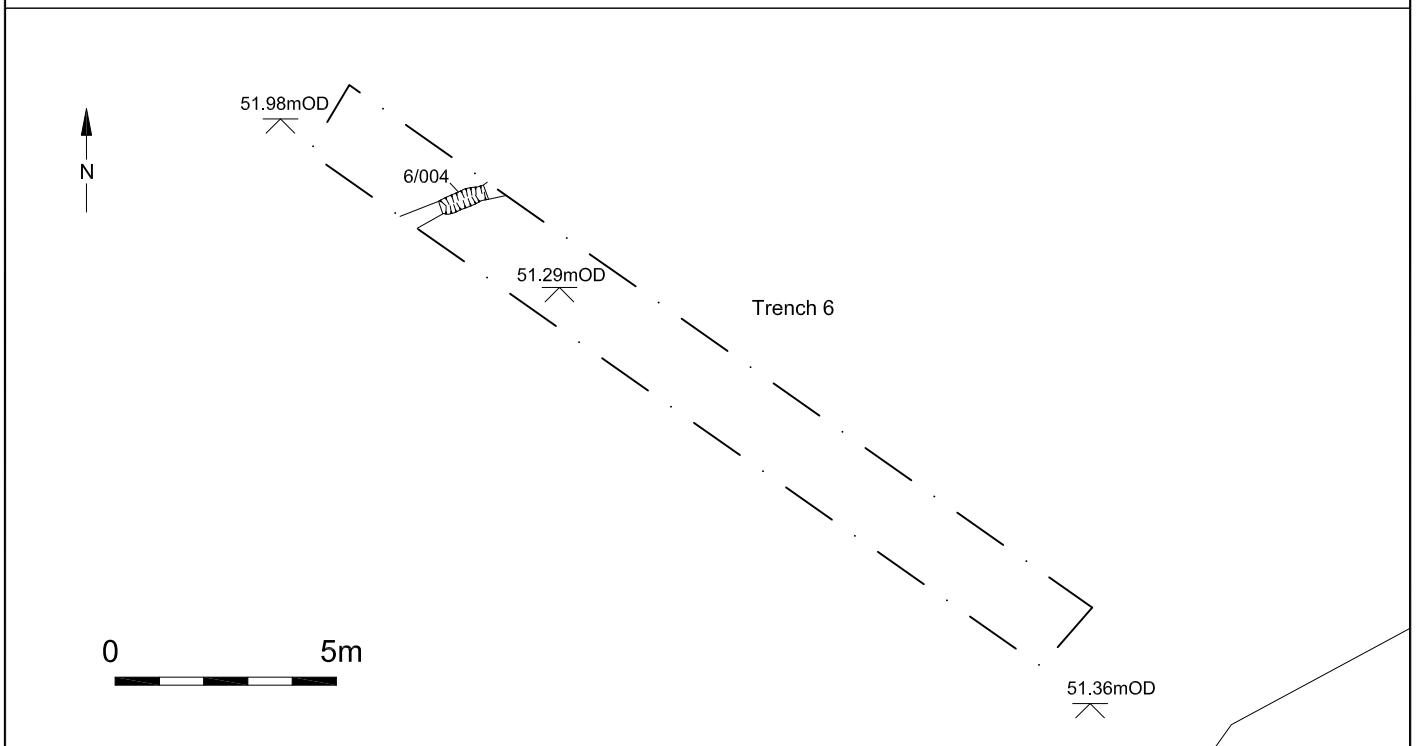
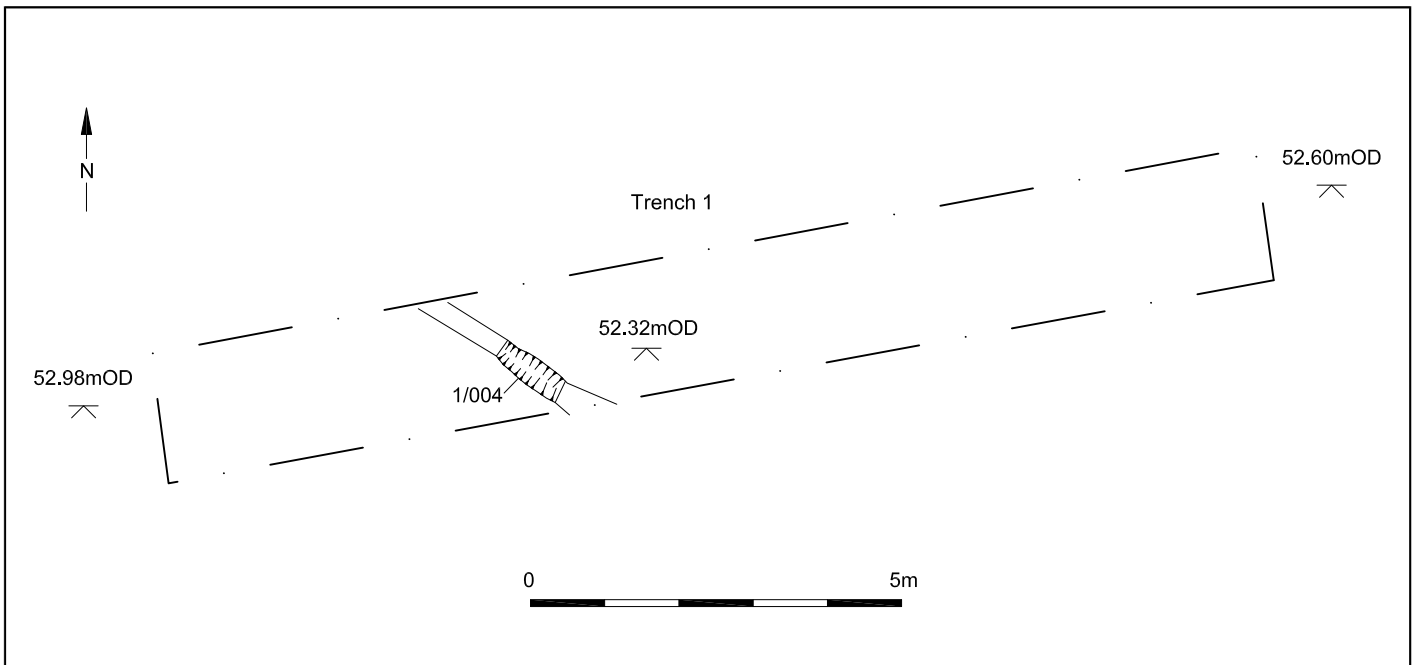


Fig 3.1: 1/004
Looking
North-West



Fig 3.2: 6/004
Looking East



© Archaeology South-East		Coldharbour Farm, Wivelsfield	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4736	March 2011	Trench 1 & 6: Plans and photos	
Report Ref: 2011126	Drawn by: JLR		

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