

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND OFF LAKE LANE, BARNHAM, WEST SUSSEX.

[Site Centred at National Grid Reference: SU 9645 0469]
Planning Reference: **BN/23/16/OUT**

PREPARED FOR SEAWARD PROPERTIES LTD.



By

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Summary

A post-determination archaeological field evaluation involving the excavation of six trial trenches was carried out by Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) on the 21st of September 2018 in advance of the construction of a proposed new residential development on land off Lake Lane, Barnham, West Sussex.

The archaeological trial trenching firmly established the sequence of deposits at the site, while at the same time providing a sufficient sampling of the area of the proposed development site to confirm this sequence and the absence of archaeological features.

The six archaeological trial trenches that were excavated within the area of the proposed development site identified a simple deposit sequence of a modern topsoil, an undated buried soil or plough soil horizon and a natural horizon of brickearths. This deposit sequence was recorded within a total of four representative sections. A modern made ground deposit was also noted within two of the trenches.

No archaeological features and/or deposits were identified at this site. One sherd of medieval pottery and a single fragment of fire cracked flint of prehistoric date were recovered from the natural horizon of brickearths.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Development Archaeology Services Limited (DAS) was commissioned by Seaward Properties Ltd. to undertake a post-determination archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a proposed new residential development on land off Lake Lane, Barnham, West Sussex, centred at National Grid Reference SU 9645 0469. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 21st of September 2018.
- 1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification prepared by DAS. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr. James Kenny, Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council (in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA)), prior to the commencement of the on-site works. This approach complies with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. James Kenny, the West Sussex County Historic Environment Record (HER), and with the Littlehampton Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

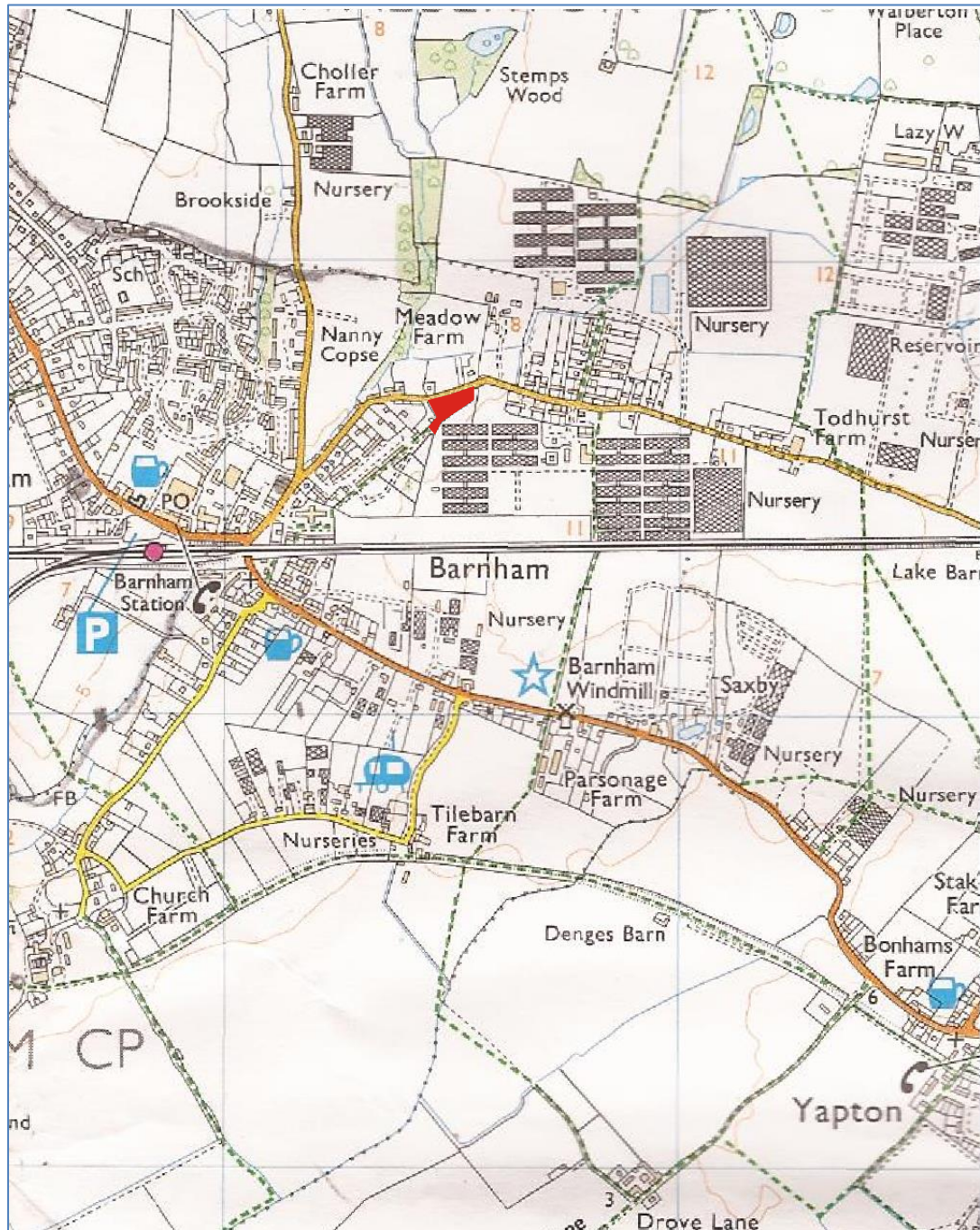


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

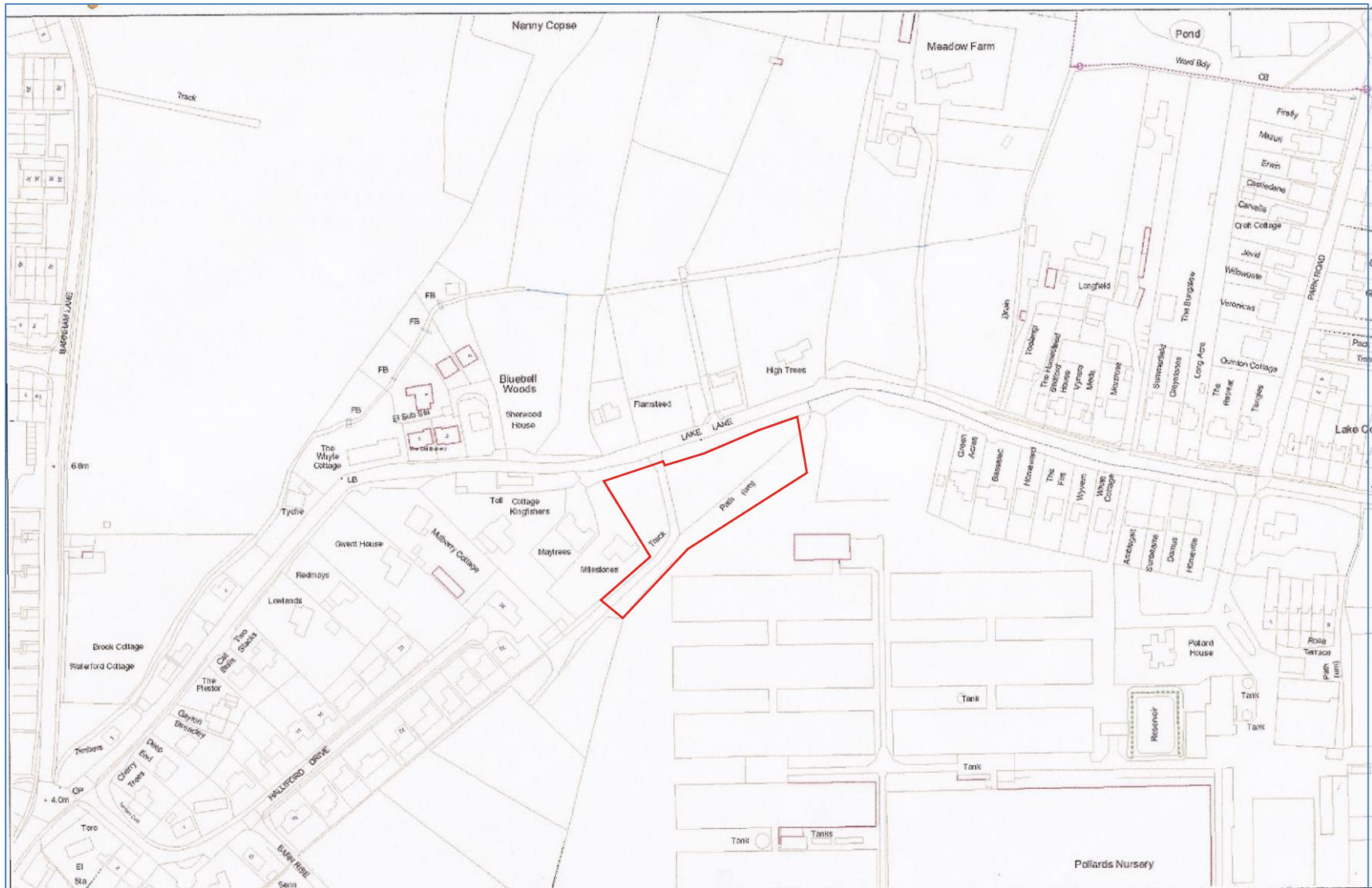


Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:2,500.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The assessment site is situated on the eastern outskirts of the town of Barnham and on land off the southern frontage of Lake Lane at National Grid Reference SU 9645 0469. Modern residential developments are located to the south-west and east and a modern nursery to the south. The town of Barnham is situated within the modern civil parish of the same name, administrative district of Arun, county of West Sussex [Figures 1 and 2].
- 2.1 The assessment site lies at the northern fringes of the low-lying Lower Sussex Coastal Plain at a height of approximately + 8mAOD. The assessment site is situated on deep stoneless silty soils of the Park Gate Series. These have developed on aeolian drift deposits of brickearth, which in turn overlie London Clays of the Eocene [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1996].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for a proposed new residential development with associated access on land off Lake Lane, Barnham, West Sussex [Planning Reference: BN/23/16/OUT] has been submitted to and granted consent by Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority [Figure 4].
- 3.2 However as this proposed development site is situated within an area of identified low-moderate potential for archaeological activity and finds from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, that were identified by a prior archaeological desk-based assessment study of this proposal site of 2015, an archaeological condition (No. 4), was attached to the granting of this planning consent, which stated that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority”.

- 3.3 Consultations by Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) on behalf of Seaward Properties Ltd., the applicants, with Mr. James Kenny, Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council (the archaeological advisor on planning issues to Arun District Council, the Local Planning Authority) had established that the above programme of archaeological

work would comprise an archaeological assessment of the proposed development site through trial trenching.

- 3.4 Condition No. 4 of this planning consent also required that a written scheme of investigation for the proposed archaeological trial trenching was to be submitted for approval to Mr. James Kenny, prior to the commencement of the on-site archaeological works. A written scheme of investigation was subsequently submitted to and approved by Mr. James Kenny prior to the commencement of the archaeological trial trenching at the site.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A prior, pre-planning application archaeological desk-based study of this proposed development site had been undertaken by DAS Ltd in 2015 on behalf of the applicants - Seaward Properties Ltd.
- 4.2 This study had identified finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork that had been made in the 1920s to the south of this site along with further such finds from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods made to the west also in the 1920s. An archaeological evaluation at Pollards Nurseries at Lake Lane in 2011 to the east located further flintwork from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. This study considered that the potential for similar such finds to be made on this assessment site was low to moderate.
- 4.3 A previous archaeological investigation at 98, Barnham Road to the west of the assessment site had identified Iron Age and early Roman settlement features. An archaeological evaluation at Pollards Nurseries in 2011 also located undated archaeological features and it was thought possible that these features may have represented further evidence of settlement activity from these periods. So, this study considered that the potential for similar such finds to be made on this assessment site was **low**.
- 4.4 This archaeological desk-based study had not identified any evidence for archaeological activity and finds from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods within the vicinity of this assessment site, so this potential was also considered to be **low**.
- 4.5 This study also considered that impact of development on low and low to moderate archaeological potential was generally considered to be **low**; though it was also considered

that the potential for unexpected discoveries to be made on this assessment site should also be taken into consideration.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 21st of September 2018 by Christopher Pine and Neville Hall of Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS). This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of six archaeological trial trenches (designated as **Trenches 1-6**) within the area of the proposed new residential development.
- 5.2 The approved DAS Brief and Specification for this project had originally provided for the excavation of five, 25.0m x 1.60m trial trenches producing a total survey area of c.200m² of trenching. Trench locations and dimensions were adapted from the trench location plan submitted in the approved WSI due to the requirement to avoid specific 'tree protection zones'. [See Appendix 3 for site plan showing tree protection schedule]. It is considered that modification of trench length and locations did not compromise the aims and objectives of the survey.
- 5.3 Within the WSI there was also provision for a contingency for an additional 80m² by area of trial trenching (if required) should significant archaeological remains be found. In the final event, this contingency was not utilised.
- 5.4 All of the trial trenches were mechanically excavated by an 8-ton rubber tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.60m wide toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 5.5 In the final event, six archaeological trial trenches, each of which measured 20.0m in length by 1.60m in width were excavated. This gave a final total of 192m² by area of trial trenching. This final trench layout is shown on **Figure 3**.
- 5.6 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposit sequence observed was recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan of each trench was compiled on site at an original scale of 1:100. These are reproduced at this same scale on **Figure 5**. In addition, a total of four representative sections of the observed deposit sequence [designated as **Representative Sections 1-4**]

were also compiled on site at a scale of 1:20. These are reproduced at this same scale on **Figure 5**. A complimentary colour digital photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-21, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

- 5.7 All of the site work was guided by the approved Brief and Specification. For the project [Pine C.A. 2018]

6. Results [Figures 4-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-21]

All of the archaeological trial trenches were excavated to a uniform length of 20.0m and to a uniform width of 1.60m. The survey area comprised an enclosed field under pasture [Plates 1-6].

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 **Trench 1** was orientated from north east-south west and was positioned at the western end of the survey area. **Trench 1** was excavated to depths of between 0.43m-0.60m below ground levels [Plates 7 and 9]. The mechanical excavation of this trench extended through the thin and relatively shallow modern topsoil horizon (001), the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (002) and into the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (003), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 1** [Plate 7]. A modern [redundant] land drain was identified towards the south-western end of this trench.



Figure 3: Plan showing the proposed layout of the development site and of the final layout of the archaeological trial trenches at an original scale of 1:500 at A4, (extract from Architects plan)

6.2 Trench 2

- 6.2.1 **Trench 2** was aligned from approximately east-west and was situated to the south-east of **Trench 1**. **Trench 2** was excavated to depths of between 0.70m-0.76m below ground levels [**Plates 10-11**]. The deposit sequence, which was identified within this trench differed from that of the preceding trench. Within **Trench 2**, a substantial modern made ground deposit (**004**), which contained much demolition material within its make-up came down directly onto the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**) at the base of this excavation. A further redundant modern land drain was recorded at the very western end of this trench.

Trench 3

- 6.3.1 **Trench 3** was orientated from north east-south west and was located to the north of **Trench 2** and to the east of **Trench 1**. **Trench 3** was excavated to depths of between 0.71m-0.73m below ground levels [**Plates 13-14**]. The deposit sequence, which was identified within much of this trench, was identical to that previously encountered within **Trench 1**, consisting of the thin and relatively shallow modern topsoil horizon (**001**), the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (**002**) and into the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 2**.
- 6.3.2 Further land drains were identified at both the north-eastern and at the south-western ends of this trench. Also, towards the south-western end of this trench, the deposit sequence recorded here was identical to that recorded within the preceding **Trench 2**, comprising the modern made ground deposit (**004**), (which contained much demolition material within its make-up). This came down directly onto the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**) at the base of this excavation.

6.4 Trench 4

- 6.4.1 **Trench 4** was aligned from approximately east-west and was positioned at the eastern end of the survey area. **Trench 4** was excavated to depths of between 0.44m-0.52m below ground levels [**Plates 14 and 16**]. The deposit sequence, which was identified within much of this trench differed from that of the preceding trenches in that here, the thin and relatively shallow modern topsoil horizon (**001**) was absent such that the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (**002**) came down directly onto the underlying natural horizon of

brickearths (**003**), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 3 [Plate 15]**.

6.5 Trench 5

6.5.1 **Trench 5** was aligned from north east-south-west and was situated to the west of **Trench 4** and to the east of **Trench 3**. **Trench 5** was excavated to depths of between 0.37m-0.59m below ground levels [**Plates 17-18**]. To the south-west and within much of this trench, the identified deposit sequence consisted of the thin and relatively shallow modern topsoil horizon (**001**), the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (**002**) and the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**), which extended to the base of this excavation here.

6.5.2 Towards the north-eastern end of the trench, the modern topsoil horizon (**001**) was absent from the sequence here such that the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (**002**) came down directly onto the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**) here. A large modern disturbance was also noted within the central portion of this trench.

6.6 Trench 6

6.6.1 **Trench 6** was orientated from east-west and was situated to the south of **Trench 4** and to the south-east of **Trench 5**. **Trench 6** was excavated to depths of between 0.47m-0.58m below ground levels [**Plates 19 and 21**]. Here the identified deposit sequence consisted of the thin and relatively shallow modern topsoil horizon (**001**), the undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon (**002**), and the underlying natural horizon of brickearths (**003**), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 4 [Plate 20]**.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological trial trenching firmly established the sequence of deposits at the site, while at the same time providing a sufficient sampling of the area of the proposed development site to confirm this sequence and the absence of archaeological features.
- 7.2 The six archaeological trial trenches that were excavated within the area of the proposed development site identified a simple deposit sequence of a modern topsoil, an undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon and a natural horizon of brickearths. This deposit sequence was recorded within a total of four representative sections. A modern made ground deposit was also noted within two of the trenches.
- 7.3 No archaeological features and/or deposits were identified at this site. One sherd of medieval pottery and a single fragment of fire cracked flint of prehistoric date were recovered from the natural horizon of brickearths.

8. Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Seaward Properties Ltd. for commissioning work associated with this application.

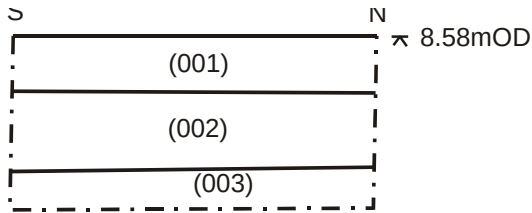
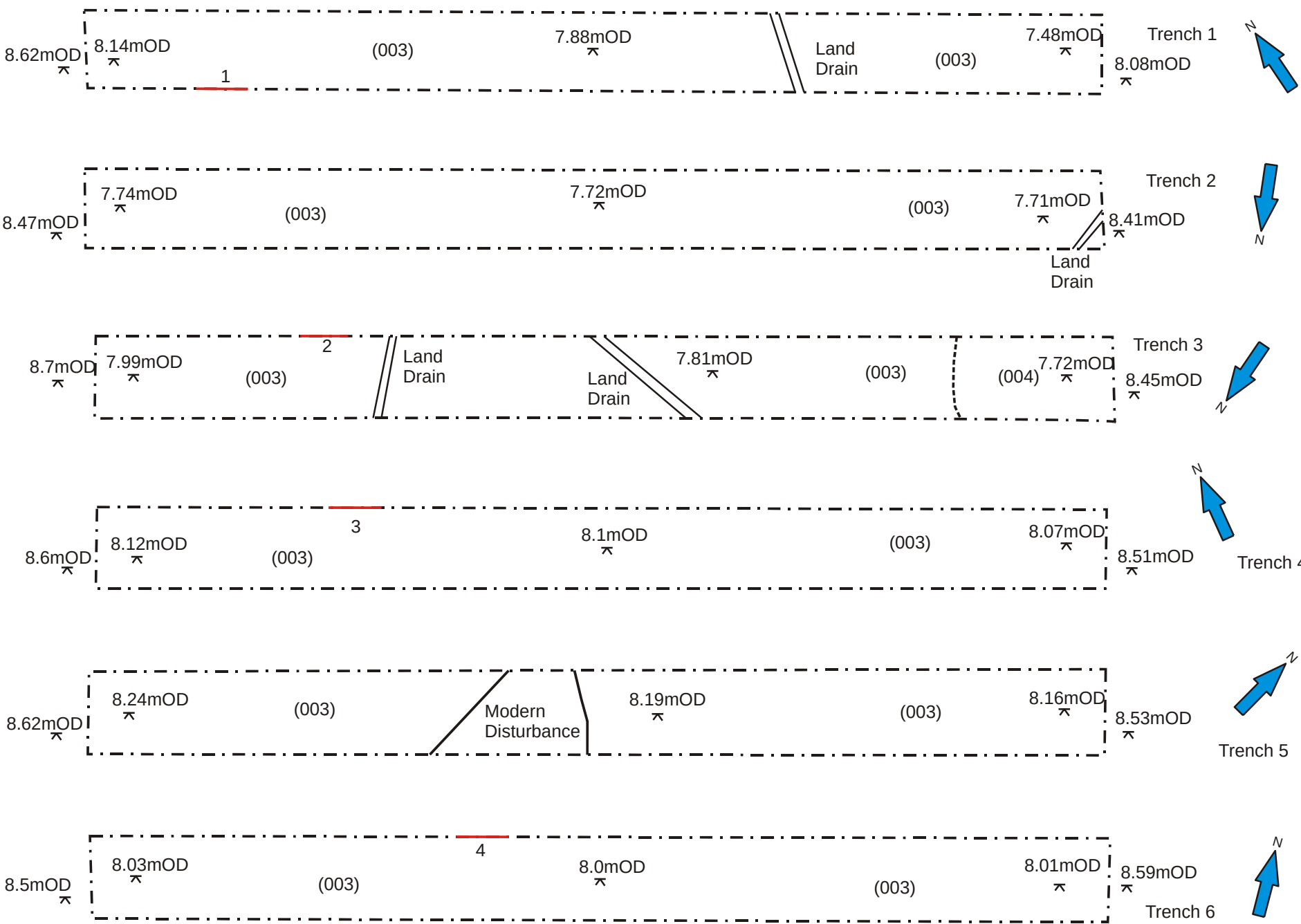
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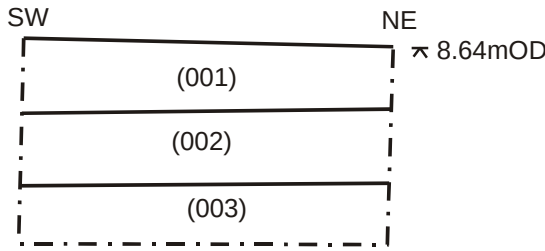
Ordnance Survey, (2012), 1:25,000 scale map, *Chichester, South Harting & Selsey, Explorer Sheet No. 120.*

Pine, C., (2018), *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at Lake Lane, Barnham, West Sussex.* Development Archaeology Services Ltd.

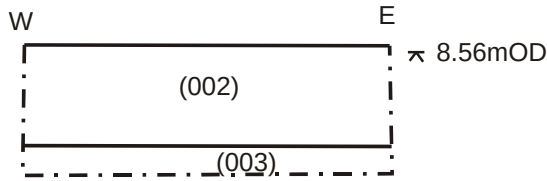
Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of South East England, Sheet 6, 1:250,000 scale.*



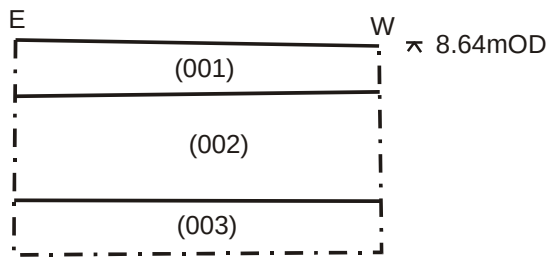
Trench 1, Representative Section 1,
East Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 3, Representative Section 2,
North West facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 4, Representative Section 3,
South Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 6, Representative Section 4,
South Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 5: Plans of Trenches 1-6 at a
scale of 1:100 & Representative Sections
1-4 at a scale of 1:20

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Pre-evaluation, from the west



Plate 2: Pre-evaluation, from the west



Plate 3: Pre-evaluation, from the west



Plate 4: Pre-evaluation, from the west



Plate 5: Pre-evaluation, from the west



Plate 6: Pre-evaluation, from the south-west



Plate 7: Trench 1, from the south-west



Plate 9: Trench 1, from the north-east



Plate 8: Trench 1, Representative Section 1, from the east



Plate 10: Trench 2, from the east



Plate 11: Trench 2, from the west



Plate 13: Trench 3, from the north-east



Plate 12: Trench 3, from the south-west



Plate 14: Trench 4, from the east



Plate 15: Trench 4, Representative Section 3, from the north



Plate 17: Trench 5, from the south-west



Plate 16: Trench 4, from the west



Plate 18: Trench 5, from the north-east



Plate 19: Trench 6, from the east



Plate 21: Trench 6, from the west



Plate 20: Trench 6, Representative Section 4, from the north

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Thin and shallow modern topsoil horizon. Soft, dark orange brown humic silt, heavily root sorted in places. Above **(002)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-2 and 4**. Depth - 0.18m.
- 002** Undated buried soil or ploughsoil horizon. Soft, mid orange brown silt with rare small angular stones. Below **(001)** and above **(003)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-4**. Depth - 0.27m.
- 003** Natural horizon of brickearths. Soft, light orange brown silt with light buff mottling and rare small angular and rounded stones. Below **(002)** and **(004)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-4**. Depth - >0.14m.
- 004** Modern made ground horizon. Recorded within **Trenches 2 and 3**. Contained much demolition material within its make-up. Soft, dark orange brown silt matrix with demolition rubble composed of concrete, brick/tile fragments, stone fragments, slate fragments and small-medium angular stones and flint fragments. Above **(003)**. Depth - 0.48m.

