

West Sussex County Council Event/Activity Full Report

21/09/2022

Number of records: 16

Event / Activity Data

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1428	Geological and palaeoenvironmental investigation of late Middle-Late Pleistocene sediments at North Bersted, Bersted	Environmental Recording

External Reference:

Dates: 01/01/2007 - 31/12/2007, between (2007)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Borehole log

Environmental Sampling

Thesaurus Event Types

CORE SAMPLING

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Archaeology South-East

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Land to the North of the Village of North Bersted, North Bersted Street

Grid Reference

Centred SU 92345 01482 (1840m by 975m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex

District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Land to the North of the Village of North Bersted, North Bersted Street, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

A geological and palaeoenvironmental investigation was carried out by UCL on late Middle-Late Pleistocene sediments at a site at North Bersted. The site lies to the North of the village of North Bersted and is a mixture of arable fields and riparian grassland. The relief across the site falls from 5m OD in the north-west to 0.53m OD in the east: a fall of 4.5m over around 1.6km from west to east. The relief also drops from the north and the south into the channel of Holocene alluvium that runs south-west to north-east through the site. The underlying geology is Campanian Upper Chalk.

The project undertook the specialist monitoring of 18 boreholes and 65 test pits. There were two main objectives. 1) To monitor the upper sedimentary layers of each test pit to check for Holocene archaeological features and 2) to provide a continuous record of Pleistocene deposits, to 3m depth in the test pits and until rockhead was proven in the boreholes.

The test pits were dug using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket for the first 13 pits and the 6 cut into the sediments of the Aldingbourne Rife; and a 0.6m toothed trenching bucket for the last 52 pits. They were approximately 4m in length. Of the 65 pits which were monitored, 2 were partially monitored as a watching brief and 63 were fully recorded. Only two of the test pits monitored revealed evidence of Holocene archaeological material. One pit cut through a possible large ditch. Pottery sherds were found, including Samian and fine Grey Ware, and some bone. The other pit also cut through a ditch like feature. In the top of the feature some coarse tempered, brittle, pottery (possibly Iron Age), were recovered.

20 cable percussion boreholes were drilled of which 18 were monitored until Chalk was proven. The holes were cut using 150mm diameter tools. 120 samples were taken from the 18 monitored boreholes. The samples

Event ID: EWS1428

Name: Geological and palaeoenvironmental investigation of late Middle-Late

revealed between 1.15 and 3.50m of very mixed calcareous sediments overlying the solid chalk. The chalk platform had undergone extreme subaerial weathering in the Pleistocene as its surface was differentially lowered compared to the more resistant Palaeogene rocks that make up the marine wave cut platform around the Upper Chalk of the Littlehampton Anticline. It was identified that Calcareous Basin Deposits (CBD) overlie the solid and Brickearth overlay the CBD.

The bulk samples taken from the test pits revealed a cold climate mollusc fauna, large amount of comminuted marine shell debris and several slug plates. Samples taken from the boreholes contained organic remains including freshwater ostracods and a marine foraminifer. The ostracods suggest small, shallow cold-water bodies; none shows any evidence of running water. Palaeoenvironment reconstruction is therefore low-lying marshy wet areas, with bodies of open water. The presence of some specimens of the marine brackish foraminifer confirms marine deposits once covered the chalk.

A different suite of deposits was uncovered under the proposed road route, to the east of the site. Alluvial sediments of the Aldingbourne Rife were revealed in both test pits and boreholes. The profile is of an upward fining profile with coarse flint fluvial gravel overlying the chalk, which passes into silty sands and then into silty clays and clays. In the test pits, plant debris foraminifera were found in all samples and suggest an environment of mid-high saltmarsh. The overall ecology is described as brackish intertidal mudflats and creeks, with some fringing saltmarsh.

There is no recommendation for further geoarchaeological fieldwork to be carried out at the site. Although further analysis of the samples taken for the Aldingbourne Rife boreholes and test pits could be undertaken. This is because the channel of the rife contains an important record of Holocene infilling and should provide climate and environmental proxies through the invertebrate microfauna. These could be expanded by additional palynological and malacological analyses. {1}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2008. Geological and palaeoenvironment investigation of late Middle-Late Pleistocene sediments at North Bersted, West Sussex, UK.

Associated Monuments - None recorded

Event ID: EWS1799 **Name:** Oldlands Farm Site Phase 2, Bersted - Assessment of Archaeological

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1799	Oldlands Farm Site Phase 2, Bersted - Assessment of Archaeological Potential	Desk Based Assessment

External Reference:

Dates: 01/05/2015 - 31/05/2015, between (May 2015)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Desk-Based Assessment

Thesaurus Event Types

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Development Archaeology Services

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Oldlands Farm Site
Bognor Regis Relief Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 94537 01815 (400m by 230m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Oldlands Farm Site, Bognor Regis Relief Road, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An assessment of archaeological potential was carried out at Oldlands Farm Site, Bersted in advance of a proposed commercial development. The site is approximately 5 hectares in size. It is predominately flat and under an arable cultivation. The underlying geology is mapped as Aeolian Brickearth Deposits comprising of silts seen in association with variable flint gravels all overlying Reading Beds and cretaceous derived chalk deposits. The assessment identified that the proposed development site lies in an area of some archaeological potential, with later pre-historic, Roman and Saxon activity having been previously identified in the local area. The majority of the Phase 2 main site will be the net receiver of material. It will be subject to around 40cm topsoil strip that is at around 30cms above the contact to archaeological levels as suggested by previous investigations in the site area, and then become net receivers of material to raise ground level as part of the flood compensation measures.

It is recommended that a programme of mitigation is produced and that the requirement for additional investigation should be covered by the imposition of a planning condition requiring investigation post determination though in advance of each development phase. {1}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Development Archaeological Services. 2015. Assessment of the archaeological potential of proposed development site known as Oldlands Farm Site Phase 2.
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Associated Monuments - None recorded

Event ID: EWS1799

Name: Oldlands Farm Site Phase 2, Bersted - Assessment of Archaeological

Event ID: EWS1837 Name: Land at Eastergate (Three Villages), Eastergate - Desk Based Assessment

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1837	Land at Eastergate (Three Villages), Eastergate - Desk Based Assessment	Desk Based Assessment

External Reference:

Dates: 01/12/2014 - 31/12/2014, between (December 2014)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Desk-Based Assessment

Thesaurus Event Types

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Development Archaeology Services

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Land at Eastergate (Three Villages)

Grid Reference

Centred SU 94618 04138 (1816m by 3710m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Aldingbourne, Arun, West Sussex

Civil Parish Eastergate, Arun, West Sussex

District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Land at Eastergate (Three Villages), Eastergate, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

A desk based assessment was carried out on land at Eastergate (Three Villages) in advance of development. The assessment site comprises an area (around 312 hectares) of land mostly consisting of open agricultural mixed use lands and enclosed fields. The Lydsey Rife is visible within the central core of the site running north to south.

Bronze Age – the assessment identified widely scattered, limited and fragmented archaeological activity and finds from this period. Within the area of the assessment site, this has comprised a hoard consisting of eight celts and a palstave axe and a Bronze Age urn found off Eastergate Lane in 1954 to the immediate north of the assessment site. It is considered that the potential for Bronze Age archaeological activity and finds to be made on this assessment site is low.

Iron Age - No archaeological activity or finds from the Iron Age period have been made within the area of the assessment site. To the immediate north-east, a boundary ditch containing two residual sherds of Iron Age pottery has been identified. The potential for Iron Age archaeological activity and finds to be made on this assessment site is low. Overall the potential for general prehistoric archaeological activity and finds to be made on this assessment site is also low.

Roman Period - There is some evidence for archaeological activity and finds from the Roman period which have been made within the area of the assessment site. This consists of the site of a probable villa, which has been plotted from prior aerial photographic analysis to the north-west of New Barn. A large assemblage of pottery, fragments of roof tile, oyster shell and animal bone have also been found at this location, supporting this interpretation. To the north-east of the assessment site, a boundary ditch of Roman date has been identified and a fragment of Roman roof tile was found just outside the area of the assessment site. This represents scattered, fragmented and limited evidence of activity and finds, and so the potential is considered to be low to possibly moderate.

Anglo-Saxon - There is no evidence for archaeological activity and finds from this period within the area of the

assessment site; though settlements such as Eastergate and Barnham appear to have had Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. It is considered that the potential for archaeological activity and finds from the Anglo-Saxon period to be made on this assessment site is low.

Medieval period - There is limited, widely scattered and fragmentary evidence for medieval archaeological activity and finds within the assessment area. Sherds of medieval pottery were found on the surface of a ploughed field to the north-west of New Barn and the site of a chapel at Lidsey to the south-west. The site of a second medieval chapel is situated to the immediate south of the assessment site at Sack Lane, Lidsey. Medieval boundary ditches were identified just outside the area of the assessment site which produced sherds of 11th-13th century pottery. It is considered that the potential for archaeological activity and finds from the medieval period to be made on this assessment site is low.

Post-medieval and early modern periods - There is more evidence for archaeological activity and finds from the post-medieval and early modern periods made within the area of the assessment site. The line of the former Chichester-Arundel Canal, survives on the ground as fragmentary earthworks. The site of an associated canal bridge shown on the 1880 map has also been identified here. The impact of potential development on the line, curtilage and setting of this site should be a material consideration in respect of any proposed development on this site. To the east of the present Headhone Farm, is the site of a former 19th century farmstead which is shown on the map of 1880. To the north-east and also within the area of the assessment site is the site of a 20th century brickfield at West Barnham. Within the northern portion of the assessment site, is the site of a second 19th century farmstead at Follyfoot Farm. At Woodgate, and to the immediate west of the assessment site is the site of a former brickworks.

The aerial photographic analysis identified evidence for the earthwork cultivation remains of ridge and furrow, of probable post-medieval date. These were in isolated locations and were highly fragmented and scattered in nature. Given all of these aforementioned factors, the potential for post-medieval and early modern archaeological activity and finds to be made on this assessment site is also considered to be low to possibly moderate.

There are a number of Grade II listed buildings which are located within close proximity to the assessment site. The settings of these various listed buildings in relation to the assessment site will need to be considered in respect of any proposed development within the area of the assessment site.

Overall, the desk based assessment has identified low potential for archaeological activity and finds from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods with a low to moderate potential for Roman and post-medieval/early modern periods. It was noted that the known archaeological activity and finds from all periods both within and without the assessment site is fragmentary, scattered and limited. {1}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Development Archaeological Services. 2014. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at Eastergate (Three Villages), West Sussex.

Associated Monuments - None recorded

Event ID: EWS2011 Name: Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS2011	Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation	Intervention

External Reference:

Dates: 15/11/2018 - 05/12/2018, between (November 2018 - December 2018)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Thesaurus Event Types

EVALUATION

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Saltbox Site
Shripney Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 93822 01642 (439m by 426m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Saltbox Site, Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Saltbox Site, Bersted, in advance of a proposed commercial development. The site is approximately 11ha. The site is currently a flat arable field and lies at 3m aOD. The site lies on bedrock geology of White Chalk overlain with Brickearth. Localised deposits of alluvium may be anticipated within the former channel of the Aldingbourne Rife to the immediate west of the Site, and these may extend into the Site itself.

Forty-one trial trenches were excavated across the site as well as fifteen geoarchaeological test pits. A small number of archaeological features were identified. Trench 3 contained two north-south linear features thought to be drainage ditches. One of these ditches was not datable through finds material but a small amount of burnt flint could suggest it was prehistoric in origin. The other ditch can be provisionally dated as Romano-British based on a small amount of pottery recovered from its fill.

Trench 4 contained a single east-west linear feature. This feature had a straight, steep northern side and a shallower steep southern side, with a concave base. It has been interpreted as a drainage ditch or possible field boundary. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 7 contained a small circular feature with steep, straight sides and a concave base. It is thought to be a small pit, possibly a refuse pit. The only finds from this feature were burnt flint and burnt clay, suggesting a prehistoric date.

Trench 10 contained a small sub-circular feature with steep concave sides and a flat base. It has been interpreted as a small refuse pit and pottery from its fill suggests an Iron Age date.

A large, irregular feature with concave sides and flat base, was recovered from Trench 12. It was initially thought to be a ditch or large pit, however, due to its irregularity and the poor drainage on the site it is considered to be a natural feature with water lain fills. The feature contained pottery of Romano British date and a nail of 17th – 19th century; it is thought that these finds were water borne rather than purposefully deposited. A ditch was also identified in this trench which has been interpreted as deep periglacial scarring or a possible paleochannel. Linear features were found in Trench 18 and Trench 29 and these have been interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches. Finds recovered from their fills are Roman in date.

Event ID: EWS2011

Name: Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation

Geoarchaeological test pitting was also carried out in order to assess the Palaeolithic potential of the Pleistocene deposits present at the site. No Palaeolithic artefactual material or environmental indicators were identified. Overall, the Site was found to contain sparsely distributed archaeological features. The linear ditches do not appear to represent a pattern suggestive of settlement or enclosure and the lack of discrete features limits any further interpretation of the Site. The ditches found across the Site may represent attempts to manage drainage. Though some features provided datable finds material, the assemblage was very small and contained few diagnostic pieces. {1}

Sources

(1) XY Grey Literature Report: Pre-Construct Archaeology. 2019. Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex - An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Report Number: R13517. [Mapped feature: #2198]

Associated Monuments

MWS15091 Saltbox, Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation (Monument MWS15091)

Event ID: EWS2091 Name: Land to east of Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS2091	Land to east of Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation	Intervention

External Reference:

Dates: 14/06/2019 - 21/06/2019, between (June 2019)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Thesaurus Event Types

EVALUATION

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Development Archaeology Services

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Lane east of Shripney Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 93905 02134 (132m by 216m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Lane east of Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, in advance of a proposed residential development. The site is situated on land off and to the east of Shripney Road. The modern A29 trunk road forms the western boundary of the site, whilst to the north and south are modern residential developments along with an open field lying to the east. The site is currently under grass/rough pasture. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of fifteen trenches. A number of archaeological features were identified.

The earliest archaeological feature discovered on the site was the cut of a deep, 'bucket-shaped' pit identified at the north-eastern end of Trench 11. Six sherds of early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the fill of this pit. Although the pottery sherds were not diagnostic, they were typical of Early Bronze Age collared cinerary urns, from the nature of their fabric. Therefore, the pit cut identified in Trench 11 is interpreted as being a possible, isolated cremation burial pit. However, although significant quantities of burnt flint were recovered from this feature no calcined human bone was recovered from the pit fill, so this interpretation is conjectural.

The main landscape feature that was identified during the evaluation was a Romano-British field / drainage system, which consisted of a series of possible enclosure ditches, which may have provided a dual function of boundaries and drainage. The pottery sherds recovered from this field system appeared to fairly tightly dated to the period c.AD270-AD300, or of late third century AD origin.

The main component part of this Romano-British field system was a north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within Trenches 11, 9 and 15 (from north-south respectively). This ditch was excavated and sectioned within Trenches 9 and 15. The three fills of the ditch recorded within Trench 9 produced finds of sixteen sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD180-AD400. The ditch here exhibited a deep and substantial profile with no evidence of recuts. The continuation to the south of this ditch within Trench 15 revealed a similar profile, which was similarly deep and substantial, again with no evidence of recuts here also. The three fills of this second ditch section yielded finds of a further fourteen sherds of pottery of between c.AD180-AD300, or second-third centuries AD. The northern component part of this ditch within Trench 9 remained unexcavated. This ditch appeared to terminate to the south to a relatively low-lying area of the site, which presumably acted here as a natural low-lying sump or depression or small pond area, into which this ditch and others in this field system

possibly drained into. Although no datable pottery finds were recovered from the fill of this low lying sump or depression, it is thought that this was an integral part of this Romano-British field / drainage management system. Towards the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of an east-west aligned linear ditch was recorded. The ditch was relatively shallow and thus may have been truncated to a certain extent by later ploughing activity. The fill of this ditch produced finds of four sherds of pottery with a date range of cAD270-AD300; a coin of c.AD274-AD286 and fifteen fused iron hobnails also of Roman date. It is considered that this ditch was contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field / drainage system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have met the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west.

Towards the north-eastern end of Trench 10, an east-west orientated linear ditch cut was recorded and excavated in section. This ditch was relatively shallow with a truncated profile (probably the result of later ploughing activity). The fill of this feature yielded one sherd of pottery dated to c.AD200-AD400. This ditch cut is thought to be contemporaneous with and was thus a component part of the Romano-British field system identified on this site. It is also considered that this east-west orientated ditch would have extended to the north-south aligned ditch identified in Trenches 11, 9 and 15, to the west.

Situated to the south of this ditch cut and also within Trench 10, was the cut of a further east-west aligned linear ditch. This ditch exhibited evidence of a later recut. The ditch was deep and substantial and similar in form to the two sections of the north-south aligned ditch of the field system that were recorded to the south within Trenches 9 and 15. The ditch would have run into the northern section of this north-south aligned ditch, which was identified within the nearby Trench 9, and was thus a component part of this field system. The fill of the earlier ditch (pre later recut) produced finds of five sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c.AD250-AD370, and so these two ditches are thus considered to be contemporaneous.

The cuts of three further linear and undated ditches were revealed in Trench 5. They were on the same and parallel north east-south west alignment. Towards the south-eastern end of Trench 5, the first of these ditches exhibited a deep and a substantial profile, which was similar in form to that of the north-south aligned ditch recorded to the north within Trenches 9, 11 and 15. Although this ditch is undated, it is considered that by its similar form and profile, that this ditch is contemporaneous with the north-south aligned ditch and thus a further component part of the Romano-British field / drainage management system identified on this site. The remaining two undated linear ditch cuts that were also recorded within Trench 5, by contrast exhibited shallower and probably truncated profiles, the probable product of later ploughing activity. These two ditches were also similarly undated. Despite this, it is considered that these two undated ditches were probably similarly contemporaneous with the remainder of this field system and were probably also further component parts of it.

Within Trench 7, the cut of a north west-south aligned linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was identified. This gully had a very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, which appears to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of twelve sherds of Roman pottery with a date range of c180AD-AD350, and so may have been associated with the Romano-British field system identified on site. This very shallow gully probably did not have a drainage function, but perhaps served as a probable fence line delineating a property boundary.

To the north and at the north-eastern end of Trench 9, a second gully was identified. This similarly had a rounded terminal butt end to the south-west and exhibited a similar very shallow and a heavily truncated profile, probably as the result of similar later ploughing activity. The fill of this shallow gully produced finds of three sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to c.180AD-AD300. Both features are thus broadly contemporaneous. It is thought that this gully also formed a similar property delineating function, comprising a probable fence line, by the similarity of its form and profile, and so did not have a drainage function. These possible fence lines probably delineated secondary boundaries within the overall Roman-British field system with its primary drainage function. At the southern end of Trench 8, the cut of a third linear gully with a rounded terminal butt end to the north-west was recorded. The profile of this gully exhibited a similar shallow and heavily truncated profile as the other two gullies. Its fill also did not yield any datable finds; however, it is considered that this feature will also be probably contemporaneous with the gullies located within Trenches 7 and 9, with a similar interpretation, function and purpose.

At the southern end of the survey area and within Trench 3, the cuts of two and relatively isolated and undated pits were identified. Both features exhibited relatively shallow and truncated profiles. The fills of either feature did not produce any datable finds. Both features appeared to have been truncated perhaps by later ploughing activity. These features are tentatively assigned a pre-historic [Bronze Age / Iron Age date].

Overall, the evaluation identified a Romano-British field system of 3rd to 4th century date and a few isolated pit features which may be of earlier, prehistoric, date – one at least of these contained Bronze Age pot including what was thought to be a cinerary urn (although no bone was recovered). {1}

Sources

- (1) XY Grey Literature Report: Development Archaeological Services. 2019. Report on the Results of a Pre-Determination Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted, West

Event ID: EWS2091 **Name:** Land to east of Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation

Sussex. [Mapped feature: #2292]

Associated Monuments

MWS15267 Land to the east of Shripney Road, Bersted - Evaluation (Monument MWS15267)

Event ID: EWS442 Name: Part excav, Reed M, 1974

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS442	Part excav, Reed M, 1974	Intervention

External Reference:

Dates:

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Part Excavation

Thesaurus Event Types

EXCAVATION

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation - None Recorded

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Grid Reference

SU 9380 0201 (point) SU90SW Point

Administrative Areas - None recorded

Address - None recorded

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Associated Monuments

MWS2368 Medieval pottery - Shripney (Find Spot MWS2368)

MWS2370 Roman pottery - Shripney (Find Spot MWS2370)

Event ID: EWS1257 **Name:** Richmond Lodge, Bognor Regis - Summary Report on Archaeological

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1257	Richmond Lodge, Bognor Regis - Summary Report on Archaeological Evaluation	Intervention

External Reference: DAS Ltd BE/10/10

Dates: 10/08/2011 - 10/08/2011, at some time (August 2011)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Thesaurus Event Types

TRIAL TRENCH

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Development Archaeology Services

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 93914 01925 (81m by 37m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex

District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation revealed a single pit was identified which yielded an assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery, fragment of fire-cracked flint and a single worked flint. {1}

Sources

(1) XY Grey Literature Report: Development Archaeology Services. 2011. Summary report on the results of an archaeological evaluation at Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. DAS Ltd BE/10/10. [Mapped feature: #1337]

Associated Monuments

MWS11277 Richmond Lodge, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis - Archaeological Evaluation (Monument MWS11277)

Event ID: EWS2087 **Name:** Land at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne - Archaeological Investigations

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS2087	Land at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne - Archaeological Investigations	Intervention

External Reference: Project Code: K7422

Dates: 18/03/2021 - 15/04/2021, between (March - April 2021 and September - October 2021)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Geophysical Survey

Thesaurus Event Types

EVALUATION

MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: SUMO Geophysics

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Land at Aldingbourne
Sack Lane

Grid Reference

Centred SU 94464 02153 (773m by 924m) SU90SW Dispersed

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Aldingbourne, Arun, West Sussex

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex

District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Land at Aldingbourne, Sack Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

A magnetometer survey was carried out by SUMO on land at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne, in advance of a proposed development (18/03/2021 - 15/04/2021). The survey area is located south of Sack Lane, north of the Rolls Royce Warehouse 1 and Felpham Relief Road passes through the survey areas. The site is currently in use for arable agriculture.

The site has been divided into three survey areas (Areas 1-3). An area of marshland and modern debris rendered parts of Area 1 unsuitable for survey. A potato crop in Area 2 also made parts of the areas unsurveyable.

In the north of Area 2 a discrete ditch-like response, linear trends and pit-like responses have been recorded which appear to form a small rectilinear feature, possibly an enclosure. A possible early Medieval chapel is recorded in close proximity and as such the responses could be associated. A well-defined rectangular enclosure has been recorded in the middle of Area 2. The enclosure measures 45m by 38m and weaker linear trends extend beyond the enclosure to the south and to the west.

In the north-east of Area 2 broad linear responses could be another enclosure with associated ditches; however, the responses are weak and ill-defined and may be the product of natural processes. Elsewhere, linear and isolated pit-like responses have been detected. They lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would normally be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. It is likely to reflect variations in the underlying geology or agricultural processes.

A linear ferrous response has been recorded in the north of Area 2 and corresponds to the location of a former field boundary that is recorded on historic mapping.

Sinuuous and amorphous anomalies are visible throughout the survey results. They are weak and from no

obvious archaeological patterns. Therefore, they are likely to be natural, relating to pedological or geological variations.

Large areas of magnetic disturbance have been recorded in the north of Area 1 and the south of Areas 2 and 3. The disturbance is likely to have been caused by a spread of debris in connection with the construction of the Felpham Relief Road. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile /) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin.

Overall, the magnetometer survey revealed several magnetic responses that could be of possible archaeological interest. {1}

An archaeological evaluation was carried out (20/09/2021 - 22/10/2021) on Land at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne, in advance of a proposed commercial development. The site is approximately 33ha in size and is divided into two separate land parcels by the Flansham to Bersted bypass. The underlying bedrock geology of the Site comprises undifferentiated chalk formations, overlain by raised marine deposits across the majority of the Site, with river terrace deposits recorded along the western boundary.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 68 30m x 2m trial trenches across the site. Some trenches were positioned to test the reliability of the geophysical survey results. Of the 68 trenches excavated, a few archaeological features were observed.

A pit was discovered within the eastern half of Trench 7. It was a small subcircular feature, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.06m deep. It had gentle sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill contained fragments of burnt flint and two sherds of Prehistoric pot dated Middle Bronze Age – Iron Age.

A large, possible, borrow pit was uncovered with Trench 36. It was large and rectangular in plan, measuring over 4m wide and 1.2m deep. It had steep stepped sides on the north-western edge and a concave base. Finds recovered from its fill include fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and an iron chain link.

A linear feature was uncovered within Trench 42. It was orientated northeast to southwest and was a wide and shallow feature, measuring c.3m wide and 0.15m deep. Post-medieval material was recovered from its single fill, including a pot sherd dated to 1650-1900. The feature is thought to be a natural depression in which material has settled over time, rather than a deliberately dug feature.

A ditch was observed in the eastern end of Trench 61, orientated northeast to southwest. It measured 1.38m wide and 0.4m deep. Post-medieval material was recovered from its single fill. The ditch has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch as it appears to correspond with a field boundary recorded on the 1876 historic mapping.

Overall, the evaluation revealed limited archaeological potential within the site. The shallow depth of cover of topsoil across the site, which would suggest that erosive activity within the site, such as ploughing, may have removed any archaeological potential. {2}

Sources

- (1) XY Grey Literature Report: RPS Group. 2021. Land at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis - Geophysical Survey. Survey Report: 02461. [Mapped feature: #2288]
- (2) Grey Literature Report: Pre-Construct Archaeology. 2021. Land at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex - Archaeological Evaluation. Report Number: R14752.

Associated Monuments

MWS15263 Land at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne - Geophysical Survey and Evaluation (Monument MWS15263)

Event ID: EWS1151 Name: Land at North Bersted - Archaeological Investigations

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1151	Land at North Bersted - Archaeological Investigations	Intervention

External Reference: Project Number 2093

Dates: 25/04/2005 - 31/10/2008, between (April 2005 - October 2008)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Borehole log
Evaluation
Excavation
Geoarchaeological Test Pits

Thesaurus Event Types

BOREHOLE SURVEY
EVALUATION
EXCAVATION
TEST PIT

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Archaeology South-East

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

North Bersted

Grid Reference

Centred SU 9234 0147 (1746m by 966m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

North Bersted, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

A geotechnical and geoarchaeological assessment was carried out at Land at North Bersted in advance of proposed residential development. The Geotechnical and Geoarchaeological assessment involved British Geological Survey Data (using boreholes), Test Pit Data, Purposive Geoarchaeological Survey (boreholes) and archaeological trenching. The results show that marine deposits lie at around 2 metres below ground level; alluvial deposits are extensive within the area; these have been demonstrated to have moderate to high palaeoenvironmental potential. {1}

An archaeological evaluation (25th April 2005 to 16th June 2005) was carried out at land at North Bersted, Bersted, in advance of residential development. 168 trial trenches revealed a concentration of archaeological remains, dating mostly from the Late Bronze period. These included a middle Bronze Age cremation urn, four probable Bronze Age burnt mounds as well as two Late Bronze Age ditches. In addition to this a Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British parallel ditched track way was identified. A Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British settlement was also identified as well as the entrance to two possible livestock enclosures dating from the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age. Traces of an 18th century barn were found and some remains of post medieval field boundaries were also located. A previously unknown World War 2 Anti-Tank Trap was also identified. {2}

An excavation (20th November 2007 to 31st October 2008) was carried out at Land at North Bersted in advance

of residential development across eight separate areas. The excavation identified Bronze Age occupation and landscape features, a Bronze Age roundhouse, Iron Age and Roman field systems, a Roman timber building and an Iron Age Warrior Burial. {3}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2005. North Bersted Evaluation, Bognor Regis, Summary Review of Geotechnical and Geoarchaeological Data for the Site. Project No 2093: Site Code NBB 05.
 - (2) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2005. An archaeological Evaluation on Land at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Project Number: 2092.
 - (3) Grey Literature Report: Thames Valley Archaeological Services. 2009. Land at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex - An Archaeological Excavation Interim Report. Report 07/135.
-

Associated Monuments

MWS12552	Late Iron Age Warrior Burial, North Bersted (Monument MWS12552)
MWS12733	Early Bronze Age Cremation, North Bersted (Monument MWS12733)
MWS12734	Early Bronze Age Roundhouse, North Bersted (Monument MWS12734)
MWS12748	Middle Bronze Age Burnt Mound, Bersted (Monument MWS12748)
MWS12775	Neolithic? Burial, North Bersted (Monument MWS12775)
MWS12776	Possible Middle-Late Bronze Age Occupation Site, North Bersted (Monument MWS12776)
MWS12777	Middle-Late Bronze Age? Occupation Site (Monument MWS12777)
MWS12778	Middle - Late Bronze Age Enclosed Occupation Site, North Bersted (Monument MWS12778)
MWS12795	Late Roman Timber Framed Building, North Bersted (Monument MWS12795)
MWS12800	Early Roman Enclosure Complex, Bersted (Monument MWS12800)
MWS12860	Middle Iron Age Enclosure Complex, North Bersted. (Monument MWS12860)
MWS12861	Middle Iron Age Enclosure Complex, North Bersted (Monument MWS12861)
MWS6967	Middle Bronze Age Burnt Mound, Bersted (Monument MWS6967)
MWS7987	Multiperiod Occupation at North Bersted (Monument MWS7987)
MWS7995	Neolithic vessel?, North Bersted, Bersted (Find Spot MWS7995)
MWS7996	Middle Bronze Age Enclosure, North Bersted (Monument MWS7996)
MWS7997	Possible Burnt Mounds, North Bersted (Monument MWS7997)
MWS7998	World War II Anti-Tank Defensive Ditches (Monument MWS7998)

Event ID: EWS63

Name: Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney - Watching Brief

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS63	Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney - Watching Brief	Intervention

External Reference: Project Number 7841

Dates: 11/12/2015 - 03/02/2016, between (December 2015 - February 2016)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Watching Brief

Thesaurus Event Types

WATCHING BRIEF

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Archaeology South-East

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Manor Farm Solar Park
Shripney Lane
Shripney

Grid Reference

Centred SU 92859 02496 (985m by 1236m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney Lane, Shripney, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney, in advance of the construction of a Solar Farm at the site. The site consists of two large fields divided by a trackway running westwards from Shripney Lane to a reservoir. To the south-east the site is bounded by Shripney Lane and elsewhere by hedged field boundaries and drainage ditches. The site lies on the Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver Chalk Formations.

Cable trenching machine and excavations for a substation were monitored during the watching brief. No archaeological finds or features were identified during the watching brief. Although all groundworks were monitored, these comprised a small area of the site and the results of this watching brief should perhaps not, therefore be considered as an accurate a characterisation of the archaeological potential of the site. {1}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2016. Archaeological Watching Brief Report Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney, West Sussex. Project Number: 7841.

Associated Monuments

MWS14360 Manor Farm Solar Park, Shripney - Watching Brief (Negative Evidence MWS14360)

Bronze Age – Finds of Bronze Age material have been made across the general area and an important Beaker site was excavated in the immediate vicinity of the present study site. This, plus the widespread occurrence of burnt flint and mounds noted in the Walkover survey suggests the potential Bronze Age activity at the site is high.

Iron Age – There is evidence of two Iron Age sites, within 1km radius of the study area and a series of ditches plus a hut site suggesting settlement in the area. Therefore the potential for this period is high.

Roman – Spot finds of Roman material and evidence of four Roman occupation sites of which two were multi-period indicate that this area was intensively used during the Roman period. One of the sites is actually within the study area. Therefore, the potential for this period is considered high.

Medieval – Evidence for medieval settlement in the area has come from one excavated site, one findspot and from documentary sources. Given the intensive cultivation documented the discovery of further sites is probable. The most likely areas are considered to be adjacent to the bordering roads; however, isolated farmsteads may have existed further in to the appraisal area.

Post-medieval – The area is known to have been extensively cultivated and well-populated throughout the post-medieval period. The sites identified are exclusively related to either brick manufacture in the 19th and 20th centuries or are of a 20th century defensive nature. None of the brickfields appear to have been in the study area. However, earlier brickfields may have existed within the study area. The potential of the area for this period is moderate to high in terms of industrial and defensive and low to moderate in terms of occupation sites.

Walkover –

A systematic walkover survey was undertaken at the site. The object of the walkover was to identify historic landscape features, together with other archaeological surface anomalies or artefact scatters. At the time of the survey the fields the land units (A-J and L-N) were in the main mixture of pasture and arable (winter wheat at varying stages of growth and rape crops). The majority of the fields are enclosed by ditched boundaries with narrow strips of hedgerow. Land Unit B was an unkempt plot of land which had been used as a nursery. It was only from the cultivated fields (A, AA, D, E and F) that a small sample of artefactual evidence was retrieved from the surface. Land Units H could only be partially observed from the adjacent trackway through gaps in the hedge and no observations could be made in Land Unit G, I and J.

The walkover yielded few concentrations of artefacts and other surface features. However, it is apparent from the small quantities of flint flakes both observed and collected and from pottery evidence that the area was almost certainly utilised during later prehistory as well as the Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval periods.

A number of fire-cracked flint was identified across the site. In the absence of other associative evidence a date is difficult to define. The absence of artefactual evidence such as pottery/brick/tile etc., suggests the burnt flint might derive from the later prehistoric period. Mounds were identified in Land Unit/ Field AA and appear to be associated with fire-cracked flint. Burnt mounds are normally dated to the Late Bronze Age and it may be possible that the mounds identified might represent such structures. The possibility is enhanced by their proximity to the two streams which abut the northern and southern margins of this field.

A broad shallow depression which tracks along Lane Unit A, appears to line up precisely with a similar feature in Land Unit D and can be seen passing in a north-westerly direction across the northern part of Land Unit DD. This may possibly be a former watercourse which silted up or was infilled prior to the 18th century. This may prove to be a palaeochannel and may relate to two features identified as former braided stream channels. Similarly in Land Unit L a narrow channel crosses the southern part of the field.

A trackway which runs approximately south-east/north-west immediately to the east of Land Unit A could be of some antiquity. At the northern and southern ends of the eastern boundary of Land Unit A the lane is between 1.5 and 2m below field level which suggests that the trackway has been lowered through use over a very long period. It could originate in the late prehistoric period but equally could have originated as part of the open-field system which developed in medieval times.

Second World War defensive structures were identified; a machine gun post and two pillboxes, suggesting that the area is of military importance.

A line of trees was identified in Land Unit C, which on map is evidence for a former boundary. It represents a survival of former medieval strip fields.

Land Units FF, E and EE in the far east of Area A of the study site are within the westerly alluvial fan of the River Rife System. The low lying nature of this area and the change in habitat where reeds and willow begin to predominate indicate that this area may have some potential for containing waterlogged deposits of prehistoric date.

Mound-like structures were identified in Land Units D and F may well represent former activity sites and could be medieval/ post medieval, or earlier in date; the presence of oyster in association with one of them might be an indicator of domestic food refuse.

A piece of flint/stone walling was found on the boundary of Land Units F/N is the remains of a barn. The associated flint cobbling possibly represents the floor of a stable or yard.

Overall, the study site lies in an archaeologically rich area. There is a high archaeological potential for a number of different chronological periods. Due to the size of the area a targeted evaluation phase of intrusive fieldwork conducted in stages is suggested as a potential next step forward. The mounds located during the Walkover

survey in Land Unit AA may be of prehistoric date. These will need to be subjected to disturbance during development. Similarly the mounds located in Land Unit F also needs clarification by trial trenching. The search of Aerial Photographs located several features which need clarification. It may be advisable to subject these to targeted trial trenching to establish their exact nature. The three World War 2 defensive structures are in good condition and form an associated group. Two of them are of unique design while the third is of a standard type. It is considered preferable to preserve the two unique examples in situ. A rapid survey should be undertaken of them and a full drawn and photographic survey should be undertaken. Past arable cultivation is likely to have had the most adverse impact on the archaeological resources of the appraisal area (to an unknown degree). The acidic ground conditions are also likely to have destroyed or badly damaged certain classes of artefact {1} {2}

Sources

- (1) XY Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2000. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey at Land to the North of North Bersted, West Sussex. Project Number 1197. [Mapped feature: #1671]
 - (2) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2000. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey at Land to the North of North Bersted, West Sussex. Project Number: 1197 and 1281.
-

Associated Monuments

- MWS6972 Mound - Walkover Survey at Land to the North of North Bersted - Field F (Monument MWS6972)
- MWS6973 Mound - Walkover Survey at Land to the North of North Bersted - Field F (Monument MWS6973)
- MWS7987 Multiperiod Occupation at North Bersted (Monument MWS7987)

Event ID: EWS1531 Name: Oldlands Farm, Bersted - Archaeological Investigations

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1531	Oldlands Farm, Bersted - Archaeological Investigations	Intervention

External Reference: Project Number: 6594 and 7006

Dates: 28/05/2014 - 05/11/2014, between (May - November 2014)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Borehole log
Environmental Sampling
Evaluation
Excavation
Geophysical Survey

Thesaurus Event Types

BOREHOLE SURVEY
ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING
EVALUATION
EXCAVATION
MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Archaeology South-East

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Oldlands Farm
Shripn Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 94311 01764 (647m by 734m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Oldlands Farm, Shripn Road, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation was carried out (01/07/14 - 31/07/14) at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne. The underlying geology comprises heavily weathered Cretaceous chalk of the Culver Formation overlain by Middle-Late Pleistocene calcareous basin deposits. The drift sediments comprise loessic brickearth and raised marine deposits. The site lies on the interfluvium between the Aldingbourne and Lydney Rifes and is currently under arable cultivation as part of Oldlands Farm. The general topographic relief demonstrates an area of higher ground within the western half of the area with the east characterised by lower lying floodplain. The site is bounded by the A29 to the west, the Bognor Regis Industrial Estate to the south and the railway to the east.

17 trenches were excavated measuring 50m by 2m each. Archaeological features were identified within 12 of the 17 trenches excavated.

Trench 2: A ditch, oriented north-east south-west was identified. No finds or dating evidence were recovered from the ditch. Five pieces of fire-cracked flint were identified within the subsoil of the trench, possibly suggesting prehistoric activity.

Trench 3: A large feature was identified extending across the eastern 15m of the trench. A sondage was excavated in the centre of the feature, which revealed the underlying brickearth geology. The single fill comprised grey and red brown mottled silty clay and contained Early Roman pottery dated to c.AD50-140.

Trench 4: A large ditch, width of 2.90m and a depth of 0.28m was cut by a further, similar ditch. Both ditches were oriented on a north-south alignment and contained silty clay fills with fire-cracked flint. A small gully (north/south alignment) was also identified, as well as a large ditch. No dating evidence was retrieved from the ditch fill. A possible ditch terminus was also found, also undated, but this also contained flint and fire-cracked flint.

Trench 5: A northeast-southwest oriented ditch, containing pottery, was identified in this trench. The northern terminus of an undated ditch or pit was also found.

Trench 6: Two parallel gullies, oriented on a north-south alignment, were identified in this trench. A small sherd of prehistoric pottery (probably LBA c.1150-800) was retrieved from the manganese-rich silt fill of one of the gullies. A possible pit containing fire-cracked flint and a possible ditch were also present.

Trench 7: A single undated ditch was identified in this trench.

Trench 8: A north-south oriented ditch was located at the north-west end of this trench. The lower fill contained a number of prehistoric pot sherds (probably Late Bronze Age c.1150-800). A large quantity of fire-cracked or burnt flint were also identified. Two parallel linear gullies were found. Hand excavated sondages through the gullies revealed one Roman (or later) sherd of pot, and another probable middle-Bronze Age sherd of pot, from one of the fills.

Trench 9: A single pit was identified in this trench. This was a large feature, with vertical sides and a deep base. It is thought that it may represent a water hole or well. Pottery of probable Bronze Age date (probably c.1150-800) was retrieved from the lower clay-silt fill.

Trench 10: Two pits were identified around 1.50m apart. One pit contained one sherd of Bronze Age pottery (probably c.1150-800). A small ditch or gully was encountered on a northwest-southeast alignment. Burnt or fire-cracked flint was encountered within the fills of each feature.

Trench 11: Two ditches and one gully were identified in this trench, each with differing fills suggesting they may not be contemporaneous. No finds were retrieved. A shallow gully was oriented on a similar east-west alignment. A large ditch was oriented on a north-south axis. This contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) pottery.

Trench 14: A north-east - south-west field boundary ditch containing Late Bronze Age pottery and worked flint was truncated by a pit. The lower fill comprised mollusc-rich silty clay chalk, containing large flint nodules.

Trench 15: Two similarly aligned ditches were identified in this trench. The single compact silt-clay fill of one of the ditches contained 2 sherds of Roman pottery and a sherd of medieval pottery, of c.13th date. The other ditch contained no dating evidence.

Five environmental samples were taken during the evaluation. Samples were taken from pits and ditches with both prehistoric (probably LBA 1150-800) and Roman spot dates. The samples produced small quantities of environmental remains and artefacts. The assemblages of charred macro plant remains and wood charcoal are not sufficiently large or well enough preserved to provide significant information regarding plant or fuel use or the local vegetation environment. The animal bone and teeth assemblage includes remains of both large and small fauna. A large quantity of land snail shells were identified in a sample from an undated pit fill.

Overall, the evaluation identified Late Bronze Age and Roman features. The Late Bronze Age features comprise field boundary ditches, pits and gullies and one possible waterhole. The ditches appear to be oriented on a number of different alignments, with no clear pattern discernible at present. It is probable they represent part of a Bronze Age field system. The prehistoric features all contained very hard and compact grey silt-clay fills. Three Roman ditches containing Roman pottery were identified in the southern part of the site. The fills of the Roman features were slightly looser and siltier than the fills of the prehistoric features. The profiles of the ditches also differed from the prehistoric features, with sharp V-shaped hollows in the base of the Roman ditches. It is unclear, what function these ditches performed, but they may have been drainage ditches used as part of a Roman field system. {1}

An archaeological excavation (01/06/14 - 05/11/14) was carried out at Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne, in advance of development. The site is bounded by the A29 to the west, the relief road easement to the south and agricultural land to the north and east. The fieldwork comprised a borehole survey and evaluation of the wider development area as well as strip, map and sample excavations of the Flood Compensation Area which lies entirely to the north of the relief road. The underlying geology of the wider development area comprises Cretaceous Chalk of the Culver Formation, overlain by cryoturbated Middle-Late Pleistocene Calcareous Basin Deposits. The drift sediments comprise loessic brickearth and raised marine deposits. The site lies on the interfluvium between the Aldingbourne and Lydney Rife. The excavation area totalled around 3.3m with additional trenching, test pitting and borehole survey. The work was conducted prior to the creation of a Flood Compensation Area.

The excavation revealed evidence of activity at the site dating from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods. The earliest evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the site dates to the Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic periods. This comprised residual finds of flintwork indicating a very light background scatter attesting to transient activity. Five phases of activity, based on archaeological features were identified.

Phase 1 – Late Neolithic – Early Bronze-Age: A group of four large and deep pits were identified in the southern part of the Flood Compensation Area. These were orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. Occasional sherds of Grooved Ware and contemporary flintwork were recovered from the features fill deposits as well as intrusive material perhaps introduced by rooting or the plough. In addition one of the pits contained a fragmentary red deer antler, possibly a pick.

Period 2 – Mid-Late Bronze Age: activity comprises the first intensive land-use of the area. The period has been divided into two phases. Period 2.1 was dominated by the fragmentary remains of a coaxial field system bounded by double ditched stock-proof hedges, or narrow droves or tracks around field edges. As well as fields the system also incorporated up to three, small, rectilinear enclosures, which occasionally included placed deposits. A large waterhole existed within the corner of one of the fields as did a small cremation cemetery, further to the north and east. Period 2.2 activity appears to be largely related to settlement, comprising roundhouses and four-post structures, as well of evidence of cooking and other activities. A new co-axial field system was laid out in the north of the excavation area and there was evidence for the elaboration of a pre-existing enclosure. As well as settlement and land division, evidence of funerary related activity (cremations) was also encountered.

Period 3 - Middle Iron Age – Early Roman: a number of ditches were identified along the western side of the site, these largely comprised drainage ditches and occasional pits.

Period 4.1- Early Romano-British (1st – mid 2nd Century) evidence of a field system was encountered in the central and southern part of the site. This comprised field-boundaries and drainage ditches. These were on a different orientation to both the preceding and later field systems encountered on the site. The field boundaries in the south of the Flood Compensation Area were intended to drain into a pre-existing watercourse. A small, presumably circular, enclosure (with two curvilinear abutting ditches) was also identified within the Flood Compensation Area that extended beyond the limit of excavation.

Period 4.2 – Later Romano-British (3rd to mid-4th century): A portion of a rectangular or square ditched enclosure was identified that directly overlay and replaced the “circular” early Roman example.

Period 5 – Medieval: A field system was recorded on the site. This comprised four northeast-southwest orientated ditches with broadly perpendicular evidence of plough furrows indicating cultivation. A further part of the same system was encountered in the north-eastern part of the site and comprised a roughly right angled ditch relating to the corner of a field. A large sub-circular pit, likely associated with quarrying activity was located within the field system. Two pits containing animal burials possibly date to this phase due to the present of a single medieval sherd. The animal burials relate to a adult cattle and a juvenile sheep or goat.

Phase 6 – Post-Medieval: activity is largely restricted to the canalisation of a possible watercourse and associated land-drainage. Ditches of the medieval or earlier field system would have been decommissioned during Parliamentary Enclosure of the area.

The low lying area to the south of the main area of excavation was subject to a borehole survey and palaeoenvironmental assessment. This comprised 3 transects of regularly spaced boreholes which recorded an area of mainly minerogenic sedimentation. The environmental evidence from the deposits here indicates accumulation within a wide embayment or estuary with fringing saltmarsh and tidal flats. The pollen assemblage was extremely poorly preserved and does not significantly contribute to the understanding of the site. However, the ostracod/foram and diatom assemblages allow us to provide an accurate characterisation of the accumulation conditions within the estuary. In addition, waterlogged deposits were recorded within a waterhole feature of Bronze Age date. The resultant pollen and plant macrofossil assemblages were sufficiently well preserved to characterise the on-site vegetation contemporaneous with the occupation of the site.

During the excavation work, 68 environmental samples were taken. The samples were taken from a variety of feature types, including pits, ditches, post-holes, hearths, cremations and waterholes. Samples from Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age features contained large amounts of rootlets and uncharred seeds. Charred plant remains were limited to possible free-threshing bread type wheat. A sample from the fill of a possible cooking pot contained oak, hazel, wild cherry/blackthorn and Maloideae.

Samples from Mid-Late Bronze Age cremation features contained large amounts of uncharred modern rootlets and other uncharred material. A few of the samples contained large quantities of wood fragments. Several fragments were identified as hazel/alder. A large number of burnt bones were also recovered from the deposits. Ten samples produced large wood charcoal assemblages. They derive from pit features dating to the Mid-Late Bronze Age (Phase 2.2). Oak and Maloideae were relatively common across many of the features while ash and hazel were recorded more sporadically.

Samples from medieval contexts were dominated by uncharred material such as rootlets and seeds, with tiny fragments of charcoal. A large number of land snail shells were also recovered. {2} {3}

A magnetometer survey (28th - 30th May 2014) was carried out on land at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis. The survey covered 12.8 hectares across 3 arable fields. The survey identified various weakly enhanced linear anomalies within the dataset which may be of archaeological interest and were mainly confined to the south-western extents of the surveyed areas. These are mostly thought to represent ditches. The most prominent

features within the dataset consist of a series of weakly enhanced linear features at approximate right-angles. These may form a series of ditches enclosing a rectangular area. Unfortunately no excavation trenches were placed in this area for verification. A very weak anomaly within the magnetic dataset, possibly relates to a pit which during an excavation on the site was found to contain heat affected stone. {4}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2014. Archaeological Evaluation Report Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Project Number: 6594.
 - (2) Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2015. A Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Report - Land at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Project Number: 6594 and 7006.
 - (3) Unpublished document: Archaeology South-East. 2015. Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis (Bersted / Aldingbourne) - Summary Report.
 - (4) Grey Literature Report: ArchaeoPhysica Ltd. 2014. Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex - Geophysical Survey Report. Project Code: ORB141.
-

Associated Monuments

MWS12157 Oldlands Farm, Aldingbourne -Archaeological Investigations (Mesolithic to post-medieval activity) (Monument MWS12157)

Event ID: EWS1559 **Name:** Land Between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis: Archaeological

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1559	Land Between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis: Archaeological Evaluation Report	Intervention

External Reference: Ref: 64260.02

Dates: 09/10/2006 - 15/12/2006, between (October - December 2006)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Geoarchaeological Test Pits

Thesaurus Event Types

BOREHOLE SURVEY

EVALUATION

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Wessex Archaeology

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

Land Between Felpham and Flansham

Grid Reference

Centred SU 9531 0128 (2326m by 1457m) SU90SE Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Aldingbourne, Arun, West Sussex

Civil Parish Bersted, Arun, West Sussex

Civil Parish Felpham, Arun, West Sussex

Civil Parish Yapton, Arun, West Sussex

District Arun, West Sussex

Address

Land Between Felpham and Flansham

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in land between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis ahead of a proposed residential development. In total, 245 evaluation trenches were excavated within six separate areas. Evidence of land management dating from the mid Bronze Age to the present day was recorded and it was noted that there was increased activity on areas of higher ground.

Zone 1 was seen to contain features predominately of Bronze Age date which could possibly suggest a settlement; a number of undated features, mainly made up of ditches may have also indicated a field system associated with the postulated Bronze Age settlement.

Zone 2 revealed more features of Bronze Age date however the majority of these were seen to be ditches. From within one of the ditches recovered a large number of pottery sherds dating Late Bronze Age were recovered which could again be a possible indication of occupation on the site.

It was suggested that small scale occupation may have taken place in a third zone within the site. A series of features of Roman date were recorded suggesting activity dating to this period. The nature of the features would suggest that a farming settlement may have been located here.

Within the machine excavated test pits an underlying intended to investigate the pre-Devensian, Pleistocene age deposits, a variable series of deposits occurred between the Brickearth and the basal Chalk. Although clean sands of variable thickness were observed, and initially believed to be of marine (raised beach) origin, the ostracod assemblage indicated that these were freshwater deposits. Thick mixed calcareous silty clays with pockets of sand, rounded beach pebbles and flint nodules derived from the Chalk were also found to underlie, or in places intercalate with, the sands. These were also cold stage sediments; formed dominantly of solifluction

Event ID: EWS1559 **Name:** Land Between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis: Archaeological

deposits, moved across the landscape by periglacial water and heave into low-lying areas where they were relaid by pooled freshwater which might be described as lake (lacustrine) conditions. {1}

Four test pits were excavated in order to provide expert advice pertaining to the pleistocene geology and potential palaeoecological and archaeological remains from sediments underlying the survey area.

The first two test pits GTP1 and GTP2 were dug as observation sections; the geology was recorded in and grab samples taken. Following the results of the grab sample analysis, two further pits GTP3 and GTP4 were excavated and recorded in detail. GTP3 was also extensively sampled through all its major units. The sedimentary units and unit boundaries were described following the methodology of Jones et al. (1999), Tucker (1996) and Roberts and Pope (2001) {2}

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Wessex Archaeology. 2007. Land Between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis: Archaeological Evaluation Report. Ref: 64260.02.
- (2) Grey Literature Report: M.B. Roberts. Geological and palaeoenvironmental investigation of late Middle-Late Pleistocene sediments at Felpham.

Associated Monuments

MWS12237 Land Between Felpham and Flansham, Bognor Regis: Archaeological Evaluation Report (Monument MWS12237)

Event ID: EWS1832 **Name:** The Oldlands Farm Site, Bersted - Evaluation (Stages 1a and 1b)

Event ID	Event Name	Event Type
EWS1832	The Oldlands Farm Site, Bersted - Evaluation (Stages 1a and 1b)	Intervention

External Reference: Reference: SLD/2016/2018

Dates: 01/04/2015 - 31/12/2017, between (April 2015 and December 2017)

Project Details:

Event/Activity Types

Evaluation

Thesaurus Event Types

EVALUATION

Event/Activity References - None recorded

Organisation: Development Archaeology Services

Associated Individuals - None recorded

Associated Organisations - None recorded

Location

The Oldlands Farm Site
Shripney Road

Grid Reference

Centred SU 94222 01687 (238m by 224m) SU90SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish	Aldingbourne, Arun, West Sussex
Civil Parish	Bersted, Arun, West Sussex
District	Arun, West Sussex

Address

The Oldlands Farm Site, Shripney Road, Bersted, West Sussex

Description and Sources

Description

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the Oldlands Farm site, Bersted, in advance of a proposed commercial development at the site. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in two phases (Phase 1a and Phase 1b).

Phase 1a, in the northern area of the site, involved the excavation of eight trial trenches of varying length. Only one archaeological feature was noted. This was a north-south aligned single linear feature containing the remains of a fragmented Bronze Age vessel and a quantity of burnt flint fragments. The vessel fragments belong to the base of a large Deverel-Rimbury type Bucket Urn dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

Phase 1b involved the excavation of six trenches of varying length, with two of these being subsequently lengthened. A number of features were identified. A shallow linear feature, orientated north east south west, was identified. It contained 5 fragments of burnt flint and a single pot fragment. Another linear feature was also identified. It was orientated north south and contained 15 fragments of burnt flint and 3 fragments of Bronze Age pot. This feature continued into another trench where 11 fragments of burnt flint, 5 fragments of Bronze Age pot, 4 flint flakes and 6 fragments of cow bone were also recovered. The linear feature was cut by an adjacent large pit of around 2.40m diameter. Processed samples from this large pit produced 58 fragments of burnt flint and three fragments of Bronze Age pot. However, the function of the pit is unclear. Two additional small pits / shallow depressions were also seen in association with and cutting the larger circular pit feature. The pits / depressions contained burnt flint, Bronze Age pot and flint flakes.

Another shallow linear was also identified, orientated approximately east west. The linear contained two fragments of burnt flint. A small shallow ovoid pit was also revealed. It is thought that the linears were probably associated with stock control within defined boundary areas.

Overall, the evaluation identified Middle Bronze Age / Bronze Age activity within the proposed development site.

{1}

Event ID: EWS1832

Name: The Oldlands Farm Site, Bersted - Evaluation (Stages 1a and 1b)

Sources

- (1) Grey Literature Report: Development Archaeological Services. 2018. Summary Report on the Results of a Two Stage Archaeological Evaluation Associated with Development at The Oldlands Farm Site (Stages 1a and 1b). Reference: OLD/2016/2018.
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Associated Monuments

MWS14430 The Oldlands Farm Site, Bersted - Evaluation (Monument MWS14430)