

**Eastergate Fruit Farm, Eastergate,
West Sussex, PO20 3RP**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR 494731 105578

Arun District Council (EG/99/17/PL)

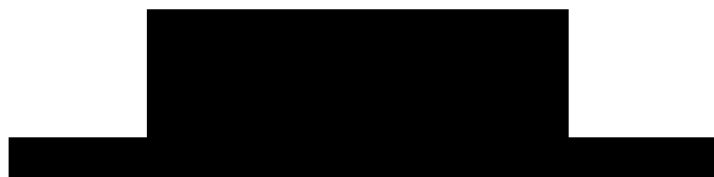
ASE Project no. 190494

Site Code: EFR19

July 2019

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Prepared by:	Paul Mason	Project Manager	
Reviewed and approved by:	Jon Sygrave	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	July 2019		
Version:			

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by Linden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Eastergate Fruit Farm, Eastergate, West Sussex, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR 494731 05578; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site consists of agricultural fields and pockets of woodland lying on the northern periphery of Eastergate. (Figure 2). Its bounded by the B2233 Barnham Road to the south with fields extending to the north, east and west.
- 1.3 According to the latest data available from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock geology at the site is London Clay Formation of clay silt and sand with overlying superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits consisting of sands, silts and clays (BGS 2019).
- 1.4 Outline planning permission has been granted by Arun District Council for residential development of the site (planning reference EG/99/17/PL). The archaeological condition is as follows:

16. An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out at the expense of the developer in accordance with a specification (written scheme of investigation) to be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing before the commencement of building works.

Reason: To ensure appropriate investigation and recording of archaeological heritage assets on the site prior to commencement of new building works.

- 1.5 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation of the site. It has been prepared in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c). All work will be reported upon in line with guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015). It will be submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.
- 1.6 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (WSCC, ESCC, CDC 2015) which outlines the methodology to be used in the field, and in reporting and archiving of the results. The project will be managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).
- 1.7 In the event that archaeological remains are found during the course of the evaluation, further archaeological mitigation may be required. Any such work would be subject to a separate Written Scheme of Investigation.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following background has been drawn from documentation deriving from project work in the vicinity of the site (ASE 2013, 2018a, 2018b).

- 2.2 Monitoring of SI works ahead of the proposed A29 realignment to the north and east of the site revealed a series of quaternary deposits, with the potential to contain palaeoenvironmental, paleoclimate and paleogeographic evidence. It is not known whether these deposits extend onto the site (ASE 2018b).
- 2.3 Excavations at Nyton Road, some 400m to the west of the site, revealed Early Neolithic activity in the form of pits with significant assemblages of finds, both pottery and lithic industry. Similarly dated evidence has been found at other sites in the area, for example a polished stone axe at Hales Barn Farm and flint tools and flint-working debris found near Nyton (Ramboll 2013).
- 2.3 Earlier Bronze Age activity at Nyton Road was limited to a single deposition of two Beaker vessels. Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age activity was recorded on site in the form of field systems and a pit oven structure. A Bronze Age urn is recorded on the HER c. 500m to the north of the site at Eastergate Lane.
- 2.4 There are several Roman sites and findspots on the HER within the vicinity of the site, including cremation burials. The only Roman find at Nyton Road was a residual tile.
- 2.5 A number of ditches at Nyton Road corresponded with field boundaries depicted on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map.
- 2.6 Early editions of OS mapping indicate that the site was occupied by agricultural fields in the later 19th and early 20th century.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general objective of the archaeological work is to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed by the evaluation are recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards and to enable appropriate mitigation methods.
- 3.2 Site-specific research aims are proposed below with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF):
- Does the site contain evidence that can aid in understanding of how the Sussex coastal plain was utilised during the Early Neolithic?
 - Can the site contribute to an understanding for the apparent settlement hiatus between the Late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age on the Coastal Plain?

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The trial trench evaluation will comprise the excavation of 21 trenches, each measuring 30m x c.2m (Figures 2 and 3). Trench locations may be altered, subject to on-site constraints. A contingency for targeting a further 1% sample of the development footprint has been agreed should significant archaeology be present.

- 4.2 A Risk Assessment will be produced prior to the commencement of the work. The locations of all the trenches will also be checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of excavation.
- 4.3 The trenches will be excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator. The trenches will be excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m with artefact recovery taking place every scrape until archaeological deposits are encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. The excavator will be fitted with a smooth grading bucket and care will be taken that archaeological deposits are not damaged due to over machining. All machining will stop if significant archaeological deposits are encountered.
- 4.4 Any exposed archaeological deposits will then be cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. During the evaluation archaeological features/deposits will be excavated enough to characterise them.
- 4.5 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, shall be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the Archaeological Officer will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the Archaeological Officer of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).
- 4.6 If human remains are found they will be left in situ, covered over and protected. The client and the Archaeological Officer will be informed immediately.

5.0 RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

- 5.1 All recording and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with this document and the Sussex Archaeological Standards unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Archaeological Officer.
- 5.2 The spoil from the excavations will also be inspected by the ASE archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector will be used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations and at regular intervals during the excavation of archaeological deposits and features.
- 5.3 The Archaeological Officer will be kept informed of progress and given the opportunity to attend site once all the trenches have been opened.
- 5.4 All archaeological features will be recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features will be planned at 1:20 and section/wall elevation drawings will be at 1:10, unless this is impractical in which case an alternative will be agreed with the Archaeological Officer. Drawings will be on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits will be described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains will be levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record will be made in digital format, monochrome and colour transparency.

- 5.5 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011) and waterlogged wood and in consultation with the Historic England regional advisor or relevant specialists. Samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, waterlogged or cess deposits.
- 5.6 Bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects (in small <20 litre samples) or large mammal bones and marine molluscs (in large samples of ~80-100 litres). When taken, large samples will be extracted wholesale from deposits to maximise the range of bone recovered. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be photographed and recorded in detail in their original location prior to being lifted or sampled for more detailed assessment. Other scientific dating and geoarchaeological techniques will be considered and employed where appropriate. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.

6.0 TREATMENT OF ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

- 6.1 All pottery, bone and worked flint recovered from the excavations will be washed and marked with an appropriate code to identify the site and context. Most ceramic and other building material and burnt flint will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.
- 6.2 The lithic and ceramic finds will be identified by specialists within Archaeology South-East, and preliminary identification of faunal remains may be undertaken if the nature of the deposits justifies such study. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the receiving museum.
- 6.3 Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Flots and wet samples may be subsampled for assessment purposes.
- 6.4 If waterlogged wood specimens are removed from site they will be cleaned, recorded, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification (unless considered detrimental to the artefact preservation or status). These specimens will be stored submerged in water in cool conditions and assessment will establish whether appropriate for conservation. Specialist samples as well as sub-samples of bulk soil samples (taken to recover pollen, parasites, fish and small bone, foraminifera and insects for example) will be sent to appropriate specialists for assessment and analysis.

- 6.5 Provision will be made for obtaining charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating from such archaeological features as structural features (e.g. post holes), hearths, kilns or features that contain good artefactual or ecofactual assemblages.

7.0 REPORTING

- 7.1 Reporting will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*.
- 7.2 Within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork a full report on the results of the field evaluation will be submitted. It will include the local geology and archaeological evidence. It will describe the work undertaken and results of elements described above. It will include a description of archaeological features and tabulated details of finds from each context. A list of environmental samples and any samples taken for dating will also be included. The report will include a plan showing the trench locations. Further plans, sections and photographs of features located and excavated will be included as necessary.
- 7.3 A draft report will be submitted to the Archaeological Officer for approval. Once any necessary changes have been made, the approved final report will be submitted to the client and should be passed to the local planning authority with a further copy submitted to Arun District Council so that the results may be added to the Historic Environment Record. A short summary of the work will be prepared for the relevant local archaeological journal.
- 7.4 A further digital copy of the report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) will be supplied to West Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdfa format.

8.0 PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION OF THE FINDS AND ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1994).
- 8.2 Artefacts and ecofacts recovered during excavation form an important part of an archaeological site archive. The archive will be deposited in the local receiving museum.

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 A risk assessment for the project will be prepared prior to the commencement of work. All relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

10.0 INSURANCE

- 10.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss, any one occurrence; primary public/products liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability, with an extension for no-fault compensation up to £15,000,000 in the aggregate; professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate.

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Archaeology South-East
July 2019

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+ 494936, 105394

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July 2019

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Drawn by: AR

Eastergate Fruit Farm

Plan of proposed trenches location

Fig. 2

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0 50m

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Eastergate Fruit Farm

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Proposed trenches, overlay proposed development plan

Fig. 3