

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Central Wetland Area, Toddington Lane
Littlehampton, West Sussex**

**NGR: 503609 104108
(TQ 03609 04108)**

Planning Ref: LU/63/11

**ASE Project No: 180403
Site Code: LNR16**

**ASE Report No: 2018194
OASIS id: archaeol6-319136**

By Tom Munnery

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex, between the 4th and 6th June 2018. The work was commissioned by Armour Heritage in advance of redevelopment of the land as works associated with housing development. Seven trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated.

No features of archaeological interest were observed. A single sherd of probably Roman pottery was recovered from overburden in one of the trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Armour Heritage Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed mixed use development of the Central Wetland Area at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 503609 104108 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located in north Littlehampton, between Bognor Regis to the west and Worthing to the east, on the flat and low-lying coastal plain in West Sussex. The River Arun borders the town to the west, and to the north lies the South Downs National Park. The development site is positioned to the north of Toddington Lane and of the main south coast railway line. The Black Ditch, a tributary of the River Arun forms the northern boundary to the site (Armour Heritage 2018).
- 1.2.2 The Central Wetland Area is between AP4 and AP6 of the development and is bounded to the east by a trackway and to the west by hedgerow. The northern limit is defined by a drainage ditch. Until recently the site had been occupied by a depot and factory associated with the nursery on site.
- 1.2.3 The site is situated on predominantly flat ground. Ground levels of c. 1.39m – 2.10m AOD were recorded in across the site.
- 1.2.4 According to the latest available information from the British Geological Survey, the natural geology in the north of the site comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, and Culver Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 94 million years in the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain by superficial Raised Beach Deposits of sand and gravel which were formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The geology in the south of the site comprises Pit Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 90 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand, silt and clay.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Outline planning consent (LU/63/11) has been granted by Arun District Council for a mixed-use development comprising residential dwellings, employment floorspace and local facilities. It includes a new road link to the A259 from Mill Lane and Toddington Lane. The outline consent has been granted on condition that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken. The conditions state:

“Archaeological investigations of the site shall be carried out for each phase or sub phase of the development at the expense of the developer in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The archaeological investigations shall be carried out following the demolition of existing buildings and before the commencement of new building works in each phase or sub

phase of the development. This shall include (as necessary): - Geophysical surveys, test pits and trenches in the areas currently occupied by existing structures, and, - Borehole surveys conducted within the grazing marshes to the south of the Black Ditch and to the north of the development area.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological features on the site will be properly recorded before development”.

“The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing immediately of any items of archaeological interest unearthed during the building operation and given a reasonable opportunity for an examination of the artefact and the site where it was found.

Reason: To enable items of archaeological interest to be recorded in accordance with the policy AREA 17 of the Arun District Local Plan”.

1.3.2 This evaluation forms part of a staged approach to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the site and follows the completion of a cultural heritage chapter in the Environmental Statement (WYG 2011), and five Archaeological Phases (AP1-AP4, AP6) of trial trenching and subsequent archaeological mitigation (Figure 2) (TVAS 2015, 2016a, 2016b, ASE 2016a, 2017, 2018a, 2018b, forthcoming a & b) within parcels of land in the north and east of the site. Further evaluation has also been completed on the Fitzalan Link Road to the south of the site (ASE 2016c).

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Armour Heritage 2018) was prepared outlining the aims and objectives of the current project phase and the methodology to be followed. It was submitted to and approved by the client and the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this document, as well as with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC / WSCC 2017) document and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, carried out between the 4th and 5th June 2018.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Palaeolithic c.500, 000 BC - c.10, 000 BC

2.1.1 Most archaeological deposits of this age are usually associated with disturbed geological contexts, most especially along the coastal plain, and from buried river terrace gravels. Sussex has a number of sites where relatively large areas of undisturbed Palaeolithic land-surfaces have been preserved. The oldest and most important of these is the Goodwood-Slindon Raised Beach. This geological sequence of glacial and interglacial deposits has been partially exposed, excavated and recorded at Boxgrove near Chichester. Boxgrove is a site which provides clear evidence of Hominid activity, with undisturbed Palaeolithic floor surfaces, and a large number of in situ Palaeolithic finds, up to 500,000 years old (Roberts and Parfitt 1999).

2.1.2 The West Sussex HER holds no records relating to Palaeolithic activity on or near the site.

2.2 Mesolithic c.10, 000 BC - c.4, 300 BC

2.2.1 Many Mesolithic sites in Sussex are identified through concentrations of flintwork and isolated pits, rather than by a series of diagnostic archaeological features relating to an inferred settlement site. These flint scatters are found in all parts of the county, forming clusters, which may represent activity zones. The clusters predominate in the river valleys, with other sizeable concentrations on the High Weald and along the Coastal Plain where they are considered to represent exploitation of coastal lowlands following the inundation of the English Channel in c.6000BC (ASE 2002).

2.2.2 Early Mesolithic sites are, however, rare and where they exist, are situated predominantly on the Lower Greensand belts. Late Mesolithic sites are more frequent in Sussex, and along with open-air sites, a number of rock shelters have been discovered in the High Weald such as at Hermitage Rocks, High Hurstwood. Many of these sites have been interpreted as temporary hunting camps indicative of a broad spectrum subsistence strategy (Holgate 2003).

2.2.3 Locally, Segment 33 of the Bognor Regis and Littlehampton Transfer Pipeline work, located 3.2km south-west of the site, revealed 93 flakes with a high proportion showing evidence of retouch and use. The majority were hard hammer struck and many were primary flakes. Several soft hammer flakes of probable Mesolithic date and a small Mesolithic pick were also recorded (MWS6779, West Sussex HER, Heritage Gateway).

2.2.4 Residual Mesolithic flint was also recovered during excavations of a multi-period site on land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries (Dinwiddy 2012), situated to the south of the site. A possible Mesolithic bladelet was identified 1.8km east of the site on the Rustington Bypass works (Rudling and Gilkes 2000) along with a Mesolithic adze from an adjacent site at Roundstone Lane (ASE 2016b).

2.3 Neolithic c.4, 300 BC – c.2, 300 BC

- 2.3.1 The advent of the Neolithic in Sussex is marked by upland monuments including flint mines, oval and long barrows and causewayed and other enclosures, largely confined to the South Downs. Neolithic activity on the Coastal Plain has tended to be less visible due to the impact of arable farming on vulnerable archaeological deposits (ASE, 2002).
- 2.3.2 No clear evidence of Early Neolithic settlement has been recorded either on the Sussex Downs or the Coastal Plain. However, evidence of a Neolithic presence is provided by flint scatters, marking a broad Late Mesolithic - Early Neolithic horizon and pottery and flints found within isolated pits. Notable Early Neolithic pottery assemblages were identified at Drayton Quarry along with Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware, also identified at Chantry Farm, Westbourne (Seager-Thomas 2010). Discoveries at Drayton Quarry included two c.0.5km long parallel ditches identified as a Neolithic cursus (ibid). Pits dated to both the Early and Late Neolithic have been identified at Westhamptnett (Allen & Fitzpatrick 2008, 91; Chadwick 2006), and further evidence of Early Neolithic pits was identified at St Richards Hospital, Chichester (King and King 2010).
- 2.3.3 Recent excavations have demonstrated that there was a Neolithic presence in the vicinity of the site, with Neolithic axes recovered at the multi-period site at Toddington Nurseries (Dinwiddy, 2012), and on excavations on the A259 Rustington bypass (Rudling, & Gilkes 2000).

2.4 Bronze Age c.2, 300 BC - c.600 BC

- 2.4.1 The Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age period forms a distinct chronological boundary, with technological progress marked by the appearance of metalwork and textile production. Increasing contact between Britain and the continent is also evident in this era as is the rise of funerary monuments. Bronze Age burials are usually found in barrow monuments concentrated locally on the South Downs (Grinsell 1934; Garwood 2003; Hart 2015), although evidence of their existence further afield is coming to light (Munnery 2017). Evidence of barrows on the coastal plain is limited to the 'Hove' barrow excavated in the 19th century, recently complemented by the discovery of possible barrow-related ring ditch evidence at Westhamptnett (Chadwick 2006). Settlement evidence for the period remains rare, with notable local exceptions including the Downs chalkland site of Belle Tout in East Sussex (Bradley 1982), with further evidence from pottery assemblages within downland dry valley colluvial sequences (Hart 2015).
- 2.4.2 Other evidence for the period is confined to artefact scatters characterised by flintwork, pottery, and metalwork finds. Beaker pottery has been found on the coastal plain at North Bersted. It is suggested that Early Bronze Age pits and the structured deposits they contain may reflect formative processes of land-tenure materialisation (Dunkin and Yates 2008, 25; Hart 2015, 84).
- 2.4.3 Locally, Middle and Late Bronze Age occupation was recorded on land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries, comprising a hollow way, waterholes/wells and a possible roundhouse with associated spreads of

domestic rubbish. Two Neolithic axes deposited in the terminal of a Bronze Age ditch may have been curated (Dinwiddy, 2012).

2.4.4 Excavations by both Thames Valley Archaeological Services (Weaver 1995) and Wessex Archaeology (Lovell 2002) at the former Horticultural Research International establishment, south-east of the site discovered evidence for activity during the Middle to Late Bronze Age including pottery and a cremation burial. Finds suggested the presence of a settlement in the vicinity. Furthermore, an urned cremation recovered during works on the Rustington Bypass was thought to be of Bronze Age date (Rudling & Gilkes 2000). Additional Middle Bronze Age cremations were exposed during excavations and evaluation at Toddington Lane (ASE 2017; ASE 2018b; forthcoming a; forthcoming b). The two most recent phases of excavations at Toddington Lane revealed two probable Bronze Age stock management areas one with associated possible cremations and a cremation cemetery of similar date (ASE forthcoming a; forthcoming b).

2.4.5 Excavations south of the A259 New Road identified a Middle Bronze Age enclosure, field boundary ditch and a burnt mound with associated hearth, trough and waterhole (ASE 2016c). Slightly further afield, a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery was also identified west of Angmering, with an associated well, postholes and a curvilinear feature (ASE 2003). Adjacent to this site, on Roundstone Lane, a portion of a rectangular enclosure of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date was revealed (ASE 2016b).

2.5 Iron Age 600 BC to c.43 AD

2.5.1 Social and economic growth was very rapid during this period leading to an expanding population and increasing exploitation of what had previously been more marginal environments. Therefore, this period is characterised by changes in the entire archaeological record from pottery types to settlement and funerary practices. The most typical type of monument for this period is the hillfort, a number of which are located in prominent locations across the South Downs. By the Middle Iron Age strong regionalisation can be demonstrated and by the Late Iron Age the production of coins had developed along with the rapidly growing influence of the 'Roman World' (Stephenson forthcoming).

2.5.2 Settlements became larger and more varied throughout the period. A number of sites are recorded on the Coastal Plain, most of which have been discovered since Bedwin's survey which highlighted the lack of evidence from the area (Bedwin 1978). Chronologically, the settlement evidence from the area fluctuates, with fairly extensive settlement in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transitional period decreasing until c.400BC, after which there is evidence of increasing settlement (Stephenson forthcoming).

2.5.3 Evidence of Early Iron Age settlement and use of the landscape has been uncovered in earlier phases of the mitigation associated with this development (ASE forthcoming a; forthcoming b) in AP1 and the Fairhaven Nursery site. A portion of an enclosure occupied continuously or repeatedly throughout the Iron Age period was revealed during an earlier phase of works at Toddington Lane which demonstrating a high degree of grain storage (ASE 2017).

- 2.5.4 A small amount of residual Middle Iron Age pottery was found during the Watermead development, roughly 500m south-south-east of the site (Gilkes and Hammond 1991). Some Late Iron Age pottery was also found during the Rustington Bypass works, approximately 2.5km east of the site (Rudling and Gilkes 2000). The site at Roundstone Lane, Angmering revealed a concentration of activity dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age period with evidence of grain and possible alcohol production and elements of a pastoral society (ASE 2016b).

2.6 Roman / Romano British (43 AD to c.450 AD)

- 2.6.1 A range of archaeological sites from this period are recorded locally including two Roman villas, corn-drying kilns recorded at Belloc Road to the south-west of the site (Gilkes 1993), and a pottery production site recorded to the south of the area on the former Horticulture Research International (HRI) site (Lovell 2002).
- 2.6.2 Angmering Roman villa was one of the first elaborate early Roman villas of Sussex to be excavated. The 1st- and 2nd-century winged main house with its architecturally elaborate bath-house is situated 2km west of Angmering, and approximately 2km east of the site, built alongside the Black Ditch (Gilkes 1999). A cemetery was also associated with the villa.
- 2.6.3 The Gosden Road, Littlehampton villa was bulldozed before archaeologists could begin work, removing all but intrusive features and wall foundations. However, it was possible to determine that a small masonry building was constructed, consisting of a range of four rooms running north to south with a corridor running across the north and west side of the building, and potentially the south. A wing room was located at the north-east corner of the building, and potentially a second wing was situated at the south-east corner but this had been removed by later rebuilding. A mid to late 2nd century date for the villa has been suggested. Two Roman cremations was associated with the villa site (Gilkes 1993).
- 2.6.4 The multi-period site on land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries demonstrated intensive cereal production during the Romano-British period indicated by environmental remains recovered from a double-ditched field system and pits. It is suggested that the field system was part of a wider agricultural complex associated with the estate of the nearby Angmering Roman villa (Dinwiddy 2012).
- 2.6.5 Large amounts of pottery and metalwork of 1st and 2nd century AD date, recovered on the Rustington bypass excavations probably indicate settlement activity, whilst the many fragments of quern stones and millstones imply that milling was one function of the site, perhaps water milling, given the site's proximity to the 'Black Ditch' watercourse. The fieldwork also included excavation and recording of various features, including three ditches, a possible granary, and a timber building with a chalk-and-clay floor (Rudling and Gilkes 2000).
- 2.6.6 Recent excavations as a part of this development have yielded evidence of the Roman period within AP1, AP2, AP3 and AP5, some of which comprised the

re-excavation of an earlier Iron Age enclosure and its subsequent delineation with postholes and possible use as a stockade for livestock (ASE 2017).

2.7 The Early Medieval Period (c.450 AD to 1066 AD)

- 2.7.1 Other than the built heritage associated with churches in both Lyminster and Poling, evidence for early medieval activity is scarce. A limited amount of re-deposited Saxon pottery was noted at the multi-period site at Toddington Nursery.

2.8 Medieval Period (1066 AD to c.1540 AD)

- 2.8.1 Evidence for medieval activity in and around the study area can be seen from a general scatter of 14th century and later medieval pottery found during a watching brief on a warehouse construction site on the Watersmead Industrial Estate in 1990 (Gilkes and Hammond 1991) and from the observation of a number of chalk quarrying pits found during a phase of excavation for the current development, most likely for use in liming fields (ASE 2017). At Poling there is evidence for a deserted medieval village and possible moated site.

2.9 Post Medieval (c.1540 AD to 1900 AD)

- 2.9.1 Other than scattered ceramic evidence throughout the development area there is negligible evidence of post-medieval activity. The site is thought to have been in agricultural use in this period.

2.10 Previous archaeological work at the site

(Figure 2)

- 2.10.1 The following is drawn from the WSI for AP6 with due acknowledgement (Armour Heritage 2017).
- 2.10.2 Phased evaluations and mitigation within the AP4 area (ASE 2016a, 2017), and areas to the south and west of the site, APs1 – 3 and 6 (ASE 2018b, forthcoming a; forthcoming b; TVAS 2015, 2016a, 2016b), have confirmed extensive prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the area.

Archaeological evaluation and mitigation (Phase 1)

- 2.10.3 An archaeological evaluation was completed by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) in the AP1 area in December 2015 (TVAS, 2015), and comprised the excavation of 50 trenches, the majority measuring 25m x 1.8m. The AP1 area is positioned in the southwest corner of the site, between AP2 to the north and west, and AP3 to the east.
- 2.10.4 Disturbance caused by former buildings on the site was minimal, and the evaluation results confirmed the demolished nursery buildings had been constructed on made ground deposits overlying the earlier topsoil, which had provided a buffer serving to inadvertently protect the extensive archaeological features recorded.

- 2.10.5 Broadly the results indicated a shift in settlement and related activity across the area, with features recorded in the north dating from the Middle to Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, and features recorded elsewhere in AP1 broadly dating from the Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods. Features of Romano-British date were concentrated in the south west corner, and indicated continuous occupation from the Late Iron Age until the 2nd century AD.
- 2.10.6 The Romano-British activity indicated pits, postholes and ditches containing pottery, fired clay, burnt flint and residual worked flint in Trenches 1-8 in the southwest corner, and represented an area of intensive occupation close to the present Toddington Lane. Elsewhere ditches were recorded further to the south in Trenches 17-20 and the truncated remains of a single, probable urned cremation burial was recorded in Trench 33 in the east of the area. Iron Age features were more widely distributed across the area, with linear ditches and/or gullies recorded in Trenches 8, 9, 16, 23, 29, 39, 41 and 50. An assemblage of sixty struck flints were also recovered from the site, the majority representing broad flakes, although a retouched thumbnail scraper, a hollow scraper and possible broken hammerstone were also recorded. Although not chronologically distinctive, they were thought to date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age.
- 2.10.7 It was agreed further mitigation would comprise the excavation of 1.06ha across the area of Romano-British activity, along with further investigations to the east. The mitigation work is ongoing, and the results have not yet been disseminated.

Archaeological evaluation and mitigation (Phase 2)

- 2.10.8 The AP2 area was located immediately to the south and east of AP1 and proposed the excavation of 36 trenches of the same dimensions as the AP1 area (TVAS 2016a). The results similarly confirmed that the former nursery buildings had not impacted heavily on the buried archaeology, which had been in part protected by made ground deposits overlying the original soil horizons. Overall the results indicated a reduction in the activity across the area, with only 12 of the 36 trenches containing archaeological features. Nevertheless, evidence of Bronze Age occupation was more widespread, and confirmed in the north-east, central and south-east parts of the AP2 area.
- 2.10.9 Abraded sherds of Bronze Age pottery and worked flint in a number of the ditches, gullies and pits excavated, followed a pattern of loosely clustered or isolated areas of Bronze Age activity seen more widely across the extensive South Coast Plain landscape. The results also confirmed a notable reduction in the later prehistoric and Romano-British activity at the site. Indeed, only two ditches were confirmed to date to this period and were broadly located in the east of the AP2 area.
- 2.10.10 Mitigation in this area proposed the excavation of four separate areas covering a total of c. 5,580 sq.m. The works are ongoing, and the results have not yet been issued.

Archaeological evaluation (Phase 3)

- 2.10.11 Seventeen trenches were investigated in the AP3 area, of which ten positioned along the northern and eastern half of the area contained archaeological features (TVAS 2016b).
- 2.10.12 The results confirmed the area had been subject to significant ground levelling to provide a level surface for the greenhouses formerly occupying the site. This resulted in deep made ground deposits in the north and eastern parts of the area preserving the archaeology. By contrast, in the southeast corner of the AP3 area, significant truncation was noted, effectively removing any archaeology during the landscaping operation.
- 2.10.13 Despite the presence of services preventing full excavation of features in Trench 89, extensive archaeology was recorded. Postholes, one containing worked flint and Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery sherds were recorded, along with a number of further ditches containing quantities of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery. Similarly dated features comprising gullies, pits and ditches were investigated in Trenches 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97 and 102. A further feature containing Roman pottery was also recorded in Trench 90.

Archaeological evaluation (Phase 4)

- 2.10.14 Sixty-six trenches were excavated across the AP4 area, and the results confirmed 11 (Trenches 134, 135, 137, 147, 154, 162, 163, 164, 165, 172 and 174) contained archaeological features of prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval date (ASE, 2016).
- 2.10.15 Prehistoric pottery was recorded from a ditch and gully in Trench 164. Late Bronze Age sherds were retrieved from the basal ditch fill, but Iron Age pottery was collected from its upper fill, and may indicate the finds are residual, or that the upper fill represented an Iron Age recut of an earlier Bronze Age ditch. In total, 13 features were Iron Age in date, and comprised eight ditches, a ditch terminus, gully, two pits and a pit/posthole, and were principally located in the southeast corner of the AP4 area. The curvilinear form of the ditches recorded in three of the trenches (Trenches 154, 165 and 174) suggested they are likely to have formed part of an enclosure relating to settlement activity, and likely represent a continuation of the activity recorded during excavation in the northeast corner of the AP3 area. Only one ditch was securely dated to the Romano-British period (recorded in Trench 164), although its alignment suggested it represented a continuation of an Iron Age ditch recorded in Trench 154. Medieval quarry pits were recorded in the east of the site in Trenches 162, 163 and 172.
- 2.10.16 Subsequent excavation by ASE revealed extensive Iron Age and Roman use of part of the site, with an enclosure that appeared to be continuously or persistently utilised. Evidence of grain production and storage was encountered, along with evidence of its later utilisation as a stockade for livestock. Medieval chalk quarry pits were encountered within the north-eastern corner of AP4, most likely for use in liming fields.

Archaeological evaluation (Phase 6)

- 2.10.17 Extensive archaeological trenching comprising approximately 250 trenches was undertaken across AP6. The results demonstrated widespread, potentially low-level prehistoric and Roman use across much of the area, with concentrations seen in some locations within it (ASE 2018b).
- 2.10.18 The earliest cut feature was a probable Neolithic pit or treethrow. In addition to this there was a possible Bronze Age pit which contained the remains of at least two horses which showed signs of butchery and a probable Middle Bronze Age urned cremation. Some large pits of probable Roman date were also revealed, along with some ditches.
- 2.10.19 Mitigation in this area is proposed and comprised the excavation of c.1.60ha over seven areas.

Fairhaven Nurseries and Allotments

- 2.10.20 Trenching was undertaken across this area and revealed evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity (ASE 2018a).
- 2.10.21 Mitigation work is in progress on this site and results have not yet been disseminated (ASE forthcoming b)

2.11 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.11.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to:
- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development
 - identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site
 - assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits
 - produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential, and inform an archaeological mitigation strategy

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figure 3)

- 3.1.1 All seven trenches were located as specified in the WSI (Armour Heritage 2018). All work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (ibid) and in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).
- 3.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase, comprising the excavation of seven trenches on land which had previously been occupied by a depot, factory buildings and hardstanding associated with the nursery that once stood on the site. Trench numbering continued on from previous phases of evaluation undertaken on the site, with numbering starting at 466.
- 3.1.3 The locations of trenches were accurately established using a Leica Viva CS15 RTK GPS instrument and scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) to check for services.
- 3.1.5 All hand excavation and recording was undertaken in line with the WSI (Armour Heritage 2018).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	0
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	30
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	7

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 4)

- 4.1 None of the trenches contained any features of archaeological interest but a single sherd of probable Roman pottery was recovered from the overburden in Trench 472.
- 4.2 All of the trenches demonstrated truncation to some degree by the previous use of the site as a nurseries, as made ground or demolition rubble was sat directly on the natural geology. Teeth marks from a tracked excavator were also evident in the base of Trench 469. Only Trench 470 appeared to retain any subsoil, where a small portion was evident towards the centre of the trench.
- 4.3 The stratigraphy of the trenches is tabulated in Appendix 1. It can be briefly stated here that the overburden of made ground varied in thickness between 0.03m and 0.52m and predominantly comprised demolition rubble. The possible subsoil observed towards the centre of Trench 470 was up to 0.21m thick, but could have been imported to assist the formation levels of the site in this area.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A single undiagnostic body sherd weighing 18g of probable Roman pottery was recovered from the overburden of Trench 472. The fabric bears some similarities to that observed at the pottery production site nearby (Lovell 2002), but might derive from the medieval period.
- 5.1.2 No other finds were recovered during this archaeological evaluation.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence, deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.1.1 The site's stratigraphic sequence mostly comprised made ground/demolition material directly above the natural geology, except for a small area where some possible subsoil may survive. Natural geology was encountered at heights of between 1.19m and 1.83m OD.
- 6.1.2 No archaeological features were observed during the evaluation and only a single sherd of probably Roman pottery was recovered from the overburden.
- 6.1.3 It is believed that the construction and demolition of buildings and hardstanding associated with the nurseries that formerly occupied the site are likely to have truncated the archaeological horizon.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	NA					
Site code	LNR16					
Project code	180403					
Planning reference	LU/63/11					
Site address	Land at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex					
District/Borough	Arun District Council					
NGR (12 figures)	503609 104108					
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, and Culver Chalk Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	4-6 June 2018					
Sponsor/client	Armour Heritage					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery					
Period summary						
	Roman					
Project summary	An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Archaeology South-East at Land at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex NGR 503609 104108, between the 4th and 6th June 2018. Seven trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. No features of archaeological interest were observed. A single sherd of probable Roman pottery was recovered from the overburden of one of the trenches.					
Museum/Accession No.	To be confirmed					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	Roman	1 piece

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-319136

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton West Sussex, Central Wetland Area
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Archaeology South-East at Land at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex NGR 503609 104108, between the 4th and 6th June 2018. Seven trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. No features of archaeological interest were observed. A single sherd of probable Roman pottery was recovered from the overburden of one of the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 04-06-2018 End: 06-06-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	180403 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	LNR16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN LITTLEHAMPTON Land at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex
Postcode	BN17 7PP
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 03609 04108 50.826660866228 -0.528749397722 50 49 35 N 000 31 43 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1m Max: 1.68m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Armour Heritage

Project design originator Armour Heritage

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Tom Munnery

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex Central Wetland Area

Author(s)/Editor(s) Munnery, T

Other bibliographic details 2018194

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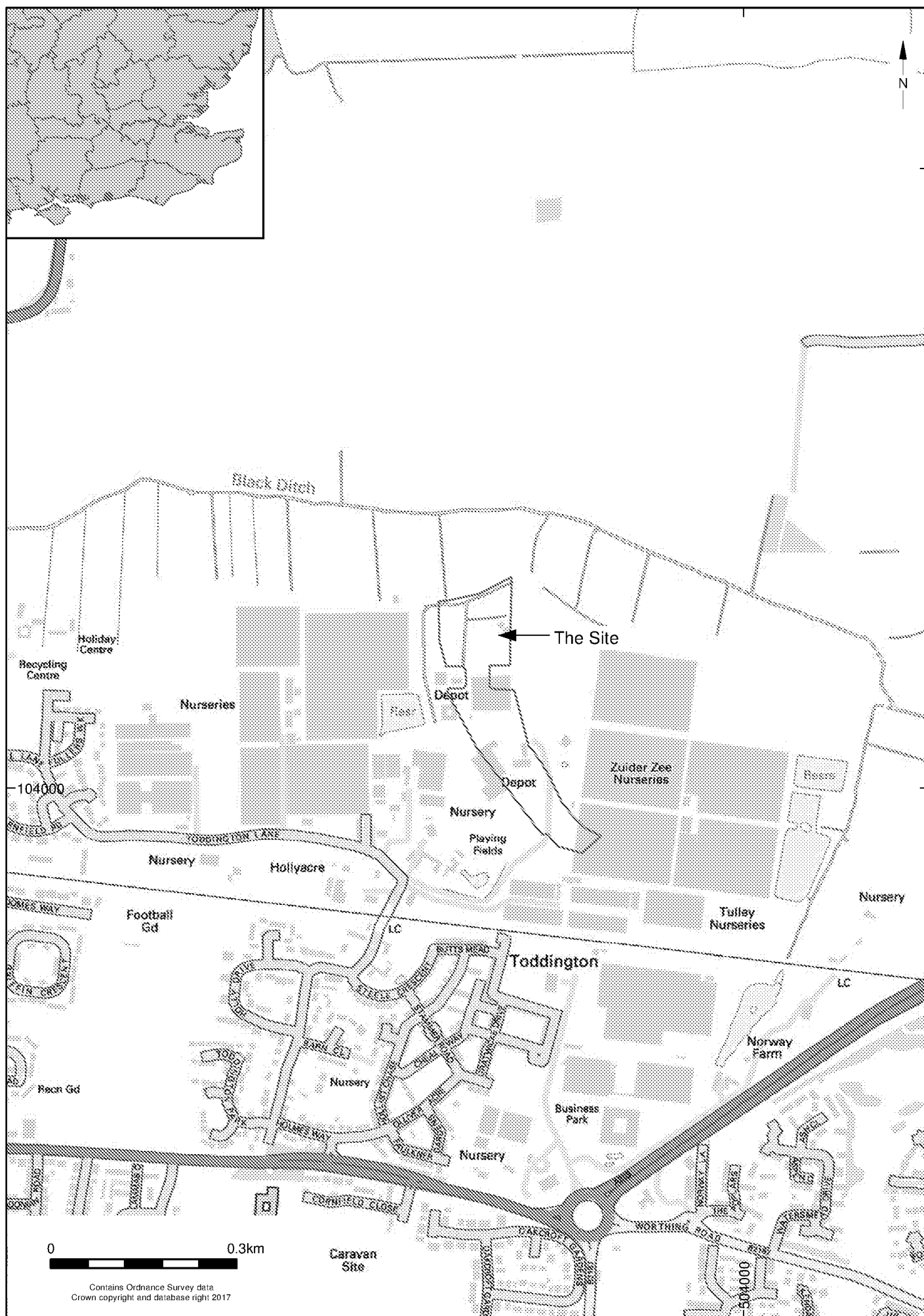
Place of issue or publication West Sussex HER

Entered by Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 7 June 2018

Appendix 1: Negative trench stratigraphy

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
466	466/001	Layer	Made ground	0.14-0.19	1.48-1.55
466	466/002	Layer	Natural		1.39-1.41
467	467/001	Layer	Made ground	0.21-0.25	1.59-1.63
467	467/002	Layer	Natural		1.36-1.40
468	468/001	Layer	Made ground	0.21-0.26	1.40-1.51
468	468/002	Layer	Imported topsoil	0.19-0.26	
468	468/003	Layer	Natural		1.00-1.05
469	469/001	Layer	Made ground	0.05-0.31	1.86-1.88
469	469/002	Layer	Natural		1.62-1.68
470	470/001	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.50	1.61-2.10
470	470/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.00-0.21	
470	470/003	Layer	Natural		1.51-1.60
471	471/001	Layer	Made ground	0.03-0.13	1.41-1.52
471	471/002	Layer	Natural		1.38-1.41
472	472/001	Layer	Made ground	0.00-0.17	1.49-1.89
472	472/002	Layer	Made ground	0.00-0.18	
472	472/003	Layer	Made ground	0.00-0.30	
472	472/004	Layer	Natural		1.32-1.41



© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton: Central Wetland Area	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180403	June 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2018194	Drawn by: RK		



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Project Ref: 180403

June 2018

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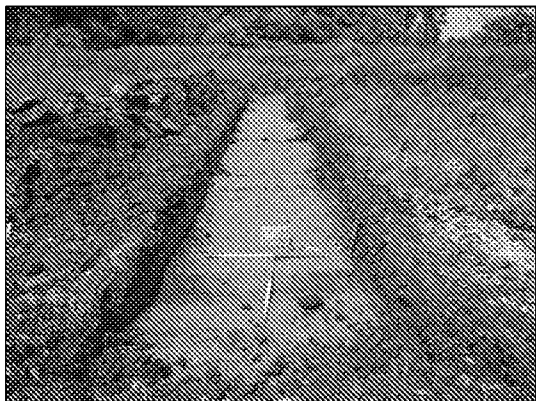
Toddington Lane, Littlehampton: Central Wetland Area

Archaeological areas

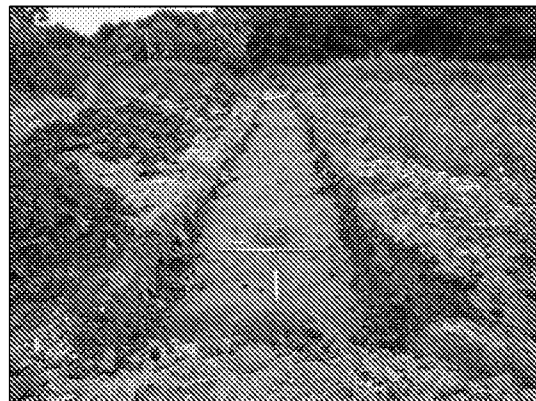
Fig.2



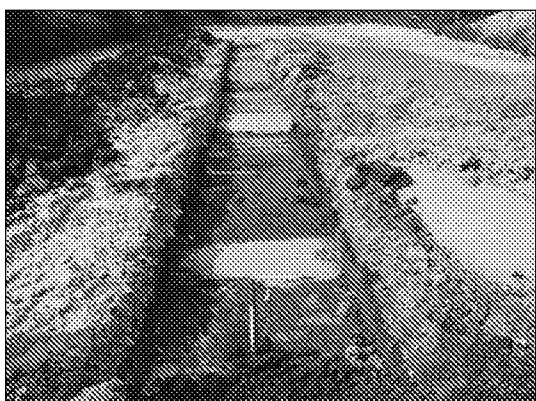
© Archaeology South-East		Toddington Lane, Littlehampton: Central Wetland Area	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 180403	June 2018	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2018194	Drawn by: RK		



Trench 466 looking north-east



Trench 467 looking east



Trench 468 looking north



Trench 469 looking south-east



Trench 470 looking north



Trench 471 looking west



Trench 472 looking north-west

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