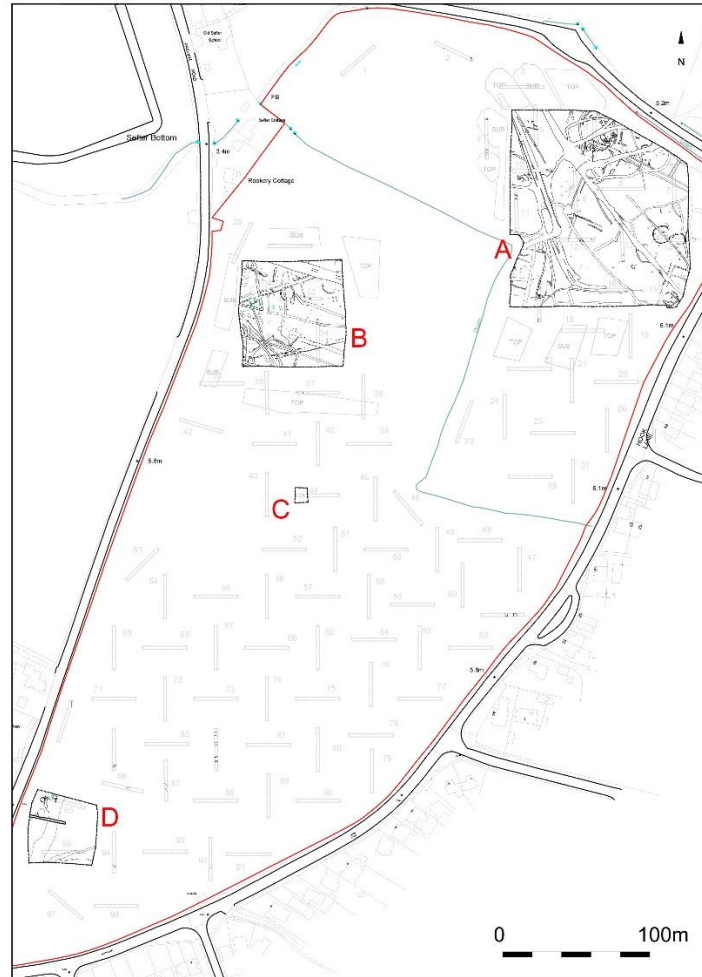


Hook Lane Pagham: archaeological excavations

Interim summary

Archaeology South-East October 2021

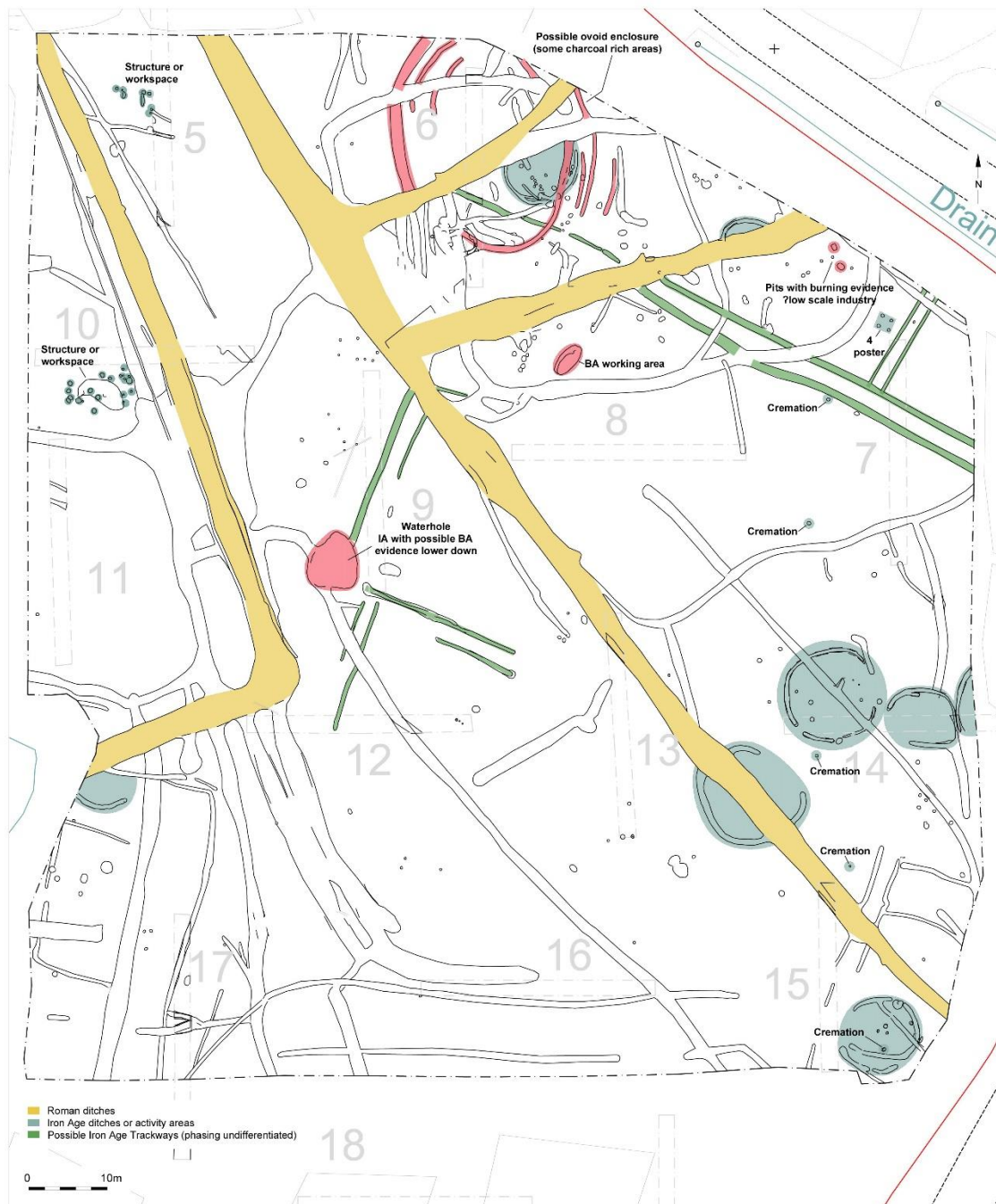
Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake archaeological excavations of land at Hook Lane, Pagham, West Sussex, (centred on NGR 489554 992020). These excavations comprised four areas (A-D, below) and were carried out between February 2020 and November 2020.



Excavation Areas

This document is a brief statement summarising the results at the end of the fieldwork. Interpretations are based on fieldwork observations only and are subject to change as the project progresses.

The site revealed a large amount of archaeological remains located across all of the areas investigated, but concentrated in Areas A and B. Provisionally the activity ranges from Bronze Age to post-medieval in date.

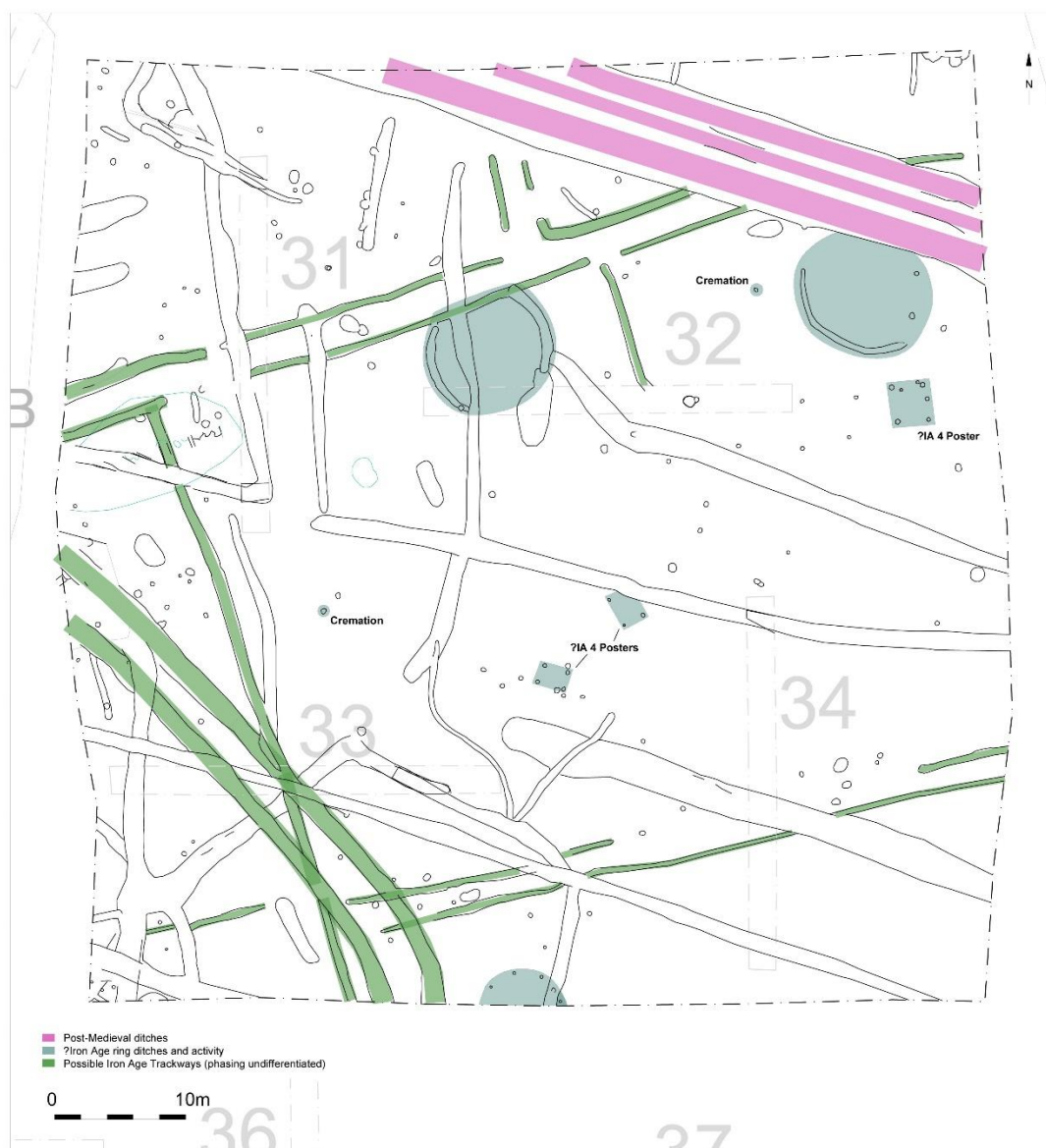


Area A: provisional interpretations

Potentially, one of the earliest archaeological features was a waterhole uncovered in Area A which reached a depth of over 3m and which contained some preserved organic material and possible Bronze Age artefacts towards the base. Also identified from this period was a large elongated pit (Area A) that contained quantities of knapped flint and possible whetstones and an anvil.

In both areas A and B, the most widespread archaeological evidence appears to be at least three phases of Iron Age field system (not highlighted on plan). Each phase of field system appears to be an almost total reorganisation of alignment, with markedly different orientations. The order in which these re-alignments occur is unclear. Sometimes forming part these field systems, a number of routeways were also encountered. These traversed the site, often in a rectilinear form, dividing the landscape.

Within and around these field systems and routeways were a number of ring ditches and other circular or elliptical ditches of probable Iron Age date. These mostly represent roundhouses, although the more elliptical examples might have formed functional spaces; perhaps suggesting work areas for other processing tasks associated with agriculture. One possible post built example of a roundhouse was recorded at the southern limit of Area B. Area B also contained a ring ditch that appeared to be attached to one of the routeways.



Area B : Provisional Interpretations

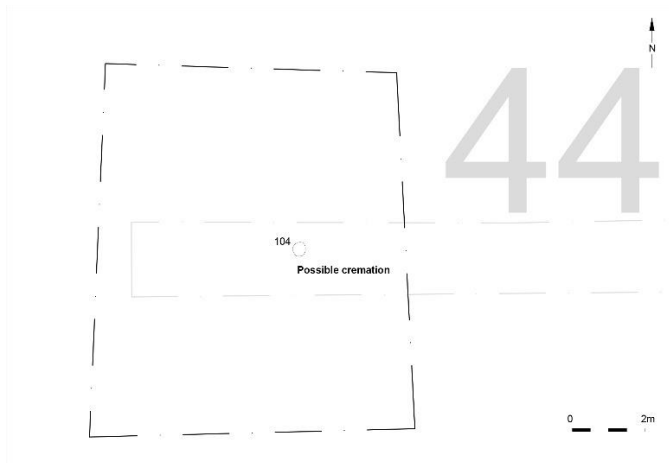
In addition to the ring ditches, there were several examples of 4-post structures, usually considered to have been used for grain storage. A small area of concentrated postholes on the western edge of Area A was also revealed. This might have been a post-built structure utilised as a workspace.

A number of cremation burials were excavated across the site, in Areas A, B and C. Both urned and unurned examples were recorded. Perhaps notable is an apparent north-south alignment of these interments in Area A.

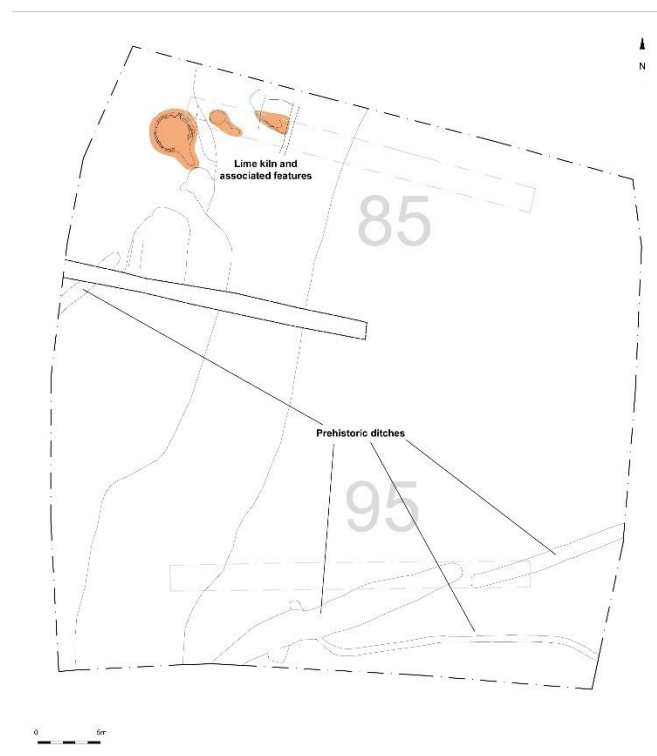
At least two pits along the northern edge of Area A demonstrated evidence of heating and might relate to hearth or small-scale, localised industrial use.

An unusual set of ovoid ditches was also recorded towards the north of Area A, the function of which is unclear.

Moving on from the probable Iron Age remains, evidence of a large Roman field system was also revealed in Area A. This appeared to bear have a similar orientation to the Iron Age activity, but some marked differences were also notable.



Area C: Provisional interpretation



Area D: Provisional interpretations

There then appears a hiatus in activity until the post medieval period, when a lime kiln was constructed in Area D. Only the basal elements of this structure existed, but what did remain was relatively well preserved. Also of post medieval date were a series of ditches cutting across the northern portion of Area B. These would have formed part of a wider drainage and field system. No obvious signs of phases earlier than post-medieval were noted within these ditches.