May 2022

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT FOR MORELANDS, ARUNDEL ROAD, FONTWELL, WEST SUSSEX, BN18 0SB.

Archaeology Services Lewes



View of the existing building looking west.

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[redacted]

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SUMMARY

This Desk-Based Assessment and walk over survey, has been prepared for the demolition of an existing structure and the building of five new housing units at Morelands, Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex, BN18 0SB. The Site is currently an occupied, single-storey dwelling surrounded by a large plot of land to all sides. It should be noted that this report forms the basis of an impartial analysis of significance and the contribution of setting. A review of the features and buildings recorded in the Historic Environment Record indicates that the Site has considerable archaeological potential, mainly due to the possible route of a Roman road which may pass through the north part of the Site.

This potential for the discovery of hitherto unknown archaeology has been supported by a review of the known archaeological sites near to the Site. Therefore the potential for new sites/findspots being located within the proposed development area is summarised as follows:

Prehistoric – Moderate to High
Romano-British - High
Anglo-Saxon - Low
Medieval - Low
Post-medieval – Low

In addition the assessment has concluded that there are no setting issues relating to Listed Buildings.

It may be that the West Sussex Archaeological advisors would prefer that development did not take place in the northern part of the Site, due to the potential for the Roman road to be impacted. It would be preferable if the designs for the buildings did not extend to this part of the Site. However, it is a moot point as to whether the Roman road occupies this space or not. Given that Historic England did not pursue Scheduling for the Site, this is a fairly clear indication that Roman settlement (such as a villa) is unlikely to be found in-situ.

One way to ascertain the Site's potential to contain the route of the Roman Road would be to commission an archaeological geophysics survey. However, the substantial root cover of the Site and the presence of tree stumps would make such a task difficult and may be unlikely to achieve success.

It is recommended that if the LPA are mindful to permit development, then a suitably worded condition should be applied to the consent, requesting a programme of archaeological investigation which is essential.

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Appendix

HER report for land off Fontwell Avenue (HER Number MWS13195)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology Services Lewes (ASL) has been commissioned by DJM Town Planning on behalf of their clients, to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA), for Morelands, Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex, BN18 0SB (Figs 1 and 2; herein referred to as the Site). The Site is currently an occupied, single-storey dwelling surrounded by a large plot of land to all sides. It should be noted that this report forms the basis of an impartial analysis. The level of impact to any below ground archaeological features is considered to be high and the potential for such features to be encountered during ground works is also considered to be high.

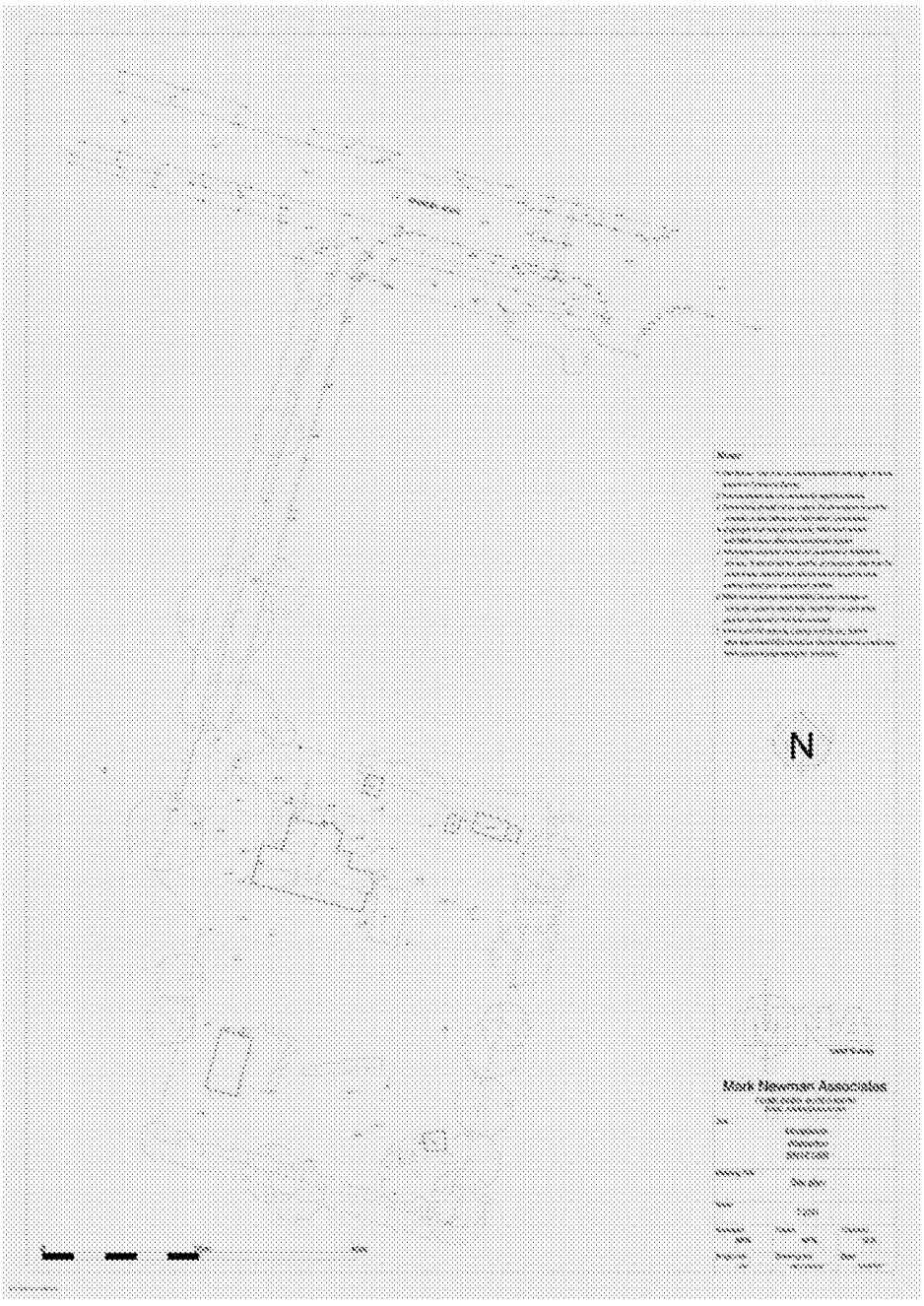


Fig. 1. Site location (Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of the Ordnance Survey ©Crown copyright and database rights 2020).

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Fig. 2. Proposed Site plan.

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1.2 This report has been prepared to support a planning application for the proposed demolition of an existing house to be replaced by five new units with associated areas of hard standing for cars as well as landscaped gardens.

1.3 This report follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk- Based Assessments* (CIfA 2014; updated 2017) as well as the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) 'Sussex Archaeological Standards 2019'.

1.4 The Site is situated at SU 95341 06903 in the parish of Warlberton, in the Arun District of West Sussex. A wider Study Area of 1 km radius has been considered to place the Site in context

1.5 The objective of this report is to provide an overview of the topography of the Site and to assess the potential impact on any surviving archaeological features, if present, by the proposals if permission is granted. In noting this, the significance of any potential features, both individually and as a group, can be assessed. Additionally, mitigation and recommendations are given.

1.6 It should be noted that this survey is non-intrusive and that the report is an appraisal, rather than a definitive statement. Therefore, any discussions on the presence or absence of below-ground archaeological remains should be regarded as *an indicator of potential*. The only way to produce a definitive statement would be for a geophysical survey or trial trenching to define the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the Site.

2.0 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The Site is situated in Fontwell, which lies within the coastal plain between the South Downs and the sea, *c*.6 km west of Arundel and c.9km east of Chichester.

2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is Lambeth Group consisting of clay, silt and sand. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The local environment was previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. Additionally there are Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. These are superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The local environment was previously dominated by sub-aerial slopes[1].

2.3 Borehole data is limited, with a series of borehole testing undertaken by the British Geological Survey nearby, *c*.50m south-east of the Site as follows:

[1] (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)

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Surrey SU 96-06

Bore Hole Log Book Ref. 315

BORE HOLE NO. 1

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Ordnance Plot No. 68

Water Struck at 10 ft. 0 ins. Rest Water Level ft. ins. after hours

Ordnance Datum Level

Description of Material	From ft. ins.	To ft. ins.	Depth of Seam ft. ins.	Total Depth ft. ins.	Bore Hole Section
Top Soil	0'-0"	1'-0"	1'-0"		
Brown Clay, Stone and Chalk	1'-0"	10'-0"	9'-0"		
Brown Soft Clay	10'-0"	15'-0"	5'-0"	15'-0"	

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 A previous application was made in January 2022 (reference number WA/5/22/PL) but was subsequently withdrawn.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A full search of the Historic Environment Record (HER), stored at the West Sussex Records Office (WSRO), was obtained (reference number 202223-016) which is summarised below. Listed Building data was acquired from Historic England. Details were taken of all archaeological sites and Listed Buildings within one kilometre radius.

4.2 The Site does not lie within a Conservation Area.

4.3 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Study Area.

4.4 West Sussex County Council, which advises the local planning authorities on archaeological matters, has identified various Archaeological Notification Areas (ANAs) throughout the county which are plotted onto a map (Fig. 3). These ANA maps are to be considered during the process of planning applications, in association with the County Archaeologist acting as consultant, but the areas have no statutory status or protection. The development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area, defining Roman occupation which is considered to be an area of high sensitivity (designation number: DWS8476). There are three other

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archaeological notifications areas within the Study Area which, therefore, raises the potential for below ground archaeological remains to exist within the development area.

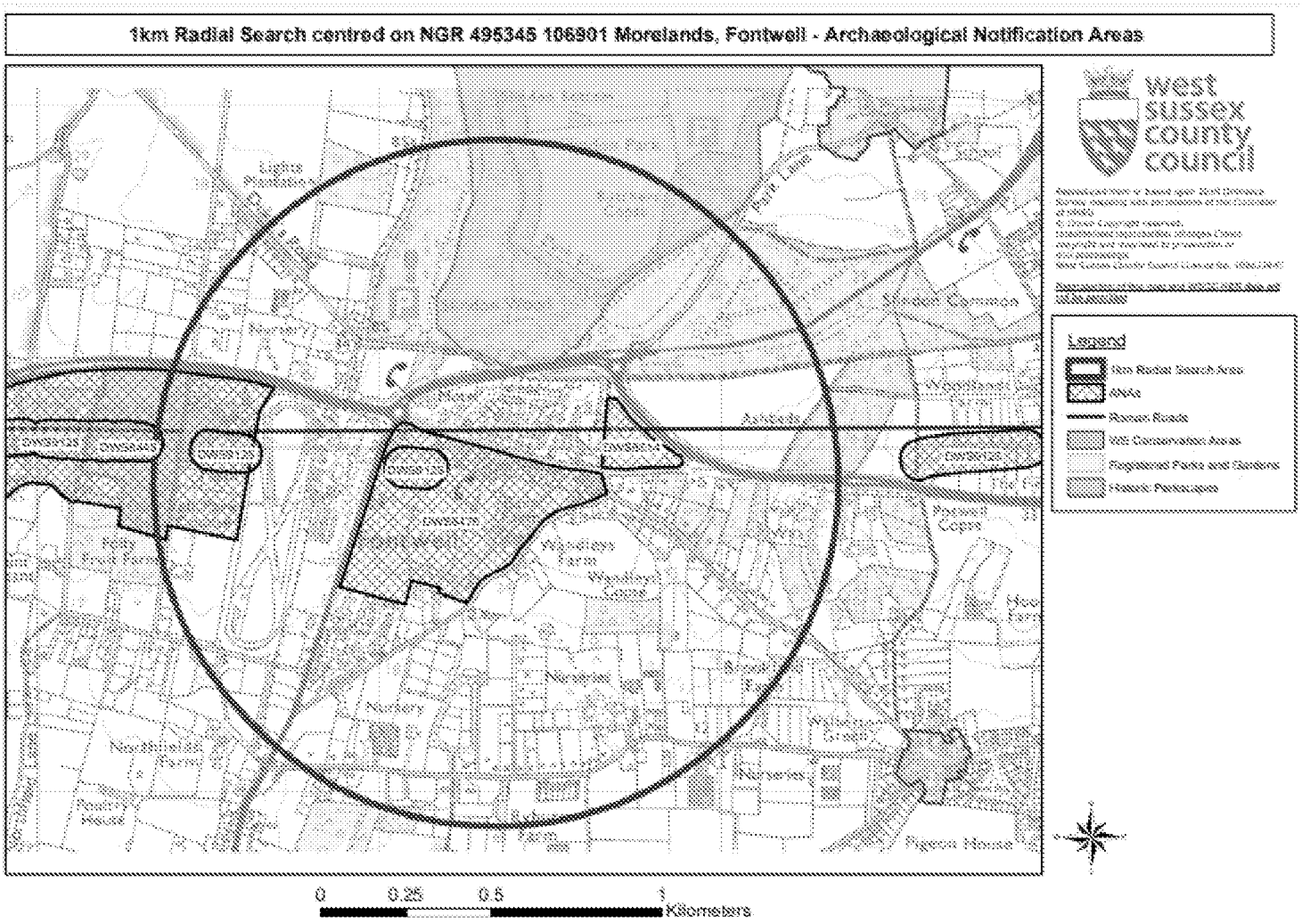


Fig. 3. Archaeological Notification Areas within the Study Area.

4.5 Archaeological periods represented

A suggested timescale of the archaeological periods referred to in this report is shown below.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic (*c.* 750,000–10,000 BC)
Prehistoric: Mesolithic (*c.* 10,000–5,000 BC)
Prehistoric: Neolithic (*c.* 5,000–2,300 BC)
Prehistoric: Bronze Age (*c.* 2,300–700 BC)
Prehistoric: Iron Age (*c.* 700 BC–AD 43)
Romano-British (AD 43–*c.* AD 410)
Anglo-Saxon (*c.* AD 410–1066)
Medieval (AD 1066–1540)
Post-medieval (AD 1540 to date)

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4.6 There are 36 archaeological sites (Fig.4); 7 events (Fig.5); 4 Listed Buildings (Fig.6) and a Registered Park and Garden (Fig. 7) in the 1km Study Area.

4.7 Prehistoric period

Part of a linear ditch was exposed with Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (MWS6976) was present. Some posthole like features were also encountered. A further investigation established the full extent of the ditch and recovered relatively large numbers of Bronze Age pottery and small amounts of medieval pottery. The ditch (ANA: DWS8514) is therefore thought to be of LBA to LIA date and is located *c.*300m east-north-east of the Site.

A series of archaeological evaluation and geotechnical assessments (EWS1674) was carried out on Land off Fontwell Avenue, immediately south of the Site in advance of development, during 2015-2018. A possible Early Neolithic isolated, charcoal-rich pit was identified (MWS13195) as well as a heavily truncated Early Bronze Age enclosure. The evaluation identified 17 discrete features, six linear features and three potential pseudo-cremation burials. They appear predominantly within the southern part of the site; ten of these features can be dated by pottery evidence to the Bronze Age. Finds include a small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date.

A small Late Bronze Age bucket shaped urn (MWS2254) was found at "Greenings," Eastergate, *c.*900m south-west of the Site in 1954.

An Iron Age Site has been recorded at Woodlands Farm (MWS5194), *c.*750m north-east of the Site. No further details are available.

A Clactonian type Palaeolithic axe (MWS2332) was found at West Walberton Lane, Walberton, *c.*400m east of the Site.

More recently in 2020, a high status Iron Age grave was discovered during an excavation during development on the outskirts of Walberton. The grave, which is dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period (1st century BC – AD 50), is incredibly rare, as only a handful are known to exist in the South of England and the body was buried with a decorated sword, scabbard and a spear[2]. The excavation site is not within the Study Area so was not included in the HER data set for this Site but is certainly worthy of inclusion.

4.8 Romano British period

The Site is situated in an ANA (number: DWS8476) which was designated due to the high quantity of Roman artefacts (MWS7988) which were excavated by the current owner over a period of several years. A ditch was excavated across the whole Site on an east-west alignment which produced very large quantities of Roman coarse

[2] https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/retro/incredibly-rare-grave-of-2000-year-old-warrior-discovered-in-walberton-1378195 accessed 24/5/22

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greyware sherds, worn Samian and a few colour coated sherds, together with some fragments of tegula and imbrex and a possible fragment of water pipe. None of the greywares were particularly late, so a tentative dating of c. late 2nd - 3rd century was suggested. The quantity of material found (over 8000 sherds and artefacts) within the area is *suggestive* of a villa site nearby. The assemblage is significant and may represent cremations or settlement, although no tesserae or hypocaust fragments were recovered which suggests roadside funerary activity rather than occupation Cropmarks have been identified from Aerial Photographs dating to the late 1970s to early 1980s indicating the possibility of a feature (MWS11245) c.300m south-east of the Site.

The recent aerial survey for the Secrets of the High Woods project (EWS1762) has identified the remains of the long speculated Roman road (Fig. 4) from Chichester to Brighton (DWS9125). The remains of the road can be seen surviving in sections as a combination of agger, side ditches or a hollow way depending on the local terrain, for over 8km of the total 15km distance between Chichester and Arundel on either side of Fontwell racecourse, the nearest to the Site is situated *c.*125m to the west.

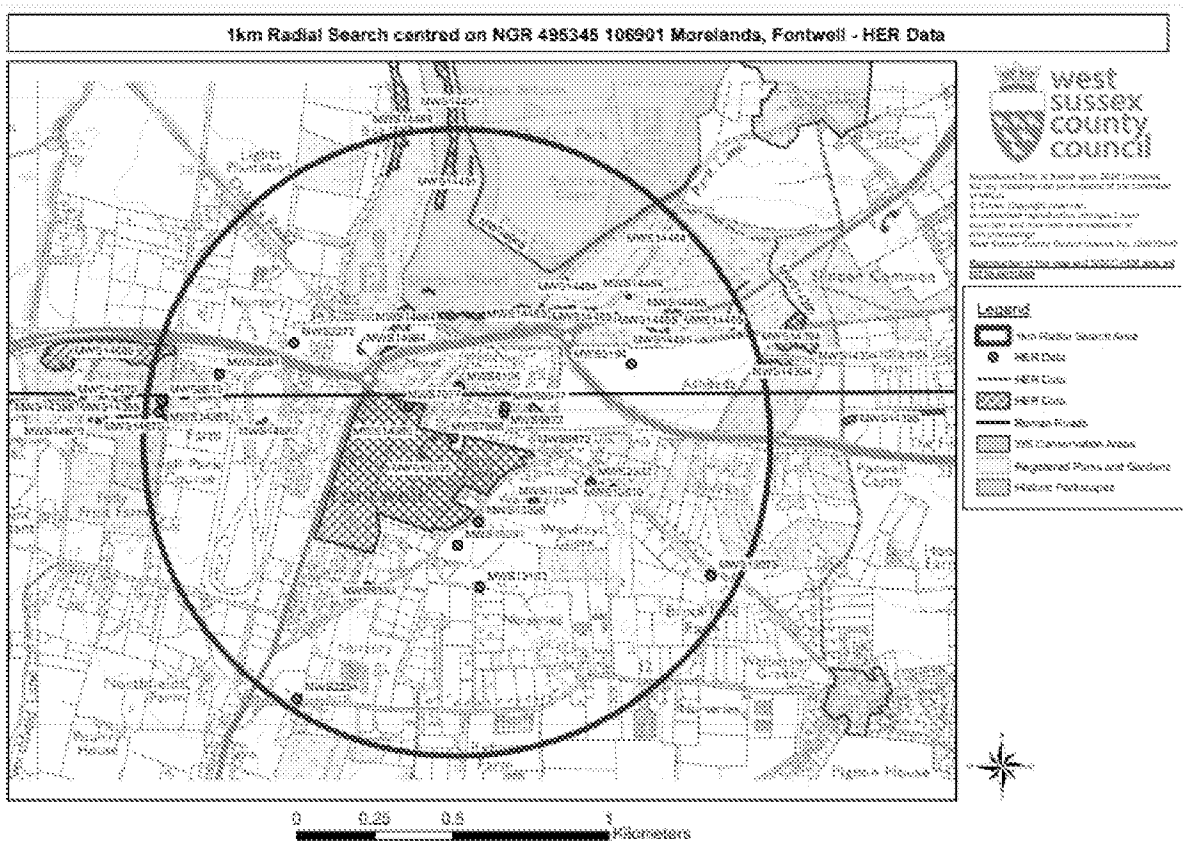


Fig. 4. Archaeological sites within the Study Area.

The site of two further roman cremations (HER reference: MWS2251 and DWS8445) were exposed during excavations, c. 1km west of the Site. One was a cist burial was found in 1850 found within the grounds of Westergate House, and the other in a field at Hale's Barn, in the Westergate area at Aldingbourne. A projected line linking up the cremations within the Study Area suggests a possible series of Roman Cemeteries to the south side of the road, which may extend into the Site boundary.

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The excavations also revealed what is thought to be part of the Aldingbourne raised beach.

The series of archaeological evaluations and geotechnical assessment (EWS1674) carried out on land off Fontwell Avenue, immediately south of the Site, in advance of development was extended over a three year period from 2015. A probable Roman field boundary was located within the site area and the evaluations identified 17 discrete features from four different periods; a single ditch was securely dated as 1st to 2nd century Roman date by pottery sherds from a single vessel. The ditch was located in the north-east of the area very close to the Site. The ditch may have functioned as a field boundary. A complex story was revealed and so the full results of this HER entry have been provided in the appendix, as the Site was considered for Scheduling by Historic England. It was decided that the Site would not be Scheduled as it was considered that there was no evidence for a Roman villa or settlement surviving on the land proposed for redevelopment.

Re-used Roman tile has also been discovered in the fabric of Walberton church which supports the theory of Roman settlement nearby[3].

4.9 Anglo-Saxon period

Excavation in the churchyard at Walberton church has revealed evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation[4].

4.10 Medieval period

Part of a linear ditch was exposed, located *c.*300m east-north-east of the Site, which contained small amounts of medieval pottery. The ditch (ANA: DWS8514), however, is thought to be of prehistoric date and so the pottery is likely to be residual and suggests agricultural land with waste material scattered during the medieval period.

The earthwork remains of the medieval embanked park pale around Slindon Park, *c.*700m north of the Site.

4.11 Post-medieval period

The site of the former Balls Hut Inn (MWS7077) was located approximately 250m north-west of the Site and was thought to date from the late 16th century, but was demolished in advance of development.

Common Farm, Walberton, (MWS9872), *c.*250m north-west of the Site, has been identified as a Historic Farmstead dating to the 19th century.

The recent aerial survey for the Secrets of the High Woods project (EWS1762) has identified a series of clay pits and gravel extraction pits, particularly in relation to Slindon Park (Fig. 5), some 400m north of the Site. These include:

[3] https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol5/pt1/pp224-244 accessed 24/5/22

[4] Sussex Archaeological Collections Volume 132 (cxxxii), 194. 49

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MWS14394 Clay pit
MWS14395 Post-medieval trackway linking two extraction pits
MWS14484 extraction pit of unknown date
MWS14485 a line of extraction pits of unknown date
MWS14489 a line of extraction pits of post-medieval date
MWS14491 a line of extraction pits of post-medieval date
MWS14492 a bank of unknown date
MWS14670 a line of extraction pits of unknown date
MWS14684 a probable 18-19th century former gravel pit

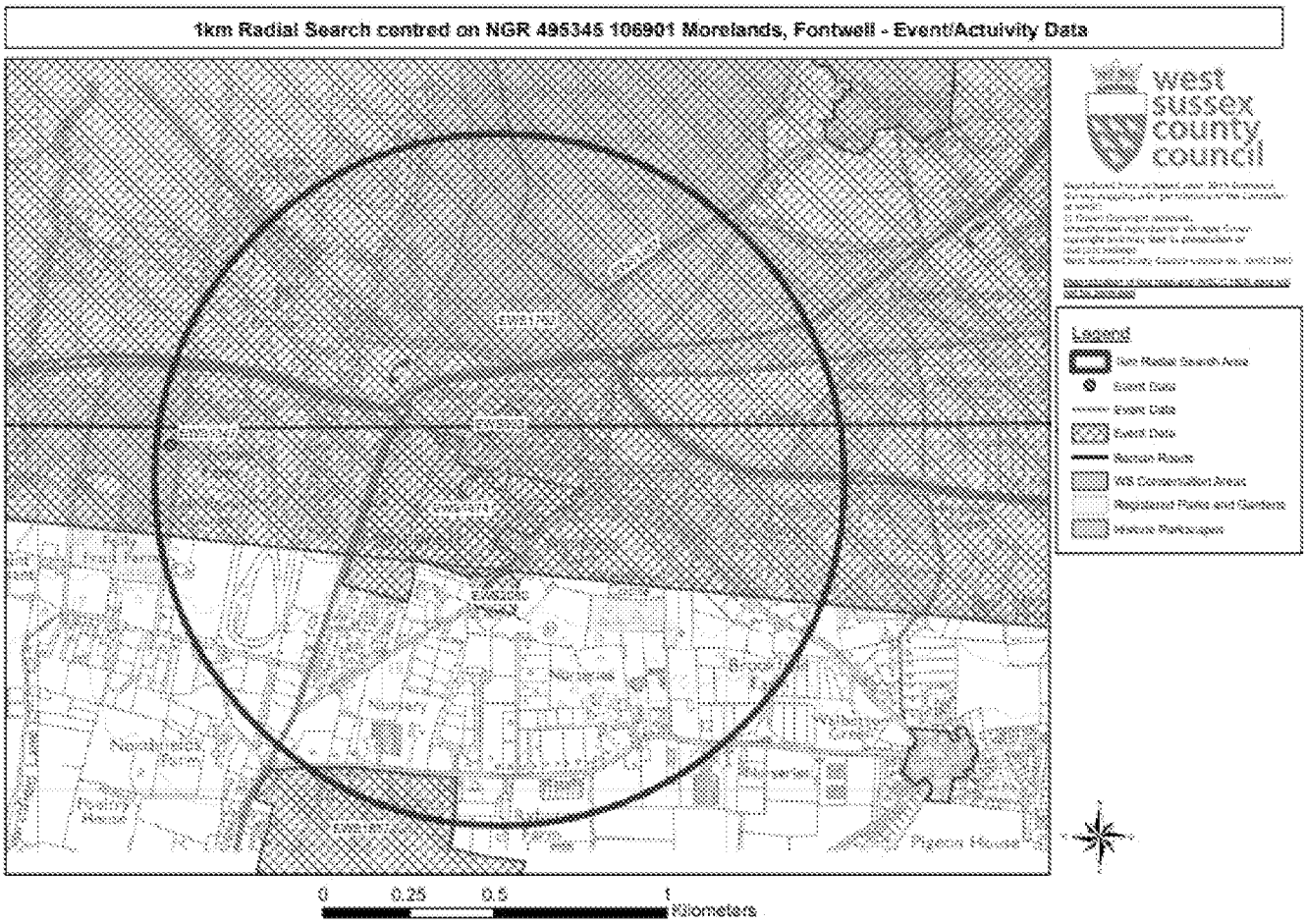


Fig. 5. Archaeological events within the Study Area.

Listed Buildings within the Study Area (Fig. 6) are limited to just four. Goodmans, a 19th century house on Arundel Road (DWS1037) is the nearest to the Site at 250m north-east. The 19th century south gateway and Lodge of Slindon Park (DWS1268) is situated c.350m north; the 19th century 'Hermitage' (DWS1024) is 500m north-west and Westergate House (DWS715), also 19th century, lies approximately *c.*900m west of the Site.

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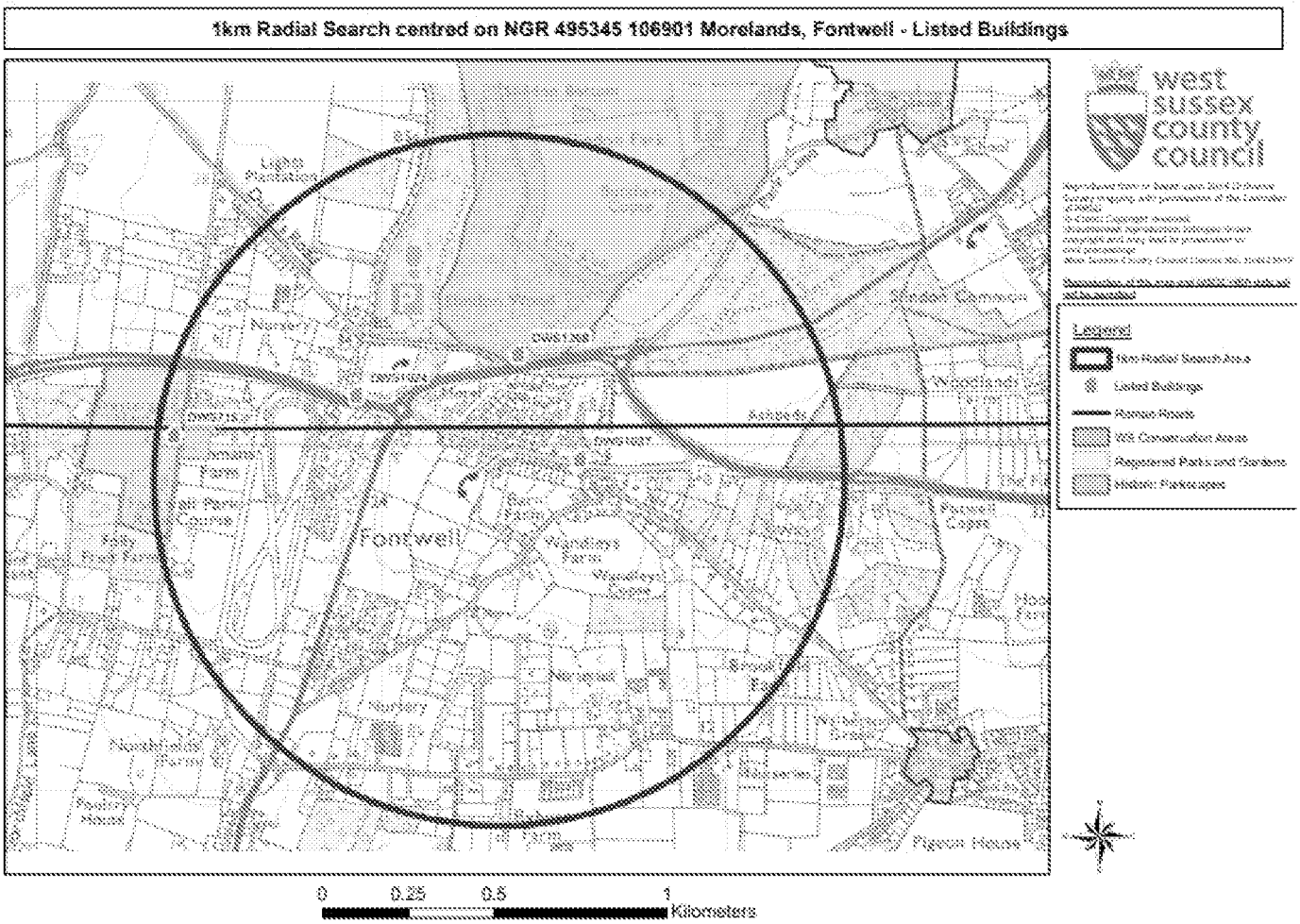


Fig. 6. Listed Buildings within the Study Area.

The historic gardens at Denmans (MWS2281), were originally the walled gardens of the Grade II Listed Westergate House (MWS8519) *c.*900m west of the Site. The garden was created between around 1947 and 1985 by Joyce Robinson (1903-1996), a market gardener and self-taught horticulturist, and developed between 1980 and 2018 by John Brookes (1933-2018), the eminent landscape designer who made it his home and teaching base. Denmans Garden was developed from a market garden incorporating an early-19th century walled kitchen garden on its eastern flank.

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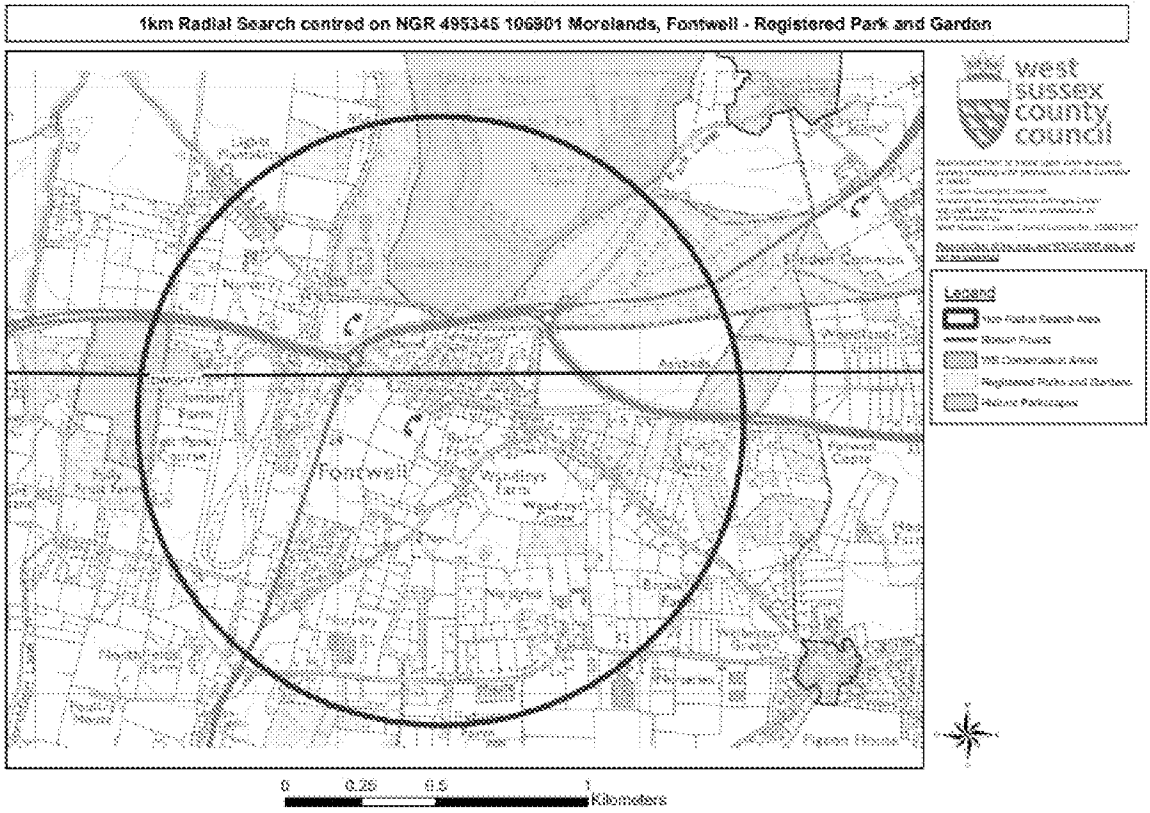


Fig. 7. Registered Parks and Garden map of the Study Area.

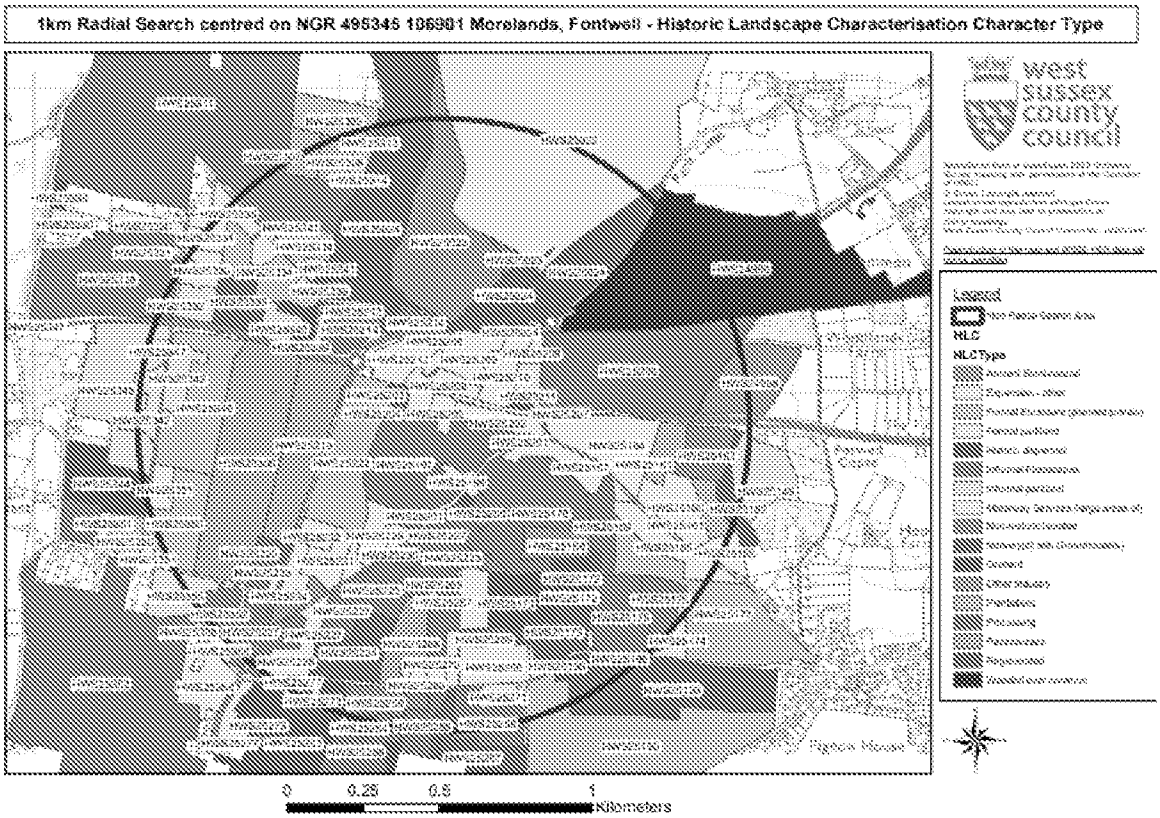


Fig. 8. Landscape Characterisation map of the Study Area.

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5.0 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1875 (Fig. 9) shows the Site as part of an open field to the east of the Balls Hut Inn.

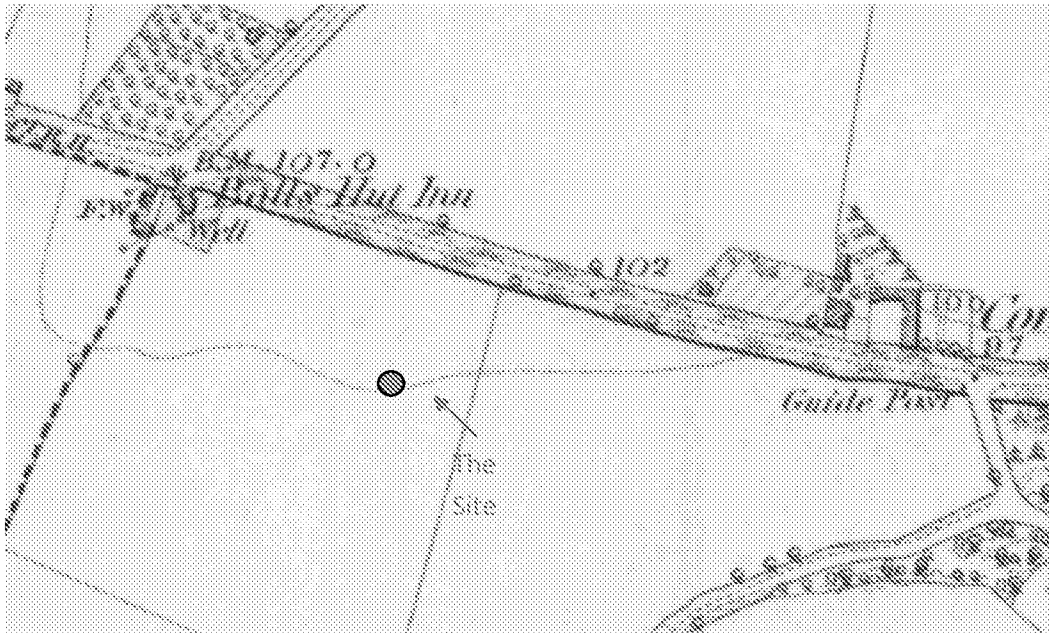


Fig. 9. Ordnance Survey map of 1875 **(Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of the Ordnance Survey ©Crown copyright and database rights 2015).**

5.2 The OS map of 1897 (Fig. 10) shows no changes to the Site.

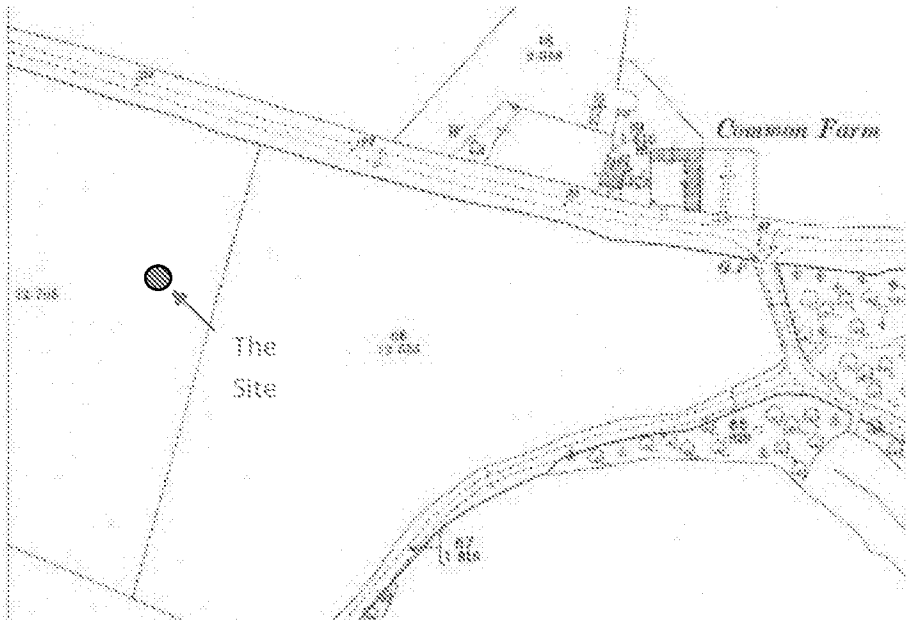


Fig. 10. The OS map of 1897.

5.3 The OS map of 1912 (Fig. 11) shows no changes within the Site, but a large quarry has appeared to the north-west side

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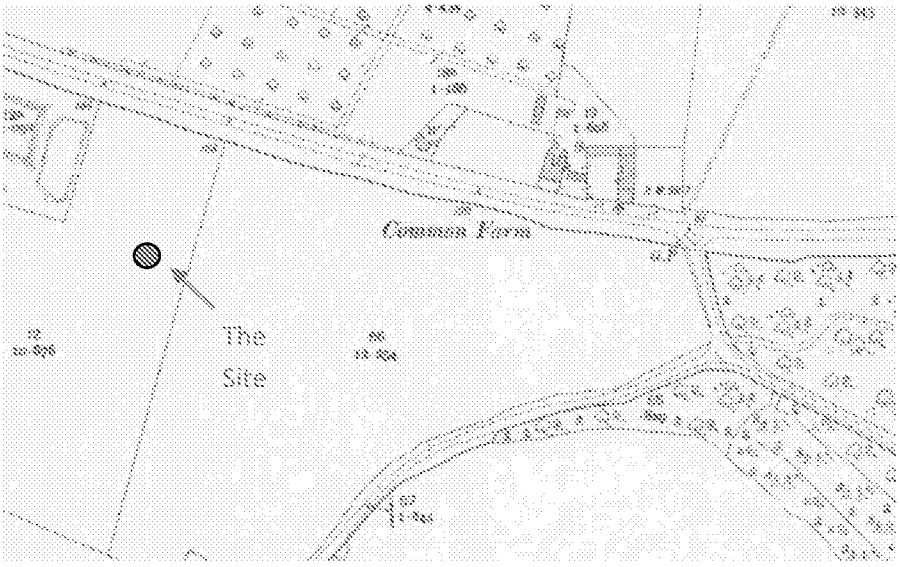


Fig. 11. The OS map of 1912.

5.4 The OS map of 1938 (Fig. 12) shows significant changes to the area, with Arundel Road now flanked with new buildings on both the south and north sides. The Site is accessed via a narrow track which extends to the plot with houses on both sides.

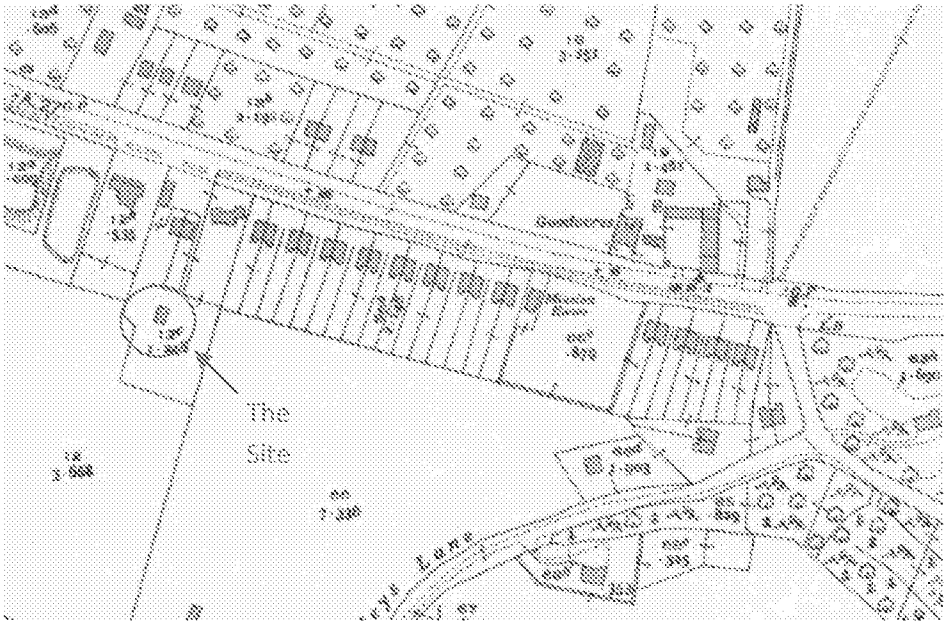


Fig. 12. The OS map of 1938.

5.5 The OS map of 1947 (Fig. 13) shows further development in the area. South of the Site is a new enclosure which has three, long and narrow buildings within and another of very long proportions in the plot to the west. A series of other rectangular buildings south-east of the Site are likely associated with WW2 activity.

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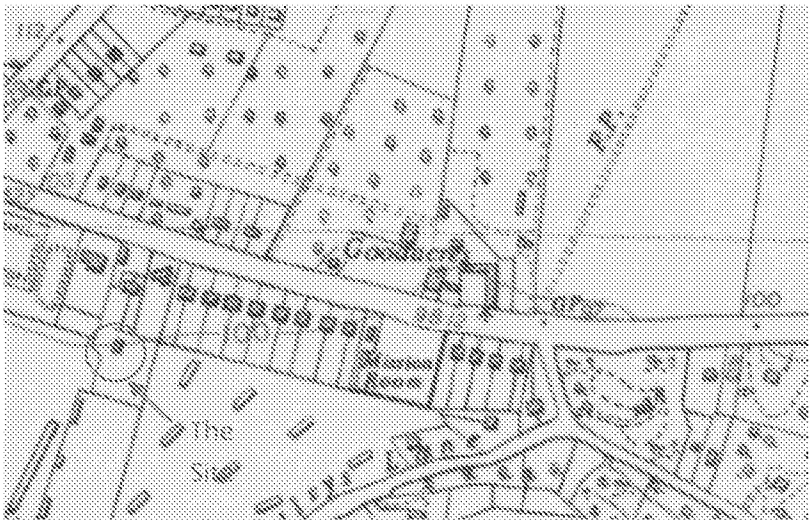


Fig. 13. The OS map of 1947.

6.0 WALKOVER SURVEY

6.1 A walkover survey of the Site was undertaken by the author on 18th May 2022. The objective of the walkover survey was to identify the adjacent topography as well as any landscape or archaeological features not evident on existing maps, and also to assess any areas of disturbance that may have impacted upon any potential below ground archaeology. The walkover survey was rapid with notes taken at the time and was not intended as a detailed survey.

6.2 A meeting with the current owner took place at the Site, with many details of the previous excavations undertaken on the plot over the previous years. It appears that a long section of Romano-British ditch was excavated and recorded (Plates 1-2), from which several thousand sherds of pottery were recovered. Unfortunately this cannot be plotted precisely on a map but the approximate location was measured from the north boundary of the Site. It is our understanding that the whole ditch has been excavated so no further remains for this survive below ground.

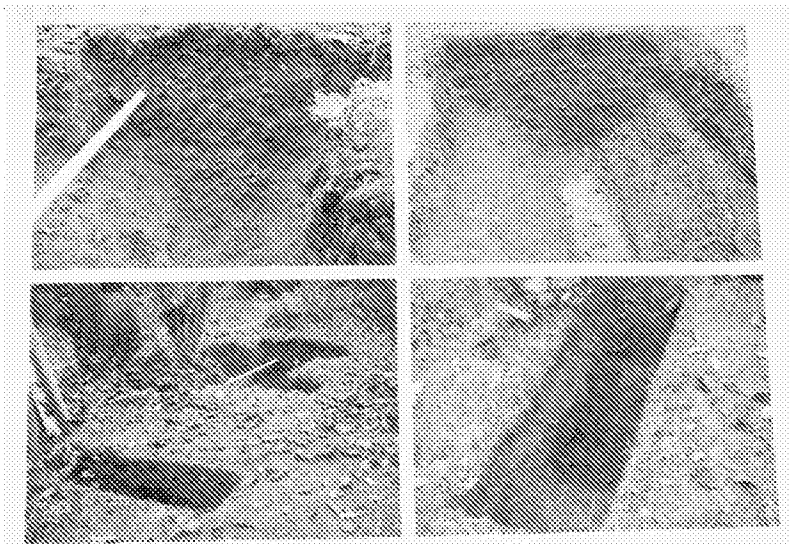


Plate 1. Excavated section through the ditch taken by the present owner.

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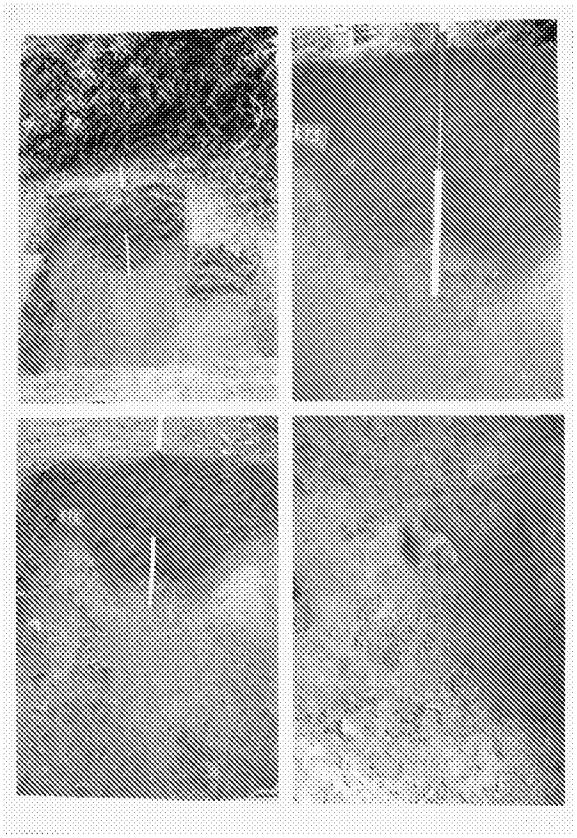


Plate 2. Recorded sections and pottery *in-situ*.

6.3 An assemblage of complete pots were recovered, although fragmentary, the owner has re-fitted these. The assemblage comprises mostly early 1st century-2nd century vessels; some local wares (Rowlands Castle) and other generic types such as black burnished wares and new Forest Wares, alongside Samian copies and imported Gaulish Samian and other continental imports (Plates 3-5). Whilst the purpose of this report is not to give an in-depth analysis of the artefacts, they are worth including for posterity. All images of the pottery assemblage were taken by the owner with his permission to reproduce herein.

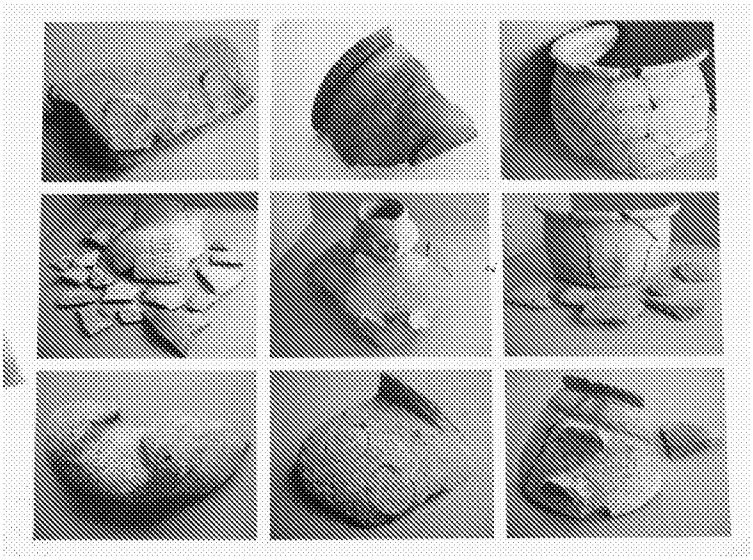


Plate 3. Selection of pottery recovered from the Site.

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Plate 4. Selection of pottery 're-fits' from the Site.

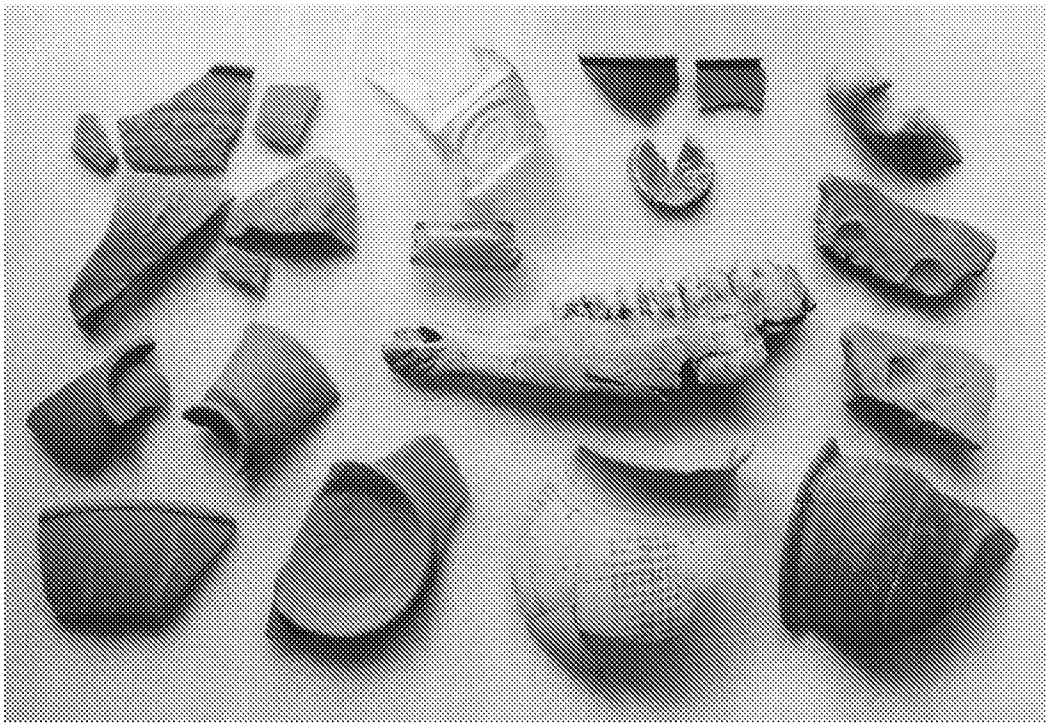


Plate 5. Gaulish Samian and local Samian copies as well as other artefacts.

6.4 The walkover of the Site produced very little evidence for features/anomalies from any period except the post-medieval. This included a poultry shed in the south-west corner (Plate 6), near the far boundaries of the plot.

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Plate 6. Modern poultry shed in the south-west corner.

6.5 A brick built potting shed in the north-east corner is likely to date to the early 20th century (Plate 7). This small structure is believed to be on the conjectural line of the Roman Road. However, the HER maps position this further north of the Site, so it is likely that the ditch which was excavated provided drainage on the south side of the road.



Plate 7. Brick-built potting shed in the north-east corner.

6.6 A wooden garden shed (Plate 8) on the north side of the plot dates to the late 20th century and is also on the projected line of the Roman road.

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Plate 8. Modern garden shed on the northern edge of the Site.

6.7 A glasshouse (Plate 9), also late 20th century in date is situated on the north side of the Site, between the shed and the brick-built potting shed. Next to this is a vegetable patch which has produced many of the pottery sheds which have been recovered over the years.



Plate 9. Glasshouse and vegetable patch on the far north side of the Site.

6.8 Many mature trees have recently been felled (Plate 10), some of which have the potential to be more than 150 years of age (Plate 11), and may have severely

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denuded any below ground archaeological remains, if they exist in the southern part of the Site. The present owner has advised that he has never recovered any artefacts from this part of the garden and that the finds were concentrated in the northern area alone. A quick scan of the exposed earthen patches in the garden did not produce any artefacts from anywhere within the plot.



Plate 10. Remaining stump so felled trees.



Plate 11. Felled Ash tree of substantial girth.

6.9 The house itself is of T-shape in plan (Plate 12) and is of no great age and was most likely a small, agricultural building, perhaps an open-fronted shelter shed. This has been added to over the years to turn it into a modest sized dwelling house. The east

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side has an extension built from modern engineered bricks. Originally it was rectangular and is first depicted on the OS maps between 1912 and 1938.



Plate 12. The eastern part of the house.

6.10 The Site is bordered by hedges and mature trees to all sides (Plates 13-17), with modern development being undertaken on the south and west sides (Plate 18).



Plate 13. The trees lining the eastern boundary.

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Plate 14. Trees and hedge lining the southern boundary.



Plate 15. Trees and hedge lining the western boundary.



Plate 16. Trees lining the north-western corner.

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Plate 17. Hedge and trees lining the north-eastern corner.

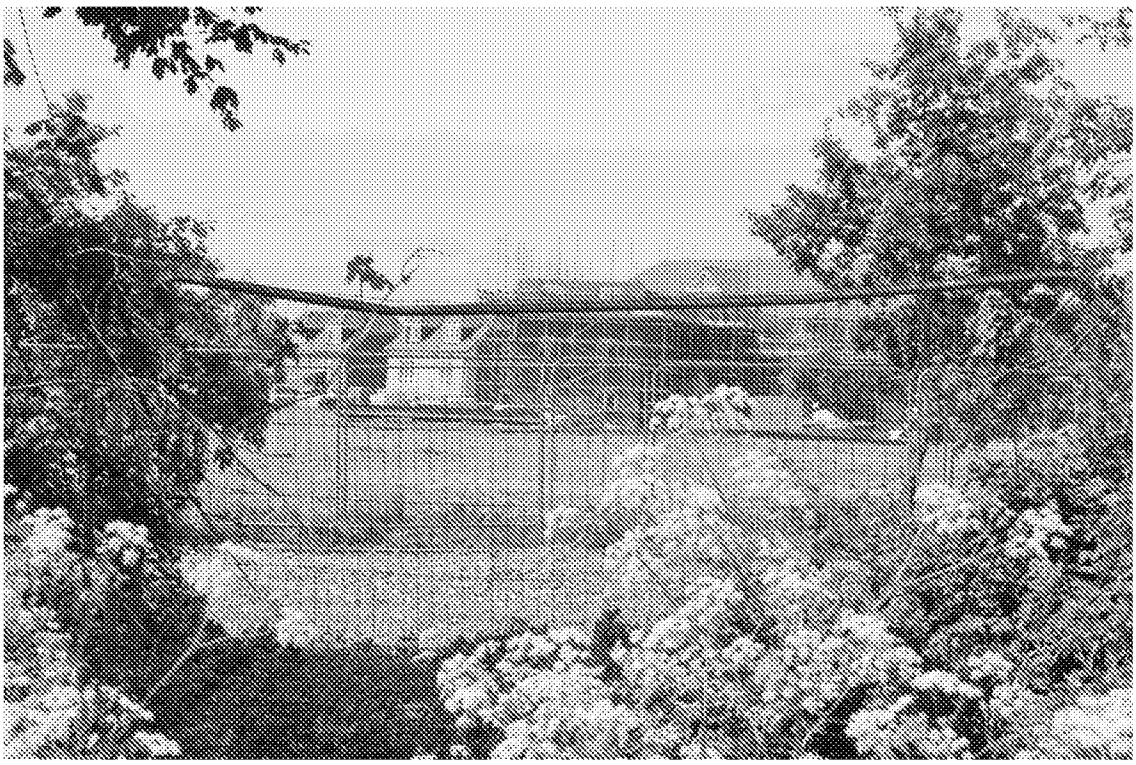


Plate 18. Development beyond the western boundary.

7.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

7.1 A review of the features and buildings recorded and detailed earlier indicates that the Site has considerable archaeological potential.

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7.2 Prehistoric period

The Study Area has produced scattered and fragmented evidence for prehistoric occupation, activity and finds from this period. The nearest location for prehistoric settlement is immediately south of the Site in the newly developed area. This includes a single Neolithic pit, as well as a denuded Bronze Age (BA) enclosure and at least nine other BA features.

Therefore the potential of the Site for this period is Moderate to High.

7.3 Romano-British period

The Study Area has produced significant evidence for Romano-British, activity and finds from the Roman period which have. This consists of a probable villa, although it is not known where this may be at present. A large assemblage of pottery, fragments of roof tile, metal objects and glass have also been found at this location, supporting this interpretation although some of these are more likely to have come from a funerary context.

The potential of the Site for this period is therefore High.

7.4 Anglo-Saxon period

The Study Area has produced no clear evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation, although nearby settlements such as Eastergate and Barnham appear to have had Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. There has been some Anglo-Saxon activity at the nearby church in Warlbeton, but this is limited to building stone and residual finds from the graveyard.

The potential of the Site for this period is therefore Low.

7.5 Medieval period

The Study Area has produced little evidence for medieval occupation. There is limited, and fragmentary evidence for medieval archaeological activity and finds within the Study Area which is limited to some residual sherds in an earlier ditch feature, c.300m away.

The potential of the Site for this period is therefore Low.

7.6 Post-medieval period

The post-medieval history of the Site suggests that it is unlikely that further evidence is likely to survive as buried archaeological deposits, given that the plot is shown on earlier maps as open fields. In addition, there are few Grade II listed buildings which are located within close proximity to the Site, with those that exist being entirely restricted to the 19th century.

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The potential of the Site for this period is therefore Low.

7.7 Summary of potential

This DBA only considers the *potential* of the Site in principle. Often the conclusions, if considered to prove that the potential for archaeology is high, can only be tested by fieldwork in order to confirm whether remains are actually present. It must be stressed that remains of a type for which there is no prior evidence may be encountered during invasive ground works during development.

This potential for the discovery of hitherto unknown archaeology has been supported by a review of the known archaeological sites near to the Site. Therefore the potential for new sites/findspots being located within the proposed development area is summarised as follows:

Prehistoric – Moderate to High
Romano-British - High
Anglo-Saxon - Low
Medieval - Low
Post-medieval – Low

7.8 To conclude, the Site is considered to lie within an area of high archaeological potential for the Romano-British period and Moderate to High potential for the prehistoric period.

8.0 EXISTING IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

8.1 The picture is not entirely clear, but it would seem that there may have been some form of prehistoric settlement near to the Site prior to the Roman activity in the area.

8.2 The Site may have part of a Roman road within the boundary of the plot or at least a flanking drainage ditch to the south side of the road. It is also possible, as suggested by the recent archaeological evaluations south of the Site, that this ditch could form part of a field boundary further south of the road.

8.3 Certainly any prehistoric activity to the north of the Site is likely to have been swept away by the later Roman activity. However, the picture is not entirely clear as only a ditch has been excavated and it is not certain if further features exist north or south of the excavated feature.

8.4 The current owner is a keen amateur archaeologist and has found no evidence for features or artefacts in the southern part of the Site. If any below ground features do exist, they are likely to have been severely impacted by the deep roots of the trees in these areas, although pockets of intact features have the potential to remain un-disturbed.

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9.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Overall, it is thought that the impact of any groundworks on the Site are likely to be changeable due to the variable nature of the depth of the overburden across any surviving archaeological deposits, as well as the variable nature of the groundworks themselves.

9.2 The most harmful impact is likely to occur in the north part of the Site where the Roman road potentially runs. However, this is still not certain and given that the ditch was fully excavated, no further remains of this feature survive. The ditch also has the potential be a field boundary but if this *does* represent the drainage ditch of the road, it is far more likely that the projected line of the road lies within ground further north of the Site boundary.

9.3 It is not considered that there are any setting issues connected to Listed Buildings or other heritage assets as the nearest Listed Building lies within 300m north-east of the Site and will be hidden from view by existing buildings.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 As noted in section 1.7 above, it necessary to bear in mind that desk based appraisals do not provide a *definitive* statement on the likelihood of archaeological deposits being present within the proposed development area. Therefore we have to stress that this appraisal can only suggest the potential of that area to contain archaeological features/find spots. This is based entirely on this non-intrusive report utilizing the observations made during the walk over survey as well as available historical data. As such the conclusions presented herein can only be proven by the addition of fieldwork techniques.

10.2 One way to ascertain the Site's potential to contain the route of the Roman Road would be to commission an archaeological geophysics survey, such as ground penetrating radar. However, the substantial root cover of the Site and the presence of tree stumps would make such a task difficult and may be unlikely to achieve success due to any interference from the roots making interpretation difficult.

10.3 It may be that the West Sussex Archaeological advisors would prefer that development did not take place in the northern part of the Site, due to the *potential* for the Roman road to be impacted. It would be preferable if the designs for the buildings did not extend to this part of the Site. A preferable design would be for gardens to occupy this space. However, it is a moot point, as presented above, as to whether the Roman road occupies this space or not. Given that Historic England did not pursue Scheduling for the Site, this is a fairly clear indication that Roman settlement (such as a villa) is unlikely to be found *in-situ*. The recovery of significantly high amounts of Roman artefacts from the Site would perhaps suggest a funerary cremation site, such as a small roadside temple, rather than occupation or the presence of the road.

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10.4 It is recommended that if the LPA are mindful to permit development, then a suitably worded condition should be applied to the consent, requesting a programme of archaeological investigation which is essential. It may be that evaluation trenching prior to development would be the preferable route but this should be discussed with the West Sussex Archaeological advisors. A watching brief may be a more acceptable route, in order to monitor any below ground excavations during development, such as service runs, and the footings required for the buildings.

10.5 The report is based on a non-invasive, non-structural survey; as such it can only extend to the items specifically covered. E&OE. Copies of paper OS Maps Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. OS Licence No.100055392. We wish to point out that there is no guarantee that planning permission will be granted based on the opinion of ASL within this document. The above comments should be discussed with the Archaeological Advisors for West Sussex County Council.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Thanks are due to Debbie Marriage from DJM Town Planning for commissioning ASL on behalf of the clients to undertake the desk top study.

11.2 Thanks are also due to James and Helen from Morelands for allowing access on the day of the walkover survey and for further information regarding the Site.

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May 2022





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Appendix

HER report for land off Fontwell Avenue (HER Number MWS13195)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell. A possible Early Neolithic isolated charcoal-rich pit was identified as well as a heavily truncated Early Bronze Age enclosure. A probable Roman field boundary was located within the site area and a post medieval structure of unknown function. Finds include a small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date.

An archaeological evaluation and geotechnical assessment was carried out on Land at Fontwell in advance of a mixed used development. The evaluation identified 17 discrete features, six linear features and three potential pseudo-cremation burials. They appear predominantly within the southern part of the site Ten of these features can be dated by pottery evidence to the Bronze Age. A single feature is likely to have dated from the Late Iron Age/early Roman. Archaeobotanical remains from environmental samples revealed abundant oak and non-oak charcoal fragments, cereal remains of barley, spelt, and blackberry/raspberry.

Monument
DITCH (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
DRAINAGE DITCH? (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
FIELD BOUNDARY? (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
PIT? (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
PIT (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
POST HOLE (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
RUBBISH PIT (In Use, Unknown date)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
PIT (In Use, (between) Prehistoric - 500000 BC to 42 AD)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
PIT (In Use, (between) Neolithic - 4000 BC? to 2351 BC?)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
COOKING PIT (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)

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Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
DITCH (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
FIELD BOUNDARY (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE

HER Number MWS13195 Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell – Archaeological Investigations

Description and Sources
An archaeological evaluation was carried out on Land off Fontwell Avenue, in advance of residential and industrial development. The site is irregular in shape and lies on a gentle south facing slope. The site is bounded by Arundel Road to the north, pasture fields to the east, rear gardens to the south and Fontwell Avenue to the west. The majority of the site comprises pasture with a small area of scrubland to the east. 46 trenches were excavated and 16 of these were devoid of any archaeological features. 58 archaeological features were identified across the remaining 30 trenches and four periods were identified.

Mesolithic-Mid Neolithic: A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered from the site. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were present but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date has been proposed for the assemblage. Early Neolithic – Late Bronze Age: A small assemblage of pottery of this date was recovered from across the site suggesting some kind of low level activity. The earliest pottery was of Neolithic date and was recovered directly above a pit with a distinctive burnt fill. Bronze Age activity was represented by pits and heavily truncated field boundary ditches. Two of the pits demonstrated evidence for in situ burning and therefore, could represent cooking pits of similar features. The features were predominantly located within the south-west of the site. A single ditch of Late Bronze Age date was also identified in the north-east of the site.

Roman: A single ditch was securely dated as 1st to 2nd century Roman date by pottery sherds from a single vessel. The ditch was located in the north-east of the site close to where a previous V-Shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware, had been identified. The ditch may have functioned as a field boundary.

Description

FIELD SYSTEM? (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
PIT (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
POST HOLE (In Use, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation

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Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
Pseudo Cremation Burial (Buried, (between) Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
DITCH (In Use, (between) Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 701 BC)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
Pseudo Cremation Burial (Buried, (between) Late Iron Age to Roman - 100 BC to 409 AD)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
DITCH (In Use, (between) Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
FIELD BOUNDARY? (In Use, (between) Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
RUBBISH PIT (In Use, (between) Early Medieval/Dark Age - 800 AD to 899 AD)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
STRUCTURE (Built, (between) Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
WALL (Built, (between) Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
DITCH (In Use, (between) Modern - 1901 AD? to 2050 AD?)
Evidence Excavation/Evaluation
Evidence EXCAVATED FEATURE

Post-Medieval: One structure of unknown function of which two separate sections of wall were exposed, was dated to between 18th to 20th century. The structure appears to correspond with a small building illustrated on historic maps in 1813, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue. The construction techniques and bonding material varied between the two sections of the wall, suggesting some extensive later restoration to the north wall of the building.

Undated: 49 of the 58 features identified were undated. Of these, 12 are questionable and may be natural.
10 geoarchaeological test were excavated within the footprint of the excavation trenches. The test pits demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. Significant palaeoenvironmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exists in the locations investigated, the depths of which may vary across the site.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell. A previous programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken across the majority of the site in advance of a proposed residential development. The current evaluation was carried out in an area of the site which had not previously been subjected to the earlier evaluation in 2015. The current evaluation was carried out to provide information about the nature of

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a series of linear anomalies, observed on Google Earth, which might represent the remains of a former Roman villa farmstead. Three trenches were excavated during the evaluation the targeting cropmarks/anomalies. A small number of archaeological features were identified within Trenches 1 and 2 with archaeological activity being absent in Trench 3. Trench 1 contained a probable gully with pottery of Late Bronze Age date. It was U-shaped in profile and orientated north-west / south-east. Trench 2 contained two pits of indeterminate function. They are considered to be broadly late prehistoric in date. One of the pits contained some burnt, unworked flint and pottery of a broad Prehistoric date. A single environmental sample was taken from this pit. A single grain of free-threshing wheat was identified and a small quantity of charcoal fragments.

No evidence of any Roman activity or finds were identified or recovered during the evaluation. It was therefore concluded that the aerial linear anomalies do not relate to the remains of a former Roman villa farmstead but instead are likely to be more recent in date and probably relate to agricultural activities undertaken within this part of the site. {2}

Initial Assessment Report for Scheduling:
Historic England has been asked to assess land to the east of Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell for scheduling.

HISTORY AND DETAILS
An entry in the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (ref. MWS7988) states that a 'V'-shaped ditch was revealed during
the excavations for a soakaway within a property just to the north of the area under assessment. The ditch fills contained very
large quantities of Roman pottery, many complete, of the 2nd and 3rd centuries, along with tegula and imbrex. The feature is
interpreted as a boundary ditch and the survival of it suggests that there is Roman occupation in the area; the presence of
complete pots may represent the accessories to a cremation burial, according to the local authority archaeologist. Aerial
photography shows linear features to the south of the property, which were interpreted as the possible site of a villa.
Two phases of archaeological evaluation were undertaken on the proposed development area. The first by Archaeology
South East in April 2015 comprised a total of 46 trenches; low levels of prehistoric activity, including a Neolithic pit, and a 'V'-
shaped Roman ditch of the 1st and 2nd centuries were recorded. A second evaluation by trial trench to sample features
shown on the aerial photograph (Cotswold Archaeology June 2016) revealed two prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) pits and a
gully. No Roman features were recorded and it was concluded that it is highly unlikely that a Roman villa, farmstead or other
settlement exists within the development area.
ASSESSMENT
Based on the information provided and the results of the archaeological evaluation, and with reference to the DCMS policy on

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Scheduled Monuments and Selection Guides, the site is not recommended for scheduling for the following principal reasons:
* Survival: although the number of finds retrieved from the boundary ditch near to the site suggests there is potential for a
Roman settlement in the vicinity, no evidence of Roman occupation in the form of buried features, structures and deposits
have been revealed;
* Potential: some prehistoric activity is suggested on the site, but this does not have the level of potential to merit scheduling.
CONCLUSION
There is no evidence of a Roman villa or settlement surviving on the land proposed for redevelopment, thus scheduling as a
monument is not recommended.
SOURCES
Cotswold Archaeology, 'Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex: an archaeological evacuation'. June 2016
Archaeology South-East, 'An archaeological evaluation at land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex'. March 2015. {3}
An archaeological evaluation and geotechnical assessment were carried out on Land at Fontwell in advance of a mixed used
development. This is the third phase of evaluation at this site. The site comprises several fields and is bounded by Arundel
Road to the north, Fontwell Avenue to the west, Wandleys Lane to the east and houses to the south. The bedrock geology of
the site comprises Lambeth Group deposits of clay, silt and sand overlain by superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt
and clay.
The evaluation consisted of the excavation of twenty-three trenches. Six of these trenches were also subjected to the
excavation of geotechnical test pits. Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons wererecorded in all twenty-three trenches.
Eleven trenches were devoid of archaeological features.
Trench 4: A possible posthole [36] was identified at the northern extent of the southern half of the trench. It was sub circular in
plan with a diameter of 0.24m and a depth of 0.07m. No finds were recovered from its fill. It is possible that the feature
represents natural disturbance rather than being of man-made origin.
Trench 6: A possible pit [34] was revealed in the centre part of this trench. It was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.75m and
a depth of 0.12m. No finds were recovered from its single fill.
Trench 8: Trench 8 was the easternmost trench excavated on site. A single pit [32] feature was excavated at the northern end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.70m by 0.50m by 0.14m in depth. No dating evidence was recovered,
and the pit appears isolated within the trench.
Trench 11: Two features of possible archaeological interest were located within the trench, but both remain undated. A northsouth
ditch [18] was identified, measuring 1.22m wide by 0.17m deep with a broadly U-shaped profile. The ditch is thought to

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be part of a field boundary or similar.
A possible posthole [20] was also revealed. It measured 0.20m in diameter and 0.10m deep. No dating material was
recovered and it is unclear if this is an isolated posthole, potentially part of a fence line associated with the ditch also revealed
in this trench or if it relates to a structure continuing outside of the trench.
Trench 12: Two ditches [22] [24], in a similar orientation were identified in this trench. They were parallel and orientated northeast
to south-west. No relationship could be identified but they are thought to represent continued use of a field boundary.
Neither ditch was identified in any other trench.
Trench 13: Three potential postholes [50], [52] and [54] were recorded in this trench. The postholes were all sub-circular in
plan, measuring between 0.35m to 0.40m in diameter and varying in depth between 0.14m and 0.20m. The postholes were
dispersed throughout the trench and are not thought to be related. On of the postholes produced a small single body sherd of
Bronze Age flint tempered pottery.
Trench 14: A single feature [26] of archaeological interest was noted along the northern side of the trench and the trench was
widened to reveal the full extent of the feature. The feature was sub-rectangular in plan, is likely to have been a pit. It
contained a single fill from which 171 fragments of burnt daub were recovered. The daub was most frequent at the surface of
the deposit. Some of the fragments had remains of wattle marks indicating the assemblage originated in a wattle and daub
structure. The daub cannot be dated but four very small sherds of pottery found suggest a Bronze Age date. The pit appears
to be isolated.
Trench 15: A pit and a potential pseudo-cremation burial were identified in this trench. The pit [2] was sub-circular in plan with
a diameter of 0.70m and depth of 0.20m. It contained a single fill which comprised a gravelly silt and charcoal indicative of
burnt material. The surrounding geology did not appear burnt and so the burnt material within the pit is likely to represent
disposal of fired material rather than in-situ burning. The pit did not contain any finds but an environmental sample was taken.
Fragments of oak and non-oak charcoal fragments up to 4mm in size were recovered. In addition to this the remains of barley
grain as well as other unidentified cereal grains were observed.
Pit [10] was circular in plan, 0.40m in diameter with a depth of 0.12m. The pit contained the near complete remains of a
pottery vessel of Bronze Age date. There was no obvious indication of burnt human remains suggesting a possible pseudocremation
burial.
Trench 16: A total of five features were recorded within this trench including a potential Bronze Age pseudo-cremation burial.

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A sub-circular pit [4] measuring 0.32m wide by 0.08m deep was identified. No finds were recovered from its fill but due to its size, shape and relative proximity to pit [6], it may be considered that pit [4] is of a similar date and may have contained a vessel itself, although due to the shallow depth of the feature ploughing may have removed it.

Pit [6] was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.27m wide by 0.08m deep. It contained 104 sherds from a Bronze Age pottery vessel in its fill. The vessel was a large flaring jar in flint-tempered fabric FL1 (base diameter c.190mm). Preservation of the outer surface is variable, ranging from the original smoothed finish to abraded. On the inside, however, the surface of all sherds has been lost, perhaps due to the original contents. Although most of the base angle is present (13 sherds), the base itself is missing; enough survives, however, to show that this vessel, like that from [8], was stood to dry on a bed of crushed flint. The lower body survives to a maximum height of c.80mm (wall thickness 9mm). No rims are present, but there were 64 body sherds, of which 13 are thinner than the rest (c.6mm), suggesting that part of the upper body is present, and that this jar was probably of carinated/bi-partite form. An environmental sample taken from the vessels produce evidence of spelt wheat and blackberry/raspberry seeds in combination with charcoal. The vessel did not contain cremated remains which suggests an interpretation of a pseudo-cremation burial of Bronze Age date, especially given its proximity to pit [10] in Trench 15.

Pit [12] was the largest feature within the trench. The pit was sub-circular in plan, 0.60m in diameter and 0.38m deep with steep, near vertical sides to a flat base. It contained a single fill comprising mid greyish brown material with charcoal flecks from which 8 sherds of pottery, mostly from bipartite jars and in QUFL, of Bronze Age date were recovered, although the function of the pit remains unknown.

A rubbish pit [28] was also identified in this Trench. Its single fill contained 85 fragments of pottery from which 25 vessels were recovered. The pottery consisted of a mixture of plain ware and developed plain ware types dating to the 9th century BC. Three worked flints were also recovered from its fill.

An isolated posthole [30] was identified in the western end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plain, 0.39m in diameter and 0.27m deep and is thought to be of a Bronze Age date similar to the other features in the trench. However, no dating evidence was recovered from its fill and the function of the feature is unclear. An environmental sample was taken from its fill which produced occasional grains of emmer wheat and abundant cereal culm which suggests that this assemblage is derived from clearance and accidental accumulation from crop-processing activities.

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Trench 21: A single pit [16] was recorded in this trench. It was sub-circular in plan. Measuring 1.20m by 1.10m by 0.20m in
depth and contained a single fill from which a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered. The pit appeared isolated
within the landscape and its function is unknown.
Trench 22: Two features were recorded in this trench, a potential pseudo-cremation burial and a ditch. Pit [58] was located at
the southern end of the trench and was 0.30m in diameter. Visible within the pit was the outline of a potentially near complete
pottery vessel. The vessel was a probable bowl and the external surfaces have a burnished finish and two horizontal parallel
grooves present. The fabric contains mainly abundant, moderately sized rounded quartz some of which has a rose colouring.
The vessel is thought to date to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Although potentially later than the possible pseudocremation
burial features found in trenches 15 [10] and 16 [6] it is possible that this pottery vessel will be similar.
Ditch [14] lay at the northern end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. The ditch was 0.65m wide and
0.18m deep. No finds were recovered so the ditch remains undated. The redeposited topsoil nature of the fill however,
suggests a date of no great antiquity.
Trench 24: Three ditches were identified in the western end of this trench and are likely to have been part of successive field
systems. Ditches [45] and [48] were intercutting and are likely to represent reuse of a boundary. Ditch [48] contained two fills both of which produced pottery of a Bronze Age date and a small amount of burnt flint. Ditch [45] also contained two fills and
a small amount of burnt flint was present in the lower fill.
Ditch [42] contained no dating material, in contained a single silty fill deposit that may indicate a function relating to drainage.
Six geotechnical test pits were also excavated across the site in order to sample the raised deposits for evidence relating to
the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period. These pits were unable to reach the red clay tertiary bedrock, but do support and expand
on the previous geotechnical investigations undertaken on the site, and suggest a potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive
within the organic horizons identified in the geological strata.
Overall, the evaluation revealed evidence for mid-late Bronze Age occupation at the site with occasional peripheral features
dating slightly earlier and slightly later in time. {4}

National Grid Reference

Centred SU 95174 06799 (703m by 520m) SU90NE
Land off Fontwell Avenue, Eastergate / Walberton, West Sussex
Civil Parish Eastergate, Arun, West Sussex
Civil Parish Walberton, Arun, West Sussex
District Arun, West Sussex
Grey Literature Report: Archaeology South-East. 2015. An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Fontwell

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Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. Project Number: 7286.
(1)
Grey Literature Report: Cotswold Archaeology. 2016. Land Off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation. CA Project 770395.
(2)
Unpublished document: Historic England. 2016. Scheduling Assessment for Fontwell Roman Villa
(Possible), Fontwell, West Susses.
(3)
Grey Literature Report: Museum of London Archaeological Service. 2018. Land at Fontwell Avenue,
Fontwell - Report on an Archaeological Evaluation.
(4)
WORKED FLINTS (Small quantity) (Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze
Age - 10000 BC to 701 BC)
FWS6697 FLINT
Archaeological Notification Area (Red) -
Arun 030
Roman Occupation, Walberton Active DWS8476
HWS25197 Fieldscapes - Informal Fieldscapes (Type Code: FLD-Ifld)
HWS25222 Fieldscapes - Formal Enclosure (planned/private) (Type Code: FLD-Fenc)
Section of the Chichester to Arundel Roman Geographical
Road running through Binsted Wood
POTTERY SHERDS (Small quantity) (Lower Palaeolithic to Roman -
500000 BC to 409 AD)
FWS6698 POTTERY
Ceramic Building Material (Small quantity) (Lower Palaeolithic to
Roman - 500000 BC to 409 AD)
FWS6699 CLAY
EWS1674 Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell - Evaluation (Intervention. Ref: Project Number: 7286)
MonFullRpt

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