

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

**Land East of Wandley's Lane
Fontwell
West Sussex**

September 2017

**Local Planning Authority:
Arun District Council**

**Site centred at:
SU 95657 06678**

**Author:
Lorraine Mayo BA (Hons) MA
MCIfA**

**Approved by:
Duncan Hawkins BA (Hons) FSA
MCIfA**

**Report Status:
Final**

**Issue Date:
September 2017**

**CgMs ref:
LM/23189**

© CgMs Limited

No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information, however, CgMs Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the controller of HM Stationery Office.
Licence No: AL 100014723

CONTENTS

	Executive Summary
1.0	Introduction and Scope of Study
2.0	Planning Background and Development Plan Framework
3.0	Geology and Topography
4.0	Archaeological/Historical Background and Assessment of Significance
5.0	Site Conditions, the Proposed Development and Impact on Heritage Assets
6.0	Summary and Conclusions
	Sources Consulted

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: West Sussex Historic Environment Record data

Appendix 2: Archaeological Evaluation Land off Fontwell Way, Fontwell, West Sussex (ASE
March 2015)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	1778 Yeakall and Gardner Map
Fig. 3	1825 C&J Greenwood
Fig. 4	1805 Ordnance Survey Drawing
Fig. 5	1847 Walberton Tithe Map
Fig. 6	1876 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 7	1897 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 8	1912 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 9	1938 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 10	1961 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 11	1979 Ordnance Survey
Fig. 12	2017 Ordnance Survey

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	2015 Google Earth Image
Plate 2	View from west of site, looking south
Plate 3	View from west of site, looking east
Plate 4	View from west of site, looking north

Executive Summary

Land East of Wandley's Lane, Fontwell, West Sussex is proposed for development.

The available archaeological, historic, and topographic information indicates that the site contains no designated heritage assets. However, a non-designated archaeological asset is recorded on the study site represented by cropmarks observed from aerial photographs. Non-designated assets are recorded within the vicinity of the study site, comprising evidence of Pleistocene Raised Beach deposits, and evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity.

The proposed development of the site could impact upon any previously unrecorded assets of archaeological interest if present. Therefore in line with NPPF and development plan policy, it is anticipated that the local planning authority will require further archaeological work in the form of a field evaluation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared by Lorraine Mayo of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Welbeck Strategic Land II LLP.
- 1.2 The assessment considers land East of Wandley's Lane, Fontwell, West Sussex, (hereafter referred to as the study site) which is currently being considered for development. The study site is approximately 7 hectares in extent, and is centred at SU 95657 06678 (Fig. 1). The study site is bounded by houses to the north, by fields to the east, by Wandleys Copse to the south, and by Wandleys Farm and Wandleys Lane to the west.
- 1.3 In accordance with government policy on archaeology within the planning process (Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework) and 'saved' policies within the Arun District Local Plan (adopted in April 2003), this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the study site.
- 1.4 Additionally, in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments' (Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2012), it incorporates an examination of evidence in the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER), National Heritage List (NHL) and West Sussex Record Office (Local Studies Library), incorporates published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site inspection was conducted in March 2017. A separate Heritage Statement has been prepared addressing the built heritage designations around the study site (CgMs April 2017).
- 1.5 As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to assess the significance of any designated and non-designated archaeological assets within the study site, assess the potential for as yet to be discovered archaeological assets and enables potential impacts on assets to be identified, along with the need for any design, civil engineering or archaeological mitigation.

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment).

2.1.1 Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* provides policy for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
- Recognition that heritage contributes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.

2.1.2 Section 12 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 128 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be *no more than sufficient* to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

2.1.3 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.

2.1.4 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

2.1.5 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.

2.1.6 *Significance* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

2.1.7 In short, government policy provides a framework which:

- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas).
- Protects the settings of such designations.
- In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions.
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.

2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

2.3 The Arun District Local Plan 2003 (adopted in April 2003) currently provides the local planning policies relating to development and the historic environment. Under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, existing local plan policies were saved and form the current framework used by Development Control to determine planning applications in addition to relevant supplementary guidance. The following Local Plan policy is relevant in relation to the study site:

POLICY AREA16 - ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND SITES OF NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESERVATION OF SCHEDULED AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS. DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS THEIR SITES OR SETTINGS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

POLICY AREA17 - SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST
PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST OF A SITE.

WHERE THE PRESENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IS KNOWN OR SUSPECTED:

(I) THE APPLICANT MUST ARRANGE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS DETERMINED;

(II) WHERE THE ASSESSMENT SHOWS THAT THE PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF REMAINS IN SITU IS NOT JUSTIFIED, CONDITIONS MAY BE ATTACHED TO ANY PERMISSION GRANTED THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE DEVELOPER FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING. THE PROGRAMME WILL BE CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT; AND

(III) WHENEVER PRACTICABLE, OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR THE ENHANCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS LEFT IN SITU.

- 2.4 The saved local plan policies will gradually be replaced by new policies contained in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and any future Development Plan Documents. The pre-submission Draft Local Plan 2011-2029 (May 2013) is currently under consultation but not yet adopted and is therefore the weight that may be attached to these is likely to be limited. The emerging policy within the draft local plan relating to archaeology and the historic environment states:

POLICY SP 24

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

THE COUNCIL WILL GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT CONSERVE OR ENHANCE THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE DISTRICT, SPECIFICALLY:

- **FOR CONSERVATION AREAS, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MUST PRESERVE OR ENHANCE THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE AREA INCLUDING ITS SETTING;**
- **FOR STATUTORY LISTED BUILDINGS, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MUST PRESERVE THE BUILDING, ITS SETTING AND ANY FEATURES OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC INTEREST IT POSSESSES;**
- **FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL CHARACTER, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MUST RESPECT THE INTRINSIC CHARACTER OF THESE AREAS; AND**
- **FOR LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES OF CHARACTER, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MUST PRESERVE THE BUILDING, ITS SETTING AND ANY FEATURES OF VALUE IT POSSESSES;**

DEVELOPMENT LIKELY TO PREJUDICE ANY OF THE ABOVE, INCLUDING THEIR SETTINGS, WILL BE REFUSED. ANY PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES AND REFLECT ANY RELEVANT APPRAISALS OR MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE RE-USE OF VACANT OR UNDERUSED LISTED BUILDINGS OR UNLISTED BUILDINGS BY APPROVING PROPOSALS THAT CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THEIR CONSERVATION EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS PART OF WIDER STRATEGIES FOR REGENERATION. WHERE CHANGES OF USE ARE PROPOSED, THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THESE IN A FLEXIBLE WAY BUT WILL FAVOUR PROPOSALS WHICH IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS WHERE THESE ARE NOT PREJUDICIAL TO EXISTING CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE.

THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE A PRO-ACTIVE STANCE TO ANY HERITAGE ASSETS THAT MAY BE AT RISK. THIS WILL INCLUDE WORKING WITH

PROPERTY OWNERS TO FIND A USE THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO BE PUT BACK IN TO USE.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS INVOLVING THE DEMOLITION OF LISTED BUILDINGS OR ADVERSELY AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED OTHER THAN IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE REPAIR OR RE-USE ARE NOT PRACTICABLE OPTIONS AND WHERE REPLACEMENT BUILDINGS AND USES OF EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY ARE PROPOSED.

POLICY DM 30

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESERVATION OF SCHEDULED AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS. WHERE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS WILL HAVE EITHER A DIRECT IMPACT ON SITES LISTED IN TABLE 16.1 (I.E. DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT) OR WHERE DEVELOPMENTS WILL HAVE AN INDIRECT IMPACT ON THE SETTINGS OF THOSE SITES LISTED IN TABLE 16.1, OR WHERE A SITE ON WHICH DEVELOPMENT IS PROPOSED HAS THE POTENTIAL TO INCLUDE HERITAGE ASSETS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST (HAVING CONSULTED THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD) PERMISSION WILL ONLY BE GRANTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE HARMFUL TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST OF THESE SITES.

IN ALL SUCH INSTANCES WITH:

- 1. APPLICANTS MUST ARRANGE FOR A DESK BASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY A SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSON. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A FACTUAL REVIEW OF THE KNOWN INFORMATION ON HISTORIC ASSETS AND AN APPRAISAL OF THESE ASSETS. THIS INFORMATION SHALL ACCOMPANY THE PLANNING APPLICATION, AND, WHERE NOT SUPPLIED, WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY PLANNING APPLICATION IS DETERMINED*. WHERE THE PLANNING AUTHORITY HAS REASON TO BELIEVE, EITHER FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AS ABOVE, OR FROM OTHER EVIDENCE SOURCES, THAT SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY EXIST, FURTHER ASSESSMENT IN THE FORM OF A FIELD EVALUATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS DETERMINED. ANY FIELD SURVEY UNDERTAKEN SHALL BE CARRIED OUT BY A PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION OR CONSULTANT ONLY. ALL STAGES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION APPROVED BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY. NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE UNTIL THE APPLICANT, OR THEIR AGENTS OR SUCCESSORS IN TITLE, IS IN RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY;**

OR

- 2. A FIELD EVALUATION AS ABOVE, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE A HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT TO UNDERTAKE A SEPARATE DESK BASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT.**

- 3. PRESERVATION IN SITU OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OR REMNANTS OF SUCH SITES, IS THE PREFERRED OPTION. HOWEVER, WHERE THE ASSESSMENT, WHICH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION, SHOWS THAT THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU IS NOT JUSTIFIED, CONDITIONS MAY BE ATTACHED TO ANY PERMISSION GRANTED THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE DEVELOPER FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING. ANY SUCH PROGRAMME SHALL BE CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT.**
- 4. WHENEVER PRACTICABLE, OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR THE ENHANCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS LEFT IN SITU. DEVELOPERS SHALL RECORD ANY HERITAGE ASSETS TO BE LOST (WHOLLY OR IN PART) IN A MANNER PROPORTIONATE TO THEIR IMPORTANCE AND POSSIBLE IMPACT, AND TO MAKE THIS EVIDENCE (AND ANY ARCHIVE GENERATED) PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE.**

DEVELOPMENTS SHALL ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH ALL OTHER LOCAL PLAN POLICIES.

*** THOSE SUBMITTING PLANNING APPLICATIONS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED HOWEVER TO UNDERTAKE A DESK BASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT IN ADVANCE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION BEING LODGED AS, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS ASSESSMENT, FURTHER ASSESSMENT IN THE FORM OF A FIELD EVALUATION MAY BE REQUIRED (AS OUTLINED IN (1) ABOVE).**

- 2.5 This assessment aims to clarify the specific archaeological potential of the study site and, in accordance with the NPPF and Local Plan Policies Area 16 and 17 and emerging Policies SP24 and DM30, to identify the significance of any archaeological assets which might be impacted by development, enabling appropriate mitigation measures to be formulated.

3.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

- 3.1.1 The solid geology of the study site comprises clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group. This is identified to be overlain by superficial quaternary Head deposits comprising gravel, sand, silt and clay (British Geological Survey 1996, Sheet 317).
- 3.1.2 The BGS online geology viewer records Raised Beach Deposits 1 to the south-east of the study site, and Raised Beach Deposits 2 c. 1km north-west of the study site. However there are no superficial or Beach deposits recorded on the study site according to the BGS.
- 3.1.3 No recent site specific geotechnical data was available at the time of writing. However, the BGS holds the logs of six historic borehole records undertaken on the study site (BGS Refs SU90NE78-83). Boreholes SU90NE79-83 record approximately 1 Foot (0.3m) of topsoil above Brown Sandy Clay, and Borehole SU90NE78 in the north-west of the site records 0.3m of Topsoil above 0.3m of Clay, Stone and Chalk, overlying Clay.
- 3.1.4 It is known that the study site lies within the upper area of the West Sussex Coastal Plain which contains sediments associated with raised beaches, such as those recorded at Slindon (Goodwood-Slindon Raised Beach) and between Aldingbourne and Arundel (Aldingbourne Raised Beach). Such sediments comprise formations of gravels and sands relating to former coastline formations and these have been shown to contain significant evidence relating to early human activity and the surrounding environment in the Pleistocene period, such as that recorded at Eartham Pit, Boxgrove, situated c.3.3km to the north-west.
- 3.1.5 Previous geo-archaeological investigations have been conducted by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS) in 2000 and by Archaeology South-East (ASE) in 2006 on land immediately to the north of the A27 (Arundel Road). These studies have recorded probable Pleistocene raised beach deposits to be present, with those identified in closest proximity to the study site being recorded to lie at a depth of c.4.1m (27.82m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) below existing ground level (ASE 2006; Test Pit 3). The sequences identified could not be certainly associated with either the Goodwood-Slindon or Aldingbourne beach deposits, the recorded evidence possibly representing a previously unknown fossil beach (ASE 2006).

3.2 **Topography**

3.2.1 The study site comprises an area of enclosed pasture land situated to the east of Fontwell. It has a broadly level topography lying at c.25m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), although ground level falls gently southwards at its southern extent.

3.2.2 There are no watercourses on the study site itself.

4.0 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The timescales used in this report are as follows:

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	450,000	-	12,000	BC
Mesolithic	12,000	-	4,000	BC
Neolithic	4,000	-	1,800	BC
Bronze Age	1,800	-	600	BC
Iron Age	600	-	AD 43	

Historic

Roman	AD	43	-	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD	410	-	1066
Medieval	AD	1066	-	1485
Post Medieval	AD	1486	-	1800
Modern	AD	1800	-	Present

4.1 **Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Examination of data in the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) and various published and unpublished sources within a 1.5km radius study area indicates that there are no designated archaeological assets on or adjacent to the site (Appendix 1).
- 4.1.1 There are no designated archaeological assets (scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields) identified within the study site or its immediate proximity. However, five Archaeological Notification Areas are recorded within the study area, comprising; DWS8476 Roman Occupation immediately north-west of the study site; DWS 8514 Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval activity to the north-east of the study site; DWS8445 Site of Two Roman Cremations c. 1km north-west; DWS8126 Roman Site c. 1km north-east, and DWS8130 Roman Occupation and Cist Burial c. 1.5km north-east of the study site (Appendix 1). Non-designated heritage assets (i.e. archaeological finds/features within the study site and its surroundings) are reviewed below and their distribution illustrated at Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 This chapter reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with the

NPPF, considers the potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological evidence on the study site.

- 4.1.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the study site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

4.2 **Previous Archaeological Investigations**

- 4.2.1 No previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the study site itself, although a number of such studies have been conducted in the wider study area. Archaeological evaluation trenching comprising 46 trial trenches and 10 geoarchaeological test pits, on land off Fontwell Avenue which recorded evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity and Raised Beach deposits (Appendix 2). Investigations ahead of development immediately to the north of Arundel Road (HER MWS6976, 6977 and 8106), also recorded evidence of Raised Beach deposits and Prehistoric settlement activity have been identified. The results of these and other studies, where relevant, are discussed further below.

4.3 **Prehistoric (Palaeolithic – Mesolithic)**

- 4.3.1 A number of Palaeolithic flint tools are recorded within the study area. A late Acheulian Palaeolith was found in 1929 by the road side near Avisford in gravel brought from the Aldingbourne pit. The Aldingbourne gravel pit is at SU93100706, where a number of Palaeolithic axes and cores have been found (MWS2308 SU 970 060). A Clactonian type Palaeolithic axe was found at 'Willows', West Walberton Lane (MWS2332 SU 9577 0677). A Palaeolithic handaxe from Everyman's Pit, Aldingbourne, (MWS2348 SU 950 079). A lithic working site is recorded at Slindon Park comprising Palaeolithic implements, flakes and cores, some in situ, found in 1912, 1929 and 1935 in a Raised Beach within a gravel pit in the north-west corner of Slindon Park (MWS5868 SU 950 080).
- 4.3.2 Archaeological evaluation at Fontwell Avenue included the excavation of 10 geoarchaeological test pits within the footprint of the evaluation ion trenches (Appendix 2: ASE 2015). 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 vary across the site (MWS13195 SU 95174 06799). These Aldingbourne raised beach deposits can be seen to vary in depth across the Fontwell Lane site from a maximum of 3.9m below ground level (BGL) in GTP 40,

towards the north-east of the site, to a minimum of 0.8m below ground level in GTP 24, in the south-west of the site. Elsewhere across the site, the surface of these deposits were recorded at 1m BGL in GTP 7, 1.3m BGL in GTP 11 and GTP 23, 1.6m BGL in GTPs B and C and 2.2m BGL in GTP 15. The relative elevation of these deposits also changed in line with the topography, with significant deposits encountered at 25.27m AOD in the north-east of the site, rising slightly to 25.9m in the mid-west of the site and then falling gradually to 20.03m in the south-west corner. The Aldingbourne raised beach deposits were considered to be of at least regional significance.

- 4.3.3 Sequences of Raised Beach deposits have been recorded through previous archaeological investigations undertaken immediately to the north of Arundel Road (HER MWS6976, 6977 and 8106), and adjacent to Westergate House (HER MWS7052). No Palaeolithic material was recorded in association with these identified sequences, although significant early material has been recovered, predominantly from surrounding gravel pits, both through formal excavation (HER MWS5868) and as chance finds (HER MWS2348, 2332 and 4127; NMR1102489, 1108150 and 1108165).
- 4.3.4 A Mesolithic site is recorded in Slindon Park. Finds included a Thames pick, cores, end-scrapers and flakes (MWS2329 SU 9584 0786). The evaluation at Fontwell Avenue recorded a small assemblage of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic flint tools (MWS13195 SU 95174 06799).
- 4.3.5 The above evidence indicates the study site to lie within an area containing Raised Beach deposits that may contain significant archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period. The presence of such underlying deposits within the study site itself remains currently uncertain, although the possibility that such deposits may be present at depth within the study site cannot be discounted.

4.4 **Prehistoric (Neolithic – Iron Age)**

- 4.4.1 A small assemblage of pottery of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age date was recovered from across the Fontwell Avenue site, suggesting 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 (MWS13195 SU 95174 06799).

- 4.4.2 A Neolithic handaxe was recorded during renovation of the floor of a 17th century cottage in Slindon (MWS 8293, SU 96427 07908).
- 4.4.3 Evidence of possible later settlement activity in the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age period, represented by the presence of a ditch containing a large quantity of Bronze Age, and some early Iron Age pottery, identified by evaluation (HER MWS6976 and 6977), is recorded to the north of Arundel Road. No further evidence relating to this identified activity was however noted to be present by evaluation undertaken at Newlands House immediately to the west (HER MWS8106).
- 4.4.4 Possible foci of further Bronze Age and Iron Age activity are noted c.500m to the south, c.600m to the north-east and c.1km to the south-east of the study site respectively, these represented by the recovery of a Late Bronze Age urn during the excavation of a pit within an orchard along Eastergate Lane (HER MWS2254; NMR249095); Iron Age material of unspecified quantity or character from Woodlands Farm (HER MWS5194) and a hearth, trench and associated Iron Age finds at Copse/Binsted Lane (NMR 626884 and 1313989).
- 4.4.5 The study site would have occupied a landscape later utilised in the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods, with a possible focus of settlement activity being noted in close proximity to the north. Whilst no such similar evidence of activity in this period is noted on the study site itself, the possibility that it could contain remains associated with activity recorded to the north-west cannot be entirely discounted and a moderate potential accordingly identified.

4.5 **Roman**

- 4.5.1 Cropmarks are recorded on the WSHER on the study site and have been identified from Aerial Photographs dating to the late 1970s to early 1980s indicating the possibility of a feature (MWS11245 SU 9558 0671). Approximately 300m to the west of the cropmarks a large quantity of Roman material has been uncovered.
- 4.5.2 The evaluation at Fontwell Avenue recorded a single Roman ditch dated as 1st to 2nd century 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 (MWS13195 SU 95174 06799).

- 4.5.3 A second evaluation of the Fontwell Avenue site by trial trench to sample features shown on aerial photographs (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 Fontwell Avenue development area.
- 4.5.4 The study site lies a short distance south of Arundel Road, the course of which is believed to follow that of an earlier Roman road (NMR1325626) extending between Chichester and Brighton (VCH 1997). Excavations during soak-away works at Morelands Cottage, that lies immediately to the north of the study site, exposed a V-shaped ditch (HER MWS7988) from which large quantities of Roman pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date, including samian ware were recovered, alongside fragments of tegula and imbrex (roof tile) and a fragment of water pipe. An urned cremation burial of similar 2nd to 3rd century date (HER MWS2251; NMR249071) is also noted as having been recovered from beneath the lawn of Westergate House, c.635m to the west of the study site.
- 4.5.5 The evidence recorded in the study area would suggest the presence of settlement in this period at Fontwell, this perhaps being influenced by and following the course of the Roman road. Its place-name, containing the Roman word 'Fons' meaning 'a spring' (Howell and Surrell 1994), is perhaps further evidence of this. Whilst limited in the extent of activity exposed, the evidence and material remains recorded at Morelands Cottage could suggest such a focus for settlement in the locality of the study site. This perhaps having its focus to the south of the former Roman road, rather than to the north, as indicated by a lack of any evidence of Roman activity being recorded by previous archaeological investigation within this area.
- 4.5.6 Whilst no known heritage assets of this period are recorded within the study site, and, the cropmarks on the study site representing possible Roman remains from aerial photographs and the presence of recorded remains immediately adjacent, suggest that it has a low to moderate potential to contain further evidence relating to Roman occupation and activity.

4.6 **Anglo-Saxon - Early Medieval**

- 4.6.1 There are no Anglo-Saxon finds or sites recorded within the study site itself or the wider study area.
- 4.6.2 As in part discussed above, place-name evidence could suggest possible settlement to have been present in this period, Fontwell being derived from the Roman 'Fons' and

Saxon 'Welle', meaning 'a spring or well' (Howell and Surrell 1994). The precise location of this former spring or well has since been lost and no evidence has been recorded within Fontwell, or the area of the study site itself, to substantiate the location or presence of a settlement of this date. The referred to spring or well could perhaps have lain in isolation, but to have been known to those travelling between Brighton and Chichester as a point of refreshment (Howell and Surrell 1994). Settlement of this period is more certainly known from the adjacent village of Warburton, situated c.1.3km to the south-east of the study site.

- 4.6.3 On the basis of present evidence the study site would appear to occupy a peripheral location to the foci of known in this period. It is therefore considered likely that the study site formed either agricultural land or woodland/waste and a low potential for archaeological assets other than those possibly relating to agricultural practices is identified.

4.7 **Medieval**

- 4.7.1 There are no heritage assets from this period recorded on the HER within the study site itself. In the wider study area, evidence of activity in this period is limited only to the recorded recovery of a small number of Medieval pottery sherds during evaluation conducted to the north of Arundel Road (HER MWS6977).
- 4.7.2 A settlement at Fontwell in this period is not recorded in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086, the later settlement and study site being shown to lie within the separate parishes of Eastergate and Walberton, the manors of which are documented at this time. The study site itself can be seen to have occupied a peripheral location to the settlements established at Eastergate and Walberton, it being documented as forming part of either common pasture or heathlands attached to these manors (VCH 1997).
- 4.7.3 A route-way following the approximate course of the current Arundel Road is likely to have remained in existence, although no associated settlement activity of this date along the road is known. The study site contains part of the parish boundary separating the manors of Eastergate and Walberton. This remains defined by an existing field boundary running north to south through the centre of the study site. A precise understanding as to when this boundary was established, or how its was demarcated remains uncertain. On the basis of current evidence, a low potential for the presence of any significant previously unrecorded heritage assets of this period, other than those possibly relating to former agricultural practices, is identified.

4.8 **Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 4.8.1 Documentary evidence first records a hamlet settlement to have been established at Fontwell by 1630, with c.6 dwellings in total forming the settlement by the 1840s (VCH 1997). Of these, the site of the former Balls Hut Inn (HER MWS7077) is noted to have once occupied an area at the northern extent of the study site adjacent to Arundel Road, this having once been a coaching inn of late 18th century date accommodating travellers prior to the arrival of the railway to Brighton in 1845 (Howell and Surrell 1994). This building has since been demolished. In the wider study area, records for this period include the sites of former farmsteads, a windmill, and a garden. Further reference to these records is made below where specifically relevant to the study site and in association with cartographic evidence that enhances our understanding of settlement, land-use **and** the utilisation of the study site and its surrounding landscape.

Early mapping illustrating the study site in detail is provided by Yeakell and Gardner's map of 1778 (Fig. 2) which shows the study site occupying two fields to the north of woodland and east of Wandleys Lane.

The 1805 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the study site located to the east of a Barn (Fig. 3). No further changes are shown on the C&J Greenwood Map of 1825 (Fig. 4).

- 4.8.2 The Walberton Tithe Map of 1846 (Fig. 5) records the field in the west of the study site as Little Barn Field (Arable) and the field occupying the remainder of the study site as Barn Field (Arable).
- 4.8.3 The 1876 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6) shows the removal of the field boundary in the west of the site, and 'Wandleys Barn' to the west of the study site.
- 4.8.4 No further significant changes occur to the study site between 1897 and 1979 (Figs 7-11).
- 4.8.5 Between 1979 and 2017 three buildings were constructed in the north-west of the study site (Fig. 12).
- 4.8.6 Historic map evidence illustrates that the study site has remained an area of predominantly common and enclosed agricultural land throughout the Post-Medieval period to the present. An area of localised later disturbance is located at the north-western extent of the study site occurring from the development of three buildings in the late 20th century. A low potential for archaeological activity of the Post-Medieval

and Modern period is therefore identified across the majority of the study site, with any activity likely to be limited to its former agricultural use.

4.9 **Historic Landscape**

4.9.1 The West Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the study site as lying within informal (HER HWS25197) fieldscapes, the character of which is derived from parliamentary enclosure of former common land and piecemeal enclosure of land in the Post Medieval and Modern period.

4.10 **Assessment of Significance**

4.10.1 There are no designated archaeological assets identified on or in close proximity to the study site.

4.10.2 Cropmarks observed from aerial photographs are recorded on the West Sussex HER in the centre of the site.

4.10.3 No other known non-designated heritage assets of any period are recorded elsewhere within the study site. However, Pleistocene Raised Beach deposits and evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activity have been recorded a short distance north-west of the study site, and, on the basis of this evidence, a low to moderate and moderate to high potential for the study site to contain as yet unrecorded archaeological and/or palaeo-environmental remains of these periods respectively is recognised. Beyond these periods, the study site is likely to have remained an area of predominantly agricultural land from the Medieval period, if not earlier, and cartographic evidence illustrates it to have remained as such to the present day. The presence of any former remains relating to such agricultural practices are considered to be of no more than local significance.

5.0 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT ON HERITAGE ASSETS

5.1 Site Conditions

5.1.1 The study site comprises an area of enclosed grassland utilised for sheep and horse grazing (Plates 1 to 4). External boundaries within the study site are variously defined by mature hedgerows, mature trees and woodland and fences. Three agricultural buildings are present in the north-west of the study site. No previously unrecorded assets or other evidence of archaeological interest were noted during the site visit.

5.1.2 Medieval and Post-Medieval ploughing will have had a widespread but superficially damaging impact on any deposits on the study site, should they occur.

5.2 The Proposed Development

5.2.1 The proposed development comprises an Outline Planning Application for up to 157 residential dwellings including 30% affordable, landscaping, open space and access provision (Fig. 13).

5.3 Impact on Heritage Assets

5.2.1 In March 2012 the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which uses the concept of 'significance' of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF, centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its 'heritage interest' to this or future generations.

5.3.2 There are no designated (nationally significant) archaeological assets on or near to the study site.

5.3.3 The proposed development of the study site could have the potential to impact upon any buried deposits, if they are present. This assessment has identified a low to moderate potential for the Prehistoric and Roman periods and a moderate to high potential palaeo-environmental remains to be present.

5.3.4 If present, any archaeological remains are considered on the basis of the Regional Archaeological Framework and the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Monuments (DCMS Oct 2013), to be of local archaeological significance. Any geoarchaeological remains representing the Aldingbourne Raised Beach deposits found north-west of the study site, could be considered to be of regional significance.

- 5.3.5 In view of the potential recognised for the study site to contain previously unrecorded archaeological remains of interest, and in line with NPPF and development plan policy, it is anticipated that the local planning authority will require further archaeological work, in the form of a field evaluation (geophysical survey and/or targeted trial trenching) in order to more fully establish the presence/absence, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any buried heritage assets and the significance that can be attached to these.

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Land East of Wandley's Lane, Fontwell, is proposed for development.
- 6.2 There are no designated archaeological assets on or near to the study site. However, However, a non-designated archaeological asset is recorded on the study site represented by cropmarks observed from aerial photographs.
- 6.3 A review of available archaeological and historical sources indicates that the site has a moderate to high potential for Pleistocene Raised Beach deposits, a generally low to moderate potential for prehistoric and Roman evidence, and a low potential for all remaining past periods.
- 6.4 The proposed development of the site could impact upon any previously unrecorded assets of archaeological interest if present. As such, and in line with NPPF and development plan policy, it is anticipated that the local planning authority will require further archaeological work, in the form of a field evaluation (targeted trial trenching), in order to more fully establish the presence/absence, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any buried heritage assets and the significance that can be attached to these.

SOURCES CONSULTED

General

West Sussex Historic Environment Record
West Sussex Record Office
National Monuments Record
British Geological Survey
National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage National Heritage List
Arun District Local Plan 2003 (adopted in April 2003)
Arun District Draft Local Plan 2011-2029 (May 2013)

Bibliographic and Documentary

Archaeology South East	2006	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Newlands House, Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex
Archaeology South East	2015	An Archaeological Evaluation Land off Fontwell Way, Fontwell, West Sussex
Howell, I., & Surrell, I.	1994	'Fontwell' in The Parish of Walberton: Containing the Villages of Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell. Walberton Parish Council
MOLAS	2000	An Archaeological Evaluation at Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex
VCH	1997	A History of the County of Sussex: Volume 5, Part 1: Walberton and Eastergate

Cartographic Sources

1778 Yeakall and Gardner Map
1805 Ordnance Survey Drawing
1825 C&J Greenwood
1846 Walberton Tithe Maps
1876 Ordnance Survey

1897 Ordnance Survey
1912 Ordnance Survey
1938 Ordnance Survey
1961 Ordnance Survey
1979 Ordnance Survey
2017 Ordnance Survey

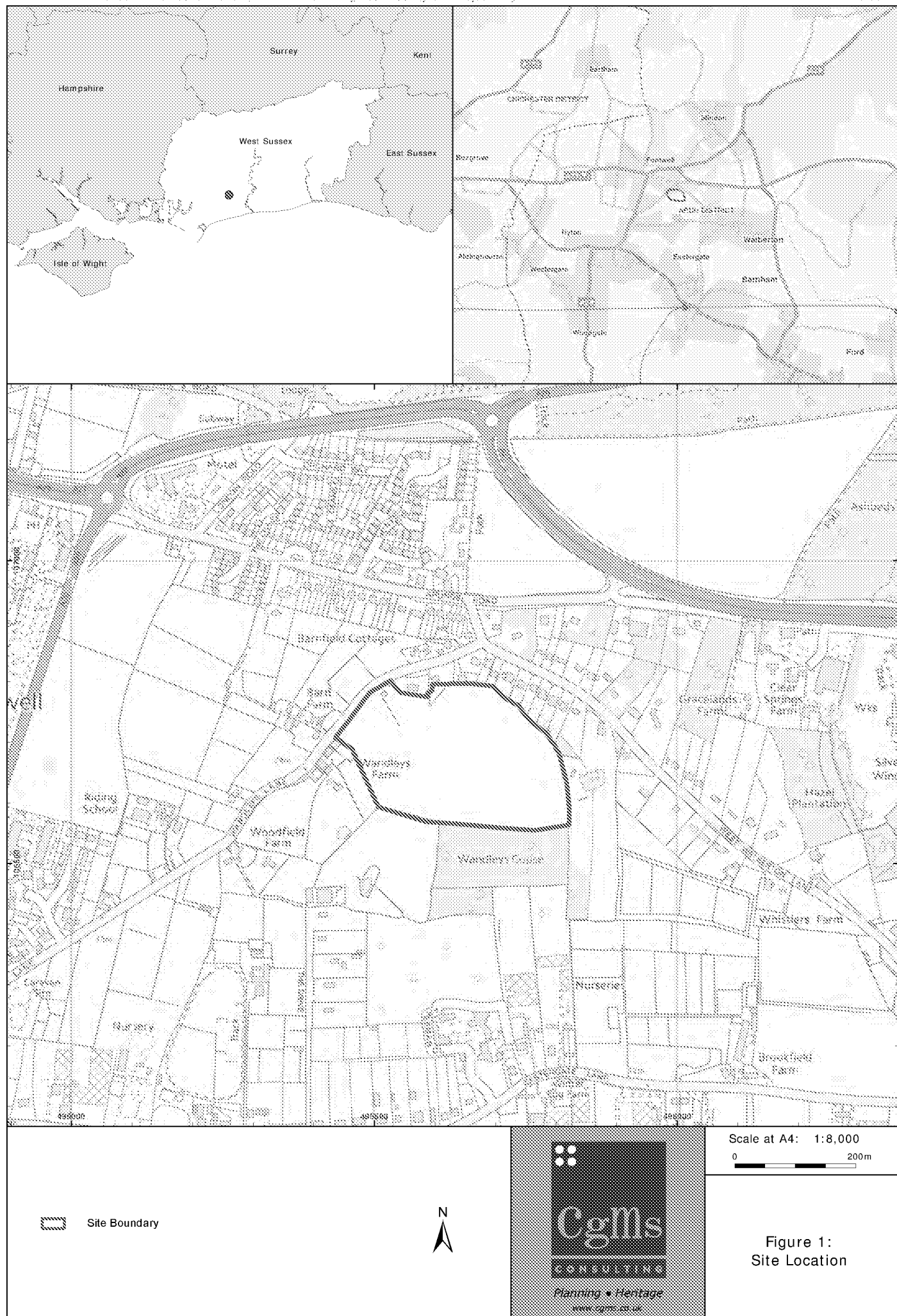
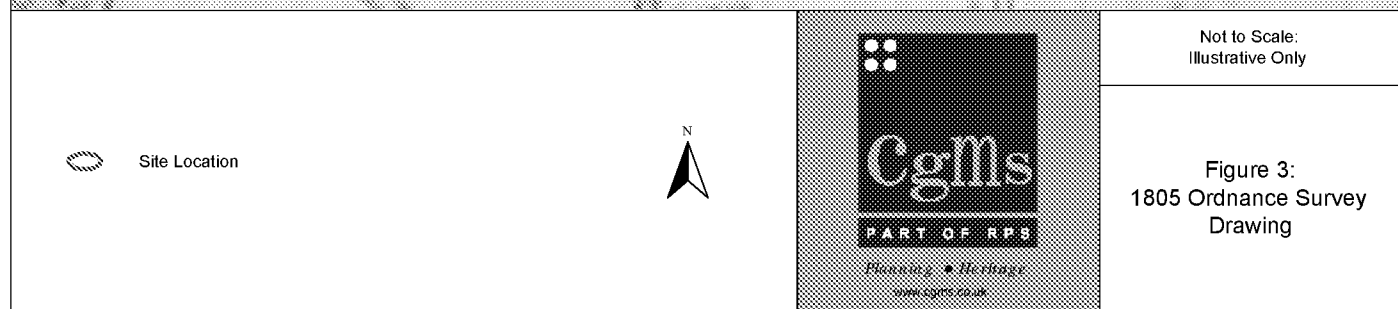
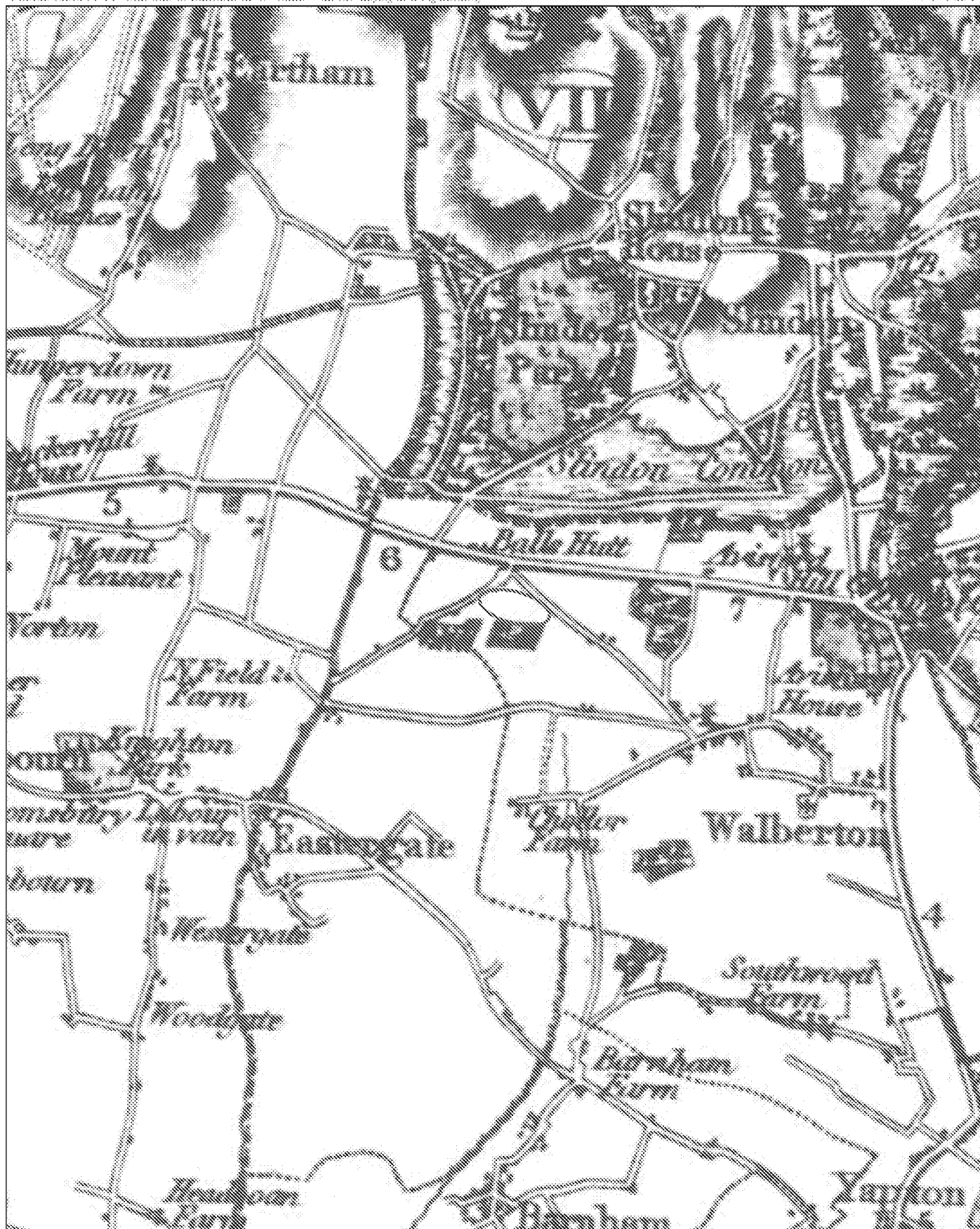




Figure 2:
1778 Yeakall and Gardner
Map





Site Location



Planning • Heritage
www.cgms.co.uk

Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 4:
1825 C&J Greenwood

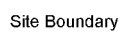
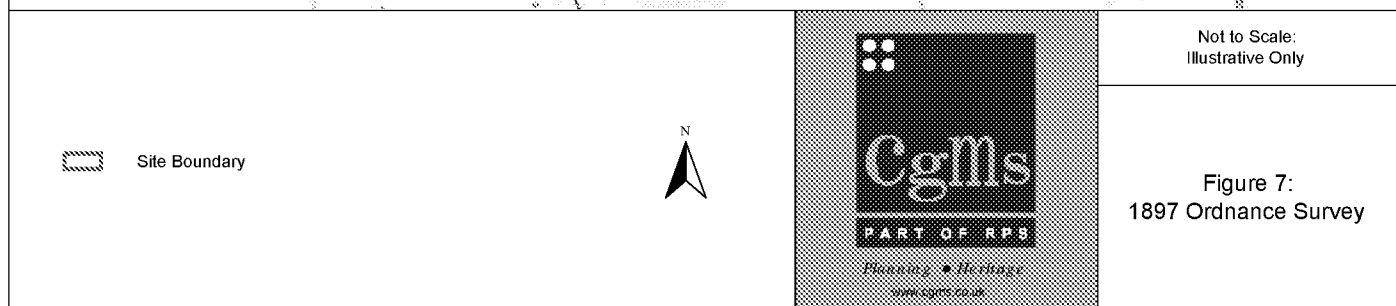
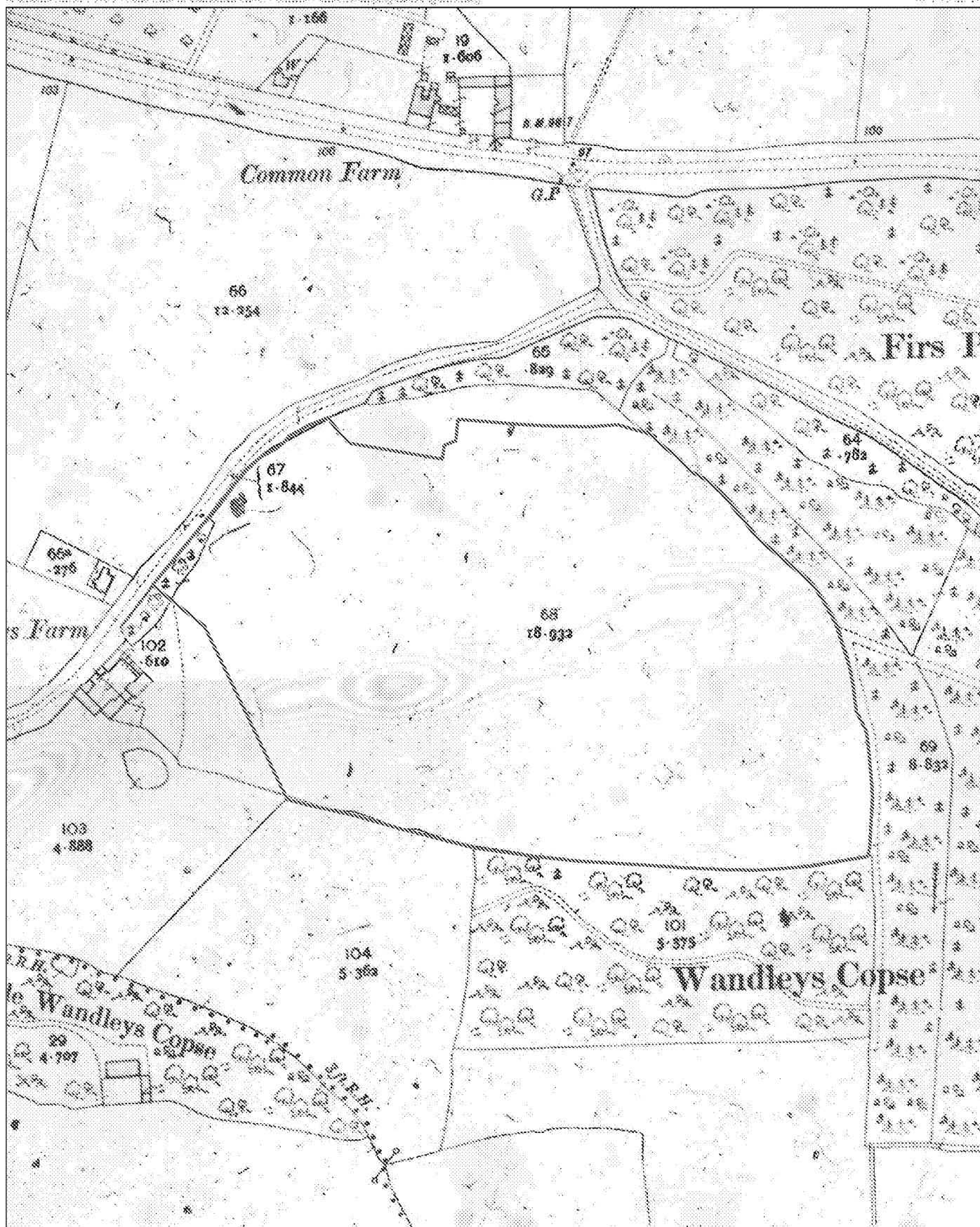


Figure 5:
1847 Walberton Tithe
Map





Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 8:
1912 Ordnance Survey

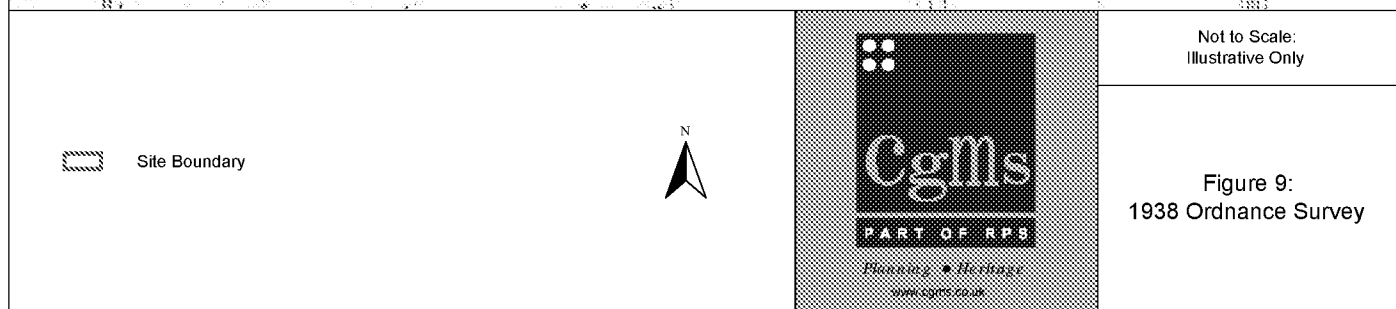
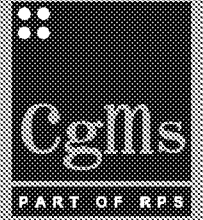




Figure 11:
1979 Ordnance Survey



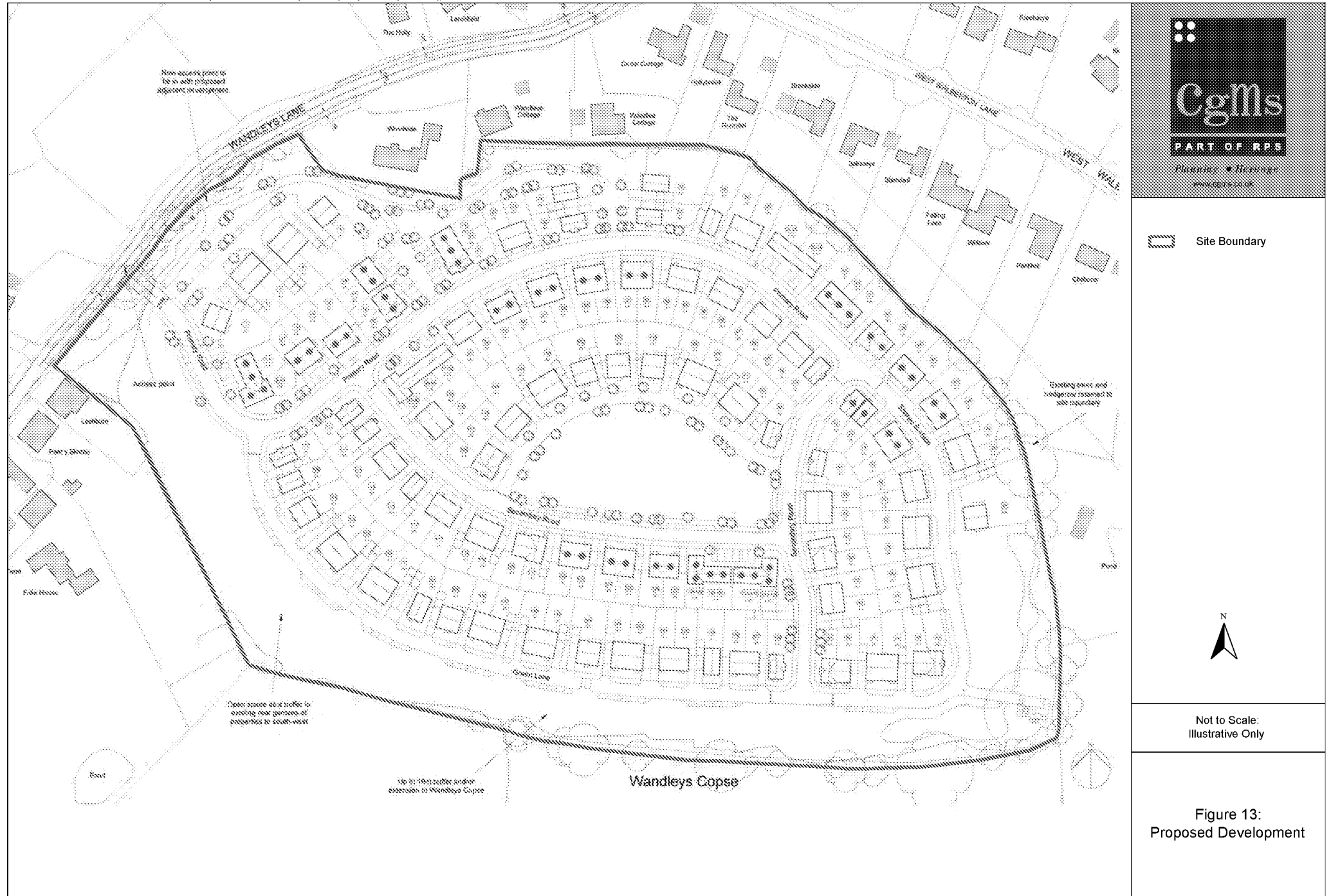
www.cgms.co.uk

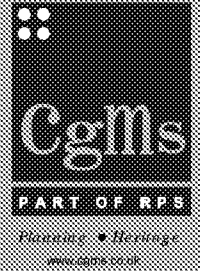
 Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 12:
2017 Ordnance Survey





 Site Boundary

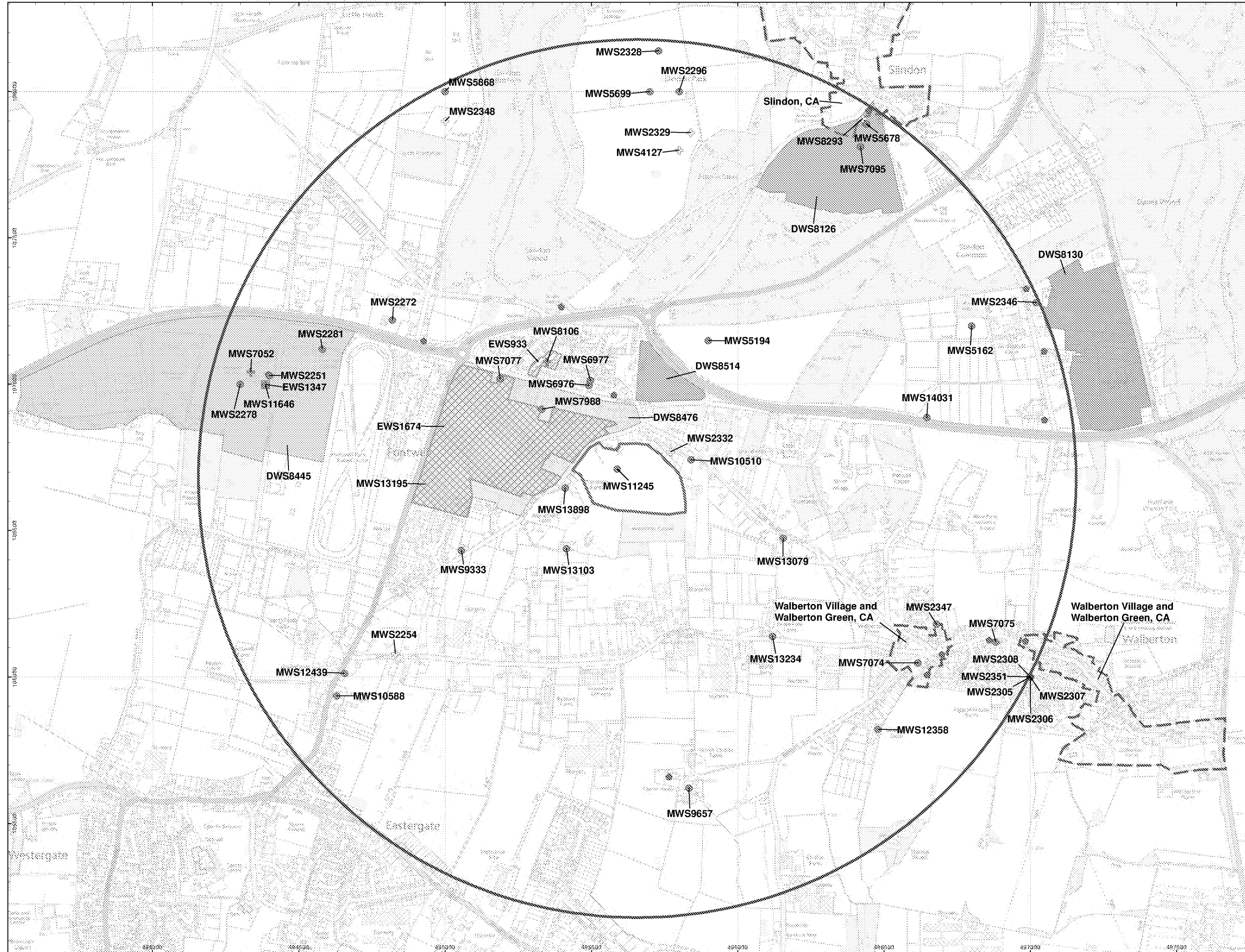


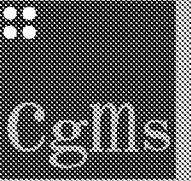
Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Plate 1:
2015 Google Earth
Image

Appendix 1

West Sussex Historic Environment Record





Planning • Heritage
www.cgms.co.uk

Site Boundary
Search Radius 1.5km

Designated Heritage Assets:

Conservation Area

Listed Building

Archaeological Notification Area

DWS8126 - A Roman site, partly underlying the garden of No. 45 Park Lane, Slindon

DWS8130 - Roman Occupation Debris and Cist Burial, Slindon

DWS8445 - Site of Two Roman Cremations, Westergate, Aidingbourne

DWS8476 - Roman Occupation, Walberton

DWS8514 - Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval Activity, Walberton

Non-Designated Heritage Assets:

HER Record (Point)

Land
Monument
Find Spot
Negative Find Spot

HER Record (Polygon)

Monument

Previous Archaeological Work:

Event Record (Point)
Event Record (Polygon)

N

Scale at A3: 1:12,000

0 400 m

Appendix 1:
West Sussex Historic
Environment Record
data

Appendix 2:

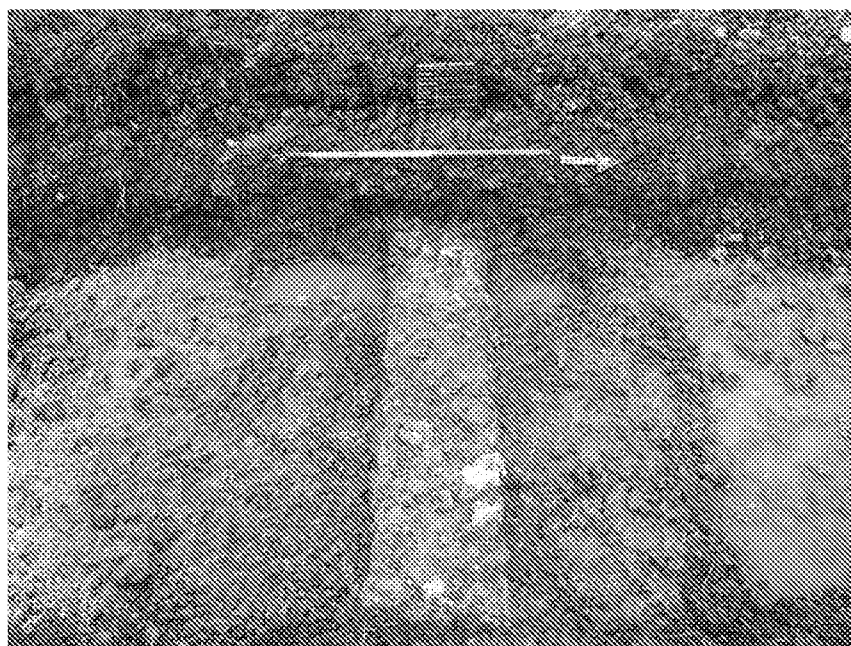
Archaeological Evaluation Land off Fontwell Way, Fontwell, West Sussex (ASE March 2015)

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell,
West Sussex.**

**NGR: 495151 106812
(SU 9515 0681)**

**ASE Project No: 7286
Site Code: FFA15**

**ASE Report No: 2015069
OASIS id: archaeol6-207147**



**By Hayley Nicholls
With contributions by
Lucy Allott, Luke Barber, Trista Clifford, Anna Doherty,
Karine Le Hégarat, and Angela Vitolo**

Illustrations by Justin Russell and Robert Cole

March 2015

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell,
West Sussex.**

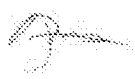
**NGR: 495151 106812
(SU 9515 0681)**

**ASE Project No: 7286
Site Code: FFA15**

**ASE Report No: 2015069
OASIS id: archaeol6-207147**

**By Hayley Nicholls
With contributions by
Lucy Allott, Luke Barber, Trista Clifford, Anna Doherty,
Karine Le Hégarat, and Angela Vitolo**

Illustrations by Justin Russell and Robert Cole

Prepared by:	Hayley Nicholls	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Diccon Hart	Senior Archaeologist	
Date of Issue:	25 th March 2015 (revised 1 st April)		
Revision:	14 th April 2015		

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.

Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

Low levels of possible Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form of an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site.

Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.

A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.

A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.

A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

- Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**
- Appendix 2: Burnt unworked flint**
- Appendix 3: Residue Quantification**
- Appendix 4: Flot Quantification**
- Appendix 5: A geoarchaeological investigation at Fontwell, West Sussex:
test pit investigation report by Martin R. Bates**

FIGURES

Front cover image:	Post-medieval wall [24/008]
Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Site plan
Figure 3:	Trench 3: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 4:	Trench 4: Plan, sections and photographs
Figure 5:	Trench 7: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 6:	Trench 9: Plan, sections and photographs
Figure 7:	Trench 10: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 8:	Trench 12: Plan, sections and photographs
Figure 9:	Trench 14: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 10:	Trench 15: Plan, sections and photographs
Figure 11:	Trench 16: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 12:	Trench 17: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 13:	Trench 19: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 14:	Trench 20: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 15:	Trench 21: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 16:	Trench 22: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 17:	Trench 24: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 18:	Trench 25: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 19:	Trench 26: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 20:	Trench 27: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 21:	Trench 28: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 22:	Trench 29: Plan, sections and photographs
Figure 23:	Trench 30: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 24:	Trench 31: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 25:	Trench 33: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 26:	Trench 35: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 27:	Trench 37: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 28:	Trench 38: Plan, section and photographs
Figure 29:	Trench 39: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 30:	Trench 40: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 31:	Trench 41: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 32:	Trench 42: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 33:	Trench 46: Plan, section and photograph

TABLES

Table 1:	Quantification of the site archive
Table 2:	GTP A test pit log
Table 3:	GTP B test pit log
Table 4:	GTP C test pit log
Table 5:	GTP 40 test pit log
Table 6:	Trench 3 list of recorded contexts
Table 7:	Trench 4 list of recorded contexts
Table 8:	Trench 7 list of recorded contexts
Table 9:	Trench 9 list of recorded contexts
Table 10:	Trench 10 list of recorded contexts
Table 11:	Trench 12 list of recorded contexts
Table 12:	Trench 14 list of recorded contexts
Table 13:	Trench 15 list of recorded contexts
Table 14:	Trench 16 list of recorded contexts
Table 15:	Trench 17 list of recorded contexts
Table 16:	Trench 19 list of recorded contexts
Table 17:	Trench 20 list of recorded contexts
Table 18:	Trench 21 list of recorded contexts
Table 19:	Trench 22 list of recorded contexts
Table 20:	Trench 24 list of recorded contexts
Table 21:	Trench 25 list of recorded contexts
Table 22:	Trench 26 list of recorded contexts
Table 23:	Trench 27 list of recorded contexts
Table 24:	Trench 28 list of recorded contexts
Table 25:	Trench 29 list of recorded contexts
Table 26:	Trench 30 list of recorded contexts
Table 27:	Trench 31 list of recorded contexts
Table 28:	Trench 33 list of recorded contexts
Table 29:	Trench 35 list of recorded contexts
Table 30:	Trench 37 list of recorded contexts
Table 31:	Trench 38 list of recorded contexts
Table 32:	Trench 39 list of recorded contexts
Table 33:	Trench 40 list of recorded contexts
Table 34:	Trench 41 list of recorded contexts
Table 35:	Trench 42 list of recorded contexts
Table 36:	Trench 46 list of recorded contexts
Table 37:	Quantification of the finds
Table 38:	The flintwork
Table 39:	The CBM

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex (centred at NGR SU 9515 068; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015) 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.
- 1.2.2 The site is irregular in shape and lies on a gentle south facing slope with the highest point at c. 30.49m OD towards the north edge of the site, falling to c. 21.03m OD in the south-west corner.
- 1.2.3 The majority of the site comprises pasture with a small area of scrubland to the east. The site is bounded by Arundel Road to the north, pasture fields to the east, the rear gardens of houses built along Wandley's Close to the south and by Fontwell Avenue to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 It is proposed to develop the site with a mixture of uses including housing, light industrial units and shop/community facilities. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2014), a programme of archaeological works is required in advance of development, the first stage of which comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site.
- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2015) was submitted to and approved by West Sussex County Council (WSCC), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation which was carried out between the 16th and 27th February 2015. The archaeological work was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist), Richard Krayson, Stacey Harris, Lauren Figg, Tom Rugg, Jake Wilson, Terry Newman, Gemma Ward, and Sarah Vine (Assistant Archaeologists), and Gary Webster (Surveyor). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The detailed archaeological and historical background to the site is presented in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014). The following brief summary is drawn from that document with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A series of prehistoric sites and find spots are known in close proximity to the site. Raised Beach deposits have been recorded north of Arundel Road, although no Palaeolithic material was found. A large quantity of Bronze Age pottery, as well as some Iron Age pottery was found within a ditch north of Arundel Road, at about c.120m from the site. A Late Bronze Age urn was discovered during the excavation of a pit along Eastergate Lane to the south of the site, and more Iron Age finds associated with a hearth and trench were also excavated at Copse/Binsted Lane.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The site lies along the Arundel Road, which is believed to follow the course of an earlier Roman Road. Excavations at Morelands Cottage to the north of the site, have exposed a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware. An urned cremation of a similar date was also found c.635m west of the site.

2.4 Early medieval and medieval

- 2.4.1 There is no evidence of Saxon or early medieval occupation near the site but medieval pottery sherds were found during an evaluation north of Arundel Road. No settlement was recorded in Fontwell in the Domesday Book and although there might have been a road still in use nearby, it seems Fontwell was on the periphery of the manors of Eastergate and Walberton.

2.5 Post-medieval

- 2.5.1 The first evidence for a hamlet having existed in Fontwell dates back to 1630. There was also a coaching inn of late 18th century date adjacent to Arundel Road (the Balls Hut Inn), which was then demolished after the arrival of the railway to Brighton in 1845 (Howell and Surrell 1994). The first map showing the site is the Walberton Estate Map of 1756, which shows six enclosed cultivated fields. A smaller enclosure within the site can be identified as the site of the Balls Hut Inn. The Eastergate Tithe Map of 1845 and the Walberton Tithe Map of 1846 show the former common land to the west being enclosed and cultivated. A barn and yard were also added. The six fields that appear in the eastern area in the previous map become three larger fields.
- 2.5.2 The 1880 Ordnance Survey map shows the field boundaries having been removed and the area turned into one single field. On the 1914 Ordnance Survey map, a reservoir was built by the Bognor Water Works Company

within the site, next to where the Bulls Hut Inn had been. The 1951 map shows a few rectangular features (possible pig pens or agricultural structures) being added, although most of them have now been removed.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The aims and objectives of the investigation were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and are herein reproduced in full below.

2.6.2 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits within the site with particular focus on the Raised Beach deposits that may contain archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such deposits.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- To enable Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

2.6.3 In addition, specific research aims, based on the findings of the draft South-East Research Framework (SERF) included the following:

Bronze Age and Iron Age

- Is there any evidence for Later Bronze Age land division on the site and can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?
- Is there any evidence for Later Iron Age occupation on the site and if so, can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

Roman

- Is there any evidence for Roman occupation on the site and can this inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All archaeological fieldwork was carried out to accepted professional standards in line with ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014a; ClfA 2014b); West Sussex County Council's Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions (WSCC 2007) and in accordance with the methodology set out in the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015).
- 3.1.2 46 trenches were excavated, as shown in Figure 2. The lengths of Trenches 5, 9, 24, 25, 30, 32 and 36 were shortened to avoid Tree Protection Order zones (TPOs). Trench 17 was moved 2m to the south to avoid a TPO. Trenches 2, 9, 11, 36, 37 and 40 were altered so as not to block access to the site and between fields. Trenches 41 and 42 were altered to avoid services detected using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Trench 24 was extended 10m to the east in order to further expose and define a possible structure.
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil and trench bases were scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were located using digital survey technology. Feature plans and sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and excavated features and of the site in general.
- 3.1.5 In addition, provision was made for the excavation of 23 geoarchaeological test pits within selected trench footprints. Following the excavation of an initial four geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs A–C and GTP 40; Figure 2) under the supervision of Dr Matthew Pope (see Section 4.2 below), it was recommended that a more focussed geoarchaeological test pit regime be adopted, to consist of a further six geoarchaeological test pits excavated under the direction of Dr Martin Bates. This change of strategy was agreed at a site meeting with the WSCC Archaeologist Mark Taylor. The results of the initial phase of test pitting are presented in Section 4.2 below; Dr Bates full report can be found in Appendix 5.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Littlehampton Museum in due course. Littlehampton Museum does not give out archive accession numbers prior to receiving the archive. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	264
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	10
Bulk Samples	10
Photographs	134 digital images
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overburden and Geology

- 4.1.1 The topsoil across the site comprised soft dark grey-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.16m and 0.3m in thickness and overlay a deposit of subsoil across most of the site, although only partial subsoil coverage was identified in Trenches 9, 12, 24, 39 and 46.
- 4.1.2 The subsoil across the site comprised soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.09m and 0.26m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate in all but Trenches 26 and 32, towards the south-west corner of the site, where a deposit of colluvium was present underlying the subsoil. This deposit measured between 0.2m and 0.5m in thickness and comprised mid-red brown silt clay with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. The colluvial deposit directly overlay the natural substrate.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil across site did not however; appear to represent a single deposit, as both Roman ditch [35/004] in the north-east of the site and the probable prehistoric pit [17/004] in the south-west of the site both cut a deposit of subsoil, but the majority of other prehistoric features were sealed by a similar subsoil deposit. As such, the identified subsoil appears to represent more than one horizon, likely developed through similar processes but over differing dates and periods.
- 4.1.4 The natural substrate comprised patches of firm mid brown-red silt clay, interspersed with areas of brown-orange gravels. The only variation to this was at the west end of Trench 23 where the natural gravel deposit was very shallow with a depth of between 0.15m and 0.23m and overlay a natural deposit of light grey/white clay sand with frequent chalk and gravel. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 20.65m AOD at its lowest point, close to the south-west corner of the site and at 30.46m AOD at its highest point, close to the north edge of the site.

4.2 Geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs) A, B, C and 40

- 4.2.1 An initial stage of prospective geoarchaeological test pits was undertaken to determine the broad disposition of the sub-surface geology and to establish the position and depth of raised beach deposits thought likely to underlie the site. These pits also served to test the accuracy of the BGS geological mapping, which, in the absence of geotechnical data for the site was the only guide to the likely coverage of Pleistocene sedimentation. A total of four geoarchaeological test pits were excavated (GTPs A–C and GTP40). These are summarised below

TEST PIT GTP A		Location (top of slope) Trench 33 (west end)	
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0 – 0.4	Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil.	Ploughsoil	
0.4 – 0.8	Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm	Colluvial subsoil	
0.8 – 2.9	Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm.	Head Deposit	

Table 2: GTP A test pit log

TEST PIT GTP B		Location (mid slope) Trench 16 (east end)	
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0 – 0.3	Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil.	Ploughsoil	
0.3 – 0.6	Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm.	Colluvial subsoil	
0.6 – 1.5	Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm.	Head Deposit	
1.6 – 2.5	Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl	Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head?	

Table 3: GTP B test pit log

TEST PIT GTP C		Location (mid slope) Trench 19	
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0 – 0.4	Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil	Ploughsoil	
0.4 – 0.6	Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm.	Colluvial subsoil	
0.6 – 1.6	Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm.	Head Deposit	
1.6 – 2.6	Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl	Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head?	

Table 4: GTP C test pit log

TEST PIT GTP 40		Location Trench 40 (south end)	
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0 – 0.3	Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil.	Ploughsoil	
0.3 – 0.5	Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm.	Colluvial subsoil	
0.5 – 3.8	Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm.	Head Deposit	
3.8 – 4	Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl	Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head?	

Table 5: GTP 40 test pit log

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.17	29.88
3/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.14	
3/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	29.45
3/004	cut	Possible posthole	0.27	0.27	0.07	29.1
3/005	fill	Single fill	0.27	0.27	0.07	

Table 6: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located towards the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.3.2 The trench measured 49.6m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.3.3 One possible archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a small pit or posthole (Figure 3).
- 4.3.4 The pit or posthole [3/004] was revealed towards the south end of the trench, was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.27m, was sealed by subsoil [3/002] and cut the natural substrate [3/003]. Posthole fill [3/005] comprised a friable dark brown-grey silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.3.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.4 Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.22	29.36
4/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.12	
4/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	29.02
4/004	cut	partially exposed oval? pit or ditch terminus	2	1.1	0.42	29.62
4/005	fill	Single fill	trench	1.1	0.42	
4/006	cut	north-south aligned ditch	trench	1	0.29	29.52
4/007	fill	Single fill	trench	1	0.29	

Table 7: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 was located towards the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.4.2 The trench measured 48.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.
- 4.4.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch and a partially revealed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 4).
- 4.4.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [4/004] was located against the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [4/002] and cut the natural substrate [4/003]. The feature was 1.1m wide and 0.42m deep and was exposed for a length of 2m. Pit fill [4/005] comprised a friable mid grey-brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.4.5 The ditch [4/006] was located towards the east end of the trench, orientated on a north-south alignment, was sealed by subsoil [4/002] and cut the natural substrate [4/003]. The feature was 1m wide and 0.29m deep. Ditch fill [4/007] comprised a friable dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.4.6 Three sherds of pottery of prehistoric date were recovered from ditch fill [4/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.5 Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
7/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.29	27.75
7/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.18	
7/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	27.3
7/004	cut	North-south aligned ditch	trench	2.17	0.39	26.54
7/005	fill	Basal fill	trench	1.18	0.14	
7/006	fill	Upper fill	trench	2.18	0.25	

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 7 was located within the north-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.5.2 The trench measured 49.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.
- 4.5.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 5).
- 4.5.4 The ditch [7/004] was located within the west half of the trench, orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [7/002] and cut the natural substrate [7/003]. The feature was 2.17m wide and 0.39m deep. The ditch had two distinct fills. The basal fill [7/005] comprised a firm mid red-brown dark silt clay with occasional gravel and flint inclusions. The upper fill [7/006] comprised firm mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional flint and gravel.
- 4.5.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.6 Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
9/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.25	27.17
9/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.19	
9/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	26.67
9/004	cut	Partially exposed oval? pit	1.05	1.25	0.75	25.41
9/005	fill	Basal majority fill	1.05	1.25	0.75	
9/006	fill	Upper minority fill	1.05	0.86	0.27	

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 9 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2) and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

- 4.6.2 The trench was dug in two parts (see Figure 2); the western part (A) measured 14m long and the eastern part (B) measured 30m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 7m long was left unexcavated to allow access to the southern part of the site.
- 4.6.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit (Figure 6).
- 4.6.4 The pit [9/004] was located within part A of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [9/002] and cut the natural substrate [9/003]. The feature was 1.25m wide and 0.75m deep and was exposed for a length of 1.05m. Basal fill [9/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown silt clay with abundant gravel and flint inclusions. Upper fill [9/006] comprised moderately soft mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel and flint nodule inclusions.
- 4.6.5 Two pieces of struck flint of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date were retrieved from uppermost pit fill [9/006]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.7 Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
10/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.24	23.76
10/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.13	
10/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	23.38
10/004	cut	Circular pit or tree bole	1.15	1.15	0.25	23.01
10/005	fill	Single fill	1.15	1.15	0.25	

Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 10 was located close to the west site boundary (Figure 2).
- 4.7.2 The trench measured 48.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.7.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a pit (Figure 7).
- 4.7.4 The pit [10/004] was located within the southern half of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [10/002] and cut the natural substrate [10/003]. The feature measured 1.15m wide and 0.25m deep. Pit fill [10/005] comprised a firm mid brown clay silt with abundant gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.7.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.8 Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
12/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.29	26.39
12/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.16	
12/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	26.03
12/004	cut	WNW-ESE aligned ditch	trench	1.7	0.33	25.86
12/005	fill	Single fill	trench	1.7	0.33	
12/006	cut	WNW-ESE aligned gully	trench	0.58	0.21	26.07
12/007	fill	Single fill	trench	0.58	0.21	

Table 11: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 Trench 12 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.8.2 The trench measured 49.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.8.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches, both orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (Figure 8).
- 4.8.4 Ditch [12/004] was located close to the north end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [12/002] and cut the natural substrate [12/003]. The feature was 1.7m wide and 0.33m deep. The ditch fill [12/005] comprised a moderately soft dark red-brown clay silt with rare charcoal, gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.8.5 Ditch [12/006] was located close to the centre of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [12/001] and cut the natural substrate [12/003]. The feature was 0.58m wide and 0.21m deep. The ditch fill [12/007] was noticeably different to that in ditch [12/004] and comprised a firm light grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.8.6 No finds were retrieved from either feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.9 Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
14/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.18	27.22
14/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.09	
14/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	26.9
14/004	cut	Circular pit	0.8	0.87	0.24	26.68
14/005	fill	Single fill	0.8	0.87	0.24	
14/006	cut	Partially exposed gully terminus/oval pit	2.3	0.63	0.06	26.62
14/007	fill	Single fill	2.3	0.63	0.06	

Table 12: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

- 4.9.1 Trench 14 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.9.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.9.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the southern half of the trench, comprising a pit and a partially revealed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 9).
- 4.9.4 The pit [14/004] was sealed by subsoil [14/002] and cut the natural substrate [14/003]. The feature had a diameter of 0.8m and was 0.24m deep. Pit fill [14/005] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown silt clay with rare gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.9.5 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [14/006] was sealed by subsoil [14/002] and cut the natural substrate [14/003]. The feature was 0.63m wide and 0.06m deep and was exposed for a length of 2.3m. The fill [14/007] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown silt clay with occasional gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.9.6 A blade core fragment of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date and pottery sherds of probable Late Bronze Age date were retrieved from pit or ditch terminus fill [14/007]. Small quantities of charcoal of unidentified taxa were also present in the flit from the environmental sample taken from the same fill.

4.10 Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
15/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.19	25.58
15/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.1	
15/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	25.28
15/004	cut	Partially exposed oval? pit	0.51	0.47	0.22	25.39
15/005	fill	Single fill	0.51	0.47	0.22	
15/006	cut	Possible circular posthole	0.27	0.27	0.07	
15/007	fill	Single fill	0.27	0.27	0.07	25.52
15/008	cut	Partially exposed sub-circular posthole	0.32	0.34	0.11	24.89
15/009	fill	Single fill	0.32	0.34	0.11	

Table 13: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

- 4.10.1 Trench 15 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.10.2 The trench measured 49.9m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.10.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two partially revealed pits or postholes and one probable pit or posthole (Figure 10). All features were sealed by subsoil [15/002] and cut the natural substrate [15/003].
- 4.10.4 Pit or posthole [15/004] had a diameter of 0.47m and was 0.22m deep. The fill [15/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent flecks of burnt clay and occasional charcoal and fire-cracked flint inclusions.
- 4.10.5 Possible pit or posthole [15/006] had a diameter of 0.27m and was 0.07m deep. Pit fill [15/007] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal, similar in colour and consistency to subsoil [15/002]; the feature may be natural in origin.
- 4.10.6 Partially exposed pit or posthole [15/008] had a diameter of 0.34m and was 0.11m deep. Pit fill [15/009] comprised a compact dark grey-brown silt with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 4.10.7 The environmental sample taken from posthole fill [15/005] contained one flake, one bladelet and two chips of flint of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date. The sample also contained poorly preserved charred wheat caryopsis, better preserved seeds of ivy-leaved speedwell, two seeds of red shank/amphibious/pale persicaria, one indeterminate seed and some poorly preserved fruit stones of cherry/plum/sloe type. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.11 Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
16/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.19	24.05
16/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.16	
16/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	23.72
16/004	cut	NNE-SSW gully/ ditch	trench	1.1	0.23	
16/005	fill	Single fill	trench	1.1	0.23	22.23
16/006	cut	Partially exposed ?pit/ditch terminus	1.4	0.62	0.35	24.02
16/007	fill	Single fill	1.4	0.62	0.35	

Table 14: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

- 4.11.1 Trench 16 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.11.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.
- 4.11.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch and a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 11).
- 4.11.4 Ditch [16/004] was located close to the west end of the trench orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [16/002] and cut the natural substrate [16/003]. The feature was 1.1m wide and 0.23m deep. The ditch fill [16/005] comprised a firm mid grey-orange silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 4.11.5 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [16/006] was also sealed by subsoil [16/002] and cut the natural substrate [16/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 1.4m, had a width of 0.62m and was 0.35m deep. The fill [16/007] comprised a firm mid grey-orange silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 4.11.6 Two pieces of struck flint of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were retrieved from pit or ditch terminus fill [16/007]. One undiagnostic flint-tempered bodysherd of prehistoric date was also retrieved from overlying topsoil deposit [16/001].

4.12 Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
17/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.21	26.43
17/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.14	
17/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	26.14
17/004	cut	Partially exposed circular? pit	0.71	1.51	0.32	25.96
17/005	fill	Upper majority fill	0.71	1.51	0.25	
17/006	fill	Basal burning/scorching	0.41	0.7	0.07	
17/007	fill	Single fill	0.53	0.44	0.11	
17/008	cut	Possible posthole	0.53	0.44	0.11	25.95
17/009	cut	Possible posthole	0.43	0.38	0.08	26.28
17/010	fill	Single fill	0.43	0.38	0.08	

Table 15: Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

- 4.12.1 Trench 17 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.12.2 The trench measured 49.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.
- 4.12.3 Three probable archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a partially revealed pit and two pits or postholes (Figure 12).
- 4.12.4 Pit [17/004] was sealed by topsoil [17/001] and cut through the subsoil and natural substrate [17/002] and [17/003]. The pit had a width of 1.51m and was 0.32m deep and was exposed for a length of 0.71m. The basal fill [17/006] comprised a firm mid orange-red silt clay and is likely to be a result of *in situ* burning or scorching of the underlying natural substrate. The upper fill [17/005] comprised a firm dark black-grey clay silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and fire-cracked flint.
- 4.12.5 Possible pit or posthole [17/008] was oval in plan with a length of 0.53m, a width of 0.44m and was 0.11m deep. Pit fill [17/007] comprised a fine, soft mid brown-grey clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions, similar in colour and consistency to subsoil [17/002]; the feature may be natural in origin.
- 4.12.6 Possible pit or posthole [17/009] was oval in plan with a length of 0.43m, a width of 0.38m and was 0.08m deep. Pit fill [17/010] comprised a fine, soft mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. This feature may also be natural in origin, though this remains uncertain.
- 4.12.7 Features [17/008] and [17/009] were both sealed by subsoil [17/002] and cut the natural substrate [17/003].
- 4.12.8 Six sherds of flint-tempered pottery of Early Neolithic date were retrieved from subsoil context [17/002] in the vicinity of pit [17/004].

4.12.9 The environmental sample of the basal fill [17/006] from pit [17/004] contained a charred seed of ivy-leaved speedwell and a fragment of charcoal possibly from an unidentified climber whilst the upper fill contained fragments of oak and beech charcoal. A large quantity of fire-cracked flint was also retrieved from the pit. The fragments were principally small-sized. While the fragments from basal fill [17/006] displayed only a reddish tinge, the majority of the fragments from the upper fill [17/005] were calcined white or mid to dark grey. The difference in colour suggests that the degree to which the flint had been heated varied. It may also suggest that the flints were burnt *in situ*.

4.13 Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
19/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.2	24.85
19/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.19	
19/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	24.51
19/004	fill	Single fill	0.68	0.66	0.25	
19/005	cut	Circular pit	0.68	0.66	0.25	23.49
19/006	fill	Single fill	0.56	0.55	0.24	
19/007	cut	Partially revealed circular ?pit	0.56	0.55	0.24	24.1
19/008	cut	Partially revealed oval pit or ditch terminus	0.8	0.58	0.27	24.74
19/009	fill	Single fill	0.8	0.58	0.27	

Table 16: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 19 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.13.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.13.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a pit or large posthole, a partially exposed probable pit and a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 13). All features were sealed by subsoil [19/002] and cut the natural substrate [19/003].

4.13.4 Pit or posthole [19/005] was located close to the west end of the trench, had a diameter of 0.66m and was 0.25m deep. The fill [19/004] comprised a friable dark grey-brown silt clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, fire-cracked flint and burnt clay.

4.13.5 Partially revealed pit [19/007] was located in the west half of the trench, exposed for a length of 0.56m, had a width of 0.55m and was 0.24m deep. The fill [19/006] comprised a friable light grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.13.6 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [19/008] was located in the east half of the trench, was exposed for a length of 0.83m, had a width of 0.58m

and was 0.27m deep. The fill [19/009] comprised a moderately firm mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.13.7 Six sherds of pottery of Middle/Late Bronze Age date, a flint blade of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date and two pieces of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from pit fill [19/004]. The environmental sample from the fill contained small quantities of charred hazel nut shell.

4.13.8 One sherd of pottery dated to between AD1700 and 1825, two fragments of undiagnostic roof tile of probable 18th to 19th century date, and seven pieces of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the overlying topsoil deposit [19/001]

4.14 Trench 20

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
20/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.2	25.91
20/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.16	
20/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	25.54
20/004	cut	Oval pit	0.7	0.59	0.19	25.73
20/005	fill	Single fill	0.7	0.59	0.19	
20/006	cut	Oval pit	0.73	0.53	0.16	25.66
20/007	fill	Single fill	0.73	0.53	0.16	
20/008	cut	NE-SW aligned ditch?/furrow?	trench	1.67	0.4	25.26
20/009	fill	Single fill	trench	1.67	0.4	

Table 17: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 20 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.14.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.14.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two small pits or postholes and one north-east to south-west aligned possible ditch or furrow (Figure 14). All features were sealed by subsoil [20/002] and cut the natural substrate [20/003].

4.14.4 Pit or posthole [20/004] was oval in plan with a length of 0.7m, a width of 0.59m and a depth of 0.19m. The fill [20/005] comprised a compact dark grey-brown silt clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.14.5 Pit or posthole [20/006] was also oval in plan with a length of 0.73m, a width of 0.53m, and a depth of 0.16m. The fill [20/007] comprised a friable dark grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Pit or posthole [20/006] was located 0.6m to the south-south-west of pit /posthole [20/004] and the form of the two features was very similar suggesting the two may be contemporary.

4.14.6 Ditch or possible furrow [20/008] was located in the south half of the trench. The feature was 1.67m wide and 0.4m deep, with a wide, slightly irregular base. The fill [20/009] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.14.7 No finds were retrieved from any of the above features or from the overlying deposits.

4.15 Trench 21

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
21/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.27	25.87
21/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.26	
21/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	25.39
21/004	cut	Possible circular pit/posthole	0.54	0.54	0.08	24.97
21/005	fill	Single fill	0.54	0.54	0.08	
21/006	cut	Possible circular pit/posthole	0.5	0.5	0.06	25.03
21/007	fill	Single fill	0.5	0.5	0.06	
21/008	cut	Partially revealed large pit	0.68	1.65	0.23	25.24
21/009	fill	Single fill	0.68	1.65	0.23	
21/010	cut	WNW-ESE aligned ditch/gully	1.1	0.47	0.15	25.34
21/011	fill	Single fill	1.1	0.47	0.15	
21/012	cut	Partially exposed pit/ditch terminus	1	0.72	0.43	25.32
21/013	fill	Single fill	1	1.49	0.43	
21/014	void					
21/015	void					
21/016	cut	Circular pit/posthole	0.32	0.32	0.05	25.83
21/017	fill	Single fill	0.32	0.32	0.05	

Table 18: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 21 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.15.2 The trench measured 48.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.15.3 Six archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising one large pit, one pit or posthole, two possible pits, a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus and a west-north-west to east-south-east ditch or gully terminus (Figure 15). All features were sealed by subsoil [21/002] and cut the natural substrate [21/003].

4.15.4 The possible pits or postholes [21/004] and [21/006] were both located towards the southern end of the trench, were circular in plan with diameters of between 0.5m and 0.54m and depths of between 0.06m and 0.08m. Both

fills [21/005] and [21/006] comprised firm mid brown-grey silt clay with gravel inclusions. The features were spaced at a distance of 1.9m apart; their proximity and similarity in form might suggest they were contemporary.

4.15.5 Partially revealed pit [21/008] was located in the south half of the trench, exposed for a length of 0.68m, had a width of 1.65m and was 0.23m deep. The fill [21/009] comprised a firm dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.15.6 The ditch or gully terminus [21/010] was located centrally in the trench, was exposed for a length of 1.7m, had a width of 0.47m and was 0.15m deep. The fill [21/011] comprised a moderately firm dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.15.7 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [21/012] was located in the north half of the trench, was exposed for a length of 1m, had a width of 0.72m and was 0.43m deep. The fill [21/013] comprised a firm light red-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.15.8 Finally, pit or posthole [21/016] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.32m and a depth of 0.05m. The fill [21/017] comprised a soft light brown-grey clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.15.9 Ten pieces of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit [21/001].

4.16 Trench 22

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
22/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.17	24.25
22/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.13	
22/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	23.9
22/004	cut	NE-SW aligned gully/ditch	trench	0.59	0.21	23.21
22/005	fill	Single fill	trench	1.03	0.21	

Table 19: Trench 22 list of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Trench 22 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.16.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.16.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 16).

4.16.4 Ditch [22/004] was located at the south end of the trench orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [22/002] and cut the natural substrate [22/003]. The feature was 0.59m wide and 0.21m deep. The ditch fill [22/005] comprised a firm mid red-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.16.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.17 Trench 24

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
24/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.18	21.42
24/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.13	
24/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	21.19
24/004	masonry/other construction	E-W aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation	9.3	0.45	0.19	
24/005	masonry/other construction	N-S aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation	3.1	0.46	0.34	
24/006	unknown	?demolition deposit associated with 24/004 and 24/005	trench	trench	0.38	
24/007	unknown	Demolition deposit associated with 24/005	trench	trench	0.13	
24/008	masonry/other construction	E-W aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation	trench	0.47	0.23	
24/009	unknown	?demolition deposit associated with 24/008	trench	trench	0.2	

Table 20: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.17.1 Trench 24 was located in the south-west corner of the site, parallel to the site boundary and Fontwell Avenue (Figure 2).

4.17.2 The trench measured 42.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. A small L-shaped extension was excavated on the east side of the trench. The long side of the L measured 8.7m, with the short side measuring 5m long. Both were 2.1m wide.

4.17.3 A probable structure was identified within the trench, comprising three sections of wall (Figure 17).

4.17.4 Walls [24/004] and [24/005] formed a right-angle and were located towards the south end of the trench. Both sections of wall were constructed from chalk and flint and bonded with a crumbly light grey/white lime mortar. The east-west aligned section of the wall, [24/004] had a width of 0.45m, a depth of 0.19m and a rough south face with some of the chalk blocks showing

evidence of having been dressed. Two courses survived across most of this section of wall. The north-south aligned section of the wall, [24/005] had a width of 0.46m, a depth of 0.34m and appeared to have at least three surviving courses but contained no dressed stone.

4.17.5 The third section of wall was identified towards the north end of the trench and lay on the same alignment as wall [24/004]. The section of wall was again constructed from chalk and flint, had a width of 0.47m, a depth of 0.23m, with no obviously dressed stone. The bonding material varied from that in walls [24/004] and [24/005] and comprised a much harder light yellow/orange sandy mortar. This may suggest this section of wall is later than the other two, or at least was repaired at a later date.

4.17.6 Three fragments of undiagnostic roof tile, probably of 18th to 19th century date were retrieved from possible demolition deposit [24/006] as well as a piece of fresh slate of probable 19th to early 20th century date. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.18 Trench 25

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
25/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.26	23.88
25/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.19	
25/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	23.4
25/004	cut	Partially exposed pit or ditch terminus?	0.58	0.61	0.22	23.43
25/005	fill	Single fill	0.58	0.61	0.22	

Table 21: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.18.1 Trench 25 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.18.2 The trench measured 28m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.18.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 18).

4.18.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [25/004] was located towards the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [25/002] and cut the natural substrate [25/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.58m, had a width of 0.61m and was 0.22m deep. The fill [25/005] comprised a firm light yellow-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.18.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.19 Trench 26

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
---------	------	-------------	---------------	--------------	---------------------	--------------

26/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.21	22.52
26/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.22	
26/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	21.91
26/004	layer	Colluvium	trench	trench	0.3	
26/005	cut	Oval pit	0.6	0.45	0.08	21.16
26/006	fill	Single fill	0.6	0.45	0.08	

Table 22: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

- 4.19.1 Trench 26 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.19.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.19.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a probable pit (Figure 19).
- 4.19.4 The pit [26/005] was located towards the south end of the trench, was sealed by colluvium [26/004] and cut the natural substrate [26/003]. The feature was oval in plan with a length of 0.6m, a width of 0.45m and was 0.08m deep. The fill [26/006] comprised a soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay.
- 4.19.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.20 Trench 27

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
27/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.26	25.06
27/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.15	
27/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	24.72
27/004	cut	Circular cooking pit? / pit?	0.79	0.77	0.13	24.78
27/005	fill	Upper majority fill	0.79	0.77	0.13	
27/006	fill	Basal fill? / heat-affected natural clay?	0.32	0.3	0.07	
27/007	cut	Partially exposed pit or ditch terminus	0.75	1.02	0.16	24.95
27/008	fill	Single fill	0.75	1.02	0.16	

Table 23: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

- 4.20.1 Trench 27 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.20.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.20.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a pit and a partially exposed pit (Figure 20).

4.20.4 Pit [27/004] was located close to the centre of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [27/002] and cut the natural substrate [27/003]. The feature was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.79m and a depth 0.13m. The basal deposit [27/006] comprised a firm mid red-orange silt clay with occasional charcoal inclusions and appeared to be an area of heat-affected natural geology, presumably from an *in situ* burning event. The depth of the heat-affected clay was minimal at 0.07m which would suggest the event was singular and brief. The uppermost majority fill [27/005] comprised firm mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent charcoal inclusions.

4.20.5 The partially revealed pit [27/007] was located towards the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [27/002] and cut the natural substrate [27/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.78m, had a width of 1.02m and was 0.16m deep. The fill [27/008] comprised a soft dark grey-brown silt clay with abundant charcoal inclusions.

4.20.6 An environmental sample taken from basal pit fill [27/006] contained small quantities of fire-cracked flint and charcoal of unidentified taxa. A sample from the upper fill [27/005] contained moderately abundant fragments of oak charcoal. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.21 Trench 28

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
28/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.23	24.24
28/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.16	
28/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	23.85
28/004	cut	Oval pit	0.85	0.8	0.31	23.84
28/005	fill	Single fill	0.85	0.8	0.31	

Table 24: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.21.1 Trench 28 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.21.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.21.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a probable pit (Figure 21).

4.21.4 The pit [28/004] was located towards the north end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [28/002] and cut the natural substrate [28/003]. The feature was oval in plan with a length of 0.85m, a width of 0.8m and was 0.31m deep. The fill [28/005] comprised a firm light brown-grey silt clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.21.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.22 Trench 29

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
29/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.19	24.53
29/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.18	
29/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	24.08
29/004	cut	Partially exposed circular ?pit/ditch terminus?	0.7	1.7	0.35	23.76
29/005	fill	Single fill	0.7	1.7	0.35	

Table 25: Trench 29 list of recorded contexts

4.22.1 Trench 29 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.22.2 The trench measured 49.4m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.22.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 22).

4.22.4 The partially revealed pit/ditch terminus [29/004] was located towards the west end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [29/002] and cut the natural substrate [29/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.7m, had a width of 1.7m and was 0.35m deep. The fill [29/005] comprised a moderately soft mid grey-brown silt clay with occasional charcoal, flint nodule and gravel inclusions.

4.22.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature. A single piece of fire-cracked flint was retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit, [29/001].

4.23 Trench 30

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
30/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.26	23.36
30/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.19	
30/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	22.62
30/004	cut	Partially exposed sub-circular? pit? /animal burrow	0.74	1.75	0.38	22.53
30/005	fill	Single fill	0.74	1.75	0.38	

Table 26: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.23.1 Trench 30 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.23.2 The trench measured 30.6m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.23.3 One possible archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or animal burrow (Figure 23).

4.23.4 The partially revealed feature [30/004] was located towards the north end of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [30/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate, [30/002] and [30/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.74m, had a width of 1.5m and was 0.5m deep. The fill [30/005] comprised a firm mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal, flint nodule and gravel inclusions. The irregularity of the feature, in particular the south edge which appears to undercut the subsoil would suggest the feature is more likely to be an animal burrow than a man-made feature.

4.23.5 Two fragments of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from fill [30/005]. A further 12 fragments were retrieved from the subsoil [30/002] along with nine sherds of undiagnostic pottery of prehistoric date.

4.24 Trench 31

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
31/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.24	22.96
31/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.15	
31/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	22.3
31/004	cut	Partially exposed possible pit	0.56	1.32	0.18	21.9
31/005	fill	Single fill	0.56	1.32	0.18	
31/006	cut	Partially exposed possible pit	0.98	1.28	0.15	21.91
31/007	fill	Single fill	0.98	1.28	0.15	
31/008	cut	Circular pit	1.06	0.84	0.08	21.97
31/009	fill	Single fill	1.06	0.84	0.08	
31/010	cut	Partially exposed possible pit	0.45	0.6	0.09	22.35
31/011	fill	Single fill	0.45	0.6	0.09	
31/012	cut	Circular possible pit/posthole	0.57	0.54	0.14	22.3
31/013	fill	Single fill	0.57	0.54	0.14	
31/014	cut	NW-SE aligned ditch terminus	3.91	0.84	0.15	22.32
31/015	fill	Single fill	3.91	0.84	0.15	

Table 27: Trench 31 list of recorded contexts

4.24.1 Trench 31 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.24.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.24.3 Six archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising five probable pits and a ditch terminus (Figure 24).

4.24.4 The probable pits varied in shape between circular and oval, with three out of five only partially exposed. The dimensions of the features varied with lengths

ranging from 0.57m to 1.48m, widths from 0.6m to 0.84m and with depths of between 0.08m and 0.14m. However, all features contained similar fills comprising fine, soft mid red-brown silt clay with rare gravel inclusions. All five features were sealed by subsoil [31/002] and cut the natural substrate [31/003], some may be natural in origin, though this was not possible to fully determine within the confines of the trench.

4.24.5 The ditch terminus [31/014] was located roughly central to the trench, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment, was sealed by subsoil [31/002] and cut the natural substrate [31/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 3.91m, had a width of 0.84m and was 0.15m deep. The fill [31/015] comprised a firm light grey-brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.24.6 A single piece of struck flint of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was recovered from topsoil context [31/001] along with one fragment of fire-cracked flint.

4.25 Trench 33

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
33/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.19	30.2
33/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.26	
33/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	29.65
33/004	cut	Circular pit/posthole	0.46	0.46	0.09	29.69
33/005	fill	Single fill	0.46	0.46	0.09	

Table 28: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.25.1 Trench 33 was located close to the north site boundary (Figure 2).

4.25.2 The trench measured 50.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.25.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a pit (Figure 25).

4.25.4 The pit [33/004] was located roughly central to the trench, was sealed by subsoil [33/002] and cut the natural substrate [33/003]. The feature was circular with a diameter of 0.46m wide and 0.09m deep. Pit fill [33/005] comprised a loose dark black gritty silt with abundant flecks of charcoal.

4.25.5 A single flint flake and moderately abundant quantities of oak charcoal and fire-cracked flint were retrieved from pit fill [33/005].

4.26 Trench 35

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
35/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.16	29.87
35/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.23	
35/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	29.45
35/004	cut	NNE-SSW aligned ditch	trench	1.82	0.68	29.21
35/005	fill	Single fill	trench	1.82	0.68	
35/006	cut	Partially exposed WNW-ESE aligned ditch	trench	0.74	0.5	28.91
35/007	fill	Single fill	trench	0.74	0.5	

Table 29: Trench 35 list of recorded contexts

- 4.26.1 Trench 35 was located close to the north site boundary (Figure 2).
- 4.26.2 The trench measured 49.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.
- 4.26.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches, one orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and the other lying perpendicular on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (Figure 26). Both features were sealed by topsoil [35/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [35/002] and [35/003].
- 4.26.4 Ditch [35/004] was located close to the east end of the trench. The feature was 1.82m wide and 0.68m deep. The ditch fill [35/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.26.5 Ditch [35/006] was partially exposed at the west end of the trench. The feature was more than 0.74m wide and 0.5m deep. The ditch fill [35/007] comprised a firm light brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.
- 4.26.6 Ditch fill [35/005] produced 14 bodysherds of Arun Valley Grey Ware, all from a single vessel of 1st to 2nd century AD date. A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from the overlying topsoil, [35/001].

4.27 Trench 37

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
37/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.19	28.96
37/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.23	
37/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	28.62
37/004	cut	NE-SW aligned gully/ditch	trench	0.85	0.18	28.28
37/005	fill	Single fill of 37/004	trench	0.85	0.18	

Table 30: Trench 37 list of recorded contexts

4.27.1 Trench 37 was located towards the north-east area of the site (Figure 2).

4.27.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the western part (A) measured 6.99m long and the eastern part (B) measured 24.48m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 10.83m long was left unexcavated to allow access to the southern part of the field and to trenches 38 and 39. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.27.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 27).

4.27.4 Ditch [37/004] was located towards the west end of part B of the trench, orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by topsoil [37/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [37/002] and [37/003]. The feature was 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep. The ditch fill [37/005] comprised a firm dark brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.27.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.28 Trench 38

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
38/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.16	28.5
38/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.19	
38/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	28.11
38/004	cut	NE-SW aligned gully/ditch	trench	0.7	0.15	27.85
38/005	fill	Single fill	trench	0.7	0.15	

Table 31: Trench 38 list of recorded contexts

4.28.1 Trench 38 was located towards the north-east area of the site (Figure 2).

4.28.2 The trench measured 35.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment.

4.28.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 28).

4.28.4 Ditch [38/004] was located towards the west end the trench, orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, was sealed by topsoil [38/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [38/002] and [38/003]. The feature was 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. The ditch fill [38/005] comprised a firm dark brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.28.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.29 Trench 39

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
39/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.3	27.57
39/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.26	
39/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	27.16
39/004	cut	Partially exposed pit/ ditch terminus	1.2	1.4	1.21	26.48
39/005	fill	Upper majority fill	1.2	1.4	0.66	
39/006	fill	Basal fill	1.2	1.1	0.58	

Table 32: Trench 39 list of recorded contexts

4.29.1 Trench 39 was located towards the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).

4.29.2 The trench measured 36.1m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.29.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 29).

4.29.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [39/004] was located towards the north-west end of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [39/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate, [39/002] and [39/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 1.33m, had a width of 1.23m and was 1.21m deep. The upper fill [39/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with rare gravel and flint inclusions. The basal fill [39/006] comprised soft light brown-grey clay silt.

4.29.5 A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from basal fill [39/006], along with moderate quantities of fire-cracked flint and small quantities of charred hazel nut shell. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.30 Trench 40

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
40/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.2	29.38
40/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.17	
40/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	28.99
40/004	cut	Circular pit	0.63	0.62	0.16	28.64
40/005	fill	Single fill	0.63	0.62	0.16	
40/006	cut	Circular pit	1.3	1.3	0.3	28.45
40/007	fill	Single fill	1.3	1.3	0.3	

Table 33: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

- 4.30.1 Trench 40 was located within the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.30.2 The trench measured 35.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 4.30.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a larger pit and a smaller pit or posthole (Figure 30). Both features were sealed by subsoil [40/002] and cut the natural substrate [40/003].
- 4.30.4 Pit or posthole [40/004] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.63m and was 0.16m deep. The fill [40/005] comprised a soft mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions.
- 4.30.5 Pit [40/006] was also circular with a diameter of 1.3m and was 0.3m deep. Pit fill [40/007] comprised a soft light grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 4.30.6 No finds were retrieved from either of the features or from the overlying deposits.

4.31 Trench 41

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
41/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.28	29.43
41/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.21	
41/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	29.07
41/004	cut	Partially exposed possible pit?	0.47	0.59	0.1	28.84
41/005	fill	Single fill	0.47	0.59	0.1	
41/006	cut	NW-SE aligned gully/ditch	trench	0.55	0.17	28.86
41/007	fill	Single fill	trench	0.55	0.17	

Table 34: Trench 41 list of recorded contexts

- 4.31.1 Trench 41 was located towards the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).

4.31.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the western part (A) measured 15.45m long and the eastern part (B) measured 29.43m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 3.6m long was left unexcavated in order to avoid a water pipe. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.31.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch or gully and a partially exposed possible pit (Figure 31). Both features were sealed by subsoil [41/002] and cut the natural substrate [41/003].

4.31.4 The partially revealed pit [41/004] was located towards the east end of the trench. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.47m, had a width of 0.59m and was 0.1m deep. The fill [41/005] comprised a soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions. The feature may be natural in origin.

4.31.5 Ditch or gully [41/006] was also located towards the east end the trench, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The feature was 0.55m wide and 0.17m deep. The ditch fill [41/007] comprised a moderately soft mid brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.31.6 Three sherds of pottery of Late Bronze Age date were recovered from ditch fill [41/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.32 Trench 42

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
42/001	layer	natural	trench	trench	0.24	29.29
42/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.18	
42/003	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0	28.9
42/004	cut	NE-SW aligned gully/ditch	trench	0.33	0.12	28.81
42/005	fill	Single fill	trench	0.33	0.12	
42/006	cut	WNW-ESE aligned ditch	trench	1.6	0.6	
42/007	fill	Single fill	trench	1.6	0.6	

Table 35: Trench 42 list of recorded contexts

4.32.1 Trench 42 was located in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.32.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the northern part (A) measured 28.45m long and the southern part (B) measured 6.58m long. Part B was moved 3m to the west to avoid a water pipe. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.32.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches located towards the northern end of the trench (Figure 32). Both features were sealed by subsoil [42/002] and cut the natural substrate [42/003].

4.32.4 Ditch [42/004] was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. The feature was 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep. The ditch fill [42/005] comprised a firm mid grey clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.32.5 Ditch [42/006] was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. The feature was 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep. The ditch fill [42/007] comprised a firm dark brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.32.6 A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from ditch fill [42/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

4.33 Trench 46

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
46/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.27	27.91
46/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.12	
46/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0	27.56
46/004	cut	WNW-ESE aligned gully/ ditch	trench	0.71	0.25	27.78
46/005	fill	Single fill	trench	0.71	0.25	

Table 36: Trench 46 list of recorded contexts

4.33.1 Trench 46 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.33.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.33.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 33).

4.33.4 Ditch [46/004] was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment, was sealed by subsoil [46/002] and cut the natural substrate [46/003]. The feature was 0.71m wide and 0.25m deep. The ditch fill [46/005] comprised a dark grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.33.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

4.34 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 18, 23, 32, 34, 36, 43, 44 and 45

4.34.1 The above trenches were devoid of archaeological features. A table of the depths of overburden in each trench can be found in Appendix 1.

4.34.2 Finds were recovered from a single context across the archaeologically negative trenches. The topsoil context in Trench 23, [23/001] contained five fragments of ceramic building material including one piece of unfrogged brick with a self-glazed surface likely to be of 18th or 19th century date.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at Fontwell (Table 37). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt(g)	CBM	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)	Stone	Wt(g)	Mortar	Wt(g)
2/001					4	238						
4/007	3	8										
T8 U/S					1	8						
9/006					2	2						
14/007					1	12						
16/001	1	34										
16/007					2	4						
17/002	6	48										
17/005					1	12	10	360				
19/001	1	4	2	28			7	180				
19/004	15	79			2	6	2	262				
21/001							10	236				
23/001			5	304								
24/004									3	8672		
24/005					3	8106					100+	610
24/006			3	32					1	4		
24/008					2	1370			1	10459	8	2200
29/001							1	48				
30/002	9	66					12	392				
30/005							2	32				
31/001					1	92	1	36				
33/005							1	20				
35/001					1	12						
35/005	14	22										
41/007	3	8										
42/007					1	10						
	52	269	10	364	21	9872	46	1566	5	19135	8	2810

Table 37: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

Introduction

- 5.2.1 A total of 34 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck and weighing 422g as well as five flint nodules weighing 9.476kg were recovered through hand collection and from sample residues during the evaluation work. A large amount of unworked burnt flint weighing 11.610kg was also recovered. The assemblage comprises no diagnostic tools, but the material is fairly coherent; and, based on technological grounds a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date can be attributed.

Methodology

- 5.2.2 The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan et al. 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge damage) were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The results are summarised by context type in Table 38. The five flint nodules from walls [24/005] and [24/008] were weighed. None of them appear to have been dressed. They have been retained for further study by a flint building material specialist. The fragments of burnt unworked flint were scanned for worked material and quantified by pieces and weight (Appendix 2).

Context	Flakes	Blades, Blade-like flakes, Bladelets	Chips	Cores	Nodules	Retouched forms	Total
U/S (Trench 8)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Top soil: 2/001, 31/001 and 35/001	1	2	-	2	-	1	6
Pit fills: 9/006, 17/005, 19/004 and 33/005	5	2	-	-	-	-	7
Ditch fills: 14/007, 16/007, 39/006 and 42/007	1	5	9	1	-	-	16
Posthole: 15/005	1	1	2	-	-	-	4
Walls: 24/005 and 24/008	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Total	8	10	11	3	5	2	39

Table 38: the flintwork

Results

- 5.2.3 The assemblage of struck flint is small. It comprises just 39 pieces (including 11 chips). The material was thinly spread over the site, originating from 12 numbered contexts in Trenches 2, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 31, 33, 35, 39 and 42. A further piece was also found unstratified in Trench 8. The main concentration (excluding chips) came from the top soil in Trench 2 (context [2/001]). This context produced four fresh pieces which appear to originate from the same nodule, although no refits were noted.
- 5.2.4 The condition of the flintwork varied within the assemblage. Overall, the material was in a fresh condition with only a few artefacts displaying some edge damage as for example the retouched flake found unstratified in Trench 8. This implies that the majority of the material had undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. In total, 16 pieces were recorded as broken, and four were re-corticated to varying degree.
- 5.2.5 The most frequently occurring raw material consists of a light to dark grey flint with occasional inclusions. Darker (almost black) fine grained flint was also present. Where present the cortex was light brown and thin. This material is characteristic of chalk-derived flint. It would have been available locally from surface deposits.
- 5.2.6 The overall assemblage is fairly coherent. It is dominated by unmodified knapping waste although two retouched pieces were also recorded. Blades, blade-like flakes and bladelets as well as thin flakes are numerous. Several examples display blade scars on the dorsal face, and the presence of abrasion for a controlled and predictable removals was noted on several pieces. In addition, three cores (a finely worked bipolar blade core from topsoil context [31/001] 93g, a blade core from topsoil [2/001] 155g and a blade core fragment from context [14/007] 11g) were used to produce narrow and regular blades. All these pieces suggest a careful reduction strategy, and overall these characteristics indicate a blade-based industry. This suggests a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, although a few pieces might be slightly later. However, no diagnostic tools were present, and both modified pieces are not chronologically distinctive. A blade from context [19/004] displays signs of having been utilised unmodified.
- 5.2.7 The evaluation produced a large quantity of unworked burnt flint. A large proportion of the assemblage came from pit [17/004] (fills [17/005] and [17/006]) and posthole fill [15/009]. The fragments are principally small-sized. While the fragments from basal fill [17/006] and posthole fill [15/009] display only a reddish tinge, the majority of the fragments from the upper fill [17/005] are calcined white or mid to dark grey. The difference in colour suggests that the degree to which the flint had been heated varied. It may also suggest that the flints in pit [17/004] were burnt *in situ*. Burnt unworked flints are frequently associated with prehistoric activities.

Discussion

- 5.2.8 The small assemblage of struck flints from the site has revealed limited evidence for human activity during the prehistoric period. No chronologically

diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date can be proposed for the assemblage. In the event that further work takes place, sieving could be recommended as this method would help recover small micro-débitage including microburins as well as microliths.

5.3 Prehistoric and/or Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery totalling 39 sherds, weighing 191g was hand-excavated on site and a further 17 sherds, weighing 34g were recovered from the residues of environmental samples. At present the pottery has been briefly examined for spot-dating purposes but not fully recorded to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that the assemblage should be retained and fully integrated into any pottery assemblages recovered in the event of further excavation at the site.
- 5.3.2 Almost all of the prehistoric pottery comprises featureless flint-tempered bodysherds. Since flint is a common tempering agent throughout most prehistoric periods, it is rarely possible to date small isolated bodysherds of this type with complete confidence. Nevertheless certain characteristics in size, sorting and frequency of flint inclusions, the make-up of the background matrix and thickness of vessel walls can provide indications of date. For example, a small group of fairly thick-walled sherds from two different vessels found in subsoil [17/002], just above pit [17/004], have quite sparse but extremely ill-sorted flint of 2-7mm in size, set within a very dense inclusionless matrix. Fabrics of this type are fairly typical of the Early Neolithic period.
- 5.3.3 The remainder of the flint-tempered wares, found in contexts [14/007], [19/004], [41/007], tend to have medium coarse, fairly ill-sorted flint-inclusions of c.0.5-3mm set within much siltier matrixes and, although there are one or two thicker-walled examples, the majority are reasonably thin-walled. These wares are much more characteristic of the later Bronze Age. The largest group of these sherds, from [19/004], also includes two small conjoining rim sherds probably from a finer Barrel Urn or plain hook rim jar form, probably indicating a transitional Middle/Late Bronze Age (late 2nd millennium BC) date.
- 5.3.4 Context [35/005] produced the only Roman pottery from the site, comprising 14 small bodysherds all from the same vessel: probably a jar or beaker in an Arun Valley grey ware fabric. This industry was at its height in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD although similar fabrics are occasionally encountered in later assemblages.

5.4 Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Context [19/001] produced a 5g bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware vessel with all over clear glaze. The vessel, likely to be a cup or a jug, can be placed between c. 1700 and 1825.

5.5 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 Ten pieces of ceramic building material were recovered during the excavation weighing a total of 364g. The ceramic building material (CBM) was recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope. Four fabrics were identified (Table 39). Data from the pro forma recording sheets was entered onto a digital database, which forms part of the archive. Samples of fabrics and those items of interest were retained; the remainder of the material was discarded.

5.5.2 The only brick recovered is an unfrosted fragment with self-glazed surface from [23/001] in a fine sandy fabric (B1). Context [19/001] contained two roof tile fragments in T3; the remaining material was recovered from [24/006] and consists of small roof tile fragments in T1 and T2. The roof tile is undiagnostic but probably 18th-19th century in date; the brick may be of a similar date.

Context	Fabric	Form	Ct	wt (g)	Th (mm)	Condition	Comments
23/001	B1	Brick	5	304	58	A	Moderate fine quartz with sparse black iron oxides and very sparse coarse to very coarse flint pebbles
19/001	T3	Roof	2	29		A	Pinkish fabric with sparse very fine quartz, sparse medium to coarse quartz, moderate red iron oxides, and medium to coarse pale cream lumps and streaks fine moulding sand
24/006		crumb	1	2		A	
24/006	T1	Roof	1	5		A,M	Common coarse grey quartz, sparse fine quartz, silty streaks
24/006	T2	Roof	1	27		A	Sparse fine to medium quartz, sparse coarse pale silty lumps
19/004	F1	OFS x1	2	23		A	Silty clay matrix with no inclusions

Table 39: The CBM

5.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Three small pieces of abraded utilised fired clay (wt 23g) in a fine silty fabric without inclusions came from [19/001]. One piece exhibits one flat surface, but the fragments are too small to be diagnostic of form or function. The material was recorded on pro forma sheets for the archive and has been discarded.

5.7 Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [24/006] contained a fresh 15g fragment from a 19th- to early 20th-century Welsh roofing slate.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Angela Vitolo and Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During evaluation work ten bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material as well as to assist finds recovery. All the samples were taken from pit fills and although for a few of them the feature type was uncertain, three were taken from features described as possible cooking pits. Flint recovered from various contexts at the site suggests a Mesolithic to mid-Neolithic date whilst the pottery suggests a slightly later Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age date. The following report summarises the environmental remains arising from these samples, providing evidence for the local vegetation environment, agricultural economy, diet and plant use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 Samples were processed by flotation in their entirety, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 3). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the finds reports. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 4). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers et al. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of the samples were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch et al. 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 1, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 All the samples comprised a high portion of uncharred rootlets with occasional uncharred seeds from the goosefoot (*Chenopodiaceae*) family suggesting disturbance and the potential presence of intrusive material within the deposits. Wood charcoal was present in all of the flots, although mostly in the <2 mm fraction. Only flots <6> and <9> contained a significant amount of charcoal fragments measuring >4mm.

6.3.2 Charred plant macrofossils were sporadic and included one poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp) caryopsis and better preserved seeds of ivy-leaved

speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), as well as two seeds of red shank/ amphibious/ pale persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/amphibia/lapathifolia* type) and one indeterminate seed. In addition to the botanical remains arising from the flots, some more were picked out of the heavy residues and are listed in Appendix 3. These included hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut shells and two split stones of cherry/plum/sloe type fruit (*Prunus* sp). Findings of hazelnuts are frequent on prehistoric sites in Britain, as wild fruit and nuts were widely collected and used for consumption. The *Prunus* sp. fruit stones in pit [15/004] could not be identified further than genus due to their preservation although given their association with Mesolithic/early-Neolithic and other prehistoric flint they are almost certainly from a native tree (unless intrusive to the context). They are also small with relatively rough surface morphology and are most likely from sloes (*Prunus spinosa*), a species suitable for consumption by humans, animals or birds.

- 6.3.3 Wood charcoal fragments were moderately abundant in samples <6>, <9> and <10> and in each instance fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) were recorded. Sample <6> [17/005], pit [17/004] also contained beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) charcoal and a fragment of charred stem from what is thought to be a climber. Although no systematic charcoal identification work was undertaken for sample <7> [17/005] (also from pit [17/004]) a quick scan of the charcoal has highlighted the presence of a possible climber consistent with that noted in sample <6>. The internal morphological features of this possible climber are slightly compressed and degraded however it may be possible to obtain an identification through comparison with more reference material. On the whole, the wood charcoal fragments were well preserved and show little evidence for deformation prior to charring or post-depositional sediment infiltration and subsequent degradation.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 Sampling has provided evidence for botanical remains although no other environmental material such as faunal or molluscan remains were present. These samples provide insignificant evidence for cereal crop remains although the wild plant seeds present, occurring on cultivated, waste ground or on damp ground, may represent an arable weed or a naturally occurring taxon. There is also evidence for fruit/nut taxa that are otherwise not represented in the charcoal assemblage and these may have been exploited by the site occupants or animals a like. The small wood charcoal assemblage indicates that oak and beech wood were collected and used as fuel and both provide eminently suitable fuel or timber. Although a possible climber has also been recorded it does not appear to make up a large part of the assemblage. This evaluation work suggests that a high degree of selection for fuel was employed.
- 6.4.2 Sampling has demonstrated the potential of the site for good preservation of charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal and although the current assemblage is limited with regard to the range of taxa represented any further work at the site should include a sampling strategy that aims to target the recovery of environmental material from *in situ* features/primary deposits and those with secure dating evidence in particular.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The topsoil across the site comprised soft dark brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.16m and 0.3m in thickness and overlay a deposit of subsoil across most of the site. Only partial subsoil coverage was identified in Trenches 9, 12, 24, 39 and 46.
- 7.1.2 The subsoil across the site comprised soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.09m and 0.26m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate in all but 2 trenches where a deposit of colluvium was present underlying the subsoil. The subsoil across the site did not however appear to represent a single deposit, but rather seems to represent multiple horizons, likely developed through similar processes but over differing dates and periods.
- 7.1.3 A colluvial deposit was identified across Trenches 26 and 32, both located towards the south-west corner of the site. The deposit measured between 0.2m and 0.5m in thickness and comprised mid-red brown silt clay with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. The colluvial deposit directly overlay the natural substrate.
- 7.1.4 The natural substrate comprised patches of firm mid brown-red silt clay, interspersed with areas of brown-orange gravels. The only variation to this was at the west end of Trench 23 where the natural gravel deposit was very shallow with a depth of between 0.15 and 0.23m and overlay a natural deposit of light grey/white clay sand with frequent chalk and gravel. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 20.65m AOD at its lowest point, close to the south-west corner of the site and at 30.46m AOD at its highest point, close to the north edge of the site.
- 7.1.5 58 archaeological features, across 30 trenches, were identified within the site area, comprising 26 pits, 15 linear ditches, two ditch terminals, seven possible ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, six isolated postholes, and two sections of wall that are likely to have formed a structure.
- 7.1.6 Low levels of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site, away from Fontwell Avenue towards the top of a gentle south-west facing slope.
- 7.1.7 Limited evidence of Roman activity was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east of the site area, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.
- 7.1.8 A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting onto Fontwell Avenue.
- 7.1.9 Of the 58 features identified, 46 contained no finds and remained undated.

Approximately half of these features were relatively shallow, with ill-defined edges. 12 of the discrete features across trenches 3, 15, 17, 21, 31 and 41 were considered archaeologically questionable and may be natural in origin (though this often proved difficult to determine within the confines of the excavated trenches). The remainder, however, are considered to be archaeological; ill-defined archaeological features are common on gravel sites as when gravel is excavated and left exposed it is prone to erosion and slumping. Furthermore, significant horizontal truncation from 19th and 20th century ploughing is evident on the site, which would explain the shallow depth of some features. An animal burrow in Trench 30 has been ruled out. Two discrete features within Trench 17 were questionable, but given their proximity to pit [17/004] which may be Neolithic in date, it seemed prudent not to dismiss them entirely.

- 7.1.10 The methodology, as set out in the WSI, was successfully employed during the evaluation. The presence of Tree Protection Order Zones and the need to maintain access across the site forced a limited reduction in length to a restricted number of trenches. However, due to the larger than average width of the supplied ditching bucket (2.1m) this did not greatly alter the percentage sample of the site that was evaluated. The conditions on site were conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of archaeological features and as such it is considered that this evaluation and report has successfully achieved its objective.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 As mentioned above, a subsoil horizon survived intact in all but five trenches across the site area. Limited disturbance from land drains was evident within some trenches but did not appear to have greatly affected the archaeological deposits. Two large modern soak-away pits in the south-west corner of the site are likely to have truncated any archaeological deposits within that area and lay internal to an 18th or 19th century structure first recorded on mapping in 1813. However, this appears to be localised to only the area directly cut away by the features and not their wider environs.
- 7.2.2 Minimal contamination and truncation of identified archaeological deposits was encountered on site, beyond plough-truncation. As such they are deemed to be for the most part intact. The height of archaeological deposits varied in line with the natural topography and other than four ditches, one partially exposed pit or ditch terminus, one pit, one pit or posthole, and a structure all archaeological features were cut from below subsoil and colluvial deposits.
- 7.2.3 The minimum depth of overburden was recorded over the features without a sealing subsoil layer and in these cases the depth of overburden ranged from between 0.2m and 0.4m. Across all other archaeological deposits the depth of overburden ranged from 0.35m to 0.8m

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Mesolithic – Mid Neolithic

- 7.3.1 A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered from the site, revealing limited evidence for human activity on the site during the prehistoric period. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was proposed for the assemblage. Two ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, two pits, and one posthole contained only flint artefacts. As such they *may* be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds are residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

Early Neolithic – Late Bronze Age

- 7.3.2 A small assemblage of pottery of this date was recovered from across the site suggesting low level activity in this period. The earliest pottery was of Neolithic date recovered from a subsoil context, directly above a pit in Trench 17 (pit [17/004] with a distinctive burnt fill). While the Early Neolithic pottery was not found in direct association with this feature, an Early Neolithic date for the pit cannot be ruled out. Certainly, such pits are a common feature of the Early Neolithic in Britain (e.g. Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012) and although their precise significance is debatable, recent work on some downland Sussex sites of Neolithic date suggests that isolated Neolithic pits, containing what might be considered domestic material culture such as pottery might not necessarily suggest settlement but a wider occupation of the landscape. Similar features have been recorded on excavations at Graylingwell, Chichester and Chalkpit Lane, c.8km and 9km to the north-west of the site respectively (Drewett, 2008).
- 7.3.4 The 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 or 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. The archaeological evidence is suggestive of early enclosure of the landscape, broadly contemporary with the well-documented appearance of field systems across southern Britain in the Later Bronze Age (e.g. Yates 2007). The limited environmental evidence would suggest the utilisation and collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops.

Roman

- 7.3.5 A single ditch was securely dated as of 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 Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware. The limited finds recovered from this feature would not necessarily suggest that the ditch enclosed settlement, although it is unlikely

that any putative settlement was far away, a possible focus of which could perhaps be considered to lie in closer proximity to the Roman road (Arundel Road) to the north of the site. It is perhaps more likely that the ditch functioned as a field boundary.

Post-Medieval

- 7.3.6 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 first illustrated on historic maps in 1813, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue. The construction techniques and bonding material varied between the two sections of wall, with the southern section constructed with a more traditional, softer lime mortar than the northern section, possibly suggesting some extensive later restoration to the north wall of the building.

Undated

- 7.3.7 46 of the 58 identified features were undated. Of these, perhaps 12, in Trenches 3, 15, 17, 21, 31 and 41 are of questionable origin and may, in fact, be natural. However, the remainder were considered to be archaeological. Ill-defined archaeological features are common on gravel sites as when gravel is excavated and left exposed it is prone to erosion and slumping. Furthermore, significant horizontal truncation from 19th and 20th century ploughing is likely on the site. An animal burrow in Trench 30 has been ruled out. Two discrete features within Trench 17 were questionable, but given their proximity to pit [17/004] which may be Neolithic in date, it seems prudent not to dismiss them entirely.

7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 7.4.1 Given the variable nature of the depth of overburden across archaeological deposits, the impact of any groundworks on site is likely to vary. The maximum depth of overburden over archaeological features was 0.8m as such any ground works deeper than 0.8m would negatively impact on buried archaeological deposits.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 Specific research aims were set out.

- Was there evidence for Raised Beach deposits that may contain archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period?

A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 5) on the site has demonstrated that the Aldingbourne Beach (Unit III) is present in the part of the site investigated. The beach is overlain by a complex of fine grained, chalk rich sediments (Unit IV) that contain biological material (shell fragments) and probably represent cold climate deposits (in the main). The study has demonstrated that significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated.

- What was the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of these deposits?

The depth of deposits identified during the geo-archaeological investigation as being of high potential varies in line with the topography of the site. The deposits are generally at their deepest on higher ground towards the north site boundary, and they are at their most shallow on lower lying ground towards the south-west corner of the site.

Towards the north-east of the site, within GTP 40, the deposits lay 3.9m below ground level. Towards the north-west of the site, in GTP 33, the deposits were not encountered within the trench and must therefore lie more than 2.9m below ground level.

In GTP 7, towards the mid-west of the site, the deposits were encountered at 1m below ground level. This dropped towards the south to 1.3m below ground level in GTP 11, and to 1.6m below ground level in GTPs B and C.

As the slope dropped further towards the south-west corner of the site, the deposits were encountered at 1.3m below ground level in GTP 23, and at 0.8m below ground in GTP 24.

A slight anomaly was seen in the region of GTP 15, where the deposits were significantly deeper and lay at 2.2m below ground level.

The height of the deposits in m AOD, also changed in line with the topography, with deposits encountered at 25.27m AOD in the north-east of the site, rising slightly to 25.9m in the mid-west of the site and then falling gradually to 20.03m in the south-west corner.

- What was the nature and significance of the archaeological deposits?

Limited evidence of Roman activity was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east of the site area, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing

Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd, including Samian ware. No evidence of Roman settlement was encountered and the archaeological deposits would be considered of low significance

Low levels of moderately significant Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. However, other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site, away from Fontwell Avenue towards the top of a gently south-west facing slope. No settlement or structures were identified but the nature of the deposits in two pits appears to be a result of in situ burning, suggesting they may be cooking pits. The limited depth and extent of the heat-affected natural clay would however, suggest they were of single or brief use.

7.5.2 In addition, specific research aims, based on the findings of the South-East Research Framework (SERF) included the following:

- Was there any evidence for Later Bronze Age land division on the site and can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?

Limited evidence of Late Bronze Age land division survived within the site area. However, the dispersed nature of the features and their heavy horizontal truncation, most likely from long term ploughing may limit the potential for the features to inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex.

- Was there any evidence for Later Iron Age occupation on the site and if so, can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

There was no evidence of Iron Age activity within the site.

- Was there any evidence for Roman occupation on the site and can this inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

There was no evidence for Roman occupation on the site. A single ditch, considered to be a field boundary, comprised the extent of the archaeological evidence securely dated as Roman. However the presence of a partially complete Arun Valley grey ware vessel within this ditch may suggest settlement in the wider environs of the site.

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. Limited disturbance from land drains was identified in 3 trenches whilst localised truncation of deposits in the south-west of the site from modern soak-away pits was evident in Trench 24. 15 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

- 7.6.2 58 archaeological features, across 30 trenches, were identified within the site area, comprising 26 pits, 15 linear ditches, two ditch terminals, seven possible ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, six isolated postholes, and two sections of wall that are likely to have formed a structure.
- 7.6.3 One pit *may* represent an Early Neolithic feature, though this designation remains uncertain. One pit or posthole was dated as Mid- Late Bronze Age. One ditch and one possible pit or ditch terminus was dated as being of Late Bronze Age date. One ditch was dated only as broadly prehistoric from undiagnostic pottery sherds and one ditch was securely dated as of 1st to 2nd century Roman date. One structure was dated as 18th to 20th century date. All other features remained undated, though the vast majority are nonetheless considered to be cultural in origin. The majority of archaeological features were sealed by subsoil, other than five ditches encountered in Trenches 12, 35, 37 and 38, a possible ditch terminus in Trench 39, a pit in Trench 17, and a structure in Trench 24 which were all sealed by a topsoil deposit. Significantly, several such features were seen to cut through existing subsoil deposits, demonstrating that in places, such horizons are potentially of considerable antiquity. Certainly, should pit [17/004] prove to be Early Neolithic in date (which admittedly remains uncertain), the subsoil horizon through which it is cut may therefore represent a remnant land surface of considerable significance. A single pit in Trench 26 was sealed by a deposit of colluvium.
- 7.6.4 A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered from the site, revealing limited evidence for human activity on the site during the prehistoric period. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was proposed for the assemblage. One ditch, two ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, two pits, and one posthole contained only flint artefacts. As such they *may* be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds are residual, particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples
- 7.6.5 A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.
- 7.6.6 It is difficult to extrapolate the results of this investigation to the remainder of the application site. However, there appears to be no reason, judging from the results outlined above, to suppose that a similar range of archaeological features, from a comparable range of periods, would not exist across the remainder of the site, perhaps with a slight concentration in the south of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson-Whymark, H & Thomas, J, (eds) 2011 *Regional perspectives on Neolithic pit deposition: beyond the mundane*.

ASE 2015, *Written Scheme of Investigation: Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex*. ASE project 7286.

BGS 2015 *Geological Survey Geology of Britain viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 05.03.2015)

Butler, C. 2005. *Prehistoric Flintwork*. Tempus, Stroud.

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker, R.M. and Jans, J.E.A. 2006. *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen Archaeological Series 4. Netherlands: Barkhuis.

CgMs 2014, *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex*

ClfA 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

ClfA 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Drewett, P. 2008. Period Summary: The Neolithic. *The Archaeology of Fishbourne and Chichester, a Framework for its Future*. Lewes, The Sussex Archaeological Society

Ford, S. 1987. Chronological and functional aspects of flint assemblages. In A. Brown and M. Edmonds (eds) *Lithic analysis and Later British Prehistory* BAR British Series 162 Oxford, 67-81.

Gale, R. & Cutler, D. 2000. *Plants in Archaeology*. Otley/London: Westbury/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Hather, J. G. 2000. *The Identification of the Northern European Woods: A Guide for archaeologists and conservators*. London: Archetype Publications Ltd.

Inizan, M.-L., Reduron-Ballinger, M., Roche, H., & Tixier, J., 1999. *Technology and Terminology of Knapped Stone*. Tome 5. Cercle de Recherches et d'Etudes Préhistoriques (CREP), Nanterre.

Jacomet, S. 2006. Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. 2nd ed. *Archaeobotany laboratory, IPAS, Basel University*, Unpublished manuscript.

NIAB 2004. *Seed Identification Handbook: Agriculture, Horticulture and Weeds*. 2nd ed. NIAB, Cambridge.

Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F. H., & Kienast, F. 2004. *Wood anatomy of central European Species*. Online version: www.woodanatomy.ch

Schweingruber, F.H. 1990. *Microscopic Wood Anatomy*. 3rd edition Birmensdorf:

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: University Press.

WSCC 2007, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions*

Yates, D, 2007 *Land, power and prestige. Bronze Age field systems in Southern England*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Taylor Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. ASE would also like to thank Dr. Martin Bates for his specialist geoarchaeological input on site. The excavation was directed by Greg Priestley-Bell with Hayley Nicholls providing secondary supervisory cover. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell and Robert Cole who produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	FFA15					
Identification Name and Address	Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Arun District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	495151 106812					
Geology	Lambeth Group deposits of clay, silt and sand overlain by superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7286					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					Other
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 16/02/15 – 27/02/15	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell and Hayley Nicholls					
Period Summary		Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
			PM	Other Modern		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.

Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

Low levels of ?Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site.

Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.

A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.

A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.

A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that highly significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-207147

Project details

Project name Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.

Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

Low levels of ?Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site. Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.

A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.

A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.

A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that highly significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west.

Project dates Start: 16-02-2015 End: 27-02-2015

Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FFA15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Middle Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Late Bronze Age
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Environmental Sampling","Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN WALBERTON Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
Postcode	BN18 0SW
Study area	16.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 9515 0681 50.8524086753 -0.648128314375 50 51 08 N 000 38 53 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.65m Max: 30.46m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design	Archaeology South-East

originator	
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Project supervisor	Hayley Nicholls
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Nicholls, H
Other	2015069

bibliographic
details

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Hayley Nicholls (h.nicholls@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 March 2015

Appendix 1

Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	layer	topsoil	0.22	27.53
1	1/002	layer	subsoil	1.6	
1	1/003	layer	natural	0	27.05
2	2/001	layer	topsoil	0.18	30.03
2	2/002	layer	subsoil	0.14	
2	2/003	layer	natural	0	29.7
5	5/001	layer	topsoil	0.26	24.95
5	5/002	layer	subsoil	0.2	
5	5/003	layer	natural	0	24.42
6	6/001	layer	topsoil	0.22	26.37
6	6/002	layer	subsoil	0.14	
6	6/003	layer	natural	0	25.88
8	8/001	layer	topsoil	0.22	28.74
8	8/002	layer	subsoil	0.21	
8	8/003	layer	natural	0	28.25
11	11/001	layer	topsoil	0.23	24.57
11	11/002	layer	subsoil	0.18	
11	11/003	layer	natural	0	24.06
13	13/001	layer	topsoil	0.17	26.01
13	13/002	layer	subsoil	0.1	
13	13/003	layer	natural	0	25.74
18	18/001	layer	topsoil	0.18	22.83
18	18/002	layer	subsoil	0.19	
18	18/003	layer	natural	0	22.24
23	23/001	layer	topsoil	0.19	22.75
23	23/002	layer	subsoil	0.2	
23	23/003	layer	natural	0.19	22.07
23	23/004	layer	natural	0	
32	32/001	layer	topsoil	0.26	21.51
32	32/002	layer	subsoil	0.16	
32	32/003	layer	Colluvium	0.25	
32	32/004	layer	natural	0	20.95
34	34/001	layer	topsoil	0.21	29.82
34	34/002	layer	subsoil	0.19	
34	34/003	layer	natural	0	29.34
36	36/001	layer	topsoil	0.23	29.7
36	36/002	layer	subsoil	0.22	

Trench number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Height m AOD
36	36/003	layer	natural	0	29.18
43	43/001	layer	topsoil	0.19	28.24
43	43/002	layer	subsoil	0.25	
43	43/003	layer	natural	0	27.83
44	44/001	layer	topsoil	0.23	28.6
44	44/002	layer	subsoil	0.2	
44	44/003	layer	natural	0	28.25
45	45/001	layer	topsoil	0.23	27.63
45	45/002	layer	subsoil	0.17	
45	45/003	layer	natural	0	27.22

Appendix 2

Burnt unworked flint

Context	Context_type	From sample residues		Hand collected		Description
		Sample	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt(g)	
14/007	Ditch	<03>	815			Calcined mid grey, occasional red fragments; small fragments up to 38mm
15/009	Posthole	<01>	5435			Fragments with reddish tinge, occasional light grey fragments; no severe crazing; small-sized fragments up to 30mm
17/005	Pit	<06>	1460	10	360	Calcined white and mid to dark grey, occasional red fragments; small fragments up to 59mm
17/006	Pit (basal)	<07>	1022			Fragments with reddish tinge, no severe crazing; small-sized fragments up to 42mm
19/001	Top soil			7	180	Calcined mid to dark grey and red fragments; small fragments up to 40mm
19/004	Pit	<04>	712	2	262	Calcined white and mid to dark grey, occasional red fragments; small fragments up to 19mm
21/001	Top soil			10	236	Calcined white to light grey, fragments; small fragments up to 18mm
27/005	Pit	<09>	406			Calcined white and mid to dark grey, fragments with reddish tinge; small fragments up to 14mm
27/006	Pit (basal)	<05> and <08>	57			Fragments with reddish tinge, no severe crazing; small-sized fragments up to 10mm
29/001	Top soil			1	48	Calcined mid grey, small fragment: 22mm
30/002	Sub soil			12	392	Calcined light to dark grey, small fragment: 35mm
30/005	Pit			2	32	Calcined light to dark grey, small fragments up to 36mm
31/001	Top soil			1	36	Calcined light grey, iron mould; small fragment: 45mm
33/005	Pit	<10>	31	1	20	Calcined white and mid to dark grey, fragments with reddish tinge; small fragments up to 41m
39/006	Ditch	<02>	106			Fragments with reddish tinge, occasional light grey fragments; no severe crazing; small-sized fragments up to 30mm

Context	Context_type	From sample residues		Hand collected		Description
		Sample	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt(g)	
Total			10044		1566	

Appendix 3

Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Identification	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	15/005	15/004	Pit	40	40			**	<1		*	<i>Prunus</i> sp	<1	Mag. Mat. ****/ 8g - FCF ****/ 5435g - Flint */ 1g - Burnt Clay **/ 146g
2	39/006	39/004	Pit/ditch	40	40	*	<1	**	1		**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	1	FCF **/ 106g - Flint */ 1g - Mag. Mat. **/ 1g
3	14/007	14/006	Gully/pit	40	40	*	<1	**	1					Pottery */ 23g - Flint **/ 37g - FCF **/ 815g - Mag. Mat. **/ 1g
4	19/004	19/005	Pit	40	40	*	1	**	1		**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	1	FCF ***/ 712g - Pottery */ 11g - Burnt Clay */ 1g - Flint */ 15g - Mag. Mat. **/ 1g - Foreign Stone */ 1g
5	27/006	27/004	Cooking? Pit	3	3	*	1	**	1					FCF */ 4g - Mag. Mat. */ <1g
6	17/005	17/004	Pit	40	40	****	59	****	120	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (14), <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (6) & 1 fragment of unidentified climber?				FCF ***/ 1460g - Flint */ 13g - Burnt Clay */ 3g - Mag. Mat. ***/ 4g

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Identification	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
7	17/006	17/004	Pit	5	5	*	1	**	1	Fragments of unidentified climber?				FCF ***/ 1022g - Mag. Mat. */ 1g
8	27/006	27/004	Cooking? Pit	3.5	3.5	*	<1	**	<1					FCF **/ 52g - Mag. Mat. */ <1g
9	27/005	27/004	Cooking? Pit	20	20	**	3	***	8	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (20)				FCF **/ 406g - Mag. Mat. **/ 1g
10	33/005	33/004	Pit/ Posthole	10	10	***	6	****	30	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (19), <i>Quercus</i> sp. rw (1)				FCF */ 31g - Flint */ <1g - Mag. Mat. */ <1g

Appendix 4

Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250), preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Context / deposit type	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris eg. hammerscale
1	15/005	15/004	Pit	9	350	100	80	10				****	*	<i>Triticum</i> sp	+	*	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i> , <i>Persicaria maculosa/amphibia/lapathifolia</i> type. Indeterminate seed.	+++	
2	39/006	39/004	Pit/ditch	1	15	15	70	10	*			***							
3	14/007	14/006	Gully/pit	33	350	100	80	10				***							
4	19/004	19/005	Pit	5	200	100	80	10	*			****							
5	27/006	27/004	Cooking? Pit	0.5	10	10	70	10			*	***							
6	17/005	17/004	Pit	34	320	100	50	10		***	****	****							
7	17/006	17/004	Pit	1.2	20	20	50	10				****				*	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>		
8	27/006	27/004	Cooking? Pit	0.5	10	10	80	10				***							
9	27/005	27/004	Cooking? Pit	14	90	100	60	10		***	****	****							

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Context / deposit type	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris eg. hammerscale
10	33/005	33/004	Pit/ Posthole	6.5	60	60	50	10		*	**	****							*

Appendix 5

**A GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT FONTWELL, WEST
SUSSEX:
TEST PIT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Martin R. Bates

March 2015



Table of Contents

List of Figures

Summary

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Background

3.0 Fieldwork

4.0 Discussion

Bibliography

Appendix 1. Geoarchaeological test pit logs

List of Figures

Figure 1. Geoarchaeological test pit location plan

Figure 2. Transect through excavated test pits.

Figure 3. GTP 24.

Figure 4. GTP 7.

Figure 5. GTP 11.

Summary

This project was undertaken by the author at the request of Archaeology South East on 26th February 2015. In total, some 10 geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within the footprint of the excavation trenches under the control of the Quaternary Specialists, of which six are subject to detailed reporting in this report. This report provides background detail, methods, test pit records and an interpretation of the sequences present. The work did not include any assessment of contained biological material although where apparent and visible comment is made on the biological content of the sediments.

The lithological sequences recorded in the test pits are contained in Appendix 1. The lithological profile drawn up identified five distinct sequences of sediments:

- I. A basal dense red clay that is interpreted as Tertiary bedrock.*
- II. Dark grey sands containing gravels and shell fragments of uncertain age.*
- III. Sands that probably are Pleistocene belonging to the Aldingbourne Raised Beach.*
- IV. Chalk dominated silts, clay silts and chalky pellet gravels that include a thin brown 'organic' sediment in places that may represent a former landsurface.*
- V. Red brown angular flint gravels.*

This has demonstrated that the Aldingbourne Beach (Unit III) is present in the part of the site investigated. The beach is overlain by a complex of fine grained, chalk rich sediments (Unit IV) that contain biological material (shell fragments) and probably represent cold climate deposits (in the main). The study has demonstrated that important deposits with probable biological material exist in the pits investigated. Classifying the exact importance of these deposits will depend on the nature of the contained biological material and the inferred ages which these remains impart on the deposits. This cannot be determined without adequate assessment of the samples recovered and integration of the current results with the geotechnical data recovered from the site.

1. Introduction

This project was undertaken by the author at the request of Archaeology South East on 26th February 2015. Six geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within the footprint of the excavation trenches under the control of the Quaternary Specialist. In addition, a further four geoarchaeological test pits were also excavated by Dr Matt Pope (see above). This report provides background detail, methods, test pit records and an interpretation of the sequences present.

The work did not include any assessment of contained biological material although where apparent and visible comment is made on the biological content of the sediments.

2. Background

The Aldingbourne Raised Beach has been recognised for some time along the line of the A27 between Chichester and Arundel (Fowler, 1932; Calkin, 1934; Shephard-Thorn *et al.*, 1982; Bates *et al.*, 1997, 2010). Typically these deposits appear today as isolated outcrops of well-rounded flint gravel and sand forming low topographic mounds separated by dry valleys. The outcrops appear to have a maximum width of around 1km. These deposits have been defined as the Aldingbourne Formation (stratotype: Aldingbourne Park Pit, SU 931071). Although best known within the area to the east of Chichester comparable sequences have been found to the west at Ashling Lodge (Bates *et al.*, 1997). The sediments have been demonstrated to outcrop between elevations of 17.5m and 27.4m O.D. by a number of authors (Calkin, 1934; Shephard-Thorn *et al.*, 1982; Bates *et al.*, 1997, 2010) and commonly consist of bedded sands and gravels overlying a basal sand unit. Biological material has been found in these sediments but is sparse and poorly preserved.

Marine sediments associated with the Aldingbourne Raised Beach have been investigated recently at Norton Farm and Pear Tree Knap (Bates *et al.*, 2010). At Pear Tree Knap coarse sands and gravels rested on an undulating, eroded chalk surface. They were overlain by finer grained bedded sands and silts. Comparable sequences have also been located within the vicinity of Norton Farm as well as in Brooks' Fields South (Bates *et al.*, 2010).

Fossil material from the Aldingbourne Raised Beach are, in contrast to those of the invariably rich and diverse Goodwood-Slindon sequence, usually patchy, poorly fossiliferous or even totally barren (Bates *et al.*, 2010).

3. Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken on 26th February 2015 by the author. Fieldwork was overseen by site supervisor Greg Priestley-Bell from ASE. Six geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs 7, 11, 15, 16, 23 and 24) were excavated

along a south to north transect through the western part of the site using a mechanical excavator capable of attaining depths in excess of 5m. In addition, a further four geoarchaeological test pits were excavated by Dr Matt Pope, though these are not subject to further reporting within this document.

The location of the test pits within the trenches are shown in Figure 1. Logs for individual test pits are shown in Appendix 1 of this report below. A transect through the test pits is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

Recording took place from the top of existing ground levels, outside the test pit, measuring depths down profile from the tape with a 10m tape. Lithology was recorded from arisings in the machine bucket and samples were taken from the machine bucket.

Illustrative photographs of key test pits are shown in Figures 3-5 below.

4. Stratigraphy

The lithological sequences recorded in the test pits are contained in Appendix 1 and an interpretation of the sediments has been made based on the authors experience of similar sediments in the vicinity. The lithological profile presented in Figure 2 contains a summary of these records and five distinct sequences of sediments have been identified (from base):

I. This sediment consists of dense red clay that was recovered in test pit GTP 24 only. This is interpreted as Tertiary bedrock of the Lambeth Group (the Reading Formation). This is of no archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest .

II. This sediment consists of clean, dark grey sands containing gravels and shell fragments. It is present in both test pits GTP 23 and GTP 24. It is clearly of marine origin and may belong to the Lambeth Group (Woolwich Formation) and would thus be of Tertiary in age. However, this ascription remains to be verified as the Woolwich Formation is only well known in the eastern part of the county and thus assessment of the contained fauna is necessary to determine the status of this deposit.

III. This body of sediment consists of sand, typically yellowish brown to reddish brown. The sands do not appear to contain molluscs. The upper surface of the sands rises in a northerly direction. These sands were encountered in all six test pits excavated. They were of limited thickness in test pits GTP 23/24 however they were not bottomed in test pits GTP 7, GTP 11 and GTP 15. These are probably Pleistocene marine sands belonging to the Aldingbourne Raised Beach. These sands may contain ostracods and Foraminifera and are considered of high potential.

IV. Sediments grouped here consist of a wide variety of chalk dominated silts, clay silts and chalky pellet gravels. Typically these are likely to be colluvial or low energy pond sediments where downslope wash of chalk rich waters created a series of fan like deposits. Also included within these deposits are the thin brown 'organic' sediments seen in test pits GTP 7, GTP 11 and GTP 15. These appear significantly different to the remaining sediments and may represent a former land surface, perhaps a weathering horizon. Shell debris occurs in association with many of these units and may include both reworked Tertiary shell as well as Pleistocene shell fragments. The potential exists for these deposits to contain ostracods and mammalian remains. Their potential is considered high.

V. These consist of red brown angular flint gravels deposited by solifluction processes during cold climate conditions in the Pleistocene. They do not appear to contain any important biological material.

5. Discussion

The test pitting has demonstrated that the Aldingbourne Beach (Unit III) is present in the part of the site investigated. The elevation of these deposits are however significantly lower than those sampled in a previous study to the north (Collings, 2006; see Figure 2, test pits 1-3). The relationship between the deposits at the study site and those north of Arundel Road remains to be demonstrated. The beach is overlain by a complex of fine grained, chalk rich sediments (Unit IV) that contain biological material (shell fragments) and probably represent cold climate deposits (in the main).

These deposits can be seen to vary in depth across the site from a maximum of 3.9m below ground level (BGL) in GTP 40, towards the north-east of the site, to a minimum of 0.8m below ground level in GTP 24. Elsewhere across the site, the surface of these deposits were recorded at 1m BGL in GTP 7, 1.3m BGL in GTP 11 and GTP 23, 1.6m BGL in GTPs B and C and 2.2m BGL in GTP 15. The relative elevation of these deposits also changed in line with the topography, with significant deposits encountered at 25.27m AOD in the north-east of the site, rising slightly to 25.9m in the mid-west of the site and then falling gradually to 20.03m in the south-west corner.

The study has demonstrated that important (certainly regionally important) deposits with probable biological material existing in the pits investigated. Classifying the importance of these deposits will depend on the nature of the contained biological material and the inferred ages which these remains impart on the deposits. This cannot be determined without adequate assessment of the samples recovered and integration of the current results with the geotechnical data recovered from the site.

References

Bates, M.R., Parfitt, S.A. and Roberts, M.B. 1997 The chronology, palaeogeography and archaeological significance of the marine Quaternary record of the West Sussex Coastal Plain, Southern England, U.K. **Quaternary Science Reviews** **16**, 1227 – 1252.

Bates, M.R., Briant, R.M., Rhodes, E.J., Schwenninger, J.L. and Whittaker, J.E. 2010 A new chronological framework for Middle and Upper Pleistocene landscape evolution in the Sussex/Hampshire Coastal Corridor. **Proceedings of the Geologists' Association** **121**, 369 – 392.

Calkin, J.B. 1934 Implements from the higher raised beaches of Sussex. **Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia** **7**, 333 - 347.

Collings, M. 2006 **An archaeological evaluation of land at Newlands House, Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex**. Archaeology South East: Portslade.

Fowler, R. 1932 The "One Hundred Foot" raised beach between Arundel and Chichester, Sussex. **Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London** **88**, 84 - 99.

Shephard-Thorn, E.R., F.G. Berry, and R.J. Wyatt. 1982 **Geological notes and local details for 1:10000 sheets SU 80 NW, NE, SW and SE, SU 90 NW, NE, SW and SE, TQ 00 NW, SW (West Sussex Coastal Plain between Chichester and Littlehampton)**. Keyworth: Institute of Geological Sciences.

Appendix 1.

TEST PIT	GTP 7	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	26.90
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.20	Topsoil.		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.20 – 1.00	Red brown flint gravel. Dense and compact. Clay silt matrix.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---sharp contact---		
1.00 – 3.70	White chalky pellet gravel. Chalky putty matrix. Blocky structure. Moderately firm and compact. Yellowish brown patches in places. Becomes more compact and firmer with depth.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
3.70 – 3.75	Dark brown organic silt. Firm and compact.	Weathered surface?	
	---abrupt contact---		
3.75 – 4.50	Dark grey to yellowish grey chalky silt with shell fragments. Moderately firm and compact.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
4.50 -	Reddish brown to greenish brown fine to medium sands.	Marine sand	
	---base of test pit 4.60m---		
Samples taken	S33, 1.10m S34, 1.50m S35, 2.50m S36, 3.70m S37, 3.80m S38, 3.90m S39, 4.00m S40, 4.10m S41, 4.20m S42, 4.30m S43, 4.50m		

TEST PIT	GTP 11	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	25.44
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.20	Topsoil		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.20 – 1.30	Red brown flint gravel – clay silt matrix. Structureless and massive.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---sharp contract---		
1.30 – 1.80	Pale grey to yellowish grey silt – to chalky silt. Very finely laminated in places. Moderately firm and compact.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
1.80 – 1.85	Dark brown organic silt. Firm and compact. Shell fragments present.	Weathered surface?	
	---sharp contact---		

Archaeology South-East
 Eval: Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
 ASE Report No. 2015069

TEST PIT	GTP 11	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	25.44
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
1.85 – 3.00	Mid grey clay silt. Shell fragments present. Moderately firm and compact. No structure.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
3.00 – 3.20	Pale brown fine to medium sand.	Marine sand	
	---abrupt contact---		
3.20 -	Dark reddish brown fine to medium sand.	Marine sand	
	---base of test pit 5.50m---		
Samples taken	S23, 1.40m S24, 1.80m S25, 1.90m S26, 2.10m S27, 2.50m S28, 2.70m S29, 3.00m S30, 3.30m S31, 4.00m S32, 4.60m		

TEST PIT	GTP 15	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	25.07
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.30	Topsoil		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.30 – 2.20	Red brown flint gravel- poorly sorted (2->10cm, sub-angular clasts). Clay silt matrix. Matrix supported. No structure. Dense and compact.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---abrupt contact---		
2.20 – 2.50	White to yellow white chalky pellet gravel.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---grades into---		
2.50 – 3.50	Pale grey clay silt. Structureless and massive. No flints.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
3.50 – 3.60	Dark grey clay silt. Softer than above. Structureless and massive.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
3.60 – 3.70	Dark brown organic silt. Blocky structure. Shell fragments present.	Weathered surface?	
	---sharp contact---		
3.70 – 4.10	Grey clay silt.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
4.10 – 4.20	Yellow brown chalky silt.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
4.20 – 5.20	Pale yellowish brown sand.	Marine sands	

Archaeology South-East
 Eval: Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
 ASE Report No. 2015069

TEST PIT	GTP 15	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	25.07
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
	---sharp contact---		
5.20 -	Dark grey clay and sand. Compact and firm.	Marine sands, ?bedrock	
	---base of test pit 5.30m---		
Samples taken	S12, 2.60m S13, 3.55m S14, 3.65m S15, 4.30m S16, 5.00m S17, 5.10m S18, 5.30m		

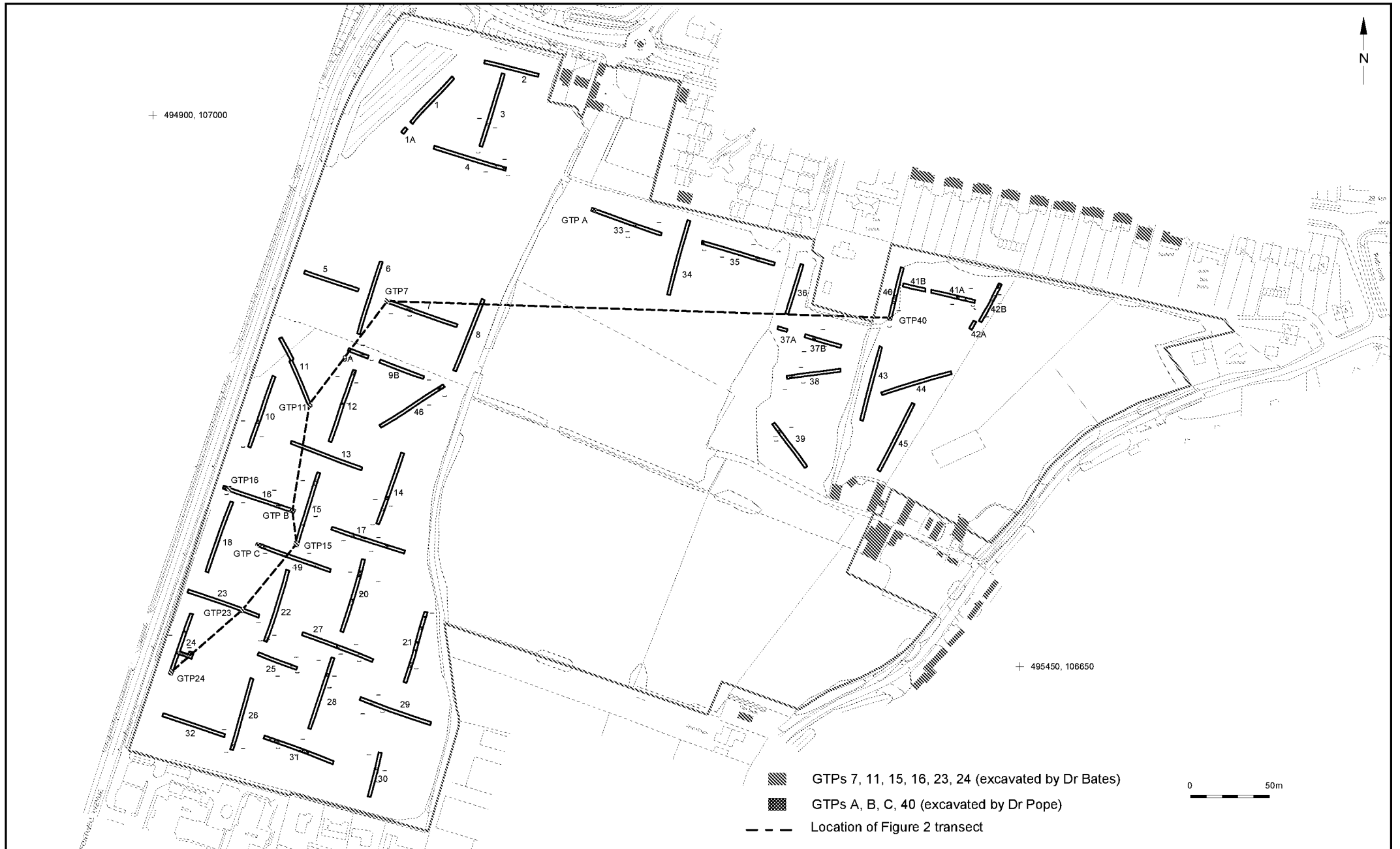
TEST PIT	GTP 16	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	23.01
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.20	Topsoil		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.20 – 0.80	Yellow brown clay silt. Soft and structureless.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
0.80 – 1.00	Red brown flint gravel. Matrix supported with clay silt matrix. Structureless and massive.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---sharp contact---		
1.00 – 1.25	Pale yellow brown to greyish brown silts. Some very fine sand also present. Occasional flint clasts.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
1.25 – 2.80	Yellow brown silt with some chalk debris. Possibly bedded with wavy, subparallel beds of silt. Soft and unconsolidated.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
2.80 – 2.90	Reddish brown medium to fine sand.	Marine sands	
	---sharp contact---		
2.90 – 3.60	Yellowish brown to greyish brown fine sand.	Marine sands	
	---sharp contact---		
3.60 -	Dark grey clay silt.	Marine sands, ?bedrock	
	---base of test pit 3.70m---		
Samples taken	S19, 1.40m S20, 2.30m S21, 3.10m S22, 3.65m		

Archaeology South-East
 Eval: Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
 ASE Report No. 2015069

TEST PIT	GTP 23	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	23.33
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.20	Topsoil		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.20 – 0.50	Strong reddish brown clay silt. Structureless and massive. Occasional flint clasts.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
0.50 – 1.30	Strong red brown flint gravel. Matrix supported with clay silt matrix. Clasts 2->10cm, sub-angular.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---abrupt contact---		
1.30 – 1.90	Pale grey chalky rubble. Occasional flint clasts. Structureless and massive.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
1.90 – 2.20	Greyish brown clay with some silt. Firm and compact.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
2.20 – 2.50	Grey to med grey clay silt. Compact and firm. Structureless.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
2.50 – 3.30	Yellow brown chalky rubble.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---abrupt contact---		
3.30 – 3.90	Yellow brown sand. Soft and structureless.	Marine sand	
	---sharp contract---		
3.90 – 4.20	Grey fine to medium sand.	Marine sand	
	---abrupt contact---		
4.20 -	Dark grey sands with clay.	Marine sands, ?bedrock	
	---base of test pit 4.30m---		
Samples taken	S7, 1.80m S8, 2.00m S9, 2.30m S10, 2.50m S11, 4.25m		

Archaeology South-East
 Eval: Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex
 ASE Report No. 2015069

TEST PIT	GTP 24	Grid ref	
Date drilled	26/2/15	OD datum	20.83
Depth below ground surface (m)	Description	Interpretation	
0.00 – 0.50	Topsoil		
	---abrupt contact---		
0.50 – 0.80	Strong reddish brown flint gravel. Matrix supported with silty sandy clay matrix. Clasts are poorly sorted, <10cm, sub-angular and rolled. Moderately compact and firm. Structureless.	Cold climate solifluction deposits	
	---abrupt contact---		
0.80 – 1.30	Pale yellow brown chalky pellet gravel. Common flint clasts (<10cm, sub-angular and rolled). Slightly rough texture with a granular appearance.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---diffuse contact---		
1.30 – 1.60	Pale yellowish brown to greyish brown clay silt. Moderately compact and firm. Possibly finely bedded.	?Cold climate colluvium	
	---sharp contact---		
1.60 – 2.80	Yellowish brown fine to medium sand. Soft and structureless.	Marine sands	
	---sharp contact---		
2.80 – 3.50	Dark grey soft sand. Finely bedded with a medium to fine sand.	Marine sands, ?bedrock	
	---sharp contact---		
3.50 -	Strong reddish brown to red clay. Very dense and compact.	Bedrock	
	---base of test pit 3.60m---		
Samples taken	S1, 1.00m S2, 1.50m S3, 1.80m S4, 2.40m S5, 2.90m S6, 3.30m		



© Archaeology South-East		Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7286	March 2015	Geoarchaeological test pit locations	
Report Ref: 2015069	Drawn by: DAH		