

Feb '91

SMR

04-742

5663
OSN
TAOI NE 66

5663

HORSHAM: Parham

LICKFOLD FARM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

FEBRUARY 1991

CONTENTS

1. SUMMARY.....	1
2. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	2
3. INTRODUCTION.....	2
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.....	6
5.1 The archaeological strategy.....	6
5.2 The evaluation methodology.....	7
6. ASSESSMENT RESULTS.....	9
6.1 Hand excavated trial pits.....	9
6.2 Machine excavated transects.....	11
7. SUMMARY FINDS REPORTS.....	12
7.1 The pottery	12
7.2 The ceramic building material.....	14
7.3 The struck flint.....	14
8. DISCUSSION.....	15
8.1 Earlier prehistoric occupation.....	15
8.2 Romano-British occupation.....	16
9. REFERENCES.....	18

FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site location.....	3
Fig. 2: Plan of development site showing areas A and E in detail.....	4

TABLES

Table 1: Selection of areas in archaeological sample.....	7
Table 2: Summary of deposits and finds from trial pits 1-19.....	10
Table 3: Summary of deposits and finds from machine excavated transects.....	11
Table 4: Occurrence of pottery by main category type.....	13
Table 5: Occurrence of struck flint by category.....	15

LICKFOLD FARM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 SUMMARY

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken of a 24ha site south east of Pulborough, West Sussex, prior to submission of planning application for mineral extraction. Pre-existing archaeological data has demonstrated that the local area was intensively occupied during the Romano-British period. The site was therefore considered to be of high archaeological potential. Immediately adjacent to the site lies a Roman bath house constructed in the second century AD and there remains the possibility that it was connected with a wealthy villa estate near Lickfold Farm.

The site was evaluated using a combination of hand excavated trial pits and machine excavated transects. However, the implementation of the County Archaeological Officer's strategy to assess the site was hampered by adverse weather conditions at the time of the field survey. Nevertheless, the data gained from the survey suggest that although the site has been heavily ploughed over a prolonged period, in situ archaeological deposits of Romano-British date survive within the area of proposed development. Stratified occupation deposits and subsoil features were recorded. Romano-British finds were recovered associated with these deposits and from the soil overburden and ploughsoil across the site. The finds and the nature of the deposits recorded support occupation from the second to the fourth century AD across the site. The conclusions from the survey suggest that the area of occupation is likely, overall, to be extensive and in addition, one focus of activity was identified.

Low levels of earlier prehistoric finds were also recovered. Worked flint, diagnostically of Mesolithic date, and Bronze Age pottery point to exploitation of the area during the early prehistoric period and localised deposits of such date may exist within the survey area.

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned and financed by H. T. Hughes and Sons (Transport) Ltd. as additional information required by the County Council to determine the company's submission of planning application for mineral extraction. Assistance was provided by the West Sussex County Archaeological Officer, Mark Taylor and practical help in the field offered by the current tenant of the land, Mr. A. Barrett. The field survey was managed by S. M. Davies and I. Barnes and directed on site by C. M. Hearne. This report was prepared by C. M. Hearne and S. M. Davies at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury: comments on the ceramic finds were prepared by L. N. Mephram, those on the flint by F. Healy and the drawings produced by J. Cross.

3 INTRODUCTION

The survey area comprised a 24ha site (centred around TQ 06301750) approximately 5km to the north of the scarp of the South Downs, 2km south east of Pulborough. The site lies in the tongue of land between the Rivers Arun and Stor (Fig. 1), in what has been termed the 'Wiggonholt peninsula' (Evans 1976, 99). The site itself lies on the Folkestone Sands within a local area of some geological diversity, provided by the outcropping of the Upper Greensand, Gault and Folkestone Beds at the foot of the Chalk Downs.

The western limit of the site coincides with the eastern terrace of the River Arun floodplain. To the east the site is defined by the Pulborough to Storrington road (A283). To the north and south the site is bounded by a sewage works and Lickfold Farm respectively. The site lies on a very gradual north-facing slope (maximum height c. 10m OD) and encompasses two field parcels (Fig. 2A; Plots 1 and 2). At the time of the survey (February 1991) the field parcels were under rough pasture, the southernmost being used for the storage of large straw ricks.

In view of the wealth of archaeological data from the immediate area and local environs of the site (see below, Section 4), a proposal by H. T. Hughes and Sons (Transport) Ltd. to apply for planning permission for mineral extraction across the area was accompanied by an archaeological

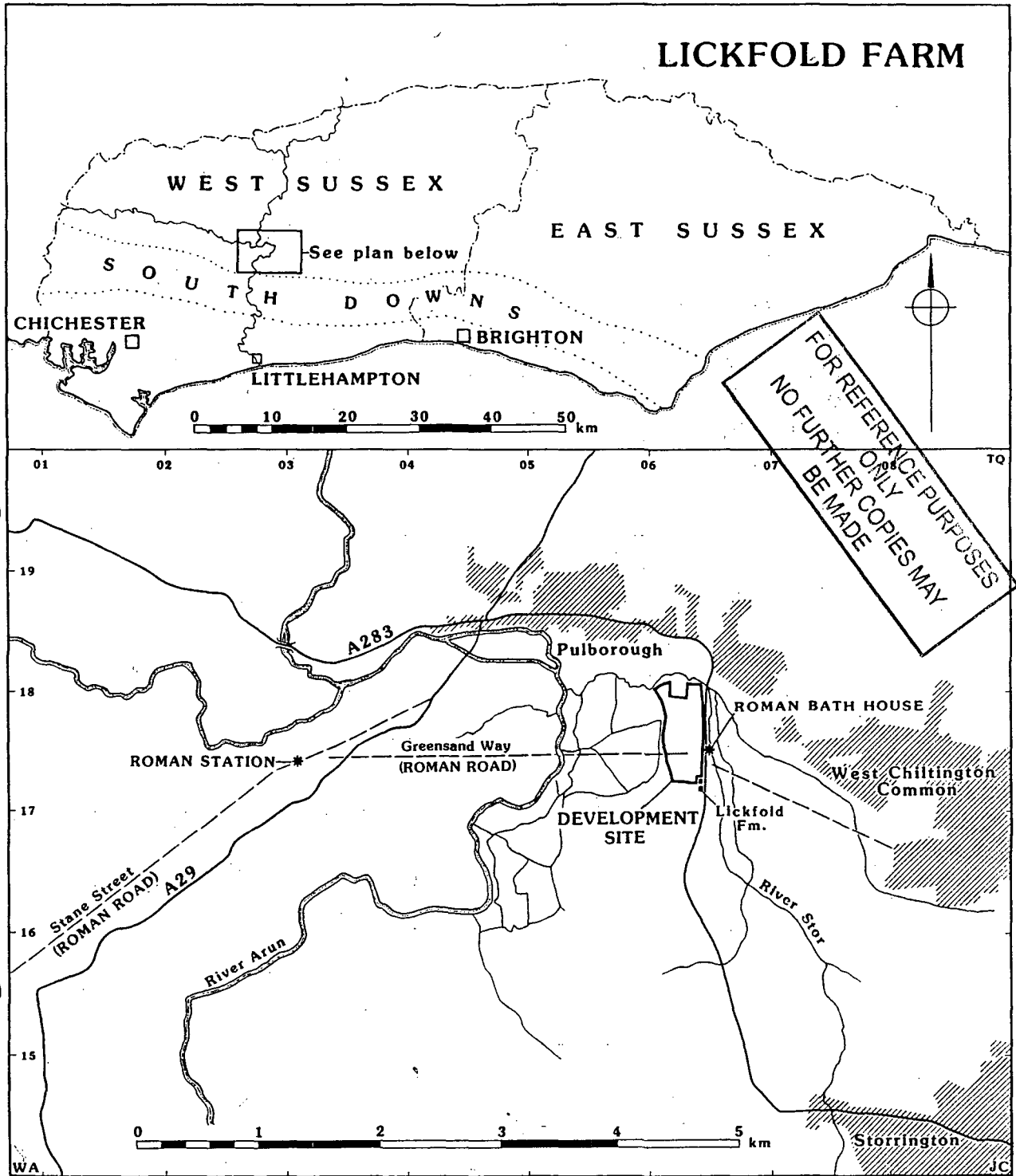


Fig. 1: Site Location

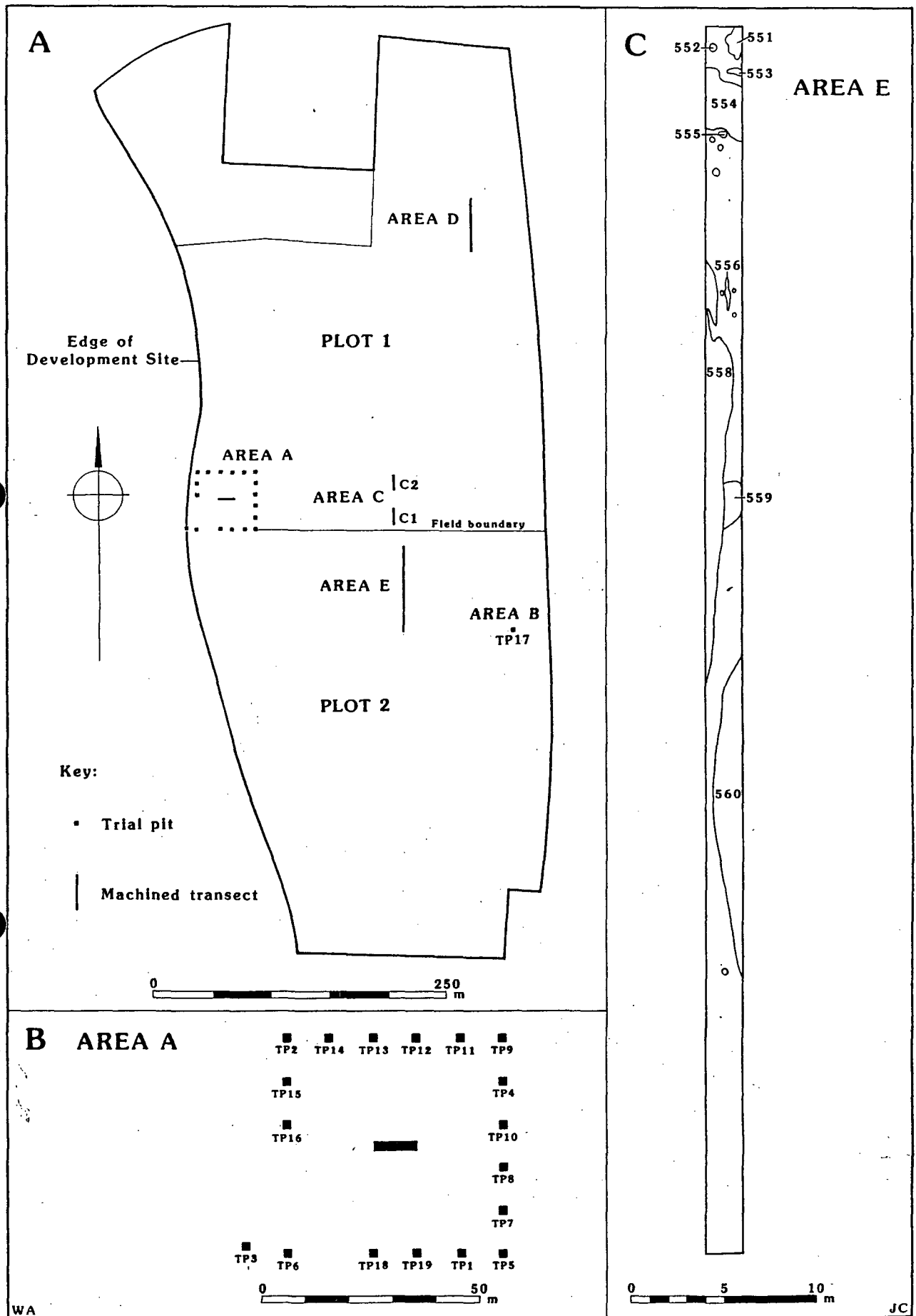


Fig. 2: Plan of Development Site showing Areas A and E in detail

evaluation survey. The evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Although the site may be envisaged to be topographically well-suited for earlier prehistoric settlement, there is no pre-existing data in the immediate area of the site to demonstrate occupation during these periods.

The site lies within an area long appreciated as an important zone of Romano-British occupation. The area around Pulborough formed the intersection of the Roman Road from Chichester to London (Stane Street) and the lowest bridging point of the River Arun. The amount, range and nature of known sites, monuments and finds from the local area testify to the intensity of settlement which developed in the area from the early post-Conquest period (later first century AD). The range of mineral resources (including building stone and clay) which the local geology offered also meant that in addition to its importance for settlement and communication, the area was of importance for Roman industry.

A full discussion of the archaeological background to the local and immediate area of the proposed development site has been provided by Evans (1974) in her report on the 1964 excavations at Wiggonholt. These excavations were focused on the Roman bath house discovered in the 1930s (Winbolt and Goodchild 1937; 1940) but also incorporated trial trenching and field observations on the fields to the west, i.e. those covered by the present evaluation survey. She concluded that most if not all of the Wiggonholt peninsula was occupied at some time during the Romano-British period and that the whole of the 'peninsula' ought to be considered as a 'single complex of settlement whose economy bore a direct relationship with the Pulborough Ridge and the surrounding countryside' (Evans 1974, 117).

The bath house, immediately adjacent (to the east) of the proposed development area is the only major stone building known within the immediate environs of the area. The question remains, therefore, as to whether the bath house was part of a large villa complex around Lickfold Farm or whether it was a component of a much wider estate, linked with the large villa estate at Borough Farm, some 2 km to the north (see Evans 1974, 118-119 for discussion).

The proposed development site therefore represents an area of extremely high archaeological potential for Romano-British occupation. There can be little doubt that the area was exploited during the Romano-British period but whether it was utilised for settlement, industry (pottery kilns are known to have existed in the area) or agriculture was unknown.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological strategy

The archaeological strategy adopted for the site was formulated by the County Archaeological Officer following field visits to the site and modified prior to the commencement of the survey to accommodate the prevalent field conditions (i.e. unploughed). The strategy allowed for a small sample of the site to be examined as a means to assess the likely date, intensity and extent of any former occupation across the area. An examination of the nature, integrity and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits which were encountered in the sample was also incorporated into the strategy.

The strategy involved examination of five specific areas within the proposed development site (Areas A-E). These areas had been selected as key zones of archaeological potential based on pre-existing archaeological data, surface scatters of material recorded by the County Archaeological Officer when the fields were freshly ploughed and the existence of possible insubstantial earthworks across the fields. The location of the five areas is shown on Fig. 2. The basis for selection of the areas is summarised in Table 1.

Area Basis for selection in evaluation sample

- A Discrete area of dense scatter of brick and tile on field surface - possible concentration of archaeological activity / area of former building.
 - B Linear spread of material visible on field surface, including some large stone blocks probably representing building rubble. Proximity to Roman bath house. Also designed to coincide with possible alignment of a earlier recorded 'tiled pathway' running NE-SW towards the Roman bath house.
 - C/E Possible concentrations of material on field surface. Also designed to coincide with possible continuation of the course of 'The Greensand Way' Roman Road across the site.
 - D Area of possible low earthworks. Also designed to 'test' the northern part of the site, beyond the extent of known archaeological deposits associated with the Roman complex.
-

TABLE 1: Selection of areas in archaeological sample

5.2 The evaluation methodology

The evaluation methodology combined two methods of examination: hand excavated 1m-square trial pits (TP's) and 2m-wide machine excavated transects. It was proposed to examine Areas A and B by a series of hand excavated trial pits whose location was predetermined by the County Archaeological Officer. Area A was covered by a grid of regularly spaced (10m apart) TP's, within an area of 50 x 50m (total number of TP's proposed - 37). Area B was covered by a line of TP's spaced 20m apart. Areas C, D and E were to be examined by machine excavated transects, of varying length whose exact position was to be determined in the field.

The directives for the excavation of the 1m-square trial pits was to remove all ploughsoil and soil overburden to the underlying Eocene sands or to extant archaeological deposits, where and if they survived. If subsoil features were encountered in the trial pits they were to be sampled to retrieve dating evidence, test preservation and examine nature/function (where possible). In the event of preserved structures or walling, such deposits were to be left in situ.

The depth and amount of soil to be removed by mechanical excavator was

not strictly defined prior to the commencement of the field survey but left to the judgment of the field officer on site. As with the hand excavated trial pits, the overall emphasis was on the continued preservation of any archaeological deposits encountered, with partial excavation of features where deemed necessary to fulfil the aims of the evaluation survey.

The survey was undertaken between Monday 4th and Friday 8th February 1991 in a week dominated by adverse weather conditions with temperatures below freezing and light to heavy snow falls. During the earlier part of the week it was possible to begin implementing the strategy as originally agreed, with work concentrating on Area A. However, with the deteriorating weather conditions it was no longer feasible to continue hand excavation of trial pits and work associated with the machine excavated transects was subject to delays. In consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, therefore, a revised strategy was formulated. This incorporated terminating the opening of hand excavated trial pits and continuing the examination of areas within the machine excavated transects where and as possible. The final extent of machine excavated transects was, with the agreement of the County Archaeological Officer, left to the discretion of the field officer with the prime consideration being on safe and acceptable working conditions for the members of the survey team.

The revised strategy, as finally implemented is shown on Fig. 2A. In Area A (see Fig. 2B) it was possible to almost complete the excavation of the 1m-square trial pits around the outer circuit of the 50 x 50m grid (TP's 1-16, 18-19: total 18 TP's). In addition, upon the request of the County Archaeological Officer, an east-west orientated machine transect was excavated across the centre of Area A. The excavation of trial pits associated with Area B commenced at its southern end (TP 17) but no further TP's were excavated in this area. Work in Areas C and E broadly conformed to the original strategy but the extent of these transects had to be revised. In Area E (Plot 2) it was not possible to extend the transect far enough south to intercept the alignments of the possible Roman Road ('The Greensand Way') and tiled pathway. In Area D it was possible to implement the archaeological strategy as originally defined.

6 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

6.1 Hand excavated trial pits

The results from the nineteen trial pits excavated in Areas A (TP's 1-16, 18-19) and B (TP 17) are summarised in Table 2. Trial pits which contained stratified archaeological deposits/features are marked *. The 'total depth' is that recorded to the underlying 'natural' deposits of the Folkestone Beds. More detailed comments on the finds themselves are included below (Section 7).

TP NO	TOTAL DEPTH	RECORDED DEPOSITS AND FINDS
1	650mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy loam above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 7g Roman and Medieval pottery, 1.42kg Roman brick / tile, 1 worked flint.
2	300mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one layer of sandy loam above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 220g Roman brick / tile.
3	900mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of silty loam above natural coarse sand with gravel. Finds - 112g Roman and Medieval brick / tile.
4	600mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy loam above natural sand. Finds - 500g Roman tile, 120g fired clay.
5*	580mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy loam natural sand. Subsoil feature partially revealed in NE corner of the TP. Excavation revealed the exposed part of the feature to be 150mm deep with gently sloping, slightly irregular sides and a flat base. Fill of feature comprised mixed humic sandy loam containing small and large stone blocks and two large pieces of Roman tile. Interpreted as the edge of a pit or ditch. Finds - 9g Roman pottery, 2.52kg Roman and Medieval brick and tile, 800g fired clay.
6	360mm	Deposits - ploughsoil above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 228g Roman and Medieval brick / tile.
7	200mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand. Finds - 20g Roman pottery, 6 worked flints.

TP NO	TOTAL DEPTH	RECORDED DEPOSITS AND FINDS
8	290mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand. Finds - None.
9	320mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand with gravel. Finds - None.
10*	550mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above above a layer of redeposited clay (120mm thick) containing charcoal flecks. Lower subsoil layer of sandy loam above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 9g earlier prehistoric pottery, 2 worked flints from lower subsoil; 7g Roman pottery, 125g Roman brick / tile from ploughsoil.
11	500mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy loam above natural sand. Finds - 9g earlier prehistoric pottery, 500g Roman tile.
12	330mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy clay loam above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 5g Roman pottery, 10g Roman brick / tile, 1 worked flint.
13	480mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil and one subsoil layer of sandy loam above natural sand. Finds - 100g Roman brick / tile.
14	330mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand. Finds - 8g Roman pottery, 450g Roman and Medieval tile.
15	300mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand with gravel. Finds - 50g Roman brick / tile.
16	200mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand with gravel. Finds - None.
17	350mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil containing some ferruginous sandstone and flint blocks (possible building rubble) above natural sand. Finds - 14g Roman pottery, 50g Roman brick / tile.
18	550mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural sand with gravel. Finds - None.
19	600mm	Deposits - Ploughsoil above natural coarse sand. Finds - None.

TABLE 2: Summary of deposits and finds from trial pits 1-19

6.2 Machine excavated transects

The results from the five machine excavated transects are summarised in Table 3. Stratified archaeological deposits were recorded in all of the transects except that located in Area A. The deposits encountered in Areas C and D were able to be examined, those in Area E were recorded in plan (Fig. 2C) but weather conditions prevented further examination or partial excavation within this transect.

AREA	SIZE	RECORDED DEPOSITS AND FINDS
A	11 x 2m	Deposits - Ploughsoil and subsoil layer of sandy loam (maximum combined depth 450mm) above natural sand. Finds - None.
C1	11.5 x 2m	Deposits - Ploughsoil and deep soil overburden of sandy loam (maximum combined depth 800mm) sealed a clearly-defined horizon (511) of black sandy loam, 300mm deep. Excavation of this deposit did not reveal any subsoil features but the horizon itself and the unabraded nature of some of the pottery recovered from it point suggests that it represents a <u>in situ</u> occupation deposit or former soil horizon. This layer lies directly above natural loose sand. Finds - Ploughsoil / soil overburden: 30g Roman pottery, 58 g Roman brick / tile. Layer 511: 98g Roman pottery, 296g Roman tile.
C2	9 x 2m	Deposits - Comparable soil profile recorded to that in Transect C1. Ploughsoil and deep soil overburden of sandy loam (maximum combined depth 650mm) sealed a clearly-defined horizon (521) of black sandy loam, 300 mm deep. Interpretation as for layer 511 in transect C1 (see above) The layer lies directly above natural sand with gravel, no subsoil features recorded. Finds - Ploughsoil / soil overburden: 31g Roman pottery, 211g Roman hypocaust brick. Layer 521: 124g Roman pottery, 2.348kg Roman hypocaust bricks.

contd.

AREA	SIZE	RECORDED DEPOSITS AND FINDS
D	46 x 2m	<p>Deposits - Ploughsoil of variable depth (200-450mm deep) above natural sand with gravel. Two subsoil soilmarks were recorded WNW-ESE in the northern half of the transect. The southernmost (501), located 16m from the northern limit of the transect was 2.2m wide, of humic sandy loam with clearly defined edges. Upon excavation it proved to comprise a layer, of maximum depth 100mm not coherently defined as the fill of a cut but containing fairly high amounts of pottery. Interpreted as an <u>in situ</u> stratified occupation layer.</p> <p>The northernmost soilmark (503), located 9m from the northern limit of the transect was of irregular plan, maximum width 1.5m of sand. Upon excavation it proved to be extremely shallow and not coherently defined as the fill of a feature. Low levels of finds were covered from this layer.</p> <p>Finds - Ploughsoil: 168g Roman pottery, 150g Roman brick / tile, 1 worked flint flake. Layer 501: 739g Roman pottery, 400g Roman brick / tile. Layer 503: 9g Roman pottery, 4 worked flint flakes.</p>
E	66 x 2m	<p>Deposits - Ploughsoil and soil overburden of variable depth (450-750mm) above natural sand and sand with gravel. A series of subsoil features were recorded in plan across the northern part of the transect (Fig. 2C) but could not be examined further. Major and minor linear features, probably ditches and gullies and a series of discrete sub-circular features probably representing postholes and/or small pits were recorded. Roman pottery was visible in the upper fill of most of the soilmarks (<u>left in situ</u>) and a large rim sherd was retrieved from a probable pit fill (layer 559) as dating evidence.</p> <p>Finds - Ploughsoil/soil overburden: 166g Roman pottery, 1.16kg Roman tile. Layer 559: 753g Roman pottery.</p>

TABLE 3: Summary of deposits and finds from machine excavated transects

7. SUMMARY FINDS REPORTS

7.1 The pottery

Apart from three sherds (18 g) of prehistoric pottery (recovered from TP's 10 and 11) probably of Late Bronze Age date and a single Medieval sherd (from TP 1), all the pottery recovered from the evaluation is of Romano-British date (125 sherds, 2197 g). The presence of pottery by main category type is summarised on Table 4.

	BRONZE	ROMANO-BRITISH			MEDIEVAL
	AGE	Coarse	Mortarium	Fine	Samian
TP 1		*			*
TP 5		*			
TP 7		*			
TP 10	*	*		*	
TP 11	*				
TP 12		*			
TP 14		*			
TP 17		*			
C1		*	*	*	
C2		*	*	*	
D		*		*	*
E		*			

TABLE 4: Occurrence of pottery by main category type

The majority of the Romano-British consists of coarse wares. Fine wares are represented by two sherds of samian (both from Area D), one possibly from a 1st-century AD flanged bowl (Ritterling 12); two sherds from New Forest colour-coated vessels, and three sherds from Oxfordshire red colour-coated vessels. The two latter wares are of 3rd-/4th-century AD date. There are also two sherds from Oxford mortaria, one white ware body sherd and one rim from a white-slipped mortarium of late 3rd-/4th-century date (Young 1977, type WC7).

The coarsewares comprise mostly greywares. Some can be attributed to the Alice Holt/Farnham production centre; these include flat-rimmed bowls, everted rim jars and a large bead rim storage jar. Where these forms can be dated more closely, they seem to fall into a broad date range of late 2nd to 4th century AD (Lyne and Jefferies 1979). Other greywares, occurring in a similar range of forms, are of uncertain source. Greyware wasters have been found nearby at Hardham (Evans 1974), and the site also falls within the distribution area of the Rowlands Castle kilns, producing greywares from the late 1st to 3rd century, although the latter wares have been poorly represented in previous excavations on the site (*ibid.*). There are also two sherds of Black Burnished ware from the Poole Harbour area, one from a dropped-flange bowl of 3rd-/4th-century type.

Oxidised coarsewares are also present, in the form of everted rim jars,

often with a finely burnished surface. Wasters from buff sandy jars have been found nearby at Watersfield (Evans 1974).

In summary, the Romano-British pottery from Lickfold Farm covers a broad date range of 2nd-4th century with a single sherd of samian probably of 1st-century AD date. The coarsewares are probably mostly of fairly local manufacture, with possible sources nearby at Hardham and Watersfield; and further afield at Rowlands Castle, and in the Farnham area. Black Burnished ware in small quantities was travelling greater distances. Fine wares are almost equally divided between Oxfordshire and New Forest products.

7.2 The ceramic building material

A total of 12.363 kg (194 pieces) of ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation. Apart from eight fragments of Medieval /post-Medieval peg tile, all of the material examined appears to be of Romano-British date. Much of it is in a very abraded condition, and there are few diagnostic pieces. Seven possible tegulae and two possible imbrices were recognised. There are also about 20 pieces of brick (50mm+ in thickness), possibly hypocaust bricks (see Brodribb 1987, 34-43).

7.3 The struck flint

The struck flint collected during the evaluation (total, 30 pieces) is summarised in Table 5. Most is plough-damaged, corticated and of indeterminate date. The material from Area A, however, merits some comment. It includes three regularly-worked blade cores, two of them bipolar and one with a systematically-abraded platform edge, which are likely to be Mesolithic. Eight of the flakes from the same area (contexts 100, 120 and 131) are, although plough-damaged, relatively fresh and completely uncorticated, suggesting that they may until recently have lain undisturbed in archaeological deposits.

AREA	CONTEXT	1	2	3	4	5	TOTALS
A	100	-	2	2	9	1	14
	101	-	-	-	-	1	1
	120	-	1	-	4	1	6
	131	-	-	-	1	-	1
	135	-	-	-	2	-	2
D	500	-	-	-	1	-	1
	503	-	-	-	3	1	4
C2	521	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS		1	3	2	20	4	30

KEY TO FLINT TYPES 1: Irregular waste (? plough-struck)
2: Blade core
3: Other core
4: Flake
5: Blade

TABLE 5: Occurrence of struck flint by category

8. DISCUSSION

The evaluation has defined two main periods of former occupation across the proposed development site: early prehistoric and Romano-British.

8.1 Earlier prehistoric occupation

The evidence for early prehistoric exploitation in the area is confined to a small collection of Mesolithic worked flint and three sherds of late Bronze Age pottery, recovered from field surface and the soil overburden within Area A. Such finds point to the likelihood of early prehistoric occupation in the local area but the extremely small size of the overall collection and the lack of identified contemporaneous deposits do not allow comment to be made further than the potential for surviving early prehistoric deposits across the site. It may be noted that 25 of the 30 worked flints were recovered from within Area A (mostly from the field surface).

8.2 Romano-British occupation

Despite the adverse weather conditions and the resultant changes made to the archaeological strategy it is possible to put forward some comments about the likely extent of Romano-British occupation across the site and the nature and state of preservation of deposits associated with such occupation. Less information has been forthcoming about the actual function of the deposits revealed. Some initial comments and tentative interpretation may be put forward, although they should not be considered more than such.

The results from the hand excavated trial pits and the machine excavated transects indicate that areas of both dispersed and intensive archaeological remains exist within the site. The variable depth of soil cover recorded across the site indicates that deposits and features associated with the Romano-British complex are likely to have been subject to differing degrees of truncation by ploughing. It is also evident that in those areas where above-average soil overburden depths were recorded (Areas C1, C2 and parts of Area E), stratified deposits exist which have largely survived the effects of prolonged and deep ploughing across the site.

In situ deposits and subsoil features are certainly preserved within area A but, taking the overall results from the areas examined, it would not appear to represent the area of most intensive occupation as perhaps suggested by the concentration of material recorded on the field surface.

Area B remains the least well-understood of the areas intended to be examined by the evaluation, due to the incomplete data collection in this area. However, considering its proximity to the bath house complex and associated deposits (see Evans 1974 site C and observations during road construction in this area) and the range of material evidence evident on the field surface, it is considered extremely likely that in situ archaeological deposits are preserved in this area.

Of the areas examined by the evaluation, the zone represented by Areas C1, C2 and E clearly represents that where the most intensive level of archaeological activity existed or survives. This, central, area of the proposed development site may be considered a focus of archaeological activity. A range of deposits exist in this area, including well-preserved occupation horizons sealed beneath deep soil profiles. Although it was not possible to excavate any of the subsoil features in Area E, their nature

and configuration is more indicative of domestic and/or structural remains than agricultural ones.

In Area D the depth of soil overburden means that any archaeological deposits are likely to have suffered heavily from ploughing. However, the discovery of the traces of subsoil features or occupation horizons in this area has been demonstrated and it may be noted that 42% of the total Roman pottery assemblage (by weight) was recovered from this area. On the basis of the evidence from the evaluation it would therefore be unwise to assume that the northern part of the site lies beyond the extent of the Romano-British complex, as defined in Areas C and E.

In summary, the balance of evidence, both from the wealth of pre-existing data in the area and from the results of the evaluation, suggests that archaeological deposits associated with Romano-British occupation of the 'Wiggonholt peninsula' are preserved across the greater part of the proposed development area. From the available evidence it would appear that domestic and/or settlement remains are preserved but is also likely that traces of former contemporaneous agricultural systems are located in the area/s of less intensive deposits. It should also be added that, given the topographic situation of the site and the range of earlier prehistoric finds recovered from the evaluation, the potential for surviving earlier prehistoric features within the proposed development site is also considered high.

9. REFERENCES

Brodribb, G., 1987 Roman Brick and Tile

Evans, K. J., 1974 'Excavations on a Romano-British Site, Wiggonholt, 1964', Sussex Archaeol. Collect. 112, 97-151.

Lyne, M. A. B. and Jefferies, R. S., 1979 The Alice Holt / Farnham Roman Pottery Industry (C.B.A. Res. Rep. 30)

Winbolt, S. E. and Goodchild, R. G., 1937 'The Roman Villa at Lickfold, Wiggonholt', Sussex Archaeol. Collect. LXXVIII, 13-36.

Winbolt, S. E. and Goodchild, R. G., 1940 'The Roman Villa at Lickfold, Wiggonholt: Second Report, 1939', Sussex Archaeol. Collect. LXXXI, 54-67.

Young, C. J., 1977 The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region (Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 43, Oxford)





Portway House, South Portway Estate, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts. SP4 6EB. Tel: (0722) 326867 Fax: (0722) 337562
