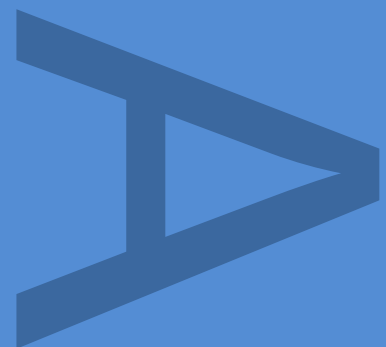


**STREET FARM BUILDINGS,
WEST STREET, SOMPTING,
WEST SUSSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

FEBRUARY 2005



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Street Farm Buildings, West Street,
Sompting, West Sussex**

Site Code: WSFB 05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1640 0510

Written and Researched by Timothy Bradley

Project Manager: Jon Butler

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

**Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited,
Unit 54,
Brockley Cross Business Centre,
96 Endwell Road, Brockley,
London SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: jbutler@pre-construct.com**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
February 2005**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

| | page |
|---|------|
| 1 Abstract | 3 |
| 2 Introduction | 4 |
| 3 Planning Background and Research Objectives | 7 |
| 4 Geology and Topography | 9 |
| 5 Archaeological and Historical Background | 10 |
| 6 Methodology | 11 |
| 7 Archaeological Sequence | 12 |
| 8 Conclusions | 17 |
| 9 Bibliography | 18 |
| 10 Acknowledgements | 19 |

Appendices

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1 Site Matrix | 20 |
| 2 Context Index | 21 |
| 3 Pottery Assessment | 22 |
| 4 Oasis Form | 24 |
| 5 Barn Feature | 27 |

List of Figures

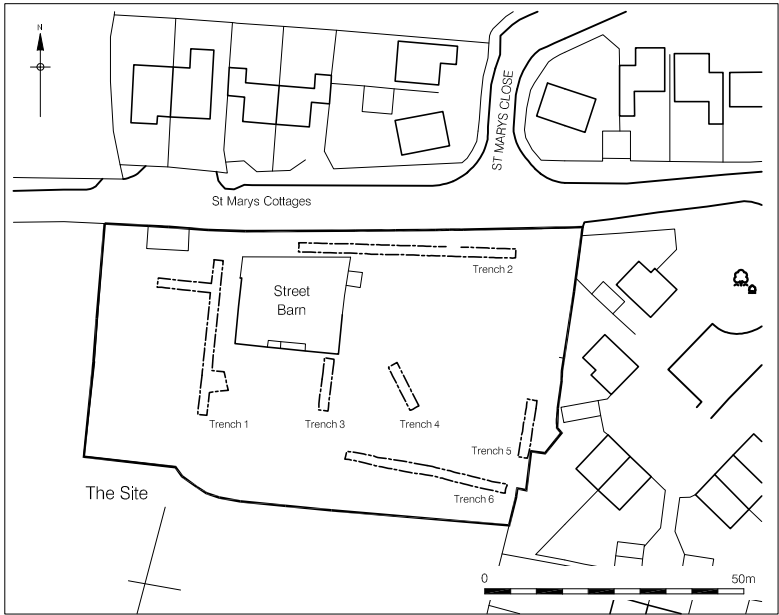
| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Fig. 1 Site Location | 5 |
| Fig. 2 Trench and Section Location | 6 |
| Fig. 3 Trench Plan | 15 |
| Fig. 4 Section Drawings | 16 |

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Street Farm Buildings, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 1640 0510. The field evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. between the 19th and 24th January 2005. The project was commissioned by Duncan Hawkins (CgMs Consulting) on behalf of Hillreed Homes Limited.
- 1.2 The site is currently being prepared for redevelopment and consists of an area of generally flat land with an extant barn standing in the central western portion of the site. Six trenches were machine excavated across the site which measured between 40m and 10m x 1.8m. All trenches were less than 1m in depth.
- 1.3 The evaluation revealed terrace gravel in all the trenches. An E-W orientated ditch was recorded in Trench 1 at the western side of the site which contained pottery dating to the medieval period. Subsequent to its backfilling, the original ditch was replaced with a second medieval ditch cut along the same alignment. These ditches were subsequently traced along the length of the site in Trenches 3 – 5, and were interpreted as boundary ditches forming part of a larger field system. Two further features were recorded which are also likely to be medieval in date. Later evidence included a compacted layer of chalk recorded towards the northern side of Trench 1 which is likely to have been laid down as a hardcore deposit to firm-up the ground in this lower lying area of the site in the late post-medieval period.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Street Farm Buildings, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex between 19th and 24th January 2005. The site is centred at grid reference TQ 1640 0510 and is bounded by West Street to the north, housing to the east and open fields to the south and west. (Fig.1).
- 2.2 In accordance with PPG 16 and local policies, an archaeological field evaluation was required to assess the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains, and the potential impact to them by the proposed development.
- 2.3 The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hillreed Homes Limited. The field evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of Timothy Bradley and Alexis Haslam and the project management of Jon Butler.
- 2.4 The site was monitored by Duncan Hawkins, CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Hillreed Homes Limited, and John Mills, West Sussex County Council.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited with Worthing Museum under the site code WSFB 05.



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning Background

- 3.1.1 West Sussex County Council has made strong commitments to its archaeological heritage and its policy statements are reproduced below.

WEST SUSSEX STRUCTURE PLAN

In respect of archaeology, the plan says:

10.17 B6

Only in compelling circumstances will development (or changes of use or management) be permitted where it would be harmful to sites identified as being of known or potential archaeological importance. The planning authorities will ensure:

where nationally important archaeological sites or monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by a proposed development, provision is made for physical preservation in situ;

where necessary, appropriate and satisfactory provision is made by the developer for a site evaluation to define the character and significance of the archaeological or historic interest of a site before any planning application is determined; and

where it is acknowledged, if necessary after evaluation, the site is of such importance that it merits complete or partial preservation, appropriate and satisfactory provision is made by the developer, prior to destruction or damage, for the excavation and recording of the remains, the preservation of any finds and the subsequent publication of the results.

Where possible, conflicts between the preservation of known archaeological sites and land uses will be resolved by management agreements.

The Planning Authorities will promote measures to promote the conservation, management and interpretation of archaeological sites in urban and rural areas.

10.18

Ancient monuments and sites of known or potential archaeological interest also require protection. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are legally protected and cannot be destroyed without the consent of the Department of National Heritage

(now the Department of Culture Media and Sport), but unscheduled monuments and archaeological remains are also vulnerable and vigilance is needed. Where development may affect a monument or site the full significance is uncertain, the developer will be expected to provide an evaluation by an archaeologist. If the development is permitted without preservation in situ, a full investigation, with proper recording and publication and preservation of any finds, will be required. More detailed guidance is given in the County Council's "Archaeological Strategy for West Sussex" (1995).

3.1.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the footprint of the development.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation as identified in the method statement¹ were:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric remains on the site?
- Is there any evidence for Roman remains on the site?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon remains on the site?
- Is there any evidence for medieval remains on the site?
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval remains on the site, especially those associated with the standing barns?
- What is the range of material culture that was in use on the site, its status and the presence of imports etc?
- What is the quality of environmental deposits surviving on the site?

¹ Butler 2005

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 GEOLOGY

4.1.1 The underlying geology of the site consists of the Cretaceous Upper Chalk. This is overlain by terrace gravel which was recorded in the archaeological evaluation trenches at heights of between 9.90m OD towards the north west of the site and 10.71m OD towards the south east.

4.2 TOPOGRAPHY

4.2.1 The site is situated on broadly flat land on the cusp of the coastal plain which stretches away to the south, and the chalk Downs which rise immediately to the north. This area once formed part of the tidal estuary of the Broadwater or Sompting brook, and was liable to flooding until relatively recently.² It lies at a height of approximately 11m OD at ground level.

4.2.2 Prior to redevelopment the site was occupied by farm buildings, and an extant barn is still situated in the central western portion of the site which will be incorporated into the new development. Prior to this the site is likely to have lain in open land throughout the historic period. The site is currently bounded by West Street to the north, housing to the east, and open fields to the south and west.

² Dallaway & Cartwright 1832

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Whilst the land in the area of the site is likely to have been predominantly meadow and pasture from the later prehistoric period, further to the north, on Park Brow, the remains of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British settlements have been recorded. The line of the Roman Road from Chichester to Brighton also passes through Sompting, running south of the church (see below) through Sompting Abbots park and then along the line of the modern road to North Lancing. However, by the 18th century (and presumably for sometime before) the road to Chichester ran south of that line, following the course of modern day West Street and passing immediately to the north of the site.³
- 5.2 The Parish Church of St. Mary, situated approximately 500m to the north of the site, is thought to have been built around 960 AD. Rather than being located in the centre of the settlement, however, it was placed looking down over Sompting, which was originally located along West Street. The church is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086 AD, when Sompting was recorded as having 60 inhabitants.
- 5.3 By the 11th century there are two centres of settlement recorded, Sompting (which includes the area of the site), and Cokeham which lay immediately to the east. Despite their close proximity, these were still regarded as separate villages until the mid 19th century.⁴ Between 1871 and 1971 the population of the parish of Sompting rose dramatically from 166 to 3000. However, the area of the site changed little, and remained predominantly undeveloped as the rapid 20th century development of the area took hold.

³ Hudson 1986

⁴ Ibid

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Initially two trenches, Trenches 1 and 2, measuring 30m x 1.8m and 40m x 1.8m respectively, were located in the northern and western portions of the site so as to establish the threat to the archaeological resource of the proposed development. A sequence of two E-W orientated boundary ditches was recorded in Trench 1. Following consultation with John Mills, the Archaeological Monitor, it was decided to excavate a further three 10m long trenches (Trenches 3 – 5) to trace the ditches across the site. An extension was also made to Trench 1 in order to expose more of the chalk surface recorded towards the north of the trench. Finally, an E-W orientated trench (Trench 6) was excavated across the southern side of the site in order to look for possible N-S orientated ditches running perpendicular to the boundary recorded to the north.
- 6.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The trenches were reduced in spits of no more than 100mm until archaeological deposits or natural ground was encountered. Following machine clearance, all faces of the trench were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of the archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording in both plan and section.
- 6.3 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and full or representative sections at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. The trenches were located using a total station theodolite by the on-site engineer.
- 6.4 A temporary bench mark (TBM) was transferred from a survey point located at the entrance to the site.
- 6.5 The site was given the code: WSFB 05

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 – Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological investigations was a mid orange brown clayey gravel [3] recorded in all excavated trenches. This deposit represents the natural terrace gravel and was recorded at untruncated heights of between 9.90m OD towards the northern end of Trench 1 and 10.71m OD towards the north of Trench 5. These heights indicated that whilst the terrace gravels of the coastal plain a largely flat, locally there was a gentle slope across the site from south east to north west.
- 7.1.2 At the eastern end of Trench 6 a number of amorphous features were recorded which were filled with orange brown clay. Slots cut through these features revealed them to be very shallow, with the sterile clay fill having a diffuse boundary with the surrounding gravel. Consequently, these features were interpreted as being natural in origin.

7.2 Phase 2

- 7.2.1 Truncating the natural gravel towards the southern end of Trench 1 was a sequence of two E-W orientated linear ditches. The earlier of the two ditches was recorded as [11], and was observed at a highest level of 9.99m OD with a maximum depth of 0.53m. The full width of the ditch could not be ascertained as its southern side had been truncated by a later ditch, cut to replace [11] along the same alignment (see Phase 3), but its original width would have been in excess of 0.85m. The ditch was filled with a mid greyish brown clayey gravelly silt [10] with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal. Several fragments of pottery were recovered from the fill which suggested a probable mid 13th/14th century date for the ditch. A residual mid to late Iron Age sherd was also recovered, suggesting occupation in the vicinity in the late prehistoric period.
- 7.2.2 A further three trenches (3-5) were cut along the projected alignment of the ditch in order to trace it across the site. The ditch was observed in Trenches 3 and 5, where it was recorded as [21] and [15] respectively, although it had been truncated by a later pit in Trench 4. Further slots cut through the ditch revealed it to be filled with the same material, which yielded several more sherds of pottery of medieval date as well

as both animal bone and oyster shell. The nature and form of the ditch, being linear and relatively shallow, suggested that it was a field boundary.

- 7.2.3 Trench 6 was excavated to the south of Trenches 3 – 5 principally in order to locate any N-S boundary ditches cut perpendicular to the E-W boundary - no further ditches were recorded within this trench.

7.3 Phase 3

- 7.3.1 A further E-W orientated ditch [9] was recorded truncating the southern side of ditch [11] in Trench 1. It was recorded at a highest level of 9.93m OD with a maximum depth of 0.55m and a width of 1.50m. Again, this ditch was identified across the length of the site in Trenches 3 - 5 where it was recorded as [19], [26] and [17] respectively. The ditch was cut along the same alignment and to a similar depth as the earlier form, and it is likely that it replaced the earlier boundary ditch subsequent to its silting. The later ditch yielded further mid 13th/14th century pottery as well as animal bone.

- 7.3.2 A small rounded feature [13] was recorded to the north of the re-cut ditch in Trench 3. The full dimensions of the feature could not be determined as it extended into the eastern section, however the exposed element measured 0.70m N-S x 1.15m E-W x 0.19m deep with a highest level of 10.15m OD. It was filled with a mid greyish brown gravelly sandy silt [12] which yielded pottery dating to the medieval period. Whilst the precise function of this feature could not be determined, it may have formed a ditch terminus or possibly have represented part of a pit.

7.4 Phase 4

- 7.4.1 The medieval archaeological features appeared to be sealed by a mid to dark brown sandy clayey silt subsoil [22] in all trenches. This deposit varied in thickness between 0.20m in Trench 2, where it was recorded at a height of 10.05m OD, and 0.55m in Trench 4, where it was at 10.92m OD. No cultural material was recovered from the subsoil to establish the date of its deposition, but the process is likely to have been accretionary silting throughout the historic period. It is possible that the medieval features were cut through this layer, but if this was the case the distinction between the cut edge of the features and the surrounding subsoil could not be observed.

7.5 Phase 5

- 7.5.1 The most significant feature dating to the late post medieval period was a large pit [7] recorded in Trench 1. This feature was 10.20m wide, and whilst not fully excavated,

was in excess of 0.61m deep. The purpose of the pit could not be ascertained but given its size, it is possible that it was cut as a localised quarry pit in order to access the underlying gravel. What is certain is that the pit was subsequently used for refuse disposal in the late 19th / early 20th century. A further pit [24] was recorded in Trench 4 to the south, which extended across the length of the trench and was 2m wide and in excess of 1.10m deep.

7.5.2 Towards the north of Trench 1 a compacted chalk layer [2] was recorded overlying the subsoil, which had a maximum thickness of 0.25m and a highest level of 9.91m OD. It is likely that this deposit was laid down as 'hardcore' in the later post-medieval period in order to provide a stable working platform in the lowest area of the site which would have been prone to waterlogging. This chalk surface was traced as far as the limit of excavation to the west.

7.5.3 A layer of disturbed topsoil and demolition rubble [1] sealed the sequence in all trenches. This had a thickness of approximately 0.10m, and was recorded at heights of between 10.05m OD at the northern end of Trench 1 and 11.15m at the southern end of Trench 4.

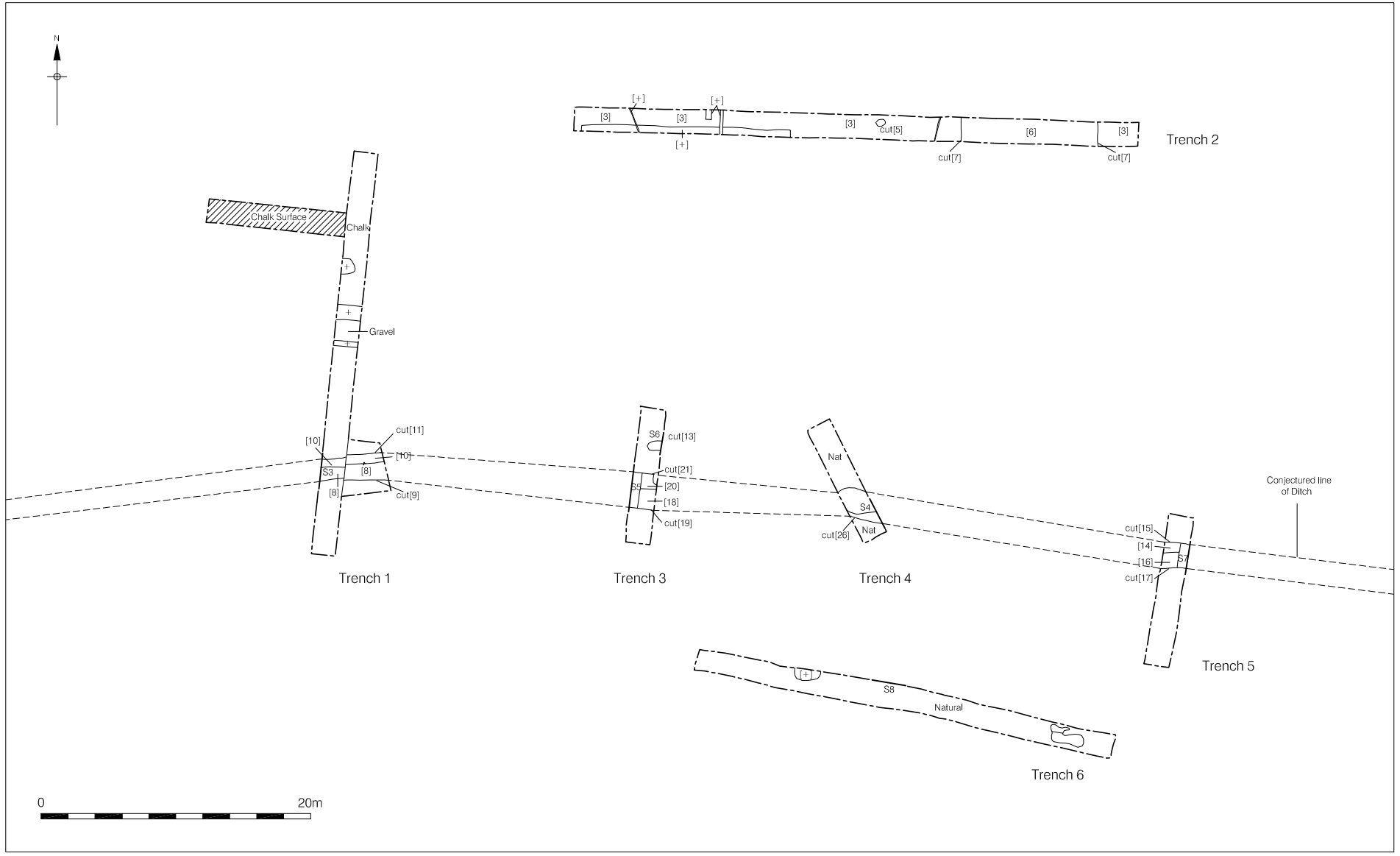
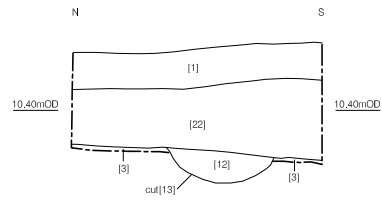
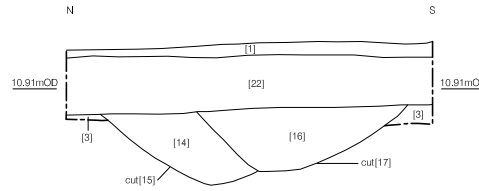


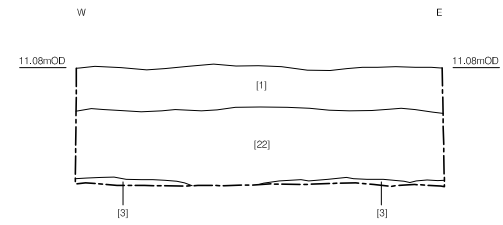
Figure 3
Trenches and Conjectured Line Of Ditch
1:400



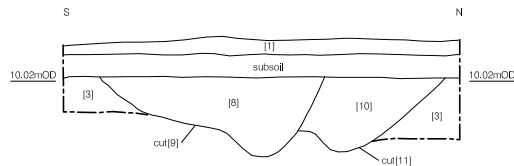
Section 6, Trench 3
West Facing



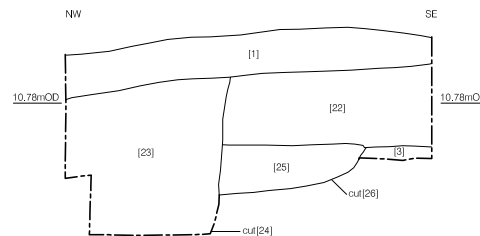
Section 7, Trench 5
West Facing



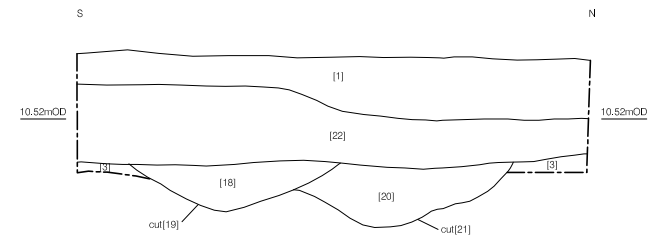
Section 8, Trench 6
South Facing



Section 3, Trench 1
East Facing



Section 4, Trench 4
South West Facing



Section 5, Trench 3
East Facing



Figure 4
Sections
1:50

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The evaluation revealed the site to be situated on a gravel terrace along the cusp of the coastal plain and the chalk Downs. The earliest direct evidence of exploitation of this terrace within the area of the site was an E-W orientated medieval boundary ditch recorded along the length of the site. Continuity of this field boundary is attested to by the later re-cutting of the ditch along the same alignment. No perpendicular boundary ditches were recorded to the north or south in Trenches 2 and 6, however, which would suggest that the individual fields / plots were in excess of 30m E-W. Indeed, it is possible that elements of the extant field system still visible to the south of the site have remained unchanged since the medieval period, or possibly earlier, and if this is the case it puts the likely N-S boundaries to the east and west of the site. Two fragments of residual mid to late Iron Age pottery recovered from later contexts suggest that the terrace was being exploited within the vicinity of the site well before the medieval period, however.
- 8.1.2 Later activity recorded within the site was limited, but included a large pit recorded close to the northern perimeter of the site which may have been cut for quarrying, but was later utilised for domestic refuse disposal. A compacted chalk layer identified towards the north west of the site is likely to have been laid down in the late post-medieval period in order to raise and consolidate the lowest lying and presumably frequently waterlogged area of the site.

9 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Butler, J. 2005. Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Street Barn, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Unpublished report

Dallaway, J. & Cartwright, E. 1832. A History of the Western Division of the County of Sussex (Vol 2)

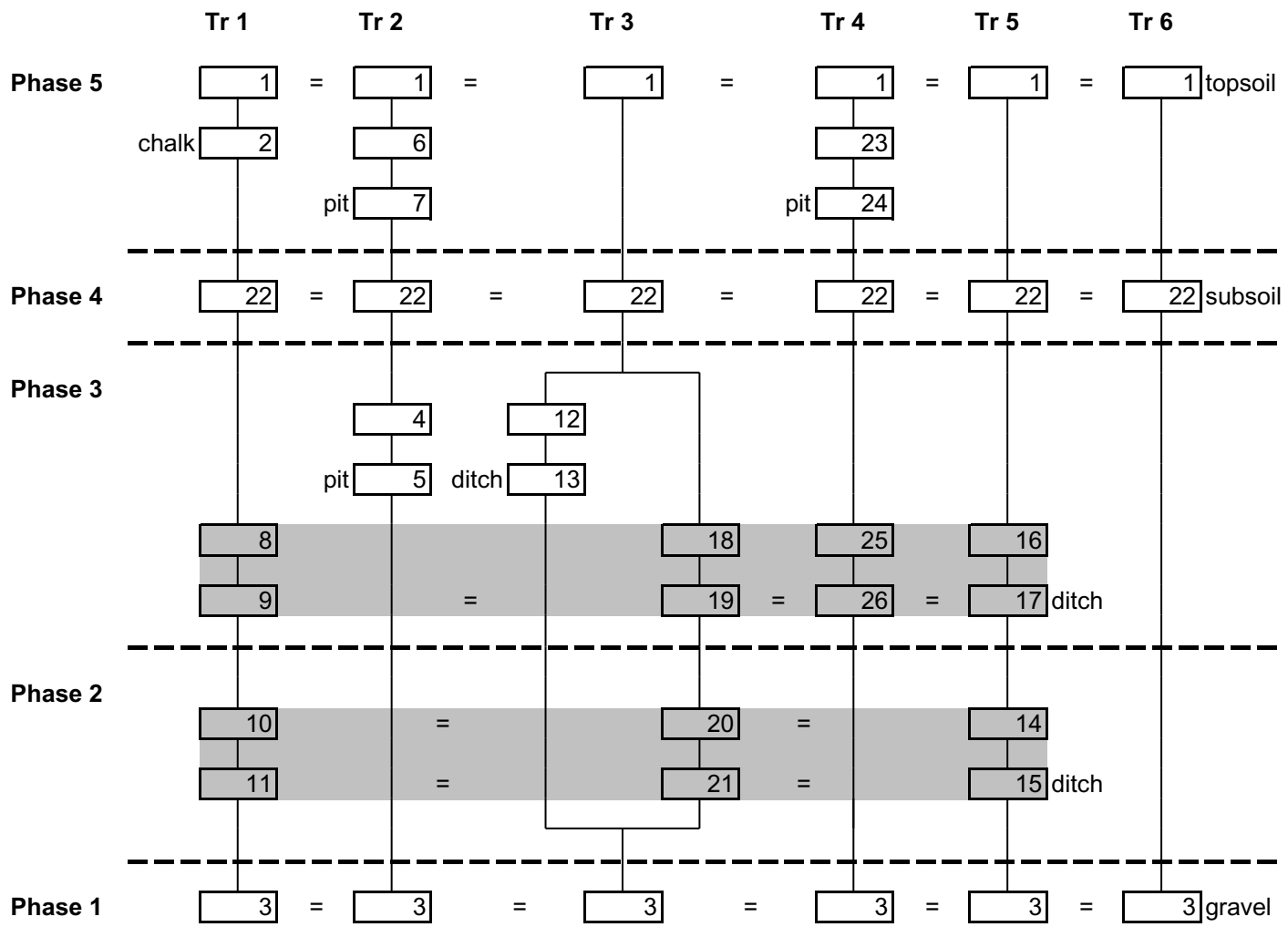
Hudson, T. P. 1986. A History of the County of Sussex Volume VI Part II

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 The author and Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the fieldwork, and John Mills of West Sussex County Council for monitoring the evaluation. The author would like to thank Tony Baxter for his help on site, Chris Jarrett for his finds assessment and the CAD department for the illustrations in this report. Finally, thanks to the on-site ground crew for helping to facilitate the smooth running of the fieldwork, and Jon Butler for his project management editing.

APPENDIX 1

SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT INDEX

| CONTEXT PLAN | SECTION | PHOTO | PHASE | TYPE | DESCRIPTION | LEVEL (m OD) | |
|--------------|---------|--------|-------|------|-------------|---|-------|
| 1 | * | 2 | yes | 5 | layer | loose mid-dark brown rubble & topsoil | 11.02 |
| 2 | Tr 1 | 2 | yes | 5 | layer | compact chalk layer, prob laid as hardcore | 10.49 |
| 3 | Tr 1-6 | 2 to 6 | yes | 1 | layer | mid orange brown clayey gravel | 9.62 |
| 4 | Tr 2 | * | yes | 3 | fill | firm clayey silt fill of [5] | 10.35 |
| 5 | Tr 2 | * | yes | 3 | cut | small shallow sub circular pit | 10.35 |
| 6 | Tr 2 | 2 | yes | 5 | fill | backfill of early 20th century rubbish pit [7] | 10.49 |
| 7 | Tr 2 | 2 | yes | 5 | cut | early 20th century rubbish pit | 10.49 |
| 8 | Tr 1 | 3 | yes | 3 | fill | mid greyish brown clay sand silt fill of [9] | 9.93 |
| 9 | Tr 1 | 3 | yes | 3 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 9.93 |
| 10 | Tr 1 | 3 | yes | 2 | fill | mid greyish brown clay silt fill of [11] | 9.99 |
| 11 | Tr 1 | 3 | yes | 2 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 9.99 |
| 12 | * | 6 | no | 3 | fill | mid grey brown clay silt fill of gully [13] | 10.07 |
| 13 | Tr 3 | 6 | yes | 3 | cut | probable butt-end of ditch | 10.15 |
| 14 | Tr 5 | 7 | yes | 2 | fill | mid greyish brown clay silt fill of [15] | 10.76 |
| 15 | Tr 5 | 7 | yes | 2 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 10.77 |
| 16 | Tr 5 | 7 | yes | 3 | fill | light greyish brown clay sand silt fill of [17] | 10.8 |
| 17 | Tr 5 | 7 | yes | 3 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 10.8 |
| 18 | Tr 3 | 5 | yes | 3 | fill | mid greyish brown clay sand silt fill of [19] | 10.23 |
| 19 | Tr 3 | 5 | yes | 3 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 10.23 |
| 20 | Tr 3 | 5 | yes | 2 | fill | mid greyish brown clay silt fill of [21] | 10.22 |
| 21 | Tr 3 | 5 | yes | 2 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 10.22 |
| 22 | * | 1 to 7 | no | 4 | layer | firm dark brown sand clay silt | 10.92 |
| 23 | Tr 4 | 4 | yes | 5 | fill | silty clay and hardcore fill of [24] | 10.95 |
| 24 | Tr 4 | 4 | yes | 5 | cut | modern truncation (pit) | 10.95 |
| 25 | Tr 4 | 4 | yes | 3 | fill | mid greyish brown clay sand silt fill of [26] | 10.48 |
| 26 | Tr 4 | 4 | yes | 3 | cut | e-w linear field boundary | 10.48 |

APPENDIX 3 – POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

1 Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (1 box). Most sherds are in a good condition, but small in size, indicating that they had not been subject to much redeposition and therefore discarded soon after breakage. No complete profiles are represented and assigning the sherds to forms is difficult. All the individual contexts produced small groups of pottery (under 30 sherds).

All the pottery (13 sherds and none are unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS 2000 database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels, using the Medieval fabric descriptions of Gardiner (1990).

2 Pottery types

The pottery consists of one prehistoric sherd and twelve medieval sherds.

2.1 Prehistoric

A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was solely recovered from fill [10] of cut [11]. The sherd has reddish brown surfaces and light brown core with abundant, but fine burnt flint temper (less than 1mm) and moderate, rounded iron ore inclusions up to 1mm, with sparse shell up to 2mm. It probably dates to the mid to late Iron Age.

2.2 Medieval

Fabric ED, Binstead-type ware, dated c.1250-1450, ten sherds. Fabrics include coarse variants and forms include probable jars or cooking pots by the presence of external sooting. Fabric EF, Binstead-type ware jug fabric, dated 1250-1450, two sherds from either a rounded jug (West Sussex type) or jar, unglazed.

Fabric EG, fine chalk-tempered ware. ?13th-14th century, one sherd.

3 Distribution

3.1 Phase 2

Trench 2, fill [10] of ditch [11] produced the sherd of Mid to Late Iron Age flint-tempered pottery. The same ditch is present in both Trenches 3 and 5 and fill [20] of ditch [21] produced three sherds of the Binstead fabric, while ditch [15] produced the two sherds of fine Binstead-type jug fabric (EF), dated 1250-1350.

3.2 Phase 3

Fills from recuts of the Phase 2 ditch produced pottery in this phase. In Trench 1, fill [8] of ditch [9] produced three sherds of pottery, all probably from cooking pots. Firstly, as two sherds of the Binstead-type ware (fabric ED) as both fine and moderately coarse variants and a sherd of the fine chalk-tempered fabric (EG). In Trench 3 fill [18] of ditch [19] produced a single sherd of fabric ED and three sherds of the coarser fabric was present in fill [12] of ditch [13]. All these pottery types date to between c.1250-1450.

4 Significance, potential and recommendations

The pottery from the site has little significance and largely reflects the marketing and dominance of medieval pottery from the local Binstead kilns during the late 13th to early 15th-century. The pottery has the potential to date the features it was recovered from, however the material is so small and fragmentary, that it does not justify any further analysis or work. Should a publication for this site be required then information on the pottery should be taken from this report.

5 Bibliography

Gardiner, M., 1990. 'An Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Settlement at Botolphs, Bramber, West Sussex'. *Archaeological Journal* **147**, 216-275.

APPENDIX 4 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-6329

Project details

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Project name | Street Farm Buildings, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex |
| Short description of the project | <p>The evaluation revealed terrace gravel in all the trenches. An E-W orientated ditch was recorded in Trench 1 at the western side of the site which contained pottery dating to the medieval period. Subsequent to its backfilling, the original ditch was replaced with a second medieval ditch cut along the same alignment. These ditches were subsequently traced along the length of the site in Trenches 3 – 5, and were interpreted as boundary ditches forming part of a larger field system. Two further features were recorded which are also likely to be medieval in date. Later evidence included a compacted layer of chalk recorded towards the northern side of Trench 1 which is likely to have been laid down as a hardcore deposit to firm-up the ground in this lower lying area of the site in the late post-medieval period.</p> |
| Project dates | Start: 19-01-2005 End: 24-01-2005 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation |
| Monument type | RE-CUT DITCH Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | WEST SUSSEX ADUR SOMPTING Street Farm Buildings, Sompting, West Sussex |
| Postcode | BN15 |
| Study area | 4400 Square metres |
| National grid reference | TQ 1640 0510 Point |

Height OD Min: 9.9m Max: 10.71m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Consultant

Project design originator Duncan Hawkins

Project director/manager Jon Butler

Project supervisor Tim Bradley

Sponsor or funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Physical Archive Exists? Yes

Digital Archive Exists? Yes

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Street Farm Buildings, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bradley, T.

Date 2005

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description Unpublished manuscript (bound)

Entered by Tim Bradley (tbradley@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 27 January 2005

APPENDIX 5 BARN FEATURE

At the time of the archaeological evaluation, a single extant barn was situated towards the west of the site. The main access to the barn was centred along its eastern face. Upon entering the barn (facing west) a circular concrete structure was visible set into the floor on the south (left) hand side of the entrance. This feature was investigated during the course of the evaluation.

The feature was circular in plan with an external diameter of 3.40m. It was constructed of concrete, and had a raised lip which extended to a height of 70mm (10.63m OD) above ground level and had a width of 250mm. Within the raised lip was a flat circular platform with a diameter of 500mm which was recorded at a height of 10.56m OD. This platform encircled a void with a diameter of 1.80m. The void had been backfilled with loose modern hardcore material. This was partially excavated in order to establish the depth and form of the internal void.

Following excavation of the hardcore material, the central void was found to be entirely formed of concrete, conical in form and steeply tapering to a pointed base. It was a maximum depth of 800mm and a lowest level of 9.76m OD.

The precise function of the feature was not apparent, and there were no associated timber beams, struts or hinges positioned nearby which may have augmented any interpretation. However, given the nature and form of the construction, it is possible that the feature formed a pivot or hinge for a large piece of machinery such as a hoist, utilised for lifting heavy objects from the upper floor of the barn. Alternatively, it may have formed part of a large grinding or pounding mechanism.

P C A

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

