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A Report on the Archaeological Excavations at Bognor Regis Community College,

Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis

West Sussex

Lucy Kirk BSc AIFA

with contributions by Luke Barber and Pat Hinton

Project No. 921

November 1998



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London, one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and Archaeology South-East were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, FAU/ Archaeology South-East retain a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and as such is required to meet IFA standards.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London) were commissioned by West Sussex County Council to undertake an archaeological excavation on land at Bognor Regis Community College, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (SU 9223 0011).
- 1.2 The site lies to the north east of the commercial centre of Bognor Regis, to the south of the present college buildings, on an area of playing field. Glade Infant school forms the south-eastern boundary to the site, the extensive playing fields of college lie to the south and west and Michael Ayres school lies to the north-east (Figures 1a and b). According to the British Geological Survey 1:50 000 map of the area (sheet no. 317/332) the underlying geology is Brickearth overlying Reading Bed clay.
- 1.3 In July 1997, West Sussex County Council granted themselves full planning permission for the erection of a sports centre, including a floodlit artificial pitch and multi-games court, with associated car parking and access route at the site (ref. BR/57/97). A condition was imposed on the permission requiring that:

'A programme of archaeological investigation shall be implemented on the site prior to the commencement of development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

- 1.4 Two stages of archaeological evaluation were undertaken on the site, in accordance with West Sussex County Council Specifications during February and May 1998 (Stevens 1998, James 1998). Both evaluation phases located Romano-British features at the site and as a result a programme of full excavation was formulated. A further Specification for the main excavation and ensuing watching brief was provided by John Mills, West Sussex County Council. This was designed with regard to the earlier phases of archaeological evaluation.
- In accordance with the Specification, a Method Statement was prepared by Ian Greig of Archaeology South-East and was approved by West Sussex County Council prior to the commencement of work on site. This document gave details of the techniques to be used both during the excavation and post-excavation analysis and reporting.
- 1.6 A desk-top study for the site had been carried out previously, for an earlier stage of work. The on-site work was directed by Lucy Kirk (Field Officer) with a team of five archaeologists: Peter Scutt (Archaeological Assistant), Mark Orna-Ornstein, Bernie McCluskey, Gary Bishop and Alexis Over

(Site Assistants) between 1st and 24 July 1998. The project was managed by Ian Greig, Project Manager and Luke Barber (Post-excavation manager).

2.0 CARTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

2.1 The following maps were consulted in the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester:

Tithe Map (and Award), South Bersted Parish, 1842 Map of South Bersted Parish, 1843 (Misc. papers MP 4027) Ordnance Survey 25 inch 1st Edition LXXIV.1 Surveyed 1875 Ordnance Survey 6 inch 3rd Edition LXXIV.1 1912 Ordnance Survey 6 inch LXXIV Revision of 1932 Ordnance Survey 6 inch LXXIV Revision of 1939/40, Published

1950

- 2.2 The cartographic sources indicate the area of the site consisted of open, presumable arable, fields throughout the 19th century. The Tithe map interestingly indicates the field to the north of the site being named 'Lime Kiln Field'. This is likely to be the result of agricultural improvements to the acidic Brickearth by marling. With the exception of the infilling of a few boundary ditches to amalgamate fields little change is apparent in the landscape.
- 2.3 By the early 20th century the fields to the north of the site contained a brick-field undoubtedly exploiting the areas Brickearths. The area of the site remained as open fields. Between 1932 and 1950 considerable urban encroachment had occurred to the north and particularly to the east of the site. By the latter date the first school had been established on the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- A Late Bronze Age hoard was found in 1957 during the excavation of foundations at the Michael Ayres School, approximately 90m to the west of the development site. It comprised 14 worn socketed axes and part of the cutting end of another, a complete socketed gouge and parts of others, fragments of sword blades, four cakes of bronze from crucibles and trimming from castings. Two bronze fasteners were also found. The artefacts are now housed in Chichester District Museum.
- The hoard was discovered at a depth of two feet below the ground surface. The fact that the artefacts were found together suggests that the hoard was put in some kind of perishable container or bag (which had not survived) and was then buried in a pit. The depth of burial allowed the hoard to survive later agricultural activities on the site.

- 3.3 It has been suggested that large numbers of such hoards may have been buried close to areas of settlement to allow convenient retrieval. The discovery of a similar Bronze Age hoard at No.10 Marshall Avenue, approximately 750m to the south-east of the site, strongly suggests the presence of significant Bronze Age settlement in the area.
- 3.4 The West Sussex County Sites and Monuments Record contains a number of references to known archaeology in the area. The sites identified within one kilometres of the development site are listed below:

S	SU 9213 0023	Late Bronze Age founder's hoard found at the Michael Ayres School. (see above).
S	3Z 9278 9943	Bronze Age founder's hoard discovered in Marshall Avenue in 1922. Now lost.
S		Mesolithic blade and flint fabricator found at same location in 1923 and 1938 respectively.
S	Z 9357 9992	Iron Age pottery found during roadworks at the junction of A29 and A259.
S		St. Mary Magdelene's Church: Medieval with modern additions. Tower is 13 th century in date.
S		Roman pits containing 1 st to 4 th century pottery including Samian and part of a quernstone.
S		Surface scatter of Roman material found during fieldwalking in 1974.
S		Neolithic handaxe with long edges that appear crushed rather than flaked or ground.
S		Brickfield on the south side of Chichester Road. Shown on map of 1932.
S		Brickfield on the north side of Chichester Road. Opened in 1920 and still working in 1933
S		Brickfield on the west side of Chalcroft Lane. Opened in 1928 and closed in 1940.

SU 9230 0000	Brickfield in area now occupied by Frith Road. Shown on map of 1932
SU 9250 0050	Brickfield on the west side of Sherwood Road. Open by 1910 and closed in 1936.
SU 9270 0000	Brickfield between Collyer Avenue and Mons Road. Working by 1895. Now Brickfield Close.

The first stage of the site's evaluation involved the excavation of four trenches (T1-4) around the perimeter of the site in February 1998 (Stevens 1998). Two additional trenches (T5, T6) were excavated during the second stage in May (James 1998). Both stages of the evaluation uncovered Romano-British pits, post-holes and ditches in the area to the east of the tennis courts (Fig. 2). The results suggested the presence of a Romano-British agricultural settlement and associated landscape. There was also evidence that a little prehistoric activity had occurred in the area.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The purpose of the excavation was to fully investigate the archaeological remains discovered on the site during the evaluations. To that end, three main areas were chosen for excavation, Areas A, B and C (Fig. 2). Area A was situated at the northern end of the site and was the largest of the three areas measuring approximately 40 by 24m. Area B was located along the western edge of the site, adjacent to the tennis courts, and measured 6 by 10m. Finally, Area C was sited in the south-eastern corner of the site and measured 20 by 5m. In addition a contingency area of 500m² was available, should important archaeological remains extend beyond the three areas of excavation.
- 4.2 The locations of all trenches were checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services. An electric cable was anticipated along the north western boundary of the site, servicing floodlights for the tennis courts. The three areas were excavated by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. This work was carried out under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.
- 4.3 The excavation was taken down to the top of the 'natural' or to the top of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were then manually cleaned in an attempt to identify archaeological features. A metal detector was utilised to survey the excavated areas and the spoil derived from them.

- All archaeological features within the areas (with the exception of 20th-century disturbances) were excavated to a sufficient degree to determine their form, function, profile and, where practicable, date. Pits and post-holes were initially half-sectioned and their profiles/fills drawn. The remainder of the fill/s was then excavated fully. Linear features, such as ditches and gullies were sampled by excavating a number of one-metre-wide sections across each. Excavation of discrete features was carried out using small hand tools and single horizon deposits within ditches and gullies were excavated using mattocks and shovels where appropriate.
- 4.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for use by Archaeology South-East. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 4.6 All archaeological features and deposits were planned at 1:50 in relation to the trench outline with further plans drawn at 1:20 where appropriate. Section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features and deposits were leveled to the Ordnance Datum with reference to a Temporary Bench Mark at the site. This was set up with the use of an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located at the north-western corner of the College building (8.35mOD).
- 4.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Ditchling and will be deposited in Chichester District Museum in due course.
- 4.8 Following the completion of archaeological excavation on site the three areas were not backfilled but left open, at the request of the building contractors.

5.0 Results

For the purposes of this report the results of the two stages of evaluation and the subsequent watching brief will be amalgamated with those of the main excavations. All features which were discovered during the archaeological evaluation stages, and re-located during the excavation, have retained the contexts numbers assigned during the excavation work. Similarly, features discovered during the excavation and re-discovered during the watching brief will retain their excavation numbers. Features which were located during the evaluation or watching brief and not during the excavation retain their evaluation or watching brief numbers. Those of the evaluations are prefixed by either EA for the first stage evaluation or EB for the second stage. Context numbers for the watching brief were started at 500.

5.1 Prehistoric Period

- 5.1.1 During the excavation two parallel, linear features were located in Area B (Contexts 17, 27: Figure 4). They were orientated north-west to south-east and situated approximately 2m apart. Context 17 measured approximately 550mm in width and 190mm in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. Context 27 displayed a similar profile, measuring 510mm in width and 160mm in depth.
- 5.1.2 No dating evidence was recovered from the fills although they did contain quantities of fire-cracked flint. However, Context 27 was cut by a Romano-British post-hole (Context 19, Fig. 4). It is therefore possible that both features are of prehistoric origin. Unfortunately it was not possible to trace these features during the watching brief due to the rapid tracking of plant across this area after initial stripping.

5.2 1st to 2nd Centuries A.D.

5.2.1 The Field System

The majority of ditches within the field system seem to have been established during the 1st century. Ditch 7 (Figs 2 and 3) measured approximately 1.36m in width, 1.1m in depth and contained several fills (Contexts 8, 71, 99, 163, 167, Fig. 5, S4, S5 and S6). The ditch was orientated north-east to south-west along the south-eastern boundary of the site, through Areas A and C, continuing into both the north and southern site boundaries. Towards the southern end of Area C, two north-west to south-east ditches (Contexts 3 and 5) joined Ditch 7 and extended to the north-west (Figure 2). Ditch 3 was approximately 1m in width and 580mm in depth, forming a flat bottomed, steep sided ditch (Fig. 5, S1). Ditch 5 was approximately 1m in width and 810mm in depth and had a steep 'V' shaped profile (Fig. 5, S2).

The watching brief which followed the excavation on site traced the continuation of Ditches 3 and 5 for nearly 40m to the north-west (Fig. 2). Approximately 26m from the junction of Ditches 7 and 3, the latter was joined by Ditch 504 which extended to the south-west and is believed to be contemporary with Ditch 3 (Fig. 5, S3).

The position of Ditches 3 and 5 in relation to each other and Ditch 7 suggests that all three are not contemporary. The close proximity of Ditches 3 and 5, only 3.5m apart, suggests that they were boundary ditches either side of a trackway. However, if all three Ditches 3, 5 and 7 were contemporary then the trackway would be leading to a dead end, with Ditch 7 open in between its junctions with Ditches 3 and 5. A more logical explanation would be that either Ditch 3 or 5 were contemporary with 7, but not both. A change in field layout may have resulted in the necessity of a

trackway and therefore, the insertion of either Ditch 3 or 5. The stretch of Ditch 7 between 3 and 5 could have been in-filled or bridged at this time.

Unfortunately it was not possible to ascertain whether Ditch 3 or 5 was originally contemporary with Ditch 7. Due to the position and orientation of Ditch 7 within Area C it was not possible to determine what happened to the ditch beyond its junction with Ditch 3. One possibility is that it continued to the south-west, beyond the junction. In this case either 3 or 5 could be contemporary. The alternative is that Ditch 7 effectively ended at the junction with Ditch 3 and instead, Ditch 3 continued to the south-east. If this were the case then Ditch 3 must have been contemporary with Ditch 7, and Ditch 5 inserted at a later date to create the trackway.

At the northern end of the site, another north-west to south-east ditch (Context 91) extended to the west of Ditch 7 continuing into the sites western boundary (Figure 3). It is believed that these two ditches are contemporary. Ditch 91 was approximately 950mm in width and 450mm in depth, increasing to 700mm at the western end. Despite the slight depth variation, the ditch maintained a 'V' shaped profile throughout (Fig. 5, S6 and S7). The ditch contained three fills along its length (Contexts 92, 123, and 141).

5.2.2 Additional features

A south-west to north-east line of post-holes was located along the western side of the site. A total of seven post-holes were located in Area B (Contexts 9, 21, 23, 25 11, 15, and 19; Fig. 4 and Fig. 6, S10), four of which contained pottery of this period. These features represent a total of four posts as two of them, Contexts 21 and 11, had been re-cut. It is possible that this line continued into the south-west corner of Area B with Contexts 13, 39, 54 (Fig. 3 and Fig. 6, S11). However, these post-holes are amongst a concentration of others in that area and it is also possible that this concentration relates to a discrete structure or enclosure. However, the size and shape of all these post-holes suggested that they represented a fence-line rather than part of a building structure. To the east of this line in Area B, were three additional post-holes, (EB18, EB19, EB20: Fig. 4). The relationship between these post-holes and the other line is unclear.

To the north of Ditch 43 (Fig. 3), along the western boundary of the site were a further series of post-holes (Contexts 104, 50, 89, 69, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84,102), four of which contained pottery of this period (Contexts 104, 50, 69, 102). These post-holes formed an arc curving to the north and east, seeming to terminate with Context 102. When seen in plan they appear to form part of an isolated structure but they may, alternatively, represent a

continuation of the fence line originating in Area B and perhaps continuing through the cluster of post-holes in the south east corner of Area A.

Post-holes 135, 133, 112, and 110 also date to the 1st to 2nd century (Fig. 3 and Fig. 6, S13). These features were, however, only created after Ditch 91 had fallen out of use. With diameters of between 0.6 and 1.05m and depths up to 480mm these post-holes were more substantial than others on the site but it still seems likely that they formed part of a fenced enclosure rather than a structure. Contexts

110 and 112 were the most substantial and their size and position suggests that they may have supported more substantial posts, perhaps gate-posts associated with the enclosure entrance. It is possible that Context 129, a post-hole on the northern edge of the site, was associated with this fence line and represents the start of a north-east to south-west side of the enclosure. However, if this is the case a corner post would be expected in the location of Contexts 114 and 116.

Contexts 114 and 116 were extremely shallow and unlikely to have served as post-holes. Instead, they may represent the worn, trodden areas of cattle watering holes. If 114 and 116 are not post-holes, and it seems that they are not, there is no other evidence for a corner post.

The function of these more substantial post-holes as an enclosing fence line seems more probable when considered in combination with Contexts 97 and 130, located in the northern corner of the site, within the hypothetical enclosure (Fig. 3).

Context 97 was a shallow circular feature approximately 3.3m in diameter and 460mm in depth (Fig. 3). Given the size and nature of this feature it is possibly the remains of a pond used for watering livestock. The base of the feature contained a dark grey silt approximately 100mm in depth (Context 124, Fig. 6, S15). Above this was a 100-150mm thick layer of tightly packed, rounded, flint pebbles (Context 118/161). This layer contained a few sherds of 1st- to 2nd- century pottery and was probably inserted to prevent livestock damaging the pond's lining. There had been a noticable subsidence of the flint layer into an earlier feature of similar nature (Context 130). It is possible 130 represents a watering hollow which was replaced by a more formally constructed pond.

Also within the enclosure was a narrow ditch, Context 154. This south-east to north-west ditch was approximately 910mm wide and 510mm in depth (Fig. 5, S7) with the eastern terminal being located to the south of Context 97. The location of this ditch within the enclosure would suggest that it did not serve as a boundary of any sort but was more likely constructed as drainage for the area surrounding the postulated pond.

Other features of this period, in this corner of the site consisted of Postholes 106, 108, and 120. These were located in a south-east to north-west row to the south of Ditch 91. There was no evidence to link them with the surrounding features. However, their similar size and orientation to Postholes 133, 135 etc. to the north may suggest that they were somehow associated with this line, perhaps forming the southern wall of a structure. The fact they are not in direct alignment with the northern row and there is no corresponding southern post-hole for Context 135 makes the likelihood of them forming a building remote.

The only remaining features in the north-west corner of the site were Pits 143 and 148 containing two possible post-holes, Contexts 152 and 150. The function of these features and their relationship to others on site remains unclear.

In the eastern corner of the site were three further early features, Contexts 93, 100 and EA6 (Fig. 3). Context 93 was a shallow, sub-circular cut, located on the southern side of Ditch 91. Context 100 was an isolated pit located opposite Context 93 on the northern side of the ditch. It is possible that Context 93 was formed in a similar manner to Contexts 114 and 116 and was created by livestock erosion. An undated post-hole, Context 95, cut 93. Pit 100, which was oval in shape and measured 1.47m in length by 920mm in width and 350mm in depth, contained a single fill (Context 101). The function of this pit is uncertain. Context EA6 was a shallow post-hole/pit located just beyond the northern limits of Area A, to the north of Pit 100. The single fill (Context EA7) contained a high proportion of charcoal and burnt flint.

5.3 3rd and early 4th centuries A.D.

5.3.1 The Field System

The use of most of the field ditches continued through the 3rd century. Ditches 3, 5 and 7 were still in use at the southern end of the site and Ditch 7 was re-cut. Ditch 91 went out of use during the 1st century and Ditch 154 seems to have been filled during the 2nd century. It seems that a replacement south-east to north-west ditch, 139, was dug by the 3rd century (Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, S7). If Ditches 7 and 139 continued along their apparent alignments, extending to the north-west and south-east respectively, it appears they would intersect at approximate right-angles to the north-east of Area A.

The watching brief located a further ditch, Context 506, to the south-west of Area B (Fig. 2 and Fig. 6, S14). This ditch was orientated north-west to south-east with the eastern terminus sited approximately 2m to the south of Area B. The ditch, measuring 1.34m in width and 200mm in depth had

gently sloping concave sides and a flat base. It ran parallel to Ditches 3 and 5 situated to the south, and also Ditch 139 to the north.

5.3.2 Additional features

Area A contained a number of additional features dating to the 3rd /early 4th centuries. On the west side of Ditch 7, to the south of ditch 41b, was a pit and post-hole (Contexts 72, 74). Post hole/pit 74 was located centrally within 72 and it was not possible to determine whether or not they were part of the same feature or two separate cuts. If the feature does represent a single post-hole it would be substantial, with dimensions of approximately 1.2m across and 500mm in depth. In the north east corner of Area A, to the west of Ditch 7 and north of Ditch 91, two small post-holes were located (Contexts 159 and EA9). The fills of both post-holes produced 3rd-century pottery but were not associated with any other features within the trench.

In the north-west corner of Area A the putative pond (Contexts97) appears to have gone out of use and been in-filled/allowed to silt up during the 3rd to early 4th centuries (Context 98, Fig. 6, S15). Further south, extending from the north of Ditch 43, was Context EB24. This was a shallow linear feature of undetermined function.

To the north of Area B, the watching brief located a sub-circular feature (Fig. 2, Context 508) measuring 230mm in depth. The function of the pit and its association with other features remains unclear. Three additional, discrete features were located during the watching brief (510, 512, 514) but unfortunately no dating evidence was available for these.

5.4 Post-medieval

- 5.4.1 The excavations also recorded features of the Post-medieval period. Ditch 41 was orientated east to west and situated towards the southern edge of Area A (Fig. 3). This ditch was approximately 1.2m in width and 590mm in depth, with steep sides and a rounded base. The eastern terminal of the ditch was located some 3.5m from the western terminal of Ditch 41b. The latter continued the alignment of 41 south eastward. Ditch 41b was approximately 1.1m in width and 560mm in depth, with a similar 'U' shaped profile to 41. To the south of this ditch terminal was the northern terminal of Ditch 67, which ran southward. With measurements of approximately 1.22m wide by 500mm deep, this ditch had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, S9).
- 5.4.2 It is believed that these three ditches form part of a Post-medieval field system and are all contemporary. Although all these ditches contain quantities of residual Romano-British pottery significant amounts of later material, including pottery, glass, clay pipes and ceramic building

material, suggests that these ditches were in-filled during the 17th to early 19th centuries.

- 5.4.3 An additional ditch, Context 43, orientated south-east to north-west was located to the north of Ditch 41. Ditch 43, which extended beyond both the eastern and western boundaries of the trench, was more substantial, measuring 3.34m in width and 1m in depth (Fig. 5, S8). The sides of the ditch were steep and the feature had a slightly concave base. However, at the top of the ditch the cut opened out along both the northern and southern edges. It is possible that the ditch had been re-cut at some stage during its life. The lowest fill of the ditch (Context 64) was sealed by a layer of flint pebbles (Context 86) which extended up the southern side of the ditch.
- 5.4.4 The relationship between Ditch 43 and the other Post-medieval ditches (41, 41b, 67) is uncertain, as this ditch runs parallel to 41/41b and is only 3.5m to the north. It is possible that Ditch 43, being more substantial, was constructed as a replacement for the other ditches. Alternatively it is possible all the Post-medieval ditches were contemporary and that Ditches 41/41b and 67 were subsidiary, draining into a more substantial drainage ditch. If 41/41b and 43 were contemporary then it is likely the limited space between the two served as a farm track or livestock droveway.
- 5.4.5 Whatever the case, it would seem that all these ditches had been in-filled by the early 19th century. This is evident from the 1842 tithe map which shows the area of investigation as one large field. The Post-medieval ditches recorded during this excavation do seem to be in the same alignment as those shown on the 19th- century maps and the cartographic sources demonstrate that boundary ditches surrounding smaller fields to the south and north of the investigation area were being in-filled to make larger fields during the 19th century. It is also interesting to note the orientation of the Post-medieval field system is similar to that of the Romano-British system. It is possible that some of the Post-medieval ditches were cut along the alignment of earlier ditches although this was not possible to prove at the current site. However, the evidence of the orientation indicates that the current pattern of drainage ditches in the area may have its origins in the Romano-British period.

- **6.0** The Finds by Luke Barber (unless otherwise stated).
- 6.1 The Pottery incorporating comments by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

- 6.1.1 The four phases of fieldwork at the site produced 2,868 sherds of pottery weighing just over 34.5 kgs from 81 different contexts. Of this total the two stages of evaluation produced 62 sherds (1,636g) and 251 sherds (2,605g) respectively while the main excavation produced 2,278 sherds (27,147g). The follow-on watching brief added a further 277 sherds (4,500g) to the assemblage. The material spans the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to the 19th century. However, by far the majority of it is of Romano-British date.
- 6.1.2 The condition of the assemblage is mixed in that although numerous large sherds are present a good proportion consists of small, fairly heavily abraded pieces. The acidic nature of the subsoil has had an adverse affect on the pottery, particularly the colour-coated wares which often only have small areas of their original surfaces remaining. Iron concretions adhering to the surface of the pottery is also apparent on many sherds. The assemblage from the site comes from numerous cut features such as ditches and postholes as well as the topsoil. Many of the contexts contain small amounts of intrusive material, however, relatively high numbers of residual sherds are present in the larger 3rd- century groups.
- All the stratified pottery was divided into broad fabric groups based on a visual examination, using a hand-lens were necessary, of tempering, inclusions and manufacturing technique. All the fabric groups were numbered (Nos 1, 2, 3 etc) with sub-groups being allocated additional letters (ie 1a, 1b etc). Each fabric was subsequently quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. This information was recorded on pottery summary sheets which are housed with the archive. A spot dating list for all contexts is also housed with the archive. Quantification based on Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) was not considered appropriate due to the relatively small percentage of rims in the assemblage.
- 6.1.4 The main aim of the current report is to give an indication of the range of fabrics and forms present in order to facilitate dating and to give an idea of pottery usage at the site. The medieval and post-medieval pottery from the site (2 and 5 sherds respectively), as well as the unstratified material (totaling 120 sherds weighing 1,118g) has not been used in the fabric quantification below. Details of this material is housed with the archive. All that is of interest here is that they indicate a minimal amount of manuring, and thus cultivation, on the site from the 13th to early 19th centuries.
- 6.1.5 Although associated groups are generally small and the problem of residuality large the assemblage from the site as a whole is of interest in the

study of local ceramics on the coastal plain. Although relatively large quantities of Romano-British pottery have previously been excavated on the coastal plain these have been subjected to little consistent detailed study and as such the dating of forms and fabrics is still not well advanced. This is an unfortunate situation, particularly when one considers the importance of the area.

6.1.6 Samples of all fabric groups were extracted from the assemblage and were retained by Archaeology South-East who is currently forming a county-wide fabric reference collection. Shortened fabric descriptions are given below.

6.1.7 The Fabric Groups

Prehistoric Pottery

Due to the small quantities involved the prehistoric pottery was not divided into fabric groups. All consisted of oxidised or reduced flint tempered wares (flint to 5mm) most of which appear to be of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date. A few possible Later Iron Age sherds with finer flint tempering are also present. All prehistoric sherds are residual in later contexts.

Romano-British Pottery

Fabric 1a

Grey brown to black medium sand tempered ware containing moderate white and grey calcined flint to 6mm and occasional inclusions of brown iron oxides to 1mm. Recognisable forms consist of jars only. No decoration was noted. An early to mid 1st century AD fabric.

Fabric 1b

As 1a but with sparse calcined flint mainly not exceeding 3mm across. Only undecorated jars were noted. A 1st century AD fabric.

Cat. No.: 1

Fabric 2a

A hard-fired medium sand tempered ware with sparse to moderate white, grey and blackened calcined flint inclusions to 4mm. A grey fabric throughout although some sherds exhibit orange surfaces. Only undecorated large jars were noted. An early (first three quarters of C1st century AD) Rowlands Castle fabric (Hodder 1974).

Fabric 2b

A hard-fired fine to medium sand tempered ware with rare dark brown/black iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. Very rare chalk and calcined flint inclusions to 3mm in some sherds. A uniform grey (usually light grey) fabric. Rowlands Castle: Hodder's Type 1 (Hodder 1974). Late C1st- mid

C4th. Everted rim jars, some with 'batch-marks' and occasionally large internally thumbed storage jars are the most common forms.

Cat Nos: 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 24.

Fabric 2c

A very hard-fired fine to medium sand tempered ware. This is a variant of Fabric 2b and is typically mid-dark 'blue' grey in colour. Rowlands Castle. Forms and dating as 2b.

Fabric 2d

Another variant of Fabric 2b but with orange 'scorched/slipped outer surfaces. Rowlands Castle. Forms and dating as 2b.

Cat No.: 4

Fabric 2e

A medium to coarse sand tempered fabric with occasional inclusions of calcined flint or, more commonly, black, brown or orange iron oxides to 3mm. The colour is usually light to mid grey throughout although some sherds exhibit a pinkish core. Coarse Rowlands Castle. Mid C1st-C4th. Forms as 2b but with more variation in rim type on the smaller jars.

Cat No.: 5

Fabric 3

A silty greyware with sparse very fine sand tempering and sparse to moderate dark grey 'grog' pellets to 3mm. Usually thin-walled vessels. Possibly an Upchurch (Monaghan 1987) or Hardham fabric. C2nd-C3rd.

Fabric 4a

A fine to medium sand tempered light to mid grey fabric with rare to occasional dark grey, brown or black iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. A fabric from the Arun valley/Hardham industry. Dishes, bowls and jars are present. C2nd-C3rd. (Winbolt 1927).

Cat Nos: 18, 19.

Fabric 4b

As 4a but with more medium sand noticeable on the surface of the sherds giving a gritty texture. An Arun valley product. C2nd-C3rd. Dishes and jars are present.

Cat No.: 10.

Fabric 5a

A fine to medium sand tempered grey ware with moderate dark grey grog/iron ore and platy siltstone (?) grey inclusions to 4mm. ?Hardham. C1stAD. Jars of varying types and one flagon (?) are present.

Cat Nos: 6, 7, 14, 27, 28.

Fabric 5b

As 5a but the inclusions are oxidised to an orange brown/dull red. Sherds sometimes have light brown patchy surfaces. Jars.

Cat. No.: 9.

Fabric 5c

As 5a but fired to a much higher temperature giving a distinctively hackly fracture (similar to Fabric 2c). Sometimes with an orange core and margins.

Cat No.: 8.

Fabric 5d

As 5a but with abundant dark grey/black grog/iron oxide and platy siltstone inclusions to 5mm. C1st AD.

Cat No.: 25.

Fabric 6

A fine sand tempered ware with smooth surfaces. Usually light to mid grey (though a few darker grey sherds are also present). Some sherds have rare dark grey/black iron-ore inclusions to 0.5mm. Alice Holt-type ware (Lyne and Jefferies 1979). C3rd-C4th.

Fabric 7a

Medium to coarse sandy greyware with rare to occasional grey/black iron ore inclusions (sometimes streaked) to 2mm. Usually mid to dark grey throughout. An Arun valley/Hardham fabric. Mid C1st-C3rd. Dishes and jars.

Cat Nos: 11, 12, 13.

Fabric 7b

Miscellaneous medium sand tempered greywares similar to 7a but less certain of source. Mid C1st-C3rd.

Fabric 7c

Fine to medium sand tempered ware with grey/brown surfaces and orange/brick red cores. Represented by thin-walled vessels (c. 5mm). Many sherds have abundant fine black sand inclusions to 0.75mm. A rare fabric only noted in C3rd century jar forms.

Cat No.: 20.

Fabric 8

A fine to medium sand tempered blackware with brick red/maroon cores, frequently lightly burnished. The tempering is usually of fine sand. Hardham. C1st - C2nd.

Fabric 9

BB1. A black fabric tempered with moderate to abundant white quartz sand and burnished surfaces. C3rd+

Cat No.: 21.

Fabric 10

Coarse BB1? As 9 but also with moderate grey or buff grog/siltstone inclusions to 5mm. Fabric colour varies from dark grey to pinkish orange, however, it is difficult to assess this fabric as it appears to come from one 3rd-century jar which has been badly burnt. C3rd+

Cat No.: 22.

Fabric 11

Vectis-type ware? (Malcolm Lyne pers comm) from the Isle of Wight. A dull reddish brown medium sand tempered fabric with abundant light grey hard shale/siltstone inclusions to 8mm and dark grey-black surfaces. Some burnishing of interior surfaces and rim areas. Only a 3rd century flanged bowl was noted in this fabric.

Fabric 12

Miscellaneous medium sand tempered blackwares of unknown source.

Fabric 13

Miscellaneous medium/coarse sand tempered blackwares of unknown source. This fabric is noticeably coarser than 12 and has a very rough surface due to the abundant sand. Many sherds contain milky rounded to semi-rounded quartz inclusions to 3mm. Jars and flanged bowls of 3rd century type were noted.

Fabric 14

Very fine silty/powdery fabric with sparse very fine sand and moderate mica flecks. Usually light brown or brown orange with thin dark grey/black surfaces. Probably a Hardham 'London Ware' type fabric. A thin-walled globular jar/beaker is the only recognisable form.

Fabric 15a

Medium sand tempered oxidised ware with rare to occasional brick red iron oxide (?) inclusions to 2mm. Sherds are usually various shades of buff and orange brown, sometimes with grey cores. Probably an Arun valley/Hardham fabric. Mid C1st-C3rd. Jars.

Fabric 15b

Miscellaneous medium sand tempered oxidised wares of unknown source. Mid C1st-C3rd.

Fabric 15c

Medium-coarse sand tempered oxidised fabric with moderate inclusions of milky and rose-coloured semi-rounded quartz (similar to Fabric 13). Usually dull brown orange surfaces with light grey cores. The only form noted was a bead-rim jar.

Fabric 16

Fine to medium oxidised sand tempered ware with moderate to abundant mica to 0.5mm. A rare fabric. Colours usually browns and oranges throughout. No recognisable forms.

Fabric 17

A relatively hard-fired fine sand tempered fabric represented by only one jar. The core is dull red with light grey margins and orange surfaces which exhibit some greying. Impressed line decoration around the rim. Possibly a Wiltshire source? A narrow-necked jar was the only vessel present.

Cat No.: 23.

Fabric 18a

Tempered with moderate to abundant grey to pinkish hard grog and sparse fine to medium sand. Colours are variable but grey cores are common with surfaces ranging from dull orange to dark grey. C4th. Jars.

Fabric 18b

Slightly soapy grog tempered fabric with few grog inclusions visible. Surfaces burnished and colours variable: grey cores and brown surfaces being the most common. ?Jars.

Fabric 19a

Thick-walled buff coarse sand tempered ware. Associated with Dr20 amphorae.

Fabric 19b

Thick-walled orange medium sand tempered ware with moderate sparse dull red and brown iron ore inclusions to 4mm. Probably from amphorae.

Fabric 20a

Thick-walled buff fine to medium sand tempered ware with occasional mica to 0.5mm. Probably from amphorae.

Fabric 20b

Thick-walled cream-buff fabric tempered with rare fine sand. Some sherds contain rare dull orange grog inclusions to 3mm. Occasional grey cores noted. Probably from amphorae.

Fabric 21

Dull pink-buff fine fabric with occasional dull red grog and quartz sand inclusions to 1mm. A fineware fabric of probable local origin. ?C2nd-C3rd.

Fabric 22a

Dull orange to brick red fabric, usually with grey cores, tempered with moderate very fine sand. Sparse inclusions of mica. Fabric is quite friable and tends to laminate. A fineware of uncertain origin and date.

Fabric 22b

Dull orange silty/powdery fabric with no visible inclusions.

Fabric 23

Dull pink-buff fine fabric with moderate dull red/orange grog inclusions to 3mm. Only one vessel in this fabric was found (a flanged bowl/mortarium from Context 501). Possibly a late Wiggonholt fabric. ?Late C2nd-mid C3rd.

Cat No.: 26.

Fabric 24

Samian. Examples from South, Central and East Gaul are all represented in the assemblage. These break down as follows:

South Gaul: (?) - x9; Dr 18 - x2; Dr 27 - x1; Dr 37 - x1; Dr 43 - x1; Curle 11 - x1

Central Gaul: (?) - x27; Dr 18 - x4; Dr 33-x2; Dr 38 - x1 East Gaul: (?) -x1; Dr 31 - x1; Dr 32 - x1; Dr 37 - x1; Dr 45 - x1

Fabric 25a

New Forest Parchment ware. An off-white to pinkish medium sand tempered fabric. Mid C3rd-C4th. (Fulford 1975).

Fabric 25b

New Forest Colour Coated wares. Both the oxidised and highly fired reduced wares are present within this group. Bowls and beakers are present, including indented types. Mid C3rd-C4th. (Fulford 1975, Fabrics 1a and 1b).

Fabric 26

Colchester Colour Coated ware. A fine orange fabric with a matt black colour coat. The only form noted is from a cornice beaker. C2nd. (Tyers 1996, 167).

Fabric 27

Nene Valley Colour Coated ware. A fine white or dull pinkish fabric with dark 'blue' grey or brown purple colour coat. Beakers and boxes are represented. Late C2nd-C3rd. (Tyers 1996, 173).

Fabric 28

Oxford (?) Colour Coated ware. A fine dull orange fabric with traces of dull orange colour coat. Mid C3rd-C4th. (Young 1977).

Fabric 29

A very fine white fabric with rare inclusions of brown iron oxides? Unknown source.

Fabric 30

Dull pink-buff fine fabric. The colour coat has not survived but a bodysherd with rouletted decoration suggests it to be a Pentice Beaker of North Gaulish origin. C3rd.

Fabric 31

Dull orange fine fabric with grey core and traces of a dark, slightly metallic, colour coat. Possibly Moselkeramik, Trier. C3rd. (Tyers 1996, 138).

6.1.8 The Quantification

All the pottery from the fieldwork on the site (with the exception of post-Roman and unstratified material) was quantified to fabric by both sherd count and weight (Table 1). This gives the overall percentages of the different wares for the site in general and indicates the relatively low quantities of finewares, particularly imported, in the assemblage. This tends to confirm the apparent low-status of a peasant agricultural farmstead as suggested by the archaeological features and most of the other artefacts from the site.

Although the amount of finewares is small their presence suggests the site was within reach of a wide trading sphere, with the market at Chichester undoubtedly being the local hub of this network. Even many of the coarsewares, such as the Rowlands Castle products (Fabrics 2a-e) and BB1 (Fabrics 9 and 10) had traveled some distance. Local industries like those around Hardham would have been well placed (next to the Arun and Stane Street) to transport their wares to Chichester even if competition was greater at this market.

In general the pottery, when taken as a whole, indicates a little prehistoric activity in the area with a noticeable increase in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British transitional period. Agricultural exploitation of the area, possibly with settlement closeby, would appear to have been well underway during the later part of the 1st century AD. It is probable that much of the original field system dates to this early period. The activity appears to have continued throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries. During this period the quantity of relatively large sherds, a number of which conjoin, suggest that the focus of settlement was certainly immediately adjacent to the excavated area at this time and that domestic rubbish was being dumped in the area. The final abandonment of the area appears to have been at the end of the

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3rd century. By this time all the ditches had been infilled. A few sherds of late grog tempered pottery hint at some activity in the early 4th century but this, if it occurred, was minimal.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery from all phases of fieldwork (exc. unstratified)

			n all phases of field	
Fabric	No.	%	Weight (gms)	%
Prehistoric	13	0.5	89	0.3
la	30	1.1	323	1.0
1b	36	1.3	562	1.7
2a	16	0.6	246	0.7
2b	424	15.5	6837	20.5
2c	75	2.7	1720	5.1
2d	54	2.0	628	1.9
2e	216	7.9	3026	9.1
3	17	0.6	26	0.1
4a	249	9.1	2091	6.3
4b	22	0.8	210	0.6
5a	89	3.2	1152	3.4
5b	43	1.6	496	1.5
5c	64	2.3	1008	3.0
5d	18	0.7	150	0.4
6	85	3.1	742	2.2
7a	191	7.0	2982	8.9
7b	220	8.0	1435	4.3
7c	27	1.0	470	1.4
8	64	2.3	332	1.0
9	108	3.9	1181	3.5
10	52	1.9	906	2.7
11	11	0.4	256	0.8
12	52	1.9	312	0.9
13	12	0.4	127	0.4
14	12	0.4	82	0.2
15a	115	4.2	1086	3.2
15b	109	4.0	587	1.8
15c	1	0.03	7	0.02
16	3	0.1	21	0.1
17	2	0.1	26	0.1
18a	8	0.3	108	0.3
18b	3	0.1	23	0.1
19a	34	1.2	726	2.2
19b	8	0.3	418	1.3
20a	2	0.1	18	0.1
20b	8	0.3	118	0.4
21	19	0.7	164	0.5
22a	25	0.9	258	0.8
22b	4	0.1	76	0.2
23	14	0.5	330	1.0
24	54	2.0	867	2.6
25a	19	0.7	241	0.7
25b	59	2.2	624	1.9
26	8	0.3	44	0.1
27	7	0.3	88	0.3
28	29	1.1	169	0.5
29	2	0.1	12	0.03
30	4	0.1	26	0.1
31	4	0.1	7	0.02
Total	2,741		33,433	

6.1.9 Quantification of Context 92, 99 and 163

The assemblage from the site does not contain many large groups. The largest groups were from three contexts: 92, 99 and 163. Each of these was individually quantified by fabric using sherd count and weight in an attempt to highlight shifting proportions of different fabrics, and thus industry supply, through time.

Context 92 (Figure 5; S6, 4)

This group of 403 sherds from Ditch 91 is the only reasonable collection of pottery dating to the earlier occupation on the site (spot dated to the late 1st to 2nd centuries). However, the fact that the group was from a ditch which may have been receiving material for some time indicates it is far from being a closely dated assemblage. Added to this is the problem of some residual sherds (ie Fabric 1b) as well as a little intrusive material (ie the New Forest products). However, general trends should be noticeable even if caution is needed in their interpretation (Table 2).

Table 2: Quantification of pottery from Context 92

Fabric No. % We Prehistoric 3 0.7 12 1b 21 5.2 464 2a 2 0.5 32 2b 62 15.4 718 2c 8 2.0 100 2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14	0.7 15.9 2.2 9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9
1b 21 5.2 464 2a 2 0.5 32 2b 62 15.4 718 2c 8 2.0 100 2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	10.3 0.7 15.9 2.2 9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
2a 2 0.5 32 2b 62 15.4 718 2c 8 2.0 100 2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	0.7 15.9 2.2 9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7
2b 62 15.4 718 2c 8 2.0 100 2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	15.9 2.2 9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
2c 8 2.0 100 2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	2.2 9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
2d 33 8.2 428 2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	9.5 8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
2e 18 4.5 404 4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	8.9 7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
4a 50 12.4 332 5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	7.3 8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
5a 31 7.1 404 5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	8.9 0.9 7.7 1.5
5b 7 1.7 40 5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	0.9 7.7 1.5
5c 22 5.5 350 5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	7.7 1.5
5d 9 2.2 66 6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	1.5
6 2 0.5 52 7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	
7a 46 11.4 496 7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	1.6
7b 29 7.2 140 8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	
8 8 2.0 28 9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	11.0
9 1 0.2 8 12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	3.1
12 6 1.5 44 13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	0.6
13 1 0.2 8 14 9 2.2 34	0.2
14 9 2.2 34	1.0
	0.2
	0.8
134 3 1.4 42	0.9
15b 7 1.7 56	1.2
16 1 0.2 5	0.1
18a 1 0.2 12	0.3
19a 1 0.2 28	0.6
20b 6 1.5 56	1.2
23 6 1.5 38	0.8
24 4 1.0 96	2.1
25a 1 0.2 6	0.1
25b 2 0.5 14	0.3
29 1 0.2 6	
Total 403 4,5	0.1

Context 99 (Figure 5; S6)

This group of 207 sherds from Ditch 7 (in the north-western corner of the excavated area) is perhaps the best 3rd- century group from the site in that it appears to contain little residual and no intrusive material. Unfortunately the largest assemblage from Ditch 7 (Context 163 below) shows signs of heavy contamination. The breakdown is shown in Table 3. It is noticeable that known later industries such as Alice Holt, BB1 are present as larger percentages within the group. Distinctly early fabrics, such as 1a and 1b are totally absent. The increase in the percentage of Samian compared to the group from Context 92 is noticeable. However, it may either be the result of residual material within a small overall assemblage or the final discarding of 'heirlooms'.

Fabric	No.	%	Weight	%
			(gms)	
2b	49	23.7	830	29.6
2c	15	7.2	370	13.2
2e	15	7.2	198	7.1
4a	3	1.4	16	0.6
5a	2	1.0	12	0.4
5c	3	1.4	38	1.4
6	15	7.2	90	3.2
7a	11	5.3	134	4.8
7b	17	8.2	224	8.0
8	7	3.3	58	2.1
9	10	4.8	74	2.6
12	15	7.2	108	3.9
13	1	0.5	1	0.03
15a	4	2.0	36	1.3
15b	8	3.9	86	3.1
24	6	2.9	184	6.6
25a	5	2.4	46	1.6
25b	11	5.3	82	2.9
27	2	1.0	68	2.4
28	4	2.0	58	2.1
Total	207		2,801	

Context 163 (Figure 5; S5)

This group of 502 sherds from Ditch 7, as noted above, has a distinct problem with a large number of residual late 1st- to 2nd- century sherds. As many of them are large it is likely that they resulted from a period of earlier rubbish disposal within the ditch. As such, this ditch should be viewed as being early in date originally but was subjected to later recutting followed by final infilling in the 3rd century. The large, unabraded early sherds may relate to an undisturbed area of early silting which was texturally indistinguishable from the later silting. No intrusive material is obviously apparent. The breakdown is shown in Table 4. The presence of early fabrics (ie 1a, 1b) indicate residual material. It is interesting to note that fabric 1b appears in Context 92 but not in the better sealed 3rd- century Context 99. Despite the residual material the later fabrics such as 9, 10 and 25a/b (BB1, New Forest) still show up as reasonable percentages.

Fabric	No.	%	Weight	%
1	} 110.	'*	(gms)	/ ~
la	2	0.4	92	1.4
1b	2	0.4	8	0.1
2b	69	13.7	1306	19.8
2c	24	4.8	230	3.5
2d	5	1.0	38	0.6
2e	47	9.4	848	12.9
4a	40	8.0	508	7.7
4b	12	2.4	154	2.3
5a	15	3.0	266	4.0
6	27	5.4	164	2.5
7a	28	5.6	412	6.2
7b	47	9.4	242	3.7
7c	12	2.4	266	4.0
8	1	0.2	10	0.2
9	29	5.8	290	4.4
10	31	6.2	618	9.4
13	3	0.6	56	0.8
14	1	0.2	12	0.2
15a	10	2.0	86	1.3
15b	17	3.4	138	2.1
17	2	0.4	26	0.4
18a	7	1.4	96	1.5
21	8	1.6	98	1.5
22a	6	1.2	46	0.7
24	12	2.4	68	1.0
25a	9	1.8	156	1.5
25b	23	4.6	282	4.3
27	2	0.4	4	0.1
28	7	1.4	9	0.1
31	2	0.4	4	0.1
Total	502		6,595	

Comparison of Industries

In an attempt to study the changing supply of pottery to the site the definite sourced fabrics from the above three contexts were amalgamated into their respective industries. This gives a clearer indication of each industry's relative percentage in each context. This has resulted in a much clearer representation of the prominent supplying industries in the late 1st-2nd century (Context 92) as opposed to the 3rd century (Context 99). A comparison of these two contexts with that of Context 163 also show the somewhat mixed nature of the latter. Although a valid line of study there are many problems. For example, it is possible the Arun Valley industry may be under-represented due to the uncertainty about allocating sherds to this industry (many of the sherds in the miscellaneous sandy fabrics may be from this source). However, in contrast, it is felt unlikely that many sherds from the Rowlands Castle kilns, which have such a distinctive fabric, would not

have been sourced. As such the true percentages of each industry may be slightly inaccurate, however, the more general changes should still be apparent.

Such changes in the supply of Romano-British pottery has been noted elsewhere in West Sussex. At Bignor (Lyne 1995) the Hardham/Arun Valley industries dominate the 2nd- century assemblages while by the 3rd century Rowlands Castle wares had superseded those of the Arun Valley. The assemblage from Contexts 92 and 99 at Bognor, however, do not show this dramatic swing in source of coarsewares (Table 5). Although there is a marked decline in the Arun Valley products (from 29.2% to 14.9%) the wares from Rowlands Castle increase only slightly (from 30.6% to 38.1%). This is undoubtedly due to the location of both sites. Bognor is on the coast and as such products from the Rowlands Castle kilns would be able to gain a good share of the market in this area. Bignor is obviously much closer to the Arun Valley industries and this is reflected in the percentage of wares at the villa in this early period from that source. As the Arun Valley industry declined the Rowlands Castle products largely filled the gap in the area, although this is less noticeable at Bognor due to the already high supply of products from this source. Alice Holt and BB1 products were also coming into the area at the time and indeed Context 163 indicates a relatively large percentage of BB1. The percentage of New Forest wares in both Contexts 99 and 163 is comparable as are the Samian totals.

Table 5: Quantification of pottery from recognised industries (Contexts 92, 99 and 163)

Industry/Fabric	% in Context 92	% in Context 99	% in Context 163
Arun Valley	29.2	14.9	18.4
(F4a, 4b, 7a, 8, 14,			
15a)			
Rowlands Castle	30.6	38.1	28.9
(F2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e)			
BB1	0.2	4.8	12.0
(F9, 10)			
Alice Holt	0.7	7.2	5.4
(F6)		l	
Samian	1.0	2.9	2.4
(F24)			
New Forest	0.7	7.7	6.4
(F25a, 25b)			

6.1.10 Catalogue (Figures 7 and 8)

A representative selection of drawable sherds has been selected for each of two of the main three contexts along with examples of particular interest from others.

Context 92 (Fill of Ditch 91)

- 1. Jar with thickened out-turned rim. Fabric 1b.
- 2. Jar with everted rim. Fabric 2b.
- 3. Jar with everted rim and squat neck. Fabric 2b.
- 4. Jar with everted rim. Fabric 2d.
- 5. Large jar with thickened rounded out-turned rim. Fabric 2e.
- 6. Far with simple everted rim. Fabric 5a.
- 7. High-necked jar with simple rim. Fabric 5a. A similar form is noted in a 1st-century context at Boxgrove (Middleton and Rudling 1995, No.27).
- 8. Necked jar with thickened everted rim. Fabric 5c.
- 9. Necked jar with out-turned rim and indented cordon on shoulder. Fabric 5b.

Context 163 (Fill of Ditch 7)

- 10. Dish with simple rim. Fabric 4b.
- 11. Dish with simple rim. Fabric 7a.
- 12. Jar with everted rim. Fabric 7a.
- 13. Large jar with bulbous everted rim. Fabric 7a.
- 14. Bead rim jar. Fabric 5a.
- 15. Jar with simple rim and sharp carination on shoulder. Fabric 2b.
- 16. Jar with everted rim. Fabric 2b.
- 17. Globular jar with everted rim. Fabric 2b.
- 18. Straight sided girth beaker with moulded out-turned rim. Fabric 4a. Similar examples have been located at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, Type 63).

- 19. Bead and flange bowl. Fabric 4a.
- 20. Jar with wide flaring rim. Fabric 7c.
- 21. Bead and flange bowl. Fabric 9.
- 22. Large jar with wide flaring rim. Fabric 10.
- 23. Narrow-necked jar with impressed line decoration on neck. Fabric 17.

Context 167 (Fill of Ditch 7)

- 24. Jar with everted rim and 'batch mark' incised on shoulder. Fabric 2b. Although no parallel batch-mark was located on the Form 313 jars at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971) examples are known from Rowlands Castle (Hodder 1974, No.8).
- 25. Jar with out-turned rim. Fabric 5d.

Context 501 (Fill of Ditch 5)

26. Flanged bowl/mortarium with foot-ring. No truition grits. Fabric 23.

Context 503 (Fill of Ditch 3, Figure 5;S1)

27. Flagon/bottle with hole for wooden handle. Fabric 5a.

Context 507 (Fill of Ditch 506)

28. Narrow-mouthed jar with simple bead rim and large flange on neck. Fabric 5a.

6.2 The Coin

6.2.1 A single unstratified coin was located during the main excavation. This is an illegible copper alloy as or dupondius of the 1st or 2nd centuries.

6.3 The Metalwork

- 6.3.1 The site produced a total of 77 pieces of metalwork from all the phases of fieldwork. The second phase evaluation yielded two nail fragments while the watching produced a further two. The bulk of the metalwork came from the main excavation (69 pieces). Of these 66 were of iron, one of copper alloy, one of gun metal and one of white metal.
- 6.3.2 The metalwork from the site was in very poor condition as a result of the acidic Brickearth subsoil. Virtually all pieces of iron were encrusted with

thick corrosion products and it was found that all, with the exception of the more substantial post-medieval objects, were virtually totally mineralised. With the exception of the gun metal shrapnel (which is of World War Two origin) the non-ferrous material was in an equally poor state. Few recognisable objects were present and due to the mineralised nature of the material it was not deemed appropriate to maintain it for long-term curation. All metalwork was recorded on record sheets which are housed with the archive.

- 6.3.3 The ironwork can be divided into two periods: the Romano-British and post-medieval. The latter period accounts for a large proportion of the items (23 pieces). The most distinctive pieces consist of two heavy plough-shears (Contexts 44 and 68, Figure 5:S8, S9) which have a combined weight of 4,105g. A late 18th- century to 19th- century date is probable for most of this material.
- 6.3.4 The Romano-British ironwork consisted of 43 pieces, weighing under 100g, which were normally fragmented and always heavily corroded. Of this total, 24 pieces consisted of nail fragments of indeterminate form while the remaining assemblage contained a spike, strip fragments of uncertain function and blade fragments. The only recognisable object was a large knife/cleaver fragment from Context 167 (Figure 5; S5)
- 6.3.5 The non-ferrous material from the site is of post-medieval date with the exception of a single piece of heavily corroded waste/molten copper alloy from Context 50 (Figure 6; S12).

6.4 The Slag

Five fragments of slag were located during the fieldwork. All of these are light-weight cinder/fuel ash slags, most of which are from post-Roman contexts. There was no indication of the working of iron (smelting or forging) in the assemblage.

6.5 The Worked Flint

A small collection of worked flint was recovered from the second phase evaluation (12 pieces) and main excavation (a further 27 pieces). All of this material was either unstratified or residual in later contexts. The material is fully listed in the archive. The raw material is a mixture of reasonably good quality downland flint as well as beach flint with various staining. The vast majority of pieces (totaling 35) consist of simple undiagnostic waste flakes most of which retain cortex. Two cores, one possibly a blade core, as well as a snapped blade, retouched flake and 'triangular' scraper are also present. The presence of a blade suggests Mesolithic/Neolithic activity. Whatever the case the quantity of flint at the site is relatively low and is typical of the background scatter one may expect from casual utilisation on the coastal plain.

6.6 Ceramic Building Material

The excavations produced 124 pieces of ceramic building material, weighing just under 16kg, from 27 different contexts. Of these, 22 pieces are from post-medieval brick and tile which is typically of a period spanning the 18th to 20th centuries. These are either from post-medieval contexts (ie Context 44) or are intrusive into Romano-British ones (ie a single fragment of 20th-century brick was located in Context 92). All of the material has been recorded on tile record forms which are housed with the archive.

The Romano-British tile occurs in two main fabrics. The most common (A) is a soft 'powdery' buff to pale orange fabric tempered with numerous dull red grog pieces to 5mm and occasional flint inclusions to 9mm. Some pieces in this fabric are slightly sandy. The other fabric (B) consists of a fine sandy harder-fired orange/brick red type with occasional buff clay pellet inclusions to 4mm. Both fabrics occur together in contexts and as such appear to be contemporary.

The assemblage contains tegula (11 pieces), imbrex (7 pieces) and floor tile (9 pieces) fragments. The remainder of the Romano-British tile pieces are undiagnostic of type. All forms of tile appear in contexts spanning the 2nd to 3rd centuries. No recognisable forms are present in 1st- century contexts. Indeed, all but one recognisable tile (a floor tile) are located in 3rd- century contexts.

The quantity of tile at the site is low and suggests if a building stood in the close vicinity it was not roofed with tile. However, if a building had stood at some distance from the excavated area the tile may represent the outer limits of a scatter. Based on the current evidence it appears more likely the tile was utilised for other purposes other than roofing. The absence of box flue tile in the assemblage suggests no 'wealthy' building stood in close vicinity of the excavated area.

6.7 Glass

The excavations produced 16 fragments of glass, weighing 258g, from eight different contexts. Of these, 12 (189g) are of post-medieval date (almost exclusively dark green bottle glass). These are all from unstratified or post-medieval contexts. The definite Romano-British glass consists of two bases, one from a clear blue/green beaker/bowl (Context 505, fill of 504, Figure 5; S3), the other from a green/blue square bottle (Context 99) as well as part of a neck from a clear (with green tinge) small bottle (Context 163). All these contexts are of 3rd- century date. A single piece of possibly Romano-British window glass was found from the surface of Context 92. A full list of the glass is housed with the archive.

6.8 Geological Material

The site produced 31 pieces of 'foreign' stone, weighing just over 13.5kg, from 15 individual contexts. Fragments of slate, coal, chalk, Greensand (including quern fragments) and granite were present in post-medieval or unstratified contexts.

The remaining 21 pieces of stone came from Romano-British contexts. These are dominated by Lower Greensand rotary quern fragments (ie Contexts 92, 111, and 163) which account for 13 pieces. Most of the fragments are relatively small and as such are lacking diagnostic features. However, three upper and one lower stone are identifiable. The quernstones are likely to be from the Lodsworth quarries on the Lower Greensand which are known to have supplied many querns in the area (Peacock 1987). The quern fragments occur in contexts spanning the 1st to 3rd centuries.

The other recurring stone type in Romano-British contexts is quartzite (four pieces: Contexts 6/8 (Ditches 5 and 7), 122 (Fig. 5; S6), 131 (Fig. 6; S14) and 163 (Fig. 5; S5). These stones always take the form of water-rounded cobbles, undoubtedly collected from the nearby beach. The use of these stones is uncertain, however, it is likely the smaller (hand-held) examples were used for polishing. All may have been used for sharpening: even though no worn grooves were noted to confirm this the hardness of the stone is such that the sharpening of iron blades would leave little trace. The quartzite appears in contexts spanning the 1st to 3rd centuries.

6.9 Miscellaneous

A small quantity of clay pipe was located in some of the post-medieval features. A relatively large collection of fire-cracked flint and burnt clay was also recovered from contexts of all periods. No daub was noted in the latter category. All this material is fully listed in the archive.

6.10 Shell

Three oyster shells were recovered from the site. Only one of these is from a Romano-British (Context 163). However, the lack of shell on the site should be viewed more as a refection of the acidic ground conditions rather than as representing past exploitation of marine resources.

6.11 The Bone by Lucy Kirk

The first stage evaluation did not produce any bone material. However, a small quantity of animal bone was collected from the second stage evaluation, the excavation and subsequent watching brief.

Only three fragments, weighing 21 grams, were recovered from the stage 2 evaluation. These were recovered from a modern context (EB11) and have not therefore been studied. The excavation and watching brief recovered a total of 111 fragments of bone from a total of eight contexts (1, 8, 6/8, 40, 99, 163, 167 501). Of the 113 fragments 79 (70%) could be identified to bone type and species, the remainder being too poorly preserved or too small to enable confident identification. With the exception of the material from the topsoil (Context 1) all bone was recovered from Romano-British deposits.

Due to the acidic nature of the underlying geology, bone was poorly preserved on site. This certainly accounts for the fragile and fragmentary nature of the material present and probably explains why the assemblage is so small.

The species present and the percentage comprised by each in the identified assemblage are tabulated below.

Table 6

Species	Percentage (%)
Bos taurus	87.3
Ovis/Capra	11.4
Sus domesticus	1.3

The assemblage is too small for any meaningful statistical analysis to be undertaken but a few general observations and comments can be made.

As indicated in the table, *Bos* (cattle) dominate the assemblage. Both *Ovis/Capra* (sheep/goat) and *Sus* (pig) are poorly represented in the material. A large percentage of juvenile bones is present in the assemblage. This suggests that all three species were used as a food resource.

The assemblage contained few meat bearing bones, by far the largest proportion of the material represented skeletal extremities; skull fragments and lower limbs. This material would normally be discarded during the primary stages of butchery and significant quantities of this material would suggest such an activity associated with the settlement. However, with such small quantities of material and, given the fragmentary nature of the material, it is probable that very few individuals are in fact represented. There was no direct evidence for butchery on the bones but this could be a result of poor surface preservation. Poor preservation conditions will explain the dominance of skeletal extremities, particularly teeth in the assemblage. These bones are the most robust and more likely to survive in acidic conditions.

In summary, the bone assemblage illustrates that animal husbandry played a part in the economy of the site but as the material surviving may only be a

small part of that deposited, its significance within the economy cannot be assessed at present.

6.12 Plant material by Pat Hinton

Samples were received as dried flot (retained on 0.5mm mesh) and were examined by stereo microscope at 7-40X magnification, after sieving to facilitate sorting. Results are summarised in the Table 7. Sample 1 from Context 44 (Fig. 5, S8) contained no charred seeds and is omitted. Several others included only one or two cereal grains and/or seeds. The word seeds is used to include all nutlets, caryopses etc.

Table 7: Plant Remains

Feature		Tren	ich 3	Gully				Cut 7			Cut 119	Cut 5	Cut 504	Cut 43
Context		7	12	9	99 163		120	501	505	64				
Sample					3	4	5	7	8	9	6	5001	5002	2
Sample volume(litres)		10	10	8	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	24	24	10
Cultivated plants														
Triticum cf dicoccum-grains	emmer	1												
Triticum dicoccum/spelta -glume bases	emmer or spelt	49	12			1	1		2	3	1		38	
Triticum cf spelta - grains - glume bses	spelt	2 18	4 8			1	1	3	9		3 1		11 54	
Triticum spp grains - rachis node fragments	indeterminate wheats	17 14	1					1	5 1	1	4		12 7	1
Hordeum vulgare L grains - rachis fragment	hulled barley				1				1				1 1	
Avena sp grains - awn fragments	oats	12 14	1 4	1							1	1 1	13 11	
Cerealia indet grain fragments	indeterminate cereals	0.75ml	0.25ml					<0.25 ml	0.5ml	0.25ml			lml	
Arable and/or grassland plants														
Urtica dioica L.	stinging nettle						5(u)							
	common or greater													

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Stellaria media/neglecta	chickweed		2	 	1		<u> </u>					
Polygonum aviculare agg.	knotgrass	1										
Rumex sp.	dock	3				1	2		2			
Viola sp.	violet or pansy				l(u)		1					
Rubus fruticosus agg.	blackberry				3(u)							
Vicia tetrasperma (L.) Schreiber	smooth tare	2					2					
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	vetch or vetcling	1							1			
Solanum dulcamara L.	bittersweet				3(u)							
Trifolium sp.	clover										1	1
Euphrasia sp / Odontites verna	eyebright or red bartsia										1	
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Schulz-Bip	scentless mayweed	11						1		1	4	
cf Festuca sp.	fescue	12	2								4	1
cf Lolium perenne	perennial rye-grass	15	16				1				4	
Poa annua L.	annual grass	4					1					
Bromus of secalinus	rye brome	9	5								6	
Anisantha sterilis (L.) Nevski	barren brome										1	
Poaceae indet.	small-seeded grasses	18									3	
Unidentified seeds		2									2	

Key: (u) = uncharred

Most samples contain a certain amount of root material and very occasionally an obviously recent seed, but Sample 5 from Context 99 (Fig. 5, S6) has no roots but includes several uncharred seeds which do not appear to be of recent origin, i.e. they are desiccated, splitting and with no internal parts. If the deposit had remained wet for a long time then it is possible that decay was retarded and they might be contemporary with the only two charred items. The four uncharred species were found together with a larger number preserved by waterlogging in a ditch fill at Pevensey Road, Bognor (Johnson forthcoming).

Triticum sp (wheat) is the major cereal, occurring in most samples but in larger numbers only in three. The grains by themselves cannot be safely identified to species but the glume bases which are scattered throughout the contexts suggest that they are mostly, if not all, Triticum spelta(spelt). However, one grain from Context 8 (Fig. 5, S4) with flattened, slightly concave, ventral face, high ridged back and pointed apex is more characteristic of Triticum dicoccum (emmer). All larger better-preserved glume bases can be identified as spelt but among the smaller damaged bases are some which could be either emmer or spelt. Emmer was the predominant wheat of earlier prehistoric periods and it is quite possible that it may have persisted among the spelt which had replaced it by the Romano-British period.

Hordeum vulgare (hulled barley) is sparsely represented and Avena sp. (oats) little more so. In the absence of diagnostic floret parts it cannot be said whether they are cultivated or weed oats. The fact that the samples in which they occur in larger numbers (Contexts 8, Fig. 5, S4 and 505, Fig. 5, S3) also include a wider range of weed seeds suggests the latter.

In the majority of the samples the charred cereals and seeds probably represent no more than the background scatter of charred fragments found on most sites. In two, however, from Contexts 7 and 505, and possibly also Context 12 (Fig. 6, S10) the cereal grains with a greater proportion of glume bases (normally 1:1) and more wild plant seeds suggest an origin in the disposal of processing waste.

The charred wild plant seeds, which include a relatively higher number of grasses, could have come from cultivated or otherwise disturbed ground. None are restricted to any specific soil type and the cereals may well have been grown in the vicinity. The uncharred seeds indicate more closely the local conditions of the context. *Urtica* (nettle), *Rubus fruticosus* (blackberry), *Solanum dulcamara* (bittersweet) are plants of disturbed or waste ground. *Viola* spp. are difficult to attribute since the genus includes violets, suggestive of damp grassland, and field pansies, found in better-drained disturbed soils. Seeds of these four groups of plants occurred in

association with those of aquatic and wet ground species in samples from the nearby site at Pevensey Road.

The apparent greater importance of wheat, probably almost entirely spelt, with less barley, and oats presumably present only as weeds, is matched in results from other recently examined sites in the Sussex coastal plain, e.g. Littlehampton and to a lesser extent Worthing (Hinton, unpublished manuscript for Wessex Archaeology). This suggests that the main cereal crop of this fertile area was wheat, with barley more likely to be grown on the poorer soils of the chalk downs.

6.13 Charcoal

A number of hand collected pieces of charcoal as well as further material from the environmental residues are present. The small quantities involved did not make analysis suitable. However, this material has been stored with the archive for future reference.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1 The finds suggest limited activity was occurring on the site during the prehistoric period. However, the small quantity of prehistoric finds recovered implies that this did not include permanent settlement immediately adjacent the excavated area. The presence of a few Bronze Age sherds is however interesting in that it suggests a settlement may lie in the vicinity as these low-fired ceramics do not survive repeated redposition. Comparisons with other sites situated on the coastal plain does, however, suggest that activity generally appears to have intensified during the late Iron Age into the Romano-British period. The current site therefore fits within the current picture.
- 7.2 During the late Iron Age field systems were established in numerous places on the coastal plain. An Iron Age field system, characterised by a network of drainage ditches was located at North Bersted, on the northern outskirts of Bognor Regis (Bedwin 1978). The drainage ditches, enclosing rectangular or sub-rectangular fields were periodically cleared out and continued in use from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD.
- 7.3 Similar field systems on the coastal plain have been identified at sites in West Tarring, Worthing (Lewis, 1960), Copse Farm, Oving (Bedwin 1983), Ounces Barn, Boxgrove (Bedwin & Place 1995), and Oldplace Farm, West Hampnett (Bedwin 1983). Where it has been possible to ascertain, fields at these sites have been square (33 by 36m at Ounces Barn, 35 by 40m at Oldplace Farm) or long, thin rectangles (75 by 18m at Worthing, 50 by 15m at North Bersted). At most of these sites the occupation seems to have been most intense during the late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. Generally where activity continued into the 3rd or 4th centuries AD it was on a reduced scale.

- 7.4 It is interesting to compare the current site with those already mentioned as although all show a number of similarities they also differ to some extent. The field system at the current site appears to have been established during the 1st century AD. This is slightly later than many of the suggested start dates for such field systems on the coastal plain but sits comfortably within the early time-frame. It perhaps represents a secondary expansion of a preexisting Iron Age field system during the early Romano-British period. Indeed the majority of finds from the excavations at Pevensey Road, which were located on the same field system, but further south, are of a mid to late 1st- century AD date (Johnson forthcoming). The ditches making up this field system would have been subjected to constant cleaning to ensure adequate drainage of this low-lying area for arable cultivation. This appears to have continued for many of the ditches until the end of the 3rd- century although there is evidence to suggest a possible contraction in activity during the 2nd century.
- 7.5 There is no evidence for a building within the excavated area but the presence of floor and roof tile suggests the existence of an associated building in the vicinity. The apparent use of ditches for the deposition of significant quantities of domestic waste also suggests that the focus of settlement was closeby
- 7.6 The Romano-British occupation at Middleton-on-Sea provides a useful comparison for the settlement as a whole. Situated to the east, the excavations recovered pottery from the late Iron Age with more intense occupation during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, lessening as it continued into the 3rd and 4th centuries (Barber 1994). Both sites seem to have been relatively low status farming communities.
- 7.7 Both pastoral and arable farming appear to have been practiced. The plant remains indicate that cultivation of cereal crops was undertaken, particularly wheat, well suited to the fertile soils of the coastal plain. Other identified species suggest the nearby presence of disturbed or waste ground, and also include species from a damp grassland environment. The plant material recovered indicates that some processing of crops was taking place and this is supported by the presence of several quernstone fragments. The importance of animal husbandry to the economy cannot be ascertained but it is apparent from the limited remains surviving that animals, particularly cattle, did have a role to play.
- 7.8 The excavations at Bognor Regis Community College follow only a limited number of investigations into similar sites and as such, has provided a further insight into the Romano-British settlement of the coastal plain. All the available evidence would suggest that more permanent settlements were being established on the coastal plain during the later stages of the Iron Age. The evidence from Bognor indicates that the settlement remained in use

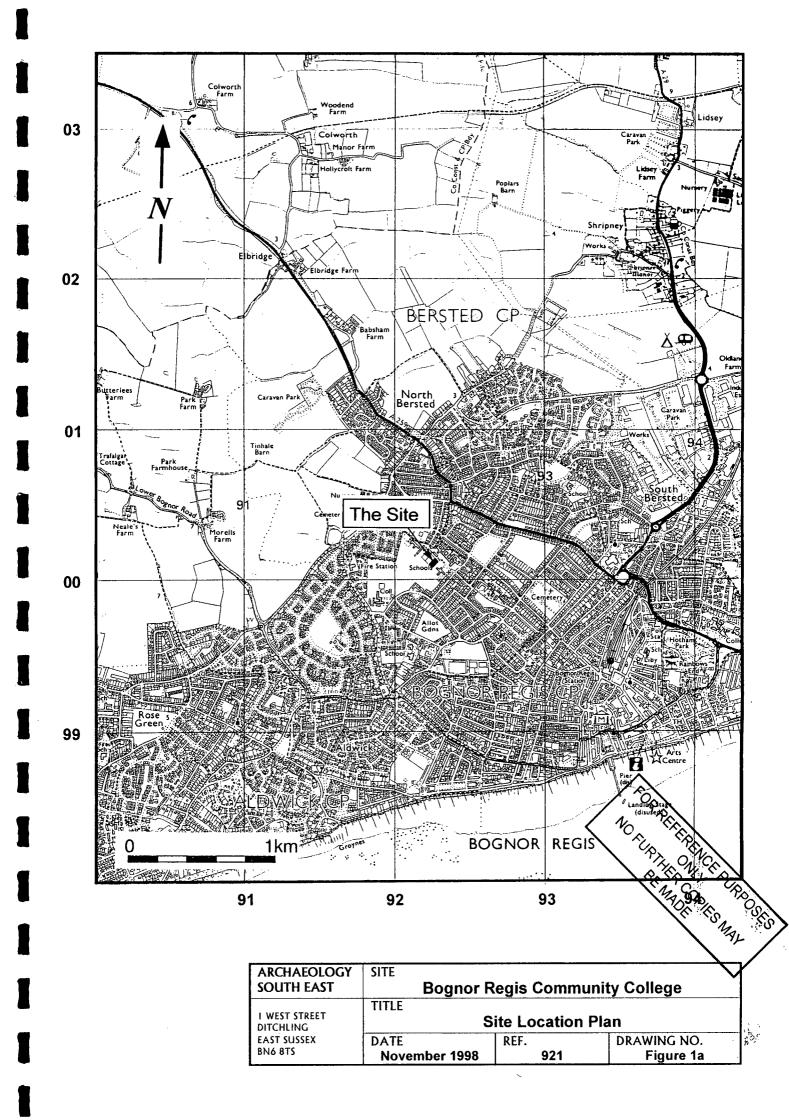
through the Romano-British period, being abandoned at the end of the 3rd century.

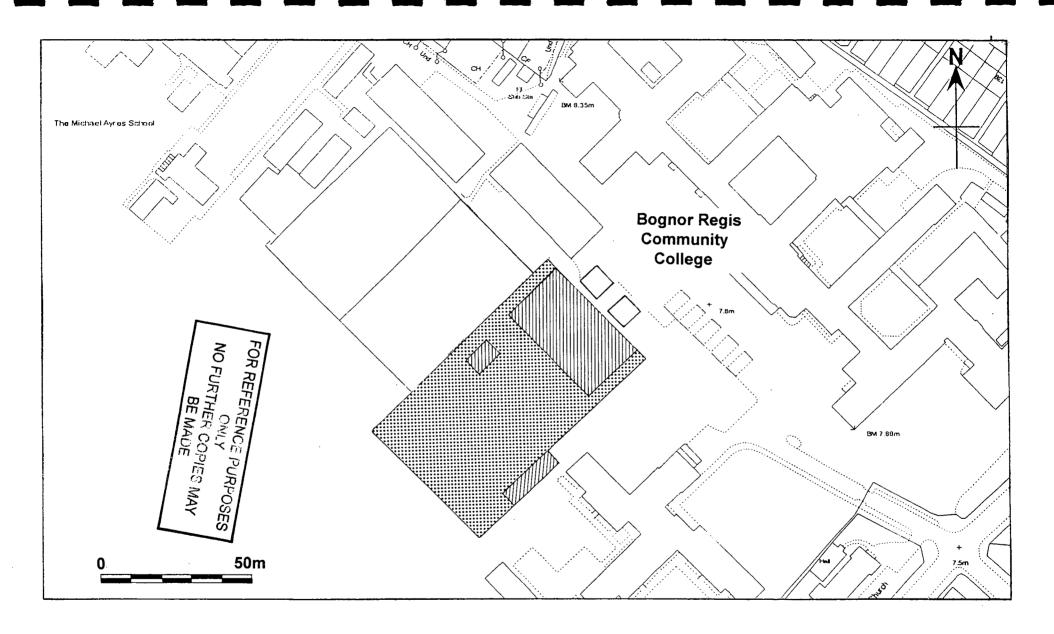
7.9 The abandonment of this settlement and associated field system may well be the result of the coastal plain's exposed position to sea-borne raiders which frequented the coast during this period. The fertile soils of the coastal plain were, however, re-farmed during later centuries and from the positioning and alignment of the post-medieval ditches at Bognor and other nearby sites, it may be that some traces of earlier field boundaries remained through the centuries.

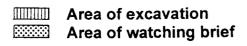
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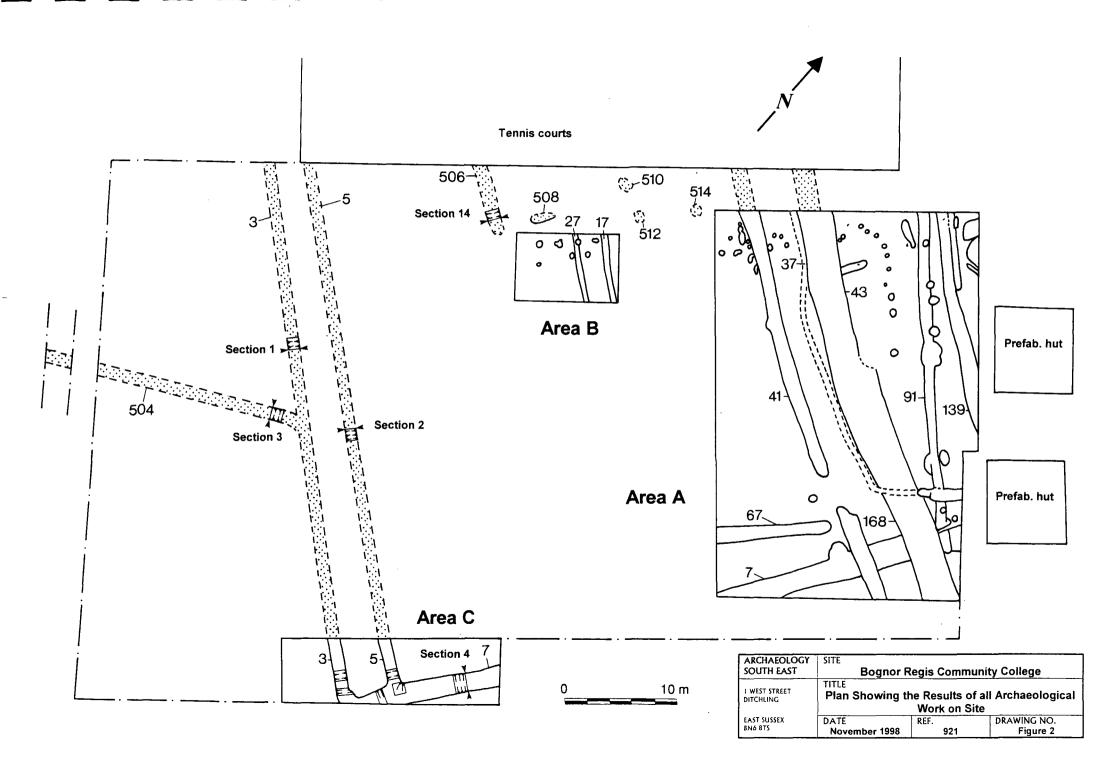
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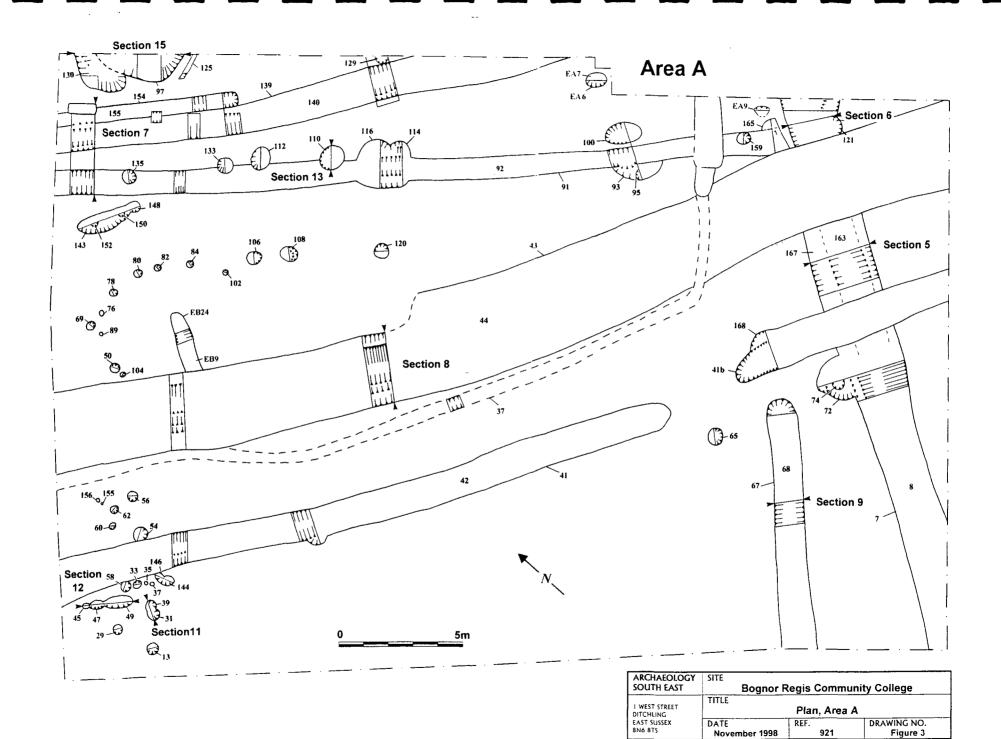






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I WEST STREET	TITLE	Site Location Pl	an
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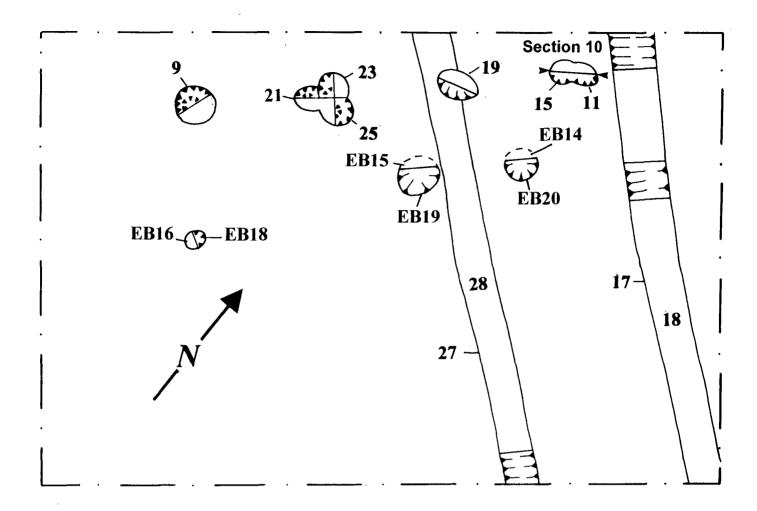




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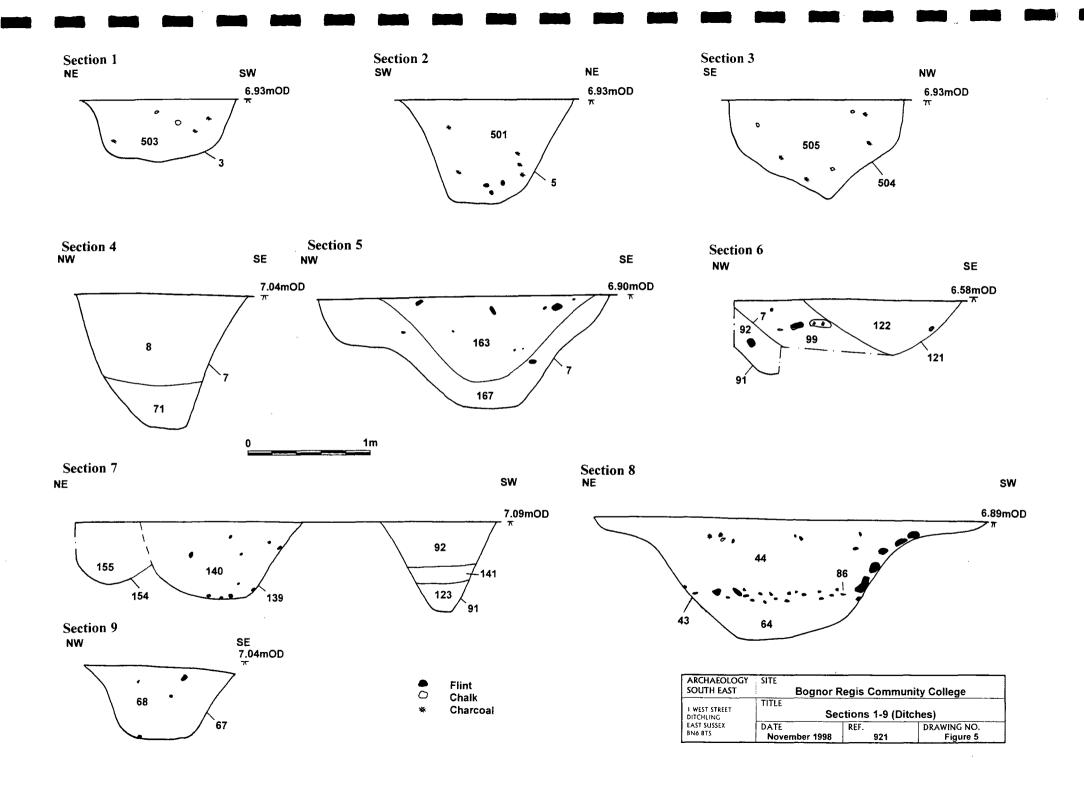
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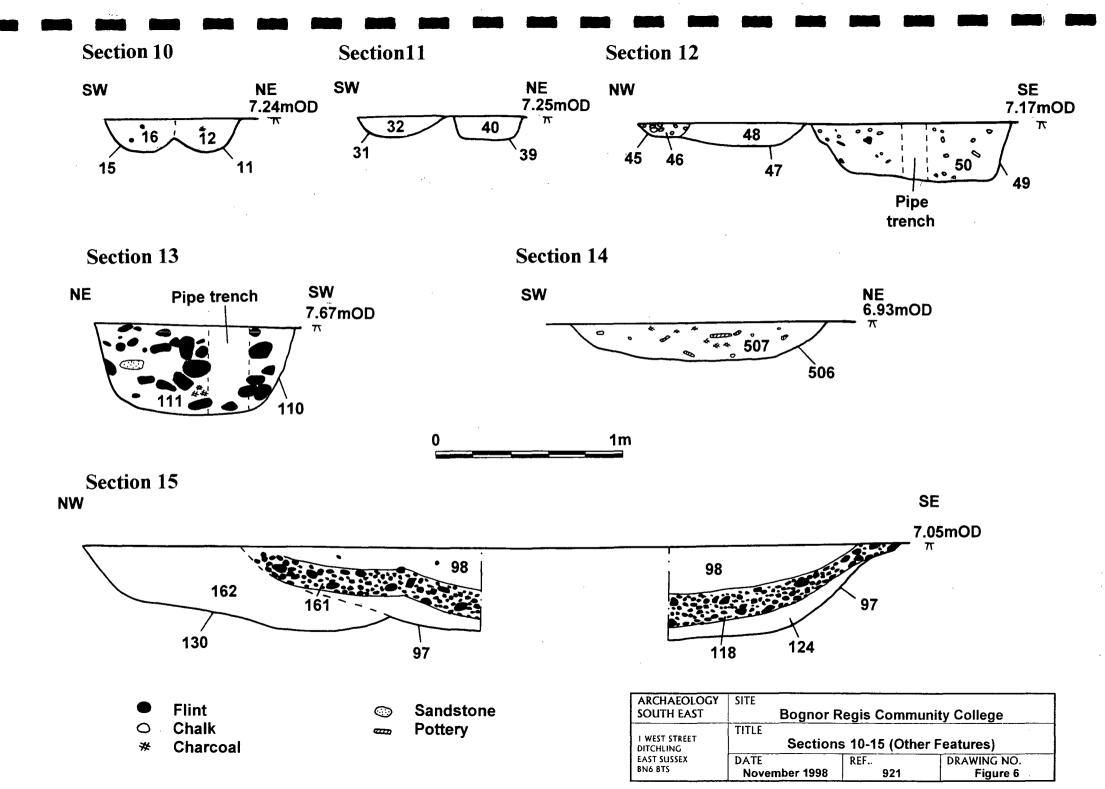
Area B

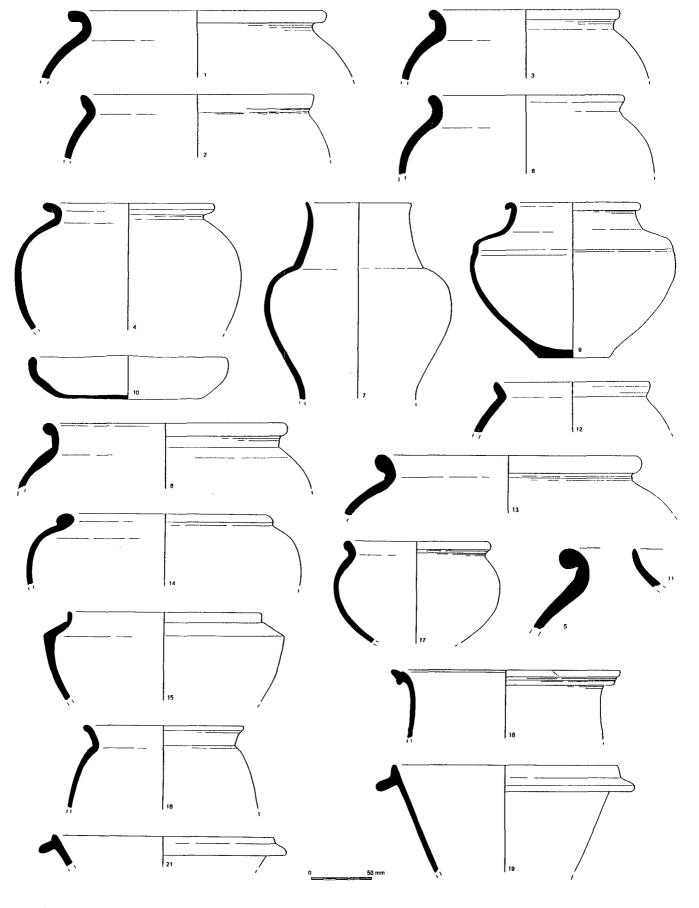


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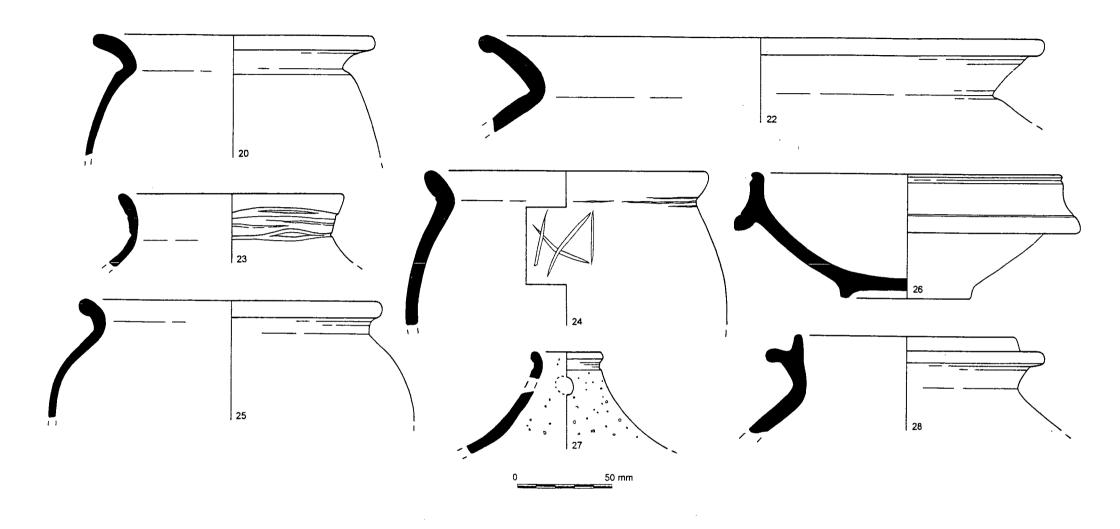
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Bognor F	Regis Commu	nity College
I WEST STREET DITCHLING	TITLE	Plan, Area	В
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ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Bognor F	Regis Commu	mity College
I WEST STREET DITCHLING	TITLE	ottery Illustra	tions
EAST SUSSEX BN6 BTS	DATE November 1998	REF. 921	DRAWING NO. Figure 7



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Bognor F	Regis Commur	nity College
I WEST STREET DITCHLING	TITLE	ottery Illustrati	ions
EAST SUSSEX BN6 BTS	DATE November 1998	REF. 921	DRAWING NO. Figure 8