



**Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works on Land  
East of Malt Shovel Lane, Upper Lambourn, West Berkshire**

June 2022

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

***This document sets out the results from a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd on Land East of Malt Shovel Lane, Upper Lambourn, West Berkshire. The works, involving the excavation of eight trial trenches, were carried out in February & March 2022 in order to evaluate the site of a proposed new racing stable complex.***

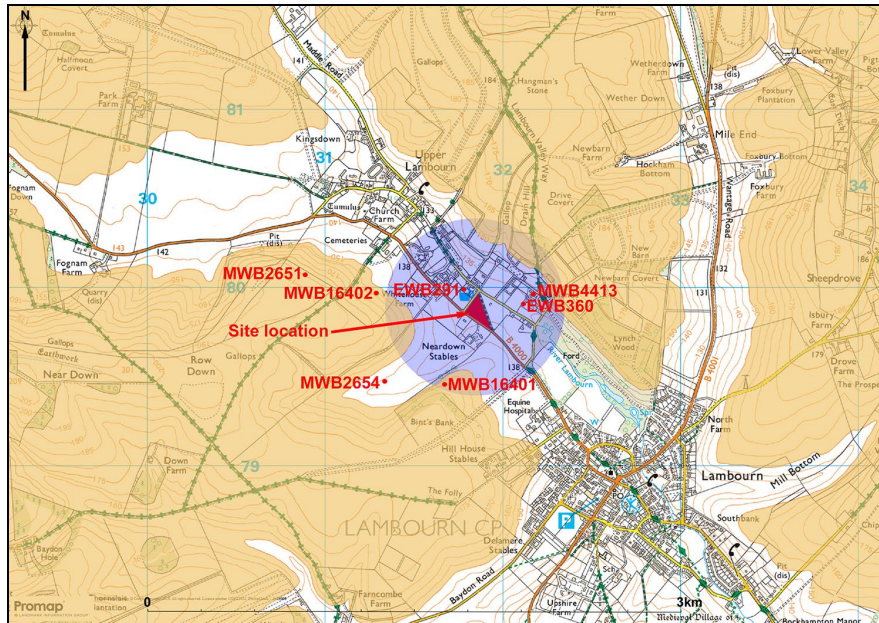
***The results revealed a series of Late Iron Age to early Roman ditches, defining at least two enclosures, and an associated trackway. Three pits of the same date were also found, one of which may be the stokehole to a corn-dryer. In the light of these results, it is recommended that further archaeological work be undertaken on the site should the development proceed further.***

PROJECT BACKGROUND



Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. The land forming the subject of this report lies in the angle of Malt Shovel Lane and the B4000 (Upper Lambourn Road) in the village of Upper Lambourn, in the parish of Lambourn in West Berkshire (see Figs.1 & 2). The site itself sits at 135m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 3185 7987. The underlying geology of the site is the White Chalk Subgroup, overlain to the north by Head deposits.
2. The landowner has received planning permission from West Berkshire Council for the formation of a racing stable complex (18/00774/FULMAJ). Condition 16 of that permission stated that: “No development hereby permitted shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall incorporate and be undertaken in accordance with the approved statement.”
3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA) was appointed by the landowner to write and submit the Written Scheme of Investigation required by this condition (Anelay 2021) and this report details the results of the ensuing archaeological work which consisted of eight trial trenches excavated between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, by George Anelay of WSA. The project archive will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum (Acc No. NEBYM:2021.39).

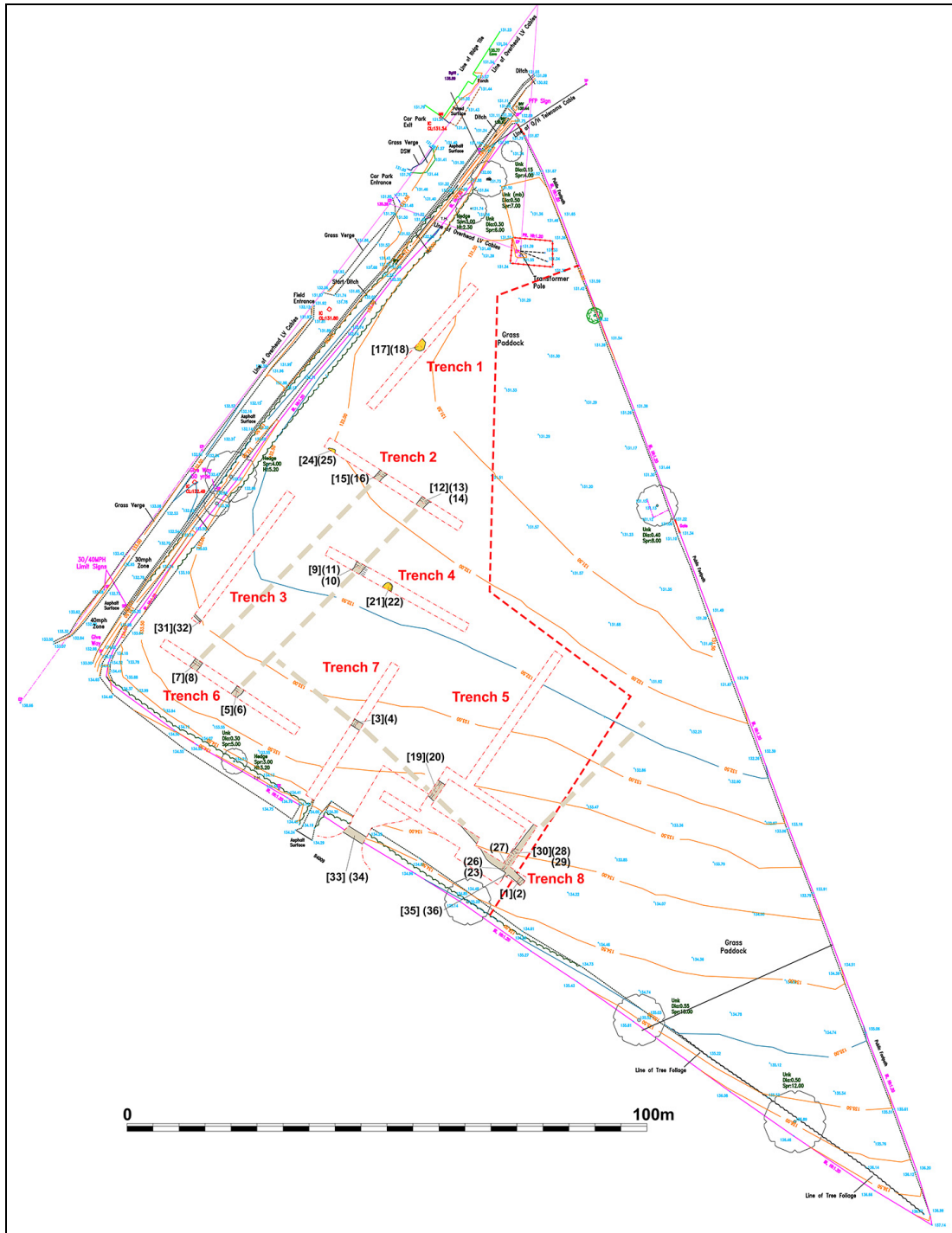


**Figure 2** Site location, with HER data. A 1km HER search radius is shaded in blue. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1. While no known archaeological artefacts or features have been previously found within the site of the proposed racing stable, it is located within a wider area rich in prehistoric and Romano-British remains. With reference to the current site, the cropmarks and earthworks of lynchets and terraces of this period have been previously recorded on the valley sides to the south-west (WBC HER Nos. MWB2651, MWB16402 & MWB16401), together with two possible Bronze Age barrows (WBC HER No. MWB2654), and, c.100m to the north-west, three Roman burials (WBC HER No. EWB291). A further burial, of probable prehistoric date, was found c.350m to the east of the site (WBC HER No. MWB4413). Later evidence of a Late-Saxon date for the origins of the existing village of Upper Lambourn was found in the form of pits, ditches and artefacts c.275m to the east of the site (WBC HER No. EWB360). In addition during an evaluation on a site immediately to the west, carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd in 2019, a small pit, together with three associated stake-holes, was found dating to the Middle Bronze Age (WBC HER No. MWB22548, WSA 2020).
2. The evidence summarised above indicates that the site lies within a farmed landscape dating from at least the Bronze Age onwards, with the valley sides covered by a network of fields, with settlement probably located in the valley bottoms. The latter is suggested by the presence of prehistoric and Romano-British burials, and certainly later by the finds of Saxon features and artefacts. It is therefore considered possible that the development site, situated as it is in the centre of the valley, may contain further such remains.

## RESULTS



**Figure 3** Plan of the trenches and archaeological features

1. Eight trenches were excavated in total (see Figure 3), all 30m long and 1.8m wide, with the exception of Trench 8 which was extended to encompass the site of one of the proposed buildings, together with the site entrance. Within all the trenches the base geology consisted of redeposited chalk overlain in patches by an orange/red clay, which infilled pockets and channels in the chalk's surface. Above the geology

## WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

was a layer of red/brown subsoil, varying in thickness from 0.15 – 0.55m, below the current dark brown topsoil, which was 0.15-0.25m thick. A number of artefacts were recovered from the spoil heaps using a metal detector, those of significance are discussed below. However mention here is made of five spent .303 cartridge cases, distributed across the site, and all dated to between 1940-3. It is suggested that these may be linked to the use of the site for target practice in WWII, in association with a series of temporary buildings noted in the field opposite on contemporary mapping (Anelay 2020, p.15).

2. **Trench 1** contained a pit [17] towards its centre, 0.4m deep where it was cut into the chalk, 2.3m northeast-south-west, and extending 1.5m into the trench from its north-western baulk. This pit contained a fill (18) consisting of five lenses: the upper, middle and lower being composed of a smooth black/brown silt, with the intervening two consisting of a mid-brown silt with frequent flint gravel and chalk fragments. This fill contained eight sherds of later 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery, together with two iron nails, an iron stud, and two fragments of animal bone (cow & unid.). A sample was collected from the fill to see whether its darker colour came from burnt material, but very little charcoal and no charred plant remains were recovered, indicating that this was not the case. From the spoil heap of this trench a silvered Antoninianus of Probus, c.AD280, with a *quadriga* on the reverse, was recovered by metal detector.



Figure 4 Pit 17, looking northwest

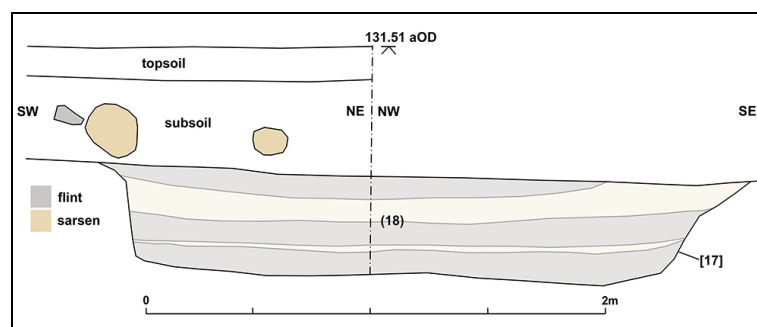


Figure 5 Pit 17 section

## WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

3. **Trench 2** contained a pit **[24]** towards its north-west end, 0.4m deep into the chalk, 1.3m north west to south east and extending 0.7m into the trench from its southwest baulk. This pit contained a fill (25) consisting of a light brown silt with abundant chalk and flint, with a lens of dark brown silt, 0.08m thick, lying 0.2m from the base. This fill contained six sherds of early Roman pottery. Towards the centre of the trench, 10m to the south-east of Pit 24 was a ditch **[15]**, running southwest to northeast. This was 1.6m wide and 0.8m deep, and contained a fill (16) of mid brown silt with abundant chalk and flint. This fill contained two sherds of early Roman pottery and six fragments of animal bone (2 cow, 2 horse & 2 unid.). At a distance of 9.5m lay a second parallel ditch **[12]**, 2m wide and 0.85m deep, with a fill (13 & 14) of mid brown silt with abundant chalk and flint, towards the base becoming paler in colour with less flint. This contained 32 sherds of early Roman pottery and 14 fragments of animal bone (5 cow, 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig & 6 unid.).



**Figure 6** Pit 24, looking southwest



**Figure 7** Ditch 15, looking northeast



Figure 8 Ditch 12, looking northeast

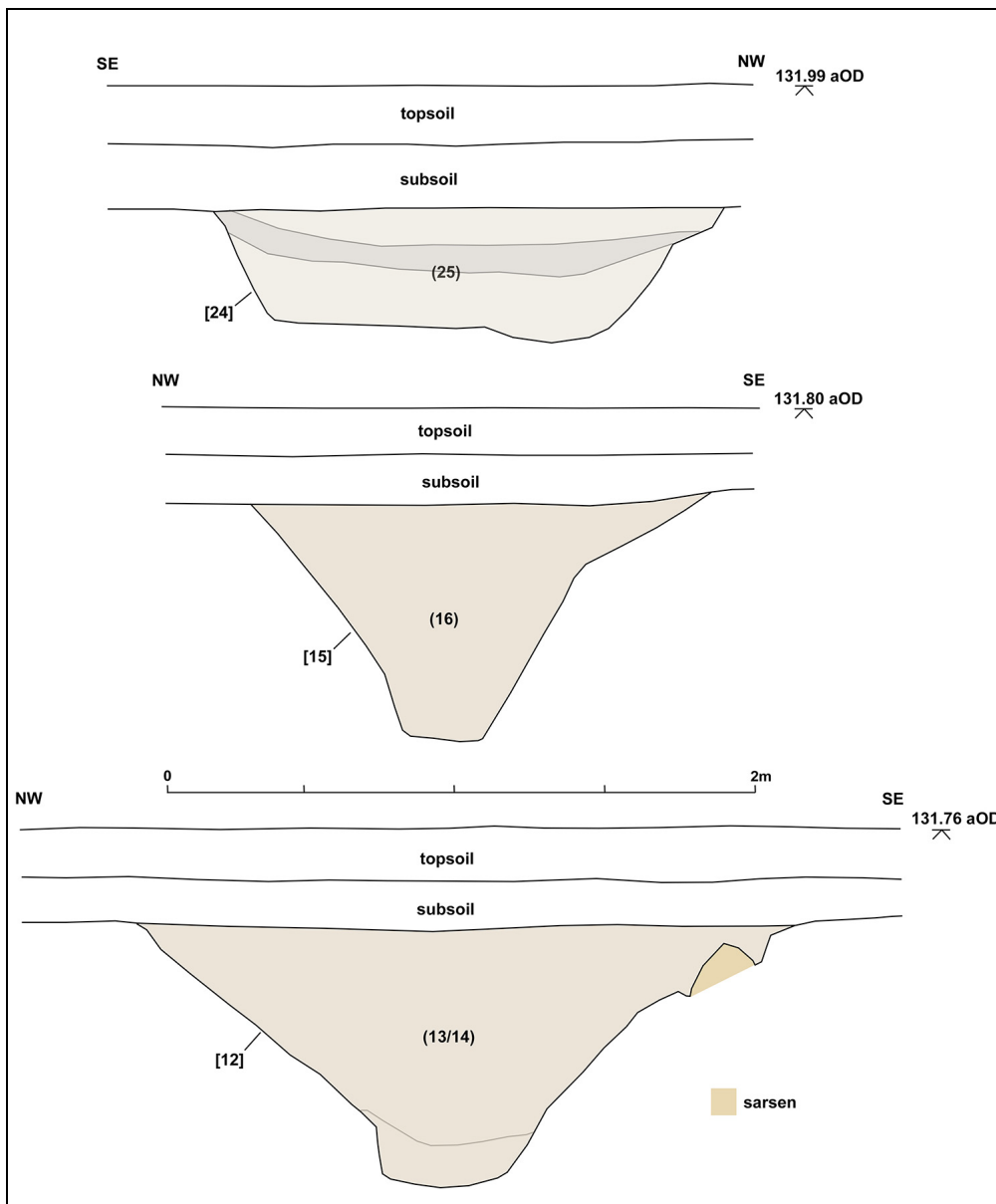


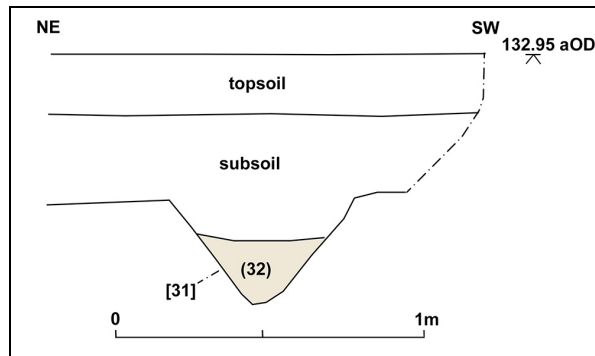
Figure 9 Sections across Pit 24 and Ditches 15 & 12



4. **Trench 3** contained a gully [31] at its southwest end, cut 0.35m deep into the chalk and 0.6m wide. It was filled with a mid-light brown silt (32), with abundant flint gravel. No finds were recovered from within it. A single illegible Roman coin was found on the spoil heap linked to this trench.



**Figure 10** Gully 31, looking southeast

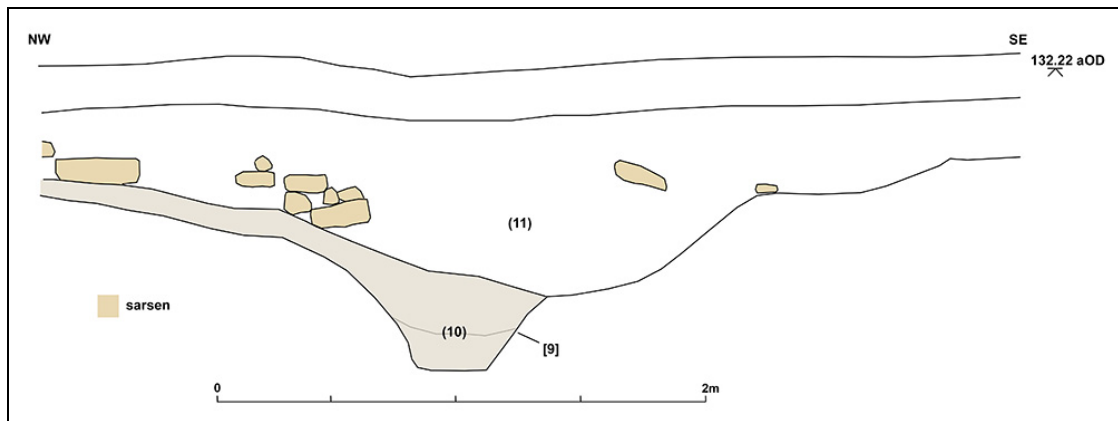


**Figure 11** Gully 31 section

5. **Trench 4** contained two features, to the northwest was a southwest to northeast running ditch [9], 0.75m deep and c.1.9m wide. It was filled with a mid-brown silt (10) containing abundant flint gravel and frequent chalk fragments, towards the base becoming paler in colour with less flint. Recovered from within Fill 10 were 15 sherds of early Roman pottery, an iron nail and 10 fragments of animal bone (7 cow, 2 sheep/goat & 1 pig). Within the subsoil (11) filling the depression over the ditch were numerous sarcens, together with a fragment of post-medieval peg tile and two horse bones. At a distance of 7m to the southeast was the second feature, a pit [21], 1.9m southeast to northwest and extending 1.4m into the trench from its southwest baulk. The upper fill (22) extended to a depth of 0.65m, below which was a burnt layer containing numerous sarcens. This latter layer was left unexcavated. Fill 22 was a mid-brown silt containing abundant flint gravel and frequent chalk fragments, with a lens of chalk crumbs towards its base. This fill contained four sherds of early Roman pottery and four fragments of animal bone (2 cow, 1 horse & 1 unid.). Pit 21 may be the stoke-hole to a corn dryer, or an industrial feature, lying outside the trench to the southwest, as such it was decided to leave the burnt layer undisturbed until/if the feature as a whole is excavated.



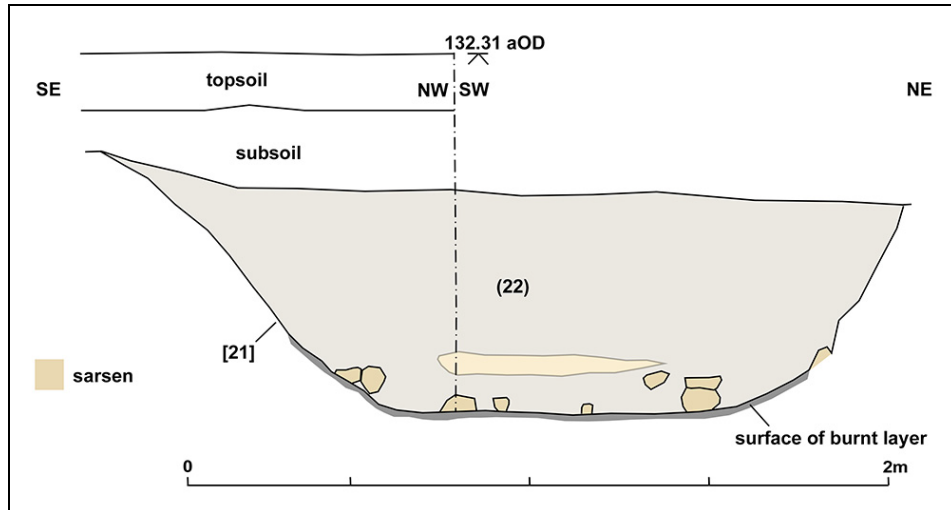
**Figure 12** Ditch 9, looking northeast



**Figure 13** Ditch 9 section



**Figure 14** Pit 21, looking west



**Figure 15** Pit 21 section

5. **Trench 5** contained no archaeological features.
6. **Trench 6** contained two ditches, the northwest ditch **[7]** being 0.95m deep and 1.75m wide, and was filled with a mid-brown silt (8) containing abundant flint gravel and chalk. The upper part of this fill contained a lens of paler brown silt, again with abundant flint and chalk, while towards the fill's base it was paler in colour with less flint. Two fragments of animal bone (both sheep/goat), but no pottery, were recovered from its fill. At a distance of 9.5m to the southeast, lay a second ditch **[5]** running parallel in a southwest to northwest direction. This was only 0.4m deep and 1.5m wide, filled with a mid-brown silt (6) containing frequent flint and chalk. A single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this fill, together with two fragments of animal bone (1 cow & 1 sheep/goat).



**Figure 16** Ditch 7, looking northeast



Figure 17 Ditch 5, looking northeast

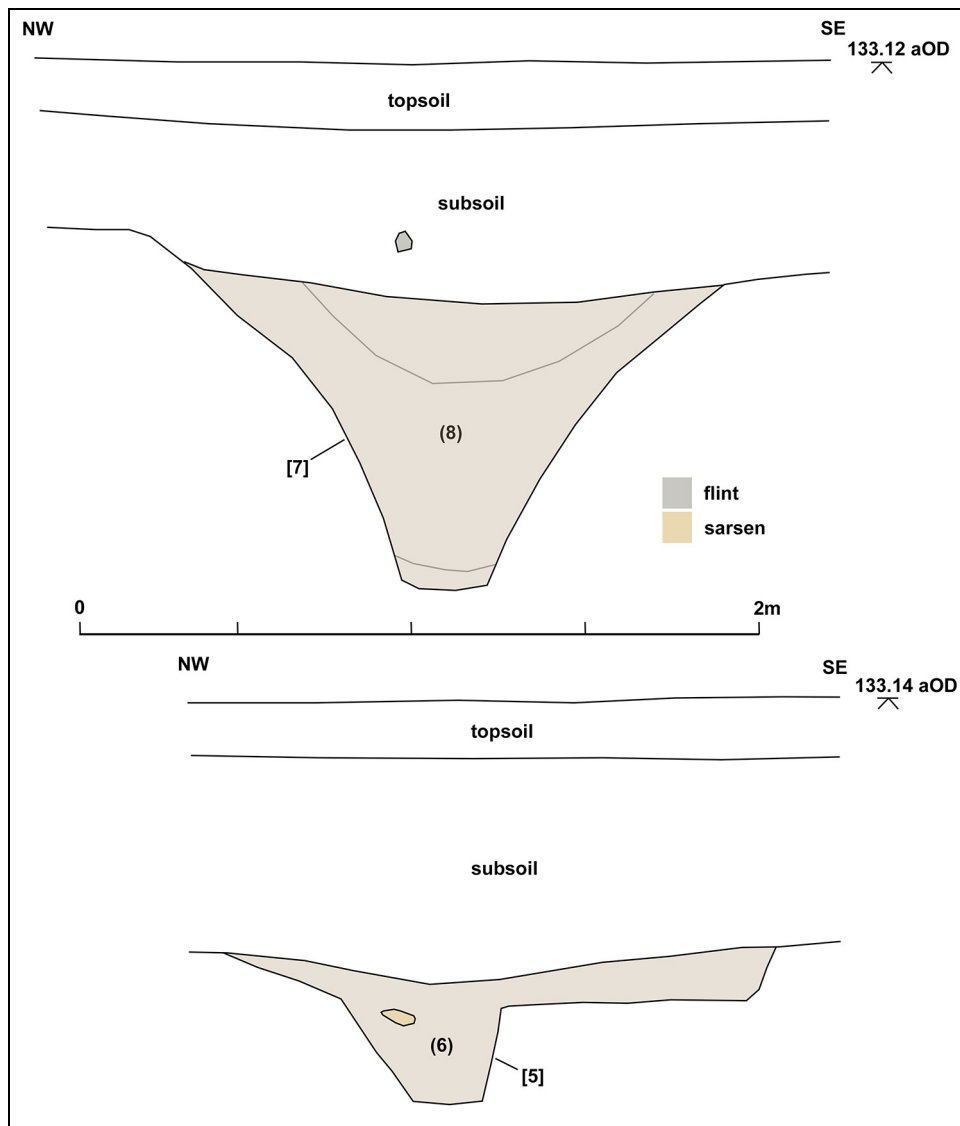


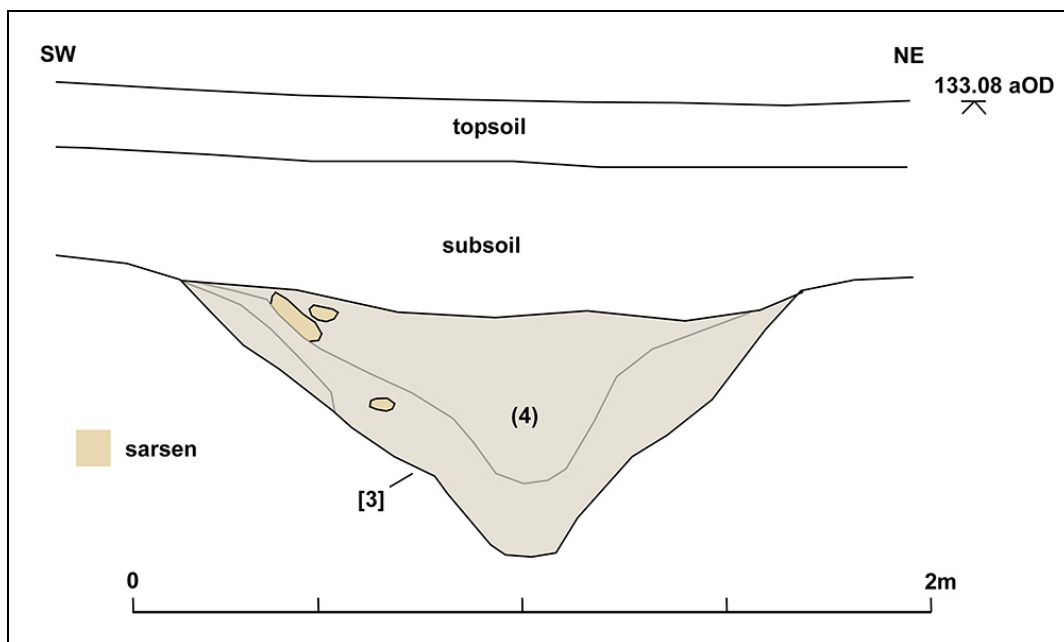
Figure 18 Sections across Ditches 7 & 5

# WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

7. **Trench 7** contained a single ditch **[3]**, running southeast to northwest, 0.7m deep and 1.6m wide. It was filled with a mid-brown silt (4) containing abundant flint gravel and frequent chalk fragments. Towards its base and sides this fill became more clay rich, with a pocket of pure red/brown clay against the upper part of its southwestern side. It contained 19 sherds of Late Iron Age to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery, 11 fragments of animal bone (4 cow, 2 sheep/goat, 1 dog & 4 unid.) and 5 human bones from a neo-nate.



**Figure 19** Ditch 3, looking northwest



**Figure 20** Ditch 3 section

8. **Trench 8** began as a simple northwest to southeast running 30m long trench, but was subsequently extended to the northeast and southwest. The resulting trench revealed four features. Running southeast to northwest was a ditch sectioned in three places. At its south-eastern end **[1]** this ditch was 0.85m deep and c.1.5m wide, and filled with a mid-brown silt (2) containing frequent flint and chalk fragments, together with six sherds of early Roman pottery, a fragment of tile, and 7 fragments of animal bone (1 cow, 1 sheep/goat, 2 chicken & 3 unid.). At its north-western end, this same ditch **[19]**, was 0.7m deep and c.1.7m wide, although its north-eastern side had been truncated by a later feature, probably a tree throw. The fill of the ditch was a mid-brown silt containing abundant flint gravel and frequent chalk fragments. The tree throw above was 2.4m wide and 0.35m deep, and was filled with a dark brown soil containing abundant flint gravel and chalk fragments and a significant number of sarsens, probably originating from a natural deposit revealed in the chalk below. The fills (20) of the ditch and tree throw were excavated together, and contained two fragments of Roman pottery, one dating to the later 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The latter is perhaps derived from the tree throw. In addition 18 fragments of animal bone were recovered (5 horse, 3 cow, 2 sheep/goat, 2 pig & 6 unid.), although at least some of these originated from the tree throw. The central section across this ditch was excavated at the point that it joined a second ditch **[30]**, running southwest to northeast, both being 1.05m deep where they joined, and the latter being c.1.6m wide. Both appeared to be filled with the same material, a mid-brown silt (23, 26, 28 & 29) containing abundant flint gravel and frequent chalk fragments. 25 sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered from this fill, together with 18 fragments of animal bone (7 cow, 2 pig, 1 sheep/goat, 1 horse & 7 unid.). The upper part of the fills of Ditches **[1]** & **[30]** where they met appear to have been disturbed by a later probable tree throw, filled with a darker brown silt (27). This contained a further ten sherds of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, eight pieces of fired clay, and 15 fragments of animal bone (6 sheep/goat, 1 sheep, 3 cow & 5 unid.).



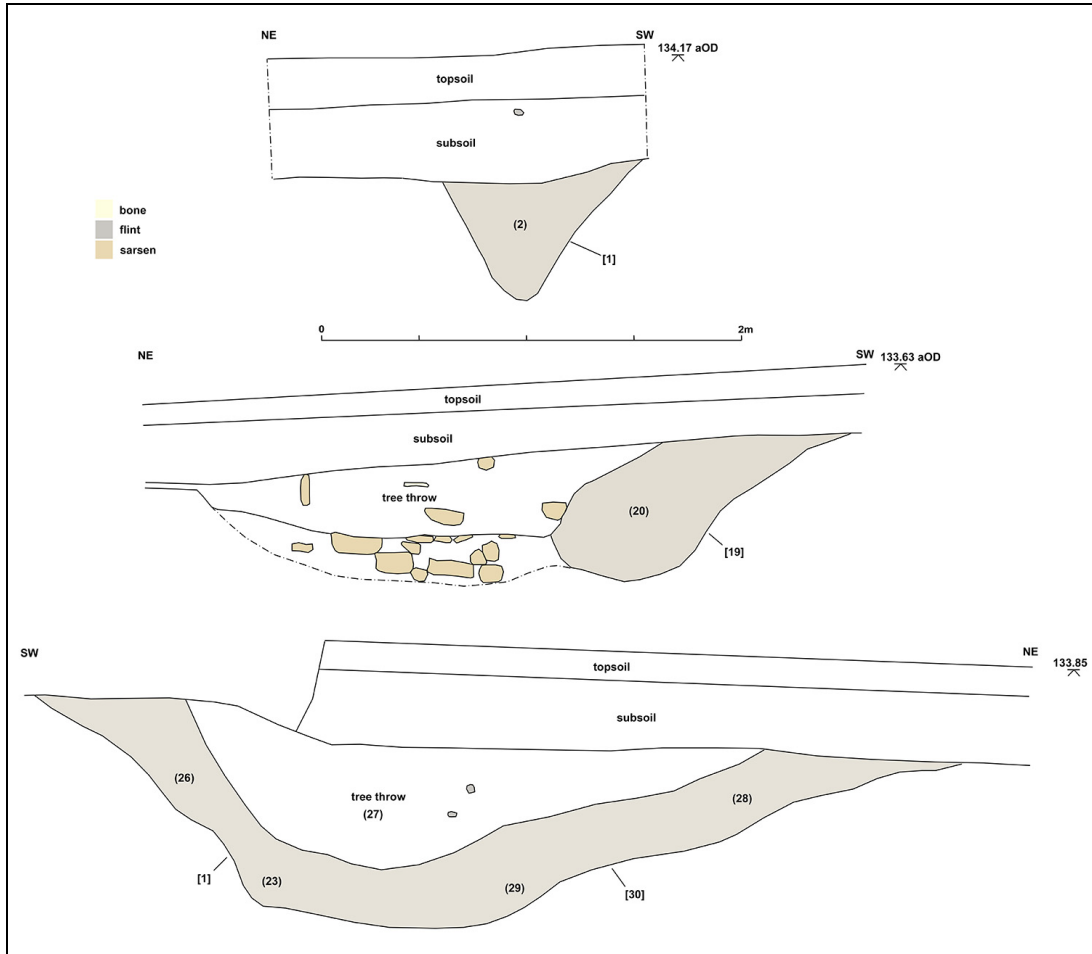
**Figure 21** Ditch 1 looking southeast



**Figure 22** Ditch 19, looking southeast



**Figure 23** The junction of Ditches 1 & 30, looking northeast



**Figure 24** Sections across Ditches 1, 19 & 30

9. Within **Trench 8**, on the south-western side of Ditch [1], 1.5m to the southeast of its junction with Ditch [30], a possible southwest to northeast running gully [35] joined it, 0.45m wide and only 0.2m deep, with a fill (36) identical to that infilling the upper part of Ditch [1] at this point. No artefacts were recovered from its fill.



**Figure 25** Gully 35, looking southwest



9. At the western end of the extended **Trench 8**, where a cutting was made for a new site entrance, a further ditch [33] was noted, c.1m in width, but not excavated since it was not to be disturbed. Its alignment and position suggest that it was associated with the neighbouring road (B4000), being infilled when the current field bank was formed.



**Figure 26** Ditch 33, looking southeast

### CONCLUSION

1. The results from this evaluation are in striking contrast to those on the opposite side of the B4000 at Whitehouse Farm (Anelay 2020). There, while the number and layout of the trenches was the same, the sole archaeological remains were a small Middle Bronze Age pit and three associated stakeholes, but with no trace of later occupation, until WWII. Whereas this evaluation has revealed evidence almost exclusively focused on the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, in the form of a series of ditches and pits covering much of the development site. Two of the ditches [7/15 & 5/9/12] would appear to define an 8m wide trackway running southwest to northeast, while the remaining two [3/19/1 & 30] bound at least two enclosures, the north-western being c.60m across. The ditches themselves were probably originally about 1.5m wide and 0.75m deep, but subsequent re-cutting, evidenced by irregular changes in the fills at the sides and bases of some of the ditches, followed by subsequent erosion, has widened and deepened them in places. Two much smaller gullies [31 & 35] may drain into these larger ditches and be associated with further land divisions.
2. It is not clear whether the spaces thus defined were used for settlement or agriculture. Three pits [17, 21 & 24], also found within the trenches, might suggest more than just agriculture, with one [21] possibly being the stoke-hole to a corn drier. It is also striking that the domestic waste found within the excavated features, most notably the pottery and

animal bone, concentrates in the three ditches surrounding the enclosure immediately to the southeast of the trackway, perhaps suggesting that this might have once contained some form of settlement.

3. Interpreting from such partial evidence is always fraught with difficulty, but the absence of a similar ditch pattern across the road, might suggest that these enclosures are grouped along the valley bottom, within c.150m of the course of the River Lambourn, as it runs northwest to south east. One possible interpretation would be that the area close to the river was enclosed for pasture, with any settlement sites embedded within such fields, while the land further away was given over to arable or open pasture, with droveways, such as the double-ditch trackway found on the site, enabling controlled communication between the two areas. Interestingly the layout of the present village of Upper Lambourn follows a very similar scheme, defined by the B4000 to the south-west and a series of lanes to the north-east.
4. The intensity of occupation on the site does not appear to pre-date the Late Iron Age, nor extend beyond the early Roman period. A few scattered artefacts, namely the coin of Probus and several sherds of pottery, indicate that the land was not deserted after this date, but it does suggest that settlement at least had shifted further away, with the enclosed spaces perhaps being used solely for agriculture. Such a change in land-use between the early and later Roman periods is one attested elsewhere in southern England (Allen *et al.*, p.153,157-8), and may be linked to changes in landownership and management, ultimately resulting from the Roman invasion.
5. Given the comparative density of archaeological features on the site, it is recommended that further work be undertaken in association with any further development works on the site, governed by a suitable Written Scheme of Investigation to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

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## APPENDIX 1 Pottery Report by Jane Timby

- 1 Introduction and methodology
  - 1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Malt Shovel, Upper Lambourn resulted in the recovery of 126 sherds of pottery weighing c 2.37 kg largely dating to the late Iron Age-early Roman period. The assemblage was accompanied by one piece of probable ceramic building material and eight fragments of fired clay weighing 84 g.
  - 1.2 The pottery was recorded using selected recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay *et al.* 2016). Sherds were sorted macroscopically aided with an x20 microscope into provisional fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, along with the frequency and grade of the inclusions. The prehistoric / handmade fabrics are coded using letters to define the main constituents or firing colour and texture following recommendations in PCRG (1997). Known, or traded, Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other Roman wares were either coded using a similar format to that used in the NRFRC or coded more generically according to the firing colour and texture.
  - 1.3 The entire sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Where identified freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. In addition rims were measured for diameter along with the percentage present, for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (Orton *et al.* 1993). Rim-sherds were also identified to broad form type. Existing published corpora have been used where relevant, for example, for samian (Dragendorff 1895) and New Forest wares (Fulford 1975).
  - 1.4 The data was entered onto an Excel spreadsheet deposited with the site archive. A summary was drawn from this data to create Table 1 which gives provisional spot dates for each context. The main elements of the assemblage are presented in this table by ware inclusion type.
  - 1.5 The pottery assemblage was recovered from 12 defined cuts distributed across six of the eight trenches investigated. No pottery came from Trenches 3 and 5. Quantities ranged from a single sherd to a maximum of 32 pieces from ditch [12].
  - 1.6 Most of the pottery sherds are in moderately good condition with fresh edges and surface preservation. This is reflected in a relatively high overall average

sherd weight of 19 g suggesting material that has been relatively undisturbed since deposition.

- 1.7 No ancillary research has been carried out as part of this assessment to check for other similar assemblages from the area or to put the assemblage into its regional, local or site context.
- 2 Composition of the assemblage
    - 2.1 Approximately 61 % of the assemblage comprised either grog, mixed grog and other constituents or calcined flint-tempered wares in the later Iron Age tradition. Most of the vessels are handmade although some of the grog-tempered material is wheel-made or wheel-finished. Although of LIA tradition these wares would have continued in use well into the early Roman period particularly on rural sites.
    - 2.2 The remaining assemblage includes two imported fine wares; a British fine ware; Savernake ware; Alice Holt grey ware and other miscellaneous grey, black and oxidised sandy wares.
    - 2.3 The fine wares include 17 sherds from a single *terra rubra* (GAB TR3) butt beaker (*Camulodunum* type 112) with rouletted decoration from ditch [30] and one rim from a Central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA2) bowl (?Drag. 37) from ditch [2]. The British fine ware is a New Forest colour-coated beaker (Fulford 1975, type 27) from ditch [19].
    - 2.4 Other regional imports comprise one sherd from an Alice Holt grey ware storage jar (ALH RE) and five sherds of Savernake ware storage jar from Wiltshire. The remaining sandy wares, 18% by count) of the assemblage include both handmade, later Iron Age, black sandy wares and more Romanized wheel made grey or oxidised ware.
    - 2.5 In terms of form composition most of the rims belong to beaded rim or simple everted rim jars. Several pieces come from large storage vessels. In addition there are two beakers, one bowl, one dish and two lids.
  - 3 Chronology and distribution
    - 3.1 Although quite small, the assemblage broadly reflects a single phase of occupation spanning the later Iron Age or early Roman period through to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The only exception to this is ditch [19] which has a late Roman New Forest beaker.
    - 3.2 Potentially the earliest features, dating to the later Iron Age or early Roman period, is ditch [30] in Trench 8. Apart from the *terra rubra* butt-beaker the coarsewares are all later Iron Age types. The butt-beaker is potentially a late Iron Age import (Augusto-Tiberian) but could also be conquest period. To have so many sherds from a single vessel is unusual and raises the question as to whether it derives from a disturbed burial. The presence of such a high quality import also raises the potential status of the site.
    - 3.3 Ditch [5] in Tr 6, with just a single worn sherd of LIA black sandy ware, could again be LIA or early Roman in date. Ditches [12], [15], [9], and [1] in Trenches 2, 4 and 8 respectively along with pit [24] in Tr 2 all contained

# WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

pottery which probably reflects an early Roman (pre-Flavian) date. Potentially slightly later 1<sup>st</sup>-early 2<sup>nd</sup> century sherds were recovered from pit [17] Tr 1 and ditch [3] Tr 7. The former had the rim of Central Gaulish samian and the Alice Holt ware sherd whilst the latter produced a wheel-made everted rim beaker and a flanged dish.

3.4 The latest feature appears to be ditch [19] in Tr 8 which yielded just two sherds, a grog-tempered storage jar and the New Forest beaker suggesting a later 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date for this feature.

4 Ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay

4.1 A single flat fragment of CBM was recovered from early Roman ditch [1]. The piece is 18 mm thick with no surviving edges and is grog-tempered.

4.2 Eight fragments of fired clay were recovered from ditch [30]. The pieces are in a soft oxidised fabric and of amorphous shape with no indication of their original purpose.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Although small, the pottery assemblage suggest two discrete phases of use of the site one dating to the later Iron Age-early Roman period the other represented by just one feature with two sherds to the later Roman period. The imported Gallo-Belgic vessel raises the status of the nature of the occupation and this along with the well-preserved nature of the assemblage suggests a site which potentially may have local and regional significance.

Tr	Cxt	Cut	Type	Flint	Grog	Grog+	Sam	Fw	Sandy	SAV	Other	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date	CBM no	CBM wt	fc no	fc wt
1	18	17	pit	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	8	144	C2				
2	13	12	ditch	11	16	1	0	1	0	0	0	29	572	ero				
2	14	12	ditch	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	122	ero				
2	16	15	ditch	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	80	ero				
2	25	24	pit	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	6	170	ero				
4	10	9	ditch	0	11	1	0	0	3	0	0	15	225	ero				
4	22	21	pit	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	30	ero				
6	6	5	ditch	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	9	LIA				
7	4	3	ditch	2	9	0	0	0	4	0	0	15	497.5	IC1-eC2				
8	2	1	ditch	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	6	128	ero	1	55		
8	20	19	ditch	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	20	IC3-C4				
8	23	1	ditch	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	51	lia-ero				
8	26	1	ditch	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	32	lia-ero			1	5
8	27	1 & 30	ditch	1	5	1	0	1	2	0	0	10	107	lia-ero			7	79
8	28	30	ditch	0	0	2	0	16	0	0	0	18	96	lia-ero				
8	29	30	ditch	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	84	lia-ero				
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2367.5</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>84</b>

**Table 1**

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## APPENDIX 2 Animal Bone by Martyn Allen

### Introduction

A total of 177 refitted bone specimens were recovered during the excavation. Of these, 170 derived from ditch fills dating to the late Iron Age–early Roman period, five were from pit fills (also probably LIA–ER), and two were horse bones recovered from the subsoil (these horse bones are not considered further in this report). The assemblage was generally well preserved, although some bones had fragmented after excavation and, where possible, these have not been counted individually but considered part of individual specimens so that the quantities of different taxa are not over-represented. Five bones, all from a single context, were identified as human, specifically disarticulated bones of a neonate, all probably from the same individual.

The bones were recorded using the author’s skeletal reference collection to standard zooarchaeological protocols. The assemblage should be retained in full, except for the two horse bones from the subsoil, which can be discarded. Should further excavations be undertaken at the site following the evaluation, this material can be incorporated with any further animal bones recovered.

### Results

Of the 175 bone specimens recovered from sealed contexts, 82 could be identified to species, while the remainder were either from large-sized mammals, medium-sized mammals or were unidentifiable fragments (Table 1). A full breakdown of specimens by context is included in the archive. Cattle were the most common taxa, amounting to 38 specimens, followed by 21 sheep/goat bones, including one specimen (a skull-and-horncore fragment) that was positively identified as sheep. No clear evidence of goats was found. Pig bones amounted to six specimens, with nine specimens of horse being slightly more prevalent. One dog bone and two chicken bones were also identified, alongside the five human bones. Of the specimens identified to taxon, almost all were from ditch fills, except for two cattle bones and one horse bone that came from pits.

Taxon	Ditch	Pit	Subsoil	Total
cattle	36	2		38
sheep/goat	20			20
sheep	1			1
pig	6			6
horse	8	1	2	11
dog	1			1

chicken	2			2
human	5			5
large mammal	57	1		58
medium mammal	22	1		23
unidentified	12			12
Total	170	5	2	177

Table 1: Summary of bone remains by number of specimens from each context type

### ***Cattle***

Cattle bones were recovered from ditch fills 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 16, 18, 20 and 26–29, while two derived from pit fill 22. A minimum of two animals were represented by a range of limb elements. Mandibles were the best-represented element, although this was probably biased by the increased fragmentation of these bones. Loose teeth were not overly common, however, accounting for six specimens. The majority of cattle bones were from skeletally mature animals, except for a distal tibia from ditch fill 13 that was from a juvenile animal.

Two cattle bones exhibited butchery marks. A scapula from ditch fill 13 exhibited a superficial chop mark on the blade and a tibia from ditch fill 4 displayed several cuts on the rear of the shaft just above the distal end. Three cattle bones had been gnawed by a dog.

### ***Sheep/Goat***

Sheep/goat bones were recovered from ditch fills 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 20, 23, and 27. These were mostly just one or two fragments, except for ditch fill 27 which produced seven specimens, including the sheep skull-and-horncore fragment. It is possible that those specimens from fill 27 all derived from a single animal. A range of elements were identified, the vast majority being post-cranial with only one loose tooth present. Metapodial specimens were the most common. Few specimens provided an indication of age, but of those that did all were from skeletally mature animals. No sheep/goat bones exhibited butchery marks and one—a metacarpal—had been gnawed by a dog.

### ***Pig***

Six pig bones were recovered from ditch fills 10, 13, 20, 23 and 29. Four of these were mandibles, including two (a left and a right) from fill 20, probably from the same jaw. One of these specimens had its second or third molar erupting through the alveolar surface, but it was unclear which tooth it was, so the age of the animal could not be discerned. The other elements present included a humerus and a calcaneus. None of the pig bones showed signs of butchery or carnivore gnawing.

### ***Horse***

Horse bones were recovered from ditch fills 16, 20 and 28, and pit fill 22, five of which were from ditch fill 20. Horse elements included a loose tooth, humerus, radius, pelvis, femur, astragalus, metapodial and phalanx specimens. Most of the remains were from skeletally mature animals, except from the femur (fill 16) that had not undergone epiphyseal fusion at either proximal and distal ends and a radius (fill 20) that appeared to be juvenile.

## ***Dog***

The single dog bone was a largely complete radius with a fused proximal end. The bone was recovered from ditch fill 4.

## ***Chicken***

The two chicken bones were a humerus and a femur from ditch fill 2. Both were from juvenile bones, since they were not full size and the ends of the bones had not fully formed.

## ***Human***

Five human bones were all recovered from ditch fill 4. These were all from a neonate, possibly an infant that had died in childbirth or perhaps no more than a few weeks after birth. The bones included a humerus, an ulna, a femur and two tibiae.

## **Conclusions**

The range of taxa identified in this assemblage are typical of late Iron Age and early Roman assemblages in southern Britain, with cattle and sheep/goat remains dominating (Allen 2017). The assemblage is too small to provide any firm understanding of livestock ratios, although it is testament to the good preservation of the material that a fairly wide range of animals could be identified, including juvenile bird bones which are relatively rare. The presence of a juvenile horse bone suggests that equine-rearing may have been undertaken nearby.

The presence of five neonatal human bones add to the corpus of infant remains being placed in non-funerary contexts during the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Smith 2018). Although not found in articulation during the excavation, it is likely that the bones represent one individual.

## **Bibliography**

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