



Burndell Road Yapton, West Sussex

Interim Statement of Results

Planning Ref.: F/16/18/OUT
Document Ref.: 114892.1
February 2019



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Interim Statement of Results

In December 2018, Wessex Archaeology carried out a targeted archaeological excavation on land to the south of Burndell Road, Yapton, West Sussex, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 498501 102797. The work was commissioned by Crayfern Homes Limited in response to a condition attached to the outline planning consent (Arun District Council (ADC) application reference F/16/18/OUT) for the construction of 45 residential dwellings and associated access on the site.

The excavation was preceded by an archaeological evaluation in November 2016 (Wessex Archaeology 2016), which had identified a single archaeological feature in one of the 18 trial trenches (Trench 7) excavated on the site. The feature was only partially excavated during the evaluation as it was not fully exposed within the confines of the trench. Although the interpretation of the feature was somewhat uncertain at this stage, the abundance of cultural material, particularly pottery and worked flint, retrieved from its fills was clearly indicative of deliberate deposition during the Early Neolithic. The traces of activity revealed during the evaluation were deemed to be of particular significance given the scarcity of contemporary evidence recorded across the surrounding landscape.

This prompted the Archaeological Advisor to ADC to recommend that a targeted archaeological excavation of the area around the Neolithic feature would be an appropriate form of mitigation. This was initially agreed to comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of an initial single area measuring 20m x 20m (400 m²), centred on the Neolithic feature in Trench 7. In the event, the footprint of the excavation area was reduced slightly, with the agreement of the Archaeological Advisor to ADC, as it became apparent that no associated archaeological remains were present. The previously un-investigated remainder of the Neolithic feature was, however, exposed, fully excavated and recorded during the 2018 excavation.

The excavation revealed that the Neolithic feature, which had tentatively been interpreted as two intercutting pits during the 2016 evaluation, was actually a single feature, albeit with a somewhat unusual, crescentic shape in plan, and an irregular profile, which was steeply sloped or undercut on the inner side.

The finds from the evaluation phase have been subject to preliminary assessment, and the results detailed in the accompanying grey literature report (Wessex Archaeology 2016). A total of 393 sherds (1854 g) of Early Neolithic pottery from at least 13 vessels was retrieved from the fills of the feature. A large quantity of worked flint (321 pieces) was also recovered; this mainly comprised flake debitage, but also included a blank with low-angle retouch on both faces (probably an unfinished leaf-shaped arrowhead), two scrapers and a very narrow leaf-shaped arrowhead. Other finds included burnt flint (542 g), a small quantity of fired clay (70 g) and a fragment of unworked fine-grained pale igneous rock.

A similarly substantial finds assemblage was retrieved from the remainder of the feature during the subsequent excavation in 2018. The finds from the excavation have been washed, weighed and quantified, but have not been subject to any formal assessment.

A tabulated summary quantification of the artefactual material recovered from the Neolithic feature is presented below.

Finds from the Early Neolithic feature by context (no./weight in g)

Context	Burnt flint	Flint	Pottery	Stone	Fired Clay
<i>Evaluation – November 2016</i>					
706	15/542	134/1101	213/1429		
709		186/895	180/425	1/248	17/70
710		1/40			
<i>Excavation – December 2018</i>					
1902	3/68	4/66			
1907	43/285	130/791	175/2830		
1908			4/13		
Total	61/895	455/2893	572/4697	1/248	17/70

The feature deposits were extensively sampled for the retrieval of palaeoenvironmental remains during both the 2016 evaluation and the 2018 excavation. The sampled material has yet to be precisely quantified, although a maximum of 430 litres was collected on site. The environmental samples have not been processed or assessed at this stage.

The evidence recovered during the fieldwork has sufficient research potential to merit further analysis. It is proposed that, following the completion of this work, a short article will be prepared for publication in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*.

References

Wessex Archaeology 2016 *Burdell Road, Yapton, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, unpublished client report, ref. 114890.02



Site plan showing 2016 evaluation trenches and 2018 excavation area

Figure 1

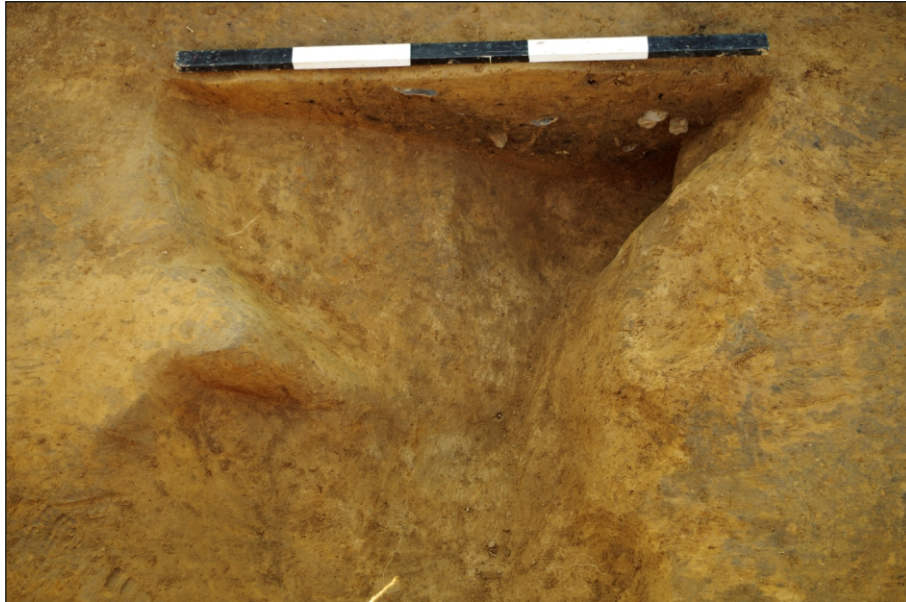


Plate 2: North facing section through Neolithic feature (Scale 1 x 0.5 m)



Plate 3: View of partially excavated Neolithic feature, from the south (Scale 1 x 1 m)



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Plate 4: Plan view of pottery sherds in of partially excavated Neolithic feature (Scale 1 x 1 m)



Plate 5: View of fully excavated Neolithic feature, from the south (Scale 1 x 1 m)

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