Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report on Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks West Sussex

NGR TQ 302 153
NGR 530248 115300

Planning Ref: 09/00952/FUL

ASE Project No: 5493
Site Code: WTH 12

ASE Report No: 2012121
OASIS id: archaeol6-127094

By Andrew Margetts
With contributions from by Karine Le Hégarat
And illustrations by Antonio Reis

June 2012

Archaeological Evaluation Report on Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks West Sussex

NGR 530248 115300

Planning Ref: 09/00952/FUL

ASE Project No: 5493
Site Code: WTH 12

ASE Report No: 2012121
OASIS id: archaeol6-127094

By Andrew Margetts
With contributions from by Karine Le Hégarat
And illustrations by Antonio Reis

June 2012

Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development of, and alterations to, the Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex (NGR 530248 115300*).*

The evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a large amount of unstratified flintwork of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date as well as an undated ditch. The archaeological horizon in the southern half of the site was found to be truncated by a post-medieval sand pit.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development of, and alterations to, the Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex (NGR 530248 115300), (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated within the existing tennis courts and landscaped gardens of the Weald Lawn Tennis Club on the southern edge of Hassocks. It is located within a small stream valley at *c.*43m AOD and is bounded by a brick-yard and railway to the east, residential areas to the north and west and woodland and a stream to the south. The site is gently sloping to the south and then stepped onto a flat terrace.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the site is Folkestone Beds sandstone, as shown by the British Geological Survey (England and Wales 1:63,600 Series, Sheet 318/333 – Brighton and Worthing, 1984). The site is situated between the Lower Greensand Ridge to the north, and the Gault Clay to the south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The evaluation was undertaken to inform on any further mitigation that would be necessary in advance of the new development.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012) relating to the archaeological evaluation was prepared. All works were carried out in accordance with the WSCC *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (version 2b) (2007)

1.3.3 The evaluation followed on from previous Desk Based Assessment (DBA) of the site (CgMs 2007).

1.3.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological finds and features, as part of a phased programme of archaeological work in order to meet the requirements of a planning condition (Condition 12). This condition was attached to the granting of planning permission (Planning Ref: 09/00952/FUL), for the construction of three bungalows and six houses with garages, parking and access roads, and also to meet the requirements of a planning condition (Condition 11) attached to the granting of planning permission (08/02370/FUL) to construct four all-weather tennis courts, refurbishment of clubhouse, new access road, alterations and improvements to access and parking and provision of permissive footpath and footbridge.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim and objective of the archaeological investigation as set out in the WSI (CgMs 2012) was to:

- determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains requiring further archaeological mitigation (in this instance preservation by record) in advance of development.
-

1.4.2 More specific objectives included:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.

- To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.

- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report outlines the results of the evaluation, undertaken by Andrew Margetts (Senior Archaeologist), Cormac Duffy (Site Assistant) and Rob Cole (Surveyor), from the 16th to the 18th of May 2012. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is taken from a preceding DBA (CgMs 2007) with due acknowledgement. For a full discussion of the archaeological background of the site please refer to that document.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A Mesolithic flint-working site and pit are recorded at Stonepound sandpit *c*.100m west of the study site (SMR 3780 TQ 29601540), possibly representing the remains of a single hut occupation site. Several Mesolithic find-spots of flint tools and flakes encountered along the Greensand ridge are recorded on the SMR within the search radius, (SMR Nos 4120 TQ 30510 15460; 4133 TQ 30760 15170, 5064 TQ 30050 15420, 5075 TQ 29970 16190).

2.2.2 During the Neolithic period settlement and farming was concentrated along the raised beaches and the Chalk Downland to the south of the study site. Activity in areas north of the Downs is represented by isolated finds of stone axes and some flint tools.

2.2.3 Four Neolithic find-spots of flint artefacts are recorded along the ridge to the south of the study site (SMR Nos: 3781 TQ 29600 15400; 3783 TQ 29340 15540; 4134 TQ 30760 15170; 5822 TQ 30600 16100). These find-spots include a Neolithic axe that was recovered from Stonepound pit *c*.100m west of the study site (SMR 3781; grid ref TQ 29601540).

2.2.4 Overall the sites archaeological potential for the later prehistoric periods was defined as having been moderate. However due to the sites location within a field used for Post-Medieval sand extraction the potential is reduced to negligible.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The Hassocks area was focus of Roman activity, with the siting of a Roman cemetery at the cross-roads of two major Roman roads. The main London to Brighton road was thought to follow the line of the present A273 *c*. 150m west of the study site. However, there is little physical evidence for this route (Shields 1999), and a serious alternative has recently been discovered at Friar's Oak, *c*. 500m north-west of the study site, where a section of road was observed during excavations in 1994, with its alignment partly confirmed by resistivity surveys.

2.3.2 A second Roman road ran east-west between Barcombe Mills and Hardham, following the Greensand ridge (the Greensand Way), marked on current Ordnance Survey maps crossing east-west *c*.1km north-east of the study site. Other Roman finds in the vicinity include a Roman coin of Antoninus Pius (AD138-161) recovered during house building by the crossroads (SMR:3797 TQ 29880 15470).

2.3.3 The cemetery (SMR: 3779 and 4375 TQ 29670 15540) lay on the south side of the Greensand ridge, c. 350m north-west of the study site, and was excavated in 1925 (Couchman 1925; Lyne 1994). Pottery evidence suggested that the site was in use from the 1st to the 4th centuries.

2.3.4 A *mansio* (imperial posting station) may have been established at Hassocks because of its position at a crossroads 9 miles from possible Roman settlements to east and west (Margary 1935). Fieldwork to the west of the cemetery has revealed occupation deposits associated with pits and a ditch.

2.3.5 The study site lay to the south-east of the probable Roman crossroads and associated cemetery and therefore is likely to have lain outside the focus of Roman settlement and burial activity. During this period the study site probably comprised woodland.

2.3.6 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period was considered as having been low and now as negligible.

2.4 Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval

2.4.1 A pagan Saxon cemetery was discovered at Hassocks, just east of the Roman cemetery, c. 300m north-west of the study site (SMR: 3800; TQ 29670 15540).

2.4.2 The Buttinghill, a natural mound, lay to the north of the Saxon cemetery *c*.400m north-west of the study site (SMR: 3789 TQ 29630 15710) and was used in the Saxon and Medieval periods as the meeting-place of the Hundred Court (VCH 1940).

2.4.3 Evidence of Saxon activity was recorded during the 1994 Friars Oak excavations, with a number of features, including a sunken-floored building, a ditch and concentrations of post-holes (Butler 2000).

2.4.4 Overall the potential of the study site for the Anglo-Saxon and early Medieval periods was defined as having been low and now as negligible.

2.4.1 Late medieval and post medieval

2.5.1 Many of the existing farms and homesteads within the study area will have originated within this period as the Wealden Forest and its edges began to be cleared and brought into cultivation (assarting).

2.5.2 The Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows the study site occupying grassy uneven ground marked as ‘The Hassocks’ bounded by the railway line from London to Brighton on the east and a Gas works to the north (Fig. 6). A sand pit area is marked in the north-west corner of the field.

2.5.3 By 1897 a tramway ran through the centre of the site, leading from Stonepound Sand Pit in the west through to the railway sidings in the east. Coniferous woodland is shown in the south of the site, and hachures indicate the northern edge of an old sand pit in the centre of the site.

2.5.4 By 1946 the tramway was removed and tennis courts were constructed extending from the west into the central part of the site.

2.5.5 By 1974 hachures indicate that the former sand pit in the central part of the site was infilled. By 1979 the former sandpit in the northern corner of the site was infilled and levelled.

2.5.6 Between 1979 and 2007 the tennis grounds were extended eastwards across the centre of the site.

2.6.7 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the late Medieval and post-medieval periods was defined as low, because the site was most probably wooded and under pasture, until it was used for sand quarrying during the later post-medieval period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 This phase of work comprised the archaeological excavation of ten trial trenches and where the archaeological horizon was intact three hand-dug test pits. Eight of the trenches measured 10m in length and 1.8m in width. Two of the trenches were reduced to *c*.5m in length due to obstructions and access as shown on Figure 2.

3.1.2 The trenches were accurately located by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station.

3.1.3 The trench locations were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.

3.1.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological deposits, whichever was uppermost. Machine excavation proceeded with caution and in spits of no more than 200mm depth. In cases where clear and deep truncation of the archaeological horizon had occurred machining ceased at a safe depth once the truncation had been proven.

3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features

3.1.6 Trenches will be backfilled and compacted upon completion but no formal re-instatement (e.g. re-turfing, re-seeding, etc.) was undertaken.

3.2 Recording Methodology

3.2.1 Excavation strategy was in accordance with Annexe A of the Standard Conditions (WSCC 2007). Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned, recorded and excavated sufficiently to characterise them.

3.2.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.

3.2.3 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned in relation to the trench and the trench planned onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map not smaller than 1:2500 scale. Sections of each trench, or representative sections where uniform deposits were encountered, were properly drawn and recorded.

3.2.4 A photographic record was made of all archaeological features. Photographs, except working shots, included a board that detailed: the site code, date and context number, a scale and a north arrow.

3.3 Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and will be submitted to

a suitable museum or archive repository at the end of the project.

Number of Contexts	33
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and section sheets	1
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	18 digital images
Registered finds	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 EVALUATION RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trenches encountered varying degrees of disturbance. Severe truncation had occurred in the south of the site, however the natural and archaeological horizons in the north remained relatively intact. Removal of *c*. 0.20m of natural sand was necessary for clarification of archaeological features.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on an east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	55.53
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	55.33
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	54.74

Table 2: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 The natural Folkestone Beds [1/003] in this location were compact, light-brown-grey sand and dark orange-brown degraded sandstone. It produced finds of struck flint resulting from bioturbation and was overlain by firmly compacted mid grey/brown silty sand [1/002], a subsoil/woodland soil. This contained occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments, fire-cracked flint and modern tree roots. This deposit produced large quantities of prehistoric flint-work and was overlain by firm dark-grey-brown sandy silt topsoil [1/001]. This contained occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris. It produced occasional finds of prehistoric flintwork

4.2.3 *Trench 1 Test Pit*
At the eastern end of the trench a 1.5 x 1.8m hand dug test pit was excavated. The test pit revealed an identical sequence to that described above. The largest concentration of prehistoric flint-work was encountered within subsoil/woodland soil deposit [1/002] from which a 40l bulk sample <1> was retrieved. Excavation terminated *c*.40mm into the natural horizon at which point retrieval/occurrence of flint-work ceased.

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on an east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	55.06
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	54.84
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	54.62

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 2

4.3.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [2/003] were present comprising compact, light brown/grey sand and dark orange/brown degraded sandstone. This was overlain by firmly compacted mid grey/brown silty sand [2/002] with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments, fire-cracked flint and modern tree roots. This subsoil/woodland soil produced large quantities of prehistoric flintwork and was overlain by firm dark grey/brown sandy silt topsoil [2/001] with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris. It produced occasional finds of prehistoric flintwork.

4.3.3 *Trench 2 Test Pit*
At the western end of the trench a 1.5 x 1.8m hand dug test pit was excavated. The test pit revealed an identical sequence to that described above. The largest concentration of prehistoric flintwork was encountered within subsoil/woodland soil deposit [2/002] from which a 40l bulk sample <2> was retrieved. Excavation terminated *c*.50mm into the natural horizon at which point retrieval/occurrence of flint-work ceased.

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 measured *c*.5m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	54.75
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	54.45
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.90
3/004	Fill	Backfill	-	-	0.60m +	54.42
3/005	Cut	Quarry Cut	-	-	0.60m +	54.42

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 3

4.4.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [3/003] were present comprising compact, light brown/grey sand and dark orange/brown degraded sandstone. The natural deposit was truncated by the construction cut for a backfilled quarry [3/005]. This had sharply sloping sides but the base was not seen. It corresponded with a topographic bank and terrace within the existing tennis club grounds. It was filled by variable mid orange/brown and dark grey/brown silty sand [3/004]. This contained occasional inclusions of modern debris as well as sandstone fragments.

4.4.3 Overlying [3/003] and cut by [3/005] was firm-compact mid grey/brown silty sand [3/002] with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments, fire-cracked flint and modern tree roots. This subsoil/woodland soil produced large quantities of prehistoric flint-work and was overlain by firm dark grey/brown sandy silt topsoil [3/001] with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris. It produced occasional finds of prehistoric flintwork. This also overlay backfill [3/004].

4.4.4 *Trench 3 Test Pit*
At the northern end of the trench a 1.5 x 1.8m hand dug test pit was excavated. The test pit was located outside of the quarry truncation and revealed an identical sequence to the intact parts of the trench. The largest concentration of prehistoric flint-work was encountered within subsoil/woodland soil deposit [3/002]. Excavation terminated *c.*200mm into the natural horizon at which point retrieval/occurrence of flint-work ceased.

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the (truncated) natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	52.83
4/002	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.85m	52.48
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.89

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 4

4.5.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [4/003], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a mix of firm mid grey/brown clay sand with moderate inclusions of modern debris and mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange re-deposited sand, [4/002]. These made ground/levelling deposits comprised landscaping and quarry backfill. They were overlain by a recent topsoil deposit [4/001] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the (truncated) natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	52.65
5/002	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.10m	52.45
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.33

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 5

4.6.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [5/003], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a mix of firm mid grey/brown clay sand with moderate inclusions of modern debris and mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange re-deposited sand. These made ground/levelling deposits [5/002] comprised landscaping and quarry backfill. They were overlain by a recent topsoil

deposit [5/001] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.7 Trench 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the (truncated) natural horizon.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	52.46
6/002	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.80m	52.06
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.62

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 6

4.7.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [6/003], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a mix of firm mid grey/brown clay sand with moderate inclusions of modern debris and mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange re-deposited sand. These made ground/levelling deposits [6/002] comprised landscaping and quarry backfill. They were overlain by a recent topsoil deposit [6/001] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.8 Trench 7

4.8.1 Trench 7 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The natural horizon was not reached.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	52.72
7/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m+	52.52

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 7

4.8.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [7/002], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a recent topsoil deposit [7/001] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.9 Trench 8

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment. The natural horizon was not reached.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	52.70
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m+	52.50

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 8

4.9.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [8/002], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a recent topsoil deposit [8/002] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.10 Trench 9

4.10.1 Trench 9 measured 10m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a roughly north south alignment. The natural horizon was not reached.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	52.79
9/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	1.25m+	52.39

Table 10: Context Register, Trench 9

4.10.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [9/002], a compact, mottled mid-orange-yellow and dark-yellow-orange sand with very occasional sandstone inclusions was overlain by a recent topsoil deposit [9/001] comprising mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris.

4.11 Trench 10 (Figure 3)

4.11.1 Trench 10 measured *c*.5m in length x 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon. A short extension to the trench was excavated to better examine a linear feature.

Context Number	Type Number	Context Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	54.39
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	54.19
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.92
10/004	Cut	Ditch	4.00m	1.00m	0.50m	53.73
10/005	Fill	Ditch	4.00m	1.00m	0.50m	53.73
10/006	Cut	Ditch	4.00m	1.00m	0.38m	53.67
10/007	Fill	Ditch	4.00m	1.00m	0.38m	53.67

Table 11: Context Register, Trench 10

4.11.2 Natural Folkestone Beds [10/003], a dark orange/brown degraded sandstone, was cut by a ditch (interventions [10/004] and [10/006]), orientated on an east

west alignment. The feature had sharply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by deposits [10/005] and [10/007] that were similar in nature to the overlying subsoil/woodland soil [10/002]. The only finds encountered within these deposits comprised prehistoric flintwork.

4.11.3 Subsoil/woodland soil [10/002] comprised mid orange/brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments, fire-cracked flint and modern tree roots. This deposit was overlain by firm dark grey/brown sandy silt topsoil [10/001] with occasional inclusions of sandstone fragments and modern debris. It produced occasional finds of prehistoric flintwork.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Only flintwork was recovered from the site at Weald Tennis Club. A table quantifying the flintwork can be seen below (Table 12).

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 *Introduction*

A total of 310 pieces of struck flint (including 90 chips) weighing 2696g was recovered through hand collection and from two sample residues during the archaeological evaluation at the site. In addition, the site produced 22 fragments of burnt unworked flints weighing 107g. The majority of the flints came from topsoil and subsoil/woodland soil contexts in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 with subsoil/woodland soil deposit [002] producing the largest assemblage (84.2% of the total assemblage of struck flint, n=261). Five flints were also found in ditch fill context [10/007]. The general technological appearance of the assemblage appears to be Mesolithic/early Neolithic in date.

5.2.2 *Methodology*

The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, Butler 2005 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Technological details were noted in order to aid characterising the material and further information was recorded regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge-damage). Dating was attempted when possible. The assemblage was directly catalogued onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and is summarized by context type in Table 12.

Context Number	Flakes	Blades, Blade-like flakes, Bladelets	Core preparation flake	Irregular waste	Chip	Cores, Core fragments, Tested nodule	Retouched forms	Hammer stone	Total
1/001	4	3	2	4		1			**14**
1/002TP	20	29	2	14	44	1			**110**
2/001	9	4	1	5		2		1	**22**
2/002TP	9	22	3	8	46	3	1		**92**
3/001	2	3		2			1		**8**
3/002	6	10	2	1		1			**20**
3/002 TP	12	20	4	3					**39**
10/007	2			1		2			**5**
Total	**64**	**91**	**14**	**38**	**90**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**310**

Table 12: The flintwork assemblage

5.2.3 *Condition and raw material*

A large proportion of the flintwork was in a fairly fresh condition, displaying only very light edge damage. This implies that the material had undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance, possibly limited to very slight soil movement. While fresh, 33.2% (n=103) of the pieces of flint were recorded as broken. Two raw materials were identified. Gravel flint was the most frequently occurring raw material in the assemblage. This light to dark grey flint with a thin, stained, abraded cortex could have been acquired from local gravel sources. In addition a few pieces were manufactured from an almost black very fine-grained flint. This raw material could have been collected from the chalk Downs. Evidence of surface modification was uncommon with 11.3% (n=35) of the flints displaying incipient traces of light bluish white surface discolouration and 13.8 % (n=43) of the flints recorded as partially burnt.

5.2.4 *Results*

With the exception of two retouched pieces and a flint hammerstone, the assemblage of struck flints consists almost entirely of unretouched artefacts and cores. Amongst the assemblage of unretouched artefacts, only one blade collected from sub/woodland soil [1/002] in Trench 1, exhibits signs of having been utilised (usewear). The pieces of flint débitage comprise bladelets, blades, blade-like flakes, flakes including core rejuvenation flakes, pieces of irregular waste and chips. Technological indicators point to a blade-orientated industry. In fact, the evaluation produced 91 bladelets, blades and blade-like flakes, which represent 43.9 % of the entire débitage component (excluding the chips). Several cores such as the small bladelet core collected in Trench 2 (2/002TP) and some flakes displaying blade scar removals provide further evidence for the production of blades/bladelets.

The reduction strategy appears to include a mixed hammer mode. Nonetheless, the pieces were carefully worked. A large proportion of the artefacts displayed platform edge abrasion; and blade/flake dorsal scars as well as punctiform butts were numerous. Careful preparation was also noticed on several cores which displayed edge abrasion. The assemblage of cores comprised two single platform flake cores, one multiplatform flake core, one bladelet core on a flake and five unclassifiable/fragmentary cores weighing between 18 and 143g. In addition, a tested nodule and a flint hammerstone were recovered. The evaluation also produced a relatively large quantity of core preparation flakes. A total of 14 core preparation flakes were collected comprising one crested blade, seven core face rejuvenation flakes, three core edge rejuvenation flakes and three core rejuvenation flake tablets. Their presence provides evidence for a careful reduction strategy including platform preparation and maintenance.

No artefacts such as microburins or microliths, which are diagnostic of the Mesolithic period, were recovered. The only re-touched artefacts recovered consisted of a knife [2/002TP] and a hollow scraper [3/001], neither of which are diagnostic of a specific period..

5.2.5 *Conclusion*

The archaeological work produced a reasonable assemblage of flint artefacts consisting principally of unretouched artefacts and cores. When the flint scatters recovered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 together with the five pieces of flint found in context [10/007] are considered as a whole, there is consistency in term of the raw materials used and in terms of the adopted technology. Based on technological grounds, the assemblage of flintwork proved to be of Mesolithic, early Neolithic date. The overall fresh condition and limited edge damage of the flints indicate that the artefacts are not far from their original location of deposition. While the small amount of tools (utilised pieces and retouched artefacts) may indicate transient activity, the overall composition of the assemblage (bladelets, blades, blade-like flakes, flakes, irregular waste pieces and chips but also several cores and a relatively large quantity of core rejuvenation flakes) indicates that knapping activities as well as tool manufacture/maintenance were being carried out nearby. Though refitting material might be present within the assemblage, the absence of primary flakes amongst the knapping waste indicate that the primary stages of knapping may have been performed somewhere else.

Scatters of flintwork of a similar date have been recovered from sites investigated around Hassocks (Butler 1989); and it seems clear that the present material forms part of a much more extensive spread occurring across this sandy area.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

7.1 Introduction and Methodology

7.1.1 Two 40L bulk soil samples were taken during evaluation work at the Weald Lawn Tennis Club in Hassocks to ensure maximum recovery of small artefacts including microliths and pieces of micro débitage as well as to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca. The samples were extracted from subsoil / woodland soil deposits [1/002] and [2/002] in Trench 1 and Trench 2 test pits. They were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 13, appendix). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 14, appendix).

7.2 Results

7.2.1 The flots were dominated by uncharred vegetation including modern fine rootlets, uncharred seeds such as blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*) and uncharred fragments of wood which suggests some post-depositional disturbances and potential modern contamination of the deposits through roots action. Environmental evidence was scarce. Sampling produced only infrequent small-sized wood charcoal fragments and infrequent charred weed seeds including seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family and possible orache (cf. *Atriplex* sp.). No other environmental remains were evident in the samples. A small quantity of struck flints was recorded in these deposits.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 *Prehistoric activity*

The earliest activity at the site comprised Prehistoric activity of an early date including probable Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint-work found in the un-truncated horizons of Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 10 in the north of the site. The deposit that contained the largest quantity of flint artefacts was subsoil/woodland soil deposit [002]. None of the flint-work can be described as *in-situ*.

6.1.2 *Undated ditch*

A single archaeological feature was encountered during the evaluation. The ditch within Trench 10 may relate to a silted field boundary although it cannot be ascribed to any ditched boundaries shown on the historic maps (CgMs 2007). The only finds produced from this feature comprised prehistoric flint-work although these are probably residual given the quantity of struck flint recovered from the site.

6.1.3 *Post-medieval / modern quarry*

Activity relating to the previous land-use of the tennis club as a sand pit or quarry was clear within the trenches positioned in the southern half of the site. These often showed obvious evidence of truncation of the natural and archaeological horizon to a significant depth.

The quarry cut was apparent within Trench 3 and as such could be related to an existing bank/terrace. This topographic feature clearly defined the limits of the quarry on its northern side.

6.1.5 *Summary*

The bulk of the archaeological evidence is of probable Mesolithic/early Neolithic date and comprises a fairly large flint assemblage. The quantity of the flint-work possibly indicates either frequent visitation of the site in prehistory or indeed more protracted (possibly seasonal) occupation. Mesolithic activity has long been recognised as occurring on underlying sandy geologies and these findings are consistent with previous investigations in the area and the conclusions of the preceding DBA (CgMs 2007). The site bears some similarities to a Mesolithic site discovered in Surrey also located on Folkestone Beds geology (www.surreycc.).

The undated ditch encountered on site is unlikely to be of Mesolithic date although the only finds recovered from its fill deposits comprised flint-work. It is likely that these artefacts are occurring residually and it is more probable that the ditch relates to a field-boundary associated with (proven) nearby Roman or later settlement.

The southern half of the site was shown to be clearly truncated by the sand pit/quarry. No potential for archaeological activity earlier than the quarry exists south of the bank discussed above.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bamford, H., 1985. *Briar Hill: excavation 1974-1978*. Northampton Development Corporation, Northampton. Archaeology Monograph, 3.

British Geological Survey 2005. Brighton and Worthing. Sheet 318/333. *1:50,000 Solid and drift Edition*

Butler, C. 1989. An early Mesolithic Site and Later Flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 127, 230-235.

Butler, C. 2005. *Prehistoric Flintwork.* Tempus, Stroud.

CgMs 2007, *The Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

CgMs Consulting 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex*

Inizan, M.-L., Reduron-Ballinger, M., Roche, H., & Tixier, J., 1999 *Technology and Terminology of Knapped Stone.* Tome 5. Cercle de Recherches et d'Etudes Préhistoriques (CREP), Nanterre.

WSCC, 2007, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions*

Websites Used

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/recreation-heritage-and-culture/archaeology/surrey-county-archaeological-unit/recent-archaeology-projects/a-mesolithic-site-at-north-park-farm-quarry-bletchingley accessed on 24/05/2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South East would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work, as well as the John Mills of West Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WTH 12					
Identification Name and Address	The Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Keymer, Mid-Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 530248 115300					
Geology	Folkestone Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5493					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Tennis Club X		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 16th – 18th May 2012	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. X	Neo. X	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other undated X		

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development of, and alterations to, the Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex. (NGR TQ 302 153).

The evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a large amount of flintwork of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date as well as an undated ditch. The archaeological horizon in the southern half of the site was found to be extremely truncated by a post-medieval sand pit.

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-127094

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks,
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development of, and alterations to, the Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks, West Sussex. (NGR TQ 302 153). The evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a large amount of flintwork of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date as well as an undated ditch. The archaeological horizon in the southern half of the site was found to be extremely truncated by a post-medieval sand pit.
Project dates	Start: 16-05-2012 End: 18-05-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WTH 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	QUARRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Mesolithic
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX KEYMER Weald Lawn Tennis Club
Postcode	BN6 8JP

Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 530248 115300 50.8823888342 0.175606885483 50 52 56 N 000 10 32 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.00m Max: 56.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Weald Lawn Tennis Club, Hassocks,
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A.
Other bibliographic details	Rep No: 2012121
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology SE

Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Eval Rep
Entered by	andy margetts (andrew_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)
Entered on	23 May 2012

APPENDIX

Table 13: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

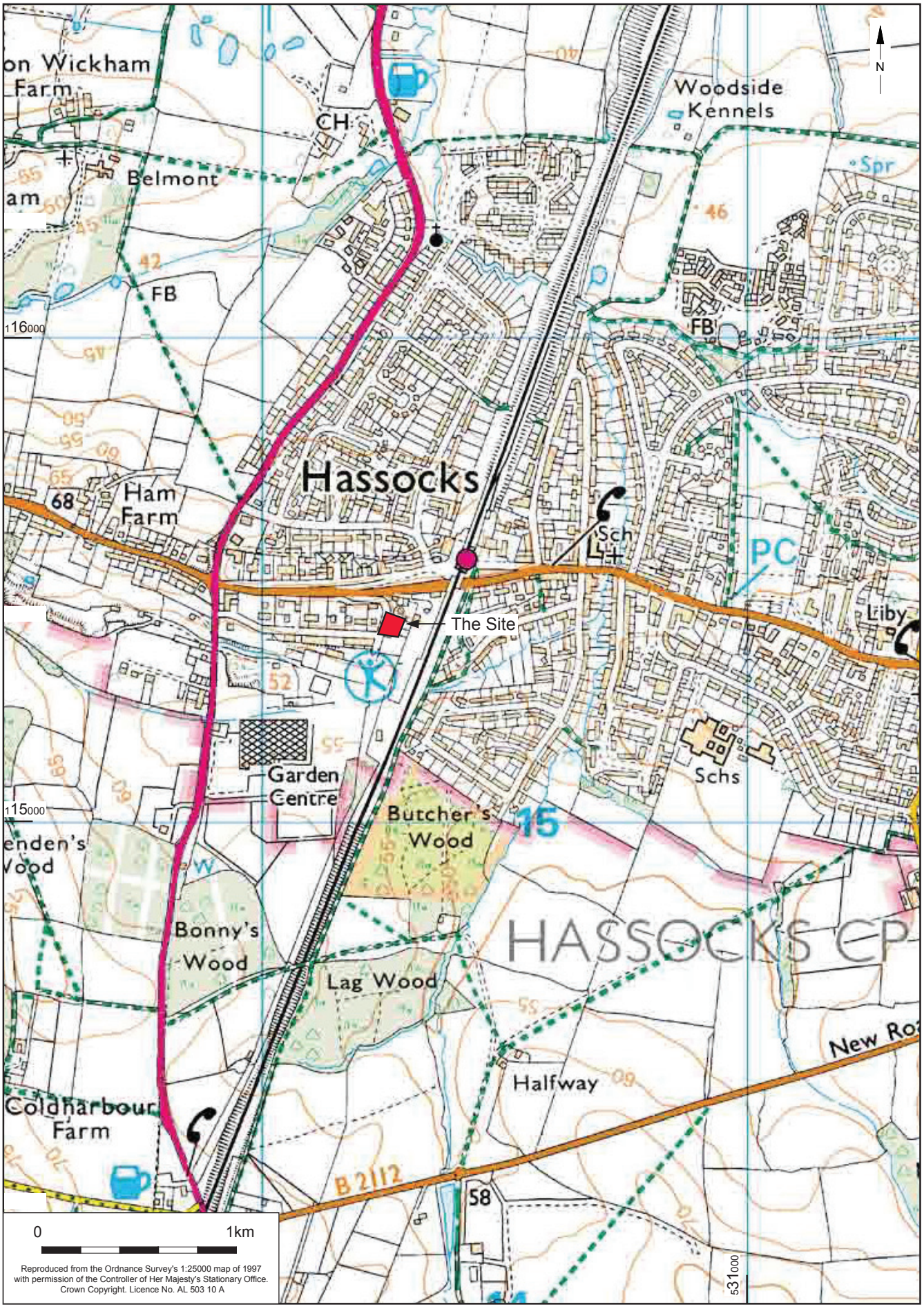
Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/002 TP	Subsoil / woodland soil	40	40					Flint ***/78g
2	2/002 TP	Subsoil / woodland soil	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	Flint ***/38g

Table 14: Flot quantification (*=1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

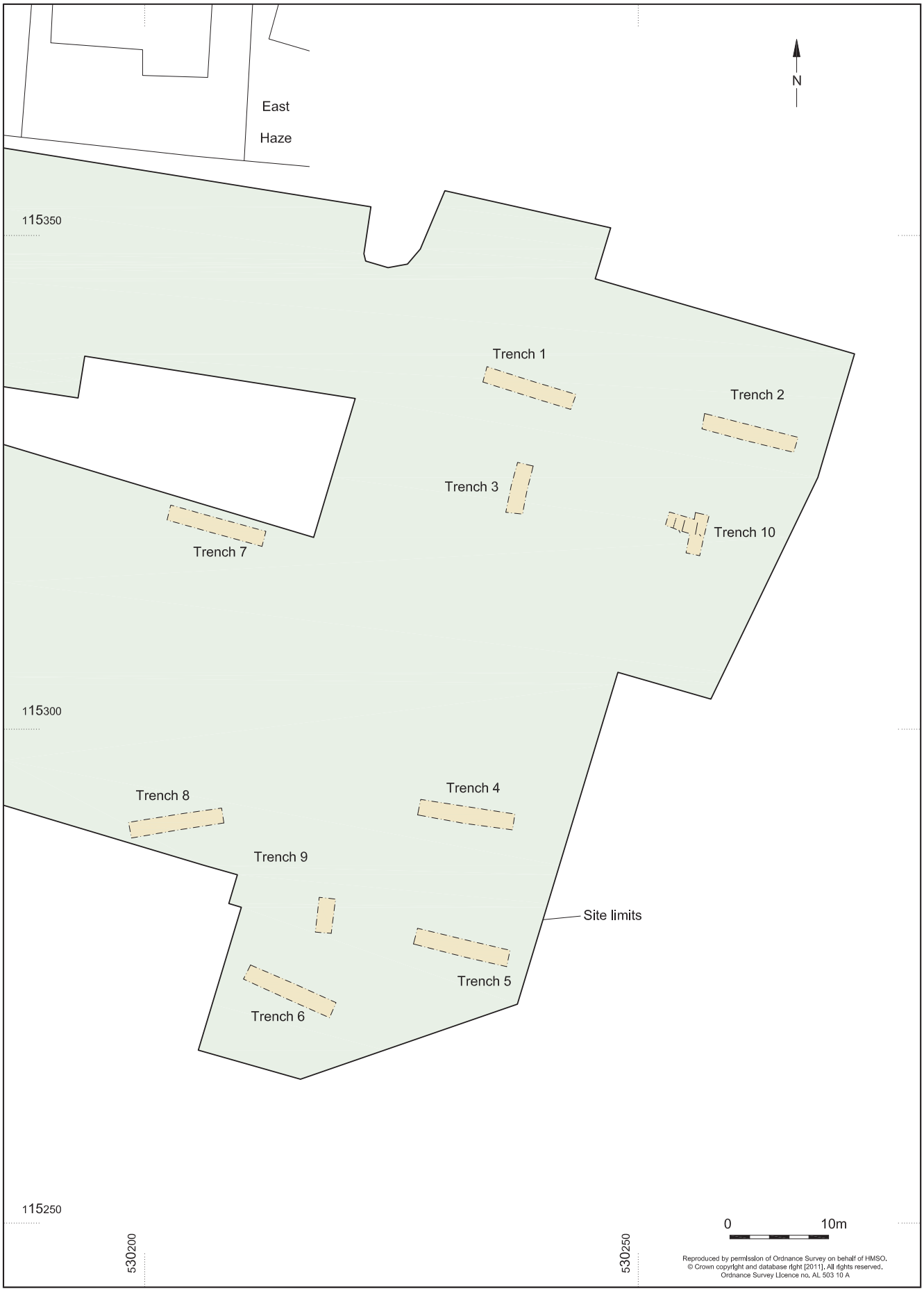
Sample Number	Context Number	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation
1	1/002 TP	16	40	40	75	20	*** *Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus (***),* unid. seeds (*)	*	*	**	*	Chenopodiaceae, *Atriplex* sp., unid. seeds	++
2	2/002 TP	14	50	50	75	20	* *Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*	*	*	**	*	unid. seed (1)	++

Table 15: Sample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

					Flot												Residue				
Sample Number	**Context**	**Context / deposit type**	**Sample Volume litres**	**Sub-Sample Volume litres**	**Weight g**	**Flot volume ml**	**Volume scanned**	**Uncharred %**	**Sediment %**	**Seeds uncharred**	**Charcoal >4mm**	**Charcoal <4mm**	**Charcoal <2mm**	**Weed seeds charred**	**Identifications**	**Preservation**	**Charcoal >4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Charcoal <4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)**
1	1/002	Subsoil / woodland soil	40	40	16	40	40	75	20	*** *Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus (***),* unid. seeds (*)	*	*	**	*	Chenopodiaceae, *Atriplex* sp., unid. seeds	++					Flint ***/78g
2	2/002	Subsoil / woodland soil	40	40	14	50	50	75	20	* *Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*	*	*	**	*	unid. seed (1)	++	*	<2	*	<2	Flint ***/38g



© **Archaeology South-East**		Hassocks, Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5493	May 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012121	Drawn by: AR		

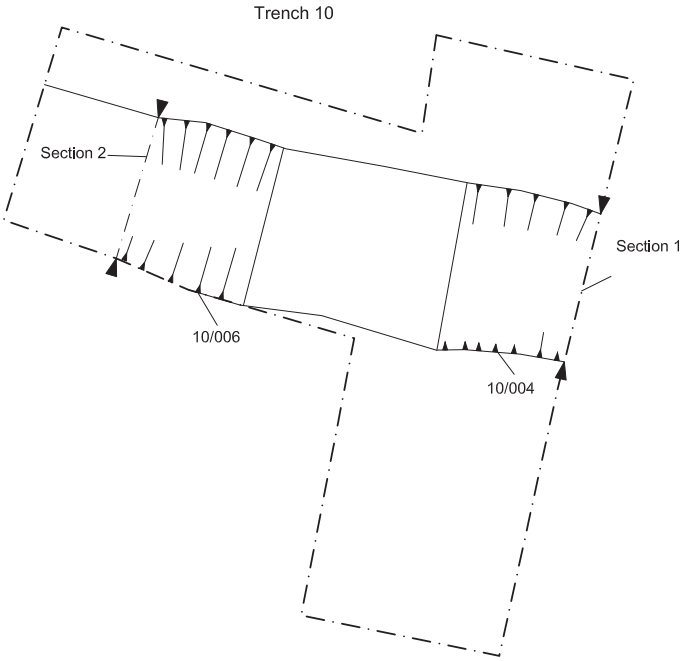


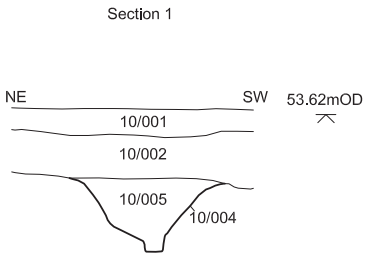
© **Archaeology South-East**		Hassocks, Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5493	May 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012121	Drawn by: AR		

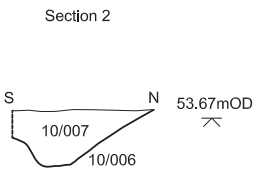
Section 1 - Facing North-West

Trench 10 - Facing North-West

Section 2 - Facing East







0 0.5m

0 1m

© Archaeology South-East		Hassocks, Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5493	May 2012	Trench 10, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref:2012121	Drawn by: AR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London