

**Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances  
Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex**

**NGR 543323 120001**

**Second Season - June 2013**

**A Community Archaeology Project  
Involving the pupils of Newick Primary School**



**ASE Project No: P89  
Site Code: SAP 10**

**ASE Report No. 2013230  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-161283**

**by  
Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MIFA**

**With a contribution by  
Luke Barber**

**September 2013**

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### **Abstract**

*A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the second season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2013.*

*Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013. This year the 'Cottage Site' again produced a range of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from pottery, glass and clay pipes to the bricks and tiles from demolished building(s), to more 'personal' artefacts such as the remains of a knife, a fork and a number of decorated buttons. Some of the character of the interior of the building(s) is shown by the survival of door fittings, and part of a decorative metal plate, probably from the cooking range. Peculiarly, the excavation this year also yielded metalwork elements from a number of different sizes of shoe, and the remains of part of a leather boot, complete with brass eyelets.*

*Investigation of a smaller 'House Platform' adjacent to a sunken lane (both identified during the topographical survey in 2010) uncovered evidence of medieval activity represented by a small assemblage of 13th to 15th century pottery. Discovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) undertook a second season of a community archaeology project involving the pupils from Newick (C of E) Primary School, Newick, East Sussex in June 2013. The site was a field called *Little Stiances*, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 543323 120001; Figure 1).

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The 3.7ha field lies in open countryside to the south-east of the village of Newick, between Broomlye Farm and Coney Hall Cottage, to the east of Broomlye Wood, at a height varying between c.25mAOD and c.40mAOD (Figure 2). The field is currently given over to pasture.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Grinstead Clay Formation of mudstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2013).

### 1.3 Background

1.3.1 Permission was given by the landowner, Mr John Sclater for the investigation of the field using a variety of archaeological techniques. To this end a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by ASE (ASE 2010a) and was submitted to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for approval.

1.3.2 The document listed the techniques to be used at the site, which included a geophysical survey, a full topographical survey and the manual excavation of a number of test-pits. The terms of the document were duly approved by ESCC. Subsequently these techniques were used in the field during a week-long investigation in May 2010.

1.3.3 The geophysical and topographic surveys confirmed the location of a cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location. Finds from the test-pits included pottery dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, large quantities of brick and tile from the cottage itself and an assortment of other artefacts, including a group of datable clay pipes and a scatter of prehistoric flintwork. Finds of particular interest to the children included a half penny of George III (dated 1770-5), a Victorian clay marble and a heavily corroded padlock.

1.3.4 The topographical survey of the entire field revealed a range of earthworks including enclosures and trackways, and the possible location of other buildings (ASE 2010b).

1.3.5 Following agreement for the implementation of a second season of investigation in the field by means of manually excavated test-pits, a second WSI was produced by ASE and duly approved by ESCC (ASE 2013).

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The primary aim of the project was to provide an introduction to archaeology to the school children and to members of the local community. A number of site specific aims were also listed in the WSI (*ibid.*)

1. *When was the earliest activity at the site? Is there further evidence of prehistoric activity?*
2. *Is there a coherent pattern to the earthworks in Little Stiances? If so, how can this be interpreted? i.e. Are they house platforms? Or related to industrial activity?*
3. *Similarly, do the workings in Broomlye Woods fit any known pattern? Does the local geology suggest which material was extracted and for what possible function?*
4. *Can any or all of the Stiances earthworks be dated? Is there a connection with the Broomlye Wood extraction?*
5. *Given the presence of a stream, and the suggestion of a possible pond, could the activity/occupation be related to medieval and/or post-medieval ironworking?*
6. *Although it is known that a cottage at the site was occupied into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when did occupation cease in the other areas? Are there any indications of reasons for the abandonment of the site?*

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the manual excavation of the test-pits at the site undertaken in June 2013. The project was undertaken by a team comprised of Simon Stevens and Anna Doherty (Senior Archaeologists), Samantha Emery (Assistant Archaeologist) and John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor), and pupils, parents, teachers and helpers at Newick C of E Primary School. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager)

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the field was recognised by the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) in the 1970s, and reference was made to it in a published work by Fred Tebbutt in the early 1980s, in which it was stated that the field contained, *'at least four platforms, and possible small moated enclosure. Scatter of medieval pottery. Cottage survived until recently'* (Tebbutt 1981, 115). Local histories of the area published since have added little to the description (e.g. Lindsey 1983; Mayes 2002), and according to the landowner, there has been no archaeological fieldwork undertaken in the field or in the vicinity (John Sclater *pers. comm.*). The former estate manager also confirmed that metal detectorists had not been granted authorised access to the field prior to 2010 (Paddy Cumberlege *pers. comm.*).
- 2.2 Extensive cartographic and documentary research suggests that elements of the cottage to which Tebbutt referred were in existence by the time of the earliest known plan of the area, published in 1739 (Turk 2009). The cottage had been demolished by the time of 1910 Ordnance Survey map of the area. Tebbutt's notes on the site are held at the library of the Sussex Archaeological Society and include his field sketch of the earthworks, which include the cottage site, the three other 'house platforms' and other anomalies. All of these earthworks (and others) survive in the field. Reconnaissance of the site shows possible earthworks on the opposite side of a local stream to the south, leading to the tentative interpretation that a pond may once have existed in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 2.3 Immediately to the west of *Little Stiances*, in Broomlye Woods there are a number of substantial pits, clearly evidence of extraction of some kind of material on an industrial scale. There is no record of them in the East Sussex Historic Environment Records, and they have apparently never been surveyed archaeologically (John Sclater *pers. comm.*). Their date and purpose remain a mystery, although local tradition suggests that they were for clay (marl) (Paddy Cumberlege *pers. comm.*).
- 2.4 Results of the 2010 season confirmed the location of the demolished cottage by topographical and geophysical surveys (Figures 3 and 4), as well as by the manual excavation of 16 test-pits, mostly targeted on the site of the cottage and the adjacent garden. A range of post-medieval finds was recovered, as well as a small quantity of flintwork, suggesting hunter-gatherer activity in the general area (ASE 2010b).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The test-pits were manually excavated by pupils, teachers, parents and helpers from the school under the supervision of personnel from ASE. Excavation was to be taken down to the top of the 'natural' geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. However, given the poor weather experienced during most of the week, none of the test-pits was completed to a clean surface of the 'natural'.
- 3.2 Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was sieved for the presence of artefacts, resulting in a high recovery rate of artefacts. The children were also involved in activities such as site reconnaissance and finds identification.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, and to East Sussex County Council standard practice (ESCC 2008) using standard Archaeology South-East recording methods. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All test-pits were levelled to the Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4 A full digital photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including all finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be deposited at the school in due course. It consists of:

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Contexts        | 17                 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1                  |
| Photographs               | 149 digital images |
| Bulk finds                | 2 boxes            |
| CBM Samples               | 1 box              |

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive



#### 4.0 RESULTS - 'The Cottage' Test-Pits (including finds descriptions by Luke Barber; Figure 5)

##### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Ten test-pits (TPs 17-22, TP28 and TPs 31-33) were manually excavated at the site of the cottage and the adjacent garden. None was taken to the level of the underlying brownish orange clay 'natural' seen in 2010, so the only deposit disturbed was the topsoil located in that part of the field.

##### 4.2 Test-Pit 17

###### *Introduction*

4.2.1 Test-Pit 17 measured c.2m by c.2m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 310mm (31.59m AOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [17/01].

###### *Pottery*

4.2.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a single sherd from a late Ringmer sandy ware cooking pot, dated between c. 1350 and 1450. There were a few more Early Post-medieval sherds, most of which can be placed between the mid 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include three sherds of reduced hard-fired earthenware (hereafter HFE), three of glazed red earthenware (hereafter GRE) of early type with green glazes, two Border ware sherds (from the Surrey/Hampshire border) (BORD) and a single badly abraded tin-glazed sherd of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (TGW). The latest Early Post-medieval sherd consists of a small fragment from a London stoneware (LONS) tankard of the early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2.3 The test-pit produced a notably large assemblage of Late post-medieval pottery, clearly indicating a 19<sup>th</sup> century midden. A typical range of domestic ware of the period is present though fragmentation, particularly amongst the finewares, is notable. The largest proportion by weight comprises fragments of jars and bowls in late glazed red earthenware (GRE – clear coloured glazes. 38/800g), but there are five sherds from unglazed earthenware (UE) flower pots, two from Sunderland-type slipware bowls (SUND), 20 from bowls and oven dishes in yellow ware (YELL – often with industrially-slipped decoration) and eight from English stoneware bottles, usually with plain Bristol glazes (ENGS). Finer table and tea wares are also represented, the earliest of which consist of seven sherds from late creamware plates (CREA) of the late 18<sup>th</sup> or very early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2.4 There are also seven sherds of pearlware (PEAR), mainly from plates with blue shell-edged decoration or Wild Rose pattern transfer-printed designs. These probably belong to the first three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but, as with the CREA sherds, could have still been in use after the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The bulk of the remaining sherds consist of a mix of plain or sponge-decorated refined white earthenware (REFW) and various transfer-printed whitewares (TPW), usually with blue printing (typically Willow pattern plates).

4.2.5 Tea drinking is well attested by the presence of single sherds from Rockingham fine red earthenware (ROCK) and Black Basaltes stoneware

(BASG) teapots and four sherds from English porcelain cups and saucers (ENPO). However, all in all the assemblage would be very much in keeping with one from a household of the lower class.

### **Clay Pipes**

- 4.2.6 A scatter of 12 fragments from clay tobacco pipes were recovered from the test-pit. All are of 19<sup>th</sup>- century types but only two decorated bowl fragments are present: one with scale pattern and an illegible maker; the other with moulded oak leaves down its seams.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

- 4.2.7 The retained sample from this test-pit is large and includes three complete bricks. These consist of two well formed and fired examples of red frogless types (234mm x 115mm x 64mm and 228 x 116 x 60mm) as well as a well formed flooring brick (218mm x 114mm x 55mm). There are at least three other fragments from flooring bricks (internal brick floors being the norm in 19<sup>th</sup>- century sculleries) and one fragment from a frogged brick tempered with slag. All the bricks can be placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though the frogged example is likely to be from the second half of the period. The 21 pieces of peg tile are all well formed and fired types tempered with sparse fine sand and having square peg holes. All belong to a mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century date range.

### **Glass**

- 4.2.8 The glass is totally composed of shards of 19<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles for mineral waters.

### **Other Finds**

- 4.2.9 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include 37 pieces of iron, most of which are quite heavily corroded. Nails totally dominate the groups but there is also a fragment from a cast iron decorative plate, possibly from a cooking range. There is also a single later 18<sup>th</sup>- to mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century copper alloy 14mm diameter flat button with incised weave pattern decoration on its front. All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19<sup>th</sup>- century Welsh roofing slate. The slag mainly consists of clinker, waste from burning coal (x3) but there is a 100g lump of probable iron smithing slag. The six bone fragments are in good condition and include cattle and pig. The badly fragmented shell assemblage is mainly from oysters (a common food for the poor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century), but there is also a clam fragment.

## **4.3 Test-Pit 18**

### **Introduction**

- 4.3.1 Test-Pit 18 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (31.69mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [18/01].

### **Pottery**

- 4.3.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of four HFE sherds of a general late 15<sup>th</sup>- to 16<sup>th</sup>- century date and a fine sandy earthenware sherd likely to fall between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The three sherds of Early Post-medieval pottery are all of early 18<sup>th</sup>- century date and consist of single sherds of GRE, LONS and Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware

(SWSG).

- 4.3.3 The Late Post-medieval assemblage, at 39 sherds, is notably larger. It is composed of a typical domestic mix spanning c. 1780 to 1900. It includes a scatter of CREA (a bowl) and PEAR sherds from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as later types. The latter include YELL (a bowl with mocha decoration), Jackfield black-glazed redware (JACK), REFW (including a blue sponged vessel), TPW and ENGS bottles with Bristol glazes.

#### ***Clay Pipes***

- 4.3.4 The two clay pipe fragments are of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One consists of a plain bowl fragment, the other is from a bowl with moulded oak leaf seams and BURNS CUTTY stamped on its stem.

#### ***Ceramic Building Material***

- 4.3.5 The brick and tile from this test-pit is all composed of well formed and fired types, usually tempered with sparse fine sand with occasional iron oxide inclusions, that can be placed in a mid/late 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century date range.

#### ***Glass***

- 4.3.6 All of the glass is of 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century date. It includes two shards from green wine/beer bottles, a fragment from a cobalt blue poison bottle with the remainder consisting of pieces of clear or aqua coloured cylindrical bottle fragments.

#### ***Other Finds***

- 4.3.7 The small assemblage of iron is composed of nails with the exception of a heel-plate from a boot. The copper alloy items are of more interest in that there is a 23mm diameter ring, possibly a horse bridle ring of medieval or early post-medieval date. Other copper alloy items consist of a hollow 19<sup>th</sup>- century button with family crest (of a bird), an early 20<sup>th</sup>- century braces/trouser button (stamped Suspender), an eye-let and a 10-bore shotgun cartridge case. There are also three fragments from a 19<sup>th</sup>- century laced leather boot with copper alloy lace eye-lets. The single piece of stone is again of Welsh slate and the animal bone includes parts of a pig's jaw.

### **4.4 Test-Pit 19**

#### ***Introduction***

- 4.4.1 Test-Pit 17 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 220mm (31.68mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [19/01].

#### ***Pottery***

- 4.4.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of five sherds of HFE, or the slightly sandier High-fired Sandy Earthenware (HFSE), all dating to between 1450/75 and 1550/75. Both oxidised (orange) and reduced (grey/black) vessels are represented but the only diagnostic sherd is part of the handle from a pitcher. The equal number of Early Post-medieval sherds include three 17<sup>th</sup>- century TGW pieces as well as a Verwood/Graffam green glazed buff earthenware (WEAL/GRAF) and part of a German stoneware Westerwald tankard with cobalt blue and manganese purple decoration (WEST). The latter sherd is probably of mid 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 4.4.3 Late Post-medieval sherds again dominate the pottery assemblage and show a similar range to those from TP 18. A scatter of GRE, CREA and PEAR represent late 18<sup>th</sup>- to early 19<sup>th</sup>- century activity, while the ENGS (salt glazed), YELL and REFW are more of a general, or later, 19<sup>th</sup>- century date.

#### ***Clay Pipe***

- 4.4.4 A single fragment with part of the bowl and spur is from a pipe dating to between c. 1680 and 1720, but the rest of the assemblage (including a small piece of decorated bowl) is of the later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### ***Ceramic Building Material***

- 4.4.5 All of the brick from this test-pit is of a general 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century date. However, amongst the peg tile (roofing) there is a single fragment tempered with abundant marl streaking that may be of 17<sup>th</sup>- century date. The remaining peg tile is all of the mid-18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century well-formed and fired types noted before.

#### ***Glass***

- 4.4.6 A single shard of white 19<sup>th</sup>- century glass was recovered.

#### ***Other Finds***

- 4.4.7 The 13 pieces of iron are again dominated by nails, though there is more variety in types, with both general purpose and heavy duty structural examples being present. There is also part of a whittle-tanged knife of general Post-medieval form. The copper alloy includes a silver-plated flat button and a mixed alloy (giving a silver finish) stud or button top with incised sunburst decoration. The latter piece is probably of later 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date. The only stone is again Welsh slate.

### **4.5 Test-Pit 20**

#### ***Introduction***

- 4.5.1 Test-Pit 20 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 170mm (31.63mAOD) at which a layer of local sandstone packed to form a surface/hardstanding, context [20/02] was encountered. This deposit was cleaned but not removed. The overburden was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [20/01].

#### ***Pottery***

- 4.5.2 The three Early Post-medieval sherds from this test-pit consist of a reduced HFE sherd of mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>- century date sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>- century UE and GRE. The Late Post-medieval pottery consists of sherds of CREA, YELL and red sponged REFW, collectively spanning the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### ***Ceramic Building Material***

- 4.5.3 All of the brick and peg tile from this test-pit are of general 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

#### ***Other Finds***

- 4.5.4 A single piece of very weathered flint may be part of a prehistoric blade fragment but the piece is a little ambiguous. The only other find consists of an iron nail fragment.

#### 4.6 Test-Pit 21

##### **Introduction**

4.6.1 Test-Pit 21 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 230mm (32.37mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [21/01].

##### **Pottery**

4.6.2 Only Late Post-medieval pottery was recovered from this test-pit: x2 UE flower pot sherds and a GRE sherd, all of 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century date.

##### **Ceramic Building Material**

4.6.3 All of the brick and peg tile from this test-pit are of general 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

##### **Glass**

4.6.4 The notable assemblage of glass comprises pieces from a large green wine bottle (notably the base, with 138mm diameter). Although surprisingly uncorroded, the form would suggest an early/mid-18<sup>th</sup>- century date.

##### **Other Finds**

4.6.5 A relatively large assemblage of iron was recovered from this test-pit. Again, most consists of a mixture of general-purpose nails but there are a few other items. These include a strip/door hinge fragment, a possible rein-guide oval ring and a boot heel plate. The single piece of lead is from a 13mm diameter pistol shot. The piece is defective – having much of the casting sprue still attached. However, it does demonstrate the home manufacture of ammunition for hunting/pest control. The two pieces of stone consist of a Welsh slate pencil fragment and a rectangular-sectioned whetstone fragment in a siliceous sandstone, possibly from the Midlands. The stone is undoubtedly of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date and would have been used for sharpening knives and tools of various sorts.

#### 4.7 Test-Pit 22

##### **Introduction**

4.7.1 Test-Pit 22 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 240mm (32.46mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [22/01].

##### **Pottery**

4.7.2 A single medieval sherd was recovered from this test-pit: a fragment from a green glazed jug in a fine buff sandy ware with a few iron oxide inclusions. The sherd, decorated with combed lines, may well originate from the Streat kiln and is best placed between c. 1275 and 1400. The Early Post-medieval assemblage is all of the early 18th century. It is composed of a piece of late TGW vessel, part of a TGW decorated wall tile and part of a SWSG teabowl.

4.7.3 The Late Post-medieval assemblage is notably large and consists of a domestic range of wares best placed between c. 1825 and 1900. There are no CREA sherds and only two PEAR sherds (from willow pattern plates). As such a slightly later start date is likely. The assemblage includes a range of familiar fabrics such as GRE (dishes and bowls), UE (flower pots), YELL,

TPW (in various colours), ENPO (a saucer and doll's head fragment) ROCK (teapot) and REFW (plates and saucers with rim-edge coloured lines). As before there is nothing to suggest anything other than a low-status household.

### **Clay Pipe**

- 4.7.4 There is a chronological mix of pipe fragments in this test-pit. There are two very abraded spurred bowl fragments of c. 1670-1700 and part of a heeled bowl dated 1700-1770. The remaining pieces are all stem fragments of mid 18th- to 19th- century type.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

- 4.7.5 A large assemblage of brick and tile was recovered from this test-pit. All of the brick can be placed into an 18th- to 19th- century date range with both iron oxide and marl inclusions being noted in some fabrics. There are also some more floor brick fragments (50 to 57mm tall). The peg tiles are virtually all of well formed and fired types of the 18th and 19th centuries with a single exception. The latter consists of a crudely made tile, tempered with abundant marl, which is probably of the 17th century. The ridge tile fragment is of 18th- to 19th- century date.

### **Glass**

- 4.7.6 Two 18th- century fragments are present: a green wine bottle top of the early/mid part of the century and the base of a fine bottle/phial in green-blue glass of general 18th- century type. The remaining glass is of 19th- to early 20th- century date and consists of a mix of green wine/beer bottles, clear bottles and part of a pale blue hexagonal medicine bottle.

### **Other Finds**

- 4.7.7 There are two definite prehistoric worked flints from this test-pit. Both are in black downland flint in notably fresh condition. One of these waste flakes has some retouch but they are not particularly distinctive pieces. In the absence of a specialist in worked flint a Mesolithic/Neolithic date is tentatively suggested. The ironwork assemblage is mainly of nails but there is one possible 18th- century oval shoe buckle, a boot heel plate and a three-pronged 18th- century fork fragment. The slag is solely composed of clinker fragments of 19th- century date, typical waste from coal-burning in domestic hearths. Indeed the four pieces of stone from this test-pit include three pieces of unburnt coal (together with another piece of Welsh roofing slate). The notable assemblage of bone includes both sheep and pig waste (i.e. teeth).

## **4.8 Test-Pit 28**

### **Introduction**

- 4.8.1 Test-Pit 28 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 290mm (33.31mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [28/01].

### **Pottery**

- 4.8.2 All of the pottery from this test-pit is of the Late Post-medieval period, spanning an 1800 to 1900 date range. Wares are as seen before: GRE, UE, YELL, late CREA, PEAR, TPW and REFW.

**Clay Pipe**

- 4.8.3 All of the clay pipe consists of stem fragments of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century type.

**Ceramic Building Material**

- 4.8.4 The brick and tile from this test-pit are all of general 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

**Other Finds**

- 4.8.5 Metalwork consists of two iron nails and an iron strip/horse shoe fragment, the only other finds consisting of an animal vertebra fragment.

**4.9 Test-Pit 31****Introduction**

- 4.9.1 Test-Pit 31 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 240mm (31.66mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [31/01].

**Pottery**

- 4.9.2 A single SWSG sherd, of the early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, was the earliest sherd from this test-pit.

- 4.9.3 Rather more Late Post-medieval sherds were recovered, all falling into an 1800-1900 date range. The earliest sherds comprise part of a CREA plate and three sherds of early PEAR (from a tea bowl) none of which are likely to have been made after c. 1810. The remainder are of more general 19<sup>th</sup>-century date and include ENGS, GRE, YELL, TPW (x4) and REFW.

**Clay Pipe**

- 4.9.4 All of the clay pipe consist of abraded stem fragments of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date range.

**Ceramic Building Material**

- 4.9.5 All of the brick and peg tile is of the usual mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types noted in earlier test-pits.

**Glass**

- 4.9.6 A notable assemblage of glass was recovered from TP 31. By far the earliest consists of a corroded wine bottle fragment of late 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date, with the remainder mainly coming from a mid 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century cylindrical bottle in aqua glass.

**Other Finds**

- 4.9.7 The ironwork from this test-pit is dominated by nails, however, one boot heel plate is also present. There is also a small copper alloy suspension link – possibly from a fob watch chain. A single animal bone fragment (cattle?) was also recovered).

#### 4.10 Test-Pit 32

##### **Introduction**

4.10.1 Test-Pit 32 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (31.66mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [32/01].

##### **Pottery**

4.10.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit is to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, consisting of a sherd of BORD as well as one of possible Wealden buff earthenware (WEAL). There is also a sherd of underfired LONS of late 17<sup>th</sup>- to mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

4.10.3 A large Late Post-medieval assemblage was recovered from TP 32. A large proportion of this (by weight) is made up of large fresh fragments of GRE large bowls with horizontal handles (22/1688g). These probably belong to a 1775 to 1875 date range. The remaining sherds are from a domestic assemblage similar to those noted above, spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is little PEAR and as a whole most of the assemblage can be seen as mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wares include UE, SUND, YELL (including blue mocha decoration), JACK, TPW and notable quantities of plain REFW.

##### **Clay Pipe**

4.10.4 The earliest clay pipe fragment consists of a very worn piece of 18<sup>th</sup>- century stem with partial maker's initials on the heel of ?/H. The remaining pieces are of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date and include two worn fragments from fluted bowls and a selection of stems. One of the latter is stamped Harrington, Brighton equating to James Harrington, working between 1862 and 1910.

##### **Ceramic Building Material**

4.10.5 All of the bricks from this test-pit are of 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types varying in height between 55 and 65mm. Although the thinner examples were made as floor bricks, even the taller examples show clear wear from having been set in floors. The peg tile fragments, usually with diamond-shapes peg holes, are all of the well formed and fired mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

##### **Glass**

4.10.6 The glass consists of a shard from a clear glass bottle and a late 19<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>- century marble with internal blue and white internal spiral twist.

##### **Other Finds**

4.10.7 The large assemblage of ironwork is entirely composed of nails of different forms, the only exception being a child's boot heel plate and an 'S'-shaped suspension hook. There is also a 28mm diameter copper alloy (grey alloy type) 18<sup>th</sup>- century button. The animal bone contains a mix of cattle/horse and sheep, including a badly burnt fragment that must have fallen into the fire.



#### **4.11 Test-Pit 33**

##### **Introduction**

4.11.1 Test-Pit 33 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 300mm (32.50mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [33/01].

##### **Pottery**

4.11.2 All of the pottery from this test-pit is of Late Post-medieval date, perhaps spanning c. 1830-1900. There is a single PEAR tea bowl with hand painted decoration as well as five sherds from a YELL jug with black mocha decoration. There are two sherds of UE flower pot and several in REFW with green and purple sponged/stencilled decoration. Again, the assemblage would be in keeping with a lower class household.

##### **Clay Pipe**

4.11.3 All of the clay pipe fragments are from mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century stems.

##### **Ceramic Building Material**

4.11.4 The brick and tile are all of the usual mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

##### **Glass**

4.11.5 The test-pit produced a single fragment from a 19<sup>th</sup>- century wine bottle.

##### **Other Finds**

4.11.6 The only other finds from this test-pit consist of four very corroded iron nails and a later 18<sup>th</sup>- to mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century flat copper alloy button with gold gilt covering (14mm diameter).

## 5.0 RESULTS - 'The House Platform' Test-Pits (including finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figure 5)

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Seven test-pits (TPs 23-27 and TPs 29-30) were manually excavated in an area of site identified as a potential house platform. None was taken to the level of the underlying brownish orange clay 'natural' seen in 2010, so the only deposit disturbed was the topsoil located in that part of the field, which was similar in character to that seen in 'The Cottage' area.

### 5.2 Test-Pit 23

#### *Introduction*

5.2.1 Test-Pit 23 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (28.09mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [23/01].

#### *Pottery*

5.2.2 A single Early Post-medieval GRE sherd of the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this test-pit. The single Late Post-medieval sherd is of a mid/late 19<sup>th</sup>- century REFW plate or saucer.

5.2.3 No other finds were recovered from TP 23.

### 5.3 Test-Pit 24

#### *Introduction*

5.3.1 Test-Pit 24 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 350mm (27.95mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [24/01].

#### *Pottery*

5.3.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of four somewhat worn sherds of fine (silty) GRE, of probable 17<sup>th</sup>- century date. The two Late Post-medieval sherds, also in GRE, are of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century finish.

#### *Clay Pipe*

5.3.3 A single worn mid/late 17<sup>th</sup>- century stem fragment and a mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century mouthpiece were the only clay pipe fragments recovered from the test-pit.

#### *Ceramic Building Material*

5.3.4 Four of the peg tiles are in a buff silty fabric with notable quantities of iron oxides. These may well be of 17<sup>th</sup>- to early 18<sup>th</sup>- century date. The remaining two pieces are of the usual mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

#### *Other Finds*

5.3.5 The only other finds consist of three iron nail fragments.

## 5.4 Test-Pit 25

### **Introduction**

5.4.1 Test-Pit 25 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 260mm (28.04mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [25/01].

### **Pottery**

5.4.2 A single High Medieval sherd was recovered from this test-pit. It consists of a sandy greyware bodysherd, probably from a cooking pot dating to between c. 1275 and 1350. In addition there is a sherd of Late Medieval pottery, a reduced late Ringmer product, of the 14<sup>th</sup>- to early/mid 15<sup>th</sup> century.

5.4.3 The remaining five sherds are all of the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These consist of a GRE mug, a CREA plate, a ROCK bowl and a small TPW sherd.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

5.4.4 Two of the peg tile fragments are a little crudely formed and coarser in fabric suggesting they may be of a general 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date range. The other fragment is of the more typical mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century type.

### **Other Finds**

5.4.5 The only other finds consist of two iron nails.

## 5.5 Test-Pit 26

### **Introduction**

5.5.1 Test-Pit 26 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 360mm (27.94mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [26/01].

### **Pottery**

5.5.2 Two sherds of High Medieval pottery were recovered from TP 26. Both are in oxidised medium sand tempered wares (probably Ringmer) and consist of a cooking pot fragment and part of an internally glazed bowl base. Both can be placed between c. 1275 and 1350.

5.5.3 The other pottery is of Late Post-medieval date, consisting of a late 18<sup>th</sup>-/early 19<sup>th</sup>- century CREA plate sherd and a PEAR tea bowl with hand-painted polychrome decoration of a similar date range.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

5.5.4 Eight of the peg tiles are in a silty buff fabric with a notable quantity of iron oxide inclusions. These can be placed anywhere between the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The remaining three pieces are of the usual well formed and fired types of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Other Finds**

5.5.5 A single tiny black flint flake, again notably fresh, provides further evidence of prehistoric utilisation of the area. Metalwork consists of two iron nail fragments and a copper alloy 2-piece hollow button. The latter has relief decoration of a dog/hound and is probably a 19<sup>th</sup>- century hunt/livery button.

## 5.6 Test-Pit 27

### **Introduction**

5.6.1 Test-Pit 27 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 220mm (28.48mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [27/01].

### **Pottery**

5.6.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of a late HFSE sherd, perhaps of the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The other Early Post-medieval sherds consist of a late 17<sup>th</sup>- century TGW fragment (with blue landscape design) and a LONS tankard sherd of the early/mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

5.6.3 The Late Post-medieval assemblage is a typical mix spanning c. 1780 to 1900. This includes GRE (x5), UE (x1), YELL (x4, including a bowl with blue industrially slipped lines), Nottingham stoneware (NOTS x1), CREA (x1), PEAR (x2) and REFW (x3, including a mug with a red rim-edge line).

### **Clay Pipe**

5.6.4 A single abraded bowl fragment of c. 1670-1710 was recovered along with three fresher stems of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century type.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

5.6.5 The brick is in a notably buff fabric with common iron oxide inclusions to 4mm. An 18<sup>th</sup>- century date is suggested for this fabric but stratified material would be needed to confirm this. The peg tile is all of the usual well formed and fired mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century types.

### **Glass**

5.6.6 A single fragment of white 19<sup>th</sup> century glass was recovered.

### **Other Finds**

5.6.7 The other finds consist of iron nails and a single copper alloy cone-shanked 18<sup>th</sup>- century button.

## 5.7 Test-Pit 29

### **Introduction**

5.7.1 Test-Pit 29 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 260mm (28.34mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [29/01].

### **Pottery**

5.7.2 The four Late Post-medieval pottery sherds from this test-pit can be placed between c. 1780 and 1810. They consist of two sherds of CREA, a GRE sherd and a PEAR sherd. The latter is from a tea bowl of early type.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

5.7.3 The two pieces of brick/tile from this test-pit are of the usual mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century types.

### **Other Finds**

5.7.4 The two pieces of iron consist of nails with the only other find being a piece of

iron slag. The latter, although not particularly diagnostic of process, is likely to be from smithing.

## **5.8 Test-Pit 30**

### ***Introduction***

5.8.1 Test-Pit 30 measured 1m by 1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 200mm (28.50mAOD). The only context encountered was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [30/01].

### ***Pottery***

5.8.2 A single sherd was recovered from TP 30. This consists of a heavily abraded Medieval greyware sherd tempered with medium sand. A c. 1275-1350 date range is likely.

### ***Clay Pipe***

5.8.3 A single abraded 18<sup>th</sup>- century stem fragment was the only other find from this test-pit.

## **5.9 Backfilling**

5.9.1 Following the recording of the test-pits, they were manually backfilled, compacted as far as possible and turfed.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The second season of the Stiances Archaeological Project offered an all-too-rare opportunity for children to experience archaeological fieldwork in their own community. Although Community Archaeology is becoming increasingly popular as a concept, and is increasingly the subject of lively debate within the profession, as discussed in a recent article (e.g. Knox 2013), projects aimed specifically at younger children are still extremely rare.
- 6.2 Given the clear cartographic evidence (Turk 2009), and the results of the previous season of work at the site (ASE 2010b), the presence of a large assemblage of 'domestic' post-medieval material was expected. However, the discovery of flintwork continues to stretch the chronology of the site back to c.10,000BC (Mithen 1999, 35). Although admittedly limited in size and variety, the flintwork assemblage is clearly indicative of Hunter-Gatherer activity at Stiances, an activity only detectable from analysis of recovered artefacts.
- 6.3 As previously discussed in the 2010 season's report (ASE 2010b), the topographical situation of the site corresponds to a long-recognised pattern of Mesolithic activity in the Weald, comprising flint scatters that are thought to be the surviving remnants of hunting activity closely related to the system of river valleys in the area (Tebbutt 1974): the concentration of Mesolithic material at the site is located on high ground overlooking a stream, a situation seen at other recently investigated sites in the Weald (e.g. Stevens 2009).
- 6.4 Fieldwork has shown that such scatters can be associated with buried archaeological features (Butler 1997), and this may be the case at Stiances. It has been recognised since the 1930s that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers operating in the Weald were capable of building shelters (Clark and Rankine 1939), and work in the Horsham area (at Rock Common near Washington) has also shown evidence of hearths of this date (Harding 2000). Although no evidence of structures or hearths were identified in any of this year's test-pits, it is possible that they survive in the vicinity of either of the areas of the field investigated so far, or further afield.
- 6.5 This year, evidence of the medieval occupation of the site championed by Tebbutt (1981, 115), which had proved elusive in 2010, came more to the fore. The excavation of the test-pits targetted on a 'house platform' identified during the topographical survey in 2010, led to the recovery of medieval pottery, strongly hinting at the date of a local structure. Given that the platform forms one of a number identified in the field (Figure 4), perhaps it would not be premature to refer to a medieval settlement.
- 6.6 Although no masonry in the form of recognisable 'walls' was encountered on the 'House Platform' site, arguably more detailed and widespread excavation in the field might produce results such as those from Faulkners Farm, Hartfield (*ibid.*) or from other medieval Wealden sites which have been investigated. Evidence for a farmstead occupied from the 13th to at least the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century has come to light near Polegate (Stevens 2007). Apparently contemporary with the medieval phase at Stiances, the Polegate site (and now arguably Stiances) form part of a pattern of agricultural settlements dotted across the Weald at that time (Gardiner 1996).

- 6.7 The 'Cottage Site' again produced a variety of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, mostly dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Finds ranged from the expected pottery and clay pipes of a post-medieval assemblage, to the bricks and tiles from the demolished buildings, to more 'personal' artefacts such as the remains of a knife, a fork and a number of decorated buttons. Some of the character of the interior of the building(s) was shown by the survival of door fittings, and part of a decorative metal plate, probably from the cooking range. Peculiarly, the excavation this year also yielded metalwork elements from a number of different sizes of shoe, and the remains of part of a leather boot, complete with brass eyelets.
- 6.8 Arguably the post-medieval assemblage was more varied than during the 2010 season, and hints at a more diverse range of material awaiting discovery in future years.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The research aims of the Stiances Archaeological Project continue to be somewhat ambitious. Certainly the question of the earliest detectable activity at the site was again addressed by the discovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork.
- 7.2 Arguably the exploration of the second area this year went some way to addressing the second set of research aims, as it appears likely that the investigated earthwork forms the remains a medieval house platform. Given the fact that it apparently fronts onto a sunken lane (Figure 4), and is one of a number of platforms in the field, first seen by Tebbutt (*op. cit.*), it can be argued with some vigour that the field was the site of a medieval settlement of some kind. The virtual absence of ironworking slag or of any other industrial residues strongly suggests that the site was strictly agricultural/domestic in function, which addresses another of the research questions.
- 7.3 However, the extensive quarry works in Broomlye Wood remain unexplained (and unsurveyed) although quarrying for building stone still seems the most likely explanation (Turk *op. cit.*). Similarly, despite investigation, the reasons for the abandonment of cottage (and of the other buildings at the site known from cartographic sources) remains open to question.
- 7.4 However, the success of such a project cannot be measured on these criteria alone. The level of enthusiasm shown by the children (and adults) during the work in the field, especially given the dismal weather for much of the week, continues to be particularly pleasing for all those involved in the organisation and realisation of the project. The utilisation of social media was also well-received and allowed participation (and hence inclusion) of those who could not visit the site on the Open Day.
- 7.5 Ultimately the success of the project should perhaps again be measured by the large number of enquiries addressed to the author from children and adults alike as to when the next 'dig' will be held.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

There are a huge number of people to thank for their help. Firstly an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to John and Catherine Sclater for allowing access to the land and for their continued support throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his input and for visiting the site, and to Tony Turk for giving his time and sharing his extensive knowledge. The day-to-day smooth running of the project would have been impossible without the input of Ash and Mandy Stockwell. The two seasons of the project could not have gone ahead without generous support from the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Newick Scout Group  
Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London  
Council for British Archaeology (South-East)  
Lady Vernon (Newick) Educational Trust  
Newick Parish Council  
Newick School Association  
Newick Village Society  
Sussex Archaeological Society  
Sutton Hall Estate  
Uckfield Chiropractic Clinic  
University of Sussex Archaeology Society  
Wealden Iron Research Group

And several private individuals

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**Appendix - Finds Summary**

Quantification of assemblage (count/weight in grams) (Fe – Iron, Cu Al – Copper Alloy, Pb – Lead)

| Test-pit | Pot: mid C13th – mid 15 <sup>th</sup> | Pot: mid C15th – 16 <sup>th</sup> | Pot: 17 <sup>th</sup> – mid 18 <sup>th</sup> | Pot: mid 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> | Clay pipe | Brick      | Tile (post-med)             | Glass   | Worked flint | Metal                    | Bone    | Other                                    |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| TP 17    | 1/6g                                  | -                                 | 11/128g                                      | 174/1674g                                    | 12/21g    | 11/12,600g | Peg 21/1434g                | 26/122g | -            | Fe 37/842g<br>Cu Al 1/1g | 6/28g   | Stone 5/50g<br>Slag 4/146g<br>Shell 5/3g |
| TP 18    | -                                     | 5/58g                             | 3/10g                                        | 39/116g                                      | 2/6g      | 2/62g      | Peg 7/156g                  | 6/26g   | -            | Fe 8/76g<br>Cu Al 5/12g  | 5/34g   | Stone 1/6g<br>Leather 3/40g              |
| TP 19    | -                                     | 5/52g                             | 5/14g                                        | 22/44g                                       | 5/6g      | 4/242g     | Peg 6/136g                  | 1/2g    | -            | Fe 13/138g<br>Cu Al 2/4g | -       | Stone 1/2g                               |
| TP 20    | -                                     | -                                 | 3/28g                                        | 3/8g                                         | -         | 2/36g      | Peg 1/32g                   | -       | 1/6g         | Fe 1/4g                  | -       | -                                        |
| TP 21    | -                                     | -                                 | -                                            | 3/20g                                        | -         | 2/228g     | Peg 8/526g                  | 6/540g  | -            | Fe 28/310g<br>Pb 1/6g    | -       | Stone 2/88g                              |
| TP 22    | 1/3g                                  | -                                 | 3/22g                                        | 55/419g                                      | 7/12g     | 10/940g    | Peg 30/1258g<br>Ridge 1/48g | 16/78g  | 2/22g        | Fe 14/122g               | 29/124g | Stone 4/56g<br>Slag 5/82g                |
| TP 23    | -                                     | -                                 | 1/12g                                        | 1/2g                                         | -         | -          | -                           | -       | -            | -                        | -       | -                                        |
| TP 24    | -                                     | -                                 | 4/20g                                        | 2/12g                                        | 2/4g      | -          | Peg 6/182g                  | -       | -            | Fe 3/22g                 | -       | -                                        |
| TP 25    | 2/6g                                  | -                                 | -                                            | 5/8g                                         | -         | -          | Peg 3/94g                   | -       | -            | Fe 2/14g                 | -       | -                                        |
| TP 26    | 2/18g                                 | -                                 | -                                            | 2/3g                                         | -         | -          | Peg 11/328g                 | -       | 1/1g         | Fe 2/58g<br>Cu Al 1/2g   | -       | -                                        |
| TP 27    | -                                     | -                                 | 3/6g                                         | 17/84g                                       | 4/6g      | 2/206g     | Peg 10/152g                 | 1/1g    | -            | Fe 5/32g<br>Cu Al 1/2g   | -       | -                                        |
| TP 28    | -                                     | -                                 | -                                            | 9/46g                                        | 4/8g      | 1/36g      | Peg 4/122g                  | -       | -            | Fe 3/46g                 | 1/12g   | -                                        |
| TP 29    | -                                     | -                                 | -                                            | 4/10g                                        | -         | 1/4g       | Peg 1/62g                   | -       | -            | Fe 2/18g                 | -       | Slag 1/18g                               |
| TP 30    | 1/3g                                  | -                                 | -                                            | -                                            | 1/2g      | -          | -                           | -       | -            | -                        | -       | -                                        |
| TP 31    | -                                     | -                                 | 1/2g                                         | 12/36g                                       | 3/3g      | 1/10g      | Peg 2/44g                   | 18/234g | -            | Fe 5/50g<br>Cu Al 1/1g   | 1/8g    | -                                        |
| TP 32    | -                                     | -                                 | 3/16g                                        | 83/2174g                                     | 7/18g     | 5/3333g    | Peg 9/1070g                 | 2/10g   | -            | Fe 23/216g<br>Cu Al 1/8g | 6/72g   | -                                        |
| TP 33    | -                                     | -                                 | -                                            | 13/34g                                       | 3/6g      | 1/20g      | Peg 2/18g                   | 1/6g    | -            | Fe 4/30g<br>Cu Al 1/1g   | -       | -                                        |

**HER Summary Form**

|                                 |                                           |                  |                |                    |        |       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code                       | SAP 10 - Second Season 2013               |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Identification Name and Address | Little Stiances, Shortbridge Road, Newick |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| County, District &/or Borough   | Lewes District, East Sussex               |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| OS Grid Reference.              | 543323 120001                             |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Geology                         | Grinstead Clay Formation                  |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | P89                                       |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Type of Fieldwork               | Eval.                                     | Excav. ✓         | Watching Brief | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site                    | Green Field ✓                             | Shallow Urban    | Deep Urban     | Other              |        |       |
| Dates of Fieldwork              | Eval.                                     | Excav. June 2013 | WB.            | Other              |        |       |
| Project Manager                 | Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson               |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Project Supervisor              | Simon Stevens                             |                  |                |                    |        |       |
| Period Summary                  | Palaeo.                                   | Meso. ✓          | Neo.           | BA                 | IA     | RB    |
|                                 | AS                                        | MED ✓            | PM ✓           | Other              |        |       |

*Summary*

*A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the second season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2013.*

*Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013. This year the 'Cottage Site' again produced a range of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field mostly dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Finds ranged from pottery, glass and clay pipes to the bricks and tiles from demolished building(s), to more 'personal' artefacts such as the remains of a knife, a fork and a number of decorated buttons. Some of the character of the interior of the building(s) is shown by the survival of door fittings, and part of a decorative metal plate, probably from the cooking range. Peculiarly, the excavation this year also yielded metalwork elements from a number of different sizes of shoe, and the remains of part of a leather boot, complete with brass eyelets.*

*Investigation of a smaller 'House Platform' adjacent to a sunken lane (both identified during the topographical survey in 2010) uncovered evidence of medieval activity represented by a small assemblage of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Discovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory.*

**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-161283****Project details**

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project name                           | Stiances Archaeological Project - 2013 Season                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Short description of the project       | A Community Archaeology project was organised under the auspices of Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA). The current report provides the results of the second season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2013. Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013. This year the 'Cottage Site' again produced a range of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from pottery, glass and clay pipes to the bricks and tiles from demolished building(s), to more 'personal' artefacts such as the remains of a knife, a fork and a number of decorated buttons. Some of the character of the interior of the building(s) is shown by the survival of door fittings, and part of a decorative metal plate, probably from the cooking range. Peculiarly the excavation this year also yielded metalwork elements from a number of different sizes of shoe, and the remains of part of a leather boot, complete with brass eyelets. Investigation of a smaller 'House Platform' adjacent to a sunken lane (both identified during the topographical survey in 2010) uncovered evidence of medieval activity represented by a small assemblage of 13th to 15th century pottery. Discovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 10-06-2013 End: 16-06-2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Any associated project reference codes | P89 - Contracting Unit No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Any associated project reference codes | SAP 10 - Sitecode                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type of project                        | Research project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Site status                            | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Current Land use                       | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Monument type                          | COTTAGE Post Medieval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Monument type                          | HOUSE PLATFORM Medieval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Significant Finds  | POTTERY Medieval       |
| Significant Finds  | POTTERY Early Medieval |
| Investigation type | ""Test-Pit Survey""    |
| Prompt             | Research               |

**Project location**

|                  |                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Country          | England                                                      |
| Site location    | EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWICK Little Stiances Field - 2013 Season |
| Postcode         | BN8 4SA                                                      |
| Study area       | 3.70 Hectares                                                |
| Site coordinates | TQ 43323 20001 50 0 50 57 39 N 000 02 27 E Point             |

**Project creators**

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Archaeology South-East      |
| Project brief originator     | Archaeology South-East      |
| Project design originator    | Archaeology South-East      |
| Project director/manager     | Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson |
| Project supervisor           | Simon Stevens               |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Charity                     |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Newick School Association   |

**Project archives**

|                            |                                                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical Archive recipient | Newick Primary School                                     |
| Physical Contents          | "Ceramics","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other" |
| Digital Archive recipient  | Newick Primary School                                     |
| Digital Contents           | "other"                                                   |
| Digital Media available    | "Images raster / digital photography","Text"              |



|                         |                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paper Archive recipient | Newick Primary School                                                                                          |
| Paper Contents          | "other"                                                                                                        |
| Paper Media available   | "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Report", "Unpublished Text" |

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**Project bibliography 1**

|                               |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)                                        |
| Title                         | Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Stevens, S.                                                                              |
| Other bibliographic details   | ASE Report No. 2013230                                                                   |
| Date                          | 2013                                                                                     |
| Issuer or publisher           | Archaeology South-East                                                                   |
| Place of issue or publication | Portslade, East Sussex                                                                   |
| Description                   | ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.                                            |

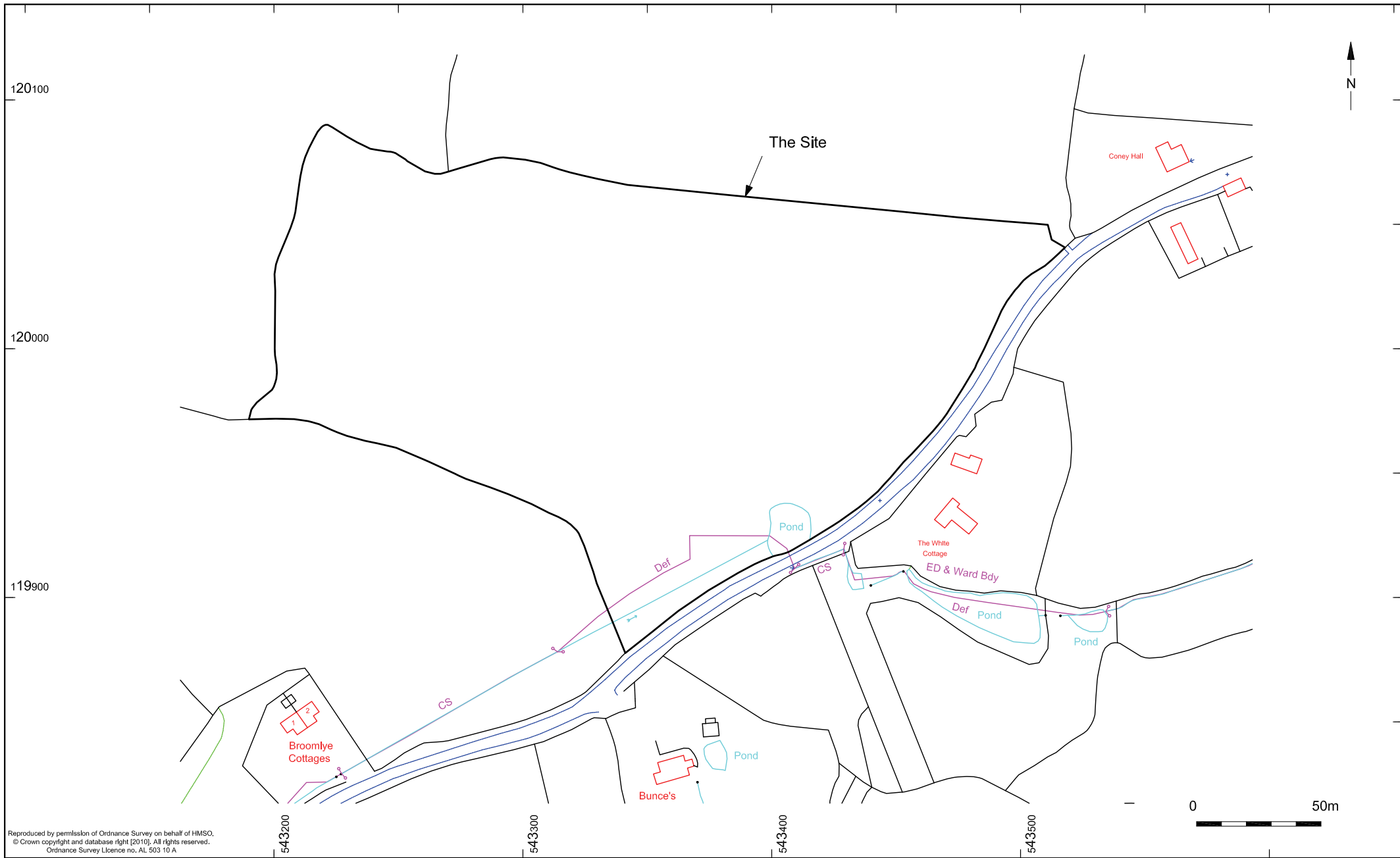
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|            |                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Entered by | Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk) |
| Entered on | 7 January 2014                          |



|                          |               |                                 |  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Stiances Archaeological Project |  |
| Project Ref: P89         | June 2014     | Site location                   |  |
| Report Ref: 2013230      | Drawn by: JLR |                                 |  |

Fig. 1



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|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |              | Stiances Archaeological Project |  | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: P89         | June 2014    | Site plan                       |  |        |
| Report Ref: 2013230      | Drawn by: LD |                                 |  |        |



— Modern boundaries

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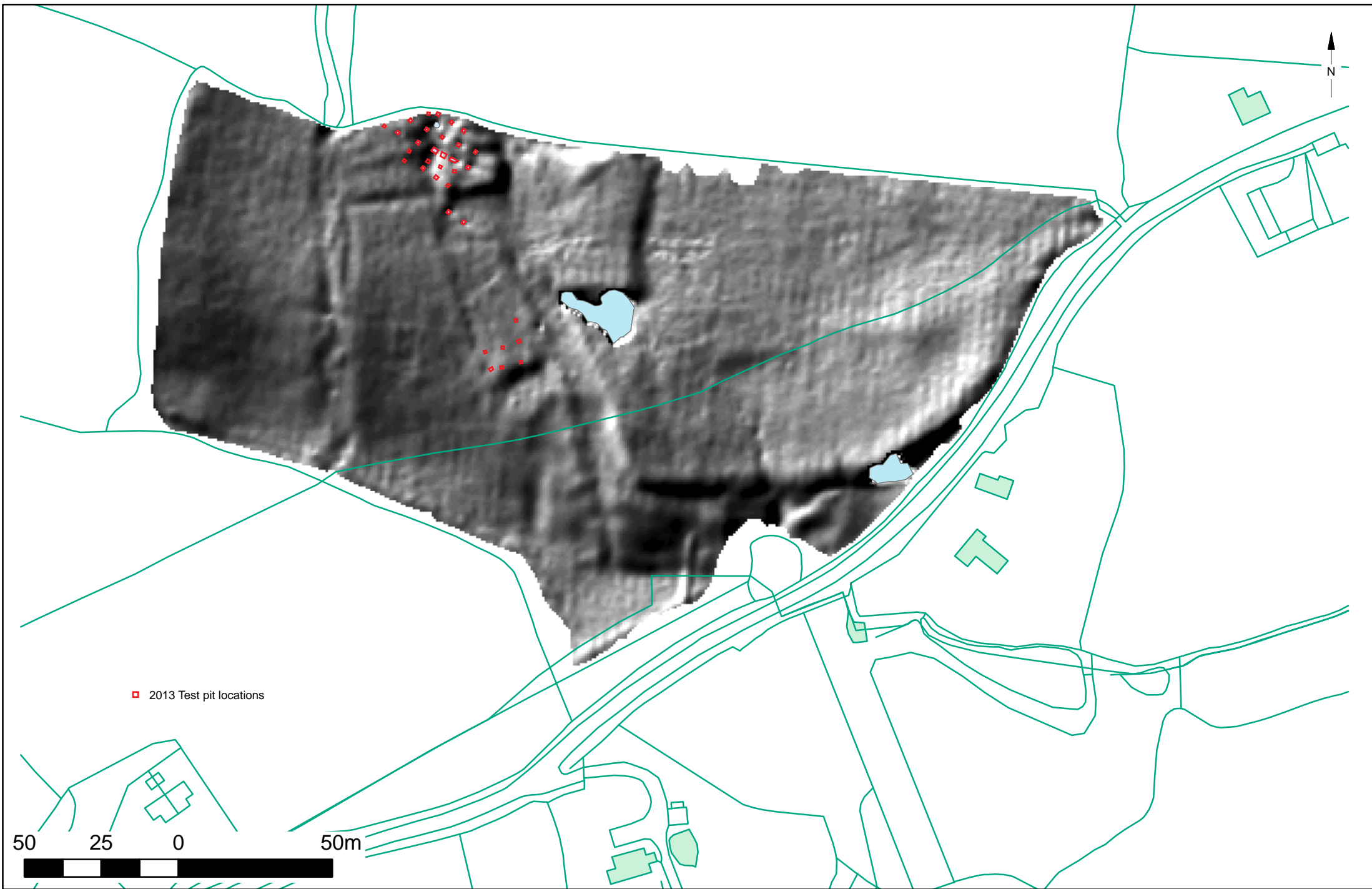
Stiances Archaeological Project

Project Ref: P89  
Report Ref: 2013230

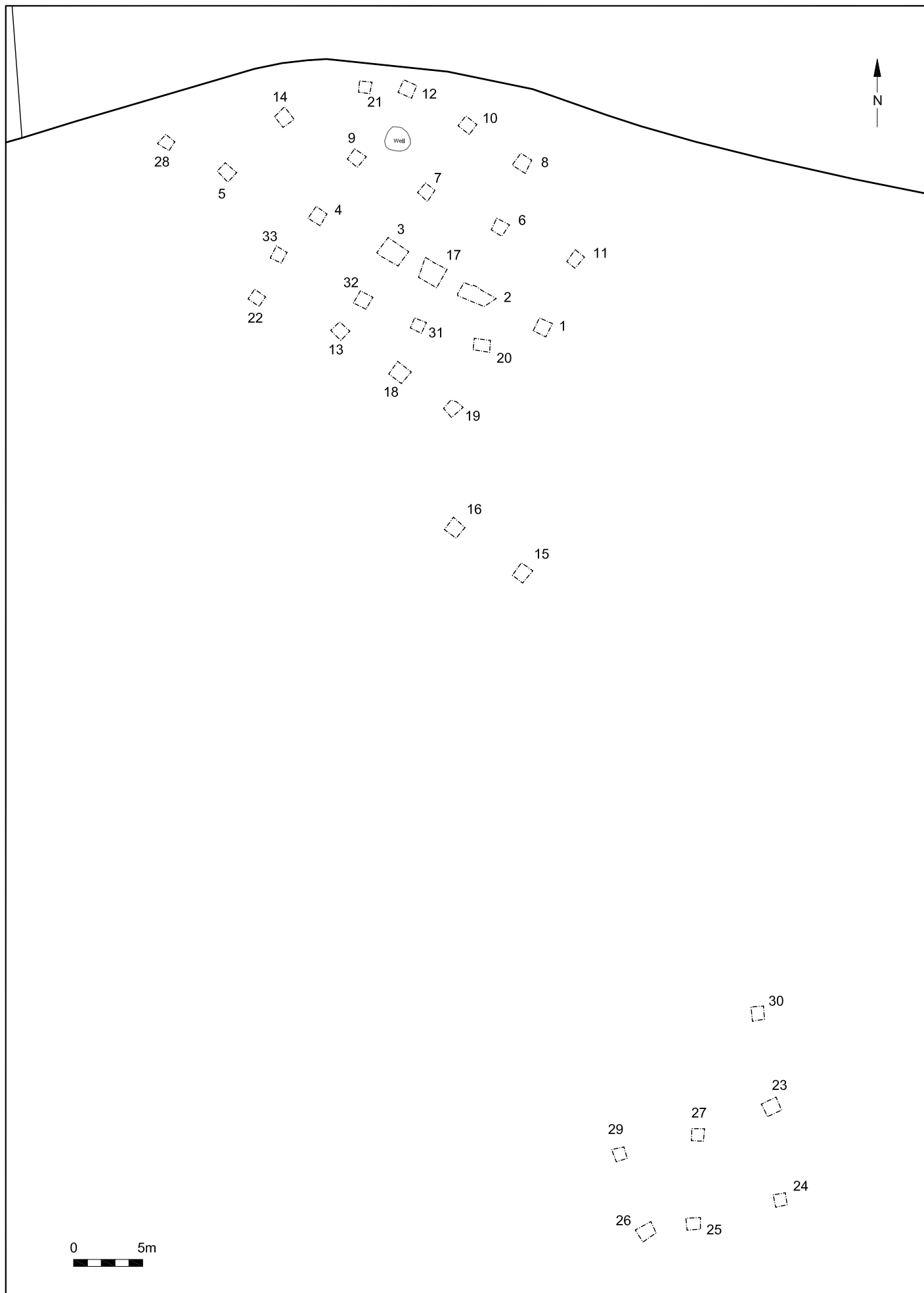
June 2014  
Drawn by: LD

Geophysical Survey with 1875 Ordnance Survey Map

Fig. 3



|                          |               |                                |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Stances Archaeological Project | Fig. 4 |
| Project Ref: P89         | June 2013     | Topographical Survey           |        |
| Report Ref: 2013203      | Drawn by: JLR |                                |        |



|                          |               |                              |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Stiances Archaeology Project |  | Fig. 5 |
| Project Ref: P89         | June 2014     | Test pit locations           |  |        |
| Report Ref: 2013230      | Drawn by: FEG |                              |  |        |

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