# An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex.

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**(SU 9515 0681)**

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***Abstract***

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.*

*Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.*

*Low levels of possible Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form of an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site.*

*Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.*

*A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.*

*A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.*

*The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.*

*A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west.*

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex (centred at NGR SU 9515 068; Figure 1).

## 1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015) the bedrock geology of the site comprises Lambeth Group deposits of clay, silt and sand overlain by superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay.

1.2.2 The site is irregular in shape and lies on a gentle south facing slope with the highest point at c. 30.49m OD towards the north edge of the site, falling to c. 21.03m OD in the south-west corner.

1.2.3 The majority of the site comprises pasture with a small area of scrubland to the east. The site is bounded by Arundel Road to the north, pasture fields to the east, the rear gardens of houses built along Wandley's Close to the south and by Fontwell Avenue to the west.

## 1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 It is proposed to develop the site with a mixture of uses including housing, light industrial units and shop/community facilities. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2014), a programme of archaeological works is required in advance of development, the first stage of which comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2015; see also Appendix 6) was submitted to and approved by West Sussex County Council (WSCC), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

## 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation which was carried out between the 16th and 27th February 2015. The archaeological work was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist), Richard Krayson, Stacey Harris, Lauren Figg, Tom Rugg, Jake Wilson, Terry Newman, Gemma Ward, and Sarah Vine (Assistant Archaeologists), and Gary Webster (Surveyor). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The detailed archaeological and historical background to the site is presented in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014). The following brief summary is drawn from that document with due acknowledgement.

### 2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A series of prehistoric sites and find spots are known in close proximity to the site. Raised Beach deposits have been recorded north of Arundel Road, although no Palaeolithic material was found. A large quantity of Bronze Age pottery, as well as some Iron Age pottery was found within a ditch north of Arundel Road, at about c.120m from the site. A Late Bronze Age urn was discovered during the excavation of a pit along Eastergate Lane to the south of the site, and more Iron Age finds associated with a hearth and trench were also excavated at Copse/Binsted Lane.

### 2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The site lies along the Arundel Road, which is believed to follow the course of an earlier Roman Road. Excavations at Morelands Cottage to the north of the site, have exposed a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware. An urned cremation of a similar date was also found c.635m west of the site.

### 2.4 Early medieval and medieval

2.4.1 There is no evidence of Saxon or early medieval occupation near the site but medieval pottery sherds were found during an evaluation north of Arundel Road. No settlement was recorded in Fontwell in the Domesday Book and although there might have been a road still in use nearby, it seems Fontwell was on the periphery of the manors of Eastergate and Walberton.

### 2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 The first evidence for a hamlet having existed in Fontwell dates back to 1630. There was also a coaching inn of late 18th century date adjacent to Arundel Road (the Balls Hut Inn), which was then demolished after the arrival of the railway to Brighton in 1845 (Howell and Surrell 1994). The first map showing the site is the Walberton Estate Map of 1756, which shows six enclosed cultivated fields. A smaller enclosure within the site can be identified as the site of the Balls Hut Inn. The Eastergate Tithe Map of 1845 and the Walberton Tithe Map of 1846 show the former common land to the west being enclosed and cultivated. A barn and yard were also added. The six fields that appear in the eastern area in the previous map become three larger fields.

2.5.2 The 1880 Ordnance Survey map shows the field boundaries having been removed and the area turned into one single field. On the 1914 Ordnance Survey map, a reservoir was built by the Bognor Water Works Company

within the site, next to where the Bulls Hut Inn had been. The 1951 map shows a few rectangular features (possible pig pens or agricultural structures) being added, although most of them have now been removed.

## 2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The aims and objectives of the investigation were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and are herein reproduced in full below.

2.6.2 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits within the site with particular focus on the Raised Beach deposits that may contain archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period.

- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such deposits.

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

- To enable Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

2.6.3 In addition, specific research aims, based on the findings of the draft South-East Research Framework (SERF) included the following:

*Bronze Age and Iron Age*

- Is there any evidence for Later Bronze Age land division on the site and can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?

- Is there any evidence for Later Iron Age occupation on the site and if so, can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

*Roman*

- Is there any evidence for Roman occupation on the site and can this inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 All archaeological fieldwork was carried out to accepted professional standards in line with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014a; CIfA 2014b); West Sussex County Council's Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions (WSCC 2007) and in accordance with the methodology set out in the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015).

3.1.2 46 trenches were excavated, as shown in Figure 2. The lengths of Trenches 5,9,24, 25, 30, 32 and 36 were shortened to avoid Tree Protection Order zones (TPOs). Trench 17 was moved 2m to the south to avoid a TPO. Trenches 2, 9, 11, 36, 37 and 40 were altered so as not to block access to the site and between fields. Trenches 41 and 42 were altered to avoid services detected using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Trench 24 was extended 10m to the east in order to further expose and define a possible structure.

3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil and trench bases were scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.

3.1.4 The trenches were located using digital survey technology. Feature plans and sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and excavated features and of the site in general.

**3.1.5** In addition, provision was made for the excavation of 23 geoarchaeological test pits within selected trench footprints. Following the excavation of an initial four geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs A–C and GTP 40; Figure 2) under the supervision of Dr Matthew Pope (see Section 4.2 below), it was recommended that a more focussed geoarchaeolgical test pit regime be adopted, to consist of a further six geoarchaeological test pits excavated under the direction of Dr Martin Bates. This change of strategy was agreed at a site meeting with the WSCC Archaeologist Mark Taylor. The results of the initial phase of test pitting are presented in Section 4.2 below; Dr Bates full report can be found in Appendix 5.

### 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Littlehampton Museum in due course. Littlehampton Museum does not give out archive accession numbers prior to receiving the archive. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Contexts | 264 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 10 |
| Bulk Samples | 10 |
| Photographs | 134 digital images |
| Bulk finds | 1 small box |
| Registered finds | 0 |
| Environmental flots/residue | 1 small box |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Overburden and Geology

4.1.1 The topsoil across the site comprised soft dark grey-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.16m and 0.3m in thickness and overlay a deposit of subsoil across most of the site, although only partial subsoil coverage was identified in Trenches 9, 12, 24, 39 and 46.

4.1.2 The subsoil across the site comprised soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.09m and 0.26m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate in all but Trenches 26 and 32, towards the south-west corner of the site, where a deposit of colluvium was present underlying the subsoil. This deposit measured between 0.2m and 0.5m in thickness and comprised mid-red brown silt clay with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. The colluvial deposit directly overlay the natural substrate.

4.1.3 The subsoil across site did not however; appear to represent a single deposit, as both Roman ditch [35/004] in the north-east of the site and the probable prehistoric pit [17/004] in the south-west of the site both cut a deposit of subsoil, but the majority of other prehistoric features were sealed by a similar subsoil deposit. As such, the identified subsoil appears to represent more than one horizon, likely developed through similar processes but over differing dates and periods.

4.1.4 The natural substrate comprised patches of firm mid brown-red silt clay, interspersed with areas of brown-orange gravels. The only variation to this was at the west end of Trench 23 where the natural gravel deposit was very shallow with a depth of between 0.15m and 0.23m and overlay a natural deposit of light grey/white clay sand with frequent chalk and gravel. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 20.65m AOD at its lowest point, close to the south-west corner of the site and at 30.46m AOD at its highest point, close to the north edge of the site.

### 4.2 Geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs) A, B, C and 40

4.2.1 An initial stage of prospective geoarchaeological test pits was undertaken to determine the broad disposition of the sub-surface geology and to establish the position and depth of raised beach deposits thought likely to underlie the site. These pits also served to test the accuracy of the BGS geological mapping, which, in the absence of geotechnical data for the site was the only guide to the likely coverage of Pleistocene sedimentation. A total of four geoarchaeological test pits were excavated (GTPs A–C and GTP40). These are summarised below

| **TEST PIT** GTP A | | **Location** (top of slope) Trench 33 (west end) |
|---|---|---|
| **Depth below ground surface (m)** | **Description** | **Interpretation** |
| 0 – 0.4 | Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil. | Ploughsoil |
| 0.4 – 0.8 | Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm | Colluvial subsoil |
| 0.8 – 2.9 | Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm. | Head Deposit |

Table 2: GTP A test pit log

| **TEST PIT** GTP B | | **Location** (mid slope) Trench 16 (east end) |
|---|---|---|
| **Depth below ground surface (m)** | **Description** | **Interpretation** |
| 0 – 0.3 | Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil. | Ploughsoil |
| 0.3 – 0.6 | Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm. | Colluvial subsoil |
| 0.6 – 1.5 | Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm. | Head Deposit |
| 1.6 – 2.5 | Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl | Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head? |

Table 3: GTP B test pit log

| **TEST PIT** GTP C | | **Location** (mid slope) Trench 19 |
|---|---|---|
| **Depth below ground surface (m)** | **Description** | **Interpretation** |
| 0 – 0.4 | Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil | Ploughsoil |
| 0.4 – 0.6 | Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm. | Colluvial subsoil |
| 0.6 – 1.6 | Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm. | Head Deposit |
| 1.6 – 2.6 | Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl | Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head? |

Table 4: GTP C test pit log

| **TEST PIT** GTP 40 | **Location** Trench 40 (south end) | |
|---|---|---|
| **Depth below ground surface (m)** | **Description** | **Interpretation** |
| 0 – 0.3 | Homogenous, brownish yellow clay silt ploughsoil. | Ploughsoil |
| 0.3 – 0.5 | Yellowish Brown clay silt with 40% angular flint gravel 20-60mm. | Colluvial subsoil |
| 0.5 – 3.8 | Yellowish Brown firm silty clay. 60% angular-subangular flint gravel 20-80mm. | Head Deposit |
| 3.8 – 4 | Soft apparently bedded grey-white chalky marl | Weathered Chalk? Calcareous Head? |

Table 5: GTP 40 test pit log

### 4.3 Trench 3

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.17 | 29.88 |
| 3/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.14 | |
| 3/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 29.45 |
| 3/004 | cut | Possible posthole | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 29.1 |
| 3/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.07 | |

Table 6: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located towards the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.3.2 The trench measured 49.6m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.3.3 One possible archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a small pit or posthole (Figure 3).

4.3.4 The pit or posthole [3/004] was revealed towards the south end of the trench, was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.27m, was sealed by subsoil [3/002] and cut the natural substrate [3/003]. Posthole fill [3/005] comprised a friable dark brown-grey silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.3.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.4 Trench 4

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.22 | 29.36 |
| 4/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.12 | |
| 4/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 29.02 |
| 4/004 | cut | partially exposed oval? pit or ditch terminus | 2 | 1.1 | 0.42 | 29.62 |
| 4/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.1 | 0.42 | |
| 4/006 | cut | north-south aligned ditch | trench | 1 | 0.29 | 29.52 |
| 4/007 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1 | 0.29 | |

Table 7: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located towards the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.4.2 The trench measured 48.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.4.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch and a partially revealed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 4).

4.4.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [4/004] was located against the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [4/002] and cut the natural substrate [4/003]. The feature was 1.1m wide and 0.42m deep and was exposed for a length of 2m. Pit fill [4/005] comprised a friable mid grey-brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.4.5 The ditch [4/006] was located towards the east end of the trench, orientated on a north-south alignment, was sealed by subsoil [4/002] and cut the natural substrate [4/003]. The feature was 1m wide and 0.29m deep. Ditch fill [4/007] comprised a friable dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.4.6 Three sherds of pottery of prehistoric date were recovered from ditch fill [4/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.5 Trench 7

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.29 | 27.75 |
| 7/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.18 | |
| 7/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 27.3 |
| 7/004 | cut | North-south aligned ditch | trench | 2.17 | 0.39 | 26.54 |
| 7/005 | fill | Basal fill | trench | 1.18 | 0.14 | |
| 7/006 | fill | Upper fill | trench | 2.18 | 0.25 | |

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 7 was located within the north-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.5.2 The trench measured 49.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.5.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 5).

4.5.4 The ditch [7/004] was located within the west half of the trench, orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [7/002] and cut the natural substrate [7/003]. The feature was 2.17m wide and 0.39m deep. The ditch had two distinct fills. The basal fill [7/005] comprised a firm mid red-brown dark silt clay with occasional gravel and flint inclusions. The upper fill [7/006] comprised firm mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional flint and gravel.

4.5.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.6 Trench 9

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.25 | 27.17 |
| 9/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | |
| 9/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 26.67 |
| 9/004 | cut | Partially exposed oval? pit | 1.05 | 1.25 | 0.75 | 25.41 |
| 9/005 | fill | Basal majority fill | 1.05 | 1.25 | 0.75 | |
| 9/006 | fill | Upper minority fill | 1.05 | 0.86 | 0.27 | |

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 9 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2) and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.6.2 The trench was dug in two parts (see Figure 2); the western part (A) measured 14m long and the eastern part (B) measured 30m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 7m long was left unexcavated to allow access to the southern part of the site.

4.6.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit (Figure 6).

4.6.4 The pit [9/004] was located within part A of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [9/002] and cut the natural substrate [9/003]. The feature was 1.25m wide and 0.75m deep and was exposed for a length of 1.05m. Basal fill [9/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown silt clay with abundant gravel and flint inclusions. Upper fill [9/006] comprised moderately soft mid red-brown silt clay with occasional gravel and flint nodule inclusions.

4.6.5 Two pieces of struck flint of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date were retrieved from uppermost pit fill [9/006]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.7 Trench 10

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.24 | 23.76 |
| 10/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.13 | |
| 10/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 23.38 |
| 10/004 | cut | Circular pit or tree bole | 1.15 | 1.15 | 0.25 | 23.01 |
| 10/005 | fill | Single fill | 1.15 | 1.15 | 0.25 | |

Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 10 was located close to the west site boundary (Figure 2).

4.7.2 The trench measured 48.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.7.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a pit (Figure 7).

4.7.4 The pit [10/004] was located within the southern half of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [10/002] and cut the natural substrate [10/003]. The feature measured 1.15m wide and 0.25m deep. Pit fill [10/005] comprised a firm mid brown clay silt with abundant gravel and flint inclusions.

4.7.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.8 Trench 12

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.29 | 26.39 |
| 12/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | |
| 12/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 26.03 |
| 12/004 | cut | WNW-ESE aligned ditch | trench | 1.7 | 0.33 | 25.86 |
| 12/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.7 | 0.33 | |
| 12/006 | cut | WNW-ESE aligned gully | trench | 0.58 | 0.21 | 26.07 |
| 12/007 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.58 | 0.21 | |

Table 11: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 12 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.8.2 The trench measured 49.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.8.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches, both orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (Figure 8).

4.8.4 Ditch [12/004] was located close to the north end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [12/002] and cut the natural substrate [12/003]. The feature was 1.7m wide and 0.33m deep. The ditch fill [12/005] comprised a moderately soft dark red-brown clay silt with rare charcoal, gravel and flint inclusions.

4.8.5 Ditch [12/006] was located close to the centre of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [12/001] and cut the natural substrate [12/003]. The feature was 0.58m wide and 0.21m deep. The ditch fill [12/007] was noticeably different to that in ditch [12/004] and comprised a firm light grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.8.6 No finds were retrieved from either feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.9 Trench 14

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.18 | 27.22 |
| 14/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.09 | |
| 14/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 26.9 |
| 14/004 | cut | Circular pit | 0.8 | 0.87 | 0.24 | 26.68 |
| 14/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.8 | 0.87 | 0.24 | |
| 14/006 | cut | Partially exposed gully terminus/oval pit | 2.3 | 0.63 | 0.06 | 26.62 |
| 14/007 | fill | Single fill | 2.3 | 0.63 | 0.06 | |

Table 12: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 14 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.9.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.9.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the southern half of the trench, comprising a pit and a partially revealed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 9).

4.9.4 The pit [14/004] was sealed by subsoil [14/002] and cut the natural substrate [14/003]. The feature had a diameter of 0.8m and was 0.24m deep. Pit fill [14/005] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown silt clay with rare gravel and flint inclusions.

4.9.5 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [14/006] was sealed by subsoil [14/002] and cut the natural substrate [14/003]. The feature was 0.63m wide and 0.06m deep and was exposed for a length of 2.3m. The fill [14/007] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown silt clay with occasional gravel and flint inclusions.

4.9.6 A blade core fragment of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date and pottery sherds of probable Late Bronze Age date were retrieved from pit or ditch terminus fill [14/007]. Small quantities of charcoal of unidentified taxa were also present in the flot from the environmental sample taken from the same fill.

### 4.10 Trench 15

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | 25.58 |
| 15/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.1 | |
| 15/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 25.28 |
| 15/004 | cut | Partially exposed oval? pit | 0.51 | 0.47 | 0.22 | 25.39 |
| 15/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.51 | 0.47 | 0.22 | |
| 15/006 | cut | Possible circular posthole | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.07 | |
| 15/007 | fill | Single fill | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 25.52 |
| 15/008 | cut | Partially exposed sub-circular posthole | 0.32 | 0.34 | 0.11 | 24.89 |
| 15/009 | fill | Single fill | 0.32 | 0.34 | 0.11 | |

Table 13: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 15 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.10.2 The trench measured 49.9m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.10.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two partially revealed pits or postholes and one probable pit or posthole (Figure 10). All features were sealed by subsoil [15/002] and cut the natural substrate [15/003].

4.10.4 Pit or posthole [15/004] had a diameter of 0.47m and was 0.22m deep. The fill [15/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent flecks of burnt clay and occasional charcoal and fire-cracked flint inclusions.

4.10.5 Possible pit or posthole [15/006] had a diameter of 0.27m and was 0.07m deep. Pit fill [15/007] comprised a fine, soft mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal, similar in colour and consistency to subsoil [15/002]; the feature may be natural in origin.

4.10.6 Partially exposed pit or posthole [15/008] had a diameter of 0.34m and was 0.11m deep. Pit fill [15/009] comprised a compact dark grey-brown silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.10.7 The environmental sample taken from posthole fill [15/005] contained one flake, one bladelet and two chips of flint of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date. The sample also contained poorly preserved charred wheat caryopsis, better preserved seeds of ivy-leaved speedwell, two seeds of red shank/amphibious/pale persicaria, one indeterminate seed and some poorly preserved fruit stones of cherry/plum/sloe type. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.11 Trench 16

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | 24.05 |
| 16/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | |
| 16/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 23.72 |
| 16/004 | cut | NNE-SSW gully/ ditch | trench | 1.1 | 0.23 | |
| 16/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.1 | 0.23 | 22.23 |
| 16/006 | cut | Partially exposed ?pit/ditch terminus | 1.4 | 0.62 | 0.35 | 24.02 |
| 16/007 | fill | Single fill | 1.4 | 0.62 | 0.35 | |

Table 14: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 16 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.11.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.11.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch and a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 11).

4.11.4 Ditch [16/004] was located close to the west end of the trench orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [16/002] and cut the natural substrate [16/003]. The feature was 1.1m wide and 0.23m deep. The ditch fill [16/005] comprised a firm mid grey-orange silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.11.5 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [16/006] was also sealed by subsoil [16/002] and cut the natural substrate [16/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 1.4m, had a width of 0.62m and was 0.35m deep. The fill [16/007] comprised a firm mid grey-orange silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.11.6 Two pieces of struck flint of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were retrieved from pit or ditch terminus fill [16/007]. One undiagnostic flint-tempered bodysherd of prehistoric date was also retrieved from overlying topsoil deposit [16/001].

### 4.12 Trench 17

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.21 | 26.43 |
| 17/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.14 | |
| 17/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 26.14 |
| 17/004 | cut | Partially exposed circular? pit | 0.71 | 1.51 | 0.32 | 25.96 |
| 17/005 | fill | Upper majority fill | 0.71 | 1.51 | 0.25 | |
| 17/006 | fill | Basal burning/scorching | 0.41 | 0.7 | 0.07 | |
| 17/007 | fill | Single fill | 0.53 | 0.44 | 0.11 | |
| 17/008 | cut | Possible posthole | 0.53 | 0.44 | 0.11 | 25.95 |
| 17/009 | cut | Possible posthole | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.08 | 26.28 |
| 17/010 | fill | Single fill | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.08 | |

Table 15: Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 17 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.12.2 The trench measured 49.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.12.3 Three probable archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a partially revealed pit and two pits or postholes (Figure 12).

4.12.4 Pit [17/004] was sealed by topsoil [17/001] and cut through the subsoil and natural substrate [17/002] and [17/003]. The pit had a width of 1.51m and was 0.32m deep and was exposed for a length of 0.71m. The basal fill [17/006] comprised a firm mid orange-red silt clay and is likely to be a result of *in situ* burning or scorching of the underlying natural substrate. The upper fill [17/005] comprised a firm dark black-grey clay silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and fire-cracked flint.

4.12.5 Possible pit or posthole [17/008] was oval in plan with a length of 0.53m, a width of 0.44m and was 0.11m deep. Pit fill [17/007] comprised a fine, soft mid brown-grey clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions, similar in colour and consistency to subsoil [17/002]; the feature may be natural in origin.

4.12.6 Possible pit or posthole [17/009] was oval in plan with a length of 0.43m, a width of 0.38m and was 0.08m deep. Pit fill [17/010] comprised a fine, soft mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. This feature may also be natural in origin, though this remains uncertain.

4.12.7 Features [17/008] and [17/009] were both sealed by subsoil [17/002] and cut the natural substrate [17/003].

4.12.8 Six sherds of flint-tempered pottery of Early Neolithic date were retrieved from subsoil context [17/002] in the vicinity of pit [17/004].

4.12.9 The environmental sample of the basal fill [17/006] from pit [17/004] contained a charred seed of ivy-leaved speedwell and a fragment of charcoal possibly from an unidentified climber whilst the upper fill contained fragments of oak and beech charcoal. A large quantity of fire-cracked flint was also retrieved from the pit. The fragments were principally small-sized. While the fragments from basal fill [17/006] displayed only a reddish tinge, the majority of the fragments from the upper fill [17/005] were calcined white or mid to dark grey. The difference in colour suggests that the degree to which the flint had been heated varied. It may also suggest that the flints were burnt *in situ*.

### 4.13 Trench 19

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.2 | 24.85 |
| 19/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | |
| 19/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 24.51 |
| 19/004 | fill | Single fill | 0.68 | 0.66 | 0.25 | |
| 19/005 | cut | Circular pit | 0.68 | 0.66 | 0.25 | 23.49 |
| 19/006 | fill | Single fill | 0.56 | 0.55 | 0.24 | |
| 19/007 | cut | Partially revealed circular ?pit | 0.56 | 0.55 | 0.24 | 24.1 |
| 19/008 | cut | Partially revealed oval pit or ditch terminus | 0.8 | 0.58 | 0.27 | 24.74 |
| 19/009 | fill | Single fill | 0.8 | 0.58 | 0.27 | |

Table 16: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 19 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.13.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.13.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a pit or large posthole, a partially exposed probable pit and a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 13). All features were sealed by subsoil [19/002] and cut the natural substrate [19/003].

4.13.4 Pit or posthole [19/005] was located close to the west end of the trench, had a diameter of 0.66m and was 0.25m deep. The fill [19/004] comprised a friable dark grey-brown silt clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, fire-cracked flint and burnt clay.

4.13.5 Partially revealed pit [19/007] was located in the west half of the trench, exposed for a length of 0.56m, had a width of 0.55m and was 0.24m deep. The fill [19/006] comprised a friable light grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.13.6 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [19/008] was located in the east half of the trench, was exposed for a length of 0.83m, had a width of 0.58m

and was 0.27m deep. The fill [19/009] comprised a moderately firm mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.13.7 Six sherds of pottery of Middle/Late Bronze Age date, a flint blade of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date and two pieces of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from pit fill [19/004]. The environmental sample from the fill contained small quantities of charred hazel nut shell.

4.13.8 One sherd of pottery dated to between AD1700 and 1825, two fragments of undiagnostic roof tile of probable 18th to 19th century date, and seven pieces of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the overlying topsoil deposit [19/001]

### 4.14 Trench 20

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.2 | 25.91 |
| 20/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | |
| 20/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 25.54 |
| 20/004 | cut | Oval pit | 0.7 | 0.59 | 0.19 | 25.73 |
| 20/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.7 | 0.59 | 0.19 | |
| 20/006 | cut | Oval pit | 0.73 | 0.53 | 0.16 | 25.66 |
| 20/007 | fill | Single fill | 0.73 | 0.53 | 0.16 | |
| 20/008 | cut | NE-SW aligned ditch?/furrow? | trench | 1.67 | 0.4 | 25.26 |
| 20/009 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.67 | 0.4 | |

Table 17: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 20 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.14.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.14.3 Three archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two small pits or postholes and one north-east to south-west aligned possible ditch or furrow (Figure 14). All features were sealed by subsoil [20/002] and cut the natural substrate [20/003].

4.14.4 Pit or posthole [20/004] was oval in plan with a length of 0.7m, a width of 0.59m and a depth of 0.19m. The fill [20/005] comprised a compact dark grey-brown silt clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.14.5 Pit or posthole [20/006] was also oval in plan with a length of 0.73m, a width of 0.53m, and a depth of 0.16m. The fill [20/007] comprised a friable dark grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Pit or posthole [20/006] was located 0.6m to the south-south-west of pit /posthole [20/004] and the form of the two features was very similar suggesting the two may be contemporary.

4.14.6 Ditch or possible furrow [20/008] was located in the south half of the trench. The feature was 1.67m wide and 0.4m deep, with a wide, slightly irregular base. The fill [20/009] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.14.7 No finds were retrieved from any of the above features or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.15 Trench 21

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.27 | 25.87 |
| 21/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | |
| 21/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 25.39 |
| 21/004 | cut | Possible circular pit/posthole | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.08 | 24.97 |
| 21/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.08 | |
| 21/006 | cut | Possible circular pit/posthole | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.06 | 25.03 |
| 21/007 | fill | Single fill | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.06 | |
| 21/008 | cut | Partially revealed large pit | 0.68 | 1.65 | 0.23 | 25.24 |
| 21/009 | fill | Single fill | 0.68 | 1.65 | 0.23 | |
| 21/010 | cut | WNW-ESE aligned ditch/gully | 1.1 | 0.47 | 0.15 | 25.34 |
| 21/011 | fill | Single fill | 1.1 | 0.47 | 0.15 | |
| 21/012 | cut | Partially exposed pit/ditch terminus | 1 | 0.72 | 0.43 | 25.32 |
| 21/013 | fill | Single fill | 1 | 1.49 | 0.43 | |
| 21/014 | void | | | | | |
| 21/015 | void | | | | | |
| 21/016 | cut | Circular pit/posthole | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.05 | 25.83 |
| 21/017 | fill | Single fill | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.05 | |

Table 18: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 21 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.15.2 The trench measured 48.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.15.3 Six archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising one large pit, one pit or posthole, two possible pits, a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus and a west-north-west to east-south-east ditch or gully terminus (Figure 15). All features were sealed by subsoil [21/002] and cut the natural substrate [21/003].

4.15.4 The possible pits or postholes [21/004] and [21/006] were both located towards the southern end of the trench, were circular in plan with diameters of between 0.5m and 0.54m and depths of between 0.06m and 0.08m. Both

fills [21/005] and [21/006] comprised firm mid brown-grey silt clay with gravel inclusions. The features were spaced at a distance of 1.9m apart; their proximity and similarity in form might suggest they were contemporary.

4.15.5 Partially revealed pit [21/008] was located in the south half of the trench, exposed for a length of 0.68m, had a width of 1.65m and was 0.23m deep. The fill [21/009] comprised a firm dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.15.6 The ditch or gully terminus [21/010] was located centrally in the trench, was exposed for a length of 1.7m, had a width of 0.47m and was 0.15m deep. The fill [21/011] comprised a moderately firm dark brown-grey silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.15.7 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [21/012] was located in the north half of the trench, was exposed for a length of 1m, had a width of 0.72m and was 0.43m deep. The fill [21/013] comprised a firm light red-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.15.8 Finally, pit or posthole [21/016] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.32m and a depth of 0.05m. The fill [21/017] comprised a soft light brown-grey clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.15.9 Ten pieces of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit [21/001].

### 4.16 Trench 22

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.17 | 24.25 |
| 22/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.13 | |
| 22/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 23.9 |
| 22/004 | cut | NE-SW aligned gully/ditch | trench | 0.59 | 0.21 | 23.21 |
| 22/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.03 | 0.21 | |

Table 19: Trench 22 list of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Trench 22 was located within the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.16.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.16.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 16).

4.16.4 Ditch [22/004] was located at the south end of the trench orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, was sealed by subsoil [22/002] and cut the natural substrate [22/003]. The feature was 0.59m wide and 0.21m deep. The ditch fill [22/005] comprised a firm mid red-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.16.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.17 Trench 24

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.18 | 21.42 |
| 24/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.13 | |
| 24/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 21.19 |
| 24/004 | masonry/other construction | E-W aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation | 9.3 | 0.45 | 0.19 | |
| 24/005 | masonry/other construction | N-S aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation | 3.1 | 0.46 | 0.34 | |
| 24/006 | unknown | ?demolition deposit associated with 24/004 and 24/005 | trench | trench | 0.38 | |
| 24/007 | unknown | Demolition deposit associated with 24/005 | trench | trench | 0.13 | |
| 24/008 | masonry/other construction | E-W aligned chalk and flint wall/foundation | trench | 0.47 | 0.23 | |
| 24/009 | unknown | ?demolition deposit associated with 24/008 | trench | trench | 0.2 | |

Table 20: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.17.1 Trench 24 was located in the south-west corner of the site, parallel to the site boundary and Fontwell Avenue (Figure 2).

4.17.2 The trench measured 42.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. A small L-shaped extension was excavated on the east side of the trench. The long side of the L measured 8.7m, with the short side measuring 5m long. Both were 2.1m wide.

4.17.3 A probable structure was identified within the trench, comprising three sections of wall (Figure 17).

4.17.4 Walls [24/004] and [24/005] formed a right-angle and were located towards the south end of the trench. Both sections of wall were constructed from chalk and flint and bonded with a crumbly light grey/white lime mortar. The east-west aligned section of the wall, [24/004] had a width of 0.45m, a depth of 0.19m and a rough south face with some of the chalk blocks showing evidence of having been dressed. Two courses survived across most of this section of wall. The north-south aligned section of the wall, [24/005] had a

width of 0.46m, a depth of 0.34m and appeared to have at least three surviving courses but contained no dressed stone.

4.17.5 The third section of wall was identified towards the north end of the trench and lay on the same alignment as wall [24/004]. The section of wall was again constructed from chalk and flint, had a width of 0.47m, a depth of 0.23m, with no obviously dressed stone. The bonding material varied from that in walls [24/004] and [24/005] and comprised a much harder light yellow/ orange sandy mortar. This may suggest this section of wall is later than the other two, or at least was repaired at a later date.

4.17.6 Three fragments of undiagnostic roof tile, probably of 18th to 19th century date were retrieved from possible demolition deposit [24/006] as well as a piece of fresh slate of probable 19th to early 20th century date. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.18 Trench 25

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | 23.88 |
| 25/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | |
| 25/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 23.4 |
| 25/004 | cut | Partially exposed pit or ditch terminus? | 0.58 | 0.61 | 0.22 | 23.43 |
| 25/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.58 | 0.61 | 0.22 | |

Table 21: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.18.1 Trench 25 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.18.2 The trench measured 28m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.18.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 18).

4.18.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [25/004] was located towards the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [25/002] and cut the natural substrate [25/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.58m, had a width of 0.61m and was 0.22m deep. The fill [25/005] comprised a firm light yellow-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.18.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.19 Trench 26

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.21 | 22.52 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.22 | |
| 26/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 21.91 |
| 26/004 | layer | Colluvium | trench | trench | 0.3 | |
| 26/005 | cut | Oval pit | 0.6 | 0.45 | 0.08 | 21.16 |
| 26/006 | fill | Single fill | 0.6 | 0.45 | 0.08 | |

Table 22: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

4.19.1 Trench 26 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.19.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.19.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a probable pit (Figure 19).

4.19.4 The pit [26/005] was located towards the south end of the trench, was sealed by colluvium [26/004] and cut the natural substrate [26/003]. The feature was oval in plan with a length of 0.6m, a width of 0.45m and was 0.08m deep. The fill [26/006] comprised a soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay.

4.19.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.20 Trench 27

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | 25.06 |
| 27/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.15 | |
| 27/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 24.72 |
| 27/004 | cut | Circular cooking pit? / pit? | 0.79 | 0.77 | 0.13 | 24.78 |
| 27/005 | fill | Upper majority fill | 0.79 | 0.77 | 0.13 | |
| 27/006 | fill | Basal fill? / heat-affected natural clay? | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.07 | |
| 27/007 | cut | Partially exposed pit or ditch terminus | 0.75 | 1.02 | 0.16 | 24.95 |
| 27/008 | fill | Single fill | 0.75 | 1.02 | 0.16 | |

Table 23: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

4.20.1 Trench 27 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.20.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.20.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a pit and a partially exposed pit (Figure 20).

4.20.4 Pit [27/004] was located close to the centre of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [27/002] and cut the natural substrate [27/003]. The feature was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.79m and a depth 0.13m. The basal deposit [27/006] comprised a firm mid red-orange silt clay with occasional charcoal inclusions and appeared to be an area of heat-affected natural geology, presumably from an *in situ* burning event. The depth of the heat-affected clay was minimal at 0.07m which would suggest the event was singular and brief. The uppermost majority fill [27/005] comprised firm mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent charcoal inclusions.

4.20.5 The partially revealed pit [27/007] was located towards the east end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [27/002] and cut the natural substrate [27/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.78m, had a width of 1.02m and was 0.16m deep. The fill [27/008] comprised a soft dark grey-brown silt clay with abundant charcoal inclusions.

4.20.6 An environmental sample taken from basal pit fill [27/006] contained small quantities of fire-cracked flint and charcoal of unidentified taxa. A sample from the upper fill [27/005] contained moderately abundant fragments of oak charcoal. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.21 Trench 28

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.23 | 24.24 |
| 28/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | |
| 28/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 23.85 |
| 28/004 | cut | Oval pit | 0.85 | 0.8 | 0.31 | 23.84 |
| 28/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.85 | 0.8 | 0.31 | |

Table 24: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.21.1 Trench 28 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.21.2 The trench measured 49m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.21.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a probable pit (Figure 21).

4.21.4 The pit [28/004] was located towards the north end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [28/002] and cut the natural substrate [28/003]. The feature was oval in plan with a length of 0.85m, a width of 0.8m and was 0.31m deep. The fill [28/005] comprised a firm light brown-grey silt clay with abundant gravel inclusions.

4.21.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.22 Trench 29

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | 24.53 |
| 29/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.18 | |
| 29/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 24.08 |
| 29/004 | cut | Partially exposed circular ?pit/ditch terminus? | 0.7 | 1.7 | 0.35 | 23.76 |
| 29/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.7 | 1.7 | 0.35 | |

Table 25: Trench 29 list of recorded contexts

4.22.1 Trench 29 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.22.2 The trench measured 49.4m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.22.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 22).

4.22.4 The partially revealed pit/ditch terminus [29/004] was located towards the west end of the trench, was sealed by subsoil [29/002] and cut the natural substrate [29/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.7m, had a width of 1.7m and was 0.35m deep. The fill [29/005] comprised a moderately soft mid grey-brown silt clay with occasional charcoal, flint nodule and gravel inclusions.

4.22.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature. A single piece of fire-cracked flint was retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit, [29/001].

### 4.23 Trench 30

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | 23.36 |
| 30/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | |
| 30/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 22.62 |
| 30/004 | cut | Partially exposed sub-circular? pit? /animal burrow | 0.74 | 1.75 | 0.38 | 22.53 |
| 30/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.74 | 1.75 | 0.38 | |

Table 26: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.23.1 Trench 30 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.23.2 The trench measured 30.6m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.23.3 One possible archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or animal burrow (Figure 23).

4.23.4 The partially revealed feature [30/004] was located towards the north end of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [30/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate, [30/002] and [30/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.74m, had a width of 1.5m and was 0.5m deep. The fill [30/005] comprised a firm mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal, flint nodule and gravel inclusions. The irregularity of the feature, in particular the south edge which appears to undercut the subsoil would suggest the feature is more likely to be an animal burrow than a man-made feature.

4.23.5 Two fragments of fire-cracked flint were retrieved from fill [30/005]. A further 12 fragments were retrieved from the subsoil [30/002] along with nine sherds of undiagnostic pottery of prehistoric date.

### 4.24 Trench 31

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.24 | 22.96 |
| 31/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.15 | |
| 31/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 22.3 |
| 31/004 | cut | Partially exposed possible pit | 0.56 | 1.32 | 0.18 | 21.9 |
| 31/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.56 | 1.32 | 0.18 | |
| 31/006 | cut | Partially exposed possible pit | 0.98 | 1.28 | 0.15 | 21.91 |
| 31/007 | fill | Single fill | 0.98 | 1.28 | 0.15 | |
| 31/008 | cut | Circular pit | 1.06 | 0.84 | 0.08 | 21.97 |
| 31/009 | fill | Single fill | 1.06 | 0.84 | 0.08 | |
| 31/010 | cut | Partially exposed possible pit | 0.45 | 0.6 | 0.09 | 22.35 |
| 31/011 | fill | Single fill | 0.45 | 0.6 | 0.09 | |
| 31/012 | cut | Circular possible pit/posthole | 0.57 | 0.54 | 0.14 | 22.3 |
| 31/013 | fill | Single fill | 0.57 | 0.54 | 0.14 | |
| 31/014 | cut | NW-SE aligned ditch terminus | 3.91 | 0.84 | 0.15 | 22.32 |
| 31/015 | fill | Single fill | 3.91 | 0.84 | 0.15 | |

Table 27: Trench 31 list of recorded contexts

4.24.1 Trench 31 was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.24.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.24.3 Six archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising five probable pits and a ditch terminus (Figure 24).

4.24.4 The probable pits varied in shape between circular and oval, with three out of five only partially exposed. The dimensions of the features varied with lengths

ranging from 0.57m to 1.48m, widths from 0.6m to 0.84m and with depths of between 0.08m and 0.14m. However, all features contained similar fills comprising fine, soft mid red-brown silt clay with rare gravel inclusions. All five features were sealed by subsoil [31/002] and cut the natural substrate [31/003], some may be natural in origin, though this was not possible to fully determine within the confines of the trench.

4.24.5 The ditch terminus [31/014] was located roughly central to the trench, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment, was sealed by subsoil [31/002] and cut the natural substrate [31/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 3.91m, had a width of 0.84m and was 0.15m deep. The fill [31/015] comprised a firm light grey-brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.24.6 A single piece of struck flint of Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was recovered from topsoil context [31/001] along with one fragment of fire-cracked flint.

### 4.25 Trench 33

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | 30.2 |
| 33/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | |
| 33/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 29.65 |
| 33/004 | cut | Circular pit/posthole | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.09 | 29.69 |
| 33/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.09 | |

Table 28: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.25.1 Trench 33 was located close to the north site boundary (Figure 2).

4.25.2 The trench measured 50.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.25.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a pit (Figure 25).

4.25.4 The pit [33/004] was located roughly central to the trench, was sealed by subsoil [33/002] and cut the natural substrate [33/003]. The feature was circular with a diameter of 0.46m wide and 0.09m deep. Pit fill [33/005] comprised a loose dark black gritty silt with abundant flecks of charcoal.

4.25.5 A single flint flake and moderately abundant quantities of oak charcoal and fire-cracked flint were retrieved from pit fill [33/005].

### 4.26 Trench 35

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | 29.87 |
| 35/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.23 | |
| 35/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 29.45 |
| 35/004 | cut | NNE-SSW aligned ditch | trench | 1.82 | 0.68 | 29.21 |
| 35/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.82 | 0.68 | |
| 35/006 | cut | Partially exposed WNW-ESE aligned ditch | trench | 0.74 | 0.5 | 28.91 |
| 35/007 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.74 | 0.5 | |

Table 29: Trench 35 list of recorded contexts

4.26.1 Trench 35 was located close to the north site boundary (Figure 2).

4.26.2 The trench measured 49.7m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.26.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches, one orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and the other lying perpendicular on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (Figure 26). Both features were sealed by topsoil [35/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [35/002] and [35/003].

4.26.4 Ditch [35/004] was located close to the east end of the trench. The feature was 1.82m wide and 0.68m deep. The ditch fill [35/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.26.5 Ditch [35/006] was partially exposed at the west end of the trench. The feature was more than 0.74m wide and 0.5m deep. The ditch fill [35/007] comprised a firm light brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.26.6 Ditch fill [35/005] produced 14 bodysherds of Arun Valley Grey Ware, all from a single vessel of 1st to 2nd century AD date. A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from the overlying topsoil, [35/001].

### 4.27 Trench 37

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | 28.96 |
| 37/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.23 | |
| 37/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 28.62 |
| 37/004 | cut | NE-SW aligned gully/ditch | trench | 0.85 | 0.18 | 28.28 |
| 37/005 | fill | Single fill of 37/004 | trench | 0.85 | 0.18 | |

Table 30: Trench 37 list of recorded contexts

4.27.1 Trench 37 was located towards the north-east area of the site (Figure 2).

4.27.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the western part (A) measured 6.99m long and the eastern part (B) measured 24.48m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 10.83m long was left unexcavated to allow access to the southern part of the field and to trenches 38 and 39. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.27.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 27).

4.27.4 Ditch [37/004] was located towards the west end of part B of the trench, orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, was sealed by topsoil [37/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [37/002] and [37/003]. The feature was 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep. The ditch fill [37/005] comprised a firm dark brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.27.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.28 Trench 38

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.16 | 28.5 |
| 38/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.19 | |
| 38/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 28.11 |
| 38/004 | cut | NE-SW aligned gully/ditch | trench | 0.7 | 0.15 | 27.85 |
| 38/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.7 | 0.15 | |

Table 31: Trench 38 list of recorded contexts

4.28.1 Trench 38 was located towards the north-east area of the site (Figure 2).

4.28.2 The trench measured 35.8m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment.

4.28.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 28).

4.28.4 Ditch [38/004] was located towards the west end the trench, orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, was sealed by topsoil [38/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate [38/002] and [38/003]. The feature was 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. The ditch fill [38/005] comprised a firm dark brown silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.28.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.29 Trench 39

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.3 | 27.57 |
| 39/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.26 | |
| 39/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 27.16 |
| 39/004 | cut | Partially exposed pit/ ditch terminus | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.21 | 26.48 |
| 39/005 | fill | Upper majority fill | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.66 | |
| 39/006 | fill | Basal fill | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.58 | |

Table 32: Trench 39 list of recorded contexts

4.29.1 Trench 39 was located towards the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).

4.29.2 The trench measured 36.1m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.29.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a partially exposed pit or ditch terminus (Figure 29).

4.29.4 The partially revealed pit or ditch terminus [39/004] was located towards the north-west end of the trench, was sealed by topsoil [39/001] and cut the subsoil and natural substrate, [39/002] and [39/003]. The feature was exposed for a length of 1.33m, had a width of 1.23m and was 1.21m deep. The upper fill [39/005] comprised a firm mid grey-brown clay silt with rare gravel and flint inclusions. The basal fill [39/006] comprised soft light brown-grey clay silt.

4.29.5 A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from basal fill [39/006], along with moderate quantities of fire-cracked flint and small quantities of charred hazel nut shell. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.30 Trench 40

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.2 | 29.38 |
| 40/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.17 | |
| 40/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 28.99 |
| 40/004 | cut | Circular pit | 0.63 | 0.62 | 0.16 | 28.64 |
| 40/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.63 | 0.62 | 0.16 | |
| 40/006 | cut | Circular pit | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 28.45 |
| 40/007 | fill | Single fill | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 | |

Table 33: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

4.30.1 Trench 40 was located within the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).

4.30.2 The trench measured 35.3m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.30.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a larger pit and a smaller pit or posthole (Figure 30). Both features were sealed by subsoil [40/002] and cut the natural substrate [40/003].

4.30.4 Pit or posthole [40/004] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.63m and was 0.16m deep. The fill [40/005] comprised a soft mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.30.5 Pit [40/006] was also circular with a diameter of 1.3m and was 0.3m deep. Pit fill [40/007] comprised a soft light grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

4.30.6 No finds were retrieved from either of the features or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.31 Trench 41

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 41/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.28 | 29.43 |
| 41/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.21 | |
| 41/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 29.07 |
| 41/004 | cut | Partially exposed possible pit? | 0.47 | 0.59 | 0.1 | 28.84 |
| 41/005 | fill | Single fill | 0.47 | 0.59 | 0.1 | |
| 41/006 | cut | NW-SE aligned gully/ ditch | trench | 0.55 | 0.17 | 28.86 |
| 41/007 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.55 | 0.17 | |

Table 34: Trench 41 list of recorded contexts

4.31.1 Trench 41 was located towards the north-east part of the site (Figure 2).

4.31.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the western part (A) measured 15.45m long and the eastern part (B) measured 29.43m long. An area between parts A and B measuring 3.6m long was left unexcavated in order to avoid a water pipe. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

4.31.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch or gully and a partially exposed possible pit (Figure 31). Both features were sealed by subsoil [41/002] and cut the natural substrate [41/003].

4.31.4 The partially revealed pit [41/004] was located towards the east end of the trench. The feature was exposed for a length of 0.47m, had a width of 0.59m and was 0.1m deep. The fill [41/005] comprised a soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions. The feature may be natural in origin.

4.31.5 Ditch or gully [41/006] was also located towards the east end the trench, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The feature was 0.55m wide and 0.17m deep. The ditch fill [41/007] comprised a moderately soft mid brown silt clay with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.31.6 Three sherds of pottery of Late Bronze Age date were recovered from ditch fill [41/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.32 Trench 42

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 42/001 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0.24 | 29.29 |
| 42/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.18 | |
| 42/003 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0 | 28.9 |
| 42/004 | cut | NE-SW aligned gully/ditch | trench | 0.33 | 0.12 | 28.81 |
| 42/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.33 | 0.12 | |
| 42/006 | cut | WNW-ESE aligned ditch | trench | 1.6 | 0.6 | |
| 42/007 | fill | Single fill | trench | 1.6 | 0.6 | |

Table 35: Trench 42 list of recorded contexts

4.32.1 Trench 42 was located in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 2).

4.32.2 The trench was dug in two parts, the northern part (A) measured 28.45m long and the southern part (B) measured 6.58m long. Part B was moved 3m to the west to avoid a water pipe. The trench was 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.

4.32.3 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches located towards the northern end of the trench (Figure 32). Both features were sealed by subsoil [42/002] and cut the natural substrate [42/003].

4.32.4 Ditch [42/004] was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. The feature was 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep. The ditch fill [42/005] comprised a firm mid grey clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.32.5 Ditch [42/006] was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. The feature was 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep. The ditch fill [42/007] comprised a firm dark brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.32.6 A single piece of struck flint was retrieved from ditch fill [42/007]. No finds were retrieved from the overlying deposits.

### 4.33 Trench 46

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46/001 | layer | topsoil | trench | trench | 0.27 | 27.91 |
| 46/002 | layer | subsoil | trench | trench | 0.12 | |
| 46/003 | layer | natural | trench | trench | 0 | 27.56 |
| 46/004 | cut | WNW-ESE aligned gully/ ditch | trench | 0.71 | 0.25 | 27.78 |
| 46/005 | fill | Single fill | trench | 0.71 | 0.25 | |

Table 36: Trench 46 list of recorded contexts

4.33.1 Trench 46 was located in the south-west area of the site (Figure 2).

4.33.2 The trench measured 49.2m long, 2.1m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.33.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch (Figure 33).

4.33.4 Ditch [46/004] was orientated on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment, was sealed by subsoil [46/002] and cut the natural substrate [46/003]. The feature was 0.71m wide and 0.25m deep. The ditch fill [46/005] comprised a dark grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel and flint inclusions.

4.33.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying deposits.

### 4.34 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 18, 23, 32, 34, 36, 43, 44 and 45

4.34.1 The above trenches were devoid of archaeological features. A table of the depths of overburden in each trench can be found in Appendix 1.

4.34.2 Finds were recovered from a single context across the archaeologically negative trenches. The topsoil context in Trench 23, [23/001] contained five fragments of ceramic building material including one piece of unfrogged brick with a self-glazed surface likely to be of 18th or 19th century date.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at Fontwell (Table 37). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation.

| Context | Pot | Wt(g) | CBM | Wt(g) | Flint | Wt(g) | FCF | Wt(g) | Stone | Wt(g) | Mortar | Wt(g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/001 | | | | | 4 | 238 | | | | | | |
| 4/007 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| T8 U/S | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 9/006 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 14/007 | | | | | 1 | 12 | | | | | | |
| 16/001 | 1 | 34 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16/007 | | | | | 2 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 17/002 | 6 | 48 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17/005 | | | | | 1 | 12 | 10 | 360 | | | | |
| 19/001 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 28 | | | 7 | 180 | | | | |
| 19/004 | 15 | 79 | | | 2 | 6 | 2 | 262 | | | | |
| 21/001 | | | | | | | 10 | 236 | | | | |
| 23/001 | | | 5 | 304 | | | | | | | | |
| 24/004 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 8672 | | |
| 24/005 | | | | | 3 | 8106 | | | | | 100+ | 610 |
| 24/006 | | | 3 | 32 | | | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 24/008 | | | | | 2 | 1370 | | | 1 | 10459 | 8 | 2200 |
| 29/001 | | | | | | | 1 | 48 | | | | |
| 30/002 | 9 | 66 | | | | | 12 | 392 | | | | |
| 30/005 | | | | | | | 2 | 32 | | | | |
| 31/001 | | | | | 1 | 92 | 1 | 36 | | | | |
| 33/005 | | | | | | | 1 | 20 | | | | |
| 35/001 | | | | | 1 | 12 | | | | | | |
| 35/005 | 14 | 22 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41/007 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42/007 | | | | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | |
| | 52 | 269 | 10 | 364 | 21 | 9872 | 46 | 1566 | 5 | 19135 | 8 | 2810 |

Table 37: Quantification of the finds

## 5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

*Introduction*

5.2.1 A total of 34 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck and weighing 422g as well as five flint nodules weighing 9.476kg were recovered through hand collection and from sample residues during the evaluation work. A large amount of unworked burnt flint weighing 11.610kg was also recovered. The assemblage comprises no diagnostic tools, but the material is fairly coherent; and, based on technological grounds a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date can be attributed.

*Methodology*

5.2.2 The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan et al. 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge damage) were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The results are summarised by context type in Table 38. The five flint nodules from walls [24/005] and [24/008] were weighed. None of them appear to have been dressed. They have been retained for further study by a flint building material specialist. The fragments of burnt unworked flint were scanned for worked material and quantified by pieces and weight (Appendix 2).

| Context | Flakes | Blades, Blade-like flakes, Bladelets | Chips | Cores | Nodules | Retouched forms | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U/S (Trench 8) | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | **1** |
| Top soil: 2/001, 31/001 and 35/001 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 1 | **6** |
| Pit fills: 9/006, 17/005, 19/004 and 33/005 | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | - | **7** |
| Ditch fills: 14/007, 16/007, 39/006 and 42/007 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 1 | - | - | **16** |
| Posthole: 15/005 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | **4** |
| Walls: 24/005 and 24/008 | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| **Total** | **8** | **10** | **11** | **3** | **5** | **2** | **39** |

Table 38: the flintwork

*Results*

5.2.3 The assemblage of struck flint is small. It comprises just 39 pieces (including 11 chips). The material was thinly spread over the site, originating from 12 numbered contexts in Trenches 2, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 31, 33, 35, 39 and 42. A further piece was also found unstratified in Trench 8. The main concentration (excluding chips) came from the top soil in Trench 2 (context [2/001]). This context produced four fresh pieces which appear to originate from the same nodule, although no refits were noted.

5.2.4 The condition of the flintwork varied within the assemblage. Overall, the material was in a fresh condition with only a few artefacts displaying some edge damage as for example the retouched flake found unstratified in Trench 8. This implies that the majority of the material had undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. In total, 16 pieces were recorded as broken, and four were re-corticated to varying degree.

5.2.5 The most frequently occurring raw material consists of a light to dark grey flint with occasional inclusions. Darker (almost black) fine grained flint was also present. Where present the cortex was light brown and thin. This material is characteristic of chalk-derived flint. It would have been available locally from surface deposits.

5.2.6 The overall assemblage is fairly coherent. It is dominated by unmodified knapping waste although two retouched pieces were also recorded. Blades, blade-like flakes and bladelets as well as thin flakes are numerous. Several examples display blade scars on the dorsal face, and the presence of abrasion for a controlled and predictable removals was noted on several pieces. In addition, three cores (a finely worked bipolar blade core from topsoil context [31/001] 93g, a blade core from topsoil [2/001] 155g and a blade core fragment from context [14/007] 11g) were used to produce narrow and regular blades. All these pieces suggest a careful reduction strategy, and overall these characteristics indicate a blade-based industry. This suggests a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, although a few pieces might be slightly later. However, no diagnostic tools were present, and both modified pieces are not chronologically distinctive. A blade from context [19/004] displays signs of having been utilised unmodified.

5.2.7 The evaluation produced a large quantity of unworked burnt flint. A large proportion of the assemblage came from pit [17/004] (fills [17/005] and [17/006]) and posthole fill [15/009]. The fragments are principally small-sized. While the fragments from basal fill [17/006] and posthole fill [15/009] display only a reddish tinge, the majority of the fragments from the upper fill [17/005] are calcined white or mid to dark grey. The difference in colour suggests that the degree to which the flint had been heated varied. It may also suggest that the flints in pit [17/004] were burnt *in situ*. Burnt unworked flints are frequently associated with prehistoric activities.

*Discussion*

5.2.8 The small assemblage of struck flints from the site has revealed limited evidence for human activity during the prehistoric period. No chronologically

diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date can be proposed for the assemblage. In the event that further work takes place, sieving could be recommended as this method would help recover small micro-débitage including microburins as well as microliths.

### 5.3 Prehistoric and/or Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery totalling 39 sherds, weighing 191g was hand-excavated on site and a further 17 sherds, weighing 34g were recovered from the residues of environmental samples. At present the pottery has been briefly examined for spot-dating purposes but not fully recorded to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that the assemblage should be retained and fully integrated into any pottery assemblages recovered in the event of further excavation at the site.

5.3.2 Almost all of the prehistoric pottery comprises featureless flint-tempered bodysherds. Since flint is a common tempering agent throughout most prehistoric periods, it is rarely possible to date small isolated bodysherds of this type with complete confidence. Nevertheless certain characteristics in size, sorting and frequency of flint inclusions, the make-up of the background matrix and thickness of vessel walls can provide indications of date. For example, a small group of fairly thick-walled sherds from two different vessels found in subsoil [17/002], just above pit [17/004], have quite sparse but extremely ill-sorted flint of 2-7mm in size, set within a very dense inclusionless matrix. Fabrics of this type are fairly typical of the Early Neolithic period.

5.3.3 The remainder of the flint-tempered wares, found in contexts [14/007], [19/004], [41/007], tend to have medium coarse, fairly ill-sorted flint-inclusions of c.0.5-3mm set within much siltier matrixes and, although there are one or two thicker-walled examples, the majority are reasonably thin-walled. These wares are much more characteristic of the later Bronze Age. The largest group of these sherds, from [19/004], also includes two small conjoining rim sherds probably from a finer Barrel Urn or plain hook rim jar form, probably indicating a transitional Middle/Late Bronze Age (late 2nd millennium BC) date.

5.3.4 Context [35/005] produced the only Roman pottery from the site, comprising 14 small bodysherds all from the same vessel: probably a jar or beaker in an Arun Valley grey ware fabric. This industry was at its height in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD although similar fabrics are occasionally encountered in later assemblages.

### 5.4 Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Context [19/001] produced a 5g bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware vessel with all over clear glaze. The vessel, likely to be a cup or a jug, can be placed between c. 1700 and 1825.

## 5.5 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 Ten pieces of ceramic building material were recovered during the excavation weighing a total of 364g. The ceramic building material (CBM) was recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope. Four fabrics were identified (Table 39). Data from the pro forma recording sheets was entered onto a digital database, which forms part of the archive. Samples of fabrics and those items of interest were retained; the remainder of the material was discarded.

5.5.2 The only brick recovered is an unfrogged fragment with self -glazed surface from [23/001] in a fine sandy fabric (B1). Context [19/001] contained two roof tile fragments in T3; the remaining material was recovered from [24/006] and consists of small roof tile fragments in T1 and T2. The roof tile is undiagnostic but probably 18th-19th century in date; the brick may be of a similar date.

| Context | Fabric | Form | Ct | wt (g) | Th (mm) | Condition | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23/001 | B1 | Brick | 5 | 304 | 58 | A | Moderate fine quartz with sparse black iron oxides and very sparse coarse to very coarse flint pebbles |
| 19/001 | T3 | Roof | 2 | 29 | | A | Pinkish fabric with sparse very fine quartz, sparse medium to coarse quartz, moderate red iron oxides, and medium to coarse pale cream lumps and streaks fine moulding sand |
| 24/006 | | crumb | 1 | 2 | | A | |
| 24/006 | T1 | Roof | 1 | 5 | | A,M | Common coarse grey quartz, sparse fine quartz, silty streaks |
| 24/006 | T2 | Roof | 1 | 27 | | A | Sparse fine to medium quartz, sparse coarse pale silty lumps |
| 19/004 | F1 | OFS x1 | 2 | 23 | | A | Silty clay matrix with no inclusions |

Table 39: The CBM

## 5.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Three small pieces of abraded utilised fired clay (wt 23g) in a fine silty fabric without inclusions came from [19/001]. One piece exhibits one flat surface, but the fragments are too small to be diagnostic of form or function. The material was recorded on pro forma sheets for the archive and has been discarded.

## 5.7 Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [24/006] contained a fresh 15g fragment from a 19th- to early 20th-century Welsh roofing slate.

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Angela Vitolo and Lucy Allott

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During evaluation work ten bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material as well as to assist finds recovery. All the samples were taken from pit fills and although for a few of them the feature type was uncertain, three were taken from features described as possible cooking pits. Flint recovered from various contexts at the site suggests a Mesolithic to mid-Neolithic date whilst the pottery suggests a slightly later Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age date. The following report summarises the environmental remains arising from these samples, providing evidence for the local vegetation environment, agricultural economy, diet and plant use.

### 6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 Samples were processed by flotation in their entirety, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 3). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the finds reports. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 4). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers et al. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of the samples were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch et al. 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 1, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.3 Results

6.3.1 All the samples comprised a high portion of uncharred rootlets with occasional uncharred seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family suggesting disturbance and the potential presence of intrusive material within the deposits. Wood charcoal was present in all of the flots, although mostly in the <2 mm fraction. Only flots <6> and <9> contained a significant amount of charcoal fragments measuring >4mm.

6.3.2 Charred plant macrofossils were sporadic and included one poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp) caryopsis and better preserved seeds of ivy-leaved

speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), as well as two seeds of red shank/ amphibious/ pale persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/amphibia/lapathifolia* type) and one indeterminate seed. In addition to the botanical remains arising from the flots, some more were picked out of the heavy residues and are listed in Appendix 3. These included hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut shells and two split stones of cherry/plum/sloe type fruit (*Prunus* sp). Findings of hazelnuts are frequent on prehistoric sites in Britain, as wild fruit and nuts were widely collected and used for consumption. The *Prunus* sp. fruit stones in pit [15/004] could not be identified further than genus due to their preservation although given their association with Mesolithic/early-Neolithic and other prehistoric flint they are almost certainly from a native tree (unless intrusive to the context). They are also small with relatively rough surface morphology and are most likely from sloes (*Prunus spinosa*), a species suitable for consumption by humans, animals or birds.

6.3.3 Wood charcoal fragments were moderately abundant in samples <6>, <9> and <10> and in each instance fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) were recorded. Sample <6> [17/005], pit [17/004] also contained beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) charcoal and a fragment of charred stem from what is thought to be a climber. Although no systematic charcoal identification work was undertaken for sample <7> [17/005] (also from pit [17/004]) a quick scan of the charcoal has highlighted the presence of a possible climber consistent with that noted in sample <6>. The internal morphological features of this possible climber are slightly compressed and degraded however it may be possible to obtain an identification through comparison with more reference material. On the whole, the wood charcoal fragments were well preserved and show little evidence for deformation prior to charring or post-depositional sediment infiltration and subsequent degradation.

## 6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Sampling has provided evidence for botanical remains although no other environmental material such as faunal or molluscan remains were present. These samples provide insignificant evidence for cereal crop remains although the wild plant seeds present, occurring on cultivated, waste ground or on damp ground, may represent an arable weed or a naturally occurring taxon. There is also evidence for fruit/nut taxa that are otherwise not represented in the charcoal assemblage and these may have been exploited by the site occupants or animals alike. The small wood charcoal assemblage indicates that oak and beech wood were collected and used as fuel and both provide eminently suitable fuel or timber. Although a possible climber has also been recorded it does not appear to make up a large part of the assemblage. This evaluation work suggests that a high degree of selection for fuel was employed.

6.4.2 Sampling has demonstrated the potential of the site for good preservation of charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal and although the current assemblage is limited with regard to the range of taxa represented any further work at the site should include a sampling strategy that aims to target the recovery of environmental material from *in situ* features/primary deposits and those with secure dating evidence in particular.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The topsoil across the site comprised soft dark brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.16m and 0.3m in thickness and overlay a deposit of subsoil across most of the site. Only partial subsoil coverage was identified in Trenches 9, 12, 24, 39 and 46.

7.1.2 The subsoil across the site comprised soft mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.09m and 0.26m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate in all but two trenches where a deposit of colluvium was present underlying the subsoil. The subsoil across the site did not however appear to represent a single deposit, but rather seems to represent multiple horizons, likely developed through similar processes but over differing dates and periods.

7.1.3 A colluvial deposit was identified across Trenches 26 and 32, both located towards the south-west corner of the site. The deposit measured between 0.2m and 0.5m in thickness and comprised mid-red brown silt clay with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. The colluvial deposit directly overlay the natural substrate.

7.1.4 The natural substrate comprised patches of firm mid brown-red silt clay, interspersed with areas of brown-orange gravels. The only variation to this was at the west end of Trench 23 where the natural gravel deposit was very shallow with a depth of between 0.15 and 0.23m and overlay a natural deposit of light grey/white clay sand with frequent chalk and gravel. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 20.65m AOD at its lowest point, close to the south-west corner of the site and at 30.46m AOD at its highest point, close to the north edge of the site.

7.1.5 58 archaeological features, across 30 trenches, were identified within the site area, comprising 26 pits, 15 linear ditches, two ditch terminals, seven possible ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, six isolated postholes, and two sections of wall that are likely to have formed a structure.

7.1.6 Low levels of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site, away from Fontwell Avenue towards the top of a gentle south-west facing slope.

7.1.7 Limited evidence of Roman activity was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east of the site area, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.

7.1.8 A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting onto Fontwell Avenue.

7.1.9 Of the 58 features identified, 46 contained no finds and remained undated.

Approximately half of these features were relatively shallow, with ill-defined edges. 12 of the discrete features across trenches 3, 15, 17, 21, 31 and 41 were considered archaeologically questionable and may be natural in origin (though this often proved difficult to determine within the confines of the excavated trenches). The remainder, however, are considered to be archaeological; ill-defined archaeological features are common on gravel sites as when gravel is excavated and left exposed it is prone to erosion and slumping. Furthermore, significant horizontal truncation from 19th and 20th century ploughing is evident on the site, which would explain the shallow depth of some features. An animal burrow in Trench 30 has been ruled out. Two discrete features within Trench 17 were questionable, but given their proximity to pit [17/004] which may be Neolithic in date, it seemed prudent not to dismiss them entirely.

7.1.10 The methodology, as set out in the WSI, was successfully employed during the evaluation. The presence of Tree Protection Order Zones and the need to maintain access across the site forced a limited reduction in length to a restricted number of trenches. However, due to the larger than average width of the supplied ditching bucket (2.1m) this did not greatly alter the percentage sample of the site that was evaluated. The conditions on site were conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of archaeological features and as such it is considered that this evaluation and report has successfully achieved its objective.

## 7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 As mentioned above, a subsoil horizon survived intact in all but five trenches across the site area. Limited disturbance from land drains was evident within some trenches but did not appear to have greatly affected the archaeological deposits. Two large modern soak-away pits in the south-west corner of the site are likely to have truncated any archaeological deposits within that area and lay internal to an 18th or 19th century structure first recorded on mapping in 1813. However, this appears to be localised to only the area directly cut away by the features and not their wider environs.

7.2.2 Minimal contamination and truncation of identified archaeological deposits was encountered on site, beyond plough-truncation. As such they are deemed to be for the most part intact. The height of archaeological deposits varied in line with the natural topography and other than four ditches, one partially exposed pit or ditch terminus, one pit, one pit or posthole, and a structure all archaeological features were cut from below subsoil and colluvial deposits.

7.2.3 The minimum depth of overburden was recorded over the features without a sealing subsoil layer and in these cases the depth of overburden ranged from between 0.2m and 0.4m. Across all other archaeological deposits the depth of overburden ranged from 0.35m to 0.8m

## 7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

### *Mesolithic – Mid Neolithic*

7.3.1 A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered from the site, revealing limited evidence for human activity on the site during the prehistoric period. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was proposed for the assemblage. Two ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, two pits, and one posthole contained only flint artefacts. As such they *may* be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds are residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

### *Early Neolithic – Late Bronze Age*

7.3.2 A small assemblage of pottery of this date was recovered from across the site suggesting low level activity in this period. The earliest pottery was of Neolithic date recovered from a subsoil context, directly above a pit in Trench 17 (pit [17/004] with a distinctive burnt fill). While the Early Neolithic pottery was not found in direct association with this feature, an Early Neolithic date for the pit cannot be ruled out. Certainly, such pits are a common feature of the Early Neolithic in Britain (e.g. Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012) and although their precise significance is debatable, recent work on some downland Sussex sites of Neolithic date suggests that isolated Neolithic pits, containing what might be considered domestic material culture such as pottery might not necessarily suggest settlement but a wider occupation of the landscape. Similar features have been recorded on excavations at Graylingwell, Chichester and Chalkpit Lane, c.8km and 9km to the north-west of the site respectively (Drewett, 2008).

7.3.4 The Bronze Age activity was represented by pits and heavily truncated field boundary ditches. Two of the pits demonstrated evidence for *in situ* burning and therefore, could represent cooking pits or similar features. The features were predominantly located within the south-west of the site. A single ditch of Late Bronze Age date was also identified in the north-east of the site. The archaeological evidence is suggestive of early enclosure of the landscape, broadly contemporary with the well-documented appearance of field systems across southern Britain in the Later Bronze Age (e.g. Yates 2007). The limited environmental evidence would suggest the utilisation and collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops.

### *Roman*

7.3.5 A single ditch was securely dated as of 1st to 2nd century Roman date by pottery sherds from a single vessel. The ditch was located in the north-east of the site close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware. The limited finds recovered from this feature would not necessarily suggest that the ditch enclosed settlement, although it is unlikely

that any putative settlement was far away, a possible focus of which could perhaps be considered to lie in closer proximity to the Roman road (Arundel Road) to the north of the site. It is perhaps more likely that the ditch functioned as a field boundary.

***Post-Medieval***

7.3.6 One structure of unknown function, of which two separate sections of wall were exposed, was dated to between 18th to 20th century. The structure appears to correspond with a small building first illustrated on historic maps in 1813, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue. The construction techniques and bonding material varied between the two sections of wall, with the southern section constructed with a more traditional, softer lime mortar than the northern section, possibly suggesting some extensive later restoration to the north wall of the building.

**Undated**

7.3.7 46 of the 58 identified features were undated. Of these, perhaps 12, in Trenches 3, 15, 17, 21, 31 and 41 are of questionable origin and may, in fact, be natural. However, the remainder were considered to be archaeological. Ill-defined archaeological features are common on gravel sites as when gravel is excavated and left exposed it is prone to erosion and slumping. Furthermore, significant horizontal truncation from 19th and 20th century ploughing is likely on the site. An animal burrow in Trench 30 has been ruled out. Two discrete features within Trench 17 were questionable, but given their proximity to pit [17/004] which may be Neolithic in date, it seems prudent not to dismiss them entirely.

## 7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.4.1 Given the variable nature of the depth of overburden across archaeological deposits, the impact of any groundworks on site is likely to vary. The maximum depth of overburden over archaeological features was 0.8m as such any ground works deeper than 0.8m would negatively impact on buried archaeological deposits.

## 7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 Specific research aims were set out.

- Was there evidence for Raised Beach deposits that may contain archaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the Pleistocene/Palaeolithic period?

  *A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 5) on the site has demonstrated that the Aldingbourne Beach (Unit III) is present in the part of the site investigated. The beach is overlain by a complex of fine grained, chalk rich sediments (Unit IV) that contain biological material (shell fragments) and probably represent cold climate deposits (in the main). The study has demonstrated that significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated.*

- What was the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of these deposits?

  *The depth of deposits identified during the geo-archaeological investigation as being of high potential varies in line with the topography of the site. The deposits are generally at their deepest on higher ground towards the north site boundary, and they are at their most shallow on lower lying ground towards the south-west corner of the site.*

  *Towards the north-east of the site, within GTP 40, the deposits lay 3.9m below ground level. Towards the north-west of the site, in GTP 33, the deposits were not encountered within the trench and must therefore lie more than 2.9m below ground level.*

  *In GTP 7, towards the mid-west of the site, the deposits were encountered at 1m below ground level. This dropped towards the south to 1.3m below ground level in GTP 11, and to 1.6m below ground level in GTPs B and C.*

  *As the slope dropped further towards the south-west corner of the site, the deposits were encountered at 1.3m below ground level in GTP 23, and at 0.8m below ground in GTP 24.*

  *A slight anomaly was seen in the region of GTP 15, where the deposits were significantly deeper and lay at 2.2m below ground level.*

  *The height of the deposits in m AOD, also changed in line with the topography, with deposits encountered at 25.27m AOD in the north-east of the site, rising slightly to 25.9m in the mid-west of the site and then falling gradually to 20.03m in the south-west corner.*

- What was the nature and significance of the archaeological deposits?

  *Limited evidence of Roman activity was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east of the site area, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing*

*Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd, including Samian ware. No evidence of Roman settlement was encountered and the archaeological deposits would be considered of low significance*

*Low levels of moderately significant Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. However, other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site, away from Fontwell Avenue towards the top of a gently south-west facing slope. No settlement or structures were identified but the nature of the deposits in two pits appears to be a result of in situ burning, suggesting they may be cooking pits. The limited depth and extent of the heat-affected natural clay would however, suggest they were of single or brief use.*

7.5.2 In addition, specific research aims, based on the findings of the South-East Research Framework (SERF) included the following:

- Was there any evidence for Later Bronze Age land division on the site and can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?

  *Limited evidence of Late Bronze Age land division survived within the site area. However, the dispersed nature of the features and their heavy horizontal truncation, most likely from long term ploughing may limit the potential for the features to inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex.*

- Was there any evidence for Later Iron Age occupation on the site and if so, can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

  *There was no evidence of Iron Age activity within the site.*

- Was there any evidence for Roman occupation on the site and can this inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

  *There was no evidence for Roman occupation on the site. A single ditch, considered to be a field boundary, comprised the extent of the archaeological evidence securely dated as Roman. However the presence of a partially complete Arun Valley grey ware vessel within this ditch may suggest settlement in the wider environs of the site.*

## 7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. Limited disturbance from land drains was identified in 3 trenches whilst localised truncation of deposits in the south-west of the site from modern soak-away pits was evident in Trench 24. 15 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

7.6.2 58 archaeological features, across 30 trenches, were identified within the site area, comprising 26 pits, 15 linear ditches, two ditch terminals, seven possible ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, six isolated postholes, and two sections of wall that are likely to have formed a structure.

7.6.3 One pit *may* represent an Early Neolithic feature, though this designation remains uncertain. One pit or posthole was dated as Mid- Late Bronze Age. One ditch and one possible pit or ditch terminus was dated as being of Late Bronze Age date. One ditch was dated only as broadly prehistoric from undiagnostic pottery sherds and one ditch was securely dated as of 1st to 2nd century Roman date. One structure was dated as 18th to 20th century date. All other features remained undated, though the vast majority are nonetheless considered to be cultural in origin. The majority of archaeological features were sealed by subsoil, other than five ditches encountered in Trenches 12, 35, 37 and 38, a possible ditch terminus in Trench 39, a pit in Trench 17, and a structure in Trench 24 which were all sealed by a topsoil deposit. Significantly, several such features were seen to cut through existing subsoil deposits, demonstrating that in places, such horizons are potentially of considerable antiquity. Certainly, should pit [17/004] prove to be Early Neolithic in date (which admittedly remains uncertain), the subsoil horizon through which it is cut may therefore represent a remnant land surface of considerable significance. A single pit in Trench 26 was sealed by a deposit of colluvium.

7.6.4 A small assemblage of struck flints was recovered from the site, revealing limited evidence for human activity on the site during the prehistoric period. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were present, but based on morphological and technological grounds, a Mesolithic to Mid-Neolithic date was proposed for the assemblage. One ditch, two ditch terminals or partially exposed pits, two pits, and one posthole contained only flint artefacts. As such they *may* be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds are residual, particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples

7.6.5 A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.

7.6.6 It is difficult to extrapolate the results of this investigation to the remainder of the application site. However, there appears to be no reason, judging from the results outlined above, to suppose that a similar range of archaeological features, from a comparable range of periods, would not exist across the remainder of the site, perhaps with a slight concentration in the south of the site.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Taylor Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. ASE would also like to thank Dr. Martin Bates for his specialist geoarchaeological input on site. The excavation was directed by Greg Priestley-Bell with Hayley Nicholls providing secondary supervisory cover. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell and Robert Cole who produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Site Code | FFA15 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Arun District Council | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 495151 106812 | | | | | |
| Geology | Lambeth Group deposits of clay, silt and sand overlain by superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 7286 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | **Eval.** | | | | | **Other** |
| Type of Site | **Green Field** | | | | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. 16/02/15 – 27/02/15 | | Excav. | WB. | Other | |
| Sponsor/Client | CgMs Consulting Ltd. | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Darryl Palmer | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Greg Priestley-Bell and Hayley Nicholls | | | | | |
| Period Summary | | **Meso.** | **Neo.** | **BA** | IA | **RB** |
| | | | **PM** | **Other Modern** | | |

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.

Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.

Low levels of ?Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site.

Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.

A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.

A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.

The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.

A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that highly significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west.

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-207147

Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell |
| Short description of the project | Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex. A total of 46 trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of the natural geology.<br>Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 41 of the 46 trenches. 16 of the 46 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features.<br>Low levels of ?Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity were identified across the site area. The possible Early Neolithic activity took the form an isolated charcoal-rich pit. The Bronze Age activity, whilst heavily truncated, might suggest early enclosure and utilisation of the landscape. The limited environmental evidence would suggest the collection of wild crops such as hazel nuts and sloes from across these periods with insignificant evidence for cereal crops. Other than two heavily truncated ditches, one in the north-west area of the site, and one in the north-east, the remainder of the features lay centrally within the south-west area of the site.<br>Limited evidence of Roman activity in the form of a probable field boundary was encountered within the site area and appeared to be focussed towards the north-east, close to Morelands Cottage where the HER records a V-shaped ditch containing Roman pottery from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, including Samian ware.<br>A single post-medieval structure of unknown function was identified close to the south-west site boundary, fronting on to Fontwell Avenue.<br>A small assemblage of struck flints of Mesolithic to Mid Neolithic date was recovered from the site. Five features contained only flint artefacts. As such they may be of Mesolithic to Mid- Neolithic date but it is also possible that the finds were residual particularly given the disturbed nature of many of the fills as evidenced from the quantities of uncharred rootlets in environmental samples.<br>The spread of archaeological features in the areas investigated would suggest similarly dispersed, low levels of archaeological activity across the general site area, with a slightly higher concentration possible to the south, and a lower concentration to the north.<br>A geoarchaeological investigation (included as Appendix 1) on the site has demonstrated that deposits related to the Aldingbourne raised beach is present in the part of the site investigated. The study has demonstrated that highly significant palaeo-environmental deposits with probable biological material potentially exist in the locations investigated, the depths of which vary from 3.8m below ground level in the north-east of the site, to 0.8m below ground level in the south-west. |
| Project dates | Start: 16-02-2015 End: 27-02-2015 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | FFA15 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | PIT Middle Bronze Age |
| Monument type | PIT Late Bronze Age |
| Monument type | STRUCTURE Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | "Documentary Search","Environmental Sampling","Sample Trenches","Test Pits" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | WEST SUSSEX ARUN WALBERTON Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex |
| Postcode | BN18 0SW |
| Study area | 16.90 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | SU 9515 0681 50.8524086753 -0.648128314375 50 51 08 N 000 38 53 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 20.65m Max: 30.46m |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
| Project brief originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project design | Archaeology South-East |

| | |
|---|---|
| originator | |
| Project director/manager | Darryl Palmer |
| Project supervisor | Greg Priestley-Bell |
| Project supervisor | Hayley Nicholls |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | CgMs Consulting |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | CgMs |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive recipient | Littlehampton Museum |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Littlehampton Museum |
| Digital Contents | "none" |
| Digital Media available | "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Littlehampton Museum |
| Paper Contents | "none" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Correspondence","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text" |
| Project bibliography 1 | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Fontwell Avenue, Fontwell, West Sussex |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Nicholls, H |
| Other | 2015069 |

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