

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

NGR 543323 120001

**Third Season - May 2016
A Community Archaeology Project
Involving the pupils of Newick Primary School**

**ASE Project No: P148
Site Code: SAP 10
ASE Report No. 2016244
OASIS ID: archaeol6-254825**



by Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MIFA

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**by
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**With finds identifications by
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April 2017

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Abstract

A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the third season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in May 2016.

Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013.

This season the 'Cottage Site' again produced a variety of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from the expected pottery, glass and clay pipes of a post-medieval assemblage, to the bricks and tiles from the demolished buildings, to more 'personal' artefacts such as a Victorian coin, a key, buttons, fragments of shoes/boots and hand tools, as well as a possible element of the cottage's furniture.

Further test-pits were located on earthworks and anomalies from geophysical surveys and cartographic sources. The discovery of the brick floor at one such location strongly suggests the presence of the buried remains from a post-medieval barn shown in a map of 1739 and hinted at in the results of the geophysical survey. The remains have been left in situ.

A scatter of medieval pottery discovered across the site suggests some of the earthworks may date from this era. The recovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by hunter-gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 In May 2016 Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook the third season of a community archaeology project involving the pupils from Newick (C of E) Primary School, Newick, East Sussex. The fieldwork was in a field called *Little Stiances*, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 543323 120001; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

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

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Grinstead Clay Formation of mudstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2016).

1.3 Background

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

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

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

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

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

- 1.3.6 Work on the site in 2013 was hampered by poor weather, but it proved possible to expand the area under investigation by test-pitting to include another area of the field (ASE 2013b).
- 1.3.7 The 'Cottage Site' continued to produce a range of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, again dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Finds ranged from pottery, glass and clay pipes to the bricks and tiles from demolished building(s), to more 'personal' artefacts such as the remains of a knife, a fork and a number of decorated buttons. Some of the character of the interior of the building(s) was indicated by the survival of door fittings, and part of a decorative metal plate, probably from the cooking range.
- 1.3.8 Investigation of a smaller 'House Platform' adjacent to a sunken lane (both identified during the topographical survey in 2010; ASE 210b) uncovered evidence of medieval activity represented by a small assemblage of 13th to 15th century pottery. The continued recovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from across the site highlights the use of the general area by hunter/gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory.
- 1.3.9 Following agreement for the implementation of a third season of investigation in the field by means of manually excavated test-pits, a third WSI (ASE 2015) was produced and duly approved by ESCC.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

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

1. *When was the earliest activity at the site? Is there further evidence of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic occupation? Is there any flintwork from later prehistory?*
2. *Is there a coherent pattern to the surveyed earthworks in Little Stiances? If so, how can this be interpreted? i.e. do they relate to domestic activity? Or are some related to industrial activity/activities?*
3. *Given the presence of a stream, and existing pond, could the activity/occupation be related to medieval and/or post-medieval ironworking? Given the absence of any evidence for iron smelting in previous seasons, is there evidence of blacksmithing in any part of the field?*
4. *Can any or all of the Stiances earthworks away from the cottage be closely dated? If the 'house platform' investigated in 2013 is medieval in origin, are the other platforms adjacent to the sunken way of similar date?*
5. *Although it is known that the cottage at the site was occupied into the early 20th century, when did occupation cease in the other areas? Are there any indications of reasons for the abandonment of the site?*

6. *Is there any pattern to the disposal of waste from the cottage? Were there specific areas to the rear of the property assigned for the disposal of specific types of waste, e.g. for bottles or broken crockery?*

7. *How does the Stiances assemblage compare to other recently published examples of mid-dens from cottages of a similar age - can the relative status/wealth of the inhabitants be ascertained from their discarded refuse (cf. Licence 2015).*

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the manual excavation of the test-pits at the site undertaken in May 2016. The project was undertaken by a team comprised of Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Susan Chandler and Gemma Ward (Assistant Archaeologists) and Nathalie Gonzalez (Archaeological Surveyor), and pupils, parents, teachers and helpers at Newick C of E Primary School. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Test-pits were manually excavated by pupils, teachers, parents and helpers from the school under the supervision of personnel from ASE in areas of interest identified from cartographic sources (Turk 2010) and from topographic and geophysical survey (ASE 2010b). Excavation was to be taken down to the top of the 'natural' geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. However, given the depth of topsoil at the site only two of the test-pits were completed to a clean surface of the 'natural' (TP 47 and TP50).
- 3.2 Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of excavation. Any revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was sieved for the presence of artefacts, resulting in a high recovery rate of artefacts. The children were also involved in activities such as site reconnaissance and finds identification.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards (ESCC, WSCC 2015, CDC 2015) using Archaeology South-East recording methods. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All test-pits were levelled to the Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4 A full digital photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including all finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be deposited at the school in due course. It consists of:

Test-Pit Record Sheets	20
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	100+ images
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS - 'The Cottage Garden' Test-Pits (incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber; Figures 4 and 5)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Ten test-pits (TPs 35-42, TP49 and TPs 54-55) were manually excavated at the site of the cottage garden. None was taken to the level of the underlying brownish orange clay 'natural' seen in 2010 and 2013, so the only deposit disturbed was the topsoil located in that part of the field.

4.1.2 The post-medieval pottery identification codes used in the text are appended below.

4.2 Test-Pit 35

Introduction

4.2.1 Test-Pit 35 measured 1.6m by 2.1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 290mm (32.26mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [35/01].

Worked Flint

4.2.2 The earliest material from the test-pit consists of a soft hammer waste flint flake fragment that has been burnt/fire-cracked. A Mesolithic to Neolithic date is quite possible for this piece. The fire-cracked flint may relate to this prehistoric activity.

Pottery

4.2.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of two sherds (4g) of HFE and a 2g sherd of FREC that probably all belong to the 17th century. All are too small to discern vessel form. There is also part of a CHPO plate of the first half of the 18th century.

4.2.4 The test-pit produced a notably large assemblage of late post-medieval pottery, clearly indicating a 19th century midden. A typical range of domestic ware of the period is present though fragmentation, particularly amongst the finewares, is notable. The largest proportion by weight comprises fragments of jars, bowls and a pipkin in GRE (late) (12/164g), but there is also a single sherd (8g) from an UE flower pot and a worn 22g sherd from a SUND bowl. Other kitchen wares include ENGS (1/20g, a blacking bottle), YELL (14/50g, including bowls with black industrially-slipped annular lines).

4.2.5 The earlier refined wares include 18 pieces (28g) of somewhat fragmented and worn CREA plates and bowls (likely to be c.1790-1825), some PEAR (3/4g, including a jug with hand-painted earth colours), some PEAR TR (1/2g, a bowl) and a 1g scrap of REFR. Later refined wares include a range of transfer-printed whitewares, most commonly TPW2 (21/38g, plates, saucers and bowls with floral and willow pattern designs, but some with pale/late 19th- century printed colours); TPW3 (6/26g, brown and grey floral printed mug and plate) and notable quantities of REFW (23/52g). The latter include plates with moulded decoration and bowls with both blue marbling

pattern and polychrome sponged decoration.

- 4.2.6 The latter type of decoration was the cheapest coloured decoration available on the market. There is also a 1g sherd of REFW with all over green glaze and three scraps (93g) of English porcelain.
- 4.2.7 Overall the assemblage would be very much in keeping with one from a household of the lower class and spans c.1800-1900. Its fragmented nature (3.8g being the average sherd weight) suggests it has been heavily reworked.

Clay Pipes

- 4.2.8 A scatter of 11 fragments from clay tobacco pipes were recovered from the test-pit. All are of 19th-century types and include seven plain stem fragments, a decorated stem fragment (with moulded 'knobbles') and three bowl fragments. The latter include two with ribbed decoration and one plain Briar pipe type.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.2.9 This test-pit produced a moderate-sized assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. All the brick consists of amorphous worn pieces in sparsely fine sand tempered fabrics with moderate quantities of iron oxides and or marl. The 42 pieces of peg tile are all well-formed and fired types tempered with sparse fine sand with some fine iron oxides and/or marl streaks/swirls. A single diamond peg hole is present, and the tiles vary between 10 and 13mm thick. There are also two ridge tile fragments (154g) of similar fabrics. All belong to a mid-18th- to 19th- century date range.

Glass

- 4.2.10 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and aqua-coloured cylindrical and hexagonal bottles. The latter are too small to identify bottle function.

Other Finds

- 4.2.11 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include 16 pieces of iron, most of which are quite heavily corroded. Nails totally dominate the groups (13) but there is also a fragment from a spike/chisel. There are also two mid-18th- to mid- 19th century copper alloy buttons (15 and 18mm diameters) with high gun metal content. All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19th century coal fragments and there is also a good scatter of clinker (10/94g: a lightweight slag derived from coal-burning) – all undoubtedly coming from domestic hearths/ranges. The seven bone fragments are in fairly good condition and consist mainly of teeth or fragments thereof from sheep.
- 4.2.12 However the find which produced the most interest amongst the children, helpers and visitors alike was a heavily worn farthing dating from 1860.

4.3 Test-Pit 36

Introduction

4.3.1 Test-Pit 36 measured 1.6m by 1.6m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 310mm (32.18mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [36/01].

Worked Flint

4.3.2 The earliest material from the test-pit consists of a soft hammer blade fragment with grey patination. A Mesolithic to Neolithic date is quite possible for this piece. The fire-cracked flint may relate to this prehistoric activity.

Pottery

4.3.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of material spanning the later 17th to mid- 18th centuries: two sherds (6g) of HFE, two sherds (20g) of GRE early (including a jar with club rim), four sherds of LONS (16g) and three sherds (7g) of SWSG. Most pieces are small, worn and not diagnostic of vessel form.

4.3.4 The test-pit produced the largest assemblage of late post-medieval pottery, clearly indicating a 19th century mid-den, but as with TP 35, the material is represented by small abraded sherds. A typical range of domestic ware of the period is again present. The largest proportion by weight comprises fragments of jars and bowls in GRE (late) (18/132g), but there are also three sherds (28g) from UE flower pots, a 26g fragment from an ENGS bottle and 21 sherds of YELL (74g: including a jug with blue industrially slipped annular lines and mocha decoration and a plain baking dish).

4.3.5 The earlier refined wares include 29 pieces (32g) of somewhat fragmented and worn CREA plates (likely to be c.1790-1825), some PEAR (5/12g, including a tea bowl with hand-painted floral decoration) and some PEAR TR (6/4g, a saucer with Chinese-style design). Later refined wares include a range of transfer-printed whitewares, most commonly TPW2 (25/40g, plates with willow and wild rose patterns); TPW3 (6/20g, brown and grey sheet patterns on a bowl and plate respectively) and TPW4 (7/14g: bowls and saucers with purple sheet patterns).

4.3.6 The notable quantities of REFW (38/88g) include plates, a preserve jar and other vessels of uncertain form with blue marbling and industrially slipped decoration. There is also a 4g fragment from a REFW figurine. Just four pieces (14g) of English porcelain are present, including a saucer with grey transfer-print of 'festive' ivy. The overall assemblage is very similar to that from TP 35 and suggests a household of the lower classes with material spanning c.1800-1900.

Clay Pipes

4.3.7 This test pit produced a 1g plain stem fragment of early post-medieval date (c.1650-1700), but the remainder consist of worn plain stem (x4) and bowl (x2) fragments of later 18th- to 19th- century type.

Ceramic Building Material

4.3.8 This test-pit produced a large assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. Most of the brick again consist of amorphous worn

pieces in sparsely fine sand tempered fabrics with moderate quantities of iron oxides and or marl. There are a few pieces of brick with slag tempering too, probably of the 19th century and there is at least one flooring brick represented – a 35mm thick example. The 89 pieces of peg tile (3654g) are again all well-formed and fired types tempered with sparse fine sand with some fine iron oxides and/or marl streaks/swirls. Four examples have diamond peg hole is present, one of which still has the iron securing nail in place. The tiles vary between 11 and 13mm thick. There are also three ridge tile fragments (268g) of similar fabrics and 15 pieces (454g) of land drain. All belong to a mid-/later 18th- to 19th- century date range.

Glass

4.3.9 The 59 shards of glass are totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded pieces of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles, aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles, pale blue medicinal bottles and at least one colourless glass phial. A typical range of 19th- century domestic types is represented.

Other Finds

4.3.10 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include 35 pieces of iron, most of which are again quite heavily corroded. Nails totally dominate the groups (30) but there is also a small key, a spike/punch, a door hinge fragment, a tapering strip/tool tang and part of a boot heel. All can be placed in the later 18th to 19th centuries. There is also a fragment from an 18th- century shoe buckle frame with moulded decoration and a 12 bore blank shotgun cartridge of 20th- century date.

4.3.11 The test-pit also produced two fragments of lead window came but these are also probably of post-medieval date. Miscellaneous items include a white 4-hole porcelain button and a leather fragment from a child's/ladies shoe/boot with several eye-lets surviving. All of the stone from the test-pit again consists of 19th- century coal fragments, with one exception – an 18g fragment from a quart pebble.

4.3.12 The test-pit also produced a notable quantity of clinker (slag) and a few pieces of buff sandy 19th- century mortar. The bone again consists mainly of sheep teeth and a scatter of very small burnt fragments of uncertain form. Overall the other finds are very much in keeping with a 19th- century mid-den.

4.4 Test-Pit 37

Introduction

4.4.1 Test-Pit 37 measured 1.0m by 1.3m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 230mm (32.91mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [37/01].

Worked Flint

4.4.2 The earliest material from the test-pit consists of a tiny chip of possibly worked flint and two pieces of fire-cracked flint, again suggesting some very low-level prehistoric activity in the area.

Pottery

4.4.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a single SWSG tea bowl sherd (1g) of c. early/mid- 18th- century date.

4.4.4 The test-pit produced a notably smaller assemblage of late post-medieval pottery, clearly indicating it to be further from the centre of the 19th- century mid-den spread. A similar range of domestic ware of the period is present: GRE (1/6g), ENGS (1/1g), YELL (4/8g, one with industrially slipped white annular decoration), CREA (11/6g), PEAR (5/6g, including a hand-painted tea bowl), TPW2 (4/3g, including a plate) and REFW (5/4g). At 1.1g, the average sherd size is tiny but overall the date range appears to be a little earlier, perhaps c.1780-1840. It may be that this earlier material represents a more reworked and dispersed mid-den of the later Georgian period.

Clay Pipes

4.4.5 A single plain bowl fragment of later 18th- to 19th- century date is present.

Ceramic Building Material

4.4.6 This test-pit produced a small assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. All the brick consists of amorphous worn pieces as noted before and the 11 pieces of peg tile are of previously described types. A single diamond peg hole is present.

Glass

4.4.7 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and pale blue medicinal bottles.

Other Finds

4.4.8 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include two fragments of iron nail and a small (15mm diameter) 3-piece brass naval button of later 19th- to early 20th- century date. A single sheep tooth was also recovered.

4.5 Test-Pit 38

Introduction

4.5.1 Test-Pit 38 measured 1.2m by 1.6m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 310mm (32.00mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [38/01].

Pottery

4.5.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a heavily abraded 1g scrap of oxidised fine flint and quartz tempered Clay Hill ware that can be placed between c.1150 and 1225. It undoubtedly derives from sporadic manuring of arable land at this time.

4.5.3 By far the largest medieval sherd from the 2016 excavations came from this test-pit -it is from an oxidised Ringmer sandy ware cooking pot with thickened out-turned rim. The sherd, which is not severely abraded, can be placed between c.1225 and 1325.

4.5.4 This test-pit also produced a single later medieval sherd – a 6g oxidised bodysherd of hard-fired Late Ringmer ware. A date between c. 1350 and 1500 is probable.

4.5.5 The early post-medieval period is represented by five sherds that suggest a mid-/later 17th- to mid- 18th century date range. These are again heavily abraded, but consist of: HFE (2/42g), TGW (2/4g) and SWSG (1/1g).

4.5.6 The early post-medieval period is represented by a 4g sherd from a probable FREC jug and a worn GRE (early) sherd of 17th- to early 18th- century date.

4.5.7 The majority of the pottery from this test-pit was again of the late post-medieval period, with quantities being comparable to those in TP 37. A typical range of domestic ware of the 19th- century is present, once again, notably fragmented and abraded. The largest proportion by weight comprises fragments of GRE (late) (10/96g), but there are also four sherds (10g) from UE flower pots and three (6g) of ENGS (from a bottle and from a lid). The earlier refined wares are again dominated by worn scraps of CREA (29/22g) with lesser quantities of PEAR (3/3g including a sherd of hand-painted tea bowl).

4.5.8 Later refined wares include a range of transfer-printed whitewares, most commonly TPW2 (12/20g, plates and saucers with floral and willow pattern designs), but also including TPW4 (1/6g, a bowl with purple print of ruins) and REFW (6/9g, including a sponged bowl and a sherd with industrial slip decoration). There is also a 1g scrap of JACK but the form is uncertain. There was also YELL (1/1g), PEAR (PEAR TR (1/1g, a bowl), and ENPO (1/2g).

Clay Pipes

4.5.9 A scatter of five fragments from clay tobacco pipes were recovered from the test-pit. All are of 19th- century types and include five plain stem fragments, a decorated stem fragment (with moulded 'fish scales'), a flat heel with maker's initials I/? and a bowl fragment decorated with oak leaf seams and ribbing on its lower section. There were also two plain bowl fragments of later 18th- to

19th- century date (one of the latter having milling around its mouth).

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.5.10 This test-pit produced a small assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. All the brick consists of amorphous worn pieces of usual type and the eight peg tile fragments (78g) are also of the usual types. One has the remains of a diamond shaped peg hole.

Glass

- 4.5.11 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of wine/beer bottles, aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles, window glass and a chip from a cobalt blue poison bottle. There is also a black glass bead from a necklace.

Other Finds

- 4.5.12 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include pieces of iron, 17 of which are quite heavily corroded nails, the other a structural joiner's dog. There is a copper alloy shot gun cartridge case (C20th) and part of a lead toy (possibly an Indian figure). All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19th- century coal fragments and there is also a sparse scatter of clinker (4/26g) – as before, all undoubtedly coming from domestic hearths/ranges. The single bone is a cow's tooth.

4.6 Test-Pit 39

Introduction

- 4.6.1 Test-Pit 39 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 240mm (32.48m AOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [39/01].

Worked Flint

- 4.6.2 The earliest material from the test-pit consists of two waste flint flakes, one of which appears to have been retouched to make a crude scraper. The single piece of fire-cracked flint may relate to this prehistoric activity.

Pottery

- 4.6.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of two very worn oxidised body sherds of medieval date. The earliest is of Lewes flinty ware (tempered with abundant fine alluvial flint) that probably dates c.1100-1175. The other is of Clay Hill type (sand and fine flint) and dates c.1150-1225. The sherds are further evidence of low-level manuring at the site during this period.
- 4.6.4 A small assemblage of early post-medieval pottery was recovered from this test-pit. The material, which spans a c.1600-1750 date range, consists of sherds of FREC (2/20g, a jug), HFE (1/4g), GRE early (2/12g, a dish) and SWSG (1/2g).
- 4.6.5 The test-pit produced a moderate assemblage of late post-medieval pottery, all of which could be fitted within the 19th century. Wares consist of GRE (3/8g), UE (1/1g, flower pot), YELL (4/12g, including blue mocha decoration), CRA (6/6g), PEAR (4/12g, including a plate with blue shell-edge decoration and a hand-painted tea bowl), TPW2 (3/12g, including willow patterned plates), REFW (2/4g, including sponged decoration) and ENPO (1/2g, an egg cup). All would be in keeping with a 19th- century domestic household of the lower classes.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.6.6 This test-pit produced a small assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. All the brick consists of amorphous worn pieces in sparsely fine sand tempered fabrics with moderate quantities of iron oxides and/or marl. The 13 pieces of peg tile (184g) are all well-formed and fired types tempered with sparse fine sand with some fine iron oxides and/or marl streaks/swirls. A single ridge tile fragment (234g) of similar fabrics is also present. All belong to a mid- 18th- to 19th- century date range.

Glass

- 4.6.7 The four shards of glass (2g) consist of two window fragments and two from dark green wine/beer bottles, all of 19th- to early 20th- century type.

Other Finds

- 4.6.8 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include three iron nails and a copper alloy keyhole escutcheon from a box or small chest of later 18th- to 19th- century date. There is also a 12mm diameter 4-hole button in white glass, a scattering of coal (9/8g) and a single piece of slag (clinker).

4.7 Test-Pit 40

Introduction

4.7.1 Test-Pit 40 measured 1.1m by 1.1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 270mm (32.07m AOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [40/01].

Pottery

4.7.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of five early post-medieval sherds that can only broadly be placed between the mid-16th and mid-18th centuries. These consist of GRE (early) (4/26g) and BORDG (1/12g). As usual, all show significant signs of abrasion.

4.7.3 The majority of pot from this test-pit is of late post-medieval date and would all fit into a 19th-century date range. The assemblage consists of GRE (late) (6/38g), UE (1/4g), YELL (3/2g, with blue mocha decoration), CREA (4/2g), TPW2 (2/2g), REFW (1/14g, including a moulded jug) and ENPO (1/1g, a cup with purple sprigged decoration).

Clay Pipes

4.7.4 Fragments from two plain stems and a plain bowl were recovered. All are of 19th-century date.

Ceramic Building Material

4.7.5 This test-pit produced a small assemblage of just tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. There are 10 pieces (542g) of peg tile and one (156g) of ridge tile, all in fabrics of the later 18th to 19th centuries.

Glass

4.7.6 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th-century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles. The latter are too small to identify bottle function.

Other Finds

4.7.7 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include five pieces of iron, most of which are quite heavily corroded nails (x4), but there is also a 80mm diameter ring, possibly for securing livestock. There is also a small brass eye-let from a 19th-century child's or lady's shoe/boot. All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19th-century coal and coal shale fragments.

4.8 Test-Pit 41

Introduction

4.8.1 Test-Pit 41 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 380mm (32.97mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [41/01].

Worked Flint

4.8.2 The earliest material from the test-pit consists of a blade fragment in good quality black flint. A Mesolithic to Neolithic date is quite possible for this piece.

Pottery

4.8.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a sherd of late medieval date, a period not previously represented in the 2016 test-pits. The sherd is from an oxidised late Ringmer vessel with reduced surfaces and splashes of clear glaze externally. A date between c.1350 and 1500 is likely.

4.8.4 The three early post-medieval sherds are composed of GRE (1/1g, all over clear glaze), BORDY (1/4g) and LONS (1/2g, from a tankard). A mid- 17th- to mid- 18th century date range would accommodate all.

4.8.5 The late post-medieval pottery dominates the test-pit and includes the typical 19th- century spread of finewares noted previously but without any specific kitchen wares: CREA (3/1g), TPW2 (4/3g, including a plate with floral decoration) and REFW (6/6g (including a sponge-decorated vessel). With an average sherd weight of 0.8g the material is extremely fragmented.

Ceramic Building Material

4.8.6 This test-pit produced three pieces (8g) of amorphous brick with a very high degree of marl swirls. The type may well be of early post-medieval date (C17th – mid- 18th). The four scraps of peg tile (14g) are of the usual late post-medieval types.

Glass

4.8.7 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows and aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles. The latter are too small to identify bottle function.

Other Finds

4.8.8 The test-pit produced a scattering of 19th- century coal and slag (clinker) from coal burning.

4.9 Test-Pit 42

Introduction

4.9.1 Test-Pit 42 measured 1.1m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 360mm (33.10mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [42/01].

Pottery

4.9.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of two abraded (freshly broken/conjoining) sherds of oxidised Clay Hill ware. A c.1150-1225 date range is suggested.

4.9.3 The early post-medieval period is represented by five sherds that can all be placed in a late 17th- to mid- 18th- century date range. They consist of HFE (1/6g), GRE (early) (2/4g, early/mid- 18th century), LONS (1/2g, a jug) and CHPO (1/2g, saucer).

4.9.4 The vast majority of pottery from this test-pit is of the late post-medieval period. The assemblage consists of GRE (late) (5/62g), UE (3/14g, flower pots), ENGS (1/30g, blacking bottle), YELL (3/4g, bowl), CREA (9/12g, including a plate and a bowl, the latter with polychrome hand-painting), PEAR TR (2/2g, including a hand-painted plate), BASG (4/44g, teapot), TPW2 (8/10g, a bowl and plate), TPW3 (1/1g, a plate), TPW4 (1/1g), REFW (11/8g, including a plate and ENPO 2/2g. A similar date range and social status to the assemblage in TP 34 is suggested.

Clay Pipes

4.9.5 The four plain stem and two plain bowl fragments from this test-pit are all of later 18th- to 19th- century date.

Ceramic Building Material

4.9.6 This test-pit produced a moderate-sized assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date. All the brick consists of amorphous worn pieces as noted before. The peg tile (17/218g) is of the same later 18th to 19th- date as noted in the other test-pits.

Glass

4.9.7 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and aqua-coloured cylindrical bottles. The latter are too small to identify bottle function.

Other Finds

4.9.8 The test-pit produced six pieces of iron, all of which are nails/fragments thereof, with the exception of a bolt fragment. All are of late post-medieval date.

4.10 Test-Pit 49

Introduction

4.10.1 Test-Pit 49 measured 1.6m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (32.61mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [49/01].

Pottery

4.10.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of two early post-medieval sherds of GRE (early). A 17th- to mid- 18th- century date is likely.

4.10.3 The test-pit produced considerably more late post-medieval pottery (47/92g), though typically of small and abraded nature. A similar range of 19th- century domestic wares to those from the other test-pits was noted: GRE (late) (5/24g), UE (1/2g), ENGS (2/22, ink? Bottle), YELL (9/12g, with industrial slip annular lines), CREA (7/8g), PEAR (3/6g, including a hand-painted saucer and a mug), TPW2 (6/4g) and REFW (13/12g, including sponged decoration on a saucer). There is also a 2g sherd from an REFW vessel with all over green glaze.

Clay Pipes

4.10.4 The two pieces of clay pipe are both plain stem fragments of later 18th- to 19th- century date.

Ceramic Building Material

4.10.5 This test-pit produced a moderate assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of late post-medieval date and of the usual range of fabrics and finishes.

Glass

4.10.6 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of window glass and pale blue hexagonal medicinal bottle.

Other Finds

4.10.7 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include 17 pieces of iron, most of which are quite heavily corroded. Nails totally dominate the groups (16) but there is also a fragment from a strip/tool fragment. The single copper alloy item is a clasp fragment, possibly from 18th- to early 19th- century clogs. There is also a 32g fragment of slag (clinker) from 19th- century coal burning.

4.11 Test-Pit 54

Introduction

4.11.1 Test-Pit 54 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 240mm (32.85m AOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [54/01].

Pottery

4.11.2 The test-pit produced a small assemblage of 19th- century date only. This consists of GRE (late) (2/20g), UE (1/2g), SUND (1/1g), CREA (5/3g), TPW2 (2/1g), REFW 2/1g) and ENPO (1/1g, a tea bowl).

Glass

4.11.3 The four pieces of glass consist of late post-medieval wine bottle (x1) and window pane (x3) fragments of general 19th- century date.

Other Finds

4.11.4 The test-pit also produced five small pieces of coal.

4.12 Test-Pit 55

Introduction

4.12.1 Test-Pit 55 measured 1.0m by 1.2m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 290mm (33.32mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [55/01].

Pottery

4.12.2 The test-pit produced a moderately sized assemblage of 19th- century pottery but no earlier material. The types represented are very much in keeping with those from the other test-pits – namely a domestic household of the lower classes. The assemblage is composed of: GRE (late) (5/22g), UE (5/14g), CREA (13/20g, including a bowl), PEAR (2/1g, including a hand-painted tea bowl), TPW2 (9/46g, plates with willow and wild rose patterns as well as some pale/late floral types), TPW4 (1/1g, a saucer with green floral decoration), REFW (5/8g) and ENPO (2/5g, a vase with moulded decoration and a cherub/child figurine).

Clay Pipes

4.12.3 The clay pipe fragments are mainly from a bowl with oak leaf seam decoration, but there is also a heel fragment with maker's initial 'T/H'. This may equate to Thomas Harman II, working at Lewes c.1768-1774. Overall all the material can be placed in the later 18th to 19th centuries.

Ceramic Building Material

4.12.4 This test-pit produced a single early post-medieval peg tile fragment in the usual 17th- to mid- 18th- century buff fabric. The remaining brick and peg tile fragments are all in the mid- 18th- to 19th- century types.

Glass

4.12.5 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including two fragments of window glass and two of wine/beer bottles.

Other Finds

4.12.6 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include seven pieces of iron, all consisting of notably corroded nail fragments. There is also a 7g copper alloy circular decorative handle mount, probably from a 17th- century piece of furniture. All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19th- century coal fragments and there is also a good scatter of clinker (16/22g) – all undoubtedly coming from domestic hearths/ranges. There is also a single cattle tooth.

5.0 RESULTS – ‘The Bank’ Test-Pits (incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figures 4 and 5)

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Ten test-pits (TPs 43-48 and TPs 50-53) were manually excavated in an area of site identified as a sunken way with associated banks and other earthworks. Test-pits TP43, TP44, TP51 and TP54 were excavated on top of a notable bank to the east of the sunken lane seen on the topographic and cartographic sources (ASE 2010b)

5.2 Test-Pit 43

Introduction

5.2.1 Test-Pit 43 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 190mm (28.06mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [43/01].

Worked Flint

5.2.2 The only find logged from this test-pit consists of a brown patinated piece of flint, with cortex still remaining that appears to be a humanly worked waste flake.

5.3 Test-Pit 44

Introduction

5.3.1 Test-Pit 44 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 320mm (27.66mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [44/01].

Worked Flint

5.3.2 Although no worked flint was recovered from this test-pit, the fire-cracked flint could be of prehistoric date.

Pottery

5.3.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a single medieval sherd (1/1g). This is very heavily abraded and appears to be an oxidised Ringmer sandy ware of c.1225-1350 date. High Medieval sherds have been surprisingly scarce in the 2016 test-pits but some manuring was obviously continuing from the early medieval period.

5.3.3 The seven sherds of early post-medieval pottery are typical of the later 17th to mid- 18th centuries. They consist of HFE (1/10g, a jug), GRE (early) (5/44g, a jar with internal clear glaze and a mug with all over clear glaze) and LONS (1/2g, a tankard).

5.3.4 The test-pit produced a much larger assemblage of late post-medieval date: 40/138g. The material has a similar profile to most of the other test-pits and suggests a lower status household of the 19th century. The assemblage

consists of GRE (late) (10/70g, jars and a bowl with rectangular club rim), UE (2/6g, flower pot), SUND (1/6g, bowl), YELL (3/14g, including a dish with industrially slipped annular decoration), CREA (10/8g), PEAR (5/6g, including plates), TPW2 (4/10g, including willow patterned plates), REFW (4/16g, including a saucer with pink rim-edge line and another vessel with blue sponged decoration) and BASG (1/2g, teapot)

Clay Pipes

- 5.3.5 All seven fragments of clay pipe are from plain stems of later 18th- to 19th- century date.

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.6 This test-pit produced a moderate-sized assemblage of brick and tile, most of which is of late post-medieval date. However, there are two worn pieces of peg tile (63g) in a buff/marl-rich fabric tempered with common/abundant iron oxides and marl pellets that are probably of 17th- to mid- 18th- century date. The remaining peg tile (18/166g) is of the usual late post-medieval types. All of the brick consists of amorphous fragmented pieces, again of the usual late post-medieval types.

Glass

- 5.3.7 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and pale blue square medicinal bottles.

Other Finds

- 5.3.8 The test-pit produced a range of other finds. These include five pieces of iron, most of which are quite heavily corroded nails. However there is one 385mm long brace/linkage structural fitting. All would be fine in a 19th- century setting. All of the stone from the test-pit consists of 19th- century coal fragments and there is also a single piece of clinker. The three scraps of bone consist of small chips of tooth enamel.

5.4 Test-Pit 51

Introduction

- 5.3.1 Test-Pit 51 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 220mm (25.81mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [44/01].

Pottery

- 5.4.2 Only two tiny fragments of CREA were recovered. A later 18th- to early 19th- century date is suggested.

Clay Pipes

- 5.4.3 A single later 18th- to 19th- century plain stem fragment was recovered from this test-pit.

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.4.4 A single amorphous lump of late post-medieval brick was recovered from this test-pit.

5.5 Test-Pit 53

Introduction

- 5.3.1 Test-Pit 53 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 310mm (25.66mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [53/01].

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.5.2 This test-pit produced five small early post-medieval peg tile fragments (44g) in the buff fabric noted earlier. A 17th- to mid- 18th- century date is suggested. The remaining peg tile (and brick) is all of the usual late post-medieval types.

Glass

- 5.5.3 A single 1g scrap of aqua-coloured window glass was recovered. A later 18th- to mid- 19th- century date is suggested.

Other Finds

- 5.5.4 The only other find from this test-pit was a 6g iron nail fragment.

6.0 RESULTS – ‘The Sunken Lane’ Test-Pits (incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figure 5)

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Test-pits TP46, TP47, TP50 and TP52 were excavated in the notable sunken lane seen on the topographic and cartographic sources (*ibid.*). The lane sloped steeply down towards Sharpsbridge Lane.

6.2 Test-Pit 46

Introduction

6.2.1 Test-Pit 46 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 130mm (27.06mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [46/01].

6.2.2 No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the test-pit.

6.3 Test-Pit 47

Introduction

6.3.1 Test-Pit 47 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 120mm (25.78mAOD). The overburden was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [47/01], which directly overlay the orangey grey ‘natural’ clay, context [47/02]. There was no evidence of any metalling/surfacing of the road.

Worked Flint

6.3.2 The single piece of fire-cracked flint may relate to low-level prehistoric activity.

Pottery

6.3.3 All of the pottery from this test-pit is of late post-medieval date. The assemblage consists of GRE (1/1g), UE (1/1g), PEAR (3/2g), TPW2 (1/1g, a plate) and TPW3 (1/1g, a grey printed saucer). A mid- to later 19th- century date is suggested.

Ceramic Building Material

6.3.4 This test-pit produced a very small scatter of late post-medieval brick and tile in the usual types.

Glass

6.3.5 The glass from this test-pit consists of three tiny chips of fine window glass of later 18th- to mid- 19th- century date.

Other Finds

6.3.6 The test-pit produced two corroded iron nail fragments and a 2g piece of coal.

6.4 Test-Pit 50

Introduction

6.4.1 Test-Pit 50 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 150mm (27.48mAOD). The overburden was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [50/01]. It directly overlay the orangey grey 'natural' clay, context [50/02]. There was no evidence of any metalling/surfacing of the road.

6.4.2 No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the test-pit.

6.5 Test-Pit 52

Introduction

6.5.1 Test-Pit 52 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 160mm (24.74mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [52/01].

6.5.2 No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the test-pit.

7.0 RESULTS – ‘The Platform’ Test-Pits (incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figure 5)

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Test-pits TP45 and TP48 were excavated into a platform adjacent to the sunken way seen on the topographic and cartographic sources (*ibid.*).

7.2 Test-Pit 45

Introduction

7.2.1 Test-Pit 45 measured 1.0m by 1.8m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (27.15mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid--greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [45/01].

Pottery

7.2.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a single HFE sherd of probable mid- 17th- to mid- 18th- century date.

7.2.3 The test-pit produced just 10 sherds of late post-medieval pottery – the usual 19th- century range of types being represented: GRE (late) (2/8g), CREA (3/2g), PEAR (4/4g), REFR (1/10g, tea pot with industrial slip).

Ceramic Building Material

7.2.4 This test-pit produced a moderate-sized assemblage of brick and tile, most of which is of late post-medieval date. There are four peg tile fragments (292g) of similar type to the buff/marl-rich examples noted in Test pit 44 – a similar 17th- to mid- 18th- century date is suspected. The remaining peg tile is of the usual late post-medieval types and includes one full tile width (150mm) and a single surviving diamond peg hole. All of the brick consists of the badly fragmented amorphous pieces of late post-medieval types.

Glass

7.2.5 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- to early 20th- century date, including fragments of windows, wine/beer bottles and aqua-coloured bottles of uncertain form.

Other Finds

7.2.6 The test-pit also produced two corroded iron nails and two small fragments of coal, all of probable 19th- century date.

7.3 Test-Pit 48

Introduction

- 7.3.1 Test-Pit 48 measured 2.0m by 1.1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 190mm (26.97mAOD). The overburden was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [45/01]. Brickwork masonry apparently forming a floor was encountered at the northern end of the trench and was reburied and left *in situ* to protect it from potential overenthusiasm.

Pottery

- 7.3.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of two sherds: a 6g fragment of GRE (early) that probably dates c.1600-1750 and a FREC sherd (8g) of probable 17th- century date.
- 7.3.3 Only four late post-medieval sherds were recovered from this test-pit. These consist of GRE (late) (2/10g), CREA (1/1g) and REFW (1/2g, with red sponged decoration). A general 19th- century date range is again suggested.

Clay Pipes

- 7.3.4 A single plan stem fragment of later 18th- to 19th- century date was recovered.

Ceramic Building Material

- 7.3.5 This test-pit produced a very large assemblage of brick and tile, by far the largest from a single test-pit. The early post-medieval period is represented by some 23 peg tiles (1284g) in the buff/marl-rich fabric with common iron oxide and mark pellets. The tiles are quite well formed and medium fired. Again a 17th- to mid- 18th- century date is suspected. There are also 34 fragments of brick (9010g) that are notably poorly mixed, crudely formed and low/medium fired. Some have patchy areas of self-glazing on their surfaces.
- 7.3.6 Dimensions are variable even in the same fine sandy fabrics: measurable widths consist of 100, 105, 105, 108 and 110mm, while thicknesses consist of 45, 50, 55, 55, 60 and 60mm. Although there could be extremely poorly-made late post-medieval bricks they are considered to more probably be of the 17th to early 18th century. The remaining brick (27/3030g) consists of better-formed and fired types typical of the mid- 18th to 19th centuries. Few measurable dimensions are present but heights of 58 and 60mm were recorded.
- 7.3.7 The late post-medieval peg tile (80/7066g: there are also two ridge tile fragments: 60g) dominates the assemblage and includes two complete tile widths (148 and 150mm) as well as 23 examples of diamond-shaped peg holes. The material is notable fresh and large suggesting it has not been reworked to any great extent. Taken together it would appear that there may have been an early post-medieval structure that had seen extensive repair/alteration in the later 18th to 19th centuries, which was finally demolished and the two periods of building material mixed together.

Glass

- 7.3.8 The two scraps of glass appear to derive from later 18th- to mid- 19th- century aqua-tinted window glass.

Other Finds

- 7.3.9 The test-pit produced a short section of copper alloy chain, possibly to hold a later 18th- to 19th- century fob watch, and a single cattle tooth.

8.0 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The third season of the Stiances Archaeological Project again offered an all-too-rare opportunity for children (and their helpers) to experience archaeological fieldwork in their own community
- 8.2 Given the clear cartographic evidence (Turk 2009) and the results of the previous seasons of work at the site (ASE 2010b; 2013b), the presence of a large assemblage of 'domestic' post-medieval material near the site of the cottage was expected. Again, a varied assemblage of material was recovered offering an insight into life in a rural cottage in the post-medieval period in the Weald.
- 8.3 The 'Cottage Site' again produced a variety of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from the expected pottery, glass and clay pipes of a post-medieval assemblage, to the bricks and tiles from the demolished buildings, to more 'personal' artefacts such as a Victorian coin, a key, buttons, fragments of shoes/boots and tools, as well as a possible element of the cottage's furniture.
- 8.4 The discovery of the brick floor in TP48 strongly suggests that the platform on which this test-pit (and TP45) were targeted is the site of a post-medieval barn shown in a map of 1739 (Turk 2009, 1) and hinted at in the results of the geophysical survey (ASE 2010b). The remains have been left *in situ* and form another element of the complex of buildings of the post-medieval period encountered at the site.
- 8.5 The discovery of flintwork continues to stretch the chronology of the site back to c.10,000BC (Mithen 1999, 35). Although admittedly limited in size and variety, the flintwork assemblage is clearly indicative of Hunter-Gatherer activity at Stiances, only detectable from analysis of artefacts recovered by the children.
- 8.6 As previously discussed in the 2010 and 2013 season's report (ASE 2010b; 2013b), the topographical situation of the site corresponds to a long-recognised pattern of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity in the Weald, comprising flint scatters that are thought to be the surviving remnants of hunting activity closely related to the system of river valleys in the area (Tebbutt 1974): the concentration of Mesolithic material at the site is located on high ground overlooking a stream, a situation seen at other recently investigated sites in the Weald (e.g. Stevens 2009).
- 8.7 Fieldwork has shown that such scatters can be associated with buried archaeological features (Butler 1997), and this may be the case at Stiances. It has been recognised since the 1930s that Mesolithic/Early Neolithic hunter-gatherers operating in the Weald were capable of building shelters (Clark and Rankine 1939), and work in the Horsham area (at Rock Common near Washington) has also shown evidence of hearths of this date (Harding 2000).
- 8.8 A recent study has highlighted the presence of a number of Mesolithic sites in this part of the Weald. Flint finds from Barcombe, Piltdown and Isfield

suggest the presence of a network of hunting camps in the general area, and arguably rock shelters identified in Uckfield suggest a more permanent base for hunting operations using the local network of tributaries for the River Ouse (Jones 2015, 30-31)

- 8.9 Evidence of the medieval occupation of the site championed by Tebbutt (1981, 115), continues to prove elusive. The excavation of the test-pits targetted on a 'house platform' in 2013 led to the recovery of some medieval pottery, perhaps hinting at the date of a local structure (ASE 2013b). However, very few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered this year, and it stills remains unclear if the earthworks in the field do actually represent the remains of a medieval agricultural settlement as suggested by Tebbutt (*ibid.*). However the earliest sherds of pottery found at the site so far, dating back as far as the 12th century, were recovered this season.
- 8.10 Only a small percentage of the field has been examined and arguably more detailed and widespread excavation in the field might produce results such as those from Faulkners Farm, Hartfield (*ibid.*) or from other medieval Wealden sites which have been investigated. Evidence for a farmstead occupied from the 13th to at least the mid- 14th century has come to light near Polegate (Stevens 2007). Apparently contemporary with the medieval activity at Stiances, the Polegate site (and now arguably Stiances) form part of a pattern of agricultural settlements doted across the Weald at that time (Gardiner 1996). However, in-depth study of the spatial patterning of these settlements is hamstrung by the historical paucity of fieldwork (Millum 2016, 111).

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The research aims of the Stiances Archaeological Project continue to be somewhat ambitious. Certainly the question of the earliest detectable activity at the site was again addressed by the discovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork.
- 9.2 The exploration of other areas of the field this year was aimed at addressing the second set of research aims. Unfortunately the scarcity of datable material negated this, and the earthworks fronting the lane (and the lane itself) remain undated. The virtual absence of ironworking slag or of any other industrial residues used to surface the lane strongly suggests that the site was strictly agricultural/domestic in function, which addresses another of the research questions.
- 9.3 The extensive quarry works in Broomlye Wood remain unexplained (and unsurveyed) although quarrying for building stone still seems the most likely explanation (Turk *op. cit.*). Similarly, despite investigation, the reasons for the abandonment of cottage (and of the other buildings at the site known from cartographic sources) remains open to question.
- 9.4 However, the success of such a project cannot be measured on these criteria alone. The level of enthusiasm shown by the children (and adults) during the work in the field, especially given the poor weather on occasion, continues to be particularly pleasing for all those involved in the complex organisation and realisation of the project. The utilisation of social media was also well-received and allowed participation (and hence inclusion) of those who could not help at the site or visit on the Open Day.
- 9.5 Ultimately the success of the project should perhaps again be measured by the large number of enquiries addressed to the author from children and adults alike as to when the next '*big dig*' will be held.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are a huge number of people to thank for their help. Firstly an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to John and Catherine Sclater for allowing access to the land and for their continued support throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his input at all stages of the project, and to Tony Turk for giving his time and sharing his extensive knowledge. However, the biggest debt of gratitude must go to the Headteacher at Newick Church of England Primary School, Mrs Sophie Thomas, and the pupils, staff and helpers who did all the hard work during the fieldwork.

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Lady Vernon (Newick) Educational Trust

Newick Parish Council

Newick School Association

Newick Village Society

Sussex Archaeological Society

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University of Sussex Archaeology Society

Wealden Iron Research Group

Several private individuals

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ASE 2013a. *The Stiances Archaeological Project, Newick, East Sussex 2013 Season - Written Scheme of Investigation For an Ongoing Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE document

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Appendix 1 - Finds summary

Test-pit	Pot: C12th – mid- 14 th	Pot: mid-C14th – 16 th	Pot: 17 th – mid- 18 th	Pot: mid-18 th – 19 th	Clay pipe	Brick	Tile (post-med)	Glass	Worked flint	Metal	Bone	Other
TP 33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/24g	-	-	-
TP 34	1/1g	-	7/56g	40/138g	7/8g	5/148g	20/229g	9/44g	-	Fe 5/232g	3/2g	FCF 1/14g Stone 14/28g Slag 1/2g
TP 35	-	-	4/6g	110/423g	11/18g	3/136g	44/2372g	21/50g	1/1g	Fe 16/316g Cu Al 2/4g	7/22g	FCF 2/24g Stone 27/92g Slag 10/94g
TP 36	-	-	11/49g	164/488g	8/9g	49/2370g	107/4376g	59/118g	1/2g	Fe 35/540g Cu Al 2/16g Pb 2/2g	18/32g	FCF 3/10g Stone 60/198g Slag 18/58g Mortar 4/54g Misc 2/2g
TP 37	-	-	1/1g	31/34g	1/1g	6/136g	11/156g	11/10g	1/1g	Fe 13/106g Cu Al 1/2g	1/2g	FCF 2/4g Stone 18/32g
TP 38	12/23g	1/6	7/57g	71/182g	10/14g	3/40g	8/78g	23/57g	-	Fe 7/234g Cu Al 1/1g Pb 1/12g	1/12g	Stone 11/22g Slag 4/26g
TP 39	2/3g	-	6/38g	24/57g	-	4/198g	14/418g	5/3g	2/12g	Fe 3/20g Cu Al 1/1g	-	FCF 1/12g Stone 9/8g Slag 1/20g Misc 1/1g
TP 40	-	-	5/38g	18/63g	3/2g	-	11/698g	9/24g	-	Fe 5/78g Cu Al 1/1g	-	Stone 9/24g
TP 41	-	1/6g	3/7g	13/10g	-	3/8g	4/14g	8/10g	1/2g	-	-	Stone 6/10g Slag 4/8g
TP 42	2/2g	-	5/14g	50/190g	6/8g	5/68g	17/218g	12/24g	-	Fe 6/50g	-	-
TP 45	-	-	1/6g	10/24g	-	13/1632g	31/1542g	8/6g	-	Fe 2/4g	-	Stone 2/2g
TP 47	-	-	-	7/6g	-	1/24g	6/76g	3/2g	-	Fe 2/4g	-	FCF 1/4g Stone 1/2g
TP 48	-	-	2/12g	4/13g	1/2g	61/12,040g	82/7126g	2/1g	-	Cu Al 1/1g	1/34g	-
TP 49	-	-	2/2g	47/92g	2/2g	7/88g	19/400g	5/30g	-	Fe 17/188g Cu Al 1/2g	-	Slag 1/32g
TP 51	-	-	-	2/2g	1/2g	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-
TP 53	-	-	-	-	-	2/152g	8/220g	1/1g	-	Fe 1/6g	-	-
TP 54	-	-	-	14/29g	-	-	-	4/20g	-	-	-	Stone 5/6g
TP 55	-	-	-	47/117g	5/6g	10/126g	12/258g	4/6g	-	Fe 7/80g Cu Al 1/7g	1/6g	Stone 13/28g Slag 6/22g

Appendix 2 – post-medieval pottery fabric codes

Code	Expansion	Date range
<i>Early post-medieval</i>		
BORDG	Surrey/Hants Border Ware (green glazed)	c. 1550-1700
BORDY	Surrey/Hants Border Ware (clear/yellow glazed)	c. 1550-1700
CHPO	Chinese porcelain	c. 1675-1750+
FREC	Frechen stoneware (German)	c. 1550-1700
GRE (early)	Glazed red earthenware (early types)	c. 1550-1750
HFE	High-fired fine earthenware (reduced surfaces)	c. 1550-1750
LONS	London stoneware (early types)	c. 1680-1750+
SWSG	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware	c. 1720-1775
TGW	Tin-glazed ware (English)	c. 1620-1750+
<i>Late post-medieval</i>		
BASG	Basaltes stoneware (glazed)	c. 1800-1900
CREA	Creamware	c. 1750-1825
ENGS	English stoneware	c. 1750-1900+
ENPO	English porcelain	c. 1745-1900+
JACK	Black-glazed redware (Jackfield type)	c. 1750-1900
GRE (late)	Glazed red earthenware (late types)	c. 1750-1900+
PEAR	Pearlware	c. 1780-1830
PEAR TR	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	c. 1780-1830
REFR	Refined redware	c. 1750-1900
REFW	Refined whiteware (plain 'china')	c. 1825-1900+
SUND	Sunderland-type slipware	c. 1800-1900
TPW 2	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	c. 1825-1900+
TPW 3	Black or Brown transfer-printed whiteware	c. 1825-1900+
TPW 4	Red, purple, green transfer-printed whiteware	c. 1825-1900+
UE	Unglazed earthenware	c. 1750-1900+
YELL	Yellow ware	c. 1800-1900

HER Summary

Site Code	SAP 10 - Third Season 2016					
Identification Name and Address	Little Stiances, Shortbridge Road, Newick					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Reference.	543323 120001					
Geology	Grinstead Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	P148					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. ✓	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. May 2016	WB.	Other		
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo. ✓	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		

Summary

A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the third season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in May 2016.

Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013.

This season the 'Cottage Site' again produced a variety of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from the expected pottery, glass and clay pipes of a post-medieval assemblage, to the bricks and tiles from the demolished buildings, to more 'personal' artefacts such as a Victorian coin, a key, buttons, fragments of shoes/boots and hand tools, as well as a possible element of the cottage's furniture.

Further test-pits were located on earthworks and anomalies from geophysical surveys and cartographic sources. The discovery of the brick floor at one such location strongly suggests the presence of the buried remains from a post-medieval barn shown in a map of 1739 and hinted at in the results of the geophysical survey. The remains have been left in situ.

A scatter of medieval pottery discovered across the site suggests some of the earthworks may date from this era. The recovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by hunter-gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-254825

Project details

Project name Stiances Archaeology Project - Third Season May 2016

Short description of the project

This report provides the results of the third season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in May 2016. Geophysical and topographic surveys carried out in 2010 confirmed the location of a 'lost' cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location both in 2010 and during the second season of investigation in 2013. This season the 'Cottage Site' again produced a variety of finds reflecting the occupation of buildings in that part of the field, mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Finds ranged from the expected pottery, glass and clay pipes of a post-medieval assemblage, to the bricks and tiles from the demolished buildings, to more 'personal' artefacts such as a Victorian coin, a key, buttons, fragments of shoes/boots and hand tools, as well as a possible element of the cottage's furniture. Further test-pits were located on earthworks and anomalies from geophysical surveys and cartographic sources. The discovery of the brick floor at one such location strongly suggests the presence of the buried remains from a post-medieval barn shown in a map of 1739 and hinted at in the results of the geophysical survey. The remains have been left in situ. A scatter of medieval pottery discovered across the site suggests some of the earthworks may date from this era. The recovery of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers.

Project dates Start: 16-05-2016 End: 21-05-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes P148 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SAP10 - Sitecode

Type of project Research project

Site status None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

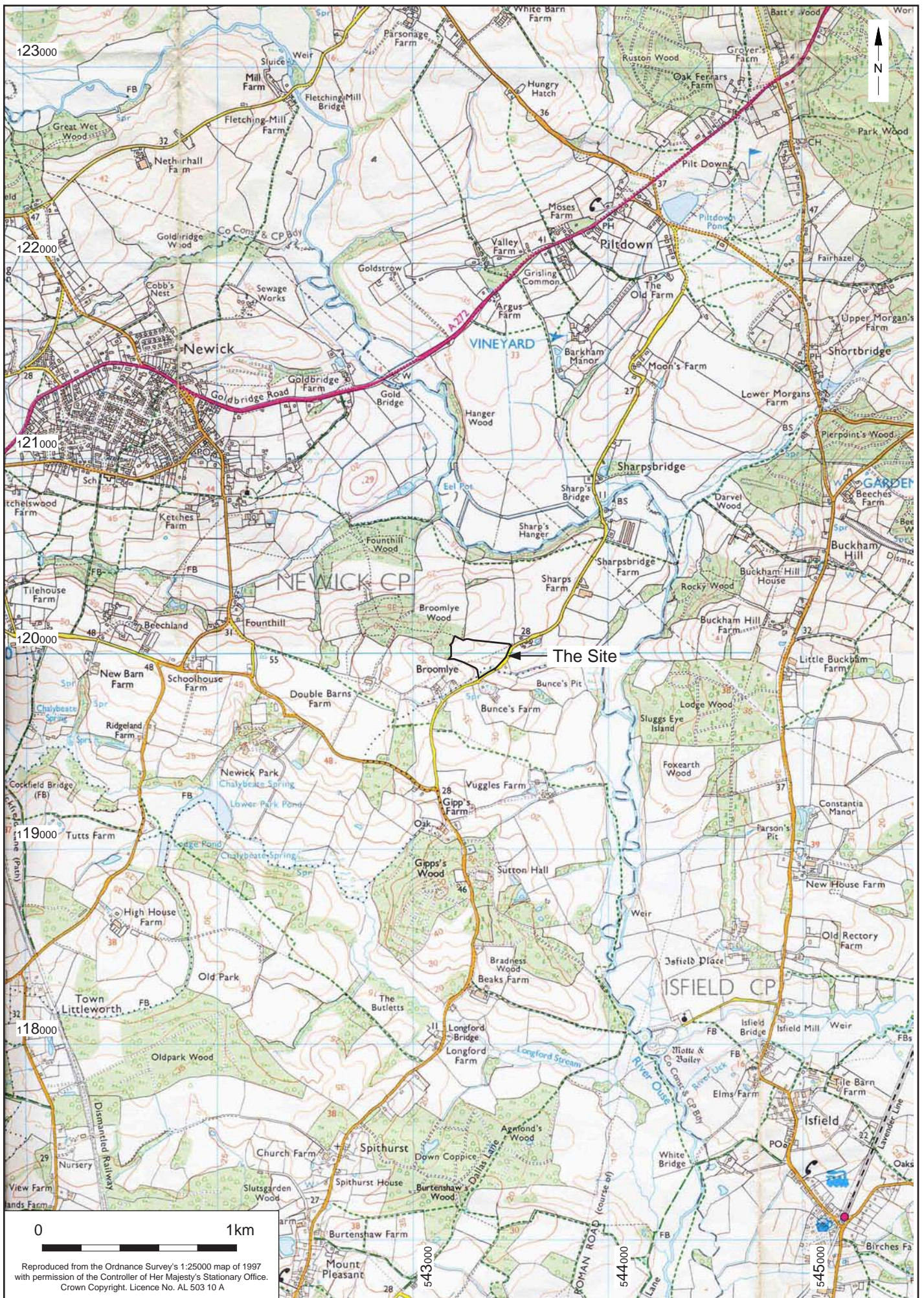
Investigation type ""Test-Pit Survey""

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

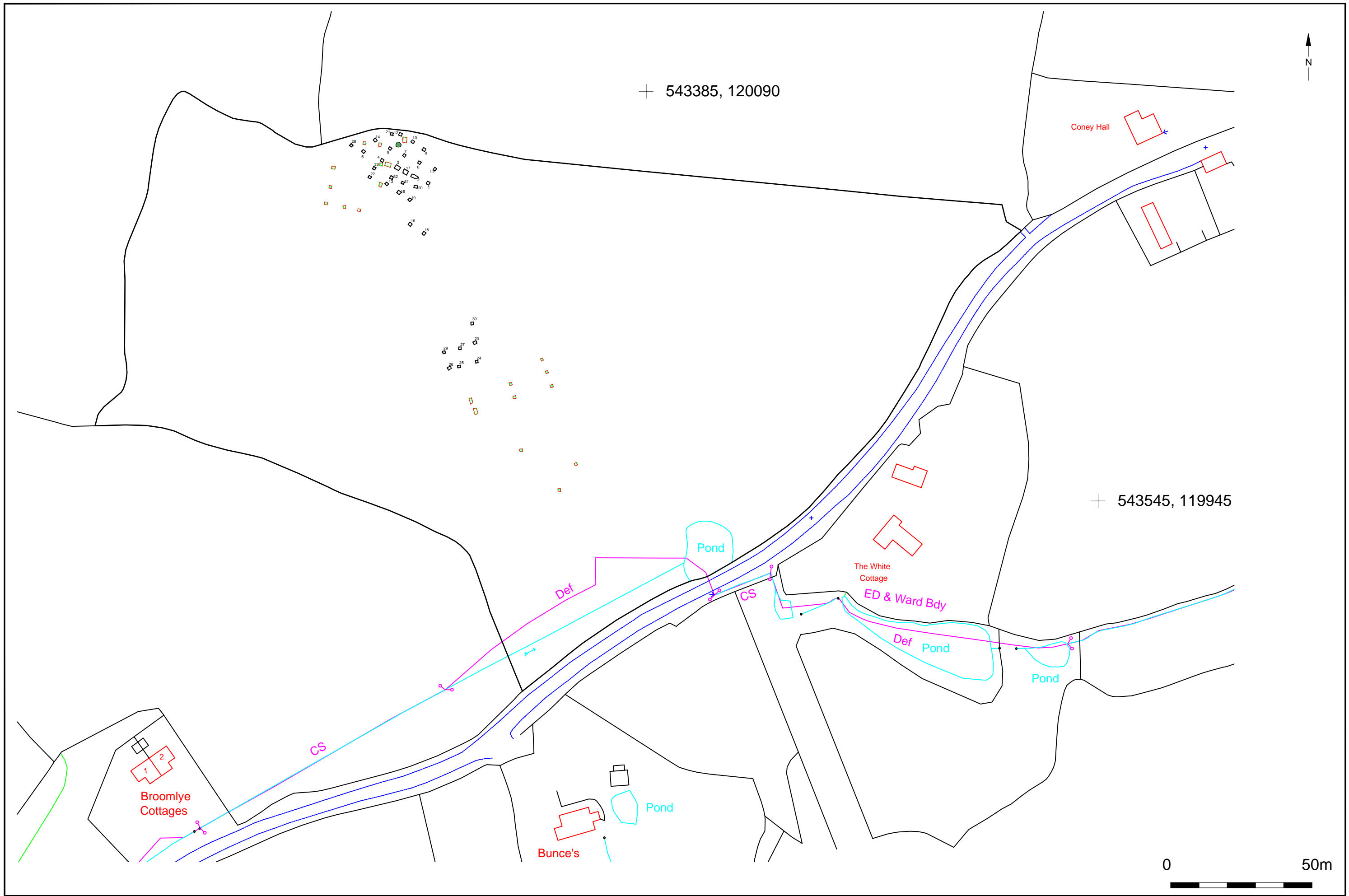
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWICK Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane
Postcode	BN8 4SA
Study area	3.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 43323 20001 50.961018047559 0.041099218127 50 57 39 N 000 02 27 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Newick CoE Primary School
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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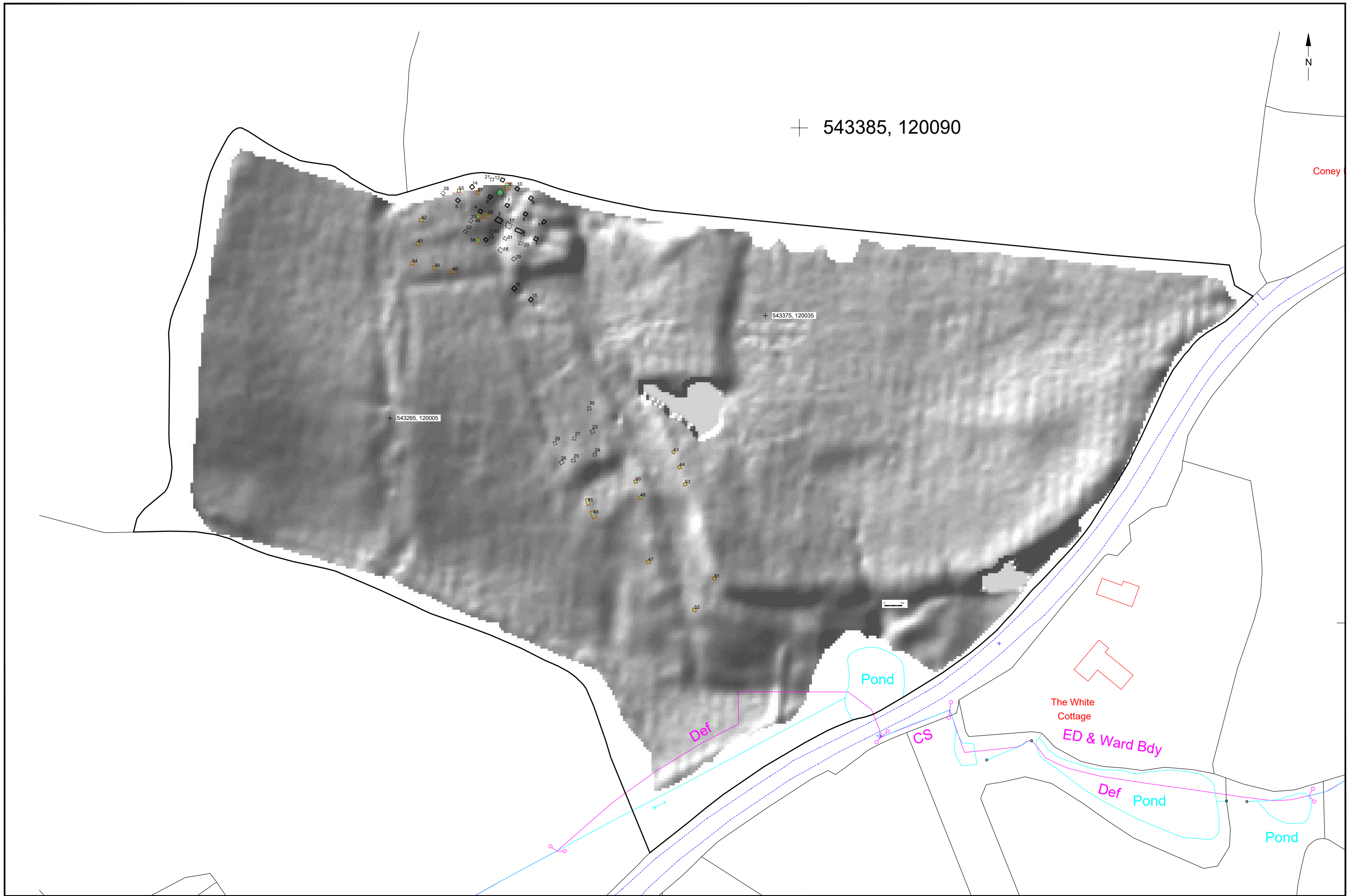


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Project Ref: P148	April 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016244	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



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Project Ref: P148	05 - 2016	Test pits location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: NG		



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Project Ref: P148	05 - 2016	Test pits and topography	
Report Ref: 2016244	Drawn by: NG		

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