

An Archaeological Evaluation at 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex

Centred NGR TQ 0950 0245

Planning refs FG/35/05 & FG/100/05

OASIS ID: archaeol6-27129

ASE Project no. 2793

Site Code: GPF07

**By
Deon Whittaker MA**

May 2007

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Archaeology South-East

1 West Street

Ditchling

East Sussex

BN6 8TS

Tel: 01273 845497

Fax: 01273 844187

Email: fau@ucl.ac.u

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by JW Stratton Ltd to undertake an archaeological investigation and evaluation trenches of land at 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex (centred NGR TQ 0950 0245). The methodology comprised investigation by three 15 metre archaeological trial trenches. Trench 3 produced five late prehistoric features with a ubiquitous fill. A small assemblage of 17 pieces of worked flint weighing 461gms was recovered during the work. The presence of postholes raises the possibility of structures having been established on the site, but their purpose and nature is not known.

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SMR Summary Sheet

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by JW Stratton Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex (centred NGR TQ 0950 0245) hereafter referred to as 'the site' (see Fig 1).
- 1.2** An application for planning permission for the residential development of the site was granted by Arun District Council (Planning refs FG/35/05 & FG/100/05). Following the advice of the West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist (in the County Council's capacity as advisor to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) on archaeological planning matters), a planning condition (Condition 3) was imposed on the planning permission. The client was required to carry out a programme of archaeological work on the site before development commenced. The work was designed to ascertain the character and quality of archaeological remains on the site.
- 1.3** Mark Taylor, County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), established the scope for this Stage 1 work. Jon Sygrave of ASE prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the evaluation, with reference to the communication between ASE and WSCC. The WSI indicated that the archaeological investigation would consist of three archaeological evaluation trenches of 15 metres length, with a further contingency subject to the results. All work was carried out in accordance with those documents (unless otherwise specified below), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
- 1.4** Further detailed work is not required as the Stage 1 work has not revealed significant archaeological remains.
- 1.5** The site is bounded by Grange Close to the north, Grange Park to the south and by residential property to the east and west.
- 1.6** The British and Geological Survey Sheet 332 shows the site lies on Valley Gravel, the natural encountered being brickearth.
- 1.7** The fieldwork was undertaken by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) and Dave Dunkin (Assistant Archaeologist) on the 1st to 6th March 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The West Sussex Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at County Hall, Chichester, was consulted. Details were taken of all sites recorded within a 0.5 km radius of the site. The search revealed 18 archaeological sites with Late Prehistoric predominating. These are detailed below.

2.2 Table 1 SMR Results

SMR Number	NGR	Site	Description
2279 - MWS3158	TQ 09350 02380	Roman occupation	A pit with C4th pottery
2301 - MWS2889	TQ 09500 02370	Parkscape	Post Med Monument
2245 - MWS3130	TQ 09430 02580	St. Andrew's Church	Post Med Monument
2248 - MWS3133	TQ 09560 03340	Roman pottery	C2nd Roman pottery
2252 - MWS3136	TQ 09910 01660	Bronze Age palstave	A LBA palstave - type C
2257 - MWS3140	TQ 09260 02440	Roman cremations	LIA to Rom-0 to 199 AD
2271 - MWS3151	TQ 09930 01660	Roman pottery	late C1st or early C2nd
3315 - MWS1149	TQ 10180 02200	Flint working site	Prehistoric flintwork
2276 - MWS3156	TQ 09000 02000	Roman pottery	43 AD to 409 AD
7914 - MWS8019	TQ 08942 02374	LBA EIA site	2350 BC to 701 BC
2294 - MWS3171	TQ 08920 02400	Bronze Age hoard site	LBA
3267 - MWS333	TQ 10120 03110	IA/Rom pottery & quern	800 BC to 409 AD
6479 - MWS5231	TQ 09877 01517	PILLBOX WW II	Pill Box of type 26
2251 - MWS5562	TQ 08960 03290	Roman Cremation	43 AD to 409 AD
3263 - MWS5621	TQ 10140 02780	Neolithic axe - Goring	4000 BC to 2351 BC
7063 - MWS7116	TQ 10265 02457	Fragments of polished axes	Undated
7913 - MWS8018	TQ 08486 02967	Burnt mound	2350 BC to 701 BC
2272 - MWS3152	TQ 09000 02000	Medieval college	Post Med Monument

2.3 Palaeolithic - Neolithic(c. 500,000 BCE – c. 2,300 BCE)

2.3.1 Early prehistoric remains are generally restricted to the raised beach deposits to the north, at the base of the chalk downlands. Mesolithic remains are sparse on the coastal plain. Clusters of Mesolithic flintwork have been recorded further west towards Chichester. There are no known structural remains for the Neolithic on the coastal plain, however unsealed and residual flint assemblages have been found. Two finds of unpolished axes have been recorded on Goring Beach and in West Worthing. The West Sussex SMR recorded three finds from the early to middle prehistoric periods. One is a dense patch of comminuted burnt flint, at least 10 m in diameter, cut by a modern footpath. Although c470 m from the present day watercourse, the site lies on the western edge of a wide depression, running NW-SE, which appears to be a former alluvial arm of Ferring Rife. There was a low potential for such remains.

2.4 Late Prehistoric (c.2,300 BCE - 0CE)

- 2.4.1** West Sussex SMR records a late Bronze Age hoard found in 1983 during widening of Ferring Rife by mechanical excavator. A late Bronze Age palstave - type C, found in 1958 on a dump of soil from the foundation trench of a bungalow now known as Spring Tide, on the south side of St. Malo Close, Ferring, burnt flints were also seen in the east bank of the rife both to North and South of the hoard find-spot. Late prehistoric remains are common throughout the alluvial plain, hence there was a high potential for late prehistoric remains.

2.5 Iron Age / Roman (c. 0CE - 409 CE)

- 2.5.1** Six entries are recorded by the SMR these include pottery finds , a 'domestic' site producing Roman and Iron Age pottery and a quern found in Singleton Crescent. Roman pottery has also been found at Ferring, especially near the church. During the excavation of the foundation trenches of the bungalow known as 'Spring Tide' on the south side of St. Malo Close, Ferring, in 1958, fragments of a pot containing a cremation, and a jug were found. A 1st century or early 2nd century cremation urn was found in 1956 while digging a water main trench on the north side of Ferringham Court, Ferringham Lane. The cremation urn is decorated with rilling on the shoulder, often a sign of early Roman date. Another Roman pottery vessel containing a cremation was found in the south-east. corner of a small grave on the north-west side of Langbury Close, Ferring, in 1956. There was a medium potential for such remains.

2.6 Medieval

- 2.6.1** An early monastic house c.765 is documented and a secular college was founded at Ferring before 1066 and dissolved or moved elsewhere before 1500 (SMR Number 2272 - MWS3152). The Church of St. Andrew, Ferring (SMR Number 2245 - MWS3130), has an Early English chancel and nave with Perpendicular windows. The north aisle was added in 17th century when Kingston parish church was submerged by the sea. There was a low potential for such remains.

2.7 Post - Medieval

- 2.7.1** A Parkscape at The Grange, Ferring, is shown by the Ordnance Survey map of 1872-4 and a Type 26 WWII Pillbox is located at TQ 09877

01517. There was a high potential for such remains due to the site being residential.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The methodology comprised investigation by archaeological evaluation trenches. Three trenches (fig.2) were located and marked out with a Total Station by the client's surveyor. The trenches were repositioned where necessary to avoid water features and modern services suggested by CAT scan. The final positions are presented in Figure 2.
- 3.2** A contingency area (appended to trench 3) was agreed with Mark Taylor after reviewing the features located in trench 3.
- 3.3** The aim of the field recording/investigation was to ensure that any features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and potentially destroyed by the groundworks and service trenches of the residential development were fully recorded. The evaluation trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. A tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket cut the evaluation trenches. In addition trench 3 had a test pit dug down to a depth of 1.7 metres to confirm the depth of the brickearth deposits above the Valley Gravel.
- 3.4** The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was the higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify and record individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.5** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to acceptable professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using Archaeology South-East context record sheets Trench 3 was planned at a scale of 1:20 with feature sections drawn at 1:10. A general site plan provided by the client's architect was used to plot the position of the trenches (fig. 2) at 1:250 and is reproduced here with acknowledgement to JW Stratton Ltd. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection.
- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling, and will in due course be offered to a suitable museum.

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1** The stratigraphy in all of the trenches (1 – 3) consisted of dark grey black topsoil, a dark greyish brown, silty subsoil and a greyish sandy silt alluvium.
- 4.2** In trenches 1 and 2, apart from the alluvial deposit, the trenches were devoid of archaeological features and consequently backfilled. Trench 3 produced a deposit of alluvium, which was found to contain several features. All identified deposits and features or possible features were issued context numbers and recorded in plan (figure 3) and are detailed below. A relatively limited assemblage of finds was recovered from all trenches within the subsoil (102, 202 & 302) and alluvial deposit (103, 203 & 303) and during the process of cleaning, exposing and excavating deposits and features. Modern CBM was present in topsoil contexts (101, 201 & 301) but not retained. Archaeological deposits and features or possible features are detailed within the context descriptions below. Artefacts were recovered from both features and deposits and are discussed in the Finds Section.

4.3 Trench 1 Contexts

Table 2: Trench 1 List of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Max Depth
100	Layer	Brick Earth Nat.	Tr.	Tr.	Not excavated
101	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
102	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m
103	Layer	Alluvial Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.6m

- 4.3.1** Trench 1 was crossed at the southern end by a modern ceramic drain. The large associated cut may have led to an intrusive flint fragment recorded in context (102). Heights of the ground level at the northern and southern extents of trench 1 were 8.06 and 7.88 metres OD respectively.

4.4 Trench 2 Contexts

Table 3: Trench 2 List of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Max Depth
200	Layer	Brick Earth Nat.	Tr.	Tr.	Not excavated
201	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
202	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.55m
203	Layer	Alluvial Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m

4.4.1 Trench 2 was disturbed by a significant amount of tree rooting and animal burrowing. The heights of the ground level at both the northern and southern extents of trench 2 was 8.55 metres OD. The natural brickearth deposits dropped from 7.90 to 7.75 metres OD from the north to the south respectively, the difference being made up by thicker alluvial deposits in the south of trench 2.

4.5 Trench 3 Contexts (see Figures 3 and 4)

Table 4: Trench 3 List of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Max Length	Width	Max Depth
300	Layer	Brick Earth Nat.	Tr.	Tr.	1.7m
301	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
302	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.5m
303	Layer	Alluvial Deposit	1.38m	0.66m	0.6m
304	Cut	Posthole	400mm	400mm	200mm
305	Fill	Posthole Fill	400mm	400mm	200mm
306	Cut	Posthole	300mm	300mm	120mm
307	Fill	Posthole Fill	300mm	300mm	120mm
308	Cut	Pit Scrape	550mm	550mm	120mm
309	Fill	Pit Scrape Fill	550mm	550mm	120mm
310	Cut	Pit Scrape	300mm	300mm	60mm
311	Fill	Pit Scrape Fill	300mm	300mm	60mm
312	Cut	Pit Scrape	350mm	350mm	100mm
313	Fill	Pit Scrape Fill	350mm	350mm	100mm

4.5.1 Trench 3 produced five late prehistoric features with a ubiquitous fill. These had been cut into a compact medium brown, silty clay alluvial deposit (303) and had filled with similar, slightly darker material. They were covered by a subsoil deposit (302). Heights of the ground level at the western and eastern extents of trench 3 were 8.54 and 8.61 metres OD respectively. The features were truncated by up to 50mm during machining.

4.5.2 Trench 3 features described (see Figure 3):

Posthole (304) (Section 4; 8.03m OD) - A steep - sided concavity with an assymetric concave stepped base. Ovoid in plan. Filled by (305) a medium brown silty clay. The fill was compact with occasional pieces of fire-cracked flint.

Posthole (306) (Section 5; 8.03m OD) - An irregular slope - sided pit with an assymetric concave base. Subcircular in plan. Filled by (307) a medium brown silty clay. The fill was compact without inclusions or finds.

Pit / Scrape (308) (Section 3; 8.03m OD) - A slope - sided concavity with a gentle concave base. Ovoid in plan. Filled by (309) a medium brown silty clay. The fill was compact without inclusions or finds.

Pit / Scrape (310) (Section 2; 8.01m OD) - A gently slope - sided concavity with a rounded concave base. Ovoid in plan. Filled by (311) a medium brown silty clay. The fill was compact without inclusions or finds.

Pit / Scrape (312) (Section 1; 7.98m OD) - An asymetric slope - sided concavity with a rounded concave base. Sub-circular in plan. Filled by (313) a medium brown silty clay. The fill was compact without inclusions or finds.

4.5.3 Trench 3 was extended by a 15m² contingency area attached to the south-east end of trench three (see Figure 2). This was positioned in order to avoid a concrete path to the east and a fruit cage to the north but as close as possible to the features exposed in the eastern end of trench 3. This was excavated to OD 7.83m to see if a linear arrangement of postholes could be identified and to further expose the concentration of features at the east end of trench three. The contingency trench was blank.

4.5.4 A 1.6m square test pit was dug in the centre of trench 3 to firmly establish the base of the archaeological horizon. This produced brickearth natural down to 1.7m below ground level at which point (6.3m O.D) coarse sands and small rounded flint pebbles began to appear, presumably beach deposits.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. The complete bulk finds assemblage with quantification can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5: Quantification of the finds from Grange Park, Ferring (Ct/Wt)

Quant for 14 Grange Park (GPF07)				
Context	Flint	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)
102	1	80		
203	11	168	28	512
303	9	456	16	890
302	3	32	2	94
305	2	34	12	158

5.2 Flintwork by Chris Butler

A small assemblage of 17 pieces of worked flint weighing 461gms was recovered during the work, and is summarised in Table 6. The flint raw material comprises a number of different types typical of that found on the Coastal Plain, but is predominantly pebble flint. In addition, there were two pieces of un-worked fire-fractured flint weighing 91gms, one of which could be a fragment from a hammerstone.

Table 5: Flintwork from 14 Grange Park, Ferring

Type	Number
Hard hammer-struck flakes	13
Fragments	2
Shattered pieces	2
Total	17

- 5.3 This small assemblage comprises entirely debitage. Most of the pieces are undiagnostic flakes, fragments and shattered pieces, and are likely to date from the later prehistoric period, probably the Bronze Age. However, a fragment from context [102], together with one hard hammer-struck flake and three other flakes (which although classified here as hard hammer-struck flakes, have no real bulbs of percussion or platforms) from context [303], are likely to have derived from wall knapped flint, or are due to plough damage.
- 5.4 This small residual assemblage has little potential for further study. It is recommended that no further work be undertaken on this assemblage, although the flintwork will be retained for possible further study in the future.

5.5 *Potential*

The current assemblage as it stands does not hold any potential for further analysis, but should be retained for long-term curation. However, if any future works produce further material from the site, the current assemblage should be studied in conjunction with it.

6.0 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The principle aim of the field evaluation was to establish and record the extent and nature of the archaeology present on site. Late prehistoric alluvial deposits and features have been recorded.

6.2 In addition to identifying activity indicators in the form of fire-cracked flints and flint flakes within the alluvial deposit, the evidence suggests that the alluvial deposit has been laid down and remained exposed for a short time. Pits and postholes have been cut into this alluvial deposit, which have then been filled in by more alluvium. This would suggest activity during at least two phases of inundation. The first phase is recorded up to a depth of 300mm, the second is of negligible depth, perhaps having been truncated or eroded, but remains in the excavated features.

6.3 The presence of postholes raises the possibility of structures having been established on the site, but their purpose and nature is not known.

6.4 The evaluation produced an assemblage of material dated to the Late Prehistoric period, probably Bronze Age. Whilst none of the pieces recovered are diagnostic, the material is typical of such deposits locally.

6.5 If any stage two works produce further material from the site the current assemblage should be studied in conjunction with it and this may allow for further analysis and interpretation of the deposits and features observed during the stage 1.

7.0 **REFERENCES**

Sygrave, J. 2007. 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpub. Report. Ditchling. Archaeology South East.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	GPF 07					
Identification Name and Address	Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	County of West Sussex. Arun District					
OS Grid Refs.	Centred NGR TQ 0950 0245					
Geology	Valley Gravel overlying Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2793					
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. 1 st - 6 th March 2007	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	J W Stratton Ltd.					
Project Manager(s)	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittkaer					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA ✓	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
Abstract <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by JW Stratton Ltd to undertake an archaeological investigation of land at 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex (centred NGR TQ 0950 0245). The methodology comprised three 15 metre archaeological trial trenches. Trench 3 produced five late prehistoric features with an ubiquitous fill. A small assemblage of 17 pieces of worked flint weighing 461gms was recovered during the work. The presence of postholes raises the possibility of structures having been established on the site, but their purpose and nature is not known.</p>						

OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: archaeol6-27129

Project details

Project name	Grange Park, Ferring
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by JW Stratton Ltd to undertake an archaeological investigation and evaluation trenches of land at 14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex (centred NGR TQ 0950 0245). The methodology comprised investigation by three 15 metre archaeological trial trenches. Trench 3 produced five late prehistoric features with a ubiquitous fill. A small assemblage of 17 pieces of worked flint weighing 461gms was recovered during the work. The presence of postholes raises the possibility of structures having been established on the site, but their purpose and nature is not known.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2007 End: 06-03-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
reference codes	2793 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN FERRING 14, Grange Park Ferring
Postcode	BN12 5
Study area	2000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 93 24 50.8105555556 -0.448055555556 50 48 38 N 000 26 53 W Point
Height OD	Min: 7.75m Max: 7.90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	JW Stratton Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Physical Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	14 Grange Park, Ferring, West Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) Written Scheme of Investigation.
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