

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Roedean School, Roedean Way
Brighton, East Sussex**

**NGR: 535186 103007
(TQ 35186 03007)**

**South Downs National Park Authority Planning Reference
SDNP/17/01994/FUL**



**ASE Project No: 170581
Site Code: RSR 17
ASE Report No: 2017492
OASIS ID: archaeol6-302120**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Roedean School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of new sports facilities to the existing south of the school buildings.

A considerable area of downland was mechanically reduced to level the ground for the construction of sports pitches. A small number of archaeological features were revealed, recorded and excavated, comprising four probably prehistoric shallow pits. One deeper, prehistoric pit contained an interesting sequence of fills and finds, and a Middle Bronze Age gully/ditch was recorded, with hints of possible continued activity into the Iron Age.

Given the significance of the results, it is proposed that a short article on the archaeological work be submitted for publication in Sussex Archaeological Collections.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Roedean School to undertake an archaeological watching brief within the school grounds (NGR 535186 103007; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site consists of existing sports pitches and undulating open downland to the south of the complex of buildings forming the school. It lies on the south-facing dip-slope of the South Downs, at heights varying between c.37mAOD and c.48mAOD, with far-reaching views across the English Channel.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Newhaven Chalk Formation with some superficial deposits of clay-with-flints shown to the north (BGS 2017)

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA) pitch with flood lights; erection of half size grass football pitch, re-surfacing of tennis courts and replacement of tennis court fencing, erection of floodlights to northern set of tennis courts, removal of two existing tennis courts and erection of new tennis court, resurfacing and reconfiguration of car park and erection of bollard lighting to car park, new footpaths and associated soft landscaping (SDNPA planning reference SDNP/17/01994/FUL).
- 1.3.2 Following liaison between SDNPA and East Sussex County Council (SDNPA's advisers on archaeological matters in this area), and following the submission of supporting documents with the planning application (HBAC 2017; ASE 2017), a condition (no. 11) was attached to the permission requiring that:

'The development hereby approved shall only be carried out in full compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation by ASE consultants dated June 2017, reference 170581 - Site Code RSR17. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition to be secured prior to the substantial completion of the development hereby approved, shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and the provisions thereby approved for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition shall be adhered to.'

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest or structures on the site are properly safeguarded and recorded.'

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work at the site undertaken in compliance with the above planning condition during September and October 2017.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is derived from the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) report (Hart 2017), with all due acknowledgement. The DBA reviewed readily available evidence within approximately 1km of the site (the study area).

2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.2.1 The only site of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date within the study area consists of a finds spot of Palaeolithic implements which is considered to be derived from the Brighton-Norton raised beach to the south of the site. The site was therefore considered to have had a low potential for activity of this date.

2.3 Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age

2.3.1 There is evidence for prehistoric activity to the east, west and north of the site. Possible Neolithic/Early Bronze Age burial evidence is recorded to the west of the site, in close proximity to other finds and features of prehistoric date which may be more indicative of settlement. Further finds of Neolithic and/or Bronze Age material are recorded to the north and east of the site and it is quite possible that elements of the Celtic field system recorded to the north of the site at Cattle Hill are of Iron Age origin. In addition, an *Archaeological Notification Area*, defining an area of prehistoric potential, exists within the grounds of Roedean School itself, to the west of the proposed groundworks, although the reasons for this designation are not clear. Nonetheless, the site was considered to have a high potential for evidence of prehistoric activity.

2.4 Romano-British

2.4.1 The site appears to lie within an extensive Romano-British landscape, elements of which may have their origins in the preceding Iron Age. Romano-British settlement evidence is recorded to the west, north and east of the site, including two enclosures on Cattle Hill to the north. Elements of an associated agricultural landscape also appear to be preserved within the study area, with field systems of probable Romano-British date recorded to the north and east of the site. Overall, the site was considered to have had a high potential for the recovery of further evidence of Romano-British date.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon

2.5.1 Only one site of Anglo-Saxon date is recorded within the study area, comprising an Anglo-Saxon inhumation, located c.1km to the north-east of the site. While it is possible that Ovingdean has Anglo-Saxon origins, predating the Domesday survey, the site was considered to have had a low potential for the Anglo-Saxon period.

2.6 Medieval

2.6.1 While several medieval sites are known within the study area, these are all notably concentrated in and around the medieval settlement of Ovingdean to the north of the site. The absence of any finds of medieval material from the vicinity of the site itself may be taken to suggest that it lay within the agricultural hinterland of Ovingdean at this time. Overall, the site was considered to have had a low potential for evidence of medieval activity.

2.7 Post-medieval

2.7.1 The agricultural character of the site, as part of the rural hinterland of Ovingdean appears to have continued relatively unchanged until the end of the 19th century, when Roedean School was founded and the surrounding area began to see some piecemeal residential development. The development and significance of Roedean School itself is well understood and has been outlined in a recent Heritage Statement (Henderson 2014). This shows that, while the site lies within the grounds of the School, elements related to the school are limited to the existing playing fields to the south and west of the site. The site was therefore considered to have had a low potential for further activity of post-medieval date.

2.8 Cartographic Background

2.8.1 Cartographic evidence from the late 18th to late 19th centuries confirms the general undeveloped rural character of the site area at this time. By the issue of the second revision Ordnance Survey map in 1911 the school is shown *in situ*. During the Second World War, Roedean School staff and pupils were evacuated to Keswick in the Lake District and the School premises were partially occupied by army regiments. By May 1941 the school had become the home of HMS Vernon, the Royal Navy's torpedo, mining and electrical training facilities, providing accommodation for over 30,000 sailors. Those evacuated to Keswick returned in 1946 and by 1952 the expansion of the playing fields to the south of the proposal site had taken place.

2.9 Previous work carried out on the site

2.9.1 Following consultation between SDNPA and ESCC, a geophysical magnetometry survey of the area of the proposed development was carried out in February 2017 (SUMO 2017).

2.9.2 The only features of possible archaeological interest identified during the course of the survey comprised a series of parallel linear anomalies on a broadly north-south alignment, which are more strongly enhanced at c.25-30 intervals. The anomalies were interpreted as consistent with strip fields with ridge and furrow cultivation (*ibid*).

2.9.3 No other archaeological features were identified, though the survey produced a 'noisy' dataset characterised by frequent iron spikes throughout the data and as such it is possible that some more weakly magnetised features may not have been identified (*ibid*).

2.10 Research Aims and Objectives

2.10.1 The broad, overarching aims and objectives of the investigation given in the WSI (ASE 2017) were:

- *To investigate and record all archaeological remains and deposits exposed during ground works in order to understand their character, extent, preservation, significance and date before their loss through development impacts.*
- *To establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed during ground works*

2.10.2 The project also sought to use any encountered archaeological evidence to inform on the following areas of research in line with the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

- *Settlement: To clarify the form, character and extent of any remains associated with the prehistoric and later development of Roedean and surrounding area;*
- *Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age funerary practices: To better understand ritual aspects of funerary evidence in these periods and to what extent changes in material culture reflect of movements of people, or ideas*
- *Iron Age: To aid in understanding the dispersal of Downland settlement and agricultural activity in the Early Iron Age*
- *Romano-British: Clarification of the characteristics of agricultural economy and the role of lesser, nucleated settlements, and hence of their role in relationship to surrounding rural settlements.*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Extensive mechanical ground reduction and limited trench excavation were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All stripped areas and sections were examined for archaeological deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record of the monitoring was maintained.
- 3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the terms of the WSI (ASE 2017) the ClfA *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a), *Standards, and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014b), as well as with reference to the Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC/MSCC/ESCC 2017). Environmental samples were taken in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (English Heritage 2011)

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 There were no physical constraints to the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks; all machining was closely observed, all stripped areas and sections were examined and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Brighton Museum in due course.

Context sheets	29
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	136
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	17
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 environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Groundworks at the site were monitored during September and October 2017. The majority of the work involved mechanical ground reduction in the area of the new sports facilities; the new football pitch and the MUGA (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Limited mechanical excavation of service trenches was also monitored, although most were through areas already stripped of overburden, or in previously truncated areas.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was that of a typical chalk hillside with the 'natural' chalk, [003] overlain by limited areas of surviving 'natural' mid-orangey brown clay-with-flints, [004], an intermittent greyish-brown silty subsoil, [002] and a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, [001]. The surface of both the chalk and clay had been scarred by ploughing, and the laying of a limited number of services were noted. All of the excavated features also showed evidence of plough damage. A small assemblage of finds material was recovered from the topsoil.

4.3 The Eastern Pit Group (Figure 3)

- 4.3.1 A group of three shallow pits were encountered cut into the underlying chalk at the eastern end of the new football pitch. The largest in plan was pit [005], which was over 2m in diameter but only a maximum of 290mm in depth. The single fill was context [006], a mid-brown silty clay.
- 4.3.2 Pit [008] was also nearly 2m in diameter but only 260mm in depth. Again there was a single fill, [007], this time an orangey brown sandy clay. The other feature in the cluster was pit [009], 1.5m in diameter but only 300mm in depth. There were two fills, the earliest fill [011], was a reddish brown silty clay. The latest fill, [010], was a greyish brown clayey sand, might represent a recut, or slumped-in material.
- 4.3.3 No closely datable artefacts were recovered from the fills of any of these three pits, although fire-cracked flint was recovered from context [010], strongly suggesting that this feature, and therefore perhaps the cluster of features, are prehistoric in date. An environmental sample taken from [009] produced one charred grain of fat hen.

4.4 The Western Pit

Pit [016]

- 4.4.1 Pit [016] was a feature with a diameter of nearly 3m and a maximum depth of 1.3m with four distinct surviving fills. The feature had a distinctly peculiar profile, with apparent evidence of undercutting of the chalk on the western side, and less on the eastern side.
- 4.4.2 The earliest fill was [015], a greyish brown silt, which occupied the undercut on the western side of the feature. The next earliest fill was [014], a mid-greyish brown silt, which was partially overlain by fill, [013], another but distinct deposit of mid-greyish brown silt. This context was overlain by [012] and [017], both mid-orangey brown silt fills, and probably the same deposit truncated by a recut.

4.4.3 Recovery of limited assemblage of flintwork in fills [013] and [012] suggest a broadly later prehistoric date (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age). The partial remains of the foetus of a wild boar were recovered from [013] along with charred wheat, and in [012] yielded charred wheat.

Pit [021]

4.4.4 The feature [016] was apparently recut by pit [021], which was over 2m in diameter and 800mm in depth, and contained a single fill, [018], a mid-greyish brown silt containing a higher concentration of flint and chalk than seen in the earlier contexts. Environmental material yielded possibly worked and clearly unworked antler, as well as cattle bones, and a single well-preserved fragment of hazelnut shell.

4.4.5 Arguably the distinctly odd profile of [016] a buried animal foetus and the presence of worked antler in the upper (recut) pit [021] are indicative of some form of 'structured' or 'special' deposition. The term 'structured deposition' was first used by Richards and Thomas (1984) to indicate that 'special finds were often deposited in patterns showing a high level of structure' throughout prehistory (Chapman 2000, 62). There is local evidence of such activity dating as far back as the Neolithic at Peacehaven (Hart 2015, 74-75, Stevens forthcoming a.). However, the fact that the feature had been recut may count against this hypothesis given most of the Peacehaven examples had single, apparently rapidly deposited fills (*ibid.*).

4.4.6 Similarly the evidence from the environmental sample cannot be used to support the view that items had been deliberately placed into the feature. Survival of this material was poor, although the presence of poorly preserved charred cereal grains suggests localised cultivation of wheat.

4.5 Isolated Pit

4.5.1 Pit [019] was 1.33m in diameter and 280mm deep. The single fill was context [020], a mid-orangey brown silt. No datable material was recovered from the feature which was not sampled due to its small size.

4.6 The Gully

4.6.1 To the west of the above features, a gully was recorded running broadly north-west to south-east (across the eastern end of the MUGA -the only feature seen during the stripping of this part of the site). It ran mostly through an area of clay-with-flints natural [004], which had been subjected to heavy plough truncation between two areas of natural chalk geology [003] on either side of it. Four 1m wide sections were excavated through the feature.

4.6.2 At the north-west end the feature (recorded as cut [022]) was 1.54m wide and 420mm deep with a rounded profile. The single fill was an orangey brown silty clay, [023], which contained the largest assemblage of artefacts recovered at the site, including Middle Bronze Age pottery, flintwork and animal bone. Gully [022] was rich in animal bone, marine mollusc shell and land snail shell.

4.6.3 Where the feature crossed the clay-with-flints [004], gully [024] was recorded as 540mm wide and 100m deep. No artefacts were recovered from the single orangey brown silty clay fill, [025].

4.6.4 As it crossed over the chalk natural [003] again to the south-east, gully [026] was 1.34m

wide and 580mm deep with a slightly more U-shaped profile. The single fill was an orangey brown silty clay, [027].

4.6.5 Close to the eastern baulk, gully [028] was 1.21m wide and 340mm deep, and the single fill was orangey brown silty clay, [029].

4.6.6 Flintwork was recovered from both of these last two sondages, and in addition a single sherd of pottery was found in context [029]. Close dating of this sherd proved problematic but it is possible that it is as late as Late Iron Age.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. width/diameter	Max. thickness (m)
001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.23
002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.41
003	Layer	Natural Chalk	-	-
004	Layer	Natural Clay	-	-
005	Cut	Pit	2.05	-
006	Fill	Pit	-	0.29
007	Fill	Pit	-	0.26
008	Cut	Pit	1.90	-
009	Cut	Pit	1.55	-
010	Fill	Pit	-	0.20
011	Fill	Pit	-	0.15
012	Fill	Pit	-	0.80
013	Fill	Pit	-	0.46
014	Fill	Pit	-	0.26
015	Fill	Pit	-	0.56
016	Cut	Pit	1.45	-
017	Fill	Pit	-	0.41
018	Fill	Pit	-	0.40
019	Cut	Pit	1.33	-
020	Fill	Pit	-	0.26
021	Cut	Pit	2.46	-
022	Cut	Gully	1.24	-
023	Fill	Gully	-	0.42
024	Cut	Gully	0.54	-
025	Fill	Gully	-	0.10
026	Cut	Gully	1.34	-
027	Fill	Gully	-	0.58
028	Cut	Gully	1.21	-
029	Fil	Gully	-	0.34

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
001	7	149	2	15	1	14	1	11	1	11					3	44		
010													12	263				
012	1	16																
013	4	52									6	115	1	347				
015											1	55						
018											18	1002						
023	27	787	11	90							17	119	1	75			1	24
027	11	80											2	77				
029	3	19	1	3														
Total	53	1103	14	108	1	14	1	11	1	11	42	1291	16	762	3	44	1	24

Table 4: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The watching brief produced 55 pieces of worked flint, weighing 1102g. The material was hand-collected during excavation and also extracted from two sample residues. Seven pieces were recovered from the topsoil (Table 5). Six came from pit [016]. The remaining 42 pieces came from three gully interventions (gullies [022], [026] and [028]). A small amount of unworked burnt flint (762g) was also recovered from four contexts. The material was quantified by count and weight and was catalogued directly in an Excel spreadsheet.

Context	Flake	Blade, Bladelet, Blade-like	Total no
Topsoil	6	1	7
Pit [016], fills [012] and [013]	4	2	6
Gully [022], fill [023]	29	1	30
Gully [026], fill [027]	5	4	9
Gully [028], fill [029]	3	-	3
Total	47	8	55

Table 5: The flintwork

Raw material and condition

- 5.2.2 Except for two pieces, all the flints were recorticated. The large majority displayed bluish white surface discolouration, with a few recorticated pale grey to white. Recent edge damage and partly recorticated pieces indicated that at least two pieces were manufactured from mid / dark grey flint. The stained cortex was generally thick (up to 10mm), but a few pieces displayed thinner outer surface (<1mm). The raw material is characteristic of chalk-derived flints and nodules could have been collected locally. Several pieces from gully [022], fill [023] displayed encrustations of off-white sediments (or minerals). The concretions were mostly visible on the dorsal surfaces.
- 5.2.3 The condition of the flints varied. The flints from the topsoil displayed moderate to heavy edge damage implying significant degree of post depositional edge damage. The remaining pieces displayed slight to moderate edge damage, suggesting some post depositional movement.

Results

- 5.2.4 The assemblage consists entirely of pieces of flint débitage; it comprises 47 flakes, three blades, four blade-like flakes and a bladelet. The dominance of flakes suggests a flake-orientated industry and indicates a late prehistoric (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age) date. Although the majority of the pieces cannot be precisely dated, the pieces from pit [016] displayed evidence for careful reduction strategy. The presence of platform preparation and thin flake scars on the dorsal face suggest that the small assemblage could predate the Middle Bronze Age. The larger assemblage (30 pieces) from gully [022] differs slightly. It contained larger flakes that displayed a high proportion of cortex. Overall, the flintwork is coherent and seems to represent knapping waste. Surprisingly no chips nor irregular waste pieces were present in the sample residues, but these may have been deposited elsewhere. The platforms are for the most part wide and unprepared. Some are also cortical. Four small flakes exhibits thinner winged platform. The same context produced Middle Bronze Age ceramics. The bulk of the flintwork is probably contemporary with the pottery, but the four small flakes could be slightly earlier.

Discussion

- 5.2.5 The assemblage indicates prehistoric presence in the landscape. No diagnostic tools were recovered and based on technological and morphological traits, the flints suggest flake-orientated industry. This indicates a late prehistoric date (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age). The assemblage from gully [022] provides evidence for knapping activities in or around the gully.

5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from two contexts, fill [023] of gully [022] and fill [029], of gully [028]. The largest group from context [023] comprises 11 bodysherds, weighing 90g, from an estimated three vessels. All are relatively thick-walled and are made in similar coarse flint-tempered fabrics with moderate to common flint, mostly of 1-4mm (occasionally up to 6mm), in a dense silty matrix. Although no feature sherds are present, the combination of coarse flint-tempering and very thick-walled vessels is characteristic of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition in Sussex. In addition to this material, a number of highly fragmented bodysherds, amounting to 20g in weight, were recovered from the residue of sample <12> taken from fill [23]; these sherds appear in keeping with the fabrics of

the hand-collected assemblage.

- 5.3.2 Another, much thinner-walled flint-tempered bodysherd from context [029] is of different character. Its fabric contains sparse flint inclusions, mostly of <1mm (with a few examples up to 3mm) in a better-fired matrix, containing common fine quartz sand of c. 0.1-0.2mm. Again, the lack of diagnostic features makes close dating difficult but fabrics of this type can be considered characteristic of the 1st millennium BC. As a general rule, finer sandier wares appear as minor element from the later part of the Late Bronze Age (Seager Thomas 2008, 41) but are most typical of the earlier Iron Age. From the Middle Iron Age onwards flint-tempered wares became gradually less common, though it is worth noting that a single sherd in a very similar fabric was noted in small assemblage of Middle/Late Iron Age date (c.2nd-1st century BC) from Springfield Road, Brighton (Doherty forthcoming).

5.4 The Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 14g, all deriving from topsoil [001]. The material includes part of the footring from a late creamware bowl (1/2g) and part of the base from an early pearlware bowl (12g) decorated internally with blue hand-painted floral motifs. Taken together a deposition date of c.1800-1830 would cover both sherds.
- 5.4.2 The pottery assemblage is small, late in date and of types well known of in the county. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.5.1 A single tile fragment weighing 14g was collected from [001]. It was formed from an orange fabric with moderate amounts of angular quartz, and was not dateable in isolation. However, the level of firing – in this instance to very hard fired – suggests a later post-medieval date of the 18th century or later.

5.6 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 Three fragments of glass were recovered from the topsoil [001], weighing a total of 44g. Included is a neck fragment from a green wine bottle of 18th- to early 19th-century date, as well as two wine bottle body shards dating to the mid-19th to early 20th century.

5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 The only hand-collected stone from the site was recovered from context [001]. This produced a 10g fragment of Welsh roofing slate that is most likely of 19th- century date. In addition small quantities of stone were recovered from the residues of four environmental samples. Contexts [010] and [012] (samples <2> and <7> respectively) produced 17 (40g) and 30 (5g) small granules of ferruginous Tertiary sandstone. This stone type is local to the area. Context [012], together with contexts [023] (sample <12>) and [29] (sample <13>) all produced tiny quantities of coal that show some probable intrusion through downwash in the soil (1/<1g, 11/<1g and 1/<1g respectively).
- 5.7.2 Six of the environmental samples produced magnetic fractions from their residues (contexts [10], [12], [13], [18], [23] and [29]) though none totalled more than 1g apiece. A careful inspection of all of these under x10 magnification showed the magnetic

fractions to be composed of tiny granules of local Tertiary ferruginous stone. No slag of any type was noted in any of the residues.

5.7.3 The stone is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.8 The Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.8.1 The excavations produced a single general purpose iron nail weighing 11g from context [1], the topsoil. The nail measures 77.5mm in length and has a faceted oval head and a rectangular sectioned stem. A post medieval date c. 1500-1900 is probable.

5.9 The Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.9.1 An assemblage of 259 animal bone fragments was analysed weighing approximately 1353g in total from excavations at Roedean School, Roedean Way (quantified by context in Table 6). The material derived from both hand-collection and bulk-earth samples. The preservation of the assemblage was generally poor, with many bones affected by severe erosive action (see Table 7).

Context	Sample	No. fragments	NISP
013		6	3
013	8	103	40
015		1	1
018		23	11
018	6	68	6
023		20	6
023	12	38	15

Table 6: Quantification of Animal Bone

Preservation	No. fragments
Poor	207
Moderate	52
Good	0

Table 7: Preservation of Animal Bone

Method

5.9.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, bones were identified to species and element (Schmid 1972; Hillson 1992) and the bone zones present noted (Serjeantson 1996). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long bone, rib and vertebral fragments, have been recorded according to size and categorised as large, medium or small mammal. Foetal bones were identified using Prummel (1987).

5.9.3 Mammalian age-at-death data was collected where possible. The state of epiphyseal bone was recorded as fused, unfused and fusing, and any determinations of age made

using Silver (1969). Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology. The assemblage contained no measurable long bones of domestic mammals.

Overview of assemblage

- 5.9.4 The assemblage was dominated by mammal bones, including both domestic and wild fauna. Nineteen bones were identifiable to taxa, 63 to taxa size (Table 8).
- 5.9.5 Deer antler, likely from red deer, were the most abundant in terms of the number of identifiable specimens. One fragment of antler had been shed, and showed possible use as a tool. Another specimen was still attached to the temporal bone. This could suggest a pan-seasonal occupation of the site where both shed antlers were collected and live deer were hunted.
- 5.9.6 Cattle bones (n=8) were very large, and may have in fact derived from aurochs (*Bos primigenius*). Based on the presence of prehistoric lithics and pottery it is possible that aurochs were present in the landscape and hunted in this period. Three bovine bones were subject to fusion analysis, including a fused proximal radius from context [23], and a fused distal femur and unfused proximal calcaneum from context [18]. If indeed these bones do represent the remains of aurochs it could suggest large hunted prey was processed at this site. However, the differentiation between cattle and aurochs is inconclusive.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	8
Pig	2
Deer	9
Large mammal	23
Medium mammal	39
Small mammal	1

Table 8: Taxa abundance of Animal Bone

- 5.9.7 Pig bones (n=2) were largely represented by a partial foetal skeleton coming from environmental sample [013] <8>, including a radius, ulna, some indeterminate long bone fragments and ribs (identified to medium mammal). It is unlikely that the foetal remains of wild boar could have been included in an anthropogenic assemblage unless this site was also used frequently by wild boar, thus these bones likely did derive from domestic pigs being kept in vicinity that were being bred. If these bones date from prehistoric contexts it is likely that the site was occupied in spring, when sows would be pregnant or close to farrow (Heptner et al. 1988). This is based on breeding habits of wild boar. Small mammals were represented by one small rodent incisor.

Surface modification and pathology

- 5.9.8 No evidence of heat exposure or butchery was identified, save a fresh fracture on a large mammal humerus. This humerus also showed a layering of bone on the internal bone surface, the cause of which is unknown but possibly pathological.

5.10 The Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.10.1 A single upper oyster (*Ostera edulis*) valve was recovered from gully fill [23], which also contained Middle Bronze Age pottery.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Stacey Adams

Introduction

- 6.1.1 Thirteen bulk soil samples were taken during excavations at Roedean School for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples were taken from pits and gullies, a selection of which were selected for processing.

Methodology

- 6.1.2 Samples with potential for the recovery of archaeological material were selected. The bulk 40L samples were processed by flotation, in their entirety, using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot before being air dried. The residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 9). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were sorted under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 10). Identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface structure and where necessary relevant identification manuals (Jacomet 2007; Cappers *et al* 2006) were consulted. Quantification was based on minimum number of individuals and is detailed in Table 9. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

Results

Pits

Samples <2> (010) [009], <6> (018) [021], <7> (012) [016] and <8> (013) [016].

- 6.1.3 The heavy residues from the pits at Roedean School each contained small quantities of fire-cracked flint. Pit [009] and the secondary fill (012) of pit [016] both contained small pieces of magnetic geological material originally interpreted as slag. Flint and coal were also recovered from the latter feature. Environmental material identified within the residues consisted of animal bone in pit [021] and the primary fill (013) of pit [016] and land snail shells in pits [009] and [021] as well as the primary fill (013) of pit [016]. Charcoal fragments were recovered from all features, excluding the primary fill (013) of [016], albeit in too fewer quantities (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residues) to be submitted for analysis. Charred plant macrofossils were recovered from pit [021] and the primary (013) and secondary (012) fills of pit [016] and are reported on below.
- 6.1.4 The flots from the pits contained between 80 and 99% uncharred material of modern roots and recent seeds of sedge (*Carex* sp.). Charcoal fragments were occasional within the flots whilst land snail shells were abundant, and including burrowing molluscs (*Ceciloides*). The primary fill (013) of pit [016] contained several fragments of animal bone.

Charred Plant Macrofossils

- 6.1.5 Individual cereal caryopses were identified in the primary (013) and secondary (012) fills of pit [016] and were poorly preserved. Both were indeterminate with the latter grain potentially deriving from wheat (cf. *Triticum* sp.). Pit [009] contained an indeterminate tuber and a fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) seed whilst a moderately well-preserved hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment was identified in pit [021].

Gullies

Samples <12> (023) [022] and <13> (029) [028].

- 6.1.6 The heavy residues from the gullies at Roedean School each contained small quantities of coal, fire-cracked flint and magnetic material. Pot fragments and flint were recovered from gully [022]. Charcoal fragments were present in both features, albeit in too small a quantity to be submitted for analysis. Gully [022] was rich in environmental material of animal bone, marine mollusc shell and land snail shell and has been dated to the Middle Bronze Age.
- 6.1.7 The flots from the gullies contained 99% uncharred material of modern roots and land snail shells, including burrowing molluscs. Charcoal fragments were occasional and lithics were identified in the flot from gully [028].

Charred Plant Macrofossils

- 6.1.8 The only charred plant macrofossil identified within the gullies at Roedean was a small wild grass (Poaceae) caryopsis identified in gully [022]. Large morphological similarities in the grass family make it difficult to identify the individual further.

Discussion

- 6.1.9 The paucity of charred material, including charcoal, at Roedean School indicates that little burning activity took place at the site. Large frequencies of modern roots and burrowing molluscs are indicative of intrusive activity making contamination possible. The tiny fragments of coal recovered from some of the samples are clearly indicative of this. The cereal caryopses are not indicative of crop processing due to their scarcity. The weeds of wild grass and fat hen can inform little on the local environment. Hazelnut shell fragments are common finds at archaeological sites in the late prehistoric period (Zohary & Hopf, 1994: 179) and may indicate the exploitation of wild resources at Roedean School.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm Weight (g)	Other Charred Botanicals Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs Weight (g)	Land Snail Shells Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)					
2	010	Pit [009]	40	*	<1	**	<1		*	<1	Slag (**/42g) FCF (****/5604g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (**/3g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/3g)				
6	018	Pit [021]	40		*	<1	*	<1	**	27		***	41	FCF (* /2g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (* /<1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/2g)	
7	012	Secondary Fill of Pit [016]	40	*	<1	**	<1	*	<1					Flint (* /1g) Slag (**/7g) FCF (* /5g) Coal (* /<1g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (**/1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/1g)	
8	013	Primary Fill of Pit [016]	40				*	<1	**	3		*	1	FCF (* /2g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (* /1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/1g)	
12	023	Gully [022]	40		*	<1		**	**	32	**	13	**	16	Pot (**/22g) Flint (* /39g) Coal (* /1g) FCF (* /47g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (**/2g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/2g)
13	029	Gully [028]	40	*	<1	**	<1							Coal (* /<1g) FCF (* /1g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (**/1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/1g)	

Table 9: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context/ Parent Context	Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charred Plant Macrofossils	Preservation	Animal Bone Fragment	Land Snail Shells	Cecifolides	Lithics
2	010 [009]	7	20	80		*	**	***	Indet. Tuber (1) <i>Chenopodium album</i> (1)	++		****	****	
6	018 [021]	45	150	99			*	**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment (1)	++		****	****	
7	012 [016]	6	15	99			*	*	cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. (1)	+		**	*	
8	013 [016]	9	10	95	<i>Carex</i> sp. *			**	Cerealia indet. (1)	+	*	****	***	
12	023 [022]	27	50	99			*	**	Poaceae (small) (1)	++		***	***	
13	029 [028]	4	5	99			*	**				**	**	*

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

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was that of a typical chalk hillside with topsoil and subsoil overlying 'natural' chalk with areas of surviving clay-with-flints capping also over the chalk. The archaeological features were all cut directly into the chalk, except for the gully, which also cut through an area of clay-with-flints.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 There had clearly been considerable earthmoving at the site associated with the previous creation of sports facilities. This has led to some truncation/terracing of the site, especially in the south-eastern corner of the MUGA.
- 7.2.2 There has been other more limited truncation to the surface of the 'natural' chalk in some areas, apparently from ploughing, and some further disturbance from the laying of services. The tops of all of the archaeological features also had shallow scars from ploughing.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Middle Bronze Age

- 7.3.1 Although some of the residual flintwork may predate this period, this is the first era in which there was a tangible alteration to the landscape. Research has shown that there is little evidence to suggest that field systems were laid out across the South Downs before the Middle Bronze Age (Yates 2007, 112) and the Roedean gully is taken as an indication of the systematic land division known to have occurred across the downland at this time.
- 7.3.2 Hart (2015, 95) characterised this in the following words:

"with the advent of the Middle Bronze Age, from around 1500BC onwards, the processes of change in landscape organisation initiated during the second millennium BC reached their culmination, with the wholesale replacement of monuments and ceremony with one given over to agriculture and settlement".

- 7.3.3 Although the artefactual and environmental evidence from the other features was collectively poor, the presence of cereal grains and animal bones does intimate this adoption and spread of '*agriculture and settlement*' across the open downland, as seen at places like Peacehaven (*ibid.*) and further afield, but on similar downland landscapes, such as at Mile Oak (Russell 2002).

Post-Medieval

- 7.3.4 A limited group of artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, no features of this period were recorded.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

- 7.4.1 Clearly the overarching research aims were met, in that archaeological remains were identified, excavated and recorded to accepted professional standards. The recovery of datable material allowed a consideration of the phasing of the site, and although hamstrung by an overall lack of closely datable material, conclusions could be drawn.
- 7.4.2 In terms of the more site specific research aims, clearly the prehistoric remains are strongly indicative of the presence of a local agriculture settlement of some kind from c.1500BC perhaps continuing into the Iron Age. Unfortunately, little can be said of this activity given the paucity of features and finds, although the presence of pastoral and arable agriculture can be surmised from the faunal and environmental evidence.
- 7.4.3 In terms of Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age funerary practice, nothing can be added to the existing corpus of data. The absence of features of an Iron Age or Romano-British date also negates comment on downland activity during those periods.

7.5 Updated Research Designs

- 7.5.1 Arguably the paucity of features and associated artefacts restricted the consideration of any further research designs, however some tentative suggests for further research utilising the results from future archaeological work are given below:

- *It is possible to ascertain if the Middle Bronze Age division of the landscape was earlier on the downland or on the Coastal Plain?*
- *Similarly, how do these dates compare to those of the emerging pattern of Middle Bronze Age settlement in the Weald (cf. Stevens forthcoming b.)*
- *Is there genuine evidence for the presence of aurochs on the downland in the Middle Bronze Age?*
- *Is the deposition of foetal animal bones necessarily indicative of 'structured' or 'special' deposition in prehistory?*

7.6 Conclusions

- 7.6.1 The implementation of an archaeological watching brief resulted in the recognition and recording of a small number of archaeological features. Given the significance of the results, it is proposed that a short article on the archaeological work be submitted for publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*.

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HER Summary

Site code	RSR17				
Project code	170581				
Planning reference	SDNP/17/01994/FUL				
Site address	Roedean School				
District/Borough	Brighton and Hove				
NGR (12 figures)	535186 103007				
Geology	Chalk with some areas of overlying Clay-with-Flints				
Fieldwork type	WB				
Date of fieldwork	20.09.2017 - 13.10.2017				
Sponsor/client	Roedean School				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens				
Period summary				Bronze Age	?Iron Age
				Post-Medieval	
Project summary	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Roedean School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of new sports facilities to the existing south of the school buildings.</i></p> <p><i>A considerable area of downland was mechanically reduced to level the ground for the construction of sports pitches. A small number of archaeological features were revealed, recorded and excavated, comprising four probably prehistoric shallow pits, one deeper, prehistoric pit containing an interesting sequence of fills and finds, and a Middle Bronze Age gully/ditch with hints of possible continued activity into the Iron Age.</i></p> <p><i>Given the significance of the results, it is proposed that a short article on the archaeological work be submitted for publication in Sussex Archaeological Collections.</i></p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-302120

Project details

Project name

Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Roedean School, Roedean Way, Brighton, East Sussex

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Roedean School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of new sports facilities to the existing south of the school buildings.

Short description of the project

A considerable area of downland was mechanically reduced to level the ground for the construction of sports pitches. A small number of archaeological features were revealed, recorded and excavated, comprising four probably prehistoric shallow pits, one deeper, prehistoric pit containing an interesting sequence of fills and finds, and a Middle Bronze Age gully/ditch with hints of possible continued activity into the Iron Age.

Given the significance of the results, it is proposed that a short article on the archaeological work be submitted for publication in Sussex Archaeological Collections.

Project dates

Start: 20-09-2017 End: 13-10-2017

Previous/future work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

170581 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

RSR17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

SDNP/17/01994/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project

Recording project

Site status

National Park

Current Land use

Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type

PITS Late Prehistoric

Monument type

GULLY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds

POTTERY Middle Bronze Age

Significant Finds

FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds

ANTLER Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds

ANIMAL BONE Late Prehistoric

Investigation type

""Watching Brief""

Prompt

Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Roedean School, Roedean Way
Postcode	BN2 5RQ
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 35186 03007 50.810240975468 -0.080997975326 50 48 36 N 000 04 51 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd.
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd. on behalf of their clients Roedean School
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Brighton and Hove Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Brighton and Hove Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Brighton and Hove Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Roedean School, Roedean Way, Brighton, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.

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Date 2017
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Entered on 15 February 2018



© Archaeology South-East		Roedean School, Brighton - Watching Brief	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170581	February 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017492	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		Roedean School, Brighton - Watching Brief	Fig.2
Project Ref: 170581	February 2018	Monitored areas showing recorded archaeological features	
Report Ref: 2017492	Drawn by: LG		



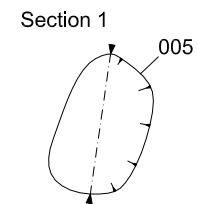
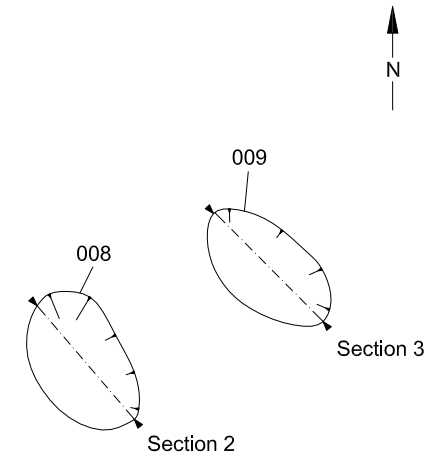
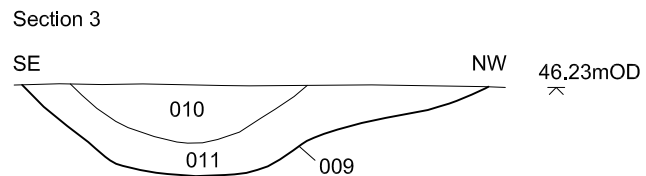
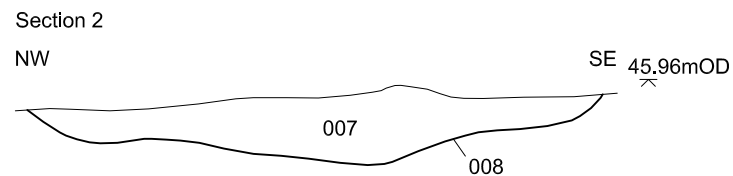
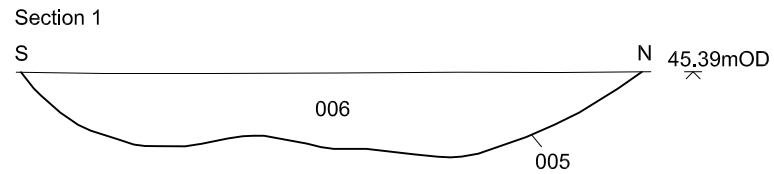
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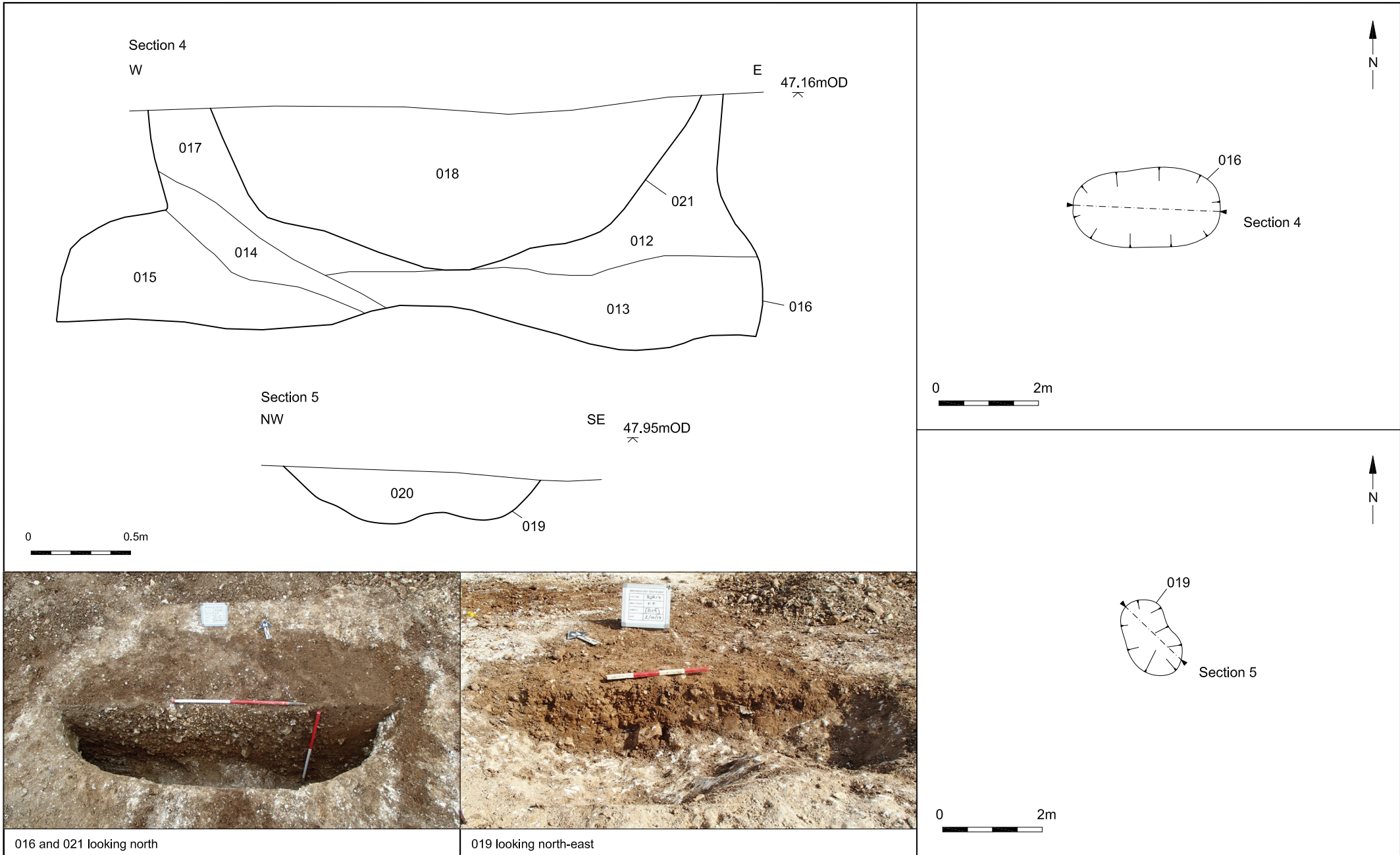


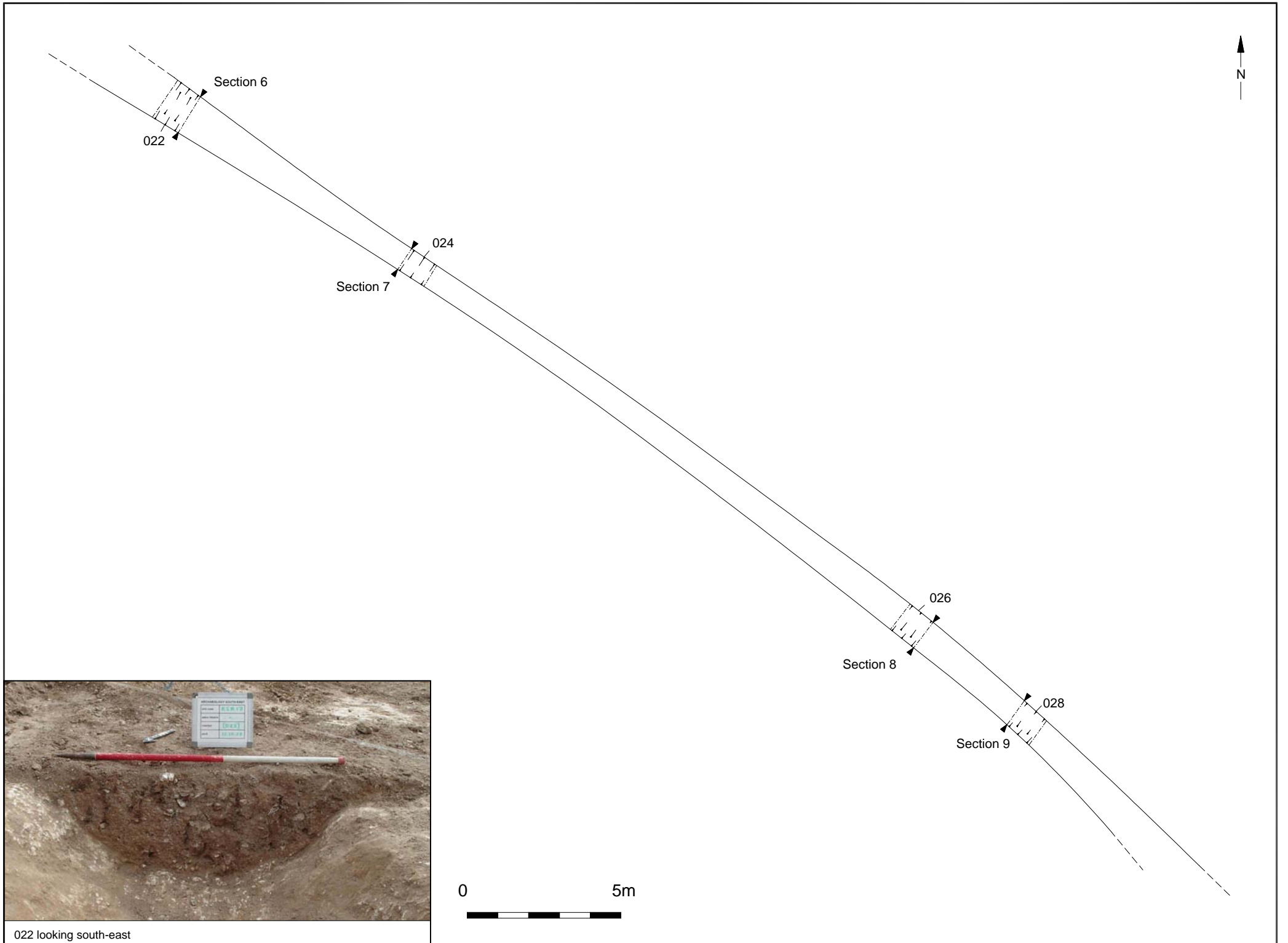
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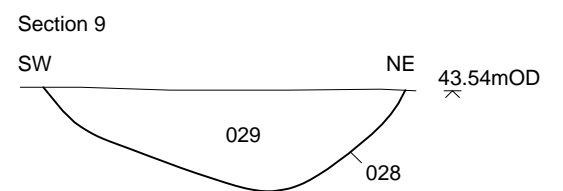
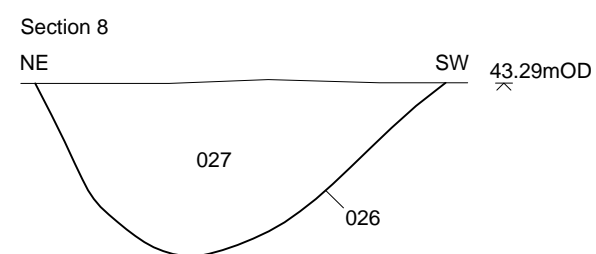
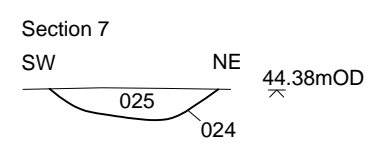
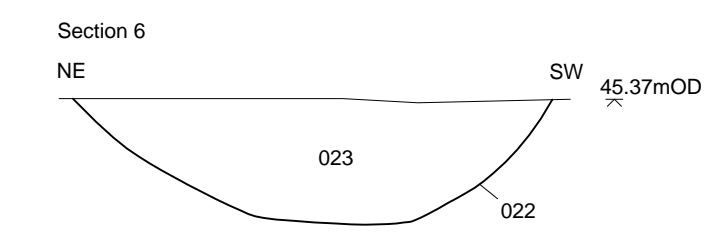
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026 looking south-east



028 looking north-west



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