

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

NGR 543323 120001

Fourth Season - June 2019

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



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

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

NGR 543323 120001

Fourth Season - June 2019

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

**ASE Project No: 190081
Site Code: SAP 10**

**ASE Report No: 2019237
OASIS ID: archaeol6-362328**

By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

**With finds identifications by
Luke Barber**

January 2020

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR
Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the fourth season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2019.

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 in 2010, 2013 and 2016. Other target areas identified during those surveys, including house platforms and a sunken routeway, were investigated in 2013 and 2016. In 2019 test-pits were again located at the site of the cottage and garden, and on either side of the identified routeway.

Unfortunately work at the site in 2019 was somewhat curtailed by poor weather, but as in previous years, the 'Cottage Site' 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 elements of the fabric of the building to pottery, clay pipes and domestic items such as buttons.

Test-pits located to the west of the sunken routeway showed a marked concentration of medieval pottery, strongly suggesting the presence of medieval occupation fronting onto the sunken way leading from the road towards the cottage site. A platform to the east of the route, presumed to be the site of a building, produced little material.

The recovery of the usual background scatter of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from the site highlights the use of the general area by hunter/gatherers, and continued to stretch the site's chronology back into prehistory.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results - 'The Cottage' Test-Pits**
- 5.0 Results - 'The Western Bank' Test-Pits**
- 6.0 Results - 'The Pond Platform' Test-Pits**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Conclusions**

Acknowledgements
Bibliography

Appendix 1 - Finds Summary
Appendix 2 - Post-Medieval Pottery Fabrics

HER Summary
OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Overall site plan
- Figure 3 Detailed plan of Test-Pits
- Figure 3 Site plan with topographical survey data

TABLES

- Table 1 Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2 Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook a fourth season of a community archaeology project involving the pupils from Newick (C of E) Primary School, Newick, East Sussex in June 2019. The site was a field called *Little Stiances*, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 543323 120001; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

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

1.2.2 According to the latest data available from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Grinstead Clay Formation of mudstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2019).

1.3 Background

1.3.1 In 2009 permission was given by the landowner, Mr John Sclater for the investigation of the field using a variety of archaeological techniques. To this end a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* was produced by ASE (ASE 2010a) and was submitted to Greg Chuter, then Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for approval.

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

1.3.3 The geophysical and topographic surveys confirmed the location of a cottage known from cartographic sources and allowed the targeting of test-pits at that location (Figures 2 and 3). 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 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 in the form of house platforms apparently fronting onto a sunken way leading from the existing alignment of Sharpsbridge Lane towards the site of the cottage, (ASE 2010b; Figure 3).

- 1.3.5 Following agreement for the implementation of a second and then a third season of investigation in the field by means of manually excavated test-pits, a second and third WSI were produced by ASE and duly approved by ESCC (ASE 2013a; ASE 2016a).
- 1.3.6 Work on the site in both 2013 and 2016 was hampered by poor weather, but it proved possible to expand the area under investigation by test-pitting to include different earthworks highlighted in the 2010 topographic survey (ASE 2013b; ASE 2017).
- 1.3.7 The site of *Stiances Cottage* and the associated cottage garden 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 potential house platform adjacent to a sunken lane (both identified during the topographical survey in 2010) in 2013 uncovered evidence of medieval activity represented by a small assemblage of 13th to 15th century pottery (Figures 2, 3 and 4, TPs 23 to 27 and TP29), and during the following season investigation of another apparent platform further to the south uncovered part of the brick floor of a post-medieval barn shown on historic maps was uncovered (Figures 2, 3, and 4, TP45) (ASE 2010b, 2013b).
- 1.3.9 Further test-pitting in 2016 targeted the sunken way itself and a bank to the east of the routeway, to the south of the pond, but results proved disappointing, with no datable evidence recovered (ASE 2017).
- 1.3.10 Recovery of a small assemblage of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from across the site during all three previous seasons of work highlights the use of the general area by hunter-gatherers stretching the site's chronology back into prehistory (ASE 2010b, 2013b; 2017).
- 1.3.11 Following agreement for the implementation of a fourth season of investigation in the field by means of further manually excavated test-pits, another WSI was produced by ASE and duly approved by ESCC (ASE 2018).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The primary and overriding aim of the project continues to be 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 some of the other platforms adjacent to the sunken way of similar date?*
5. *Can the remains of the floor uncovered in 2016 be closely dated by further investigation? Is it the barn shown on the 18th century cartographic sources? Could there be evidence of other functions through time?*
6. *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?*
7. *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?*
8. *How does the Stiances assemblage compare to other recently published examples of middens 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 June 2019. The project was undertaken by a team comprised of Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Susan Chandler and Gemma Ward (Assistant Archaeologists), John Cook (Senior Archaeological Surveyor), the Rev'd. Paul Munday and the pupils, parents, teachers and helpers at Newick C of E Primary School. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the field was recognised by the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) in the 1970s, and reference was made to it in a published work by Fred Tebbutt in the early 1980s, in which it was stated that the field contained, '*at least four platforms, and possible small moated enclosure. Scatter of medieval pottery. Cottage survived until recently*' (Tebbutt 1981, 115). Local histories of the area published since have added little to the description (e.g. Lindsey 1983; Mayes 2002), and according to the landowner, there has been no archaeological fieldwork undertaken in the field or in the vicinity (John Sclater *pers. comm.*). The former estate manager also confirmed that metal detectorists had not been granted authorised access to the field prior to 2010 (Paddy Cumberlege *pers. comm.*).
- 2.2 Extensive cartographic and documentary research suggests that elements of the cottage to which Tebbutt referred were in existence by the time of the earliest known plan of the area, published in 1739. The cottage had been demolished by the time of 1910 Ordnance Survey map of the area, probably in 1902/3 (Turk 2009).
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.*).
- 2.5 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 The 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. In the event, none of the test-pits were excavated to a depth allowing the exposure of a 'clean' geological surface.
- 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 (WSCC, ESCC & CDC 2019) 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)	2 boxes
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' Test-Pits

(incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber; Figures 2, 3 and 4)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Twelve test-pits (TP56 to TP67) were manually excavated in the part of the site formerly occupied by Stiances Cottage and the associated cottage garden. None was taken to the level of the underlying brownish orange clay 'natural' seen in some test-pits in previous years; the only deposit disturbed was the topsoil located in that part of the field.

4.2 Test-Pit 56

Introduction

4.2.1 Test-Pit 56 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 110mm (32.40mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [56/01].

Worked Flint

4.2.2 The only worked flint from TP 56 consists of a rough flake from a core, still with part of the cortex surviving. A later prehistoric date is suspected.

Pottery

4.2.3 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a sherd (2g) of HFE probably of the 17th century. There are also two small sherds of SWSG and one of CHPO, of the early/mid-18th century. No sherds are large enough to discern vessel form.

A much larger assemblage of late post-medieval pottery was recovered. This consists of GRE (late) 3/8g, YELL (1/1g), CREA (4/6g), PEAR (2/4g), TPW 2 (1/2g, a plate), REFW (3/12g, including a blue sponge-decorated vessel) and English porcelain (1/2g, a saucer). The sherds are very small but are in line with a domestic assemblage. Most are of the late 18th to early 19th but some later 19th- century pieces are present.

Glass

4.2.4 The glass is totally composed of uncorroded but heavily fragmented/abraded shards of 19th- century date, including fragments of aqua coloured windows and vessels as well as part of a pale blue medicine bottle.

Ceramic Building Material

4.2.5 The six pieces of peg tile are all well-formed and fired. They are typical of a mid-18th- to 19th- century date.

Other finds

4.2.6 The test-pit produced four late post-medieval iron nail fragments

4.3 Test-Pit 57

Introduction

- 4.3.1 Test-Pit 57 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 470mm (32.20mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [57/01].

Pottery

- 4.3.2 This test-pit produced the largest pottery assemblage from the 2019 season. The group includes 28 sherds classified as being of early post-medieval date. These consist of sherds of BORDY/VER (2/46g: including a possible warming pan), GRE (early) (2/40g: dishes with trailed slip decoration and four plain sherds, 58g, including part of a jar), LONS (14/256g: including the best part of a small tankard) and SWSG (6/34g: including a jug, a teabowl and a vessel with scratch-blue decoration). Overall, these vessels would be in keeping with a late 17th- to mid-18th- century date range, though some may have been old when broken.
- 4.3.3 The majority of the pottery from this test-pit is of the late post-medieval period. Sherds consist of: UE (3/130g, flower pots); GRE (late) (44/1264g, bowls, dishes, jars, a bread bin with external rouletted frieze and a chamber pot); YELL (1/34g, an oven dish stamped ?P&T); JACK (4/38g, a jar with all over glaze); SUND (1/10g, a small bowl); BAS (1/6g, a moulded teapot?); CREA (46/288g, plates, side plates, bowls, teabowls, two of which have hand-painted blue floral decoration); PEAR (26/128g, teabowls, saucers with hand-painted floral designs); PEAR TR (9/28g, teabowls, cups and saucer with floral designs); TPW2 (2/3, (willow pattern plate); REFW (1/36g, a plate with red rim-edge line); ENPO (1/2g, a saucer).
- 4.3.4 Overall the sherds are relatively large and fresh suggesting they may represent a relatively undisturbed midden. The bulk of the assemblage can be placed between c. 1760 and 1820 but one of two later 19th- century pieces are present.

Clay Pipes

- 4.3.5 All three pieces are from stems that can be dated c. 1750-1900. All have moderate wear.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.3.6 All of the ceramic building material from this test-pit is of mid-18th- to 19th- century date and all is in a fresh condition. Most pieces are peg tile fragments, usually well-formed and fired with diamond-shaped peg holes (14/2320g). However, there is a piece of hip tile (230g), ridge tile (328g) and a single example of a pan tile (684g).

Glass

- 4.3.7 The majority of the glass from this test-pit consists of shards from green cylindrical wine/beer bottles. However, there is a green hexagonal bottle, possibly a gin bottle, as well as some finer green glass bottles. There is also a scatter of pale aqua to light blue window glass. The assemblage all falls within a later 18th- to 19th- century date range.

Other finds

- 4.3.8 The ironwork from TP 57 includes a strip fragment, a blade fragment and several nail fragments, all of which are of late post-medieval date. There is also a fragment from a copper alloy button of 18th- century type (<1g) and eight pieces of animal bone (food waste) from cattle and sheep.

4.4 Test-Pit 58**Introduction**

- 4.4.1 Test-Pit 58 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 180mm (32.14mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [58/01].

Pottery

- 4.4.2 All of the pottery from this test-pit is of the late 18th and 19th centuries. The group consists of GRE (late) (1/80g, a jar); CREA (1/2g, a plate); TPW2 (2/14g, a plate with Wild Rose design); TPW4 (2/4g, a saucer with purple shell/scallop sheet design); JACK (1/2g).

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.4.3 All of the brick and tile is of mid-18th- to 19th- century date. The brick, some of which is a little worn, is of probable 18th- century date. The peg tiles are all well-formed and fired with diamond-shaped peg holes as previously noted.

Glass

- 4.4.4 The glass consists of green wine bottle shards as well as a few small pieces of colourless window glass and cylindrical bottles. All is of 19th- century date.

4.4.5 Other finds

A single piece of fire-cracked flint (white) and two late post-medieval iron nail fragments were also recovered.

4.5 Test-Pit 59**Introduction**

- 4.5.1 Test-Pit 59 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 310mm (32.17mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [59/01].

Pottery

- 4.5.2 Four early post-medieval sherd of 17th- to early 18th- century date were recovered from this test-pit. They are composed of WEAL (1/10g) and FREC (3/10g) but no forms are discernible.
- 4.5.3 The late post-medieval assemblage is much larger at 18 sherds. This is composed of GRE (late) (4/14g, including a jug/mug with all over glaze); JACK (1/3g); YELL (1/12g, a dish); CREA (3/14g, including a plate); PEAR (4/6g, including a plate with blue shell-edge decoration and a saucer); TPW2 (2/8g, plates); TPW3 (1/2g, a saucer with brown sheet pattern); REFW (1/2g) and ENPO (1/2g). All fit within a late 18th- to 19th- century date range.

Clay Pipes

- 4.5.4 A single stem fragment of c. 1750-1900 was recovered.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.5.5 All of the brick and tile is of the mid-18th to 19th centuries. The tile is of the well-formed and fired types with diamond peg holes noted in the other test-pits.

Glass

- 4.5.6 The glass consists of green wine bottle shards, a fragment from an aqua mineral water bottle and window fragments. All are of 19th- century date.

Other finds

- 4.5.7 The iron consists of two nail fragments and part of a possible key bit, all of late post-medieval date. The only other item recovered was a worn piece of blast furnace slag. Although this is likely to have been created between the 16th and mid 18th centuries in one of the water-powered Wealden smelting sites the slag was often procured for use as hardcore, track metalling long after the ironworks ceased to work. As such its presence here is not unexpected

4.6 Test-Pit 60**Introduction**

- 4.6.1 Test-Pit 60 measured 1.0m by 1.1m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 170mm (also 32.17mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [60/01].

Worked Flint

- 4.6.2 A single flake, possibly from a blade core was recovered from this test-pit. As such it could be as early as the Mesolithic but a later date cannot be ruled out.

Pottery

- 4.6.3 The only early post-medieval pottery recovered was a 24g WEAL sherd from a jar with clear/yellow glaze. A 17th- century date is probable.
- 4.6.4 The remaining nine sherds of pottery are of late post-medieval date. They consist of GRE (late) (1/2g); CREA (2/3g, including a plate); PEAR (2/3g, including a plate with moulded decoration) and PEAR TR (4/14g, including a teabowl). All can be placed between c. 1780 and 1820.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.6.5 All of the peg tile is of the well-formed and fired type with diamond peg holes. A mid 18th- to 19th- century date is certain for this type.

Other finds

- 4.6.6 The test-pit also produced a late post-medieval nail fragment.

4.7 Test-Pit 61

Introduction

- 4.7.1 Test-Pit 61 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 190mm (32.07mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [61/01].

Pottery

- 4.7.2 This test-pit produced a large number of pottery sherds, though all are notably small in size and appear to have seen some reworking. There is a single Late Medieval sherd present (10g) – a relatively fresh oxidised body sherd in slightly sandy hard-fired earthenware of the late 15th to 16th centuries.
- 4.7.3 There are nine early post-medieval sherds that span the later 17th to mid 18th centuries. These consist of GRE (early) (2/50g, including a jar); WEAL (2/10g); TGW (1/1g, a ?bowl); LONS (3/12g, a tankard) and CHPO (1/1g, a plate).
- 4.7.4 The large assemblage of late post-medieval pottery consists of GRE (late) (13/160g, including a bowl); UE (2/10g, flower pots); ENGS (1/34g, a dwarf ink bottle); YELL (9/26g, including a mixing bowl with internal white slip); CREA (17/32g, bowls and plates); PEAR (11/22g, plates, teabowls, saucers and a chamber pot); PEAR TR (3/2g); TPW2 (3/6g, including a plate with pale/late printing); TPW3 (2/4g, a mug with black view) and REFW (11/26g, including a vessel with blue sponged decoration and a saucer with polychrome hand-painting). As noted in previous test-pits, the bulk of the late post-medieval assemblage can be placed in the later 18th to early 19th centuries, with a relatively small scatter of later 19th- century sherds.

Clay Pipes

- 4.7.5 The test-pit produced six worn stem fragments dated c. 1750-1900 as well as a 1g bowl fragment. The latter has moulded basket decoration and in of 19th-century date.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.7.6 Five pieces of brick from this test-pit are more crudely formed than usual and in a 'marl'-rich fabric with iron oxides (548g). One example measured 50mm thick and taking all together they are probably of 17th- to mid-18th- century date. The remaining brick is of late post-medieval types, better made and tempered with black iron oxides but is only represented by amorphous pieces. The 22 pieces of peg tile are all of late post-medieval date and are similar to the well-formed and fired (with diamond-shaped peg holes) noted before.

Glass

- 4.7.7 A single corroded shard of glass (4g) is from a wine bottle of later 17th- to mid-18th- century date. The remainder of the glass is of late post-medieval date. It consists of wine/beer bottle fragments (4/26g) as well as aqua and colourless glass window and bottle fragments, including a single shard of milk glass. The assemblage includes an essentially complete moulded bottle in aqua-coloured glass (base 40 x 22mm, height 63mm, rim 17mm diameter

with long sloping shoulders) with shear top rim for a cork stopper and may well have held ink. The only other glass consists of an 8mm diameter milk glass ?button fragment.

Other finds

4.7.8 The 10 pieces of iron include a large strip bracket (to support a pipe or gutter), a 450mm long bar/tool fragment, a washer, a tanged knife handle and a number of nail fragments. All are of late post-medieval date. The test-pit also produced two copper alloy buttons of 18th- century type – one with cone-shanked back of 14mm diameter, the other a flat disc of 16mm diameter. There was also a lead sheet off-cut.

4.7.9 The six pieces of fire-cracked flint are either white and probably cracked or simply scorched red. Whether these relate to prehistoric activity or are by-products of post-medieval burning of lime for field dressing is uncertain, though the latter is suspected. The stone consists of a piece of local Hastings Beds Sandstone, a Wealden pebble (a fine ferruginous sandstone) and an 8g piece of 19th- century Welsh roofing slate. The test-pit also produced a 4-hole 17mm diameter 19th- century button made from bone.

4.8 Test-Pit 62

Introduction

4.8.1 Test-Pit 62 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 440mm (31.44mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [62/01].

Pottery

4.8.2 All of the pottery from this test-pit is of the late post-medieval period. The assemblage consists of GRE (late) (2/22g, a jar with moulded square club rim); ENGS (1/10g); NOTS (1/2g); CREA (1/2g, a plate); PEAR (1/2g, a saucer); PEAR TR (1/1g); YELL (1/1g, decorated with black mocha pattern); TPW2 (3/2g); REFW (2/12g) and ENPO (1/8g, the torso from a figurine).

Clay Pipes

4.8.3 The two worn pieces of clay pipe stem are of a c. 1750-1900 date range.

4.8.4 Ceramic Building Material

The test-pit produced a large and notably fresh assemblage of brick and tile, all of which is of mid-18th- to 19th- century date. The five pieces of brick include four of the same type – 54mm thick examples in a 'marl'-rich fabric with abundant black iron oxides. All of this type have worn upper faces showing they derive from a floor or path.

4.8.5 The other brick is a more typical 65mm thick red matrix example tempered with iron oxides. There is a single hip tile fragment (234g) from the corner of a roof still with the iron fixing nail *in situ*. The rest of the tile consists of peg tile and notably large pieces of it. There is a complete tile (broken in two) that measures 260mm long, 155mm wide by 12mm thick (1090g). It is of the well-formed and fired type with diamond-shaped peg holes noted previously. The peg holes are set 20mm down from the top edge (to the centre of the peg holes) and 85mm apart (about 35mm in from both sides).

4.8.6 There are other examples of this type with the diamond-shaped peg holes that measure 152mm (x3 examples) and 155mm (x1 more example) wide with the peg holes set between 73 and 80mm apart. There are also two peg tiles of a different sort. These are slightly larger (158 and 160mm wide with square peg holes set much closer together (45mm apart), though a similar 20mm down from the top edge. The fabric is also coarser – containing ‘marl’ pellets in moderate quantities. The presence of these fresh tiles in TP 62 suggests an old roof, of at least two phases, was replaced or demolished closeby maybe during the later 19th century.

Glass

4.8.7 All of the glass consists of shards from 19th- century green wine/beer bottles.

Other finds

4.8.8 The iron from the test-pit includes a heavy U-shaped loop for a chain attachment, a small (originally c. 120mm long) pair of household scissors and nails/fragments thereof. All are of late post-medieval date. There is a single piece of scorched flint, pieces of downland flint and Hastings Beds Sandstone and a notable quantity of fine off-white/cream fine sandy plaster (106/2000g). The latter has imprints of lathes from internal partitions or ceilings and, together with the tile, suggests a major period of renovations or demolition. The only other find is a sheep’s tooth.

4.9 Test-Pit 63

Introduction

4.9.1 Test-Pit 63 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 250mm (31.30mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [63/01].

Pottery

4.9.2 The earliest piece of pottery from this test-pit consists of a 1g scrap of 18th- century CHPO bowl with hand-painted decoration.

4.9.3 The rest of the pottery is of late post-medieval date. It consists of UE (1/2g, flower pot); GRE (late) (1/2g); CREA (7/14g, plates and a bowl); PEAR TR (5/6g, a plate and bowl); TPW3 (1/1g) and REFW (1/2g). All sherds are notably small and have clearly been reworked.

Clay Pipes

4.9.4 A single bowl fragment was recovered, decorated with moulded fish-scale pattern. This is of mid/late 19th- century date.

Ceramic Building Material

4.9.5 The 13 pieces of peg tile from this test-pit are quite fresh and are of the most common type on the site – well-formed and fired with diamond-shaped peg holes. A mid-18th- to 19th- century date is certain.

Glass

- 4.9.6 The glass is all of late post-medieval types and consists of green wine/beer bottle fragments, part of a phial in colourless glass and aqua-tinted window glass.

Other finds

- 4.9.7 A single nail fragment was recovered from this test-pit as well as a lump of plaster similar to that noted in TP 62. The stone consists of two pieces of flint gravel and a small fragment from a shaped whetstone in Midlands/Yorkshire-type sandstone (a common 19th- century type). The only other find consists of a 10mm diameter 4-hole white porcelain button of 19th- to early 20th- century date.

4.10 Test-Pit 64**Introduction**

- 4.10.1 Test-Pit 64 measured 1.1m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 380mm (30.87mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [64/01].

Pottery

- 4.10.2 The earliest pottery consists of a very worn 6g sherd of oxidised fine/medium sandy ware of mid-13th- to mid-14th- century date.
- 4.10.3 The remaining pottery is of late post-medieval date. The assemblage consists of UE (1/2g, flower pot); GRE (late) (1/1g); CREA (1/1g); PEAR (3/3g, including a bowl with floral hand-painted decoration); YELL (1/1g); TPW2 (1/2g and REFW (2/34g). The bulk of the pottery appears to be of the later 18th to early 19th centuries but the small sherd size shows the material to have been reworked extensively.

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.10.4 A single piece of 18th- to 19th- century brick was recovered.

Glass

- 4.10.5 A 1g scrap of late post-medieval aqua/green window glass was recovered.

Other finds

- 4.10.6 The two pieces of iron are from late post-medieval nails. There is also a single cattle tooth.

4.11 Test-Pit 65**Introduction**

- 4.11.1 Test-Pit 65 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 200mm (31.36mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [65/01].

Worked Flint

- 4.11.2 A single ?hard hammer struck flake from a core was recovered.

Pottery

- 4.11.3 A single early post-medieval sherd was recovered: a bodysherd of HFE that is probably of 17th- century date.
- 4.11.4 The rest of the pottery is of late post-medieval date. The assemblage consists of UE (1/1g); GRE (late) (1/6g, possibly a cup); CREA (2/2g) and REFW (2/2g, possibly a mug). Again the emphasis appears to be on the later 18th to mid-19th centuries.

Other finds

- 4.11.5 A notable corroded iron nail could be of early post-medieval date. There is also a single piece of flint.

4.12 Test-Pit 66**Introduction**

- 4.12.1 Test-Pit 66 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 260mm (31.31mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [66/01].
- 4.12.2 This test-pit produced a notable group of Late Medieval sherds, all of which are in a slightly sandy hard-fired earthenware typical of the late 15th to 16th centuries. There are also two early post-medieval sherds consisting of GRE (early) (1/1g) and HFE (1/59g) that are probably of 17th- to mid-18th- century date.
- 4.12.3 The late post-medieval period is represented by just two sherds: UE (1/22g, a flower pot) and YELL (1/2g).

Ceramic Building Material

- 4.12.4 The three pieces of peg tile are of the usual well-formed and fired mid-18th- to 19th- century type noted previously.

Glass

- 4.12.5 A single shard from a late post-medieval green wine bottle was recovered.

Other finds

- 4.12.6 Two notably corroded nails could be of early post-medieval date. There is also a piece of downland flint and the tooth of a cow.

4.13 Test-Pit 67**Introduction**

- 4.13.1 Test-Pit 67 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 200mm (31.71mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [67/01].

Pottery

- 4.13.2 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of a worn 6g fragment from an oxidised vessel in fine flint/quartz tempered Clay Hill type ware, dated c. 1150-1200/25.

4.13.3 The seven early post-medieval sherds consist of HFE (3/58g); GRE (early) (2/6g); VER (1/10g) and LONS (1/6g) though all are featureless. A mid/late 17th- to mid-18th- century date fits all.

4.13.4 Most pottery is of the late post-medieval period. The assemblage consists of UE (1/22g, a dish); GRE (late) (5/28g); JACK (1/4g); BASG (1/8g, a teapot lid with rouletted decoration); CREA (1/1g, a plate); PEAR (1/1g); PEAR TR (3/2g); TPW2 (5/8g, including a willow patterned plate) and REFW (1/1g).. A later 18th- to mid-19th- century date would fit all.

Clay Pipes

4.13.5 A single worn stem fragment (2g) dated c. 1650-1700 was recovered, together with a worn stem fragment dated c. 1750-1900.

Ceramic Building Material

4.13.6 There appears to be a single 612g fragment of 52mm thick crudely formed brick that is likely to be of 17th- to mid-18th- century date. The rest of the brick is of late post-medieval date. Two pieces (50 and 60mm thick) have notably worn tops from being laid in a floor while the last is a heavily worn paving brick that now measures just 38mm thick. The peg tile and single ridge tile piece is of the usual mid-18th- to 19th- century type.

Glass

4.13.7 A single shard from a late post-medieval green wine bottle was recovered.

Other finds

4.13.8 The iron from this test-pit all consists of late post-medieval nail fragments. There is a white piece of fire-cracked flint, a pig's tooth and a 12mm diameter white porcelain 4-hole button of 19th- to early 20th- century date.

5.0 RESULTS – ‘The Western Bank’ Test-Pits

(incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figures 2 and 3)

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Six test-pits (TP70 to TP75) were excavated on top of a notable bank to the west of the sunken lane seen on the topographic and cartographic sources (ASE 2010b).

5.2 Test-Pit 70

Introduction

- 5.2.1 Test-Pit 70 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 [70/01].

Pottery

- 5.2.2 The earliest sherds consist of three small but relatively unabraded sherds of open-textured, low-fired, reduced sandy ware. These are difficult to date with certainty though a 12th- century date is considered most likely.

- 5.2.3 The late post-medieval pottery consists of YELL (1/1g) and ENPO (1/1g), obviously heavily reworked judging by their size.

Other finds

- 5.2.4 The only other find is a 1g piece of white fire-cracked flint.

5.3 Test-Pit 71

Introduction

- 5.3.1 Test-Pit 71 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 180mm (29.28mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [71/01].

Pottery

- 5.3.2 The earliest sherd from the test-pit consists of a very worn 2g scrap of oxidised Clay Hill type flinty ware of the second half of the 12th century.

- 5.3.3 The late post medieval assemblage consists of UE (2/28g, flower pots) and PEAR (1/1g, decorated with floral design).

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.4 The test-pit produced small quantities of late post-medieval brick and peg tile.

Glass

- 5.3.5 A 1g scrap of aqua-coloured window glass of late post-medieval date was recovered.

Other finds

- 5.3.6 A 42g piece of slightly glassy fuel ash slag was recovered from this test-pit. Such slag can be formed from any high-temperature event, including domestic hearths and it is suspected the current piece was formed in a late post-medieval hearth. There are also two small pieces of fire-cracked flint.

5.4 Test-Pit 72**Introduction**

- 5.4.1 Test-Pit 72 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 460mm (29.65mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [72/01].

Worked Flint

- 5.4.2 A single soft hammer flake was recovered from this test-pit.

Pottery

- 5.4.3 The earliest pottery consists of four relatively fresh sherds (though affected by the acidic burial conditions) of late oxidised Lewes Saxo-Norman Flinty Ware. At least two vessels are represented – both of the 12th century.
- 5.4.4 There is a single HFE sherd of the 17th to mid-18th centuries and a 1g scrap of late 18th-/early 19th- century PEAR.

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.4.5 There is a single amorphous, but quite fresh, lump of silty daub, suspected of being medieval. There are also four (154g) pieces of quite heavy-made (15mm thick) peg tiles in a 'marl'-rich fabric tempered with red iron oxides. These are of early post-medieval type. The remaining brick and tile is of the usual types that date to the mid-18th to 19th centuries.

Other finds

- 5.4.6 The test-pit also produced a single late post-medieval iron nail fragment and a piece of downland flint

5.5 Test-Pit 73**Introduction**

- 5.5.1 Test-Pit 73 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 230mm (29.65mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [73/01].

Worked Flint

- 5.5.2 A single blade fragment in good quality black flint was recovered from this test-pit. A Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date is likely.

Pottery

- 5.5.3 The earliest pottery from this test-pit consists of two tint heavily abraded sherds of oxidised Ringmer sandy ware of the 13th to mid-14th centuries.
- 5.5.4 The other pottery consists of CREA (1/1g) and YELL (1/2g, with blue mocha decoration) suggesting of a date in the first half of the 19th century.

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.5.5 All of the brick and tile from this test-pit is of late post-medieval date. The only feature piece is a peg tile fragment with a square peg hole.

Glass

- 5.5.6 A 1g scrap from a late post-medieval green bottle was the only material recovered.

5.6 Test-Pit 74***Introduction***

- 5.6.1 Test-Pit 74 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 230mm (30.15mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [74/01].

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.6.2 A single piece of late post-medieval brick was recovered.

Other finds

- 5.6.3 The only other find from this test-pit are two pieces of fire-cracked flint (one white, one scorched).

5.7 Test-Pit 75***Introduction***

- 5.7.1 Test-Pit 75 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 210mm (30.36mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [75/01].

Pottery

- 5.7.2 The only pottery from this test-pit is a 34g sherd of GRE (late) of mid-18th- to 19th- century date.

Glass

- 5.7.3 The only other finds from this test-pit consist of two small shards from a 19th- century rectangular bottle in aqua-coloured glass.

6.0 RESULTS – ‘The Pond Platform’ Test-Pits

(incorporating finds descriptions by Luke Barber) (Figures 2 and 3)

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two Test-pits TP68 and TP69 were excavated on a level platform immediately to the north of the existing pond, on the eastern side of the sunken lane.

6.2 Test-Pit 68

Introduction

6.2.1 Test-Pit 68 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 200mm (28.89mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [68/01].

Pottery

6.2.2 The earliest pot from this test-pit consists of a very worn 4g sherd of Ringmer sandy ware with sparse flint. A 13th- century date is likely.

6.2.3 The remaining sherds are late post-medieval: UE (1/8g); GRE (late) (1/4g) and CREA (1/2g, a plate).

Ceramic Building Material

6.2.4 Both pieces of peg tile are of the well-formed/well fired mid-18th- to 19th- century type.

Glass

6.2.5 The glass, which is again all of late post-medieval date, consists of pieces of green glass bottle and colourless glass phial.

Other finds

6.2.6 The iron consists of a single late post-medieval nail fragment and there is a small piece of probable blast furnace slag (from early post-medieval iron smelting). There are also six pieces of flint gravel.

6.3 Test-Pit 69

Introduction

6.3.1 Test-Pit 69 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was manually excavated to a maximum depth of 230mm (29.10mAOD). The only context encountered was the friable mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [69/01].

Pottery

6.3.2 A single 2g scrap of later 18th- to early 19th- century CREA bowl was the only piece recovered.

Ceramic Building Material

6.3.3 A large fresh piece of the typical peg tile, with diamond-shaped peg hole, was recovered. A mid-18th- to 19th- century date is certain.

Glass

6.3.4 A 2g scrap from a late post-medieval green glass bottle was recovered.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The fourth 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. It was unfortunate that the work was somewhat curbed by poor weather, leading to the first cancellation of an entire day's digging in the history of the project. However, with hasty reorganisation every pupil at the school was able to participate in the field.
- 7.2 The recovery 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.
- 7.3 As previously discussed in the 2010, 2013 and 2016 season's report (ASE 2010b; 2013b; 2017), 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).
- 7.4 Fieldwork has shown that such scatters can be associated with buried archaeological features (Butler 1997), and this may be the case at Stiances. It has been recognised since the 1930s that Mesolithic/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).
- 7.5 A recent study 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).
- 7.6 Evidence of the medieval occupation of the site championed by Tebbutt (1981, 115), has proved elusive in previous seasons. The excavation of the test-pits targeted 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), but little medieval material was recovered in 2016 (ASE 2017). However, a notable concentration of medieval pottery sherds was recovered this year, adjacent to the site's sunken way. This discovery goes some way in supporting the idea that Stiances was the site of medieval agricultural settlement as suggested by Tebbutt (*ibid.*). The earliest sherds of pottery found at the site so far, dating to the 12th century, were recovered during the 2019 season.

- 7.7 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 perhaps Stiances) form part of a pattern of agricultural settlements dotted 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).
- 7.8 Given the clear cartographic evidence (Turk 2009), and the results of the previous seasons of work at the site (ASE 2010b; 2013b, 2017), the presence of a large assemblage of 'domestic' post-medieval material near the site of the cottage was expected. Again, a varied assemblage of artefacts was recovered offering an unusual, if not unique insight into life in a rural cottage in the post-medieval period in the Weald.
- 7.9 The site of the cottage and garden 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, but with a significant 17th century element. Finds ranged from elements of the fabric of the building to pottery, clay pipes and domestic items such as buttons.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The exploration of the areas adjacent to the sunken way was aimed at addressing some of the other research aims, and arguably has gone some way to achieving them. The clear concentration of medieval material on ground overlooking the sunken way on the western side appears indicative of settlement and this part of the site is clearly worthy of further investigation.
- 8.3 The site of the cottage and garden continued to provide a varied and interesting collection of domestic material relating to life in an isolated rural Sussex location in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Given the paucity of comparable sites which have been subjected to such long-running archaeological scrutiny, the assemblage of artefacts continues to hold significance, given the acknowledged need for the recovery of assemblages of post-medieval pottery for study, specifically from rural contexts (cf. Barber 2011, 193).
- 8.4 The extensive quarry works in Broomlye Wood remain unexplained and undated (and un-surveyed) although quarrying for building stone still seems the most likely explanation (Turk *op. cit.*). Similarly, despite investigation, the reason(s) for the abandonment of cottage (and of the other buildings at the site known from cartographic sources) remains open to question.
- 8.5 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 of 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.
- 8.6 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, County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council at the time of the project for his input at all stages and to Tony Turk for sharing his extensive knowledge in previous years. Special mention should also go to the Rev'd. Paul Munday, who took over from Tony Turk as resident site historian this season and did sterling work with the children, and with site director.

However, the biggest debt of gratitude must go to the Headteachers at Newick C of E Primary School, Mrs Sophie Thomas and Miss Natalie Alty, and the pupils, staff and helpers who did all the hard work during the fieldwork.

The four seasons of the project could not have gone ahead without generous support from the following:

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

And several private individuals

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2010a. *The Stiances Archaeological Project, Newick, East Sussex - Written Scheme of Investigation For a Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE document

ASE 2010b. *Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex - A Community Archaeology Project Involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE Report No 2010151

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

ASE 2013b. *Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex Second Season 2013 - A Community Archaeology Project Involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE Report 2013230

ASE 2015. *The Stiances Archaeological Project, Newick, East Sussex Third Season Written Scheme of Investigation For a Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE document

ASE 2016a. *The Stiances Archaeological Project, Newick, East Sussex 2016 Season - Written Scheme of Investigation For an Ongoing Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE document

ASE 2017. *Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex Third Season 2016 - A Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE Report 2016244-P148

ASE 2018. *The Stiances Archaeological Project, Newick, East Sussex 2019 Season - Written Scheme of Investigation For an Ongoing Community Archaeology Project involving the pupils of Newick Primary School*. Unpub. ASE document

Barber, L. 2011. The Pottery, in D. Butcher, Excavation of a post-medieval cottage at Eartham, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter SAC) 149, 191-4

BGS 2019. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 05.08.2019 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Butler, C. 1997. A Mesolithic site at Streat Lane, Streat, East Sussex, SAC 145, 7-31

Clark, J & Rankine, W. 1939. Excavations at Farnham, Surrey (1937-38): the Horsham Culture and the Question of Mesolithic Dwellings, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 5(1), 61-118

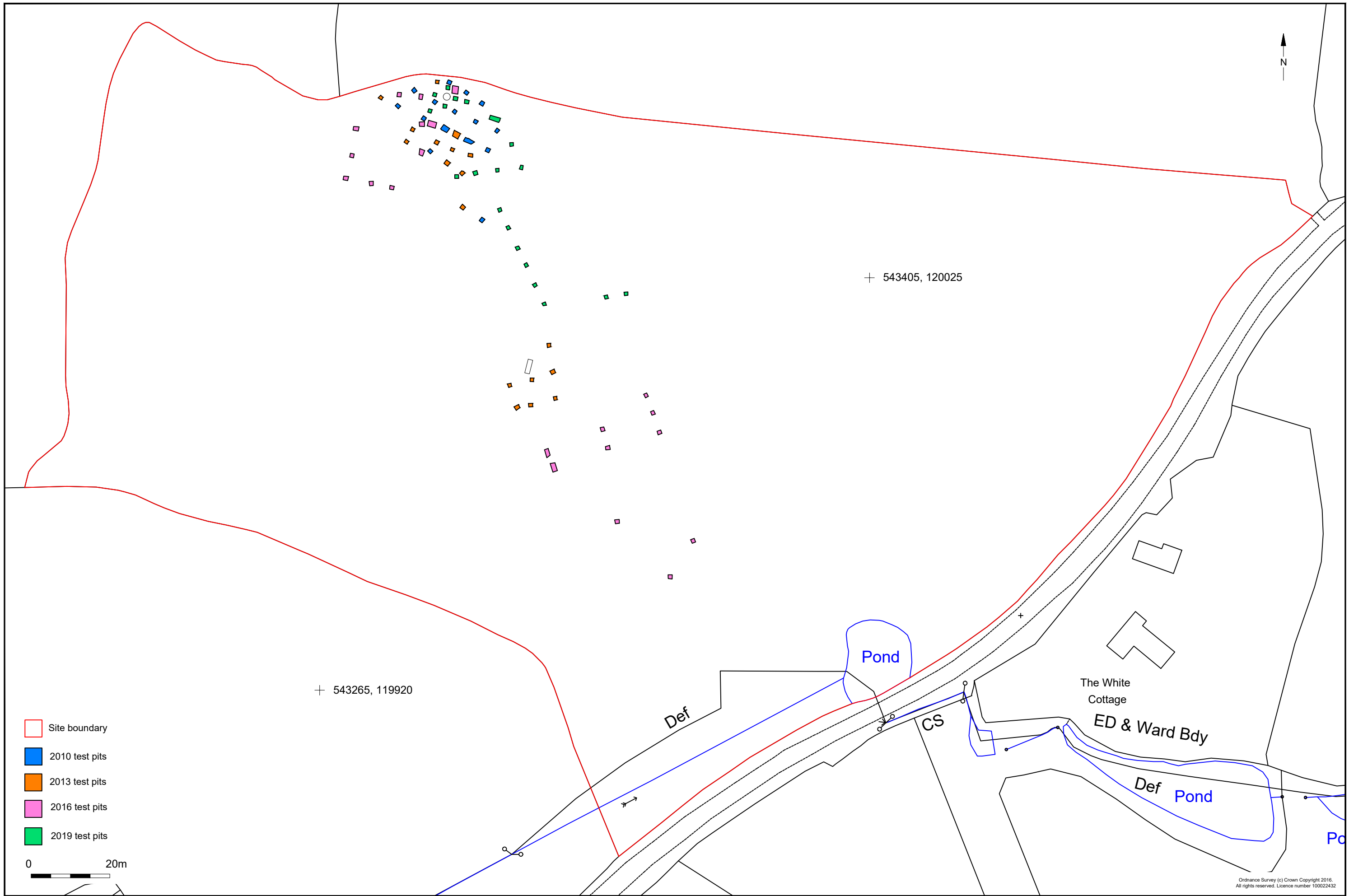
ESCC, WSCC & CDC 2019. *Sussex Archaeological Standards*.

Gardiner, M. 1996. The Geography and Peasant Rural Economy of the Eastern Sussex High Weald, 1300-1420, SAC 134, 95-110

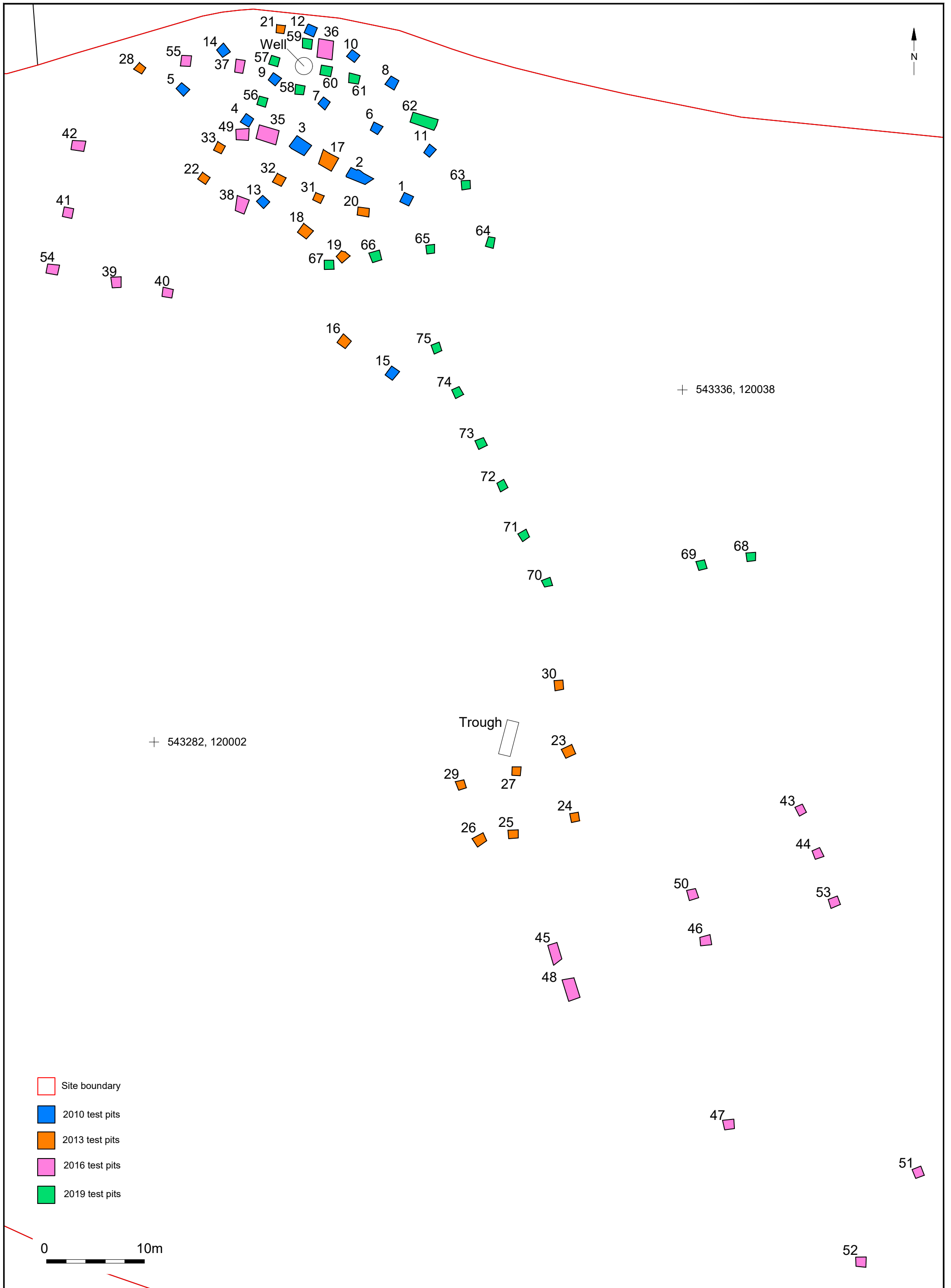
- Harding, P. 2000. A Mesolithic site at Rock Common, Washington, West Sussex, SAC 138, 49-48
- Jones, D. 2016. Mesolithic, in D. Moore, M. Allen & D. Rudling (eds.), 105-116
- Lindsey, J. 1983. *Newick. The Story of a Sussex Village*. Newick: Newick Parish Council
- Mayes, T. 2002. *Newick Retold*. Newick: Newick Parish Council
- Millum, D. 2016. The Upper Ouse in the Medieval period 9AD 1066 to 1499), in D. Moore, M. Allen & D. Rudling (eds.), 27-36
- Mithen, S. 1999. Hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic, in J. Hunter and I. Ralston (eds.), *The Archaeology of Britain, An Introduction from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Industrial Revolution*
- Moore, D., Allen M. & Rudling D. (eds.) 2016. *Archaeology of the Ouse valley, Sussex to AD 1500*. Oxford; Archaeopress
- Stevens, S. 2007. Archaeological Investigations on the A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex, SAC 145, 119-35
- Stevens, S. 2009. A Mesolithic Site at Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane, Horsham, West Sussex, *Horsham Heritage* 18, 3-10
- Tebbutt, C. 1974. The Prehistoric Occupation of the Ashdown Forest Area of the Weald, SAC 112, 34-43
- Tebbutt, F. 1981. A Deserted Medieval Farm Settlement at Faulkners Farm, Hartfield, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 119, 107-116
- Turk, T. 2009. *A History of 'Styants', Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick*. Unpub document

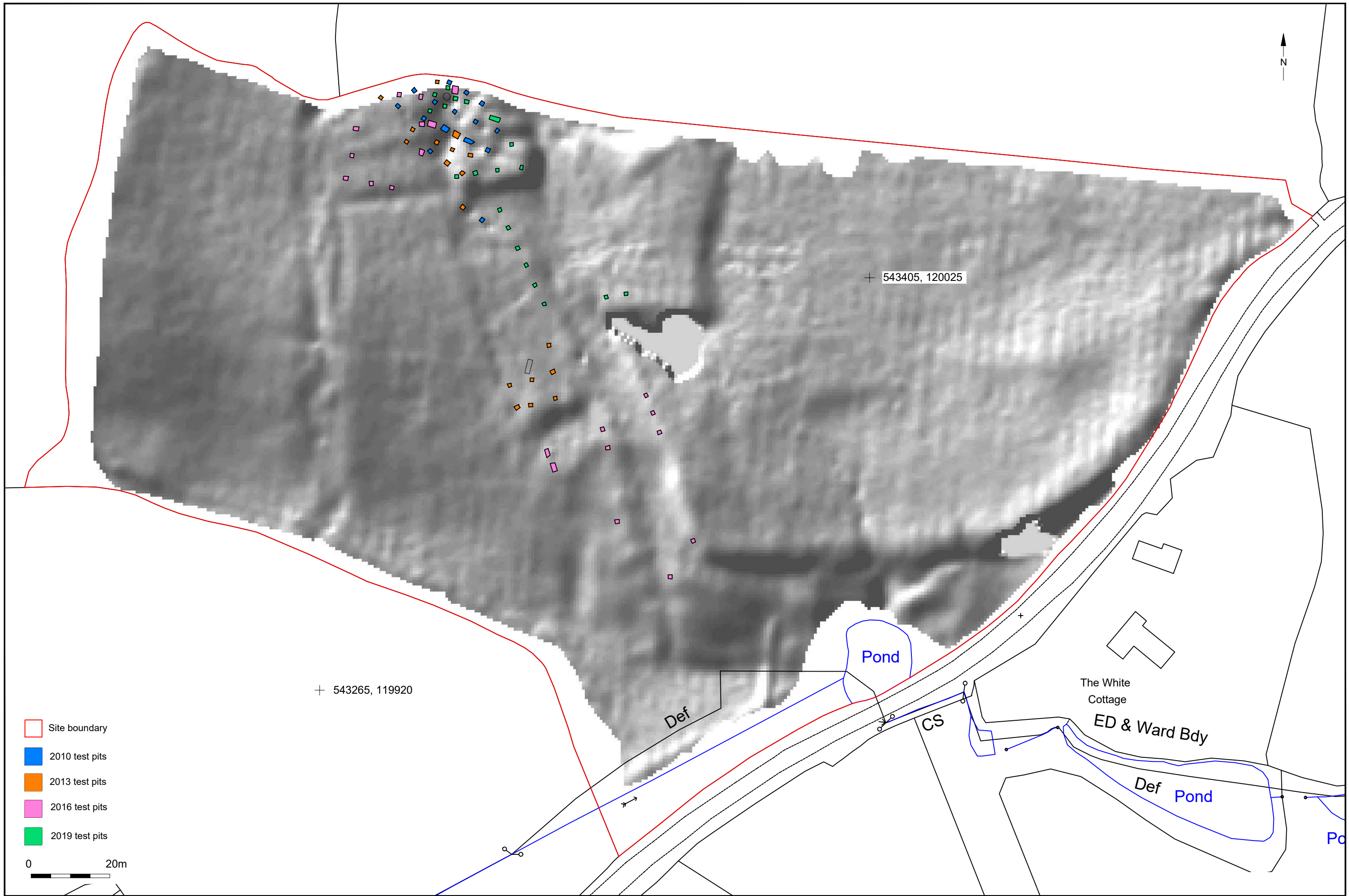


© Archaeology South-East		Stiances Archaeological Project		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 190081	January 2020	Site location		
Report Ref: 2019237	Drawn by: NH			



© Archaeology South-East		Stiances Archaeological Project		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 190081	January 2020	Overall site plan		
Report Ref: 2019237	Drawn by: NH			





- Site boundary
- 2010 test pits
- 2013 test pits
- 2016 test pits
- 2019 test pits

0 20m

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 56	-	-	4/7g	15/35g	-	-	6/284g	4/4g	1/18g	Fe 4/26g	-	-
TP 57	-	-	28/434g	139/1967g	3/6g	-	17/3562g	108/880g	-	Fe 11/60g Cu Al 1/<1g	8/558g	-
TP 58	-	-	-	9/102g	-	5/1526g	15/1048g	8/40g	-	Fe 2/8g	-	FCF 1/40g
TP 59	-	-	4/20g	18/63g	1/2g	4/132g	15/728g	12/48g	-	Fe 3/34g	-	Slag 1/60g
TP 60	-	-	1/24g	9/22g	-	-	7/470g	-	1/4g	Fe 1/10g	-	-
TP 61	-	1/10g	9/74g	72/322g	7/11g	5/548g	33/1606g	26/106g	-	Fe 10/732g Cu Al 2/4g Pb 1/70g	1/2g	FCF 6/28g Stone 2/72g
TP 62	-	-	-	14/62g	2/4g	5/4996g	29/6574g	7/54g	-	Fe 15/440g	2/6g	FCF 1/44g Stone 2/48g Mortar 106/2000g
TP 63	-	-	1/1g	16/27g	1/1g	-	13/1122g	7/26g	-	Fe 1/4g	-	Stone 3/42g Mortar 1/10g Porcelain button x1
TP 64	1/6g	-	-	10/44g	-	1/32g	-	1/1g	-	Fe 2/6g	1/2g	-
TP 65	-	-	1/4g	6/11g	-	-	-	-	1/12g	Fe 1/12g	-	Stone 1/2g
TP 66	-	5/26g	2/6g	2/24g	-	-	3/106g	1/2g	-	Fe 2/14g	1/14g	Stone 1/6g
TP 67	1/6g	-	7/80g	19/75g	2/4g	4/2372g	3/612g	1/4g	-	Fe 4/26g	1/6g	FCG 1/4g Porcelain button x1
TP 68	1/4g	-	-	3/14g	-	-	2/22g	2/6g	-	Fe 1/2g	-	Slag 1/3g Stone 6/36g
TP 69	-	-	-	1/2g	-	-	1/130g	1/2g	-	-	-	-
TP 70	3/14g	-	-	2/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	FCF 1/1g
TP 71	1/2g	-	-	3/19g	-	1/24g	2/56g	1/1g	-	-	-	FCF 2/6g Slag 1/42g
TP 72	4/28g	-	1/10g	1/1g	-	1/122g	7/304g	-	1/1g	Fe 1/10g	-	Stone 1/8g
TP 73	2/3g	-	-	2/3g	-	1/26g	5/282g	1/1g	1/2g	-	-	-
TP 74	-	-	-	-	-	1/32g	-	-	-	-	-	FCF 2/10g
TP 75	-	-	-	1/34g	-	-	-	2/6g	-	-	-	-

Appendix 2 - Post-Medieval Pottery Fabrics

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+
VER	Verwood-type whiteware	c. 1600-1750+
WEAL	Wealden buff earthenware	c. 1600-1750
<i>Late Post-medieval</i>		
BAS	Basaltes stoneware (unglazed)	c. 1770-1900
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+
NOTS	Nottingham-type stoneware	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 - Fourth 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	190081					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. ✓	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. June 2019	WB.	Other		
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo. ✓	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
Summary						
<p><i>A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the fourth season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2019.</i></p> <p><i>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 in 2010, 2013 and 2016. Other target areas identified during those surveys, including house platforms and a sunken routeway, were investigated in 2013 and 2016. In 2019 test-pits were again located at the site of the cottage and garden, and on either side of the identified routeway.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately work at the site was somewhat curtailed by poor weather, but as in previous years, the 'Cottage Site' 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 elements of the fabric of the building to pottery, clay pipes and domestic items such as buttons.</i></p> <p><i>Test-pits located to the west of the sunken routeway showed a marked concentration of medieval pottery, strongly suggesting the presence of medieval occupation fronting onto the sunken way leading from the road towards the cottage site. A platform to the east of the route, presumed to be the site of a building, produced little material.</i></p> <p><i>The recovery of the usual background scatter of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from the site highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers, and continued to stretch the site's chronology back into prehistory</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-362328**

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>A Community Archaeology project was organised by Archaeology South-East. This report provides the results of the fourth season of archaeological investigation of a 3.7ha field called Little Stiances, located at Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex. This work was carried out in June 2019. 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 in 2010, 2013 and 2016. Other target areas identified during those surveys, including house platforms and a sunken routeway, were investigated in 2013 and 2016. In 2019 test-pits were again located at the site of the cottage and garden, and on either side of the identified routeway. Unfortunately work at the site was somewhat curtailed by poor weather, but as in previous years, the 'Cottage Site' 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 elements of the fabric of the building to pottery, clay pipes and domestic items such as buttons. Test-pits located to the west of the sunken routeway showed a marked concentration of medieval pottery, strongly suggesting the presence of medieval occupation fronting onto the sunken way leading from the road towards the cottage site. A platform to the east of the route, presumed to be the site of a building produced little material. The recovery of the usual background scatter of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from the site highlights the use of the general area by Hunter/Gatherers, and continued to stretch the site's chronology back into prehistory.</p>
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2019 End: 15-06-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	190081 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAP10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Research project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	COTTAGE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Investigation type	""Test-Pit Survey""
Prompt	Research
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWICK Stiances Field, 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 C of E Primary School
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Physical Contents	"Glass","Industrial","Worked stone/lithics","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Newick Primary School
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation","Research"," General Notes","Plan","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Archaeological Investigations at Little Stiances, Sharpsbridge Lane, Newick, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2019237
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 January 2020