Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report
The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane
Glynde, East Sussex

NGR: 544028 108643

Planning Ref: SDNP/20/02229/FUL
ASE Project No: 200464
Site Code: RLG20
ASE Report No: 2021089
OASIS id: archaeol6-501789

By Tom Munnery

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex between 24th and 26th March 2021. The fieldwork was commissioned by Blockbusters Ltd in advance of the erection of a storage barn.

The watching brief uncovered two layers of colluvium overlying the chalk natural within the slope of Mount Caburn. Evidence recovered from the earlier of the two colluvium layers comprised Middle to Late Iron Age pottery along with residual late prehistoric flintwork, albeit in fresh condition.

A late Saxon (10th -11th century) cess pit was also recorded, containing the disarticulated remains of a butchered sheep, along with both eel and herring bones having shown possible evidence of having been eaten. Environmental sampling also produced charred cereal and Fabaceae remains. Evidence suggests late Saxon occupation in the direct vicinity of the monitored area which probably relied upon a mixed agricultural and shepherding subsistence. The proximity of these findings to the 12th century nunnery of Ramstede Priory might suggest this site was a precursor to this religious site. In a wider context, the site probably represents an occupation site that would have had trade and communication with nearby settlements like Beddingham and Lewes.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Blockbuster Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex, BN8 6AA (NGR 544028 108643; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2020) the natural bedrock geology of the site consists of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation – Chalk. A band of head (clay, silt, sand and gravel) also traverses the site from north-west to south-east.

1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 17m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) on the southern slope of Mount Caburn. The site would originally have been on quite a steep slope running downhill from north to south, although previous episode(s) of terracing or ground reduction had removed and levelled the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The proposed development involves the erection of a general storage building to be used in conjunction with the site owner's established business.

1.3.2 The site is located within the South Downs National Park. The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has statutory responsibility for planning policy within the National Park boundary. In addition, the site lies within the boundary of the Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO World Biosphere Region (The Living Coast 2017-19).

1.3.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area that encompasses the site of the medieval priory of St. Mary Magdalene, as well as the remains of an historic post-medieval farm complex. As such, the site is considered to have archaeological potential and as a result, the Archaeological Officer at East Sussex County Council (ESCC), in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the South Downs National Park Authority, deemed that an archaeological watching brief during groundworks was required in order to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.3.4 The following conditions were attached to the planning permission (SDNP/20/02229/FUL):

> *Condition 7: No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
>
> *Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with policy SD16 of the South Downs Local Plan and having regard to the National Planning Policy*

Framework.

Condition 8: The archaeological work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation and a written record of all archaeological works undertaken 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 agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with policy SD16 of the South Downs Local Plan and having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.3.5 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2020) for the archaeological watching brief was compiled, submitted to and approved by all parties prior to the commencement of groundworks.

1.4 Aims and Objectives (ibid)

General

1.4.1 The proposed groundworks has the potential to expose evidence of earlier phases of development and activity on the site. As such, the general aim of the work is to monitor the below-ground works in order that any evidence relating to the dating and development of the existing building or previous phase of development on the site be recorded and analysed, and used to enhance our understanding of it. In addition, the general objectives are to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant planning conditions and to make available the results of the work by publication of the results in accordance with the requirements of the WSI (ASE 2020). Consideration will also be given to publication of the results in a local journal and/or presentation/s to local historical/archaeological societies should the results be of sufficient interest.

Specific

1.4.2 Specific points of interest included:

- Assessing whether there was any superficial head crossing the site and if so if there is any potential for early prehistoric artefacts to be found within it; and

- The potential for below ground archaeological remains relating to the medieval priory of St. Mary Magdalene, as well as the potential for remains associated with the historic medieval/post-medieval farm complex.

1.4.3 The South East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2020) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the post-medieval/modern and industrial period in the region (Barber 2013). The SERF recognises the importance of archaeological excavation/recording of buildings, particularly

social aspects of post-medieval rural housing and material culture. The SERF recommends that 'it should still be a priority to collect data before it is lost thus accruing a full and balanced dataset for future researchers'.

1.4.4 The research and monitoring strategy relating to the Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO World Biosphere Region (UNESCO, 2014) should also be considered due to the site's position within its boundary. The research aims and objectives relating to the Biosphere are summarised below:

Aims

The aim of the strategy is to promote research and monitoring of the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere to better understand its past, present and future environment, in particular human-environment relationships, to inform and assess interventions carried out through the Biosphere Programme Delivery Plan.

Specific objectives are:

1. To foster the development of applied knowledge and public understanding of the environment to inform effective management of the Biosphere, and so drive better practice;

2. To develop and make generally available: i) an inventory of research studies, ii) baseline data and information, and iii) monitoring information and updates to baseline information, in order to be able to better understand and monitor changes and impacts to the state of the Biosphere, and to provide reliable baseline information for all who want to use it;

3. To provide direction and leadership in setting the agenda for future local applied research and monitoring; and

4. To identify the areas in which research in the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere can best contribute to the delivery of the UNESCO Man & Biosphere (MAB) programme research objectives.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken between the 24th and 26th March 2021

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An enquiry was made as to the data held by the Historic Environment Record maintained by East Sussex County Council concerning sites and findspots within a 1km radius of the site (HER Ref No. 136/20). The results are tabulated below (the locations of the numbers in **bold** are plotted on Figure 2):

No	HER No	Eastings	Northings	Listed Building Name	Grade
1	DES1461	544460	107927	COURTHOUSE FARMHOUSE	II
2	DES1462	544681	107990	THATCHED COTTAGE	II
3	DES1656	544605	107974	BARBERS COTTAGE, WITH OUTHOUSE ADJOINING	II
4	DES1903	543948	108608	RANSCOMBE HOUSE	II
5	DES2130	544501	107897	THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW	I

Table 1: Listed Buildings recorded within 1km of the site

No	HER No	Eastings	Northings	Description	Period
6	MES1665	543320	109140	Round The Down: Bowl barrow & inhumations	Neolithic to Romano-British
7	MES1449	544573	109281	Above Speakers Holt: bowl barrow	Bronze Age
8	MES1452	544260	109420	Above Caburn Bottom: bowl barrow	Bronze Age
9	MES1453	544000	109000	West of Mount Caburn, Glynde : BA urns	Bronze Age
10	MES1457	544510	109010	Mount Caburn: bowl barrow	Bronze Age
11	MES1470	543130	109000	BA burial	Bronze Age
12	MES1480	544512	109008	The Caburn: bowl barrow	Bronze Age
13	MES15425	543269	109034	Round The Down: crop marks	Bronze Age
14	MES15425	543266	108947	Round The Down: crop marks	Bronze Age
15	MES1672	543880	109140	platform barrows	Bronze Age
16	MES1672	543870	109140	platform barrows	Bronze Age
17	MES34611	544450	109050	Mount Caburn : Bronze Age pottery	Bronze Age
18	MES19589	544296	108736	Mount Caburn: Field system	Bronze Age to Romano-British
19	MES1448	543975	109194	Ranscombe Camp: IA earthwork	Iron Age
20	MES1448	543646	109063	Ranscombe Camp: IA earthwork	Iron Age
21	MES1456	544430	108910	Mount Caburn Camp: IA hilltop enclosure	Iron Age
22	MES1458	544700	108900	Caburn Pit: antler pick	Iron Age
23	MES1459	544498	109088	Mount Caburn: Carthaginian coin	Iron Age
24	MES1460	544462	109035	Caburn: greek coin	Iron Age

No	HER No	Eastings	Northings	Description	Period
25	MES1472	543900	108800	Ranscombe Farm: IA coin	Iron Age
26	MES33618	543800	109050	Ranscombe Camp, Ranscombe Farm, Glynde : PH Finds	Prehistoric
27	MES1213	544288	108220	Beddingham Crossing: Roman coins	Romano-British
28	MES1468	543145	108928	Ranscombe Hill: Romano-British farmstead	Romano-British
29	MES21981	544563	107810	Beddingham: Early-medieval (Saxon) Hamlet	Early medieval
30	MES17119	543978	108623	Ranscombe: medieval farmstead	Medieval
31	MES1777	543973	108646	Ramstede Priory: C12 priory	Medieval
32	MES32075	544430	107902	Courthouse Farm, Beddingham : Med Farmstead	Medieval
33	MES7173	544576	107868	A26: med pottery	Medieval
34	MES34605	543150	108900	A27 Ranscombe Hill : medieval pottery	Medieval
35	MES7733	544400	108900	The Caburn: Beacon	Medieval/Post-medieval
36	MES1450	544572	109386	Above Speakers Holt: PM windmill (site of)	Post-medieval
37	MES17051	544923	108669	Balcombs Link Tramway: 19C tramway	Post-medieval
38	MES19592	544739	108891	Caburn Pit: C19 quarry	Post-medieval
39	MES27205	544094	108332	A27 Southerham to Beddingham Road: C19 Building	Post-medieval
40	MES32030	543963	108635	Ranscobe House (Ranscombe Farm), Glynde : C18 Farmstead	Post-medieval
41	MES32076	544601	107984	Barbers Cottages, Beddingham : C19 Farmstead	Post-medieval
42	MES32078	544672	107879	Outfarm southeast of Courthouse Farm, Beddingham : C19 Outfarm	Post-medieval
43	MES32133	544991	108611	Brigdens Farm, Glynde : C19 Farmstead	Post-medieval
44	MES8320	544541	107867	Beddingham Old School, Church Lane : C19 School	Post-medieval
45	MES8323	544150	108300	Beddingham Level Crossing, A27: Level crossing	Post-medieval/Modern
46	MES7730	544400	108900	The Caburn: Anti-aircraft guns	Modern

No	HER No	Eastings	Northings	Description	Period
47	MES35016	544300	108800	Mount Caburn, Lewes : WW2 Defended locality	Modern
48	MES29604	544125	108264	A27 Southerham to Beddingham : Possible Ridge and Furrow	Unknown

Table 2: HER points within 1km of the site

Designated HER Data

2.2 There are two Scheduled Monuments within 1km radius of the site: The hillfort, bowl barrow and associated remains on the Caburn (DES8161) 385m north-east; and the hillfort known as Ranscombe Camp (DES8162) 400m north-west (Figure 2).

2.3 There are 5 listed buildings within 1km of the site (Table 1 and Figure 3). The nearest is the Grade II listed, Ranscombe House (DES1903) which lies *c.*80m to the south-west of the site (**4**; Figure 2).

2.4 The site itself lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) (DES9608) defining the site of a medieval nunnery and the remains of a medieval and post-medieval farm complex (MES17119 and MES32030). There are four other ANAs within 1km radius of the site (Figure 2).

Non-designated HER Data

2.5 Prehistoric activity, dating primarily to the Bronze Age (barrow sites) and Iron Age (earthworks and findspots) periods, has been recorded on the HER within the wider landscape (Table 2 and Figure 2). There is also potential for early prehistoric artefacts to survive in the head deposit that may cross part of the site.

2.6 Romano-British activity near to the site is limited to a single findspot and a farmstead.

2.7 Within the area, early medieval settlement is focussed around Bedingham, where a hamlet is recorded (MES21981).

2.8 Into the medieval and post-medieval periods, the majority of nearby activity relates to agriculture with a scatter of farmsteads recorded on the HER and the beginnings of post-medieval development within the area.

2.9 The historic landscape character (HLC) of the site is defined as historic dispersed settlement/large farmstead (HES11657).

2.10 Nearby archaeological interventions include the geophysical survey along the A27 to the south of the site (EES15683; ASE project no. 2920).

Historic mapping

2.11 A review of the available historic mapping covering the site shows it largely unchanged from the mid-19th century onwards. The site lies within a fairly static farm complex with a similar configuration across the period covered.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 3)

3.1.1 Groundworks associated with the development comprised the reduction and terracing of a portion of the site footprint and the subsequent excavation of the foundation pits for the erection of steel uprights. Terracing into the side of hill slope revealed a stratigraphic sequence some 2.70m in height. Except for the terracing into the hillside on the north and east edge of the site, general ground level was reduced by up to 0.50m, this lessened further west and south as a result of previous groundworks.

3.1.2 The reduction, terracing and foundation pit excavations were all monitored by an archaeologist. The reduction and terracing was undertaken using both a 1.00m wide toothed and 1.20m wide toothless bucket. The foundation pits were excavated using a 1.00m toothed bucket.

3.1.3 Spoil from any excavations was inspected by an archaeologist to recover any artefacts or archaeological interest.

3.1.4 The archaeological feature was recorded according to standard ASE practice and planned at using a Total Station with sections drawn at 1:10. Sections through geological strata were recorded using a Total Station. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A digital photographic record was made.

3.1.5 Further details on methodologies employed can be found in the WSI (ASE 2020).

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 The nature of the works required some use of a toothed bucket.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 3 & 4).

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	56
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	3
Trench Record forms	0

Table 3: Quantification of site paper archive

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

Table 4: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

3.3.2 The finds and environmental samples ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Ground reduction and terracing monitored on 24/03/21 to 26/03/21

4.1.1 The original stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil [100] lain over colluvium [101] which was in turn over colluvium layer [102]. This then sat above the natural chalk geology of the area [103]. Parts of the site had been subject to at least one previous episode of terracing or ground reduction. Where this occurred the topsoil did not survive and the two layers of colluvium survived to varying degrees depending upon how deep the excavations had occurred into the original substrate.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.00-0.35
101	Layer	Colluvium			0.00-0.80
102	Layer	Colluvium			0.00-0.40
103	Layer	Natural			
104	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.5	0.07
105	Fill	Fill			
106	Layer	Made ground			

Table 5: List of recorded contexts in reduced and terraced area

4.1.2 A single piece of post-medieval tile was recovered from topsoil [100]. Colluvium layer [101] yielded no finds, but earlier colluvium layer [102] had four sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and 10 late prehistoric flints recovered from it during the reduction and terracing process. All these finds were unstratified and not from any observed feature within the individual layers. However, the flint was demonstrated to be relatively fresh, and the pottery sherds from a single vessel, suggesting that none of the finds had moved far or experienced much post-depositional disturbance.

4.1.3 The layers of colluvium were recorded in section, demonstrating their decline into the slope on the south-east side of Mount Caburn (Figure 4). Upon consultation with in-house geoarchaeologists at ASE, grab samples of each of the colluvium layers were taken. Sample <1> from [101] and sample <2> from [102]. Results from these are discussed below in section 7.

4.1.4 Towards the centre of the reduced area the base of a pit was noted cut into colluvium layer [102] (Figures 4 and 5). This pit, [104], was sub-rectangular to ovoid in plan with steep sides and a flat base. The single observed fill [105] contained the disarticulated remains of a juvenile sheep that were predominantly situated on the western edge of the base of the pit, along with eel and herring remains. Two sherds of late Saxon pottery were also recovered from within the pit. Environmental sampling of the fill also recovered charred remains of barley, wheat, emmer and oat.

4.2 Foundation pits monitored on 25/03/21 to 26/03/21 (Figures 4 and 5)

4.2.1 A total of 18 foundation pits were excavated into the reduced and levelled footprint of the development (Figure 5). These were excavated though varying thicknesses of colluvium layer [102] and into the chalk beneath or directly into the chalk depending upon how much material had been removed during the reduction process. No features were observed during this stage of the works, but a small number of late prehistoric flints were recovered from colluvium [102]. These finds have been ascribed the prefix FPX (Foundation Pit) to more accurately record their locations.

4.2.2 A brief overview of the thicknesses and levels of the encountered deposits can be found tabulated below.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness (m)	Height m(OD)
FP01/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.70	23.76
FP02/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.70	23.71
FP03/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.60	23.97
FP04/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.50	23.9
FP05/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.70	24.04
FP06/106	Layer	Made ground	0.30	24.03
FP06/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.30	23.73
FP07/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.70	23.92
FP08/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.60	24.43
FP09/106	Layer	Made ground	0.30	23.95
FP09/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.34	23.61
FP10/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.42	23.94
FP10/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.18	23.52
FP11/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.59	24.33
FP12/106	Layer	Made ground	0.30	23.92
FP12/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.34	23.58
FP13/106	Layer	Made ground	0.35	23.64
FP13/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.28	23.29
FP14/106	Layer	Made ground	0.20	23.73
FP14/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.40	23.53
FP15/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.70	23.97
FP16/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.73	23.96
FP17/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.30	24.01
FP17/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.23	23.71
FP18/102	Layer	Colluvium	0.20	24.07
FP18/103	Layer	Natural chalk	0.42	23.87

Table 6: List of recorded contexts within foundation pits

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 7; material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Tables 9 and 10. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)
102	7	102	5	24
105			2	10
FP03/102	2	120		
FP07/102	1	6		
Total	10	228	7	34

Table 7: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of ten pieces of worked flint weighing 248g were recovered from colluvial deposit [102], three of which came from two foundation pits (FP03 and FP07). All the pieces are patinated to a light grey or creamy colour. Evidence of edge damage, which is expected from flints recovered from colluvium, was surprisingly low, with most artefacts displaying only minimal signs of weathering. Recent small chips indicate that the original colour of the flint was dark grey, and where present, the cortex is stained and varies between 2mm and 8mm in thickness.

5.2.2 The small assemblage comprises nine flakes and a multiplatform core. The latter is small (98g), and it has been worked to remove small flakes. Most flakes display plain butts, and no platform edge abrasion was noticed. It is difficult closely date such a small assemblage beyond a broad late prehistoric date attribution. This is based on technological and morphological traits.

5.3 **The Prehistoric/Roman Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 Five sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 24g, were recovered from colluvium [102]. Four of the sherds conjoin and are associated with a sparsely flint-tempered glauconitic fabric, typical of Middle to Late Iron Age assemblages in East Sussex. These were associated with a hard-fired, yet coarse, flint-tempered fabric in which most flint inclusions range from 0.2-3mm, with one well-calcined example measuring 20mm in size. This may represent an atypically coarse Middle Iron Age ware or an earlier fabric from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. In addition, a 1g sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman grog-tempered pottery was recovered from the residue of the environmental sample in fill [105] of pit [104], where it was associated with probable post-Roman material.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered just two sherds (10g) of post-Roman pottery from the site, both coming from context [105]. Although apparently from different reduced vessels (probably cooking pots) they are in the same fabric – late Saxon reduced alluvial flinty ware (Barber in prep). A date within a 10th- to 11th- century range is certain and it is suspected they may be of pre-Conquest origin. Although small both sherds are quite fresh suggesting they have not been subjected to any significant reworking.

5.5 The Animal Bones by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.5.1 Excavations produced a small assemblage of faunal bone containing 598 fragments weighing approximately 508g, recovered from just one context [105]. The faunal bones present are derived from environmental sampling, as well as hand-collection. Preservation of the majority of the assemblage was moderate and fragmented, with minimal taphonomic alterations evident. The bones identified consist of domestic and wild fauna. Pottery spot-dates indicate a late Saxon date.

Taxa	**N**	**HC**	**ENV**	**NISP**	**Preservation %**		
					Poor	*Moderate*	*Good*
Sheep	109	95	14	109	-	61	39
Medium mammal	434	63	371	434	-	100	-
Microfauna	6	-	6	6	-	-	100
Eel	42	-	42	42	-	-	100
Herring	1	-	1	1	-	-	100
Fish indeterminate	4	-	4	4	-	-	100
Unidentifiable bone	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total	**598**	**158**	**440**	**596**			

Table 8: Animal bone assemblage showing total fragment count (N), hand-collected bone (HC), environmental sampled bone (ENV), the number of identifiable specimens (NISP) and the proportion of bones displaying varying preservation levels.

Method

5.5.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Where possible bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element, part and proportion, represented referencing Schmid (1972). Specimens that could not be confidently identified to taxa, including long-bone, rib and vertebrae fragments (with the exception of axis, atlas and sacrum), have been recorded according to their size and categorised as 'Large' (cow/deer/horse sized), 'Medium' (sheep/pig/dog sized) or 'Small' (cat/rabbit sized) mammal. The total number of unidentifiable fragments from each context has been noted, although not included further. Each hand-collected and sampled context

containing faunal bone has been quantified and weighed. The Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) was calculated for all taxa. Recently broken bones have been re-joined and recorded as single fragments. Categories for bone preservation were noted as 'Good', 'Moderate' or 'Poor' depending on the degree of taphonomic damage to the bone. In order to distinguish between the bones of sheep and goats identification criteria outlined by Boessneck *et al* (1964), Boessneck (1969) and Halstead & Collins (2002) were referenced. Mammalian age at death data has been collected for each specimen where possible. The state of epiphyseal and metaphyseal long bone fusion was recorded as 'fused', 'unfused' and 'fusing' (fusion line visible) categories and any determinations of age made using Silver (1969). The mandibular tooth eruption and wear stages of sheep were recorded using Grant (1982) and converted to definitive age ranges with reference to Hambleton (1999). Tooth eruption and wear data was only recorded for mandibles with two or more teeth in-situ.

5.5.3 Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage and the absence of complete long bones, no metrical data has been recorded. All specimens were studied for the presence of heat exposure, butchery marks, gnawing, crushing and pathological manifestations.

Assemblage

5.5.4 The assemblage contains 598 fragments, of which 596 have been identified to taxa (Table 8). The assemblage was recovered through environmental processing as well as hand-collection, consisting of a limited range of fauna including sheep, microfauna, eel, herring and indeterminate fish.

Context [105]

5.5.5 The faunal assemblage was recovered through environmental processing from pit fill [105], sample <3> as well as hand-collection. Domestic fauna are represented by sheep remains with an MNI of one individual. The majority of the animal is present, including elements of the axial and appendicular skeleton, with the metapodials and phalanges absent. Analysis of the ageing data available indicates this animal was older than 10 months but less than 2.5 years old at death based on long bone fusion, with a tooth wear age of 6-12 months (stage c). Evidence of butchery was noted in a number of elements including chop marks to the skull to remove horncore and a sagittal chop to split the skull in half from the frontal bone through to the occipital condyles. Cut marks to suggest decapitation were noted in the atlas vertebra, along with a possible chop to the axis vertebra. Fine knife cut marks were also noted in the scapula and humerii to indicate limb disarticulation and meat jointing. The absence of the metapodials and phalanges as well as the removal of horncore from this associated bone group (ABG; Morris 2008, 2011) suggests that these elements were possibly utilised for craft bone work, with domestic refuse discarded into the pit. The majority of the assemblage is dominated by medium mammal bones and includes fragments of skull, ribs and vertebrae likely to be sheep, although to due fragmentation no diagnostic criteria are available to confirm this identification. Wild taxa are represented by a small collection of microfauna, the differential preservation of these remains may indicate this was the result of a pit-fall before immediate infilling of the feature, or an intrusive

disturbance. The presence of fish are numerous, in particular the remains of eel, with a minimum number of individuals count of at least 2 specimens. The inclusion of cranial as well as post-cranial elements suggests that whole eels were processed and later discarded. A number of these eel vertebrae had been crushed, suggesting they were consumed, although no evidence of acid etching to suggest digestion could be observed. A single herring vertebra was also present, with evidence of crushing. Both of these fish species would have been caught locally. No evidence of butchery, heat exposure, or pathological manifestations were noted and no age-able mandibles or measurable bones were present.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Elsa Neveu

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk sample, measured 40 litres in volume, was collected from a late Saxon pit during the evaluation at the site. Sampling aimed to retrieve dating evidence and environmental remains, such as charcoal and charred plant macrofossils. This report will examine evidence for crops and local vegetation environment.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 This sample was processed by flotation using a 500 µm mesh for the heavy residues and a 250 µm mesh for the retention of the flot. Residues and flot were air dried and were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves. The residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, which are quantified in Table 9. A stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications was used in order to sort the flot and identify the remains. Its contents was described and recorded in Table 10. The identification of the charred plant macrofossils was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure. The remains were compared to a botanical modern reference collection and published atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006) were also consulted. The nomenclature for the wild taxa follows Stace (1997) and Zohary and Hopf (2000) for the domesticated plants. Quantification was based on approximate number of individuals.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 An array of archaeological remains included charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, bones and teeth, fishbone and microfauna, land snail shells, pottery, flint and magnetic material which may be of natural or industrial origin. These finds have been incorporated into the relevant finds reports. Table 1 and 2 provide an overview of the samples detailing materials retrieved through flotation and sorting. The following text summarise the results.

Late Saxon

6.3.2 This sample yielded an abundant uncharred material, which included rootlets and seeds of weeds. The presence of this uncharred material indicated a moderate levels of modern disturbance through root activity. The charred plant remains, which were extracted, were poorly preserved and most of them displayed an abraded surface. 67 individuals were identified and recorded as hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*), wheat (*Triticum* sp.), emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum*/*spelta*), oat (*Avena* sp.), unidentifiable cereals (*Cerealia*), pulse family (*Fabaceae*) and daisy family (*Asteraceae*, Table 10).

6.3.3 In addition, a few charcoal fragments were retrieved, and no taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage, because this assemblage of charcoal fragments was too small in order to warrant identification work.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 This sample seems to correspond to domestic wastes comprising charred plant remains and fuel. Pits can remain open for extended periods allowing waste to accumulate gradually. This assemblage gives a glimpse of the likely cultivated and consumed cereals, hulled barley, naked wheat, emmer, emmer/spelt and perhaps oat, at the site during the late Saxon period. Similar results are evidenced on Saxon and medieval sites. For instance free-threshing bread wheat appeared as the main crop at Little High Street, Worthing, alongside with six-row barley, rye, oat and a few remains of broad bean and pea (Hinton 2001). Moreover, these results from Glynde indicated there is a good potential for nearby deposits to preserved charred plant macrofossils and charcoal fragments. Any future work at the site should continue and that would allow to sample a range of features across the site and retrieve dating evidences and environmental remains.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charred Botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Fishbone and Microfauna	Weight (g)	Land Snail Shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
3	105	Pit	104	40	**	2	**	2	**	1	***	65	**	1	*	1	Flint (*/79g); Mag. Mat. >2mm (*/<1g); Mag. Mat. <2mm (**/<1g); Pottery (*/1g)

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

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells	Potential	notes
3	105	104	30	90	100	25	25	*Chenopodiaceae* (*), *Sambucus* (*)		*	*	**	Emmer/Spelt (2), Emmer (2), Naked wheat (11), Hulled barley (6), wheat (10), *Avena* sp. (3), *Cerealia* (31)	+	*	*Asteraceae* (1), *Fabaceae* (1)	+	***	CPR: low to moderate density; Charcoal: very low density	common rootlets

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

7.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGY by Letty Ingrey

7.1 No on-site geoarchaeological evaluation was carried out as part of the watching brief, however, bulk samples from the two colluvial layers were collected in order to enable a palaeoenvironmental assessment of these deposits.

7.2 Detailed palaeoenvironmental analysis of sediments has previously been undertaken to the southeast of the site on peat and alluvial deposits towards the base of the valley (Waller and Hamilton 2000). The study provided important information on the ecology of chalklands through the Holocene, and suggested that the slopes of the Caburn remained largely wooded until at the least the Bronze Age, before anthropogenic woodland clearance.

7.3 The present site is slightly further upslope and no peat or alluvial deposits were present. However, the colluvial deposits on the valley side could potentially preserve important palaeoenvironmental information. In particular their proximity to the chalk may have enabled preservation of certain palaeoenvironmental indicators, however, its further assessment is not considered proportionate to the level of impact this development has.

8.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

8.1.1 The stratigraphy was similar across the monitored site, comprising topsoil [100] over colluvium [101], over another layer of colluvium [102], which in turn lay above the natural chalk geology [103]. The exception to this was in parts of a previously terraced and reduced portion of the site where topsoil and colluvium layer [101] had been removed.

8.1.2 The topsoil ranged in thickness from 0.00 to 0.35m thick. Colluvium layer [101] was up to 0.80m thick, while [102] was up to 0.40m thick. Topsoil ranged in height OD from 24.02m to 26.71m, colluvium layer [101] from 23.90m to 26.32m, and colluvium layer [102] was recorded at being between 23.95m and 25.59m OD. The natural chalk was encountered between 24.00m and 25.59m OD.

8.1.3 Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and late prehistoric flintwork was recovered from colluvium layer [102].

8.1.4 A single pit containing the disarticulated remains of a juvenile sheep along with fragments of eel and fish (possibly digested) was recorded cutting colluvium layer [102], probably dating to the late Saxon period through the inclusion of two sherds of pottery of this date.

8.1.5 The methodology employed was effective in determining the presence of archaeological remains across the site and recovering material culture remains from the colluvial layers.

8.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

8.2.1 Prior reduction and terracing has occurred across much of the site. These processes have resulted in the removal of nearly all the topsoil and colluvium [101] apart from that which would have existed along the northern and eastern boundary of the site that was removed during this phase of development.

8.2.2 This would have reduced the rate of survival of most archaeological remains existing prior to the initial terracing.

8.2.3 Despite this, data on the colluvium layers and a pit containing the late Saxon remains of a disarticulated juvenile sheep were recorded.

8.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Middle to Late Iron Age

8.3.1 The earliest deposits recorded on site comprise colluvium layer [102] which is thought to derive from at least the Middle to Late Iron Age. It contained several sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, along with some late prehistoric flintwork. Later colluvium layer [101] was not able to be dated through material collected from it. These findings appear to broadly tie in with evidence recorded by Waller and Hamilton who suggested that Caburn was still wooded into the

Bronze Age period before a period of soil destabilisation occurred when it was cleared.

Late Saxon (10th-11th centuries)

8.3.2 A single pit containing the disarticulated remains of a juvenile sheep was recorded cutting into colluvium layer [102]. Also recovered from the pit were remains of other medium-sized mammals, along with the possibly digested remains of both eel and herring. Emmer, wheat, barley and oats were recovered from the environmental sample, along with remains from the pulse family.

8.3.3 The butchering noted on the sheep remains, along with the comminuted eel and herring remains, suggests that this feature might have served the purpose of both a rubbish and cess pit.

8.3.4 Late Saxon evidence is generally rare across the county, with much being disturbed or destroyed by later medieval and post-medieval activity in the centre of towns and villages. It is also largely a period from which ceramics are less robust, reducing their survival rate. Despite this, its presence might not be unexpected, the vicinity of the site to Beddingham, Glynde and of course Lewes make it a suitable location in which to site a farmstead or similar.

8.3.5 The presence of a late Saxon cess pit suggests the presence of a settlement of that date in the direct vicinity of the monitored area. The nunnery on the site is dated to the 12th century, and Beddingham to the southeast is perhaps of early Saxon origin. The findings during this watching brief indicates an earlier element of activity to the 12th century nunnery, perhaps suggesting a precursor on which this religious location was based.

8.3.6 The environmental and faunal evidence recovered suggest that any settlement here was based on an agrarian footing, with both cereal production and shepherding playing an important part in their subsistence. This appears to have been supplemented by the River Ouse, where fish were caught and brought back for consumption.

8.3.7 Although only a single pit, the evidence recorded is significant on a local level.

8.4 Consideration of research aims

8.4.1 The general aim of the project of finding any evidence relating to the dating and development of the existing building or previous phase of development on the site so that it may be recorded and analysed, and used to enhance our understanding of it was generally successful. Although no evidence of buildings or medieval material was noted, colluvial layers of earlier activity was recorded.

8.4.2 With regards to more specific research aims, the works did not identify any intact head deposits across the site, however, two layers of colluvium, probably originating from head deposits were recorded, with artefacts recovered from the earlier of the two layers.

8.4.3 No archaeological remains relating to the medieval priory of St Mary Magdalene were observed. A similar paucity of post-medieval material was recorded, precluding any enhancing of post-medieval rural housing or material culture.

8.4.4 Any aims or objectives relating to the Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO World Biosphere Region were not possible to fulfil because of a lack of relative data recovered from the site.

8.5 Updated Research Agenda

8.5.1 Two layers of colluvium overlying the natural chalk geology were recorded on the site. Whilst precise absolute dating for these layers was not achieved, the recording of their presence may inform future investigations into mid-Holocene sequences beneath the Caburn.

8.5.2 Several references are made to identifying sites beneath colluvium within the South East Research Framework (KCC 2020). Whilst this work hasn't identified any buried sites, it will aid in identifying what potential dates any sites might be. Assessing colluvium to aid identification of the full repertoire of Early Bronze Age pottery types is also recommended within the South East Research Framework (Barclay 2000, p3-4), and identifying a deposit which might contain such material may aid this.

8.5.3 The presence of hulled barley within the late Saxon cess pit might be of some significance as The South East Research Framework suggests that hulled wheats were abandoned during this period for free threshing versions. To obtain radiocarbon dates for this change might provide important information to this dataset (Thomas 2019,39).

8.5.4 Establishing social status and cultural identity through exploring food remains is key within the south east. To what extent could these findings aid this work, or vice-versa? (Thomas 2019, 26)

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HER Summary

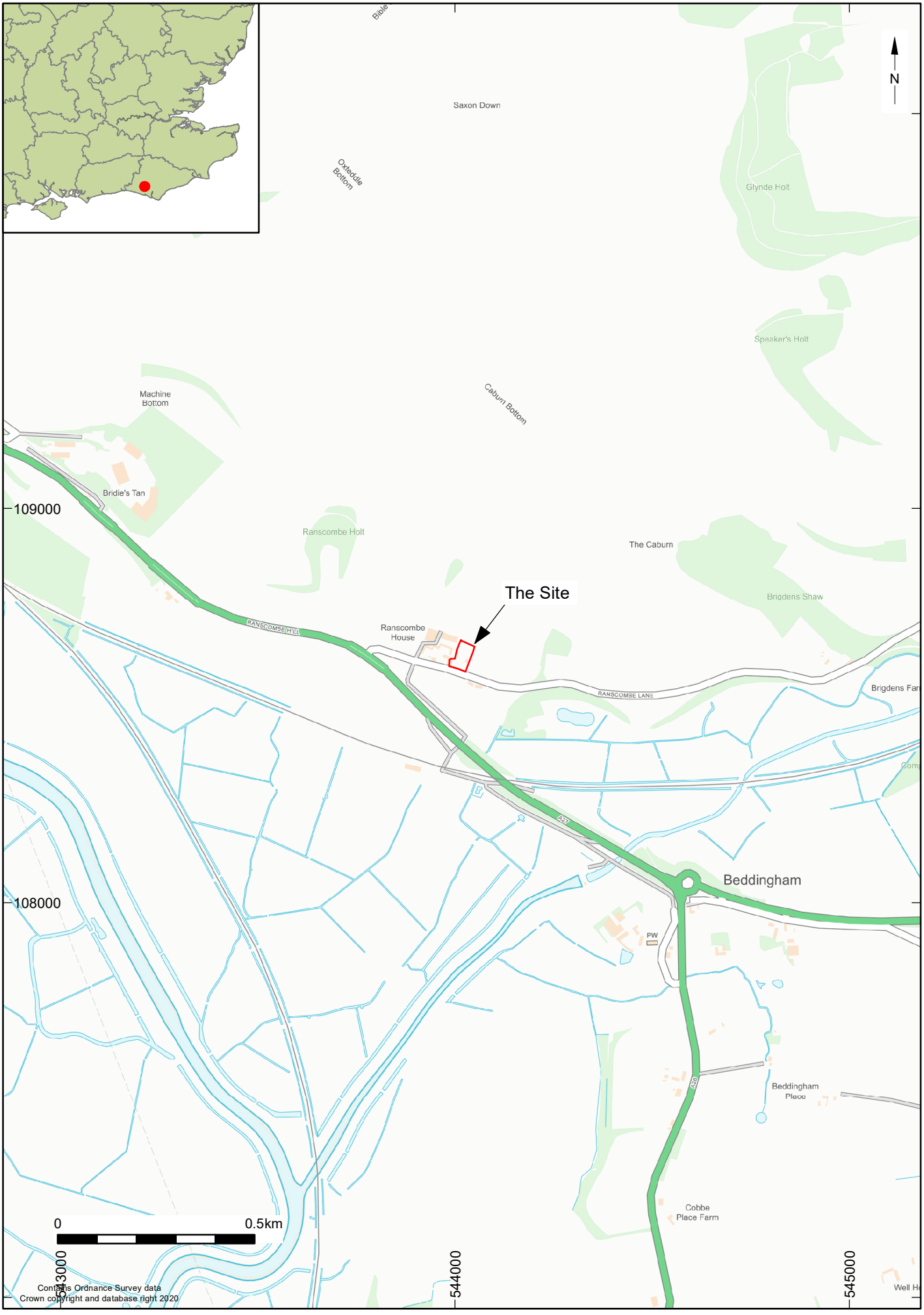
HER enquiry no.	136/20					
Site code	RLG20					
Project code	200464					
Planning reference	SDNP/20/02229/FUL					
Site address	Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex					
District/Borough	Lewes					
NGR (12 figures)	544028 108643					
Geology	Chalk					
Fieldwork type			WB			
Date of fieldwork	24th – 26th March 2021					
Sponsor/client	Blockbuster Ltd					
Project manager	Leonie Petts					
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery					
Period summary				Bronze Age	Iron Age	
		Anglo-Saxon				
Project summary	Ground level reduction and the excavation of 18 foundation pits associated with the erection of a barn were monitored. Two layers of colluvium were recorded, the earlier containing small quantities of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and residual late prehistoric flintwork. A late Saxon (10th to 11th century) refuse / cess pit was also recorded containing a butchered juvenile sheep, eel and herring bones and charred cereals.					

Finds summary

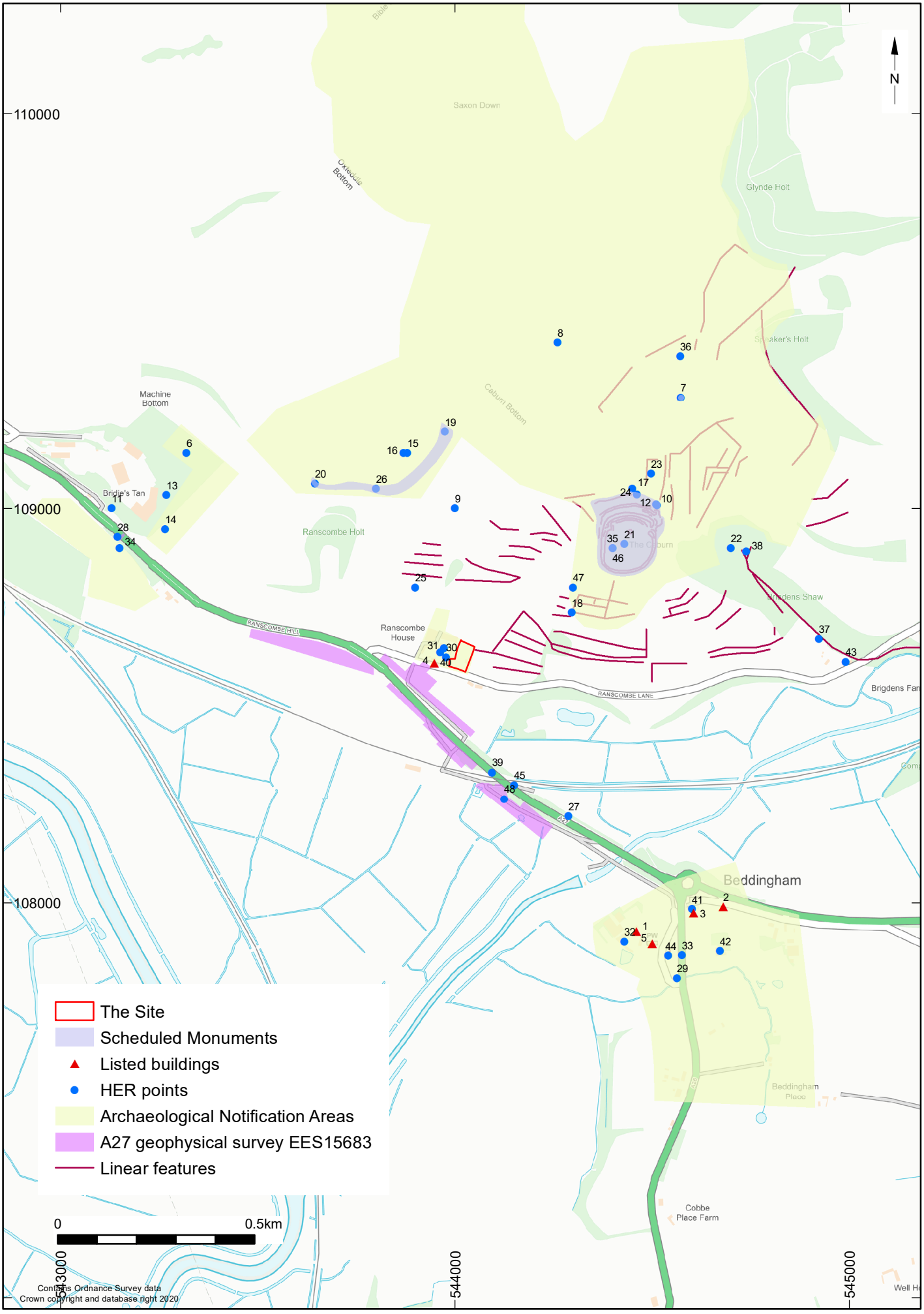
Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	Middle to Late Iron Age	5
Pottery	Ceramic	Late Saxon	2
Animal bone	Bone	Late Saxon	598
Work flint	Lithic	Late prehistoric	10
Charred Cereal	Charcoal	Late Saxon	67

Summary for archaeol6-501789

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol6-501789
Project Name	Watching Brief at Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	200464
Planning Id	SDNP/20/02229/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeology South-East
Project Dates	24-Mar-2021 - 26-Mar-2021
Location	Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex NGR : TQ 44028 08643 LL : 50.859368863384, 0.045048561315174 12 Fig : 544028,108643
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : East Sussex District : Lewes District Parish : Glynde
Project Methodology	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex NGR 544028 108643, between the 24th and 26th March 2021. Ground level reduction and the excavation of 18 foundation pits associated with the erection of a barn was monitored. Two layers of colluvium were recorded, the earlier containing small quantities of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and residual late prehistoric flintwork. A late Saxon (10th to 11th century) cess pit was also recorded containing a butchered juvenile sheep, eel and herring bones and charred cereals
Project Results	Two layers of colluvium were recorded, the earlier containing small quantities of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and residual late prehistoric flintwork. A late Saxon (10th to 11th century) cess pit was also recorded containing a butchered juvenile sheep, possible digested eel and herring bones and charred cereals
Keywords	Cess Pit - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	



© Archaeology South-East		The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde, East Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		



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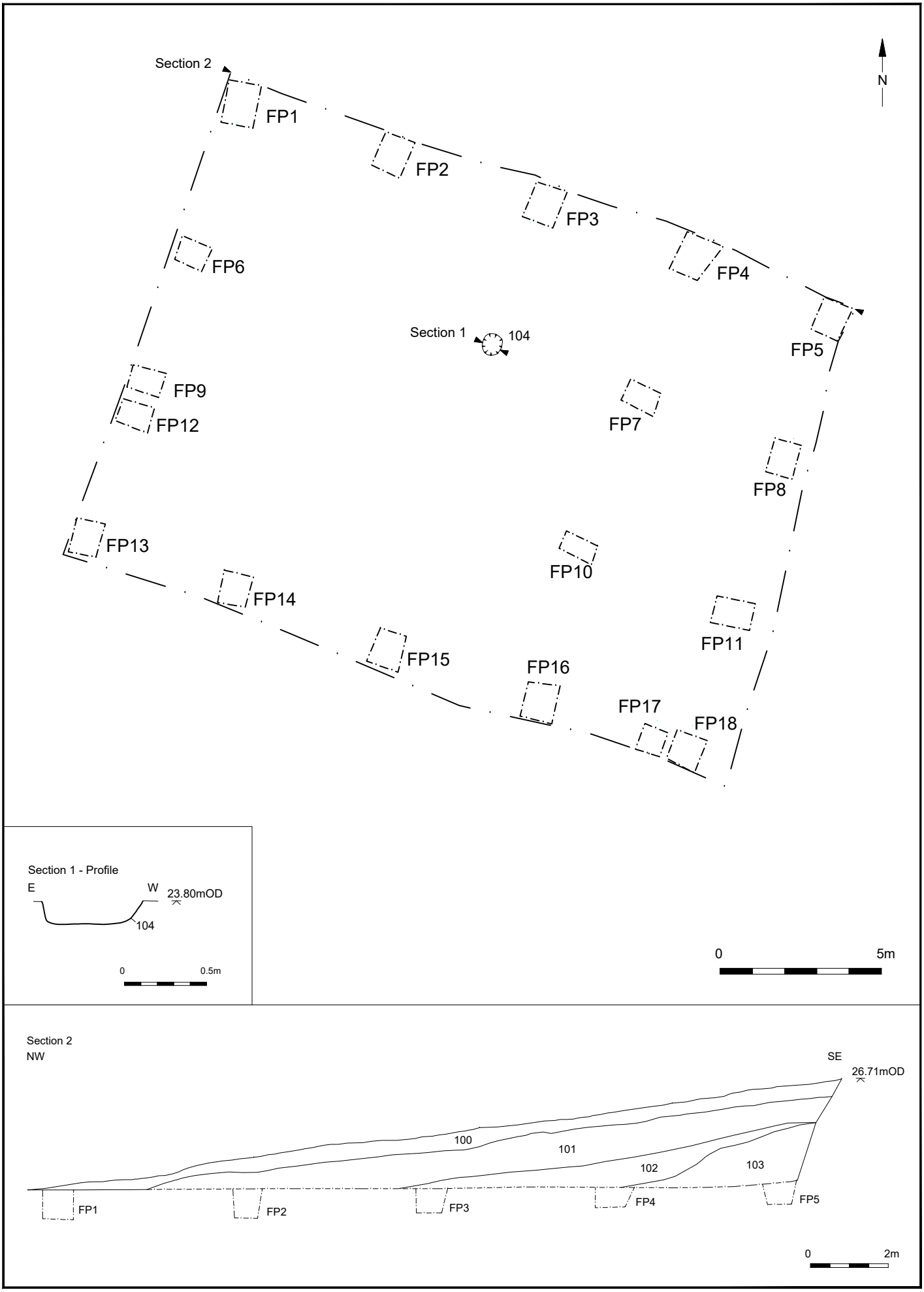
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Plotted HER Data	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		

© Archaeology South-East		The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde	Fig.3
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Site Plan showing Development Area and Foundation Pit Locations	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		



© **Archaeology South-East**		The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde	Fig.4
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Detailed Plan of Foundation Pits, Archaeology and Section through Colluvium	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		

Pit 104 during excavation

Pit 104 fully excavated

Northern section of Development Area through colluvium

FP1

FP2

FP3

FP4

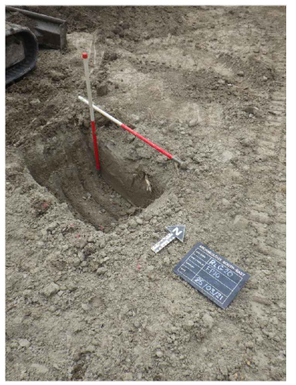
FP5

FP6

FP7

FP8

FP9



FP10

FP11

FP12

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FP18

© **Archaeology South-East**		The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde	Fig.5
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Selected Site Photographs	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		

© Archaeology South-East		The Old Barn, Ranscombe Lane, Glynde	Fig.6
Project Ref: 200464	April 2021	Pit 104 During Excavation	
Report Ref: 2021089	Drawn by: LG		

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