Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Investigations on Land East of London Road Hassocks, West Sussex

NGR 530509 116504
(TQ 30509 16504)

MSDC Planning Ref: DM/19/1897

ASE Project No: 220540
Site Code: ELH 22
ASE Report No: 2022326
OASIS ID: archaeol6-511488

By Simon Stevens

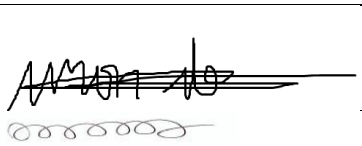
Archaeological Investigations on Land East of London Road Hassocks, West Sussex

NGR 530509 116504 (TQ 30509 16504)

MSDC Planning Ref: DM/19/1897

ASE Project No: 220540
Site Code: ELH 22

ASE Report No: 2022326
OASIS ID: archaeol6-511488

Prepared by:	**Simon Stevens**	**Senior Archaeologist**	
Reviewed & approved:	**Dan Swift**	**Project Manager**	
Date of Issue:	**January 2023**		
Version:	**1**		

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
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Rydon Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land to the east of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (NGR 530509 116504).

Following the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, ASE undertook an archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches in August 2022, which uncovered a range of archaeological features. This was followed by an open area excavation carried out in October and November 2022, targeted on a part of the site containing a concentration of those features.

The archaeological work recovered evidence of clearance/reclamation, apparently rapidly followed by land division, suggesting agricultural activity on the periphery of more intense activity known in the vicinity of the current site in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. There was also a thin distribution of pits and post-holes across the landscape, usually undated. In addition, a background scatter of flintwork suggests some level of hunter/gatherer activity in the distant past. Arguably the most significant discovery at the site was that the purported route of the local Roman road shown on Ordnance Survey maps did not run across the site. It is considered that the results of the archaeological work do not warrant any further analysis or publication and that this document should suffice as a final report.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land to the east of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (NGR 530509 116504; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the east of the A273 London Road on the northern periphery of the town of Hassocks. The overall site comprises four agricultural fields lying to the rear of the Friars' Oak public house and is bounded by fields to the north, a belt of trees, and beyond the railway line to the east, residential properties fronting onto Shepherds Walk to the south and light woodland with Herrings Stream to the west separating the site from the public house, carpark and road.

1.2.2 The site is situated on a gentle west facing slope with a maximum height of 42.59m AOD recorded along the east boundary (Trench 24), dropping to 33.79m AOD close to the west boundary and Herrings Stream (Trench 1).

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology at the site consists of the mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation. Superficial deposits are not recorded across the majority of the site, other than at the north-west periphery where River Terrace Deposits are shown (BGS 2022).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA; ASE 2018), completed in support of a previous planning application for the site, concluded that the site had high potential for Romano-British archaeology; including the route of a possible Roman road, and that prehistoric and early medieval archaeology might also survive.

1.3.2 Outline planning permission was granted by Mid Sussex District Council for residential development at the site in 2019 (planning reference DM/19/1897). Following consultation between Mid-Sussex District Council and Surrey County Council (at that time Mid Sussex District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) a condition (No. 11) was attached to the permission requiring that:

> *'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, to be submitted to the local planning authority and approved in writing. The scheme of investigation shall thereafter be carried out in full.*
>
> *Reason: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development and to accord with Policy DP34 of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 - 2031'*

1.3.3 In order to meet the terms of the planning condition, initial fieldwork consisted of a geophysical survey of the site (SUMO 2021), commissioned by ASE. It did not identify any unequivocable archaeological anomalies, and no evidence for the purported alignment of the Roman road was recovered.

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2022a) for archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared for Rydon Homes Ltd, and submitted to all parties for approval before the commencement of work. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2019).

1.3.5 The results of the work were summarised as follows (ASE 2022b):

> *'Fifty-eight trenches were excavated. Intact subsoil was recorded in 36 of the trenches predominantly, but not exclusively, located towards the western part of the site near to the railway line. The preservation of the potential archaeological horizon across the site can therefore be assessed as variable. The evaluation identified sparse archaeological remains of Late Iron Age to Roman date, indicating low level agricultural use of the landscape, with the site probably situated on the periphery of the known Roman settlement to the south-east. Undated field systems were also identified which, should they correspond with better preserved Roman and high medieval field systems that have been previously excavated to the west and south-east of the site, could be of Roman or high medieval date.'*

1.3.6 Given the results of the evaluation, Place Services, Essex County Council (currently acting as advisers on archaeological issues to Mid Sussex District Council) identified a requirement for archaeological mitigation, in the form of further excavation in order to discharge the planning condition.

1.3.7 Subsequently ASE was commissioned by Rydon Homes to undertake an area excavation measuring *c.*1,330m^2, targeted on the location of trial trenches in which the features were identified and recorded during the evaluation (*ibid.*).

1.3.8 The archaeological work was carried out in in October and November 2022 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2022c) and with reference to the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2019).

1.4 Dates of Work

1.4.1 Desk-Based Assessment carried out by ASE in June 2018/January 2019
Geophysical Survey carried out by SUMO in May 2021
Evaluation by trial trenching carried out by ASE in August 2022
Mitigation Excavation carried out by ASE in October and November 2022

1.5 Archaeological Methodology

1.5.1 The mitigation area was mechanically stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision using a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying geological deposits, whichever was uppermost. Machine excavation proceeded with caution and in spits of no more than 100mm depth in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2022c). Following repeated flooding of the site, limited mechanical restriping was required to remove redeposited silt.

1.5.2 All archaeological features and deposits were then manually cleaned, excavated and recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. All features were planned using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

1.5.3 On site sampling methodology, processing and recording was undertaken within the guidelines laid out in the WSI (*ibid.*). The sampling aimed to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site. A standard bulk sample size of 40 litres was taken from sealed contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

1.6.1 This report seeks to place the results from the archaeological work in their local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and describe the results from both the evaluation and excavation; specify their significance and potential, and assess any capacity to address the research aims. It is considered that the results of the archaeological work do not warrant any further analysis or publication and that this document should suffice as a final report.

1.7 The Site Archive

1.7.1 The site archive under site code ELH 22 is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to a suitable local museum. However it should be noted that no local museums are currently in a position to accept the material. The contents of the archive from the excavation phase are tabulated below.

Context sheets	25
Section sheets	1
Digital photos	46
Context register	1
Drawing register	1

Table 1: Quantification of the site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	4 large boxes
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and remains from bulk samples	5
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	5

Table 2: Quantification of the artefact and environmental samples

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The general archaeological background of the site is presented in the desk-based assessment (ASE 2018) from which the following summary is drawn, with minor additions. This is supplemented with the results of the recent geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation at the current site and results of recent large-scale excavations on the opposite side of London Road.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Prehistoric remains from the Palaeolithic period onwards have been found within the wider vicinity of the site. Small–scale activity from the Palaeolithic period through to the Bronze Age is mostly evidenced in the HER by find spots. However, there is little evidence for Iron Age activity.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The area immediately south of the site was intensively occupied during the Roman period. A major Roman cemetery together with traces of what must have been a reasonably sized settlement grew up around the crossing point of two important Roman roads (Lyne 1994). The area was clearly a nodal point of some significance. Arguably, the most significant of these heritage assets is the possible Roman Road, known as *Vine's Line*, (named after a local school master, who first identified the possible route; Shields 1999, 137) owing to its projection within the site itself. The presence of outer ribbon development along this road was considered a possibility.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval

2.4.1 Anglo-Saxon remains are present to the west of the site at Friar's Oak (Butler 2000) and Hassock's Golf Club (ASE 2009). Further elements of this significant settlement were recently recorded (see below)

2.5 Medieval/Post-Medieval

2.5.1 According to the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) database curated by WSHER, in the later medieval and post-medieval periods the site is likely to have been used as fieldscapes set within a '*Formal Enclosure'*.

2.6 Recent Investigation to the West

2.6.1 To the west of the site, on the opposite side of the London Road, archaeological investigations were undertaken ahead of the redevelopment of the former Hassocks Golf Club. A range of archaeological remains were identified and recorded (ASE 2021).

2.6.2 A double ditched Bronze Age round barrow was recorded on the northern part of the site, the outer ditch producing possible evidence for a palisade. An un-urned cremation was found within the centre of the barrow. Located a few metres away to the south-east, there were four more un-urned cremations. Some distance from the barrow to the north-west, two pits contained truncated Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urns were recorded. These were thought to represent funerary-related structured/placed deposits, indicating continued veneration of the monument. Also recorded in this area was a possible open fronted rectilinear post-built structure. In a separate excavation area to the west, two broadly circular arrangements of postholes were tentatively interpreted as Middle Bronze Age roundhouses although only limited artefactual evidence was recovered in this area.

2.6.3 Later Roman activity was focused towards the south of the site. Features of this period included ditches, probably representing the edge of a field-system, which likely continued to the south, as well as a distinctive series of oval and square pits and a fenced structure. A small feature with evidence for in situ burning contained wattle marked daub, possibly suggestive of a domed oven structure.

2.6.4 A series of early medieval post-built structures ran on different alignments to the pre-existing Roman field system. These included a probable sunken featured building and at least two substantial post-built buildings, which have been provisionally dated to the 6th-7th centuries AD, based on their form. Several other ephemeral structures were also noted, including one which may represent a stack or helm for the storage of fodder or cereal crops. Across much of the site, a series of fields and trackways were recorded, which may reflect earlier division of the landscape in the Late Saxon period. One broadly north-east south-west aligned trackway appeared to represent a known right of way of the Lord of Wickham Manor.

2.6.5 In the south-eastern part of the site, two enclosures were recorded, containing a complex of enigmatic pits or possible structures. A concentration of 13th to mid-14th century finds in this area, including pottery and building stone assemblages, indicated a settlement of moderately high status. Although a small amount of fairly unabraded pottery of late medieval date was recovered from features in this area, the settlement appears to have passed out of use by the mid-16th century.

2.6.6 The only post-medieval/modern evidence from the site related to recent activity, including disturbance associated with the construction of the golf course.

2.7 **Geophysical Survey** (SUMO 2021)

2.7.1 A magnetometer survey of the current site did not record any magnetic responses interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. No evidence was been found for the postulated alignment of the Roman road thought to pass through the site. Numerous linear trends and a couple weak pit-like responses were detected; however, these anomalies were considered likely to be due to a combination of natural and agricultural processes.

2.8 **Trial Trench Evaluation** (ASE 2022)

2.8.1 Evidence of activity of probable Late Iron Age to Roman date was recorded towards the centre of the site comprising a scattering of isolated pits and postholes. A single circular pit demonstrated evidence of in situ burning and may have functioned as a hearth, the material from which was deposited within a shallow ditch immediately to the east, which apparently continued to the north and south. No evidence of intense settlement or industry was identified, and there were no traces of the Roman road originally assumed as crossing the site.

2.8.2 A number of field boundary ditches were recorded across the west half of the site, on varying alignments, none could be securely dated, and none were recorded on historic OS mapping.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of the current archaeological investigation given in the WSI (*ibid*) were:

- *To excavate and record all archaeological remains and deposits exposed with a view to understanding their character, extent, preservation, significance and date before their loss through development impacts.*
- *To understand to what extent the features exposed during the evaluation can be explained through excavation of the wider area.*
- *To refine the dating, character and function of the landscape features at this site.*
- *To make the results of the investigation publicly accessible through submission of a report to the West Sussex Historic Environment Record and the project archive to the local museum*

3.2 Similarly, the project was considered to hold the potential to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF);

- *The use of the Weald in later prehistory (SERF Middle Bronze Age – Iron Age Periods)*
- *Clarification of the characteristics of the lesser nucleated settlements, and hence of their role in relationship to surrounding rural settlements (SERF Roman period)*
- *Agricultural economy – structural aspects; animal and plant remains (SERF Roman Period)*
- *Romano-British (RB)/Anglo-Saxon (AS) transition (SERF Anglo-Saxon period)*
- *The need to combine strategies for investigating 'total landscapes' with detailed research on individual settlement biographies (SERF Anglo-Saxon period)*
- *To what extent and in what ways have developments in agricultural technology and demand influenced historic landscape development? (SERF Historic Landscapes)*
- *To what extent and in what ways can past landscapes and their components (prehistoric onwards) be understood in the present landscape? (SERF Historic Landscapes)*
- *An understanding of the multifaceted landscape (SERF: Post-medieval and modern period)*

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2, 3 and 4)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Following the identification of surviving features during the archaeological evaluation of the site, it was stipulated by Place Service, Essex County Council (acting on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council), that archaeological work would be required in order to mitigate the terms of the planning condition pertaining to archaeological remains.

4.1.2 These mitigation works took the form of the mechanical strip and archaeological excavation of an area initially measuring *c.*1330m^2 of the site targeted on trial trenches were a concentration of archaeological deposits had been identified during the evaluation. A contingency area was also identified, to be stripped and excavated at the request of Place Services, Essex County Council depending on the results of the initial work. In the event, this area was not examined.

4.2 The Evaluation (ASE 2022b)

4.2.1 Archaeological features were recorded in seventeen of the fifty-eight trial trenches mechanically excavated at the site. Undated features representing land division were encountered and recorded in Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 45, 47, 50 and 55. Undated possible post-holes were found in Trenches 19 and 33.

4.2.2 There was evidence of land division dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman period in Trenches 39 and 40, and other discrete features in Trenches 38 and 39. However there was a notable concentration of features in Trenches 34, 56 and 57, representing both land division and other activity, and these trenches formed the focus of the excavation area (Figure 2).

4.3 The Area Excavation

4.3.1 Layers of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt topsoil, context [100] and yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil, context [101] were mechanically stripped to reveal the surface of the Weald Clay 'natural', context [102], a slightly silty clay which varied in colour between yellow, grey and brownish orange, with occasional exposures of poor quality siderite (iron ore). Heavy rain flooded much of the site on a number of occasions, requiring mechanical re-stripping and manual cleaning of parts of the site to remove the accumulation of silt.

4.3.2 A small assemblage of material was recovered from the overburden, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, the later presumed to be the result of manuring of arable fields over a number of years. However, all archaeological features that could be positively dated from pottery assemblages were Late Iron Age/Early Roman in date.

The Hearths/Pits - ?Evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman Land Clearance

4.3.3 The earliest features encountered in the excavation area were two possible hearths and a pit (Figure 3). All three were shallow and sub-circular in shape. Hearth [57/004] showed evidence of limited *in situ* burning in the form of a 'crisping' of the surrounding 'natural' Weald Clay to form a 'halo' around the feature recorded as context [57/006]) coupled with charcoal-rich primary fill [57/005], and a silty upper fill, context [57/010] (a combination regularly seen across the Weald and further afield; cf. Stevens forthcoming). Environmental evidence recovered from the feature included a few charred cereal grains and abundant wood charcoal of which *Maloideae* was the dominant group of taxa. It appeared that the hearth had been partially truncated by the adjacent ditch/gully resulting in some of the charcoal-rich material being deposited in the base of that feature (see below).

4.3.4 Only the charcoal-rich primary fill of Hearth [109] survived and the surrounding Weald Clay was too saturated to detect any 'halo'. A small assemblage of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered the fill, recorded as context [110]. An environmental sample contained no material of significance.

4.3.6 Although often interpreted as features associated with charcoal manufacture, the function of such charcoal-rich pits found in the Weald and further afield has been the subject of much learned debate in the recent past (cf. (Margetts 2018, 14-5, CAT 2018, 28-31; CAT 2019, 17-20).

4.3.7 It has been argued that such features represent the remains of land clearance/reclamation for agriculture. The results of recent fieldwork in this part of the Weald suggested that periodic reclamation of land for agriculture by clearance of encroaching woodland was necessary (Stevens forthcoming). Arguably the presence of charred cereal remains in the fills of hearth [57/004] hints at reclamation of previously cultivated land with accidental inclusion of a small quantity of residual charred grain.

4.3.5 Pit [107] contained a mid-grey silty clay fill, context [108]. No datable material was recovered from the feature, but in the absence of other datable features, it was presumed to be contemporary with the other excavated features.

The Gullies - Evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman Land Division

4.3.7 The most significant features encountered during both the evaluation and excavation phases were shallow, but relatively finds-rich Late Iron Age/Early Roman gullies, first recorded in Trenches 34, 56 and 57 and subsequently re-examined in the excavation area (Figures 3 and 4).

4.3.8 Originally presumed to be a single feature, but shown to be two separate gullies during the mitigation open area excavation, these features ran broadly north to south, forming some deal of land division at the that time. The features were both broadly flat-bottomed and steep-sided, usually less than 1m wide and never more than 0.30m in depth.

4.3.9 The most northern of the gullies (designated D1) ran for *c.*10m and was sectioned three times (recorded as gully [57/007] and terminuses [105] and [119]). The section excavated during the evaluation contained a main yellow/mid-grey silty clay, context [57/008], very similar in character to the single fills seen in both of the terminuses

(contexts [106] and [120]), although the evaluation section also included a charcoal-rich basal fill, context [57/009], possibly originating in an adjacent pit/hearth [57/004].

4.3.10 A limited assemblage of artefacts were recovered from that context including a small group of pottery, a little lime mortar, undiagnostic fragments of fired clay and five fragments of burnt sandstone. An environmental sample from the basal fill yielded moderate assemblage of plant macrofossils, including wheat and hulled barley, as well as a cultivated legume of the vetch/tare/pea type. Charcoal from local wildwood species was also identified.

4.3.11 In addition to a small group of pottery, an assemblage of residual prehistoric flintwork was recovered from terminal [107]. No material was recovered from northern terminal [119].

4.3.12 The southern gully (Figure 4) ran for *c.*30m and was sectioned seven times (recorded as ditches/gullies [34/004], [56/006], [111], [115], [121] and terminuses [103] and [119]). The majority of the sections revealed a single fill, often charcoal- and finds-rich (e.g. contexts [34/005], [56/008], [112], [116] and [122].

4.3.13 No significant environmental material was recovered from samples taken from contexts [112] and [122], but samples taken from [56/008] and [116] proved more fruitful with evidence of cereal cultivation of emmer/spelt wheat and hulled barley, as well as the presence of arable weeds and a fragment hazel nutshell fragment. A range of charcoal from local wildwood species was also recovered.

4.3.14 There was a recut along the eastern edge of the feature, recorded as gullies [113], [117], [123] and probably context [56/007] originally recorded as the upper fill of [56/006]. Of the orange/grey silty clay fills, recorded as contexts [114], [118], [124] as well as [56/007], only the later contained datable material in the form of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery broadly contemporary with that of other material from both of the main north-south orientated gullies.

4.3.15 The other gully encountered in the excavation area was only seen in Trench 56. East-west oriented gully [56/004] was extremely shallow and although it was thought to truncate ditch/gully [56/006], it was suggested that it had itself been lost to horizontal truncation even within the trial trench (ASE 2020b, 17). It could not be traced to the east in the excavation area, and remains undated.

4.3.16 It is argued that the gullies orientated north-south form the remains of a campaign of land division, carried out relatively shortly after a campaign of clearance/reclamation of land suggested by the presence of the hearths.

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Max. Thickness (m)	Height (mAOD)
100	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.31	-
101	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.30	-
102	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
103	Cut	Ditch	0.65	-	38.79
104	Fill	Fill, single	0.65	0.12	-
105	Cut	Ditch terminus	0.98	-	38.74
106	Fill	Fill, single	0.98	0.06	-
107	Cut	Pit	1.40	-	38.75
108	Fill	Fill, single	1.40	0.20	-
109	Cut	Hearth	1.12	-	38.85
110	Fill	Fill, single	1.12	0.06	-
111	Cut	Ditch	0.70	-	38.76
112	Fill	Fill, single	0.70	0.14	-
113	Cut	Ditch	0.70	-	38.76
114	Fill	Fill, single	0.70	0.12	-
115	Cut	Ditch	0.85	-	38.92
116	Fill	Fill, single	0.85	0.30	-
117	Cut	Ditch	0.60	-	38.92
118	Fill	Fill, single	0.60	0.18	-
119	Cut	Ditch terminus	0.92	-	38.90
120	Fill	Fill, single	0.92	0.07	-
121	Cut	Ditch	0.65	-	38.88
122	Fill	Fill, single	0.65	0.20	-
123	Cut	Ditch	0.70	-	38.88
124	Fill	Fill, single	0.70	0.23	-
34/004	Cut	Ditch	1.26	-	38.75
34/005	Fill	Fill, single	1.26	0.16	-
56/004	Cut	Ditch	1.25	-	38.94
56/005	Fill	Fill, single	-	0.09	-
56/006	Cut	Ditch	1.40	-	38.92
56/007	Fill	Fill, upper	-	0.12	-
56/008	Fill	Fill, basal	-	0.15	-
57/004	Cut	Hearth	0.86	-	38.76
57/005	Fill	Fill	-	0.10	-

57/006	Fill	Fill, basal	-	0.04	-
57/007	Cut	Ditch	0.64	-	38.81
57/008	Fill	Fill, upper	-	0.22	-
57/009	Fill	Fill, basal	-	0.06	-
57/010	Fill	Fill, upper	-	0.05	-

Table 3: Recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered and was 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 4. All finds have been packed and stored following standard industry guidelines (CIfA 2019).

5.1.2 Finds from the evaluation trenches have been integrated where relevant. Full reporting on this material can be found in evaluation report (ASE 2022).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Bulk Metal	Weight (g)	Burnt Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
100			7	24	2	67										5
106	13	233	2	14												
110			3	16							2	32				
112			252	1103			19	2964					8	22		
116			313	1138			2	35	1	2			40	213		
6/005											1	20				
16/001	1	10														
22/001	1	17														
34/005			19	81			34	277					3	14		
35/002	1	3														
38/001	1	4														
38/005			3	4												
39/002			1	2												
39/004			2	3												
39/006			81	185												
40/006			40	58	1	2					1	14				
42/001	1	2														
44/001	1	3			1	23	1	149								
47/001									1	12						
56/007			7	19												
56/008			13	71			5	271					6	30		
57/005			4	11												
57/006			24	116												
57/009			35	233			1	60								
Total	19	272	806	3078	4	92	62	3756	2	14	4	66	57	279	0	5

Table 4: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The excavation produced 20 pieces of worked flint, weighing 272g, together with a small quantity of unworked burnt flint (196g). The artefacts were hand-collected and retrieved from bulk soil samples. The flint was recorded and reported following CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (2020). The flintwork was quantified by piece count and weight and was catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet. It is summarised by context in Table 5.

Context	Parent	Parent interpretation	Flake	Blade	Bladelet	Chip	Irregular waste	Multiplatform blade core	Backed blade	Total worked pieces	Unworked burnt flint weight (g)
6/005	6/004	Ditch									20
16/001	16/001	Ploughsoil	1							1	
22/001	22/001	Ploughsoil	1							1	
35/002	35/002	Natural		1						1	
38/001	38/001	Ploughsoil		1						1	
39/006	39/005	Pit, single fill				1				1	29
40/006	40/005	Gully									14
42/001	42/001	Ploughsoil	1							1	
44/001	44/001	Ploughsoil							1	1	
56/008	56/006	Ditch, basal fill									98
57/006	57/004	Pit, basal fill									3
106	105	Ditch terminus,	8		1		3	1		13	
110	109	Pit, single fill									32
Total			11	2	1	1	3	1	1	20	196

Table 5: Summary of the flintwork by context

5.2.2 Ditch terminus [105], fill [106] produced 13 pieces of worked flint. The remaining seven pieces were recovered in low density, mostly from the ploughsoil during the evaluation. A chip from pit [39/005] and a backed blade from the ploughsoil in Trench 44 are patinated to a honey colour. Except for a flake from ditch [105], made from a light grey flint, the artefacts are made from a fine-grained dark grey (almost black) flint with a thin (1 to 2mm thick) cortex. The raw material appears to be of good knapping quality, and it would have been available relatively locally.

5.2.3 The small assemblage from the single fill [106] of ditch terminus [105] comprises eight flakes, a bladelet, three pieces of irregular waste and a multiplatform core. The small group is coherent, and based on technological traits, it is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. Although no refits were present, some pieces could derive from the same nodule. It is likely that they became incorporated into the fill of the ditch, deriving from a small surface scatter.

5.2.4 Both blades (from contexts [35/005] and [38/001]) and the backed blade (from context [44/001]) are products of a blade-based technology and indicate a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The backed blade is incomplete. It consists of the mesial part of the

blade, and it exhibits small direct abrupt retouched along the right edge. The artefact measures 31mm+ in length and 12.4mm in width. It could represent a broken microlith. Unfortunately, given its condition, it is impossible to confirm. The flakes could be later in date.

5.2.5 The assemblage is residual material and indicates low level early prehistoric (Mesolithic/Early Neolithic) presence/activity, and it confirms an already known presence in the wider landscape (Butler 1989). The assemblage has no further potential for research and can be discarded.

5.3 The Late Iron Age/Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A moderate assemblage of Late Iron Age/earlier Roman pottery was hand-collected during the excavation and from directly associated or nearby evaluation trenches, totalling 799 sherds, weighing 3.06kg, with a further 235 sherds, weighing 389g, collected from the residues of environmental samples. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) on *pro forma* records and in an Excel spreadsheet. In the absence of a Sussex regional type-series, fabrics and forms were recorded using an adapted version of the London/Southwark typology (MoLA 2019), with some additional codes for local types, described below in Table 6.

Overview of context

5.3.2 Overall *c*.70% of the assemblage by sherd count was recovered from interventions through the southern N-S ditch D2 and other moderate-sized groups of 30-99 sherds were found in the northern N-S ditch D1 and pit [57/004], as well as from pit [39/005] and gully [40/005] which both fell slightly outside of the excavation area. The condition of the pottery is relatively fragmented and abraded, although this is fairly typical for assemblages recovered from Weald Clay and may reflect acidic soil conditions and a changeable water-table, rather than necessarily indicating significant reworking.

Fabrics

5.3.3 As shown in Table 6, the vast majority of the assemblage is made up by grog-tempered wares, consistent with the Wealden or “East Sussex ware” tradition. Where small groups of undiagnostic grog-tempered body sherds are found without other material, it can be difficult to date contexts with any certainty within the Late Iron Age/Roman periods (*c*. 50 BC- AD400); however, given that most of the pottery can be associated with larger grouped features, it seems fairly certain that the whole assemblage dates to the Late Iron Age/earlier Roman period.

Code	Description	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
AVBW	Arun Valley coarse black surfaced ware	1	23	1
AVGW	Arun Valley coarse grey ware	4	30	2
AVOF	Arun Valley fine oxidised ware	6	18	4
AVOX	Arun valley coarse oxidised ware	22	63	9
GROG	Grog-tempered ware	1001	3310	210
Total		1034	3444	226

Table 6: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery

5.3.4 Some moderate to large stratified groups, including over 250 hand-collected sherds from fill [112] of ditch [111] (D2) and smaller amounts from fill [57/005] of pit [57/004] and fill [57/009] of ditch [57/007] (D1) entirely comprise grog-tempered wares without Roman sandy wares. It is not impossible that these are of Late Iron Age date but other interventions through D2 did produce Roman pottery and, in general, most of the grog-tempered fabrics are relatively well-fired and many examples tend to feature consistent grey or orange oxidised firing colours: traits which are probably more consistent with post-Conquest assemblages.

5.3.5 Roman sandy wares together make up just 3% of the total assemblage and occurred in just three contexts within ditch group D2, fill [116] of ditch [115], fill [34/005] of ditch [34/004] and fill [56/008] of ditch [56/006]. All of the sandy fabrics are likely of Arun Valley origin and include coarse black-surfaced (AVBW) grey (AVGW) and orange oxidised (AVOX) variants, as well as examples of Arun Valley fine oxidised ware (AVOF).

Forms

5.3.6 The small assemblage of diagnostic forms is dominated by jars, accounting for 72% of EVE and 68% of ENV (Table 7). The vast majority of these are rather simple necked jars (2T), lacking elements like cordons, carinations or corrugations. This is quite a typical feature of Wealden/East Sussex Ware assemblages compared with other Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered traditions from elsewhere in the South-East (e.g. Doherty 2018, 253). A single example of a jar with a simple short everted rim (2B) was also recorded, as well as a necked storage jar (2V).

Form class	Form code	EVE	ENV	% EVE	% ENV
Jar	2	-	1	-	3.6%
	2B	0.09	1	3.8%	3.6%
	2T	1.61	16	68.5%	57.1%
	2V	0	1	0.0%	3.6%
Jar/beaker	2T/3	0.11	3	4.7%	10.7%
Beaker	3A	0.32	4	13.6%	14.3%
	3B	0.08	1	3.4%	3.6%
Platter	5A	0.14	1	6.0%	3.6%
Total		2.35	28	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7: Quantification of Late Iron Age/earlier Roman forms

5.3.7 A small number of forms are similar to the simple necked jars described above but are of small diameter and/or thin-walled profile and could be classed as jar/beakers, while four examples are more confidently identified as butt-beaker derivatives (3A), including one in an Arun Valley fine oxidised ware. Another beaker has a simple globular profile (3B). A single simple platter (5A) of shallow profile, perhaps imitating (Hawkes & Hull 1947) Cam. 17, was also recorded.

Discussion

5.3.8 The pottery from land east of London Road is very typical of Late Iron Age/early Roman Wealden lower status rural assemblages, being dominated by grog-tempered fabrics and jar forms, with relatively few fine or table wares. Notably, the assemblage has a

lower proportion of Roman sandy fabrics that the broadly dated 'earlier Roman' assemblage (*c*. AD50-120) from Mackie Avenue, Hassocks (Biddulph 2010), where these fabrics made up about a third of the assemblage. This probably suggests that the current assemblage has a slightly earlier focus, probably dating to around the mid to late 1st century AD. The assemblage has no further potential for research.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 During the excavation phase six sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 21g were recovered from context [100]. The material has been fully listed by common ware name in Table 8 as part of the visible archive. All of the pottery consists of small heavily abraded sherds and it is clear the material has been subjected to extensive reworking.

Context	**Fabric**	**No**	**Weight (g)**	**Comments** (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form)
100	Creamware	2	5	Side plate x1
100	Pearlware	1	4	Plate x1 (blue shell-edge 2 decoration)
100	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	1	5	Plate x1 (willow pattern)
100	English stoneware	2	7	Bottles x2 (iron wash, salt glaze)

Table 8: Post-Roman pottery assemblage

5.4.2 All of the pottery from context [100] is of late post-medieval date and, taken together, all can be placed within a *c.*1780 to *c.*1830 date range. Both coarsewares and tablewares are represented, suggesting typical domestic refuse, but the assemblage is too small to draw conclusions from regarding the associated household.

5.4.3 In addition, a single sherd of abraded medieval pottery weighing 2g was recovered from ploughsoil [39/001] during the evaluation phase. It is a plain body sherd, mid-brown in colour, and tempered with coarse sand indicating that it potentially dates to around the 12th-13th centuries AD.

5.4.3 The post-Roman pottery assemblage is small, worn and of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum. As such, it has been added to the pool of material held for handling/teaching.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

5.5.1 Two fragments of flat roof tile, weighing 67g, were collected from the topsoil during the excavations. The T1 fragment is 12mm thick, well fired, and has part of a rectangular or diamond shaped peg hole present, which suggests a post-medieval date. The T2 fragment is 14mm thick, has light core reduction and is slightly abraded. This fragment has a medieval to post-medieval date. The assemblage has no further potential for research and both fragments have been discarded.

5.5.2 The tile was recorded by form, weight, complete dimensions (when present) and fabric and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. The fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope, and site specific fabric codes have been applied using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant);

the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 9.

Fabric	Description
T1	Orange fabric with some cream/light orange streaks and sparse very fine quartz.
T2	Orange fabric with sparse medium to coarse black oxidised material and moderate coarse and very coarse silty pellets in the same colour as the matrix.

Table 9: CBM fabric descriptions

5.6 **The Fired Clay** by Stephen Patton

5.6.1 An extremely small assemblage of fired clay was recovered during the evaluation and excavation, the quantification of which is shown in Table 10. All of the fragments are much abraded and most are amorphous in shape with no diagnostic features. However, two fragments from ditch [111], fill [112] have flat surfaces suggesting that they may originate from some type of daub. Additionally, one fragment from ditch [115], fill [116] has a probable wattle impression and a curved surface indicating with more certainty that it is a fragment of daub.

5.6.2 The assemblage has all been exposed to heat sufficiently to go through the ceramic change. The material from the ditch slots in D2 southern N-S gully has all been rolled prior to deposition, as evidenced by the level of abrasion, but the relatively near proximity to pit/hearth [57/004], the similarity in clay fabric and extent of exposure to heat, all indicate this feature as the probable origin of material recovered from both of the gullies. The quantity of fired clay is far too small to indicate a clay oven or similar superstructure, but they may suggest some type of external clay element to the pit/hearth.

5.6.3 All of the material was examined with the naked eye for diagnostic characteristics indicating form and/or function and recorded by count and weight in an Excel spreadsheet. A single fabric was identified and described using a x20 magnification binocular microscope, and this has been included in the Excel spreadsheet for the archive. The assemblage has no further potential for research and can be discarded.

Context	Parent	Group	Form	Count	Weight (g)
[34/005]	[34/004]	G2 Southern N-S gully	Amorphous	3	14
[56/008]	Ditch [56/006]	G2 Southern N-S gully	Amorphous	12	38
[57/005]	Pit [57/004]	G6 Two charcoal-rich pits	Amorphous	70	68
[57/006]	Pit [57/004]	G6 Two charcoal-rich pits	Amorphous	26	30
[112]	Ditch [111]	G2 Southern N-S gully	Daub?	19	30
[116]	Ditch [115]	G2 Southern N-S gully	Daub	105	304
[122]	Ditch [121]	G2 Southern N-S gully	Amorphous	27	29
Total				262	513

Table 10: Quantification of fired clay

5.7 **The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 A single fragment of glass was recovered during the excavations. The fragment, weighing 5g, was recovered from topsoil [100] and comprises a 19th-century, dark green wine bottle shoulder fragment. The piece has no further potential for research and can be discarded.

5.8 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The archaeological work recovered 69 pieces of stone from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 11 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Sample	Stone type	No	Weight (g)	Comments
34/005		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	7	140	Burnt
34/005		Wealden clay ironstone	27	137	Burnt & shattered from single piece
44/001		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	1	149	
56/008		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	5	271	?Burnt
57/009		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	1	60	Slightly burnt
112		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	16	2889	Irregular, weathered
112		Fine ferruginous fine sast (carstone)	3	75	Irregular, weathered
112	7	Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	4	88	Irregular, weathered
116		Ferruginous medium sast (carstone)	2	35	Irregular, weathered
116	8	2a Coal	1	1	Shiny

Table 11: Stone assemblage

5.8.2 The vast majority of the assemblage consists of pieces of fine- to medium-grained ferruginous sandstone pieces, almost certainly carstone from the local Lower Greensand beds. Beyond burning none show signs of modification at the hand of man. The only other stone types consist of the Wealden clay ironstone from context [34/005], a type that can be found naturally a little to the north, and the scrap of coal from context [116]. The latter is undoubtedly an intrusive piece from the 18th to 19th century and correlates with the late post-medieval pottery from context [100].

5.8.3 The stone is of well-known types for the area and is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. The assemblage has been discarded.

5.9 **The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.9.1. The excavations at the site recovered a very small quantity of material initially identified as slag. All was derived as the magnetic fraction from nine environmental samples. Each of these was carefully examined under x10 magnification to establish the presence/absence of micro slags. Due to the small size of the particles involved the material was quantified by weight only. The material is listed in Table 12 as part of the visible archive.

5.9.2 In all but one case no micro slags were noted – the magnetic fraction being composed of only 'magnetic fines'. These mainly consist of granules of ferruginous siltstone and sandstone that either have their own inherent magnetism or, more often, have had that magnetism enhanced through burning. They are not diagnostic of any industrial activity as such heating can occur in a domestic hearth or bonfire. The only actual slag recovered consists of a few tiny scraps of fuel ash slag – a type that can easily be formed in domestic hearths (context [116]). In conclusion, there is no evidence of metalworking at the site.

5.9.3 The slag assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

Context	Sample	Fraction	Type	Weight (g)
39/006	2	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	3
55/005	3	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	1
56/008	1	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	17
57/005	4	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	113
57/006	5	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	26
110	6	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	15
112	7	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	2
116	8	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	16
116	8	>2mm	Fuel ash slag	1
122	9	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	11

Table 12: The slag assemblage

5.10 **The Bulk Metalwork** by Rae Regensberg

5.10.1 One incomplete, general purpose, iron nail weighing 1.9g was collected from the fill of ditch [115]. The nail has a rectangular shank section, and the head is missing. Nails with rectangular shanks appear from the Roman period up to the post-medieval period. The piece has no further potential for research and can be discarded.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Five bulk soil samples were taken during evaluation work and four were taken during the excavation phase at the site, for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds retrieval. Sampled contexts included ditch and pit fills, dating from the Late Iron Age to the Roman period. The following report summarises and discusses the contents of the environmental samples and the information they provide on agrarian economy, the local environment and fuel selection and use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The evaluation samples ranged from 10L to 40L in volume and were processed in their entirety by flotation using a 250µm mesh for retention of the flots and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residues, before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains. The contents of the residues have been recorded in a digital archive. The excavation samples were treated differently. Sample <7>, from ditch fill [112], was regarded as deriving from a possibly waterlogged context. In order to allow for possible anoxic preservation throughout the deposits, 2L subsamples were extracted from each sample and washed through a stack of geological sieves measuring 4 ,2, 1, 0.5 and 0.25 mm. 8L from each sample were retained for potential future analysis and 30L were processed through flotation as per above methodology.

6.2.2 The flots and the wet-sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded on a digital archive. Samples that produced plant remains deemed to be contemporary with the excavated deposits are recorded in Table 13. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). No ecofacts preserved in anoxic conditions were recovered during the scanning of the wet- sieved fractions and therefore these are not recorded in this report. The wet-sieved fractions and any retained unprocessed soil will be discarded upon completion of the final archive report.

6.2.3 Charcoal fragments were randomly extracted from three samples to undergo identification. Given the low range of taxa present and the state of preservation (roughly 50% of fragments were unidentifiable from most contests), an average of fifty identifications were obtained per context. Each fragment was fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000, Hather 2000, Leney and Casteel 1975). Charcoal specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 2, and nomenclature used follows Stace (2010).

6.3 Results

Plant remains

Northern Gully and Associated Hearth - Samples <4> [57/005] and <5> [57/006]

6.3.1 Intermediate and lower fills of pit or hearth [57/004] produced flots of varied composition. Intermediate fill [57/005] yielded a flot dominated by uncharred rootlets, indicative of disturbance through root action. Five poorly preserved caryopses of wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.), one caryopsis of oat (*Avena* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.) and a seed of vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) were recovered from this fill. The oat grain could belong either to a wild or a cultivated species. The poor preservation of the plant remains from this context could be due to disturbance/trampling or re-deposition. The lower fill of the pit or hearth yielded a flot dominated by charcoal fragments of various size. Uncharred material only amounted to 30% of the entire flot matrix. This context produced one caryopsis of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and one of brome.

6.3.2 Both fills of pit [57/004] produced abundant and well-preserved charcoal. Maloideae was the dominant group of taxa. This is a sub-family which includes taxa that are not distinguishable on grounds of wood anatomy, such as apple (*Malus* sp.), pear (*Pyrus* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) and rowan/service/whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.). Oak (*Quercus* sp.) was also identified in both fills.

Southern Gully -Samples <1> [56/008] and <8> [116]

6.3.3 The samples from Roman ditch fills [56/006] and [116] produced flots characterised by the presence of uncharred material, such as rootlets and twigs indicating low-level disturbance. These contexts produced a moderate assemblage of plant macrofossils, including caryopses of emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), including a twisted caryopsis, wheat/barley, as well as a cultivated legume of the vetch/tare/pea type (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.). A glume base of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and one of emmer/spelt were recovered from [56/008]. Remains of arable weeds included brome caryopses (*Bromus* sp.). A hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment was recorded; this originated from wild resources collected either for consumption or for fuel, for example if collected alongside twigs and branches.

Charcoal

6.3.4 Charcoal was abundant in several of the sampled contexts and evidence for percolation was present. This strongly affected the state of preservation. Percolation is due to fluctuating water levels which lead to alternating periods of wetting and drying of the deposits. Sediment-laden water infiltrates said deposits, leaving encrustations inside the charcoal fragments.

6.3.5 In contexts of all periods, a limited range of woody taxa were recorded. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and Maloideae were dominant. The oak fragments presented radial cracks. Other less common taxa included alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and possible hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

6.3.6 The majority of charcoal fragments derived from mature trunk wood, and only a small amount of round wood fragments were recorded. Indeterminate knotwood was also present. Knots are imperfections of the wood, often of a circular shape, that tend to be

present near the areas where branches and twigs form. Insect boring holes were noted on fragments from [57/005]. These could indicate the use of rotting wood for fuel.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The bulk soil samples produced poor to moderate assemblages of charred plant remains. These mostly consisted in the remains of the crops used and their associated weeds. Wheat and hulled six-row barley were widely consumed crops at the site in the Late Iron Age and Roman period. Pulses such as beans and peas were also cultivated, either for human consumption or for fodder. Legumes are also used in a system of crop rotation with the cereals, in order to replenish depleted soils. It is not clear whether oats were cultivated or if they were present as weeds. Cereals were present as a clean product, which had undergone almost all of the crop processing stages, including fine-sieving which removes small weed seeds from the assemblages. A late crop processing stage is indicated by the presence of only large headed weeds, which being of a similar size to the cereals, are removed at the very end of the process, generally through hand sorting. The near-absence of chaff could equally indicate a late processing stage.

6.4.2 The identified charcoal taxa indicate the exploitation of deciduous woodland, woodland margins and possibly scrub for fuel procurement. Oak wood is very sturdy and makes an excellent fuel, but it can also be successfully used for timber or joinery (Taylor 1981). Taxa of the Maloideae sub-family could be successfully used as fuel, depending on the species. Some of the trees/shrubs in this group can be rather thorny whilst apple and pear for example would be preferable as burning material. Alder wood could have been sourced from trees growing along riverbanks and near watercourses.

6.4.3 Preservation was variable across the site and depending on the ecofact type. Cereal grains preservation generally ranged from poor to moderate; this could indicate trampling or re-deposition, particularly in secondary deposits such as ditches. Charcoal generally preserved well, except in the bottom fill of ditch [56/006] where percolation was noted. If this ditch was particularly deep, then water would have infiltrated the bottom deposits more frequently, causing sediment encrustations on the charcoal.

6.4.4 The assemblages from Land East of London Road are comparable to those of other contemporary local sites. For example, Roman deposits at Hassocks Golf Club (Vitolo 2021, 54) produced crop assemblages of hulled barley and indeterminate wheat, with some caryopses of possibly free-threshing wheat. On the other hand, glume wheat caryopses and chaff, including spelt, were mostly identified at Land East of London Road. Glume wheats and particularly spelt are typical of Roman assemblages from south-eastern England, whereas free-threshing wheats occur sporadically.

6.4.5 Prehistoric and Roman charcoal assemblages from Hassocks Golf Club (*ibid*) included a similar range of taxa to the assemblages from Land East of London Road, included species typical of deciduous woodland and woodland margins, such as hazel, field maple and *Maloideae*. However, no taxa of wet environments were recovered from the Golf Club site.

	Sample Number	1	4	5	8
	Context Number	56/008	57/005	57/006	116
	Parent Context	56/006	57/004	57/004	115
	Feature Type	Ditch	Hearth	Hearth (lower fill)	Ditch
	Flot volume (ml)	175	50	250	80
	Flot weight (g)	51	32	60	9.2
Taxonomic Identification	**English Name**				
Crop Cereals					
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt wheat	2			1
Triticum sp.	indeterminate wheat	(4)	(2)		1
Hordeum vulgare	hulled barley	8	1		2
Hordeum vulgare	barley twisted	1			
Triticum/Hordeum sp.	wheat/barley	2	7		1
Avena sp.	oat		1		
Cerealia indet.	indeterminate cereal	8			3
Chaff					
Triticumspelta	spelt wheat glume base	1			
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt glume base	1			
Non-cereal crops					
Vicia/Lathyrus /Pisum sp.	vetch//wild pea/common pea		1		
Edible plants and trees or of economic value					
Corylus avellana L.	hazel nut shall fragments	1			
Wild grasses, arable weeds and waste ground					
Bromus sp.	brome	3	1	1	
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	vetch/tare		1		

Table 12: Species List. Numbers in brackets indicate tentative identifications

	Sample Number	8	9	1	4	5
	Context	116	122	56/008	57/005	57/006
	Parent Context	115	121	56/006	57/004	57/004
	Comment				Insect boring holes	
Taxonomic Identifications	English Name					
Quercus sp.	oak	42 (rw 7)	49 (rw 14)	31 (rw 1)	12	16 (rw 1) RC
Fraxinus excelsior	ash			1	1	
Maloideae	hawthorn, whitebeam, rowan, apple, pear	(1)	1	8	37 (rw 3)	34 (rw 1)
cf *Prunus* sp.	cherry/blackthorn					(1)
cf. *Corylus avellana*	hazel			1		
Alnus glutinosa	alder	6 (rw 2)				
Ilex aquifolium	holly	1 rw				
Corylus/Alnus sp.	hazel/alder			6		
Indeterminate	knotwood				1	1

Table 13: Charcoal Identifications. Key - rw: round wood; RC: radial cracks

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological work has resulted in the identification, excavation and recording of a small number of archaeological features, and the recovery of a range of artefacts and ecofacts, all thought to date from the Late Iron Age/Roman period.

7.2 Prehistoric

7.2.1 The background scatter of prehistoric flintwork recovered from across the landscape demonstrated some level of activity in the distant past, but was not considered indicative of intense activity/settlement within the boundaries of the site.

7.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman

7.3.1 This period saw the first tangible alterations to the landscape in the form of limited hearth and pit digging, followed closely by a campaign of land division, which fits the model championed by Margetts (2018, 14-5), who notes that post-medieval records of this kind of burning activity '*are a legacy of a much older form of agriculture and reclamation'* (ibid.). If the hearths are accepted as evidence of a campaign of land clearance, then the presence of charred cereal grains in one of them perhaps hints at existing agricultural activity at the site.

7.3.2 Clearly on the periphery of more intensive activity to the west in the Late Iron Age/Roman period (ASE 2021), the character of the gullies strongly suggested organised division of the area into enclosures/fields for agriculture, perhaps replacing earlier less detectable agricultural regimes, possibly accidentally preserving some of their residues.

7.3.3 Arguably, this goes some way to support Hamilton's concept of an '*uptake of the Weald Clay'* in the Middle Iron Age (quoted in Margetts 2018, 37) or even earlier; results from a nearby site in Burgess Hill suggest woodland clearance in this area of the Weald in the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Butler 1998, 195). However, this is possibly taking speculation too far. What is clear is that the open gullies at the site became the target for pragmatic dumping of domestic refuse away from the settlement to the west, and then fell out of use, with only limited attempts to recut one of them.

7.3.4 Although, there was relatively little in the way of environmental material away from the hearths, there was clear evidence of the cultivation and processing of cereals such as wheat and barley in the vicinity, as well as for the collection of local wildwood for fuel within the material dumped into the gullies. Unfortunately the geological conditions were not favourable for the survival of animal bone, so more detailed consideration of the agriculture regime at the site during the period remains speculative, including evidence of any changes over time.

7.3.5 It is possible that the shifting focus of Roman settlement in the area led to less intense agricultural activity in the area, and hence an abandonment of the upkeep of the field system, possibly in connection with the establishment of a farmstead and associated field system to the east (Mullin *et al* 2010).

7.4 Medieval and Post-Medieval

7.4.1 As with the prehistoric material, an extremely limited assemblage of medieval and post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the overburden, in this case probably the result of limited manuring of arable fields. Although it is possible that some of the land division recorded during the evaluation might date to this long time period, this remains unproven.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The fieldwork uncovered a limited range of archaeological features, mostly dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman. However, arguably the most significant discovery at the site was that the purported route of the local Roman road shown on Ordnance Survey maps did not run across the site (cf. ASE 2018, Figures 13 and 14), contrary to previous research, summarised and illustrated by Shields (1999, Figure 2). It is considered that the results of the archaeological work do not warrant any further analysis or publication and that this document should suffice as a final report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2009 *Archaeological Investigations at Hassocks Golf Club, London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2009201

ASE 2018 (revised 2019) *Land at London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment.* Unpub. ASE Report No.2018177

ASE 2021 Hassocks Golf Club, Hassocks; A Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Report. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2021010

ASE, 2022a Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex; A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation. Unpub. ASE document

ASE, 2022b *Archaeological Evaluation Report Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex.* Unpub. ASE Report No. 2022253

ASE, 2022c *Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation.* Unpub. ASE document

BGS, 2020 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 06.12.2022 https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/

Biddulph, E, 2010 The Roman pottery in D. Mullin, E. Biddulph, and R. Brown,

Butler, C, 1989 An Early Mesolithic site and later flintwork from Hassocks, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter *SAC*) 127, 230-35

Butler, C. 1998. Early Bronze Age and later activity at Maltings Farm, Burgess Hill, SAC 136, 193-7

Butler, C., 2000. Saxon Settlement and Earlier Remains at Friars Oak, Hassocks, West Sussex. *British Archaeological Reports 295*.

CAT, 2018 Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, east of Colchester Park and Ride, Mile End, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JA, Unpub. Colchester Archaeological Trust Report No. 1219

CAT, 2019. Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP. Unpub. Colchester Archaeological Trust Report No. 1337

CIfA, 2019 *Regulations, Standards and Guidance*
https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa

CIfA, 2020 *Checklist for specialist reporting*, https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit/downloads

Doherty, A, 2018 Prehistoric and Roman pottery, in A. Margetts

Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000. *Plants in Archaeology.* Otley: Westbury Publishing and Kew

Hather, J.G. 2000. The Identification of Northern European Woods: A Guide for Archaeologists and Conservators. London: Archetype Publications Ltd

Hawkes, C. F. C., and Hull, M. R., 1947 *Camulodunum: first report on the excavations at Colchester, 1930-1939*, Society of Antiquities Res Rep 14

Leney, L., and Casteel, R. W., 1975 Simplified procedure for examining charcoal specimens for identification, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 2,153-159

Lyne, M. 1994 The Hassocks cemetery, *SAC* 132, 53-85.

Margetts, A. 2018 *Wealdbæra: Excavations at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath and the landscape of the West Central Weald.* Spoilheap Monograph No.18

MoLA 2019 *London Roman pottery codes*, available: https://www.mola.org.uk/roman-pottery-codes

Mullin, D. Biddulph, E. and Brown, R. 2010 A Bronze Age settlement, Roman structures and a field system at Hassocks, West Sussex, *SAC* 148, 17-46

Schweingruber, F. H. 1990 *Macroscopic Wood Anatomy* (3rd ed). Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F.H. and Kienast, F. 2004 *Wood Anatomy of Central European Species.* Online version: www.woodanatomy.ch

Shields, G. 1999 The course of the London to Brighton Roman road south of Burgess Hill, *SAC* 137, 81-90

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Stevens, S. forthcoming. *Investigating Wealden Colonisation - Archaeological Work on the Northern Arc Eastern Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex* (submitted for publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*)

SUMO 2021 *Geophysical Survey Report: Land at London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex*

Taylor, M. 1981 *Wood in Archaeology*, Aylesbury: Shire Publications

Vitolo, M. 2021 The Environmental Samples, in L. May, *Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Report Hassocks Golf Club, Hassocks West Sussex*. ASE Report No: 2021010, 52-55.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Rydon Homes Ltd. for commissioning the work. The input of staff from Surrey County Council, and from Place Services, Essex County Council at all stages of the project is also gratefully acknowledged.

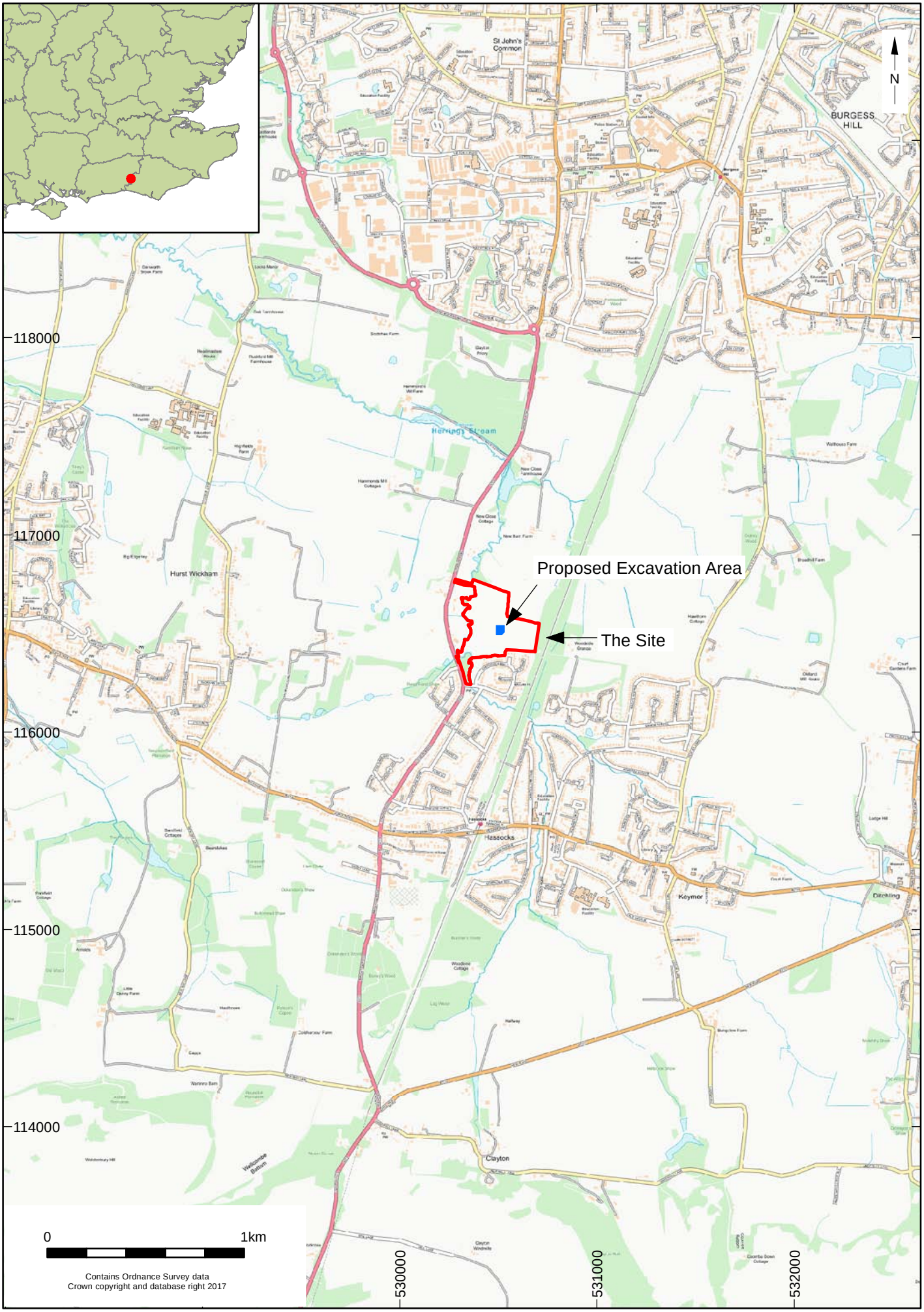
The archaeological mitigation work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Emily Elsmore, Elisabet Pila and Graham Shackell (Assistant Archaeologists), and by Tom Simms and Callum McKinnon (Archaeological Surveyors). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork Manager) and by Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Managers).

HER Summary

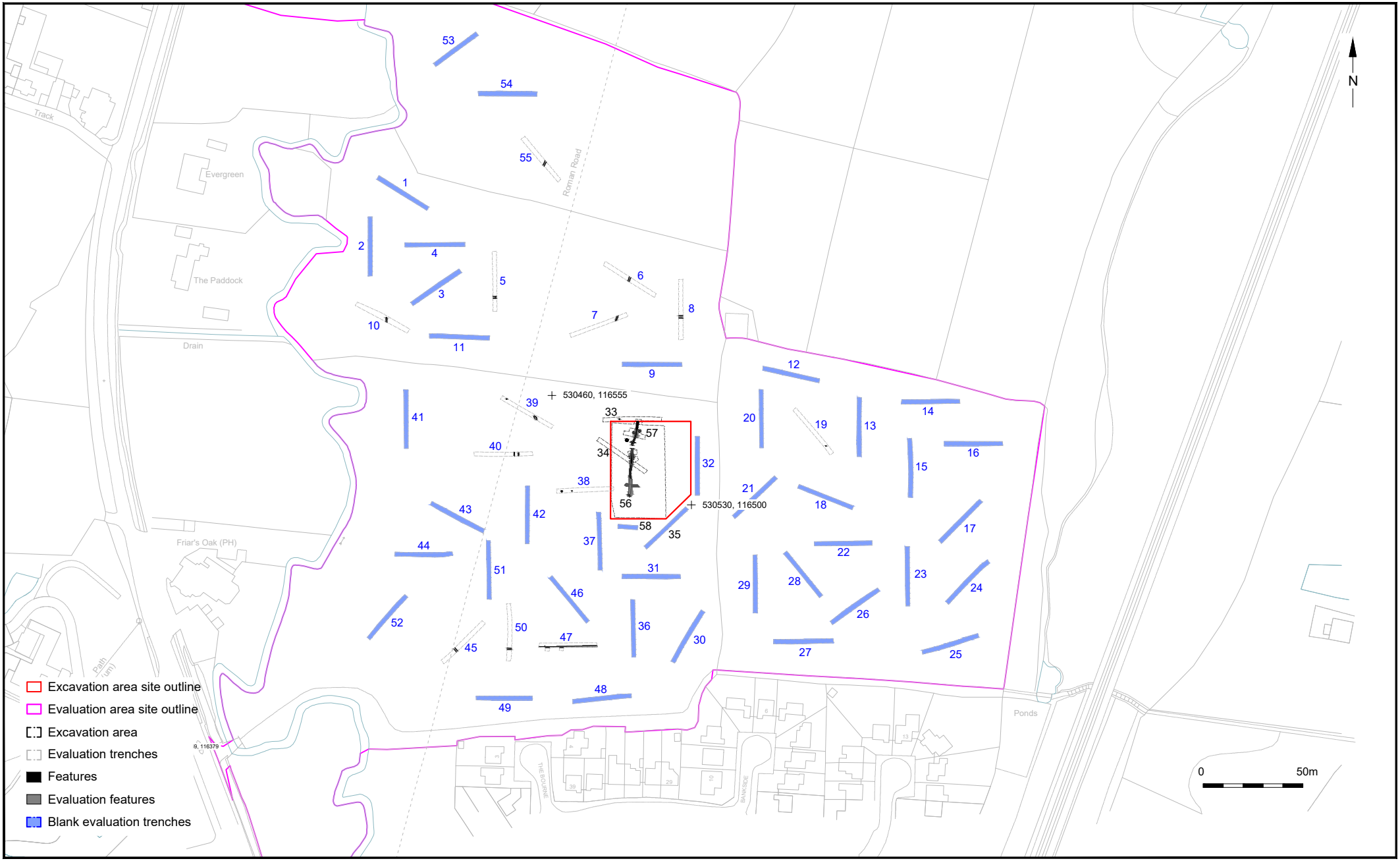
Site code	ELH 22					
Project code	220540					
Planning reference	DM/19/1897					
Site address	Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex					
District/Borough	Mid Sussex District					
NGR (12 figures)	530509 116504					
Geology	Weald Cay					
Fieldwork type	Exc.					
Date of fieldwork	24.10.2022 to 11.11.2022					
Sponsor/client	Rydon Homes Ltd					
Project manager	Paul Mason/Jim Stevenson					
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period summary			Mesolithic	Neolithic		
	Iron Age	Roman		Medieval	Post-Medieval	
Project summary	*Following the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, ASE undertook an archaeological evaluation of the site which uncovered a range of archaeological features. This was followed by an open area excavation targeted on a part of the site containing a concentration of those features.* *The fieldwork uncovered a limited range of archaeological features, mostly dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman. However, arguably the most significant discovery at the site was that the purported route of the local Roman road shown on Ordnance Survey maps did not run across the site.*					

OASIS Form

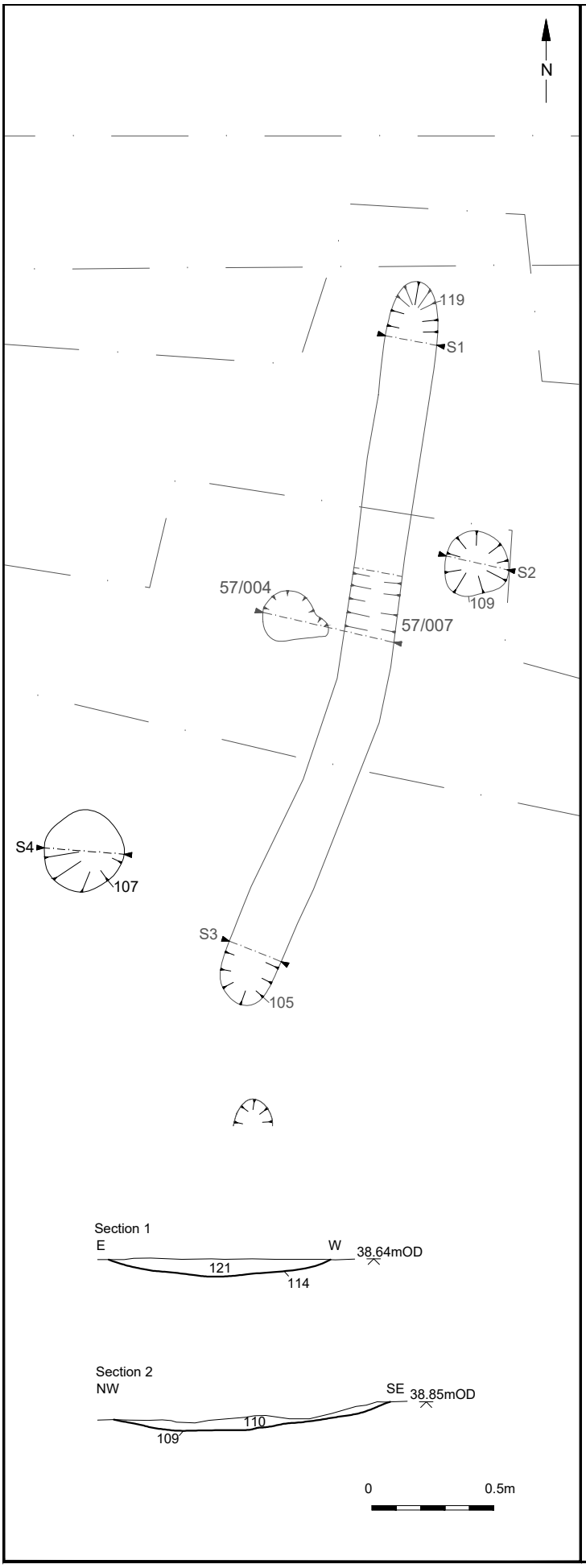
OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-511488
Project Name: Open Area Excavation at Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex
Activity type: Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s): Land East of London Road, Hassocks. West Sussex
Planning Id: DM/19/1897
Reason for Investigation: Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East
Project Dates: 24-Oct-2022 - 11-Nov-2022
HER: West Sussex HER
HER Identifiers: [no data]
Project Methodology: Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Rydon Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological excavation on land to the east of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (NGR 530509 116504).
Project Results: Following the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, ASE undertook an archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches in August 2022, which uncovered a range of archaeological features. This was followed by an open area excavation carried out in October and November 2022, targeted on a part of the site containing a concentration of those features. The archaeological work recovered evidence of clearance/reclamation, apparently rapidly followed by land division, suggesting agricultural activity on the periphery of more intense activity known in the vicinity of the current site in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. There was also a thin distribution of pits and post-holes across the landscape, usually undated. In addition, a background scatter of flintwork suggests some level of hunter/gatherer activity in the distant past. Arguably the most significant discovery at the site was that the purported route of the local Roman road shown on Ordnance Survey maps did not run across the site.
Keywords:
Subject/Period: Boundary Ditch: ROMAN
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period: Boundary Ditch: ROMAN
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Archive:
Physical Archive - to be deposited with Lewes Castle and Barbican House Museum;
Reports in OASIS:
Stevens, S., (2023). *Final Report on Archaeological Investigations at Land East of London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex*. Portslade: Archaeology South-East. 2022326.

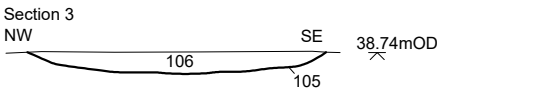


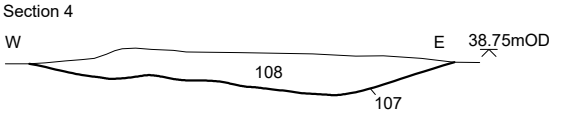
© Archaeology South-East		Land east of London Rd, Hassocks	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 220540	January 2023	Site location	
Report Ref: 2022253	Drawn by: FG		



© Archaeology South-East		Land East of London Road, Hassocks	Fig.2
Project Ref: 220540	January 2023	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2022253	Drawn by: LG/HLF		







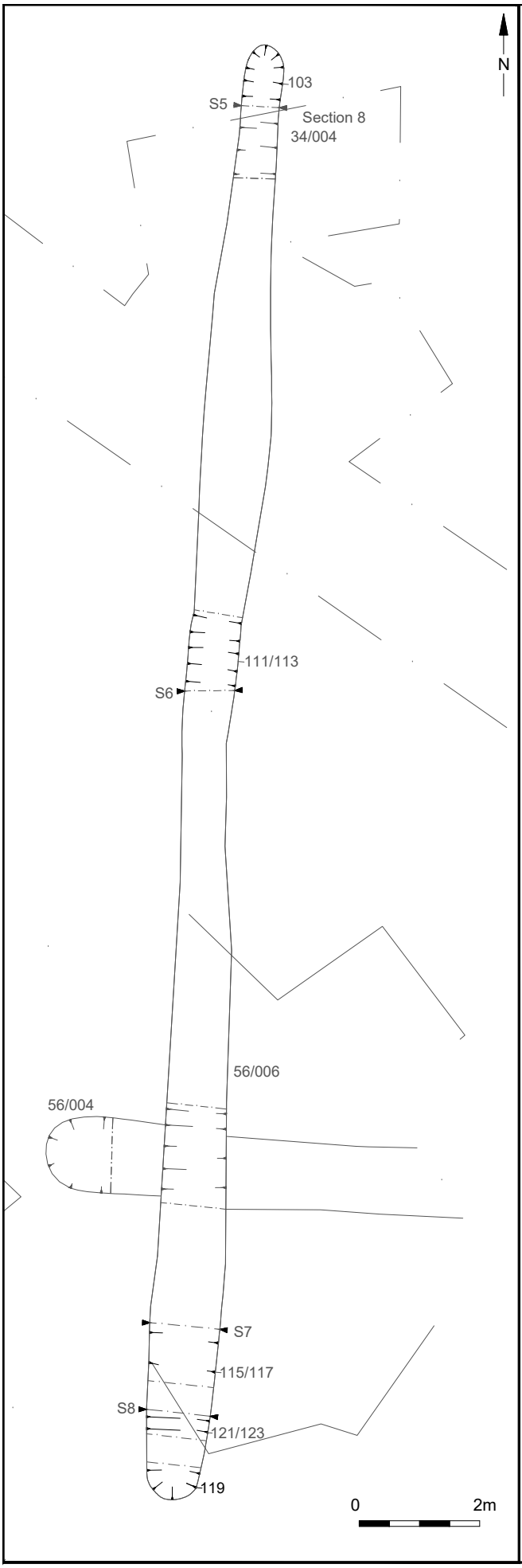
Section 3 [105]

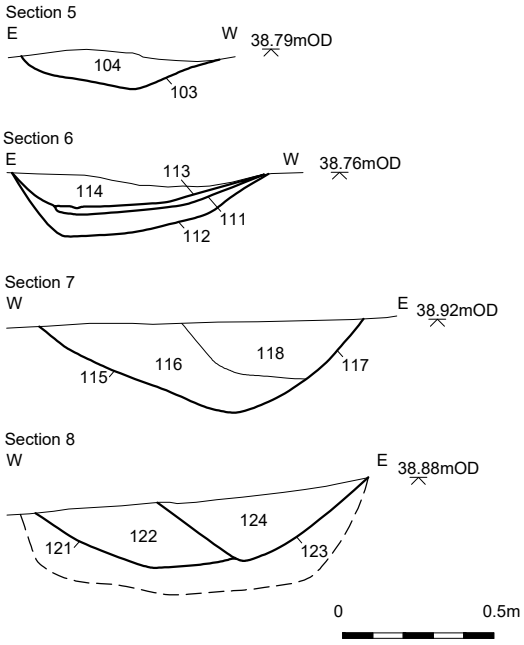
Section 4 [107]

Section 1 [121] &[123]

Section 2 [109]

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land East of London Road, Hassocks	Fig.3
Project Ref: 220540	January 2023	Plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2022253	Drawn by: LG/HLF		





Section 5 [103]

Section 6 [112]

Section 6 [111&113]

Section 7 [115&117]

[119]

© Archaeology South-East		Land East of London Road, Hassocks	Fig.4
Project Ref: 220540	January 2023	Plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2022253	Drawn by: LG/HLF		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London