

**Archaeological Investigations at the Former Site
of Highdown School, Durrington Lane,
Worthing, West Sussex**

NGR 512252 104468

**Worthing Borough Council Planning Reference
WB/07/0794/FULL**

**Project No. 3717
Site Code: HDW 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009145
OASIS ID: archaeol6-65711**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

With contributions

**by
Elke Raemen, Anna Doherty, Luke Barber,
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological evaluation of the site of a former school was followed by the detailed excavation and recording of three open areas. Encountered features included post-holes, pits, ditches and gullies. Artefacts ranging in date from the Neolithic to the medieval period were recovered, although all of the positively identified features were either Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, or medieval in date. A small assemblage of intrusive, rare Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from a prehistoric feature.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Planning permission was granted by Worthing Borough Council for the demolition of existing buildings and the redevelopment of the former site of Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing, West Sussex (Planning ref. WB/07/0794/FULL). Owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation with West Sussex County Council, (Worthing Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a planning condition was attached to the consent requiring archaeological work at the site prior to redevelopment.
- 1.1.2 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology UCLCAA), were commissioned by Castleoak Care Partnerships to undertake the archaeological work. The archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken according to a *Written Scheme of Investigation* produced by ASE (ASE 2009). This proposed that as areas of the site became available after demolition work, trial trenches were excavated and recorded. Owing to lack of time prior to the commencement of the redevelopment at the site, no formal evaluation report was produced at this stage, and hence details are given below.
- 1.1.3 Based on the results of the evaluation, Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), recommended that further archaeological work should be undertaken at the site, and subsequently three areas were stripped and investigated (Fig 2, Area A to C). All archaeological work at the site was undertaken between January and June 2009.

1.2 Site Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the West Sussex Coastal Plain within the Worthing conurbation at a height of c.11mAOD (NGR 512252 104468) (Fig. 1). It is located at the junction of the A2032 Littlehampton Road and Durrington Lane, opposite the local landmark of *Centenary House* (formally *Gateway House*). It is bounded to the north and east by residential developments. According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 318/333 *Brighton & Worthing*) the underlying geological deposit at the site is Brickearth.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 This part of the Coastal Plain is rich in known archaeological sites and has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations in recent years. Archaeological work on the opposite side of Durrington Lane at the Centenary House site has produced evidence of Late Bronze Age roundhouses and limited evidence of medieval occupation (SEAS 1993; ASE 2001, James forthcoming).

- 1.3.2 Less than 1km to the west, recent excavations have uncovered evidence of Romano-British and prehistoric features (Stevens forthcoming). The Roman Villa, partially uncovered during the building of Northbrook College, also within 1km to the west, is only one of a large number of Romano-British sites known from this part of the Coastal Plain (Rudling 1999).
- 1.3.3 In keeping with much of Sussex, there is little evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation known from previous local investigations. However, a significant assemblage of later medieval material has been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the site. A large quantity of 14th to 15th century pottery was discovered when the roundabout adjacent to the site was constructed in 1963 (NGR 51195 10432). Medieval ditches and pits were investigated and the material recovered included imported North French pottery (WSCC HER No. 3292).
- 1.3.4 In 1965, a medieval rubbish pit was investigated in the area of the junction between Durrington Lane and Sunningdale Road, c.200m to the north of the site (approximately NGR 51192 10462), and there are many other known local findspots of medieval pottery to the south of Littlehampton Road (Mark Taylor, *pers. comm.*).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 2.1** The following methodology was used at the site during all phases of work:
- 2.2** The supervised machining was taken down to the top of the 'natural' deposits or any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 2.3** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 2.4** A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including all finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to Worthing Museum in due course.

3.0 THE SITE

3.1 The Evaluation

- 3.1.1 A pattern of trenches of varying length providing a c.5% sample of the development area was produced by ASE, following discussions with WSCC (ASE 2009) (Figs. 2 and 3). The trench layout and general methodology was agreed with WSCC before the commencement of work at the site.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation trenches were excavated in three phases as parts of the site became available. The locations of all of the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services. The trenches were then excavated by a 5 tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a five foot (1.54m) wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.
- 3.1.3 Trench T1 was not excavated as the area had been substantially reduced in level during demolition work, (this was agreed at an on-site meeting with WSCC). Of the twelve excavated evaluation trenches, five were archaeologically sterile (T7, T9, T10, T12, T13), although some did contain modern features. Two of the trenches containing archaeological features were not re-excavated during the subsequent excavation stages. The details are summarised below, and the full details of all of the evaluation trenches are housed with the site archive.

| Trench No. | Cut No. | Feature Description | Date |
|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| T6 (Fig. 6) | [53] | Shallow Post-Hole : Fill [54] | Medieval (C13th) |
| T8 (Fig. 7) | [166] | Shallow Post-Hole : Fill [167] | Undated |
| | [168] | Shallow Pit : Fill [169] | Undated |

Table 1 - Summary of features within the evaluation trenches not included within excavation areas

3.2 The Excavation Areas (Figs. 2, 4, 5 and 7)

3.2.1 Following consultation between representatives of ASE, WSCC and Castleoak Care Partnerships, it was agreed that, based on the archaeological results obtained during the evaluation, three discrete areas within the footprint of the buildings (and therefore in which the archaeological deposits were under threat of destruction), would be subjected to full excavation and recording (Figs. 2 and 3, Areas **A**, **B** and **C**). The position of evaluation trenches in relation to subsequent excavation areas can be seen in Figure 2. There was considerable modern truncation in all of the examined areas, but a range of archaeological features survived. All section drawings of the features are included in the site archive.

3.2.2 In Areas A and B, the overburden consisted of a c.360mm thick deposit of mid-brown silty clay garden soil mixed with brick rubble, Context [01], which overlay a c.300mm thick layer of orangey brown silty clay subsoil, Context [02]. The 'natural' was orangey brown silty clay Brickearth, Context [03]. The characteristics of the overburden and 'natural' were found to be broadly similar in the Area C. and were recorded as Contexts [153], [154] and [155] respectively. The features which could be dated on the grounds of identifiable pottery, or close association with other features were assigned to one of four recognised phases of activity at the site, discussed separately below.

3.3 Early Prehistoric ?

- 3.3.1 In Area A, Post-Hole [27] was truncated by prehistoric Ditch F13. It was more than 300mm wide and 400mm deep. The single fill was Context [28], a mid-brown silty clay.

3.4 Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

- 3.4.1 Eight features were assigned to this phase on the evidence of small assemblages of pottery. The most striking was a shallow ditch which ran from west to east across Areas A and B. It was recorded as Ditch F13 in Area A and as Ditch F93 in Area B, and was sectioned ten times in order to record the ditch profile and relationships with other features (from west to east) cuts [25] [29], [14], [23], [128], [124], [109], [98], [94] and [33].
- 3.4.2 The feature had steep concave sides and a flat base and was a maximum of 950mm wide and 320mm deep. All the sections revealed a single light or mid-greyish brown silty clay or clayey silt fill, recorded as Contexts [26], [30], [15], [24], [129], [125], [110], [99], [95] and [34] respectively. Small quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from Contexts [26], [15], [24] and [99]. Intrusive Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Context [26], and similarly intrusive Mid to Late Saxon pottery was recovered from Context [95].
- 3.4.3 The Ditch partially truncated Post-Hole [27] and was itself truncated by undated Gully F92, and by medieval Ditch F89, medieval Pit [132] (Fig. 5), and by a modern test-pit, Cut [16] (Fig. 4). It also truncated two features which were also assigned to this phase, Gully F108 and Pit [100] (Fig. 5).
- 3.4.4 Gully F108 was sectioned four times and recorded as (from north to south) Cuts [44] [111], [126] and [106]. The feature was found to have concave sides and a flat base and recorded profiles contained a single yellowish or orangey brown silty clay fill, recorded as Contexts [45], [112], [127] and [107] respectively. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Context [107].
- 3.4.5 Pit [100] was of unknown extent as it ran under the eastern baulk of the Area B. It was 1.4m in depth. The earliest fill was Context [105], a 10mm thick deposit of orangey brown silty clay, which appears to represent slumping of the sides of the open pit. The next earliest in sequence was Context [104], a 400mm thick deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay, which contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, and a single intrusive sherd of abraded medieval pottery. It was overlain by Context [103], a 10mm thick lens of charcoal, which was in turn overlain by Context [102], a 650mm thick mid-greyish brown silty clay. The uppermost deposit was Context [101], a 260mm thick deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay.
- 3.4.6 The other features positively dated to this phase were all truncated post-holes, all with light or mid-greyish brown silty clay fills, which contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. Three of the features were recorded in Area A (Fig. 4). Post-Hole [04] was 430mm in diameter and 330mm in depth. The lower fill was Context [20], which was 150mm thick; the upper fill, Context [05] was 180mm thick. Post-Hole [06] was 220mm in diameter

and 170mm in depth. The single fill was Context [07]. Post-Hole [21] was 290mm in diameter and 210mm in depth. The single fill was Context [22]. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary and given the spatial relationship with other similar features, otherwise undated Post-Hole [08] was also assigned to this phase. It was 230mm in diameter and 120mm in depth. The single fill was Context [09], a greyish brown silty clay.

- 3.4.7 There were a number of post-holes encountered in Area B, but only one could be assigned to this phase with any degree of confidence (Fig. 5). Post-Hole [70] was 230mm in diameter and 170mm in depth. The single fill was Context [71], a mid-greyish brown silty clay. It formed part of a odd arrangement of post-holes, forming two linear patterns running parallel to each other, approximately 2m apart. Unfortunately the other post-holes in the arrangement could not be dated on the grounds of recovered artefacts, but have been assigned to this phase in the absence of any evidence to the contrary. All had mid-greyish brown silty clay fills; their dimensions are tabulated below:

| Post-Hole | Fill | Diameter | Depth |
|-----------|------|----------|-------|
| 68 | 69 | 150mm | 100mm |
| 72 | 73 | 220mm | 100mm |
| 74 | 75 | 160mm | 60mm |
| 76 | 77 | 100mm | 60mm |
| 78 | 79 | 150mm | 100mm |
| 80 | 81 | 160mm | 60mm |

Table 2 -Post-Hole Dimensions

3.5 Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon

- 3.5.1 Only a small quantity of pottery of this date was recovered during the archaeological investigation of the site (from prehistoric Ditch F93, Context [95]) However, given the rarity of this material on the Coastal Plain and in Sussex as a whole, the discovery of pottery of this date is worthy of note.

3.6 Later Medieval

- 3.6.1 A small group of features containing material dating from the 13th and 14th centuries was identified in Area B. Small scraps of pottery of this date was also recovered from features in Area C.
- 3.6.2 The largest assemblages came from two features in Area B, Pits [113] and [132] (Fig.5). Pit [113] was 2.02m in diameter and 1.4m in depth. There were six separate fills. The earliest was Context [123], a 40mm thick layer of redeposited 'natural' chalk. This was overlain by Context [122], a 150mm thick deposit of greyish brown silty clay, which was in turn overlain by Context [121], an 830mm thick layer of redeposited chalk, which formed the majority of the fill of the feature. It was overlain by Context [120], a 270mm thick orangey brown silty clay, which was partially overlain by Context [119], 70mm thick lens of charcoal. The upper fill was Context [118], a 260mm thick mid-greyish brown silty clay. Medieval material was recovered from Contexts [118], [119], [120] and [122]. Environmental samples produced limited evidence.

- 3.6.3 Pit [132] was 2.7m in diameter but only 510mm in depth. The single fill was Context [133], a mid-brown clayey silt from an assemblage of medieval pottery and a limited range of charred plant remains were produced.
- 3.6.4 The pit partially truncated Ditch F89, which was recorded as Cut [130] at this point. The single fill of [130] was Context [131], a mid-brown clayey silt. A full profile of the feature was excavated to the north and was recorded as Cut [86]. At this point the feature was 3.14m wide and 770mm deep and contained two separate fills. The earliest was Context [87], a 260mm thick deposit of mid-orangey brown silty clay. The uppermost deposit was Context [88], a 510mm thick mid-brown clayey silt. Medieval material was recovered from both contexts.
- 3.6.5 There was a group of smaller medieval features in the eastern half of the area. An elongated feature was recorded as Pit [31] during the evaluation phase and partially re-examined and recorded as Pit [140] during the excavation phase. The single fill recorded at the western end of the feature was Context [32], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt. At the eastern end there were three discernible fills. The earliest was Context [143], a 50mm thick orangey brown silty clay. It was overlain by Context [142], a 170mm thick mid-brown clayey silt. The upper fill was Context [141], a 160mm thick deposit of a similar mid-brown clayey silt. Medieval material was recovered from all of the fills of the feature.
- 3.6.6 Nearby there were a pair of intercutting post-holes. The earliest was Post-Hole [114], which had a diameter of 400mm and a depth of 180mm. The single fill was Context [115], a yellowish brown silty clay. Post-Hole [116] was 370mm in diameter and 120mm deep. The single fill was Context [117], a greyish brown silty clay which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. In the absence of any other evidence, both of these features have been assigned to this phase, although doubts must remain about their true date. The other medieval feature in Area B was Pit [35], which was 510mm in diameter and 80mm deep. The single fill was Context [36], an orangey brown silty clay, which contained medieval pottery.
- 3.6.7 Two features excavated in Area C contained small sherds of medieval pottery (Fig. 7). Pit [158] was 650mm in diameter, but only 50mm in depth. The single fill was Context [159], a greyish brown silty clay. Pit [172] was more substantial and 2.4m in width and 400mm in depth. The single fill was Context [173], a mid-greyish brown silty clay.

3.7 Undated

- 3.7.1 Only a small number of features encountered at the site remain undated on grounds of artefacts or association with other features.
- 3.7.2 Two undated features in area A were of recent origin. Pit [16] was a rectangular test-pit measuring 850mm by 850mm. The depth of the feature was not ascertained but the visible fill was a mixture of the overburden and the 'natural' Brickearth, Context [17]. Cut [18] was a 500mm wide service trench. It was not investigated but the visible fill was a chalky silty clay, Context [19].

- 3.7.3 In Area B (Fig. 5), shallow Post-Holes [82] and [84] were undated. Post-Hole [82] was 170mm in diameter and 30mm in depth and Post-Hole [84] was 350mm in diameter and 180mm in depth. Both contained mid-greyish brown silty clay fills; Contexts [83] and [85] respectively. The other undated feature was Gully F92, which partially truncated prehistoric Gully F93. It was sectioned twice and recorded as Cuts [90] and [96]. The full profile, Cut [90] had steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base and was 900mm wide and 230mm deep. The single fill was Context [91], a yellowish brown clayey silt. The fill of Cut [96], Context [97] was similar in colour and texture.
- 3.7.4 There were three undated features in Area C (Fig. 7). Pit [174] was 1.22m in diameter and 210mm in depth. The single fill was Context [175], a light grey silty clay. The other two features were both curvilinear in plan. Cut [156] had a width of 390mm and a depth of 160mm. The single fill was Context [157], a light greyish brown silty clay. The other feature was Cut [176], which was 470mm wide and 100mm deep. The single fill was Context [177], a mid-brown silty clay.

4.0 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

4.1 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

4.1.1 A total of 31 prehistoric sherds, weighing 76g were recovered from the site. The small size and abraded nature of the sherds suggests a strong possibility that they may be residual within their contexts. Although many fragments are too small to characterise fabrics properly, most appear to be of a similar type with common ill-sorted flint, mostly between 0.5-2mm with rare examples up to 4mm, in a quartz-free matrix, whilst a few are somewhat finer wares. They are fairly typical of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period on the Sussex coastal plain; a significant plain ware post Deverel-Rimbury, probably dating to c. 11-9th centuries BC, is known from the nearby site at Centenary House, Worthing (Seager-Thomas, forthcoming). However, in the absence of any diagnostic feature sherds, none of the flint-tempered sherds can be dated with confidence, since coarser fabrics are sometimes encountered throughout the Iron Age.

4.1.2 Some evidence of Late Iron Age activity was seen in context [26], where a fine flint-tempered sherd with a sandier matrix was accompanied by an oxidised grog-tempered sherd. Two coarse sandy sherds, probably of Middle to Late Iron Age date were also recovered from unstratified contexts.

4.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

4.2.1 Introduction

The archaeological work produced 469 sherds weighing 5,378g, from 19 individually numbered contexts. Two periods are represented. The earliest material is of mid/late Anglo-Saxon date with the bulk of the assemblage being of the 13th to 14th centuries. Although sherd sizes range from small (> 20mm across) to large (< 100mm across) the vast majority of material is relatively unabraded suggesting it has not been subjected to notable reworking. The assemblage has been fully quantified by context, fabric and form on an excel database for archive. Although the majority of contexts produced under 10 sherds each, the overall assemblage is dominated by two feature groups: Pit [113] containing 105 sherds and Pit [132] containing 271 sherds. The degree of residuality is often difficult to assess. The small context groups have too few sherds to give a reliable indicator while the larger groups are of a period where close dating of fabrics and forms (to within 50-75 years) is currently difficult. The scarcity of published groups from the area make the current assemblage of interest. As such the main aim is to outline the nature of the assemblage, the fabrics present and the date of the activity on site.

4.2.2 The Fabrics

The pottery from the site was divided into one of several fabric groups based on a visual examination of the tempering and inclusions of each sherd using a x20 hand lens where necessary. Codes in brackets refer to the currently developing West Sussex medieval fabric reference collection. Quantifications for the overall assemblage are given by sherd count, weight and estimated number of vessels.

AS1: Flint tempered (WS: F/AS1) (5/5g. ENV 1)

A low-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant multicoloured flint grits to 1mm. Hand-made and bonfire fired. Black, red/brown, grey throughout. Only five granules (5g) from a single vessel were found on the site (context [95]). Without more diagnostic sherds the material could be placed anywhere between the 7th and 11th centuries.

M1: Sparse sand with chalk and flint. (WS: F+c/M7) (1/28g. ENV 1)

A medium fired fabric tempered with sparse ill-sorted fine to coarse sand, moderate chalk to 1mm and rare/sparse sub-rounded flint to 0.5mm. Dark grey core, dull orange margins and grey brown surfaces. Possibly hand-made/wheel finished. The only vessel consists of a bowl with very slight pie-crust rim decoration (context [120]). A 12th- to early 13th- century date is likely.

M2: Moderate sand with sparse flint. (WS: Q+f/M5) (1/9g. ENV 1)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate medium to coarse sand and sparse angular (white/grey) flint to 1mm. Grey cores with patchy brown/grey surfaces. A single undecorated cooking pot is present (context [118]). Similar wares are known from Shoreham (Barber forthcoming). A later 12th- to mid 13th- century date is probable.

M3: Moderate sand with rare flint grits. (WS: Q+f/M2) (7/81g. ENV 4)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant sand and rare sub-angular flint grits (white, grey, red) to 0.5mm and occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. Grey/black cores with grey to orange brown surfaces. Forms consist of undecorated cooking pots with hollowed-topped club rims (context [120]). Early/mid 13th century.

M4: Medium sand with sparse/moderate flint. (WS: F+q/M1) (10/142g. ENV 3)

A medium to hard fired fabric tempered with moderate sub-angular to angular white and grey flint to 2mm with sparse fine/medium sand. Grey cores with pink, pale orange or red brown surfaces. A slow wheel finished fabric probably from the Binsted kilns (Barton 1979). Forms consist of cooking pots and bowls quite frequently with thinly glazed internal bases. A 13th- to mid 14th- century date is likely, the glazed pieces more likely to be later in the range.

M5: Fine sand and rare flint. (WS: Q+f/M1) (12/133g. ENV 10)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate fine sand and rare sub-angular flint grits (white, grey) to 1mm. Grey to dull orange cores and surfaces. A finer version of M4 and undoubtedly related. Forms consist of cooking pots and occasionally glazed jugs. A mid 13th- to early/mid 14th- century date is likely.

M6: Medium/coarse sand. (WS: Q/M16) (42/1,092g. ENV 9)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant medium/coarse sand. Some sherds have rare chalk or quartz inclusions to 1mm. Grey cores with usually grey brown surfaces though some dull orange examples are present. Forms consist of cooking pots and skillets, usually with notably thicker walls than the other sand tempered wares. A few vessels have applied thumbled strips while the skillet is internally glazed on its base. An early to mid/late 13th- century date is likely.

Cat. Nos 1, 2 and 5.

M7: Medium/coarse sand with flint (WS: Q/M16b) (11/91g. ENV 7)

A low/medium fired fabric as M6 but with rare/sparse sub-angular flint (white, grey) grits to 0.5mm. Dark grey cores with grey brown surfaces. Cooking pots with hollowed topped, flat topped or triangular club rims. Probably early to mid/late 13th centuries.

M8: Medium sand. (WS: Q/M24) (100/1,110g. ENV 18)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate medium sand. Grey cores with usually dull orange surfaces though some grey examples are present. Forms

consist of cooking pots, bowls and occasionally glazed jugs. Mid 13th to mid 14th century.

Cat Nos. 3 and 6.

M9: Medium sand with coarse quartz. (WS: Q/M1b) (3/26g. ENV 2)

A medium fired fabric tempered with sparse/common medium/coarse sand with sparse sub-rounded clear/rose quartz grains to 1.5mm. Grey cores with usually dull orange brown/buff surfaces. Forms consist of cooking pots. Probably early/mid 13th to early 14th century.

M10: Sparse/moderate medium sand. (WS: Q/M19) (11/129g. ENV 6)

A medium fired fabric tempered with sparse/moderate medium sand, notably sparser than in M6. Grey to dull pink orange cores and surfaces. Coarser variant of M12 used mainly for cooking pots though some glazed jugs with thumbled bases are present. Mid 13th to mid/late 14th century.

Cat No. 7

M11: Fine sand with sparse medium/coarse sand. (WS: Q(f)/M1b) (63/639g. ENV 18)

A medium fired fabric tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand with sparse medium/coarse quartz sand to 0.5mm. Grey to dull orange cores and surfaces though the latter are usually brown grey. Forms consist of cooking pots and bowls with distinctive hooked rims, sometimes with internally glazed bases. Mid 13th to mid 14th century.

Cat Nos 8 and 9.

M12: Fine/medium sand. (WS: Q(f)/M1a) (112/1,082g. ENV 26)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate fine to medium sand. Grey cores with grey, buff or dull orange surfaces. Slightly coarser variant of M14 and undoubtedly related to it and M13. Forms consist of cooking pots (often with internally glazed bases), bowls and glazed jugs (some with incised line decoration). Possibly Binsted. Later 13th to mid/late 14th century.

Cat Nos 10 and 11.

M13: Fine sandy off-white ware. (WS: Q(f)/M1d) (5/98g. ENV 4)

A medium fired fabric tempered with moderate fine sand with sparse medium sand and occasional clear/rose sub-rounded quartz inclusions to 0.5mm. Light grey/pink buff cores with off-white/pale grey surfaces. Forms consist of glazed jugs. Mid 13th to mid 14th century.

Cat. No. 4.

M14: Fine sand. (WS: Q(f)/M2) (86/713g. ENV 23)

A medium fired fabric tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand. Grey to pale or dull orange cores and surfaces though the latter are usually pale orange. Forms consist of glazed jugs of West Sussex Ware type including types made at Binsted (Barton 1979). A range of decoration is present including external white slip, combed or incised vertical/oblique lines and added clay pellets. Mid 13th to 14th century.

Cat Nos 12 and 13

4.2.3 The Assemblages

Two pit groups are large enough to be of interest in studying the fabric/form ratios. These are tabulated below with initial observations being made on them. Although both can undoubtedly be placed between the early/mid 13th and mid/late 14th centuries refining the dating has to rely on the ratios of different fabrics. This is not straightforward due to the unknown extent of residuality within this time frame. For example, the identification of residual mid/late 13th- century sherds in an early/mid 14th- century deposit would

currently be very difficult based on existing knowledge.

Pit [113] (SG 33): Fills [118], [120] and [122]

| Fabric | [118] No/weight | [118] ENV | [120] No/weight | [120] ENV | [122] No/weight | [122] ENV |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| M1 | - | - | 1/28g | 1 B | - | - |
| M2 | 1/9g | 1 CP | - | - | - | - |
| M3 | - | - | 1/7g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M4 | 1/16g | 1 CP | 2/48g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M5 | 2/32g | 2 CP | 1/41g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M6 | 17/585g | 1 CP; 1 S | 4/63g | 1 CP | 2/31g | 1 CP/B |
| M7 | 5/50g | 2 CP, x 1 J | 1/13g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M8 | 28/463g | 3 CP | 7/26g | 2 CP | - | - |
| M9 | - | - | 1/8g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M10 | 2/15g | 1 CP | 2/13g | 1 B | - | - |
| M11 | 4/71g | 2 CP | 1/12g | 1 CP | - | - |
| M12 | 6/15g | 2 CP, 1 J | - | - | - | - |
| M13 | 4/95g | 3 J | - | - | - | - |
| M14 | 11/110g | 7 J | 1/3g | 1 J | - | - |

Table 3 : Quantification of Pottery in Pit [113]. (CP – cooking pot; B – bowl; J – jug; S - skillet)

The three fills in this pit produced 105 sherds displaying a wide range of fabrics and potentially 41 different vessels (13 of which are jugs). Fills [120] and [122] have a notably narrower range of fabrics and a higher proportion of earlier types (eg M3 and M6) suggestive of an early to mid 13th- century date. Fill [118] on the other hand shows a wider range of types and a notable increase in later finer Binsted/West Sussex Ware type glazed jugs alongside notable numbers of earlier types (M6 in particular). Although some of this may be due to intrusive material the quantities appear too high. As such it is likely this pit was infilled some time in the second half of the 13th century when the coarser sandy wares of the 13th century were beginning to be replaced by the finer wares more typical of the 14th century.

Catalogue

1. Cooking pot with slightly hollowed triangular club rim. Grey core, orange brown surfaces. M6. Context [118].
2. Skillet with tapering pie-crust rim. Grey core, grey orange interior, grey brown exterior surfaces. Green glaze on interior base and zone of stabbing on exterior. Externally sooted. M6. Context [118].
3. Cooking pot with triangular club rim. Grey core, dull orange surfaces. M8. Context [118].
4. Jug body sherd with elongated vertical applied clay strips below a bright green glaze. Off-white throughout. M13. Context [118].
5. Wide-mouthed cooking pot/bowl with rounded club rim. Grey core, orange brown surfaces. Externally sooted. M6. Context [122].

Pit [132] (SG 36): Fill [133]

| Fabric | [133] No/weight | [133] ENV |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|
| M1 | - | - |
| M2 | - | - |
| M3 | 6/74g | 3 CP |
| M4 | 7/78g | 2 CP |

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| M5 | 5/47g | 4 J |
| M6 | 10/243g | 2 CP |
| M7 | 4/21g | 2 CP |
| M8 | 51/529g | 5 CP, 1 B |
| M9 | 2/18g | 1 CP 1 |
| M10 | 7/101g | 2 CP, 2 J |
| M11 | 45/462g | 8 CP |
| M12 | 84/891g | 11 CP, 6 J |
| M13 | 1/3g | 1 J |
| M14 | 49/532g | 9 J |

Table 4: Quantification of Pottery in Pit [132]. (CP – cooking pot; B – bowl; J – jug)

The single fill in this pit produced 271 sherds displaying a slightly less diverse range of fabrics than in Pit [113] and potentially 53 different vessels (22 of which are jugs). Although there are a number of earlier types (e.g. the M6 material) these may be residual or older vessels in contemporaneous use. The marked increase in the later fine Binsted/West Sussex Ware type fabrics (notably M12 and M14) together with the increased quantity of jugs suggests this pit was infilled later than Pit [113]. The developed rim forms on some of the cooking pots (Nos 10 and 11) and more common occurrence of cooking pots with internally glazed bases would also support this. A deposition date between 1300/25 and 1350/75 is probable thus putting it in a similar period to much of the Nalگو Lodge assemblage from Middleton (Barber 2006).

Catalogue

Fill [133]

6. Cooking pot with horizontal applied thumbed strip below neck. Grey core, black internal and brown external surfaces. Sooting on rim. M8.
7. Jug with collared rim. Grey core and inner surfaces, light grey brown exterior. External dull green glaze. M10.
8. Cooking pot with 'D' section club rim. Grey core with dull red orange surfaces. Exterior sooted. M11.
9. Cooking pot with hooked rim. Grey core with dull red orange surfaces. Exterior sooted and spots of glaze on interior. M11. Similar rim forms have been noted in Worthing before (Mephram 2001, Fig. 4, No. 12).
10. Cooking pot with triangular club rim. Grey core, buff surfaces. M12. Certainly a 14th to early 15th- century type.
11. Cooking pot with thin horizontal rim. Pale orange throughout. M12. A 14th- to early 15th- century type which can be paralleled at Middleton (Barber 2006, Fig. 7, No. 1).
12. Strap handle from jug with three applied clay strips subsequently thumbed and stabbed. Grey core with pale orange surfaces. Patchy green glaze. M14.
13. Jug with bead rim. Grey core, pale orange surfaces. Spots of green glaze. M14.

4.2.4 Discussion

The site has produced a useful group for the study of High Medieval pottery from the Worthing area. Although the range of wares is not unexpected and fairly typical of a domestic assemblage, their association in pit groups, together with their changing proportions, goes some way toward refining the dating of these fabrics. It is a pity there were not more large pit groups

from the site to reinforce/test some of the chronological observations made above. Whatever the case the main period of activity as represented by the medieval pottery appears to be between 1250 and 1350/75, a range virtually all of the pottery can be placed within even if some sits at either ends of this spectrum. A few sherds are earlier and attest to some activity in the Saxon (AS1) and maybe 12th/early 13th centuries (eg M1). Although a number of sherds could happily be placed in the second half of the 14th century none need be later than the middle of the century and certainly no later than 1375.

The source of the pottery is all local. A large proportion may be attributed to the Binsted kilns (Barton 1978, 170) though this industry is not well understood and its dating in question (Streeten 1985). It is quite likely that a number of the fabrics derive from as yet undiscovered kilns on the Coastal Plain producing similar products, most notably the fine pale pink/orange wares common in the area. The lack of imports on rural coastal plains sites of this period has been noted elsewhere (Barber 2006; Mepham 2001). It is possible these sites were of lower status, or did not have easy access to imported ceramics. It is equally possible that the locally produced pottery was of sufficient quality to reduce the desire for imported material.

4.3 The Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

4.3.1 A small assemblage of 77 pieces of worked flint weighing 1.237kg was recovered during the fieldwork at Highdown School (Table 5). In addition there were two pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint weighing 36g.

4.3.2 The raw material comprised a typical range of nodular and pebble flint that is found on Coastal Plain sites, all of which can be derived from local sources, either from beach gravels, or from the chalk Downs (Butler 1999). In addition to these pieces there were a small number of pieces of patinated flint with an orange staining.

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Hard hammer-struck flakes | 36 |
| Soft hammer-struck flakes | 6 |
| Flake/blade fragments | 24 |
| Chips | 2 |
| Shattered | 2 |
| Core rejuvenation flake | 1 |
| Core fragments | 4 |
| End scrapers | 2 |
| | |
| Total | 77 |

Table 5 : The Flintwork

4.3.4 This assemblage comprises predominantly hard hammer-struck flakes, fragments and other typical bi-products of the flintworking technologies employed in later prehistory. These pieces have limited evidence of any knapping strategy, and are frequently broken or have hinge fractures. A few soft hammer-struck flakes are also present, but may be the result of the use of a soft stone hammer rather than an antler hammer. Four core fragments

were found, none of which had any evidence for platform preparation, and had probably been detached from flake cores during the knapping process. All of this material is typical of flintwork from the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

- 4.3.5 Four of the soft hammer-struck flakes had evidence of platform preparation, which may indicate an earlier flintworking technology. There are also two hard hammer-struck flakes which are blade-like in appearance, although these could be the result of miss-hits. Two of the fragments have probably derived from blades, and are also on a patinated flint with some orange staining, which could indicate that they have an earlier provenance. One soft hammer-struck flake had been subsequently re-used as a discoidal core, although the flakes removed from this would have been very small.
- 4.3.6 A single core rejuvenation flake was recovered from Context [15]. This may be what is termed as a *flanc de nucleus*, a core rejuvenation flake that has removed the entire flaking face from a core (having been struck from a new platform at 90° to the original platform), enabling the continued use of the core. This small group of pieces appears to indicate an Early Neolithic presence at the site.
- 4.3.7 The implements comprise two scrapers. The first is a small end scraper from Context 26, manufactured on a small round cortical flake with semi-abrupt retouch around the distal end. The second is a larger end scraper from Context [101], manufactured on a cortical hard hammer-struck flake with semi-abrupt retouch around the distal end. Both of these are typical of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age scrapers, but could be later (Butler 2005).
- 4.3.8 The evidence suggests that the area was being exploited during the Early Neolithic period, but that the majority of this assemblage is fairly typical of those found on later prehistoric sites on the Coastal Plain (Butler 2002).

4.4 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 4.4.1 The archaeological work produced eleven iron fragments and one copper alloy object. Two of these have been assigned unique Registered Finds numbers (see Table 6). In addition, an iron wire fragment (diameter 3.3mm) was recovered from environmental residue <1013> (Context [120]). This context has been dated by the pottery to the 13th century.
- 4.4.2 Of the hand collected ironwork, six pieces represent general purpose nails. They were recovered from four different contexts including the topsoil. Two contexts produced dateable material, with Context [133] containing mid to later 13th- to mid to later 14th-century pottery and Context [173] dated to the 13th to early 14th century. The only complete example, with oval head (14.5 by 10.9mm) and measuring 40mm long, was recovered from undated Context [147]. Only one heavy duty nail was recovered. The piece, recovered from Context [133], is complete with a length of 72mm and a square head measuring 26 by 26mm.
- 4.4.3 Two iron strip fragments were also recovered, both from Context [133]. One of these retains two nails in situ. A thin copper-alloy strip fragment from the

same context shows a surviving nail hole.

- 4.4.4 An iron horse shoe branch (RF <1>) with three surviving nail holes of uncertain type was recovered from Context [118]. Context [133] contains an iron fragment (RF <2>) which is likely to represent a tool tang. Both are from contexts dated by the pottery to the 13th-century.

| SITE CODE | RF No | CONTEXT | OBJECT | MATERIAL | WT (G) |
|-----------|-------|---------|--------|----------|--------|
| HDW09 | 118 | 1 | HORS | IRON | 54 |
| HDW09 | 133 | 2 | TOOL | IRON | 10 |
| HDW09 | 133 | 3 | MORT | STON | 182 |

Table 6 - Summary of the Registered Finds

4.5 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

- 4.5.1 A small assemblage of six fired clay fragments (wt 32g) was recovered from four different contexts. The dated contexts contain pottery of 13th-century ([118] and [120]) or mid 13th- to mid-14th century date ([143]).
- 4.5.2 The fragments are all in a sparse, fine sand-tempered fabric. The piece from [120] contains in addition occasional quartz inclusions to 1mm and rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. The three fragments from undated context [102] exhibit one flat surface. Context [118], dated by the pottery to the 13th century, contains a piece with rounded surface. None of the other pieces retain any features.
- 4.5.3 These pieces are likely to represent daub. However, their undiagnostic nature and the small size of the assemblage mean no further conclusions can be drawn.

4.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 4.6.1 The excavations recovered only three pieces of stone. The assemblage consists of a fragment of possible 19th- century Welsh slate (4g: unstratified in T5), a fragment of Lower Greensand, almost certainly from a rotary quern (17g: mid/late 13th- century pit fill [118], Pit [113]) and a piece of light grey granular limestone, probably a Purbeck stone (RF 3. 181g: fill [133] of Pit [132], dated to the 14th century). The latter consists of one of the weathered handles from a grinding mortar typical of mid 13th- to mid 14th-century Caen and, to a lesser extent, Purbeck types (Dunning 1977).

4.7 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun and Gemma Driver

4.7.1 Introduction

The excavations at the former Highdown School produced a small quantity of animal bone. A total of 43 fragments of large mammal bone were recovered from eight contexts and this includes material from both hand collection and environmental samples. Six of these contexts were dateable to either the 13th or 13th to 14th centuries. In addition, the environmental

samples also produced small quantities of small mammal, fish and amphibian bone.

4.7.2 Assemblage

The assemblage is small and highly fragmented, with no complete elements present. However, the overall condition of the bone is good, with little surface weathering.

4.7.3 Methods

Full quantification of the material was undertaken. This included identification of fragments to species and the skeletal element represented. The resulting data produced NISP (Number of Identified Specimen) counts. The NISP totals include all skeletal elements such as skull fragments, ribs and vertebrae. Undiagnostic fragments categorised as cattle size or sheep size, have been included in the quantification tables for identifiable bone. Ageing and sexing data was recorded where present and each element then studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

4.7.4 Results

The results of the analysis have been summarised below and quantification of the large mammal bone assemblage can be found in Table 7. Due to the small size of the assemblage no statistical analysis has been undertaken.

| | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig |
|--|--------|------------|-----|
| 13 th century | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 13 th -14 th century | 6 | 3 | |
| Undated | 2 | 8 | |
| Total | 16 | 18 | 3 |

Table 7 Quantification of large mammal bone (NISP)

13th century

The three 13th century contexts producing animal bone were [88], [118], and [120]. Cattle and sheep/goat and pig were all present and both meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements and represented. A single juvenile pig femur was recorded in [118]. Evidence of butchery was absent with the exception of a possible chop mark on a cattle innominate bone ([88]). Charred and calcined fragments of bone were recorded in [118] and [120]. A single metatarsus identified as domestic fowl was recorded in [118]. In addition, the environmental samples from all three 13th century contexts produced fish and small mammal bone but less than 1g was recovered in all cases.

13th-14th century

Only three contexts of this period produced animal bone; [133], [141], [143]. Only cattle and sheep/goat were identified but mostly as unidentifiable longbone fragments. No juvenile fragments were identified and there was no evidence for pathology, butchery or burning. The environmental sample from [133] produced less than 1 gram of fish bone.

Undated.

Contexts [119] and [173] produced ten fragments identified as cattle and

sheep goat. Some evidence for charring was found on sheep-sized elements from [119]. This context also produced the largest quantity of small mammal, amphibian and fish bone from the site but was still less than 3g. The amphibian bone is the size of a small frog.

4.7.5 Discussion

The presence of the three main domesticate species is unsurprising in a medieval assemblage. Unfortunately, as a result of the small sample size, no conclusions can be drawn as to the animal husbandry practices associated with the site. The evidence from the environmental samples suggests that fish formed part of the diet, although it was unfortunate that fish bone was not recovered in sufficient quantities to allow detailed analysis.

4.8 The Shell by Elke Raemen

4.8.1 Introduction

A total of 69 shells and shell fragments (wt 2144g) was recovered from seven different contexts. Both land and marine molluscs are present. Material collected from environmental residues consists of a similar range from the same contexts. An additional two contexts ([87] and [119]) contain shell fragments from environmental residues only. Molluscs from residues are only included where they add information to the hand collected assemblage.

4.8.2 Land Molluscs

Land snails were recovered from four different contexts. A total of 18 complete examples as well as a number of smaller species and fragments from the residues were recovered from [88]. Contexts [120], [173] and [87] also contained land snails and land snail fragments. Contexts [87], [88] and [120] contain marine molluscs as well. All contexts are of 13th- to early 14th-century date.

4.8.3 Marine Molluscs

The majority of marine molluscs consists of oyster shell, both upper and lower valves. Immature examples were also recovered (i.e. [118], [120], [133]), as well as pieces exhibiting considerable parasitic damage (i.e. [88], [118], [120], [133]).

A few mussel fragments were found ([87] and [88], [119]), as well as both valves of a carpet shell ([88]). Periwinkles were only recovered from the environmental residues and were found in [88] and [118]. All contexts containing shell contain pottery of 13th- to mid 14th-century.

4.9 The Other Finds by Elke Raemen

- 4.9.1 A plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 6. The piece dates to the mid 17th- to early 18th- century.
- 4.9.2 Three fragments of fine off-white mortar were recovered from [88]. Context [67] contained a fragment of sandy lime mortar with flint grits. The latter context does not contain any dateable material. Context [88] has been dated by the pottery to the 13th century.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 The Charred Plant Remains by Lucy Allott

5.1.1 Introduction

A total of 27 bulk soil samples were taken during several phases of archaeological work at the site to aid recovery of charred plant remains such as charcoal and charred macrobotanicals. This work aimed to further our understanding of agriculture in this region of the coastal plain during the Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age period and the 13th to 14th Century occupations and land use.

5.1.2 Methodology

Charred macroplant remains

Samples were processed in a siraf style flotation tank and the flots and residues were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively. The flots were measured and weighed before being sorted for charred macrobotanical remains under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45. Charcoal specimens were fractured along three planes (TS – transverse, TLS – tangential longitudinal and RLS – radial longitudinal sections) following standardised methodology (Gale and Cutler 2000). The fractured surfaces were viewed using both a stereozoom Leica EZ4D microscope at 8-45x magnifications (for preliminary sorting) and an incident light Olympus BHMJ microscope at 50, 100, 200 and 400x magnifications (for taxonomic identifications). The presence of roundwood fragments and vitrified charcoal are recorded where apparent.

Identifications were made by comparing the macroplant remains and anatomical structures within the charcoal with modern reference specimens held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and with taxa documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004, Anderberg 1994, Berggren 1969, 1981, Hather 2000, Schweingruber 1990, Schoch *et al.* 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

5.1.3 Results and Discussion

These samples produced small flots in which uncharred roots and seeds were moderately common. Such uncharred remains provide evidence for a small degree of post-depositional disturbance. Fragments of wood charcoal were present in the flots and residues of 26 of the 27 samples however the majority of these were <2mm in size. Larger fragments suitable for identification were infrequent and therefore only a limited number of taxa have been identified from the richest samples (<1015> from Pit [132] and <1012> and <1019> from Pit [113]). Small to moderate assemblages of charred macrobotanical remains were recorded in 15 of the 27 samples. They were generally poorly preserved and this may result from post-depositional movement.

Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

Two samples were taken from deposits dated by pottery to the LBA/EIA

period. One sample, <1000>, ditch fill [23], contained no macrobotanical remains at all. The other sample <1011>, from the fill of a small gully [106] produced a small assemblage of seeds from cereal and non-cereal crop plants. Infrequent wheat caryopses including possible bread-type wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) were recorded as well as a small celtic/broad bean (*Vicia faba*) and poorly preserved vetch/tare/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.). Their presence provides some evidence for agricultural activities during this period but unfortunately the assemblage is too limited to further our knowledge of the range of crops being cultivated at this time. The scarcity of macrobotanical remains may result from a lack of fuel using activities being undertaken at the locality during the LBA/EIA as evidenced by the small charcoal assemblages in both samples. Such processes present the opportunity for cereals and other food or fodder remains to become charred, either deliberately during processing or accidentally, which in turn assists in their preservation. Without such occurrences macrobotanical remains are often absent of the archaeological assemblage. The nearby site of Centenary House produced a similarly scant assemblage and although wheat and broad beans were identified (Hinton forthcoming), no bread wheat was evident in that assemblage. Neither site has produced sufficient material to characterise the agricultural land use during the LBA/EIA.

Medieval

The majority of samples were taken from groups of features containing 13th and 14th century artefacts. Eleven of the 14 samples produced macrobotanical assemblages and many of these are significantly richer than the earlier LBA/EIA assemblages. Macrobotanicals from crops as well as plants that could have been used as fodder dominate the assemblages. Bread-type wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) caryopses were moderately common in many of the samples. The assemblage also contains non-cereal crops such as large and small celtic/broad beans (*Vicia faba*), several vetch/tare (*Vicia / Lathyrus* sp.) taxa as well as peas (*Pisum sativum*). Unfortunately many of the legumes were fragmented and/or did not retain sufficient clear anatomical features to enable secure identification. Bread-type wheat appears to be the most commonly occurring crop and the lack of glume bases lend support to this observation. Caryopses from glume wheats that could be either emmer (*Triticum diccicum*) or spelt (*T. spelta*) are however evident in three samples.

Weeds such as black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.), knotgrass/ dock/ bindweed (*Polygonum / Rumex / Fallopia* sp.), mugwort (*Artemisia* sp.), chamomile (*Anthemis* sp.), thistles (*Carduus/ Cirsium* sp.), crane's-bill (*Geranium* sp.), and cabbage/mustards/ charlock (*Brassica/ Sinapsis* sp.) that are common on disturbed or waste ground and are frequently associated with arable land were evident in many of the samples. As many of these were found in association with charred crop seeds it is likely that they were brought to the site with the crops perhaps becoming charred during processing. Violet (*Viola* sp.) which is typically found in woodland, scrub or hedgerows and rushes (*Juncus* sp.) that are common on damp ground near water were noted in the richest samples <1019>, [113] and <1015>, [132].

Charcoal fragments from three samples were analysed to provide some, albeit limited evidence for the woody taxa used for fuel. Two of these samples, <1012> and <1019> from Pit [113] were dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.). Both samples also contained Maloideae group taxa (apple/pear/whitebeam/hawthorn) while individual fragments of cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) and hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus* sp.) were identified in sample <1012> and Leguminosae taxa such as gorse/broom (*Ulex/Cytissus* sp.) were noted in sample <1019>. The third sample <1015>, from pit [132] produced a broad range of taxa including roundwood fragments of rose family (Rosaceae) taxa, Maloideae group taxa, oak, cherry/blackthorn, elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Each of the samples also contained vitrified charcoal including some roundwood fragments however their anatomical features were too poorly preserved to enable identification. The presence of vitrified charcoal suggests charring occurred at high temperatures (Braadbart & Poole 2008). The presence of a range of taxa from both woodland and hedgerow vegetation habitats implies that fuel was sourced from several locations. Unfortunately the charcoal assemblage is too small and limited to provide significant information regarding fuel use or to provide evidence for woodland management.

Undated

On the whole macrobotanicals were absent in samples taken from undated and unphased features or deposits which suggests that the occurrence and preservation of botanical remains mirrors the evidence for landuse. Only three samples, <1002>, <1003> and <1014> from undated deposits, [34], [91] and [129] respectively contain macrobotanicals including wheat caryopses and a single small celtic/broad bean however these remains are very infrequent and poorly preserved.

5.1.4 Conclusions

The Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age occupation deposits provide very little information regarding the agricultural economy of the area or indeed plant use at the site as a whole. Samples dating to the late Medieval occupations have provided significantly richer assemblages and suggest that an array of crops were available to the site occupants. Many of these may have been grown locally although this assemblage neither confirms nor refutes this. The crop assemblage predominantly consists of plants consumed by people although there is some evidence for plants such as vetch/tare and other legumes that could have been cultivated for fodder. There is a limited amount of evidence for wild plants that are also edible however as these are present in such small quantities and they are all frequently found on disturbed ground associated with land use or as arable weeds, their presence cannot be assumed to indicate their consumption. As the macrobotanical assemblage is dominated by arable crops and their associated weeds, evidence for the local natural vegetation is relatively scant. The wood charcoal assemblage was too small to significantly alter this picture although it does provide evidence for hedgerows and woodland that no doubt would have been used for food as well as fuel resources.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The small-scale excavations at the former site of Highdown School have added further information to the growing corpus of archaeological data from the West Sussex Coastal Plain. Clearly the area was a favoured location for settlement in the prehistoric period, with continued Romano-British occupation (although not at the current site), and a notable level of activity in the medieval period.
- 6.2 Although the number of prehistoric features encountered at the site was comparatively few in number, they are a clear indication of the kind of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity indicated by finds from other sites in the immediate vicinity (James forthcoming; Stevens forthcoming). The division of large areas of the Coastal Plain by the excavation of ditches during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age is well documented, and the current site fits a pattern seen on numerous sites in the area and further afield (Yates 2007).
- 6.3 It is likely that a number of the features that could not be positively dated from artefactual evidence also originate in prehistory, suggesting a high level of activity or even lengthy occupation at the site. Unfortunately the limited assemblage of prehistoric material, and poor quality of the environmental evidence negates the formulation of any models of activity, and any firm conclusions concerning the status, or even function of the site would be unwise based on currently available evidence.
- 6.4 There are similar problems with the interpretation of the medieval evidence. Clearly there was habitation in the immediate vicinity given the presence of good assemblages of pottery at the current site and nearby. Although the assemblages recovered when the local roundabout was constructed (NGR 51195 10432) remain unpublished, pits containing medieval material were uncovered at both the current site and Centenary House (SEAS 1993), and to the south and north of the site (Mark Taylor *pers. comm.*)
- 6.5 The presence of such large assemblages is clearly indicative of permanent occupation of this part of the Worthing area during the medieval period, presumably in the form of a collection of roadside dwellings and/or farmsteads. Cartographic research undertaken in connection with the initial evaluation at Centenary House showed that the current alignment of Littlehampton Road formed the main east to west route in the area by the first maps of the 18th century and hence was presumably the main local medieval route too (SEAS 1993). The current alignment of Durrington Lane is also shown on the 18th century maps, suggesting that the crossroads of the north to south and east to west routes may have formed a hub for settlement during the medieval period.
- 6.6 The research also showed that by the 18th century there were two foci of local settlement, one to the north-east of the site and one more concentrated area of occupation even further to the north (*ibid.*). Arguably the finds at the current site suggest that this dual focus was medieval in origin, perhaps with a shift in settlement northwards in the early post-medieval period. However, this hypothesis must remain unproven without further evidence.

- 6.7** Clearly in itself the medieval pottery assemblage from the site has added to the limited data set of studied pottery of this date from the Worthing area, but other evidence was also present. The environmental evidence clearly points to a flourishing agriculture regime in the area, and the availability of a range of different types of timber for fuel. It was unfortunate that the fish bone assemblage was too small to allow meaningful analysis, given the rarity of survival of this material.
- 6.8** Perhaps the most unexpected discovery was that of the Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon pottery at the site. Although the number and size of sherds were small, and they were recovered from a much earlier feature, their presence is noteworthy. Find sites of pottery dating from the 7th to 11th century are still comparatively rare in Sussex, and despite recent discoveries both on the Coastal Plain (e.g. Stevens 2006) and elsewhere (e.g. James 2002), the pottery from the Highdown School site is rare enough to be considered highly significant.
- 6.9** Hence, despite the high level of modern truncation, significant archaeological deposits did survive at the site and have shed light on the area's prehistoric and historic past.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of Mark Taylor, WSCC at all stages of the project is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to all of the on-site contractors for their co-operation and hospitality. The project was funded by Castleoak Care Partnerships.

SMR Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | HDW 09 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Former Site of Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Durrington | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Worthing District, West Sussex | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | NGR 512252 104468 | | | | | |
| Geology | Brickearth | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 3717 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. ✓ | Excav. ✓ | Watching Brief | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other <i>Former School</i> | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. Jan 2009- June 2009 | Excav. Jan 2009- June 2009 | WB. | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Castleoak Care Partnerships | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Simon Stevens | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. ✓ | BA ✓ | IA | RB |
| | AS ✓ | MED ✓ | PM | Other | | |
| 100 Word Summary. | | | | | | |
| <p><i>A programme of archaeological evaluation of the site of a former school was followed by the detailed excavation and recording of three open areas. Encountered features included post-holes, pits, ditches and gullies. Artefacts ranging in date from the Neolithic to the medieval period were recovered, although all of the positively identified features were either Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, or medieval in date. A small assemblage of rare Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from a prehistoric feature.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-65711

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing |
| Short description of the project | A programme of archaeological evaluation of the site of a former school was followed by the detailed excavation and recording of three open areas. Encountered features included post-holes, pits, ditches and gullies. Artefacts ranging in date from the Neolithic to the medieval period were recovered, although all of the positively identified features were either Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, or medieval in date. A small assemblage of rare Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from a prehistoric feature |
| Project dates | Start: 30-01-2009 End: 02-06-2009 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | HDW 09 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | 3717 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 13 - Waste ground |
| Monument type | DITCH Late Prehistoric |
| Monument type | PIT Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Late Bronze Age |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Early Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Significant Finds | FLINT Late Prehistoric |
| Investigation type | 'Full excavation' |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane |
| Postcode | BN13 2QJ |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Study area | 1.00 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TQ 12252 04468 50.8282835270 -0.405957047643 50 49 41 N 000 24 21 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 10.00m Max: 12.00m |

Project creators

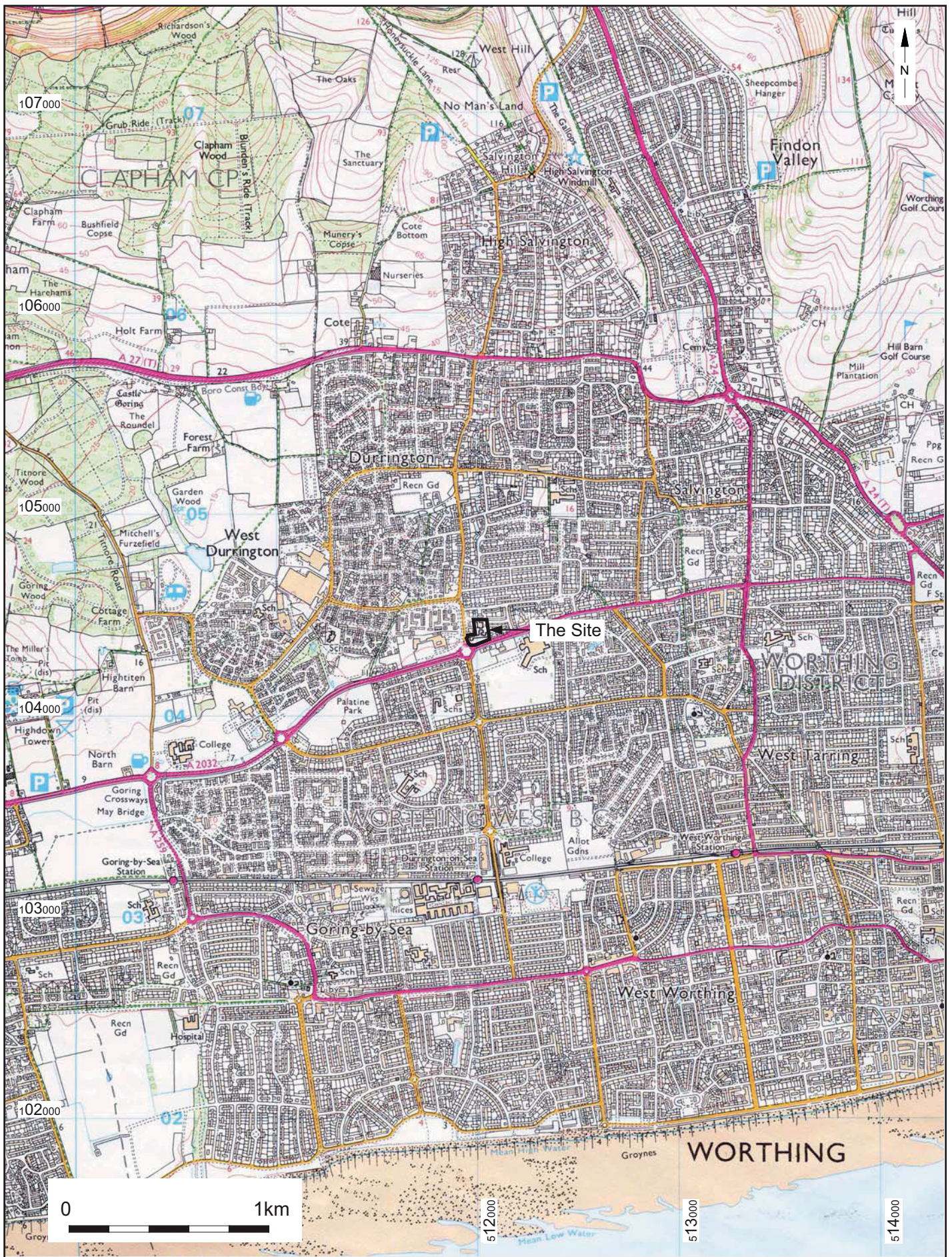
| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
| Project brief originator | West Sussex County Council |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Neil Griffin |
| Project director/manager | Jim Stevenson |
| Project supervisor | Simon Stevens |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Client |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Castleoak Care Partnerships |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Worthing Museum |
| Physical Contents | 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics' |
| Digital Archive recipient | Worthing Museum |
| Digital Contents | 'other' |
| Digital Media available | 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets' |
| Paper Archive recipient | Worthing Museum |
| Paper Contents | 'other' |
| Paper Media available | 'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Map','Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript' |

**Project
bibliography 1**

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Investigations at the Former Site of Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Durrington |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Stevens. S. |
| Other bibliographic details | ASE Report No. 2009145 |
| Date | 2009 |
| Issuer or publisher | Archaeology South-East |
| Place of issue or publication | Portslade, East Sussex |
| Description | Standard ASE Client Report ' A4 sized with cover photograph and logos |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 3717 | Oct 2009 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2009145 | Drawn by: JLR | | |

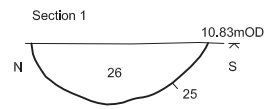
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|--------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing | | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 3717 | Oct 2009 | Trench location plan | | |
| Report Ref: 2009145 | Drawn by: LD/JR | | | |



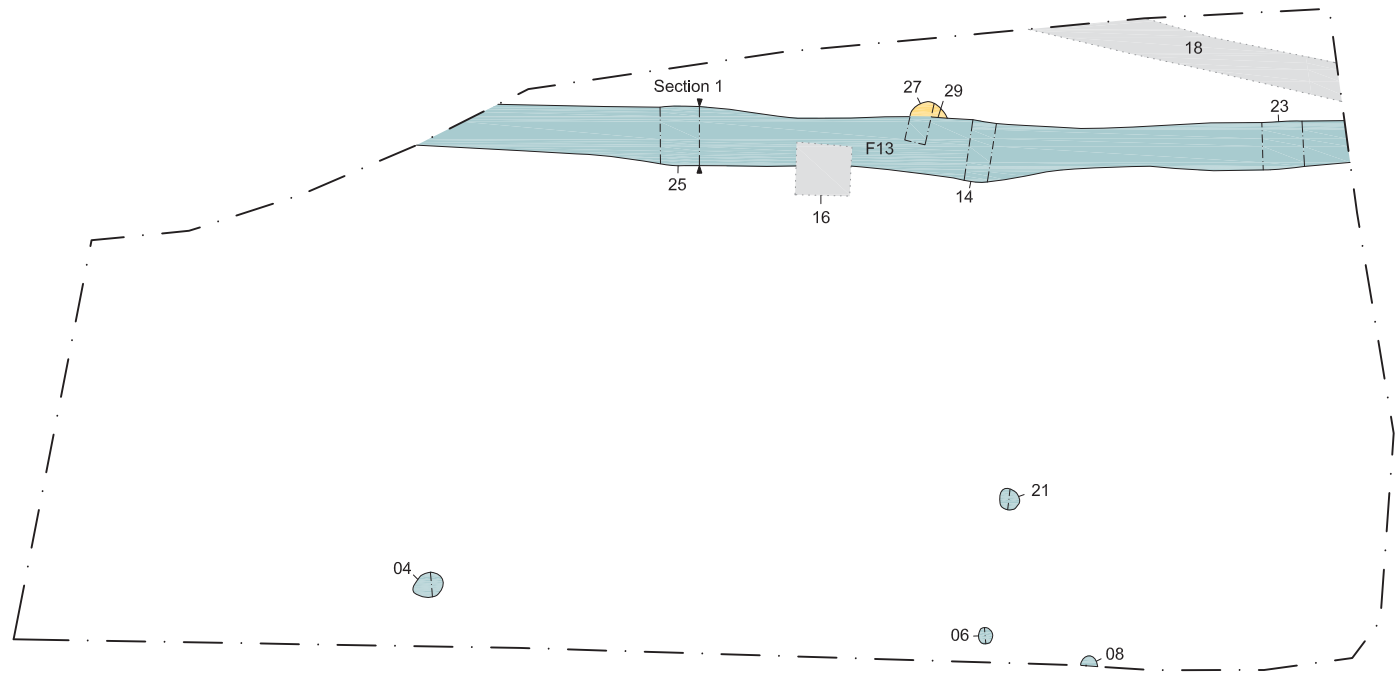
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|--------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing | | Fig. 3 |
| Project Ref: 3717 | Oct 2009 | Trench location plan | | |
| Report Ref: 2009145 | Drawn by: LD/JR | | | |

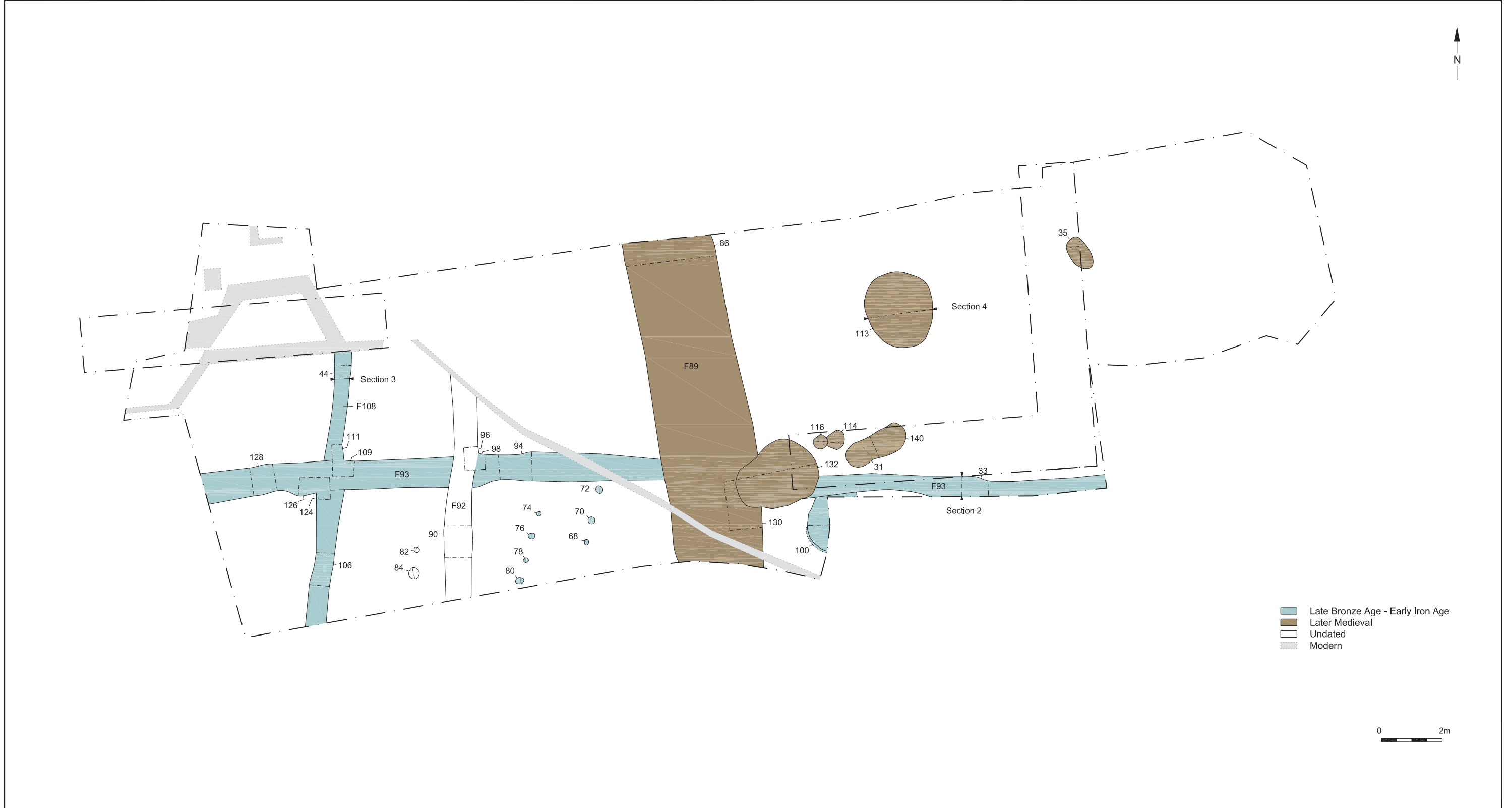


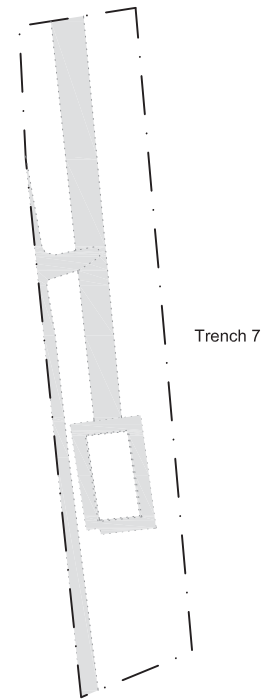
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- Early Prehistoric
- Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age
- Modern

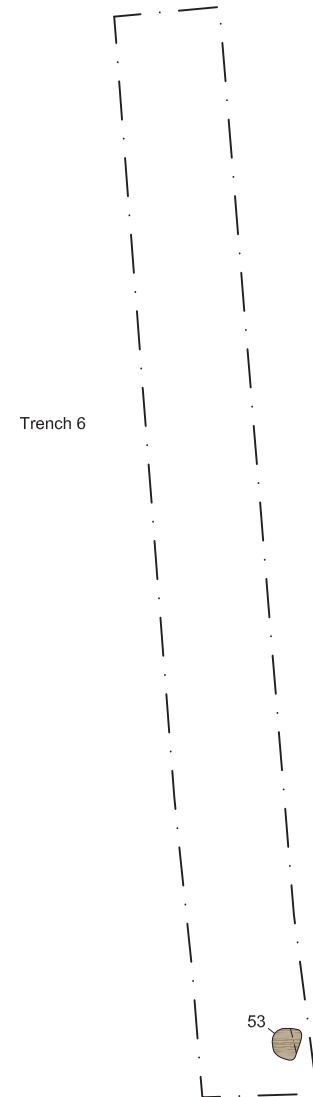
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Trench 7



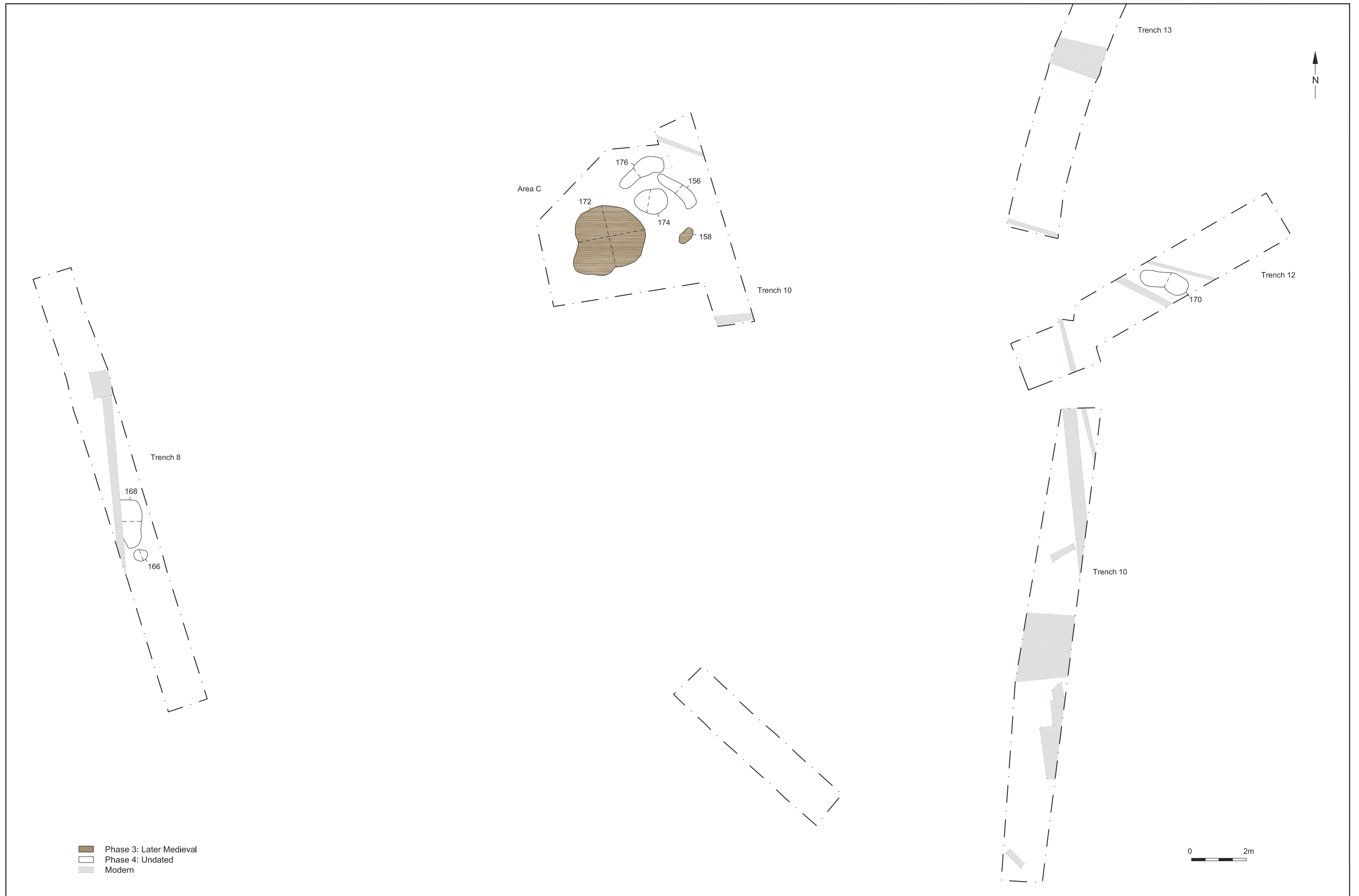
Trench 6

53

■ Later Medieval
■ Modern

0 2m

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Former Highdown School, Durrington Lane, Worthing | Fig. 6 |
| Project Ref: 3717 | Oct 2009 | Trenches 6 and 7: Phased plan | |
| Report Ref: 2009145 | Drawn by: LD/JR | | |



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 

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