

**Archaeological Investigations at Hassocks Golf Club,
London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex**

NGR 530010 116631

**Mid Sussex District Council Planning Reference
HA/76/02926/FUL**

**Project No. 3348
Site Code: HGC 08**

**ASE Report No. 2009201
OASIS ID: archaeol6-69138**

Simon Stevens BA MIFA



**With contributions by
Anna Doherty, Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus,
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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief of topsoil stripping on the 14th fairway of Hassocks Golf Club was followed by the excavation of a limited number of features which showed evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity. A number of possible Anglo-Saxon buildings (including grubenhäuser) were identified but not fully excavated, as much of the site was to be preserved in situ.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Planning permission was granted by Mid Sussex District Council for a series of alterations at Hassocks Golf Club, London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex (centred at NGR 530010 116631) (Fig. 1) These included the construction of earth mounds adjacent to the 14th hole and modifications to the practise area near the clubhouse (Planning Ref. HA/07/02926/FUL). Owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation with West Sussex County Council, (Mid Sussex District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a planning condition (No. 2) was attached to the consent requiring a programme of archaeological work at the site.
- 1.1.2 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Penfold Verrall Ltd. to undertake the archaeological work and duly produced a *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the scope of the work at the site (ASE 2008). The document was prepared following consultation with West Sussex County Council and described the methodology to be used, in this case the instigation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the alterations at the site.
- 1.1.3 In the event, only the groundworks associated with the creation of earthen mounds on the southern side of the 14th hole were undertaken. It is understood that the alterations to the practice area will not be undertaken in the near future. Hence the current report describes results from work on the 14th hole.

1.2 Site Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The 14th hole of the golf course lies in open countryside to the west of the A273, between the settlements of Hassocks and Hurst Wickham, at a height of c.45m AOD. The ground drops to the south into the shallow valley of a local stream, one of a network of watercourses in the general area. The site also enjoys attractive views of the scarp slopes of the South Downs to the south. According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 00 map of the area (Sheet 318/333, *Brighton and Worthing*) the underlying geology at the site consists of Lower Greensand, with Weald Clay immediately to the north.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site lies in an area of the Sussex rich in archaeological remains, especially of the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods. Excavations by the Mid Sussex Field Archaeology Team (MSFAT) in 1994 revealed a range of features in the vicinity including a Roman road (and underlying Late Iron Age/Romano-British trackway) which crosses the golf course to the east of the 14th hole (Butler 2000). Investigations elsewhere within the boundaries of the course showed the presence of Anglo-Saxon features close to the current site, including the remains of post-built structures, sunken featured buildings, and evidence of contemporary ironworking. There was also some evidence of prehistoric activity, consisting of a significant assemblage of flintwork (*ibid.*).

- 1.3.2 In addition, according to the West Sussex County Historic Environment Record, numerous finds have been made on land adjacent to Clayton Wickham Farm, immediately to the west of the current site. Pottery and other artefacts dating from the Anglo-Saxon era onwards have been discovered as well as quantities of prehistoric flintwork (WSCC HER NO. 7232 – MWS7292).
- 1.3.3 A recently published excavation to the north of the current site at Hammonds Mill Farm uncovered evidence of possible prehistoric burnt mounds and Romano-British and medieval activity (Butler 2009).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A watching brief was maintained by personnel from Archaeology South-East during the stripping of topsoil from three separate areas adjacent to the 14th hole (Fig. 2, Areas A, B and C). The mid-brown humic silty clay topsoil, [100], which varied in thickness between 300mm and 700mm was removed by a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to reveal the surface of the underlying 'natural' clay and silty clay, which varied in colour between brownish yellow and orangey brown [101]. A number of archaeological features were revealed during this process.
- 2.2 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 and define 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 suitable local museum in due course.

3.0 THE SITE (Figs. 3, 4 and 5)

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Following a meeting between representatives of Archaeology South-East, West Sussex County Council, Penfold Verrall Ltd. and the management of the golf course, it was decided that the exposed archaeological features could be left *in situ* during the construction of the new earthworks at the site. Hence it was agreed that only a small sample of the features would be excavated in order to gain some understanding of the character and date of the site. It was decided that given the limited resources and time available (reflecting the absence of adequate funding for the project), the relationships between features would not be investigated.

3.1.2 Given the very limited nature of the excavation, the date of the majority of the features must remain uncertain. However, the features which could be dated by associated material assemblages (which were themselves often small in size), or through spatial relationships, have been assigned to one of six phases of activity.

3.2 Phase 1 - Prehistoric

3.2.1 The discernible evidence for this phase of activity at the site consists of two struck flints from Area A (Fig. 3). One was recovered from possible ditch [108] (fill [109]) which is thought to date to the medieval period and the flint is therefore residual in this context. The other piece was the only artefact recovered from another partially excavated ditch [128], which was 1.6m wide and 470mm deep, and ran north-south across the site. The struck flint, a scraper of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date was recovered from the single encountered fill [129], of dark greyish brown silty clay. Given the small area of excavated section (Fig. 6, S1), the dating of this feature remains tentative at best.

3.3 Phase 2 - Late Iron Age – Early Romano-British

3.3.1 Pottery dating to this phase formed the most numerous class of artefacts recovered at the site, although the sherd count was still markedly low in the majority of the examined features.

3.3.2 There was an obvious concentration of features of this date in Area C (Fig. 5). The largest assemblage of artefacts was recovered from pit [278], despite a diameter of 780mm and a depth of only 110mm (Fig 6, S2). The single dark greyish brown charcoal-rich silty clay fill, [279] contained pottery and amorphous lumps of burnt clay and oak charcoal, including fragments of bark. An adjacent feature, pit [280] contained a similar, but smaller assemblage. It was 650mm in diameter and 90mm deep (Fig. 6, S3). The single fill [281], was similarly charcoal-rich dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained charred wheat and other unidentifiable cereal grains.

3.3.3 Both features truncated a larger feature containing pottery of a similar date, pit [276]. It was irregular in shape, suggesting it may in reality have been made up of more than one feature, with a diameter of 1.3m. One corner of the 'feature' was excavated. It was a maximum of 350mm deep at that point (Fig. 6, S4). The single encountered fill [277], was dark greyish brown silty

clay.

- 3.3.4 At least two intercutting ditches ran across the site from north to south to the west of this complex of pits. The easternmost was ditch [304], which was 1.06m wide and 380mm deep, and 'v'-shaped in profile (Fig. 6, S5). The single fill [305], was dark brownish grey silty clay. Cut [306] was the westernmost ditch. It was also apparently 'v'-shaped in profile of similar width, but 460mm in depth (Fig. 6, S6). The single encountered fill [307], was mid-brown silty clay, which contained abundant charcoal. Pottery recovered during cleaning of the features was labelled as Context [305/307]. Following consultation with John Mills of West Sussex County Council, no attempt was made to ascertain the relationship between the two ditches or with adjacent ditch [302]. Ditch [302] was not excavated but was c.1m wide. The visible upper fill [303], was mid-brown silty clay. The feature was presumed to form part of the complex of ditches and was assigned to this phase.
- 3.3.5 Two contemporary gullies ran east to west on the western side of the ditches. Gully [308] was 910mm wide and 170mm deep (Fig. 6, S7). The single fill [309], was mid-greyish brown silty clay. Gully [310] ran parallel to it, c.2m to the south. The feature was not excavated but two small sherds of early Romano-British pottery were recovered from the surface of the feature. The visible deposit [311] was mid-greyish brown silty clay. It is possible that gully [312] immediately to the south was part of this complex (although it is on a slightly different alignment). The surface fill [313], was similar in colour and texture to the other nearby dated gullies.
- 3.3.6 The only other feature which could be positively dated to this phase in Area C was pit [318], and again only two small sherds of pottery were recovered from it. The feature was 750mm in diameter and 130mm deep (Fig. 6, S8). The single fill [319], was mid-brown silty clay. In the absence of any other datable features in the vicinity it is presumed that the unexcavated adjacent features of similar size (pits [316] and [320]) and nearby smaller pit [314] were also of this date. Their fills [317], [321] and [315] were all greyish brown silty clays.
- 3.3.7 Only two features positively assigned to this phase were encountered in Area B (Fig. 4). Pit [238] was c.2m in diameter and 220mm deep in the examined portion (Fig. 6, S9). The single encountered fill [239], was mid-brown silty clay. The other, gully [236], ran for c.10m from east to west across the site. It was 350mm in width and was not excavated. Two sherds of pottery dated to this phase were recovered from the surface of the feature during manual cleaning. The upper fill [237], was mid-grey silty clay.
- 3.3.8 The only feature which could possibly fall within this phase in Area A was pit [158] (Fig. 3). It had a diameter of 710mm and a depth of 250mm (Fig. 6, S10). The single fill [159], was mid-greyish brown silty clay. A single sherd of pottery with a date range of AD 50 - 400 was recovered from the feature, so dating to this phase is tentative.

3.4 Phase 3 - Early Anglo-Saxon

- 3.4.1 One feature could be dated to this phase (Fig. 5). Pit [286] encountered in Area C was c.3m in diameter and the examined portion was 60mm in depth

(Fig. 6, S11). The single encountered fill [287], was mid-brown silty clay. Pottery of early Anglo-Saxon date, and a spindle whorl were recovered from the fill, offering a date range of the late 4th - 5th centuries. Recovered environmental material included charred wheat and barley grains. The remains were arguably those of an early Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building or *grubenhau*, a type of building encountered on numerous sites dating from the 5th to the late 7th centuries in southern England and beyond. These features are typically shallow and sub-rectangular and usually c.3m by c.4m, and are often interpreted as remains of workshops (Tipper 2004, 1).

3.5 Phase 4 - Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon

- 3.5.1 Five features could be positively assigned to this phase, spread thinly across all three of the examined areas, again based on only a small number of sherds of pottery. The largest assemblage came from pit [230] encountered in Area B (Fig. 4). The feature measured c.4.4m (east to west) by c.2.6m (north to south) and was arguably the remains of another slightly later Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building or *grubenhau*. The excavation of a small section of the feature showed that it survived to a depth of only 170mm (Fig. 6, S12). The encountered fill [231], was mid-brownish grey silty clay. A small quantity of charcoal was recovered from an environmental sample.
- 3.5.2 Adjacent posthole [232] was excavated, but produced no datable finds. It was 750mm in diameter and 180mm in depth (Fig. 6, S13). The single fill [233], was mid-brownish grey silty clay. Unexcavated feature [228], located at the opposite end of [230] might represent a second posthole and/or postholes. If these do represent postholes and are contemporary with [230] the layout reflects that typical of sunken featured buildings (Tipper *op. cit.*).
- 3.5.3 A second possible *grubenhau* of this date was encountered in Area A, but lay partly under the northern baulk of the exposed area (Fig. 3). Pit [130] was 3.2m in diameter, and the excavated portion of the feature had a depth of 380mm (Fig. 6, S14). The single encountered fill [131], was dark greyish brown silty clay, which produced a small assemblage of 7th to 9th century pottery. An environmental sample produced only a small quantity of charcoal, but included charred oats. The deposit also contained ironworking slag from the forging process, evidence of which was also found in Anglo-Saxon contexts nearby in 1994 (Butler 2000). A nearby feature, pit [132] also contained a small quantity of mid to late Anglo-Saxon material. It was 900mm in diameter and 250mm in depth (Fig. 6, S15), and the single fill [133], was mid-greyish brown silty clay. An environmental sample contained charcoal and charred wheat and barley, and evidence of weeds.
- 3.5.4 The other feature encountered in Area A which contained mid to late Anglo-Saxon pottery was posthole [168], which had a diameter of 460mm and a depth of 140mm (Fig. 6, S16). The single fill [169], was mid-brown silty clay, which contained two small sherds of pottery dated to the 7th to 9th centuries.
- 3.5.5 This posthole was part of a group of such features forming the remains of a building or buildings which ran under the southern baulk of the excavated area. The only other discrete feature excavated in this cluster was posthole [126], which had a diameter of 300mm and a depth of 250mm (Fig. 6, S17).

Unfortunately, no datable artefacts were recovered from the fill, [127]. All of the unexcavated post-holes had mid-greyish brown silty clay fills, and varied in diameter from 200mm to 500mm (Table 1). Fuller descriptions are housed with the site archive. It is possible that this group of post-holes represent the remains of the northern end of Anglo-Saxon post-built buildings similar in construction to others known from the immediate area (Butler 2000) and at other sites in Sussex (e.g. Bishopstone, Bell 1977).

| Post-Hole | Fill | Diameter |
|-----------|------|----------|
| 170 | 171 | 200mm |
| 172 | 173 | 300mm |
| 174 | 175 | 400mm |
| 176 | 177 | 380mm |
| 178 | 179 | 450mm |
| 180 | 181 | 250mm |
| 192 | 193 | 400mm |
| 194 | 195 | 250mm |
| 196 | 197 | 300mm |
| 198 | 199 | 300mm |
| 200 | 201 | 350mm |
| 202 | 203 | 450mm |
| 204 | 205 | 400mm |
| 206 | 207 | 250mm |
| 208 | 209 | 450mm |
| 210 | 211 | 270mm |
| 212 | 213 | 480mm |
| 214 | 215 | 380mm |
| 216 | 217 | 500mm |

Table 1: Undated postholes in Area A (west of ditch [166])

3.5.6 Gullies located in the area also appear to form the remains of a building constructed by the use of trenches rather than post-holes, a technique known to have been used at other sites in Sussex in the late Anglo-Saxon period (e.g. Bishopstone, Thomas 2005). Gullies [182], [188] and [190] appeared to form the northern end of a structure. Gully [182] was 330mm wide and 150mm in depth (Fig. 6, S18). The single fill [183], was mid-brown silty clay, and contained charcoal and charred oats. Gully [188] was 200mm wide and 100mm deep (Fig. 6, S19). The single fill [189], was mid-brown clayey silt. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, it does not seem unreasonable to presume a late Anglo-Saxon date for the structure, possibly a post-in-trench 'hall-type' building as seen at Bishopstone (*ibid.*). The other foundation trench, gully [190] was not excavated, but was 550mm wide, with a visible mid-brown clayey silty fill, [191].

3.5.7 Arguably the group of mostly unexcavated post-holes to the east of the post-in-trench and other buildings (on the other side of undated ditch [166]) might also be considered to be the remains of post-built Anglo-Saxon structures. The recovery of a single small, potentially residual sherd of Romano-British pottery in pit [158] does not preclude this, especially given the proximity of Anglo-Saxon features, pit [132] and possible *grubenhause*, pit [130]. Hence it is postulated that this cluster of postholes is, on balance also the remains of further Anglo-Saxon structures, much of which lay outside of the examined

area. All of the unexcavated post-holes had mid-greyish or mid-brown silty clay fills, and varied in diameter between 300mm and 600mm (Table 2). Full descriptions are housed with the site archive.

| Post-Hole | Fill | Diameter |
|-----------|------|----------|
| 140 | 141 | 600mm |
| 142 | 143 | 380mm |
| 144 | 145 | 380mm |
| 146 | 147 | 390mm |
| 148 | 149 | 410mm |
| 150 | 151 | 400mm |
| 152 | 153 | 380mm |
| 154 | 155 | 340mm |
| 156 | 157 | 320mm |
| 160 | 161 | 360mm |
| 162 | 163 | 350mm |
| 164 | 165 | 300mm |

Table 2: Undated Postholes in Area A (east of ditch [166])

- 3.5.8 Given the presumption that the remains of the buildings in the examined area are Anglo-Saxon in date, it is perhaps not unreasonable to suggest that hearth [106], which was encountered close to these features was broadly contemporary. It was c.2m in length, 680mm wide and 130mm deep, with a fired 'halo' in the underlying 'natural' deposits, suggesting burning of material *in situ*. The single fill [107], was dark silty clay, which contained abundant charcoal from oak, beech and birch, but no charred grains or seeds.
- 3.5.9 Similarly it is presumed that three other unexcavated features adjacent to the eastern group of postholes were also broadly contemporary. All the fills were mid-brown silty clay. Pit [138] was 650mm in diameter; the visible fill [139]. Posthole [136] was 400mm in diameter; the visible fill [137]. The other feature was elongated ?posthole [134], which was 900mm long (east to west) and 260mm wide (north to south); the visible fill [135].
- 3.5.10 The only feature which could be dated to this phase with any confidence in Area C was pit [254], which was encountered in the extreme north-eastern corner of the examined area. It was c.2m in diameter, and the examined portion was 190mm in depth (Fig 6, S20). The single fill [255], was mid-brown clayey silt which contained only a small assemblage of pottery, but also produced fragments from a possible whetstone and clay loomweights.

3.6 Phase 5 - Medieval

- 3.6.1 A small number of features of Saxo-Norman and later medieval date were encountered at the extreme eastern edge of the site, in Area A (Fig. 3). There were no positively identified features of this date in either Area B or Area C. All of the encountered medieval features had mid-greyish brown silty clay fills.
- 3.6.2 The largest assemblage of medieval material, mostly Saxo-Norman in date was recovered from pit [102], which had a diameter of 1.75m and a depth of 750mm (Fig. 6, S21), with a single fill [103]. An environmental sample

revealed the presence of charred wheat grains and weed seeds within the deposit. A small assemblage of pottery dated to the 13th and 14th centuries, and glazed and unglazed tile was also recovered during the manual cleaning of pit [120], which had a diameter of 1.3m (fill [121]).

- 3.6.3 Pit [120] appeared to partially truncate another medieval feature, ditch [124], which contained a small assemblage of contemporary pottery and tile, again recovered during manual cleaning of the surface of the feature [125]. The feature was a maximum of 2.5m wide and appeared to turn at a right-angle within the site, resulting in north to south and east to west arms.
- 3.6.4 The other feature assigned to this phase was of uncertain extent. Cut [108] appeared to be a ditch, but could not be traced across the site, suggesting it might have terminated shortly after the eastern baulk of Area A. The investigated portion was 280mm in depth (Fig. 6, S22). The single encountered fill [109], contained 12th to 13th century pottery, residual Roman tile and intrusive post-medieval tile.

3.7 Phase 6 – Post-Medieval

- 3.7.1 The evidence for this phase consists of a single small sherd of intrusive 19th century pottery and a fragment of post-medieval tile, both recovered from medieval ditch [108]. The presence of the sherd is indicative of late post-medieval manuring. The discovery of numerous golf balls (not retained) was not unexpected.

3.8 Undated

- 3.8.1 Given that many features were not excavated and datable finds were reasonably sparse, a relatively large percentage of the encountered features remain undated. The largest was ditch [166], which ran north to south across Area A (Fig. 3). It was c.3m wide and more than 750mm deep. The single encountered fill [167], was dark greyish brown silty clay. The other linear in Area A, ditch [128], is on a similar alignment and is poorly dated with only a single struck flake recovered.
- 3.8.2 The most interesting of the undated features was a possible lime kiln exposed in Area B (Fig. 4). Kiln [250] was 2.4m in diameter and 350mm deep and was located in a shallow cut [251]. There was clear evidence of burning *in situ* as the feature was surrounded by a halo of discoloured 'natural'. The homogenous fill [253] was an orangey brown deposit consisting mainly of burnt clay and pieces of burnt chalk. In the absence of artefactual or environmental evidence (a sample produced only charcoal) the function and date of the feature remain unclear.
- 3.8.2 The other undated features consisted of pits and postholes scattered across all three of the examined area (Table 3). Full details are held with the site archive. All of the fills were mid-greyish brown or mid-brown silty clays or clayey silts.
- 3.8.3 Of the undated features, pits [104] (Fig. 3) and [330] (Fig. 5), and postholes [220] (Fig. 4) and [260] (Fig. 5) were partially excavated (section drawings are housed with the archive). Posthole [220] contained the largest assemblage of ironworking slag from the site, including part of a potential

forge bottom, suggesting iron forging in the immediate vicinity, presumably in the part of the site between Areas A and B not investigated. Dating remains uncertain, although an Anglo-Saxon date seems most likely.

| Area | Pit/Post-Hole | Fill | Diameter |
|------|---------------|-------|----------|
| A | 104 | 105 | 850mm |
| | 110 | 111 | 600mm |
| | 112 | 113 | 700mm |
| | 114 | 115 | 300mm |
| | 116 | 117 | 540mm |
| | 118 | 119 | 400mm |
| | 122 | 123 | 1.2m |
| | 184 | 185 | 420mm |
| | 186 | 187 | 360mm |
| B | 218 | 219 | 3.0m |
| | 220 | 221 | 260mm |
| | 222 | 223 | 300mm |
| | 224 | 225 | 400mm |
| | 226 | 227 | 420mm |
| | 234 | 235 | 350mm |
| | 240 | 241 | 1.2m |
| | 242 | 243 | 500mm |
| | 244 | 245 | 490mm |
| | 246 | 247 | 1.1m |
| 248 | 249 | 300mm | |
| C | 256 | 257 | 1.6m |
| | 258 | 259 | 400mm |
| | 260 | 261 | 300mm |
| | 262 | 263 | 400mm |
| | 264 | 265 | 400mm |
| | 266 | 267 | 600mm |
| | 268 | 269 | 500mm |
| | 270 | 271 | 420mm |
| | 272 | 273 | 400mm |
| | 274 | 275 | 400mm |
| | 282 | 283 | 500mm |
| | 284 | 285 | 400mm |
| | 288 | 287 | 350mm |
| | 290 | 291 | 400mm |
| | 292 | 293 | 250mm |
| | 294 | 295 | 700mm |
| | 296 | 297 | 350mm |
| | 298 | 299 | 300mm |
| | 300 | 301 | 400mm |
| | 322 | 323 | 500mm |
| 324 | 325 | 400mm | |
| 326 | 327 | 350mm | |
| 328 | 329 | 420mm | |
| 330 | 331 | 850mm | |

Table 3: Undated Features

4.0 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Introduction by Elke Raemen

4.1.1 A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations. All finds were washed and dried or air dried. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material. A summary of the assemblage can be found in Table 4.

| Context | Pot | wt | CBM | wt | Flint | wt | Stone | wt | F.Clay | wt | Slag | wt |
|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|--------|------|------|------|
| 103 | 28 | 384 | | | | | | | 42 | 790 | | |
| 109 | 8 | 54 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 12 | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 121 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 152 | | | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| 125 | 13 | 320 | 5 | 158 | | | 10 | 152 | | | | |
| 129 | | | | | 1 | 16 | | | | | | |
| 131 | 6 | 46 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 16 |
| 133 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | 11 | 38 | | |
| 159 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 169 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | 3 | 6 | | |
| 221 | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1840 |
| 231 | 23 | 86 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| 237 | 2 | 42 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 239 | 17 | 38 | | | | | | | 2 | 8 | | |
| 253 | | | | | | | | | 314 | 6376 | | |
| 255 | 3 | 42 | 1 | 24 | | | 3 | 292 | 1 | 70 | | |
| 277 | 9 | 48 | | | | | 1 | 10 | 1 | <2 | | |
| 279 | 58 | 912 | | | | | | | 19 | 180 | | |
| 279 | 29 | 3328 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 281 | 8 | 246 | | | | | 2 | 80 | | | | |
| 287 | 13 | 174 | | | | | 2 | 138 | | | | |
| 305 | 37 | 264 | | | | | | | 23 | 258 | | |
| 305/307 | 20 | 224 | | | | | | | 2 | 24 | | |
| 307 | 24 | 170 | | | | | 1 | 28 | 10 | 102 | | |
| 309 | 8 | 50 | | | | | | | 2 | 72 | | |
| 311 | 2 | 10 | | | | | | | 1 | 16 | | |
| 319 | 2 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 4: Quantification of the Finds

4.2 Late Iron Age/ Early Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

4.2.1 A small assemblage of 187 sherds weighing 2034g and amounting to 0.89EVEs was recovered from 12 contexts. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight and EVEs. In the absence of a regional type-series for Late Iron Age and Roman pottery in Sussex, codes in use at the Museum of London have been employed to describe fabric, form and decoration. A few site-specific codes have been employed to describe fabrics deriving more from Middle Iron Age traditions; because a number of different fabrics were each only represented by one or two sherds, full fabric descriptions have been omitted from the report but are available in the pottery data sheets. Pottery data was entered by hand on pro-forma sheets and digitally in an Excel spreadsheet.

- 4.2.2 Around 90% of the total is made up by grog-tempered wares and this is fairly typical of Late Iron Age/ early Roman domestic assemblages in south-east England, particularly within the period c.AD10-70. East Sussex is known for a range of forms and decoration which are related to but also somewhat distinct from the wider 'Aylesford-Swarling' grog-tempered pottery tradition. Fabrics in the region also tend to be fairly distinctive, featuring ironstone and siltstone inclusions alongside the grog-tempering. Hassocks is located within but near the north-western limit of the normal distribution of East Sussex grog-tempered ware (Green 1980, Fig. 26, 70) and the few diagnostic feature sherds in the assemblage, including fairly narrow-necked bulbous-bodied jars, occasionally featuring curvilinear burnished/tooled decoration, are fairly typical of this type.
- 4.2.3 One very unusual sherd with a finger impressed cordon on the mid body of a vessel with a fairly large diameter may be of similar type to the 'extraordinary' vessel recorded in the 19th/early 20th century collection from the Hassocks cemetery, interpreted as a local derivative of Cam115 butt-beakers (Lyne 1994, Fig. 5.1, 60-61). Base sherds which may be from the same vessel feature at least four post-firing perforations suggesting that it was reused as a strainer.
- 4.2.4 Very small quantities of other prehistoric fabrics were found in a number of the predominantly grog-tempered groups. Flint with shell, flint with glauconite, glauconite and calcareous/chalk-tempered fabric variants are all present, and although probably derived from Middle Iron Age traditions, can probably be considered contemporary with grog-tempered wares. One diagnostic bead-rim jar was associated with the calcareous-tempered fabric. Very similar wares have been found in both pre- and post-conquest groups in a recently assessed assemblage from Titnore Lane, Goring (Doherty 2009).
- 4.2.5 It is notable that most of the grog-tempered sherds feature either very grey or completely oxidised firing colour. This could suggest the early influence of more Romanised methods of pottery production, enabling more controlled firing at higher temperatures. Although almost certainly locally produced, in this respect the grog-tempered sherds may be analogous to Patch Grove wares in Kent (Pollard 1988, 39). Only one sherd in a truly Romanised fabric was recovered but this is an undiagnostic oxidised sandy coarse ware which was not associated with any other pottery. It is therefore unclear whether this sherd comes from a separate later Roman phase or provides evidence that the Late Iron Age/early Roman activity continued until around the AD50s or 60s, when sandy fabrics became gradually more common in rural assemblages.
- 4.2.6 Although there are no large groups in the assemblage, some moderate associated groups, including a few partially complete profiles were recovered from a number of features, most notably pit [279]. This suggests some fairly substantial settlement activity in the immediate vicinity.

4.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

4.3.1 Introduction

- 4.3.1.1 The excavations produced 91 sherds of pottery of post-Roman date,

weighing just in excess of 1kg, from 10 individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully quantified by context/fabric for the archive on an excel database. The assemblage is generally unabraded though many sherds, particularly in the medieval assemblage, have had some surface weathering from the acidic ground conditions. As such most sherds do not appear to have been subjected to extensive reworking and the small sherd size can be seen as a result of the generally low-firing of much of the pottery. The assemblage contains Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sherds. Of these, the largest group is of the Anglo-Saxon period which accounted for 54 sherds weighing 505g. Medieval sherds total 35 (496g) and there is a single sherd of 19th- century pottery (1g).

4.3.2 *The Anglo-Saxon Assemblage*

4.3.2.1 The Anglo-Saxon assemblage appears to span the 5th to 11th centuries though most can perhaps best be placed between the later 7th and 9th centuries. However, due to the small size of context groups and virtual absence of feature sherds close dating remains problematic. Even with larger assemblages the pottery of this period is notoriously difficult to date in Sussex without other dating mediums. This is particularly the case with the mid to late Anglo-Saxon flint-tempered fabrics and associated simple jars as neither changed much during this time. The range of fabrics is outlined below (codes in brackets relate to the West Sussex medieval fabric series). A comparison with the much larger assemblage from the Friar's Oak site clearly shows a close correlation of general fabric types (Lyne 2000) suggesting the current site saw activity at similar times though they both essentially post-date the cemetery assemblage (Lyne 1994).

AS1 –Moderate shell to 5mm with sparse fine/medium sand (WS: S/AS1). (8/188g) C9/10th – 11th.

AS2 –Abundant coarse flint to 2mm, no sand (WS: F/AS1). (4/36g) C7th – 8/9th.

AS3a –Fine/medium sandy greyware with sparse fe oxides to 0.5mm. Ipswich type. (WS: Q(f)/AS1). (1/4g) C8th – 9th.

AS3b –Fine sandy greyware. Ipswich type. (WS: Q(f)/AS2). (1/10g) C8th – 9th.

AS4 –Sparse to moderate coarse flint, often with vegetable wipe marks (WS: F/AS7). Tends to merge with AS8 and is closely paralleled to Friar's Oak fabric G (Lyne 2000). (27/119g) C7th – 8/9th.

AS5 – Abundant coarse quartz to 1mm with sparse flint to 1mm and rare shell (WS: Q+F/AS1). (3/18g). C8th – 10th.

AS6 – Abundant medium/coarse sand. Often burnished (WS: Q/AS4). (4/72g) late C4th – early 6th.

AS7 – Moderate fine/medium sand. Often burnished (WS: Q/AS5). (3/38g). Similar fabrics, though slightly coarser, were found at the Friar's Oak site (Lyne 2000, Fabric C) late C4th – early 6th.

AS8 – Moderate flint to 2mm and rare sand (WS: F/AS6). (3/20g) late C8th – 11th.

4.3.2.2 The earliest post-Roman material is from context [287]. This deposit produced 13 unabraded sherds of pottery. Six of these are of Late Iron Age/early Roman date, however, the remaining seven consist of burnished body sherds in AS6 (4/72g) and AS7 (3/38g). It appears this group may date to the late 4th or 5th centuries but more diagnostic sherds would be needed to

confirm this.

4.3.2.3 The majority of the assemblage is of the mid to late Saxon period (later 7th to 9th/10th) but as noted above, closer dating on the current tiny groups of bodysherds is impossible in most cases. The low-fired hand-made fabrics are mainly tempered with flint though a few coarse quartz sand vessels are present in [103] and [255] (AS5). Although there appears to be a possible chronological development/refinement of the flint tempered wares the current context groups are too small to test this observation. In addition two non-local sherds in fine sand-tempered greywares were recovered from contexts [131] (AS3a) and [255] (AS3b). These are very similar to Ipswich vessels of the period, however, a number of similar greywares from the Continent are known from Southampton and West Hythe (Kent) at this time (Hodges 1980). It is unfortunate that the current sherds are too small/lack diagnostic features to be certain of provenance.

4.3.2.4 The latest Anglo-Saxon material was recovered from context [103], which although probably being of later 11th- century date, contained eight unabraded sherds from a reduced shell tempered cooking pot (AS1) with curved flaring rim of probable 10th- to early 11th- century date (Fig. 7, No. 1). The vessel can be closely paralleled to late Anglo-Saxon examples from Portchester (Cunliffe 1976). Interestingly this deposit also contained a number of the more refined Anglo-Saxon flint-tempered fabrics (AS5 and AS8).

4.3.3 *The Medieval Assemblage*

4.3.3.1 The medieval assemblage is composed of sherds ranging in date from the 11th/12th to early/mid 14th centuries in one of seven fabrics.

M1 –Abundant flint to 1mm and rare shell/chalk to 0.5mm (WS: F/M1). (16/164g) later C11th – 12th.

M2 –Abundant fine flint to 0.5/0.75mm and moderate quartz sand (WS: F/M2). (3/29g) Probably a development of M1: C12th – early 13th.

M3 –Abundant medium sand with rare/sparse flint and shell/chalk to 0.75mm (WS: Q+F/M6). (2/17g) late C12th – mid/late 13th.

M4 –Abundant medium sand with sparse fe oxides (WS: Q/M24). (4/33g) C13th.

M5 –Abundant medium sand with sparse quartz inclusions to 1mm (WS: Q/M14). (1/32g) early/mid C13th – early 14th.

M6 –Moderate fine sand with sparse fe oxides (WS: Q(f)/M22). (9/216g) early/mid C13th – early 14th.

M7 –Abundant medium sand with sparse/moderate fe oxides to 0.75mm (WS: Q/M31). (1/5g) early/mid C13th – early 14th.

4.3.3.2 The earliest deposit which can be ascribed a medieval, or more truly a Saxo-Norman, date is context [103]. This contained a mere 28 sherds weighing 379g. As well as containing the late Anglo-Saxon cooking pot (see above) this deposit also produced rim sherds from at least two different cooking pots in M1 (Fig. 7, Nos. 2 and 3). Although these vessels could be as late as the 12th century, the presence of the AS1 vessel suggests these better fired oxidised pots are possibly not later than the end of the 11th century.

4.3.3.3 The few later sherds of medieval pottery are all probably of the 13th century. These consist of generally quite abraded sand-tempered cooking pot sherds though several sherds from an unabraded green glazed jug with thumbled base in M6 were recovered from context [125]. An early 13th- to early 14th-century date is probable for this vessel.

4.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

4.4.1 A total of thirteen fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 366g has been examined from five contexts. The assemblage contains Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval fragments. The CBM is fragmentary and mostly abraded with a single exception of one possible post-medieval tile fragment. Table 5 details the quantity, form and date of CBM by context.

4.4.2 The CBM was quantified by form and fabric. Fabric descriptions were compiled with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. The following conventions were used in the fabric descriptions: frequency of inclusions is described as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; inclusion size categories are fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (between 0.25mm and 0.5mm), coarse (between 0.5mm and 1mm) and very coarse (greater than 1mm).

| Context | Count | Weight | Form and date |
|---------|-------|--------|---|
| 109 | 2 | 38 | Residual Roman & post-medieval tile. |
| 121 | 5 | 150 | Medieval glazed floor tile and medieval unglazed and unglazed peg tile. |
| 125 | 5 | 156 | Medieval unglazed peg tile. |
| 225 | 1 | 22 | Early medieval peg tile. |

Table 5: Quantity, form and date of CBM by context.

4.4.3 The earliest fragment of CBM is a single abraded fragment of Roman tile (fabric 1) from context [109]. The fragment is possibly residual in this context as an unabraded fragment of vitrified, post-medieval tile was also identified.

4.4.4 Contexts [121] and [125] contained abraded, early medieval tile fragments of four fabric types. The earliest example of medieval tile is an abraded, flint-tempered, reduced and sooted fragment of peg tile in fabric 5 from context [255] which dates to the 12th or 13th century. Conjoining fragments of a medieval tile of fabric 4 were present in context [121]. Splashes of green glaze are present on one surface of the tile and the opposite surface is badly abraded, the green glazing is indicative of a 13th to 14th century date. A total of ten deep incised marks from square nails were identified in the splash glazed sanded surface of the tile, these form an irregular pattern and contained remnants of possible lime mortar. The keying has the dual purpose of shortening drying time and providing grip for mortar onto which the tile is laid and was used from the 13th century (Eames 1968). The tile is 17mm thick with a knife cut bevelled edge angled outwards from the keyed surface and appears slightly warped along one edge.

4.4.5 The usual thickness of medieval floor tiles is around 35mm. In the mid 14th century, tile producers began experimenting with making lighter thinner tiles for easier transport for a cheaper more efficient production (Eames 1968). A side effect of this process was warping of the tile. The floor tile from

context [121] may be an example of a thinner floor tile with crude impressed nail keying in the base of 13th to 15th century date. Fragments of fabric 2 tile were present in contexts [121] and [125]; these are most likely peg tile fragments dating to the 13th to 16th century. Context [125] also contained a single fragment of peg tile in fabric 3 and is also 13th to 16th century in date.

- 4.4.6 A single unabraded probable post-medieval tile fragment was present in context [109], the surface of the tile fragment had regular sanding with a flat even surface indicating an 18th or 19th century date. The fragment was entirely vitrified and identification of fabric type was not possible.

Fabrics

- Fabric 1** Orange fine sand tempered, poorly mixed fabric with sparse medium red and black iron rich inclusions.
- Fabric 2** Pale orange-brown fine sand tempered, poorly mixed, reduced fabric with sparse fine quartz inclusions and clay marbling.
- Fabric 3** Orange brown, fine sand tempered, poorly mixed fabric with sparse medium red iron rich inclusions.
- Fabric 4** Pale orange poorly mixed fabric with abundant coarse white and rose quartz inclusions.
- Fabric 5** Orange fabric with moderate coarse angular flint tempering and moderate burnt organic inclusions and voids.

- 4.4.7 The majority of the assemblage is medieval in date with a single residual fragment of Roman tile and a vitrified fragment of post-medieval tile. An example of a medieval glazed and keyed floor tile was present from context [121].

4.5 The Flintwork by Chris Butler

4.5.1 Introduction

- 4.5.1.1 A small assemblage of two pieces of worked flint weighing 27g was recovered during the recent fieldwork at Hassocks Golf Course.

- 4.5.1.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of the pieces, noting details of their general condition and the potential for further detailed analysis. Classification was after Butler (2005). A hand written archive of the assemblage was produced at this stage.

4.5.2 The Assemblage

- 4.5.2.1 The first piece (from [109]) may have originally been a piercer (10g), but has broken. It is manufactured from Type 2 Flint (Butler 2000) on a soft hammer-struck flake with platform preparation. It has been abruptly retouched along one lateral edge with the point having originally been located at the mid-point on that edge. This piece is likely to date from either the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods.
- 4.5.2.2 The second piece (from [129]) is an end scraper manufactured on a hard hammer-struck flake (17g) of Type 1 Flint (Butler 2000). It is mostly cortical

and has abrupt retouch along the distal end. This is likely to be Later Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

4.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

4.6.1 The excavations produced 51 pieces of stone, weighing just over 4kg, from eight individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully quantified by context and stone type on pro forma for the archive with the assemblage being characterised in Table 6.

| Period/Type | Romano-British | E A-S | M/L Anglo-Saxon | Medieval | Totals |
|--|----------------|--------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| No. contexts | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Carstone (ferruginous silt from Lower Greensand) | 32/3,293g | 2/139g | - | - | 34/3,432g |
| Lower Greensand | 3/148g | - | 3/292g | - | 6/440g |
| West Country slate | - | - | - | 11/157g | 11/157g |
| Totals | 35/3,441g | 2/139g | 3/292g | 11/157g | 51/4,029g |

Table 6: Characterisation of the Geological Material

4.6.2 Virtually all of the stone from the site was derived from the Lower Greensand series and as such would have been available locally. Most of this material consists of ferruginous carstone. Although none of the pieces have been modified by human actions in any way there is a distinct concentration in the Romano-British period, most notably in [279], which produced 30 pieces weighing 3,208g. Such a concentration suggests deliberate collection. Although it has been suggested that the carstone may have been used as an ore for extracting iron (Cleere and Crossley 1995) this is far from certain and the material may equally have been collected for post-packing.

4.6.3 The Roman deposits also produced a few pieces of glauconitic Lower Greensand. This appears to be of local type and is notably friable compared with material used for querns such as that from the Lodsworth area (Peacock 1987). Only one worked piece is present. Two conjoining pieces from mid/late Anglo-Saxon context [255] have a single convex worn face suggesting they are from a sharpening stone or rubber/polisher of some kind. It is interesting to note that a grindstone in Lower Greensand was found during the Friars Oak excavations though the current pieces cannot be definitely ascribed such a function (Freshwater 2000).

4.6.4 The only truly foreign stone from the site consists of a number of fragments of West Country roofing slate in mid 13th- to mid 14th- century from the overburden and context [125]. The presence of this material certainly suggests a medieval building of some substance in the area.

4.7 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

4.7.1 Introduction

4.7.1.1 A small assemblage of 431 fragments of fired clay weighing 7829g was recovered from thirteen individually numbered contexts. The majority of pieces are Romano-British in date.

4.7.2 The Fabrics

4.7.2.1 A total of six different fabrics, listed below, have been identified.

- Fabric 1A** Moderate to abundant fine sand-tempered with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 2 mm.
- Fabric 1B** Sparse fine sand-tempered with occasional iron oxides to 2mm. Some with occasional clay pellets.
- Fabric 2** Moderate medium sand-tempered with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 4 mm.
- Fabric 3** Sparse to moderate fine sand-tempered.
- Fabric 4A** Sparse fine sand-tempered with occasional organic inclusions.
- Fabric 4B** Sparse to medium fine sand-tempered with occasional organic inclusions. Clay in most cases mixed with chalk marl and pieces to 6mm.

4.7.2.2 Although Fabric 4B is best represented with 314 pieces, these were all recovered from Kiln [250] (fill [253]). The chalk mixed in with the clay in Fabric 4B, indicates that clay was brought in from a distance, probably from hill wash at the foot of the South Downs. This implies that the chalk is natural rather than deliberately mixed in. A total of 64 pieces are in Fabric 2.

4.7.3 Overview by Period

Late Iron Age – Roman

A total of 61 pieces were recovered from features assigned to this phase. Most of these are in Fabric 2. The majority (59 pieces) of these are amorphous. Two pieces with one flat surface were recovered from gully [308] (fill [311]).

Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon

Only fifteen pieces were recovered from Mid to Late Anglo-Saxon features. Fabric 3 is best represented, with the majority of fragments undiagnostic of form. Pit [132] (fill [133]) contained three pieces exhibiting one flat surface.

Later periods

A total of 41 pieces from two different contexts are of medieval date. Only one amorphous piece was recovered from pit [108] (fill [109]), which was dated by the pottery to the 12th to early/mid 13th century. A further 40 fragments were recovered from pit [102] (fill [103]), dated to the 11th to early 12th century. Most of these are again featureless, although a further thirteen fragments show one flat surface.

Undated contexts

The largest group of fired clay, consisting of 314 pieces of daub (fabric 4B), was recovered from undated kiln [251] (fill [253]). A total of 24 pieces exhibits a flat surface, with a further 180 pieces containing wattle impressions. The latter include a corner fragment, 80 pieces with a flat

surface in addition to the wattle imprints, and three pieces with possible imprints of rectangular-sectioned posts. Wattle imprints range in diameter between 6mm and 23mm and where multiple impressions were observed, these run parallel to each other. Two small corner fragments and a piece with rounded surface were recovered as well. A total of 107 pieces are featureless, but as all are in the same fabric (4B), they are likely to represent daub as well.

4.7.4 Discussion

4.7.4.1 Most pieces of burnt clay are amorphous and where any features survive, these usually consist of a flat surface. As such, although probably representing daub, little further can be deduced from them.

4.7.4.2 Of interest is the fired clay from kiln [251] (fill [253]), which stands out as it is the only place Fabric 4B is found suggesting its deliberate selection. However, no parallels have been found regarding the use of South Downs hill wash for similar structures in this area.

4.8 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

4.8.1 The excavations recovered five pieces of slag, weighing 1,834g, from two individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed on pro forma for the archive. All of the material consists of iron forging slag. The majority of the assemblage, including a possible forge bottom of 110mm diameter and 50mm thickness, was recovered from undated context [221]. The only dated piece of slag (16g) was from mid/late Anglo-Saxon context [131].

4.9 The Registered Finds by Elke Raemen

4.9.1 Introduction

4.9.1.1 A small number of finds was assigned a unique Registered Find number (RF <00>). Each object has been packed according to IFA guidelines and has been recorded individually on pro forma sheets for archive. A summary is given in Table 7.

| CONTEXT | RF No | OBJECT | MATERIAL | Wt (g) | PERIOD |
|---------|-------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| 125 | 1 | PINT | IRON | 50 | MED |
| 255 | 2 | LOOM | CERA | 160 | M/L AS |
| 287 | 3 | SPWH | CERA | 58 | EAS |
| 255 | 4 | LOOM | CERA | 68 | M/L AS |

Table 7: Summary of the Registered Finds

4.9.2 Textile Working

4.9.2.1 The earliest piece consists of a complete spindle whorl (RF <3>, Fig. 8, No.1) recovered from pit [286] (fill [287]). Pottery from the same context dates to the late 4th to 5th century. The spindle whorl, in a fine sand-tempered reduced clay, exhibits two flat faces of equal size with carinated

sides (Coppergate Form B3) which appears from the Iron Age up to the 6th century AD (Walton Rogers 2007, 24-25 fig 2.18). A spindle whorl of the same type and in a sandy fabric was recovered during the excavations at Mucking in the fill of a *grubenhaus* (Hamerow 1993, GH 211, fig. 178.2). Its date is unknown and the spindle whorl from Mucking may be residual.

4.9.2.2 Pit [254] (fill [255]) contained two 'intermediate' loom weight fragments (RF <2> and <4>) which, although not conjoining, may have formed part of the same weight. The fragments are in a low fired, sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with rare organic inclusions and rare iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm (RF <2>, Fig. 8, No. 2). 'Intermediate'-shaped loom weights, although emerging in the 6th century, became established in the 7th century (Walton Rogers 2007, 30). Pottery from the same context dates to the 7/8th to 10th century.

4.9.3 Structural Fittings

4.9.3.1 A small, complete iron hinge pivot (RF <1>) was recovered from Ditch [124] (fill [125]), which has been dated by the pottery to the 13th – to mid 14th century. One arm tapers, indicating it would have been driven into wooden frame.

4.9.4 Discussion

4.9.4.1 The hinge pivot appears to be an isolated find. Of interest is the evidence for domestic textile working on or near the site, represented by an early-Anglo-Saxon spindle whorl and a mid-Anglo-Saxon loom weight. A small group of textile working equipment of Anglo-Saxon date has previously been uncovered at nearby Friars Oak, Hassocks (Butler 2000, 40). Evidence here consisted of three loom weights representing the three different Anglo-Saxon types, as well as a clay spindle whorl. Cloth production evidence from Friars Oak is all linked with Middle Anglo-Saxon activity. Other nearby evidence for textile working was recovered from Old Erringham, Shoreham, where a group of intermediate loom weights was found in situ in what appeared to be a weaving hut. Stone spindle whorls were recovered from the same feature (Holden 1976, 313-16, 318).

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Charcoal and Macroplant Remains by Lucy Allott

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 Eleven samples taken during excavations at Hassocks Golf Club have revealed the presence of environmental remains including wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains and fauna. Samples were taken from Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval features, a beam slot, hearth, kiln and a ditch to help characterise the evidence for past vegetation, land use activities and agriculture.

5.1.2 Methods

5.1.2.1 All samples were processed in a flotation tank, the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves and each fraction sorted (Table 8). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and their contents recorded (Table 9).

5.1.2.2 Charred macrobotanicals have been identified through comparison with reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (2005). Charcoal fragments from the richest samples were viewed under an incident light microscope at x50, 100, 200 and 400 magnifications and identified through comparison with modern reference material and reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004; Schweingruber 1990).

5.1.3 Results and Discussion

5.1.3.1 Samples taken during archaeological works were dominated by wood charcoal fragments with occasional charred macrobotanicals. Faunal remains, which consisted of small fragments of tooth were also noted in samples <1002> and <1007>, but were undiagnostic of species. Burnt clay, cbm, pot and fire cracked flint were also noted in many of the samples. These are consistent with the finds reports.

5.1.3.2 Charred Macroplant Remains

Four samples (<1011>, <1002>, <1006> and <1010>) produced no macrobotanical remains at all while the remaining seven samples contained only small quantities of cereal grains and weed seeds. Indeterminate cereal grains and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were noted in Romano British pit fill [278]. Some charred bark fragments were also recorded in a Romano-British posthole fill [278], sample <1008>.

5.1.3.3 Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wild or cultivated oat (*Avena* sp.) were recorded in samples from Anglo-Saxon and later deposits. Weed seeds that may have grown among the crops were also present in these deposits and include cf. *Bromus* sp. (bromes) as well as poorly preserved taxa from the Caryophyllaceae (pink) family.

5.1.3.4 Macrobotanicals are not numerous in any of the samples and where present

they are only moderately well preserved. The small assemblage provides limited evidence for agricultural crops and their associated weeds. Unfortunately both the poor preservation of cereals and the lack of chaff have limited the potential to provide species identifications or evidence for changes in agriculture through time.

5.1.3.5 Charcoal

Charcoal fragments were relatively abundant in samples <1008>, [279] and <1011> [307] from Romano-British pit and ditch features respectively. Samples from Anglo-Saxon pits <1007>, [287], <1003>, [131] and an undated Hearth <1002>, [107] also produced frequent charcoal however the beam slot of a rectangular structure located near this pit contained relatively few charcoal fragments. Charcoal was also uncommon in the undated Kiln [250] (fill [253]) and although the fired clay assemblage from this feature provides evidence for daub with wattle impressions, no corresponding round wood fragments were noted in the charcoal from this sample.

5.1.3.6 The majority of charcoal fragments were from relatively large, mature wood specimens including some from moderately large branches in hearth fill context [107], <1002>. Analysis has revealed the presence of deciduous oak (*Quercus* sp.), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and birch (*Betula* sp.).

5.1.3.7 There are two possible oak taxa native to Britain but unfortunately these cannot be distinguished through their wood anatomy. Both are deciduous trees and both form dense woodland however the sessile oak grows on shallow sandy acidic soil (Stace 2005), while the pendunculate oak can grow on a wider range of soils. Either taxon could have been abundant in the site vicinity. Beech is a woodland tree commonly found in areas with thin soils over chalk (White *et al.* 2005) while birch taxa prefer acidic soils on heathland. Given that this site is located in close proximity to the South Downs, the site occupants would have had access to a relatively broad range of woody taxa and associated resources. It is perhaps surprising therefore that only a limited range of taxa were present which may in turn provide evidence for selection. The purpose for which the wood was selected is unknown however each of these taxa could have been used for structural purposes, or for fuel.

| Sample Number | Context | Context / deposit type | Spot date | Sample Volume (litres) | sub-Sample Volume processed (litres) | Charcoal >4mm | Weight (g) | Charcoal <4mm | Weight (g) | Charred botanicals (other than charcoal) | Weight (g) | Bone and Teeth | Weight (g) | Other (eg ind, pot, cbm) |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|--|------------|----------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1008 | 279 | fill of pit [278] | Romano -British | 10 | 10 | * | 2 | ** | <1 | * | <1 | | | Burnt clay****260g |
| 1009 | 281 | fill of pit [280] | Romano- British | 10 | 10 | | | * | <1 | | | | | Pot*4g, Burnt clay**24g, CBM*2g |
| 1011 | 307 | fill of ditch [306] | Romano- British | 20 | 20 | ** | 8 | **** | 4 | | | | | Pot**30g, CBM/Burnt clay ***124g |
| 1007 | 287 | fill of pit [286] | Late C4th-C5th | 20 | 20 | *** | 20 | **** | 54 | | | * | 2 | pot*86g |
| 1006 | 231 | fill of pit [230] | C7th to 8th | 20 | 20 | * | <1 | ** | <1 | | | | | Burnt clay*4g |
| 1003 | 131 | fill of pit [130] | C7th-C9th | 10 | 10 | ** | 4 | ** | 1 | | | | | |
| 1005 | 183 | fill of beam slot [182] | C7th-C10th | 10 | 10 | | | * | <1 | | | | | |
| 1004 | 133 | fill of pit [132] | C8th-C10th | 10 | 10 | * | 1 | * | 1 | | | | | Burnt clay**12g, Pot*4g |
| 1001 | 103 | fill of pit [102] | C11th-early C12th | 12 | 12 | ** | 4 | ** | <1 | | | | | CBM***72g, Pot**14g, FCF**14g |
| 1002 | 107 | fill Hearth [106] | Undated | 40 | 40 | **** | 156 | **** | 60 | | | * | 2 | Burnt clay*****156g |
| 1010 | 253 | fill of kiln [250] | Undated | 20 | 20 | ** | 18 | * | <1 | | | | | Burnt clay*****250g |

Table 8: Sample Record and Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

| Spot date | Sample Number | Context | Flot volume ml | Uncharred % | Sediment % | Uncharred seeds | Charcoal >4mm | Charcoal <4mm | Charcoal <2mm | Crop seeds charred | Identifications | Preservation | Weed seeds charred | Identifications | Preservation | Other botanical charred | Identifications | Preservation | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----|-----------|---|
| Romano British | 1008 | 279 | 75 | 70 | <5 | | ** | **** | **** | | | | | | | * | bark | | ++ | | |
| Romano British | 1009 | 281 | 20 | 70 | 10 | Y | * | ** | *** | * | <i>Triticum</i> sp., & <i>Cerealia</i> indet. | + | | | | | | | | | |
| Romano British | 1011 | 307 | 180 | 50 | 10 | | ** | **** | **** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Late C4th-C5th | 1007 | 287 | 150 | 80 | 5 | | ** | *** | **** | * | <i>Triticum</i> sp. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | + | | | | | | | | | |
| C7th to 8th | 1006 | 231 | 40 | 90 | 5 | Y | | ** | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C7th-C9th | 1003 | 131 | 40 | 50 | 5 | | ** | *** | *** | * | <i>cf. Avena</i> sp. | + | | | | | | | | | |
| C7th-C10th | 1005 | 183 | 10 | 60 | 30 | | | * | ** | | <i>Avena</i> sp. | | | | | | | | | | |
| C8th-C10th | 1004 | 133 | 10 | 60 | 10 | | * | ** | *** | * | <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | + / + + + | | | | | | | | + / + + + | |
| C11th-early C12th | 1001 | 103 | 50 | 70 | <5 | Y | * | ** | ** | * | 1 <i>Triticum</i> sp. | + | | | | | | | | | + |
| Undated | 1002 | 107 | 65 | <5 | 5 | | ** | **** | **** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Undated | 1010 | 253 | 40 | 95 | <5 | | * | ** | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 9: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Although there were clearly problems with the extent of the archaeological work which could be carried out, the limited investigations at the site uncovered interesting and potentially significant archaeological remains. Within the limited area available for investigation and allowing for the constraints imposed upon the examination of the encountered remains, a multi-period site emerged.
- 6.2 The earliest identified remains suggested the utilisation of the local landscape in prehistory. Although there was one feature assigned to this period on grounds of a piece of flintwork, this dating must be treated with extreme caution, but the presence of flintwork is indicative of activity in the general area. Clearly far fewer struck flint artefacts were recovered during the work on the 14th hole than in earlier work in the vicinity (cf. Butler 2000, 26-32), but this reflects the scale of the work undertaken on each of the projects, and cannot be used to establish distribution patterns across the areas investigated by MSFAT in 1994 and by ASE in 2008.
- 6.3 The first unequivocal evidence of local occupation dates from the Late Iron Age to the early Romano-British period. The pottery assemblage suggests the presence of habitation in the immediate vicinity of the site, and this is given some added weight by the presence of a Romano-British tile fragment. Evidence from the 1994 excavations suggests that the Roman road to the east of the current site had a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British antecedent (Butler *op. cit.*, 14).
- 6.4 The area now occupied by the settlement of Hassocks, within a kilometre of the current site, was clearly of significance during the Romano-British period, acting as the confluence of known local roads and the site of a large cemetery (Lyne 1994). A small-scale excavation to the north of the site, at Hammonds Mill Farm (Butler 2009) and further to the north in Burgess Hill (Sawyer 1999) demonstrated the potential for the presence of Romano-British features across this part of the Sussex landscape. It is argued that the presence of boundary ditches containing domestic pottery, and environmental evidence for the cultivation and/or processing of wheat suggests the presence of a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British farmstead in the immediate vicinity of the golf club site.
- 6.5 The evidence for early Anglo-Saxon activity is somewhat enigmatic, but environmental evidence suggests the growing and processing of wheat and barley at this date. If the feature of this date is indeed a *grubenhaus* (it falls into the correct size, shape and date range, and in addition contained a spindle whorl; Tipper, 2004, 1) then it forms the earliest evidence for occupation/industrial activity physically within the boundaries of the examined areas.
- 6.6 Although this type of Early Anglo-Saxon structure has a wide distribution throughout the country, few have been positively identified and excavated in Sussex (e.g. Itford Farm, James 2002; Botolphs, Gardiner 1990). Problems with the dating of pottery have led some to be classified as Early or Middle

Anglo-Saxon (i.e. North Marden, Drewett 1986)

- 6.7 Middle Anglo-Saxon material has proved equally elusive in Sussex (e.g. Bersted, Stevens 2006, and Durrington, Stevens forthcoming) although *grubenhäuser* of this date have been excavated (e.g. at Bognor Regis, Priestley-Bell 2006). Again if the potentially Middle Anglo-Saxon features are actually *grubenhäuser* (again they are the correct size and shape), then they can be added to the limited corpus of such structures known from Sussex. There are clearly problems with the dating of such small assemblages of pottery, but on balance it seems likely that the remains are those of Middle Anglo-Saxon *grubenhäuser*. The presence of ironworking slag in the backfill of one of them is indicative of forging of metal objects rather than of iron production. Evidence of this low-level ironworking was found close to the site in 1994 (Butler *op. cit.*), and at Bognor (Priestley-Bell *op. cit.*). The presence of pieces of loom weight at the site is perhaps more representative of activities usually thought to have been undertaken within the *grubenhäuser* (cf. Holden 1976)
- 6.8 Given the usual juxtaposition of these structures with contemporary post-built hall houses, it is arguably not unreasonable to suggest that the groups of undated post-holes are the remains of Middle Anglo-Saxon dwellings. This relationship has been clearly demonstrated at slightly earlier sites such as Bishopstone (Bell 1977) and further afield at Chalton in Hampshire, West Stow in Suffolk and many other sites (Tipper, *op. cit.*, 16). Given the number of post-holes encountered it has proved impossible to form any coherent plausible patterns, except perhaps to the east of Ditch [166] in Area A, but again on the balance of probabilities it seems likely that these features are the remains of substantial post-built structures. The encountered pits of this date show evidence for the cultivation and processing of wheat, oats and barley, and the use of locally available wood for fuel.
- 6.9 The presence of the remains of a trench-built structure mirrors a development noted at Botolphs (Gardiner 1990) where a site on which *grubenhäuser* were identified also displayed trench-built structures, which were dated as Saxo-Norman. Trench-built structures are however known from Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon sites (Marshall and Marshall 1991). Although it could not be established if the building was a post-in-trench, or plank-in-trench structure, the width is consistent with an Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon date (*ibid.*). Late Anglo-Saxon plank-built buildings of similar size have also been excavated in Steyning, although at that site the planks were set in post-holes (Gardiner 1993).
- 6.10 Given the absence of stratigraphic relationships and associated features, and the long-enduring style of build, the dating of the trench-built structure is clearly problematic and remains unclear. It is also unfortunate that the southern half of the structure lay outside of the examined area. However, a broadly Anglo-Saxon date is favoured given the absence of any features positively dated to later or earlier periods in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.11 Remains positively dated to the medieval period were confined to the extreme eastern end of the site, in Area A. The presence of domestic

pottery and glazed and unglazed tile and slate is arguably indicative of the presence of a medieval building in the vicinity, presumably a farmstead of some kind. An entry in the West Sussex County Historic Environment Record suggests the existence of a farmhouse in the vicinity by 1690, but the location remains uncertain (HER No. 4128 - MWS737). Limited environmental evidence hints at the cultivation of wheat in the area in the years following the Norman Conquest, and the collection and use of local wood for fuel.

- 6.12 Clearly in the absence of firmly-dated excavated features with associated artefacts and ecofacts, the discussion above is largely based on informed speculation, and description of lifestyle change through time is impossible. For instance, the virtual absence of a faunal assemblage negates analysis of much of the diet. What is certain is that the limited excavations undertaken at the site uncovered a range of material dating as far back as Mesolithic, and certainly encompassing remains dating from the Late Iron Age to the medieval periods. Given the limited corpus of data from Anglo-Saxon sites in Sussex, and the close spatial association with areas excavated in 1994 (Butler *op. cit.*), the remains assigned to the Anglo-Saxon period(s) hold particular significance.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | HGC 08 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Hassocks Golf Club | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Mid Sussex District, West Sussex | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | NGR 530010 116631 | | | | | |
| Geology | Lower Greensand | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 3348 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. ✓ | Watching Brief ✓ | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field ✓ | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. May 2008 | WB. May 2008 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Penfold Verrall Ltd. | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Diccon Hart/Jim Stevenson | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Simon Stevens | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. ✓ | Neo. ✓ | BA ✓ | IA ✓ | RB ✓ |
| | AS ✓ | MED ✓ | PM ✓ | Other | | |
| <p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief of topsoil stripping on the 14th fairway of Hassocks Golf Club was followed by the excavation of a limited number of features which showed evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity. A number of possible Anglo-Saxon buildings (including grubenhäuser) were identified, but not fully excavated as much of the site was to be left in situ.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-69138

Project details

Project name Hassocks Golf Club

Short description of the project A watching brief followed by the excavation of a limited number of features showed evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval activity. A number of Anglo-Saxon buildings were identified, but owing to the belief that much of the site was to be left in situ, they were not fully excavated.

Project dates Start: 08-05-2008 End: 22-05-2008

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 3348 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes HGC 08 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Early Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Investigation type 'Full excavation', 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HURSTPIERPOINT Hassocks Golf Club

Postcode BN6 9NA

Study area 1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 30010 16631 50.9338914711 -0.149586910013 50 56 02 N 000 08 58 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 40.00m Max: 50.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator West Sussex County Council

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Penfold Verrall Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient local museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics', 'Environmental', 'Industrial'

Digital Archive recipient local museum

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient local museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Investigations at Hassocks Golf Club, London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic Report No. 2009201

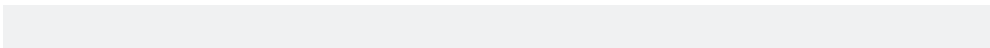
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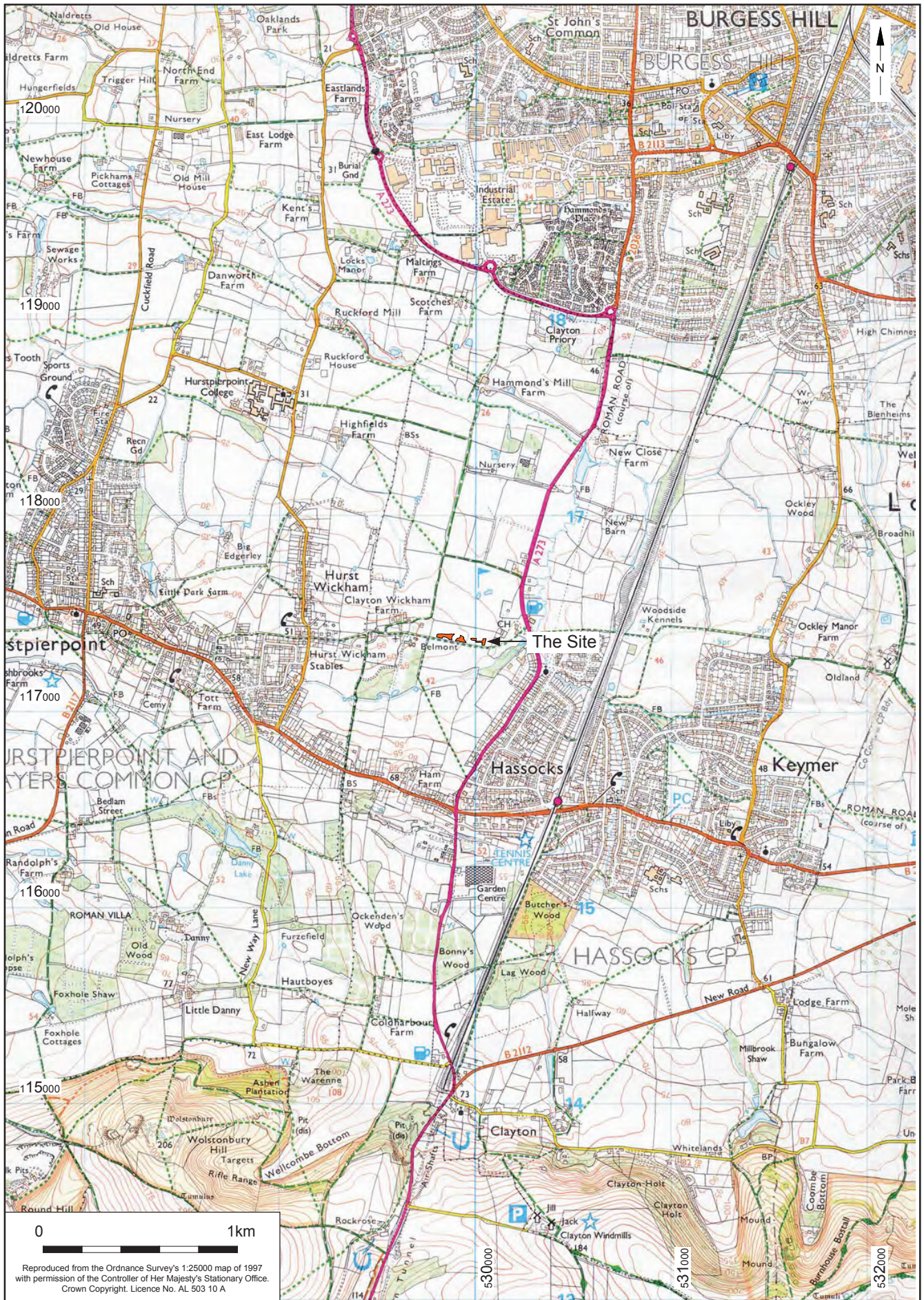
Date 2009

Issuer or Archaeology South-East
publisher

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publication

Description Standard ASE Client Report - A4-sized with cover logos.





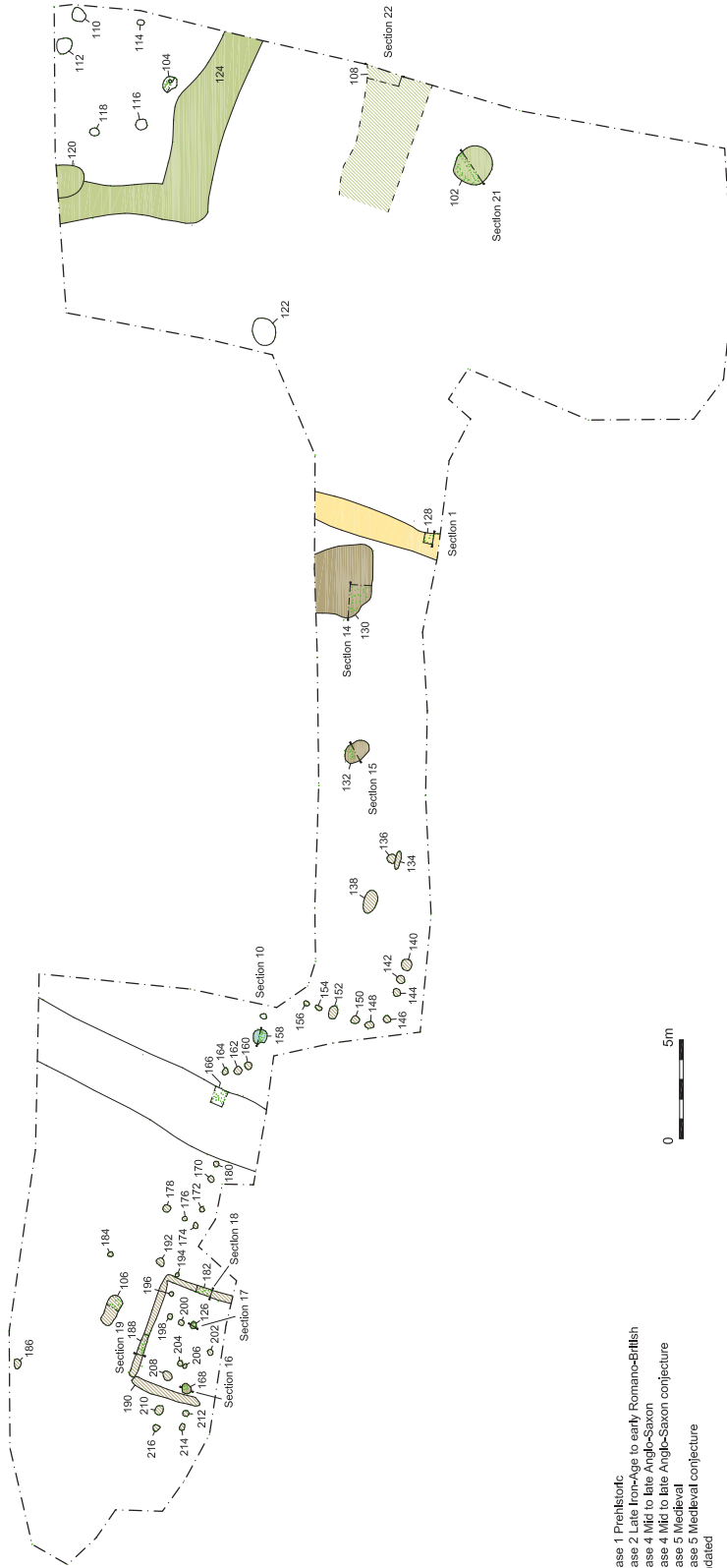
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| Project Ref: 3348 | Dec 2009 | Site location | | |
| Report Ref: 2009201 | Drawn by: JLR | | | |



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| Project Ref: 3348 | Dec 2009 | Site plan | |
| Report Ref: 2009201 | Drawn by: RD/JR | | |

Fig. 2

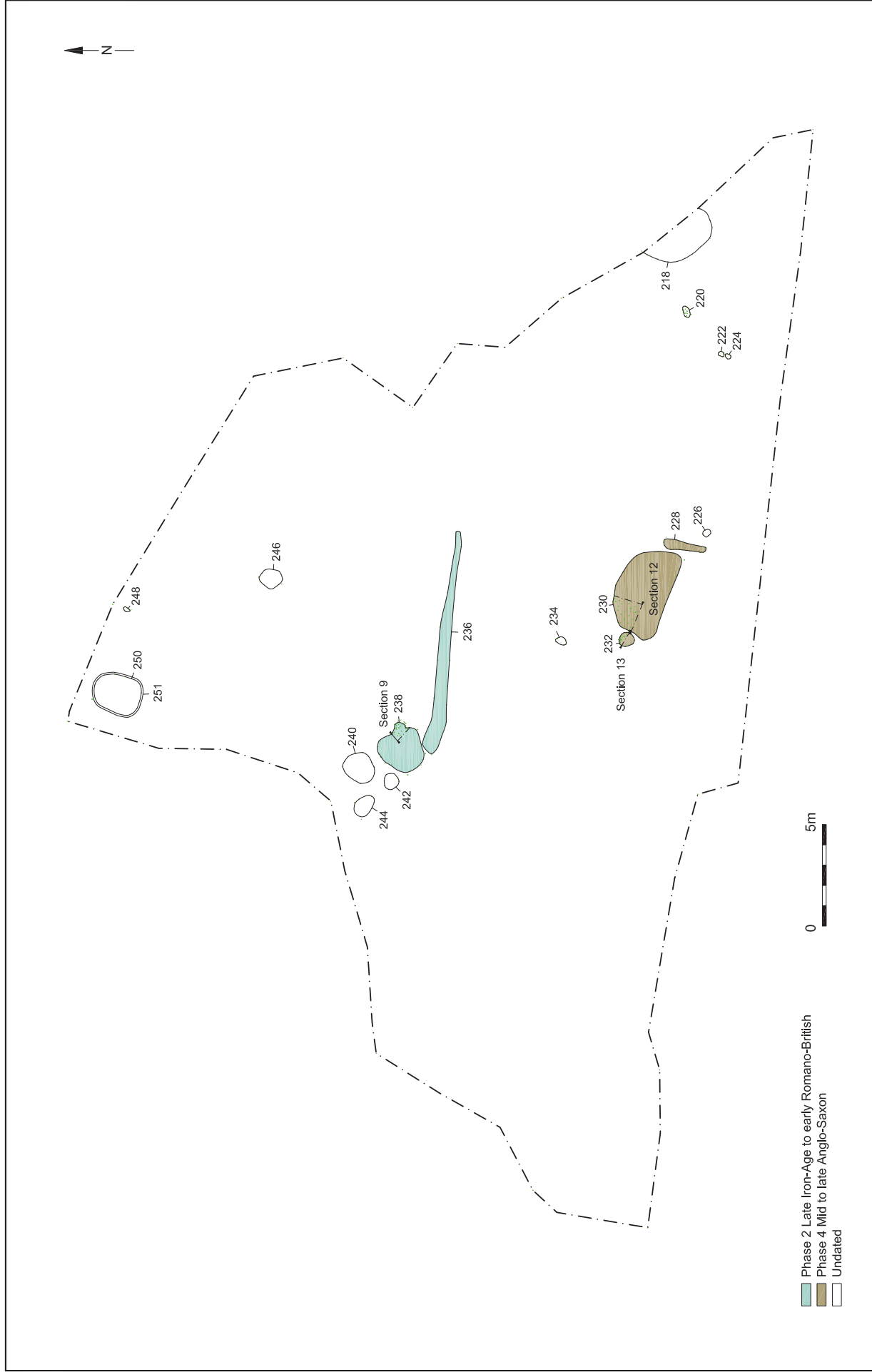


East facing section of 106

North facing section of 182

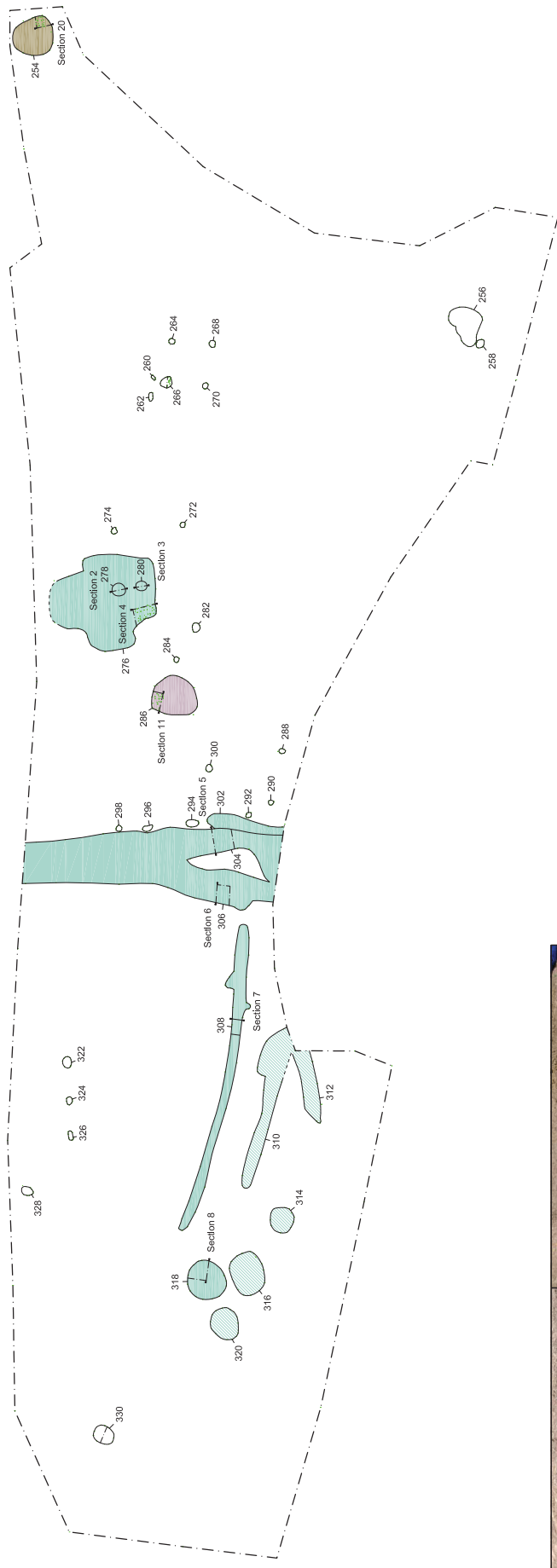
East facing section of 168

North-west facing section of 132



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|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
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| Project Ref: 3348 | Dec 2009 | Area B phased plan | |
| Report Ref: 2009201 | Drawn by: RD/JR | | |

Fig. 4



- Phase 2 Late Iron-Age to early Romano-British
- Phase 2 Late Iron-Age to early Romano-British conjecture
- Phase 3 Early Anglo-Saxon
- Phase 4 Mfd to late Anglo-Saxon
- Undated

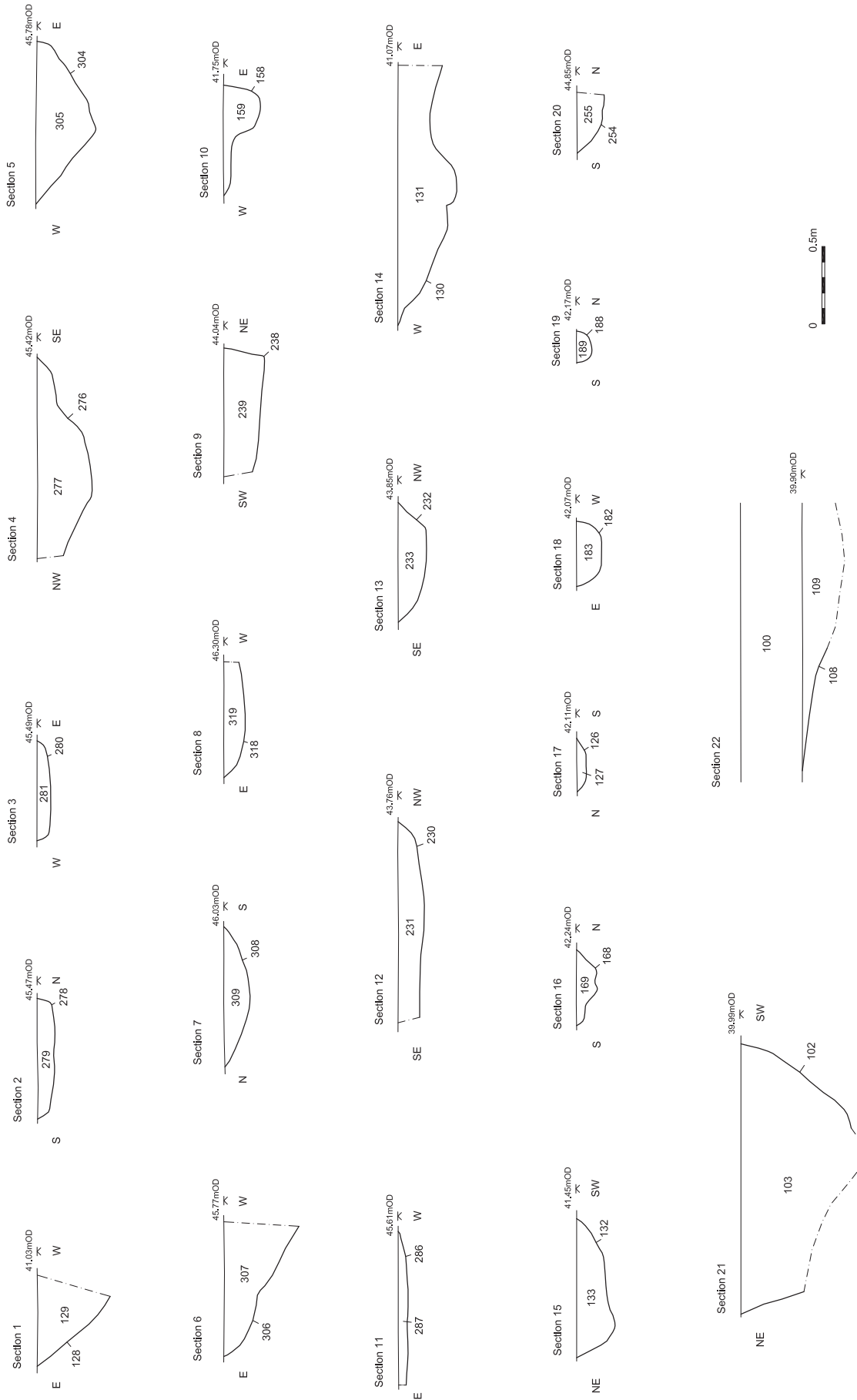


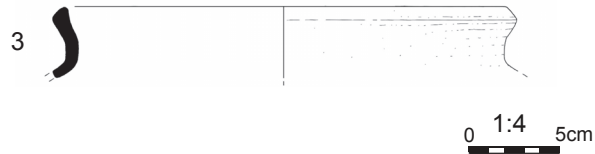
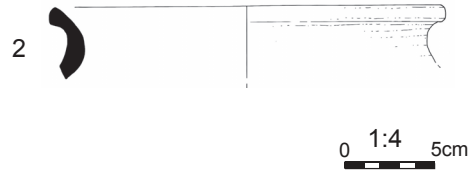
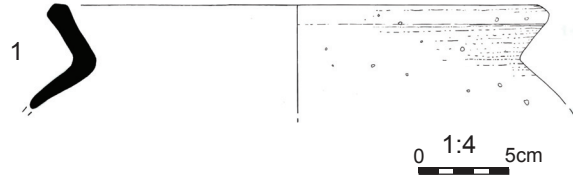
East facing section of 260

West facing section of 308

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
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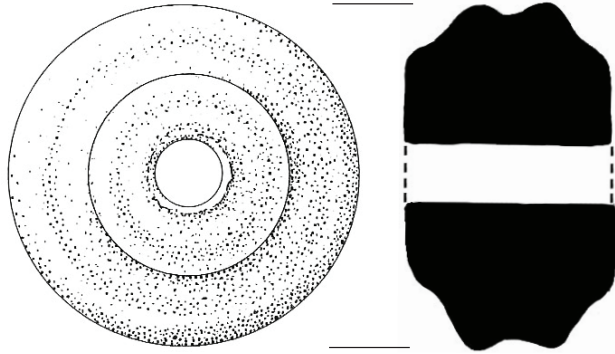
Fig. 5



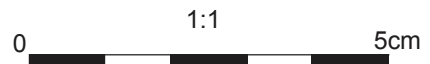
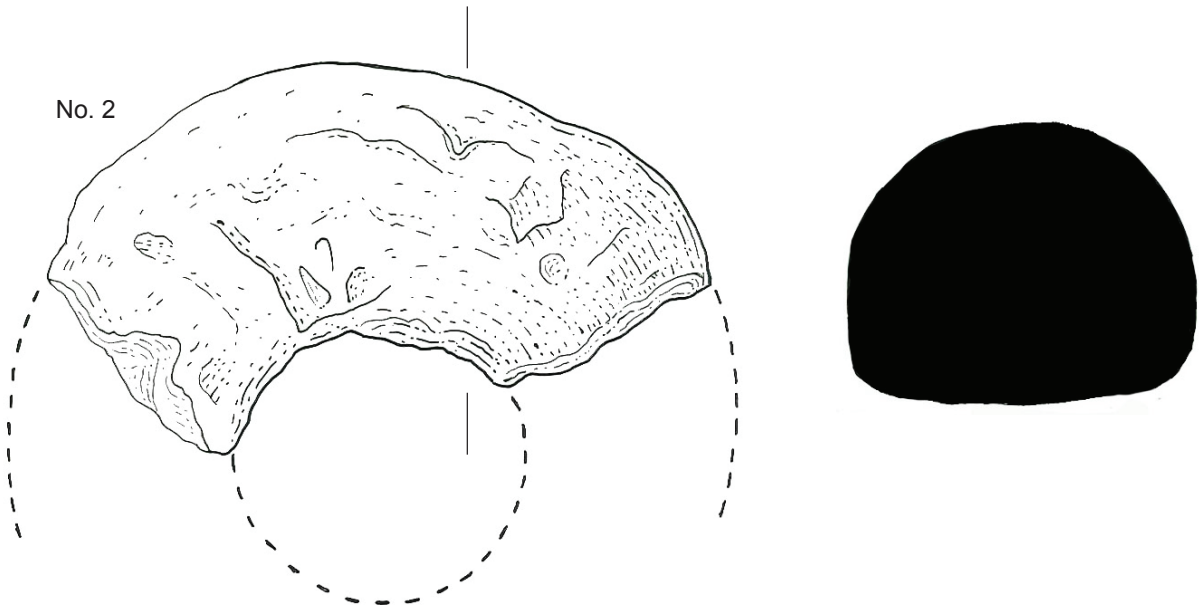


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| Project Ref: 3348 | Dec 2009 | Pottery | |
| Report Ref: 2009201 | Drawn by: HLF | | |

No. 1



No. 2



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------|
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| Project Ref: 3348 | Dec 2009 | Registered finds | |
| Report Ref: 2009201 | Drawn by: JLR | | |

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