

**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at Dittons Road, Polegate,  
East Sussex**



**NGR 559820 104967**

**Project No. 4207  
Site Code: ERP09**

**ASE Report No. 2010169**

**OASIS id: archaeol6-83638**

**Alice Thorne  
With contributions by  
Anna Doherty, Luke Barber, Elke Raymen, Lucy Allot, Sarah Porteous, Karine Hégarat**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex NGR 559820 104967, between the 30<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Twenty-seven trenches measuring up to 60m in length were excavated. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from a number of features, and also from the overburden across the site. Evidence of a Late Iron Age or early Roman phase of activity, represented by ditches, pits and hearths was identified and included finds of briquetage indicating salt-production. Medieval activity was represented the deposition of a 12<sup>th</sup> century vessel within a field boundary ditch.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) have been commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex (NGR 559820 104967; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 After consultation between CgMs Consulting Limited and Greg Chuter, County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) the scope of the archaeological evaluation was established as follows:
- evaluation of 4% of the area of the site (= c. 62541m<sup>2</sup>) by 28 x 50m by 1.8m trial trenches (Figure 2).
- 1.1.3 These works form a secondary phase of developer funded fieldwork following on from a previous magnetometer survey (ASE 2009b) conducted at the site in November/December 2009. This stage of works is designed to identify potential archaeological remains within the location of the proposed development centred on the findings of the magnetometer survey.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 319, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 scale) the site lies on an area of higher ground of Weald Clay Deposits which forms a ridge between the Willingdon and Glynleigh Levels. The ridge connects the Pevensey peninsular with the Downs and Low Weald hinterland. Dittons Road runs along the top of this ridge, with lower ground directly to the south.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated on the eastern limit of the town of Polegate close to the junction of the A27 Polegate Bypass and A22 Golden Jubilee Way. The surrounding landscape is gently undulating within a mixed residential and industrial development, at heights of between 9.00m and 11.00m AOD. The site consists of pasture with mature trees around the perimeter and a hedge row exists along the centre of the site.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The site has the benefit of planning consent for mixed use development.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 A comprehensive Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the 4% archaeological evaluation was prepared by Archaeology South-East with reference to the consultation between ASE and CgMs Consulting Limited and ESCC and was submitted to all parties for approval (ASE 2010).
- 1.4.2 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with this document, and the standard IFA guidelines for archaeological evaluations (IFA 2008). This report outlines the results of the evaluation.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No sites of designated importance lie within 1km of the site. This includes Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Gardens, Registered Battlefields or listed buildings. The study area lies adjacent to an Archaeologically Sensitive Area; however the actual development boundaries lie outside this area of sensitivity. The archaeologically sensitive area is due to the presence of nationally important remains at Shinewater Park (to the south of the study area) where Late Bronze Age remains were discovered; and reflects the possibility that further remains may be preserved in the marsh and peat deposits surviving directly to the south of the Weald Clay Ridge on which Dittons Road is situated.
- 2.2 The Weald Clay Ridge itself was also likely to have been an important route way since prehistoric times, and it is possible that evidence may survive. There is therefore moderate potential for the survival of evidence of prehistoric occupation on the ridge itself.
- 2.3 The course of two Roman roads lie close to the development and there is low potential for the survival of evidence of Romano-British roadside settlement remains. No actual remains of the roads were observed during the construction of the A22/A27 Polegate Bypass, and their perceived alignments are based on hedgerows, pathways and significant sections of roads, metalled surfaces and roadside settlements known in the wider environs.
- 2.4 There is a possibility that these Roman roads continued in use into the Saxon and medieval periods, however it was considered unlikely that the roads would have been well maintained.
- 2.5 Previous archaeological studies in the study area were limited to a single watching brief for an extension to a house on Ditton's Road, and a programme of rescue excavations during the construction of the A22/A27 Polegate Bypass during the 1990's. The investigations of the road construction also incorporated a metal detector survey and an archaeological watching brief that was conducted on all groundworks. Neither the watching brief on the extension to the house or the programme of works associated with the road construction revealed any features or artefacts of an archaeological nature. A recent ASE watching brief on the upgrading of the sewers along Ditton's Road did not find any archaeological features (ASE 2009a).
- 2.6 A magnetometer survey (ASE 2009b) was conducted by ASE for CgMs at the site during late 2009. This work concluded that two, almost certainly modern, linear anomalies (M1 and M3) exist at the site. These are to be avoided by the evaluation as they probably represent a sewer (M1) and a pipeline (M3). Several other linear (M2, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8, M9, M10 and M11 and sub-circular anomalies (M12 and M13) of uncertain derivation, may be of archaeological or other origins such as land-drains, ditches or other cut features.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology comprised the machine excavation of 28 50m long trenches by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 3.2 A foul water mains drain crossed the site on a north-west to south-east axis. In addition, overhead power cables crossed the site from the south-west to the north-east. As a result a 24 m wide exclusion zone over the location of the foul main and a 20m wide exclusion zone below the central line of the overhead cables were respected at all times. Hazard tape was employed to demarcate the exclusion zones. In several cases trenches were shortened as a result. Trench 19 was completely abandoned (Figure 2).
- 3.3 The location of the trenches was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.4 The excavation was taken down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural', whichever was uppermost.
- 3.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.6 All context numbers were prefixed by the relevant trench number.
- 3.7 The location of the trenches was surveyed by Global Positioning System, and is tied in to the National Grid.
- 3.8 Spoil was stored adjacent to the trench and was backfilled upon completion of the recording by machine.
- 3.9 The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist), Sam Whitehead and Gary Webster, Anna Doherty, Karine LeHegrat, Nicky Bettley, Chris Crab on the (30<sup>th</sup> July to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2010) . The surveying was undertaken by Rob Cole (Surveyor) on the 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2010.

Number of Contexts	194
No. of files/paper record	1 File
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	7
Photographs	113 (digital images), 2 B&W, 2 Colour film
Bulk finds	1 Box
Registered finds	3
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Overburden and Geology

- 4.1.1 The trenches were located within a pastoral landscape. The topsoil across the site comprised a mid orangish brown friable silty clay containing occasional worked flint fragments, subangular to sub-rounded flint nodules, small fragments of chalk, fragments of modern window glass, small fragments of asbestos sheeting and modern tile, particularly fragments of field drain. This deposit measured around 30m deep, although it was found to shallow progressively upslope, to around 0.20m. A thin mottled, light brownish grey silty clay subsoil was encountered below the topsoil, forming an irregular, and in areas intermittent, interface with the undisturbed geology below. Fragments late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery and fragments of worked flint were recovered from this layer within several of the trenches.
- 4.1.2 The site also contained irregular discrete areas of colluvium; mainly thought to infill slight hollows and undulations on the surface of the natural clay (for example trenches 2 and 3). Within trenches 10, 18, 15 and 28 however, this deposit formed a distinct layer. For further discussion of the colluvium, see paragraph 7.6. The underlying natural geology comprised a compact and often blocky brownish orange slightly silty clay, with bluish grey mottling. Within some areas of the site, notably the southern part of trench 4 and within trench 5, the natural geology had a bright reddish brown colouration.
- 4.1.3 Unless otherwise stated in the results, below, archaeological features were cut into the natural clay and sealed by the subsoil. There are, however, exceptions to this general observation which are discussed in detail where appropriate.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-west part of the site. It measured 48m in length, and was orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	9.73
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	9.43
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	9.30
1/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.65m	0.16m	9.01
1/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.65m	0.16m	9.01
1/006	Cut	Post hole	-	0.18m	0.07m	8.55
1/007	Fill	Post hole	-	0.18m	0.07m	8.55
1/008	Cut	Post hole	-	0.18m	0.05m	8.58
1/009	Fill	Post hole	-	0.18m	0.05m	8.58
1/010	Deposit	Colluvium	2.68m	Tr.	0.22m	9.13

Table 2: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary

4.2.3 One shallow linear feature was observed, crossing the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment (1/004). It has a concave profile, and was filled by a light greyish orange silty clay, with frequent manganese fragments (1/005). No finds were recovered from the feature.

4.2.4 Two small circular postholes were observed in the eastern part of the trench (1/006 and 1/008). Due to substantial quantities of partially degraded wood fragments within the dark brown silty clay fills, these features are thought to represent modern postholes, demarking an abandoned fence line.

4.2.5 A deposit of light greyish orange silty clay was observed in the western part of the trench (1/010). This deposit contained frequent manganese, occasional fragments of charcoal and a fragment of pottery of probable 1st century AD date (1/010). This layer is thought to represent a colluvial accumulation of silts. No features were observed either within or below this deposit following removal of the layer.

**4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)**

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 50m in length, and was orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	11.46
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	11.16
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	11.02
2/004	Cut	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.65m	0.16m	10.05
2/005	Fill	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.65m	0.16m	10.05
2/006	Cut	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.40m	0.11m	9.83
2/007	Fill	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.40m	0.11m	9.83
2/008	Cut	Probable ditch	Tr.	1.50m	0.26m	10.39
2/009	Fill	Probable ditch	Tr.	1.50m	0.26m	10.39
2/010	Cut	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.60m	0.05m	10.14
2/011	Fill	Probable ditch	Tr.	0.60m	0.05m	10.14

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 2

4.3.2 Summary

4.3.3 At the north-eastern end of the trench a parallel sided linear feature orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment was observed (2/006). This feature had a steep concave profile, and was filled by a mid reddish brown silty clay, which contained a single fragment of fire-cracked flint (2/007).

4.3.4 Immediately to the west of this feature a second ephemeral linear was observed, on a south-west to north-east orientation (2/004). It had a concave profile, and was filled by a compact light orangish brown silty clay,

- 4.3.5 from which a single fragment of fire cracked flint was recovered (2/005). Within the centre of the trench a very ephemeral small, shallow curvilinear gully terminus was identified (2/010). This feature had shallow concave sides, a flattish base and a rounded terminus. It was filled by a compact light greyish brown silty clay (2/011). No finds were identified within this feature.
- 4.3.6 To the west of this feature, the fourth linear feature was investigated (2/008). This feature had very ephemeral edges and was extremely difficult to define, due to the compact nature of the clay and the similarities in colour and texture of the feature fill to the surrounding natural geology. However, several fragments of fire cracked flint were recovered from the manganese rich orangish brown silty clay fill (2/009).
- 4.3.7. Several other amorphous and irregular patches of variation were investigated within the line of this trench. However, no further features were found to have convincing edges or profiles, and the slight, and often diffuse areas of colour variation identified in plan were found to lack all clarity when exposed in section. These patches are thought to result from small areas of geological variation within the underlying natural. Some rooting disturbance was also present.

#### 4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 4.4.1 Trench 2 measured 50m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	13.43
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.05m	13.18
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	13.08
3/004	Deposit	Colluvium	13.5	Tr.	0.28m	11.23
3/005	Void	-	-	-	-	-
3/006	Cut	Poss. gully terminus	-	0.25m	0.05m	11.54
3/007	Fill	Poss. gully terminus	-	0.25m	0.05m	11.54
3/008	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	2.2m	0.45m	11.39
3/009	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	2.2m	0.45m	11.39

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 3

#### 4.4.2 Summary

- 4.4.3 A narrow, shallow feature was observed within the trench, partially exposed extending from the western baulk (3/006). This feature had short, steep tapered sides and a flat base, with a rounded terminus. It was filled by a firm, sterile light grey silty clay (3/006). This feature may represent a possible undated gully terminus.

- 4.4.4 At the northern end of the trench a spread of light brown silty clay was observed (3/004). This deposit was found to be manganese rich and fragments of worked flint, fire-cracked flint and two fragments of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered. This feature is thought to represent

an area of colluvial silting, infilling a natural hollow or undulation at the surface of the natural geology.

- 4.4.5 Following removal of deposit 3/004, a substantial south-west to north-east orientated ditch became visible (3/008). This ditch had a concave profile, and was filled by mid greyish orange mottled silty clay (3/009), which contained frequent manganese fragments, a Mesolithic bladelet, a prehistoric flake, fire-cracked flint, and a fragment of fired clay.

#### 4.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 50m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	13.09
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	12.79
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	12.87
4/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.29m	12.42
4/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.15m	12.28
4/006	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.14m	12.42
4/007	Deposit	Rooting	-	0.75m	0.10m	12.49
4/008	Cut	small pit	-	0.26m	0.04m	12.46
4/009	Fill	small pit	-	0.26m	0.04m	12.46

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 4

#### 4.5.2 Summary

- 4.5.3 A parallel sided, slightly curving linear feature was observed within this trench (4/004), orientated on a north-south alignment. This ditch was found to have concave sides and a flattish base. It had a primary fill comprising friable reddish brown silty clay, which contained frequent manganese, occasional charcoal fragments, worked flint, and a few sherds of 1st century AD pottery. At the base of this fill some fragments of burnt animal bone were recovered (4/005). The upper fill was comprised of friable light brown silty clay, and five fragments of worked flint, a hammerstone and a fragment of fire-cracked flint were recovered (4/006).

- 4.5.4 A small shallow circular feature located at the edge of the line of the ditch was found to have a tapered edges and a flat base (4/008). It was filled by friable orangish red silty clay, containing occasional charcoal fragments and a few sherds of 1st century AD pottery (4/009). This feature is thought to represent the shallow base of a small pit or posthole.

- 4.5.4 A sub-circular patch of charcoal to the south of these two features was investigated (4/007). This friable dark brown silty clay deposit contained moderate quantities of charcoal, but upon excavation was found to have no definition, with no sign of in situ burning or cut. As a result this feature has been interpreted as a patch of charcoal resulting from rooting action, possibly dragging charcoal fragments down from a surface fire.

#### 4.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 35m in length, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m	14.14
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	13.92
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	13.83
5/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.50m	0.20m	13.20
5/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.50m	0.20m	13.20

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 5

#### 4.6.2 Summary

4.6.3 A single north-east to south-west orientated linear was observed within trench five (5/004). This feature had an ephemeral and indistinct cut, but was found to have a steep tapered sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid orangish brown silty clay, from which no finds were observed (5/005). A probable area of rooting disturbance at the edge of the ditch was present against the northern baulk of the trench.

#### 4.7 Trench 6 (Fig. 7)

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 34m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	14.08
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	13.80
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	13.70
6/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.27m	0.04m	13.53
6/005	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.27m	0.04m	13.53
6/006	Cut	Post hole	-	0.11m	0.04m	13.61
6/007	Fill	Post hole	-	0.11m	0.04m	13.61

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 6

#### 4.7.2 Summary

4.7.3 A narrow, parallel sided linear feature was observed within this trench, oriented on a west-north-west to east-south-east orientation. This feature was very shallow, with a gradual concave profile (6/004) and was filled by firm orangish grey silty clay (6/005). A broken Mesolithic secondary flake and a fragment of fire cracked flint were recovered from this fill.

4.7.4 A small circular posthole (6/006) located in the northern part of the trench is thought to be of modern origin, due to the dark silty clay fill and

fragments of wood surviving within the feature (6/007). This posthole is thought to represent the remains of a modern fence line, possibly part of the same alignment as that suggested for trench 1.

#### 4.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 8)

4.8.1 Trench 7 measured 50m in length. As part of this trench was abandoned due to the presence of the overhead power cables, a 22m long cross-trench was excavated, in an attempt to define the limits of the possible settlement evidence indentified in trench 9 to the east.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	14.51m
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m	14.24m
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	
7/004	Cut	Possible pit	-	0.64m	0.16m	13.94
7/005	Fill	Possible pit	-	0.64m	0.16m	13.94
7/006	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.63m	0.17m	13.68
7/007	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.63m	0.17m	13.68

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 7

#### 4.8.2 Summary

4.8.3 A semi-circular feature was partially exposed, extending from the baulk within the southern transect of the trench. This feature had gradual concave sides and a flattish base (7/004) and was filled by a compact, light bluish grey silty clay fill (7/005). No finds were recovered. This feature may represent the partially exposed remains of a pit.

4.8.4 A north - south orientated ditch located within the eastern transect of the trench was found to have a gradually tapered eastern edge and a steeper western side, above an undulating concave base (7/006). It was filled by a very compact mid brownish grey silty clay fill, which was found to contain fragments of fire-cracked flint, and an assemblage of 1st century AD pottery (7/007).

#### 4.9 Trench 8 (Fig. 9)

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 28m in length, and was orientated upon a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	12.48
8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	12.28
8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	12.34
8/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.2m	0.35m	12.26
8/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.2m	0.35m	12.26
8/006	Cut	Possible pit	-	0.70m	0.12m	12.22
8/007	Fill	Possible pit	-	0.70m	0.12m	12.22
8/008	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.75m	0.10m	12.14
8/009	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.75m	0.10m	12.14
8/010	Cut	Pit	-	0.50m	0.12m	12.10
8/011	Fill	Pit	-	0.50m	0.12m	12.10

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 8

#### 4.9.2 Summary

4.9.3 At the southernmost extent of the trench, a substantial linear feature was investigated, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment (8/004). This feature had a concave profile and was filled by a compact mid greyish orange silty clay (8/005) which contained worked flint including a Mesolithic bladelet, fired clay, and six sherds of 1st century AD pottery.

4.9.4 A partially exposed feature had been cut by ditch 8/004. Possible pit (8/006), was found to have very indistinct and irregular concave edges and a sterile light greyish brown silty clay fill (8/007).

4.9.5 A second linear feature was observed to the north. Context (8/008) represents the cut of a parallel-sided linear crossing the trench on a south-west to north-east alignment. It had a gradual concave profile, and was filled by compact dark greyish brown silty clay containing fragments of fire-cracked flint, and one sherd of probable 1st century AD pottery (8/009). Substantial rooting disturbance was noted within the fill of the feature.

4.9.6 A small pit was noted within the centre of the trench, to the north of those features previously described. This feature was sub circular in plan, with a concave profile and root disturbed edges, particularly on the north-western side of the feature (8/0010). This pit was filled by a compact mottled mid greyish brown silty clay, from which a small assemblage of mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD pottery was recovered (8/011).

#### 4.10 Trench 9 (Fig. 10)

4.10.1 Trench 9 measured a total of 61.5m in length. In addition to the 43.5m north-east to south-west trench, an additional 18m long transect was stripped to the east of the trench, to investigate the intensity of activity



within this area.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	12.39
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	12.09
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	12.07
9/004	Cut	Pit	-	1.00m	0.10m	11.92
9/005	Fill	Pit	-	1.00m	0.10m	11.92
9/006	Cut	Small pit/ posthole	-	0.40m	0.09m	12.05
9/007	Fill	Small pit/ posthole	-	0.40m	0.09m	12.05
9/008	Cut	Hearth	0.71m	0.62m	0.07m	11.13
9/009	Fill	Primary fill of hearth	0.71m	0.62m	0.04m	11.13
9/010	Fill	Secondary fill hearth	0.71m	0.62m	0.03m	11.13
9/011	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.15m	11.07
9/012	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.15m	11.07
9/013	Cut	Pit	0.80m	0.70m	0.13m	12.13
9/014	Fill	Pit	0.80m	0.70m	0.13m	12.13
9/015	Cut	Poss. ditch terminus	-	0.74m	0.06m	12.21
9/016	Fill	Poss. ditch terminus	-	0.74m	0.06m	12.21
9/017	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.75m	0.13m	11.19
9/018	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.75m	0.13m	11.19
9/019	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.30m	12.24
9/020	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.80m	0.30m	12.24
9/021	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.60m	0.20m	12.51
9/022	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.60m	0.20m	12.51

Table 10: Context Register, Trench 9

#### 4.10.2 Summary

4.10.3 A partially exposed sub-circular feature was identified, extending out from the eastern bank of the trench (9/004). This feature had a shallow concave profile, extending beyond the limit of the trench. It was filled by a compact light greyish brown silty clay, which contained occasional subangular flint nodules, substantial manganese fragments and also a small group of bodysherds of mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD date (9/005). This partially exposed feature may represent the remains of a pit.

4.10.4 Just to the west of this feature a small circular feature was observed, and was found upon excavation to have a shallow concave profile with an undulating base (9/006). The feature was filled with light greyish brown silty clay, with contained a few sherds of mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD pottery (9/007). This feature is thought to represent the remains of a small pit or shallow posthole.

4.10.5 A sub oval feature located to the south had an irregular concave profile, with very diffuse edges (9/013). It was filled by compact greyish orange silty clay, which contained a single sherd in a Mid/Late Iron Age type fabric, which could also be from the first decades of the Roman period (9/014). This feature was very diffuse and may represent the base of a shallow pit, or an area of disturbance or rooting at the terminus of (9/015).

4.10.6 (9/015) represents a slightly curvilinear feature partially exposed extending



from the baulk. This like, many of the features in this trench, was very shallow with gently sloping concave profile, and a rounded end. It was filled by compact dark greyish brown silty clay, which contained occasional charcoal, and two grog tempered sherds of probable 1st century AD date (9/016). This feature may represent a shallow linear terminus.

- 4.10.7 Within the eastern transect of the trench, a cluster of features were observed. A sub-circular feature was found to have shallow edges and a concave base, with fired clay natural at the edge of the feature providing evidence of in-situ burning (9/008). This feature had a primary fill of a compact mid to dark yellowish brown silty clay, containing frequent charcoal flecks, burnt stone and frequent small pottery sherds of mid 1st century BC to 1st century AD date (9/009). This fill is thought to represent remnants of primary use of the hearth. A secondary fill comprised a mid to dark yellowish brown silty clay which contained rare charcoal flecks (9/010). This fill may represent deliberate backfill, or natural silting following abandonment of the feature.
- 4.10.8 A parallel-sided linear feature immediately to the east of the hearth is thought to be contemporary. This comprised a north-east to south-west orientated ditch, with a concave profile (9/011). This was filled by mid yellowish brown silty clay, with sparse charcoal flecks, sparse burnt stone and fired clay and a substantial group of 1st century pottery (9/012). The burnt stone and fired clay may represent material redeposited from feature 9/008, possibly following clearing out of the hearth base.
- 4.10.9 Hearth 9/008 had been cut on its western side by a second parallel linear feature. This feature comprised a north-east to south-west orientated ditch, with a gradual concave profile (9/017). This feature was extremely indistinct and only distinguished from the surrounding natural following repeated cleaning in wet conditions. The fill was a compact mid yellowish brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks, rare fire-cracked flint and two grog tempered sherds of probable 1st century AD date (9/018).
- 4.10.10 In the southern part of trench 9, two further linear features were observed. Cut (9/019) represents an east-west orientated, parallel sided ditch with a concave profile, filled by mid greyish brown silty clay, with frequent manganese fragments, moderate charcoal flecks, rare fire-cracked flint and a small fragment of modern CBM, which may be intrusive (9/020).
- 4.10.11 To the south, a second ditch measured 0.60m wide ditch orientated on a north-west to south-east orientation (9/021). This had a concave profile, and was filled with very compact dark greyish brown silty clay, from which no finds were recovered (9/022)

#### **4.11 Trench 10 (Fig. 11)**

- 4.11.1 Trench 10 measured 60m in length, and was orientated upon a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m	10.49
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	10.26
10/003	Deposit	Colluvium	27m ex	Tr.	0.15m	9.22m
10/004	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.90m	0.20m	8.58m
10/005	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.90m	0.20m	8.58m
10/006	Deposit	Rooting	-	0.45m	0.15m	9.58
10/007	Edge	Rooting	-	0.45m	0.15m	9.58
10/008	Deposit	Rooting	-	0.65m	0.05m	9.58
10/009	Edge	Rooting	-	0.65m	0.05m	9.58
10/010	Fill	Possible ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.07m	8.17
10/011	Cut	Possible ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.07m	8.17
10/012	Fill	Possible natural	Tr.	1.05	0.05m	8.08
10/013	Cut	Possible natural	Tr.	1.05	0.05m	8.08
10/014	Fill	Possible gully	Tr.	0.40m	0.05m	8.06
10/015	Cut	Possible gully	Tr.	0.40m	0.05m	8.06
10/016	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	10.24

Table 11: Context Register, Trench 10

#### 4.11.2 Summary

4.11.3 Within the southern part of the trench two sub-circular features (10/007 and 10/009) are believed to result from rooting disturbance. The features were circular and sub-circular respectively, with shallow concave and irregular profiles, and were filled by friable light brown slightly silty clay containing occasional manganese fragments (10/006 and 10/008). No anthropogenic material was recovered from either fill.

4.11.4 Within trench 10 a north-east to south-west orientated linear feature was observed, cutting a layer of colluviums, (10/005). This feature had a concave sides and a wide flat base was filled by friable yellowish brown slightly silty clay, which contained moderate manganese fragments (10/004).

4.11.5 The underlying deposit was comprised of light brown silty clay (10/003). This deposit was found to be manganese rich and several fragments of worked flint were recovered. This feature is thought to represent an area of colluvial silting, infilling a natural hollow or undulation at the surface of the natural geology.

4.11.6 Following removal of the colluvial layer, three linear features were observed. Context (10/011) comprised a linear orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment. It had a short concave profile, leading to a flat base and was filled by mottled pale grey clay, with no anthropogenic inclusions (10/010). The nature of this feature is unclear. It may represent a deliberately cut feature, although it was thought during excavation that the feature may have resulted from a natural, geological process.

4.11.7 Context (10/013), comprised an irregular sided linear orientated on a similar alignment. It had very gentle concave edges, leading to an undulating and

irregular base. It was filled by mottled pale grey clay, with no anthropogenic inclusions (10/010). This feature is thought to be a patch of geological variation.

4.11.8 Context (10/015), comprised a narrow linear orientated on the same alignment as feature (10/011). It had a shallow concave profile and was filled by mottled pale grey clay, again with no anthropogenic inclusions (10/014). The nature of this feature is also unclear. As with feature (10/011), it is thought that this may represent a deliberately cut feature, although it remains a possibility that the feature may have resulted from a natural, geological process.

#### **4.12 Trench 11**(Fig. 12)

4.12.1 Trench 11 measured 27m in length, and was orientated upon a north-east to south-west alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	8.96
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	8.66
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	8.61
11/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.47m	0.40m	8.49
11/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.47m	0.40m	8.49

Table 12: Context Register, Trench 11

4.12.2 Summary

4.12.3 A substantial north-west to south-east linear feature was observed in this trench. This feature had gently tapered sides, with a flat base (11/004). It was filled by a mid greyish orange silty clay, from which fragments of worked flint flakes, fire-cracked flint and a small group of 1st century AD pottery was recovered (11/005). This feature represents a substantial ditch, likely a continuation of the same feature as that noted in trench 12.

#### **4.13 Trench 12** (Fig. 13)

4.13.1 Trench 12 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a north-west to south-east alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	10.29
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m	10.09
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	10.03
12/004	Cut	Mod Posthole	-	0.22m	0.06m	9.60
12/005	Fill	Mod Posthole	-			9.60
12/006	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.17m	0.36m	9.62
12/007	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.17m	0.36m	9.62

Table 13: Context Register, Trench 12

4.13.2 Summary

4.13.3 Two modern postholes were observed within the line of this trench, both of which contained small fragments of asbestos sheeting (12/005).

4.13.4 In addition, a substantial linear feature was observed. This feature had regular tapered edges, with a rounded base (12/006). It contained a single compact yellowish red slightly silty clay fill, containing moderate quantities of manganese (12/007). No anthropogenic material was recovered from the fill, but this ditch is thought to be a continuation of the 1st century AD linear noted in trench 11.

**4.14 Trench 13** (Fig. 14)

4.14.1 Trench 13 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	10.51
13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	10.31
13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	10.21
13/004	Fill	Pit/ ditch terminus fill	-	1.80m	0.30m	10.24
13/005	Cut	Pit/ ditch terminus cut	-	1.80m	0.30m	10.24

Table 14: Context Register, Trench 13

4.14.2 Summary

4.14.3 A semi-circular feature was partially exposed within this trench extending from the eastern baulk. Context 13/005 was found to have quite regular, concave sides, with a flattish base. It was filled by pale greyish brown slightly silty clay, which contained a tiny fragment of pot and a fragment of fire-cracked flint (13/004). This feature may represent a possible pit, although during excavation an area of rooting disturbance could not be ruled out. Several other possible features within the vicinity were investigated and shown to be areas of geological variation and root disturbance.

**4.15 Trench 14** (Fig. 15)

4.15.1 Trench 14 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	11.08
14/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	10.88
14/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	10.81
14/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.43	0.09m	9.67

14/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.43	0.09m	9.67
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Table 15: Context Register, Trench 14

#### 4.15.2 Summary

4.15.3 A north-west to south-east orientated linear was observed crossing the southern part of this trench. This feature had straight parallel sides with a concave profile (14/004) and was filled by dull orange clay. No anthropogenic inclusions were noted (14/005).

### 4.16 Trench 15 (Fig. 16)

4.16.1 Trench 15 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. A section of this trench was widened, to expose and explore the plan of a substantial linear feature observed cutting the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	9.94
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	9.64
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	9.54
15/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.57m	0.38m	9.31
15/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.57m	0.38m	9.31

Table 16: Context Register, Trench 15

#### 4.16.2 Summary

4.16.3 A substantial slightly curvilinear ditch was observed within this trench. Cut (15/004) was found to have a concave profile, and was filled by very compact mottled light greyish orange clay. A single fragment of worked flint was retrieved from the main body of the fill. However, at the surface of this fill a large assemblage of small pottery sherds were identified. These sherds date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and are likely to all derive from the same single unglazed cooking pot.

4.16.4 Several other amorphous features were investigated in this trench, all of which were found to be area of geological variation or rooting disturbance.

### 4.17 Trench 16

4.17.1 Trench 16 measured 37m in length, and was orientated upon a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	10.26
16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	10.01
16/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	9.86

Table 17: Context Register, Trench 16



4.17.2 Summary

4.17.3 Several potential features were observed within this trench, but upon investigation were confirmed to be discrete areas of natural variation.

**4.18 Trench 17** (Fig. 17)

4.18.1 Trench 17 measured 28m in length, and was orientated upon a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	8.18
17/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	7.83
17/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	7.73
17/004	Cut	Pit	0.73m	0.42m	0.08m	7.46
17/005	Fill	Pit	0.73m	0.42m	0.08m	7.46
17/006	Void	-	-	-	-	-
17/007	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.28m	0.11m	7.43
17/008	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.28m	0.11m	7.43

Table 18: Context Register, Trench 17

4.18.2 Summary

4.18.3 An oval feature with a gradual concave profile was observed within the southern part of this trench (17/004). This feature was filled by compacted greyish-brown slightly silty clay, with frequent manganese fragments, but no anthropogenic artefactual material (17/005).

4.18.4 A narrow parallel sided gully was observed close to the feature described above. This feature had sharp tapered edges and a rounded base (17/007) and was filled by compact brownish orange clay. No anthropogenic inclusions were noted in the fill (17/008)

**4.19 Trench 18** (Fig. 18)

4.19.1 Trench 18 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	7.46
18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	7.21
18/003	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	7.11
18/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	6.81
18/005	Cut	Pit	0.83m	0.62m	0.16m	6.78
18/006	Fill	Pit	0.83m	0.62m	0.16m	6.78
18/007	Cut	Pit	Tr.	1.44m	0.30m	7.00
18/008	Fill	Pit	Tr.	1.44m	0.10m	7.00
18/009	Fill	Pit	Tr.	1.44m	0.23m	7.00
18/010	Cut	Pit	Tr.	1.35m	0.30m	6.80



18/011	Fill	Pit	Tr.	1.35m	0.30m	6.80
18/012	Fill	Pit	Tr.	1.35m	0.30m	6.80
18/013	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.31m	0.09m	6.96
18/014	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.31m	0.09m	6.96
18/015	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.91m	0.08m	6.96
18/016	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.91m	0.08m	6.96
18/017	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	2.01m	0.54m	6.87
18/018	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	2.01m	0.54m	6.87
18/019	Recut	Ditch	Tr.	0.98m	0.24m	6.87
18/020	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.98m	0.24m	6.87
18/021	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	2.50m	0.38m	6.83
18/022	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	2.50m	0.38m	6.83

Table 19: Context Register, Trench 18

#### 4.19.2 Summary

4.19.3 Substantial quantities of colluvium were encountered within the line of this trench, measuring between 0.15m to 0.30m in depth. This was composed of compact bluish grey slightly silty clay, which contained fragments of burnt clay, occasional patinated subangular flints, and occasional small fragments of chalk (18/003). A fragment of worked flint and several fragments of probable briquetage were recovered. Following removal of this layer, several features were exposed. These are outlined below.

4.19.4 A sub-circular pit was observed towards the northern end of the trench. This feature had tapered edges with a sharp break of slope on the southern side, and an undulating base (18/005). It was filled by compact light grey clay containing a single fragment of pottery (18/006).

4.19.5 Located within the centre portion of the trench a sub-rectangular feature with rounded corners was partially exposed extending out from the eastern baulk of the trench. This feature had steeply tapered sides, and a flattish base (18/007). This feature contained a primary fill of compact mid bluish brown silty clay, which contained occasional charcoal, occasional bone, and occasional fragments of briquetage (18/009). Above this the secondary fill was comprised of dark friable bluish grey silty clay which contained frequent burnt clay, moderate charcoal occasional fire-cracked flint, briquetage and occasional nodules of unworked flint (18/008). This feature had been cut by a modern field drain, which is thought to account for a small fragment of asbestos found within the fill. This feature is thought to represent a hearth although the presence of briquetage perhaps suggests a connection with salt-production. This feature was most clearly visible below a layer of colluvium, although an indistinct trace of the feature was partially visible at a slightly higher level, suggesting that the feature may have been cut, at least partially, through this layer. See section 7.6 for further discussion.

4.19.6 A second feature containing evidence of burning was noted to the south of (18/007). Feature (18/010) was also partially exposed extending out from the eastern baulk. This feature had steep tapered sides leading to an undulating base (18/010), and had a primary fill comprised of compact bluish grey clay with light brown mottling. No anthropogenic inclusions



were noted in this fill. The secondary fill was comprised of mottled orange-brown clay, containing frequent burnt clay and charcoal, with a dark charcoal rich lens with fragments of burnt clay at the base, suggesting in situ burning (18/011). This fill contained probable Late Iron Age – early Roman briquetage fragments.

- 4.19.7 Linear (18/013) was orientated north-west to south-east with a gradual concave profile, filled by a light orangish brown clay containing occasional fragments of worked flint (18/014). This gully is believed to have been cut by a more substantial linear located immediately to the north (18/015). Ditch (18/015) had tapered edges, leading to a flat base. This feature was filled by compact reddish brown silty clay containing several sherds of worked flint including a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic broken blade and a single sherd of 1st century BC to 1st century AD date pottery (18/016).
- 4.19.8 Within the southern part of the trench a substantial west- east orientated linear was observed (18/017). This feature had steep tapered sides with a rounded point, and was filled by firm yellowish red silty clay, containing some charcoal and fragments of briquetage (18/018). A recut of this feature was visible, following the same orientation as the original ditch, but with a concave profile (18/019), and filled by blue-grey clay, containing moderate quantities of charcoal, and fragments of burnt clay (18/020)
- 4.19.9 At the northern end of the trench, an irregularly shaped feature was observed. Upon excavation, this feature was found to have gradual, irregular concave edges and a flattish base (18/021). It was filled by compact light orange-brown silty clay containing no anthropogenic inclusions (18/022). This feature may represent a ditch, although a natural origin cannot be ruled out at this stage.

#### **4.20 Trench 20**

- 4.20.1 Trench 20 measured 33m in length, and was orientated upon a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	6.57
20/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	6.27
20/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	6.20

Table 20: Context Register, Trench 20

- 4.20.2 Summary
- 4.20.3 No archaeology was observed within this trench.

#### **4.21 Trench 21**

- 4.21.1 Trench 21 measured 32m in length, and was orientated upon a north-east to south-west alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	6.57
21/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	6.27
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	6.20

Table 21: Context Register, Trench 20

4.21.2 Summary

4.21.3 No archaeology was observed within this trench.

**4.22 Trench 22**

4.22.1 Trench 22 measured 35m in length, and was orientated upon an east to west alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
22/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	4.49
22/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	4.24
22/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	4.14

Table 22: Context Register, Trench 22

4.22.2 Summary

4.22.3 Two potential features were observed within this trench, but upon investigation were confirmed to be areas of rooting disturbance.

**4.23 Trench 23**

4.23.1 Trench 23 measured 26m in length, and was orientated upon a south-east to north-west alignment.

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Max Height m.AOD</b>
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	5.03
23/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m	4.85
23/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	4.67

Table 23: Context Register, Trench 23

4.23.2 Summary

4.23.3 Several potential features were observed within this trench, but upon investigation were confirmed to be areas of geological variation and modern disturbance.

#### 4.24 Trench 24

4.24.1 Trench 24 measured 42m in length, and was orientated upon a south-east to north-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	5.18
24/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	4.91
24/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	4.80

Table 24: Context Register, Trench 24

4.24.2 Summary

4.24.3 Several potential features were observed within this trench, but upon investigation were confirmed to be areas of geological variation and rooting disturbance.

#### 4.25 Trench 25

4.25.1 Trench 25 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a south-east to north-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
25/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	5.51
25/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	5.26
25/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	5.11

Table 25: Context Register, Trench 25

4.25.2 Summary

4.25.3 Within this trench no subsoil or interface layer was noted, and the topsoil directly above compact bluish grey slightly silty clay, colluvial layer (25/002). No finds were observed within this layer, and no features were exposed following removal of the deposit.

#### 4.26 Trench 26

4.26.1 Trench 26 measured 51m in length, and was orientated upon a south to north alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
26/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	5.98
26/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m	5.66
26/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	5.53

Table 26: Context Register, Trench 26  
4.26.2 Summary

4.26.3 No archaeology was observed within this trench.

#### 4.27 Trench 27

4.27.1 Trench 27 measured 46.5m in length, and was orientated upon a south-west to north-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
27/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m	6.87
27/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m	6.53
27/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	6.30

Table 27: Context Register, Trench 27

4.27.2 Summary

4.27.3 Several features were observed within this trench, but upon investigation were confirmed to be of modern origin.

#### 4.28 Trench 28

4.28.1 Trench 28 measured 50m in length, and was orientated upon a south-west to north-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
28/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	5.74
28/002	Deposit	Subsoil	20m	Tr.	0.15m	5.49
28/003	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	5.34
28/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	4.94

Table 28: Context Register, Trench 28

4.28.2 Summary

4.28.3 A dark brownish grey silty clay layer, containing frequent sub-angular flints, occasional small pebbles and fragments of chalk was observed lying directly below the topsoil in the northern part of the trench (28/002). This deposit is thought to represent a subsoil layer, which although much darker and more defined than the subsoil/interface layers observed in most of the previous trenches is thought to derive from wet, possibly often waterlogged conditions within a shallow hollow or depression in this corner of the eastern field. This was located above a layer of compact bluish grey slightly silty clay colluvium (28/003). Following removal of this colluvial layer the surface of the underlying natural was exposed (28/004), and no further features were observed within the trench.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage was recovered during the evaluation (Appendix 1 and Table 30). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. Subsequently they were counted, weighed and bagged by context and material, according to IFA guidelines. None of the finds require further conservation or X-ray.

### 5.2 Late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery by Anna Doherty

A fairly substantial assemblage of 233 sherds, weighing 848g was recovered from 27 evaluation contexts. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight and EVE. In the absence of a regional type-series in Sussex Roman fabrics and forms have been recorded using codes devised at the Museum of London (Marsh & Tyers 1979; Davies et al 1994). Some site-specific fabric codes were devised to cover the local pre-Roman fabrics.

#### 5.2.1 *Site-specific fabric codes*

FL1 Moderate flint of 0.5-1.5mm in a dense, quartz-free matrix, containing rare possible organic voids

FLGL1 Moderate, well-sorted glauconite c.0.1-0.2mm and sparse well-sorted angular flint of 1-2mm

GLAUC1 Moderate, well-sorted glauconite, most of around 0.2mm, with rare larger quartz grains up to 0.5mm

GROG1 Typical East Sussex grog-tempered fabric containing moderate or common grog and grog-like calcareous sedimentary inclusions as well as rare iron-rich inclusions

Q1 Moderate quartz of 0.3-0.5mm (may contain rare flint of variable size)

#### 5.2.2 *Description of the assemblage*

The fabrics can be divided into three main types. The first group which makes up c. 12% of the assemblage is made up by Middle Iron Age tradition fabrics. These are predominantly glauconitic wares, deriving from Greensand geology but also include a very small number of non-glauconitic flint-tempered and quartz-rich fabrics. Although these types have their origins in the Middle Iron Age, they were never found in groups lacking grog-tempered or Roman wares, unless as small single sherds. No diagnostic feature sherds were associated with these fabrics. Recent work in Kent has shown that such wares probably survived into the first decades of the Roman period (Booth 2009, 4-5), and it is likely that the same is true of East Sussex assemblages.

Well over two-thirds of the total is made up by sherds in typical East Sussex grog-tempered fabrics which often contain soft calcareous sedimentary inclusions. Almost all rim sherds associated with this fabric are from simple hand-made necked jars, sometimes featuring low pedestal bases. There is one vessel which could be classed either as a fine necked jar or a plain butt-beaker imitation, whilst another partial profile from a vessel with an everted rim, of very small diameter, is probably from a

globular beaker. Although grog-tempered wares were particularly long-lived in East Sussex, there is no evidence to suggest this assemblage post-dates the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

The remainder of the assemblage is made up by 'Romanised' fabrics. These are likely to be of very local origin and are almost all undiagnostic coarse grey wares, although a few sherds in fine grey and oxidised fabrics are also present. They are associated with a similar range of forms to the grog-tempered wares and tend to occur in groups dominated by grog-tempered wares.

At present, given the range of forms and dominance of grog-tempered wares, it seems most likely that all three elements of the assemblage are broadly contemporary and represent a fairly short-lived period of activity in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, which probably began prior to the Roman conquest and ended after it. Fairly substantial stratified groups were recovered from three contexts: [7/007], [8/005] and [9/012]. However, although the former group completely lacked Romanised wares, it may not be substantially earlier than the others, which only contained sherds of one or two vessels in Roman grey ware fabrics. As it stands, the current assemblage is of some local importance.

### **5.3 Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber**

Context [15/005] produced the only definite medieval pottery from the site. This group, consisting of in excess of 100 small slightly abraded sherds, is best placed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery is all of the same basic fabric, being tempered with moderate to abundant sub-angular multicoloured flint grits to 1mm and medium fired. Most sherds are oxidised orange but some brown/grey fragments are also present. It is quite probable most, if not all, sherds are from a single vessel – an unglazed cooking pot with slightly beaded flaring rim.

### **5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus**

A total of 25 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 326g were recovered. Two fragments of abraded possible Roman brick or tile in a pale cream fabric with moderate coarse red silt inclusions and moderate medium sized voids with coarse cream silt inclusions were recovered from contexts [3/002] (1/6g) and [7/002] (1/12g). The rest of the material was of post-medieval date including peg tile in a fine orange fabric with sparse coarse black iron rich inclusions and occasional fine silt streaking of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date from contexts [3/002] (3/80g), [8/002] (1/26g) and [9/002] (1/48g). In the same fabric as the peg tile were fragments of ceramic unglazed field drain of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date recovered from contexts [2/001] (1/6g), [9/002] (1/14g), [9/020] (1/4g) and [13/002] (2/10g). A fragment of brick with a vitrified surface was recovered from context [8/002] (1/32g) in a pinkish orange fabric with moderate coarse black iron rich inclusions and abundant cream silt inclusions. The fragment is of probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A fragment of peg tile in a fine fabric with moderate fine quartz inclusions from context [3/002] (1/8g) could not be dated.





## 5.5 Briquetage by Luke Barber

The remaining ceramics were recovered from Trench 18. These consist mainly of either amorphous pieces or fragments with crude flattened faces although at least one base from a crudely formed cylindrical vessel is present along with a few possible bodysherds from similar forms (context [18/008]). The vast majority of pieces are tempered with moderate multicoloured sub-angular flint grits to 1mm (occasionally to 2mm), sometimes with iron oxide and/or chalk inclusions to 2mm. A few pieces are tempered with just chalk in a sandy clay or just moderate coarse sand (both in [18/003]). All sherds are oxidised orange and a few have whitened surfaces. The crude nature of manufacture, the low firing and whitening of surfaces would suggest the pieces represent briquetage waste from salt-working. The fabrics are very similar to those from briquetage discovered during excavations at the ECAT Late Iron Age site (most notably Briquetage fabric C).

## 5.6 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.6.1 A total of 70 flints (1484g) considered to be humanly struck were recovered during the evaluation work at Dittons Road, Polegate (Table 30). The material was distributed across the site with no apparent clustering and was recovered from 15 trenches. Sixty-nine flints came from 22 individual contexts and one was an unstratified find. While a total of 25 flints originated from eight archaeological features (mainly ditches and gullies), the majority of the pieces were collected from deposits (topsoil, subsoil and colluvium). The assemblage recovered included flints which date from the Mesolithic and the Neolithic period.

### 5.6.2 *Raw material and condition*

Four raw materials were identified. The majority of the flints were manufactured from mid to dark grey to almost black fine-grained to very fine-grained flint with infrequent light grey mottled patches, occasional inclusions and variably weathered buff or white cortex of variable thickness (mostly smooth but occasionally slightly rolled off and pitted). This good quality material originating from chalk flint sources derived, most probably, from the South Downs, located to the south-west and west of the site. It could also have been surface collected as machine stripping exposed several natural pieces amongst the Wealden Clay. Two artefacts made from a similar good quality dark flint were distinguished by a thin dark grey battered cortex. The quality of this flint seems too good to derive from the locally available Head Deposits. Honey to olive coloured fine-grained material with occasional lighter mottled patches, white speckling and inclusions was also identified within the assemblage and a pale to mid grey flint with many inclusions was also noted.

The condition of the flintwork varied within the assemblage. While several flints displayed minimal signs of weathering, the majority were in less fresh and even poor condition. Only one flint was burnt and 55% (39 flints) were recorded as broken. Evidence of edge abrasion from surface rolling, which is expected in colluvium, topsoil and subsoil deposits, was surprisingly



infrequent. Instead, the material exhibited some deeper edge nicks which are typical of plough damage. Iron mould (rust marks) also associated with plough damage were noted on fifteen artefacts. Frost fractures were only visible on two flints and while the majority of the flints were uncorticated, around 17% of the assemblage was re-corticated to varying degree. Although most flints displayed only incipient traces of bluishish white surface discolouration, one blade was entirely re-corticated pale grey to white. Possible iron mineral staining was also visible on the hammerstone.

	Category	Sub-category	Number
Debitage	Flake/broken flake	Primary flake	3
		Secondary flake	9
		Tertiary flake	18
	Blade/broken blade	Secondary blade	2
		Tertiary blade	3
	Bladelet	Secondary bladelet	1
		Tertiary bladelet	1
	Chip	Chip	4
Irregular waste	Irregular waste	12	
Core	Core/core fragment	Multi-platform blade core	1
		Two platform blade core	1
		Single platform bladelet core	2
Retouched tools	Retouched flake	Unidentified retouched flake	5
	Scraper	End scraper	1
		Side scraper	1
	Knife	Backed knife	1
	Microlith	Unidentified microlith	1
	Denticulated piece	Notched piece	1
		Denticulate	1
Utilised piece	Utilised piece	1	
Other	Hammerstone	Flint hammerstone	1
Total			70

Table 29: The flintwork assemblage

### 5.6.3 *The assemblage – Cores and debitage (81% of the total flint assemblage)*

The debitage consisted principally of flakes (and flake fragments), but also contained five blades and blade fragments, two bladelets, as well as several chips and shattered waste pieces. With the exception of a few flakes removed with a hard hammer, the majority of the assemblage

presented characteristics of a soft hammer technology, often associated with a Mesolithic or Neolithic date. A flake recovered from subsoil context [6/002], with relic of a possible axe's former working edge on the lateral margin, could represent a tranchet axe sharpening flake (Mesolithic period). However, the multi directional flake scars on the dorsal surface might indicate an axe thinning flake (Neolithic period). Four very small cores weighing 34, 35, 45 and 82 grams respectively, with blades and bladelets negative removals and platform edge abrasion were recorded from subsoil contexts ([1/002], [8/002] and [14/002]). Although these might not be diagnostic tools as such, they are potentially Mesolithic artefacts. While both the multi-platform and the two-platform blade cores displayed some orthogonal striking platforms, the remaining single-platform bladelets were multi-faceted. One of the cores from [14/002] exhibited a pointed shape and might have subsequently been used as an implement.

#### 5.6.4 *The implements*

The retouched tools consisted of a notched piece, a denticulate, a backed knife, a microlith, an end scraper and a side scraper as well as five unclassifiable retouched artefacts and a single utilised tool.

A single diagnostic piece was recovered as an isolated find from colluvium context [3/004]. It consisted of an unidentified broken microlith. The medial bladelet fragment displayed abrupt direct retouches on the left-hand side. Although these are most typical of a rod, the incomplete tool could also be part of a scalene micro-triangle. Straight backed pieces as well as scalene pieces are diagnostic of later Mesolithic (Jacobi 1978).

Although undiagnostic, three additional implements could be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date. These included a notched piece from subsoil [3/002], which exhibited direct semi-abrupt retouches on the left-hand edge forming a concave incision into the lateral edge of the flake, a partially backed knife on a soft-hammered flake (subsoil [1/002]), with direct abrupt retouches on the right-hand edge and sharp unmodified left hand side as well as an end scraper on a flake ([5/002]) which displayed abrupt retouches on the convex distal end.

In addition, continuous inverse as well as direct semi-abrupt retouches on the left-hand edge of a soft-hammered flake recovered from context [8/002] represented most probably a side scraper of a possible Neolithic date. However, the distal end of the flake was broken and retouches were only visible on the lateral edge. Therefore this tool could also be a damaged discoïdal scraper. The denticulate occurring in the secondary fill [4/006] of ditch [4/004] displayed direct semi-abrupt retouches on the distal end. Although a soft-hammered flake from the fill [18/016] of ditch [18/015] exhibited unretouched sharp left-hand edge, it displayed signs of usage on the ventral side and the flake was therefore classified as an implement. Another five retouched flakes were recovered from three subsoil deposits ([7/002], [9/002] and [14/002]) and from the secondary fill [4/006] of ditch [4/004]. The later context contained also a flint hammerstone weighing 444g. It was manufactured on a large irregular nodule and displayed signs of heavy battering at one end. This might imply that the artefact was not

used for tool manufacturing but for food processing, as a pestle (Greg Prestley-Bell pers. comm).

**5.6.5 Discussion**

The evaluation work revealed evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activities on the Weald Clay ridge. Although no distinct focus of activity was identified, and the assemblage represents very low density scatters as well as isolated residual finds in later contexts, the flintwork is of local significance as the archaeological evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic is so far limited.

**5.7 Burnt Bone** by Lucy Sibun

A very small quantity of burnt (calcined) bone was produced by two contexts [4/005] and [18/009]. Whilst it was not possible to positively identify the fragments to bone type and species, [4/005] contained sheep-sized fragments and [18/009] a cattle-size long-bone bone fragment. None of the calcined bone was identified as human in origin.

**5.8 The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

A small assemblage of fired clay was recovered from 24 individually numbered contexts. The majority of these are amorphous, although a few retain one flat surface (e.g. [7/007], [8/002]). Fabrics are fine sand-tempered, some with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1mm and/or rare organic temper.

More briquetage is encountered in the form of fragments in the same fabric as described in section 5.5. Fragments in a silty fabric with 'pinkish' surface and rare iron oxides to 1mm and moderate organic temper are likely to represent briquetage as well. Most of the briquetage is not diagnostic of form; however, a fragment from [18/008] retains a curving surface, possibly from a pedestal although the piece is too small to be certain. Of other possible briquetage fragments, one flat surface survives (e.g. [18/008]).

**5.9 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

Topsoil [9/001] contained a single iron concretion, probably natural. Other pieces were assigned Registered Finds numbers (Table 29). All pieces are however of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and from the topsoil. Included are two copper-alloy hinges (RF <1>) e.g. from a cupboard, a copper-alloy, gilded lapel badge with a hare above "HH" in relief. The fragment is a two-piece, domed example (RF <2>). In addition, a white metal sheet fragment was recovered from [9/001] (RF <3>).

SITE CODE	CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	PERIOD	Wt (g)
ERP09	4/001	1	HING	COPP	PMED	12
ERP09	4/001	2	BUTT	COPP	PMED	6
ERP09	9/001	3	SHEET	WHITE METAL	PMED	<2

Table 30: Summary of the Registered Finds.

**5.10 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

A small, clear glass and complete oval bottle (H60.7mm) with white metal screw top was recovered from [9/001]. The piece is of 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. Embossed on the body is "YEAST-VITE" (tablets to relief tiredness and drowsiness).

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

### 6.1 *Introduction*

Seven bulk samples of between ten and forty litres were taken during evaluation work at Dittons Road, Polegate. Soil samples were collected from the fills of ditches [4/004], [7/006], [8/004] and [9/011], the fills of pits [18/007] and [18/010] as well as from the fill [9/009] of a hearth. Sampling aimed to establish the presence of environmental remains and to characterise the preliminary evidence for past vegetation and previous activities taking place at the site. In addition sampling aimed to obtain material that could be used to clarify the post depositional history of a ditch feature within Trench 9.

### 6.2 *Methods*

All samples were processed in their entirety 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 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Appendix 2). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and an overview of their contents recorded (Appendix 3). Preliminary identifications have been provided for macrobotanical remains present through reference to modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.3 *Results*

The flots consist almost entirely of uncharred vegetation including fine modern roots and twigs as well as fragments of leaves and occasional seeds, which suggests some post-depositional disturbances within the silty clay deposits as well as some potential contamination and mixing of deposits.

6.3.1 On the whole, charred macrobotanicals are infrequent in the flots. While samples <4, 5, 6 and 7> contain no macrobotanicals, samples <1, 2 and 3> contained three moderately preserved grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), five unidentified cereal grains and eight glume bases, some of which are characteristic of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), as well as one unidentified fragment of stem, some wild/weed seeds (wild grasses (Poaceae) and a single possible knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.)). All of these remains are moderately to poorly preserved.

6.3.2 The presence of wood charcoal fragments varies amongst the seven

samples. While a limited quantity of small wood charcoal fragments are present in samples <1, 3, 4, 5 and 7>, fragments are more abundant in samples <2> and <6>. Both samples contain fragments that are >8mm in size and on the whole they are moderately well preserved. A preliminary examination under a stereozoom microscope at x45 magnification reveals oak wood and non-oak roundwood fragments in these samples. Several of the small roundwood pieces may be suitable for dating.

- 6.3.3 The residue from sample <5> contains infrequent cremated bones, which are included in the finds report. Small quantities of burnt clay are present in all the residues and pottery is evident in the residues from samples <1, 2, 3 and 4>. Samples <4> and <6> contain possible fragments of slag or other industrial residues.

## **6.4** *Discussion*

- 6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of environmental and artefact remains, including wood charcoal fragments, charred macrobotanicals and occasional cremated bones as well as pottery, cbm and industrial debris.
- 6.4.2 Dates have already been obtained for the fill of hearth [9/008] (mid 1st century BC to 1st century AD pottery), the fills of ditches [4/004], [7/006], [8/004] and [9/011] (1st century AD pottery) as well as the fills of pits [18/007] and [18/010] (Late Iron Age/Early Roman briquetage) and although some of the charcoal may be suitable for dating these remains are unlikely to further refine the dating of these deposits. Wood charcoal fragments at this site are, however, well enough preserved for identification and analysis. Any further work at the site should therefore incorporate targeted sampling of charcoal rich deposits (if encountered) to provide assemblages large enough to examine woody taxa targeted for fuel use during the different phases of land use.
- 6.4.3 The charred plant remains are too limited to enable definitive interpretations relating to local past environment, plant use or economy of the area. Nonetheless, the small assemblage of glume bases has established the presence of spelt wheat and these remains could either indicate that crop processing activities were taking place within the vicinity of the excavated area or that charred waste materials were discarded in the ditch. Further work in the vicinity should continue to sample for richer deposits that will assist in characterising land use activities associated with the Late Iron Age and Roman occupations.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Prehistoric Period**

7.1.1 A relatively small assemblage of 70 pieces of worked flint was recovered during the evaluation. Of these, a total of 25 flints originated from eight archaeological features, but are thought to represent residual pieces, although the hammerstone in ditch (4/004) may be an exception to this. The majority of the pieces were collected from the overburden across the site, all from trenches within the western field, and include flints which date from the Mesolithic and the Neolithic periods.

### **7.2 Late Iron Age to Early Roman**

7.2.1 The evaluation uncovered evidence of ditches, pits, and possible hearths, all dating to the Late Iron Age - Early Roman period. Well-dated features concentrate particularly within trenches 4, 7, 8, 9 and 18, perhaps suggesting a focus of activity located in the area of high ground (approximately 12mOD) within the southern part of the western field, and possibly extending down slope to the east to within the vicinity of trench 18 (at around 7m OD). The presence of briquetage within hearth-like features in trench 18 may suggest salt-production was taking place.

7.2.2 Further linear features within the wider site may also be related to this phase of activity, particularly the substantial ditch in trench 11 which contained material dating to this period.

7.2.3 The pottery suggests a fairly short-lived period of activity in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, possibly beginning prior to the Roman conquest, and with a probable focus on salt-production.

### **7.3 Medieval**

7.3.1 Medieval activity was evidenced by a 12<sup>th</sup> century vessel (represented by over 100 sherds) located on the surface of the uppermost fill of the substantial ditch in trench 15. Although fragmented, the sherds appear to derive from a single vessel, although it is not clear whether this was intact when deposited.

### **7.5 Modern**

7.5.1 Modern features in the western field are confined to small postholes defining the line of old fence lines and small pits containing asbestos sheeting, thought to derive from farmyard refuse. Far more substantial amounts of modern intrusion were noted in the lower eastern field, where it was suggested that features such as animal pens may once have been located.

### **7.6 Undated**

7.6.1 Several features within the western field produced no firm dating evidence. These features were often shallow, with very ephemeral and indistinct



profiles. The fills of these features were often very difficult to distinguish from the surrounding natural geology, and often confirmed by the presence of fragments of worked or fire-cracked flint.

## **7.7 Colluvium**

- 7.7.1 The evaluation has confirmed the presence on site of areas of colluvium. In some areas, these formed discrete deposits which were thought to infill slight hollows and undulations on the surface of the natural (for example trenches 2 and 3); within trenches 10, 18, 28 and 25 however, the colluvium appeared as a distinct layer and in trenches 3 and 18, archaeological features appear to survive sealed beneath it.
- 7.7.2 Within trench 18 the colluvium was removed, to expose a series of features. However, a trace of feature (18/007) was visible at a slightly higher level, suggesting that this feature may have been cut partially or entirely through the colluvial deposit. Within trench 10, a colluvial deposit was also cut by a substantial, undated linear feature. It is possible that features cut from a higher level may lack clarity as a result of post-depositional processes such as bioturbation or plough damage. In such cases upper definition of features can be lost. This problem may be compounded by the continued accumulation of hillwash deposits over the site of an abandoned feature.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The evaluation has confirmed that the most of the features identified during the geophysical survey have proved to be of modern origin, including land drains, modern drainage ditches and metal pipes. Some large irregular anomalies such as that at the end of trench 1, 6 and 8 contained no archaeological material, and the magnetometry in these areas appears to have been affected by underlying geological variation such as iron stone or manganese panning or potentially from a concentration of modern metal refuse within the topsoil.
- 8.2** The evaluation has confirmed the presence of interesting 1st century AD activity. The ditches, pits and hearth identified within trenches 4, 7, 8 and 9 may indicate settlement activity in this high area of the site, whilst the two hearths identified in trench 18 suggest possible salt-production on slightly lower ground, towards the base of the hill slope. Many features located on higher ground were shallow, suggesting that the upper areas of the site have undergone a degree of plough damage. The environmental samples have likewise suggested a degree of post-depositional disturbance. In addition a small residual assemblage of prehistoric worked flint was recovered.
- 8.3** The location of the site close to the junction of two Roman route ways; The Pevensey – Polegate – Semeston – Glynde road (Margary 1965, 186) and the Stone-cross to Jevington road (ibid, 193) is of considerable interest. These roads are considered to be of local significance, perhaps developing in response to increasing economic and agricultural intensification of the area, and linking with wider networks via the Sussex Greensand way and the London to Lewes way (Margary 1965, 186). These stretches of road located north of the Downs, east of Lewes are believed to have been constructed in short alignments, suggestive of local planning. No through routes are known, and the destination of both roads is Pevensey, utilising a ridge of weald clay which enabled access through the Pevensey and Eastbourne tidal estuaries (Margary 1965, 187).
- 8.4** The evaluation also recovered a 12<sup>th</sup> century vessel deposited at the surface of a substantial ditch in trench 15. However, no further features dated to the medieval period were identified, and it is possible that the deposition of this vessel within a partially silted ditch may have been an isolated event.

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## Appendix 1: Finds Quantification.

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Burnt Bone	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FCF	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	F. clay	wt (g)	Glas s	wt (g)	Charcoal	wt (g)
us							1	<2												
1/002							2	88												
11/002	1	6																		
1/010	1	<2																		
2/001			1	6			1	38	3	78					1	6				
3/002	2	22	4	84			4	26							1	6				
3/004	3	8					7	38							1	10				
3/009															1	<2				
3/009b							3	66	1	20										
4/005	5	16			7	<2	1	6												
4/006							5	500	1	12										
4/009	6	18																		
5/002							1	18												
6/002							1	6												
6/005							2	6	1	2										
7/002	2	<2	1	12			5	34	1	8										
7/007	30	78							3	72					2	12				
8/002	8	54	2	58			2	80							5	32				
8/002	2	20					1	4	1	10					3	6				
8/005	6	12					3	14	1	6					14	80				
8/005	18	106													2	10				
8/009	2	4							1	100										

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Burnt Bone	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FCF	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	F. clay	wt (g)	Glas s	wt (g)	Charcoal	wt (g)
8/011	8	6																		
9/001													1	8			1	34		
9/002	9	38					2	62												
9/002							3	50	1	18										
9/005	3	8																		
9/006	5	14													11	<2				
9/009	3	28									26	632			1	4				
9/012	107	314													2	6			1	<2
9/014	1	2													3	2				
9/015	2	<2													1	6				
9/018	3	10							5	224					1	<2				
9/020			1	4					2	4										
10/002	2	2													1	4				
10/003							11	102	2	208										
11/005	5	14					9	254	1	12										
13/002	3	18					1	22												
13/004	1	<2							1	8										
14/002	1	14					2	80							2	8				
15/005	124	284					1	10												
17/003	1	32																		
18/002	1	18																		
18/003	2	38					1	10							3	6				
18/006	1	2																		
18/008	29	160							1	58					20	132				

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Burnt Bone	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FCF	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	F. clay	wt (g)	Glas s	wt (g)	Charcoal	wt (g)
18/003	1	6																		
18/009	3	6			1	<2									3	4				
18/011	6	14													2	10				
18/014							1	<2												
18/016	1	2					3	20												
18/018	2	<2													1	<2				
18/020															1	<2				

## Appendix 2: Residues quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51 – 250, \*\*\*\* = &gt;250) and weights (in grams)

Spot dates	Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)
Late Iron Age/Early Roman	6	18/011	Fill of pit [18/010]	20	20	**	6	***	4								
Late Iron Age/Early Roman	7	18/008	Fill of pit [18/007]	40	40	**	<2	**	<2							*	<2
BC 50 - AD 100	3	9/009	Primary fill of hearth [9/008]	20	20	**	<2	**	<2								
AD 50-100	1	8/005	Fill of ditch [8/004]	40	40	*	<2	**	<2								
AD 50-100	4	9/012	Fill of ditch [9/011]	40	40	*	<2	**	<2								
AD 50-100	5	4/005	Primary fill of ditch [4/004]	10	10	*	<2	**	<2			*	2	**	<2		
AD 70-100	2	7/007	Fill of ditch [7/006]	40	40	****	14	****	8	*	<2						



**Appendix 3: Flots quantification** (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51 – 250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Ind debris hammerscale
6	18/011	4	75	84	1	* <i>Polygonum/ Rumex sp.</i>	*	*	**										
7	18/008	4	92	90	7	* unidentified seeds			*										
3	9/009	8	101	98	1		* (1)	* (1)					*	cf. <i>Polygonum/ Rumex sp.</i>	++				
1	8/005	8	160	97	1				*	*	<i>Triticum sp.</i>	++							
4	9/012	10	60	88	10		* (1)		*										*
5	4/005	8	48	90	8			* (2)											
2	7/007	7	200	89	2		*	**	**	*	<i>Triticum sp.</i>	++	*	Poaceae	+ to ++	*	Glume bases (cf <i>T. spelta</i> ), unidentified stem frag.	++	

Appendix 4: Flint Quantification

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorticated	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Subsoil	1/002	1	F					Core	Multi-platform blade core	1	1	82		M - EN	Three-platforms - Orthogonal direction - platform edge abrasion and use of soft hammer - Plough nick (V-shaped)
Deposit - Subsoil	1/002	1	G					Knife	Backed knife	1				M-EN	Partially backed on SH flake, with direct abrupt retouches on right-hand and sharp unmodified left hand side apart from some additional retouches at the distal end
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	2	P					Broken blade	Tertiary blade	1	1				SH Platform preparation - distal end broken
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	1	P			V	V	Broken blade	Secondary blade	1	1				SH Blade - light white to bluish cortication - plough damage on the left-hand edge - scars of previously removed blades on dorsal side
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	1	P					Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1				Distal end broken
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	1	P					Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1				
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	1	F					Flake	Secondary flake	1					SH
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	1	F			V	V	Flake	Tertiary flake	1					SH flke on a corticated flint (light white to bluish surface cortication (only ventral side is dark)

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	2	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	2	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	2	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				
Deposit - Colluvium	10/003	2	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	3	P				V	Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	2	G					Flake	Primary flake	1					Thick cortex - might be natural but could correspond to first trimmings from the nodule
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	2	G					Flake	Primary flake	1					Thin cortex - might be natural but could correspond to first trimmings from the nodule
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	2	G					Flake	Secondary flake	1					Thin cortex - might be natural but could correspond to first trimmings from the nodule
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	1	G					Flake	Primary flake	1					Thick cortex - might be natural but could correspond to first trimmings from the nodule - possible refit with flint below (only a small point of contact visible so flint was probably hit with a hammer and not the machine)

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	1	G					Flake	Secondary flake	1					Thick cortex - might be natural but could correspond to first trimmings from the nodule - possible refit with flint above (only a small point of contact visible so flint was probably hit with a hammer and not the machine)
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	2	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1					
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	1	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1					
Fill of ditch [11/004]	11/005	1	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1					
Deposit - Subsoil	13/002	1	P		V	V		Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1					Incipient white speckling - very glossy feel - display some signs of frost fractures
Deposit - Subsoil	14/002	1	G			V		Core	Single platform bladelet core	1		35		M	Very fine-grained flint with bluish white surface discolouration on one face only. This flint could have a different origin (grey battered cortex)

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Subsoil	14/002	1	F			V	V	Core	Single platform bladelet core	1		45		M	Very fine-grained flint with incipient bluish white surface discolouration. Presence of a fossile-like feature within the flint preventing any further bldt removal. This flint could have a different origin (grey, battered cortex). The core might have subsequently been used as an implement (pointed shape).
Deposit - Subsoil	14/002	1	G					Retouched flake	Retouched flake	1					HH - Irregular semi-abrupt retouches on left-hand edge
Fill of ditch [15/004]	15/005	1	G					Flake	Secondary flake	1					SH - (grey thin cortex)
Deposit - Colluvium	18/003	1	G					Flake	Secondary flake	1					SH
Fill of gully [18/0013]	18/014	2	G					Flake	Tertiary flake	1					
Fill of ditch [18/015]	18/016	3	F					Broken blade	Tertiary blade	1				M - EN	SH - distal end broken
Fill of ditch [18/015]	18/016	1	G					Utilised pice	Utilised piece	1					SH - Cortex on right-hand edge and unretouched sharp left-hand edge displaying signs of usage on ventral side
Deposit - Topsoil	2/001	1	P			V	V	Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				Frost shattered - off white discoloration
Deposit - Subsoil	3/002	3	F				V	Broken blade	Secondary blade	1	1			M - EN	SH - distal end broken -
Deposit -	3/002	2	F					Broken	Tertiary flake	1	1				

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Subsoil								flake							
Deposit - Subsoil	3/002	1	P					Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				Fresh damage (plough nick?)
Deposit - Subsoil	3/002	1	G					Denticulate	Notched piece	1	1			M - N	SH - Platform prep. on dorsal side - Concave incision into lateral edge of flake - direct semi-abrupt retouches on left-hand edge - more recent edge damage
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	2	F			V	V	Blade	Tertiary blade	1				M - EN	SH - Honey coloured flint almost entirely recorticated light grey to white surface
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	1	F					Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1			M - EN	SH - distal end broken
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	1	P				V	Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1			M - EN	SH - distal end broken and plough damage (V-shaped)
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	1	F				V	Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1				Previous removals noted on dorsal side
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	1	F				V	Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1			M - EN	SH - Distal end broken - small flake
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	2	P					Chip	Chip	1	1				
Deposit - Colluvium	3/004	1	F					Microlith	Unidentified microlith	1	1		M		Abrupt direct retouches on left-hand side of bladelet frgt. Broken and could either be a rod/straight back piece or a scalene triangle
Fill of ditch [3/008]	3/009	2	G					Bladelet	Tertiary bdt	1				M	
Fill of ditch [3/008]	3/009	1	F					Flake	Secondary flake	1	1				Distal end broken
Fill of ditch [3/008]	3/009	2					v	Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				light off-white cortication on one side

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patina (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Primary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/005	1						Flake	Secondary flake	1					
Secondary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/006	1	P			V		Denticulate	Denticulate	1	1				Concave incision on a flake fragment - direct semi-abrupt retouches on distal end - incipient white speckling under the cortex, edge damage
Secondary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/006	2	F				V	Flake	Secondary flake	1					SH - previous flake removal visible on dorsal side
Secondary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/006	1	F			V		Flake fragment	Secondary flake	1					Incipient white speckling on one side
Secondary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/006	1	F		V	V		Hammerstone	Flint hammerstone	1		444			Large irregular pebble battered at one end. Large flakes removed on one side (where palm of hand sits). Sits nicely in the left hand. Re-cortication orange surface (iron staining?). Signs of heavy battering might imply that tool was used as a pestle (food processing).
Secondary fill of ditch [4/004]	4/006	1	P					Retouched flake	Unclassifiable retouch	1					
Deposit - Subsoil	5/002	2	F					Scraper	End scraper	1	1			M - N	Scraper on a flake - Abrupt retouches on convex distal end - broken and edge damage on left-hand edge



Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Subsoil	6/002	1	F			V		Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				SH - Incipient light white to bluish surface cortication - Could correspond to a tranchet axe sharpening flake (relic of the axe's former working edge on lateral margin) or to an axe thinning flake (multi directional flake scars on dorsal surface)
Fill of gully [6/004]	6/005	1						Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1			M	Thin removal - core preparation
Fill of gully [6/004]	6/005		P	V				Chip	Chip	1					
Deposit - Subsoil	7/002	3	P				V	Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				First half of a broken flake which can be refitted (looks like modern brake, while machine stripping?). Also distal end broken a long time ago as the colour of this edge is similar to the colour on the surface of the flint - Buff cortication
Deposit - Subsoil	7/002	3	P				V	Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				Second half of a broken flake which can be refitted (see above) - SH - edge damage - buff cortication
Deposit - Subsoil	7/002	1	F					Chip	Chip	1					
Deposit - Subsoil	7/002	1	F					Flake	Secondary flake	1	1				SH - distal end broken plus edge damage
Deposit - Subsoil	7/002	3	P					Retouched flake	Unclassifiable retouch	1	1				SH - distal end broken - semi-abrupt retouches on left-hand edge

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Subsoil	8/002	1	P					Core	Two platform blade core	1	1	34		M	Heavily damaged -plough-damaged (V-shaped)
Deposit - Subsoil	8/002	2	P					Scraper	Side scraper	1	1			N	Scraper on a flake SH - Distal end broken - Inverse and direct semi-abrupt retouches on left-hand edge (all along the lateral edge) - single retouch on right-hand edge)
Deposit - Subsoil	8/002	1	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1	1				Plough-damaged?
Fill of ditch [8/004]	8/005	1	G					Bladelet	Secondary bladelet	1				M	Bladelet with an overshoot termination
Fill of ditch [8/004]	8/005	2	P			V	V	Broken flake	Tertiary flake	1	1				Incipient white speckling, Metallic concretion and possible signs of burning on one edge
Fill of ditch [8/004]	8/005	1	P					Shattered pc	Irregular waste	1					
Deposit - Subsoil	9/002	1	P					Broken flake	Secondary flake	1	1				SH broken flake with scars of previous flake removal on dorsal side. (Plough damage)

Context - deposit type	Context number	Colour flint/cortex (see text)	Condition (Very Fresh, Good, Fair, Poor)	Burnt	Patinated (glossy)	Recorded	Iron-mould - rust marks	Artefact type/category	Artefact type Sub-category (P/S/T)	Total no	Broken No	Weight (core/nodule/hammerstone)	Date Definite - diagnostic tool	Date Probable	Remarks/Comments
Deposit - Subsoil	9/002	1	P					Retouched flake	Retouched flake	1	1				SH broken flake with abrupt inverse retouches on distal end and direct semi-abrupt retouches on left-hand side close to proximal end - in addition contiguous notches on left-hand side (similar to a denticulate). Broken piece displays an angle <60° and could well have been used as a borer. possible plough damage
Deposit - Subsoil	9/002	1	P					Retouched flake	Unclassifiable retouch	1	1				Retouches on distal end but also heavy edge damage
unstratified		3	G					Chip	Chip	1	1				

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	ERP09					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	559820 104967					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4207					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 30/08/10 – 17/09/10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA X	RB X
	AS	MED X	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex NGR 559820 104967, between the 30<sup>th</sup> July to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2010. 27 trenches measuring up to 60m in length were excavated and revealed evidence of a LIA – ER phase of activity, represented by ditches, pits and hearths. There is also potential for medieval activity on site, indicated by the discovery of the deposition of a substantial number of body sherds from a 12<sup>th</sup> century vessel within one of the ditches. Substantial quantities of redeposited worked flint were recovered from a number of features, and also from the overburden across the site.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-83638**

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**Project details**

Project name	Dittons Road
Short description of the project	<i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Dittons Road, Polegate, East Sussex NGR 559820 104967, between the 30<sup>th</sup> July to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2010. 27 trenches measuring up to 60m in length were excavated and revealed evidence of a LIA – ER phase of activity, represented by ditches, pits and hearths. There is also potential for medieval activity on site, indicated by the discovery of the deposition of a substantial number of body sherds from a 12<sup>th</sup> century vessel within one of the ditches. Substantial quantities of redeposited worked flint were recovered from a number of features, and also from the overburden across the site.</i>
Project dates	Start: 30-07-2010 End: 17-09-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ERP09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	HEARTH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN POLEGATE Dittons Road, Polegate

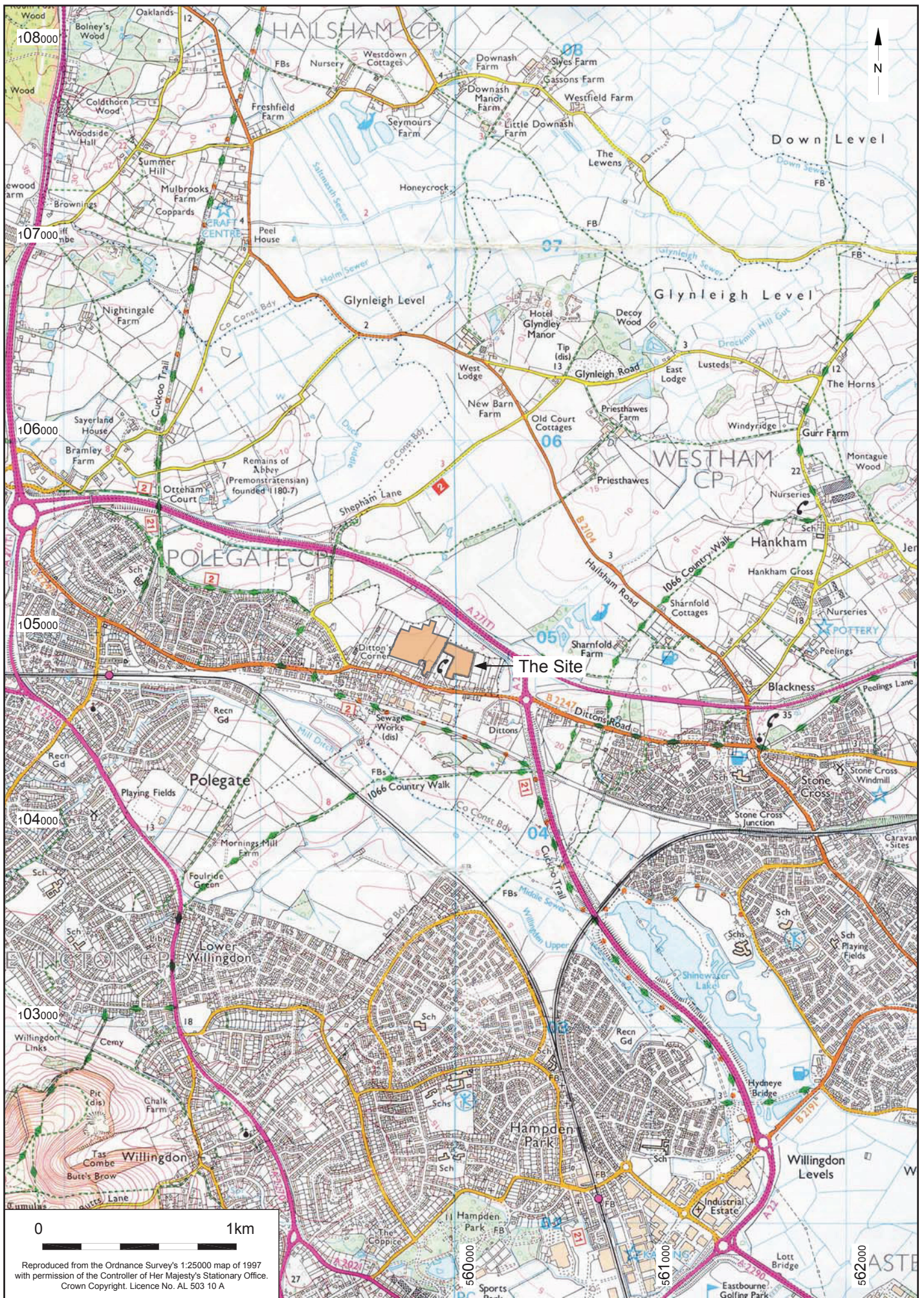


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© Archaeology South-East		Dittons Road, Polegate		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4207	Sept 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010169	Drawn by: JLR			