

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Land off Manor Road,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: MRBH10/93

(TQ 3280 1970)

**Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill,
West Sussex**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for J S Bloor Homes Ltd

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code MRBH
10/93

July 2011

Summary

Site name: Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3280 1970

Site activity: Field evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd – 29th June 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: MRBH 10/93

Area of site: c. 5ha

Summary of results: This evaluation has demonstrated that a portion of the site has archaeological potential with a prehistoric occupation site having been located. This settlement is likely to be of later Bronze Age date but with a small possibility that it is of earlier Neolithic date. Deposits of these periods have been rarely encountered on the claylands forming the Weald. Other features on the site comprise either field boundaries or clay extraction pits of late post-medieval date.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Burgess Hill Museum in due course.

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Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 10/93

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the north-east of Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (TQ 3280 1970) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Dominic Jarman, Regional Designer with J S Bloor Homes Ltd, Fulmar House, The Votec Centre, Hambridge Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5TN.

Planning consent (10/01898/FUL) has been gained from Mid Sussex District Council to redevelop the site for housing, with associated access roads, car parking and public open space. The consent is subject to a pre-commencement planning condition (9) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested as detailed in *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010), specifically policy HE 6.1 and Section 68 of the accompanying Planning Practice Guide, and the District Council's policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, who act as advisors to the District Council on archaeological matters.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Tim Dawson, James Earley, Felicity Howell, Susan Porter and Sean Wallis between the 23rd and 29th June 2011, and the site code is MRBH 10/93. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Burgess Hill Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north-east of the historic core of Burgess Hill, and is largely surrounded by residential houses and gardens, apart from the south-east part of the site which is bounded by farmland. The main access to the site is via a farm track leading from Jane's Lane, to the north-east. The site is located on a hill, which generally slopes down towards the south and south-west. As a result of this slope the height above Ordnance Datum changes from about 55m at the northern end of the site, down to about 40m in the far southern end. According the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Wealden Clay deposits, with superficial head deposits a few hundred metres to the east of the site (BGS 1984). The Survey also records the

presence of ironstone beds within the clay immediately adjacent to the western boundary, although these were actually seen to extend into the site slightly during the evaluation. Wealden Clay deposits were observed in all the trenches, although some patches of gravel were also noted within a few trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Ford 2010). In summary, the site appeared to lie within an area of modest archaeological potential, with very few finds of archaeological or historical interest recorded nearby. However, Mesolithic, and possibly Neolithic, flintwork was recovered during fieldwalking to the east of the site, along with fragments of Roman pottery. It is possible that the paucity of entries within the West Sussex HER reflects the lack of systematic archaeological investigation in the area, and it is certainly true that no archaeological fieldwork was undertaken during building work on the modern housing developments to the north-west and south-west of the site.

Although evidence of Prehistoric and Roman occupation has been found within the wider vicinity (Harris 2005), the site is located within the Weald on clay geology (Weald Clay) within both a region and geological outcrop not noted as being archaeologically rich for most periods. This contrasts sharply with the nearby chalkland of the South Downs and coastal plain (Curwen 1937; Drewett 1978; Hamilton 2003, fig 6.3; Rudling 2003a). However, the pattern is less clear cut for earlier prehistory (Mesolithic) when hunting and gathering was the subsistence base and the agricultural productivity of the land was of little relevance (Holgate 2003, figs 3.2 and 3.3). On the western margins of Burgess Hill lies the Roman Road from London to Brighton (the final stretch from Pyecombe to Brighton is unconfirmed) (Margary 1955, route 150), yet there are very few known Roman sites which would normally tend to be preferentially sited adjacent to roads (Rudling 2003b, fig 9.1). Roman features, including a probable corn-drying oven, were recorded during a recent excavation about 1.5km west of the presumed line of the road however (Sawyer 1999) so, once again, the paucity of archaeological sites around Burgess Hill may merely reflect the limited amount of fieldwork carried out in the area.

Although few early settlement sites have been identified, the Weald is noteworthy for its iron production from the Iron Age into post-medieval times, and major Roman ironworking sites for Sussex have been presented by Rudling (2003b, fig 9.1). During the early post-medieval period, furnace sites in the Sussex and Kent Weald were producing the majority of iron used throughout the country, and this industry only went into decline following the switch to coal and coke for fuel during the Industrial Revolution, when production moved to the Midlands and other areas where coal was easily available (Armstrong 1978).

As far as Burgess Hill is concerned, the town is of relatively modern origin, with its development derived from the production of brick and tile from the 16th century onwards. This production expanded substantially once the railway arrived in the mid 19th century, and allowed its products to be distributed widely during the expansion of urban centres in Victorian times (Harris 2005). The scars of this industry are visible in the landscape around Burgess Hill, where many of the former clay pits now survive as ponds. Several possible ponds from this period are present immediately to the east of the site, and a “brick field” is depicted in the eastern part of the site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1874.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were ;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if any deposits relating to human activity in the Mesolithic period are present.
- d) To determine if any deposits dating from the Roman period are present.
- e) To determine if there are any pre-industrial ironworking sites present.

It was proposed to dig 40 trenches, each 25m long and 1.8-2.1m wide, across the site, in a stratified random pattern, which would provide a c. 5% sample of the area of the proposed development (excluding the north-east part of the site which will be left as public open space). A contingency of 75m of trenching was included, should this be required to clarify findings made in the original evaluation trenches. The trenches were to be opened with a 360° type mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. The trenches were to be dug to examine the full depth of deposits above the natural geology. Where archaeological features or deposits were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the deposits excavated by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Provision was made for the digging of ten 1m x 0.5m test pits. The spoil from the topsoil and subsoil was sieved using a 10mm mesh. The location of the test pits was to be determined after an assessment of finds recovered from trench spoilheaps, and the results of the initial trenching.

The fieldwork was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. The work was to be carried out in accordance with the West Sussex County Council Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work (development control requirements for archaeological fieldwork) (WSCC 2007), with special emphasis on the requirements of the recent Planning Policy Statement (PPS5 2010).

Results

All 40 trenches were excavated, although a few had to be moved slightly from their original intended positions, due to the presence of an overhead power cable in the southern part of the site. Following the discovery of several archaeological features in trench 14, two further trenches (41 and 42) were excavated close by to ascertain whether further features were present in the vicinity. Excluding these two additional trenches, which were shorter in length, the evaluation trenches varied in length from between 24m to 30.3m. Due to variations in the depth of topsoil and subsoil present across the site, the trenches were between 0.44m and 0.95m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Although Wealden Clay deposits were encountered in all the trenches, the underlying geology recorded in varied slightly across the site. The trenches closest to the western boundary of the site contained small outcrops of ironstone within the clay, whilst occasional gravel inclusions were noted elsewhere, most notably at the northern end of trench 18. The Wealden Clay itself varied in the colour from light yellowish brown to mid brownish grey, and in some trenches it was possible to identify several distinct layers of clay, each varying in colour and composition. The depth of the silty clay topsoil varied across the site between 0.1m and 0.52m, although the average depth was about 0.3m. There was a sharp contrast between the topsoil layer and the underlying subsoil, with little evidence of mixing through ploughing. The average depth of the subsoil was about 0.15m, and consisted of clayey silt.

Out of a total of 42 trenches, 16 contained possible archaeological deposits, and it is these trenches which are discussed further below. Field drains were observed in most of the trenches but, whilst they were noted on the trench record sheets, were not treated as archaeological features. The same is true of the probable geotechnical test pits which were seen in two of the trenches. Stratigraphy of the trenches without features can be found in appendix 1.

Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and was 25.1m long and 0.6m deep. It contained a gully (4) at its southwestern end. This feature was up to 0.56m wide and 0.18m deep, with a single fill of mid brownish yellow silty clay (55) which contained no archaeological finds.

Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 25.3m long and 0.57m deep. Two parallel gullies (5 and 6) were recorded at the north-west end of this trench. Gully 5 was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. No archaeological finds were found within its fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay (56). The fill of gully 6 (57) was very similar to deposit 56, but contained fragments of post-medieval glass and ceramic building material. This feature was 0.34m wide and 0.15m deep.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned E-W and was 25.5m long and 0.69m deep. It contained a single gully (10) which was up to 0.7m wide and 0.14m deep, with a single fill of light yellowish brown silty clay (61). No finds were recovered from this gully.

Trench 5 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned W-E and was 25.6m long and 0.66m deep. It contained a single gully (11). No finds were retrieved from its fill of light yellowish brown silty clay (62). The gully was up to 0.75m wide and 0.1m deep.

Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned W-E and was 27.0m long and 0.67m deep. It contained a gully (12) at its western end. The feature was up to 0.85m wide, but only 0.08m deep, and had a single fill of light yellowish brown silty clay (63), which yielded no archaeological finds.

Trench 11 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 26.4m long and 0.67m deep. It contained two post-holes (7 and 8). Posthole 7 was 0.17m in diameter and 0.11m deep, but contained no archaeological finds within its fill of light grey silty clay (58). Posthole 8 was investigated at the south-east end of the trench, and its fill of mid brownish yellow silty clay (59) contained moderate amounts of charcoal but no other finds. The post-hole was 0.1m deep, with a diameter of 0.26m.

Trench 12 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned W- E and was 25.0m long and 0.63m deep. It contained a shallow pit (9) at its western end. The pit was not fully exposed in the trench, but was at least 1m long and 1m wide. It had a single fill of

light grey silty clay (60), up to 0.14m thick, which contained fragments of charcoal, but no other archaeological finds. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were found within the bottom of the subsoil layer in this trench.

Trench 14 (Figs 5, 8 and 9)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 27.5m long and 0.7m deep. Several archaeological features were recorded in the north-west portion of the trench. Feature 13 was either a pit or a ditch terminus. The feature was at least 1.7m long and 1.1m wide, and two distinct fills (64 and 65) were identified when it was excavated. The upper fill (64) consisted of light greyish brown silty clay, and was up to 0.11m thick with occasional charcoal inclusions. Nineteen sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this deposit, along with burnt flint fragments and five lithic pieces. No archaeological finds were recovered from the primary fill (65), and consisted of light yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Posthole 14 was up to 0.25m across and 0.15m deep with a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay (66). It contained occasional flecks of charcoal.

Posthole 15 measured 0.3m by 0.22m and was 0.1m deep. It had a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay (67), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal along with three fragments of burnt flint, and a small amount of burnt clay. Pit 16 was partially visible against the edge of the trench and was at least 0.6m long and 0.39m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a light greyish brown silty clay (68). Five sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this deposit, along with a fragment of burnt flint.

Pit 17 had a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay (69), which contained frequent charcoal fragments and a fragment of burnt flint. The pit was 0.58m long and 0.22m wide, but just 0.06m deep.

Three probable features within this trench were not investigated. These comprised a probable posthole (26) and two probable pits (27, 28). Pit 27 was oval in plan from which a sherd of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the surface of its fill. Probable pit (28) was noted to be fire-reddened.

Trench 16 (Figs 5 and 9)

This trench was aligned N-S and was 25.7m long and 0.52m deep. It contained three parallel linear features (22, 23 and 24). The widest of these (22) was investigated and was seen to be at least 0.2m deep, with a single fill of mid orange brown clayey silt (74). This deposit contained a number of large gravel pebbles, along with a large fragment of 19th century or modern brick, and pieces of burnt flint. Gully 23 was up to 0.42m wide and (24) was only 0.28m wide but neither were excavated. Their upper fills (75 and 76) appeared to be very similar in nature to the fill of gully 22. This, along with the fact that all three follow the same alignment, suggests that

these gullies are likely to be broadly contemporary with each other. It is possible that they may relate to a former field boundary, which is depicted on the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Ditchling, but appears to have disappeared by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1874).

Trench 18 (Fig. 5)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and was 30.2m long and 0.66m deep. It was notable for the fact that the natural at the northern end of the trench consisted of orange sand and gravel, whilst Wealden Clay was observed along the rest of the trench. The only feature (73) in the trench was interpreted as being a probable trackway, although alternatively, it may be associated with the field boundary depicted on the 1839 tithe map. The feature consisted of two distinct patches of mid orange brown clayey silt, separated by natural clay. It is possible that these may be the result of wheel rutting, as their shallow depth (up to 0.08m) suggests that it is not a true 'cut' feature. Although the feature was not fully excavated, several sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered from it, along with fragments of tile and clay pipe.

Trench 20 (Fig. 6)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 24.0m long and 0.5m deep. The eastern end of this trench, appears to have been severely truncated in the 19th century. Due to its obviously late post-medieval date, the truncation was not recorded in detail, and has been treated as one feature (25) for the purposes of this report, although it is likely that it actually represents a number of intercutting pits. In general, the fill of the feature (81) consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt, which frequent charcoal and clinker inclusions. Glass, brick, and pottery fragments were recovered from the fill, along with the bowl of a 19th century clay pipe, and several pieces of metalwork. The trench was located in part of the site where there is an obvious depression in the ground, and it is of note that an area to the east of this depression is shown as a 'brick field' on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1874. It is considered probable that the truncation seen in this trench is the result of 19th century clay extraction, and that the clay pits in this field were backfilled, whilst others in adjacent fields still exist as ponds.

Trench 21 (Fig. 6)

This trench was aligned W- E and was 26.3m long and 0.56m deep. It's western end was located in the roughly circular depression which could be seen in this part of the field. A feature (20) was recorded at the western end of the trench, which may be a ditch or pit. It was at least 1.9m long and 1m wide, and its upper fill consisted of mid greyish brown clayey silt (72). The feature was not fully excavated, but an exploratory slot through its fill revealed that it was at least 0.2m deep. A small sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from this deposit,

along with several pieces of clinker. It is likely that the feature was associated with 19th century clay extraction in this part of the site.

Trench 22 (Fig. 6 and 7)

This trench was aligned W-E and was 26.1m long and 0.7m deep. It was located within an area of the site where a large, roughly circular, depression was observed. This is also likely to be the result of clay extraction in the 19th century. A large feature (21) was noted and investigated using the machine. This indicated that it comprised a series of shallow parallel ditches or gullies. Although no finds were recovered from the overall fill of this feature (80), it is likely to be associated with ditch 3, which was recorded further along the trench, between 21m and 23.5m. This feature was up to 1.15m wide and 0.11m deep. It had a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay (54) which contained several pieces of glass and clinker, along with a small fragment of post-medieval brick or tile and a residual sherd of prehistoric pottery. All the features in this trench appear to run towards trench 20, where a large area of 19th century truncation was noted.

Trench 32 (Figs 7 and 8)

This trench was aligned W- E and was 26.0m long and 0.49m deep. It contained a possible pit (2) which had a single fill of light brownish grey silty clay (53), which contained a moderate amount of charcoal fragments, but no other finds. The feature measured 0.5m in diameter and was 0.08m deep, with gently sloping sides. A possible posthole (1) was investigated at 6m, which measured 0.15m in diameter and was 0.08m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of light orange grey silty clay (52), which contained a moderate amount of charcoal inclusions. Although these two features could potentially date from any period, it was clear from the section of this trench that there had recently been a large fire in the area. It is therefore possible that the charcoal within these features could be derived from animal disturbance, and that they are not true 'cut' features.

Trench 41 (Figs 7 and 9)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 13.0m long and 0.54m deep. This trench was excavated as part of the project contingency to determine whether the activity revealed in trench 14 extended to the north. It contained a sub-circular pit (18), measuring 1.2m by 1.1m which was 0.13m deep and had a single fill of light greyish brown silty clay (70) which contained occasional charcoal fragments a single struck flint. Two sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery were found within the subsoil spoilheap excavated from this trench

Trench 42 (Figs 7 and 9)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and was 15.3m long and 0.52m deep. This trench was also excavated as part of the contingency, to determine the southern extent of the deposits observed in trench 14. It contained pit (19)

which measuring 0.67m by 0.6m. It was 0.19m deep, and had a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt (71) which contained three fragments of burnt flint and occasional charcoal inclusions.

Test Pits (Fig. 3)

Ten test pits (A-J) were excavated close to trench 14, as this trench was found to contain prehistoric features. The test pits measured 2m by 0.5m, and were excavated by machine, with 100 litres of topsoil from each being sieved by hand using a 10mm mesh. The results of this exercise resulted in the recovery of one struck flint from test pit E. No pottery, prehistoric or otherwise, or any other finds were found during the sieving.

Finds

Prehistoric Pottery by Frances Raymond

Introduction

A small assemblage of flint tempered pottery (33sherds, weighing 189g) came from four of the trenches (Trenches 12, 14, 22 and 41). The sherds are in fresh to lightly abraded condition and provide almost no evidence of vessel form. There is an overlap in the character of some the flint tempered wares produced during different phases of prehistory in Sussex. This hampers the certain dating of small assemblages composed principally of wall fragments. In this particular case the character of the fabrics would suggest that an earlier Neolithic date is most likely, although an alternative later Bronze Age origin cannot be dismissed on ceramic grounds alone.

Methodology

The prehistoric pottery has been recorded by context following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Details of fabric, form, decoration, surface treatment and colour (using a Munsell chart), wall thickness, fragmentation and condition have been entered on a database and are available in the archive. Each of the wares is identified by a unique alpha-numeric code based on the initial letters of its non-plastic inclusions. The sherds were sorted into fabric groups with the aid of a binocular microscope at X20 magnification, while the descriptions were prepared using this and a higher magnification of X40.

The Pit Assemblages (Trench 14)

Most of the pottery came from three pits in Trench 14 (25 sherds, weighing 97g; from Cuts 13, 16 and 27). Three fragments weighing less than 1g also came from sieving of a sample from posthole 14. The largest group from Cut 13 is composed of 19 small sherds likely to be derived from three vessels (weighing 73g; one sherd measuring 6cm. across; rest 1 to 3cm across). All are wall fragments apart from one simple and rounded rim top (not illustrated; weighing 2g). This has the upper edge of what may be part of a fingertip impression or a pre-firing perforation on the outer surface immediately below the vessel's mouth. Like the bulk of the assemblage, the rim is made from a medium grade flint-tempered ware (F/2; 16 sherds, weighing 60g). This was used for sherds with contrasting wall thicknesses (5 to 6mm and 8 to 9mm) and apparently untreated oxidised exteriors in various shades of brown to brownish yellow (7.5YR6/3, 6/4 and 6/6; 10YR5/2) that are probably derived from two vessels.

The three remaining wall fragments from Cut 13 (weighing 13g) are in a contrasting fabric tempered with common and slightly coarser flint (F/3). All are likely to be from a single vessel with a brown, untreated exterior (7.5YR5/3). One of the sherds may be from the neck, but once again evidence of profile is very restricted due to its small size (2 to 3cm across).

Five fragments of pottery from two vessels in contrasting flint tempered fabrics came from Cut 16 (F/1 and F/4; weighing 17g). The only featured sherd is a split rim from a vessel with a short upright neck and a very dark grey to reddish brown exterior (not illustrated; F/1; 7.5YRN3 and 5YR5/3).

Cut 27 produced a single wall sherd in the same coarse flint tempered ware represented in Cut 13 (F/1; weighing 7g). The exterior is reddish brown (5YR5/4) and there is little evidence of surface treatment, while the interior carries a charred residue.

Residual and Subsoil Sherds (Trenches 12, 22 and 41)

The remaining five wall sherds (weighing 91g) are from three of the trenches. The only fragment from a feature is split, heavily abraded and demonstrably residual, being from the same ditch fill in Trench 22 as a small piece of post-medieval brick or tile (Cut 3, deposit 54). It is in one of the flint tempered wares used for pottery from Cut 13 in Trench 14 (F/2; weighing 1g).

The subsoil deposits in Trenches 12 and 41 each produced two refitting sherds (Deposit 51; weighing 26g and 64g respectively). Those from Trench 12 are from a coil built vessel with a smoothed and wiped interior and an apparently untreated brown exterior (7.5YR5/3), in one of the fabrics represented in Trench 14 (F/1). The

sherds from Trench 41 are made from a similar ware with a higher density of flint (F/5). They are derived from a vessel with notably uneven walls (6 to 10mm thick), untreated surfaces and a light brown exterior (7.5YR6/4).

The Fabrics

All five of the fabrics incorporate flint, which may have been derived from the chalk approximately seven kilometres to the south. Some of the exploited clay appears to be silty in character, but such inclusions are too small for assessment even under X40 magnification. A local Wealden source for the clay seems most probable. Distinctions between the fabrics from the site rest largely on variations in the density and size range of the flint tempering. All of the fabrics described below are soft, while the majority are friable.

F/1: This coarse fabric is tempered with moderate quantities of burnt flint (0.2 to 8mm). The clay appears to be poorly combined with unevenly distributed inclusions, while sherds tend to fracture in a laminated manner.

F/2: The ware contains sparse to moderate quantities of medium grade burnt flint (0.2 to 4mm), with rare pieces of up to 7mm. The tempering has a marked tendency to cluster.

F/3: Flint tempering is common in this coarse fabric (0.2 to 5mm) and in contrast to the previous two wares is evenly distributed.

F/4: This is the only fine ware from the site, being characterised by moderate amounts of evenly distributed burnt flint (0.2 to 2mm).

F/5: This coarse ware is tempered with common and unevenly distributed burnt flint (0.2 to 8mm). The clay is particularly poorly combined, while sherd fractures are laminated.

Discussion

An element of uncertainty over the date of the pottery is raised by the overlapping character of some of the Sussex earlier Neolithic and later Bronze Age wares. Although this cannot be dismissed in the absence of diagnostic stylistic evidence, the best match for the technological traits of the assemblage as a whole lie in the earlier period. If this identification is correct, it is a rare and notable find from a Wealden setting.

The chalk is close enough to Burgess Hill to be exploited as a source of tempering within the defined range for local pottery production (Arnold 1985, 33). The use of readily available raw materials for potting is entirely consistent with other Sussex assemblages from the downs and the coastal plain (Drewett 1980, 26), while the technological traditions have comparable parallels. Low fired, poorly combined and finished sherds similar to Fabrics F/1, F2 and F/5 are prominent in the coarse flint tempered groups from earlier Neolithic sites in these settings, including The Trundle, Bury Hill (Drewett 1981, 79-81, Fabrics I and IV), Offham Hill, Whitehawk (Drewett 1977, 218) and Bishopstone (Bell 1977, 15). These are associated with finer wares reminiscent of Fabrics F/4, which tend to be better combined, fired and finished (Bell 1977, 17; Drewett 1977, 218). There is so little evidence of form that close comparison is meaningless beyond the observation that simple rims are a common component of the Sussex earlier Neolithic assemblages, with examples from most of the sites named above.

Post-medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprised 24 sherds with a total weight of 303g. All the contexts were of 19th century or later date. The pottery occurrence was as follows:

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 2 sherds, 145g.

CP: Chinese Porcelain, mid 16th century + . Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13th century, but did not become common until the 16th century, although most is mid-18th century or later. Wide range of table- and decorative wares. 1 sherd, 3g.

BBW: Black Basalt ware, late 18th – mid 19th century. Dry-bodied black stoneware, mainly in the form of coffee and tea pots. 1 sherd, 4g.

MY: Mocha/Yellow-glazed earthenwares. Late 18th – mid 19th century. Hard, white, slightly sandy fabric with an applied thick yellow/lemon glaze. Yellow wares have a general range of utilitarian forms, Mocha wares were usually tea pots, with a brown fern-like transfer decoration. 4 sherds, 15g.

MPW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, early 19th – 20th century. 'Ironstone china' Well sorted, reduced, hard white earthenware, often with blue transfer-printed decoration. 11 sherds, 86g.

ME: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. Mass-produced earthenwares, horticultural vessels, etc. 5 sherds, 50g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 4. All the pottery types are typical of the 19th century, comprising a range of mass-produced table- and decorative

wares. It is possible that some of the pottery, particularly the GRE, could be earlier, but as such wares were still in use in the 19th century, this appears unlikely given the date of the rest of the assemblage.

Struck Flint and chert by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 10 struck lithics were recovered from the site (Appendix 5). The collection comprised 8 flakes, an end scraper and a core fragment. Most of the pieces are made from a uniform black flint with thick unweathered cortex not from a direct chalk source but available locally. The exceptions to this are both from pit 13(64) and comprise a flake made from a coarse green/grey chert and the scraper made from a light brown flint with large fine cherty inclusions. None of the pieces are chronologically distinctive in their own right and for the unstratified pieces only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Clay Pipe by Sean Wallis

Two small fragments of clay pipe, weighing 12g, were recovered during the evaluation. A broken piece of pipe stem was found embedded into the probable trackway (73) in trench 18. Although not easy to read, the stem is decorated with a rope pattern, and appears to have the letters BRI on one side, suggesting that it was manufactured in Brighton. The letters on the other side are unreadable. A complete bowl was found within the large truncation (25) noted at the eastern end of trench 20. The undecorated bowl is reasonably small and without a spur or heel, suggesting a 19th century date.

Ceramic Building Material by Sean Wallis

Five fragments of brick and tile, weighing 515g, were recovered during the evaluation. None of the fragments have any diagnostic features, and all appear to be 19th century or modern in date.

Burnt Clay by Sean Wallis

Two small pieces of burnt clay, weighing 6g, were found within the fill of post-hole 15 (67), in trench 14.

Glass by Sean Wallis

Eight fragments of 19th century or modern glass, weighing 30g, were recovered during the evaluation. The only diagnostic piece was the base of a small medicine bottle, which was found within the 19th century clay pit (25) in trench 20.

Charred plant remains by Joanna Pine

Eleven soil samples were taken from the certain and possible archaeological deposits on the site ranging in volume from 2-40L. In addition to the recovery of any additional artefacts, Sub-samples from five of these features were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh for the recovery of charred plant remains as summarised in Appendix 6. All five samples produced charred remains but this was entirely of wood charcoal. This was present for all contexts in moderate quantities but for some the charcoal was comminuted and ill-suited for species identification. Nevertheless charred remains have been shown to be present in the deposits on the site such that material for radiocarbon dating and for study of the utilisation of plant species could be explored.

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the re-development, and has clarified the archaeological potential of the site identified in the previous desk-based assessment. Whilst large parts of the site appear to be archaeologically barren and some areas truncated by 19th and 20th century clay extraction, a range of prehistoric features of archaeological interest were recorded, located predominantly in the central and northern areas of the site.

A cluster of pits and post-holes were recorded in trench 14, and the subsequent excavation of two additional trenches nearby (41 and 42) revealed further features. Three of these features contained prehistoric pottery of Neolithic or Bronze Age date along with a few struck flints and, whilst the remaining features contained no closely dateable finds, it is likely that they are all broadly contemporary with one another. Taken together, these features are likely to represent evidence an earlier prehistoric occupation site. Closer dating of the deposits from the limited pottery evidence available is problematic. The pottery has similar fabrics to both earlier Neolithic and

later Bronze Age ceramics in the region. However, evidence of earlier Neolithic activity on the claylands of the Weald is extremely rare in contrast to the chalk downlands to the south with what little evidence there is, mostly coming from stray finds of stone axes which were used through the neolithic and into the earlier part of the Bronze Age (Drewett 2003). Later Bronze Age occupation sites and activity on the Wealden claylands are also poorly represented in the County Historic Environment Records for the region, but there is a general countrywide trend for the expansion of Bronze Age settlement onto clayland zones. On balance it seems much more likely that the deposits present here are of later Bronze Age rather than earlier Neolithic date.

No archaeological deposits nor artefacts from the later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval periods were identified during the evaluation, and it is likely that most of the remaining features encountered date from the late post-medieval period. A series of linear features, just within the north-western boundary and in the northern part of the site, are likely to be associated with field boundaries which are depicted on the Ditchling parish tithe map of 1839 but which have disappeared by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1874). The other features recorded appear to relate to late post-medieval clay extraction, which is an activity well recorded for the environs of the site.

In view of the results of this evaluation it is clear that a part of the site has archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	26.80	1.90	0.77	0-0.51m topsoil; 0.51-0.73m subsoil; 0.73m+ clay with bands of ironstone natural geology.
2	25.10	1.90	0.60	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ clay natural geology. Gully 4.
3	25.30	1.90	0.57	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ clay natural geology. Gullies 5 and 6.
4	25.50	1.90	0.69	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.54m subsoil; 0.69m+ clay natural geology. Gully 10.
5	25.60	1.90	0.66	0-0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m+ clay natural geology. Gully 11.
6	26.00	1.90	0.70	0-0.48m topsoil; 0.48-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m+ clay natural geology.
7	27.00	1.90	0.67	0-0.42m topsoil; 0.42-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ clay natural geology. Gully 12. [Plate 1]
8	25.40	1.90	0.65	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology.
9	25.30	1.90	0.62	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ clay natural geology.
10	26.20	1.90	0.70	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m+ clay natural geology.
11	26.40	1.90	0.67	0-0.39m topsoil; 0.39-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ clay natural geology. Postholes 7 and 8.
12	25.00	1.90	0.63	0-0.30m topsoil onto 0.30-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology with ironstone at eastern end. Pit 9.
13	26.20	1.90	0.70	0-0.40m topsoil onto 0.40-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ clay natural geology.
14	27.50	1.90	0.70	0-0.52m topsoil onto 0.52-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ clay natural geology. Pit / ditch 13, pits 16, 17, 27 and 28, post-holes 14, 15 and 26. [Plates 3 and 4]
15	26.00	1.90	0.56	0-0.24m topsoil onto 0.24-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay natural geology.
16	26.70	1.90	0.52	0-0.33m topsoil onto 0.33-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ clay natural geology. Gullies 22, 23 and 24. [Plates 2 and 6]
17	25.00	1.90	0.56	0-0.29m topsoil onto 0.29-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ clay natural geology.
18	30.20	1.90	0.66	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.25-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ clay natural geology, with sand and gravel at the northern end. Trackway 73.
19	25.30	1.90	0.95	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.20m subsoil; 0.20m+ clay natural geology.
20	24.00	1.90	0.50	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ clay natural geology. Large pit(s) 25
21	26.30	1.90	0.56	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ clay natural geology. Pit / ditch 20
22	26.10	1.90	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ clay natural geology. Ditch 3 and large feature(s) 21.
23	26.00	1.90	0.72	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m+ clay natural geology, with ironstone at northern end of trench.
24	25.10	1.90	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ clay natural geology.
25	26.70	1.90	0.63	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ clay natural geology.
26	26.20	1.90	0.60	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology.
27	25.80	1.90	0.54	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ clay natural geology.
28	25.60	1.90	0.48	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ clay natural geology..
29	25.00	1.90	0.61	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
30	25.70	1.90	0.56	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ clay natural geology.
31	25.70	1.90	0.44	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
32	26.00	1.90	0.49	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ clay natural geology. Posthole 1, pit 2, and modern burning.
33	25.80	1.90	0.53	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology.
34	25.30	1.90	0.54	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ clay natural geology.
35	25.70	1.90	0.62	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ clay natural geology.
36	26.00	1.90	0.69	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ clay natural geology.
37	25.00	1.90	0.59	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ clay natural geology.
38	26.00	1.90	0.53	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ clay natural geology.
39	25.70	1.90	0.56	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ clay natural geology.
40	26.80	1.90	0.74	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ clay natural geology.
41	13.00	1.90	0.54	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology. Pit 18. [Plate 5]
42	15.30	1.90	0.52	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology. Pit 19.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
32	1	52	Post-hole	Modern? Undated	Modern bonfire location
32	2	53	Pit	Modern? Undated	Modern bonfire location
22	3	54	Ditch	19th century - modern	Glass, brick/tile
2	4	55	Gully	Undated	
3	5	56	Gully	19th century - modern	By association
3	6	57	Gully	19th century - modern	Glass, brick/tile
11	7	58	Post-hole	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
11	8	59	Post-hole	Undated	
12	9	60	Pit	Undated	
4	10	61	Gully	Undated	
5	11	62	Gully	Undated	
7	12	63	Gully	Undated	
14	13	64, 65	Pit / ditch	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	Pottery
14	14	66	Post-hole	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	Pottery
14	15	67	Post-hole	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
14	16	68	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	Pottery
14	17	69	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
41	18	70	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
42	19	71	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
21	20	72	Pit / ditch	19th century – modern	
22	21	80	Pit	Undated	
16	22	74	Gully	19th century - modern	brick/tile
16	23	75	Gully	19th century - modern	By association
16	24	76	Gully	19th century - modern	By association
20	25	81	Pit(s)	19th century	Pottery, clay pipe
14	26	77	Post-hole	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
14	27	78	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
14	28	79	Pit	Neolithic/Bronze Age?	By association
18		73	Trackway	19 th century - modern	Pottery, clay pipe

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of prehistoric pottery

Trench	Cut	Context	Date	No.	Wt (g)	Fabric	Sherd Type	Rim Form
12		51	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	2	26	F/1	refitting wall	
14	13	64	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	1	2	F/2	decorated rim	simple/rounded rim top
14	13	64	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	3	23	F/2	wall	
14	13	64	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	3	18	F/2	wall	
14	13	64	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	9	17	F/2	split wall	
14	13	64	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	3	13	F/3	wall	
14	14	66	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age?	3	<1	F/1	? from sieving	
14	16	68	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	1	3	F/1	split rim	
14	16	68	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	1	1	F/1	wall	
14	16	68	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	3	13	F/4	wall	
14	27	78	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	1	7	F/1	wall	
22	3	54	?Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	1	1	F/2	split wall	
41		51	Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age	2	64	F/5	refitting wall	
			GRE	CP	BBW	MY	MPW	ME

APPENDIX 4: Post-Medieval pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

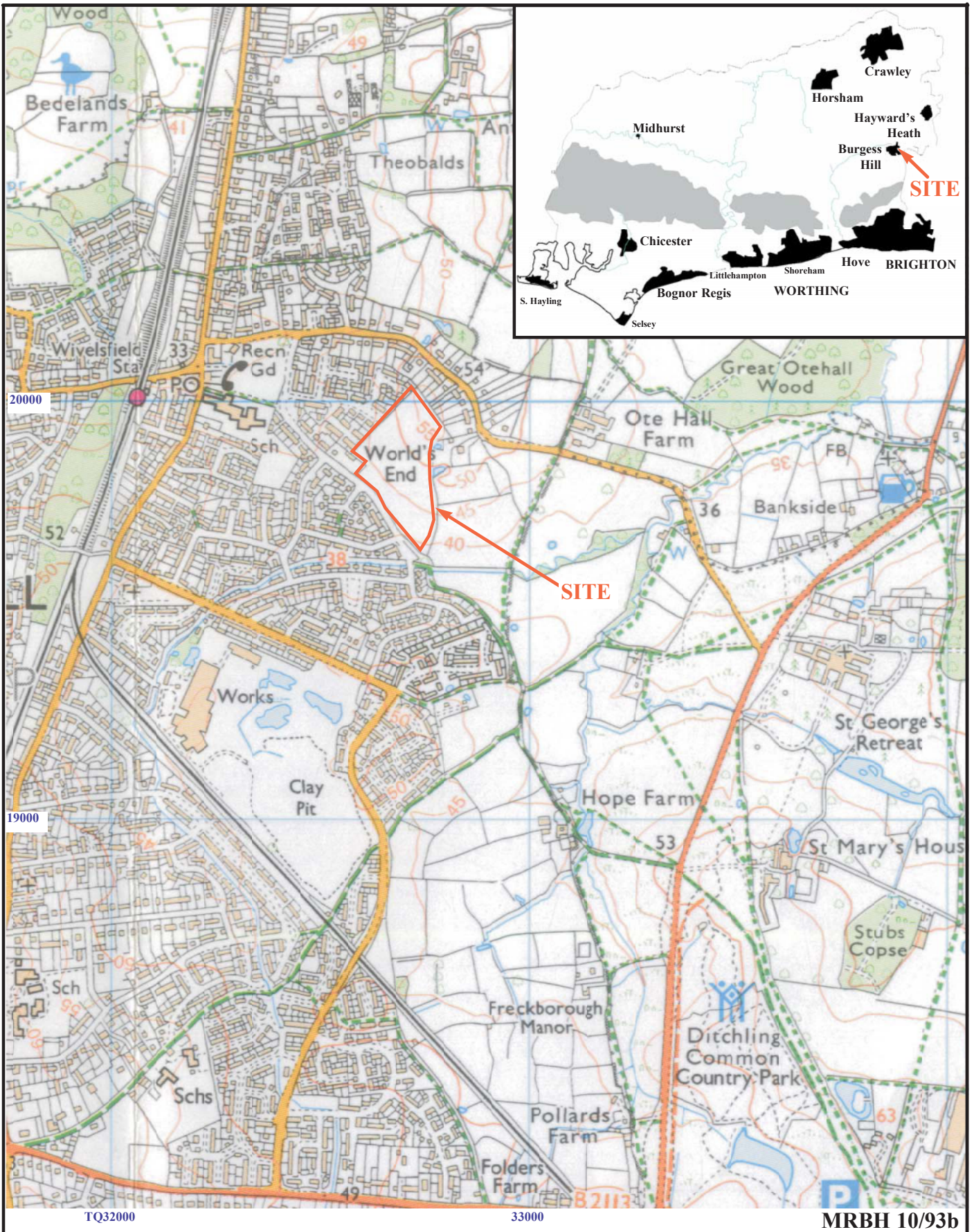
Trench	Cut	Context	GRE		CP		BBW		MY		MPW		ME	
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
6		50									2	36		
7		50	1	13									1	6
9		50	1	132							2	21		
18		73					1	4	3	13	7	29	2	23
20	25	81			1	3							1	11
21	20	72							1	2				
		Total	2	145	1	3	1	4	4	15	11	86	5	50

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of struck flint and chert

Trench	Context	Type
10	50 (topsoil)	Broken flake
14	13 (64)	3 Intact flakes (one cherty); Core fragment; End scraper
38	51(subsoil)	Broken flake
41	18 (70)	Intact flake
42	51(subsoil)	Broken flake
Test Pit E	50 (topsoil)	Intact flake

APPENDIX 6: Charred plant material from sieving

Cut	Fill	Sample number	Trench	Volume processed	Date	Comment
1	52	1	32	5L	? modern	Moderate amount of mostly small wood charcoal
2	53	2	32	5L	?modern	Much large wood charcoal
8	59	3	11	2L	Neolithic or Bronze Age?	Much large wood charcoal
9	60	4	12	10l	Neolithic or Bronze Age?	Much large wood charcoal
14	66	6	14	5L	Neolithic or Bronze Age?	Moderate amount of small wood charcoal



**Land at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Burgess Hill and West Sussex.

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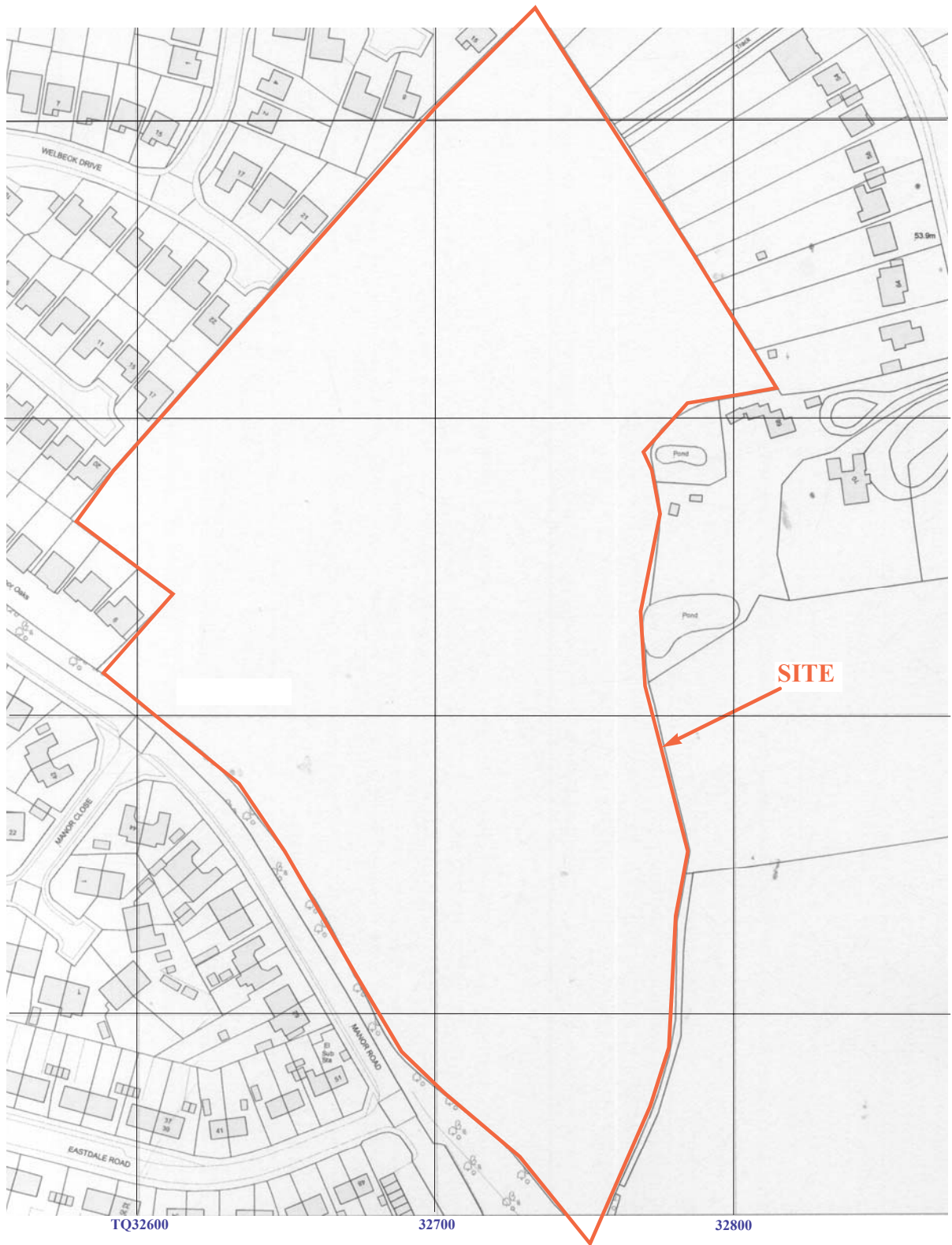
THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH



19900

19800

19700

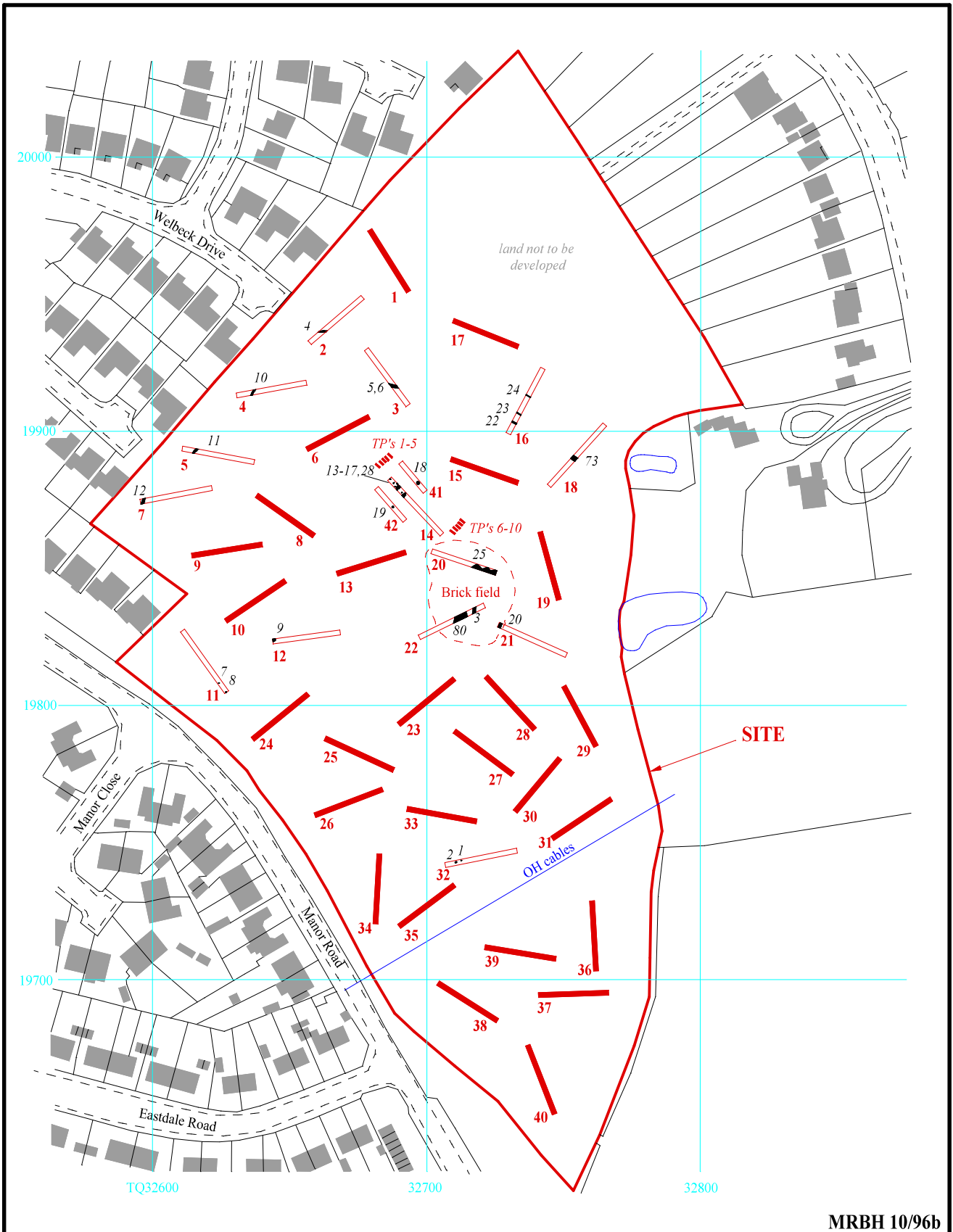


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**Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Manor Road.

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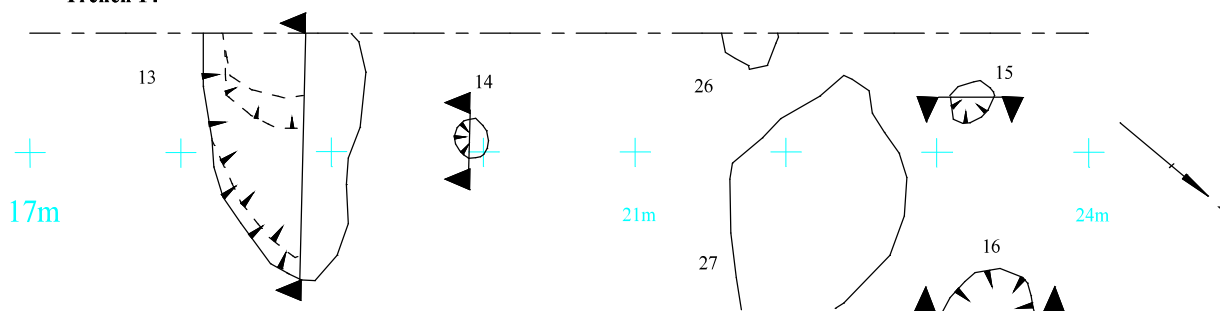


**Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation**

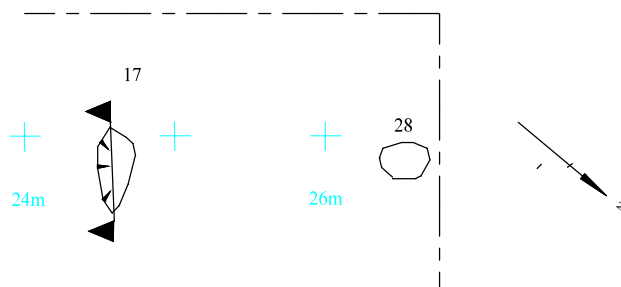
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



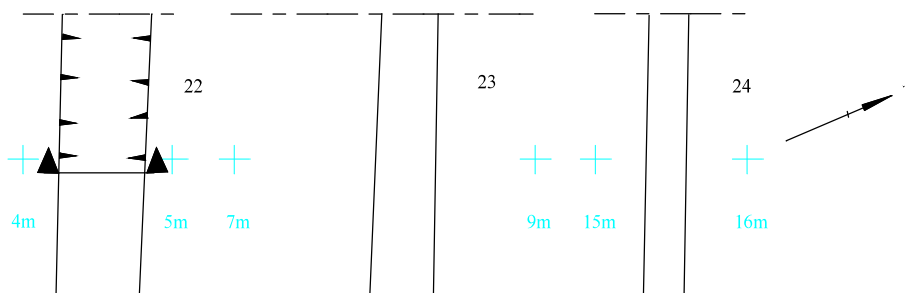
Trench 14



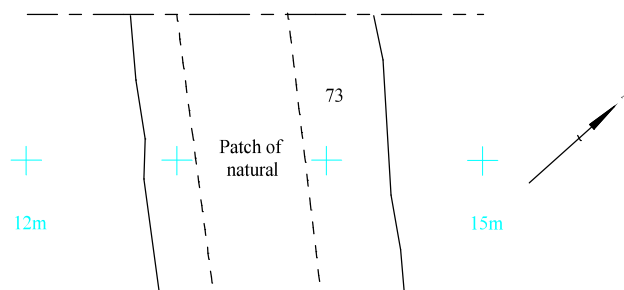
Trench 14



Trench 16



Trench 18



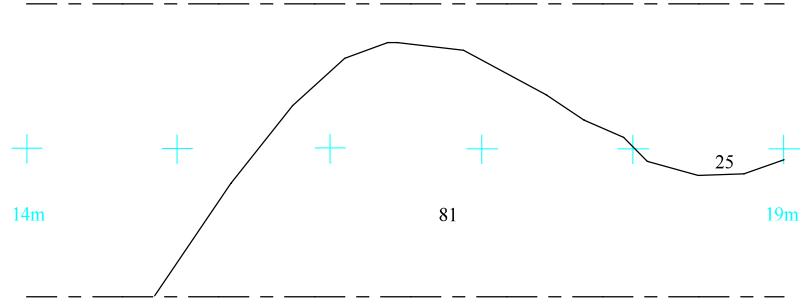
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**Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation**

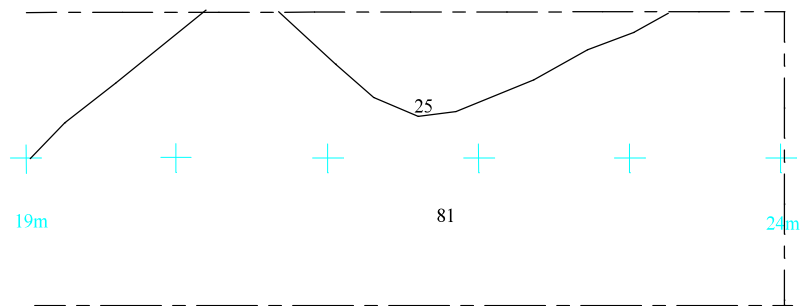
Figure 5. Plans



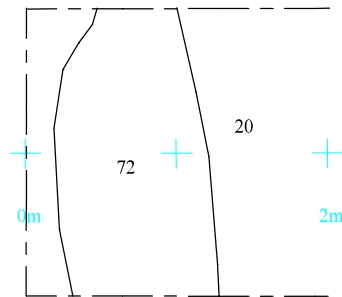
Trench 20



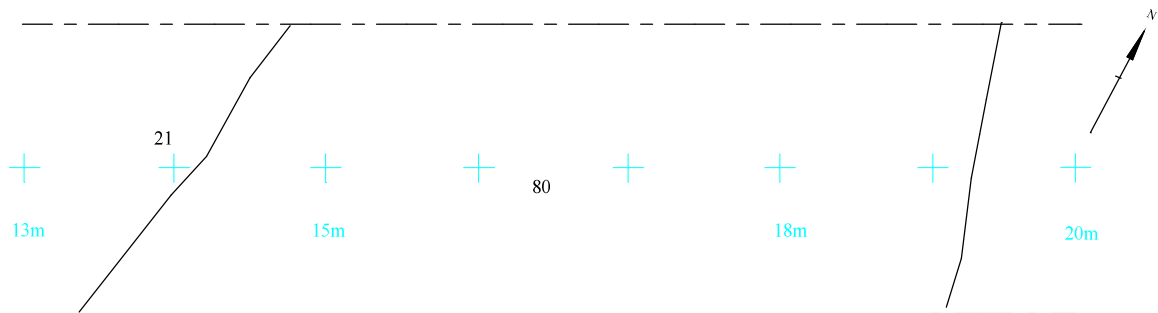
Trench 20



Trench 21



Trench 22



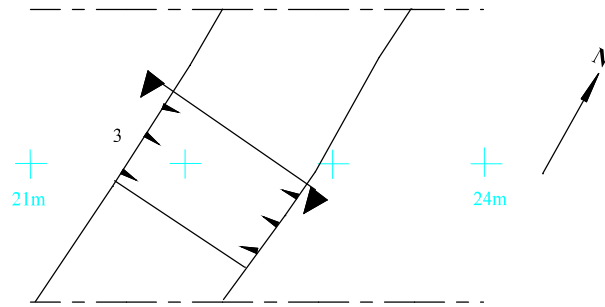
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Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation

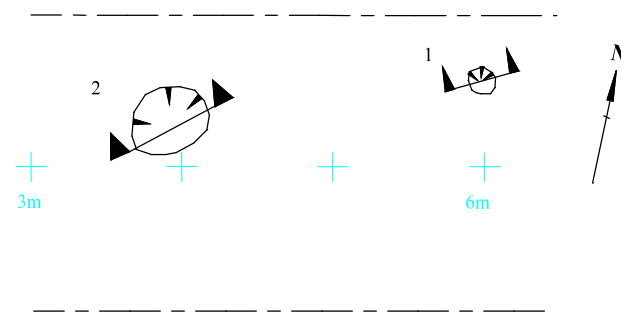
Figure 6. Plans



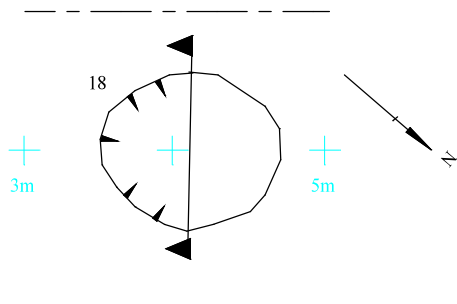
Trench 22



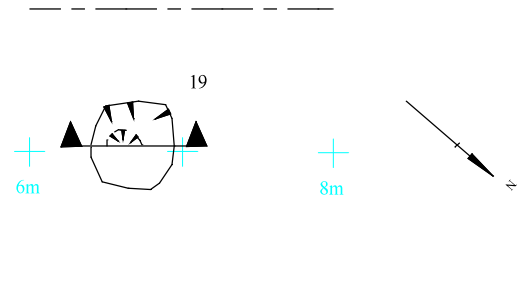
Trench 32



Trench 41



Trench 42



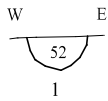
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Land off Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2011
Archaeological Evaluation

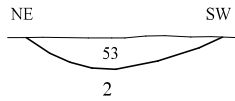
Figure 7. Plans



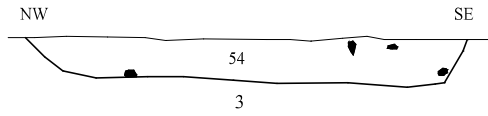
Trench 32



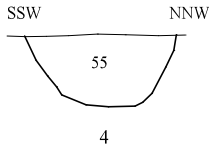
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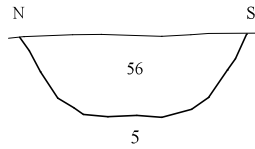
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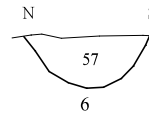
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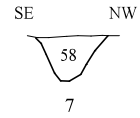
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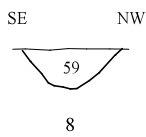
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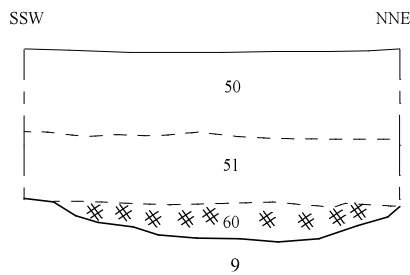
Trench 11



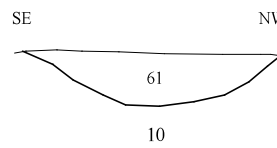
Trench 11



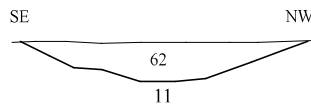
Trench 12



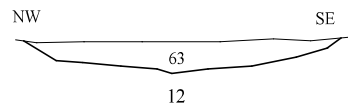
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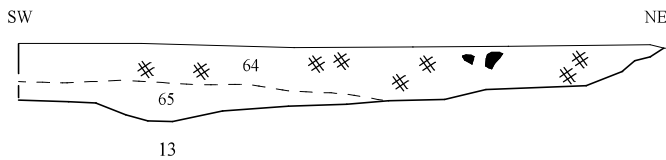
Trench 5



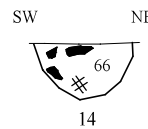
Trench 7



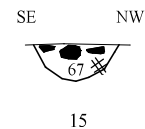
Trench 14



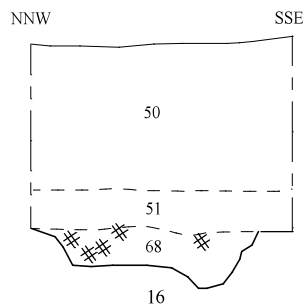
Trench 14



Trench 14



Trench 14



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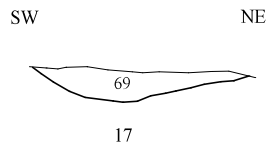
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 8. Sections

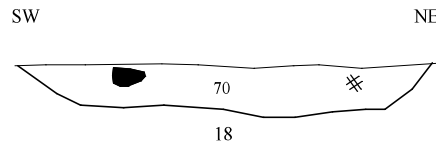


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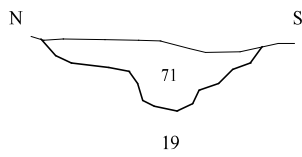
Trench 14



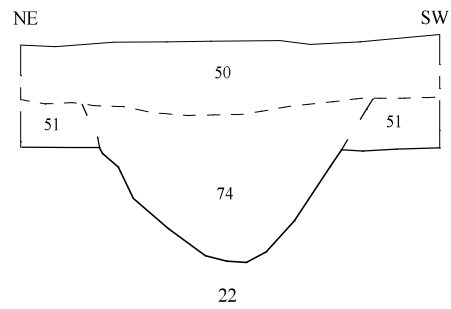
Trench 41



Trench 42



Trench 16



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Figure 9. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 7, looking north east, Scales 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 2. Trench 16, looking east, Scales: 1m, 2m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 14, Pit 13 looking north west, Scales 1m and 0.1m



Plate 4. Trench 14, Posthole 15 looking south west, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 41, Pit 18 looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.1m



Plate 6. Trench 16, Gully 22 looking north west, Scale: 0.3m.

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Plates 5 and 6.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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