

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

**5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley,
West Sussex**

Archaeological Excavation

Draft Publication report

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BCW14/101

(TQ 2673 3630)

**5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley,
West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Excavation
Draft Publication Report
for PMC Construction Co Ltd**

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Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BCW 14/101

Summary

Site name: 5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2673 3630

Planning reference: CR/2009/0368OUT and CR/2012/0447/CAC

Site activity: Excavation

Date and duration of fieldwork: 21st–25th September 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: BCW 14/101

Area of site: c. 325 sq m

Summary of results: The archaeological excavation at Brighton Road, Crawley, successfully investigated the part of the site where medieval features had been found during an earlier evaluation. A small number of medieval pits were recorded, including one large pit which had been backfilled with iron slag. A medieval boundary ditch was also observed. This feature appears to have been partially recut at some point before being deliberately backfilled with iron slag. Another linear feature, found close to the present Brighton Road, probably dates from the post-medieval period, and is shown on a map dating from 1839 but not on one from 1874. The remainder of features exposed during the excavation were modern in date.

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5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex An Archaeological Excavation

by Sean Wallis
with contributions by Luke Barber

Report 14/101c

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services at 5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex, centred on NGR TQ 2673 3630 (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). The work was commissioned by Mr Jonathan Fern of PMC Construction Co Ltd, 106 Queens Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 7NE.

Outline planning permission (CR/2009/0368OUT) and conservation area consent (CR/2012/0447/CAC) had been gained from Crawley Borough Council to demolish the existing structures on the site and redevelop the area for residential and commercial purposes. The conservation area consent was subject to conditions (2 and 3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. Condition 2 required historic building recording of the former cinema building which formerly occupied the site, prior to its demolition. The building recording was carried out in 2014, and has been reported on separately (Wallis 2015). Condition 3 required an archaeological investigation of the site, prior to the commencement of any building work. In order to discharge this condition a trial trench evaluation was carried out in November 2014 (Wallis 2014), which identified a number of medieval features close to Brighton Road. Following discussions with the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr John Mills) and the local planning officer (Mr Marc Robinson), it was agreed that a follow-up excavation should be carried out to target the medieval features recorded during the evaluation. This was in accordance with the guidance contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

The archaeological excavation took place between 21st and 25th September 2015, according to a scheme of works approved with Mr John Mills of West Sussex County Council and Mr Marc Robinson of Crawley Borough Council. The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Crawley Museum in due course. The site code is BCW 14/101.

Topography and Geology

The excavation area was centred on TQ 2673 3630, and was located in the south-east corner of the site, immediately adjacent to Brighton Road (Fig. 2). The site had previously been occupied by a large commercial building and associated structures. The eastern part of the large commercial building had formerly been a cinema and, as a result, it was the subject of a building recording prior to demolition. The main access to the site was via Brighton Road, to

the east, although there was a western entrance from West Street. Apart from Brighton Road, the site is bounded by residential and commercial buildings. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 79m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay (BGS 1972), and this was confirmed during the fieldwork.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a desk-based assessment (SCAU 2012). In summary, although the site is located to the south of the known historic (medieval) core of Crawley, recent archaeological investigations to the north of the railway line (north of the site) recorded features dating from the medieval period, including boundary ditches. It was therefore thought possible that similar features may be present to the south of the railway. There was also the potential for finds and features from earlier periods being present on the site, as a number of stray finds of prehistoric material have been found in the area over the years, and an Iron Age occupation site was excavated to the west of the proposed site in the 1970s. The wider area also has a long tradition of iron production, notably from the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and early post-medieval periods (e.g. Saunders 1998; Hammond 2011; Pine 2013).

The evaluation in 2014 confirmed the potential for archaeological remains to have survived, with features being recorded in the northern and eastern parts of the site. Although most of these related to the late post-medieval buildings which had once stood on the site, several medieval pits were recorded in the south-east corner, close to Brighton Road (Wallis 2014). As a result, this area was targeted for excavation (Fig. 3).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits present in an area in the south-east corner of the site. The excavation area was specifically positioned to target the medieval features which had been found in the 2014 evaluation (Trench 7), and to see if these related to any more significant occupation close to Brighton Road. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworker's schedules to excavate and record any archaeological features revealed.

The Excavation

The excavation area measured approximately 325 sq m in size (Fig. 4) and was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision (Pls 1 and 2). The stratigraphy generally consisted of about 0.40m of Tarmac and made ground directly above the natural geology. However, patches of a possible buried soil horizon (up to 0.10m thick) were recorded in places. Numerous

archaeological features were seen to be cut into the natural geology, and these were all sampled by hand. All excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1. Figure 5 presents a phase plan, selected features sections are shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Phase 1: Medieval

Linear features

Two linear features were identified in the eastern part of the stripped area, aligned approximately north-south (Pl. 1). Two slots (14 and 16) were dug by hand through ditch 1000, which was seen to be up to 2.15m wide and 0.66m deep (Pl. 3). It had been re-cut along its length by ditch 1001, and in places was completely obscured by the later feature. Three sherds of 13th-century pottery were recovered from the primary fill of ditch 1000, which consisted of light brownish grey silty clay (74/80). A possible secondary fill (75) of light yellow clay was recorded in one of the slots through ditch 1000, and this yielded a further seven sherds of 13th-century pottery, along with twenty-one small fragments of iron slag.

Ditch 1001 was a direct re-cut of feature 1000, and was up to 2.50m wide and 0.48m deep. Although a possible primary fill of light yellow grey clay (76) was recorded in one of the hand excavated slots, the ditch was largely filled with a deposit composed almost entirely of iron slag (77/81). It therefore appears that the ditch was deliberately backfilled, possibly quite shortly after it was re-cut. No finds were recovered from fill 76, but deposit 77/81 produced four sherds of pottery dating from the 13th or 14th century, along with over nine kilograms of iron slag fragments (only a sample of what was present). An amorphous lump of burnt clay was also recovered from this deposit, together with a small piece of peg tile, although the latter is likely to be intrusive.

The position of ditches 1000 and 1001 is clearly significant as they appear to run parallel to Brighton Road. It is possible that they could represent roadside ditches of an earlier version of the road, although no traces of a road surface were observed to the east of them. Indeed, no medieval features of any sort were recorded in the area between the ditches and the present road. It is even conceivable that the slag used to fill ditch 1001 derived from surfacing of an early road line, discarded when the road was resurfaced, as evidence from Crawley and elsewhere, e.g Worcester suggests that old slag dumps were mined for road 'metalling' material (Barker 1969; WCC 2007)

Discrete features

Several pits were recorded in the southern part of the site (19–26), which seem to suggest that the area was subject to some concentrated activity in the medieval period. By far the largest of these was pit 24/25, which measured at least 4.50m in length and up to 3.85m in width. The pit had been observed during the 2014 evaluation (recorded as features 2 and 3), but was seen more clearly in plan once the area around it had been stripped. The original purpose of this large pit is unknown, although it was up to 0.75m deep, and may have been dug to extract clay. What is clear

is that it was deliberately backfilled with iron slag shortly after it was dug. The primary fill of the feature (88/90) was comprised almost entirely of iron slag (c. 90%), although this was mixed with a dark brownish grey clayey silt. The only datable finds from this deposit consisted of two small sherds of medieval pottery, dating from either the 13th century or early 14th century. An upper fill (89) of mid brownish grey clayey silt was recorded in one of the slots dug through the pit, although no finds were recovered from this deposit.

A later pit (26) had been cut through the south-east corner of pit 24/25. This appeared to be roughly sub-circular in plan, and measured approximately 1.50m in diameter. Pit 26 was up to 0.70m deep, with a primary fill of mid brownish grey silty clay (92), which contained no datable finds. However, the upper of mid greyish brown silty clay (91) contained the largest assemblage of pottery recovered during the excavation, with over 160 sherds, weighing 2.25 kg. The pottery dates from the mid 14th to mid 15th century. It is likely that deposit 91 is the same context as the fill of pit 2/3 (51). The excavation has led to a reappraisal of the interpretation from the evaluation, and it now seems likely that pit 2 corresponds with pit 24/25, and pit 3 with pit 26.

The other medieval pit recorded during the evaluation (1) had been fully excavated in 2014. It was rectangular, 0.7m by 0.55m but just 0.06m deep, and its fill (50) contained 11 sherds of medieval pottery and 12 fragments of iron slag. Several pits (19, 20, 21, 22 and 23) were investigated in the area between pit 24/25 and ditches 1000/1001. Although only one of these (22) contained medieval pottery, it is probable that the rest are broadly contemporary given their location and the fact that most of them contained fragments of iron slag. A sample of the slag from these pits was taken. These pits are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of pits

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>	<i>Comments</i>
19	82	1.25m x 1.25m	0.35m	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	Contained iron slag. [PI. 4]
20	83	0.79m x 0.30m	0.13m	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	Contained iron slag. [PI. 5]
21	84, 87	0.65m x >0.46m	0.28m	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	Contained iron slag (retained on site).
22	85	1.15m x 1.00m	0.15m	Medieval	Pottery and tile	Contained iron slag..
23	86	0.45m x 0.40m	0.05m	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	Very shallow pit.

Phase 2: Post-medieval

Ditch 18 was recorded along the eastern edge of the stripped area, and a slot was excavated through it by hand (PI. 6). It appeared to vary greatly along its length, from about 0.40m to over 2.50m. It was disturbed in the south-east corner of the excavation area by various modern truncations. The hand dug slot was positioned close to its widest point, and it was seen to have a steep western side and a flattish base. Its primary fill of mid yellow brown clayey silt (78) was up to 0.22m thick, and contained one fragment of 18th century pottery, along with some residential medieval sherds. Several fragments of brick and tile were also recovered from this deposit, dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The upper fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt contained three sherds of early 19th

century pottery, along with a very worn coin and fragments of clay pipe, brick, tile and glass. Both fills contained moderate amounts of iron slag. It seems highly likely that ditch 18 represents a field boundary shown on the 1839 Ifield parish tithe map. This feature is shown running close to Brighton Road but, interestingly, not exactly parallel to it. The ditch had clearly been backfilled by 1874, as the First Edition Ordnance Survey of that year shows new houses with front gardens, along the Brighton Road frontage.

Phase 3: Modern

A series of sub-rectangular post-holes (8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) were recorded in the stripped area. They form a clear L-shape, and are almost undoubtedly associated with the two houses which were built in this part of the site and some point between 1839 and 1874. Apart from a couple of small pieces of brick, the only finds from the post-holes consisted of iron slag fragments. Given the amount of iron slag recorded nearby, the material in the post-holes is likely to be residual.

Finds

The Pottery by Luke Barber

The evaluation and subsequent excavation recovered 251 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 3076g, from 14 contexts. The assemblage is primarily composed of small to medium sized sherds (up to 50mm across) though larger pieces are also present. Most sherds do not show significant signs of reworking. The site assemblage is characterized in Table 2 to demonstrate the chronological spread of the material. A full catalogue is presented in Appendix 2. Overall the date range of the pottery spans the late 12th/early 13th to 19th centuries though the peak of activity appears to be between AD 1250 and 1450. The exact division between periods is approximate as the fabric groups, particularly those of the High and Late Medieval periods, often merge across artificial chronological boundaries. This is certainly the case with the West Sussex Wares that clearly have their roots in the late 13th/ early 14th century but become more common as the 14th century progresses (Barton 1979). The assemblage has been fully quantified (number of sherds/weight/estimated number of vessels) by fabric in archive.

Table 2: Pottery summary

<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>	<i>Average wt (g)</i>	<i>No. fabric groups</i>
<i>Early Medieval C12th-mid C13th</i>	6	82g	13.7	1
<i>High Medieval Early C13th – mid C14th</i>	99	1064g	10.7	8
<i>Late Medieval Mid C14th – early 16th</i>	134	1742	13.0	7
<i>Early post-medieval Early C16th – mid 18th</i>	2	36	18.0	2
<i>Late post-medieval Mid/late C18th – mid C20th</i>	10	1152	15.2	3

NB. Totals include all residual/intrusive and unstratified material.

The assemblages of different periods produced a range of fabrics, all of which have been noted before in the town. The fabric series established at the Old Post Office site and subsequently extended during work on the Asda

assemblage has been used for the current report (Barber 1997; 2008a). The town series codes have been correlated with those of the county series.

Early Medieval (C12th-mid C13th)

The only pottery of this period consists of six sherds from one or two cooking pots in moderate/abundant sandy ware with rare sparse shell (Crawley Fabric 14, County fabric Q+s/M3). Although fresh, these later 12th- to early 13th- century sherds are clearly residual in pit 26.

High Medieval (Early C13th – mid 14th)

There is a notable increase in refuse disposal at the site from the mid/late 13th century. The assemblage was recovered from a number of pits, ditches and a single post-hole. Without doubt this was the busiest time for activity within the excavated area. The range of fabrics represented is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of High Medieval assemblage

<i>Fabric No.</i>	<i>County code</i>	<i>Expansion</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>ENV</i>
1b	Q/M5	Earlswood fine/medium sand	10	59	Jugs x9
1d	Q(f)/M9	Earlswood sparse fine sand	41	427	Jugs x15
3b	Q/M8	Limpsfield-type coarse greyware	4	172	Cooking pots x3
3c	Q/M9	Limpsfield-type coarse greyware	1	34	Jug x1
12	Q/M13	Moderate/abundant medium quartz	16	112	Cooking pots x2; jug x1
15	Q(f)/M19	Early West Sussex Ware	3	3	Jugs x2
16	Q/M15	Fine quartz with black iron oxides	25	256	Cooking pots x9; jug x1
18	Q(f)/M14	Surrey whiteware	2	4	Jug x1; Uncertain form x1
Totals	-		99	1064	Cooking pots x14; Jugs x30 Uncertain x1

The range of fabrics present at the site during the High Medieval period is fairly typical for Crawley. Surrey was obviously a major supplier at this time with Earlswood in particular dominating the market (Turner 1974). Limpsfield greywares and Surrey whitewares are far less common (Ketteringham 1989, Prendergast 1974, Jones 1998), probably due to these production areas being further afield and Crawley's market needs being well enough catered for by potential local and Earlswood products. The Earlswood jugs show the typical range of white slipped, green glazed decoration, sometimes with incised wavy lines. One sherd also has red slipped lines over the white slipped base, possibly imitating Rouen-style decoration (pit [1], fill [50]). The jugs in other fabrics are quite plain, usually only having green glazing. Of note is the breakdown of vessels: jugs notably out number cooking pots, making up 67% of the recognized vessels. This may be in part due to an emphasis on the 14th century, when jugs generally appear in greater numbers, but may also be down to the nature of on-site activity. A high proportion of jugs in association with intense iron smithing activity was noted at Middleton-on-Sea and suggested to be the result of hot thirsty work (Barber 2006). Certainly the same could easily be suggested for many sites in Crawley that were clearly heavily involved with smelting and primary smithing.

Feature groups at the current site are small and there are far better ones of the period already published from Crawley (Barber 2008a and 2008b). Pit [2], fill [51] of the evaluation produced the largest cleanest group of this

period though it dates to the end of the chronological range, perhaps between c. 1300/25 and 1375. The sherds are quite fresh and appear not to have been reworked. Earlswood is well represented in the form of four (14g) green glazed jug sherds (Q/M5), two with white slip under the glaze. These sherds are notably more abraded than the others in the group and they could be residual pieces. There are 11 sherds (72g) of moderate fine/medium oxidized sand tempered ware (Q/M13 type), including a late flaring rim from a wide-mouthed cooking pot. A significant proportion of the group is composed of sherds from four West Sussex Ware jugs (Barton 1979), two coarser with either applied decoration or white slip line decoration under the green glaze (3/38g: Q(f)/M13) and two much finer (9/72g: Q(f)/M2). The latter are decorated with combing or applied oblique brown clay strips. These can span the 14th century but have been grouped with the Late Medieval wares as they are usually more common in that period. The remaining pottery in this deposit consists of late Surrey Whitewares (6/92g: Q/M10). These include an externally sooted pipkin, a cooking pot with clubbed rim and a possible bowl. Many of these vessels have internal green glazing. The fabrics are slightly variable in coarseness, but are generally closer to Kingston products than those normally labelled Coarse Borderware. However, as has been shown by Jones (1998), whitewares in Surrey have a much more diffuse range of fabrics than is seen in London.

Late Medieval (Mid C14th - early C16th)

Activity on the site appears to have continued unbroken throughout the 14th century and as a result some of the earlier vessels may have still been in contemporaneous use with types of the later 14th century. Certainly the West Sussex Ware jugs and Coarse Borderware are likely to have been common throughout the 14th and well into the 15th centuries. What is quite apparent is that during the period activity did decrease and there is nothing that need post-date c. 1475/1500. This is a pattern seen at most of the previous assemblages from Crawley and almost certainly relates to the dispersal of iron smelting from the town with the advent of the new water-powered blast furnaces that were located in the Wealden valleys to make use of the streams. The assemblage was recovered from a couple of pits, a ditch and a drain. The range of fabrics represented is summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of Late Medieval assemblage

<i>Fabric No.</i>	<i>County code</i>	<i>Expansion</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>ENV</i>
2	Q(f)/M11	Hard fired sparse fine sand with larger sparse medium/coarse sand inclusions	28	496	Cooking pots x3
2b	Q(f)/M26	A more sandy paler version of 2	8	128	Cooking pot x1
4b	Q(f)/M2	West Sussex Ware fine/very fine	10	84	Jugs x3
4c	Q(f)/M13	West Sussex Ware fine/very fine	3	38	Jugs x2
5	Q/M10	Coarse Borderware (Pearce and Vince 1988).	13	152	Cooking pots x4, pipkin x1
8a	Q/M12	Hard fired Late Medieval sandy wares	71	832	Cooking potsx2
*CW Fab 12	Q(f)/M24	Hard-fired medium/coarse sandy oxidized earthenware	1	12	Uncertain form x1
Totals	-	-	134	1742	Cooking pots x10, pipkin x1, jugs x5, uncertain x1

(* fabric 12 at Church Walk, Crawley. Barber 2008b)

Although there is a scatter of sherds in other features by far the majority were recovered from pit [26], fill [91]. This single feature, broadly dated to between c. 1350 and 1450, accounts for 114 sherds of pottery, 47 classified as of the High Medieval period (41.2%) and six (5.3%) of the early Medieval periods. This group is interesting in that it appears to cover a period not well represented in Sussex ceramics, usually due to the downturn in the quantity of assemblages following the decimation of the population during the early/mid 14th century. The assemblage is summarized in Table 5.

Table 5: Pit 26, fill [91], pottery assemblage

	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	ENV	Comments
Early Medieval	14	6	82	Cooking pot x2	Early C13th?
High Medieval	15	3	3	Jugs x2	X1 green glazed
	16	20	180	Cooking pots x7	X1 with applied thumbled strip
	1b	1	1	Jug x1	Green glazed
	1d	19	292	Jugs x7	White slipped, green glazed. X1 with wavy combed lines
	3b	3	150	Cooking pot x1	Rectangular club rim
	3c	1	34	Jug x1	Rod handle
Late Medieval	2	28	496	Cooking pots x3	Flaring rim
	2b	8	128	Cooking pots x2	Flaring rim
	5	7	60	Cooking pots x3	Internally glazed bases
	8a	71	832	Cooking pots x2	Flaring square beaded rim

Despite this pit having a high proportion of fresh Late Medieval wares it clearly contains a significant residual element even if the majority of this earlier material is quite unabraded. Some of these High Medieval vessels could still have been in contemporaneous use in the second half of the 14th century, but some almost certainly derives from the earlier pit [25]. The Late Medieval assemblage is totally dominated by cooking vessels, most of probable local manufacture, but some from Surrey (Fabric 5). The absence of West Sussex Ware is quite notable but it may be a result of the absence of contemporary jugs in this cooking pot-dominated group. Although feature sherds are not common four good examples of Late Medieval rim forms were recovered:

1. Cooking pot with square-beaded flaring rim. Mid grey core, pale orange surfaces. Fabric 8a.
2. Cooking pot with tapering flaring rim. Pale grey core, pale orange/buff surfaces. Applied horizontal and vertical thumbled strips. Fabric 2b.
3. Cooking pot with concave everted rim. Pale grey core, dull orange surfaces. Externally sooted. Fabric 2.
4. Cooking pot with everted rim. Pale grey core, pale orange/buff surfaces. Fabric 2.

Post-Medieval

The early post-medieval assemblage consists of isolated sherds of local glazed red earthenware (a tripod pipkin) from drain 7 and a 6g sherd of tin-glazed earthenware from ditch 18. Clearly little refuse was being disposed of between the 16th to mid 18th centuries. The late post-medieval assemblage is slightly larger, with two features (pit 5 and ditch 18) producing small domestic assemblages of the first half of the 19th century.

The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

The evaluation and stage 2 excavations recovered 37,972g of slag from 18 individually numbered contexts. These totals include 3829 pieces weighing 21,306g from one of seven environmental residues, with the remaining 124

pieces being hand collected on site. The assemblage is summarized in Table 6 and catalogued by context in Appendix 3. On the whole the assemblage is characterized by quite small pieces, often with notable signs of abrasion. As such it would appear the majority has seen some exposure/weathering as well as being subjected to reworking before final deposition. Although a good proportion of the assemblage was associated with pottery, a significant number of slag-producing features were not. However, the spatial positioning of these and/or their form have allowed many feature assemblages to be assigned a chronological period with a reasonable degree of certainty. The assemblage is summarized in Table 6.

Table 6: Characterization of metallurgical remains by probable period, by number/wt (g).

Period	Undated	High Medieval c. 1225-1350	Late Medieval c. 1350-1550	c. 1550-1750	c. 1750+	Totals
No. of contexts	5	6	1	4	2	18
Type						
Iron concretion	46/126	-	-	-	-	46/126
Hearth Lining	2/32	-	-	-	-	2/32
Iron: undiagnostic (dense)	4/80	13/3214	1/58	-	6/1658	24/5010
Iron: undiagnostic (cinder)	-	646/3720	-	8/90	-	654/3810
Iron: smelting (Bloomery) tap slag	74/1460	37/1730	19/224	6/482	15/1864	151/5760
Iron: smelting (Bloomery) other	2299/5456	487/15,468	254/468	13/488	23/1354	3076/23,234
Totals	2425/7154	1183/24,132	274/750	27/1060	44/4876	3953/37,972

The earliest dated slag from the site is of the High Medieval period. This phase also accounted for the majority of slag by weight and it is clear that this was the time of most intense iron working. The current assemblage has been derived from one or more working sites, though these do not appear to have been particularly close to the excavated areas. The absence of fragments of hearth lining would be in keeping with this. The generally small size of the slag pieces and abraded nature suggest the material has been dumped and then possibly been re-used, at least in some instances, as hard-core or post-packing material. Pits containing significant quantities of iron slag are now a very well known feature type in Crawley and it is thought the waste slag may have been used to infill open pits dug for clay or other purposes (eg Stevens 2006 and 2008). The type of slag represented suggests iron smelting using the bloomery process was the main activity. The tap slag is the most diagnostic type but the notably dense grey slag that forms the majority of the assemblage is also almost certainly from smelting too. The less diagnostic types are more difficult to attribute: the lightweight cinder is probably from smelting, but the denser aerated type (usually with a notable rusty hue) is more problematic. This material could equally have derived from smelting as primary smithing, which undoubtedly was occurring close to the smelting furnaces. Without collection of the fine fraction magnetic material from the samples it is impossible to establish the extent to which any hammerscale was present.

The assemblage from the Late Medieval period is notably smaller, though this may be in part due to the much lower number of features involved. To what extent the slag from deposits of this date is residual High Medieval period or contemporary is always impossible to be certain of. Certainly there is no discernable difference in the form of the slag of either period. However, iron working is likely to have declined within the town during this period and

the current assemblage may be a reliable reflection of this. The reduced population/market following the Black Death and the increase in water-powered bloomeries, which would have required sites with running water, would have both contributed to the reduction of working in Crawley itself. This downturn in Crawley-based production is likely to have become even more notable with the introduction of the water-powered blast furnace toward the end of the 15th century (Cleere and Crossley 1995). Although the bloomery smelting process continued for a while into the 16th century it rapidly waned. It is therefore no surprise to find most activity on excavated sites in Crawley, including the current one, stop between the late 15th and mid 16th centuries.

The small quantity of slag from post-medieval deposits is almost certainly residual medieval smelting waste, though some may well have been deliberately collected for use as hardcore etc. Interestingly the site produced no blast furnace slag. This was frequently distributed from the production sites in the 16th and 17th centuries for re-use as metallurgy and its complete absence here tends to confirm very little activity at this time.

Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

Ditch 18, fill [79] produced the only clay pipe from the site. The group consists of a somewhat worn stem fragment of 1750-1900 date (1g: 1.5mm diameter bore) and two fresher bowl fragments (2g). The latter consist of a partial seam with crude leaf decoration and a heel with O/O mark either side. An 1800–40 date range would fit all pieces.

Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

A relatively small assemblage of brick, tile and burnt clay/daub was recovered during the archaeological works. The material was in mixed condition, with some pieces being small but unabraded, but most showing a notable degree of wear. The assemblage is fully quantified in archive with descriptions of the fabric types.

The assemblage is small and chronologically dispersed. There are a few scraps of sandy medieval roofing tiles in pits 26 (7/114g in fabric T4) and 22 (6/80g also T4) and a little residual T4 and T5 material in ditch 18 (1/60g and 2/24g respectively). To this can be added the burnt clay, which is probably of medieval date, possibly representing daub. The source of this tile is uncertain – it is quite possible it came from one or more ironworks and was incorporated with slag during transportation and dumping of waste materials, or has a more domestic origin.

The remaining assemblage is composed of a sparse scatter of post-medieval brick and tile that appears to span the period and relates to both contemporary features or is intrusive into earlier ones.

Stone by Luke Barber

Nine pieces of stone were recovered during the excavations (764g). By far the largest consists of a 756g fragment of fine ore-grade Wealden clay ironstone (ditch 17, fill [81]), almost certainly from the medieval iron working. The remaining pieces consist of six grey (2g) and two buff (6g) pieces of fine Hastings Beds sandstones (pit 26) with no signs of working.

Glass by Luke Barber

Ditch 18, fill [79] produced four uncorroded shards (114g) from the same dark green cylindrical wine bottle with slightly convex neck, dating to the late 18th- to 19th- century.

The Coin by Luke Barber

Ditch 18, fill [79] produced a very badly degraded copper coin (27mm diameter). Although totally illegible and much corroded the general size and form would suggest a half pence of the mid/late 18th century, such as the first issue of George III (1770-75).

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (14 pieces), weighing a total of 353g was recovered from three features. The bone was classified according to size (medium sized mammal - sheep/goat, deer), and where possible by species. The bone was in moderate condition with little surface erosion or abrasion noted. Identification was confirmed using Schmid (1972). Horse is represented by seven fragments of tooth, two of which were near complete, in medieval pit 26. Cattle are represented by three fragments of teeth in medieval ditch 16, and post-medieval ditch 18 (78) contained a large piece of cattle scapula along with two smaller fragments that were able to be refitted. The bone had been sawn diagonally across the blade leaving visible saw marks. Deposit (79) in the same ditch also contained a small rib fragment from a medium sized mammal.

Other than the saw marks no further taphonomic processes were identified.

Shell by Lizzi Lewins

Four fragments of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) were recovered from ditch 18 (78). The length ranged from 50mm - 65mm, the width from 25mm - 55mm and weighed a total of 31g.

Conclusion

The archaeological excavation at Brighton Road, Crawley, successfully investigated the part of the site where medieval features had been found during an earlier evaluation. A small number of medieval pits were recorded, including one large pit which had been backfilled with iron slag. A medieval boundary ditch was also observed. This feature appears to have been partially recut at some point before being deliberately backfilled with iron slag. Another linear feature, found close to the present Brighton Road, probably dates from the post-medieval period, and is shown on a map dating from 1839. The remainder of features exposed during the excavation were modern in date.

Acknowledgements

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	50		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	Recorded during evaluation.
2	51, 52		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	Recorded during evaluation; same as 24/25.
3	51, 52		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	Recorded during evaluation; same as 24/25.
4	60		Pit / post-hole	Modern	Concrete	Recorded during evaluation.
5	61		Pit / post-hole	Modern	Concrete	Recorded during evaluation.
6	63		Gully	Undated		Recorded during evaluation.
7	62		Drain	Post-medieval	Tile	Recorded during evaluation.
8	68		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
9	69		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
10	70		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
11	71		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
12	72		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
13	73		Post-hole	Modern	Stratigraphy	
14	74, 75	1000	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
15	76, 77	1001	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
16	80	1000	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
17	81	1001	Ditch	Medieval	Stratigraphy	
18	78, 79		Ditch	Post-medieval	Pottery	
19	82		Pit	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	
20	83		Pit	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	
21	84, 87		Pit	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	
22	85		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	
23	86		Pit	Medieval ?	Stratigraphy	
24	88, 89		Pit	Medieval	Stratigraphy	Probably the same as pit 25.
25	90		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	Probably the same as pit 24.
26	91, 92		Pit	Medieval	Pottery	
	53		Wall	Modern	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	54		Wall	Modern	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	55		Wall	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	56		Brick structure	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	57		Wall	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	58		Wall	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	59		Made ground	Modern	Stratigraphy	Recorded during evaluation.
	64		Wall	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	65		Wall	Late post-medieval	Brick	Recorded during evaluation.
	66		Made ground	Modern	Stratigraphy	Recorded during evaluation.
	67		Buried soil	N/A		Recorded during evaluation.

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Pottery by context

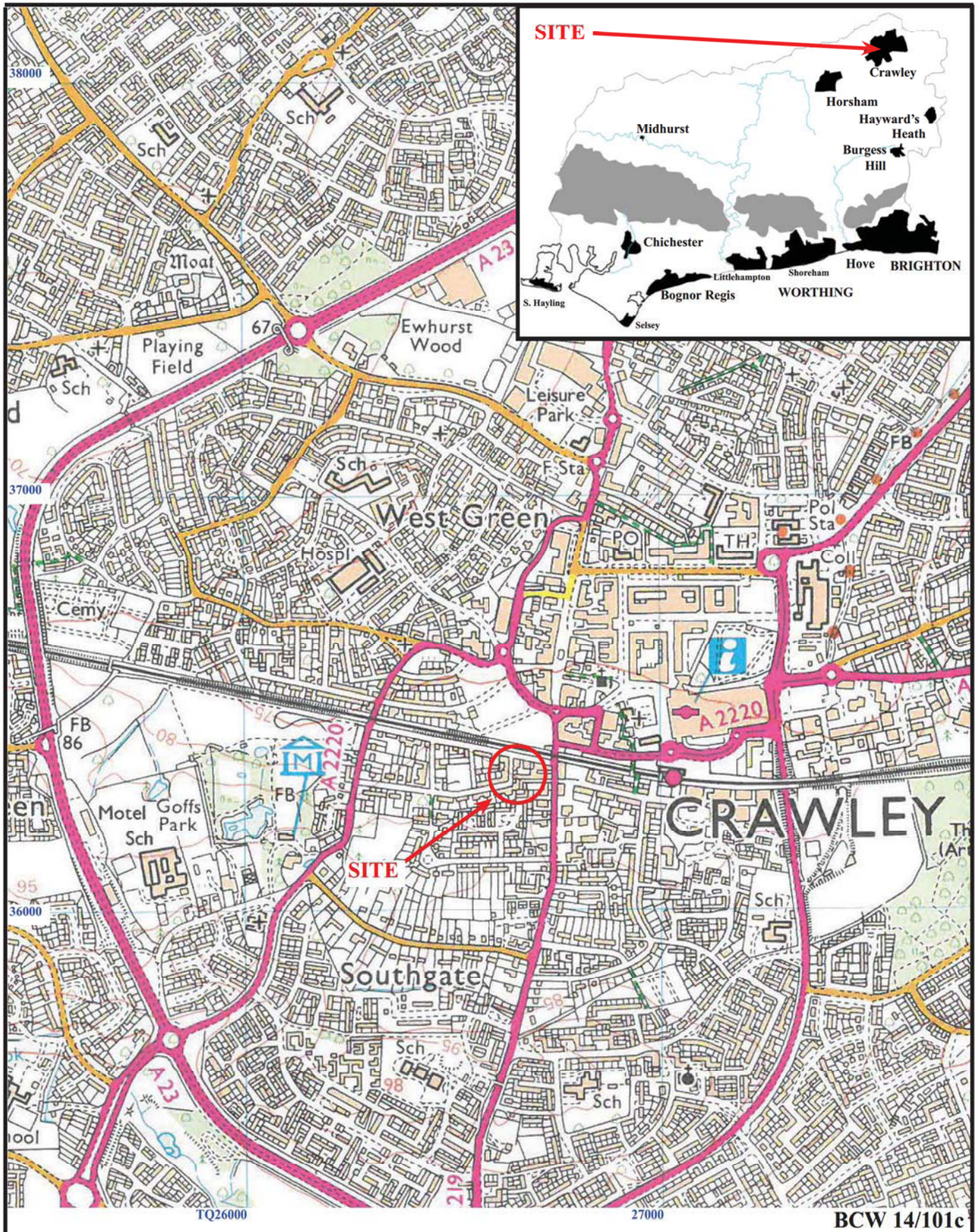
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot Date</i>	<i>County fabric</i>	<i>Crawley Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>N o</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>ENV</i>
1	50	1250-1325	Q/M5	1b	JUG	8	2	
1	50	1250-1325	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	3	58	2
3	51	1300-1400	Q/M10		5 CP	6	92	2
3	51	1300-1400	Q/M13		12 CP	11	72	2
3	51	1300-1400	Q/M5	1b	JUG	2	8	2
3	51	1300-1400	Q/M5	1b	JUG	2	6	1
3	51	1300-1400	Q(f)/M2	4b	JUG	72	2	
3	51	1300-1400	Q(f)/M13	4c	JUG	38	2	
5	61	1800-1840		CREA	DISH	1	34	1
5	61	1800-1840		GRE	BOWL	3	52	1
5	61	1800-1840		PEAR TR	PLATE	3	28	2
7	62	Mixed: 1550-1700	GRE early	EPM	Tripod foot	30	1	
7	62	Mixed: 1550-1700	Q(f)/M24	TG	?	1	12	1
8	68	Mixed	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	1	28	1
10	70	C16th - 17th			Brick			
14	75	1200-1275	Q/M13		12 JUG	5	40	1
14	75	1200-1275	Q/M15		16 CP	1	44	1
14	75	1200-1275	Q/M5	1b	JUG	1	2	1
15	77	1225-1350	Q/M15		16 CP	3	26	1
15	77	1225-1350	Q(f)/M2	4b	JUG	1	12	1
18	78	1700-1800	Q(f)/M14		18 JUG	1	2	1
18	78	1700-1800	Q/M5	1b	JUG	1	8	1
18	78	1700-1800	TGW	EPM		6	1	
18	79	1800-1830		CREA	PLATE	8	1	
18	79	1800-1830		CREA	JUG	1	20	1
18	79	1800-1830		PEAR TR	PLATE	1	10	1
16	80	1200-1300	Q/M15		16 JUG	1	6	1
16	80	1200-1300	Q/M5	1b	JUG	1	26	1
16	80	1200-1300	Q/M8	3b	CP	1	22	1
22	85	1225-1325	Q(f)/M14		18 ?	1	2	1
22	85	1225-1325	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	10	34	3
22	85	1225-1325	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	3	8	1
25	90	1225-1325	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	2	4	1
26	91	1350-1450	Q(f)/M11		2 CP	28	496	3
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M10		5 CP	7	60	3
26	91	1350-1450	Q+s/M3		14 CP	6	82	2
26	91	1350-1450	Q(f)/M19		15 JUG	3	3	2
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M15		16 CP	12	132	7
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M15		16 CP	8	48	0
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M5	1b	JUG	1	1	1
26	91	1350-1450	Q(f)/M9	1d	JUG	19	292	7
26	91	1350-1450	Q(f)/M26	2b	CP	8	128	1
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M8	3b	CP	3	150	2
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M9	3c	JUG	1	34	1
26	91	1350-1450	Q/M12	8a	CP	71	832	2

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of slag by context

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot Date</i>	<i>Slag type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Pit 1	50	1250-1325	2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	12	510	Aerated black/brown, quite dense.
Pit 2/3	51	1300-1400	2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	6	80	
Pit 2/3	51	1300-1400	1a Tap slag	2	116	
Pit 2/3	52		3a Cinder (light aerated)	2	846	Aerated cinder with notable flow on top - prob smelting
Pit 2/3	52		2b Undiagnostic iron (aerated rusty brown)	13	3214	Aerated brown/black
Pit 2/3	52		1a Tap slag	2	20	Drips of dense tap slag
Pit 2/3	52		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	1	2142	Aerated brown, dense
Pit 2/3	52		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	1	3274	as above but with distinct flow
Layer	59		2b Undiagnostic iron (aerated rusty brown)	4	80	Aerated brown
PH 10	70	C16th - 17th	3a Cinder (light aerated)	6	56	Bubbled
PH 11	71		1a Tap slag	2	226	Worn. Dense lava flow
PH 11	71		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	5	40	Prob smelting
PH 12	72		1a Tap slag	3	250	Worn. Dense lava flow
PH 12	72		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	5	360	Prob smelting
PH 13	73		1a Tap slag	1	6	Worn. Dense lava flow
PH 13	73		3a Cinder (light aerated)	2	34	Aerated
PH 13	73		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	3	88	Quite dense
Ditch 14	75		4a Hearth lining	2	32	Silty orange clay with cinder
Ditch 14	75		1a Tap slag	2	20	
Ditch 14	75		1a Tap slag	5	134	Worn. Dense lava flow
Ditch 14	75		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	12	66	
Ditch 15	77	1225-1350	1a Tap slag	1	20	Worn runnel
Ditch 18	78	1700-1800	1a Tap slag	1	372	Slight wear
Ditch 18	78	1700-1800	2b Undiagnostic iron (aerated rusty brown)	2	886	grey, aerated with weathered brown/rusty ext. Could be smithing
Ditch 18	79	1800-1830	1a Tap slag	14	1492	Most worn
Ditch 18	79	1800-1830	2b Undiagnostic iron (aerated rusty brown)	4	772	grey, aerated with weathered brown/rusty ext. Could be smithing
Ditch 18	79	1800-1830	2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	23	1354	Prob smelting
Ditch 17	81		1a Tap slag	18	1138	
Ditch 17	81		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	29	5522	Quite dense but aerated. Smelting
Ditch 17	81		3a Cinder (light aerated)	637	2522	Light, aerated
Pit 19	82		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	5	376	
Pit 19	82		5a Iron concretion	46	126	
Pit 20	83		1a Tap slag	5	320	
Pit 20	83		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	818	1890	includes some cinder too
Pit 24	88		1a Tap slag	62	986	Many runnels
Pit 24	88		2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	1464	3124	includes some cinder too
Pit 25	90	1225-1325	1a Tap slag	14	436	
Pit 25	90	1225-1325	2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	438	3940	
Pit 25	90	1225-1325	3a Cinder (light aerated)	7	352	
Pit 26	91	1350-1450	1a Tap slag	19	224	worn
Pit 26	91	1350-1450	2a Undiagnostic iron (aerated grey but dense)	254	468	includes some cinder too
Pit 26	91	1350-1450	2b Undiagnostic iron (aerated rusty brown)	1	58	

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Animal Bone

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No. Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Medium Mammal</i>	<i>Notes</i>
16	80	3	9	-	3	-	
18	78	3	303	-	3	-	Saw marks
18	79	1	1	-	-	1	
26	91	7	40	7	-	-	
Total		14	353				



**5-7 Brighton Road, Crawley,
West Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Crawley and West Sussex.

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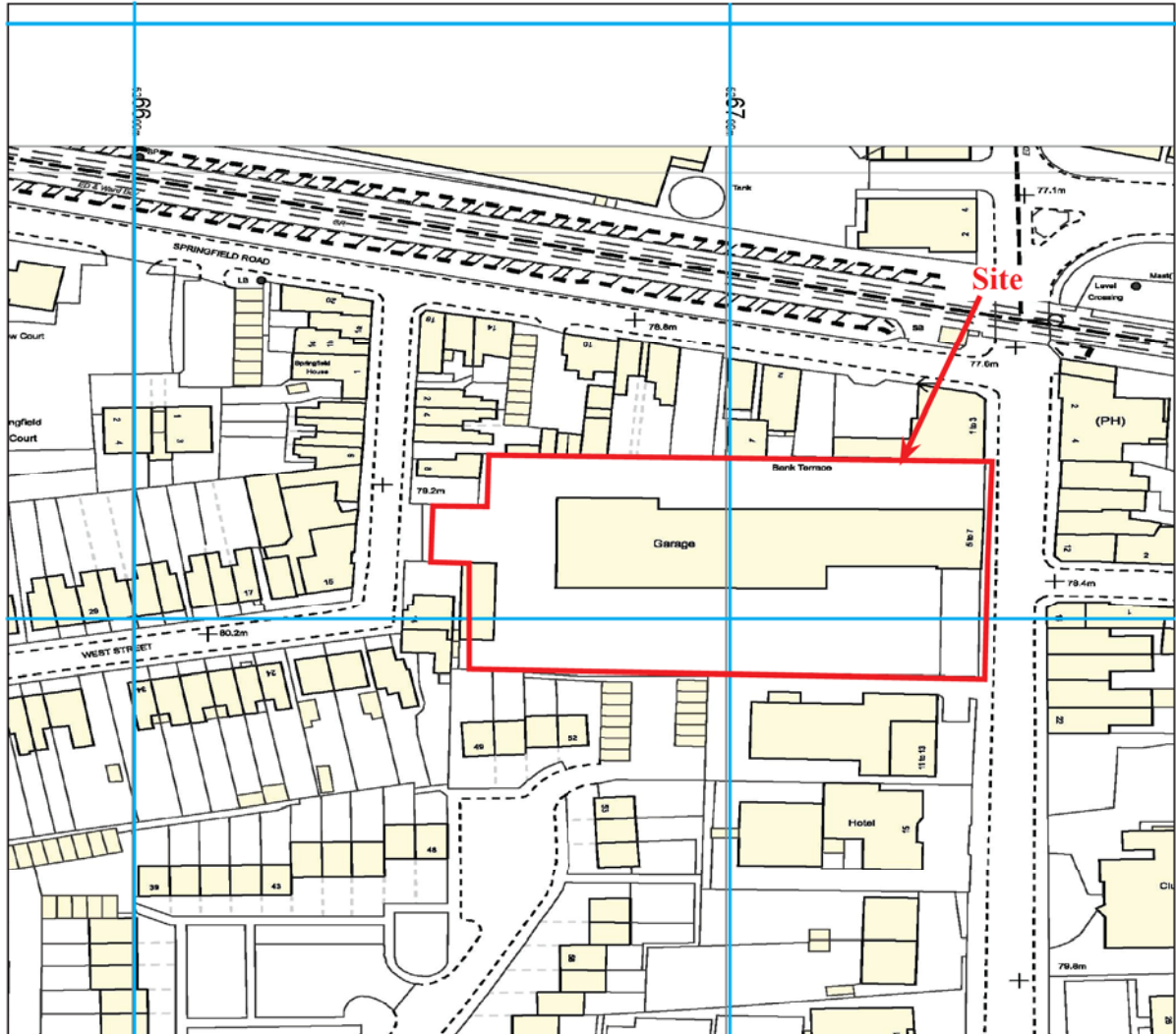
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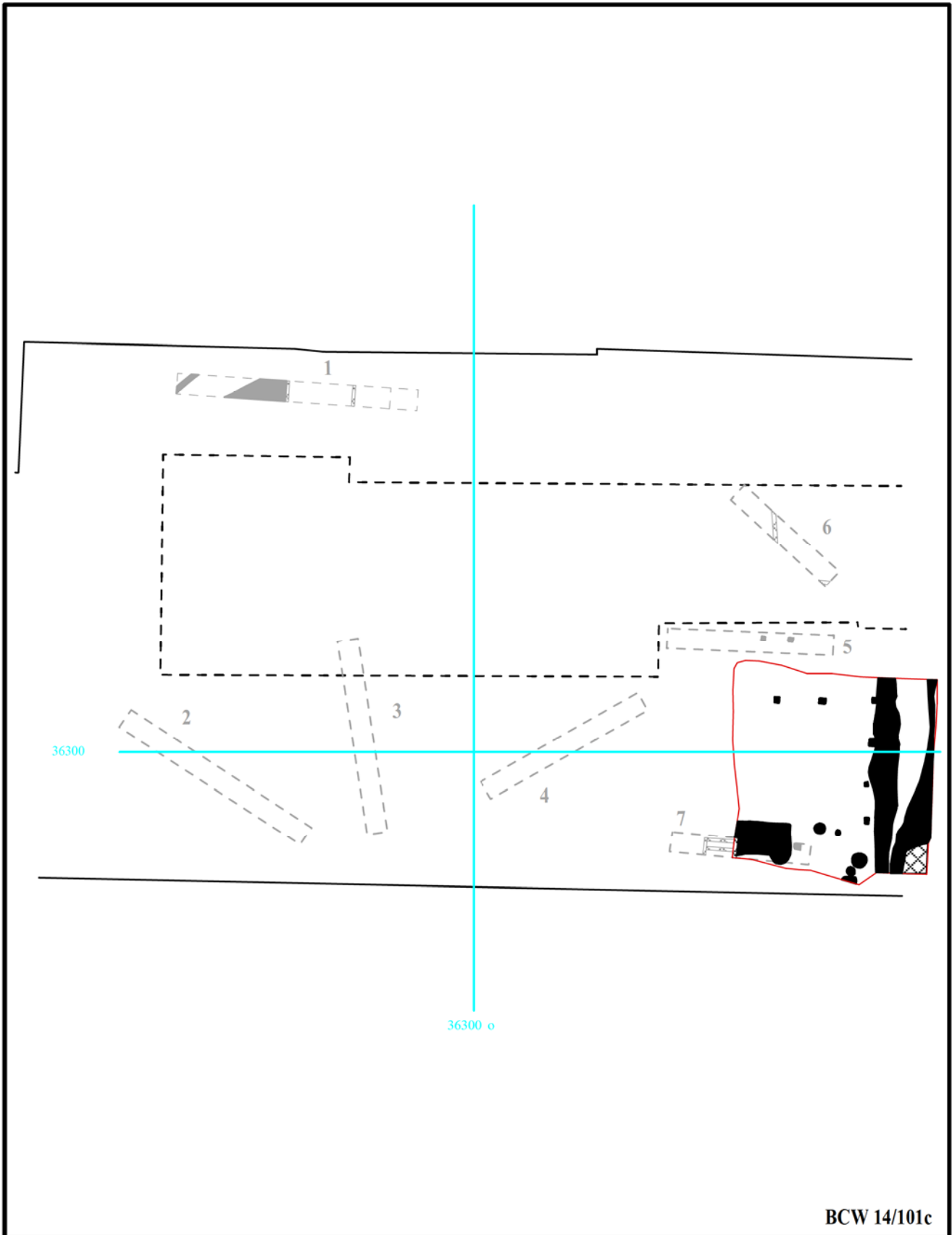


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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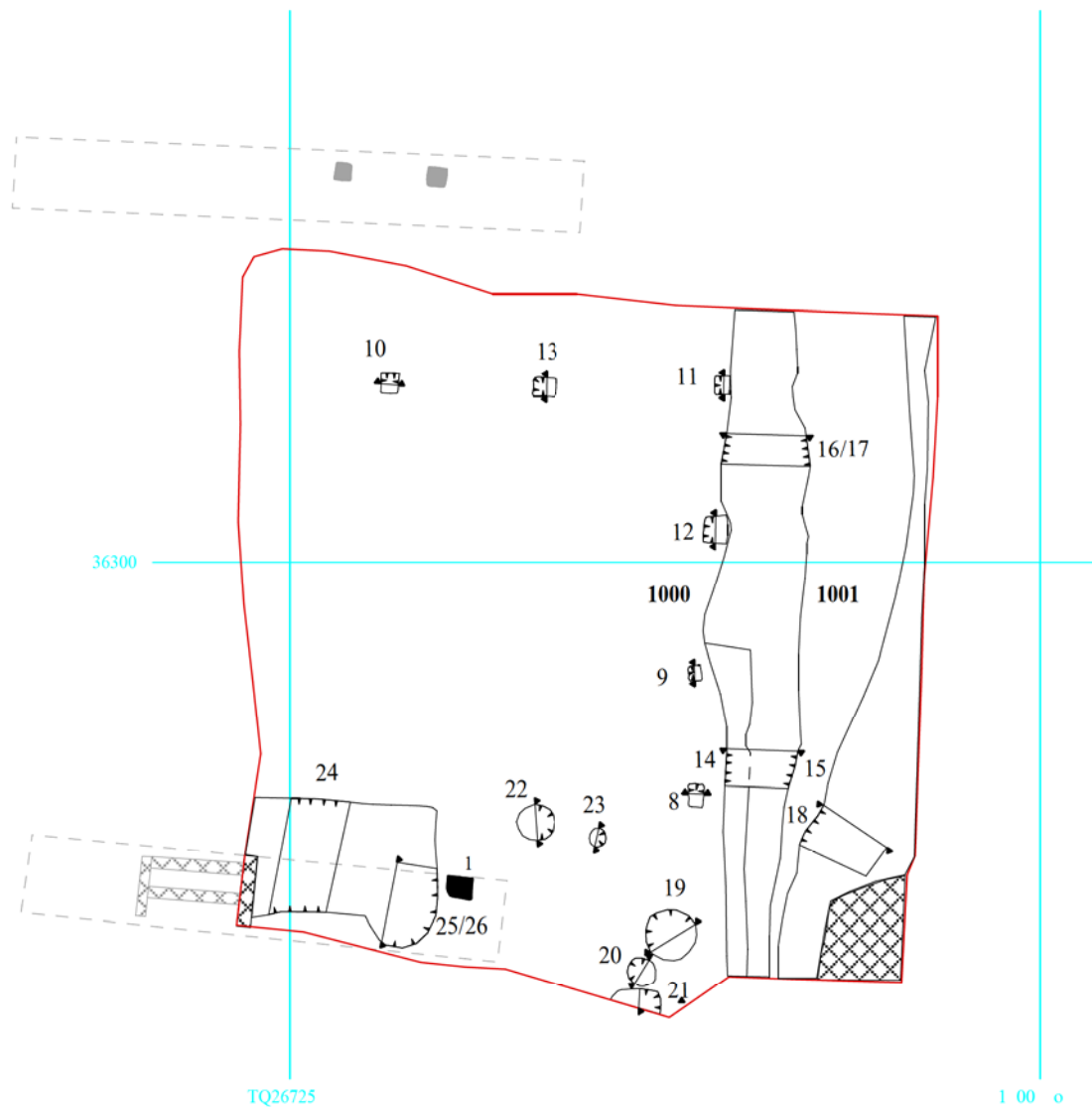


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Figure 3. Plan showing excavation area, evaluation trenches, and archaeological features.



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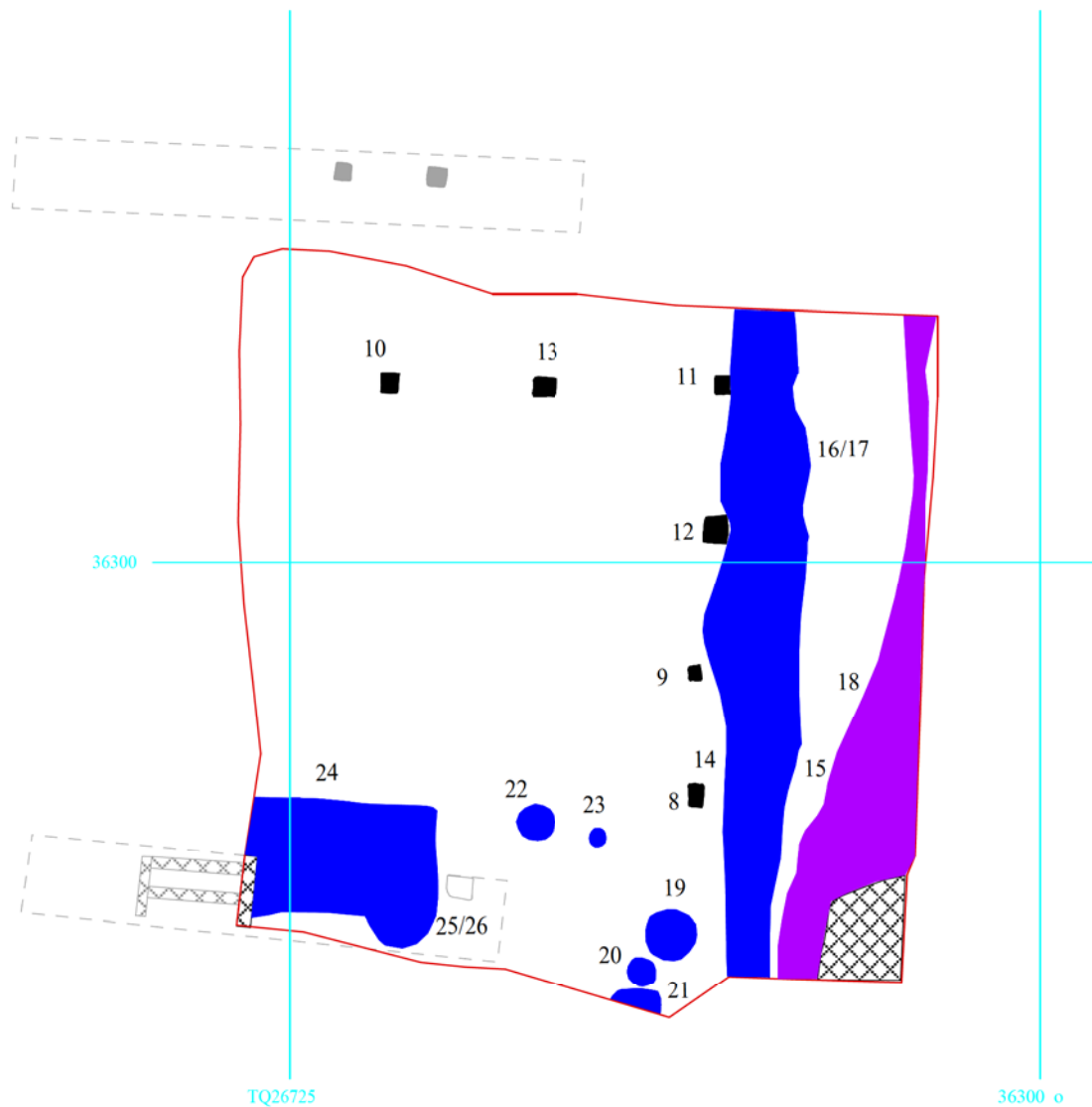


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Figure 4. Detailed plan of excavation area, showing archaeological features.



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Medieval
 Post-medieval
 Modern

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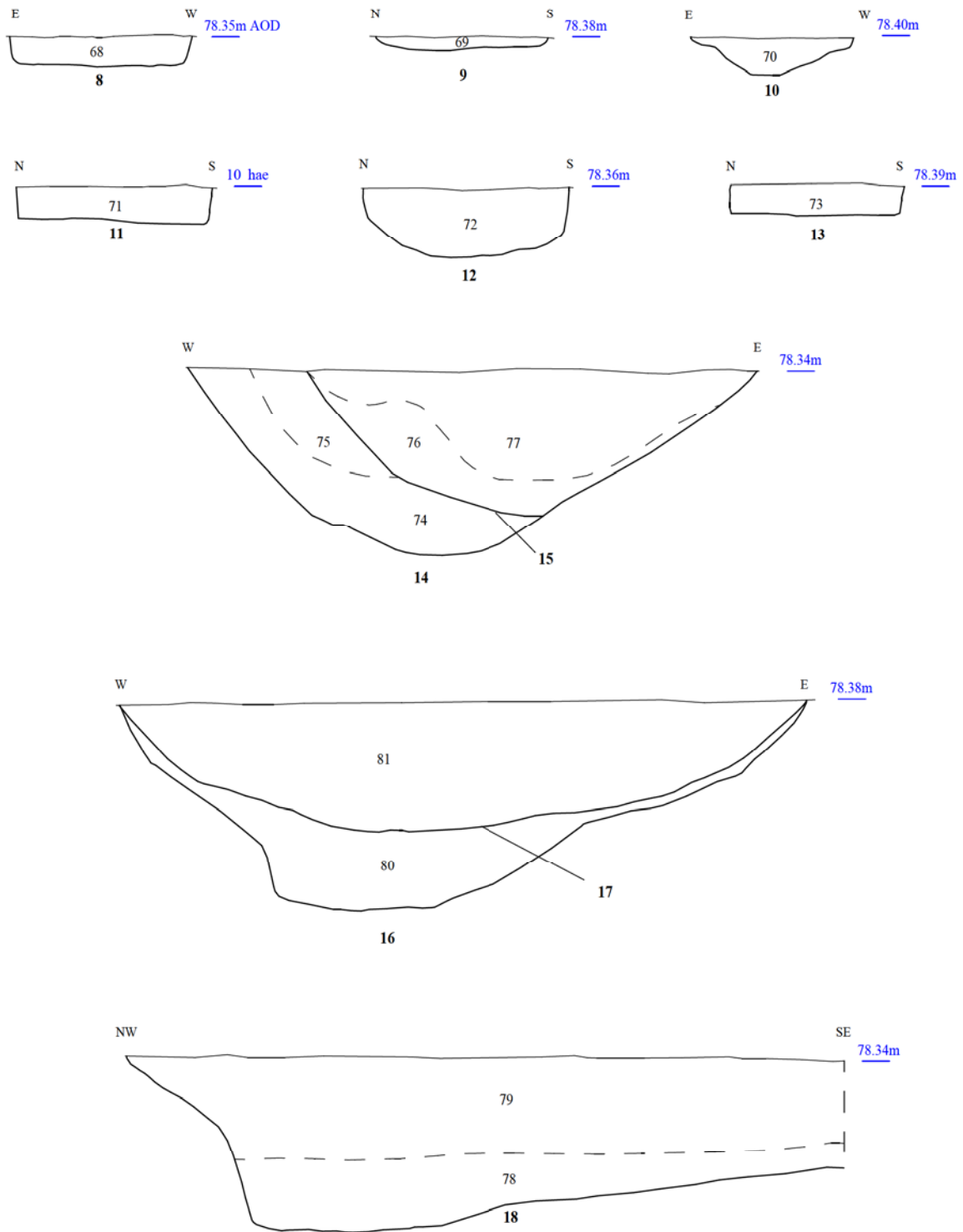


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Figure 5. Phased plan of archaeological features.



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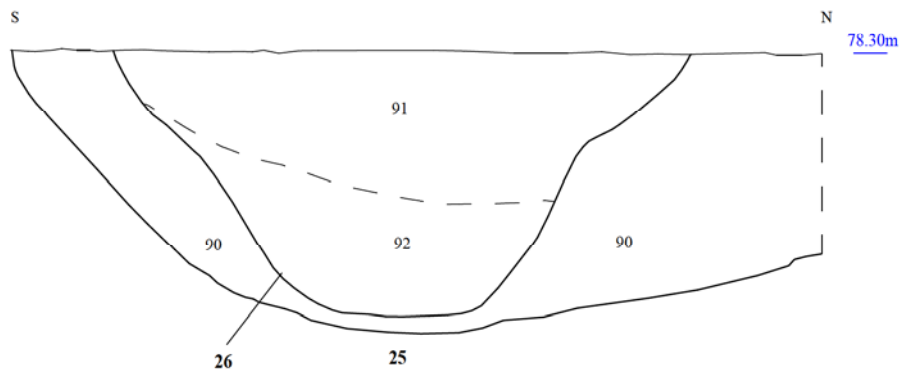
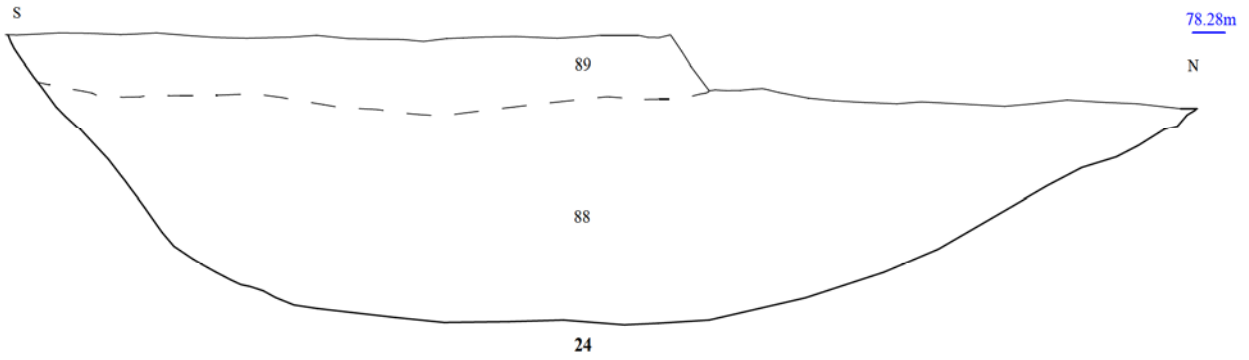
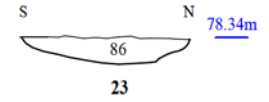
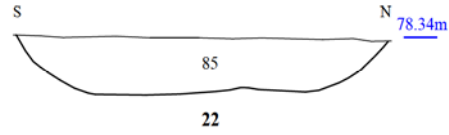
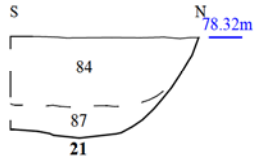
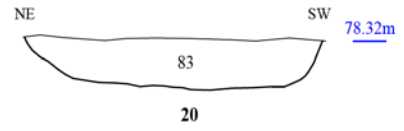
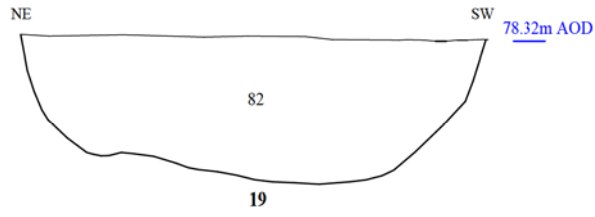
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Figure 6. Sections



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Figure 7. Sections



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Plate 1: Eastern side of site, looking south.



Plate 2. Looking south-west from north-eastern corner of excavated area.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3:. Ditches 14 and 15, looking north;
Scales 1m, 0.5m.



Plate 4. Pit 19, looking south-east; Scales 1m, 0.5m.



Plate 5. Pit 20, looking south-east; Scales 0.5m, 0.1m.



Plate 6. Ditch 18, looking north-east;
Scales 1m, 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 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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