

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

**Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B),
Selsey, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis

Site Code: PFS16/34

(SZ 8624 9422)

**Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B), Selsey,
West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Landlink Estates Ltd**

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
PFS 16/34

August 2016

Summary

Site name: Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B), Selsey, West Sussex

Grid reference: SZ 8624 9422

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th -20th July 2016

Planning reference: SY/14/02186/OUTEIA

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: PFS 16/34

Area of site: c. 2.8 ha examined within site of 8.9 ha

Summary of results: The Archaeological evaluation to the south of Park Farm, Selsey successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of Site A, and those parts of Site B where enabling works for Site A are required. Surprisingly, given the density of the archaeological features found nearby, very little was found during the evaluation. The only archaeological features recorded were both located in the south-east corner of the site, and one of these (ditch 2) was clearly modern in origin. The other feature (gully 1) contained fragments of burnt flint, but unfortunately no closely datable finds.

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

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Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B), Selsey, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis

Report 16/34

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the south of Park Farm, Selsey, West Sussex (SZ 8624 9422) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Keely Wakeling of Landlink Estates Ltd, Ham Farm, Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8EH.

Planning permission (SY/14/02186/OUTEIA) has been gained from Chichester District Council for the development of an area on the northern outskirts of Selsey, which currently consists of two arable fields. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which requires a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of groundworks. This document covers the trial trench evaluation in the north-west part of the site, centred on SZ 8612 9435, which has full planning permission (hereafter referred to as Site A), along with those parts of Site B which will be affected by the enabling works associated with Site A. The redevelopment of Site B currently has outline planning permission, and the remainder of this area will be subject to a separate programme of archaeological work in due course.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes-Mateos, Teresa Vieira, Sean Wallis and Jim Webster between 18th and 20th July 2016, and the site code is PFS 16/34. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Chichester Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern outskirts of the historic core of Selsey, and the overall development is centred on NGR SZ 8624 9422 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of two arable fields, to the south of Park Farm. The site is largely bounded to the west and south by commercial premises and residential housing, and to the north and east by farmland, with the B2145 forming the site's north-western boundary. The area is reasonably flat, although there is a gentle slope down towards the south-east corner of the site. As a result, the height above Ordnance

Datum varies between approximately 4m and 5m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Acolian Deposits (Brickearth) (BGS 1996), and this was confirmed during the evaluation. The geology recorded in the trenches largely consisted of mid orange brown sandy silty clay (Brickearth), although some small patches of clay and gravel were also recorded.

Archaeological background

The site is located on the West Sussex coastal plain, which is considered to be rich in archaeological deposits of all periods (Rudling 2003). The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a recent desk-based assessment (Hall and Pine 2014). In summary, there was a high potential for archaeological remains from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods to have survived on the site, as significant evidence of settlement activity from these periods had been found immediately to the west and south-west of the site (Hammond and Preston 2005). The potential for earlier (Mesolithic and Neolithic) and later (Roman, Saxon and medieval) features being present on the site was regarded as being lower (Hall and Pine 2014).

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 proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present;
- to determine whether any evidence of Saxon occupation is present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods are present; and
- to determine how archaeological features on the site may relate to those previously recorded to the south-west.

Twenty-eight trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length and between 1.80m and 2.00m in width, which represents a *c.* 5% sample of the Site A development area. The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the redevelopment. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be investigated under the conditions relating to full excavation.

Results

The twenty-eight trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although some had to be moved slightly due to site logistics (Fig. 3). All the trenches were 1.80m wide, and measured between 22.30m and 27.50m in length, and between 0.45m and 0.74m in depth. The stratigraphy in all trenches consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying the natural brickearth geology. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The two trenches where possible archaeological features were investigated are described below. Appendix 2 summarizes the excavated features.

Trench 23 (Figs. 4 and 5; Pls. 6 and 8)

Trench 23 was orientated approximately SSW-NNE, and was 25.00m long and up to 0.54m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.22m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m of subsoil (51). Ditch 2 was investigated between 16.40m and 18.00m from the south end of the trench, and was seen to be 1.40m wide and 0.40m deep. The feature was clearly modern in date as pieces of plastic (not retained) were recovered from its fill of bluish grey clay (53).

Trench 25 (Figs. 4 and 5; Pls. 6 and 7)

This trench was 25.00m long and up to 0.54m deep, and was orientated approximately SSE-NNW. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m of subsoil (51). Gully 1 was recorded between 6.60m and 8.40m, and was investigated by hand. The feature was seen to be around 0.40m wide and 0.14m deep, with a single fill of bluish grey clay (52). The only finds from this deposit consisted of burnt flint fragments.

Finds

Burnt Flint by Sean Wallis

Six small fragments of burnt flint, weighing 61g, were recovered from the fill of gully 1 (52) in Trench 25. None of the fragments had been worked.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation to the south of Park Farm, Selsey successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of Site A, and those parts of Site B where enabling works for Site A are required. Rather surprisingly, given the density of the archaeological features found nearby, very little was found during the evaluation. The only features recorded were both located in the south-east corner of the site, and one of these (ditch 2) was clearly modern in origin. The other feature (gully 1) contained fragments of burnt flint, but unfortunately no closely datable finds.

References

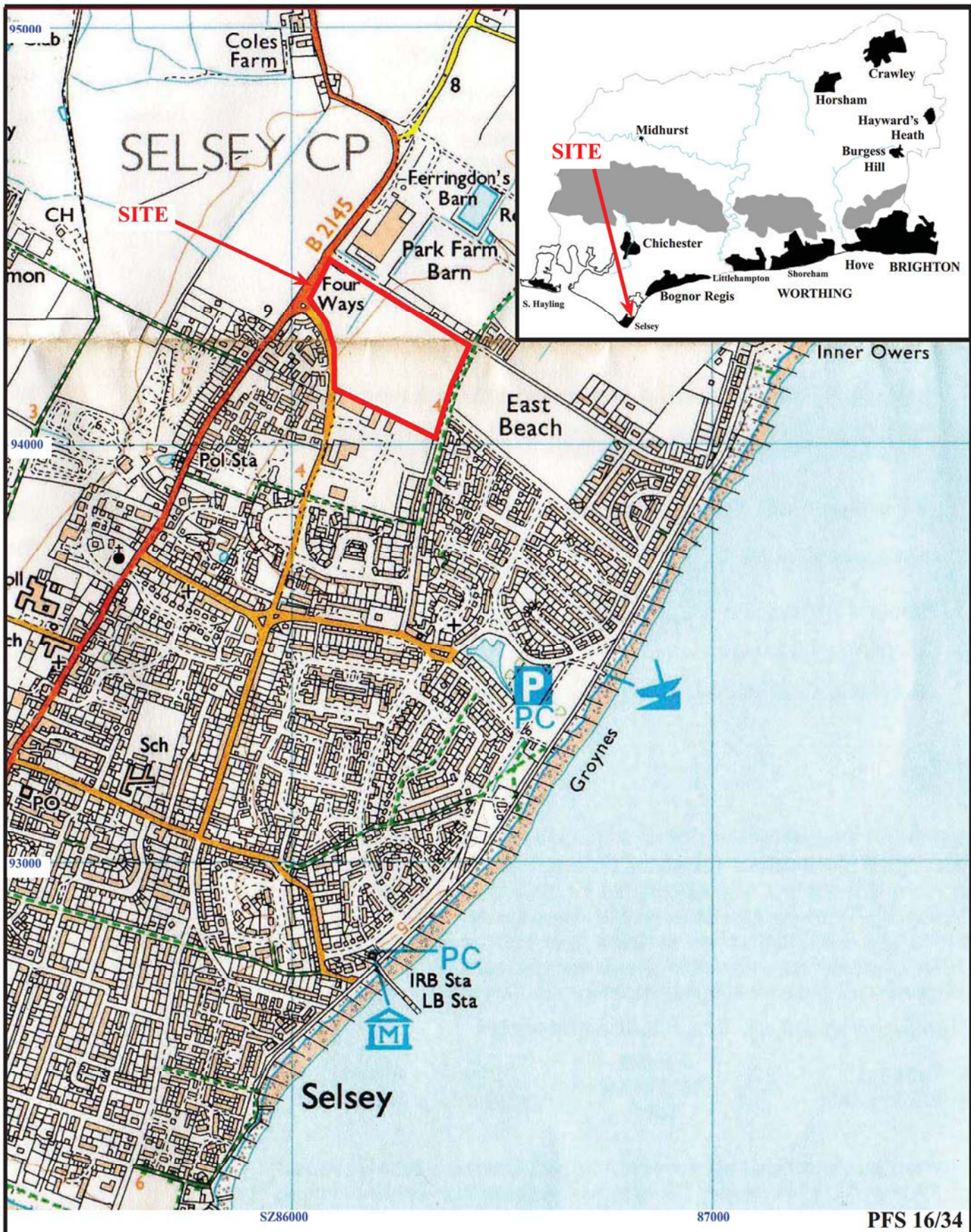
- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 317/332, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hall, N and Pine, C A, 2014, 'An archaeological desk-based assessment for proposed development of land at Park Farm, Selsey, West Sussex', Development Archaeology Services Ltd unpublished report, Chichester
- Hammond, S and Preston, S, 2005, 'Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation at Chichester Road, Selsey, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **143**, 71–82
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.20	1.80	0.55	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.45m subsoil (51); 0.45-0.55m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
2	24.60	1.80	0.65	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.46m subsoil (51); 0.46-0.65m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
3	22.30	1.80	0.70	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.51m subsoil (51); 0.51-0.70m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
4	26.10	1.80	0.68	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.68m+ natural geology (Brickearth). [Pl. 1]
5	24.50	1.80	0.71	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.71m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
6	25.80	1.80	0.50	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.50m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
7	26.65	1.80	0.50	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.50m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
8	25.80	1.80	0.48	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.48m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
9	25.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.55m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
10	25.10	1.80	0.55	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.55m+ natural geology (Brickearth). [Pl. 2]
11	24.50	1.80	0.52	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50-0.52m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
12	25.40	1.80	0.45	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.43m subsoil (51); 0.43-0.45m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
13	25.00	1.80	0.55	0-0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38-0.55m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
14	25.30	1.80	0.56	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50-0.56m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
15	25.50	1.80	0.60	0-0.23m topsoil (50); 0.23-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.60m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
16	25.40	1.80	0.55	0-0.16m topsoil (50); 0.16-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.55m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
17	26.60	1.80	0.67	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.56m subsoil (51); 0.56-0.67m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
18	26.00	1.80	0.74	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.74m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
19	27.50	1.80	0.75	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60-0.75m+ natural geology (Brickearth). [Pl. 3]
20	25.80	1.80	0.54	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.43m subsoil (51); 0.43-0.54m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
21	25.00	1.80	0.56	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.46m subsoil (51); 0.46-0.56m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
22	26.00	1.80	0.53	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.43m subsoil (51); 0.43-0.53m+ natural geology (Brickearth). [Pl. 4]
23	25.00	1.80	0.57	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.57m+ natural geology (Brickearth). Ditch 2. [Pls 5 and 8]
24	24.70	1.80	0.48	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.48m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
25	25.00	1.80	0.54	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.46m subsoil (51); 0.46-0.54m+ natural geology (Brickearth). Gully 1. [Pls 6 and 7]
26	27.50	1.80	0.68	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50-0.68m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
27	26.70	1.80	0.66	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.49m subsoil (51); 0.49-0.66m+ natural geology (Brickearth).
28	25.00	1.80	0.56	0-0.23m topsoil (50); 0.23-0.47m subsoil (51); 0.47-0.56m+ natural geology (Brickearth).

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

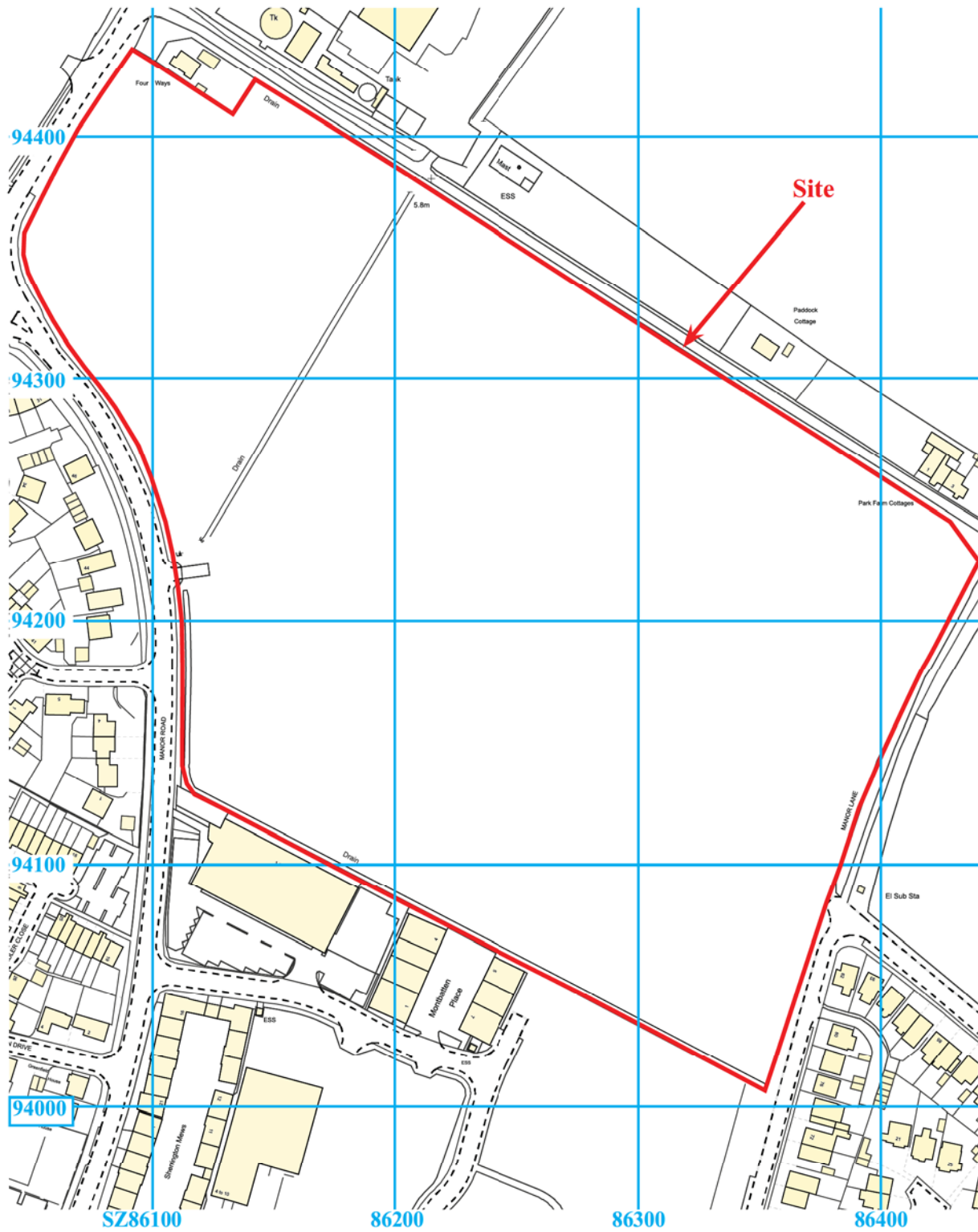
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
25	1	52	Gully	Undated	
23	2	53	Ditch	Modern	Plastic.



**Park Farm (Site A and part of Site B), Selsey,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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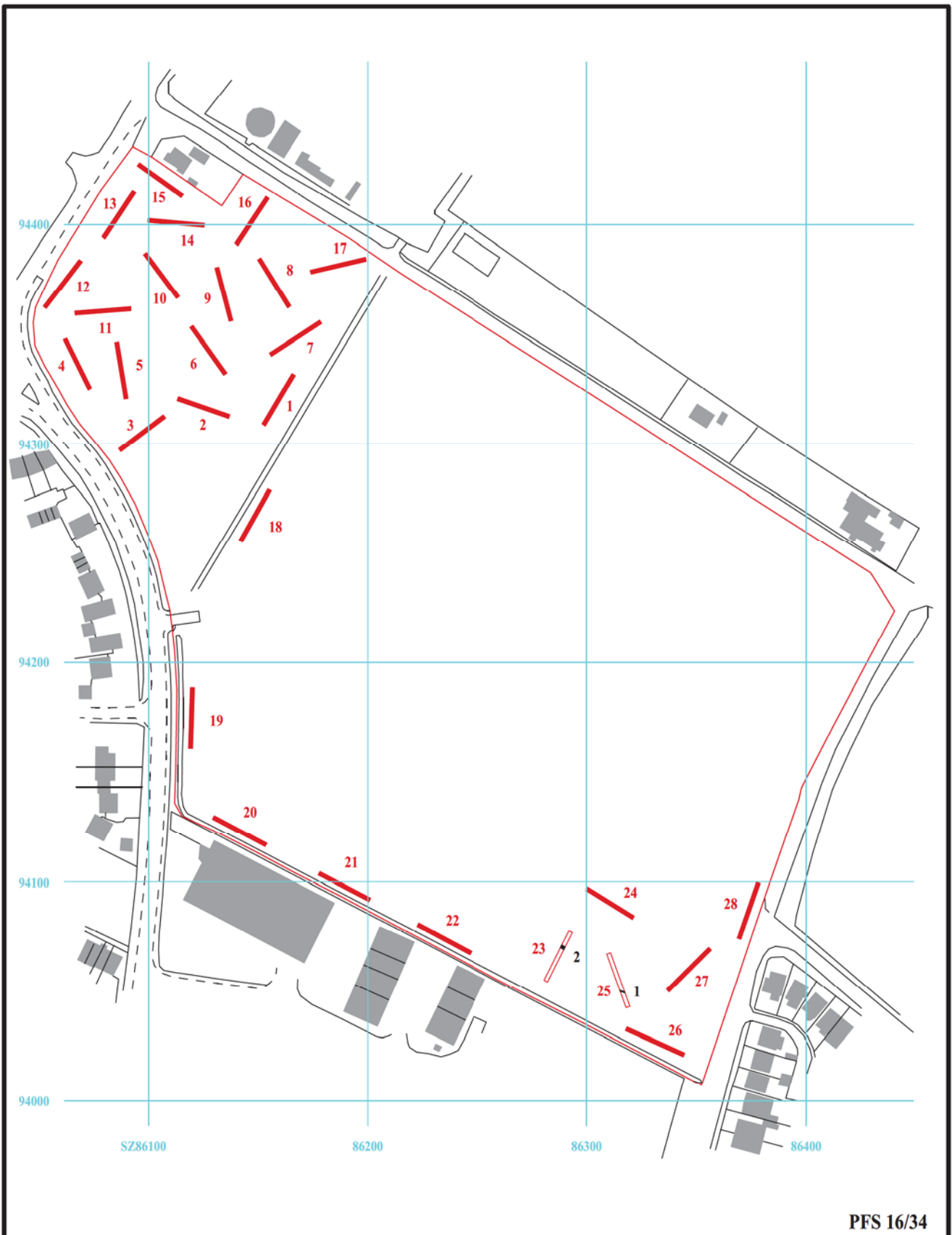


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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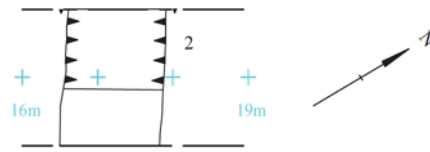
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Figure 3. Trench Locations

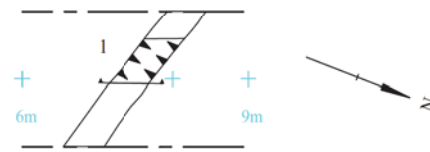


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Trench 23



Trench 25



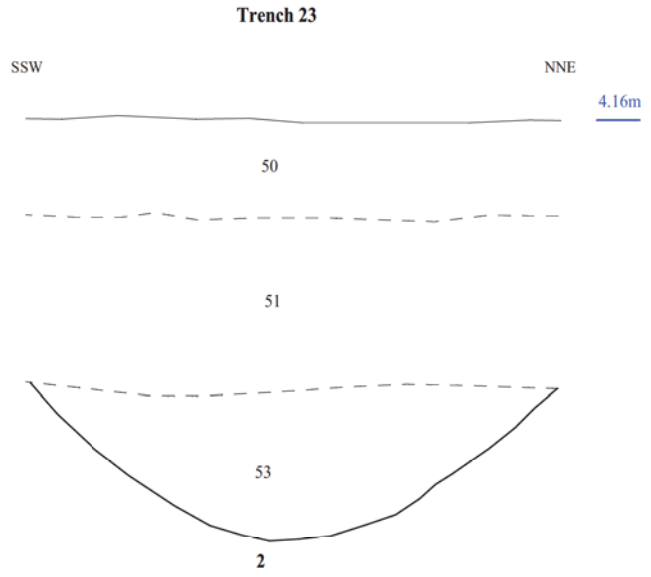
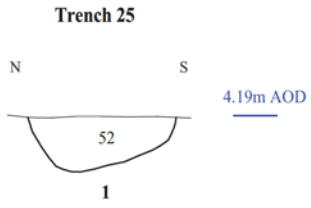
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Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 23 and 25.



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Figure 5. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 4, looking North. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 10, looking North. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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**Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B), Selsey,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 19, looking North. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 22, looking East. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 23, looking South East. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 25, looking North. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Park Farm (Site A, part of Site B), Selsey,
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Plates 5 - 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 25, gully 1, looking East. Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.



Plate 8. Trench 23, ditch 2, looking North West. Scale: 0.50m.

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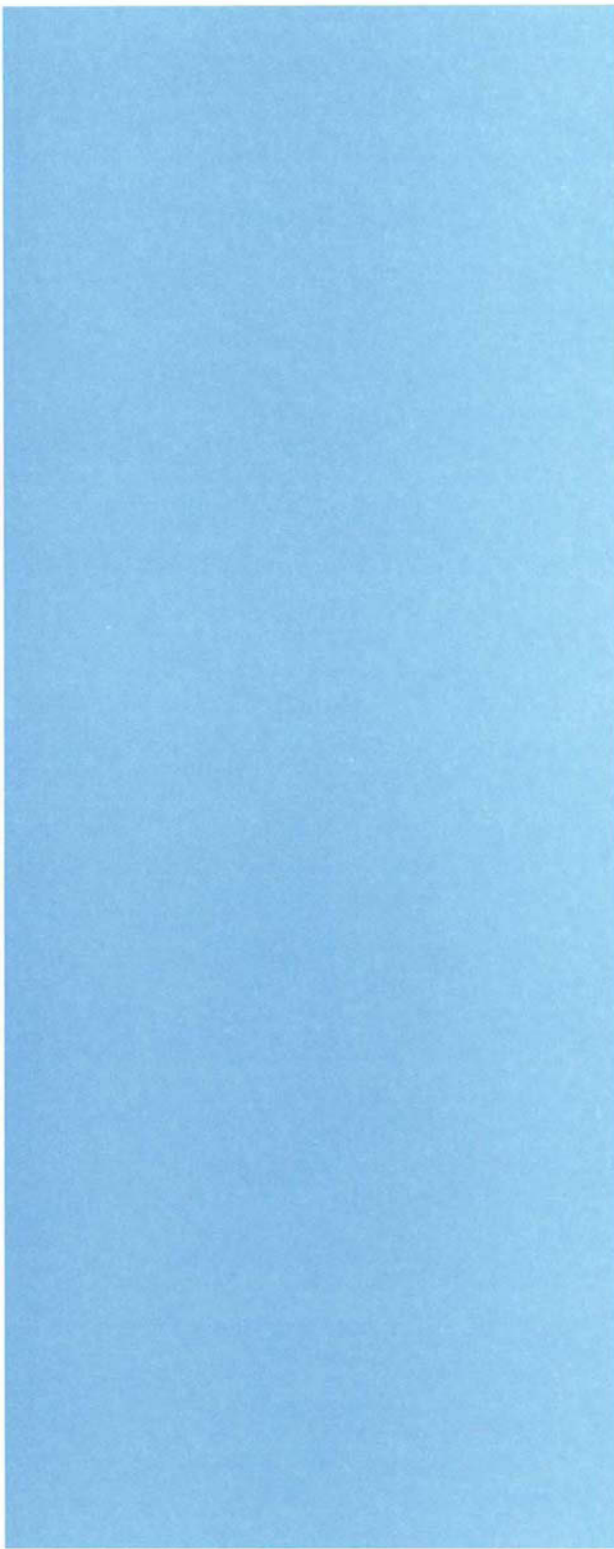
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Plates 7 - 8.**

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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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