# Aldwick End, 262 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for CgMs Consulting**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: HRB08/83

**July 2008**

## Summary

**Site name:** Aldwick End, 262 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** SZ 9202 9933

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 21st-22nd July 2008

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** HRB08/83

**Area of site:** 0.502ha

**Summary of results:** No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded. A small collection of unstratified finds of Iron Age, Middle Saxon and medieval pottery and two Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flints were recorded. The site appears to have little or no archaeological potential.

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




| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Preston✓ 24.07.08 |
|---|---|




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# Aldwick End, 262 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex
# An Archaeological Evaluation

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**Report 08/83**

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Aldwick End, 262 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (SZ 9202 9933) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2AT on behalf of their client, McCarthy and Stone.

Planning permission is to be sought from Arun District Council to redevelop the site for residential use. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation has been requested, which will provide information on the archaeological potential of the site and inform the planning process.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and Arun District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting and approved by Mr Mark Taylor of West Sussex County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Stuart Patterson on 21st-22nd July 2008 and the site code is HRB08/83. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chichester Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site currently consists of a large detached house and small green house set within a large area of garden with several mature trees. (Fig. 2). It is of trapezoidal plan and is located on the north-west side of Hawthorn Road and the east side of West Meads Drive. It is *c.* 0.5ha in extent. The ground is level and lies at a height of approximately 7m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology was an orange brown silty clay (brickearth) with occasional flint pebbles (BGS 1996).

## Archaeological background

The archaeological background to the project has been described in detail in the preceding desk-based assessment carried out for the project (Meager 2008). In summary the site lies on the Sussex coastal plain which

is generally regarded as being archaeologically rich for most periods (Rudling 2003). There are a range of sites and finds from the environs of the site. Mesolithic flintwork is recorded to the north-east in two locations and stray finds of Neolithic axes (one a shafthole tool) also to the north-east. The later Bronze Age is well represented with two hoards of bronze metalwork from locations to the north and east of the site and occupation deposits also to the north. Similarly for the Iron Age and Roman periods, occupation deposits are well represented with stray coin finds, occupation and landscape deposits recorded especially from North Bersted to the north of the site.

By way of contrast, Saxon finds and deposits are not represented and with a single excavated medieval occupation site to the north.

## 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 are:

To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric or otherwise of prehistoric, or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation;

To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric or otherwise of prehistoric, or later activity/occupation;

Evaluate the likely impact of past land use;

Provide sufficient information to construct and archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to excavate 4 trenches, three 20m in length and one at 30m in length and all 1.6m wide. Topsoil, turf and any other overburden were to be removed by a JCB-type machine under constant archaeological supervision, to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. 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 were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored.

## Results

Five trenches were eventually excavated ranging in length from 3.9m to 35.75m in the positions shown in Figure 3. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)
Trench 1 was aligned north west - south east and measured 20.65m in length, 1.6m wide and was 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf and topsoil over 0.15m of brown sandy silt subsoil above an orange/brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles which was the natural geology (brickearth) (Fig. 4). A single land drain was the only cut feature observed. No archaeological finds or deposits were revealed.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)
Trench 2 was aligned north east - south west and measured 17.3m in length, 1.6m wide and 0.59m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of turf and topsoil over 0.16m of brown sandy silt subsoil above an orange/brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (natural geology). A modern geotechnical test pit was revealed in this trench No archaeological deposits were revealed but a single prehistoric struck flint was recovered.

Trench 3 (Pl. 3)
Trench 3 was aligned north east - south west and measured 20.8m in length, 1.2m wide and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of turf and topsoil over 0.14m of brown sandy silt subsoil above an orange/brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (natural geology). A single land drain was the only cut feature observed. No archaeological deposits were revealed but a single prehistoric struck flint, 3 sherds of late Iron Age pottery, one sherd of middle Saxon pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery were recovered.

Trench 4 (Pl. 4)
Trench 4 was aligned north west - south east and measured 35.75m in length, 1.6m wide and was 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of turf and topsoil over 0.12m of brown sandy silt subsoil above an orange/brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (natural geology). A single land drain was the only cut feature observed. No archaeological finds or deposits were revealed.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned north west - south east and measured 3.89m in length, 1.6m wide and was 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of turf and topsoil over 0.1m of brown sandy silt subsoil above an orange/brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (natural geology). No archaeological finds or deposits were revealed.

## Finds

### *Pottery* by Malcolm Lyne

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during the evaluation comprising 5 sherds. These five sherds are probably from field marling and suggest that the area was under cultivation during the Late Iron Age, Middle Saxon and Medieval periods.

Fabrics

*Iron Age*

IA.1. Very-fine-sanded pinkish-brown fabric fired black, with profuse up-to 0.30mm. multi-coloured quartz filler and sparse up-to 1.00mm crushed calcined-flint.

*Middle Saxon*

MS.1. Rough black fabric with coarse up-to 1.50mm alluvial grit filler, including flint and ironstone.

*Medieval*

M1. Very-fine grey fabric fired pink-orange with splashed apple-green glaze. Profuse up-to 0.10mm multi-coloured quartz filler and soft ferrous inclusions

### *Struck Flint by Steve Ford*

A small collection comprising just 2 struck flints was recovered during the course of the evaluation. These comprise a flake from Trench 3 and a small nodule (bashed lump) with two flake removals from Trench 2. None of the items are closely datable in themselves and could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

## Conclusion

The trenching revealed no deposits of archaeological interest. A few Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flints, Iron Age, Saxon and medieval pottery point to some activity in the area but which need not reflect any more than

casual loss or material incorporated into manure subsequently spread onto farmland. The site can be considered to have little or no archaeological potential.

## References


BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 317/332, Drift and Solid Edition, Keyworth

Meager, R, 2006, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Aldwick End, 262 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, CgMs Consulting, London

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

Rudling, D (ed), 2003, *The archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Brighton

**APPENDIX 1:** Trench details
0m at south or west

| *Trench* | *Length (m)* | *Breadth (m)* | *Depth (m)* | *Comment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20.65 | 1.6 | 0.45 | 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.35m+ orange brown sandy silt with some pebbles natural geology (brickearth). Land drain **[Plate 1]** |
| 2 | 17.30 | 1.6 | 0.59 | 0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.33m brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.33m+ orange brown sandy silt with some pebbles natural geology. Engineers test pit **[Plate 2]** |
| 3 | 20.80 | 162 | 0.48 | 0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.27m brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.27m+ orange brown sandy silt with some pebbles natural geology. Land drain **[Plate 3]** |
| 4 | 35.75 | 1.6 | 0.43 | 0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.30m brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.30m+ orange brown sandy silt with some pebbles natural geology. Land drain **[Plate 4]** |
| 5 | 3.90 | 1.6 | 0.46 | 0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.28m brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.28m+ orange brown sandy silt with some pebbles natural geology |

**APPENDIX 2:** Pottery catalogue

| *Context* | *Fabric* | *Form* | *Date-range* | *No sherds* | *Wt (g)* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tr 3 | IA1 | Closed | c.100BC-0 | 3 | 7 | |
| 0.5m | MS1 | Cooking-pot | c.AD.650-850 | 1 | 1 | |
| | M1 | Rod handle from jug | c.AD.1300-1450 | 1 | 47 | Abraded |
| | | | | 5 | 55g | |


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Figure 1. Location of site within Bognor Regis and West Sussex.



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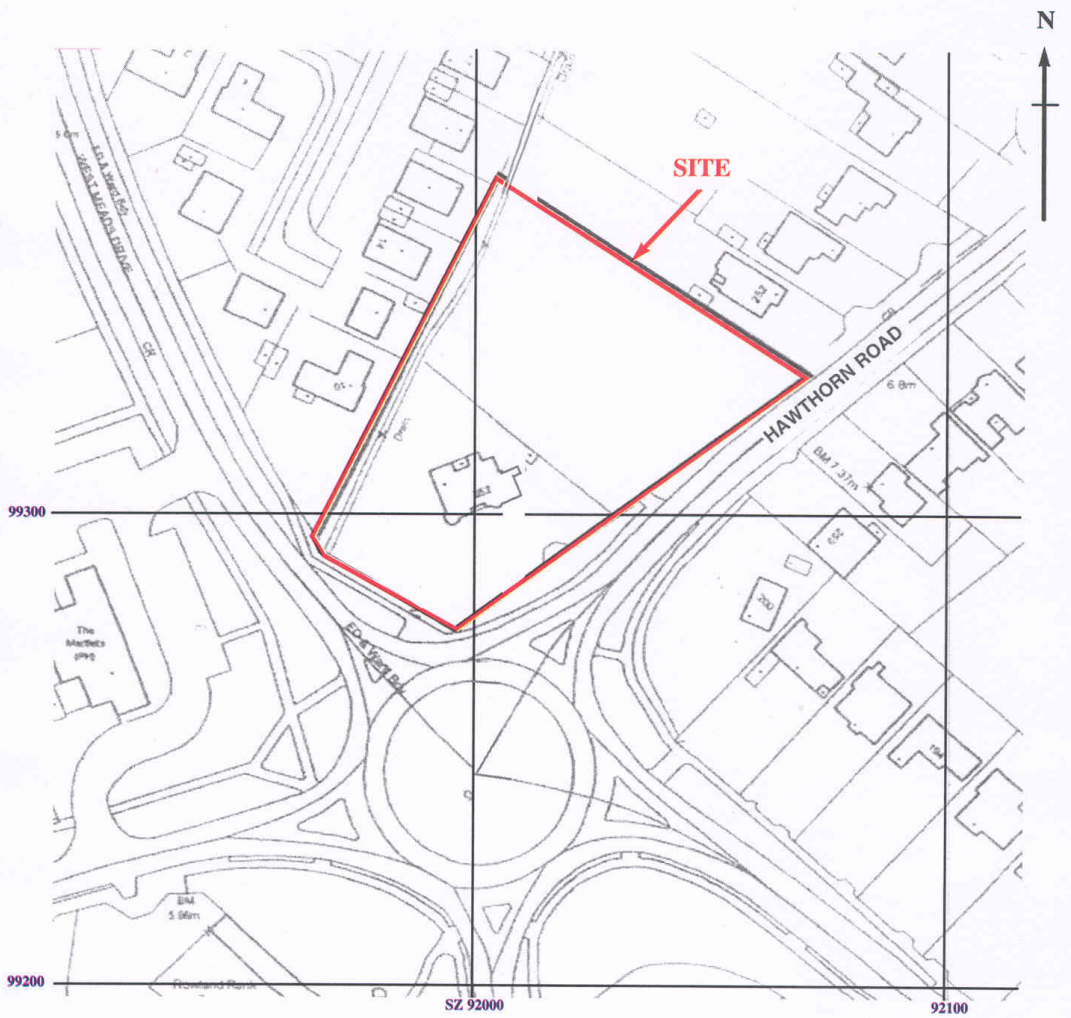


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Hawthorn Road.



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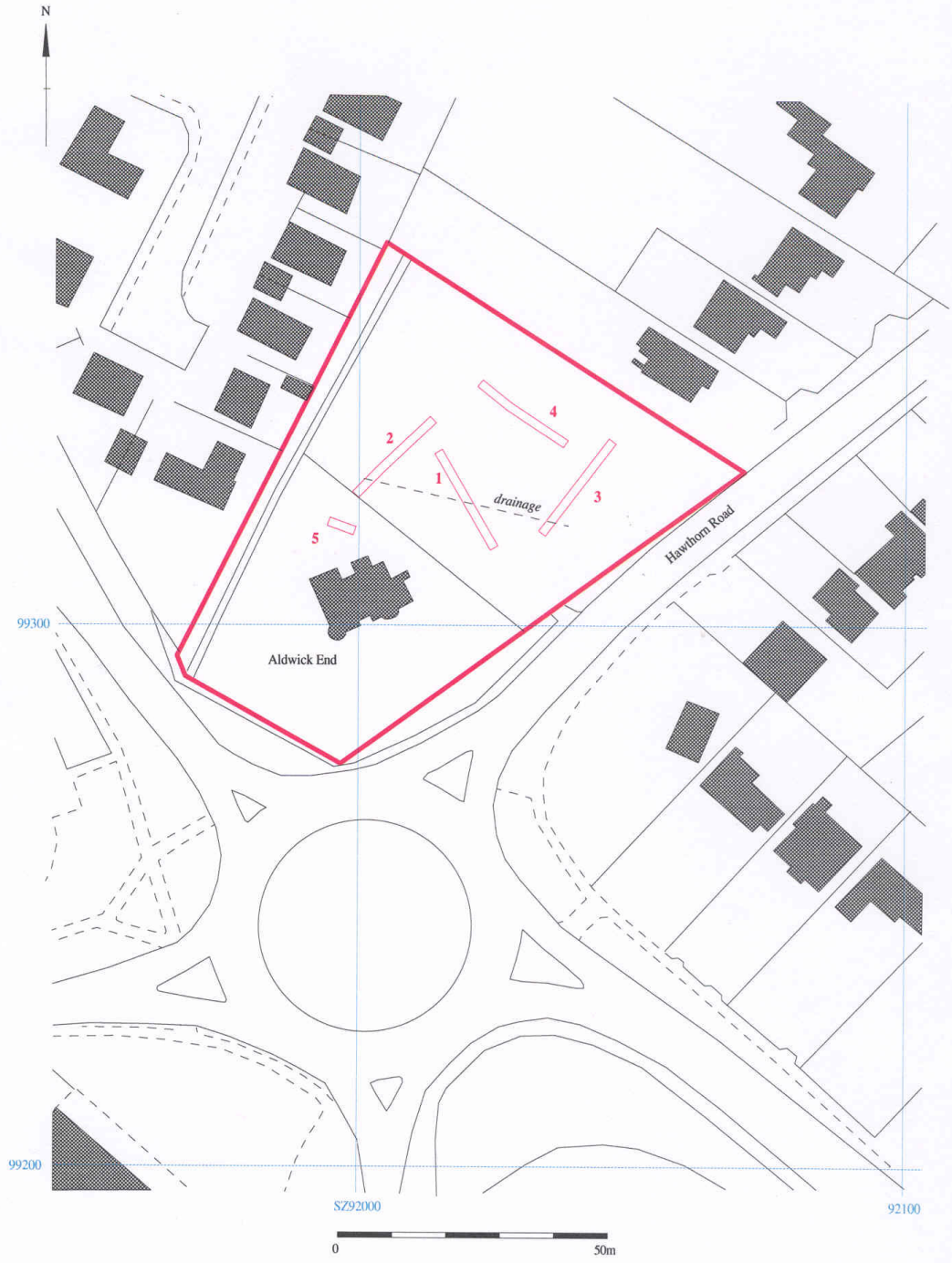


Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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Figure 4. Representative section from Trench 4.


Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west; scales 2m and 0.5m.


Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south-west; scales 2m and 0.5m.