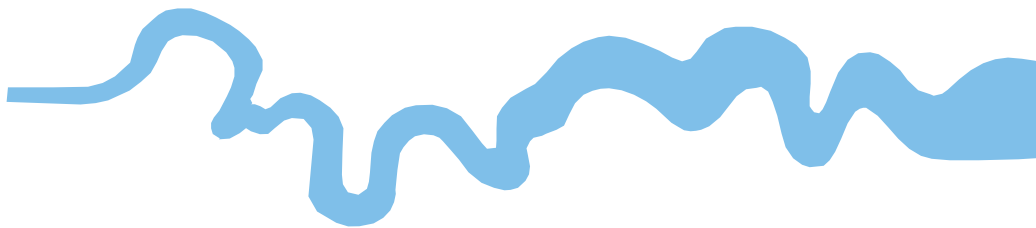


T V A S



SOUTH

An Iron Age pit, Medieval charcoal clamps and Post-medieval ditches at Parcel 1a, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road, North Horsham, West Sussex

Archaeological Excavation

by Will Attard

Site Code: MFH22/14exc

(TQ 1875 3385)

**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road
North Horsham, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Excavation
for CALA Homes/Legal & General Ltd**

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MFH 22/14

Site name: Parcel 1a, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road, North Horsham

Grid reference: TQ 1875 3385

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 19th January 2022 - 23rd March 2022

Project Coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: MFH 22/14

Area of site: c.2.47ha

Summary of results: *The excavation revealed a number of features of predominantly post-medieval date and generally relating to water management and stabilising frequently inundated areas of the site. Four oval pits with evidence of burning are interpreted as clamp kilns and date to the early Medieval period; a fifth burnt feature is radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age and is interpreted as a possible forge. A modest assemblage of prehistoric worked flint was collected, primarily from a loose scatter located in the southwest of the area.*

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Horsham Museum and the Archaeology Data Service.

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Parcel 1a, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road, North Horsham, West Sussex An Archaeological Excavation

by Will Attard

Report 22/14

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out on Parcel 1a, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road, Horsham, (TQ 1875 3385) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lynn Pack of Legal and General (Strategic Land North Horsham) Limited, CALA House, The Causeway Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 3AX.

Outline planning permission (DC/16/1677) has been granted by Horsham District Council for a major development to the north of Horsham for residential and commercial purposes. This permission is subject to conditions (22-25) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, as guided by the Department of 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 Ms Maria Medlycott, Senior Historic Environment Consultant at Place Services, Essex County Council, the advisers to the District Council on archaeological matters, and in line with the relevant guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2020) and the county's fieldwork Standards (ESCC 2019). The fieldwork was supervised by Will Attard and Kyle Beaverstock, assisted by Camila Carvalho, Jake Flower-Bond, Paul Greenslade, Tristan Nisseron and Mikaila Walker and took place between 19th January 2021 and 23rd March 2022.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Horsham Museum and the Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The overall development site is located on land north-east of the A264, north of Horsham, West Sussex (Figs 1 and 2). The overall site comprises an area of *c.* 250 ha, but the site under consideration here consists of 2.47 ha of former farmland, approximately centred on NGR TQ 1875 3385. Rusper Road lies just over 200m to the east of the site, and the A264 325m to the south. The site lies adjacent to Moathouse Farm, a moated settlement of Medieval origin (Fig 1). Parcel 1a occupies land to the north, east and west of the moated site. To the south, archaeological investigation and recording of Area 2 has already been undertaken (see below). The site is situated towards the base of a large slope, at between 55m and 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with a substantial ridgeline running east-west approximately

600m to the north, at a height of around 100–110m aOD. A small watercourse occupies the lowest point of the site (56m aOD), running east-west and connected to the extant moat of Moathouse Farm. The underlying geology is Horsham Stone/Weald Clay (BGS 1972).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed via desk-based assessment (ASE 2014, 2016), geophysical survey (ASE 2015) and trench evaluation (WA 2020, WA 2021). To summarize, the site lies within the Sussex Weald, an area considered until recently to contain few sites of archaeological interest prior to the medieval period (Rudling 2003). The exceptions to this were iron production sites dating from the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods (Cleere and Crossley 1995), along with Mesolithic sites on the fringes of the Weald in north-east Hampshire and south-west Surrey (Rankine 1954). Recent fieldwork, however, has located sites of several different periods in the Horsham area and beyond (McNicoll-Norbury *et al.* 2017; Wallis *et al.* 2022; Margetts, 2018). Horsham is also known for distinctive Mesolithic lithic assemblages including the so-called 'Horsham point' (Clark 1934; Jacobi 1976) - a form of microlith armature. The Mesolithic is traditionally divided simply as 'early' and 'late', but the Horsham point and associated assemblages may represent a distinct middle Mesolithic.

Recent evaluation of the development site revealed little of archaeological interest aside from small scatters of worked flint representing likely Mesolithic occupation (WA 2020; 2021) and charcoal-rich pits of Medieval date which are possibly charcoal clamps. Fieldwork to the north, on the slope of the ridge, located and investigated a dispersed Mesolithic flint scatter (Attard 2021). As mentioned previously, the site lies adjacent to Moathouse farm, which has medieval origins and for which the associated moat is still extant.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any significant archaeological deposits which may be affected by the development, with particular reference to any Medieval deposits associated with the adjacent moated site.

The general objectives of the project are to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits and features within the excavation areas.
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.
- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc. and to
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

The project-specific research questions were:

Are there any further Mesolithic sites present?

What is the nature, extent and date of any Medieval occupation on the site?

How is the moated site integrated with the local landscape if any such features are present?

What use was made of floral and faunal resources and can these be identified and assessed from a programme of environmental sampling, if any associated cut features are revealed ?

The excavation area of Parcel 1a was spread across three fields (Fig. 2). Hedges, field boundaries and a stream separated the fields, and they were further divided by overhead cables. Topsoil and subsoil were removed using a bulldozer (topsoil) and a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (subsoil and areas of little overburden) under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were to be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, with hand excavation or sampling to an agreed fraction dependent on the type, preservation and significance of the feature.

Results

The excavation revealed evidence of human activity at the site dating from the Mesolithic, Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The majority of this evidence, however, is of late post-medieval and modern date. Occasional finds of medieval pottery were small and fairly abraded, and may represent material imported with manure or other agricultural material to the site. A loose scatter of prehistoric worked flint was recovered from the surface of the natural geology in the south-western field. All areas of the site were subject to walkover survey to recover stray finds, particularly lithics, and their absence from all but the south-west field suggests this may represent a genuine scatter and its limits. Large quantities of slag were present across the site, with residual pieces recovered from most cut features. Several field drains filled purely with slag were revealed, as well as a layer of slag (60) several metres in diameter just north of the moat (Pl. 5). Four oval pits of Medieval date with evidence of significant burning are interpreted as charcoal clamps, and a further rectangular burnt pit radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age is interpreted as a possible forge. Cut features encountered are interpreted as being associated with water management and field boundaries.

Prehistoric

A loose scatter of prehistoric worked flints was recovered from the southwestern field, to the west of the moat and south of the stream that bisected the site (Fig. 3). Flints were recovered from the surface of the natural geology, and were not

associated with cut features or preserved prehistoric deposits. The location of each flint was recorded to <0.10m accuracy using a handheld Trimble GPS unit. The lithics assemblage is reported fully below, and catalogued in Appendix 4. No period-diagnostic pieces were recovered, and it is not possible to closely date the prehistoric presence at the site.

Iron Age

Only one feature of definite Iron Age date was present. There was no pottery, nor any other finds, that could be attributed to this period and the feature itself is dated only by radiocarbon dating, emphasizing (if it still requires it) how essential a tool this is, especially when the essential feature types associated with most metal working techniques change little over centuries. Isolated rectangular pit (36) measured 1.2m x 0.5m and 0.21m deep and contained a layer of dense, burnt material at the base (Pl. 7). This material was radiocarbon dated (UBA-49841, see Appendix 9) to 177–42 cal BC. This feature is considered to be related to metalworking, such as a forge, but the evidence is inconclusive. The feature itself, and lack of associated Iron Age remains finds parallels in other Wealden sites such as at Ashplats House, East Grinstead (Wallis 2022). Although several undated features interpreted as charcoal clamps lie nearby, one other clamp is of Medieval date and it is assumed that the others are of similar date.

Medieval

The moated settlement at the centre of the site is recorded as having medieval origins, and it was broadly expected that evidence of contemporary activity might be recovered during the excavation of Parcel 1a, given that the area stripped covered much of the immediate environs of the moat. Despite this, only six Medieval pot sherds were recovered, all in poor/worn condition and small in size. Three of these sherds were recovered together from the surface of the natural geology in the south-western field (Appendix 2: FS14). The remaining three sherds were recovered during the excavation of ditch slot 39. This feature also produced late post-medieval blue and white china. Four roughly circular shallow pits (1, 4, 10, 35) are interpreted as charcoal clamps. The only finds recovered from the fills of these clamps was charcoal, and the base of the cuts was extensively burned, with the underlying natural clay having been essentially fired. It was initially suspected that these charcoal clamps could be medieval in date, and radiocarbon dating of a sample from Pit 10 produced a date of cal AD 1043–1271 (most likely in the latter part of this range: UBA-49842, Appendix 9), supporting this interpretation. All four pits were consistently of a diameter of between 1.36 and 1.60m, and had a depth range of 0.07–0.16m, though it is worth noting that Pit 10, with a depth of 0.07m, had been partially truncated during

stripping. Aside from the clamp kilns and stray pot sherds, no other evidence of Medieval activity was encountered within the excavation area.

Table 1: Dimensions of discrete features.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Probable date</i>
1	52	Pit - Charcoal clamp	1.60	0.16	?Medieval
4	56, 57, 58	Pit - Charcoal clamp	1.45	0.13	?Medieval
10	66	Pit - Charcoal clamp	1.36	0.07	Medieval (cal AD 1043–1217) (C14)
35	165, 166, 167	Pit - Charcoal clamp	>1.35	0.15	?Medieval

Early Post-medieval

Three pot sherds and a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) are dated to the early post-Medieval period. No other evidence for this period was encountered.

Late Post-medieval and Modern

The majority of finds, features and deposits encountered during the excavation of Parcel 1a are dated to the late post-medieval and modern periods via artefactual evidence. Drainage ditches, field drains and deposits seemingly associated with levelling or stabilising the soft, clay-rich ground were encountered (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 6).

Overwhelmingly the most common class of artefact encountered was iron-working slag, with specialist analysis indicating that this assemblage is the by-product of iron production using a blast furnace. Blast furnaces were in use in England from around 1450, though production in the Weald reached a peak in the 16th century through to the middle of the 17th century. The waste slag from this industry is almost ubiquitous across later medieval and post-medieval sites in the Weald, utilised often in much the same way as hardcore in the makeup layers of towns, and (in the case of the excavation reported here) as the fill of field drains, and as stabilising material in soft natural clay. No evidence for contemporary furnaces was encountered.

The majority of ceramic building material recovered was also contemporary with the slag deposits, being of late Medieval to late post-medieval date (discussed in full later in the text). Ditch 101/102 is visible on historic maps, which is consistent with the late post-medieval finds recovered from its fills. Ditches 107 and 108 produced only non-diagnostic slag, but Ditch 107 is interpreted as the continuation of Ditch 106, which is dated to the 18th-19th Century. Ditch 108 truncates Ditch 107, and is thus later in date, meaning both post-date the 18th century. To summarise, of the features investigated, Ditches 101, 102, 106, 107, 108, 109 & 111 and spreads 60 & 69 are dated to the late post-medieval period via artefacts recovered and stratigraphic relationship to other features. Significant reorganisation of the land occurs during the post-medieval period in England, and it is likely that the features seen here relate to this period of land management, with particular reference to the very damp conditions at the site.

Undated

A handful of features produced no datable evidence. Three of the four probable charcoal clamps are dated based on overwhelming similarity to clamp 10 and its associated radiocarbon date, but such features probably varied little in morphology (if at all) for centuries.

Ditch 103 produced non-determinate slag, though on balance of probability it is of the same post-medieval date as all other dated slag-bearing features (bar the Iron Age forge). Ditch 104 produced no artefactual evidence, and although it is broadly aligned with Ditch 103 it was not possible to determine if they were parts of the same feature due to the modern ditch bisecting the site. This modern ditch was put into place sometime after the 1940s and so a post-medieval or modern date for ditch 104 is certainly still plausible. The surviving remnants of Ditch 105 form the probable heavily truncated continuation of Ditch 103.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 26 sherds of pottery, weighing 831g, from 13 contexts (Appendix 2). The pottery is in variable condition with the earlier sherds generally being quite abraded and probably reworked with the later ones being larger and fresher.

The earliest pottery from the site consists of six sherds (39g) of the High Medieval period. All are in fine to coarse quartz tempered fabrics that are not particularly diagnostic of source. The limited range of forms present would be typical of a domestic assemblage of the period. A couple of contexts produced pottery of only this period suggesting on site activity at this time but the low quantities and abraded nature of the material suggests it may relate to manuring the land with domestic waste during periods of arable cultivation.

The early post-medieval period is represented by just three sherds that can all be placed in a 17th- to mid 18th-century date range. All are either residual or from open contexts and once again their abraded nature suggests they may relate to a resumption of manuring at this time.

The late post-medieval period accounts for the majority of the assemblage (17 sherds weighing 772g). The material is spread widely across the area and consists of both small and larger sherds – most notably a complete stoneware bottle from spread 69. The pottery suggests domestic refuse was being dumped on the land at a higher rate during the late 18th to 19th centuries than before though whether this was as a result of manuring the land or simply disposing of waste from a nearby occupation is uncertain.

The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is not suitable/recommended for long-term curation in a museum.

Slag by David Dungworth

All of the material submitted for assessment was examined visually and recorded following standard guidance (HE 2015). The material was divided into categories based on surface morphology, density, porosity, colour, etc.

Blast furnace slag	Lumps of green vitreous (glassy) slag (cf HE 2015, fig. 21).
Non-diagnostic	Probably ironworking slag but lacking a distinctive surface morphology that would indicate the process that produced it (HE 2015, fig. 18).
Ironstone	Rusty-coloured stones that might have been employed as an ore

The vast majority of the material examined can easily and certainly be identified as blast furnace slag (13.7kg). The material is mostly rather weathered and some of the identifications are tentative. Most of the material is dark green and glassy, although some opaque olive-grey material is also present (as well as some mixed or intermediate slag). The surfaces are often obscured by iron/soil concretions that further impede identifications. The small amount of non-diagnostic ironworking slag present (2.2kg) appears to be fayalitic but it is also highly weathered with iron-rich surface concretions. It is possible that some of the non-diagnostic material could actually be blast furnace slag. The small amount of ironstone present might represent material collected for use as a raw material (ore) in iron smelting. Most of the slag was recovered from 'spreads', and it is likely that the material was selected for this purpose.

The blast furnace slag recovered would have been produced in a Wealden blast furnace between the end of the 15th century and the end of the 17th century (Bedwin 1978; 1980; Cleere and Crossley 1995; Crossley 1972; 1975a; 1975b; 1979; Tylecote 1962; 1992). The contexts containing blast furnace slag are unlikely to pre-date the 15th century. The small amount of non-diagnostic ironworking slag is perhaps likely to have been produced during the conversion of cast iron into wrought iron in one of the many forges associated with blast furnaces in the Weald. No blast furnaces sites are known within the vicinity of Moathouse Farm. The nearest site is Warnham (Cleere and Crossley 1995, catalogue 32) which is 2.5km to the south west, with two further sites (St Leonards (43) and Bewbush (39)) a little over 5kms to the south east and north east. The slag could have come from any of these sites or perhaps from sites even further afield depending on transport links.

Struck Flint by Will Attard

The excavation of Parcel 1a produced a small assemblage of 20 struck flints. In general, the assemblage is in fresh condition, with little to no abrasion of edges or ridges. Post-depositional damage, where present, consists of occasional

chips or breaks indicative of impacts with farm equipment or modern machinery. The flints range from unpatinated to moderately iron-stained, and in colour from dark grey-black to grey to yellow-brown.

One of the pieces recovered (Findspot1, Fig. 3) consisted of a large flake, retouched across part of the distal edge to form a scraper. One of the sharp lateral edges shows evidence of light damage possibly associated with use.

Findspot 2 consisted of a small single-platform core, worked across a single face, with a 'handle' of cortex remaining at the back.

Findspot 17 consisted of a small flake with a possible burin removal at the distal end. It is worth noting, however, that this piece was somewhat damaged, and the removal may be a result of a post-depositional impact with the distal end. A further two finds for which spatial data is not recorded were either retouched or utilised, with fine 'bevelling' along portions of their edges. This can be the result either of deliberate retouch with a fine retoucher to create a delicate but blunted edge, or the result of a unidirectional 'scraping' action against a medium-hard or hard material.

Three of the flints recovered (including FS1) are relatively large flakes with multiple parallel dorsal ridges from previous flake removals. They feature large, slightly abraded platforms suggestive of hard hammer production, one is thick, and is plausibly a core rejuvenation/platform creation flake. One proximal fragment (FS5) is suggestive of blade production, and the flakes recovered tend overall to be elongated in form, often with parallel dorsal ridges. Mesolithic flint scatters are known from the immediate environs of the site (WA 2020; 2021) and a partial early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered along with further evidence of Mesolithic presence a few hundred metres to the north-east (Attard 2021). The flint assemblage from Parcel 1a is not period-diagnostic and cannot thus be closely dated, although future investigations in the environs of the site may provide a link between these large broad flakes and blades and other, period-specific pieces.

Metalwork by Danielle Milbank

A modest range of metal objects and fragments were recovered during the excavation, from a range of features. These are categorised and dated where possible, and are summarised in Appendix 5. The majority of the pieces recovered are ferrous and in a fairly poor condition, typically fragmented and heavily corroded. Spread 69 contained two pieces, a small square section piece (22mm by 6mm by 6mm) and a round-sectioned handle piece with a flattened divided end, in the manner of a nail claw or tack lifter tool.

The surface of ditch slot 17 contained a rivet with a substantial head and narrow tapering shaft. The head measures 16mm thick, 51mm and sub-square overall, with each corner bevelled downwards at an angle of approximately 45 degrees, leaving a flat top which is 38mm square. The shank is 48mm long and rectangular in section, 20mm by 12mm

at its widest, tapering to a point, It represents a large, heavy rivet, likely to be of medieval date, of the type often used to reinforce doors.

A nail was recovered from ditch 21 (93) which is rectangular in section, 52mm long, and missing its head, though it appears to be handmade. Ditch 40 (175) contained an irregular-shaped piece which is 60mm x 20mm and roughly circular in section. Slumping subsoil layer 176 contained a small fragment of iron, possibly a nail tip, and a flat rectangular-section strap or handle, 109mm x 25mm 6mm, and deposit 177 contained a flat tool handle, 120mm long, 31mm wide, with a rounded end. Ditch 21 (93) contained a narrow strip with a rectangular section, measuring 98mm by 9mm by 4mm, possibly representing a strap or part of a tool.

Topsoil layer 50 contained a tin-plated copper alloy livery button, with a badge showing an elephant head facing left, above a coronet ('engorged of a crown vallary'). The rear is flat, and has a loop shank, and no visible maker's marks, and the button is of likely broadly 19th century date. A similar button is registered with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and was recovered from the Waverley district of Surrey (c.12km to the northwest of the site).

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A total of 34 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 30.45kg were recovered in the course of the excavation, hand-collected from 23 contexts, nearly all ditch fills (Appendix 7). The material largely comprised tile fragments, in addition to several complete (or near-complete) bricks, and a small number of fragments which could not be identified. The pieces were examined under x10 magnification and categorised wherever possible based on dimensions, fabric and finish. Pieces with notable features were retained, in addition to a representative sample of the material overall, and the bulk of the material of later post-medieval date discarded after recording.

A single piece was recovered from the interface between the subsoil (50) and the surface of the natural geology, which is a medium hard fabric with fine groggy inclusions, a mid to dark grey colour with pale grey red lensing. The piece is 55mm thick and 100mm wide, with a fairly sharp finish, and striations on the upper surface that suggest it is handmade. It is of likely early post-medieval date.

A piece of brick was recovered from ditch slot 5 (59), in a fairly hard fabric and pale light red colour with slight lensing, with a dark grey green glaze present on one fragment, and similar pieces were recovered from spread 60.

Ditch slot 6 (61) contains a piece of roof tile in a hard evenly-fired fabric, 14mm thick and with a broad late medieval to post-medieval date, and ditch slot 11 (68) contained tile pieces of a similar fabric and date range.

Spread 69 contained a range of fragmentary brick pieces, with a range of fabrics present, including two pieces in a hard, evenly-fired hard fabric with a light red colour and pale yellowish lensing, and a piece in a hard, dense fabric with

a grey fabric and a neat finish, and likely post-medieval date. This context also contained a piece of ceramic field drain of later post-medieval date, and a piece of brick in hard fabric in a red grey colour with fine ferrous inclusions, with a thickness of 44mm to 48mm. The upper surface, header end, and part of two sides, have a fairly thick green glaze. The brick finish is uneven and the piece represents a handmade brick of likely medieval date, with the glaze similar to that seen on roof tile of 14th to 15th century date.

Ditch slot 21 (93) constrained a brick sample measuring 65mm x 110mm x 235mm, in a hard, dense, evenly fired fabric with a dark red colour. The fabric, dimensions and neat finish suggest a 19th century date. Ditch slots 19 (95) and 24 (153) contained pieces of tile in a hard, fairly fine orange fabric, and a piece in a hard, slightly coarse fabric with ferrous inclusions, which are 14mm thick and of late medieval to post-medieval date.

Ditch slot 25 (155) contained a piece of curved tile likely to represent ridge or curved eaves tile, with a broadly medieval to post-medieval date.

Ditch slot 34 (164) contained a range of small brick fragments in a fairly hard dense fabric with a grey red colour and one piece that is glazed on one side, with a thickness of 64mm and a likely later post-medieval (18th or 19th century) date, and pieces of peg tile from this context are 15mm thick, with a 150mm wide, and have circular peg holes. Ditch slot 38 (168) contained a further example of the glazed fabric, and piece of tile fabric of broadly late medieval or post-medieval date.

Slump layer 39 (176) contained a piece of roof tile in a hard evenly-fired fabric, 14mm thick and with a broad late medieval to post-medieval date, with further pieces of the same fabric and date range recovered from ditch slot 100 (199).

A small fragment (11g) of lime mortar was also recovered from ditch 21 (93).

Overall, the building material recovered from the site represented domestic forms of brick and tile in a range of fabric. The majority is of post-medieval date, with a small amount of material of likely later medieval date occurring as residual finds in the same contexts as the later material.

Clay Pipe by Danielle Milbank

One fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered as a surface find. It weighs 4g and based on the bore diameter is likely to be of mid to late 18th century date.

Animal bone by Danielle Milbank

A single piece of animal bone (8g) was recovered from spread 69. It is likely to represent scapula, mandible or innominate bone from a medium or large-sized mammal. It has no butchery marks or other notable characteristics.

Glass by Danielle Milbank

Glass was recorded in six contexts. Shards of clear, colourless glass from spread 69, and ditch 39 (deposits 176 and 177), are likely to represent pieces from small bottles or vessels. Green bottle glass was recorded in subsoil, spread 69 and ditch 38 (168). These are all of the type of glass used for wine bottles, though the absence of neck, rim or large body sherds means they can be only broadly dated to the post-medieval period.

Fired clay by Danielle Milbank

A total of 123 fragments of fired clay were recovered during the excavation, a total of 331g (Appendix 6). The material was highly fragmented and abraded, and typically occurred in small quantities (less than 50g) in deposits infilling a range of pits and ditch slots.

The material comprised a fairly homogenous fine clay, medium to soft and unevenly-fired, with a light red or orange red colour and occasional patchy grey. No characteristics (such as wattle marks, holes) were present indicating the material represents daub or other categories of fired clay object.

Environmental Investigation by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from eight sealed contexts. Samples were processed by standard water flotation techniques. Details of methodology are in the archive. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40. Charred plant macrofossils were not recorded in any of the samples. Charcoal was present in three samples (Appendix 8). A random selection of ideally 100 fragments of charcoal of varying sizes was made, which were then identified. Where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments, all fragments were studied and recorded. Identification was made using the wood identification guides of Schweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000). Taxa identified only to genus cannot be identified more closely due to a lack of defining characteristics in charcoal material.

The total range of taxa comprises oak (*Quercus*), and pine / spruce (*Pinus* / *Picea abies*). It is possible that these were the preferred fuel woods obtained from a local environment containing a broader choice of species.

Radiocarbon dating

Three samples of charcoal were selected from which to obtain C14 dates. Two of the three samples were viable, but the third failed to produce a determination. The two samples of oak charcoal from pit 36 and charcoal clamp 10 were submitted to the 14Chrono Centre, Queens University Belfast for radiocarbon dating. Details of methodology and an assessment of the reliability of the results are held in archive. In summary the lab considered the results reliable. The laboratory calibrated the results using OxCal4.4.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2021 with data from Reimer *et al.* 2020). The probabilities are given at 95.4% (2-sigma) confidence. (Appendix 9)

Conclusion

The site comprises land immediately to the southwest, north and east of the extant moated settlement of Moathouse Farm, but not the moated settlement itself. In discussing the nature and significance of the archaeological evidence it is important to consider this missing focal point of occupation. Even with that in mind, the evidence for medieval activity within the excavation area is sparse. The early Medieval charcoal kiln(s) are of a form associated with single-use. In general, these would be built as needed within a forested environment, to avoid having to transport lumber too far from source, and are not necessarily associated with settlement as opposed to a working landscape.

The only evidence from the subsequent high Medieval and early post-Medieval periods are a few sherds of pottery and pieces of Brick/tile in relatively poor condition. Despite the proximity of the moated settlement, it is still plausible that these arrived on site during manuring of the land. The extensive slag deposits are predominantly associated with post-medieval activity - the construction of land drains and laying of spreads to firm up the ground. Spread 69, just north of the moat, is notable for being located along the line of a footpath recorded on Ordnance Survey maps from the 1870s. No evidence of contemporary furnaces that might have been responsible for the slag on site was encountered, and it is interpreted as material imported from elsewhere. The Iron Age radiocarbon determination for pit 36 is of particular interest, as this is the only evidence for Iron Age activity at the site at all - no finds or other cut features dated to this period were encountered at all, and it provides a useful findspot for probable metal working in the Wealden Iron Age.

The excavation of Parcel 1a revealed a landscape used, perhaps intermittently, from prehistory until the modern day. Perhaps unsurprisingly given the low-lying nature of the land and current ground conditions, the majority of cut features encountered are associated with water management and drainage - mainly extensive field drain runs and drainage ditches.

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Excavated Features

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating Evidence</i>
		50	Topsoil			
		51	Subsoil			
	1	52	Burnt Pit		?Early Medieval	Comp with Pit 10
	2	53, 54	Ditch		1750-1900+	
	3	55	Ditch		1750-1900+	
	4	56–8	Burnt Pit		?Early Medieval	Comp with Pit 10
	5	59	Ditch		1750-1900+	Pottery
		60	Spread			(C14 failed)
	6	61	Ditch		1750-1900+	Pottery
	7	62	Gully			
	8	63, 64	Ditch			Slag
	9	65	Gully	1		Slag
	10	66	Burnt Pit	2	Early Medieval	cal AD 1043–1217
	11	67, 68	Ditch			
		69	Spread		1750-1900+	Pottery
		70	Spread			
	12	71–7	Ditch			
	13	78, 97, 98	Ditch			
	14	79	Gully			
	15	80–82	Ditch		1750-1900+	Pottery
	16	83–5	Ditch	3		Slag
		86	Spread			
	18	87, 88	Ditch			
	17	89–92	Ditch	4		Slag
	19	95	Ditch		Modern	Plastic
	20	96	Gully			
	21	93, 94	Ditch			
	22	99	Gully			
	23	152	Gully			
	24	153, 154	Ditch	5	1750-1900+	Pottery
	25	155, 156	Ditch			Slag
	26	150, 151	Ditch			
	27	157	Ditch			
	28	158	Gully			
	29	159	Gully			Slag
	30	160	Ditch			
	31	163	Ditch			
	32	161	Gully			
	33	162	Gully			
	34	164	Ditch	6	1750-1900+	Pottery
	35	165–7	Burnt Pit	7	Medieval?	Slag (mould?)
	36	180, 181	Burnt Pit	8	Middle to late Iron Age	C14 (177–42 cal BC)
	37	170–3	Ditch			
	38	168, 169	Ditch			Slag
	39	177, 178	Ditch		1750-1900+	Pottery
	40	175, 179	Ditch		1750-1900+	Pottery
		176	Slumping Subsoil			
	41	182, 196, 197	Ditch			
	42	183, 187	Ditch			
	43	184–6	Ditch			
		188	Slumping subsoil			
	44	189, 190	Ditch			Slag
	45	191	Ditch (terminus)			
	46	192	Ditch			
	47	193, 194	Ditch			
	48	195	Ditch			
	49	198	Ditch			
	100	199	Ditch			

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Pottery by context

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form)</i>
	Surface	London stoneware	EPM	1	4	Tankard x1 (two-tone iron wash, salt glaze)
	Surface	English stoneware (late)	LPM	1	31	Large bottle x1 (iron wash, salt glaze, handle fragment)
	Subsoil	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	31	Flower pot x1
	Subsoil	Glazed red earthenware (early)	EPM	1	5	?x1 (green glazed internally. Worn)
	Subsoil	Creamware	LPM	1	3	?x1
	Surface	English stoneware (late)	LPM	1	6	Bottle x1 (iron wash, salt glaze)
5	59	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	2	?x1 (dark brown glaze internally)
6	61	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	68	?x1 (clear glaze internally)
	69	English stoneware (late)	LPM	1	514	Bottle x1 (100% complete. Necked, rim - 38mm di, base - 69mm di, height - 130mm. Salt glazed. Illegible stamp by base)
	69	Yellow ware	LPM	1	4	Dish x1 (beaded rim)
	69	Glazed red earthenware (early)	EPM	1	11	Bowl x1 (green glazed internally. Thickened rim.
	69	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	4	87	Cream bowl x1 (clear glazed internally, bulbous clubbed rim); ?x2 (clear or dark brown/black glazed internally)
15	80	Yellow ware	LPM	1	1	?x1 (white & black annular lines)
24	153	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	4	Flower pot x1 (flattened club rim)
34	164	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	12	?x1 (clear glazed internally)
	176	Medium/coarse quartz	HM	2	4	?Cooking pot x1 (bitone, very worn)
39	177	Fine/medium quartz	HM	1	9	Jug x1 (thumbed base, green glazed patches, reduced. Worn)
39	177	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	2	Bowl x1 (beaded rim, willow pattern)
40	179	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	7	?x1 (clear glaze internally)
	FS14	Fine/medium quartz	HM	3	26	Bowl/cooking pot x1 (oxidised. Green glazed interior base, externally sooted)

HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75;

EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750;

LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+.

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Slag (by weight in g)

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>BF</i>	<i>NDFe</i>	<i>mould?</i>	<i>mortar</i>	<i>ironstone</i>	<i>All</i>
	51	Subsoil		110				110
5	59	Ditch	399					399
	60	Spread	11615					11615
8	64	Ditch		126				126
9	65	Gully	53	21				74
10	66	Burnt pit					3	3
	69	Spread	308	117				425
16	85	Ditch					6	6
17	90	Ditch					12	12
19	95						3	3
24	153	Ditch		1416				1416
24	154	Ditch	1269	4				1273
25	155	Ditch		190				190
29	159			149				149
34	164	Ditch	13					13
35	166				167			167
38	169	Ditch	10					10
39	176	slumping subsoil						0
39	177	Ditch	6	25			73	104
40	179	Ditch					43	43
44	189	Ditch		39				39
ALL			13673	2193	167	11	140	16184

** a piece of coal was also recovered from spread 69

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Struck Flint

<i>Cut/ Findspot</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Flake</i>	<i>Broken Flake</i>	<i>Poss. Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Core Frag.</i>	<i>Retouche d Flake</i>	<i>Utilise d Flake</i>	<i>Other</i>
	Surface of Natural	1	1					1	1	
FS1	Surface of Natural							1		Scraper
FS2	Surface of Natural					1				
FS3	Surface of Natural						1			
FS4	Surface of Natural	1								
FS5	Surface of Natural			1						Proximal frag
FS7	Surface of Natural						1			
FS8	Surface of Natural						1			
FS11	Surface of Natural	1								
FS12	Surface of Natural	1								
FS15	Surface of Natural	1								
FS16	Surface of Natural	1								(utilisation damage at distal end)
FS17	Surface of Natural	1								?poss burin
	69	1								
	50	1	1							
21	93				1					

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of metalwork

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	
	50	Topsoil	Cu/Sn	1		button
17		Surface	Fe	1	221	rivet
	69	Spread	Fe	1	77	Small square sectioned ?rod
	69	Spread	Fe	1	5	handle
21	93	Ditch	Fe	1	10	nail
21	93	Ditch	Fe	1	16	Strap or handle
40	175	Ditch	Fe	1	45	Circular piece
39	176	Slumping subsoil	Fe	1	90	Strap or handle
39	176	Slumping subsoil	Fe	1	5	?nail tip
39	177	Ditch	Fe	1	98	handle

APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of fired clay

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
16	85	Ditch	6	7
10	66	Burnt pit	2	4
	51	Subsoil	1	7
21	93	Ditch	2	16
23	152	Gully	2	1
24	153	Ditch	5	7
35	166	Burnt pit	77	169
38	168	Ditch	1	8
40	175	Ditch	7	40
39	177	Ditch	7	22
40	179	Ditch	7	44
36	181	Burnt pit	6	6

APPENDIX 7: Catalogue of ceramic building material

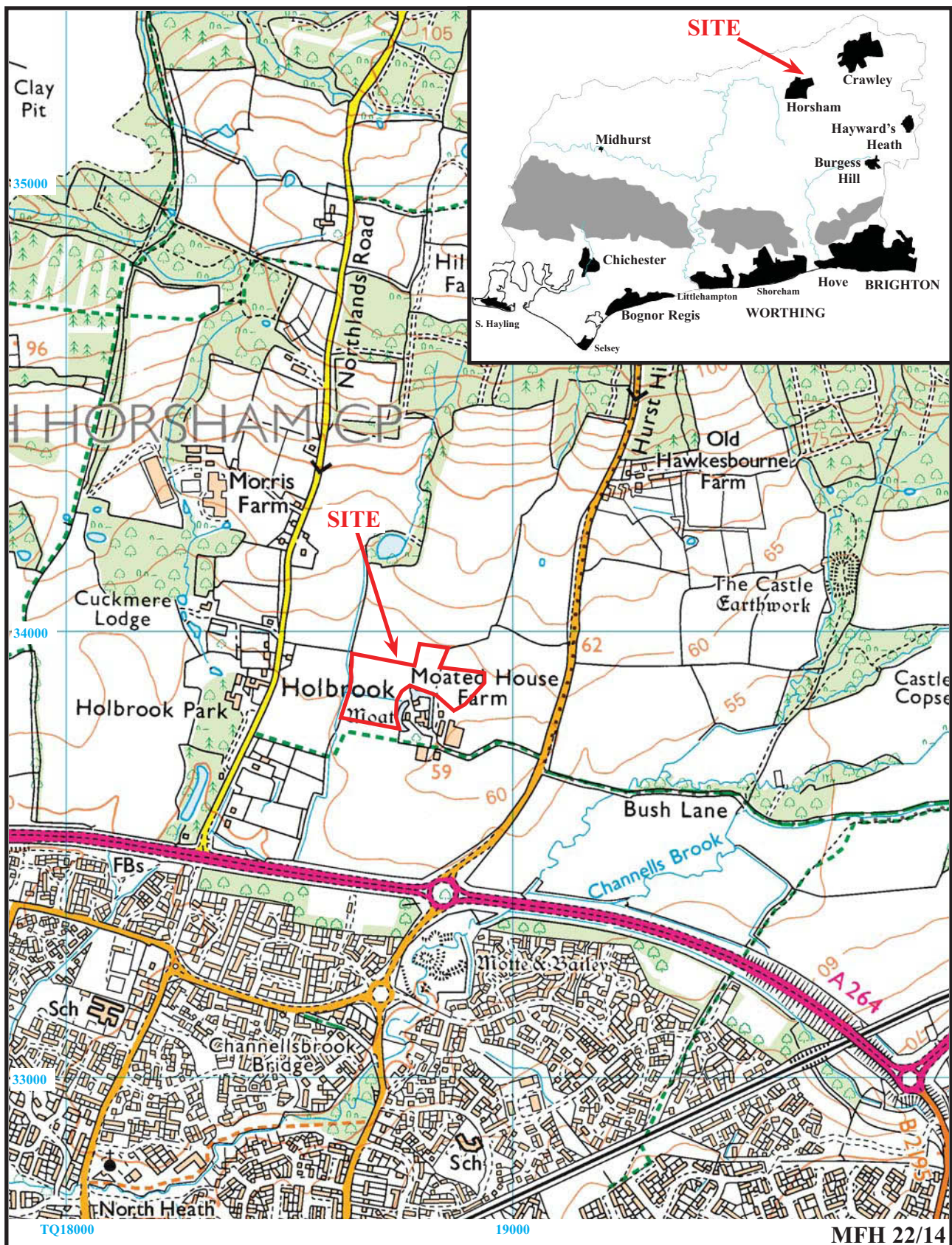
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Retained no.</i>	<i>Retained wt (g)</i>
	51	Subsoil	1	622		
5	59	Ditch	4	36	4	36
	60	Spread	5	86		
6	61	Ditch	2	77		
11	68	Ditch	3	140		
	69	Spread	10	1825	1	838
16	85	Ditch	1	3		
21	93	Ditch	8	3404		
19	95	Ditch	5	58		
24	153	Ditch	1	47		
25	155	Ditch	2	39	2	39
32	161	Gully	1	4		
34	164	Ditch	32	2657	3	1658
38	168	Ditch	5	124		
38	169	Ditch	4	40		
39	176	Slumping subsoil	1	19		
39	177	Ditch	2	16		
100	199	Ditch	3	23		

APPENDIX 8: Charcoal

	<i>Sample</i>	2	7	8
	<i>Feature</i>	10	35	181
	<i>Context</i>	66	166	36
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Burnt Pit	Burnt Pit	Burnt Pit
	<i>No. frags.</i>	300+	100+	8
	<i>Max. size (mm)</i>	19	35	24
<i>Pinus / Picea abies</i>	Pine / Spruce	-	100	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	100	-	5
	Indeterminate	-	-	3

APPENDIX 9: Radiocarbon dates (probability given as Area under curve at 2-sigma (95.4%))

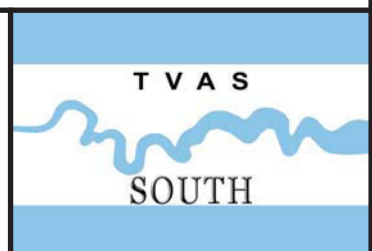
<i>Lab ID</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>F14C</i>	<i>Radiocarbon Age (BP)</i>	<i>Calibrated Age</i>	<i>Probability (%)</i>
UBA-49840		60	Charcoal	Failed	Failed	n/a	
UBA-49841	36	181	Charcoal	0.7703 ± 0.0026	2096 ± 27	195–186 cal BC 177–42 cal BC 8–2 cal BC	1.4 97.9 0.7
UBA-49842	10	66	Charcoal	0.8934 ± 0.0028	905 ± 25	cal AD 1043–1087 cal AD 1092–1106 cal AD 1117–1217	35.5 4.8 59.7



**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, 2023
Archaeological Excavation**

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

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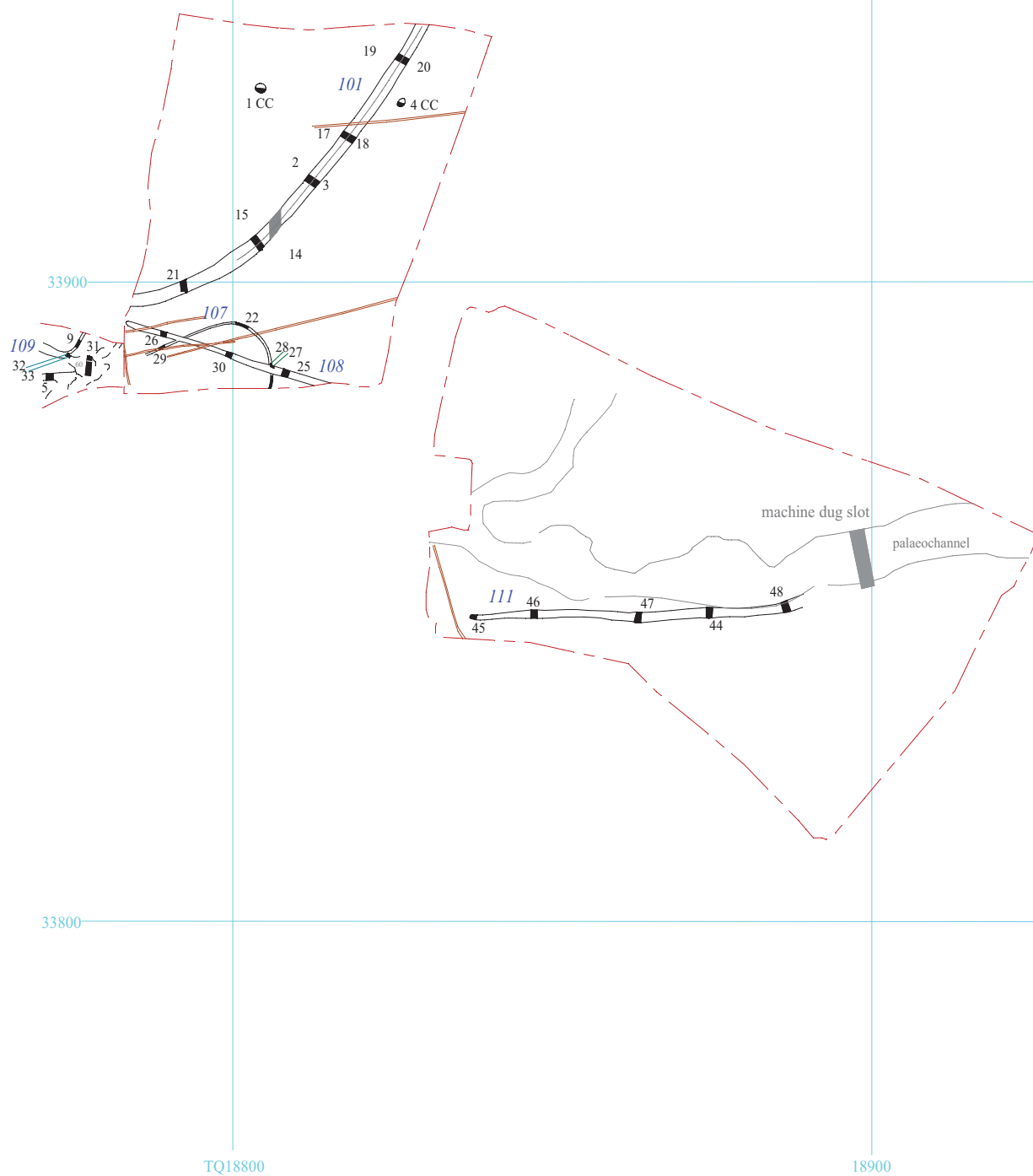


**Parcel 1A, Moat House Farm, Rusper Road
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Plan of excavated areas from Parcel 1A and
previous evaluation trenches in adjacent areas. (after WA 2021)

0 100m





CC Charcoal clamps

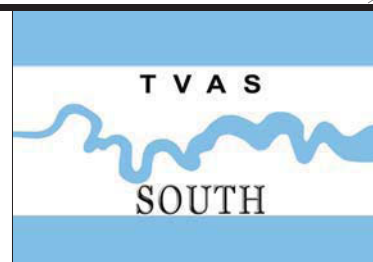
MFH 22/14

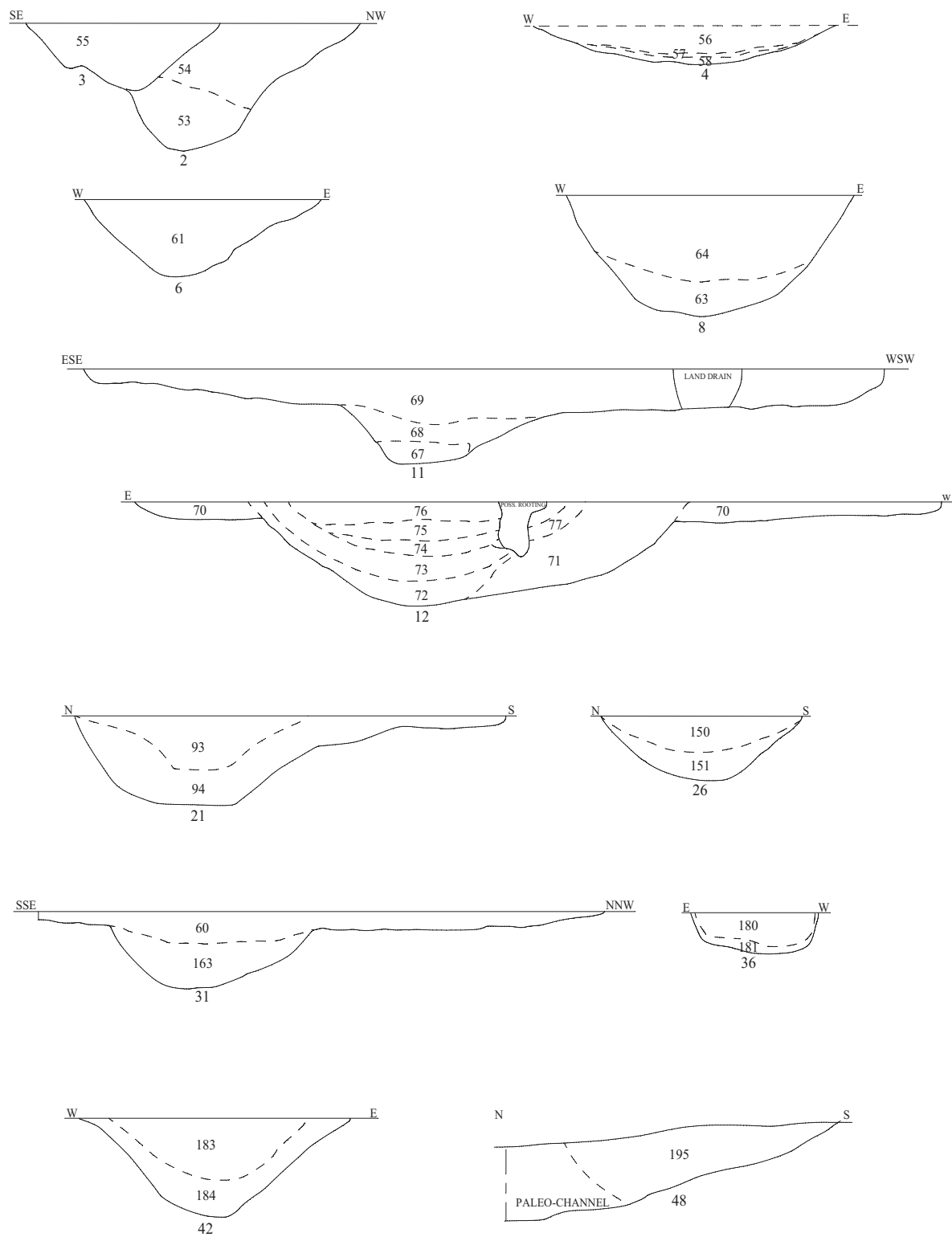


**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas, East.

0 50m





67 O-CHA

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Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 5. Sections

0 1m

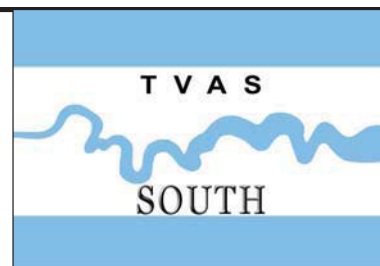




Plate 1. Machine excavated slot of palaeochannel in east, looking North.



Plate 2. Charcoal clamp (pit 1), looking North,

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**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 and 2.**

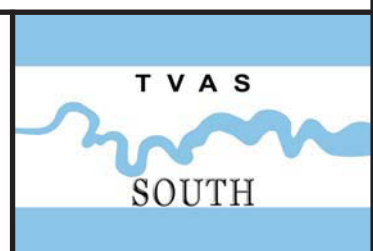




Plate 3. Ditch slot (2 and 3), looking South West, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Gully slot (slot 7), looking North, Scales: horizontal 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.

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**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 3 and 4.**

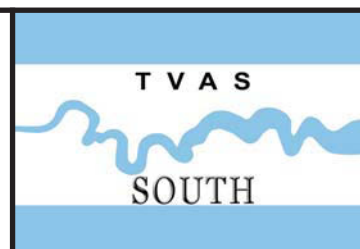




Plate 5. Ditch 31 overlain by spread 60, looking South West, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 6. Charcoal clamp (slot 35), looking West, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.1m.

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**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 5 and 6.**

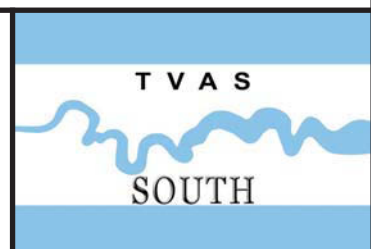




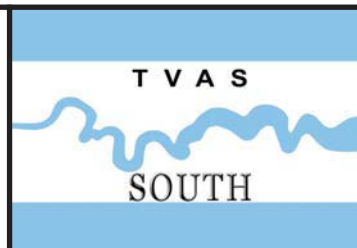
Plate 7. Iron Age ?forge (36), looking North, Scales: horizontal 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 8. Site shot with Ditch 41, Spread 69 & a slag-filled field drain in the foreground, looking North East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m x3, vertical 0.1m.

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**Parcel 1A, Moathouse Farm, Rusper Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, 2022
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 7 and 8.**

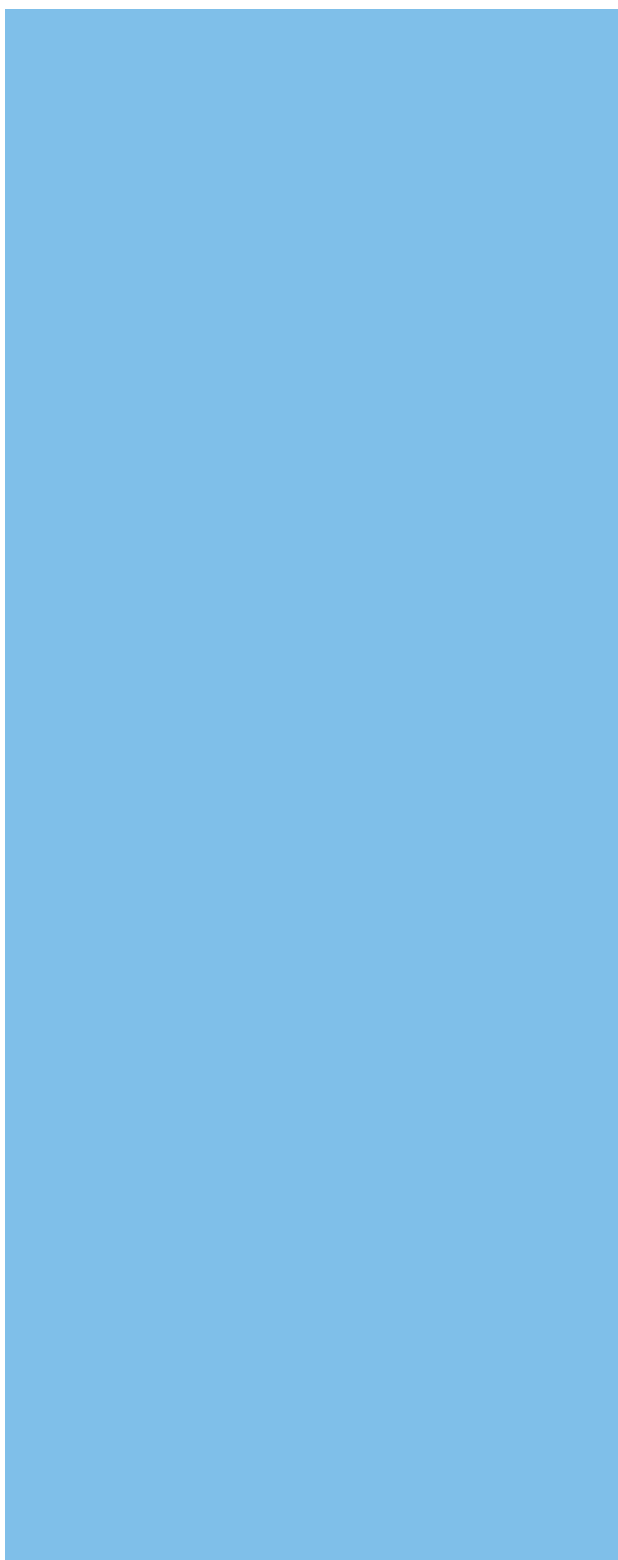
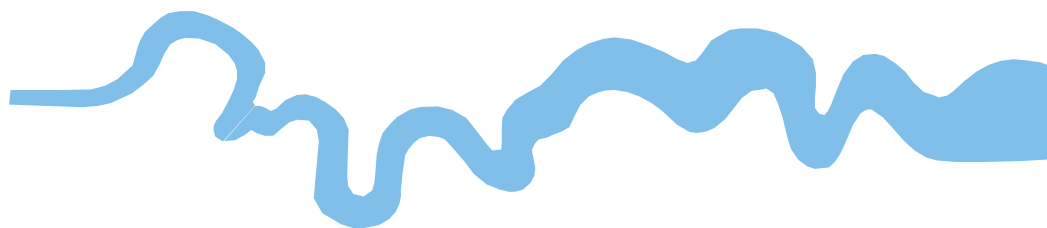


TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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