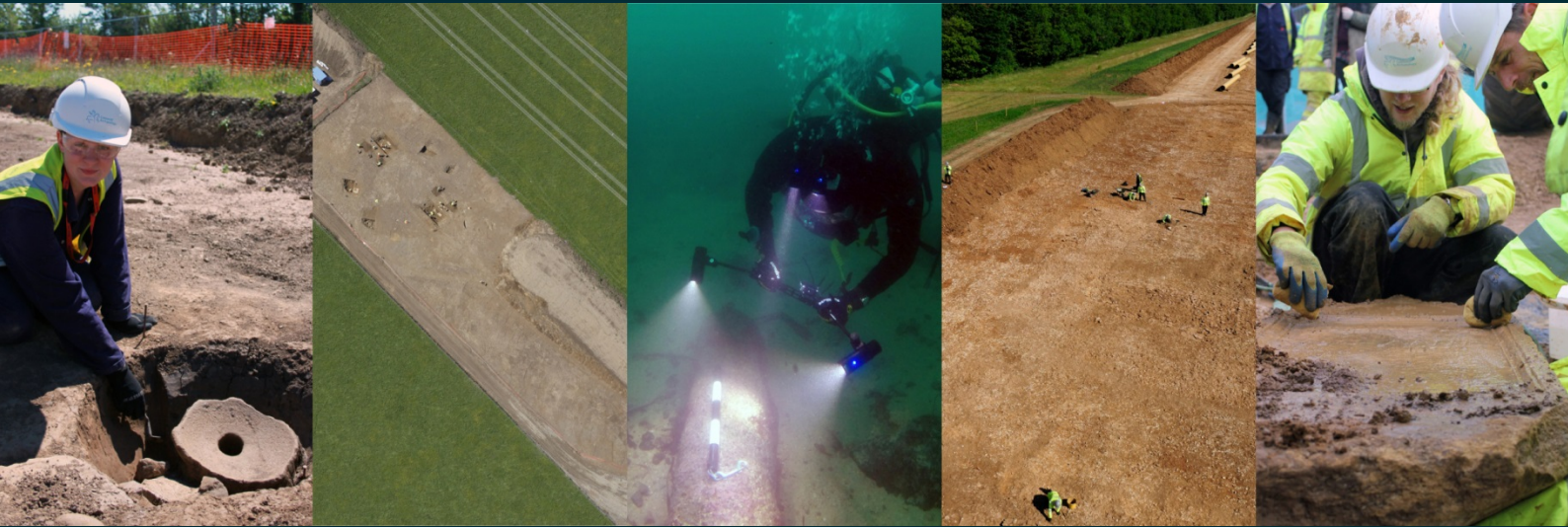


Bentley Estate Uckfield East Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

on behalf of
Lightsource Renewable Energy

Planning Ref: WD/2015/0193/MAJ

CA Project: 770214
CA Report: 15269

July 2015



Bentley Estate Uckfield East Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Bentley Estate
Location:	Uckfield, East Sussex
NGR:	548330 116990
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	5 – 8 May 2015
Planning Reference:	WD/2015/0193/MAJ
Location of Archive:	Currently stored at CA Andover office, and to be deposited with Lewes Museum
Site Code:	BENE 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex. Eleven trenches were excavated.

Three trenches revealed linear ditches, two of which were undated, the third ditch contained Romano-British and Early Saxon pottery. The ditches possibly form part of a former field system dating to the Romano-British period. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a ditch. Unabraded Early Saxon pottery was recovered from the same ditch and may indicate activity of this period within the site and its vicinity. A pit and a possible hearth/fire pit with *in situ* scorching were also recorded. The pit contained a single highly abraded sherd of Early Saxon pottery and the hearth/fire pit was undated. A palaeochannel recorded in trench one was found to contain quantities of charcoal along with a number of worked flints. Additionally small quantities of worked and burnt flints were recovered from the topsoil of three trenches. Six trenches were devoid of archaeological features.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lightsource Renewable Energy at Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex (centred on NGR: 548330 116990; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Conditional planning permission (Ref: WD/2015/0193/MAJ) has been approved by Wealden District Council (WDC) for the Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm and Associated Infrastructure, Including Photovoltaic Panels, Mounting Frames, Inverters, Transformers, Substations, Communications Building, Fence and Pole Mounted Security Cameras, for the Life of the Solar Farm. Conditions 10 and 11 relate to archaeology and state:

Condition 10: No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (including archaeological evaluation), in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with Policies SPO2 and WCS14 of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and the requirements of paras 129, 131 and 132 of the NPPF

Condition 11: The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [16] to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with Policies SPO2 and WCS14 of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and the requirements of paras 129, 131 and 132 of the NPPF

- 1.3 The planning decision was informed by a Heritage Desk-based Assessment and Walkover Survey (Hyder 2013) and Geophysical Survey StrataScan (2014). Following consultation by WDC with the East Sussex Archaeological Adviser in the light of these investigations it was recommended that any planning approval should be subject to conditions as detailed above in paragraph 1.2.
- 1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (CA 2015) was prepared in order to address conditions 10 and 11 of the approved planning application. It set out a programme and details of the methodology by which Cotswold Archaeology would undertake the archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site and the post excavation dissemination of the results. The WSI was submitted to and approved by the East Sussex Archaeological Adviser acting on behalf of WDC prior to the commencement of any fieldwork at the site, and submitted by the Client to WDC and approved in writing.
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CA (2015) and also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), Sussex County Standards, the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Greg Chuter, which included a site visit on 8 May 2015.

The site

- 1.6 The site comprises a single 8ha field along with a compound area measuring 0.3ha immediately to the north. Both fields are currently set to arable. The larger field slopes gently downwards in an easterly direction from 35m AOD in the west down to a stream at 19m AOD in the east whilst the site of the proposed compound slopes gently down to the north. The surrounding landscape largely comprises agricultural fields interspersed with stands of plantation woodland, small scattered settlements and isolated agricultural and residential properties.
- 1.7 The solid geology underlying the site comprises Weald Clay Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago and Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 134 to 140 million years ago (British Geological Survey Digital Geological map, 1:10,000). A fault runs east-west across the southern portion of the application site,

at a boundary of the two formations. The only superficial deposit recorded within the application site is a band of alluvial deposits mapped along the course of the stream, which runs across the eastern of the application site. The alluvial deposits were formed within the last 1.8 million years.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A DBA of the site has previously been undertaken setting out the archaeological and historical background to the site (Hyder 2013). A brief summary of the results are set out below.
- 2.2 The earliest evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area are the locations of groups of Mesolithic (circa 10,000BC to 4,000BC) and Neolithic (c. 4,000BC to 2,500BC) flint tools, some with associated manufacturing debris recorded c. 0.75km to the west of the application site boundary.
- 2.3 A possible Neolithic or Bronze Age (c. 2,500BC to 800BC) round barrow 1.5km south-west of the application site, on the opposite side of the A26, within Plashett Wood. Although the feature may actually be a medieval hunting platform associated with the adjacent deer park. In the wider area, archaeological investigations have identified a probable late Iron Age settlement, as well as an associated ditched enclosure and numerous pits at Plashett Park Farm.
- 2.4 The Roman asset nearest to the site is a Roman bloomery, or iron smelting site, located 0.7km to the south-west of the site. A Roman period 'rubbish' pit was identified in 1932 during widening of a section of the A26 Lewes to Uckfield Road, approximately 2km west of the site. Within the wider landscape, The London to Lewes Roman road runs north-east / south-west c. 5km to the west of the application site. A new Roman town located approximately 5km to the south west of the application site has also been identified during a recent geophysical survey.
- 2.5 The only clear evidence for Early Medieval period activity within the study area is Munken Lane, a trackway running through Plashett Wood approximately 2km south-west of the site, that is thought to follow the course of a previous Early Medieval road. The site itself is likely to have been forested at this time, as suggested by the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data, which records many of the fields in

this area as medieval assarts (i.e. land that was deforested during the medieval period). The HLC data also records a large amount of ancient woodland across this area (including Plashett Wood), much of which is thought to have originated during the Early Medieval period.

- 2.6 Plashett Park (now Plashett Wood) is first referenced as a deer park in 1285, when it was referred to as 'le Plessit Park'. During the eighteenth century, the park was in possession of the Gage family and it was subsequently restored in 1825. Also associated with the deer park is a moated site 1.75km to the south-east of the application site, which is probably the lodge of the Prior of Lewes. The HLC data suggests that it was during the medieval period that the land within the application site, as well as much of the land within the wider study area, was first cleared of woodland and brought into agricultural use. This agricultural intensification is attested to by the survival of numerous medieval farmhouses within the region.
- 2.7 During the Post-medieval period the site and the surrounding study area continued to be predominantly agricultural in character. The HLC data shows an increasing number of farmsteads appearing at this time in the vicinity of the site. A building, probably a small dwelling or farmstead, is first shown on Gardner and Gream's 1795 map of Sussex as lying within the site and is labelled Whitelocks. There is no evidence of this farmstead on the site today.

Geophysical Survey

- 2.9 A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 29.6 hectares of the site (SS 2014). The survey did not identify any probable archaeology although several possible archaeological anomalies were identified. The majority of the anomalies identified are of modern origin relating to either agricultural activity, underground services, ferrous objects and fencing including anomalies likely to be geological or pedological in origin.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been

designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the East Sussex Archaeological Adviser acting on behalf of the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 11 trenches, 20m in length in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*, five contexts were sampled and processed and are discussed below. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 CA would normally make arrangements with the catchment museum Barbican House Lewes for the deposition of the site archive and subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. However, Barbican House Lewes is currently not accepting archives, and until this is resolved or another repository has been identified the archive and artefacts will be securely stored at the offices of Cotswold Archaeology in Andover.

4.5 A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C.

5.2 The archaeological evaluation results in relation to the proposed development are indicated on the proposed solar farm layout on Fig. 2.

5.3 The natural geology within the eleven trenches was recorded as compacted yellowy brown silty clay. It was overlain by pale yellowy brown clayey silt subsoil in all trenches, where depths ranged from between 0.14 – 0.29m. A colluvium deposit comprising yellowy brown clayey silt was recorded with a depth of 0.45m within trench five. The plough soil consisted of a yellow brown clayey silt with an average depth of 0.20m and which sealed all trenches. All cut features including a palaeochannel in trench one cut the natural substrate.

5.4 Trenches 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 were devoid of archaeological activity.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.5 A machine dug sondage was excavated through a naturally occurring palaeochannel (104) located at the east end of Trench one. The channel measuring some 4m in width measured in excess of 1.5m in depth. The fill 105, a uniform mid-brown clayey silt with quantities of highly fragmented and poorly preserved charcoal identified as oak noted at the base (environmental sample <5>). The palaeochannel was sealed by the subsoil. The channel matches an area highlighted by the geophysical survey as a 'geological anomaly' in excess of 150m in length.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.6 A ditch was identified crossing the southern end of the trench. Ditch 504 measured 3.50m in width by 0.28m in depth and was filled with a pale grey silty clay 506, up to 0.10m in depth which contained a fragment of Romano-British brick / tile and a



sherd of Romano-British pottery. This underlay 505, a dark greyish brown silty clay with common charcoal inclusions from which a quantity of un-abraded Early Saxon 5th to 6th century pottery was recovered. The ditch was sealed by a yellowy brown clayey silt colluvium 502, up to 0.46m in depth and which survived only at the east end of the trench. A yellow brown clayey silt subsoil 501, 0.20m in depth sealed the colluvium and ran for the full length of trench 5. The geophysical survey identified a 'geological anomaly' some 150m in length and which matched the location of the colluvium in trench 5. Trenches 6 and 7 located north-east of trench 5 contained ditches on the same alignment as 504 and which may represent a continuation of the feature.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.7 Trench 6 contained two parallel ditches 0.50m apart. Both of the undated features cross the trench on a north-east/south-west orientation. Ditch 603 with a broad U-shaped profile measured 0.61m in width by 0.37m in depth and was filled with 604, a yellow brown clayey silt. Ditch 605 with a more irregular profile measured 1.02m in width by 0.22m in depth and was filled by 606, a mid-brown silty clay. It is likely these ditches represent a continuation of ditch 504 (trench 5) as well as continuing north-east into trench 7.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.8 An elongated oval pit, 703, was located close to the east end of the trench and measured 1.44m by 0.80m in width by 0.24m in depth and was filled with 707, a light grey clayey silt which underlay 704, a dark yellowy brown clayey silt, which contained *in situ* scorched clay, burnt sandstone inclusions, charcoal a small fragment of iron working slag and a bodysherd of Early Saxon pottery in rather poor condition, with surface loss and edge abrasion. The uppermost fill 708, a grey brown clayey silt measured up to 0.09m in depth. Two environmental samples were retained from the pit, 707 was sampled as <3> and 708 sampled as <4>.
- 5.9 Located 2m west of the pit, ditch 705, orientated north-east/south-west, a probable continuation of the ditches recorded in trenches 5 and 6, measured 0.93m in width by 0.19m in depth and was filled with 706 a yellowy brown silty clay.

Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.10 An undated oval pit 1103, was recorded in trench 11. It measured 0.73m in length by 0.68m in width by 0.20m in depth. The two fills consisted of 1105 a vitrified reddish brown silty clay with few inclusions of burnt sandstone 0.08m in depth, which underlay 1104, a grey brown silty clay with common inclusions of burnt sandstone 0.12m in depth. The pit, which may be evidence of a hearth or fire pit was sealed by the subsoil.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was recovered from hand-excavation and bulk soil sampling of nine deposits: ditch and pit fills, a layer, a palaeochannel fill and topsoil. The recovered material dates to the Roman and Early Saxon periods. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric, vessel form/rim morphology and evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues.
- 6.2 The Roman pottery and lithics and ceramic building material reports have been compiled by Jacky Somerville, Finds Officer at CA. The Early Saxon pottery report has been compiled by Luke Barber, Research Officer, Sussex Archaeological Society.

Roman

- 6.2 Layer 506 produced a single rim sherd (6g), possibly from a beaker, in a fine oxidised fabric. The condition of this sherd is very poor, with substantial surface loss and edge abrasion.

Early Saxon

- 6.4 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery from ditch (504), fill (505). This consists of 14 hand-collected sherds (210g), with an additional four sherds (15g) being recovered from the environmental residue. All of the material is in unabraded fresh condition despite its generally low-firing, strongly suggesting it has not been subjected to any reworking. The average sherd weight of 12g is indicative of a low degree of fragmentation and four sherds retained burnt food residue. A single unfeatured body sherd (6g) from fill 704 is dated to the Early

Saxon on the basis of fabric/firing characteristics and wall thickness, but in comparison to the other sherds is in a rather poor condition.

- 6.5 The assemblage from fill 505 consists of the remains of perhaps four different vessels in one of two fabrics. The most common fabric (Q1) is tempered with abundant fine/medium clear quartz in a low/medium fired open-textured matrix. The vast majority of the 10 sherds in this fabric are from a single biconical jar with slightly beaded inturned simple rim (cf Bell 1977, Nos 6, 15 and 31 for similar forms/ribs). Firing is typical for this type of Saxon pottery in the Ouse valley: essentially reduced black, but with some oxidised patches on the exterior surface. Identical fabrics are present at Bishopstone and Itford further south (Bell 1977, Fabric 1, Barber 2003, Q/AS1 and Barber 2014, Q1). The single Q1 sherd that is likely to be from a different vessel is small (<5g) and slightly more oxidised.
- 6.6 The remainder of the assemblage is in a fabric tempered with moderate angular multi-coloured flint grits to 1mm and sparse/common fine sand (F1). The seven sherds present (45g) are from two different vessels, the majority deriving from another biconical jar similar in form to the Q1 example. Similarly one of these vessels is distinctly reduced dark grey/black, the other being slightly more oxidised to a grey brown.
- 6.6 The single unfeatured body sherd (6g) from fill 704 is also dated to the Early Saxon period on the basis of fabric/firing characteristics and wall thickness. It is in a fabric tempered with moderate angular multi-coloured flint grits and sparse/common fine sand (F1).
- 6.7 The sandy fabric and biconical forms would be very much in keeping with a 5th- to 6th- century date. However, the introduction of flint tempering in this part of Sussex is generally thought to be a 6th- century phenomenon though precise dates are uncertain – the current assemblage is interesting in having both fabrics in the same form in association within a single context. As such it would appear the activity on site was in a transitional period ceramically, when the first flint tempered vessels were starting to appear. A date in the late 5th to 6th century is probable.
- 6.8 Early Saxon pottery from East Sussex is relatively rare, the bulk to date having come from the lower Ouse and Cuckmere valleys as well as the Eastbourne area.

The current assemblage is therefore considered to be a useful addition to the growing dataset.

Lithics

- 6.9 A total of nine struck flints (136g) were retrieved from hand-excavation and bulk soil sampling of six deposits, in addition to 169 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (152g) from four deposits.
- 6.10 All but three of the worked flints were recovered as residual finds in Iron Age/Roman dated deposits or topsoil. The remaining three, from fill 105 of palaeochannel 104, are not sufficient in terms of number or condition to date the feature. The majority of worked flints are flakes, one of which from fill 105, displays very fine, nibbled retouch along the distal half of the right dorsal edge. The core, from topsoil 1000, is a multi-platform type which was used to produce flakes in an unsystematic manner. All of the lithics are broadly prehistoric in date.

Ceramic building material

- 6.11 A single fragment of ceramic building material of Roman date was recorded in layer 506. It is in moderate condition, with surface crackling, and is too fragmentary for more precise classification.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal bone

- 7.1 Two fragments of animal bone weighing less than 1g were recovered via bulk soil sample 3 taken from the fill of pit 703. While it was not possible to gain a species identification, the fragments displayed clear signs of burning lending weight to the interpretation of this deposit as a dump of hearth waste.

Plant macrofossils

- 7.2 A total of five environmental samples (78 litres of soil) were retrieved and processed with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).



Prehistoric

- 7.3 Fill 105 (sample 5) taken from palaeochannel 104 contained no plant macrofossil material and only a small amount of highly fragmented and poorly preserved charcoal recorded as oak. The paucity and poor preservation of these remains suggests this material is residual resulting from wind-blown hearth debris.

Early Saxon

- 7.4 Sample <1> was recovered from fill 505 within ditch 504. This sample contained no plant macrofossil material, but did contain a large assemblage of well-preserved charcoal identified as oak, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and alder/hazel. The mixture of charcoal, pottery, a fragment of slag and burnt flint is indicative of a dump of domestic waste.

- 7.5 Fill 704 (sample 3) and 708 (sample 4) recovered from pit 703 contained a small number of plant macrofossils including dock, black-bindweed and sedge seeds and an emmer/spelt wheat glume base. There was a large amount of vitrified material, it is possible this represents very poorly preserved cereal grains or fruit flesh, but the absence of any diagnostic features mean no further identification can be made. Charcoal was moderately abundant and identified as oak and alder/hazel. The presence of pottery and burnt flint together with charred plant material - in particular the wheat glume base and charcoal is indicative of discarded domestic waste. Unfortunately the poor preservation of the charred plant remains means no further interpretation of activity onsite can be deduced.

Undated

- 7.6 Sample <2> was retrieved from fill 1104 within pit 1103. No plant macrofossils were recovered however charcoal was present in small quantities and identified as oak, alder/hazel, blackthorn and maple. The paucity and poor preservation of these remains suggests this material is residual resulting from wind-blown hearth debris.
- 7.7 Any of the charcoal with the exception of oak would be suitable for radiocarbon dating, although consideration should be taken regarding the residual/intrusive nature of the material within contexts 105 and 1104 and whether it would provide an accurate date for the feature.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The Palaeochannel in trench one contained worked prehistoric flints and charcoal at its base. Both are indicative of possible activity in the vicinity of the trench, although the paucity and poor preservation of the palaeoenvironmental remains suggests this material is residual resulting from wind-blown hearth debris.
- 8.2 The ditches identified in trenches 5, 6 and 7 are possibly part of a Romano-British field system, which if not in use were still extant and defining the landscape in the Early Saxon period. The slot excavated across Ditch 504 in trench 5 contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and CBM along with a quantity of Early Saxon pottery, charcoal, burnt flint and a piece of iron slag. The direct relationship between the Roman and the Early Saxon finds remain unclear, and it may be possible that the Early Saxon finds represent some form of transitory domestic activity at the site.
- 8.3 The identification of the pit in trench 7 and the undated hearth or fire pit in trench 11 are indicators of either domestic activity or small scale industrial activities. The pit in trench 7 contained a single sherd of Early Saxon pottery and again may be indicative of some form of transitory domestic activity dating to this period. However, these are isolated features and there is no clear indication that more widespread activity is present within the site.
- 8.4 Although pottery was recovered within Trench 5 and a small number of struck flints were also identified there were no finds from within the top and subsoils beyond a few flint flakes to indicate more extensive activity beyond isolated events such as the pits identified in trenches 7 and 11. The evaluation has however been able to identify a previously unrecorded field system likely to date to the Romano British period.
- 8.5 Early Saxon pottery from East Sussex is relatively rare, the bulk to date having come from the lower Ouse and Cuckmere valleys as well as the Eastbourne area. The current assemblage is therefore considered to be a useful addition to the growing dataset and an indication of Early Saxon activity within the site and its vicinity.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Natasha Djukic and Jack Martin-Jones. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Luke Barber and the biological evidence Sarah Cobain respectively. Mike Seager Thomas was also consulted in regard of the pottery finds. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Donald. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

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Sussex Archaeological Standards April 2015.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		topsoil	mid brown clayey silt			0.16	
1	101	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.18	
1	103	layer		natural	Yellowy brown silty clay				
1	104	cut		paleochannel	North-south aligned channel		4	1.20+	Prehistoric
1	105	fill	104	channel fill	brown clayey silt		4	0.92+	Prehistoric
2	200	layer		topsoil	brown clayey silt			0.15	
2	201	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.14	
2	202	layer		natural	Yellowy brown silty clay				
3	301	layer		topsoil	mid brown clayey silt			0.27	
3	302	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.20	
3	303	layer		natural	Yellowy brown silty clay				
4	400	layer		topsoil	mid brown clayey silt			0.23	
4	401	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.16	
4	402	layer		natural	Yellowy brown silty clay				
4	403	cut		service	Modern water pipe trench		0.25		Modern
5	500	layer		topsoil	mid brown clayey silt			0.24	
5	501	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.20	
5	502	layer		Colluvium	yellowy brown clayey silt			0.46	
5	503	layer		natural	Yellowy brown silty clay				
5	504	cut		ditch	NE/SW ditch broad concave linear		2.69	0.18	
5	505	fill		ditch fill	grey brown clayey silt		2.69	0.18	ESX 5-6C
5	506	layer		ditch fill	light grey silty clay		3.31	0.10	RB
6	600	layer		topsoil	mid brown clayey silt			0.34	
6	601	layer		subsoil	light grey brown clayey silt			0.45	
6	602	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
6	603	Cut		ditch	N/S concave linear		0.61	0.37	
6	604	fill	603	ditch fill	yellowy brown clayey silt		0.61	0.37	
6	605	cut		ditch	N/S broad concave linear		1.07	0.22	
6	606	fill	605	ditch fill	brown silty clay		1.07	0.22	
7	700	layer		topsoil	dark yellowy brown clayey silt				
7	701	layer		subsoil	yellowy brown clayey silt				
7	702	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
7	703	cut		pit	hearth / pit	1.44	0.80	0.24	
7	704	fill		pit fill	Yellowy brown clayey silt	1.44	0.68	0.24	ESX 5-6C
7	705	cut		ditch	N/S Ditch		0.93	0.19	
7	706	fill		ditch fill	yellowy brown clayey silt		0.93	0.19	
7	707	fill		pit fill	grey brown clayey silt	0.74	0.64	0.18	
7	708	fill		pit fill	grey brown clayey silt	0.57	0.68	0.09	
8	801	layer		topsoil	dark yellowy brown clayey silt			0.20	
8	802	layer		subsoil	greyish brown clayey silt			0.29	
8	803	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
9	900	layer		topsoil	dark yellowy brown clayey silt			0.12	
9	901	layer		subsoil	greyish brown clayey silt			0.46	
9	902	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
10	1000	layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt			0.24	

10	1001	layer		subsoil	greyish brown clayey silt			0.23	
10	1002	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
11	1100	layer		topsoil	dark yellowy brown clayey silt			0.22	
11	1101	layer		subsoil	greyish brown clayey silt			0.23	
11	1102	layer		natural	yellowy brown silty clay				
11	1103	cut		pit	oval heath / pit	0.73	0.68	0.20	
11	1104	fill		pit fill	grey brown clayey silt	0.73	0.68	0.12	
11	1105	fill		pit fill	reddish brown silty clay	0.71	0.62	0.08	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
100	Worked flint	Burnt flake fragment	1	7	-
105	Worked flint	2 flakes, 1 retouched flake	3	25	-
505	Early Saxon Pottery	Quartz tempered (Q1)	10	179	5-6C
	Early Saxon Pottery	Quartz and sparse flint-tempered (F1)	4	31	5-6C
<1>	Early Saxon Pottery	Quartz tempered (Q1)	1	0	5-6C
<1>	Early Saxon Pottery	Quartz and sparse flint-tempered (F1)	3	14	5-6C
<1>	Slag		1	1	
<1>	Worked flint	Chip	2	0	
<1>	Burnt flint		49	21	
506	Roman pottery	Fine oxidised	1	6	RB
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment	1	107	
	Worked flint	Flake	1	7	
704 <3>	Early Saxon Pottery	Quartz and sparse flint-tempered (F1)	1	6	5-6C
<3>	Burnt flint		2	2	
708 <4>	Burnt flint		1	7	-
1000	Worked flint	Core	1	87	-
1100	Worked flint	Flake	1	10	-
1104 <2>	Burnt flint		117	122	-

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number		505	1104	704	705	105
Feature number		504	1103	703	703	104
Sample number (SS)		1	2	3	4	5
Flot volume (ml)		11	3	28.5	54.5	1
Sample volume processed (l)		25	8	18	19	8
Soil remaining (l)		0	0	0	0	0
Period		ESX	U/D	ESX	ESX	PRE
Plant macrofossil preservation		N/A	N/A	Poor	Poor	N/A
Habitat						
	Species	Common Name				
M/D	Cyperaceae	<i>Carex</i> L.	Sedges	1		
A/D	Poaceae	<i>Triticum spelta</i> / <i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	Emmer/spelt wheat glume base		1	
D/A	Polygonaceae	<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Löve	Black-bindweed	1		
		<i>Rumex</i>	Dock	1		
			Vitrified material	++++	+++	

Charcoal identifications

Context number		505	1104	704	704	105
Feature number		504	1103	703	703	104
Sample number (SS)		1	2	3	4	5
Flot volume (ml)		11	3	28.5	54.5	1
Sample volume processed (l)		25	8	18	19	8
Soil remaining (l)		0	0	0	0	0
Period		ESX	U/D	ESX	ESX	PRE
Charcoal quantity		+++++	+++	++++	+++	++
Charcoal preservation		Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Poor
Family	Species	Common Name				
Aceraceae	<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	Field Maple		1		
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertn./ <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Alder/Hazel		1	2	5
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl. / <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/ Pedunculate Oak		7	5	5
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq./ <i>Sorbus</i> L./ <i>Malus</i> <i>sylvestris</i> (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/Rowan/ Crab apple		2		
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	Blackthorn		1		
Total				10	10	5

Key

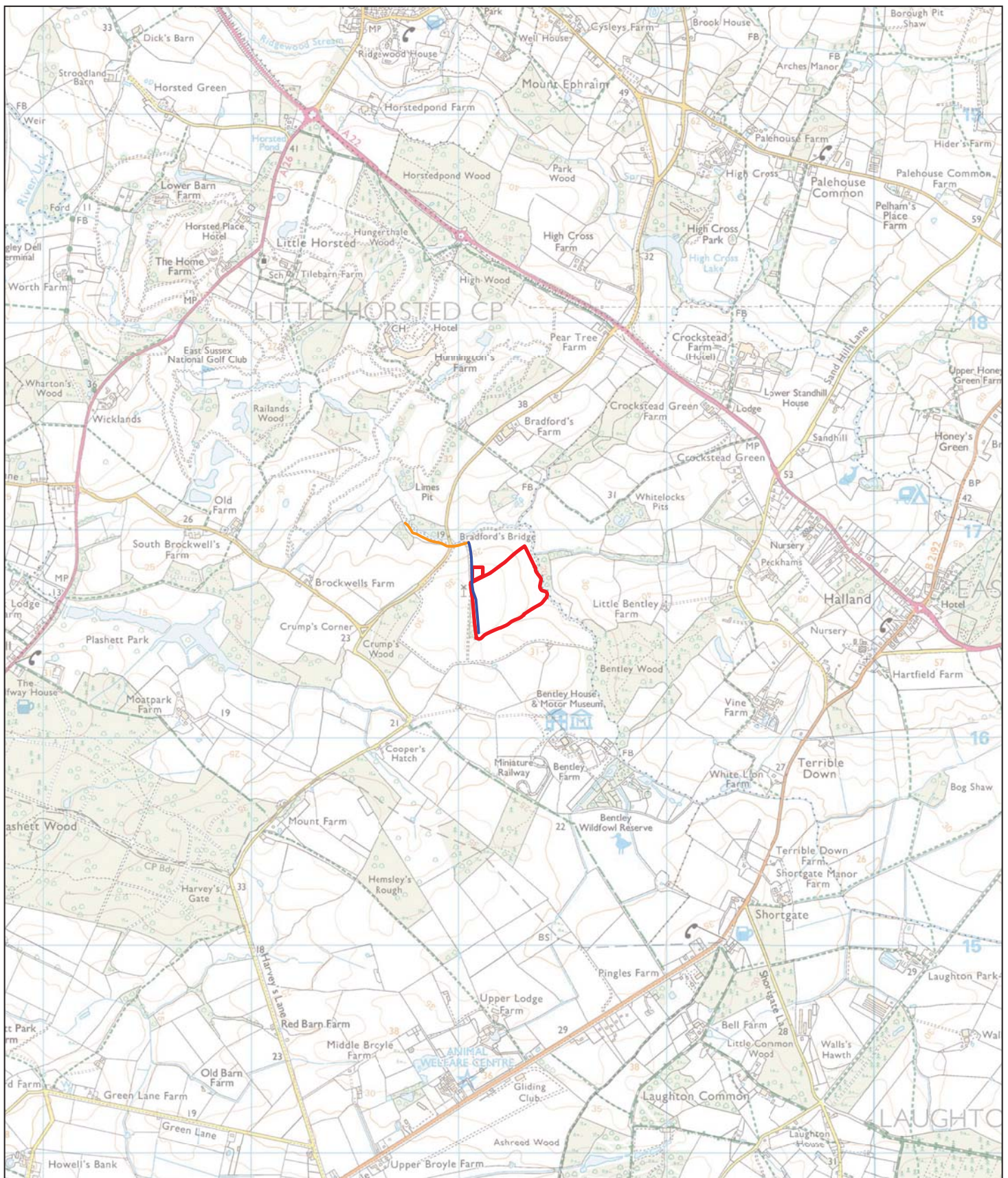
D = opportunistic species; A = arable weed; M = marshland species

+ = 1–4 fragments; ++ = 4–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = 100–500 items; ++++++ = >500 items

PRE = Prehistoric
ESX = Early Saxon
UD = undated

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex. Eleven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Three trenches revealed linear ditches, two of which were undated, the third ditch contained Iron Age / Romano-British pottery. A hearth and a pit with <i>in situ</i> scorching were also recorded, one of which contained Iron Age pottery and the other was undated. A palaeochannel recorded in trench one was found to contain quantities of charcoal along with a number of worked flints. Additionally small quantities of worked and burnt flints were recovered from the topsoil of three trenches. Six trenches were devoid of archaeological features.</p>	
Project dates	5 – 8 May 2015	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work		
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex	
Study area (M ² /ha)	8.3 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	548330 116990	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive Barbican House Lewes	Content
Physical		Lithics, ceramics, and fe slag
Paper		Trench Sheets, Context sheets,
Digital		Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report		



- site boundary
- mains connection cable (within application area)
- mains connection cable (permitted development)

0 1km

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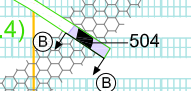
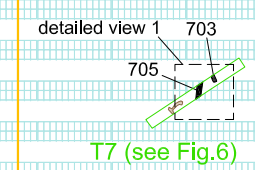
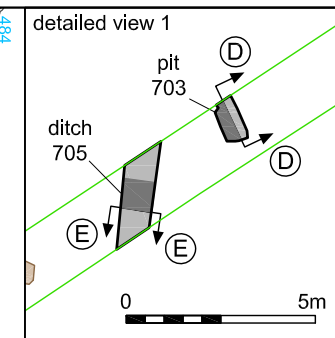
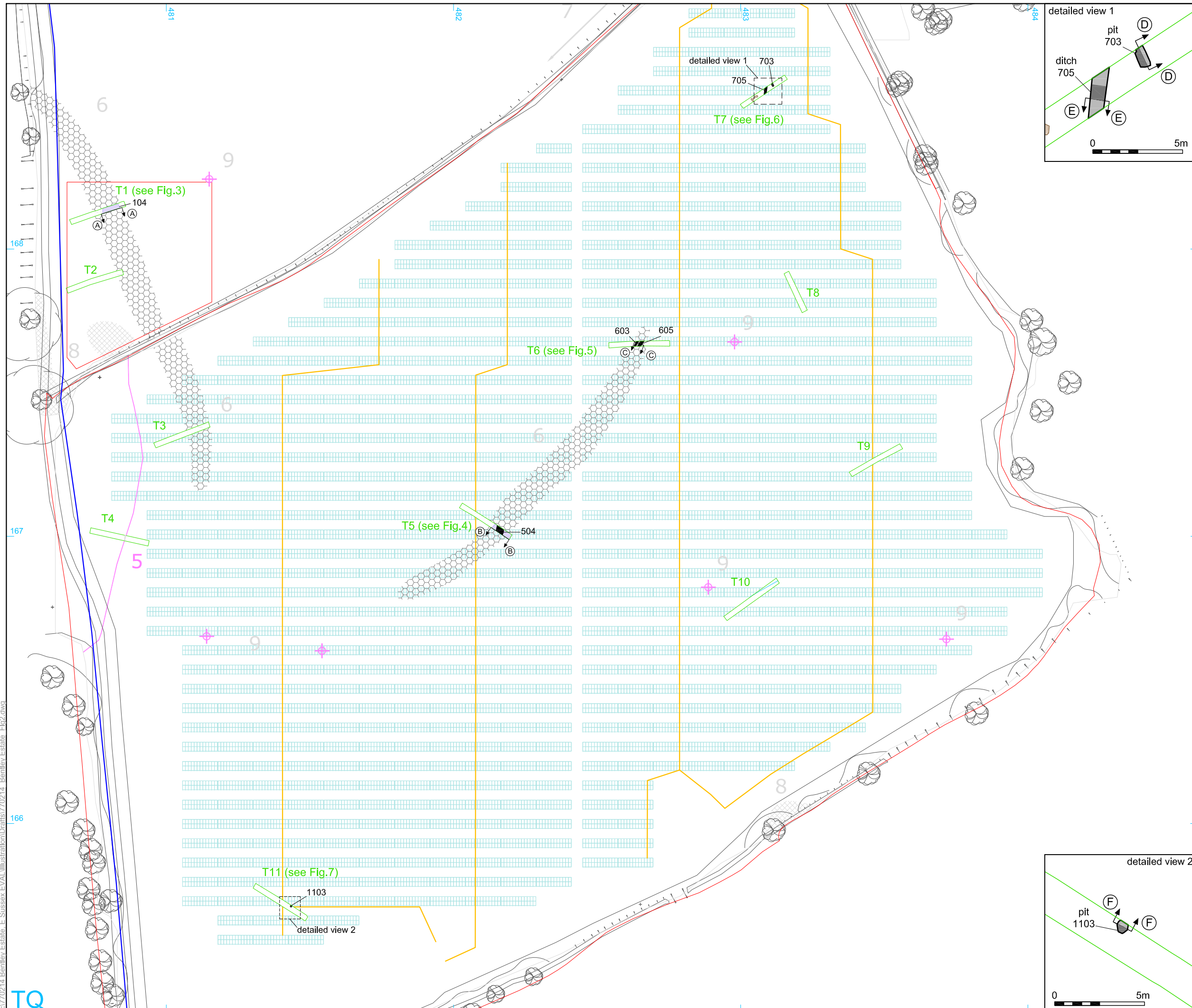
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PROJECT TITLE
 Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LJH **PROJECT NO.** 770214
CHECKED BY JB **DATE** 18/05/15
APPROVED BY DDR **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
 1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- solar panel module
- proposed mains connection cable (within application area)
- proposed cable trenches
- archaeological feature
- geological feature
- bioturbation
- field drain
- section location

- ### Geophysics Survey results (Stratascan 2014)
- Probable Archaeology**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
 - Linear anomaly - probably associated with former field boundaries
 - Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- Possible Archaeology**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
 - Linear anomaly - possibly associated with former field boundaries
- Other Anomalies**
- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
 - Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
 - Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
 - Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
 - Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
 - Scattered magnetic debris
 - Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
 - Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

0 50m

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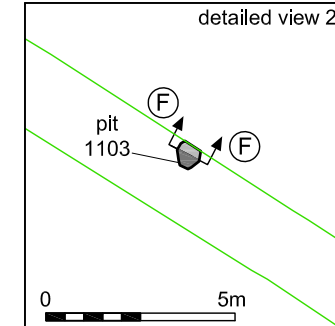
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PROJECT TITLE
Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features with geophysical survey results

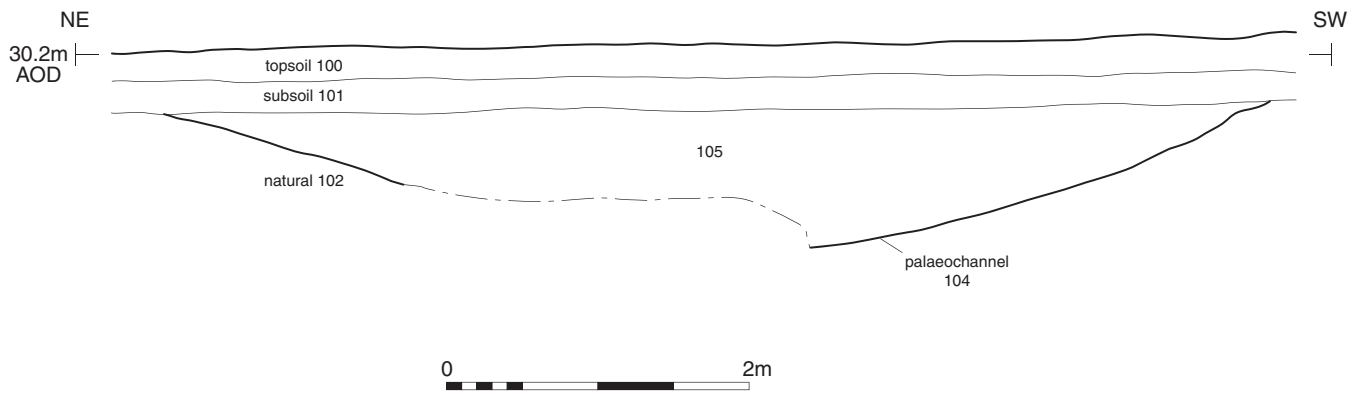
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TQ

Section AA



Palaeochannel 104, looking north (2m scale)



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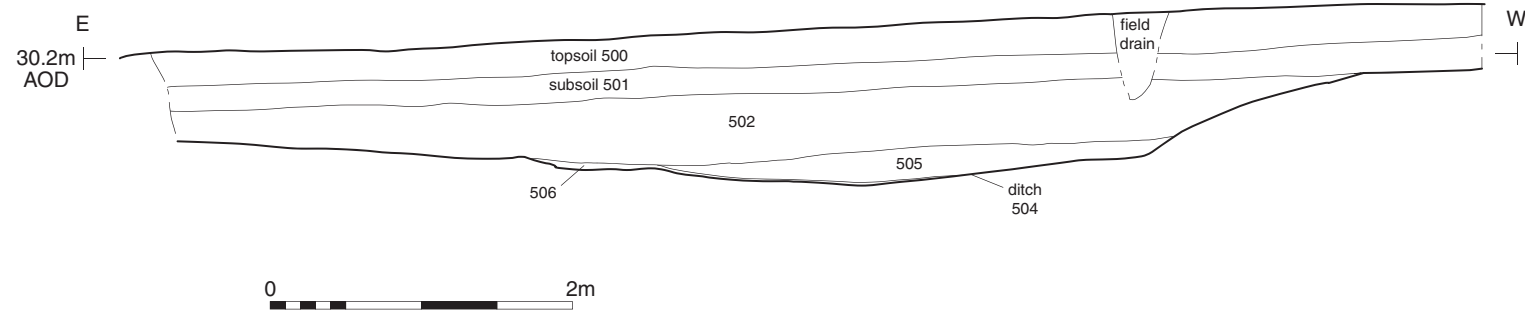
Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: section and photograph

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Section BB



Ditch 504, looking south-east (2m scale)

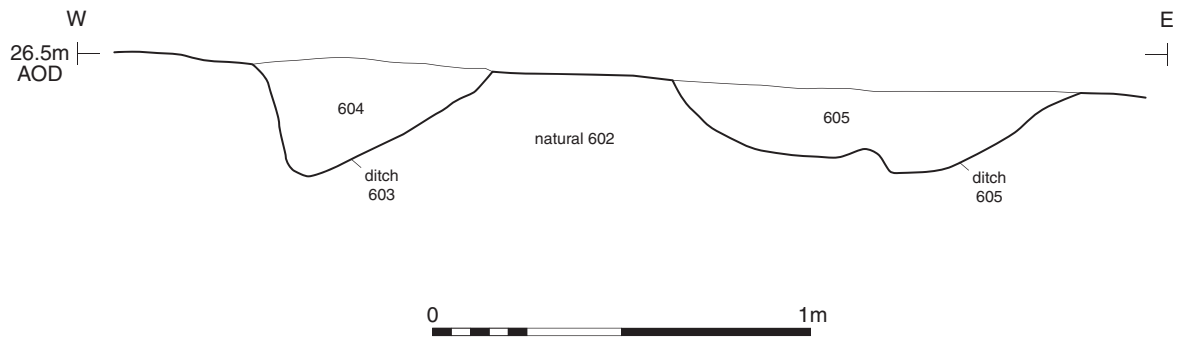
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: section and photograph

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Section CC



Ditches 603 and 605, looking north-east (1m and 0.2m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

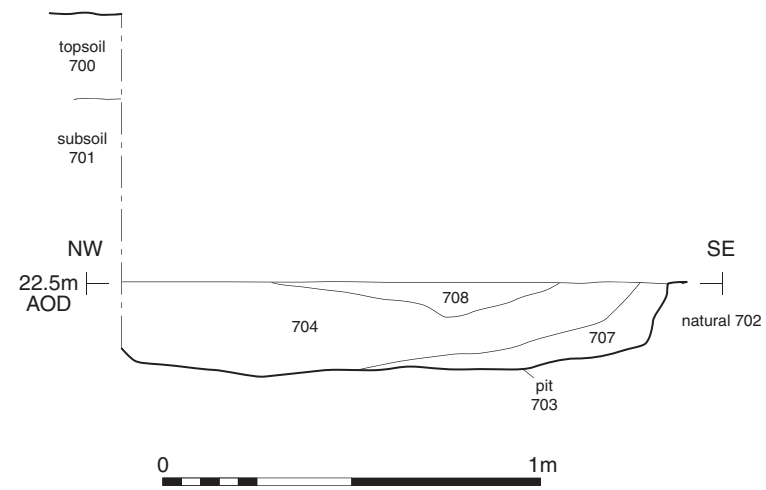
Trench 6: section and photograph

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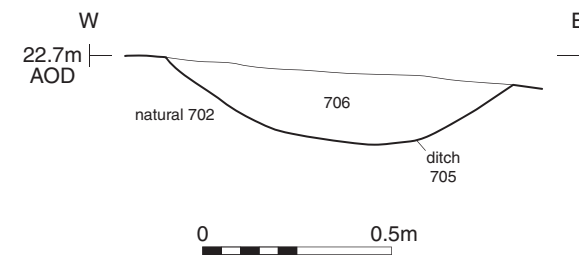
FIGURE NO.

5

Section DD



Section EE



Pit 703, looking east (0.5m scale)



Pit 705, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

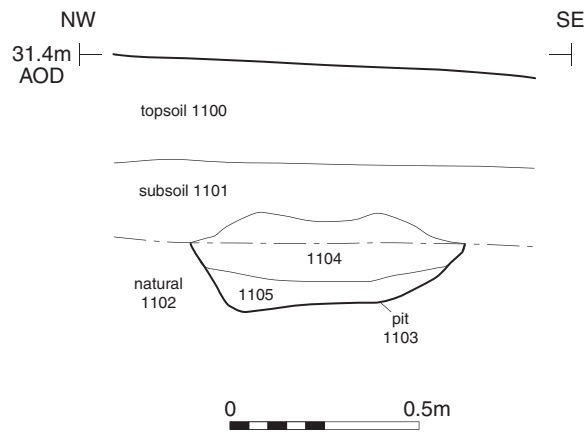

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PROJECT TITLE
 Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 7: sections and photographs

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Section FF



Pit 1103, looking north-east (0.2m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Bentley Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7

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