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An Archaeological Excavation
at
Itford Farm
Beddingham,
East Sussex

LW/07/0792

by
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Summary

An evaluation excavation at Itford Farm, Beddingham in advance of the construction of a new farmhouse established the presence of archaeological remains of Bronze Age date. The full excavation recorded a horseshoe-shaped gully within a shallow hollow with numerous associated post and stakeholes. Over this was an oval feature of natural flints on top of which a number of broken Post Deverel-Rimbury pots had been deposited. Adjacent to this was a further area of flint associated with evidence of in-situ flint knapping.

The excavation of a service trench to the new house revealed a deep feature of later Saxon date with a complex stratigraphy. In the bottom of this feature were numerous disarticulated bones of pig, cattle, sheep and dog.

The discovery of these features can be linked to the nearby Bronze Age ritual sites on Itford Hill, and the recent discovery of a Saxon sunken featured building in an adjacent field, and confirms the importance of this site.

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Cover Picture: Itford Farm: Feature 112: The horseshoe gully and other associated features

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services was commissioned by E. J. Brickell & Sons (The Client) to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation in advance of the construction of a new house at Itford Farm, Beddingham, East Sussex. As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority put a condition on the planning consent for the development (LW/07/0792), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.

- 1.2** The site lies within Itford Farm (TQ433055), which is situated on the east side of the River Ouse, and adjacent to the A26 Lewes-Newhaven road (Fig. 1). The area around Itford Farm has been designated an Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA). Itford Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building (MES1216) of probable Medieval origin, but altered in the 17/18th centuries, whilst Itford Farm itself (MES7448) is a Post Medieval farm.

- 1.3** The underlying geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319) is Lower Chalk, with Alluvium between the Farm and the River Ouse, and a small outcrop of Head Deposit to the south of the Farm.

- 1.4** The first phase of the archaeological work comprised an archaeological evaluation excavation, which was carried out on the 24th – 25th September 2008. This involved the excavation of two evaluation trenches across the footprint of the proposed house.

- 1.5** As a result of the discoveries during this assessment excavation a further programme of archaeological works was agreed to carry out a full excavation of an area across the footprint of the proposed house, and to undertake a watching brief on the route of the new driveway and service trench. This was carried out between the 15th and 23rd October 2008. No separate report was produced on the evaluation excavation, as the results are incorporated into this report.

- 1.6** The field situated to the north of Itford Farm was subsequently fieldwalked as part of an A-Level coursework project, under the guidance of the author, and is the subject of a separate report.

2. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.1 In 1998 a watching brief on a new wastewater pipeline located a Saxon sunken featured building 400m to the north of Itford Farm¹. A geoarchaeological assessment undertaken at the same time indicated that there were prehistoric and early historic archaeological deposits likely to be buried deeply in the alluvium, although in some areas these deposits were more shallow where they rested on higher parts of the underlying Chalk.
- 2.2 The area of Itford Hill is well known for its Prehistoric and later archaeology, including Bronze Age burial mounds and settlement site². Parts of Itford Hill are designated as ASA's and two sites are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.3 The Yeakell & Gardner map of 1778-83 shows Itford Farm, as does the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft map of c.1805-1810, and all later Ordnance Survey maps. No buildings appear to have been located in the field in which the new house is to be constructed.

3. Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1 The evaluation excavation saw two trenches 10m long and 1.8m wide excavated across the footprint of the proposed house and garage (Fig. 2) in accordance with a WSI approved by the Archaeology Team at ESCC³. These were both excavated using a JCB under archaeological supervision after a CAT scan had shown that there were no services present. Two test pits were also excavated using the JCB for geotechnical purposes. Section drawings of the evaluation trenches are retained in the site archive.
- 3.2 As a result of the discoveries during the assessment excavation a further programme of archaeological works was agreed⁴. This second phase comprised the excavation of a trench 14m x 10m in size, and the monitoring of the topsoil strip for a new driveway and the excavation of a service trench to the new house.

¹ James, R. 2002 'The excavation of a Saxon *grubenhau*s at Itford farm, Beddingham, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **140**, 41-7.

² Russell, M. 1996 *A reassessment of the Bronze Age cemetery-barrow on Itford Hill, East Sussex*, School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University, Research Report 2.

³ Butler, C. 2008a *Specification for an Archaeological Assessment Excavation at Itford Farm, Beddingham, East Sussex*. CBAS.

⁴ Butler, C. 2008b *Specification for Phase 2 Excavation at Itford Farm, Beddingham, East Sussex*. CBAS.

- 3.3** The trench was initially excavated by JCB using a 1.8m wide toothless bucket to remove the topsoil under archaeological supervision. The topsoil strip of the driveway, to a depth of 200mm, was also undertaken by the JCB using a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. The adjacent service trench was excavated by JCB using a 400mm wide toothless bucket to a depth of c.850mm.
- 3.4** The exposed archaeological features were then cleaned by hand and excavated in accordance with ESCC's *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work* (Version dated April 2008). A metal detector was used to scan the trenches, topsoil strip of the drive, and spoil heap.
- 3.5** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets. Context numbers 1 to 12 relate to the evaluation excavation, and Contexts 100 to 148 were allocated to the full excavation. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6** All of the features were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by reference to a spot height of 10.5m OD (Fig. 1), as there was no access available to the Bench Mark at Itford Farm.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services and, after any further analysis, arrangements will be made to deposit the archive at Barbican House Museum, Lewes. A site reference of IFB08 has been allocated.

4. Results

Evaluation Excavation

- 4.1** Evaluation Trench 1 revealed a mid grey-brown silty loam topsoil c.200mm deep (Context **1**) containing flint pieces to 100mm (1%), chalk flecks (<1%) and roots (<1%). Below this was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam c.150-200mm deep (Context **2**) containing chalk flecks and pieces to 80mm (40%), and flint pieces to 100mm (1%), which became progressively more chalky further down.
- 4.2** Below Context **2** was a compact silty colluvial clay natural with numerous chalk pieces up to 150mm in size at its base (Context **3**). There were no features noted within Trench 1, which was excavated to a depth of 850mm.

- 4.3** The excavation of Evaluation Trench 2 revealed the same sequence of layers, with solid chalk natural (Context **8**) found below Context **3**. However, cut into Context **3** at the north end of the trench was a shallow cut (Cut **4**) 190mm deep, which extended outside the trench on the west and north sides.
- 4.4** Cut **4** was filled with a dark brown silty clay (Context **5**) which had numerous irregular natural flint pieces (10%) lying in its upper part, and some charcoal flecks (2%). Prehistoric pottery, worked flint and fire-fractured flint was recovered from this context. Below Context **5** was a thin layer of dark brown silty clay with irregular flint pieces to 50mm (10%) and charcoal fragments and flecks (Context **7**).
- 4.5** A small circular (stakehole?) cut 150mm in diameter and 85mm deep (Cut **9**) was found cut into the bottom of Cut **4**. It was filled with a buff to orange-brown silty clay matrix (Fill **10**) with chalk pieces to 20mm (10%) and flint fragments to 25mm (2%). A second larger cut some 250mm in diameter (Cut **11**) was found at the north end of the trench and extended outside the trench. It had a buff silty clay fill (Fill **12**) with chalk pieces to 40mm (25%) and flint fragments to 30mm (1%). This cut was left unexcavated.

Geotechnical Test Pits

- 4.6** The geotechnical test pits (Fig. 2) revealed a similar stratigraphy. Test Pit A was 1.5m deep, and has 180mm of Context **1**, 220mm of Context **2**, with the remaining 1.1m being Context **3**. In the corner of the test pit a 19th/20th century drain was revealed. Test Pit B was 1.2m deep, and has 200mm of Context **1** above 220mm of Context **2**. A layer of sterile dark brown silty clay (Context **6**) 280mm thick was found below Context **2**, which was immediately above Context **3**.

Excavation Trench

- 4.7** The area around Evaluation Trench 2 was expanded into a larger trench 14m x 10m in size to fully investigate the features found in the evaluation trench (Fig. 2). The topsoil (Context **100**) was removed by machine down to the level of the archaeological remains, which were then cleaned by hand.
- 4.8** Below the topsoil was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam (Context **101**) with chalk pieces to 80mm and flecks (40%) and flint piece to 100mm (1%). This layer became more chalky at lower levels. In the north-west corner of the trench a different context number (Context **102**) was allocated to the lower part this layer as it was noted that there appeared to be a greater density of finds from this area.
- 4.9** The cut encountered on the evaluation (Cut **4**) was now seen to be a shallow slightly dished roughly circular shape 4m by 3.5m in size and 230mm deep (Cut **112** – Fig. 5). It had an upper fill of dark brown silty clay loam (Fill **113**) with irregular flint pieces to 70mm (10%). A number of pieces of worked flint was recovered from this fill.

- 4.10** Within the upper fill was an elongated oval area of flint nodules 2.6m long and 0.8m wide and 100 deep, lying roughly in the centre of Cut **112** (See Fig. 4) and orientated east-west along its longest axis (Context **115**). The flint nodules were up to 140mm in size, and were in a matrix of dark brown silty clay loam forming a compact layer up to two courses of flint deep. Numerous sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the upper surface of the flint nodules.
- 4.11** The lower fill of Cut **112** comprised a light brown silty clay (Fill **114**) with chalk pieces to 20mm and flecks (50%). Cut into the bottom of Cut **112** was a horseshoe shaped feature (Cut **119/123**) formed from a series of interlinked irregular shaped linear cuts which varied in depth and width (Figs. 3, 5, 6 & 7). The upper fill of this feature comprised a dark orange-brown friable silty clay (Fill **117/124**) with natural flint pieces to 40mm (<1%).
- 4.12** The primary fill of the horseshoe cut was a firm light brown silty clay (Fill **118/129**) with chalk pieces to 10mm and chalk flecks (25%), but was not present in all parts of the feature. The only find in this feature was a single flint flake fragment from the primary Fill **129**.
- 4.13** A large number of stakeholes were found within the interior of the horseshoe cut, whilst others were located around its outside (Fig. 3). Most were circular, and varied from 50mm to 100mm diameter, whilst others were oval in shape. They varied in depth from 35mm to 100mm, and most had sloping sides, with some narrowing to a point. They were all filled with a similar fill of a firm mid brown silty clay (Context **134**).
- 4.14** A number of small post holes were also situated around the outside of the horseshoe feature (Fig. 3). On the north side were two shallow postholes (Fig. 3); Cut **125** was 200mm x 220mm and 70mm deep with sloping sides into a flat bottom, and contained a firm mid brown silty clay fill (Fill **126**). A single small fragile fragment of pottery was recovered from the top of this cut but crumbled away as it was being lifted. Cut **127** was 260mm x 230mm and 80mm deep, and contained a firm dark brown silty clay fill (Fill **128**) with irregular flint pieces to 20mm (2%).
- 4.15** On the east side, Cut **146** was cut into the slope of Cut **112**. This was 140mm in diameter and 80mm deep and contained a firm mid brown silty clay fill. Nearby within the gully (Cut **119**) there was a circular cut which may have formed an alignment between Cut **146** and Cut **130**, and perhaps Cut **144** beyond.

- 4.16** Cut **130** was situated in the centre of the open end of the horseshoe (Fig. 3). It was 180mm in diameter and 95mm deep, with gradually sloping sides into a dished bottom. It contained a firm mid brown silty clay fill (Fill **131**). Immediately to the south of this was a larger circular feature (Cut **132**), 300mm in diameter and 100mm deep, which was cut into the slope of Cut **112** and had gradually sloping sides into a dished bottom. It was filled with a firm mid brown silty clay (Fill **133**).
- 4.17** The final features within Cut **112** were two short lengths of straight gully (Fig. 3). The first (Cut **147**) was 400mm long, 60mm wide and 80mm deep with a deeper cut stakehole at each end. Cut **148** was 240mm long, 60mm wide and 80mm deep, with a deeper circular stakehole at its south end. Both were filled with a similar mid brown silty clay.
- 4.18** To the south-west of Cut **112** (Fig. 3) a roughly circular area of natural flint nodules of varying sizes up to 100mm covering an area 1.4m x 1.1m in size, and was c.100mm deep (Context **116**). It was mixed with a dark brown silty clay, and also had numerous pieces of worked flint incorporated into it. Below the flint was an oval shallow cut 380mm x 330mm in size, with gradually sloping sides 90mm deep into a flattish bottom (Cut **144**). This was filled with a firm mid brown silty clay (Fill **145**) containing rare chalk pieces to 10mm (1%), but no artefacts (Fig. 7).
- 4.19** South of Feature 116 (Fig. 3) was a large circular cut 1.9m in diameter and 140mm deep (Cut **120** – Fig. 6). This had a number of additional irregular cuts in its bottom, and was filled with a primary fill of a compact light brown silty clay (Fill **122**), and a secondary fill of compact dark brown silty clay (Fill **121**) with natural flint pieces to 20mm (<1%). No artefacts were recovered from this feature, which was interpreted as a tree throw.
- 4.20** Apart from the 19th/20th century drain (Fig. 3), the final feature in the main trench was a small shallow oval cut 300mm x 260mm and 60mm deep (Cut **110**). It had straight sides and an irregular bottom (Fig. 6), and was filled with a firm mid brown silty clay loam (Fill **111**). No artefacts were recovered from this cut.

Watching Brief on Drive & Service Trench

- 4.21** The excavation of the service trench revealed a layer of mid grey-brown silty loam topsoil (Context **103**) with roots (2%) and chalk flecks (<1%), which was 500mm deep at the south end and 300mm deep at the north end. Below this was a light brown silty clay colluvium (Context **104**) containing frequent chalk pieces and flecks.
- 4.22** Towards the north end of the service trench (Fig. 2) a feature was noted within Context **104**. The service trench was widened slightly and the feature was excavated, initially by machine, and then by hand, revealing a complex series of largely sterile layers in section (Fig. 6). The main feature was a large cut (Cut **105**) 3.5m wide and 1.07m deep, which extended outside the trench on both the east and west sides.

- 4.23** The main fill of Cut **105** comprised a loose mid brown silty clay loam (Fill **106**) with numerous chalk pieces to 20mm and flecks (15%) and irregular flint pieces to 75mm (<1%). The sides of the feature were sloping gradually, but then became much steeper, at which point a large amount of disarticulated bone was encountered. The chalk inclusions had become slightly larger and the quantity of flint pieces had increased slightly, so a new context number was allocated to this part of the fill around the bone (Fill **107**).
- 4.24** Below Fill **107**, the sides of the cut became almost vertical and a new layer of fill was encountered, although there was still some bone in this layer. It was a firm light grey brown silty clay loam (Fill **108**) with small chalk pieces to 20mm and chalk flecks (15%), irregular flint pieces to 75mm (1%) and charcoal flecks (<1%). Although in section this looks like an earlier cut feature, the fill was almost identical, and the bone continued from Context **107** into Context **108** without any noticeable change.
- 4.25** The primary fill was a light grey brown silty clay chalky wash (Fill **109**) with chalk pieces to 20mm and chalk flecks ((5%), and irregular flint pieces to 50mm (<1%). A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was recovered from this fill lying almost on the bottom of the cut.
- 4.26** Cut **105** appeared to have cut through two earlier cuts (Fig. 6); firstly on the south side, Cut **140** had a primary fill of loose light brown silty clay loam (Fill **143**) with frequent chalk pieces to 20mm (30%) and small flint pieces to 10mm (2%). The main fill comprised a loose mid brown silty clay loam (Fill **141**) with chalk fragments to 20mm (15%) and small flint pieces to 20mm (1%). Sandwiched between these two layers on the south side of the cut was a thin horizon of loose off-white chalky silty loam (Fill **142**) with chalk fragments to 20mm and flecks (25%). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.
- 4.27** On the north side was Cut **135**, which had a more complex sequence of fills, which appeared to have a more vertical alignment (Fig. 6). Fill **139** formed a thin horizon at the bottom of the sequence, and comprised a loose mid brown silty clay loam, with no inclusions. Above this was an off-white loose chalky silty loam (Fill **138**) with frequent small chalk fragments to 10mm (60%).
- 4.28** The main fill of Cut **135** was a loose mid brown silty clay loam (Fill **137**), with chalk fragments and flecks (20%) and flint pieces to 10mm (<1%). The final fill was an off-white loose chalky silty loam (Fill **136**) with frequent small chalk fragments to 10mm (60%). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.
- 4.29** The topsoil strip for the drive only went to a depth of 200mm, and therefore only removed the topsoil (Context **103**). Numerous finds of Post Medieval pottery and CBM, together with prehistoric flintwork and fire-fractured flint were recovered, the majority of which came from the northern end of the drive.

5 Finds

5.1 The excavation produced a large assemblage of finds from the topsoil and the features, providing information regarding the dating and function of the site. Each artefact type is discussed in detail below, and the potential for further analysis is assessed. The artefacts are summarised in Tables 1 to 6.

5.2 *Prehistoric Pottery* by Mike Seager Thomas

5.2.1 The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Itford Farm comprises 137 sherds weighing 465 grams. All of it belongs to the Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, which dates to the Late Bronze Age or c.1150–800 cal BC.

5.2.2 The principal diagnostic features are the fabrics, of which there are two, both coarsely but sparsely flint-tempered, and half a dozen fragmentary feature sherds that best reconstruct as shouldered jars. These features are characteristic of the tradition generally and are widely paralleled in assemblages belonging to it from the region (e.g. Beddingham Villa, Glynde & Castle Hill, Newhaven). The small number of fabrics and the complete lack of evidence for decoration probably indicate a date towards the beginning of the tradition.

Table 1. Prehistoric Pottery

Context	Weight in grams	Number of sherds	Pottery date	Diagnostic features
Top of 5	30	11	LBA	SMCF temper of PDR type
5	285	77	LBA	SMCF temper of PDR type; out-turned rim of probable PDR shouldered jar in SMCF; possible out-turned neck of PDR shouldered jar in SMCF
10	1	1	LBA	SMCF temper of PDR type
101	1	1	LBA	FMF PDR fabric
109	1	1	LBA	Unclassifiable PDR fabric
113	147	46	LBA	SMCF temper of PDR type; fragmentary bead rim in SMCF; out-turned neck of PDR shouldered jar in SMCF

SCMF = Sparse to Medium Coarse Flint Temper; FMF = Fine to Medium Flint Temper; PDR = Post Deverel-Rimbury.

5.2.3 Up to five different vessels are represented, one from Context **101**, and three or four from Context **5/113**. All are fragmented (the largest sherd is only 5 cm across), incomplete, and highly weathered. This indicates either disturbance, or, the preferred view of the specialist, secondary deposition.

5.2.4 In so far as it fills a gap in the known distribution (both regional and contextual) of pottery belonging to the Post Deverel-Rimbury tradition, the present group is an important find — there have been no other finds of Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery in the immediate area, whilst the final interpretation of Context **5/113** will undoubtedly have implications in terms of our understanding of pottery use or deposition (depending whether it was, or was not secondary), a recurrent theme in recent pottery analyses.

5.2.5 Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery itself is both fairly common and well understood locally and the research potential of a new assemblage of this size and condition is limited: bar routine fabric analysis and quantification, which would locate it within the tradition as a whole, no further work is recommended.

5.3 *Roman and Later Pottery* by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The earliest historic pottery from the site consists of six small heavily abraded sherds of grog-tempered Late Iron Age/Roman East Sussex Ware probably residual in Context **101** and residual in Context **108** (Table 2).

5.3.2 A single abraded sherd of low fired cooking pot, tempered with moderate multicoloured flint grits to 1mm and rare shell inclusions (but no sand), was found residual in Context **100**. Such fabrics are notoriously difficult to date with certainty in the area but an 8th to 10th century date range is probable.

5.3.3 Context **107** also produced a sherd of hand-made low-fired flint tempered ware from a reduced jar tempered with moderate sub-rounded grey flint to 1mm. This fabric is similar to fabric AS/F/AS/1 at the ECAT Saxon cemetery in Eastbourne⁵ and a mid 7th to 9th century range is suggested for the current sherd and indeed a the tiny chip from Context **109**.

5.3.4 As well as containing a little Roman material, Context **108** contained a single, possibly intrusive, sherd of oxidised cooking pot tempered with moderate sub-angular multicoloured flint to 0.5mm. An 11th to mid 12th century date is probable, though a slightly earlier date cannot be ruled out completely. Context **101** also produced an abraded cooking pot sherd of a better fired fabric tempered with moderate flint to 1mm (most to 0.5mm), rare shell and sparse medium sand. A 12th to early 13th century date is probable for this fabric, which is common in Lewes at this time.

5.3.5 The latest Medieval sherd from the site consists of a fragment from a mid 13th to mid 14th century cooking pot with beaded club rim in a medium sand tempered fabric with rare iron oxide inclusions similar to wares from the Ringmer industry.

⁵ Barber, L. forthcoming. The Pottery in C. Greatorex Excavation of a Late Iron Age settlement and Pagan Saxon cemetery at the ECAT site, Eastbourne.

5.3.6 The remaining pottery from the site can all be placed into a 19th century date bracket. This material consists of larger, less abraded sherds which probably derived from the nearby farmhouse. The most common type consists of glazed red earthenware (topsoil strip x14 sherds; Tr. 1, [1] x4; Tr. 2, [1] x6; and **100** x9), including jars, bowls and platters. A number of unglazed earthenware sherds are also present, including sherds from flower pots (topsoil strip for drive) and bowls (Context **100**).

5.3.7 There are a number of English stoneware sherds, most notably from the topsoil strip of the drive, including sherds from ink and ginger beer bottles. More refined wares are notably scarce in comparison to the coarsewares but include some plain china plates (e.g. Contexts Tr. 1 [1], **100** and **103**). Other material includes a yellow ware bowl from **100**, a blue stoneware cup from **103** and a piece of English porcelain from the topsoil strip of the drive.

5.3.8 The Roman and later pottery assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's small size, dominance by late post-medieval material and lack of good sealed context groups. All of the earlier material is small, abraded and residual in later contexts. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum.

Table 2 Roman and later Pottery, CBM & Stone

Context	Pot: Roman	Pot: AS/Medieval	Pot: late post- medieval	CBM*	Stone	Deposit Date
Topsoil strip for drive	-	1/8g	21/226g	Peg 3/78g Pan 1/70g	Stone 2/22g	C19th (resid. med)
1 Tr. 1	-	-	5/118g	Peg 1/6g	Stone 1/8g	C19th
1 Tr. 2	-	-	8/122g	Peg 1/14g Brick 2/38g	Stone 1/4g	C19th
100	-	2/8g	16/272g	Peg 5/128g Brick 1/8g	Burnt clay 2/22g Stone 2/64g	C19th (resid. med)
101	4/10g	-	-	Peg 1/24g	-	Mixed: C13th tile & abraded RB pot
103	-	-	6/228g	Peg 2/232g	Stone 1/60g	Late C19th – e 20 th
104	-	-	-	Peg 1/36g	-	C17th – 18th
107	-	1/4g	-	-	-	Mid C7th – 9th
108	2/6g	1/5g	-	-	-	C11th – mid 12th
109	-	1/<1g	-	-	-	?C7th – 9th

Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

* = Ceramic Building Material

5.4 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

5.4.1 An assemblage of 327 pieces of worked flint weighing 5.115kg was recovered during the evaluation and excavations at Itford Farm (Table 3). In addition 288 pieces of fire-fractured flint weighing 5.939kg were recovered. Classification follows Butler (2005)⁶.

Table 3 Prehistoric Flintwork

Hard hammer-struck flakes	151
Soft hammer-struck flakes	43
Hard hammer-struck blade	1
Soft hammer-struck blades	8
Soft hammer-struck bladelet	2
Fragments	72
Chips	18
Shattered pieces	3
Chunks	8
Tested nodule	1
Single platform flake cores	4
Single platform flake/blade core	1
Two platform flake cores	2
Multiple platform flake cores	4
Core fragment	1
End scrapers	5
Utilised flake	1
Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead	1
Hammerstone	<u>1</u>
Total	327

5.4.2 The raw material was predominantly a white to light grey patinated flintwork, with a few pieces having a mottled light blue patination, and a few in a dark grey to black unpatinated colour. The cortex, where present, was a smooth buff to light brown colour.

5.4.3 The assemblage splits into two distinctly different groups of material. Firstly a small group comprising about 6% of the assemblage, that is defined by being predominantly soft hammer-struck, with blades and some flakes that have prepared platforms and very regular dorsal scars. Two cores also had platform preparation and form part of this group. Pieces from this group were recovered from all areas of the excavation and probably represent residual Early Neolithic activity.

⁶ Butler, C. 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing Ltd.

- 5.4.4** The second group of material was predominantly hard hammer-struck flakes, with numerous fragments and some shattered pieces. A number of soft hammer struck pieces are more likely to have been removed with a soft stone hammer, rather than an antler hammer. There are a number of flake cores together with some chunks and a core fragment, but no rejuvenation pieces.
- 5.4.5** The implements comprised mostly scrapers, together with a possible utilised flake, and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. The end scrapers are mostly small, and quite well made with abrupt or semi-abrupt retouch at the distal end. They are mostly manufactured on hard hammer-struck flakes or flake fragments. The barbed-and-tanged arrowhead is a Sutton type, finely worked over both faces, and weighs only 1g.
- 5.4.6** Whilst this group of material has a number of pieces that may be Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, such as the barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, it is likely that the majority of pieces date to the Middle-Later Bronze Age.
- 5.4.7** Contexts **5** and **113** form the upper fill of Cut **4/112** and produced a large group of 102 pieces of worked flint, comprising predominantly hard hammer-struck flakes of later Bronze Age date, but also a number of residual earlier pieces. The presence of two cores, some chunks and numerous fragments and chips would suggest that flintknapping may have been taking place here. The only implement from here was an end scraper manufactured on a hard hammer-struck flake.
- 5.4.8** The flint layer (Context **115**) within Cut **112** produced no worked flint, but two large flint echinoid fossils (weighing 1.070kg were found within the flint layer. It is not clear whether they had been specially selected, or were just randomly collected with the other natural flint nodules making up this context. The only piece of flint from any of the features within Cut **112** was a single flake fragment from the fill of the gully (Context **129**).
- 5.4.9** Another large group of flint pieces was recovered from the area of flint (Context **116**), comprising 52 pieces. The debitage was predominantly hard hammer-struck flakes, with the single blade and bladelet either being residual or accidental pieces. The presence of five cores (one may be residual) a core fragment, and numerous fragments and chips would again suggest that flint knapping may have been taking place here. The only implements were a single end scraper and a possible utilised flake.
- 5.4.10** The fire fractured flint was collected from many different contexts across the site, with large collections coming from the topsoil strip for the drive (Context **103** – 39 pieces (971g)), the upper fill of Cut **112** (51 pieces – 946g), Context **101** (76 pieces – 1,734g) and Cut **105** (40 pieces – 440g). The quantity of pieces found may suggest the presence nearby of a Bronze Age burnt flint mound situated close to the river.

5.4.11 A full analysis of the assemblage is recommended to establish whether there are any pieces that can be refitted within the two groups of flintwork from Contexts **5/113** and **116**, and to confirm whether these groups are the result of in-situ knapping, and are associated with one another. Some length/breadth measurement of flakes, together with analysis of their other attributes may provide data for comparison with other similar sites⁷. All of the implements, the hammerstone, and a number of the cores should be illustrated.

5.5 *Animal Bone* by Gemma Driver (Archaeology South-East)

5.5.1 Three contexts (Nos. **107**, **108** & **109** in Cut **105**) produced 292 fragments of animal bone of which 160 were identifiable to species. The species represented are cattle, sheep, pig and dog. The assemblage was in relatively good condition with some large fragments remaining despite the surface of the bone displayed obvious signs of weathering and erosion. Although 50% of bone fragments were unidentifiable, the assemblage contained a number of juvenile bones and epiphysis.

5.5.2 The bone from Itford Farm is dominated by pig and sheep with a small number of cattle and dog bones present. Sheep could be slightly over-represented by fragments identified as 'sheep-sized'. These consisted mainly of unfused vertebrae that are difficult to identify to species. As the pig assemblage consisted mainly of juvenile bone, it is likely that the 'sheep-sized' vertebra actually belong to pig.

5.5.3 The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) of 2 for cattle is based on the presence of an un-fused proximal tibia epiphysis and a fused distal radius. The small assemblage of sheep bone gives an MNI count of 1. The MNI count for pig is 3, due to the presence of two left mandibles with the deciduous fourth pre-molar in wear and a right mandible with the fourth pre-molar in wear.

5.5.4 The pig assemblage consists of all elements including meat-bearing and non-meat bearing bones. It is likely that at least one, complete, juvenile pig skeleton is represented in the assemblage. Two examples of cattle are represented in the assemblage, the first being older than 3.5 years and the second being younger. The presence of an unfused, proximal, femur epiphysis ages the single sheep to less than 2.5 years.

5.5.5 It is unlikely that this assemblage represents a typical collection of food waste due to the high number of unfused bones present in the assemblage. The juvenile pig skeletons are too young to have reached prime meat producing age, which is thought to be around 2-3 years, when their body weight reaches the maximum.

5.5.6 The presence of juvenile bones, particularly the small epiphysis, is highly unusual due to their small, fragile nature. They are highly susceptible to taphonomic processes and do not survive well in the archaeological record.

⁷ Holden, E.W. 1975 'Itford Hill Flint Artefacts', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **113**, 187.

5.5.7 There was no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone. Although the assemblage was in relatively good condition there was some indication of weathering causing the surface of the fragments to become flaky, which may have destroyed evidence of the above.

5.5.8 A full study of the bones is recommended, including analysis and measurement of the bones, production of a full catalogue, and comparison with other similar assemblages from other sites.

5.6 Assessment of the Land Snail assemblages by Michael J. Allen

5.6.1 A series of 14 samples were taken in two columns of five samples each and a series of four spot samples through key sequences and key deposits (Table 4). In addition a small collection of hand-picked shells were recovered from three contexts. The samples were processed and assessed as described in the assessment report⁸.

Table 4 List of Land Snail samples and the context associations

<i>Sample</i>	<i>AEA no</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>description</i>
IFB 08: Column 1 (section 3B); colluviums				
5	15	-	2a	colluvium
4	14	-	2a	
3	13	-	2b	
2	12	-	2c	
1	11	-	3	Chalky colluvium
IFB 08: Column 2 (section 4A); Feature 105 (and features below)				
5	25	105	106	Main fill of ?(105)
4	24	105	106	Main fill of ?(105)
3	23	105	107	'around bones'
2	22	105	108	
1	21	105	109	Primary fill
100	100	140	141	Feature below (105)
200	200	135	137	Feature below (105)
IFB 08: Miscellaneous and spot samples				
32	32	123	124	Gully
31	31	120	122	Tree hollow fill

⁸ Allen, M.J. 2009 *Itford Farm; Assessment of the land snail assemblages*

- 5.6.2** The aims of this assessment were to determine if suitable numbers of shells were present to make palaeo-environmental analysis and interpretation statistically viable. Beyond this the aims were as follows
- Can the assemblages define the nature of the local land-use and environments;
 - Is there evidence of change in that land-use and environment over time;
 - Is there any evidence of a wetter floodplain environments (i.e. flooding or exploitation of riverine resources);
 - Can the molluscan assemblages provide any crude chronological indications of the contexts or the sampled sequences?
- 5.6.3** The results of the rapid scanning are presented in Table 2. Shell numbers vary greatly, but statistically viable analysis is possible from most individual samples, and also where numbers are lower they form part of a *sequence* so are informative. Overall the assemblages indicate broadly open dry grassland and arable conditions— but significant variation is noted within this broad classification. In addition the presence of some shade-loving species suggest more mesic conditions, probably of longer grassland and locally more shady conditions, possibly afforded by the feature itself. There are hints of late glacial specimens which indicate the admixture of the periglacial solifuction material and the initial primary wash.
- 5.6.4** Typically the hand-picked shells were the larger, more robust, and diagnostic species with distinctive banding (*Cornu aspersum*, *Cepaea* spp. and *Helicella itala*) see Evans (1972, 7-9, fig. 2). Of note here is *Cornu asperum* (formerly *Helix aspersa* garden snail), which is thought to have been brought into Britain by the Romans (Kerney 1966). A number of species and species-associations recorded have clear chronological implications and these are outlined below.
- 5.6.5** *Colluvium; snail column 1* (See Fig. 3 for location)
Shell numbers in the flots are moderate to low, but the residues of some samples contain considerable shell fragments and a number of apical fragments. The likelihood of obtaining statistically viable shell numbers (ie 100+, cf. Evans 1972), is likely for all but the upper samples (context 2a upper). The assemblages indicate open calcareous conditions typical of colluvial sequences.
- 5.6.6** These suggest arable and/or pasture and analysis could potentially define these and characterise the nature of those specific land-use activities better. The presence of the amphibious species (*Anisus lecustoma*) is of interest here. This species is typical of small pools of water liable to summer drying-out and of floodplain pasture (Robinson 1988), and could indicate local environmental concisions, or may suggest exploitation of local riverine resources such as water, reeds, clay etc., see Allen (1995a)
- 5.6.7** The presence of what is probably *Candidula* spp., an Introduced Helicillid (Kerney 1966), may indicate intrusive material down macropores (worm and root holes) or that the whole sequence is Medieval or later. The upper fill contained large pieces of Post-Medieval tile (Appendix 1).

- 5.6.8** *Feature 105; snail column 2 and Features 135/140* (See Fig. 6 for location)
Shell numbers throughout this sequence are high to very high (Appendix 1). Changes in the local environment and land-use are clear. All are broadly open country, but loose soil typical of cultivation or clearance may be present (*Pomatias elegans*) in F135, while similar open conditions are present in F140.
- 5.6.9** Open dry (arable or pasture conditions) prevail in the lower part of Cut 105 (i.e. Contexts 109-107), but changes and significant species are present. In the primary fill (109) there is evidence of open conditions but with some local shade. The presence of *Lymnaea* spp. indicates again a riverine influence – it is also the snail that is the host to liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) and present in grassland floodplain pasture. Subtle fluctuations in this type of environment and land-use are seen throughout this feature.
- 5.6.10** The main fill (Context 106), however contains abundant shells typical of more open short-grazed grassland or arable conditions, indicating a change in land-use. Significantly the presence of several charred cereal grains in such small (snail) samples indicates the abundance of grain that must be present and this indicates the nature and level of human activity in the immediate vicinity.
- 5.6.11** The presence of large fragments and apices of *Cornu asperum* (formerly *Helix aspersa* garden snail), in the samples and hand-picked shells (Contexts 109, 106), which is a species thought to have been brought into Britain by the Romans (Kerney 1966), is noted. Although it is gregarious and it is possible that these could aggregate and hibernate in hollows or loose deposits like *Cepaea* spp. (see Allen 1995b); this seems unlikely here. The implication is, therefore, that this sequence (Contexts 109-106) is probably Roman-British or later in date.
- 5.6.12** Indeed the large fragments of a *Mytilus* valve (mussel shell) from Context 108, although can occur on prehistoric sites (eg, Bishopstone Neolithic pit 357; Bell 1977), is more common on Romano-British and post-Romano-British sites. Indeed in Contexts 109 and 108 *Monatna* cf. *cantiana* was present. If confirmed as *M. cantiana*, although typical of longer grassland (Kerney 1999), it is thought to have been introduced to Britain during the Romano-British period (Evans 1972, 179; Kerney 1999, 189). Without more detailed examination these specimens may be *M. cartusiana*, a native species typical of open calcareous habitat and restricted to the southern Sussex, eastern Kent and coastal fringes of Essex (Kerney 1999, 188).
- 5.6.13** *Gully 123 and tree hollow 120* (see Fig. 3 for location)
These two spot samples contained deposits different to all those from previous samples in that they had few stones and had significantly more clay, as opposed to the silt-dominated colluvium in the fills of other features. Both assemblages were poor in shells. The gully (Cut 123) contains open country and catholic or intermediate species *sensu* Evans (1972). The tree hollow (Cut 120) entirely open country species, and cf. *Truncatellina cylindracea* which is a rare xerophilic species enjoying very short grazed dry grassland. The assemblage clearly does not indicate the presence of a former woodland.

5.6.14 Virtually all the assemblages contain enough shells for statistically viable analysis:

- The assemblages can clearly define the nature of the local environments and land-use
- The assemblages indicate subtle but significant changes through time
- Evidence of the local riverine and/or floodplain environments are evident and possible wetter conditions or possibly exploitation or riverine resources such as water, clay reeds may be indicated.
- Magnetic soil susceptibility measurement can be constructed to characterise the two key sequences and aiding isolating changes through time
- It seems likely that Cut **105**/Fill **106** are Roman or post-Roman in date.
- It is likely that the colluvial sequence is Medieval or later in date and the upper horizon is probably Post-Medieval in date.
- There is no indication of date for the features beneath Fill **106**, nor of the gully and tree hollow, though all are later prehistoric (Bronze Age) or later. The presence of *T. Cylindracea* is however more common in Bronze Age contexts, especially in Wiltshire, and is rare today (Evans 1972).

5.6.15 Selected analysis could clearly provide a good palaeo-environmental context and land-use for the sampled sequence. The colluvial sequence is probably of little value to examine any further. The sequence associated with Cut **105**, and Fill **106** provides an indication of the local land-use and human activities, and there are hints of the nature of the floodplain (or human exploitation of riverine resources) which could be better defined by full analysis. It is suggested that limited analysis be conducted on the samples associated with Cut **105**, and that from tree hollow **120** to provide a distinct chronological comparison. Sample preparation is completed and magnetic susceptibility measures and profiles recorded to aid interpretation.

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5.7 Ceramic Building Material & Stone by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1** Small quantities of ceramic building material were recovered from the site (Table 2). By far the earliest is a fragment of peg tile tempered with moderate white angular flint to 1.5mm and medium sand from Context **101** which is probably of 13th century date. A piece of peg tile from Context **104** is also quite crudely made but tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate chalk inclusions to 1mm and quite hard fired. A 17th to 18th century is possible for this piece though a slightly earlier date cannot be ruled out.
- 5.7.2** The majority of the peg tile from the site consists of well formed and fired sparse fine/medium sand tempered types of the mid 18th to 19th / early 20th centuries. The only piece of note is from Context **103** which contained a peg tile with additional nib, stamped KEYMER. The only other tile type noted was a possible pan tile fragment from the topsoil strip for the drive. This is in a well fired fabric tempered with sparse fine sand and iron oxides to 3mm.
- 5.7.3** Very little brick was recovered from the site and all appears to be of mid 18th to 19th century date. No large pieces are present but that from Trench 1, Context **1** is fairly typical in being well fired and tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxides/white clay streaks to 3mm. Two amorphous lumps of silty burnt clay with chalk inclusions to 3mm were also recovered from the site (Table 2).
- 5.7.4** The small assemblage of stone (Table 2) is dominated by pieces of Welsh roofing slate: topsoil strip of drive x2 pieces, Tr. 1, [1] x1 and Context **100** x2. A piece of medieval West Country slate was also recovered from Trench 2, [1] as well as a piece of carboniferous limestone aggregate/railway ballast from Context **103**.
- 5.7.5** The assemblage of ceramic building material and stone is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. This is due to the assemblage's small size, dominance by late post-medieval material and lack of good sealed context groups. All of the earlier material is small, abraded and residual in later contexts. The assemblage does not warrant retention in a museum.

Table 5 Other Finds

Context Number	Glass No./gms.	Metalwork No./gms.	Marine Shell No./gms.	Other No./gms.
Spoilheap		3 iron (38g) 3 aluminium (34g) 4 other metal (71g)		
TPB	1 (11g)			
T2 (1)	1 (12g)			4 slag (153g)
Topsoil from Drive	3 (9g)	1 iron (11g)	1 scallop (3g)	
100		1 iron (5g)		1 slag (64g)
103	3 (34g)	1 iron (20g) 1 aluminium (41g)		

5.8 *Other Artefacts* by Chris Butler

- 5.8.1** Eight pieces of glass weighing 66gms were recovered from topsoil contexts during the work (Table 5). Six pieces were from bottles, one was from a decorated clear glass bowl, and the final piece was a fragment of clear window glass. All of these pieces date to the 19th or 20th century.
- 5.8.2** Five pieces of Post Medieval blast furnace slag weighing 217gms were found in topsoil contexts. These have probably been brought in to the site for use as hardcore or metalling.
- 5.8.3** A single fragment of scallop shell weighing 3gms was found during the topsoil strip for the drive.
- 5.8.4** A number of pieces of metal were recovered from the topsoil, and from the spoilheap with the aid of a metal detector (Table 5). A small number of iron nails, a fencing staple and a broken U-shaped fragment of iron, are all likely to be 19th or 20th century in date.
- 5.8.5** The remaining pieces of metalwork were either unidentified fragments, or pieces of aluminium bottles and containers, typical of those used for holding veterinary medicines used on farms in the 20th century.

5.9 *Environmental Samples*

- 5.9.1** Six soil samples were taken from various features across the site (Table 6). Each sample comprised a single bag of approximately 6 litres size, although the sample from Context **113** was three bags totalling some 18 litres. A sub-sample of 1 litre from each sample was initially processed to assess whether the samples had any potential for organic or micro-faunal remains.
- 5.9.2** The samples were processed using bucket floatation, with the residue being washed through a 1mm mesh sieve. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological and environmental interest. The results are shown in Table 6.
- 5.9.3** Most of the residues contain quantities of modern roots, whilst many of the samples produced some small charcoal pieces. Four samples produced molluscs, either complete shells, or fragments of shells. A few pieces of bone, including two small pieces that appear to have been cremated, were found in Context **108**. Some samples also produced a few very small pieces of fire-fractured flint.
- 5.9.4** The residues have been retained in the archive. It is recommended that no further processing of the soil samples is undertaken, and the remaining un-processed samples be discarded.

Table 6: Environmental Samples

Context	Modern roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Molluscs	Residue
5	**	**	-	*	1 worked flint fragment 6 small FF flint (<1g)
107	-	*	-	**	1 small FF flint (<1g)
108	-	-	-	**	Bone (1g) 2 small FF flint (<1g)
113	****	*	-	-	2 FF flint (20g)
117	*	*	-	-	-
124	*	*	-	*	-

Frequency Key: None - ; Very low * ; Low ** ; Moderate *** ; High ****

5.10 Charcoal by Dana Challinor

5.10.1 Charcoal was recovered from small (c. 6 litre) bulk samples, together with some hand collected charcoal from Context 7. Four samples of charcoal were submitted for examination. The charcoal was scanned at low magnification to determine the quantity and diversity of material. Selected fragments were then identified in full using standard techniques. Where possible the maturity of the wood was noted. The condition of the charcoal tended to be quite friable, and there was little material in each sample.

Table 7: Results of the charcoal identifications

Feature	Context	Quantity	Taxa	Maturity	Notes
Colluvium	2	+++	<i>Prunus</i> sp. Maloideae	Some roundwood	Q small fragments
Cut 4 (112)	7	++	<i>Prunus</i> sp. Maloideae	Mostly roundwood	Some clay/sediment
Cut 105	108	+	<i>Corylus avellana</i> cf <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		Very crumbly
Gully 123	124 (sample 8)	2 pieces	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	1 roundwood	

+ = up to 5; ++ = 5-25; +++ = 25-100

5.10.2 Five taxa were positively identified (Table 7): *Corylus avellana* (hazel), cf *Fagus sylvatica* (beech), *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash), Maloideae (hawthorn, apple, pear, service etc), *Prunus* sp. (cherry/blackthorn). The *Prunus* pieces from Contexts 2 and 7 had larger ray widths consistent with *P. spinosa/domestica* (blackthorn/plum). It is most likely that *P. spinosa* is represented as this is a native species. All of the other taxa are native and would have been locally available. The assemblages are too limited to offer any level of interpretation.

5.11 Charred Plant remains by Michael J. Allen & Alan Clapham

5.11.1 Several charred cereal remains were recovered from the small (1.5 kg) land snail samples; it is unusual to recover so many cereal grains from such small samples and is surprising that the larger (presumably 30-40 litre) bulk samples processed seem to contain no charred plant remains. All of the cereal grains were from the main fill (Context **106**) of Cut **105**. The charred cereal remains were identified by Dr Alan Clapham, and the results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Charred plant remains recovered from the snail samples of F105

Feature	105	105
Context	106	106
Sample	24	25
Sample wt	1.5 kg	1.5 kg
<i>Triticum</i> sp. grain wheat	-	1
<i>Avena</i> sp. grain oat	-	1
Indet. Cereal grain	2	3
<i>Total</i>	2	5

5.11.2 The remains are too sparse to provide any palaeo-environmental comment; there is nothing which is chronologically distinctive or indicative. The number of charred grain does, however, indicate processing and activity in the vicinity, and presumably during the Medieval or Post-Medieval period.

5.12 Palaeo-environmental overview by Michael J. Allen

The presence of charcoal and charred plant remains in these contexts confirms the presence of activity, but is all too sparse to make any real palaeo-environmental interpretation. The wood is all roundwood fragments, more typical of small domestic fires and small hearths than any larger activity. The charred cereal grains indicate the likelihood of crop processing within the general vicinity, and thus of occupation or settlement within close proximity. The sparse nature of the remains and their undiagnostic character do not allow any further comment.

6. Discussion

- 6.1** The excavations at Itford Farm have produced evidence for features and activity in the Bronze Age and Saxon period, whilst residual artefacts hint at activity in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval periods. This suggests that the location of this site at the foot of the South Downs and close to the River Ouse has been of some importance from the earliest times through to the present day.
- 6.2** The molluscan evidence provides an environmental background to the activity, suggesting broadly open dry grassland and arable conditions. There is little evidence for woodland, and certainly by the Bronze Age the presence of open country and catholic or intermediate species suggests that the river valley here was open. By the Saxon period there is evidence of open conditions but with some local shade, and indications of a riverine influence, and then more open short-grazed grassland or arable conditions, indicating a change in land-use. Further analysis of the molluscan evidence will enable a much clearer picture of the environmental history to be established.
- 6.3** The earliest activity for which evidence was found appears to date to the Early Neolithic and may represent exploitation of this riverside location. Further activity in the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods is also evidenced by prehistoric flintwork. The residual barbed-and-tanged arrowhead suggesting that hunting was taking place here.
- 6.4** Later in the Bronze Age the horseshoe-shaped gully formed by a series of intercutting small pits was dug, within a shallow dished area. Settings of posts and stakeholes perhaps suggest a small structure, or more likely, alignments of posts or stakes, with a focus on the 'entrance'. Unfortunately, there is nothing from these features that can provide a date for this phase of activity.
- 6.5** After an initial phase of silting, the shallow dished area was filled in with numerous pieces of worked flint and fire-fractured flint pieces being incorporated into the fill. The mixed nature of this flintwork, with residual earlier pieces, makes it unclear whether this is in-situ activity or natural deposition. However, during the Later Bronze Age an oval deposit of natural flint pieces was formed over the top of the earlier horseshoe gully. Apart from the inclusion of two flint echinoid fossils, there was no worked flint incorporated into this deposit, but sherds from four Post Deverel-Rimbury pots, probably broken elsewhere, were deposited over the top of the flint pieces.

- 6.6** Some two metres to the south-west of the horseshoe gully entrance was a roughly circular area of natural flint nodules of varying sizes covering an area 1.4m x 1.1m in size. This contained 52 pieces of worked flint, predominantly hard hammer-struck flakes, but the presence of five cores, a core fragment, and numerous fragments and chips would suggest that flint knapping may have been taking place here. This feature may be contemporary with the horseshoe gully, and further analysis of the flintwork may establish a connection between the areas of activity. Below the flint was a small cut which contained no artefacts.
- 6.7** The horseshoe gully feature bears a remarkable resemblance, albeit on a much smaller scale, to the feature excavated by Holden on Itford Hill, a short distance to the east of the site⁹. This feature had a similar horseshoe shaped gully, and concentrations of flints over the gully and a separate flintworking area a short distance from the 'entrance'.
- 6.8** There are differences in the two sites however, apart from the size. These include the lack of post settings in the gully at Itford Farm, and there is no evidence for the later Bronze Age cremation burials that were found at Itford Hill.
- 6.9** The secondary deposit of pottery at the Itford Hill site that had probably derived from the nearby Bronze Age settlement excavated in 1949-53¹⁰, also bears some resemblance to the secondary deposit of the Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery on the flint at Itford Farm.
- 6.10** In his re-evaluation of the Itford Hill site, Russell proposed a sequence of events commencing in the Neolithic period and concluding in the later Bronze Age¹¹. There is no reason to suggest that the sequence of events at the Itford Farm site should be any different.
- 6.11** Some activity in the Late Iron Age & Roman periods is suggested by the residual pottery found, however it is possible given the small size and abraded nature of this material that it has eroded down from the upper slopes of the Downs to the east of the site, rather than representing activity at the site itself.

⁹ Holden, E.W. 1972 'A Bronze Age Cemetery-Barrow on Itford Hill, Beddingham, Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **110**, 70-117.

¹⁰ Burstow, G.P. & Holleyman, G.A. 1957 'Late Bronze Age Settlement on Itford Hill', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **23**, 167-212.

¹¹ Russell, M. 1996 *A Reassessment of the Bronze Age cemetery-barrow on Itford Hill, East Sussex*, Bournemouth University Research Report 2.

- 6.12** The large cut feature found in the service trench appears to date from the Middle Saxon period (mid 7th to 9th century) based on the pottery found in the fill. This feature has a complex stratigraphy, and probably comprises a pit that cuts one or two earlier pits, however the absence of dateable artefacts from these makes the sequence of events unclear. A resistivity survey to the west of the feature found no evidence for it continuing in this direction.
- 6.13** In the bottom of this feature a large group of disarticulated animal bone (cattle, sheep, pig and dog) was recovered. The weathered appearance of the bone suggests it had been deposited into the bottom of the feature, perhaps as complete or partially complete burials, but had then subsequently been disturbed and jumbled up.
- 6.14** The presence of a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead immediately below the bone, initially suggested an Early Bronze Age date for the bone deposit, however it is now clear from the pottery and molluscan evidence that this feature dates from the Saxon period.
- 6.15** Excavations on the route of a wastewater pipeline in the field immediately to the north of Itford Farm in 1998, uncovered a Saxon sunken featured building dating to the 5th-6th centuries¹². The presence of this and the new feature discovered in the current work suggest that a Saxon settlement may have been situated in the vicinity of Itford Farm, although no evidence for Saxon activity was found in the main excavation trench.
- 6.16** The excavations at Itford Farm have located an important Bronze Age site with evidence for complex ritual activity and fascinating parallels with the nearby site on Itford Hill. Further analysis of the results of the excavation, comparison with the Itford Hill site, and subsequent publication of this important site are recommended.
- 6.17** The presence of further evidence of Saxon activity is also of some importance, and further analysis of the excavated evidence and comparison with other sites, and subsequent publication of this important site are recommended.

¹² James, R. 2002 'The excavation of a Saxon *grubenhause* at Itford Hill, Beddingham, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **140**, 41-7.

7. Acknowledgements

- 7.1** I would like to thank Martin and Sue Brickell for their co-operation and interest in the excavations and other fieldwork at Itford Farm. I would like to thank Keith Butler, Rachel Butler and Sid Jeffery who assisted with the evaluation excavation. Luke Barber provided specialist reports on the pottery, CBM and foreign stone, Mike Allen assessed the molluscan evidence and provided advice on sampling and the general environmental background, whilst Gemma Driver of Archaeology South-East reported on the animal bone. Dana Challinor reported on the charcoal and Alan Clapham reported on the charred plant remains. Jane Russell drew the plans and sections for this report.
- 7.2** I would also like to thank Derek Salisbury the architect. Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter of the Archaeology Team at ESCC provided guidance and monitored the project for ESCC. Details of the HER were provided by ESCC. FNR Plant Hire provided a JCB and Barry the driver expertly excavated the trenches for us.

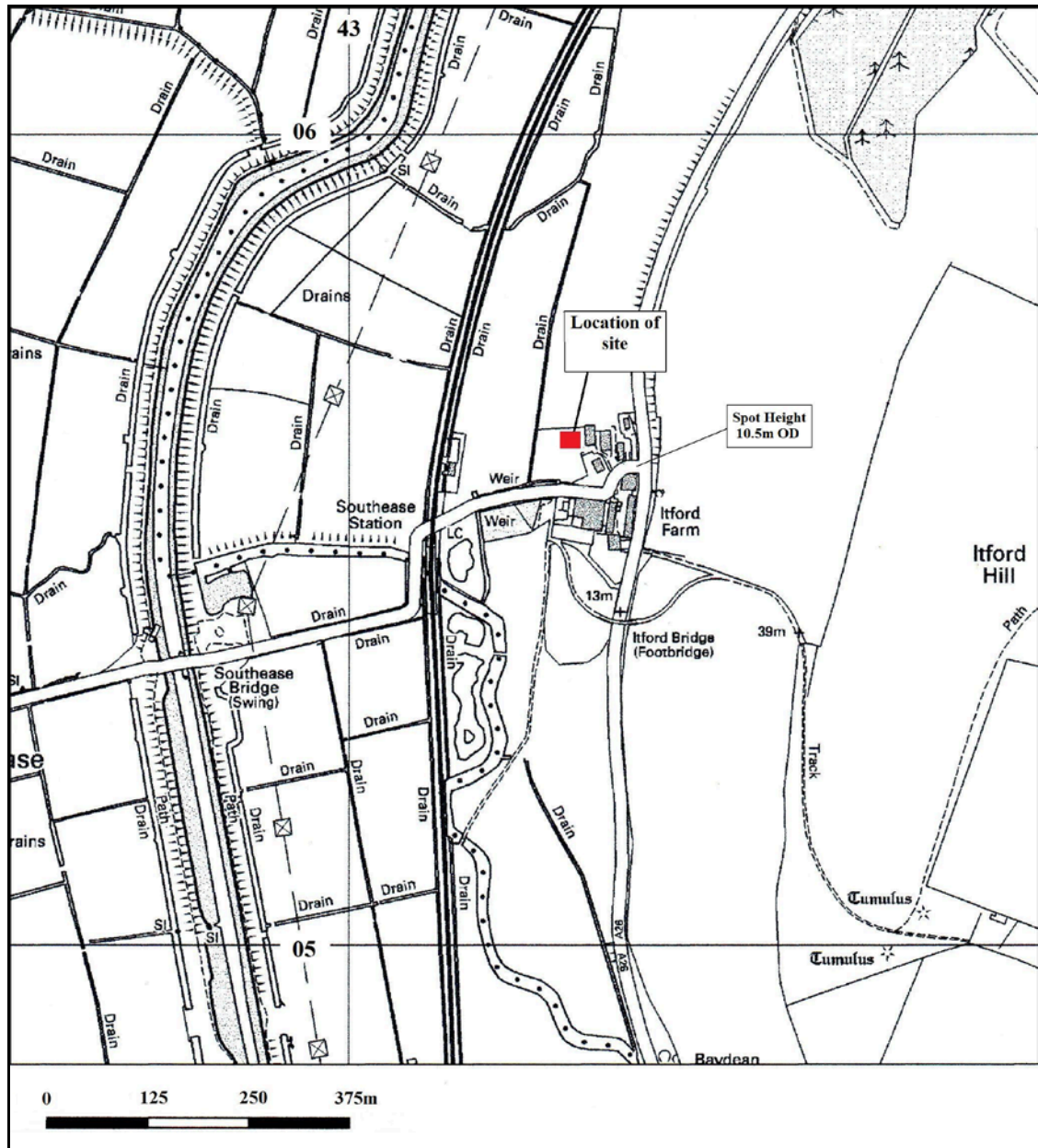


Fig. 1: Itford Farm. Location of the Site

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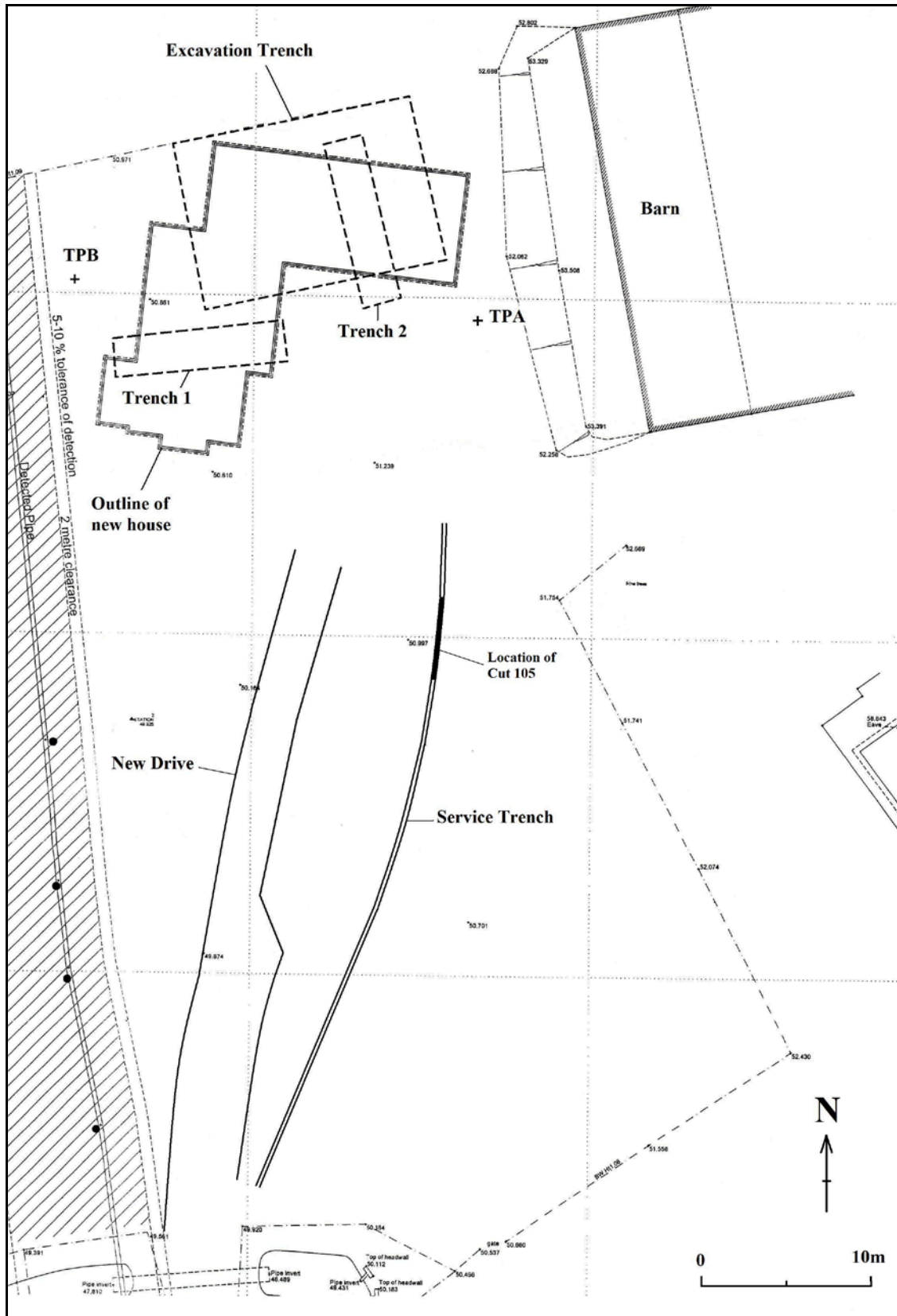


Fig. 2: Itford Farm: Site Plan showing the location of the trenches test pits, drive and service trench.

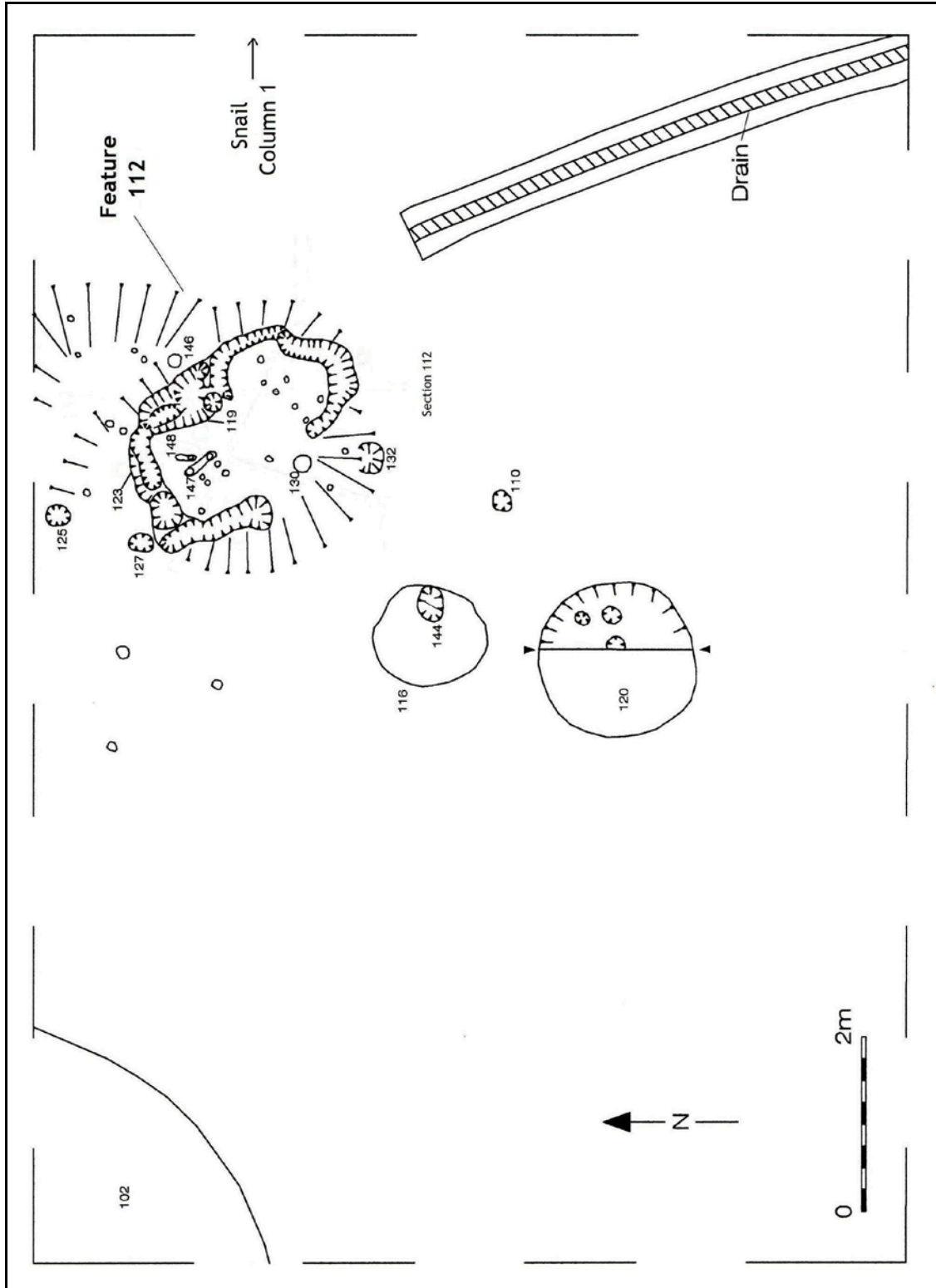


Fig. 3: Itford Farm: Plan of main trench showing horseshoe-shaped feature and other features.

(Note: small un-numbered circles are stakeholes)

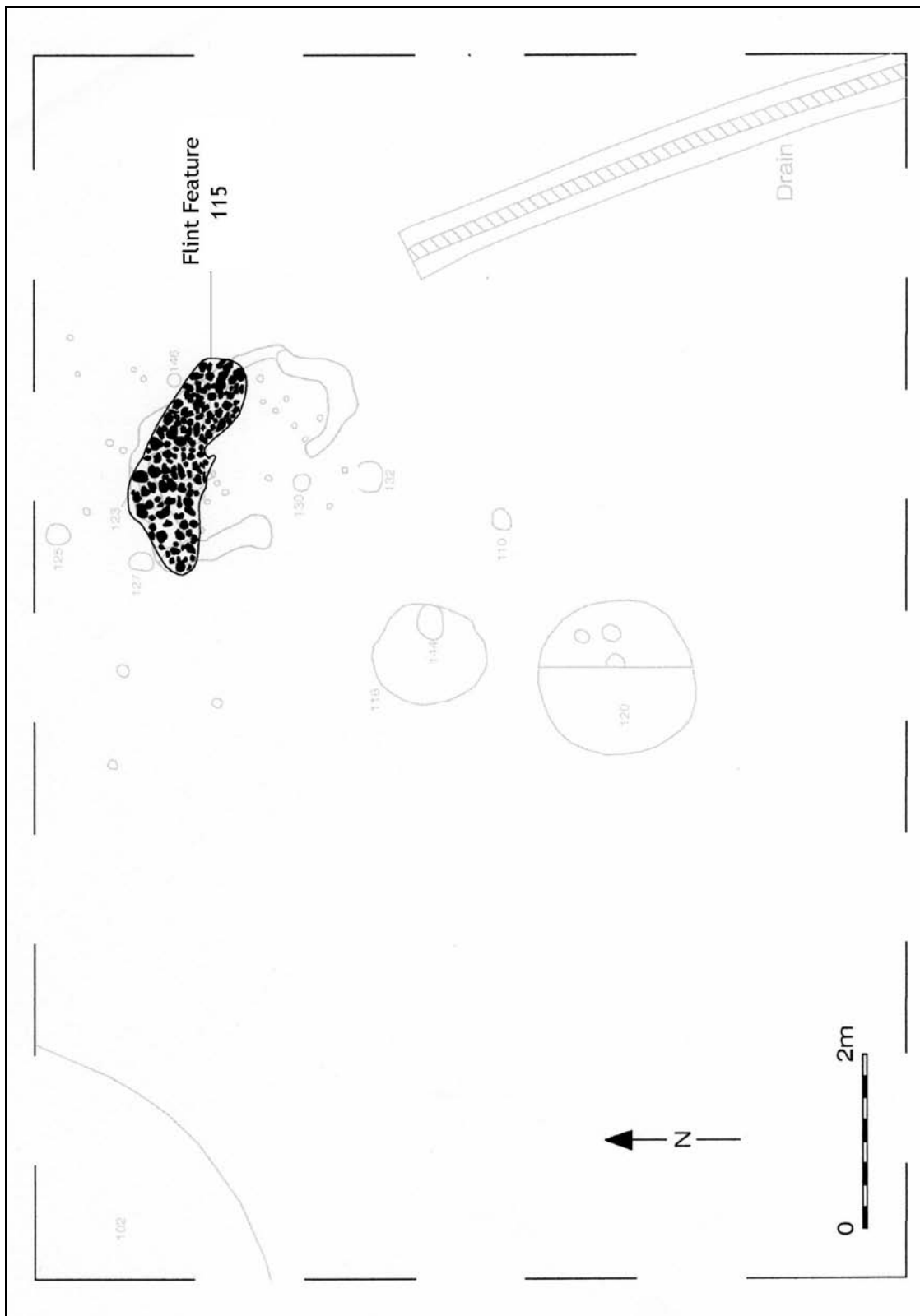


Fig. 4: Itford Farm: Plan of main trench showing the flint feature superimposed over the horseshoe feature.

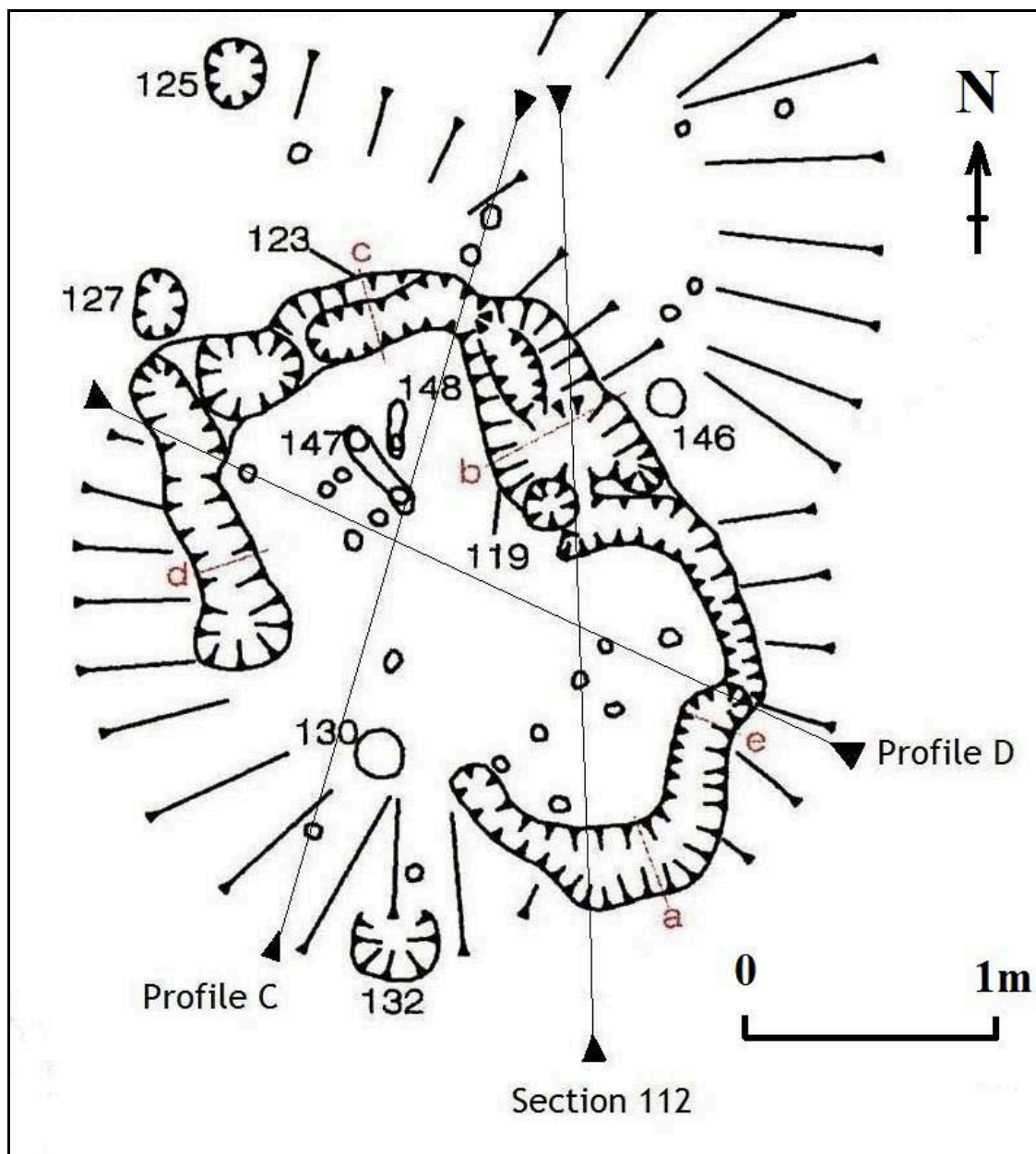


Fig. 5: Itford Farm: Plan of Feature 112

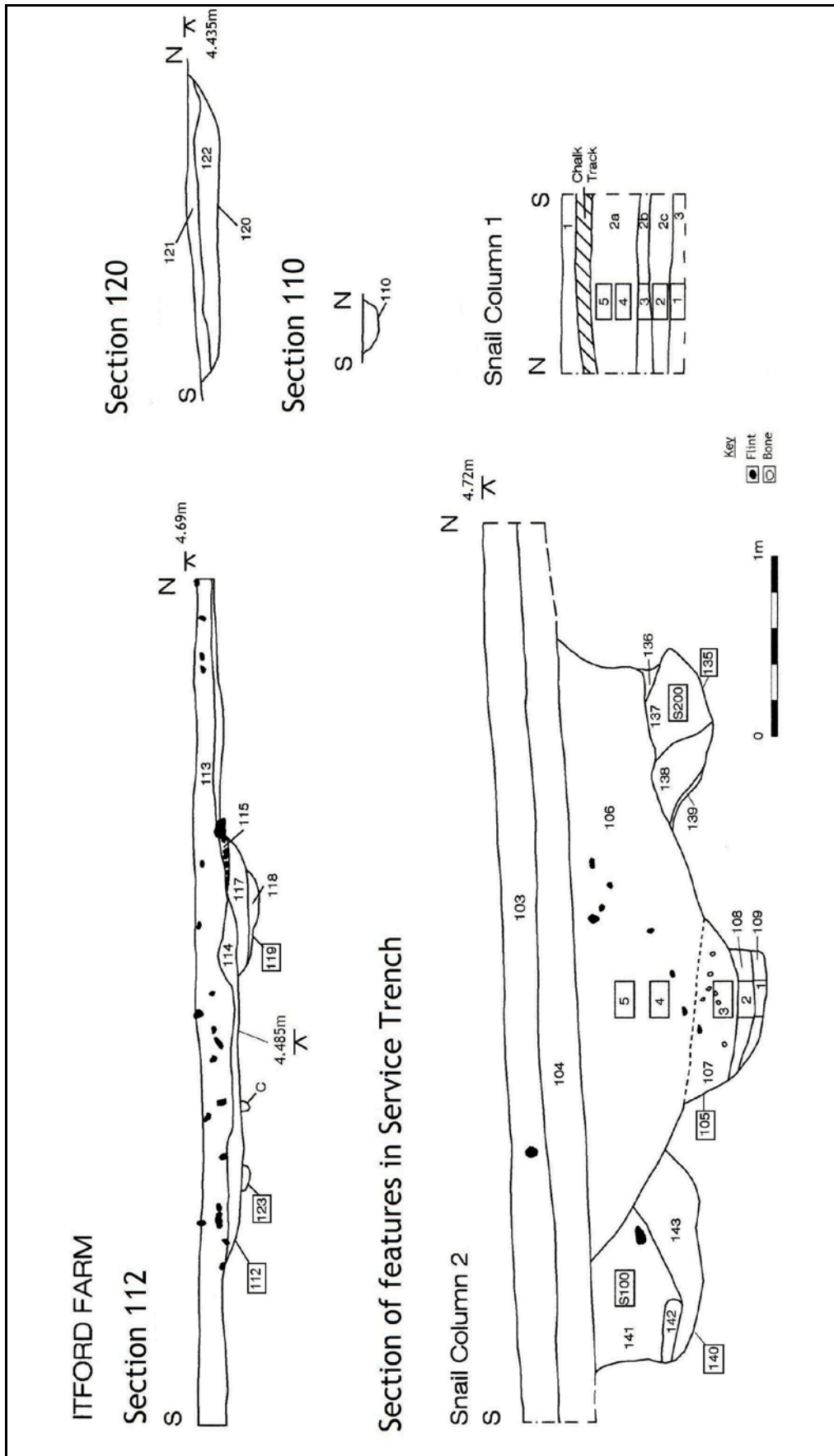


Fig. 6: Itford Farm: Sections: See Figs. 2 and 3 for locations

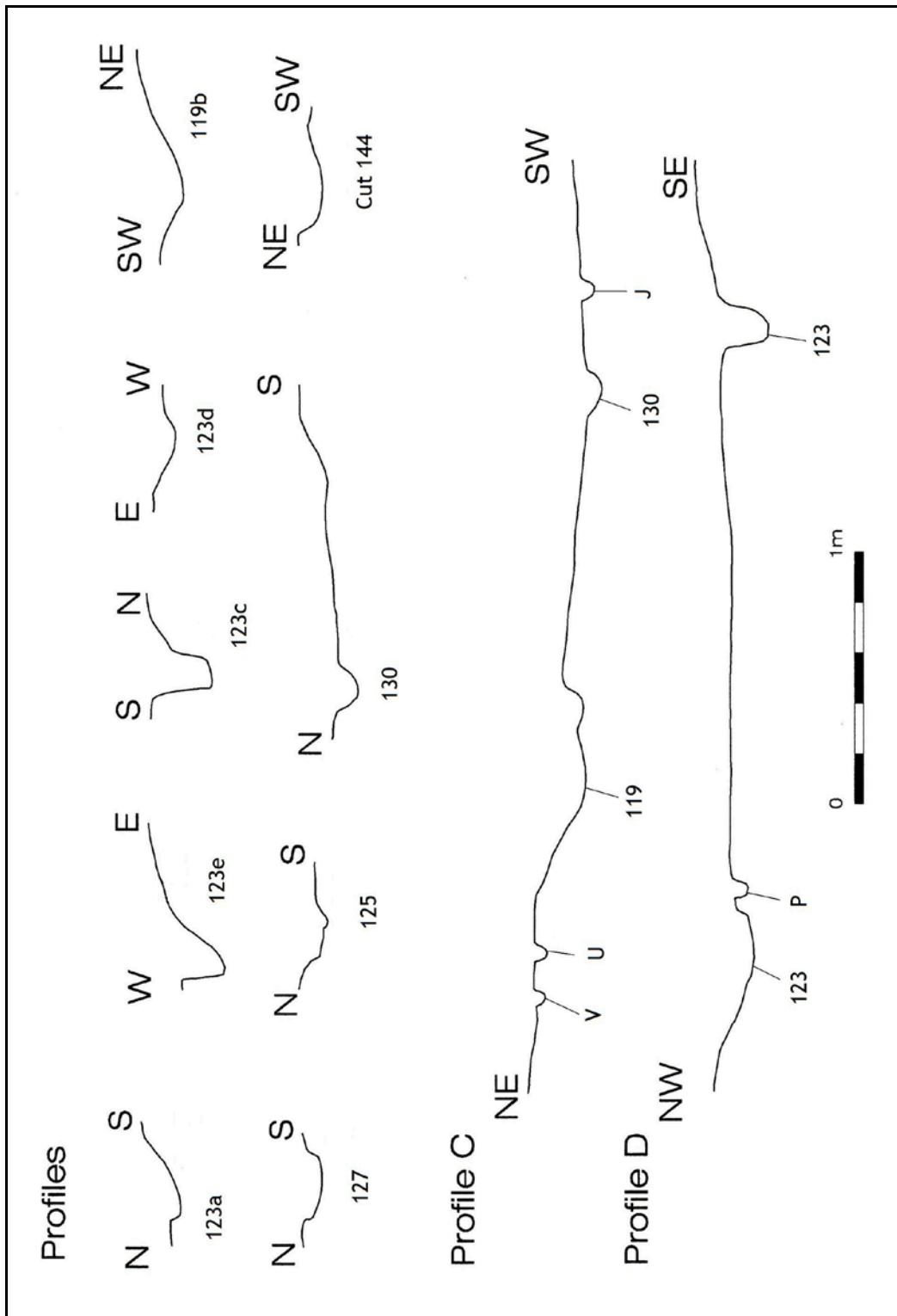


Fig. 7: Itford Farm: Profiles across Feature 112 and other features.
See Fig. 5 for locations



Fig. 8: Itford Farm: Section of features in service trench



Fig. 9: Itford Farm: Flint feature 115 partly excavated



Fig. 10: Itford Farm: Feature 112 & horseshoe gully



Fig. 11: Itford Farm: Feature 112 & horseshoe gully in the foreground with flint feature 116 circled in yellow beyond

HER Summary Form

Site Code	IFB08					
Identification Name and Address	Itford Farm, Beddingham, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ433055					
Geology	Lower Chalk					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav. X	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 24/09/08- 25/09/08	Excav. 15/10/08- 23/10/08	WB. 16/10/08- 17/10/08	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr & Mrs M Brickell					
Project Manager	Chris Butler					
Project Supervisor	N/A					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo. X	BA X	IA	RB X
	AS X	MED X	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An evaluation excavation at Itford Farm, Beddingham in advance of the construction of a new farmhouse established the presence of archaeological remains of Bronze Age date. The full excavation recorded a horseshoe-shaped gully within a shallow hollow with numerous associated post and stakeholes. Over this was an oval feature of natural flints on top of which a number of broken Post Deverel-Rimbury pots had been deposited. Adjacent to this was a further area of flint associated with evidence of in-situ flint knapping.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of a service trench to the new house revealed a deep feature of later Saxon date with a complex stratigraphy. In the bottom of this feature were numerous disarticulated bones of pig, cattle, sheep and dog.</i></p> <p><i>The discovery of these features can be linked to the nearby Bronze Age ritual sites on Itford Hill, and the recent discovery of a Saxon sunken featured building in an adjacent field, and confirms the importance of this site.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, a Mesolithic hunting camp, and a Roman Villa.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Field Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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Appendix 1

Molluscan Data

Column 1: colluvium

<i>AEA no</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>shell nos</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>Hand - picked</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>comment</i>
Snail Column 1: colluviums								
15	-	2a	colluvium	5	<i>Candidula, Cochlicella</i>			Medieval and later open conditions
14	-	2a		10	<i>Candidula, Vallonia,</i>			
13	-	2b		60	<i>Trichia, Pupilla, Vallonia, Anisus leucostoma [C. acicula]</i>			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture) – some evidence of flooding/riverine resources (<i>A. luecostoma</i>)
12	-	2c		70	<i>Trichia, Vallonia, H. itala, Pupilla, Candidula [C. acicula]</i>			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture) prob medieval or later
11	-	3	Chalky colluvium	25+	<i>Trichia, Vallonia, H. itala, Candidula [C. acicula]</i>			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture) prob medieval or later

Spot Samples

<i>AEA no</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>shell nos</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>Hand - picked</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>comment</i>
Spot samples from gully 123 and treehollow 120								
32	123	124	Gully	10	<i>Vallonia, Trichia [C. acicula]</i>			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture)
31	120	122	Treehollow fill	25	<i>Pupilla, ?Truncatellina, H. itala, Vallonia, Trichia [C. acicula]</i>			Open, possibly very dry conditions (arable/short grazed pasture)

Column 2: Feature 105 and associated features

<i>AEA no</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>shell nos</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>Hand - picked</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>comment</i>
Snail Column 2:								
25	? (105)	106	Main fill of ?(105)	250+	<i>Vallonia, Trichia, H. itala, Pupilla, Vertigo, A. pura</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]		3x cereal grain	Open dry conditions (arable/pasture)
24	? (105)	106	Main fill of ?(105)	200+	<i>Trichia, H. itala, Vallonia, Pupilla, Vertigo, Aegopinella, C. aspersum</i> (large frags), <i>Cepaea</i> (frags) [<i>C. acicula</i>]		grain (sheep tooth in residue)	Open dry conditions with soem shade / longer grass, probably Roman or post-Roman (<i>C. aspersum</i>)
23	105	107	'around bones'	100+	<i>Trichia, H. itala, Pupilla, Euconulus, Aegopinella, Acanthinula, Cochlicopa, C. aspersum</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]	<i>C. aspersum</i> 6, <i>Cepaea</i> cf. <i>hortensis</i> 2, <i>H. Itala</i> 4, <i>Monacha</i> cf. <i>cantiana</i> 2,	s. greensand lump + bones inc rib in residue	Some open and some local shadier conditions – Roman or post Roman
22	105	108		100	<i>Trichia, Vallonia, Pupilla, Vertigo, Aegopinella, ?Abida, Cepaea</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]	<i>C. aspersum</i> 6, <i>Cepaea</i> cf. <i>hortensis</i> 2, <i>Monacha</i> cf. <i>cantiana</i> 1, <i>Vallonia costata</i> 1, <i>Mytilus edulis</i> +		shade / longer grass, Roman or post-Roman (<i>C. aspersum</i>)
21	105	109	Primary fill	90	<i>Trichia, Vallonia, Pupilla</i> (inc ?late glacial), <i>H. itala, Vertigo, C. aspersum</i> (large frag), <i>Monacha, Nesovitrea, Lymnaea</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]	<i>C. aspersum</i> 1, <i>Cepaea</i> cf. <i>hortensis</i> 1		Open dry conditions, possibly Roman or later (? <i>Monacha</i> cf. <i>cartusiana</i>), evidence of wetter local environments or exploitation of them (<i>Lymnaea</i>)
100	140	141	Below F105	100	<i>Vallonia, Trichia, H. itala, Pupilla, Vertigo, Cepaea</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture)
200	135	137	Below 136 above 138	150	<i>Vallonia, Trichia, Pupilla, Vertigo, H. itala, Pomatias</i> [<i>C. acicula</i>]			Open dry conditions (arable/pasture)

Appendix 2: Table of Contexts

Trench Area	Context no.	Type	Description	Comment	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness/Depth	Top m AOD
Eval 1 & 2	1	Layer	Topsoil		Trench	Trench	200mm	
Eval 1 & 2	2	Layer	Colluvium		Trench	Trench	150-200mm	
Eval 1 & 2	3	Layer	Chalky colluvium		Trench	Trench	450mm	
Eval 2	4	Cut	Shallow cut extends outside trench	Same as Context 112 on Excavation	>1.8m	>1.7m	190mm	
Eval 2	5	Fill	Main fill of Cut 4, above 7	Same as Context 113 on Excavation	>1.8m	>1.7m	190mm	
TPB	6	Layer	Below 2 and above 3		Trench	Trench	280mm	
Eval 2	7	Fill	Primary fill of Cut 4	Large amount of charcoal			c. 15mm	
Eval 1 & 2	8	Layer	Chalk natural		Trench	Trench	-	
Eval 2	9	Cut	Stakehole		150mm	150mm	85mm	
Eval 2	10	Fill	Fill of 9		150mm	150mm	85mm	
Eval 2	11	Cut	Possible posthole - unexcavated	Actually gully 123 on Excavation				
Eval 2	12	Fill	Fill of 11 - unexcavated					
Main	100	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1	Trench	Trench	200mm	
Main	101	Layer	Colluvium	Same as 2	Trench	Trench	150-200mm	
Main	102	Layer	Colluvium	In NE corner of trench	2.5m	3m	c. 100mm	
Service	103	Layer	Topsoil		Trench	Trench	300-500mm	4.72
Service	104	Layer	Colluvium		Trench	Trench	>400mm	
Service	105	Cut	Large cut	Contains bone & Mid-Late Saxon Pot	3.3m	Trench	1.07m	
Service	106	Fill	Main fill of Cut 105					
Service	107	Fill	Fill in Cut 105	Contains bone & Mid-Late Saxon Pot				3.485
Service	108	Fill	Fill in Cut 105	Contains bone				
Service	109	Fill	Fill in Cut 105	Contains bone & Mid-Late Saxon Pot			30-40mm	
Main	110	Cut	Posthole		300mm	260mm	60mm	
Main	111	Fill	Fill of 110					
Main	112	Cut	Shallow dished circular feature	Contains most of Bronze Age features	4m	3.5m	230mm	4.69/4.49
Main	113	Fill	Main fill of 112					
Main	114	Fill	Primary fill of 112					
Main	115	Feature	Oval area of natural flint nodules	BA pottery lying on this feature	2.6m	0.8m	100mm	
Main	116	Feature	Circular area of natural/worked flint	Overlying Cut 144	1.4m	1.1m	100mm	
Main	117	Fill	Upper fill of Cut 119					

Trench Area	Context no.	Type	Description	Comment	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness/Depth	Top m AOD
Main	118	Fill	Primary fill in Cut 119					
Main	119	Cut	Part of Gully in 112	Same as 123				
Main	120	Cut	Possible tree root bowl	Half sectioned	1.9m	1.9m	140mm	4.435
Main	121	Fill	Upper fill in 120					
Main	122	Fill	Lower fill in 120					
Main	123	Cut	Horseshoe shaped gully	Bronze Age	3m	2m	c. 200mm	
Main	124	Fill	Main fill of gully 123					
Main	125	Cut	Small circular cut	Possible posthole	200mm	220mm	70mm	
Main	126	Fill	Fill of 125					
Main	127	Cut	Small circular cut	Possible posthole	260mm	230mm	80mm	
Main	128	Fill	Fill of 127					
Main	129	Fill	Primary fill of gully 123					
Main	130	Cut	Shallow circular cut		180mm	180mm	95mm	
Main	131	Fill	Fill of 130					
Main	132	Cut	Circular cut on edge of 112		300mm	300mm	100mm	
Main	133	Fill	Fill of 132					
Main	134	Cut & fills	Stakeholes	Various stakeholes associated with 112				
Service	135	Cut	Cut by 105	Possible pit	Trench	1m	>350mm	
Service	136	Fill	Fill of 135					
Service	137	Fill	Fill of 135					
Service	138	Fill	Fill of 135					
Service	139	Fill	Fill of 135					
Service	140	Cut	Cut by 105	Possible pit	Trench	1.2m	>600mm	
Service	141	Fill	Fill of 140					
Service	142	Fill	Horizon in 140					
Service	143	Fill	Fill of 140					
Main	144	Cut	Circular cut below 116	Below natural/worked flint area	380mm	330mm	90mm	
Main	145	Fill	Fill of 144					
Main	146	Cut & fill	Circular cut on edge of 112	Possible posthole	140mm	140mm	80mm	
Main	147	Cut & fill	Short length of gully within 112		400mm	60mm	80mm	
Main	148	Cut & fill	Short length of gully within 112		240mm	60mm	80mm	