



**Chris Butler MCIfA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Excavation (Phase 2)
on land north of
Dittons Farm,
Polegate,
East Sussex**

WD/2014/0853/F

Project No: CBAS0562

by
Dr Caroline Russell

June 2015

Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out as Phase 2 of an evaluation of a site on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate. Phase 1 had established that there were medieval features in the northwest part of the site, and Phase 2 was designed to investigate these further and to evaluate parts of the site not accessible in Phase 1.

The excavation confirmed the presence of medieval features, which comprised a number of linear features, probably truncated ditches, together with an area of very degraded metalling. It was clear that the site had been subjected to ploughing which had severely truncated the archaeological features. The features dated to a fairly compact timeframe starting in the early 13th century, with intense activity during the 13th and early 14th centuries. Activity appears to rapidly drop off during the first half of the 14th century and appears to have ceased by 1350.

Dittons Farm originated in the 13th century and it seems likely that the associated settlement extended north to include the area of the investigation. However, by 1350 the settlement had either shrunk in size or the farm had moved a short distance to the south, and the area of the site had been abandoned.

Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd

Rosedale
Berwick, Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbasltd.co.uk

Web site: www.cbasltd.co.uk

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Research Aims	5
3.0	Archaeological & Historical Background	6
4.0	Methodology	7
5.0	Results	9
6.0	Finds	21
7.0	Potential for further analysis and reporting	31
8.0	Discussion & Recommendations	35
9.0	Acknowledgements	37

Figures

Fig. 1	Location map
Fig. 2	Site plan
Fig. 3	Phase 2 trench layout plan
Fig. 4	Plan of strip and map area showing features found
Fig. 5	Plan and section of Cut 46 in Trench L
Fig. 6	Plan and section of Linear A east terminus
Fig. 7	Plans and sections of Linear's A & B
Fig. 8	Plans and sections of Linear's B & C
Fig. 9	Plans and sections of Linear D
Fig. 10	Metalled area 72 & plan of Linear D fully excavated

Appendix

Appendix 1	HER Summary Form
------------	------------------

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Amed M Elsherif (the Client) to undertake an archaeological excavation (Phase 2) at land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex (Figs. 1 and 2), in order to record any archaeological remains in connection with a planning application for a residential development (WD/2014/0853/F). The following condition was placed on the application:

3. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.
AR01

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

1.2 The Site is a sub-rectangular plot located directly south of Dittons Road (the B2247) and east of Chaucer Business Park, on the eastern fringes of Polegate, centred at TQ 60291 04635 (Figs. 1 and 2). The Site is bounded by Dittons Farm to the south, and by the Golden Jubilee Way (the A22) to the east which runs north through Dittons Road to reach the A27.

1.3 The Site is situated on a west-east aligned ridge and lies above 10m OD with the land gradually rising to the south to c.15m OD. South of the Site, the terrain slopes gently downhill to a northwest-southeast aligned finger of land that lies below 5m OD and is drained by ditches that feed into Shinewater Lake to the southeast. Running east along the ridge towards the A22, Dittons Road crosses land that peaks above 15m OD, after which it largely follows the contour line for 10m OD. The land to the north of the road falls to below 5m OD beyond the A27.

1.4 According to the British Geological Survey, the geology of the Site comprises mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation. Deposits of colluvium were encountered on the same geology to the north of Dittons Road during a recent evaluation at the Bluebells residential development.

- 1.5** Initially, a geophysical survey was carried out on the Site¹, followed by a first phase of evaluation trenching. The evaluation trenching established the presence of medieval features in the northwest part of the field, although no evidence for the Roman road was found².
- 1.6** The Phase 2 fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches within the south and east extent of the Site, in an area previously not trenched, and the excavation of a strip and map area in the northwest corner of the Site. A Written Scheme of Investigation³ covering this work was approved by the Archaeology Team at ESCC, and submitted to Wealden District Council for their approval.
- 1.7** The fieldwork was carried out between the 2nd and 9th February 2015 by Dr Caroline Russell, Keith Butler and David Atkin. The Site was surveyed by Andy Bradshaw and Jessica Butt.

¹ Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2014. *An Archaeological Evaluation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0505.

² *Ibid.*

³ Butler, C. 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation (Phase 2) on Land North of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0562.

2.0 Research Aims

2.1 The purpose of the evaluation and excavation is to:

1. Evaluate parts of the Site not looked at during the initial phase of evaluation excavation to determine whether there are any potential archaeological remains surviving within this part of the Site; and
2. Excavate and investigate the area around the medieval features found during the Phase 1 evaluation through a strip-and-map operation.

2.2 The Research Aims

1. To establish whether the un-evaluated parts of the Site contain any archaeological remains, and if so to determine their dating, character and importance, and to inform, if necessary, any further areas of open excavation;
2. To establish the extent of the medieval features found during Phase 1, and to excavate and record the archaeology that is revealed;
3. To understand the archaeological remains found, and to determine whether there is any potential connection between the medieval remains found and Dittons Farm; and
4. To establish whether there is any evidence for the Roman Road or adjacent Roman activity within the Site.

3.0 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 A Heritage Statement⁴ was produced for the Site in May 2014. It established that the Site has the potential to contain archaeological remains from the Mesolithic period onwards. A Roman road runs along the north side of the Site, probably on Dittons Road, and Roman settlement has been found to the northwest of the Site. Dittons Farm originated in the 13th century, and the remains of this medieval and Post Medieval farm may be found on Site.
- 3.2 The map regression shows the site to have been an open field for at least 200 years, and there have been no recent impacts that would have damaged or removed the potential archaeological remains on the site.
- 3.3 The archaeological evaluation⁵ found a medieval ditch and an adjacent area of metallurgy from which medieval pottery was recovered (Plate 1).

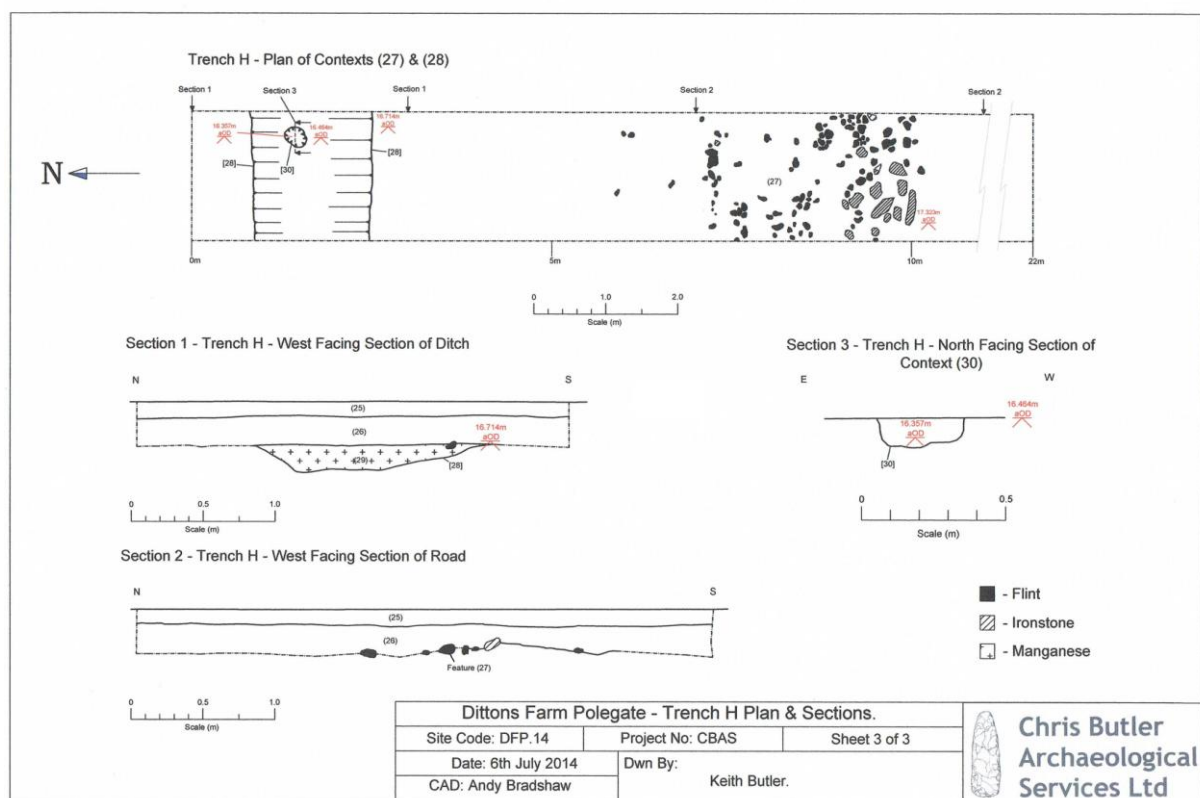


Plate 1: Trench H Plan and Sections

⁴ Butler, C, 2014. *A Heritage Statement for Land North of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0488.

⁵ Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2014. *An Archaeological Evaluation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0505.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014), East Sussex County Council's *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2015); and the *Treasure Act* (1996).
- 4.2 Five trenches (Trenches J-N) were opened as close as possible to their locations as proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation⁶ (Fig. 3). The trenches carried on the lettering system used in the earlier evaluation⁷ when nine trenches were excavated. The dimensions of each trench were as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench dimensions

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)
J	20.7	2
K	19.2	2
L	19.9	2
M	20.6	2
M	21.3	2

- 4.3 Once the five trenches were opened, the strip and map area was excavated around the earlier Trench H (Fig. 3). The ground was reduced under archaeological supervision in all directions until the extent of the medieval features had been exposed, and sufficient had been exposed to establish there were no further features. The Site was visited by Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, on 4th February, and it was agreed that no further excavation was required beyond that already reduced.
- 4.4 The trenches and excavation area were excavated by machine in accordance with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*. The machine employed was a 13 tonne 360° excavator (Zaxis), fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket. A CAT scan was undertaken prior to any excavation, with no services having been detected. During excavation, the spoil was visually searched for finds on a frequent basis. A Garrett ACE150 metal detector was also used to search the spoil and excavated ground for metal artefacts. The spoil was piled next to each trench, whilst that from the excavation area was stored to the north and east of the trench.

⁶ Butler, C. 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation (Phase 2) on Land North of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0562.

⁷ Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2014. *An Archaeological Evaluation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0505.

- 4.5** The Temporary Bench Mark from the earlier evaluation was reused to level the Site. Located at the southeast corner of Trench H, this level was then tied into the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark sited at Dittons Farm (14.91m aOD) using a Total Station.
- 4.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 4.7** A site reference of CBAS0562 was allocated. Creation of the archive has followed the requirements of the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* and *MAP2*. The archive is currently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd and comprises one box containing:
- a CD with the report and WSI in pdf (archive) format and all digital photographs;
 - site folder;
 - site drawings; and
 - finds to be retained (pottery, stone hone and environmental flots).

The Accession number 2014.47 has been obtained from Eastbourne Museum. A CD containing the report in pdf (archive) format and a selection of site photographs will be supplied to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.0 Results

5.0.1 The results of each trench and excavation area are discussed separately below. Trench L was the only trench to contain an archaeological feature, as all other trenches simply comprised overburden (topsoil and subsoil) over the natural deposit.

5.1 Trench J (Table 2 & Plate 2)

5.1.1 Trench J was orientated southwest-northeast towards the southwest corner of the Site. The topsoil (Context **31**) was 200mm thick and comprised a soft-firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with roots (1%). It overlay the subsoil (Context **32**), a 300mm thick deposit of soft-firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt. The underlying natural deposit (Context **33**) was a firm - compact silty clay mottled mid to dark yellow, mid reddish pink and mid grey.

5.1.2 Four land drains were exposed in Trench J, all running broadly northwest-southeast.



Plate 2: Trench J, looking east

Table 2: Summary of contexts in Trench J

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
31	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
32	Deposit	Subsoil	300mm
33	Deposit	Natural	110mm excavated

5.2 Trench K (Table 3 & Plate 3)

5.2.1 Trench K was orientated west-southwest - east-northeast in the central south half of the Site (Fig. 3). The topsoil (Context **34**) was a soft-firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional rounded flint pebbles 30mm in size (<1%) and roots (1%). It had a maximum depth of 240mm. Below the topsoil was a soft-firm mid yellowish grey clayey silt (Context **35**), up to 400mm thick. This subsoil contained no inclusions. It overlay the natural deposit (Context **36**), which was a firm mottled mid to dark yellow silty clay with no inclusions.

5.2.2 Two land drains were exposed in Trench K, running at different directions to one another, southwest-northeast and northwest-southeast.

Table 3: Summary of contexts in Trench K

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
34	Deposit	Topsoil	240mm
35	Deposit	Subsoil	400mm
36	Deposit	Natural	110mm excavated



Plate 3: Trench K, looking east

5.3 Trench L (Fig. 5, Table 4 & Plate 4)

5.3.1 Trench L was orientated northwest-southeast in the east end of the Site. The topsoil (Context **37**) was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with roots (1%), 170mm thick. It rested above a 100mm thick layer of subsoil (Context **38**), the same as Context **35** in Trench K. Below this deposit, the natural deposit (Context **39**) was a firm-compact silty clay mottled mid to dark yellow with some grey. It contained no inclusions and was 140mm thick to the limit of excavation.

5.3.2 A flat-bottomed linear cut (Context **46**) ran southwest-northeast across the trench. It was 500mm wide and was shallow with a depth of only 100mm. It had a gradual to sharp break of slope at the top and bottom of the cut and gentle to steep sloping sides. The sole fill of the cut (Context **47**) was a soft mid yellowish grey clayey silt with no inclusions. The cut is undated as no finds were recovered from the fill. It does not have a known function, but its shallow depth suggests that it has been severely truncated by ploughing. The linear was cut by a modern land drain.

Table 4: Summary of contexts in Trench L

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
37	Deposit	Topsoil	170mm
38	Deposit	Subsoil	100mm
39	Deposit	Natural	140mm excavated
46	Cut	Linear	100mm
47	Fill	Fill of [46]	100mm



Plate 4: Trench L, looking south-east

5.4 Trench M (Table 5 & Plate 5)

5.4.1 Trench M was orientated north-northwest - south-southeast within the east end of the Site. The topsoil (Context **40**) was the same as that in Trench J (Context **31**), with a depth of 190mm. The underlying subsoil (Context **41**) was the same as Contexts **35** and **38** in Trenches K and L, and was 130mm thick. The natural deposit below it was a firm-compact silty clay (Context **42**), light grey and yellow in colour at the south end of the trench and mid to dark yellow with dark pink mottling at the opposite end.

Table 5: Summary of contexts in Trench M

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
40	Deposit	Topsoil	190mm
41	Deposit	Subsoil	130mm
42	Deposit	Natural	130mm excavated



Plate 5: Trench M, looking south

5.5 Trench N (Table 6 & Plate 6)

5.5.1 Trench N was orientated west-southwest - east-northeast within the east end of the Site. The topsoil (Context **43**) was a soft-firm mid greyish brown clayey silt, up to 160mm thick. It rested above a 150mm thick layer of subsoil (Context **44**), the same as Context **35**, **38** and **41** in Trenches K, L and M. Underlying it, the natural deposit (Context 45) was a firm-compact silty clay, mottled light grey and yellow and dark yellow and reddish pink.

Table 6: Summary of contexts in Trench N

Context	Type	Relationship	Max. Thickness
43	Deposit	Topsoil	160mm
44	Deposit	Subsoil	150mm
45	Deposit	Natural	200mm excavated



Plate 6: Trench N, looking east

5.6 Excavation Area (Figs. 4 to 10, Table 7 & Plates 7-10)

- 5.6.1 The topsoil (Context **51**) and underlying subsoil (Context **52**) were both variable across the excavation area. In the northwest corner, the topsoil was a dark blackish brown clay or silty clay, interpreted as a friable humus layer, mixed with redeposited subsoil, a mid brown clay, and redeposited natural, a pale brown and orange clay. In the southwest and southeast corners, it was a friable mid-dark brown silty clay. It was c.140mm thick to the west side but only several 10mms thick to the southeast corner.
- 5.6.2 In the northwest corner, the subsoil (Context **52**) was a 110mm-180mm thick layer of friable clay mottled mid whitish brown and orangey brown, with rare stone (c.10mm) and manganese (under 5mm) inclusions. In the southwest corner it was a friable mottled mid brown and orange-brown clay with occasional small stones (under 15mm). In the southeast corner it was a friable mid brown clay with occasional small stones (under 15mm) and frequent manganese flecks towards the interface with the underlying natural deposit (Context **53**).
- 5.6.3 In the northwest corner of the excavation area, the natural deposit (Context **53**) was a friable but firm pale brown and orange clay with frequent manganese flecks (under 50mm). In the southwest corner, it was a friable but firm mid orange-brown clay with abundant manganese flecks (a few mm in size) but becoming more orangey and clayey (i.e. a mottled pale brown and mid orange) with depth and containing fewer manganese flecks.

5.6.4 A number of archaeological cut features were found within the west half of the excavation area. These included several linear features; Linear A (Cuts **67** and **74**), Linear B (Cuts **59** and **61**), Linear C (Cut **70**) and Linear D (Cuts **55** & **65**). On the whole, it was difficult to see the cut features during machine excavation and it was often difficult to find the edges of the features on hand excavation.

Linear A (Figs. 6 & 7)

5.6.5 Linear A ran broadly west-east for some 11m. It ran through Trench H of the Phase 1 excavation, where it was identified as Cut **28**. Each terminus of this linear was excavated. The cut for the west terminus (Context **67**) was 1.04m wide with a very shallow depth of 60mm. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and bottom, gentle sloping sides, and a flat base. Fine roots grew through the cut, and two land drains cut through the terminus. The sole fill (Context **68**) of this terminus was a friable mottled pale brown and orange-brown clay with occasional manganese inclusions (under 5mm), and rare sub-rounded flints (40mm x 30mm x 20mm) that came from the adjacent metallated surface (Context **27** / **69**).

5.6.6 The cut for the east terminus of Linear A (Context **74**) was 1.23m wide and just 120mm deep. It had a gradual to sharp break of slope at the top, gentle to steep sloping sides, a gradual break of slope at the bottom, and a flat base. It was cut by a land drain. The south side of the terminus was poorly defined. The terminus fill (Context **75**) was a friable pale whitish brown and mid orange clay with abundant manganese flecks (up to 15mm) and rare flint nodules (up to 130mm x 100mm x 70mm). The pottery from Linear A was dated to 1250-1350AD.

Linear B (Figs. 7 & 8)

5.6.7 Linear B ran south for 8m before it turned westwards to possibly run out of the trench. It had its north terminus excavated, with a second slot opened near to the baulk. The terminus cut (Context **61**) was 0.73m wide and 10mm deep. It had a gentle to sharp break of slope at the top and bottom, irregular sides (jagged to the east and gentle sloping in places to the west) and an undulating base. The fill (Context **62**) was a friable mottled pale brown and mid orangey brown clay with rare stones (up to 105mm x 65mm x 50mm) and rare manganese inclusions (under 5mm).

5.6.8 The other excavated slot showed the cut of the linear (Context **59**) to have a width of 1.35m and depth of 270mm. The cut had a gradual to sharp break of slope at the top, gently curved or steep sloping sides, a gradual break of slope at the bottom, and a curved base with a curved groove in the centre. The fill of the cut (Context **60**) was a friable mottled mid greyish brown and orange-brown clay with rare sandstone or manganese inclusions (up to several mm). The pottery from Linear B was dated to 1225 -1325AD.



Plate 7: Ditch slot **59** through Linear B

Linear C (Fig. 8)

5.6.9 Linear C ran west for 2.26m up to the location of Trench H. The cut of the east terminus (Context **70**) was 0.9m wide and only 40mm deep, implying that only the very base of the feature was found. Being so shallow, the linear was very poorly defined, in particular the beginning of the terminus. The cut had a gradual break of slope to the top and bottom, gentle sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of the cut (Context **71**) was a friable mid orange-brown clay with occasional flints, mostly flint modules (up to 110mm x 100mm x 90mm) but including the occasional sub-rounded pebble. These large flints appear to have fallen down slope from the flint and sandstone hardstanding to the south (Context **69**). The pottery from Linear C dated to 1225-1300AD.

5.6.10 In Trench H, a slight scarp line (Context **77**) in the natural deposit (Context **53**) was found across the width of the trench, following the alignment of Linear C. Its presence may imply that this linear was investigated during the earlier evaluation but not recognised as a feature. The linear was not seen coming through the west side of Trench H.

Linear D (Figs. 9 & 10)

- 5.6.11 Due to the uncertain nature of the natural/subsoil interface, a further reduction was carried out to ascertain whether Linear A continued west into the baulk of the excavation area (see 5.6.19 below). This exposed a broad U-shaped linear, measuring 2.36 m long. It appeared to widen as it curved southwards, being 0.87m at its widest point, narrowing to 200mm wide at the north end. On cleaning the feature, a possible post-hole was seen right beside the linear (Cut **57**).
- 5.6.12 As a land drain cut the south terminus of the linear, only the north terminus was excavated, with the section placed to investigate its relationship with the possible post-hole to the east (Context **57**). The cut of the north terminus (Context **55**) measured up to 440mm wide and 120mm deep. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and bottom, gentle sloping sides and a rounded base, and was filled with Context **56**.



Plate 8: Ditch slot (Context **55**) through Linear D, and post-hole (Context **57**)

- 5.6.13 A slight ridge separated the ditch from the post-hole (Context **57**). This feature was sub-rounded, had a gradual break of slope to the top and bottom, gentle sloping sides and a rounded base. It was 350mm in diameter and 80mm deep, and was filled with Context **58**.
- 5.6.14 The fills of both the linear and post-hole (Contexts **56** and **58** respectively) were indistinguishable, being a friable mottled pale-mid whitish brown and mid rusty orange clay with very frequent manganese and possible sandstone inclusions (generally under 5mm), and rare flint nodules (up to 115mm x 50mm x 50mm). This may imply that the features were contemporary with each other, having silted up at the same time as one another.

5.6.15 A narrow slot, 220mm wide, was excavated to investigate the relationship of the linear with a second possible post-hole. This latter feature proved not to exist upon excavation. This cut through Linear D was labelled Context **65** and its fill, Context **66** (see Context **56** for a description of the latter). The profile of Context **65** was the same as for Context **55**. The cut was 90mm deep.

Other Features and Deposits

5.6.16 A flint deposit (Context **69**), measuring 2.9m x 1.70m, was seen resting within the top of the natural deposit (Context **53**), 2m south of Linear C. It ran west up to Trench H, where it was recorded as Context **27** in the earlier evaluation, and extended 0.68m west of the trench. The deposit mostly comprised flint nodules (up to at least 200mm x 110mm) with some sub-rounded flint pebbles (up to 90mm x 45mm x 45mm). It only contained sandstone west of Trench H, measuring up to 260mm x at least 150mm. A noticeable scatter of flints was seen *c.*6.5m east of Context **60** and may have been the remnants of the same feature.



Plate 9: Flint deposit (**69**) with its continuation (Context **27**) in Trench H beyond

5.6.17 A second flint deposit (Context **72**) was recorded east of Linear's A and C. Whilst it contained flint nodules, as with Context **27/69**, most of the flints were sub-rounded pebbles (up to 95mm x 60mm). The flints were concentrated to form a relatively straight edge running west-southwest to east-northeast for 4.60m, whilst other flints had scattered north, down slope of this alignment (Fig. 10). These other flints, which did not cling to a possible edge, may have been more susceptible to dispersal through ploughing, for instance. Machine stripping had created a very shallow section through the west end of this deposit, revealing it to have no more than a single stone's depth.

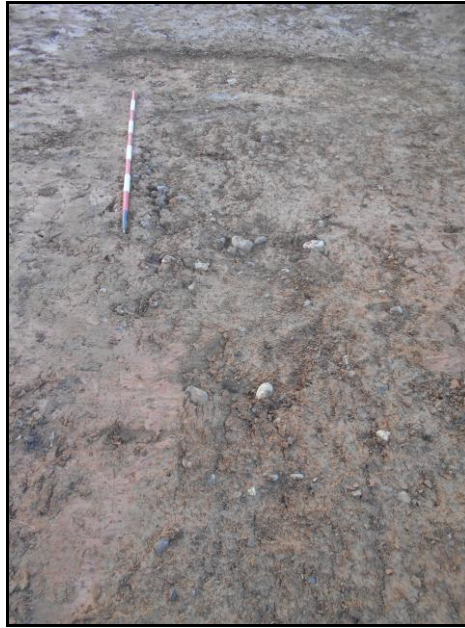


Plate 10: Flint deposit 72

- 5.6.18 Context **73** comprised a small group of flint modules and sandstone, 1.10m southeast of Context **72** and covering an area of *c.*0.8m². Due to its composition, this deposit may be related to the flint deposit of Context **27/69**, which is quite some distance to the west.
- 5.6.19 Linear D and the west half of Linear A were exposed by reducing what was thought to be the natural deposit (Context **53**), but may now be interpreted as re-deposited natural (Context **76**) that had accumulated in the north west part of the excavation area. This was a firm mottled pale whitish brown and mid orange clay, 160mm thick where it was recorded in the east-facing excavation baulk beside Linear D.
- 5.6.20 Context **76** was investigated by machine, to determine whether Linear A extended further across the Site, and to ensure it did not overlie other features. However it was found to rest above a natural bluish clay deposit (Context **80**) which was absent of finds.

Table 7: Summary of contexts in main Excavation Area

Context No.	Context Type	Relationships	Max. Thickness
48	Fill	Finds recovered from surface of ditch [29]	N/A
49	Fill	Finds recovered from surface of Linear B	N/A
50		VOID	
51	Deposit	Topsoil	140mm
52	Deposit	Subsoil	150mm
53	Deposit	Natural	60mm excavated
55	Cut	Cut of Linear D	90mm
54	Fill	Pottery recovered during machine excavation of Linear D	N/A
56	Fill	Fill of [55]	90mm
57	Cut	Cut of PH	80mm
58	Fill	Fill of PH [57]	80mm
59	Cut	Cut of Linear B	270mm
60	Fill	Fill of [59]	270mm
61	Cut	Cut of N terminus of Linear B	100mm
62	Fill	Fill of [61]	100mm
63		VOID	
64		VOID	
65	Cut	Cut of Linear D	130mm
66	Fill	Fill of [65]	130mm
67	Cut	Cut of W terminus of Linear A	60mm
68	Fill	Fill of [67]	60mm
69	Deposit	Flint deposit. Continuation of Context 27.	-
70	Cut	Cut of E terminus of Linear C	40mm
71	Fill	Fill of [70]	40mm
72	Deposit	Flint deposit	-
73	Deposit	Flint and sandstone deposit	-
74	Cut	Cut of E terminus of Linear A	1.23m
75	Fill	Fill of [74]	1.23m
76	Deposit	Probable clay hill-wash	160mm
77	Cut	Scarp line in Trench H. Possibly where Linear C investigated previously.	70mm
78	Deposit	Finds recovered whilst opening Scrape 1	N/A
79	Deposit	Finds recovered from area north of (72)	N/A
80	Deposit	Natural	-

6.0 The Finds

6.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

6.1.1 The evaluation and subsequent excavation produced 1185 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 8350g, from 29 individually numbered contexts. This total can be divided between the evaluation (401/2506g from 13 contexts) and the subsequent Stage 2 work (784/5844g from 16 contexts). The assemblage is in mixed condition and includes quite fresh as well as heavily abraded sherds. However, virtually all sherds are of a small average size (ie just 7g overall) suggesting some reworking in most instances. The assemblage from the Stage 2 works (Table 8) has been fully quantified for archive by fabric and form on pro-forma, using the fabric series established for the Polegate Bypass⁸. The medieval pottery from the evaluation has yet to be recorded by fabric for archive, though the post-medieval material from this first stage of work has been fully recorded as part of the current assessment. The data from the paper archive has been used to create an Excel database that forms part of the digital archive. Two periods of activity are represented by the ceramics.

Medieval

6.1.2 The vast majority of the assemblage consists of medieval pottery: 1170 sherds, weighing 8163g, from 23 individually numbered contexts. Most of these show some signs of abrasion and/or affect from acidic burial conditions. A relatively wide range of fabrics is represented in the assemblage, the vast majority of these probably deriving from local manufacturing sites at Abbot's Wood, Pevensey and Ringmer, though some may have come from as yet undiscovered kilns in the Polegate/Eastbourne area. The range of medieval fabrics is given in Table 1 along with the quantification of the Stage 2 assemblage by fabric. Interestingly the assemblage contained seven fabrics that had not formally been identified in the Polegate Bypass assemblage.

6.1.3 Chronologically the assemblage forms a fairly coherent group suggesting activity starting at the end of the 12th century or, more likely, beginning of the 13th with intense activity during the 13th and early 14th centuries. Activity appears to rapidly drop off during the first half of the 14th century and there is nothing that need post-date 1350.

6.1.4 The earliest sherds are tempered with abundant fine/medium multicoloured flint. These are very much in keeping with the products of the Abbot's Wood kiln situated a few miles to the north-west⁹. This fabric could be as early as the later 12th century, but in the

⁸ Barber, L. 2007. 'The Pottery' in S. Stevens Archaeological investigations on the A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 145, 125-130.

⁹ Barton, K. 1979. *Medieval Sussex Pottery*. Phillimore, Chichester.

current assemblage the incidence of mainly oxidised wares, together with quite well developed rectangular or tapering club rims, suggests most belong to the first half of the 13th century. These flinty wares were recovered from all deposits containing medieval pottery. Even more common are wares tempered with finer flint or moderate sand and sparse/common flint. These may also derive from the Abbot's Wood kiln but other sources are possible. Although reduced vessels are present, most are oxidised and there is a range of developed tapering and rectangular clubbed rims suggesting most can probably be placed between c. 1225 and 1300/25. Vessels tempered with purely medium sand are rarer (Table 8), but again, these appear in most contexts containing medieval pottery. Such wares are more common in the locality between c. 1250 and 1350. Fine sand tempered oxidised jugs, usually with green glazing, are also represented though they can only be placed in a general c. 1225 to 1350 date range.

Table 8: Medieval pottery from Stage 2 works by fabric

Fabric code	Expansion	No/Weight	Comment
1a	Common to abundant white, grey and black flint to 2mm.	150/1022g	Abbots Wood kiln/s (Barton 1979). Of probable later 12 th - to 13 th - century date.
1b	Moderate to common white, grey and black flint to 2mm.	1/36g	possibly Abbots Wood) of probable mid/late 12 th - to later 13 th - century date
2	Common to abundant medium sand with rare white and grey flint to 1mm.	67/404g	Local fabric of probable mid 13 th - to 14 th - century date.
3a	3a: Sparse to moderate white, grey and black flint to 1mm	196/1058g	Local fabric, probably an overlapping development from F1a (Abbots Wood or Pevensey). Of early 13 th - to 14 th - century
3b	Sparse to moderate fine sand with rare white, grey and black flint to 1mm.	159/1580g	Local fabric, probably of late 13 th - to 14 th - century date.
3c	Sparse to moderate white, grey and black flint to 1mm. High fired	38/332g	Local fabric, probably an overlapping development from F3a. Of probable 14 th - century date.
3d	As 3a but with common/moderate iron oxides to 1mm	8/68g	New fabric (split from 3a at the Bypass)
4a	Moderate medium sand	88/592g	Local fabric, of probable mid 13 th - to 14 th - century date.
4b	Moderate medium sand but with moderate iron oxide grains, often restricted to the surface	12/38g	New fabric. Mid C13th – 14th
5a	Silty/fine sand and sparse to moderate iron oxides to 2mm	13/78g	Local fabric, probably an overlapping development from F1a. Of probable early 13 th - to 14 th - century date.
5b	Silty/fine sand and common white flint grits to 0.5mm	10/96g	New fabric (split from Fabric 3a at the Bypass).Mid C13th – mid 14th century
5c	Silty/fine sand, moderate iron oxides and rare/sparse white flints to 1mm	4/12g	New fabric – C13th – early 14th
6a	Moderate fine sand.	23/284g	Probably Ringmer products. Of probable mid 13 th - to 14 th - century date.
6b	Moderate fine sandy (buff)	9/142g	New fabric (split from Fabric 6a at Bypass). Probably Ringmer products. Of probable mid 13 th - to 14 th - century date
8a	Moderate/abundant fine/medium sandy whiteware	2/8g	New fabric. Surrey (Kingston-type). Mid C13th – 14th
9a	Surrey/Brede-type fine sandy greyware	1/4g	New fabric. Mid C13th – 14th
Saintonge	French Saintonge Whiteware	1/28g	Mid C13th – mid 14th

- 6.1.5 Cooking pots dominate the Stage 2 assemblage; with at least 90 different vessels being represented (248/1908g) though these figures are likely to significantly increase once the evaluation assemblage has been quantified by fabric/form. At least 15 different bowls are represented and 29 different jugs. The latter are in a range of fabrics (3a, 3b, 3c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 6a, 6b, 8a) but those in the finer fabrics 6a (x9 vessels) and 6b (x3 vessels) are by far the best vessels. The majority of jugs have thumbled bases and glazing but there are a few vessels with incised or applied decoration. Overall, the forms are fairly typical for a domestic assemblage. The quality of some of the jugs suggest the poor nature of the bulk of the coarsewares reflects the local pottery industry rather than being an indicator of a particularly low social status. Indeed the presence of the Surrey and Saintonge jugs show the occupants did have access to not just the local market and could afford to acquire some more 'exotic' vessels.
- 6.1.6 The medieval assemblage was recovered from a few features (mainly ditches) and a number of layers and subsoil spreads. It is clear from the quantity of pottery involved that occupation was occurring on, or immediately adjacent to, the investigated areas. The flint/ironstone surface in Trench H of the evaluation (Context **27**) produced one of the largest assemblages from the site (170/918g) and is fairly typical of the other context groups. The small average sherd size of 5.4g from this layer strongly suggests the material to be reworked, a trait commonly seen in other groups. The fabrics from Context **27** are fairly typical and include F1 Abbot's Wood flinty (27/228g), F2 and 3 Sand with flint (102/496g); F4 Medium sand (19/106g) and F6 Fine sand (22/88g). The largest two context groups from the Stage 2 works consist of 282 sherds (1926g) from fill **62** of ditch **61** and 168 sherds (1150g) from fill **75** of ditch **74**. Although with a slightly larger average sherd weight of 6.8g both groups appear to have seen some reworking.

Late Post-medieval

- 6.1.7 The other period represented is the late post-medieval. The quantities involved suggest the pottery derives from the manuring of cultivated land between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Context **5** produced a very abraded creamware bowl base, while Context **11** produced a tiny piece of creamware plate. The other pottery is of the 19th century and includes a sparse scatter of blue transfer-printed whiteware, blue stoneware, refined whiteware and glazed/unglazed red earthenware. Most was recovered from subsoil deposits.

6.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 6.2.1 Context **8** of the evaluation produced a residual and somewhat worn early to mid 18th-century stem fragment. The clay pipe holds no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

6.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

6.3.1 The evaluation and subsequent excavation recovered just 94 pieces of ceramic building material from the site. This total includes 55 tiny pieces of daub from a single environmental residue (Context 30). The assemblage has been fully listed during the current assessment and is summarised in Tables 9 and 10 as part of the visible archive. With the exception of the daub, and one possible tile type (Table 9, T3) all of the brick and tile is well-formed and fired types typical of the 18th to 19th centuries. It is likely that all relates to the same manuring episode noted for the contemporary pottery.

Table 9: Ceramic Building Material Fabrics

Code	Fabric	Comments	Date
D1	Silty clay	-	-
D2	Fine sand with rare/sparse flint	-	-
D3	Silty/soapy matix with moderate grass temper	-	-
B1	Sparse fine sand, common iron oxides to 1mm	Well formed and fired	Mid C18th – 19th
B2	Sparse fine sand, common iron oxides to 3mm, sparse marl to 3mm	Well formed and fired	Mid C18th – 19th
B3	Sparse fine sand, common iron oxides to 4mm and marl to 7mm	Quite formed and fired	Mid C18th – 19th
T1	Sparse fine sand, occasional iron oxides and/or marl pellets to 2mm	Well formed and well/hard fired	Mid C18th – 19th
T2	Sparse fine sand, occasional iron oxides and moderate marl pellets and streaks to 2mm	Well formed and fired	Mid C18th – 19th
T3	Moderate/abundant fine sand with sparse quartz & iron oxides to 1mm	Quite well formed, medium fired	C14th – 16th

Table 10: Ceramic Building Material Assemblage

Context	Fabric	Form	No/Weight	Comments
1	T1	Peg tile	3/152g	10-11mm thick
5	T1	Peg tile	1/58g	10mm thick
17	T2	Peg tile	1/42g	11mm thick
20	T1	Peg tile	3/178g	10-11mm thick
23	T1	Peg tile	3/164g	10-11mm thick
30 <2>	D1	Daub	55/32g	Amorphous
32	D2	Daub	1/2g	Amorphous
32	T1	Peg tile	2/62g	11-12mm thick
32	T1	Land drain	1/28g	9mm thick
32	B1	Brick	2/300g	No complete dimensions
35	T1	Peg tile	1/22g	10-11mm thick
35	T2	Peg tile	2/112g	10-11mm thick
38	B2	Brick	1/64g	No complete dimensions
38	T1	Peg tile	1/52g	10mm thick
44	T1	Peg tile	1/12g	10mm thick
52	B3	Brick	1/72g	No complete dimensions
52	T3	Ridge tile	1/66g	13mm thick
52	T1	Peg tile	6/180g	10-11mm thick
52	T1	Land drain	1/26g	9mm thick
53	B1	Brick	1/430g	58mm thick
53	B2	Brick	2/764g	No complete dimensions
53	D3	Daub	2/8g	Amorphous
75	D1	Daub	2/14g	Amorphous

6.4 The Flintwork by Steffan Klemenic and Chris Butler

6.4.1 An assemblage of two pieces of worked flint (24.2g) (Table 11) and 18 pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint (399g) was recovered during the Phase 2 fieldwork.

Table 11: The flintwork

Type	No
Soft hammer-struck flakes	1
Fragments	1
Total	2

6.4.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of the flint by eye or with the aid of a magnifying glass where necessary. The number of pieces of worked flint was sorted by type, noting the technological attributes and extent of any retouch. Terminology is after Butler¹⁰. Non-worked flints that had been collected were discarded at this stage.

¹⁰ Butler, C. 2005. *Prehistoric Flintwork*. Tempus Publishing Ltd.

6.4.3 The majority of the flint is discoloured due to heating. The worked flint comprises a single soft hammer-struck flake and a fragmentary flake. Both are likely debitage. They are from different sources; whilst the fragment is of grey Downland flint, the soft hammer flake is yellow/brown and likely to be of river gravel.

6.4.4 The initial evaluation produced no prehistoric worked flint, but two pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint were recovered. Both were unlikely to be prehistoric, as they had not been burnt to any great intensity.

6.5 The Slag by Luke Barber

6.5.1 Subsoil (Context **20**) and topsoil (Context **25**) produced several pieces of heavily vitrified brick likely to be of 18th to 19th century date (4/134g and 1/428g respectively). Context **13** produced four pieces (797g) from the same block of quite dense dark grey/black slag with rusty patches and some vitrification. Sample <1>, from Context **29**, ditch **28** produced some 42g of very fragmentary fuel ash slag. The Stage 2 works recovered no further slag.

6.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

6.6.1 Context **13** of the evaluation produced a 4g piece of coal and Context **52** of the 2nd stage works produced a 24g fragment from a 19th to early 20th century welsh roofing slate. The only medieval stone consists of a 100g fragment from a hone (128mm+ long) in Norwegian Ragstone with variable profile (rectangular 27 x 17mm giving way to D-sectioned 22 x 10mm) (Context **53**).

6.7 The Glass by Jan Oldham

6.7.1 A single piece of degraded glass was recovered from Context **52**. This was a dark green bottle glass punt (or kick-up) from the base of a wine type bottle; 15mm thick and 15g in weight. This glass fragment is likely to be from a bottle of late 19th century date.

6.8 The Metalwork by Jan Oldham and Chris butler

6.8.1 Two pieces of metal were recovered from two contexts during the Phase 2 of the fieldwork: Contexts **44** and **75**, whilst the Phase 1 evaluation recovered five pieces. All of the metal was iron.

- 6.8.2 Context **44** produced a heavily corroded piece of flat iron hinge with a rounded end; 280mm long, 5mm thick along the length of the metal, and 20mm thick at the rounded edge, and 134g in weight. The process of soil flotation recovered a corroded fragment of unidentifiable iron, possibly a nail shank, from sample **5** of Context **75**; length 32mm and weight 4g.
- 6.8.3 A large file 310mm long and 34mm wide with a 55mm long tang, was found in Context **1**, and is Post Medieval in date. Context **20** produced an oval chain link 73mm x 40mm, and a broken iron casket or chest key (**Plate 13**). The key has a 34mm long stem, with a simple bit, although this is heavily corroded, and the circular or oval bow has broken. Given that medieval pottery has been recovered from this context, it is possible that this key may also be of medieval date. The key should be retained.
- 6.8.4 Context **26** produced a large complete horseshoe, although it does not appear to be of any great antiquity, and does not conform to medieval styles of horseshoe¹¹. It is therefore probably intrusive in this context. A single nail fragment was found in Context **27**, which given the dating, could well be medieval.

6.9 Palaeo-environmental (charred plant and charcoal remains) assessment by Dr Mike Allen

- 6.9.1 Following assessment of two samples from evaluation trenches¹², a series of five samples were taken from shallow medieval or undated features for the recovery and assessment of charred plant and charcoal remains (Table 12).

Table 12. List of samples with processed sample volumes and >4mm residue weights

Date	Sample	Feature number	Feature type	Context	Vol (L)	Vol proc	>4mm
Med	1	59	Ditch B	60	64	64	339g
Med	2	70	Shallow ditch C	71	40	40	306g
Undat	3	65	Linear D	66	56	56	953g
Undat	4	57	Isolated posthole	58	8	8	140g
Undat	5	74	Linear A	75	64	64	1727g

¹¹ London Museum 1940 *Medieval Catalogue*. HMSO

¹² Butler, K. and Bradshaw, A. 2014. *An Archaeological Evaluation on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex*. CBAS0505.

6.9.2 Samples of between 64 of 8 litres were processed by CBAS Ltd., by standard washover flotation methods with the flots retained on 300µm mesh, and residues on 1mm mesh. The residues were fractionated (>4mm, >2mm and >1mm) and dried the coarse residues sorted by CBAS for artefacts and ecofacts and weighed (Table 1).

6.9.3 *Aims and requirements*

Each sample flot was assessed for charcoal and charred plant remains (Table 13). The aims of assessment were to :-

- determine the presence, quantity, quality and diversity of palaeo-environmental remains to aid in the understanding and interpreting the features, the activity and economy of the site, and indicate the archaeological and palaeo-environmental significant of the assessed remains
- determine samples suitable for analysis of charred plant remains and charcoal
- make recommendations for suitable analyses as, and if, necessary

6.9.4 *Assessment methods*

The unsorted flots (300µm), >4mm charcoal recovered from the residues, and the finer residues (>2mm and >1mm) were supplied for assessment (Table 13).

Table 13. Sample elements supplied for assessment

Sample	Period	Context	Feature/deposit	Flot	Coarse charcoal	Fine residues (>2mm, >1mm)
1	Med	60	Ditch B	✓	×	✓
2	Med	71	Shallow ditch C	✓	×	✓
3	Undat	66	Linear D	✓	✓	✓
4	Undat	58	Isolated posthole	✓	✓	✓
5	Undat	75	Linear A	✓	✓	✓

6.9.5 The unsorted flots, and material recovered from the >4mm residues, was scanned under a x7.5 – x45 magnification with a stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred plant and charcoal remains recorded in Table 14. The flots were sieved through 4mm sieves to recover charcoal >4mm which was recorded separately and added to quantities of the coarse charcoal. The volume of flot is rooty material and the charred remains recorded separately. Notes were made of the presence and nature of charred remains and charcoal, but none were sorted. The residues (>2mm and >1mm) were rapidly scanned under illuminated magnification to search for charred plant remains, and any significant charcoal elements.

6.9.6 *Assessment Results*

The results of the assessment of the charred plant and charcoal remains are presented in Table 14. The processed samples were very large (ave 46.4 litres) with all but one sample (from posthole **57**) being 40 litres or greater; and up to 64 litres per sample was processed (Table 12). All the flots contained very large quantities of fine fibrous roots (up to 250ml) indicating the shallow nature of the features and the large sample sizes. The high quantity of fine roots also indicates the possibility of biotic contamination/mixing and intrusion of fine (palaeo-environmental) material. A considerable amount of time was spent teasing apart the large masses of rooty material and carefully, thoroughly, examining them for any adhering charred remains.

6.9.7 *Charred plant and charcoal remains*

Overall the samples were very sparse in charred plant remains (Table 14), and the few cereal caryopses that were present were worn. The grain from linear A (**F74**) was worn rye or oats rather than wheat/barley. Very few weeds seeds were present and no chaff was recorded. No charred plant remains were noted in the rapid scan of the residues.

6.9.8 *Charcoal*

The charcoal was large wood fragments with no obvious round wood, branch wood or twiggy elements present. Only finer fragments (<4mm) of larger woody charcoal was present and noted in the rapid scan of the residues.

6.9.9 Charcoal was not present in either of the two dated Medieval ditches. High numbers of charcoal pieces >4mm were present in linear A (**F74**), many of which worn. Similarly moderate numbers of charcoal fragments were present in linear D (**F65**), but again seemed worn or weathered. The sample from Posthole **57** contained some charcoal, but the absence of evidence of distinct burning, and of a large mass of charcoal, may indicate that these are incidental, rather than being a part of the burnt timber.

6.9.10 Overall the charcoal was large wood fragments and seemed weathered indicating that its present in all three features is incidental, and that perhaps had been exposed and lying around for a while before its deposition or arrival in these features.

Table 14. Assessment of charred plant and charcoal remains from the selected processed bulk samples from Dittons Farm

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>vol proc / taken (litres)</i>	<i>Flot vol (ml) Charred / roots</i>	<i>grain</i>	<i>weed seeds/c haff</i>	<i>charcoal >4mm pieces</i>	<i>charcoal <2mm (ml)</i>	<i>notes</i>	<i>analysis</i>
Medieval										
Ditch B (F59)	60	1	64 / 64	<1 / 50	-	C / -	-	-	Freshwater snail	
Ditch C (F70)	71	2	40 / 40	- / 200	-	- / -	-	-	No flecks of charcoal >2mm present	
Undated										
Linear D (F65)	66	3	56 / 56	- / 10	2	C / -	33	Rare	Large wood charcoal seems very weathered, worn	? C
Linear A (F74)	75	5	64 / 64	- / 250	1	- / -	110	Rare	Oat/rye grain, rare flecks charcoal >2mm,	? C
Isolated posthole 57	58	4	8 / 8	- / 10	-	- / -	8	-	No finer charcoal present	

KEY: A*** = > 75; A** = >20; A=10-20; B= 5-9; C= 1-5. LW = LARGE WOOD; RW = ROUNDWOOD ANALYSIS C = CHARCOAL; P = CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

7.0 Potential for further analysis and reporting

7.1 The Pottery

7.1.1 The site has produced a moderate-sized assemblage of pottery, principally of the 13th to early 14th centuries. Little medieval pottery had been recovered and published from the surrounding area until relatively recently. The main fabric series for the area around Polegate in the High Medieval period was established during the work for the Bypass (Barber 2007). Since then there have been a number of small excavations around Polegate and in nearby Hailsham though assemblages have not been large. To the south, the recent excavations at Pocock's Field have provided good clean groups of this period which are awaiting analysis. As such the current assemblage is not as rare as it would have been 10 years ago and it does not contain significant quantities of fresh well stratified groups with feature sherds. Despite this, study of the current assemblage during assessment stage has discovered new fabrics and/or refined certain fabric groups used at the Bypass. To that end it has the potential to help refine the local fabric series and link it into the currently forming county fabric series. It also provides a useful group for comparative purposes for other High Medieval assemblages in the area, for both social standing and trade contacts.

7.1.2 It is recommended that analysis stage should include the following tasks:

- 1) Fully record the medieval assemblage from the evaluation and add data to the digital archive. 5 hours
- 2) Integration with Sussex fabric series. 5 hours
- 3) Tabulate largest assemblages for publication. 3 hours
- 4) Comparison to other local High Medieval assemblages. 4 hours
- 5) Selection of items for illustration (up to 15 vessels) and production of catalogue. 3 hours
- 6) Preparation of summary report for publication. 6 hours

Total – 26 hours

7.1.3 NB. Provision should be made to draw 13 simple rims (est 1 day for illustration max)

7.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe

7.2.1 No further analysis is required on the clay tobacco pipe.

7.3 The Ceramic Building Material

7.3.1 The assemblage of ceramic building material is small and dominated by Late Post-medieval types derived from sporadic manuring of the land. The few pieces that may be of medieval date are all isolated and lacking in diagnostic traits. As such the ceramic building material does not hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

7.4 Prehistoric Flintwork

7.4.1 The flintwork assemblage is small and residual. It has been recorded, and it is recommended that no further work is required on it.

7.5 The Slag

7.5.1 The slag from the site holds no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

7.6 The Geological Material

7.6.1 The slate and coal holds no potential for further analysis and has been discarded. The medieval hone ought to be mentioned in the narrative text and retained for long-term curation, but does not need a separate report or illustration.

7.7 The Glass

7.7.1 No further analysis is required on the glass.

7.8 The Metal

7.8.1 The only metal item to be retained is the key. This should be stabilised for curation, and a drawing could be prepared for the final report. No further analysis is required on the remaining metalwork which can be discarded.

7.9 Environmental Potential and Significance

7.9.1 The site is poor in environmental remains. The lack of charred remains indicates an area set away from the foci of domestic activity and away from main burning and discard areas. Most of the remains, even the relatively large quantities of charcoal in linear A (F74) seem to be largely incidental.

7.9.2 *Charred plant remains*

The low number of charred plant remains, and the worn nature of the cereal caryopses makes these low priority. All of the grain comes from undated features. The presence of rye/oats, however, is more typical of medieval contexts than many prehistoric ones. The sparse and worn nature of these remains makes these finds of low significance and potential of these remains to provide any further significant information is low.

7.9.3 *Charcoal*

The charcoal is predominantly large wood fragments and generally worn. Where charcoal is present, the features are undated thus is only palaeo-environmentally and archaeologically helpful if the feature is well dated. There is low potential for these remains to contribute significance to the comprehension of these features or the site, and analysis is only worth considering if the features can be dated.

7.9.4 *Radiocarbon potential*

Rapid assessment of the charcoal suggest that the assemblages are mainly large woody fragments and thus could be heartwood giving a radiocarbon offset of up to 350 years. Also contextually the charcoal in these features is incidental, and secondary and need not relate to the features themselves. The dating potential is low.

7.9.5 *Summary*

The material from this site is both sparse and worn; it seems largely incidental to the features from which it was recovered. The quantity of material is indicative of an area away from the main settlements and areas of domestic activity. The sparse remains have little potential to help with the comprehension of this site.

7.9.6 *Recommendations*

No analysis is worth undertaking. Only the charcoal from linear D (F65) and A (F74) is even worth considering if the features can be dated.

- No further work is recommended.
- The flots should be returned to the archive
- The residues should be discarded.

7.10 Recommendation

Due to the local and regional importance of the archaeological remains found during the excavation, and the pottery assemblage deriving from it, it is recommended that a short note/report is prepared for publication in Sussex Archaeological Collections to summarise the results of the excavation. This to include an introduction and background, description of the archaeological features found, report on the pottery and summary of other relevant finds, conclusion. Illustrations to include location map, site plan, important sections, and selected artefacts.

8.0 Discussion

- 8.1** The evaluation and excavation has confirmed the presence of medieval archaeology at the Site, although the remains have been severely truncated by Post-medieval ploughing activity, which has denuded metalled surfaces and left only very shallow cut features, which were difficult to recognise and excavate. It is very likely that the intermittent nature of the linear features is the result of this truncation, which has removed evidence for them where they were at a higher level.
- 8.2** It is possible that the cut features were the ditch remains of a medieval field system associated with Dittons Farm. A medieval field system with a trackway or droveway (MES21667) was found to the northwest of this Site during the strip, map and sample exercise for a pipeline replacement scheme. It was dated to between 1150 and 1300 in one of the areas investigated. However, the presence of significant quantities of pottery from the ditch features reveals that occupation was occurring on, or immediately adjacent to, the investigated areas, which would be unlikely in a field system away from the area of settlement.
- 8.3** The metalled areas, although much degraded, appear to form a consistent east-west orientated track running parallel to Dittons Road. Whilst it is possible that this may be a much robbed-out/degraded Roman road, there was no evidence for any Roman activity at the Site, and the potential ‘flanking’ ditch only produced medieval pottery. However if the Roman road passed through open countryside at this point there may be little in the way of Roman remains or artefacts to be expected.
- 8.4** It seems much more likely that the metalled remains are medieval in date and are contemporary with the ditches, and together this complex of features represents either paddocks close to the farm, or the farmstead itself. The ditches could be enclosing yards and/or buildings, with the metalling being the remains of a track or yards. No evidence for potential buildings was seen during the excavation, with no postholes or sill beam slots noted, however given the truncation of the Site, evidence for buildings is likely to have been removed.
- 8.5** The amount of pottery found in the north terminus of Linear B may suggest that it was used as a convenient dumping ground into a possible enclosure. The north terminus of Linear B runs up to the flint and sandstone metalled surface (Context **27/69**) and due to this spatial association, both features may be contemporary with each other. Context **27/69** may have been flints deposited on the natural as hardstanding/hardcore, perhaps at the east-facing entrance into the possible enclosure. Context **72** may be interpreted as part of the metalled surface of an adjacent trackway bounded by ditches (Linear’s A and C). Linear D may have been the ditch around the east end of a boundary into the enclosure, with the posthole having perhaps held a gate post. Identification of a number of potential entrances suggests the presence of phasing at the Site, or at the very least, that the entrances had different uses.

- 8.6** The features all date to a fairly compact timeframe starting in the early 13th century, with intense activity during the 13th and early 14th centuries. Activity then seems to have rapidly dropped off during the first half of the 14th century and appears to have ceased by 1350. This coincides with the origins of Dittons Farm which can be referenced back to 1292. It is possible that the original settlement was more than just a farm and covered a much larger area which included the area of the investigation. However, by 1350 the area of the site had been abandoned and so the settlement had either shrunk in size or the farm had moved a short distance to the south.
- 8.7** There is no evidence for activity at the Site between 1350 and the 18th century. A small quantity of late Post-medieval artefacts was recovered, predominantly comprising pottery, ceramic building material and metal items. These finds probably derived from the manuring of cultivated land between the late 18th and early 20th centuries, which would account for the truncation of the earlier archaeological remains.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 I would like to thank Mr Amed M Elsherif for commissioning this archaeological evaluation. The project was monitored for ESCC and Wealden District Council by Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist.

9.2 The project was managed by Chris Butler. Luke Barber, Jan Oldham, Steffan Klemenic and Chris Butler reported on the artefacts, Dr Mike Allen reported on the environmental samples. Keith Butler and David Atkin were the on-site archaeological assistants. Andrew Bradshaw surveyed the site and prepared the drawings for the report.

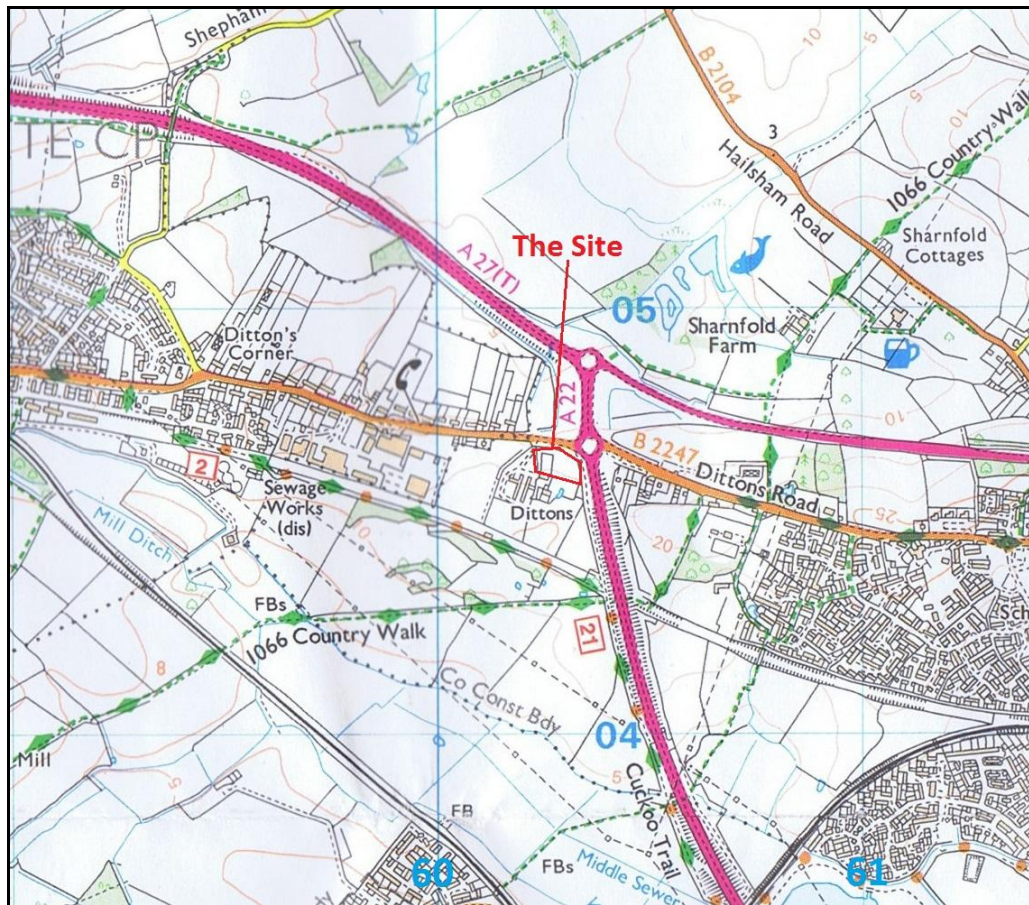


Fig. 1: Land North of Dittons Farm: Location map
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

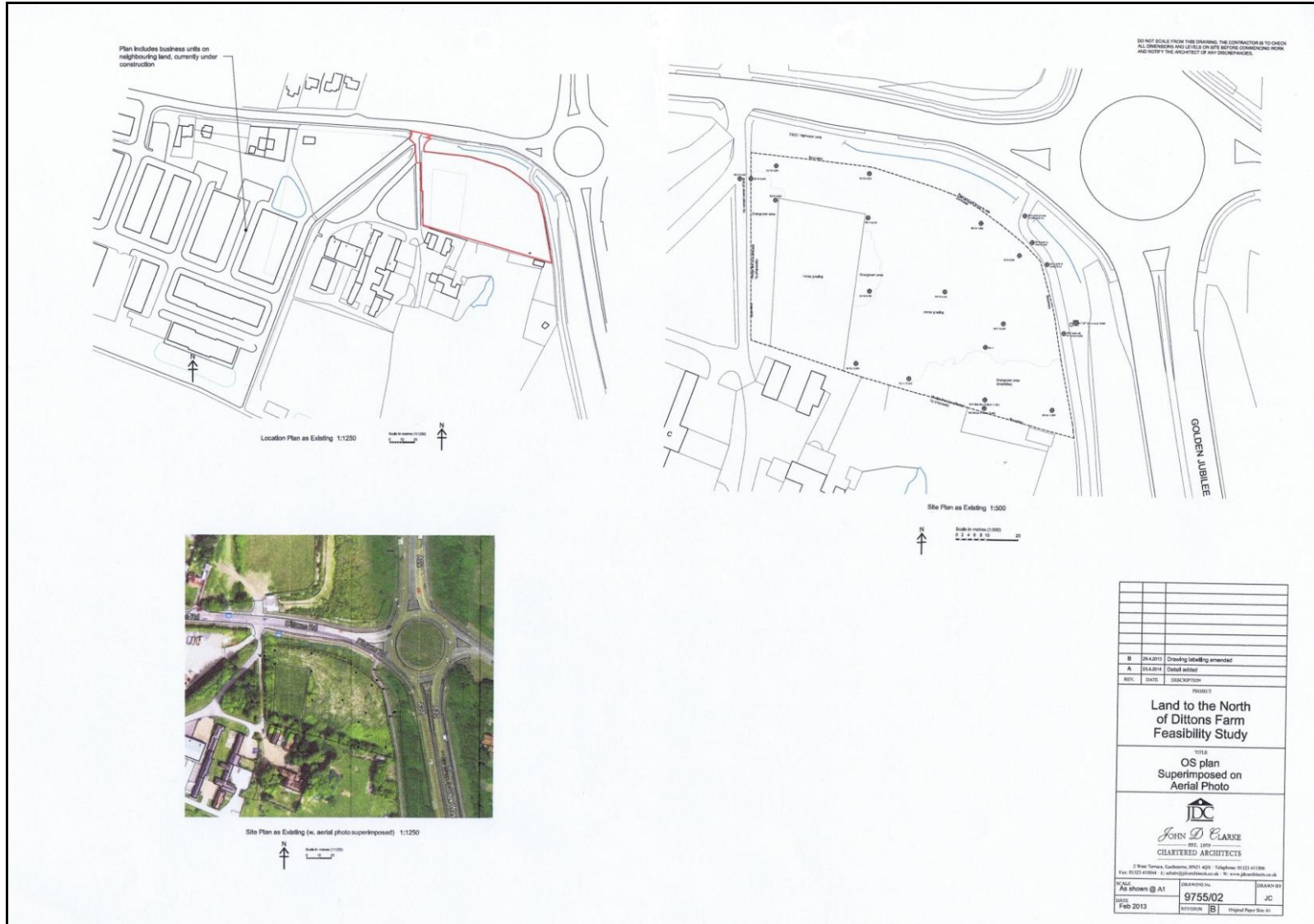


Fig. 2: Land North of Dittons Farm: Site plan
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

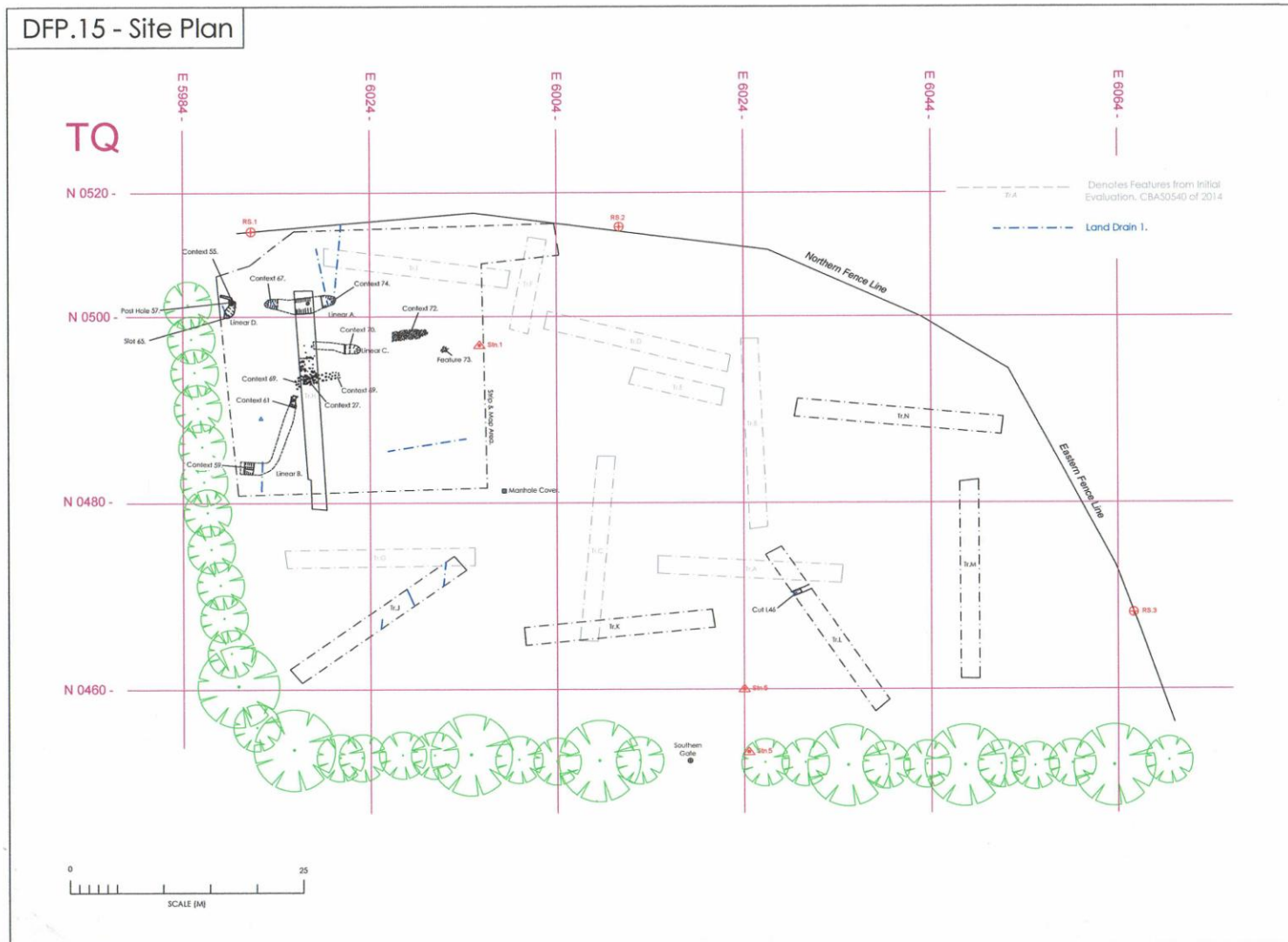


Fig. 3: Land North of Dittons Farm: Trench layout plan Phase 2

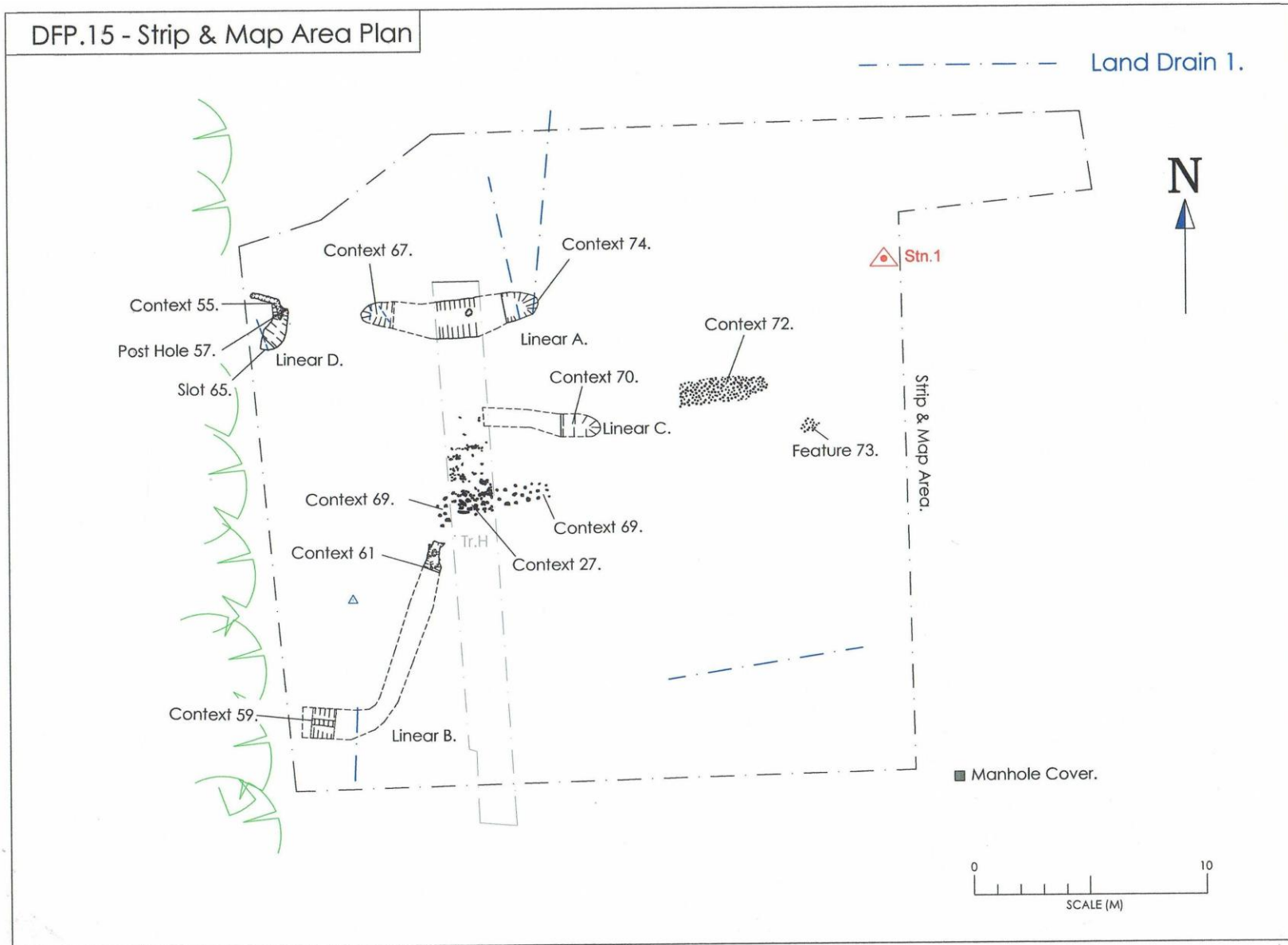


Fig. 4: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plan of strip and map area showing features found

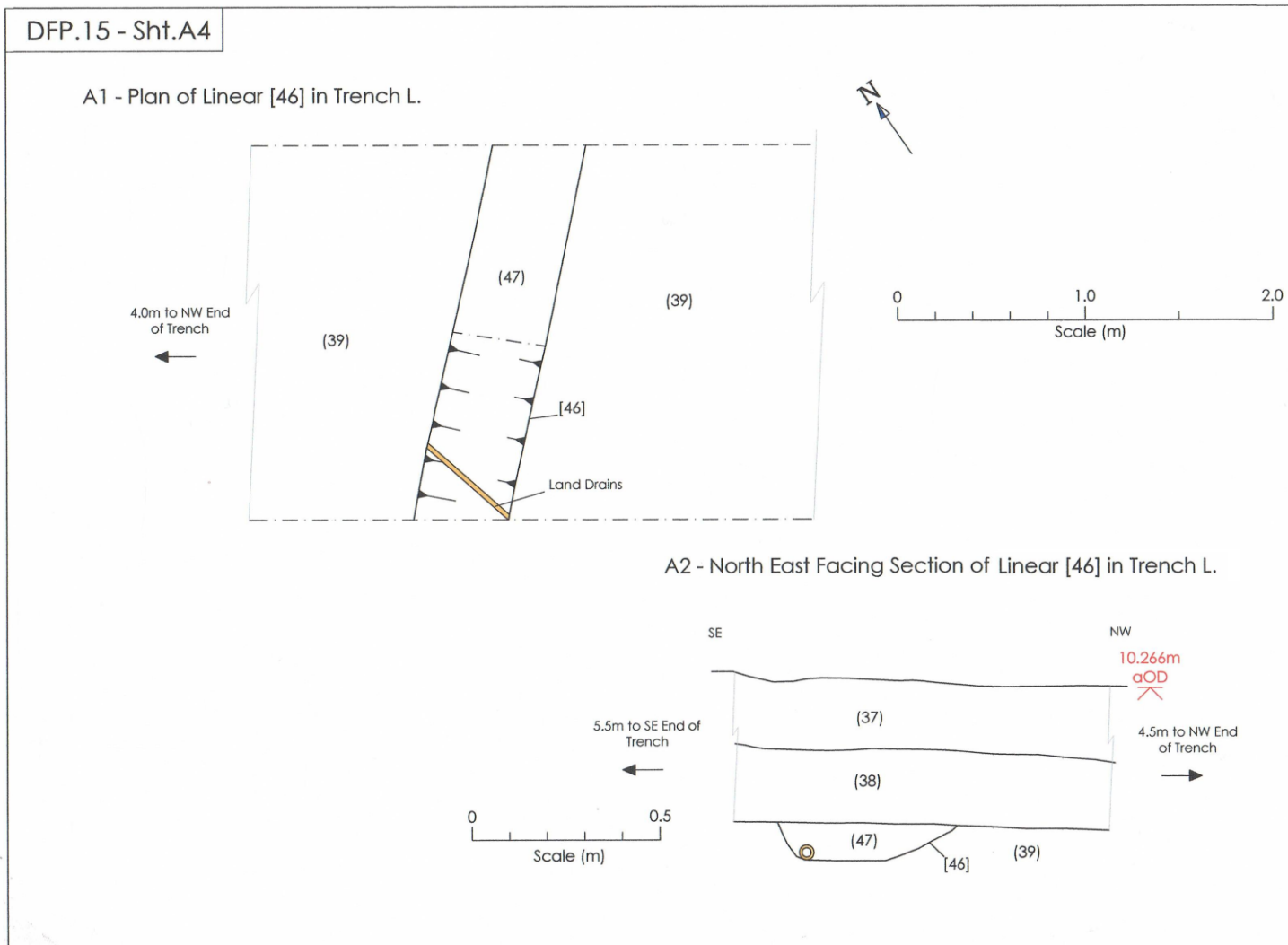


Fig. 5: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plan and section of Cut 46 in Trench L

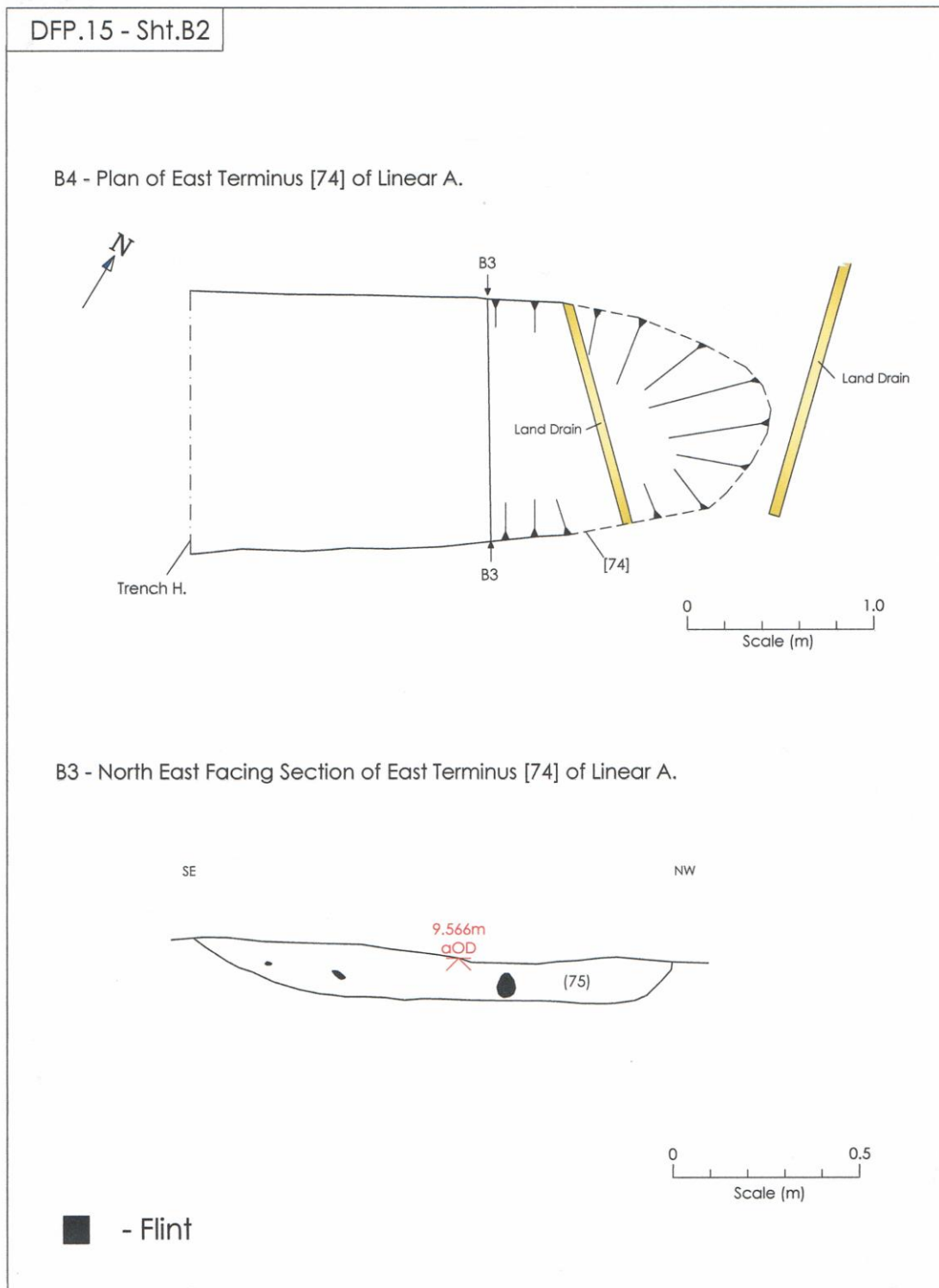


Fig. 6: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plan and section of Linear A east terminus

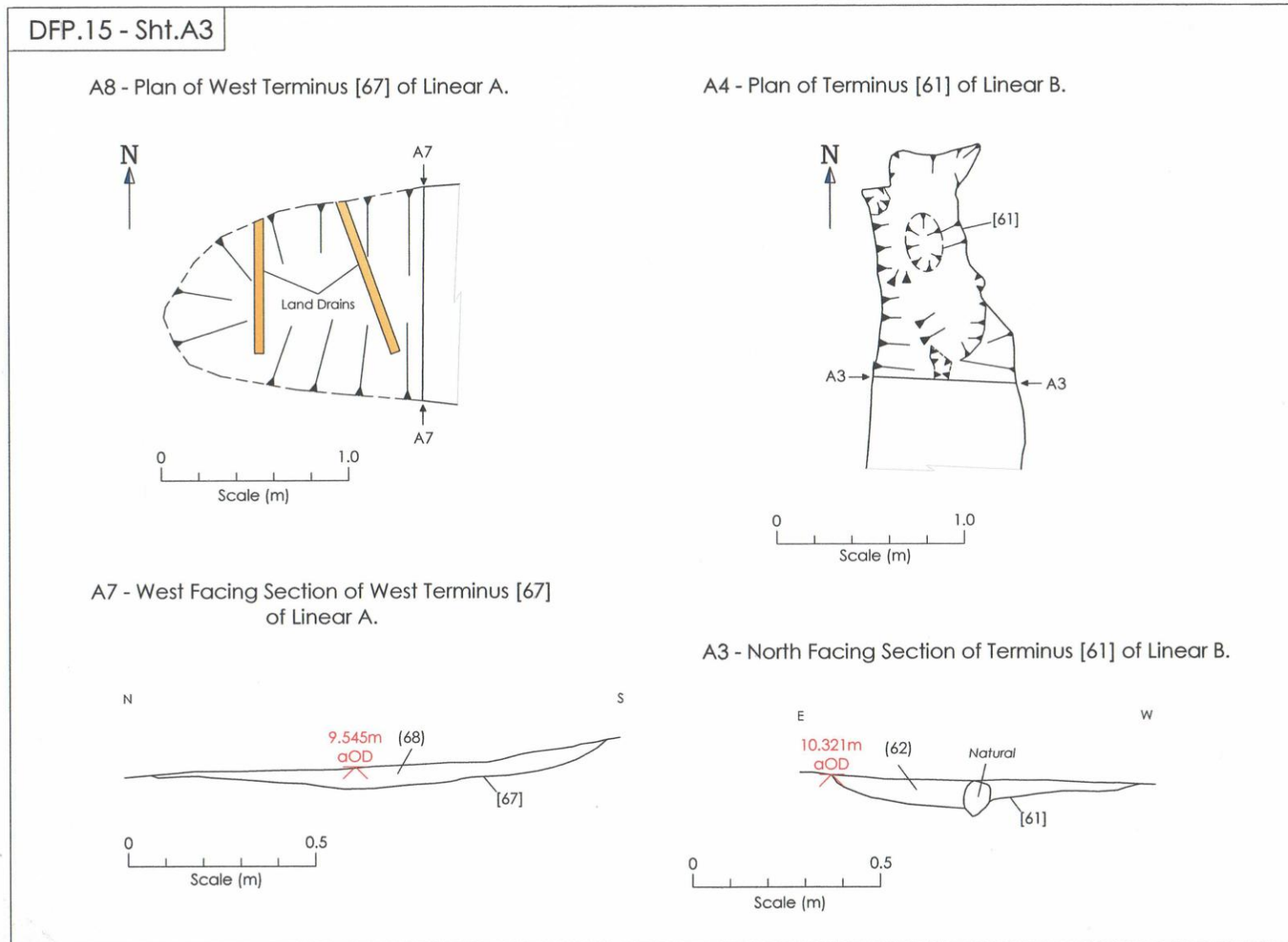


Fig. 7: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plans and sections of Linear's A & B

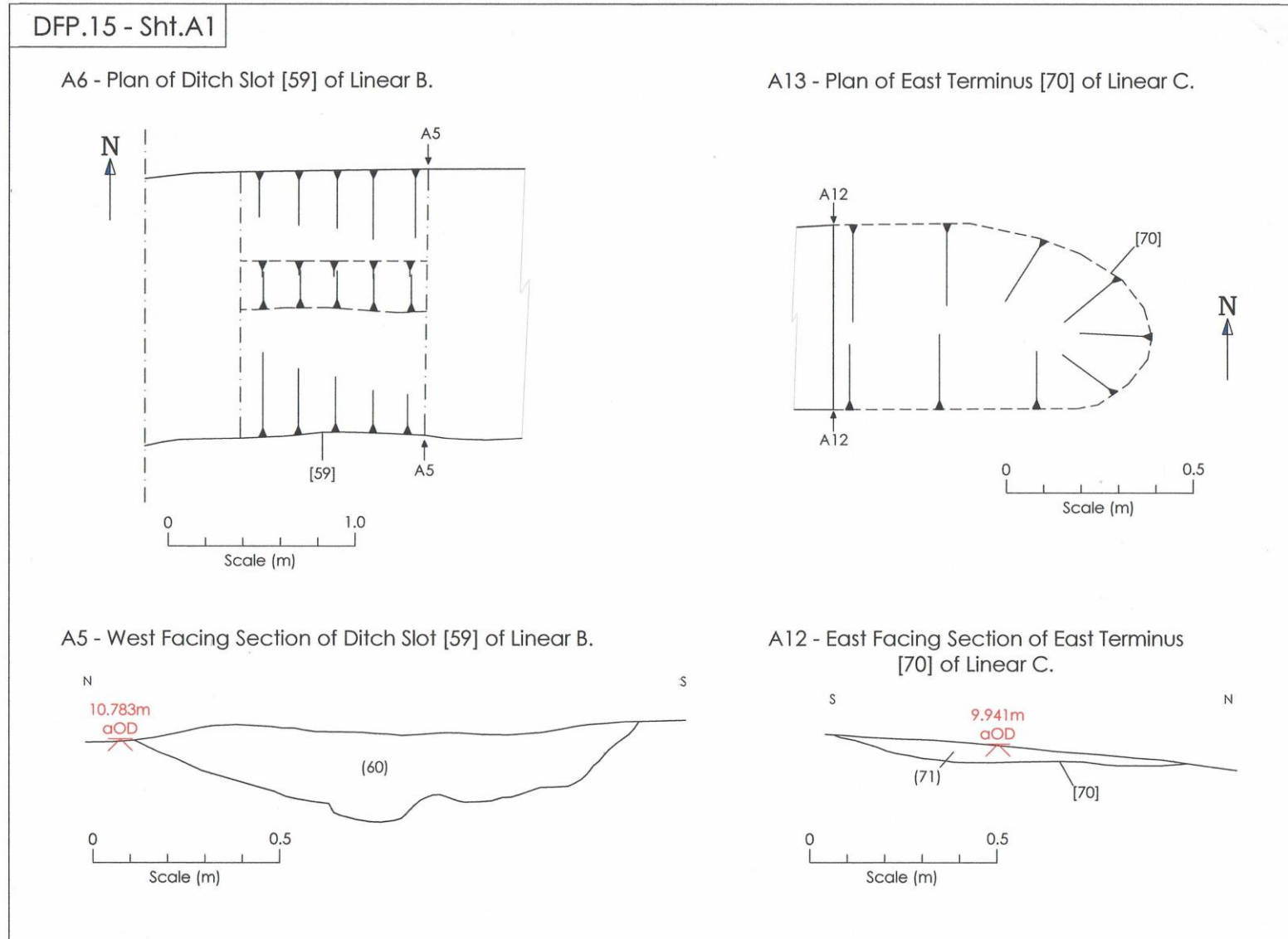


Fig. 8: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plans and sections of Linear's B & C

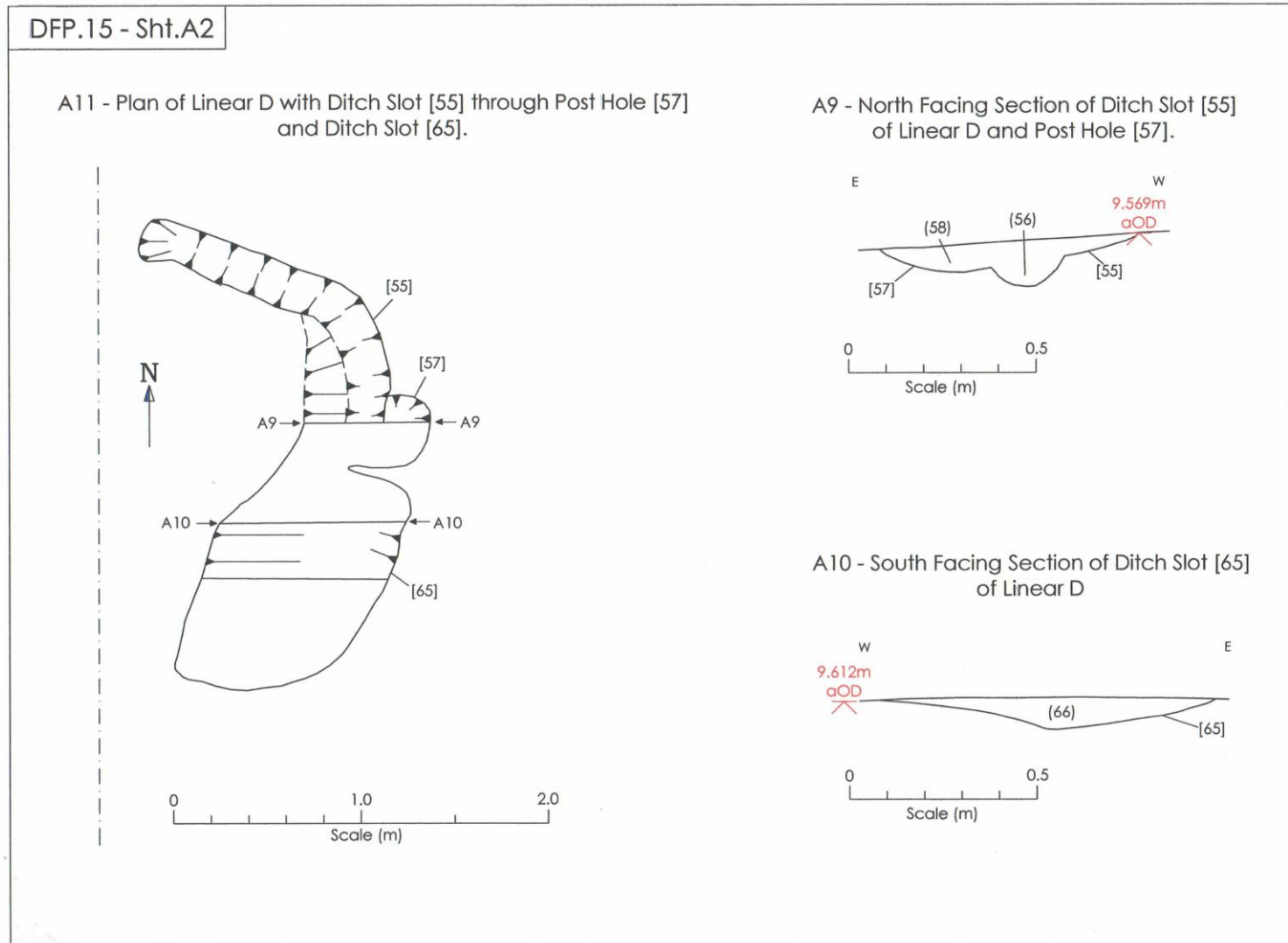


Fig. 9: Land North of Dittons Farm: Plans and sections of Linear D

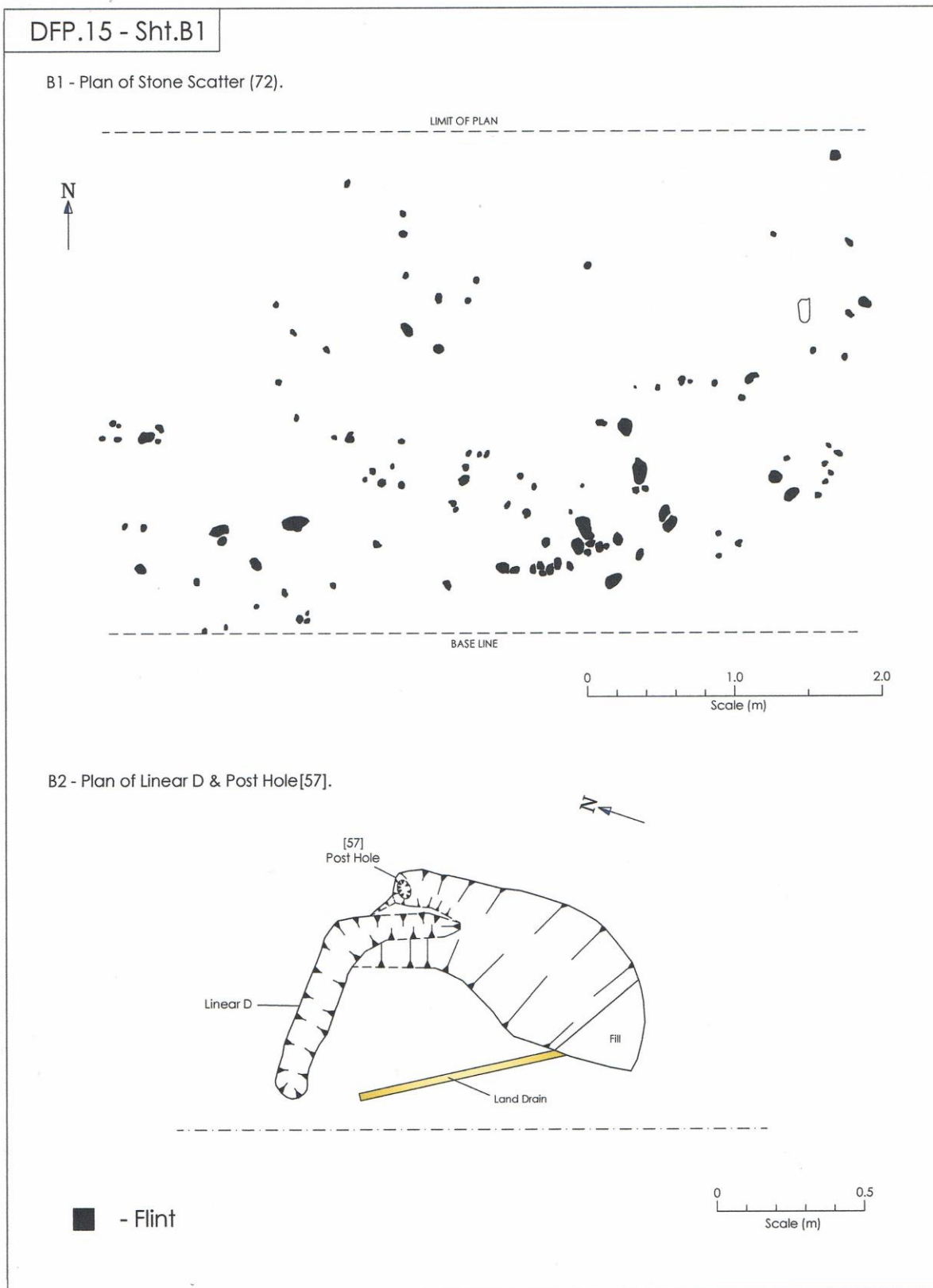


Fig. 10: Land North of Dittons Farm: Metalled area 72 & plan of Linear D fully excavated

Appendix 2 HER Summary Form

Site Code	DFP15					
Identification Name and Address	land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 6030 0459					
Geology	Mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav. X	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 2/2/15- 9/2/15	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Amed M Elsherif					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project Supervisor	Dr Caroline Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological excavation was carried out as Phase 2 of an evaluation of a site on land north of Dittons Farm, Polegate. Phase 1 had established that there were medieval features in the north-west part of the site, and Phase 2 was designed to investigate these further and to evaluate parts of the site not accessible in Phase 1.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation confirmed the presence of medieval features, which comprised a number of linear features, probably truncated ditches, together with an area of very degraded metalling. It was clear that the site, and consequently the archaeology had been subjected to ploughing which had severely truncated the archaeological features. The features dated to fairly compact timeframe starting in the early 13th century, with intense activity during the 13th and early 14th centuries. Activity appears to rapidly drop off during the first half of the 14th century and appears to have ceased by 1350.</i></p> <p><i>Dittons Farm originated in the 13th century, and it seems likely that the associated settlement extended north to include the area of the investigation. However by 1350 the settlement had either shrunk in size or the farm had moved a short distance to the south, and the area of the site had been abandoned.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

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 for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. 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, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

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

Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd

Unit 12, Mays Farm
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TS

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbasLtd.co.uk