Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Evaluation Report
Phase 2 (Trenches 1 – 17 & 40 - 103; GTP 5-21)
Land West of Sompting
West Sussex

NGR 516440 105056
TQ 16440 05056

WBC Planning Ref: AWDM/0323/19

ASE Project No: 220014
Site Code: LWS 22
ASE Report No: 2023012
OASIS id: archaeol6-512835



By Teresa Vieira and Letty Ingrey

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation at land west of Sompting, West Sussex. The fieldwork was carried out between the 8th and 12thAugust and 28th November and 16th December2022. A total of 80 evaluation trenches and 17 geoarchaeological test pits were excavated across the site.

The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown a complex sequence of deposits related to a previous high sea level event, subsequent periods of landscape stabilisation, and overlying calcareous, and decalcified head, including some finer grained units. The sequence is undated but may extend back as far as c. 250 kya and provide an important palaeoenvironmental record and landscape history for the area.

The archaeological evaluation recorded remains of a prehistoric date in the northern/central part of the southern field and a pit of uncertain prehistoric date in the northern field. The survival of colluvium in these areas may have improved archaeological preservation levels in these parts of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also recorded in the northern field. This ditch is an extant feature today to the north of this exposure. Elsewhere, a predominant absence of subsoils suggests heavy plough activity across much of the rest of the site in which no archaeological features were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake phase 2 of archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluations on land to the west of Sompting, West Sussex (centred on NGR 516440 105056; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2023) the solid geology of the site comprises the Tarrant Chalk Member overlain by superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. Alluvium is mapped to the southeast and raised beach deposits to the south.

1.2.2 The site is c. 44.5 ha in extent and lies on the western periphery of Sompting. Agricultural fields are to the west and south of the site. It is bisected by West Street with the A27 is to the immediate north.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A hybrid application has been made to the Worthing Borough Council for residential development of the site, with associated infrastructure (AWDM/0323/19).

1.3.2 Consultation advice provided by the WSCC Archaeologist makes provision for archaeological evaluation of the site and recommends the following condition wording:

No development shall commence within the site until:

a) A written scheme of investigation (archaeological work) which should include on-site field survey and recording and the analysis reporting publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: In order to assure that heritage assets of archaeological interest will be adequately recorded before development and subsequently will be adequately reported.

1.3.3 A recent geoarchaeological desk-based assessment includes a deposit model constructed using available geotechnical data (ASE 2022a). As a result of this work staged evaluation comprising test pits and boreholes was recommended.

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation and an addendum for the archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation of the site (ASE 2022b, 2022c) were

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prepared accordingly and was approved by all parties prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the evaluation which was undertaken between the 8th and the 12th August and the 28th November and the 16th December 2022.

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2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and Historical

2.1.1 The following historical and archaeological background is paraphrased from the WSI (ASE 2022b), which draws upon a desk-based assessment (DBA) carried out for the site (CgMs 2019).

2.1.2 The desk-based assessment (ibid) states the following in respect of the archaeological potential of the site:

A low theoretical archaeological potential has been identified for prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval evidence. A moderate theoretical potential is identified for the Roman period and a high theoretical potential for post-medieval agricultural activity and 20th Century military use

2.1.3 The Roman potential is elevated due to the proximity of the projected line of the Chichester to Portslade Roman road, numerous nearby finds spots and settlement activity to the north at Sylvan Road

2.1.4 A WWII pillbox is located on the site and aerial photography dating to 1947 suggests that part of the site lying south of West Street was occupied by a military camp.

2.1.5 The consultation response provided by the WSCC Archaeologist (WSCC 12/4/2019) provides further background and rationale for the current scope of works:

It should be mentioned also that the site's location not far from, but above the flood plains of two watercourses, the Broadwater Brook and Cokeham Brook, may have made the land attractive to ancient settlement and agriculture. In addition, the recent discovery in archaeological excavations of a former small stream course just to the west of the site and north of West Street may be an indication of a spring line at the foot of the dip slope of the Downs just north of the site, another attraction for ancient settlement and agriculture. There is no good reason to assume, as stated in the Assessment Report (3.2.5), that the geological head deposits of the site would have been unfavourable to prehistoric settlement.

An additional recent discovery are the sites of a probable 17th -century malthouse and associated buildings (and the former stream mentioned above), recently investigated by Worthing Archaeological Society immediately to the west of the application area, and on the north side of West Street. The site's eastward limits are not yet known, and may extend into the footprint of the proposed northern attenuation pond. The need for geoarchaeological desk-based assessment and investigation was referred to in the pre-application advice, in respect of the possible survival of buried coastlines and coastal deposits, contemporary with human occupation of north-west Europe.

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2.2 Geoarchaeological

2.2.1 The following section summarises the known information relating to Pleistocene and early Holocene deposits and archaeology within the area and the wider landscape.

The Lower Coastal Plain

2.2.2 The Sussex coastal plain is known to have a complex succession of raised beaches. These are generally split into two groups the Upper Coastal Plain and the Lower Coastal Plain. The present site sits on the Lower Coastal Plain.

2.2.3 At least two raised beach sequences are known to exist on the Lower Coastal Plain. Here there is less surface topography in comparison with the Upper Coastal Plain, giving little evidence of the underlying sequence (Bates et al. 2010). Consequently these are less well mapped being less exposed, less quarried, and often existing below the water table. Marine sequences known on the Lower Coastal Plain include the Brighton-Norton raised beach and the Pagham raised beach.

2.2.4 The Brighton-Norton raised beach is generally present over 5m OD and deposits consist of fine sands and silts, along with a buried soil above the marine deposits (ibid). Faunal evidence and dating suggest these deposits are from MIS 7, a period of human occupation in Britain. The Pagham raised beach is younger and thought to have formed during the last interglacial, MIS5e. It is not known to have produced any artefacts and there is very limited evidence of human occupation in Britain at this time. However, deposits of the Pagham raised beach have been known to produce important palaeoenvironmental evidence (ibid).

Fluvial and alluvial deposits

2.2.5 The Coastal Plain is dissected by north-south trending valleys which begin within the chalk escarpment as dry valleys but coalesce through confluences into relatively major channels forming streams (Rifes) and estuary, intertidal environments (Harbours) where they meet the English Channel. The dry valleys truncate older head and marine deposits as they leave the South Down escarpment and cross the Coastal Plain. As they approach the modern coast as deeper channels they contain complex sequences of Holocene alluvium in their lower reaches.

2.2.6 The site lies to the west of the River Adur and the east of the now dry Findon valley. While no extensive fluvial or alluvial deposits are currently mapped on site by the BGS, it is possible that alluvial deposits from either of these water courses extend into the site. Smaller streams are also present to the west of the site and alluvium is mapped in the south east of the site as it falls into a dry valley.

Head deposits

2.2.7 Extensive head deposits are mapped along the south coast of Britain. These vary from fine grained brickearth deposits formed on wind-blown or redeposited

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loess, to coarse grained reworking of fluvial or beach gravels. Head deposits are frequently calcareous and therefore provide good potential for palaeoenvironmental preservation, and often contain fine grained units or buried soils with potential for primary context archaeological signatures, such as the Palaeolithic site of Red Barnes in Hampshire (Wenban-Smith 2000).

2.3 Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment and Deposit Model

2.3.1 As part of the geoarchaeological desk based assessment, site investigation logs were used to create a lithostratigraphic model of deposits on site. Based on the descriptions of deposits and their position on the Lower Coastal Plain of Sussex the assessment reached the following conclusions (ASE 2022a).

- *The site has been shown to have up to 8m of surviving Quaternary deposits overlying chalk at depth*
- *At the base of the sequence across the site is a sand, thought to potentially be marine in origin related to a raised beach*
- *Fine grained calcareous deposits overly the potential marine sand and have high geoarchaeological potential for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains*
- *Deposits need further geoarchaeological assessment through a program of test pitting and bore-holing in order to more accurately model the sequence and fully assess their geoarchaeological potential. Geoarchaeological assessment could be carried out in conjunction with any intrusive archaeological evaluation should it be deemed necessary*

2.4 Project Aims and Objectives

2.4.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological deposit, feature, artefact or ecofact exposed, is recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards and to enable appropriate mitigation methods*

2.4.2 The site-specific research aims of the evaluation with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2023) are outlined below:

- *Colonisation and occupation issues: To what degree is the region a crossroads or a backwater in terms of Upper Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic occupation patterns [SERF, Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic]*
- *Communications: complete the main road network; gather all vehicle evidence [SERF, Roman]*
- *Landscape, environment and settlement evidence [SERF, Roman]*

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- *An understanding of the multifaceted landscape [SERF, Post-medieval and modern periods]*

- *Second World War – (a) Possible extension of the KCC Defence of Kent 'research, search and record' Project to the whole of the region, to establish the pattern of the whole militarised landscape (b) understand more fully provision for Operation Overlord and British Fortitude deception plan [SERF, Defence]*

2.4.3 Site-specific geoarchaeological research aims are proposed below with reference to the South-East Research Framework (ibid):

Raised beaches

- *Improved mapping, sub-surface deposit modelling and dating of raised beach deposits*

- *Modelling of raised beach deposit zones/types more likely to contain undisturbed or minimally disturbed remains and biological remains*

Colluvial/solifluction/Aeolian deposits

- *Identification of areas of colluvial/solifluction deposits that may contain undisturbed or minimally disturbed concentrations of Palaeolithic remains (cf Red Barns)*

- *More attention to "brickearth", and characterisation as colluvial or Aeolian (or fluvial)*

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3.0 METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

3.1 Archaeological Methodology

3.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2022b), the *Regulations, Standards and Guidelines* of the Charted Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2022) and *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (CDC / ESCC / WSCC 2019).

3.1.2 The archaeological fieldwork comprised Phase 2 of the archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of 80 trenches, each measuring c.30m x c.2.00m. There were some very minor amendments to the proposed trench plan in the WSI (ASE 2022b) due to site constraints and an additional trench, Trench 106, was excavated to try to trace a ditch that was recorded to the south in Trench 83. The ditch did not continue into Trench 106.

3.1.3 A Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) was used to scan all trench locations prior to excavation to check for underlying services.

3.1.4 All trenches were then excavated, under archaeological supervision, using an 8-tonne 360º mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Each trench was excavated in spits of c.100mm until the top of the underlying natural substrate was revealed.

3.1.5 All exposed potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and photographed, recorded and drawn as appropriate. Sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10.

3.1.6 All trenches and exposed archaeological features were accurately planned and surveyed using a Leica CS15 RTK GNSS.

3.1.7 Spoil heaps were examined to recover and collect any possible unstratified finds.

3.2 Geoarchaeological Methodology

3.2.1 In Phase 2 of the geoarchaeological evaluation 17 geoarchaeological test pits (GTPs) were excavated. All work was supervised by an experienced geoarchaeologist.

Geoarchaeological Test Pits

3.2.2 The geoarchaeological test pits were excavated in the footprint of open evaluation trenches. Care was taken to only excavate test pits in parts of trenches that were archaeologically negative.

3.2.3 The test pits were excavated by machine with a 1.8m flat bladed bucket in spits of no more than 100mm, following sedimentary units where possible. Each test pit was taken to the reach of the machine, or the solid geology where possible. Excavation was constantly monitored by a geoarchaeologist and smaller spits

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of 50mm where taken for deposits with potential for *in situ* artefacts. 100L of sediment was sifted through at regular intervals, at minimum every 0.2m excavated, in order to search for artefacts. Test pits were entered after the removal of each spit and trowelled in order to search for artefacts up to a depth of 1.2m. Beyond this depth the test pits were not entered.

3.2.4 The sequence of sedimentary units was recorded for each test pit. This included detailed descriptions of colour, lithological make up, and structure. A representative section from each test pit was photographed. Samples were taken of deposits that showed potential for palaeoenvironmental remains or dating.

3.2.5 Once excavated and recorded each test pit was backfilled as soon as possible.

Cable percussion borehole

3.2.6 A cable percussion borehole was proposed for the northern field due to the fact that it would not be possible to reach the base of the sequence using geoarchaeological test pits in this part of the site. It was hoped that the borehole would allow detailed recording and assessment of deposits to depth, as well as allow for the retention of sealed samples that could be used to date the sequence and assess for palaeoenvironmental indicators. The borehole has now been sequenced with the mitigation works.

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3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive has been assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) and Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). The archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and will be offered to a Worthing Museum in due course.

Context sheets	30
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	86
Context register	4
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	80
Geoarchaeological Test Pit Logs	17

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	3 boxes
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	1
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	7
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	1

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

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4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Site Overburden and Geology

4.1.1 A top/plough soil was present across the 80 trenches recorded. It measured between c.0.19m and 0.35m in thickness. The natural geological substrate was immediately below the plough soil, except within Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 68, 70-74, 76 and 107 where colluvium was recorded above the brickearth.

4.1.2 Archaeology was recorded in 5 trenches and comprised linear features and one pit. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the ploughsoil of four trenches.

4.1.3 Deposits recorded in the archaeologically negative trenches are tabulated in Appendix 2 at the back of this report.

4.2 **Trench 1** (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured c. 30.00m x 2.00m in plan and was orientated west to east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m, which revealed c. 0.20-0.25m of topsoil [1/001], overlaying c. 0.31-0.50m of colluvium [1/002], immediately above the brickearth [1/003]. One pit was recorded, sealed by colluvium and cutting the brickearth.

4.2.2 Pit [1/004] was located in the west end of the trench and comprised a sub-circular concave feature, measuring c. 0.88m width in plan and 0.15m in depth. Single fill [1/005] comprised a dark grey-brown clay silt with sub-angular unworked flints. Environmental sample <1> of fill [1/005] yielded a small assemblage of charred plant remains and charcoal, burnt bone, coal, flint, pottery, copper and magnetic material which may be of natural or industrial origin. Small fragments of pottery of uncertain prehistoric date were also present.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
1/001	layer	topsoil			0.20-0.25	18.72-18.84
1/002	layer	colluvium			0.31-0.50	18.52–18.64
1/003	layer	Natural brickearth				17.25-18.07
1/004	cut	pit		0.88	0.15	18.07
1/005	fill	fill			0.15	

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

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4.3 **Trench 10** (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 10 measured c. 30.00m x 2.00m in plan and was orientated northwest to southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m, which revealed c. 0.20-0.23m of topsoil [10/001], overlaying c. 0.15-0.28m of colluvium [10/002], immediately above the brickearth [10/006]. One ditch was recorded, sealed by topsoil and cutting colluvium and brickearth.

4.3.2 Ditch [10/003] was broadly north to west oriented and measured c.1.50m in width at the top. It comprised steep sides towards a narrow bottom, which was not reached due to safety. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m. [10/004] comprised a dark-brown clay silt, moderately loose with moderate amounts of sub-angular flints, and it was excavated to a maximum thickness of 0.35m. It was overlain by [10/005], a compact mid-grey-brown clay silt.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
10/001	layer	topsoil			0.20-0.23	14.73-14.55
10/002	layer	colluvium			0.15-0.28	14.35-14.50
10/003	cut	ditch		1.50		14.09
10/004	fill	fill			0.35	
10/005	fill	fill			0.60	
10/006	layer	Natural brickearth				14.07–14.35

Table 4: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.4 **Trench 78** (Figure 5)

4.4.1 Trench 78 measured c. 30.00m x 2.00m in plan and was orientated west to east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m, which revealed c. 0.25m – 0.26m of ploughsoil [78/001] immediately above the brickearth [78/002]. The base of a vessel [78/003], sitting on the brickearth was recorded. The cut was not visible but this was likely placed 'in situ' severely truncated by the plough. The pottery is dated to the Middle-Late Bronze Age.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
78/001	layer	Ploughsoil			0.25-0.26	8.35-8.52
78/002	layer	Natural brickearth				8.04-8.26
78/003	fill	Fill/pot		0.25		
78/004	cut	Not visible				

Table 5: Trench 78 list of recorded contexts

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4.5 **Trench 83** (Figure 6)

4.4.1 Trench 83 measured c. 30.00m x 2.00m in plan and was orientated west to east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m, which revealed c. 0.25m – 0.26m of plough soil [83/001] immediately above the brickearth [83/002]. One ditch was recorded. It was cutting the brickearth and sealed by the plough soil.

4.4.2 Shallow ditch [83/003] was broadly northeast to southwest oriented and measured 0.80m in width and 0.15m in depth. It contained single fill [83/004], a dark-brown clay silt, with small amounts of FCF and pottery sherds. The pottery is dated to the Middle-Late Bronze Age.

4.4.3 A small trench (Trench 106; Figure 2) was excavated to the north-east of ditch and Trench 78 was extended to the west to confirm if ditch [83/003] was present further north but it was not encountered.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
83/001	layer	Plough soil			0.20-0.30	8.33-8.42
83/002	layer	Natural brickearth				8.03-8.07
83/003	cut	ditch		0.80	0.15	8.02
83/004	fill	fill			0.15	

Table 6: Trench 83 list of recorded contexts

4.6 **Trench 107 (LGTP 3)** (Figure 7)

4.6.1 Archaeology was recorded in the large, stepped pit excavated for the next stage geoarchaeological evaluation located in the east of the southern field (see Figures 2). One linear feature was recorded. A ploughsoil measuring c.0.20-0.23m overlain c. 30-0.35m of colluvium above the brickearth.

4.6.2 Ditch [107/004], [107/006] was west-northwest to east-southeast oriented and measured c.1.00-1.05m in width and had a depth between 0.20-0.35m. Single fill [107/005], [107/007], comprised a mid-grey-brown silty clay with small amounts of FCF.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
107/001	layer	Plough soil			0.20-0.23	8.67
107/002	layer	colluvium			0.30-0.35	
107/003	layer	Natural brickearth				
107/004	cut	ditch		1.05	0.20	8.17
107/005	fill	fill			0.20	
107/006	cut	ditch		1.00	0.35	
107/007	fill	fill			0.35	

Table 7: Trench 107 list of recorded contexts

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4.6 Geoarchaeological Results

4.6.1 The evaluation of the Phase 2 area of the site allowed initial evaluation and assessment of deposits. Logs of each individual geoarchaeological intervention are provided in Appendix 1. The broad stratigraphic sequence is described below.

Solid geology

4.6.2 The solid geology of the chalk was reached in several interventions (GTPs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17. The surface of the chalk was encountered between 2m and 4m OD in each of these interventions.

Marine deposits

4.6.3 Deposits related to at least one previous high sea level event were recorded in several geoarchaeological interventions. These appeared to be intact in GTPs 8 and 12, but reworked in GTPs 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17. Where intact the marine deposits consisted of a fine olive yellow sand, virtually stone free but with occasional rounded beach pebbles. Where reworked these deposits had the presence of more gravel, including angular gravel, occasional chalk fragments and clay inclusions.

Potential buried land soil

4.6.4 Overlying the intact marine sands in GTPs 8 and 12 was a unit potentially related to a buried soil or colluvium. The deposit consisted of a dark reddish brown silty clay with up to 50% angular to sub-angular flint gravel and was up to 20cm thick. A similar deposit was also encountered over the reworked Marine Sands in GTP17.

Calcareous Head

4.6.5 Overlying the Marine deposits or land surface, or directly overlying the chalk where no marine sands were present, were calcareous head deposits. These deposits were variable and potentially relate to several episodes of aggradation. Generally a very pale brownish grey sandy silt with c. 40% chalk pellet gravel. Finer units contained small amounts of angular to sub-angular flint gravel, while coarser units contained up to 50% flint gravel. Deposits of calcareous head were not found in all test pits, and where present were up to 2m thick. The deposits were encountered between 6m and 2.5m OD, with variable levels of preservation across the site.

Decalcified Head

4.6.6 Decalcified Head deposits were encountered in all test pits. These were variable and may at least partially be related to the decalcification of previously calcareous deposits caused by the leaching of calcium from the sediments and dissolving of chalk within the unit. This is further supported by the presence of a ‘solution contact’ (a thin layer of heavily mineralised deposits that forms as the chalk fraction dissolves) at the contact with the underlying calcareous head in several test pits. Decalcified Head deposits were generally a reddish brown

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clay silt with up to 90% poorly sorted angular to sub-angular flint gravel.

Brickearth

4.6.7 Deposits of fine grained and virtually stone free brickearth was encountered in GTPs 13, 16 and 17. These deposits were up to 1.5m thick and comprised two separate brickearth units, and upper reddish yellow clay silt unit, and a lower pale greyish yellow unit with a slightly higher clay content. Brickearth deposits, with patches or stripes of gravel were present in the remaining test pits, overlying the decalcified head. These deposits consisted of fine-grained brownish yellow clay silt with patches or stripes of angular to sub-rounded flint gravel, typical of reworking of deposits during a cold stage.

Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth

4.6.8 This was a fine-grained unit of silts and clays caused by the reworking of the underlying brickearth by colluvial actions. This unit was directly below the topsoil and overlay the small number of archaeological features present on site.

Sequence in field north of West Street

4.6.9 The sequence in the north of the site differed from that in the south and neither the chalk nor overlying marine deposits were reached. Here the topography sloped from 18.5m OD at GTP 18 to 14.2m OD at GTP 21.

Head deposits

4.6.10 The lowest unit reached was a fine-grained Calcareous Head, found in GTPs 20 and 21, below 10.7m OD. This was a cemented pale grey clay silt with beds of fine chalk pellet gravel, which was otherwise stone free. Overlying this was a sequence of further head deposits. These were generally fine-grained and calcareous. However, between 14m OD and 10.7m OD and sloping to the south was a very gravelly head deposit consisting of over 90% flint gravel, including some very large and nodular flints. Overlying the Calcareous Head deposits in were fine grained Brickearth deposits of greyish brown clay silt with up to 20% flint gravel.

Colluvium

4.6.11 A more extensive colluvial deposit was present in the northern field and encountered in GTPs 18, 20, and 21. The deposit was formed of brownish grey clay silt with c. 10-20% patinated flint gravel. The deposit was present below topsoil and extended to 0.7m below ground level sloping with the surface topography from north to south.

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5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the 2nd phase of evaluation and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 8; material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Table 11. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2022).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Burnt Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)
52/005							2	9	1	1
77/001	1	31					2	31	7	8
78/003			39	358						
81/002			4	9						
83/004			9	97	4	62	30	1207		
85/001			1	7						
85/002			1	4						
88/002	2	21	1	7						
107/005							17	229		
107/007							4	124		
Total	**3**	**52**	**55**	**482**	**4**	**62**	**57**	**1623**	**8**	**9**

Table 8: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The latest phase of evaluation produced three pieces of worked flint weighing 52g and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint fragments (4028g). The pieces of worked flint are not closely datable; however, based on technological grounds, the elongated flake recovered from the topsoil in Trench 77 is likely to pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. It displays very light edge modification along the left side that could represent use-wear, suggesting that the flake could have been used as a knife. One of the two pieces recovered from the subsoil in Trench 88 is also likely to predate the Middle Bronze Age. It consists of a flake fragment. Although it is in a relatively poor condition, it exhibits some thin removal scars on the dorsal surface. The second piece from context [88/002] is a retouched flake. Only a broad Neolithic to Late Bronze /Iron Age date can be assigned to this minimally modified flake.

5.2.2 The unworked burnt flint fragments (4028g) were recovered from six contexts in four trenches (1, 77, 83 and 107). The fragments from sample <1> context [1/005] (2428g) were only slightly burnt, suggesting that they have been subject to low levels of heat. However, the fragments from context [83/004] (1207g) were heavily calcined with evidence of crazing. Whilst the assemblage from context [83/004] is small, it could be contemporary with the Bronze Age ceramics recovered from the feature. The remaining contexts produced only a

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small quantity of unworked burnt flint fragments.

5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Stephen Patton

5.3.1 A very small but potentially notable assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from six separate contexts during phase 2 of the evaluation. Consisting of 60 sherds and weighing a total of 492g, pottery dating to both the Neolithic and Bronze Age is present. Table 9 shows the quantification and spot dates for the pottery by context.

Context	Count	ENV	Weight (g)	Date
[1/005]	5	1	10	Uncertain prehistoric
[78/003]	39	1	358	M-LBA
[81/002]	4	1	9	E-MNeo
[83/004]	9	3	97	M-LBA
[85/001]	1	1	7	Uncertain prehistoric
[85/002]	1	1	4	MNeo
[88/002]	1	1	7	Uncertain prehistoric
Total	60	9	492	

Table 9: Quantification and spot dates of prehistoric pottery

5.3.2 The pottery has been recorded and quantified in line with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). Sherds were examined using a x 20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, and Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) on *pro forma* records and in an Excel spreadsheet.

Neolithic

5.3.3. The Neolithic pottery consists of two diagnostic rim sherds and three plain body sherds. The rim sherd and three body sherds from [81/002] are all most likely from one vessel, with the rim being slightly ridged externally and having four diagonal incised lines cut into it, with the incisions alternating direction in parallel pairs forming a \ \ / / pattern. This type of decoration is not uncommon for Early Neolithic (Whitehawk style) Decorated Bowl pottery, and examples of this decoration style has been found at the causewayed enclosures of The Trundle in West Sussex (Curwen 1929) and Whitehawk Hill (Williamson 1930, Curwen 1936, Doherty 2015) in East Sussex. However, incised lines on rims is also a frequent type of decoration on Middle Neolithic pottery of the Ebbsfleet substyle of Peterborough Ware (Ard and Darvill 2015, 10). The rim sherd could therefore be of either tradition and a more accurate date cannot be given.

5.3.4 The other rim, from [85/002], is typical of the Mortlake substyle of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware. It is triangular with an everted rim, and it is consistent with Smith's (1956) M3 form (see also Ard and Darvill 2015, 9, Fig. 5). The top of the rim is slightly rounded and unusually there is no decoration present. Mortlake style pottery is not common in Sussex, but a notable example is the one from Westbourne in West Sussex where enough sherds were present for a profile of a single vessel to be reconstructed (Seager

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Thomas 2010).

Bronze Age

5.3.5 The pottery recovered from [78/002] consists of the lower parts of a moderately thin walled flint tempered vessel that would be consistent with a Middle to Late Bronze Age date. Predominantly only plain body sherds were recovered, but eight base to body joins are present indicating that the vessel originally had a base diameter of approximately 260mm. The wall opens outwards indicating that the body was wider than the base, but the lack of shoulder or rim fragments means that the form cannot be identified. The flint tempering is common and moderately well sorted, ranging between 0.5-2mm in size.

5.3.6 The remains of an estimated three vessels were recovered from [83/004], one of which is indicative of a Late Bronze Age date. The diagnostic sherd from this vessel has part of the rim and an area of shoulder present, the shape of which suggests a high-shouldered jar consistent with the plain ware phase of the Post-Deverel Rimbury tradition of Sussex beginning *c.* 1150BC (Seager Thomas 2008). One of the other vessels from this context is represented by a single thick (10mm) and squared rim that has been burnished. There is a slight curve to the rim sherd indicating it may be from a barrel shaped vessel, and the thickness is suggestive of a Middle/Late Bronze Age date. The remaining three sherds from this context are plain body sherds that are tempered with poor to moderately sorted flint 1-3mm and very rarely up to 6mm in size. These sherds are also suggestive of a Middle to Late Bronze Age date. The remaining sherds from [1/005], [85/001] and [88/002] are poor to moderately sorted flint tempered body sherds of uncertain prehistoric date.

Discussion

5.3.7 Whilst the assemblage is small, the presence of relatively rare Early to Middle Neolithic pottery provides valuable evidence for activities of this date at Sompting. The Middle Neolithic, currently dated to between 3400-2800BC (Ard and Darvill 2015), is particularly underrepresented in the archaeological record of the coastal area of West Sussex (*ibid.* Figs. 8-11). In contrast, Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery is well represented in West Sussex, but this assemblage provides more certain evidence for activities from this period in Sompting.

5.4 **The Fired Clay** by Stephen Patton

5.4.1 A total of 9g of small, abraded amorphous fired clay was recovered from two contexts. One piece (1g) is from [52/005] and the remaining seven (8g) is from [77/001]. There are no diagnostic elements to the fragments and they may even just be incidental pieces of clay that have been exposed to heat sufficiently to become slightly ceramic.

5.5 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The archaeological work recovered four small (62g) irregular burnt pieces of Hythe Beds Lower Greensand (context [83/004]). The material may be part of a very badly fragmented and burnt quern but there is nothing to prove this.

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5.5.2 The stone is of a well-known type for the area and is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. The assemblage has been discarded.

5.6 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.6.1 A very small quantity of material initially identified as slag was recovered from the site. The material is listed in Table 10 as part of the visible archive. All was recovered from the residue of a single environmental sample (>2mm and magnetic fraction). This was carefully examined under x10 magnification to establish the presence/absence of micro slags. Due to the small size of the particles involved the material was quantified by weight only.

Context	Sample	Fraction	Type	Weight	Comments
1/005	1	>2mm	Clinker	2g	Matt, aerated, black & brittle
1/005	1	Magnetic	Magnetic fines	<1g	Ferruginous stone granules
1/005	1	Magnetic	Hammerscale	<1g	Flakes (to 2mm) <5

Table 10: The slag assemblage

5.6.2 The assemblage contained three different types of material. The 'magnetic fines' consist of granules of ferruginous siltstone and sandstone that either have their own inherent magnetism or, more often, have had that magnetism enhanced through burning. They are not diagnostic of any industrial activity as such heating can occur in a domestic hearth or bonfire.

5.6.3 The only slag recovered consists of a tiny quantity of black brittle aerated clinker (waste from burning coal) that is clearly of post-medieval date but is not diagnostic of function (e.g. it could derive from domestic hearths or agricultural machinery). However, the deposit also produced a very small quantity of hammerscale, waste derived from iron smithing. Whether this is from a post-medieval smithy and contemporary with the clinker, or relates to earlier activity, with the clinker being intrusive, is uncertain.

5.6.4 The slag assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.7 The Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 Environmental sample <1> taken from context [1/005] produced a tiny fragment of copper alloy wire weighing less than 1g. The object is not diagnostic of date or function and is recommended for discard.

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6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Introduction

6.1 One bulk sample <1> [1/005], measuring 60 litres, was collected from an undated feature during the evaluation at the site in order to retrieve dating evidence and environmental remains, such as charcoal and charred plant macrofossils. This report will examine evidence for crop, fuel use and local vegetation environment.

Methodology

6.2 This sample was processed by flotation using a 500 µm mesh for the heavy residues and a 250 µm mesh for the retention of the flot. Residues and flot were air dried and were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves. The residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts quantified in Table 11. A stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications was used in order to scan the flot and identify remains. Its content is described and recorded in Tables 11 and 12. The identification of the charred plant macrofossils was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure. The remains were compared to a botanical modern reference collection and published atlas (Cappers et al. 2006) were also consulted. The nomenclature for the wild taxa follows Stace (2010) and Zohary and Hopf (2000) for the domesticated plants. Quantification was based on approximate number of individuals.

Results

6.3 An array of archaeological remains was noted and included charcoal, charred plant remains, burnt animal/human bones, coal, flint, pottery, copper and magnetic material which may be of natural or industrial origin. These finds have been incorporated into the relevant finds reports and the following text summarise the results regarding archaeobotanical material.

Undated feature:

6.4 Sample <1> [1/005] produced uncharred material comprising rootlets and weed seeds, which indicated a moderate level of modern disturbance. Moreover, this sample yielded a very modest assemblage of charred plant remains, which included a few grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and unidentified cereals (*Cerealia*). In addition, one fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and one cotyledon of legume family (*Fabaceae*) were retrieved (Table 12).

6.5 Charcoal fragments, mostly <2mm, were extracted and no taxonomic identifications were obtained at this stage, because this assemblage was too small to warrant determination work and also most of charcoal fragments presented signs of encrustation.

Discussion

6.6 The fill of feature [1/005] revealed a few charcoals fragments and charred plant remains, which indicated there is still potential for nearby deposits to produce

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better preserved charcoal and plant macrofossils. This assemblage may correspond to domestic wastes and confirmed the exploitation and consumption of barley, cereals and hazelnut on site. Therefore, any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting a range of features in order to retrieve more environmental remains that could provide some insights on crops, regional patterns, fuel and local vegetation.

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charred Botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone Animal/Human 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone Animal/Human 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	1/005	60	**	1	**	2	*	<1	*	<1	*	<1	Cu (*/<1g) FCF (****/2428g); Coal (**/1g) Flint (**/165g); Mag. Mat. >2mm (*/<1g); Mag. Mat. <2mm (*/<1g); Pottery (*/10g); slag (**/2g)

Table 11: Residues quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (%)	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other Botanical Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Potential	Further work for macros?
1	1/005	5,1	30	100	50	20	*Urtica* (*)	*	**	***	*	barley (2), *Cerealia* (2)	+	*	*Corylus avellana* (1), cotyledon of Fabaceae (1)	+	Potential for deposits to yield CPR	No

Table 12: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

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7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 Natural geological substrate, comprising brickearth and head deposit – gravels, was encountered between 17.92m AOD (Trench 1) and 13.13mAOD (Trench 14) in the north field and 8.93mAOD (Trench 45) and 4.95mAOD (Trench 100) in the south. A plough soil was recorded in all the 80 trenches. Colluvium was recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 68, 70-74, 76 and 107.

7.1.2 Archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1, 10, 73, 83 and 107. Archaeological artefacts were retrieved from plough soil. There was c.0.30 – 0.80m of overburden in each trench.

7.2 Overview of geoarchaeological results

7.2.1 The geoarchaeological investigation of the Phase 2 area has shown several metres of potentially Pleistocene deposits to be present across the site. At the base of the sequence are marine deposits related to at least one previous high sea level event. The marine deposits were present on a chalk platform between 2m and 4m OD. These deposits were intact across the northern area of the southern part of site, but appeared to have been reworked towards the south. Marine deposits were not reached in the north field but are expected to exist at the base of the sequence. A buried land surface or Pleistocene colluvial deposits appeared to be present above marine deposits in GTPs 8, 12, and 17 and is potentially indicative of landscape stabilisation following the deposition of marine sands.

7.2.2 These deposits are overlain by calcareous head deposits varying from fine-grained and virtually stone free to very gravelly. Above these are decalcified head deposits with evidence of ongoing decalcification of the underlying calcareous deposits. Overlying the decalcified head were fine grained brickearth deposits, frequently containing patches or stripes of gravel, potentially caused by reworking of deposits during a cold stage. At the top of the sequence were deposits of reworked brickearth or colluvium. Colluvial deposits were more extensive and well developed in the northern field.

7.3 Deposit survival and existing impacts on Quaternary deposits

7.3.1 The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown there to be good survival of Quaternary deposits across the site. These include intact raised beach deposits and several metres of fine and coarse grained Pleistocene deposits overlying these, including potential land surfaces. At the top of the sequence in the northern field there was survival of Holocene colluvial deposits.

7.4 Discussion of Quaternary deposits

7.4.1 Overall deposits mapped on site as part of the evaluation have proved to be similar to what was expected on the basis of the deposit model. As predicted, raised beach deposits extend across the site and are present below the overlying head deposits, despite not having been mapped on the BGS (BGS 2023).

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7.4.2 The raised beach deposits, where intact, consist of bedded marine sands. These deposits have moderate palaeoenvironmental potential and could provide a regionally significant sequence for palaeonvironmental and landscape reconstruction. As yet undated the raised beach deposits could correspond to the Brighton-Norton raised beach, formed during the interglacial MIS 7 (c. 190-250 kya) or the younger Pagham raised beach formed during the last interglacial, MIS 5e (c. 100-126 kya). The Brighton-Norton raised beach formed during a period of known human occupation of the Britain (Ashton & Scott 2016), and has potential to preserve archaeological remains. The Pagham raised beach was formed during a period when there is no definitive evidence for occupation of Britain. However, while the potential for archaeological remains in the Pagham raised beach is low, if any were recovered these would be of high significance.

7.4.3 The potential land surface overlying the raised beach deposits may represent a period of landscape stabilisation following marine regression. The head deposits overlying the marine sands were variable and potentially represent many different stages of deposition with subsequent decalcification of the upper deposits. While no archaeological artefacts were encountered during this stage of evaluation, the calcareous nature of many of the deposits suggests there could be good preservation of palaeoenvironmental indicators. Finer grained units could also contain buried land surfaces that were not possible to see during the excavation of test pits.

7.4.4 In the northern field, where the surface is close to 10m higher than in the southern fields, a much thicker sequence of head deposits is present. These deposits are expected to overly the Brighton-Norton raised beach close to the cliff line, previously mapped along the A27. Deposits here are calcareous, including fine grained calcareous units which could have high preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains such as molluscs, ostracods, small vertebrates and larger faunal remains. Buried land surfaces may also be present.

7.5 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

7.5.1 A small amount of pottery dating from the Early – Middle Neolithic was retrieved from ploughsoil in the south east of the site (Trenches 81 and 85). Pottery of uncertain prehistoric date was also retrieved (Trenches 85 and 88). One pit, in the northern field, Trench 1, was broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

7.5.2 A ditch, in Trench 83 was dated to the Middle-Late Bronze Age and a vessel, likely placed ‘in situ’, in Trench 78 was also dated to this period.

7.5.3 A further linear was recorded in Trench 107 but it remains undated. However, it is profile, nature of fills and location make it possibly also of a Middle-Late Bronze Age date.

7.5.4 Overall, the small number of features and finds suggest a low level of prehistoric activity in the northern and central part of the southern field beginning in the Early-Middle Neolithic period and then again in the Middle-Late Bronze Age when evidence of features suggesting land division; and

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possibly farming and cremation were recorded. The survival of a colluvial layer in this general area may have enhanced archaeological preservation levels in this part of the site. The predominant absence of subsoil in most trenches, other than this area and in the northern field, probably suggest heavy plough activity across much of the site.

Post-Medieval

7.5.5 In the northern field, Trench 10, one ditch north to south oriented was recorded. This field boundary ditch of post-medieval date can be observed in the 1870's OS Map. It is still extant to the north of Trench 10.

7.6 Consideration of research aims

7.6.1 The general aims of the evaluation were met. All deposits encountered were investigated and finds retrieved. All the features were recorded and investigated. Environmental samples were taken when appropriate. The evaluation was able to establish that archaeology remains were present within the site and all the features identified have been preserved by record.

7.6.2 The evaluation was able to establish the character, extent and preservation of the archaeological remains on site in order to help to mitigate the remains.

7.6.3 None of the site-specific archaeological research aims can be addressed on the basis of the limited findings of the evaluation.

7.6.4 It was possible to partially address the site-specific geoarchaeological research aims detailed below with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2023):

Raised beaches

- *Improved mapping, sub-surface deposit modelling and dating of raised beach deposits.*
- *Modelling of raised beach deposit zones/types more likely to contain undisturbed or minimally disturbed remains and biological remains*

Raised beach deposits have been found to be present in this part of the site, however no scientific dating has been undertaken. As yet only minimal modelling at a site wide level has been done, and no regional modelling has been undertaken. Deposits are considered to have potential to contain undisturbed or minimally disturbed remains and biological remains, but will need further evaluation.

Colluvial/solifluction/Aeolian deposits

- Identification of areas of colluvial/solifluction deposits that may contain undisturbed or minimally disturbed concentrations of Palaeolithic remains (cf Red Barns)
- More attention to "brickearth", and characterisation as colluvial or Aeolian (or fluvial)

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The overlying head deposits are potentially Pleistocene colluvial or solifluction deposits, with finer grained brickearth units present. While no Palaeolithic remains have been recovered to date, evaluation has been minimal and fine-grained units within these deposits have the potential to hold minimally disturbed archaeological remains.

7.7 Conclusions

7.7.1 A total of 80 evaluation trenches and 17 geoarchaeological test pits were excavated across the site. The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown a complex sequence of deposits related to a previous high sea level event, subsequent periods of landscape stabilisation, and overlying calcareous, and decalcified head, including some finer grained units. The sequence is undated but may extend back as far as c. 250 kya and provide an important palaeoenvironmental record and landscape history for the area. The archaeological evaluation recorded remains of a prehistoric date in the northern/central part of the southern field and a pit of uncertain prehistoric date in the northern field. The survival of colluvium in these areas may have improved archaeological preservation levels in these parts of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also recorded in the northern field. This ditch is an extant feature today to the north of this exposure. Elsewhere, a predominant absence of subsoils suggests heavy plough activity across much of the rest of the site in which no archaeological features were recorded.

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8.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Following the Phase 2 geoarchaeological evaluation the following recommendations for further geoarchaeological evaluation are proposed. The fieldwork component of the recommendations has already been completed in the southern part of the site.

8.2 Southern Area

8.2.1 The following next stage interventions were proposed. The fieldwork component has already been completed and will be reported on separately.

- The excavation of the four remaining evaluation test pits in the western field.

- The excavation of 13 further geoarchaeological test pits to further constrain and map raised beach deposits, buried land surfaces, and fine-grained Pleistocene deposits.

- The excavation of two large stepped test pits with a footprint of 8x8m and excavated to up to 4m metres. The first to allow assessment, recording and sampling of the fine-grained bedded deposits in the south of the southern field. The second to allow detailed recording and sampling of the well preserved marine deposits, buried land surfaces and calcareous deposits in the north of the eastern field. The exact location of these two large stepped test pits will be determined following the excavation of the remaining four first stage evaluation test pits and the further 13 test pits proposed above.

- The selection, processing and assessment of samples collected during all stages of fieldwork for dating, sedimentary and palaeoenvironmental evidence.

- Further mitigation may be required following the Stage 2 evaluation, in particular if test pitting uncovers archaeological material or deposits with high potential to hold regionally significant palaeoenvironmental sequences.

8.3 Field north of West Street

8.3.1 One large stepped geoarchaeological test pit is recommended in this part of the site with a footprint of 8x8m allowing excavation to a depth of 4m. This would allow this part of the sequence to be further assessed for the presence of archaeological artefacts. Stepping the test pit will allow the sections to be carefully cleaned and recorded allowing for understanding of any structure present in the calcareous deposits and for detailed palaeoenvironmental and dating sampling to be undertaken.

8.3.2 Although it was not possible to drill the cable percussion borehole as part of the evaluation, it is suggested that this is moved to the next phase. This will allow deposits to be recorded to the base of the sequence, including the potential raised beach deposits present. Sealed U100 samples can be collected from the deposits which when opened in the ASE lab will allow the

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sequence to be recorded in detail and sampled to depth for palaeoenvironmental indicators and dating and allow more detailed and reliable landscape reconstruction.

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HER Summary

Site code	LWS 22					
Project code	220014					
Planning reference	AWDM/0323/19					
Site address	Loose Lane, BN15, Sompting West Sussex					
District/Borough	Worthing Borough Council					
NGR (12 figures)	516440 105056					
Geology	Lambeth Group Clay, Silt and Sand; Superficial Head Deposit – clay, silt, sand and gravel					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	8th-12th August and 28th November -16th December					
Sponsor/client	Orion Heritage					
Project manager	Paul Mason, Jon Sygrave					
Project supervisors	Teresa Vieira, Ed Blinkhorn, Rachel Hills, Letty Ingrey					
Period summary	Prehistoric	Post-Medieval				
Project summary	A total of 80 evaluation trenches and 17 geoarchaeological test pits were excavated across the site. The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown a complex sequence of deposits related to a previous high sea level event, subsequent periods of landscape stabilisation, and overlying calcareous, and decalcified head, including some finer grained units. The sequence is undated but may extend back as far as c. 250 kya and provide an important palaeoenvironmental record and landscape history for the area. The archaeological evaluation recorded remains of a prehistoric date in the northern/central part of the southern field and a pit of uncertain prehistoric date in the northern field. The survival of colluvium in these areas may have improved archaeological preservation levels in these parts of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also recorded in the northern field. This ditch is an extant feature today to the north of this exposure. Elsewhere, a predominant absence of subsoils suggests heavy plough activity across much of the rest of the site in which no archaeological features were recorded.					

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OASIS Form

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-512835
Project Name: Geoarchaeolgocail and Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Sompting
Activity type: Evaluation
Project Identifier(s): ASE Project No:220014
Planning Id: WBC Planning Ref: AWDM/0323/19
Reason for Investigation: Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East
Project Dates: 08-Aug-2022 - 16-Dec-2022
HER: West Sussex HER
HER Identifiers: [no data]
Project Methodology: A total of 80 evaluation trenches and 17 geoarchaeological test pits were excavated across the site.
Project Results: The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown a complex sequence of deposits related to a previous high sea level event, subsequent periods of landscape stabilisation, and overlying calcareous, and decalcified head, including some finer grained units. The sequence is undated but may extend back as far as c. 250 kya and provide an important palaeoenvironmental record and landscape history for the area. The archaeological evaluation recorded remains of a prehistoric date in the northern/central part of the southern field and a pit of uncertain prehistoric date in the northern field. The survival of colluvium in these areas may have improved archaeological preservation levels in these parts of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also recorded in the northern field. This ditch is an extant feature today to the north of this exposure. Elsewhere, a predominant absence of subsoils suggests heavy plough activity across much of the rest of the site in which no archaeological features were recorded. Evidence of uncertain prehistoric date was recorded in the north field in the form of a pit, and in the south field from finds retrieved from the plough soil. Pottery dating to the Early-Middle Neolithic was also retrieved from plough soil, in the southeast of the site. Middle -Late Bronze Age activity was recorded in the form of a linear ditch and a fragmented vessel, likely ‘in situ’. A further linear ditch remained undated, but it is suggested that is likely of the same period. A post-medieval field boundary, partially in use to the present, was recorded in the north field. The absence of a subsoil horizon suggests a moderate level of truncation that may have impacted archaeological remains. The geoarchaeological evaluation has shown a complex sequence of deposits related to a previous high sea level event, subsequent periods of landscape stabilisation, and overlying calcareous, and decalcified head, including some finer grained units to be present in this part of the site. Deposits are considered to have a regionally significant potential for palaeoenvironmental and landscape reconstruction, along with the potential to preserve Palaeolithic remains.
Keywords:
Subject/Period: Ditch: LATER PREHISTORIC
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period: Cremation Pit: BRONZE AGE
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Subject/Period: Pit: BRONZE AGE
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Archive:
Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Worthing Museum and Art Gallery

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Appendix 1 – Geoarchaeological Intervention Logs

GTP5

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.5667	Topsoil	Sandly silt, brownish grey	5% A-SA flint	
2	0.3	7.2667	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Pale yellow brown sandy silt	2% flint gravel, A-SA. Occasional chalk fragments	
3	0.7	6.8667	Decalcified Head	Mid yellow brown clay silt	70% A-SR flint, poorly sorted, Av 20mm Max 70mm	
4	1.3	6.2667	Decalcified Head	Fine sandy clay, mid brownish yellow	50% flint gravel A-R Av 30mm Max 80mm, occasional chalk fragments <30mm	
5	1.7	5.8667	Calcareous Head	Pale yellow brown sandy silt. Soily layer at contact with unit below	30% chalk pellet gravel. 40% flint gravel A-R poorly sorted, Av 20mm Max 70mm	Northeast corner only. In channel cut into unit below. Gone by 2.6m
6	1.7	5.8667	Reworked Beach	Fine sand with trace of clay	Rounded beach cobbles <120mm	Southwest corner only
7	2.6	4.9667	Reworked Beach	Fine sand with trace of clay	10% SR-R flint gravel, poorly sorted, Av 40mm Max 150mm. Occasional angular flints	

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8	3.5	4.0667	Chalk	Soft/weathered - putty chalk		3.6m base of hole

GTP6

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	6.1493	Topsoil			
2	0.3	5.8493	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Fine sandy silt, pale greyish yellow. Rooted	10% A-SA flints 20-40mm.	
3	0.5	5.6493	Decalcified Head	Silty clay with sand, brownish yellow	50% A-R flint gravel, poorly sorted. Av 30mm, Max 100mm	Land drain noted
4	1.9	4.2493	Calcareous Head	Clay silt, very pale brownish grey. Potential land surface at 2.6m.	40% chalk pellet gravel 1-2mm. 40% flint gravel A-SR, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 80mm	Finer grained units and other potential buried soils noted. 4.4m base of hole

GTP7

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.6555	Topsoil			
2	0.3	7.3555	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Fine sandy silt, reddish yellow	1% A-SA flint <30mm	
3	0.5	7.1555	Decalcified Head/Brickearth	Clay silt, brownish yellow	10% flint gravel (in patches), poorly sorted, A-SR, av 30mm Max 70mm. Up to 40% flint gravel by 1m	

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4	1.2	6.4555	Decalcified Head	Fine sand silty clay, yellow brown	50% flint gravel A-SR, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 70mm. Continues in pockets/pipes into units below [5] and [6].	
5	2.6	5.0555	Calcareous Head	Fine grained. Fine sandy clay silt	20% chalk pellet gravel 0.5-1mm. 5% flint gravel, Av 10mm Max 40mm	
6	4.4	3.2555	Reworked Beach	Strong olive yellow fine sand with clay	20% flint gravel SA-R, Av 30mm Max 50mm. Less gravel with depth	
7	5.2	2.4555	Chalk			Base of hole

GTP8

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	8.4312	Topsoil	Yellow brown silty clay with sand	Occasional A-SA flints <40mm	
2	0.2	8.2312	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Clay silt with sand, brownish yellow	Rare flint gravel	
3	0.4	8.0312	Decalcified Head	Gravel in silty clay, brownish yellow. Stripes of stone free reddish yellow clay silt with occasional Fe staining	70% A-SR flint Av 30mm Max 60mm, moderately sorted	

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4	1	7.4312	Decalcified Head	Clay silt, yellow brown. Becoming clayeyer with depth	70% flint gravel A-SR, poorly sorted, Av 40mm, Max 80mm. Increasing to <120mm with depth	
5	2.6	5.8312	Buried Soil?	As above but with more clay and Mn staining		
6	2.7	5.7312	Marine Sand	Fine sand, brownish yellow. Becoming olive yellow with depth	Virtually stone free. Occasional rounded beach pebbles <50mm. Increasing to 2% <80m by 4m depth	
7	5.3	3.1312	Chalk			

GTP9

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.3566	Topsoil			
2	0.3	7.0566	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Sandy clay silt, brownish yellow	1% flint A-SA	
3	0.5	6.8566	Brickearth	Sandy clay silt, reddish yellow	Rare SA flints <30mm	
4	0.7	6.6566	Decalcified Head	Clay silt, yellowish brown	70% A-SR flint gravel, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 120mm	
5	1.4	5.9566	Decalcified Head	Silty clay, brownish yellow	Patches of 40% flint gravel, poorly	

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					sorted, A-R, some beach pebbles, Av 30mm Max 100mm	
6	2.2	5.1566	Decalcified Head/Brickearth	Sandy clay, brownish yellow. Soft and malleable	2% flint gravel, Av 10mm Max 30mm. Gravel layer at base	
7	3	4.3566	Alluvium?	Silt with clay, pale yellowish grey with frequent Fe staining. Bedded (3-5mm beds). Calcareous	Occasional weathered flint	
8	3.6	3.7566	Gravel	Sandy clayey silt, strong olive yellow	50% flint gravel, poorly sorted, Av 20mm Max 70mm, SA-SR	
9	3.9	3.4566	Reworked Beach	Fine sand with clay, olive yellow	5% flint gravel, SA-R, Av 40mm Max 80mm	Northern side of GTP only
10	4.7	2.6566	Chalk			Base of hole

GTP10

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.474	Topsoil			
2	0.3	7.174	Decalcified Head/Brickearth	Clay silt, brownish yellow	Patches of 50% SA-R flint gravel, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 70mm. Some larger beach cobbles <150mm	

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3	1.5	5.974	Sand and Gravel	Fine sand with clay, olive yellow	50% flint gravel, A-R, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 100mm. Includes some beach pebbles	
4	2.6	4.874	Alluvium?	Silty clay, very pale bluish grey	1% SA-A flint, Av 30mm Ma 80mm	
5	3	4.474	Gravel	Silty clay, greyish brown, soft	80% poorly sorted flint gravel, A-R, Av 40mm Max 80mm	
6	3.6	3.874	Calcareous Head	Clay silt, pale greyish yellow	Frequent chalk. 60% flint grvel A-R, poorly sorted, Av 20mm, Max 60mm	
7	4.3	3.174	Reworked Beach	Fine silty sand, olive yellow	Some chalk flecks. 10% SA-R flint gravel, Av 10mm Max 60mm, poorly sorted	
8	4.5	2.974	Chalk			4.6m base of hole

GTP11

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.1723	Topsoil			
2	0.3	6.8723	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Silty clay, brownish yellow	Occasional A-SA flints <40mm	
3	0.8	6.3723	Decalcified Head/Brickearth	Silty clay, brownish yellow	Patches of A-SA flint gravel, poorly sorted 20mm-50mm	
4	2.4	4.7723	Calcareous Head	Silty clay with fine sand, pale	40% chalk pellet gravel 0.5-2mm.	

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				geyish yellow	10% A-R flint gravel <40mm	
5	3.2	3.9723	Calcareous Head	Siltuy clay, very pale grey. Very soft and malleable	80% degraded chalk and chalk pellet gravel, 0.5-1mm. 5% SA-R flints	
6	4.5	2.6723	Chalk			4.6m base of hole

GTP12

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	9.0116	Topsoil	Fine sandy silt, pale brownish grey	Occasional A-SR flints	
2	0.3	8.7116	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Sandy silt, mid brownish yellow	Occasional A-SR flints	
3	0.5	8.5116	Decalcified Head/Brickearth	Fine silt with clay, yellowish red	Patches of 50% poorly sorted A-SA flint gravel, Av 30mm Max 70mm	
4	0.9	8.1116	Decalcified Head Gravel	Clay silt, dark yellow brown	90% flint gravel A-SR, poorly sorted, Av 30mm Max 100mm	
5	1.6	7.4116	Calcareous Head	Clay silt, pale greyish yellow.	60% flint gravel, A-SA, Av 20mm Max 60mm	Decalcified in patches, but fully calcareous by 2.7m
6	3.5	5.5116	Buried soil?	Dark reddish brown silty clay, Mn	40% A-SA flint gravel <20mm	

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				staining		
7	3.7	5.3116	Marine Sand	Fine sand, olive yellow	10% flint gravel, Rounded, Av 30mm, some very large cobbles <200mm. Becoming virtually stone free by 4.5m	5.2m base of hole

GTP13

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	8.3171	Topsoil			
2	0.3	8.0171	Colluvium/Reworked Brickearth	Clayey silt, reddish brown. Rooted	Virtually stone free.	
3	0.6	7.7171	Brickearth	Silt with clay, reddish yellow. Occasional Mn staining/flecks	Rare, <1%, A-SA flint <30mm	
4	1.5	6.8171	Brickearth	Clay silt, pale greyish yellow. Occasional Mn flecks	Virtually stone free	
5	2.1	6.2171	Decalcified Head Gravel	Silty clay, brownish red	80% flint gravel A-SR moderately sorted, Av 20mm Max 50mm	Upper surface dips to south at c. 15 degrees
6	3.4	4.9171	Reworked Beach	Brownish yellow fine sand.	10% flint gravel SA-R. Contains patches of reworked chalk	
7	5.6	2.7171	Chalk			Collapse

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						of test pit sides

GTP14

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.13	Topsoil	Brown grey silty clay	5% R-A <50mm flints	
2	0.3	6.83	Brickearth 1	Rich orange brown clay silt	15% 20mm flints locally	Sharp upper boundary
3	2.4	4.73	Brickearth 2	Dark greyish brown silty clay	20% <50mm A-R flints	Sharp upper boundary
4	2.6	4.53	Calcareous Head	Grey stiff clay silt	15% A-SR <30mm flints + fine chalk	Sharp upper boundary
5	2.85	4.28	Head	Mottled blue grey chalk sandy silty clay, also orange brown, green grey, green brown	5% chalk pellets	Sharp / undulating upper boundary
6	3.35	3.78	Head	Cemented chalk sandy silty clay. Pockets of blue grey marine sand locally.	25% <80mm R-A flints	Sharp upper boundary. Base of hole 4.5m

GTP15

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	8.1128	Ploughsoil	Brown grey silty clay	5% R-A <50mm flints	
2	0.3	7.8127	Brickearth 1	Structureless brown silty clay	5% A-R <20mm flints	Sharp upper boundary
3	2.8	5.3127	Brickearth 2	Greyish brown dense silty clay. Locally loessic.	20% <50mm A-R flints	Sharp upper boundary
4	3.1	5.0127	Head	Grey brown clay silt	50% A-R 20-50mm flints +	Sharp upper boundary

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					nodules	
5	3.85	4.2627	Calcareous Head	Brownish grey silt clay, chalk sand locally. Admixed gravels and clays.	40% A-R <80mm flints	Diffuse upper boundary. Base of hole4.0m

GTP16

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	7.9839	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay	5% R-A <50mm flints	
2	0.3	7.6839	Brickearth 1	Light greenish yellow brown	5% R-A <50mm flints	Sharp upper boundary
3	1.7	6.2839	Brickearth 2	Greyish brown dense clay silt.	70% <50mm A-R flints	Sharp upper boundary
4	2.45	5.5339	Calcareous Head	Light brownish grey clay silt	20% A-SA <50mm flints	Sharp upper boundary
5	3.2	4.7839	Gravel Head	Brown silty clay with possible marine sand input in lenses	70% A-R <80mm flitns	Sharp upper boundary
6	3.75	4.2339	Marine Sand	Grey – yellow fine medium soft sand	15% <150mm marine cobbles	Sharp upper boundary
7	4.2	3.7839	Chalk	Putty Chalk	Large nodular	Sharp upper boundary. Base of hole 4.5m

GTP17

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	6.7779	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay	5% R-A <50mm flints	
2	0.3	6.4779	Transitional subsoil.	Dark brown grey clay silt	Bed of <50mm R-SA flints at basal contact	Sharp upper boundary
3	0.55	6.2279	Brickearth	Orange brown silty clay	Stone free	Diffuse upper boundary

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4	1.1	5.6779	Gravel Head	Weakly bedded brownish grey clayey sandy silt. Reworked light grey clay silt. Land Surface at basal contact dark purplish brown silty clay with 50% coarse	80% 20-50mm R-A flints	Sharp / undulating upper boundary
5	1.65	5.1279	Marine Sand	Orange and red brown staine fine loose sand. Clay locally to 2.00.	10% 10-50mm A-SA flints	Sharp / undulating upper boundary
6	5	1.7779	Chalk	Stiff inpenetrable putty chalk	75% A and nodular flints locally	Sharp upper boundary. Base of hole 5.1m

GTP18

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	18.7417	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy clay silt	20% 50mm A-R patinated flints	
2	0.3	18.4417	Colluvium (with subsoil development at upper boundary)	Brown clay silt. Bed of flints at basal interface.	Locally 10-20% <50mm A-SA flints	Sharp upper boundary
3	0.7	18.0417	Colluvial Brickearth?	Orange brown very clayey silt	20% <80mm A-SA and nodular flints	Diffuse upper boundary
4	1.5	17.2417	Calcareous Head	Light brown grey silt clay	20% chalk pellets and 10% 30-80mm A and nodular flints	Sharp upper boundary
5	2.6	16.1417	Land surface?	Soft light yellowish brown clay silt	10% chalk pellets.	Sharp upper boundary

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6	2.7	16.0417	Decalcified Head	Firable slightly clayey very fine sandy silt. Structureless. Rich yellowish brown. Loessic input?	Stone free	Diffuse upper boundary
7	3.1	15.6417	Head	Chalk crumb	95% 150mm+ A blue patinated and nodular flints. Majority 20-80mm.	Sharp upper boundary. Base of hole 4m

GTP19

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	17.1965	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy clay silt	20% 50mm A-R patinated flints	
2	0.3	16.8965	Colluvial Brickearth?	Orange brown very clayey silt	20% <50mm A-SA and nodular flints	Sharp upper boundary
3	1.4	15.7965	Calcareous Head	Light brown grey silt clay	20% chalk pellets and 10%, locally 30% in pockets 30-80mm A and nodular flints	Sharp upper boundary
4	2.4	14.7965	Head	Chalk crumb	90% <150mm blue white patinated A-SA flints. Majority 30-80mm. Nodules.	Sharp upper boundary
5	3.25	13.9465	Decalcified Head	Rich orange brown slightly very fine sandy silty clay matrix.	90% 20-80mm A-SA and nodular flints.	Sharp/cryoturbated upper boundary. Base of hole 4.0m

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				Maybe loessic input too?		

GTP20

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	14.6416	Ploughsoil	Slightly brown grey silt. Garden soil?	20% 10-50mm A-SR patinated flints.	
2	0.3	14.3416	Colluvium	Brown grey clay silt	10% 30-80mm A-SR patinated flints. Locally 30%.	Sharp upper boundary
3	0.7	13.9416	Brickearth	Brown grey clay silt.	10% <50mm SR-A flints, locally 25%	Sharp upper boundary
4	1.2	13.4416	Calcareous Head	Light yellow brown / yellow grey clayey chalk sandy silt	25% <50mm SR-A flints	Sharp/undulating upper boundary
5	1.95	12.6916	Decalcified Head	No fines	Stiff dark brown A-SA 20-80mm and nodular poorly sorted flints	Sharp upper boundary
6	2.9	11.7416	Head	Yellow brown and borwn grey silty gravel and clay silt. Mixed pockeds of fine and coarse.	25% <80mm patinated A-SA flints	Sharp upper boundary
7	4	10.6416	Calcareous Head	Cemented very stiff light yellow brown and grey possibly bedded clay	Stone free	Sharp upper boundary. Base of hole 4.1m

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				silt with fine chalk sand beds		

GTP21

Unit	Depth	OD	Strat	Description	Coarse Component	Notes
1	0	14.2071	Ploughsoil	Slightly brown grey silt. Garden soil?	20% 10-50mm A-SR patinated flints.	
2	0.3	13.9071	Colluvium	Brown grey clay silt	10% 30-80mm A-SR patinated flints. Locally 30%.	Sharp upper boundary
3	0.65	13.5571	Brickearth	Rich brown silt clay .	10% <50mm SA-A flints, locally 25%	Diffuse upper boundary
4	1	13.2071	Calcareous Head	Yellow grey or yellow borwn very fine chalk sandy slightly clayey silt. Granular. From 130 slightly clayey silt filling pockets in Unit 5.	10% <50mm SA-A flints	Sharp/undulating upper boundary
5	1.85	12.3571	Head	Clay silt	90% 20-150mm A-SA and nodular flints	Sharp upper boundary
6	2.9	11.3071	Head	Grey brown silt clay matrix. Finer beds of clay silt with 75% coarse	20-100mm A-SA flint gravels.	Sharp upper boundary
7	3.55	10.6571	Calcareous Head	Cemented very stiff light yellow	Stone free	Diffuse upper boundary

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				brown and grey possibly bedded clay silt with fine chalk sand beds		

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Appendix 2: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
2/001	layer	topsoil			0.18	16.92-18.17
2/002	layer	colluvium			0.17	
2/003	layer	natural				
3/001	layer	topsoil			0.18	
3/002	layer	natural				
4/001	layer	topsoil			0.20	15.97-16.46
4/002	layer	natural				
5/001	layer	topsoil			0.18	16.31-16.54
5/002	layer	natural				
6/001	layer	topsoil			0.24	16.35-17.19
6/002	layer	colluvium			0.44	
6/003	layer	natural				
7/001	layer	topsoil			0.28	15.00-15.64
7/002	layer	colluvium			0.18	
7/003	layer	natural				
8/001	layer	topsoil				15.12-15.19
8/002	layer	natural				
9/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	14.60-14.91
9/002	layer	colluvium			0.17	
9/003	layer	natural				
11/001	layer	topsoil			0.23	14.58-15.23
11/002	layer	natural				
12/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	13.93-14.25
12/002	layer	natural				
13/001	layer	topsoil			0.15	14.02-14.45
13/002	layer	natural				
14/001	layer	topsoil			0.15	13.28-13.65
14/002	layer	natural				
15/001	layer	topsoil			0.15	13.48-13.78
15/002	layer	natural				
16/001	layer	topsoil			0.26	13.98-14.15
16/002	layer	natural				
17/001	layer	topsoil			0.18	14.17-14.21
17/002	layer	natural				
40/001	layer	topsoil			0.31	7.56-7.82
40/002	layer	natural				
41/001	layer	topsoil			0.26	7.07-7.41
41/002	layer	natural				
42/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	6.50-6.78
42/002	layer	natural				

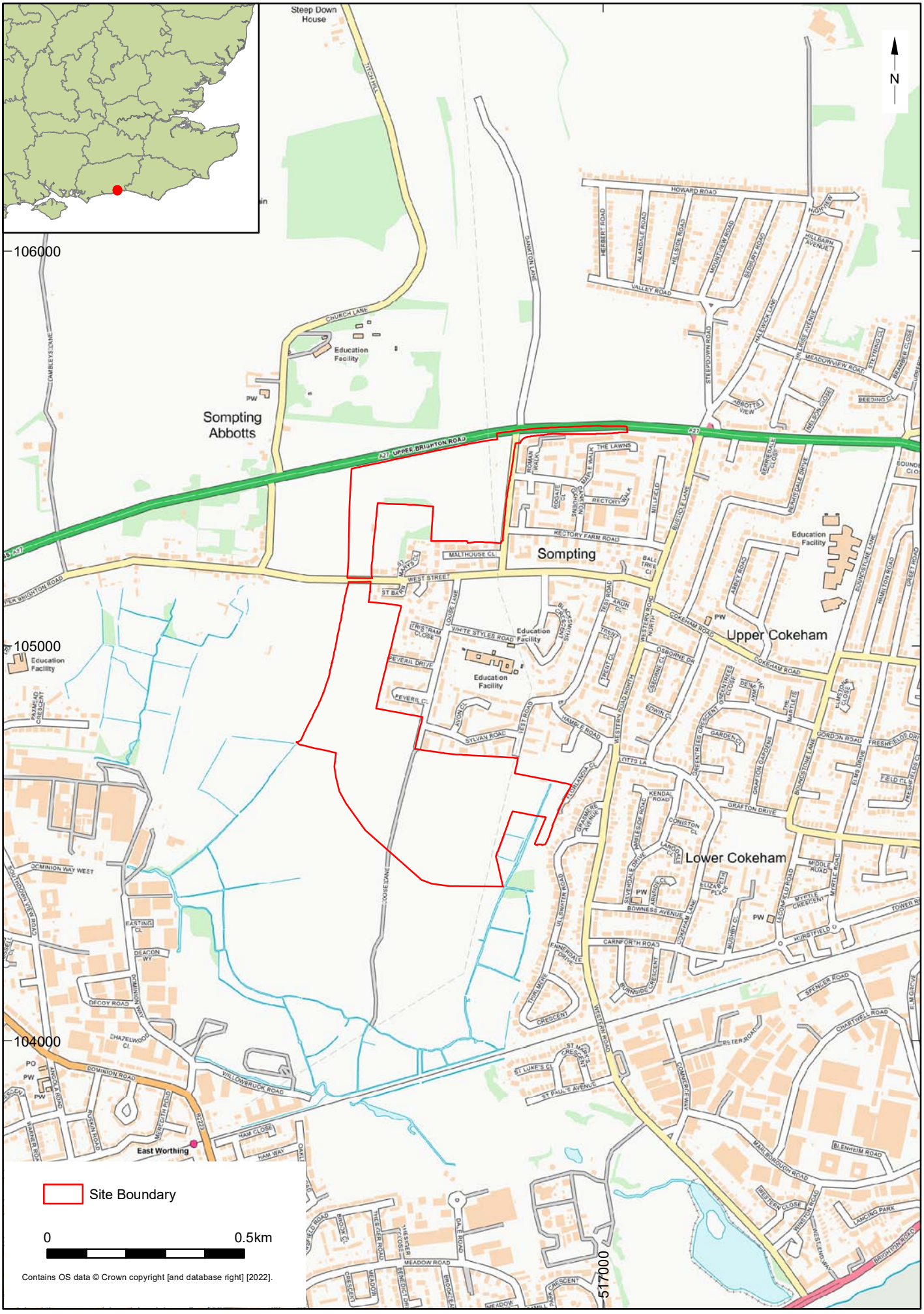
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Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
43/001	layer	topsoil			0.27	6.74-6.76
43/002	layer	natural				
44/001	layer	topsoil			0.28	6.14-6.80
44/002	layer	natural				
45/001	layer	topsoil			0.14	8.76-9.07
45/002	layer	natural				
46/001	layer	topsoil			0.21	8.43-8.75
46/002	layer	natural				
47/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	8.07-8.41
47/002	layer	natural				
48/001	layer	topsoil			0.17	7.80-8.06
48/002	layer	natural				
49/001	layer	topsoil			0.27	8.02-8.20
49/002	layer	natural				
50/001	layer	topsoil			0.16	7.87-7.90
50/002	layer	natural				
51/001	layer	topsoil			0.20	7.36-7.65
51/002	layer	natural				
53/001	layer	topsoil			0.28	7.18-7.47
53/002	layer	natural				
54/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	7.56-7.60
54/002	layer	natural				
55/001	layer	topsoil			0.29	7.76-7.95
55/002	layer	natural				
56/001	layer	topsoil			0.21	7.68-7.79
56/002	layer	natural				
57/001	layer	topsoil			0.22	7.47-7.72
57/002	layer	natural				
58/001	layer	topsoil			0.21	7.58-7.62
58/002	layer	natural				
59/001	layer	topsoil			0.28	7.31-7.39
59/002	layer	natural				
60/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	7.35-7.44
60/002	layer	natural				
61/001	layer	topsoil			0.30	7.19-7.52
61/002	layer	natural				
62/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	7.04-7.13
62/002	layer	natural				
63/001	layer	topsoil			0.26	7.47-7.52
63/002	layer	natural				
64/001	layer	topsoil			0.28	6.67-6.73

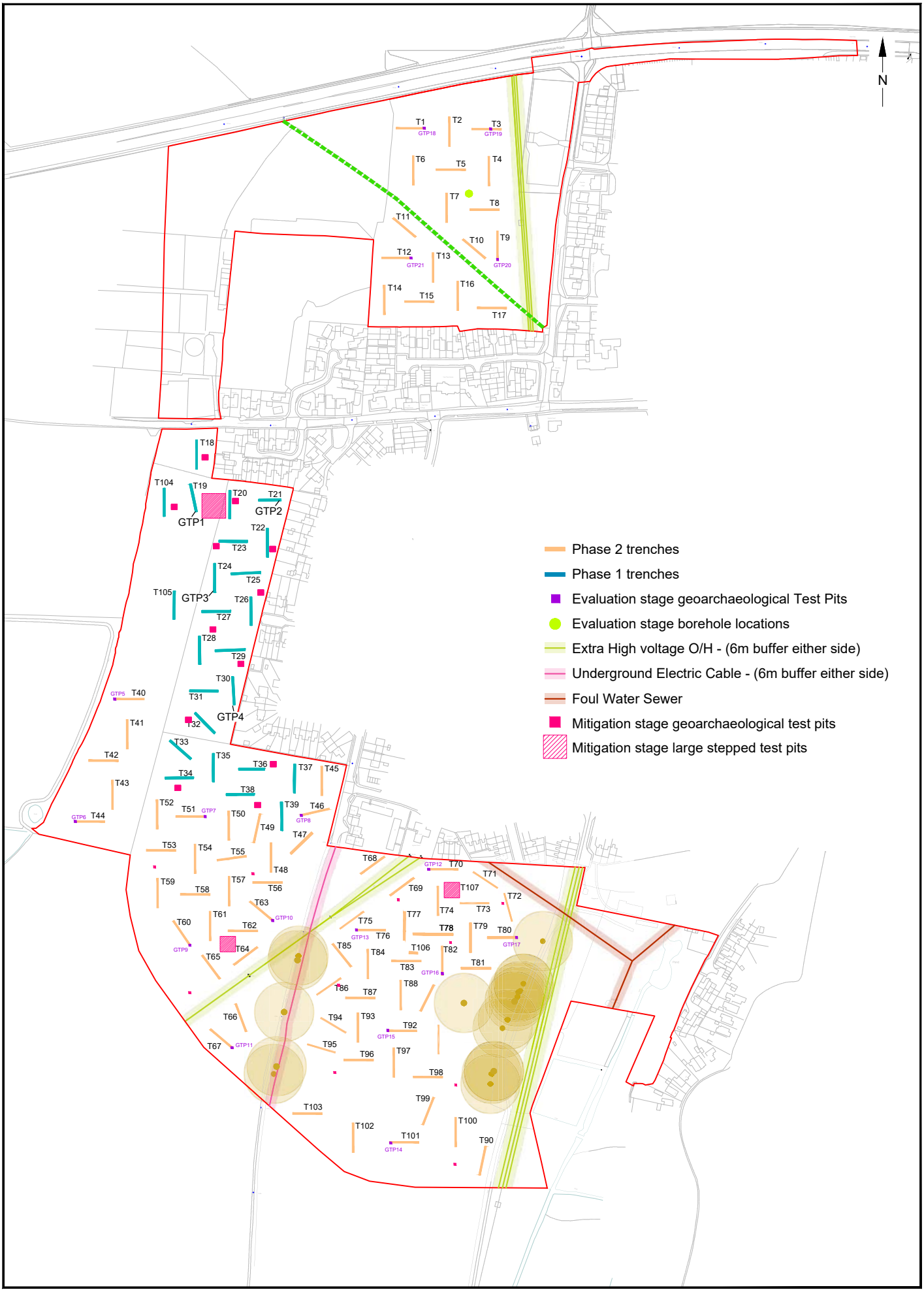
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Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
64/002	layer	natural				
65/001	layer	topsoil			0.20	6.83-7.18
65/002	layer	natural				
66/001	layer	topsoil			0.19	7.14-7.31
66/002	layer	natural				
67/001	layer	topsoil			0.27	6.94-7.17
67/002	layer	natural				
68/001	layer	topsoil			0.24	8.69-9.09
68/002	layer	colluvium			0.10	
68/003	layer	natural				
69/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	8.75-8.99
69/003	layer	natural				
70/001	layer	topsoil			0.24	8.97-9.01
70/002	layer	colluvium			0.36	
70/003	layer	natural				
71/001	layer	topsoil			0.22	8.28-8.71
71/002	layer	colluvium			0.28	
71/003	layer	natural				
72/001	layer	topsoil			0.23	7.16-7.88
72/002	layer	colluvium			0.05	
72/003	layer	natural				
73/001	layer	topsoil			0.22	8.15-8.61
73/002	layer	colluvium			0.35	
73/003	layer	natural				
74/001	layer	topsoil			0.23	8.58-8.88
74/002	layer	colluvium			0.40	
74/003	layer	natural				
75/001	layer	topsoil			0.30	8.26-8.44
75/002	layer	natural				
76/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	8.31-8.41
76/002	layer	colluvium			0.65	
76/003	layer	natural				
77/001	layer	topsoil			0.25	8.46-8.67
77/002	layer	natural				
79/001	layer	topsoil			0.24	7.83-8.26
79/002	layer	natural				
80/001	layer	topsoil			0.23	8.10-8.34
80/002	layer	natural				
81/001	layer	topsoil			0.24	6.94-7.95
81/002	layer	natural				
82/001	layer	topsoil			0.20	7.98-8.25

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© Archaeology South-East		Land West of Sompting	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 220014	Jan 2023	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		



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Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Site plan showing phases 1 and 2 evaluation trenches, geoarchaeological test pits and borehole locations	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		

516590, 105473

N

Trench 1



516590, 105463

516623, 105463

0 2m

Section 1



0 0.5m

Pottery

Flint



1/004 looking west



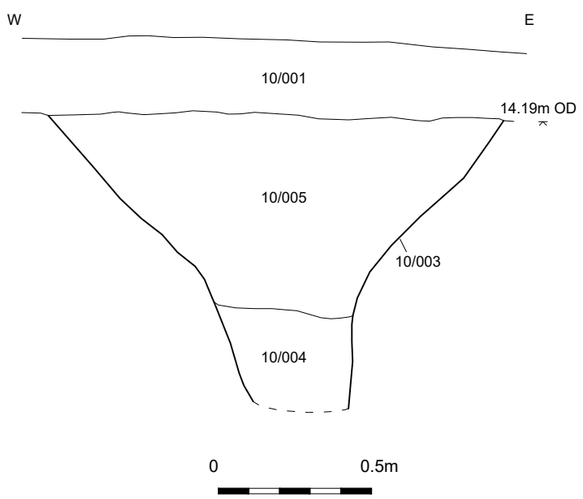
Trench 1 looking west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land West of Sompting	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		



10/003 looking north

Section 2





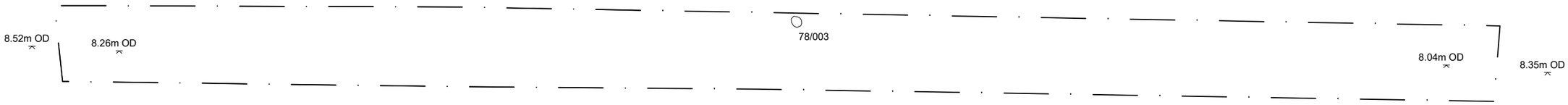
Trench 10 looking east

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land West of Sompting	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Trench 10 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		

516608, 104655

N

Trench 78



516608, 104641

0 2m

516651, 104641



78/003 pottery looking north



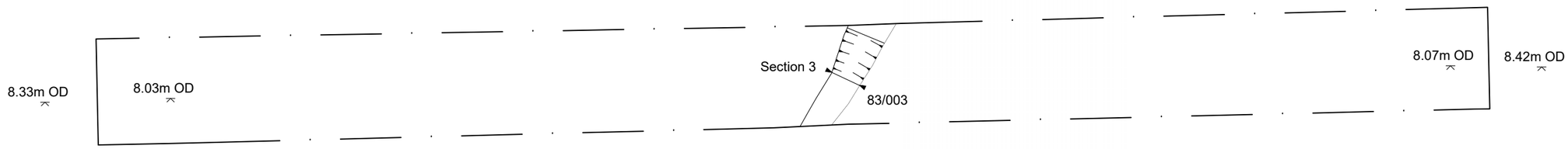
Trench 78 looking east

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land West of Sompting	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Trench 78 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		

516586, 104626

N

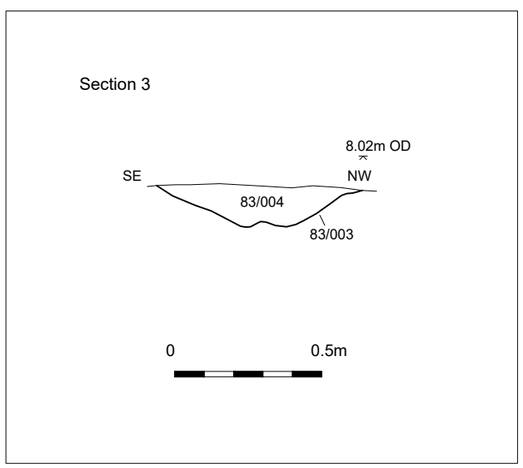
Trench 83



516586, 104615

0 2m

516618, 104615





83/003 looking south west



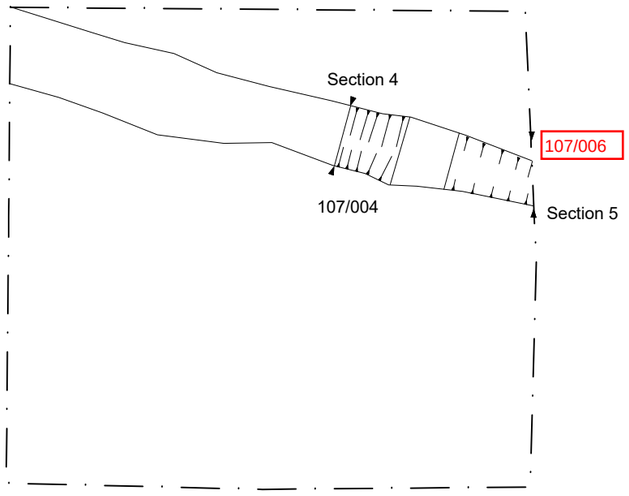
Trench 83 looking west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land West of Sompting	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Trench 83 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		

516634, 104699

N

Trench 107

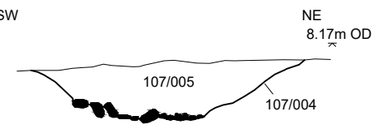


516634, 104688

0 2m

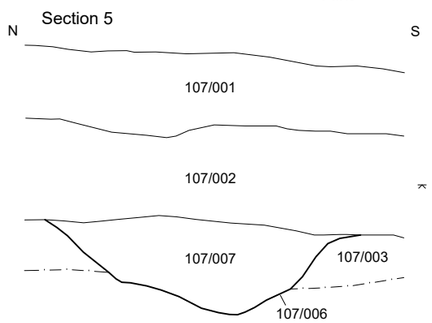
516664, 104688

Section 4



Flint

Section 5



0 0.5m



107/004 looking west



107/006 looking east

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Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Trench 107 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		



Trench 2 Looking South



Trench 3 Looking South East



Trench 4 Looking South



Trench 5 Looking East



Trench 6 Looking North



Trench 7 Looking North



Trench 9 Looking South West



Trench 11 Looking East



Trench 12 Looking West



Trench 13 Looking South



Trench 14 Looking South



Trench 15 Looking West

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Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Blank trenches photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: ARC		



Trench 16 Looking South



Trench 17 Looking West



Trench 75 Looking North West



Trench 76 Looking East



Trench 77 Looking North



Trench 79 Looking North



Trench 80 Looking East



Trench 81 Looking East



Trench 82 Looking South



Trench 84 Looking North



Trench 85 Looking West



Trench 87 Looking East

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land west of Sompting	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Blank trenches photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: ARC		



Trench 88 Looking South



Trench 89 Looking North



Trench 92 Looking East



Trench 93 Looking North



Trench 94 Looking West



Trench 95 Looking North West



Trench 96 Looking East



Trench 97 Looking North East



Trench 98 Looking East



Trench 99 Looking South



Trench 100 Looking North



Trench 101 Looking East



Trench 102 Looking North



Trench 103 Looking West



GTP05 looking west



GTP06 looking west



GTP07 looking south



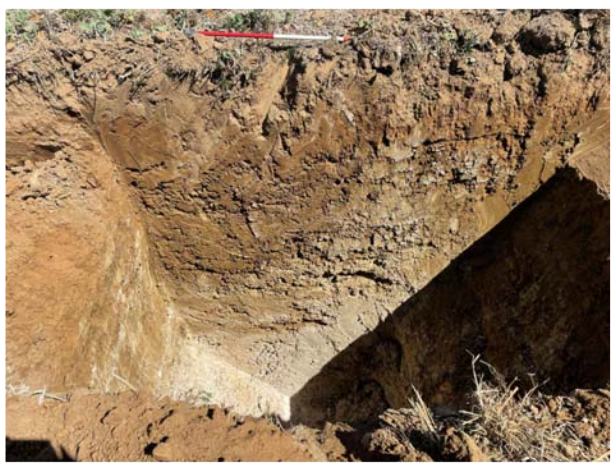
GTP08 looking north



GTP09 looking south



GTP10 looking north



GTP11 looking south



GTP12 looking east



GTP13 looking south



GTP14 looking north



GTP16 looking east



GTP17 looking north



GTP18 looking north



GTP19 looking north



GTP20 looking east



GTP21 looking north-east

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land west of Sompting	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 220014	January 2023	Phase 2 Geoarchaeological test pit photographs	
Report Ref: 2023012	Drawn by: FG		

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