AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Duckmoor, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Site Code: DUC25

NGR: 509593 126008 (TQ 09593 26008)

Planning Ref: DC/20/2607

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z3825/W/21/3283823

Ref: 794-PLN-HER-01331
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex (NGR 509593 126008). Twenty-two trenches were excavated across the site.

A subsoil horizon was recorded in all trenches suggesting that little truncation has occurred and that the potential archaeological horizon is therefore intact. Nevertheless, a small undated pit containing burnt material in Trench 9 was the only archaeological feature recorded. A single Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 suggesting some passing prehistoric activity, and a few 18-19th century sherds of pottery in the topsoil of Trench 1, and medieval or post-medieval peg-tile fragments in Trenches 1 and 3 were also recovered. The evaluation suggest that it is highly unlikely that significant archaeological deposits survive at the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex (NGR 509593 126008; Figure 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site occupies two arable fields, to the west of Wooddale Lane, on the north-eastern edge of Billingshurst. The western boundary was with the recent residential development off Hilland Road (Dadswell Drive), with agricultural land to the north, east and south. All boundaries were hedgerows at the time of the archaeological work (Figure 2).

1.2.2 According to the latest data available from the British Geological Survey (BGS), the underlying geology at the site consists of the mudstones of the Weald Clay Formation. There are no mapped superficial deposits within the boundary of the site (BGS 2025).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An application for planning permission for a residential development at the site was submitted to Horsham District Council and was refused on 6th April 2021 (planning reference DC/20/2607). Following an appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (appeal reference (APP/Z3825/W/21/3283823), permission was granted for the scheme on 18th January 2023.

1.3.2 Following consultation between Horsham District Council and Place Services at Essex County Council (Horsham District Council's current advisers on archaeological issues), the following condition was attached:

i) No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

ii) The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [i] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: This matter is fundamental as the site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; ASE 2025) for the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching, and in the production of a report and

archival procedure was compiled, submitted to and approved by all parties prior to the commencement of fieldwork at the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 17th and the 21st of February 2025.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) for the site was produced and submitted with the original planning application (RPS 2020). The data itself is based on entries within a 1km radius of the site held in the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). Much of this material has subsequently been published (Nicholls et al. 2023). The following background is summarised from that document and the WSI (ASE 2025).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Prehistoric evidence comprises Mesolithic flint found 375m to the west, with further scatters found during fieldwalking to the immediate north-west. Residual Mesolithic-Neolithic flint was found during works south of the A272, with Neolithic-Bronze Age pottery associated with a pit feature. Three Middle Bronze age pits were also found. Work 250m to the north-west of the site found evidence for Middle Iron Age ditches and pits.

2.3 Late Iron Age/Romano-British

2.3.1 A Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British rectangular enclosure with a single roundhouse, with a second added later in the Roman period and associated with stock enclosures and two cremation burials were found at the same site. A late Roman coin hoard was also found. Work south of the A272 found a four-post structure interpreted as a possible Iron Age smithy and two focal points of early Roman settlement, one enclosed, the other potentially unenclosed with associated field boundaries and north to south aligned trackways. Mid Roman activity took the form of Early Roman pits being utilised for refuse disposal and a small complete ring ditch was identified.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 The site lies away from the historic core of Billingshurst and evidence is limited to artefacts and some boundaries, trackways and pits found south of the A272.

2.5 Post-Medieval

2.5.1 The site was in agricultural use for the post-medieval period. A small farmstead or outfarm is shown on the 1841 Tithe map in the extreme north-west corner of the site, but had been largely demolished by the late 19th century.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation given in the WSI (ASE 2025) are to ascertain:

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so to assess their location including depth below ground level, nature, date, survival, and significance*

- *How they might be impacted by the development of the site*

- *To enable Horsham Borough Council's archaeological advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development*

2.6.2 The specific aims of the archaeological investigations (*ibid.*) were to identify:

- *Any prehistoric activity predating the known Iron Age/ Roman activity in the locality*

- *To identify any further indications of Iron Age/ Roman activity and to integrate this with the results of previous investigations to the north-west and to the south of the A272*

- *To identify any remains of medieval activity*

2.6.3 The project also had the potential to inform on the following areas of research from the South-East Research Framework (KCC 2011, 2018, 2019);

Middle Bronze Age/Iron Age

- *The use of the Weald in later prehistory: how good is the evidence for occupation or exploitation of the Weald in later prehistory? Was it a barrier to communication?*

- *The evolution of settlement: despite (or because of) the rapid accumulation of new evidence, there are major problems such as the long-term history of the land divisions laid out in the MBA/LBA; the problem of MIA settlements; the hiatus between earlier sites and those of the LIA.*

- *The transition to the Late Iron Age: how are we to understand the important changes from MIA to LIA, including the emergence of a southern kingdom centred on west Sussex?*

Roman: Continuity and Change

- *Examples of continuity and change in rural settlement patterns and types throughout the Roman period are important. All instances of rural settlement sites are valuable resources that require mapping, phasing, dating and comparison with other known examples in order to determine patterns of change or regionality.*

- *What impacts on the landscape came about during the later [Roman] period and into the sub-Roman phase? Are there discernible changes in agricultural practices and re-forestation?*

Roman: Rural Settlement

- *What building types are used on rural settlements? How common are roundhouses and how late do they remain in use?*

Roman: Field systems

- *Field systems, and their relationship to preceding and succeeding systems, need to be better understood*

Medieval: Rural Landscape

- *[better] characterise the medieval rural landscape around current villages*
- *Further investigation of agricultural practices (including animal husbandry) and land use through more systematic sampling and analyses than hitherto*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 A plan of twenty-two trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m providing a *c.*5% sample of the site was provided in the WSI (ASE 2025). The trenches were laid out with due regard to the alignment of an overhead powerline which ran from south-east to north-west across the site. There was no variation from the trench locations in the WSI (ibid).

3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) and with regard to the Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC, ESCC & CDC, 2019), and the Code, Regulations, Standards & Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2023).

3.1.3 Initially, all trench locations were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).

3.1.4 Following this, mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision using a flat-bladed bucket was undertaken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits. Care was taken not to damage any potential archaeological deposits.

3.1.5 Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were then manually cleaned in order to identify potential archaeological features. Spoil and trench bases were scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with use of a metal detector.

3.1.6 A single feature and all deposits were then recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.

3.1.7 All trench locations and the feature were planned using digital survey technology. A section through the feature was drawn by hand at 1:20 scale.

3.1.8 A digital photographic record was maintained of the single feature and all excavated trenches, and of the site in general.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Horsham Museum in due course, although it is understood that the museum is not currently in a position to provide accession numbers. The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the CifA (2023) guidelines.

Context sheets	68
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	150 (to be edited for archive)
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	22

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

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

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Twenty-one of the trenches were archaeologically negative, apart from a small assemblage of finds recovered from the overburden in Trenches 1, 3 and 14. Deposits recorded in the archaeologically negative trenches are listed in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 A single archaeological feature was identified in Trench 9.

4.2 Trench 9

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Diameter (m)	Thickness (m)	Height (mAOD)
9/001	layer	topsoil	-	0.23 - 0.25	39.63 - 39.93
9/002	layer	subsoil	-	0.15 - 0.22	
9/003	layer	clay	-	-	39.25 - 39.46
9/004	fill	fill, single	-	0.11	--
9/005	cut	pit	0.92		39.43

Table 3: Trench 9 - recorded contexts

4.2.1 The overburden encountered in Trench 9 consisted of two distinct layers; topsoil [9/001], a mid-brown silty clay, which overlay subsoil [9/002], an orangey brown silty clay, which sealed [9/003], a predominantly brownish orange clay. A single archaeological feature was identified, excavated and recorded.

4.2.2 Shallow pit [9/005] contained a single orangey grey silty clay fill, context [9/004]. No finds were recovered from the feature.

4.2.3 An environmental sample of [9/004] contained no archaeological plant remains, however, a small amount of charred wood, a tiny piece of flint, fire-cracked flint, fired clay and magnetic material were recovered. These could be natural or industrial in origin.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Duckmoor, Billingshurst. Finds requiring cleaning were washed by hand and left to air dry 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 4.

5.1.2 Conservation of artefacts, where required, has been carried out, or is ongoing. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014). If conservation recommendations have been made, they are detailed in the relevant material section.

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
1/001			2	3	4	239
3/001					1	59
14/001	1	7				
Total	1	7	2	3	5	298

Table 4: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A single piece of worked flint weighing 7g was hand collected during the evaluation. The artefact, retrieved from the topsoil in trench 14, consists of a secondary flake. It is made on a dark grey/brown flint with a thin (<1mm) cortex. The flake displays a plain butt, evidence of platform edge abrasion and thin removal scars on its dorsal face. It is difficult to closely date a single piece of debitage; however, the technological characteristics suggest a broad Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age date.

5.3 **The Pottery** by Stephen Patton

5.3.1 Two very small sherds of 18th or 19th century pottery were found in the topsoil layer [1/001]. The first (2g) is a fragment of salt glazed redware with glaze only on one slightly curved surface. The second (1g) is a surface fragment of a blue transferware vessel. The print is relatively blurred suggesting an earlier date, possibly within the 18th century. Neither of the sherds have any archaeological significance and as such they have been discarded.

5.4 **The Ceramic Building Material** by Rae Regensberg

5.4.1 A small assemblage of flat roof tile consisting of five fragments, collectively weighing 298g, was retrieved during the evaluation. One fragment in the T1 fabric had a partial round peg hole (diameter ± 12mm) present. Round peg holes are more commonly seen in medieval roof tile, although it is still seen in lesser quantities in post-medieval assemblages. This fragment was retrieved from the topsoil of Trench 3. The topsoil of Trench 1 produced four fragments of flat roof tile in the T2 fabric. These were well fired and had very fine mould sand. They are broadly medieval to post-medieval in date.

5.4.2 All the material was recorded by form, weight, complete dimensions (when present) and fabric, and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope, and site-specific fabric codes have been applied using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 5.

Fabric	Description
T1	Orange fabric with sparse fine quartz and sparse to moderate dark orange to black oxidised material.
T2	Orange fabric with cream streaking/marbling, moderate to common dark orange iron rich material and sparse black oxidised material.

Table 5: Ceramic building material fabric descriptions

5.5 The Fired Clay by Stephen Patton

5.5.1 Eight tiny and abraded amorphous pieces of fired clay that weigh a total of 3g were recovered from bulk enviro sample <1> taken from pit [9/004], fill [9/005]. They consist of a fine silty clay and have been oxidised to a light yellow-orange colour, but they have not been heated sufficiently to become fully ceramic. There is no indication that they are of archaeological significance, and they may simply be fragments of heated local geology. They do not hold any potential for further information and have been discarded.

6.0 **The Environmental Sample** by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk soil sample was taken from the single fill of pit [9/005], during evaluation work at the site, for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds retrieval.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The 40L sample was processed in its entirety by flotation using a 250µm mesh for retention of the flots and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residues, before being air-dried. The heavy residue was passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 6). The flot was sub-sampled and then scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications, and its contents were recorded (Table 7).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 The sample produced a large flot, whose matrix was entirely composed of uncharred rootlets with a small amount of sediment. The uncharred material is indicative of low-level disturbance through root action. Archaeological plant remains were not present.

6.3.2 The heavy residue produced a small amount of charcoal. This was mostly fragmented and did not warrant identification work. A tiny piece of flint, fire-cracked flint and magnetic material was recovered; this could be natural or industrial in origin.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The single bulk soil sample has not produced archaeological plant remains, such as cereal grains or weed seeds. This absence could be due to the nature of the sampled feature and/or circumstances of deposition. A small amount of charred wood was however recovered. This indicates that there is potential in the local deposits for the preservation of ecofacts.

6.4.2 Any future fieldwork at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting well-sealed, primary deposits, where these are present.

Sample Number	Context	Parent	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (quantity */ weight [g])
1	9/004	9/005	Pit	40		*	<1	***	1	F 2-4mm (*/<1g); FCF >8mm (*/2g); Mag. Mat. >2mm (*/<1g); Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/<1g)

Table 6: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams, with charcoal identifications

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)
1	9/004	13	200	100	90	10

Table 7: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weight in grams

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches revealed only a single undated feature, a shallow pit in Trench 9. The trenches displayed the expected Wealden stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlaying subsoil and Weald Clay.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 The presence of an intact subsoil horizon (up to 0.25m in thickness) in all trenches suggests that little recent truncation from agriculture or other activities has taken place on the site.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

7.3.1 A single Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 suggesting some passing prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Post-Medieval

7.3.2 A few 18-19th century sherds of pottery in the topsoil of Trench 1 and medieval or post-medieval peg-tile fragments in Trenches 1 and 3 were recovered.

7.4 Consideration of archaeological research aims

7.4.1 The overarching research aims of the archaeological evaluation were met.

7.4.2 Given the paucity of archaeological remains, it is not possible to address the site-specific research aims in any meaningful way.

7.5 Conclusion

7.5.1 Twenty-two trenches were excavated across the site. A subsoil horizon was recorded in all trenches suggesting that little truncation has occurred and that the potential archaeological horizon is therefore intact. Nevertheless, a small undated pit containing burnt material in Trench 9 was the only archaeological feature recorded. A single Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 suggesting some passing prehistoric activity, and a few 18-19th century sherds of pottery in the topsoil of Trench 1, and medieval or post-medieval peg-tile fragments in Trenches 1 and 3 were also recovered. The evaluation suggest that it is highly unlikely that significant archaeological deposits survive at the site.

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Appendix 1: Recorded contexts in trenches with no archaeological features

Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness (m)	Height mAOD
1/001	layer	topsoil	0.27 - 0.34	40.58 - 40.90
1/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.12	
1/003	layer	natural		40.21 - 40.44
2/001	layer	topsoil	0.34 - 0.40	40.48 - 40.91
2/002	layer	subsoil	0.08 - 0.16	
2/003	layer	natural		40.06 - 40.35
3/001	layer	topsoil	0.28 - 0.40	40.45 - 40.70
3/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.15	
3/003	layer	natural		40.07 - 40.15
4/001	layer	topsoil	0.19 - 0.20	39.72 - 40.19
4/002	layer	subsoil	0.20 - 0.25	
4/003	layer	natural		39.53 - 39.84
5/001	layer	topsoil	0.28 - 0.34	39.90 - 40.58
5/002	layer	subsoil	0.11 - 0.17	
5/003	layer	natural		39.51 - 40.07
6/001	layer	topsoil	0.35 - 0.50	40.40 - 40.46
6/002	layer	subsoil	0.08 - 0.13	
6/003	layer	natural		39.82 - 39.97
7/001	layer	topsoil	0.28 - 0.30	39.95 - 40.18
7/002	layer	subsoil	0.17 - 0.17	
7/003	layer	natural		39.40 - 39.61
8/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.30	39.60 - 40.03
8/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.22	
8/003	layer	natural		39.30 - 39.51
10/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.40	40.00 -4 0.23
10/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.20	
10/003	layer	natural		39.63 - 39.70
11/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.25	39.68 - 40.06
11/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.20	
11/003	layer	natural		39.38 - 39.61
12/001	layer	topsoil	0.26 - 0.28	39.22 - 39.70
12/002	layer	subsoil	0.08 - 0.10	
12/003	layer	natural		38.88 - 39.30
13/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.27	39.69 - 39.87
13/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.12	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness (m)	Height mAOD
13/003	layer	natural		39.39 - 39.58
14/001	layer	topsoil	0.22 - 0.28	39.87- 39.96
14/002	layer	subsoil	0.12 - 0.12	
14/003	layer	natural		39.43 - 39.56
15/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.25	39.58 - 39.80
15/002	layer	subsoil	0.18 - 0.20	
15/003	layer	natural		39.20 - 39.35
16/001	layer	topsoil	0.18 - 0.28	38.53 - 38.88
16/002	layer	subsoil	0.08 - 0.12	
16/003	layer	natural		38.27- 38.48
17/001	layer	topsoil	0.24 - 0.28	39.06 - 39.57
17/002	layer	subsoil	0.06 - 0.12	
17/003	layer	natural		38.76 - 39.17
18/001	layer	topsoil	0.24 - 0.30	39.81- 39.97
18/002	layer	subsoil	0.12 - 0.16	
18/003	layer	natural		39.51 - 39.55
19/001	layer	topsoil	0.20 - 0.27	39.53 - 40.02
19/002	layer	subsoil	0.09 - 0.17	
19/003	layer	natural		39.24 - 39.58
20/001	layer	topsoil	0.26 - 0.28	38.86 - 39.49
20/002	layer	subsoil	0.08 - 0.10	
20/003	layer	natural		38.52 - 39.11
21/001	layer	topsoil	0.25 - 0.26	39.74 - 40.59
21/002	layer	subsoil	0.10 - 0.20	
21/003	layer	natural		39.39 - 40.13
22/001	layer	topsoil	0.28 - 0.28	40.02 - 40.85
22/002	layer	subsoil	0.12 - 0.20	
22/003	layer	natural		39.62 - 40.37

Appendix 2 - HER Summary

Site code	DUC 25					
Project code	250011					
Planning reference	DC/20/2607 and APP/Z3825/W/21/3283823					
Site address	Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst					
District/Borough	Horsham District					
NGR (12 figures)	509593 126008					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	17.02.2025 - 21.02.2025					
Sponsor/client	RPS Consulting					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period summary						
					None	
Project summary	Twenty-two trenches were excavated across the site. A subsoil horizon was recorded in all trenches suggesting that little truncation has occurred and that the potential archaeological horizon is therefore intact. Nevertheless, a small undated pit containing burnt material in Trench 9 was the only archaeological feature recorded. A single Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 suggesting some passing prehistoric activity, and a few 18-19th century sherds of pottery in the topsoil of Trench 1, and medieval or post-medieval peg-tile fragments in Trenches 1 and 3 were also recovered. The evaluation suggest that it is highly unlikely that significant archaeological deposits survive at the site.					

Appendix 3 - OASIS Form

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-531865

Project Name: Evaluation at Land at Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst

Activity type: Evaluation

Sitecode(s): DUC 25

Project Identifier(s): Land at Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Planning Id: APP/Z3825/W/21/3283823, DC/20/2607

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Post determination

Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East

Project Dates: 17-Feb-2025 - 21-Feb-2025

HER: West Sussex HER

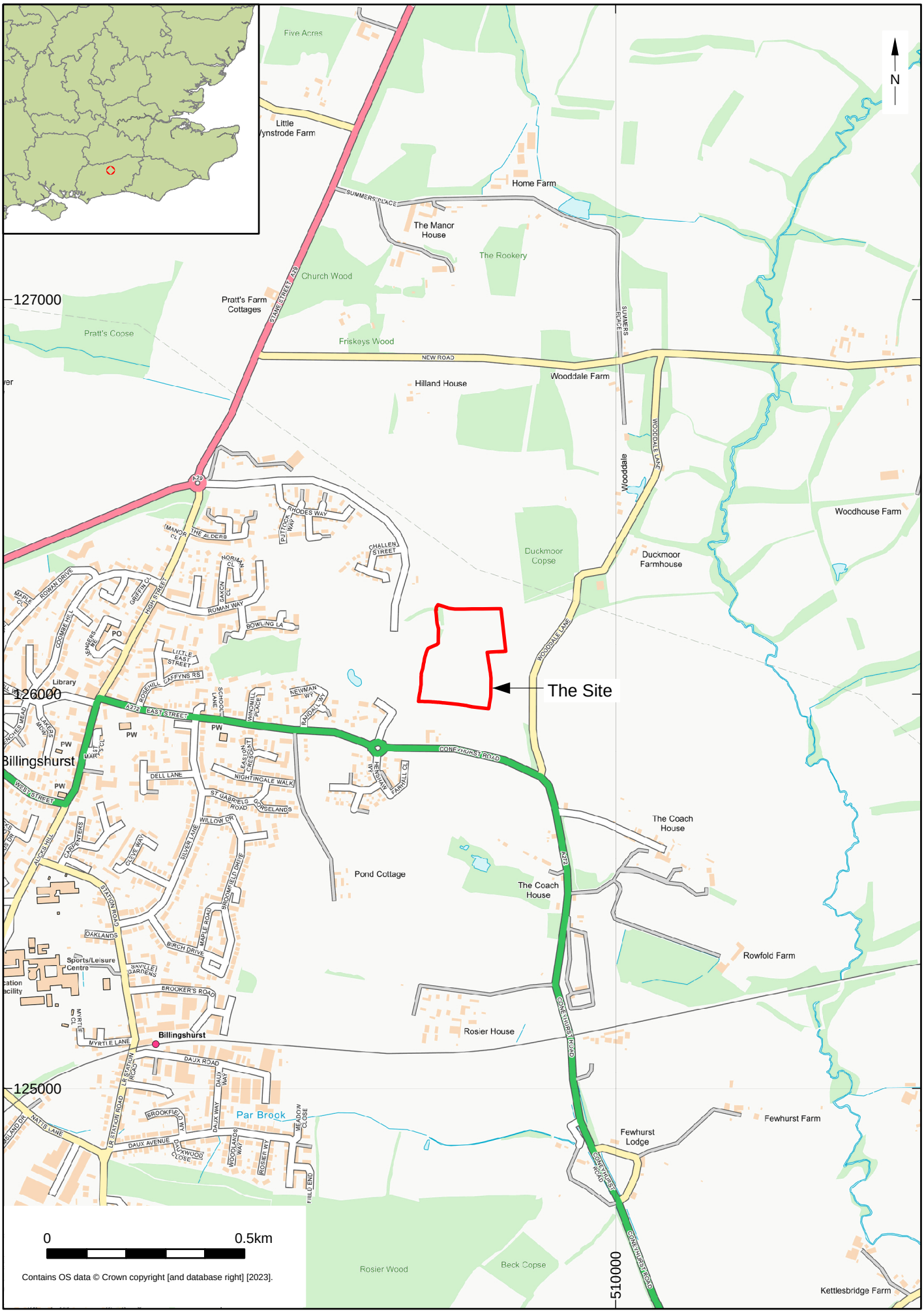
Project Methodology: Twenty-two trenches were mechanically excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 660m.

Project Results: A subsoil horizon was recorded in all trenches suggesting that little truncation has occurred and that the potential archaeological horizon is therefore intact. Nevertheless, a small undated pit containing burnt material in Trench 9 was the only archaeological feature recorded. A single Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 suggesting some passing prehistoric activity, and a few 18-19th century sherds of pottery in the topsoil of Trench 1, and medieval or post-medieval peg-tile fragments in Trenches 1 and 3 were also recovered. The evaluation suggest that it is highly unlikely that significant archaeological deposits survive at the site.

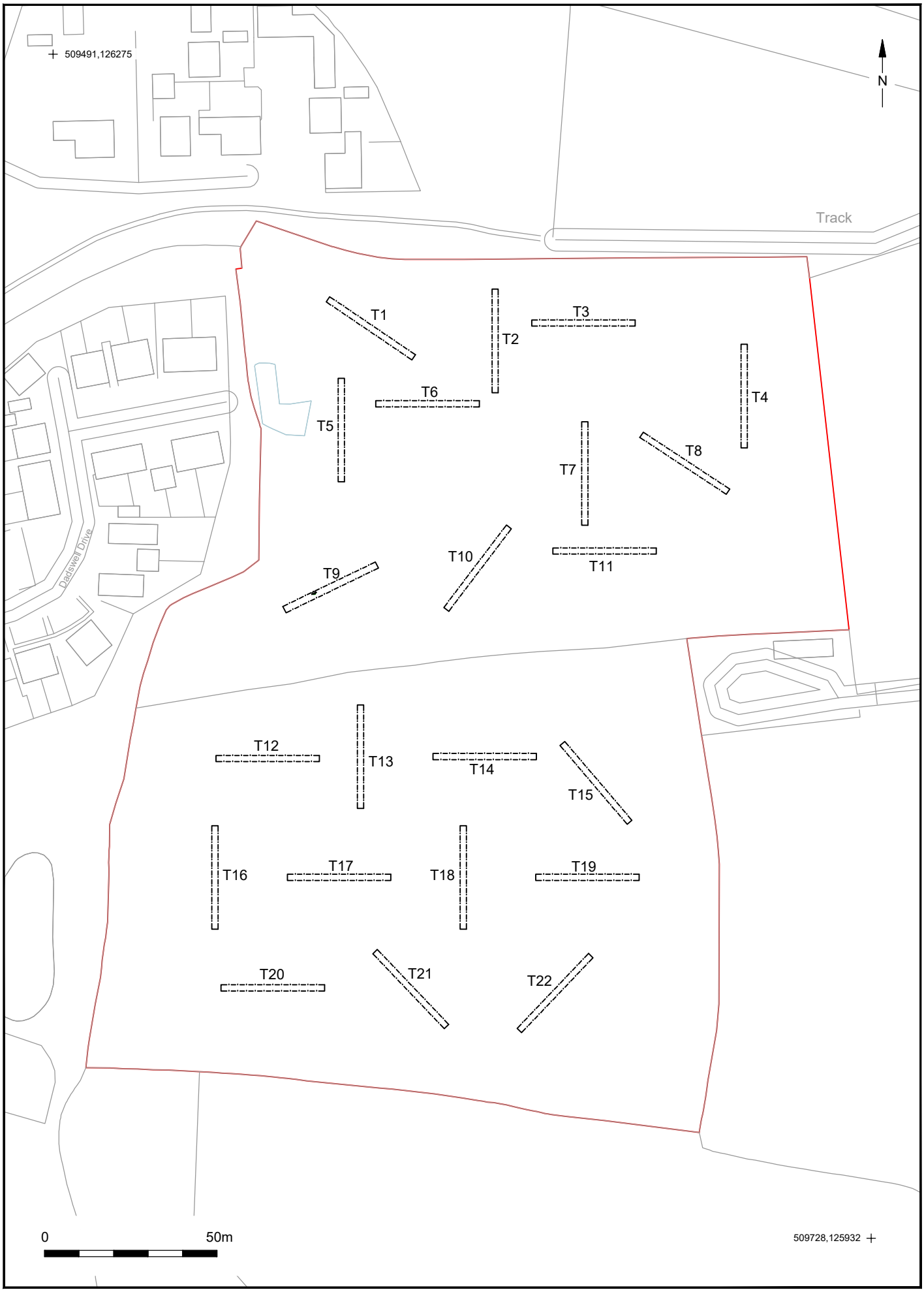
Keywords: Subject/Period: Pit: UNCERTAIN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Archive: Physical Archive - to be deposited with Horsham Museum & Art Gallery

Reports in OASIS: Stevens, S., (2025). *Evaluation at Land at Duckmoor, Wooddale Lane, Billingshurst*. Portslade, East Sussex: Archaeology South-East. 2025043



	Duckmoor, Billingshurst	Fig. 1
	Site Location	



	Duckmoor, Billingshurst	Fig.2
	Trench Location Plan	

509554, 126129

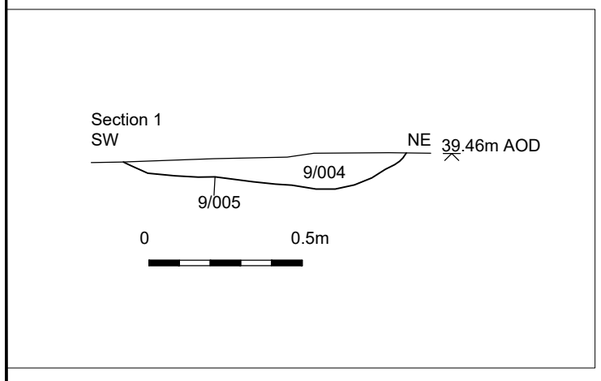


Trench 9 looking south-west

9/005 looking north-west



9/005 looking north-west



509554, 126104

509589, 126104

	Duckmoor, Billingshurst	Fig.3
	Trench 9; Plan, Section and Photographs	



Trench 1 looking south-east



Trench 2 looking south



Trench 3 looking west



Trench 4 looking south



Trench 5 looking south



Trench 6 looking west



Trench 7 looking north



Trench 8



Trench 10 looking north-east



Trench 11 looking east



Trench 12 looking north-west



Trench 13 looking north



Trench 14 looking north-west



Trench 15 looking south-east



Trench 16 looking south



Trench 17 looking east



Trench 18 looking north



Trench 19 looking west



Trench 20 looking east



Trench 21 looking south-east



Trench 21 looking south-west

	Duckmoor, Billingshurst	Fig.5
	Blank Trench Photographs	



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