

# Pook Lane Lavant, West Sussex

Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation



Planning Ref: SDNP/18/04918/FUL & 18/03493/FUL Accession Number: CHCDM:2020.1 Ref:229840.04 July 2021

wessexarchaeology



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#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sunley Estates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of an approximately 0.83 ha parcel of land at Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex PO18 0DT, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 458990 108171. The excavation was undertaken between the 28th February and 25th March 2020.

The site was located at the junction of two of the Chichester Entrenchments, both of which are Scheduled Monuments. The western boundary of the site was bordered by the surviving bank of a north to south running entrenchment. However, the preceding evaluation suggested this bank was not part of the Chichester Entrenchments, instead comprising a ditch thought to be related to a medieval deer pale. To the north of the site, on the opposite side of Pook Lane, lies an east to west running entrenchment believed to be Late Iron Age in date.

The excavation identified multiple phases of archaeological activity dating from the Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period with some minor post-medieval activity. Two inverted Bronze Age cremation vessels, one of which was collared, were buried adjacent to each other, beside a lone post hole, all evenly spaced on an east to west alignment approximately 0.3 m apart. The post hole is believed to represent a marker for these two burials. No other activity dating to this period was identified.

The northern half of the site was largely dominated by a Mid Iron Age circular enclosure; approximately 35 m in diameter with a small entrance to the south-east. Within this was the shallow remains of a ring gully, approximately 14 m in diameter, believed to be the remains of a roundhouse. Numerous pits and post holes were also excavated within this enclosure. The ring ditch and a number of the interior pits demonstrated dumps of burnt material, the origin of which remains unknown but may relate to contemporary burnt "mounds" believed to lie adjacent to the River Lavant. Dating recovered from this enclosure suggests that it pre-dates the Iron Age phase of the Chichester Entrenchments.

Much of the site was divided by a series of Romano-British field boundaries, forming a clear grid shaped field system. A notable entrance to these fields was identified along the western edge of the site. Additionally, numerous rubbish pits containing burnt flint and pottery were investigated within this field system, predominantly in the western half of the site. Many of these ditches, in particular those nearest the western edge of site, contained reasonably large quantities of pottery, far more than is typical from simple field boundaries. This suggests that a Romano-British settlement may have existed in the vicinity, possibly on top of the hill to the immediate west of the site.

Post-medieval activity was recorded in the form of a single north – south aligned ditch bisecting the length of the site. There was evidence that this later ditch may have followed the course of an earlier, possibly Romano-British, ditch, owing to the finds assemblage recovered. However, investigations proved inconclusive in proving this with any certainty. There was also evidence for drainage of the site in the form of a series of shallow channels running down the lower half of the hillside and presumably out onto the flood plain. No dating was recovered from these features.

#### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Sunley Estates Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological strip map and sample excavation, in particular Caroline Treadwell. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of James Kenny, who monitored the project for Chichester District Council.

# Land off Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex

# Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 **Project and planning background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sunley Estates Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation covering approximately 083 ha and an associated watching brief covering approximately 0.5 ha of land located at Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex PO18 0DT. The excavation area was centred on NGR 485990, 108171, whilst the areas of watching brief straddled Pook Lane itself (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The development comprised the provision of a replacement football pitch (Area 1) and community car parking facility (Area 2), both being conditions of planning permission SDNP/18/04918/FUL relating to the new housing development to the west, off Lavant Road (Fig. 1). Due to the development straddling the boundary between the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and Chichester District Council (CDC) it is also the subject of application number 18/03493/FUL.
- 1.1.3 The strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken across the footprint of the football pitch, and associated terracing works and excavation of drainage runs (Area 1). The archaeological watching brief was to be undertaken across the footprint of the new car park (Area 2).
- 1.1.4 A planning application (SDNP/18/04918/FUL) submitted to South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), was granted on the 12th September 2019, subject to conditions. The following condition relates to archaeology:

Condition 16. No development shall commence until a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation and the timing of the post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with Policy SD16 of the SDNPA Local Plan 2014-2033, Policy LNDP 17 of the Lavant Neighbourhood Development Plan, the NPPF and the first and second purposes of the National Park.

1.1.5 Whilst Condition 16 applies to the housing element of the development and was previously discharged through works relating to a previous application, the football pitch and community carpark represent additional impacts on the historic environment. This was addressed in consultee comments on the CDC application (18/03493/FUL), which determined the requirement for a trial trench evaluation (West Sussex Archaeology 2019). The results of this evaluation were used to inform the mitigation strategies comprising the excavation undertaken across Area 1 and the watching brief within Area 2.



- 1.1.6 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork it was determined that the works to be undertaken in order to construct the community car park were to be of minimal impact, and late in the construction programme. To date the watching brief element is yet to be carried out.
- 1.1.7 The excavation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works, which had included an archaeological desk-based assessment (West Sussex Archaeology 2018) and archaeological evaluation (West Sussex Archaeology 2019) which identified evidence for Romano-British field systems and results suggesting that the western boundary of the site did not comprise one of the Chichester Entrenchments, but a ditch more likely associated with a medieval deer pale.
- 1.1.8 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The Archaeological Officer for CDC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The fieldwork was carried out between the 28th February and 25th March 2020.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, and the preceding evaluation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site is located on the south-eastern edge of Mid Lavant, immediately north of Raughmere Farm, and south of Lavant Memorial Hall. It lies on the western bank of the River Lavant with existing ground levels recorded as approximately 30 m above Ordnance Datum. The landscape slopes gently towards the river in the east (approximately 100 m from the site).
- 1.3.2 The northern boundary of Area 1 is formed by Pook Lane, which also comprises the southern boundary of Area 2. Both areas consisted of arable land, with Area 2 located within the South Downs National Park.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk overlain with alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) (British Geological Viewer 2021). The preceding evaluation (West Sussex Archaeology 2019) recorded the underlying geology as "*Chalk, overlain with Head deposits, here trending to gravel and weathered chalk, the latter being exposed only at the eastern edge of the site*". Natural geology was recorded at depths of 0.2 m below ground level (bgl) along the western edge of the site, and 0.5 m bgl down slope along the eastern edge. This was confirmed by the excavation and watching brief.

# 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

# 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Heritage Statement (West Sussex Archaeology 2018), which sets out the heritage background and impact of the works for the proposed development. A summary of the results relating to the



archaeological background is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Chichester District Council (CDC) Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.1.2 The site abuts the southern edge of the Mid and East Lavant Conservaton Area.

### 2.2 Previous works related to the development

Evaluation for the housing development (Wessex Archaeology 2003)

2.2.1 A total of eight trenches measuring 30 m in length were excavated and investigated across the site of the new housing development for which the proposed football pitch is a planning condition. Five additional trenches were excavated and recorded to the north of the development, where Sheepwash Lane connects to Lavant Road. Two post-medieval ditches were identified, one in each area, with no further archaeology revealed. Due to the largely negative results of the works, no further mitigation was required (Kenny 2019).

#### Evaluation for new football pitch and car park (West Sussex Archaeology 2019)

- 2.2.2 During the evaluation undertaken across the sites of the proposed football pitch and community carpark, a significant number of features dating to the Late Iron Age Romano-British period were revealed. The comprised ditches and gullies, with a notable concentration within the central and eastern extent of the site.
- 2.2.3 Little evidence for activity during other periods was identified, with the exception of a Roman coin of 4th century date and a post-medieval ditch or trackway. Of particular interest was the ditch of the east-west Chichester Entrenchment E-Wa(ii) (NHLE 1005877; HER 2484) which was found to continue beyond the eastern extent of the surviving bank but appeared terminate short of Pook Lane. No evidence for a ditch fronting the north-south Entrenchment N-S1 (NHLE 1005860; HER 4001) was observed, lending weight to the postulation that the bank is likely to pertain to a medieval deer park pale, rather than an Iron Age or Romano-British feature.

#### 2.3 Heritage Assets

- 2.3.1 The site lies at the junction of two of the Chichester Entrenchments, both of which are Scheduled Monuments. The watching brief area was situated at the east end of the Devils Ditch, classified by Williams-Freeman as E-Wa(ii) (NHLE 1005877; HER 2484) (Williams-Freeman 1934). The western boundary of the football pitch field is bordered by the surviving bank of a north-south running entrenchment, classified by Williams-Freeman as N-S1 (NHLE 1005860; HER 4001). An additional mutilated stretch of the bank of EWa(ii) has been identified extending to meet Pook Lane to the east, beyond the northern limit of N-S1, although there is some uncertainty over its nature, and it has not been Scheduled.
- 2.3.2 The Chichester Entrenchments are thought to be Late Iron Age or early Roman boundary features consisting of a substantial bank and ditch. It is unclear what their exact function might have been, although it has been suggested that they define an area of more intensive settlement along the coastal plain to the south. There is, however, possible evidence that NS1 is a later adaption, possibly associated with the creation of medieval deer parks. Indeed, the results of the West Sussex Archaeology 2019 evaluation indicates that E-WA(ii) to the west of the site is not, in fact, a part of the Entrenchments (West Sussex Archaeology 2019).



# 2.4 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.4.1 As discussed in the Heritage Statement (West Sussex Archaeology 2018), a search of the HER within a 1 km radius of the site returned few results, those available concerning the investigations detailed above (section 2.2). A number of listed buildings were identified within the vicinity of the site, including the 18th century farmhouse and associated farm buildings of Raughmere Farmhouse to the south (NHLE 1321566; 1026313) and many flanking the A286.
- 2.4.2 Ordnance Survey mapping dating to the 19th and 20th century shows both Area 1 and Area 2 as agricultural fields from at least 1805. The current playing field appears to have been formed within the western extent of Area 2 in the 1960s. A study of aerial photographs as part of the 'High Woods from above' National Mapping Programme identified no features additional to the known entrenchments. This was believed to have been largely due to the change in geology from chalk to chalk overlain by head deposits, with the horizon between the two located north of the site.

#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

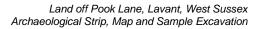
#### 3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:
  - examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
  - seek a better understanding of the resource;
  - compile a lasting record of the resource; and
  - analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.
- 3.1.2 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the Chartered institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014b), were to:
  - allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
  - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
  - guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

#### 3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) were to:

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- determine the date, nature and extent of the ditch systems identified in the evaluation;
- identify the stratigraphic relationships of the archaeological features and identify any evidence for multiple phases of activity;
- assess the archaeological features in relation to the wider landscape, looking for how they may relate to the Chichester Entrenchments and the nearby Roman road; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

#### 3.3 Watching brief objectives

- 3.3.1 In order to achieve the above aims the objectives of the watching brief, as stated within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to
  - determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
  - record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
  - place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
  - to make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

#### 4 FIELDWORK METHODS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a and 2014b). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.
- 4.1.2 The footprint of the football pitch, and associated terracing and excavation of drainage runs was subject to an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation (Area 1). The archaeological watching brief was to undertaken across the site of the proposed community car park (Area 2). However, due to the reduced impact of the groundworks for the community carpark, which consisted only of the removal of topsoil, no archaeological investigation was required.

#### 4.2 Methods

#### General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig.1**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant



supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

#### Recording

- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

# 4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

#### General

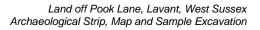
4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

#### Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 20-0050 dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020). The excavation and postexcavation processing and assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols, and undertaken in line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

# 4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Archaeological Officer for CDC monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeological Officer for CDC.





#### 5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

#### 5.1 Introduction

#### Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features or deposits, with activity appearing to be focussed further east, confirming the results of the preceding evaluation which indicated a concentration of features in the central and eastern areas. Indeed, during the excavation within Area 2, multiple phases of archaeological activity were revealed dating from the Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period, with some minor post-medieval activity also located.
- 5.1.2 Bronze Age activity comprised the presence of two inverted cremation vessels located within the immediate proximity of a single posthole. Activity was seen to continue into the Mid-Iron Age as evidenced by the presence of a circular enclosure with a small entrance and numerous internal features including a shallow ring gully of a roundhouse. Dating evidence recovered from the enclosure suggests it pre-dates the Iron Age phase of the Chichester Entrenchments. Romano-British field boundaries were found traversing the site in a clear gridded formation, indicating a largely agricultural use of the immediate area during this period. A large post-medieval ditch was also revealed bisecting the site on an approximate north-south trajectory.
- 5.1.3 No further evidence pertaining to the possible function of the nearby Chichester Entrenchments as a deer park pale was identified during the works.

#### Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.4 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

#### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The area was excavated through a dark brownish black silty clay subsoil with common flint nodule inclusions with an average thickness of 0.35 m. This was found to overlie the natural which comprised gravels within a light brown sandy silt loam. For the most part natural flint gravels were observed with more chalk present within the eastern quarter of the site.

#### 5.3 Bronze Age (Phase 1)

5.3.1 The Bronze Age activity identified was concentrated within the south-western extent of the site and comprised two pits (103 and 105) and a posthole (109) found on an approximate east – west alignment with a spacing of approximately 0.3 m (Cover, Plate 1). The largest, pit 103, measured 0.52 m in diameter and 0.26 m deep and was positioned immediate east of pit 105 and west of posthole 109. The smaller, pit 105, measured approximately 0.35 m in diameter and 0.21 m deep. Both pits contained inverted cremation urns, one collared, (107 and 108; ON 1 and 2) which upon investigation were found to contain deposits rich in fuel ash (Plates 2 – 3). Some flint inclusions were noted within the contained deposits, with those in 107 (ON 1) appearing burnt, but neither vessel contained any human bone, burnt or otherwise. It is considered likely that these represent 'cenotaph' memorials rather than formal burials.



- 5.3.2 Following the deposition of the urns, the pits appear to have been backfilled with a dark silty clay (104 and 106). Containing lumps of clay and quantities of charcoal, the deposit is believed to represent redeposited natural with material from within the urns having spilled during burial. Bioturbation, such as rooting and worm action, is also likely to have accounted for the movement of some material.
- 5.3.3 The posthole (109), located to the east of the pits, was isolated with other features in particular proximity comprising a tree throw hole (117) and a pit-like feature (145) of unknown date and function (**Fig. 2**). Posthole 109 was approximately circular in plan with a diameter of approximately 0.34 m and contained a single deposit (110). This clayey silt deposit appeared yellowish brown and contained burnt flint. Although not intrinsically datable, burnt flint is typically associated with prehistoric activity and given the proximity to the cremation vessels, the fabric and form of which denote a Bronze Age origin, it is likely the features are associated. The posthole was not found to contain a post-pipe, though some sub angular flint inclusions within deposit 110 may relate to post-packing material (**Plate 1**). Given the location of the feature it is thought this represents the presence of a marker for the memorials.

# 5.4 Iron Age (Phase 2)

- 5.4.1 A circular enclosure with a small entrance within the south-east was identified within the northern half of the site (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 4). The feature (Group 250), which appeared to silt up naturally with occasional localised dumping events, was found to enclose numerous pits and postholes in addition to a shallow ring gully (214, 238, 240). The dumped deposits (198, 225) had a higher concentration of organic material noted within them and contained occupational debris such as pottery, animal bone and burnt/heat affected flint (Fig. 3). Indeed, large quantities of occupational debris were noted across the majority of excavated slots, a number of which appeared to contain fills suggestive of a bank or burnt mound on the inner edge of the ditch. Tertiary fills were also present, with some appearing to represent bank material having been ploughed out and come to fill natural hollows within the feature. The ditch itself varied in form with either concave or straight sides recorded and became noticeably wider within the west. This is likely due to the presence of the trackway and ditch (2202 and 2204) which appear to have been truncated by the enclosure.
- 5.4.2 The ring gully (214, 238, 240) located within the southern extent of the enclosure, appeared truncated within the west, surviving only as ephemeral staining in places (**Plate 5**). Indeed, the remains appeared more extant in the southernmost slot (240) which measured 0.22 m in depth. The single fill present in each slot (215, 241) is indicative of the natural silting of the gully through erosion of the surrounding landscape. Dating of the assemblage suggests a broad prehistoric date, largely due to heavy abrasion of the recovered sherds. It is noted that whilst a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the feature, a general lack of similar dated material from the same gully suggests this was intrusive.
- 5.4.3 The section of gully through which slot 238 was excavated appears slightly misaligned with the remainder (214, 240; **Fig. 2**). It remains unclear whether this represents the remains of another phase of occupation or simply represents an off-set entrance in order to minimise any wind tunnelling into the interior. This is largely due to a lack of datable evidence.
- 5.4.4 Within the central area of the ring gully, a posthole (248) measuring 0.61 m in length and 0.45 m in width was revealed. Although no post-pipe was evident, the silty clay loam deposit (249) contained a notable concentration of pebbles and cobbles, most likely reflecting post-packing material. The location of the posthole in proximity to the ring gully suggests the features are contemporary. This, combined with the form of the ring gully and presence of



other internal features similar to posthole 248 (**Fig. 2**), is consistent with the presence of a roundhouse with internal supports.

#### 5.5 Romano-British (Phase 3)

Ditches

- 5.5.1 A series of Romano-British field systems were identified traversing the site (Plates 6 9). Stratigraphic evidence suggests at least two phases of land division during the period, though the finds assemblage is more broadly dated to the general Romano-British period. As such where stratigraphic relationships were unclear during excavation, sub-phasing for some features was unable to be undertaken (Fig. 2).
- 5.5.2 Although field boundaries 131/137/186/221, 158 and 125 have not been able to be phased within the Romano-British period based on excavation records, finds assemblages indicate that the former (131/137/186/221) truncated the Iron Age enclosure. Positioned on an approximate east-west alignment, ditch 125 in the south of the site runs parallel to 131/137/186/221, with ditch 158 in the east aligned perpendicularly, on an approximate north-south trajectory (**Fig. 2**). Thus, forming a clear gridded system suggesting the ditches are contemporary.
- 5.5.3 Ditch 170, although truncated with partial remains being evident, was also found to contain quantities of Roman pottery and was orientated approximately east-west, suggesting this may also represent a part of this field system. However, due to the limited size of the remains encountered assumptions have been made regarding the function of the feature.
- 5.5.4 Within the western extent of the site field boundaries and/or drainage ditches pertaining to the Romano-British period can be divided into at least two phases. The earlier (Phase 3a), comprising ditch 132/134/176/188, was seen to be orientated on a north-east south-west alignment, suggesting it differed from that described above. This was found to be truncated by ditches 123/190 and 178/111/194 (**Plate 8**). The two later ditches appeared on slightly varying alignments which may indicate further phases of activity.
- 5.5.5 Contrastingly the relationship between 178/111/194 and 139/192 is more tentative. Positioned perpendicular to each other and with an unclear relationship during investigations undertaken at their junction, it is likely the two are contemporary with both being attributed to the later phase of Romano-British land division (Phase 3b) (**Plate 9**).
- 5.5.6 Typically, the ditches were comprised of straight sides and flat bases, with occasional occurrences of concave sides or bases. The depths of the features varied from 0.2 m to 0.74 m and widths from 0.40 m to 1.96 m. Fill sequences within the investigated slots are consistent with the natural silting of the ditches with quantities of pottery possibly indicating localised dumping of domestic rubbish.
- 5.5.7 A single ditch bisecting the site in a north-south direction was also identified during the works (**Plate 10**). This is believed to comprise the same feature as ditch 7 within Trench 6 of the evaluation (West Sussex Archaeology 2019) which determined the ditch to be of post-medieval date due to roof tile and brick found dating to the period. During the excavation, however, Roman pottery was recovered from the secondary and basal fills suggesting an earlier origin, however no further conclusions regarding phasing can be made. The ditch measuring 2.30 m in width and 0.45 m in depth is believed to have functioned as a boundary ditch with its fill sequence suggesting the natural infilling of the feature through erosion of the surrounding landscape over time.

### Pits

- 5.5.8 Concentrated within the western area of the site, a cluster of pits (115, 119, 121 and 181) was revealed. These contained single deposits with significant quantities of charcoal and heat affected flint was present within pits 119 and 181 (**Plate 11**). Roman pottery was recovered from all pits with the exception of 121, believed to be contemporary due to its proximity and similar form to the rest of the cluster. Abraded prehistoric pottery was also recovered from pit 115, though given the remainder of the assemblage and the presence of earlier activity across the site, this is thought to have been intrusive, possibly a result of becoming mixed up in the original dump of material. As with the finds assemblage recovered from the ditches, the pottery was generic of the Romano-British period, with no discernible attributes to provide a more accurate date range.
- 5.5.9 Pits 115, 119 and 181 are believed to represent fire pits, either having been used as ovens or for the disposal of hearth material during the Roman period. Fragments of quern stone were also recovered from pit 121. The presence of such domestic waste and burning activity is indicative of a nearby settlement dating to the period.

#### 5.6 Uncertain

- 5.6.1 A ditch (204) and trackway (202) traversed the north-western corner of the site on a north-west south-east alignment (**Plate 12**). Neither contained any dating evidence, though burnt flint was recovered from the single deposit of natural derivation within ditch 202. Trackway 204, which comprised irregular sides and base was found to vary in depth between 0.05 m and 0.26 m and was also filled with a single deposit (205). Appearing relatively mixed, with inclusions of redeposited natural suggested, 205 represents the natural silting of the trackway over its period of use, with movement attributing to the erosion of the natural and surrounding land surface. The lack of apparent relationship between 202 and 204 may be due to their being contemporary, with the ditch forming a boundary to the track. A notion furthered given the features appearing on the same trajectory. Whilst the precise relationship between 202 and 204 remains putative, the Iron Age enclosure (250) was observed as truncating ditch 202 in plan. As such, although the precise origin and period of use of the feature remains unclear, the ditch and trackway predate the phase of occupation associated with the enclosure, determined by pottery to be mid-Iron Age.
- 5.6.2 The partial remains of a second ring gully (164) were revealed within the north-western extent of the Iron Age enclosure (250). The curvilinear appeared to be cut by a pit (162) of uncertain date and function, resulting in the inability to determine whether the gully terminated or was truncated at its western extent. Given the depth of the feature measured 0.12 m, and the recording of truncation within the south of the enclosure, the latter remains a possibility. No dating evidence was present within the single deposit contained within the gully, which appeared to be of natural derivation. The precise function of the feature remains inconclusive, though it may pertain to a second roundhouse or similar.
- 5.6.3 A cluster of pits and postholes to the east of the ring ditch are largely undated due to a scarcity of finds. However, their location may indicate an association with the ring ditch (164). Of the nine features, two are of particular interest. Pits 155 and 168 were found to contain dumped deposits consistent with the disposal of feasting and/or fire pit debris, appearing particularly dark with high organic content. The features, with straight steep sides and measuring between 0.70 m and 0.90 m in diameter, produced animal bone and burnt flint was recovered from deposit 169. Whilst the base of pit 168 could not be reached due to the presence of the water table, that of pit 155 was revealed prior to subsequent flooding (**Plate 13**). Pit 155 contained a second, more mixed deposit believed to have derived during the deposition of the material as the cut edges were knocked and eroded slightly as a result.

Their proximity and similarity suggest these features were contemporary and, despite a lack of dating evidence, the presence of burnt flint implies a prehistoric date.

- 5.6.4 Although the precise origin of the pit cluster and partial ring ditch remains unknown, their position within the Iron Age enclosure would suggest they are related to activity dating to the period. Given that the relationship between the ring ditch (164) and ditch 166, also of uncertain date is unclear due to the inability to fully establish a relationship, further conclusions regarding the phasing of this area cannot be fully ascertained without further investigation.
- 5.6.5 Two linear features of uncertain date and function were identified during the investigation. Within the east linear feature 242 was positioned immediately south of a natural feature believed to have originated through the channelling of water, possibly from the River Lavant to the east. It is possible that linear 242 is of similar origin with the fill sequence consistent with natural silting through water percolation and other natural processes. However, deposit 244 present along the southern edge of the feature may reflect the presence of an associated bank. Burnt flint recovered from uppermost fill 245 is thought to have been residual, having been moved downslope during seasonal flooding events. Animal bone was and burnt flint was also recovered from underlying deposit 243.
- 5.6.6 Similarly feature 150 is of uncertain origin. Comprising a shallow (0.15 m deep) flat bottomed linear aligned east-west, it contained a single deposit (149) of natural derivation which produced no artefacts.
- 5.6.7 Within the south of the site linear feature 147 comprised a flat base with concave sides, at variants to many of the surrounding ditches, and contained a single deposit believed to derive from the erosion and/or ploughing of the surrounding land surface (**Plate 14**). No archaeological components were observed within the deposit. The feature measuring 1.54 m in width though only 0.22 m in depth. Whilst it is possible that the feature represents more recent agricultural activity, the lack of additional features pertaining to such activity is noticeable.

# 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

#### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Finds amounting to 54.9 kg were recovered from the works. The assemblage is primarily of Romano-British date, with small amounts of Mesolithic/Early Bronze Age, later Bronze Age and Iron Age dated material also recorded. The finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone	374	1070
Burnt flint	876	23,743
CBM	8	366
Fired clay	25	262
Flint	25	342
Iron	3	13
Pottery		
Prehistoric	272	6043

Table 1	Finds	totals	bv	material type
	1 11/00	totalo	~ ,	matorial type

11



Romano-British	778	10,335
Sub-total	1101	17,282
Slag	11	400
Stone	7	11,493
Grand Total	2267	55,497

- 6.1.2 A total of 1101 sherds of pottery, weighing 17,282 g, was recovered from 38 deposits at Pook Lane, all by hand-excavation. The assemblage comprises pottery of prehistoric (272 sherds) and Romano-British (778 sherds) date (Table 2). The condition ranges from fair to good, although the prehistoric sherds tend to be smaller and have suffered higher levels of surface and edge abrasion. Abraded slips are seen on some Romano-British sherds. The mean sherd weight overall is 12.74 g, rising to 13.3 g for the Romano-British material. This in part reflects the more fragmentary nature of the earlier assemblage but also that the Romano-British assemblage contains some large, thick-walled amphorae sherds.
- 6.1.3 The majority of sherds (75% by sherd count) were recovered from ditch and gully features, including terminal fills and ring ditches/gullies. A further 20% were derived from two pits (103 and 105). The remaining 5% of sherds were recovered from tree throw 127 and uncategorised features 116, 119 and 226.
- 6.1.4 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by broad ware group (e.g. flint-tempered wares, grog-tempered wares) in each context. Note has been made of identifiable forms, referring to national and regional typologies where appropriate, and EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents) have been recorded. Decoration, surface treatment and other salient features have also been noted. The data is held in a digital database which will form part of the permanent archive. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record', aimed at rapidly characterising an assemblage, and providing a comparative dataset (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5). Table 2 gives the breakdown of the assemblage by ware type.

		Total	Total Weight
Period	Fabric	Sherds	(g)
Bronze Age	Flint-tempered ware	219	5536
	Sandy wares	2	5
	Bronze Age sub-total	221	5541
Iron Age	Fine flint-tempered ware	1	43
	Flint-tempered ware	40	855
	Grog-tempered ware	2	6
	Iron Age sub-total	43	904
Prehistoric,	Fine flint and sand	30	117
unspecified	Fine flint-tempered ware	5	30
	Flint and grog-tempered	4	37
	Flint-tempered ware	12	232
	Grog-tempered ware	6	59
	Sandy ware	2	27
	Prehistoric sub-total	59	502

Table 2	Pottery totals by ware type
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Romano-British	Amphorae	59	1630
	Black-burnished ware	16	205
	Fine oxidised ware	2	10
	Fine whiteware	9	27
	Greyware	311	3704
	Grog-tempered ware	2	14
	Micaceous greyware	1	32
	Oxidised ware	32	155
	Reduced sandy ware	290	3431
	Rowlands Castle sandy ware	46	1028
	Samian	4	37
	Terra rubra	2	9
	Whiteware	4	53
	Romano-British sub-total	778	10335
	Grand Total	1101	17282

# The Bronze Age

- 6.1.5 The earliest dated material was recovered from pits 103 and 105. The sherd counts for these vessels are inflated due to fresh breaks.
- 6.1.6 Two vessels were block-lifted from pit 103, both occurring in flint-tempered wares. One (ON 1; 78 sherds, 3503 g) is a bucket-shaped vessel with slightly out-turned and rounded rim. An applied cordon, pronounced and horizontal, is located on the upper zone, decorated with fingertip impressions. The vessel was deposited inverted and the base had fallen in to the cavity. Truncation, probably by plough activity, has removed the lower portions of the body. The second vessel (23 sherds, 1039 g) is also bucket-shaped, with an upright, flat-topped rim and a shallow horizontal applied cordon on the upper zone. No cremated human remains were found in the fill. Applied decorated girth cordons are common in assemblages from Sussex (Seager Thomas 2008) and beyond. Bucket-shaped vessels with decorated cordons are known from settlement sites, such as Lidsey, West Sussex (Raymond 2014), and cremation cemeteries, for example at Locks Heath, Southampton (McSloy 2016).
- 6.1.7 Pit 105 contained body sherds from a flint-tempered vessel with possible cordon (ON 2; 105 sherds, 972 g). Thirteen body sherds from a second flint-tempered vessel, as well as two sherds in a sandy ware, were also recovered. Flint was the dominant tempering material throughout the Middle and Late Bronze Age, but the vessel is too fragmentary date more tightly than to the later Bronze Age period, *c.* 1700-800 cal. BC (Seager Thomas 2008, table 1).

# Iron Age

6.1.8 A small amount of Iron Age pottery (43 sherds), occurring in fine flint-tempered fabrics, was recovered from ditch 250. Two vessels are present, a jar with a bead rim from fill 152 and a probable bowl with a plain rim from fill 174. Both are burnished externally and decorated with a band of repeating arcs beneath a border on the neck. A parallel for the bowl can be seen from Frilford, Oxfordshire, dated from the 1st century BC to 1st century AD (Cunliffe 2010, fig A:25, 10).

#### Prehistoric

6.1.9 The remaining sherds (59) can only be broadly dated based on fabric inclusions due to a lack of identifiable forms. Fabrics are predominantly flint-tempered wares, with small quantities of other wares (Table 2). Only two vessel forms were identified: an ovoid jar from ditch 250 and an everted rim jar from uncategorised deposit 226. Both are likely to be Iron Age in date.

#### Romano-British

- 6.1.10 Pottery of Romano-British date amounted to 778 sherds and was recovered from 31 deposits. Of these, seven contained greater than 35 sherds with large groups (90+ sherds) recovered from ditches 111, 158 and 250. Half of the deposits (17) contained 10 sherds or fewer.
- 6.1.11 The imported wares derived from six ditch fills and comprise 59 sherds of amphorae, four of samian ware and two of *terra rubra*. The two sherds of *terra rubra* are the earliest imports, of AD 40 to 80 date. Found in ditch 111, the body sherds have incised lattice decoration and are likely to derive from a beaker. The amphorae are all body sherds of probable Baetican (Spanish) source and broadly dateable from the mid 1st to mid 3rd century AD. Identifiable samian forms are of 1st to mid-2nd century date; they include a dish/bowl (form 18/31, ditch 182) and one probable cup (form 27), both recovered from ditch 182.
- 6.1.12 Locally-produced coarsewares dominate the Romano-British assemblage. The most numerous are greywares, totalling 46% of the group; they include 46 sherds identifiable as Rowland's Castle ware. The other greywares are likely to include products from other production sites in Sussex and Hampshire such as Shedfield, Wickham and Alice Holt/Farnham; these kilns were generally active throughout the Romano-British period. Forms include beakers (two), dishes (three) and jars (minimum 15). Amongst the Rowland's Castle wares, jars are represented, including a thumbed body sherd of Dicks (2009) type D4, of mid 1st to 3rd century AD (ditch 131) and a jar from ditch 221 with a 'batch-mark' under the rim formed of three vertical bars and one diagonal cross-bar which was incised prior to firing. The latter is broadly of 2nd to 3rd century AD date, although an earlier date is possible (Dicks 2009, 61, type D2:3). Other reduced sandy wares amount to 37% of the group, although some cross-over with the greywares is to be expected. Forms are mostly jars, amounting to a minimum of 21, with one flat-topped bowl from ditch 131. A number of vessels are possible local imitations of South-east Dorset Black-burnished wares, which amount to 2% of the group. Small numbers of grog-tempered, oxidised and white ware fabrics make up the remainder of the assemblage; they are also likely to have local production centres. They include two body internally-thumbed sherds of overfired Rowland's Castle ware. A body sherd from a whiteware flagon was recovered from ditch 139.

#### Summary

6.1.13 The assemblage recovered from Pook Lane is in keeping with other assemblages from the Lavant and wider area and can contribute to the understanding of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British occupation. Two main phases of activity are apparent, one in the Middle Bonze Age and one in the later Iron Age through to the Romano-British period. Products are generally local, with some access to continental imports, no doubt through Chichester harbour/Fishbourne port.

#### 6.2 Fired Clay

6.2.1 A small group of fired clay, totalling 25 items, was recovered from five deposits. Most are amorphous and undiagnostic, with only suggestions of original surfaces surviving. One item,



from ditch 250, is tubular and probably a bead, possibly of Iron Age date. It measures 31 mm in length and 14 mm at the widest point, with a central perforation of 5 mm.

#### 6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 Eight fragments of ceramic building material were recorded, all of Romano-British date. Seven derive from ditch 158, including a box flue tile, two plain, flat tile fragments and two that may derive from tiles or bricks. A *tegula* fragment (flanged roof tile) came from ditch 131.

#### 6.4 Metalwork

6.4.1 Three iron items were recovered, although none are dateable. One, from ditch 158, is a nail fragment; the other two, recovered from ditches 111 and 250, are undiagnostic.

#### 6.5 Slag

6.5.1 A small amount (11 pieces, weighing 400 g) of undiagnostic ironworking slag was recovered from five deposits – ditches 123, 194, 212 and 225, and ring-ditch 223.

#### 6.6 Stone

6.6.1 Seven items of worked stone were recovered from five deposits. All are greensand quern fragments, likely to have been sourced from Lodsworth, West Sussex, and of Romano-British date. One (ON 3), recovered from deposit 116, shows characteristic fossil worm burrows (Peacock 1987, 61). A complete, probably upper, stone (ON 4) was recovered from topsoil deposit 101; the remaining items are fragmentary.

#### 6.7 Flint

- 6.7.1 A small collection, comprising 24 pieces of worked flint, was recovered from 12 contexts during the fieldwork project. Most of the material (19 pieces) was recovered from 10 ditch sections, which indicates that in all probably these artefacts were residual and entered the ditches long after they were made. This part of the collection includes a single platform blade/let core (ON 5) and an undiagnostic end scraper. The remaining material comprises three artefacts, including a broken blade, from pit 103 and two undiagnostic pieces from tree throw 117. The assemblage is dominated by 16 waste trimming flakes, none of which are diagnostic. Many show traces of post depositional edge damage, which confirms that they were unlikely to have been found at their place of manufacture or in a primary location.
- 6.7.2 Very few of the individual artefacts can be dated; however, the blade/let core from ditch 182 is sufficiently distinctive to be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. This makes it the oldest object from the fieldwork and indicates human presence at an early date. Pit 104 may also be of Neolithic date although this is by no means certain. The collection from this feature contains very few pieces, although the inclusion of a broken blade may be suggestive. These isolated objects and features provide no more than a hint of the earliest activity on the site. The bulk of the collection remains undiagnostic, which is likely to date to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.
- 6.7.3 Burnt flint amounting to 876 fragments (23, 743g) was recovered from 37 deposits. Burnt flint cannot be intrinsically dated, but it is generally associated with prehistoric activity and has many uses, including heating water and for use in pottery manufacture.

# 6.8 Animal Bone

6.8.1 A total of 374 fragments (1070 g) of animal bone came from several ditches of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date and two undated pits, likely to be broadly contemporary with the main phase of activity. The animal bones are well preserved and show little or no sign of weathering or erosion, however since most of the bones came from ditch deposits it is likely that the assemblage includes some residual and intrusive elements. The animal bone was rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

Species	Late Iron Age/Romano-British	Undated	Total
Cattle	18	3	21
Sheep/goat	7	1	8
Pig	1	-	1
Total identified	26	4	30
Total unidentifiable	42	5	47
Overall total	78	9	87

 Table 3
 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

- 6.8.2 Most of the bones came from ditched oval enclosure 250 with smaller quantities from ditches 158 and 242. The identified fragments are dominated by cattle bones, these include two articulated groups of ankle bones (astragalus and calcaneus) from the same animal, plus several loose teeth and other post-cranial elements. Butchery marks are evident on a few of the cattle bones including several fine knife cuts across the dorsal surface of the right astragalus. Seven sheep/goat bones were also recovered from ditch deposits, they include a small group of burnt fragments from ditch 250 (slot 154). Part of a pig mandible was also recovered.
- 6.8.3 In addition, a few cattle and sheep/goat bones came from adjacent undated pits (155 and 168) in the north-east corner of the excavation area. The bones include a cattle scapula, pelvis and tibia, and a sheep/goat femur.
- 6.9 Conservation
- 6.9.1 The metal objects will require x-radiography, to provide a basic record for these inherently unstable materials and as an aid to identification. As potentially unstable material types, the metal objects are all stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity.
- 6.9.2 Future publication should draw on previous evaluation work undertaken by eternal contractors working at the site in order to provide a more complete picture of site activity and phasing.
- 6.9.3 The pottery provides the principal dating evidence for the site and is suggestive of activity from the Middle Bronze Age to Roman periods. provides a chronological framework, evidence for settlement, trade and pottery manufacturing techniques. The prehistoric pottery should be fully recorded (Barclay et al 2016, section 2.4.6 'detailed record'). The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery has been recorded to a sufficient level, although analysis of the greywares to identify specific production sites could be undertaken in order to inform further on trade in the area. A full report should be prepared characterising the assemblage, drawing on local parallels. The prehistoric vessels should be illustrated, with a selection of the roman vessels.



- 6.9.4 The fired clay group is largely amorphous and adds little to the site narrative. The bead should be illustrated and a short report, with germane parallels, produced for publication.
- 6.9.5 The ceramic building material provides dating evidence (Romano-British) and suggests a building in the vicinity, although in small quantities. No further work is recommended, with the exception of possibly a short report, and retention is not necessary.
- 6.9.6 The metalwork adds little to the dating of the site, nor the activities taking place there. No further work is recommended.
- 6.9.7 The stone should be included in future publications, with ON 4 illustrated.
- 6.9.8 The slag provides limited evidence for metalworking. A short note only is required in future publications.
- 6.9.9 The flint is suggestive of the earliest activity on site and a short report should be included in future publications. No further analysis is required and the blade should be illustrated.
- 6.9.10 The small assemblage of animal bones offers limited potential for further detailed analysis. Age, biometric and butchery data is insufficient to enhance understanding of the local livestock economy. The assemblage has been recorded to a sufficient level for archiving purposes. It has limited research potential, but within area of wider archaeological potential/significance (see WSI), therefore some intrinsic local value. No further analytic work is required but a summary of the animal bone evidence should be included as part of any future publication of the fieldwork results. This may require limited review of the associated context/dating information but would largely be based on the assessment results.

# 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

#### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Seven bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of Bronze Age and suspected Late Iron Age/Romano-British features such as pits, a potential post hole, a ditch and vessel fills and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

# 7.2 Aims and Methods

- 7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell et al. 2011).
- 7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 4 and 38 litres, and on average was around 12 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6/4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The grid method was used to split a large residue into a smaller subsample. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails or earthworm eggs



and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

### 7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of small to moderate sizes (Table 5). There were varying numbers of roots and low numbers of modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Environmental evidence comprised plant remains poorly preserved by carbonisation and moderate amounts of mature and roundwood wood charcoal.
- 7.3.2 Charred material was sparse with cereal remains present in only three samples. Ditch 154 (deposit 152) produced the highest numbers of grains including those of *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (spelt or emmer wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Also present were nutshell fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel). *Triticum* sp. (wheat) grains were present in small numbers in pit/post hole 109 (deposit 110) and pit 181 (deposit 180). Also noted in these samples were seeds of Vicieae (vetches) and *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), and hazel nutshell fragments.
- 7.3.3 The remaining four samples, from pits containing urns and the contents of these, contained charred plant remains consisting of only small numbers of hazel nutshell fragments and seeds of *Polygonum* sp. (knotgrass) but I larger amounts of mature and roundwood charcoal.

# 8 CONCLUSIONS

#### 8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The results of the investigation indicate activity dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Two Bronze Age cremation urns representing the remains of cenotaph burials and a posthole suggesting the presence of a post marker were identified within the south-west of the site, whilst Iron Age occupation, represented by roundhouse remains, was concentrated within an enclosure located within the north-east. Clusters of pits containing burnt remains were found in the vicinity though a lack of dating evidence has led to tentative conclusions regarding which phase these features belong to. Similarly a track and boundary ditch located in the north-western corner of the investigation area remain of uncertain date, though relationship slots confirmed the features (believed to be associated) to pre-date the Iron Age enclosure.
- 8.1.2 Romano-British field boundaries traversed the site in a gridded layout and were found to comprise at least two separate phases of land division. It remains uncertain whether the post-medieval boundary ditch bisecting the length of the site in a north south direction merely truncates the earlier field systems or, more likely, comprises a later ditch located in the same position as part of the earlier land division.



8.1.3 Despite the results indicating a longevity of activity, no further evidence regarding the Chichester Entrenchments or further indication that that to the west, E-Wa(ii) is not part of these features.

#### 8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The investigations were successful in identifying multiple phases of land use within the site bounds. Whilst some stratigraphic relationships remain uncertain, excavations and the resulting finds assemblage have indicated Bronze Age and Iron Age activity with at least two later phases of Romano-British land division, elements of which may have been utilised in the post-medieval period.
- 8.2.2 This activity appears to correlate and further current knowledge of the local area during these periods. Burnt material located within pits located within the Iron Age enclosure, which appears to pre-date the nearby Chichester Entrenchments, may be associated with burnt 'mounds' thought to lie adjacent to the River Lavant. The Romano-British gridded field systems are indicative of land division within proximity to the Roman road positioned xxx to the site whilst possible fire pits within the immediate proximity of these ditches also pertain to the presence of occupation within the immediate environs.
- 8.2.3 The results of the evaluation were largely corroborated, though further evidence directly pertaining to the Chichester Entrenchments, in particular that confirming that the western site boundary is not part of these features. Activity both pre and postdating the Entrenchments was identified but at this stage it remains unclear to what end knowledge surrounding the entrenchments can be furthered.
- 8.2.4 Due to the significance of the features revealed it is intended to produce a report for publication in Sussex Collections. The publication report will focus in detail on the following elements:
  - The funerary remains and their possible relation to cenotaph activity
  - The Iron Age enclosure and its contents
  - The objects (including the fragments of shale bracelet recovered in 2019)
  - Publishable elements of the 2019 evaluation, in particular the evidence confirming that the western site boundary is not part of the Chichester Entrenchments.

#### 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Novium Museum, Chichester has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **CHCDM:2020.0**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

#### 9.2 **Preparation of the archive**

#### Physical archive

9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated



archaeological material by The Novium Museum, Chichester, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
  - 11 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
  - 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

#### Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

#### 9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

#### Finds

9.3.3 The selection strategy for the finds assemblage is summarised within Table 4 below.

Material	Qty	Selection Strategy
Animal bone	374	Small assemblage with some intrinsic local value. Retain all
Burnt flint	876	Undiagnostic. Retain none
СВМ	8	Relatively small assemblage, of Romano-British date, forming very minor component of individual site assemblages. Low further research potential. Retain none.

#### Table 4 Selection strategy by material type

Fired clay	25	Amorphous and undiagnostic, no further research potential. Retain bead only
Flint	25	Small assemblage indicative of earlies activity at site. Retain all
Metalwork	3	Adds little to site dating or activities. Retain none
Pottery; Prehistoric	272	Small assemblage but provides dating evidence and relatively rare. Retain all
Pottery; Romano-British	778	Large assemblage in relatively good condition with potential for future research and analysis. Retain all
Slag	11	Small assemblage, most undiagnostic. Retain none
Stone	1	Single worked item, retain

#### Palaeoenvironmental material

- 9.3.4 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merit retention with the site archive for future access. This is a summary of proposals for a site-specific Selection Strategy made in (Appendix 2):
- 9.3.5 All analysed samples will be retained; assessed flots with extracted materials with no further research potential (this is stablished on a case by case in Appendix 2) may be discarded.
- 9.3.6 All analysed materials (charred and waterlogged plant remains, mollusca, etc) will be retained.

#### Documentary records

9.3.7 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

#### Digital data

9.3.8 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

#### 9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

#### 9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Officer for CDC



on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

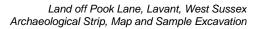
# 10 COPYRIGHT

### 10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

# **10.2** Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of *the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material





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# 

# Appendix 1 Environmental Data

Table 5 Assessment of the environmental evidence	Table 5	Assessment of the environmental evidence
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Feature Type	Feature	Context	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Sub- sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	CPR Preservation
Pit containing urn	103	104	13	100		<1%, C, E	-	-	-	с	Corylus avellana	43	Mature	-	Poor, small fragments
Vessel fill	103	107	4.5	240		<1%	-	-	-	С	Corylus avellana	105	Mature + roundwood		Poor, small frags
Pit containing urn	105	106	8	60		<1%, B, E	-	-	-	с	Corylus avellana, Polygonum sp.	35	Mature	-	Poor
Vessel fill	105	108	4	110		<1%	-	-	-	-	-	30.25	Mature	-	-
Post hole / pit	109	110	10	20		80%, B, E, I	с	-	Triticum sp.	С	Corylus avellana	2	Mature	-	Poor
Ditch	154	152	38	40	50% fine residue	50%, A, I	А	-	Triticum spelta/dicoccum, Hordeum vulgare	с	Corylus avellana	14	Mature + roundwood	-	Poor
Pit	181	180	10	60		<1%, A, E	С	-	Triticum sp.	С	Vicieae, Crataegus monogyna	42	Mature	-	Poor

Key: Scale of abundance: A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.

# Appendix 2 OASIS record

# OASIS ID: wessexar1-426464

Project details	
Project name	LAND OFF POOK LANE, LAVANT, WEST SUSSEX
Short description of the project	Pook Lane, Lavant, Sussex was an archaeological excavation located at the junction of two Chichester Entrenchments. The excavation identified multiple phases of archaeological activity dating from the Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period with some minor post-medieval activity. Of note were 2 inverted Bronze Age cremation vessels, a Mid Iron Age circular enclosure believed to be the remains of a roundhouse. Other features included field boundaries and rubbish pits. The works consisted of a strip map and record of Area 1 (for a new football pitch) and an archaeological watching brief of Area 2 (for a new carpark).
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2020 End: 25-03-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	229840 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHCDM:2020.1 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	BOUNDARY BANK Late Iron Age
Monument type	CREMATION BURIAL Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	SHERD Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	SHERD Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	STONE Roman
Methods & techniques	"'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure''','''Targeted Trenches''','''Visual Inspection'''
Development type	Car park (flat)
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>•</b> • • •	

**Project location** 



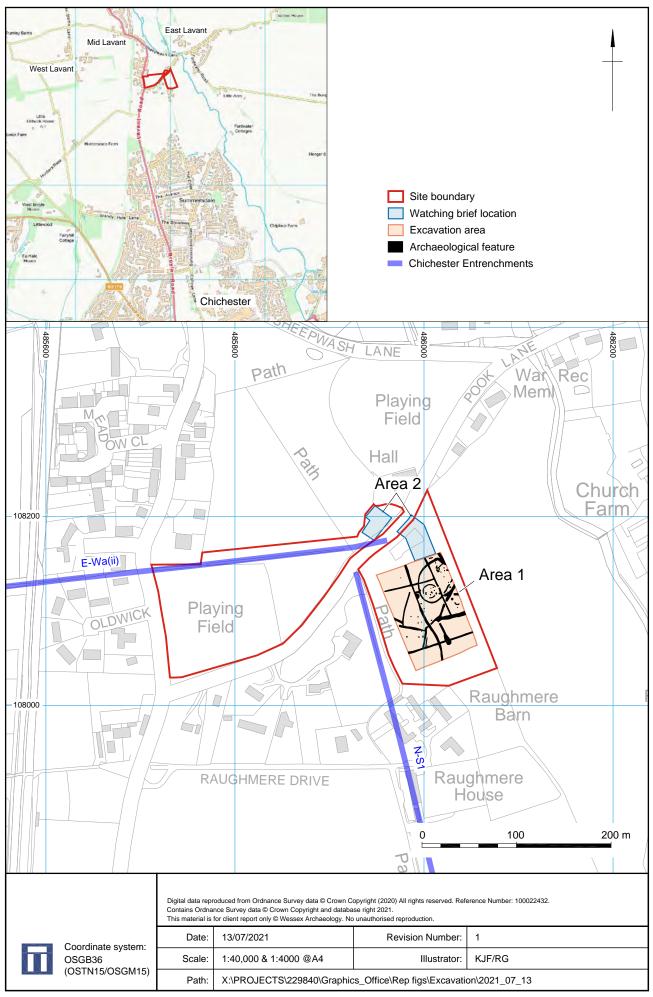
Title

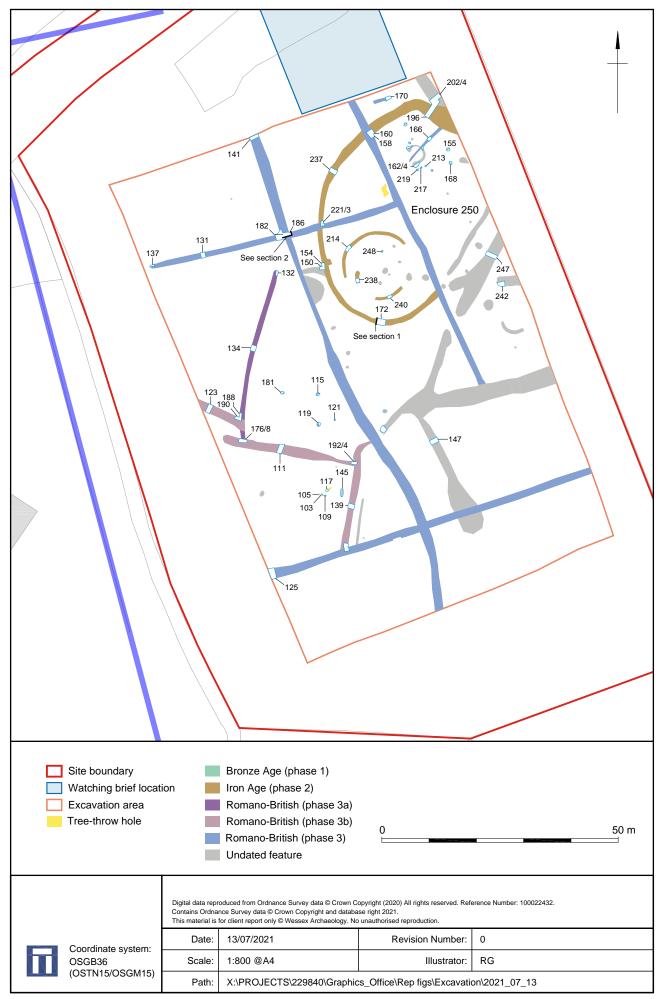
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER LAVANT Land off Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex
Postcode	PO180DT
Study area	0.83 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 85990 08171 50.866082102485 -0.777918584947 50 51 57 N 000 46 40 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Sunley Estates Ltd
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bill Moffat
Project supervisor	Jamie McCarthy
Project supervisor	Matt Kendall
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	The Novium Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHCDM:2020.1
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	The Novium Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHCDM:2020.1
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	The Novium Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHCDM:2020.1
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	

Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

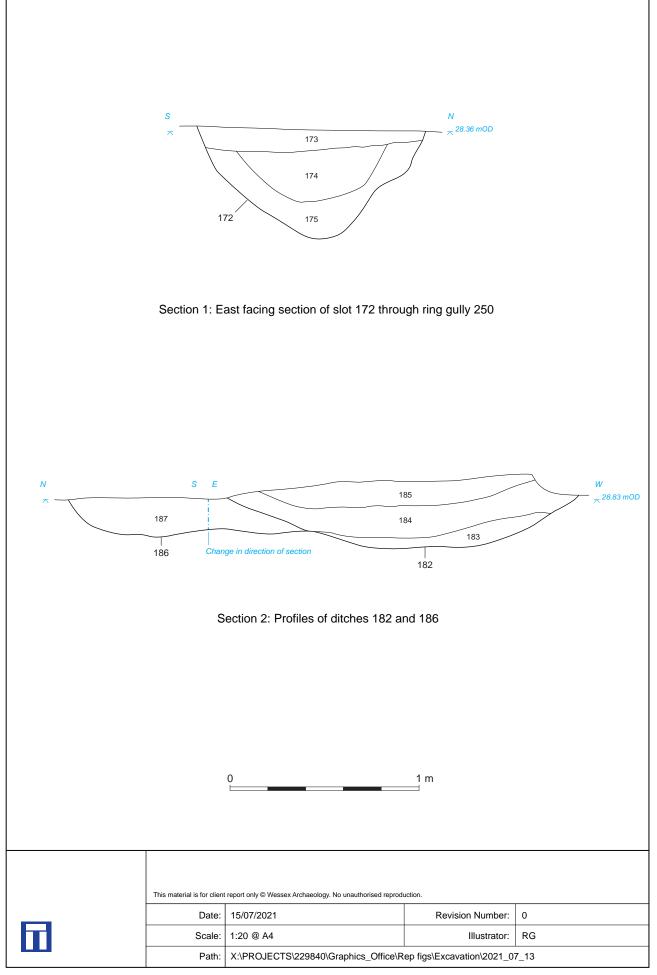


Author(s)/Editor(s)	Legg, E
Other bibliographic details	229840
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Archaeological features in Area 1



Selected sections



Plate 1: View of pits 103 and 105 with cremation urns and posthole 109 from the south (1 x 1 m scale)



Plate 2: View of cremation urn (ON 1) from the south during lab excavation  $(1 \ x \ 0.2 \ m \ scale)$ 

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Plate 3: View of cremation urn (ON 1) following lab excavation of spit 1 (1 x 0.2 m scale)



Plate 4: West facing section of ring ditch 250, slot 154, and linear feature 150 (1 x 1 m and 1 x 0.5 m scales)

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Plate 5: South facing section of posthole 217, 0.2 m scale



Plate 6: East-north-east facing section of ditch 125, 1 m scale

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Plate 7: View of ditch 137 from the north-west, 1 m and 0.2 m scales



Plate 8: South facing section of field boundaries 176 and 178 (1 x 1 m and 1 x 0.5 m scales)

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Plate 9: North facing section of field boundaries 192 and 194 (1 x 1 m and 1 x 0.5 m scales)



Plate 10: South facing section of ditch 141, 1 m and 0.5 m scales

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Plate 11: South facing section of pit 115, 0.5 m scale



Plate 12: South-east facing section of trackway 204 and ditch 202 (1 x 2 m scale)

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Plate 13: East facing section of pit 168 showing water ingress (1 x 0.5 m scale)



Plate 14: North facing section of 147 (1 x 1 m scale)

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