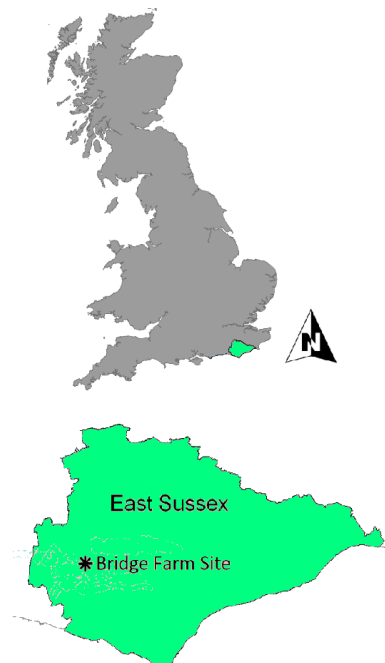


***Report on the CAP investigations of the Roman riverside  
settlement at Bridge Farm, Wellingham, East Sussex:  
TRENCH 6 (2015-2017)***

***PART 1: FIELDWORK & RESULTS  
Interim Draft – Special Reports Awaited***

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***Investigations of the Roman riverside settlement at  
Bridge Farm, Wellingham, East Sussex:  
TRENCH 6 2015-17 (CAP.BF15-17)***

***PART 1: FIELDWORK & RESULT  
Interim Draft – Specialist Reports Awaited***

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National Grid Reference (NGR): 543211 114474 (TQ 43211 14474)

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Report Date:

Report Reference: CAP.BF15-17 interim draft

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Prepared in accordance with CAP reporting procedures

Written by David Millum, MCIfA

March 2021

Approved by Robert Wallace, CAP Project Director

April 2021

*Front cover shows a photograph of a red jasper intaglio from Trench 6 (Mike Naylor 2020)*

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## ***Non-Technical Summary***

This report presents an interim assessment, prior to specialist analysis of the collected finds, of the archaeological investigations undertaken by undergraduate students and volunteers under the supervision of the Culver Archaeological Project in House Field on Bridge Farm, Wellingham (TQ 43211 14474) from 2015 to 2017. The site, designated Trench 6, was in an arable field to south of Barcombe Mills over the north east corner of the Romano-British settlement discovered adjacent to the River Ouse in 2011 (Millum, 2013). This followed on from four trenches excavated in 2013 (Millum & Wallace, 2017) and Trench 5 excavated in 2014 (Millum, 2021).

The investigations comprised surface metal detecting followed by a magnetometer survey in 2011 and a 1400sq.m open area excavation in 2015-2017. The excavation trench was located over the intersection of the road to London (Margary 14) and the double ditch enclosure observed in the geophysical surveys. It revealed that the surviving London road overlaid the backfilled enclosure ditches suggesting a 3<sup>rd</sup> century origin although pottery contained in the fills of the roadside ditches suggested that a road in this location may have been in place prior to the provision of the defences but no evidence for this earlier road was discovered. Saxon and medieval pottery suggested that the road was still utilised either for transport or as hardstanding for another use well into the medieval period. A side road branching off to the northeast was confirmed with a possible road also heading southeast to join the Arlington/Pevensay road, although this requires further investigation along the projected route before any firm decision can be reached.

Several large pits were excavated, mostly of Roman date, including a carefully dug square pit (purpose unknown) and a stone-lined well from the late-Roman period. The bottom 1.5m of the lining to the well was extant revealing its construction details with chalk blocks used below the waterline at 4.4m AOD giving way to ferruginous sandstone and flint conglomerate above the water table. A framework of oak planks averaging 250mm wide by 850mm formed a square, possibly of the 'Oxford frame' type, was still in place between 350mm and 600mm above the base of the well which was at c.3.2m AOD.

Several postholes were uncovered but no definite structure was revealed. The upper layer over the enclosure ditches was very finds-rich and included a deposit of burnt clay suggesting that either a burnt-out building or kiln/hearth of an industrial process was demolished within the vicinity

This interim report was written during the National lockdown under covid 19 restrictions which delayed the commissioning of the Specialist Analysis of the various Finds Assemblages. The full report will be completed once the specialist results are known and included in *Part 4: The Specialist Reports*. *Part 2: The Written Records* and *Part 3: The Drawn Records* are complete and available as separate documents.

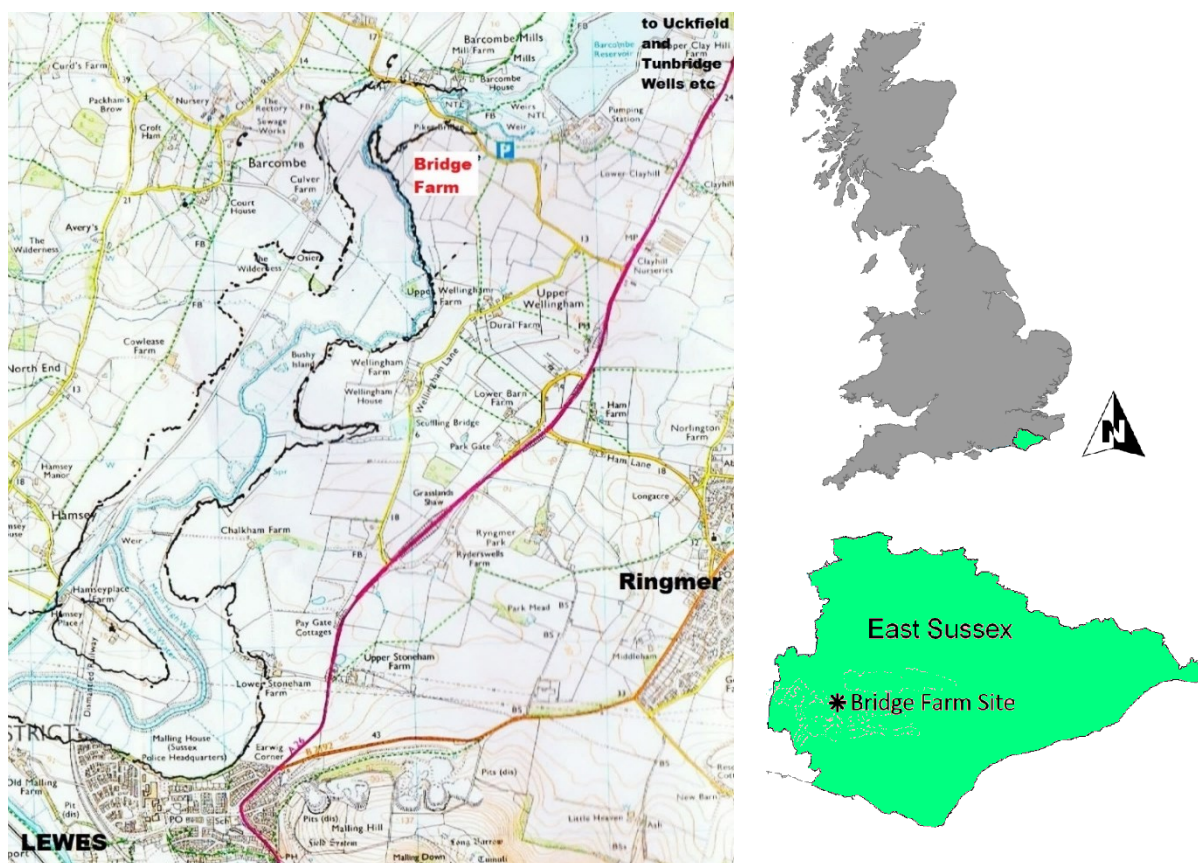
## ***Dedication***

This report is dedicated to the memory of our colleague Stuart McGregor who sadly passed away unexpectedly in October 2018 whilst this report was in preparation. Stuart was a key member of the CAP team with particular responsibility for site photography, planning and section drawing and his work and dedication will live on in the pages of this report.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Site

- 1.1.1 This report summarises the archaeological investigations carried out in House Field during 2015-17 by the Culver Archaeological Project under the direction of Robert Wallace PCIfA and David Millum MCIfA.
- 1.1.2 The site is located at Bridge Farm, on Barcombe Mills Road, Barcombe, Nr. Lewes, East Sussex (1) although parochially it falls within the Wellingham area of the parish of Ringmer. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 543211 114474 in a large arable field abutting the agricultural and light industrial buildings of Bridge Farm.



1: Location map (modern OS extracts – Crown copyright reserved)

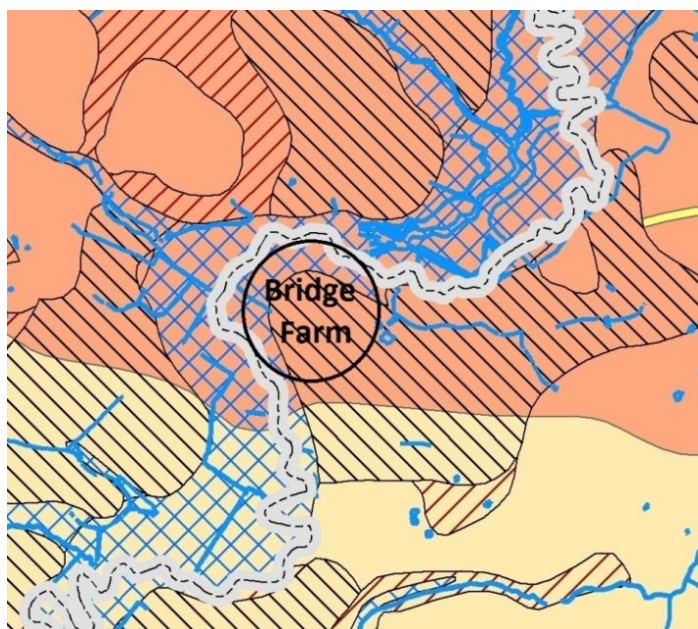
- 1.1.3 The site is over the north east corner of the defended Romano-British settlement discovered in 2011 (Millum, 2013) at the intersection of the Roman road from London (Margary 14) and the double enclosure ditch.
- 1.1.4 The southern extremities of the settlement site had been excavated with four trenches in 2013 revealing a 1st century date for the gridded road pattern and a late 2nd century date for the double enclosure ditches plus other activity continuing well into the 4th century. The results of the 2013 excavations have been reported (Wallace, 2014) and an interim paper published (Millum & Wallace, 2017). The 13 post foundations of a 3rd-4th century building, pits, ditches and hearths had been excavated in a meadow to the west of the main settlement in 2014 (Millum, 2018; Millum, 2021).
- 1.1.5 Details of other results from CAP projects can be viewed at [www.culverproject.co.uk](http://www.culverproject.co.uk).

## 1.2 The Scope of the Report

- 1.2.1 The report covers all work carried out in 2015-17 under the site codes BF15, BF16 and BF17 plus geophysical surveying in 2011, code BF11; surface metal detecting under codes HF12 & HF15; and fieldwalking collection in 2012, code BF12.
- 1.2.2 The report covers all aspects of the fieldwork undertaken in the following order:  
Non-excavation metal detecting and surface collection, Sections 5.1, 6.1 & 14.3.2  
Geophysical surveys: magnetometry in 2011 & ground penetrating radar prior to excavation, Sections 5.2, 6.2 & 15.2.  
Open area excavation in 2015-17, Sections 5.3-5.7, 6.3 & 15.3-15.4
- 1.2.3 The report discusses the data gained from the fieldwork.
- 1.2.4 The contents of this report will subsequently be reassessed as the wider project proceeds so that it can be integrated into the general body of work and the conclusions reached from the overall project results.
- 1.2.5 To facilitate the integration of this data with the wider project the Periods denoted in the report for the Bridge Farm 2013 excavation (Wallace, 2014) will be used.
- 1.2.6 These comprise: -  
Period 1A: Palaeolithic, Period 1B: Mesolithic, Period 1C: Bronze Age  
Period 2: Iron Age and Roman Republic  
Period 3: Roman AD43-70,  
Period 4: Roman 70-150,  
Period 5: Roman 150-250  
Period 6: Roman 250-410:  
    of which 6A:250-300,  
            6B:300-350,  
            6C:350-410  
Period 7: Saxon, Period 8: Medieval, Period 9: Post Medieval
- 1.2.7 To aid interpretation Period 6 will be subdivided into 6A, 6B & 6C where it is felt appropriate.
- 1.2.8 Periods where no significant features or artefacts were found will not be included in the report.

## 2 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The underlying geological structure of the site is sedimentary with the Ouse River Valley cutting through east-west bands of Lower Greensand and Weald Clay which are heavily mantled with Head and River Terrace deposits (2).



2: Solid and Drift Geology of the Culver Farm area with the Bridge Farm site shown in an area of River Terrace Deposits on Weald Clay



- 2.1.2 The site lies on the eastern bank of the Ouse floodplain, north of Lewes, which comprises deep alluvium flanked by margins of first and second terrace valley gravels. The area supports gleyic argillic brown earths of the Waterstock Association soils on the floodplain.
- 2.1.3 Interpreting the archaeology was complicated by the post depositional gleying that had taken place on site. This process occurs when fluctuating groundwater tables lead to the oxidation of the ferrous and ferric elements in the soils leading to mottling (strong brown ferruginous speckles in the soil), the formation of iron nodules, weak ferruginous encrustations and concretions and iron panning. These are post depositional processes that effect features and can easily be confused with, and mistaken for, different contexts and/or historic events.
- 2.1.4 Dr Mike Allen (Allen, 2013) reporting on the local soil structure highlighted the perpensity of the fine sands and coarse silts of the alluvial surface geology for deep and rapid pedogenesis (soil generation) with soils weathering and developing downwards into the parent material. The formation of deep topsoil over centuries of agricultural use, regular flooding and the shallow depth of the archaeology in this field had truncated, and in some instances damaged, the remaining archaeology. The low ground level of the field at c.7m AOD meant that any features extending below 4.5m AOD were likely to be permanently waterlogged and therefore retain organic remains. This probability was factored into our environmental sampling procedures.

### 3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

#### 3.1 Associated Projects

3.1.1 In the early 1990's Roman finds had been discovered at Culver Farm, Barcombe, and in 1999 a geophysical survey was carried out at Dunstalls Field on Culver Farm. The survey confirmed the existence of a Roman winged-corridor villa and other associated buildings at TQ41721418 **(3)**. In 2001 a research and training project was launched by University College London (UCL) and the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team (MSFAT). In 2005 UCL left the project and the University of Sussex, Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) became joint organisers with MSFAT. Excavation of the site continued until 2007 under the direction of Dr David Rudling and Chris Butler MCIFA (Rudling, 2016).



*3: Illustration of how the Barcombe Villa complex may have looked at its zenith*

3.1.2 In 2004 a ground penetrating radar survey was carried out in Church Field, an adjacent field located to the SE of the villa site. The survey revealed another building at TQ41861419. Excavation between 2008 and 2012 by CCE and MSFAT proved this to be a detached multi-phased bathhouse of unusually large proportions for a rural estate.

3.1.3 From 2005 the Culver Archaeological Project (CAP), under founding director Robert Wallace, was investigating the wider historical landscape around the villa complex; discovering a substantial Roman road and instigating an extensive programme of geophysical surveys, systematic field walking, evaluation trenching and open area excavation along the road's corridor, to the west of the River Ouse at Culver and Cowlease Farms, Barcombe (Millum & Wallace, 2012; Millum, 2014). This work identified several new sites of roadside activity, including industrial sites from the Roman period. Research by CAP has also revealed prehistoric activity within the surrounding area, including several instances from the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) activity, one of which in an area known as The Wilderness produced an oak stake which has been radiocarbon dated to 3340+/-40 BP which calibrates to 1680-1530 cal BC representing one of the earliest waterlogged sites discovered in Sussex (Allen, 2010).

3.1.4 A geophysical survey in 2011 at Bridge Farm on the east bank of the River Ouse to locate the known Roman road from London (Margary, 1933) revealed an unknown Romano-British settlement enclosed with double ditched defences (Millum, 2013).



3.1.5 The southern extremities of this settlement were excavated by CAP in 2013, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by the appointed contractor, AOC Archaeology. The four trenches excavated **(4)** established that the settlement was founded in the second half of the 1st century AD with the earthwork defences added in the late 2nd and further activity continuing through the 4th. Roads, ditches, pits and other features suggesting light industrial activity were revealed (Wallace, 2014; Millum, 2018; Millum & Wallace, 2017). The 13 post foundations of a 3rd-4th century building, pits, ditches and hearths were excavated in a meadow to the west of the main settlement in Trench 5 in 2014 **(4)** (Millum, 2018; Millum, 2021).



4: Geophysical survey image from 2011 showing the 2013, 2014 and 2015-17 trenches

### 3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations on the Site

3.2.1 Checks on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record and the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* revealed that a small evaluation trench (Section 14) had been dug in 1932/33 by I. D. Margary to establish the route of the road from London (Margary 14) but this investigation had not revealed the surrounding settlement. The report on this evaluation (Margary, 1933) includes an Ordnance Survey map extract showing the location of the trench (p.26), a section drawing and a description of what was found (pp39-41). Trench 6 was located just to the north of Margary's Section 14.



### 3.3 Desk Based Research

- 3.3.1 A check of old maps revealed that on both the Estate Map of William Newton in 1767 and the 1841 tithe map the field boundaries are largely consistent with those of Bridge Farm today.
- 3.3.2 Journal research revealed the paper in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 74, 16-43, entitled 'A new Roman road to the coast' by Ivan Margary (1933).

## 4 *Scope of Aims and Fieldworks*

### 4.1 Scope of Fieldworks

- 4.1.1 Following the pre-project metal detecting and the results of geophysical surveys in 2011 an open area trench of 1400sq.m was opened over the intersection of the enclosure ditches and the road **(4 & 6)**. The excavation of this area commenced on 10th June 2015 and was completed on 28th August 2017. Once the excavation was complete the site was back filled and returned to the land owner.
- 4.1.2 The excavation was directed by Robert Wallace PCIfA and David Millum ACIfA as part of the wider CAP investigations of the area.

### 4.2 **Original Research Aims** (Millum, 2015)

- 4.2.1 To establish the nature, date, purpose and state of preservation of the buried features interpreted from the results of the geophysical surveys by targeted excavation
- 4.2.2 To allow an informed assessment of the archaeological potential of the surrounding area.
- 4.2.3 To promote a greater understanding of the historic landscape.
- 4.2.4 To formulate a prioritised policy for further investigation of the site including more invasive and destructive methods where considered appropriate.
- 4.2.5 To actively encourage the involvement of the local community in investigating and understanding their historic environment.
- 4.2.6 To offer opportunities for volunteers and students of all levels to gain practical experience of archaeological field practice in all aspects of the methodology employed on the site during the surveying, excavation and post-excavation stages.
- 4.2.7 To accumulate sufficient data to produce an informed report of the archaeology of the site for both archival and publication purposes.

## 5 *Summary of Fieldworks*

### 5.1 Non-excavation metal detecting (HF12-15 formerly DC1, 6 & 8)

- 5.1.1 A local metal detectorist, David Cunningham, had permission from the previous owner of the land to undertake surface metal detecting and collection of artefacts for the whole of Bridge Farm including House Field. This came to light during a mass detection survey over House Field that CAP organised for House Field in 2012 with local groups.
- 5.1.2 Contact having been established David offered us unrestricted access to his finds for inspection and recording. He had retained all the artefacts he had collected and kept them separated by a series of field or field area numbers including artefacts gathered from House Field, his designated fields 1, 6 & 8 (DC1, DC6, DC8).
- 5.1.3 He subsequently donated many of the artefacts to the project archive and became, with George Read, one of the two long-term authorised metal detectorists for the project.

- 5.1.4 Finds subsequently recovered by David and George have been added to the DC6 list as House Field is now a single open area.
- 5.1.5 All the artefacts from House Field have been weighed, measured, photographed and recorded as per CAP Special Finds procedures.
- 5.1.6 The results are summarised in the Results Section (6.1) with the full list in Section 14.4.3

## 5.2 Geophysics (BF11)

- 5.2.1 A magnetometer (MAG) survey in 40m grid squares, using a Bartington Grad.601 twin-pole Fluxgate Gradiometer, was undertaken of Bridge Farm in 2011 by David Staveley, assisted by CAP volunteers.
- 5.2.2 A Ground Penetrating Radar survey was undertaken by David Staveley over a 40m square just southwest of the location of Trench 6 prior to excavation.

## 5.3 Site Preparation 2015

- 5.3.1 A new 5-year contract to provide a fieldwork training course for undergraduate students, with 17 coming from Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU), substantially helped fund both the excavation and post-excavation works. A newly converted facilities building provided hot showers, flushing toilets, a fully equipped kitchen and refectory area (5).



5: Bridge Farm facilities building

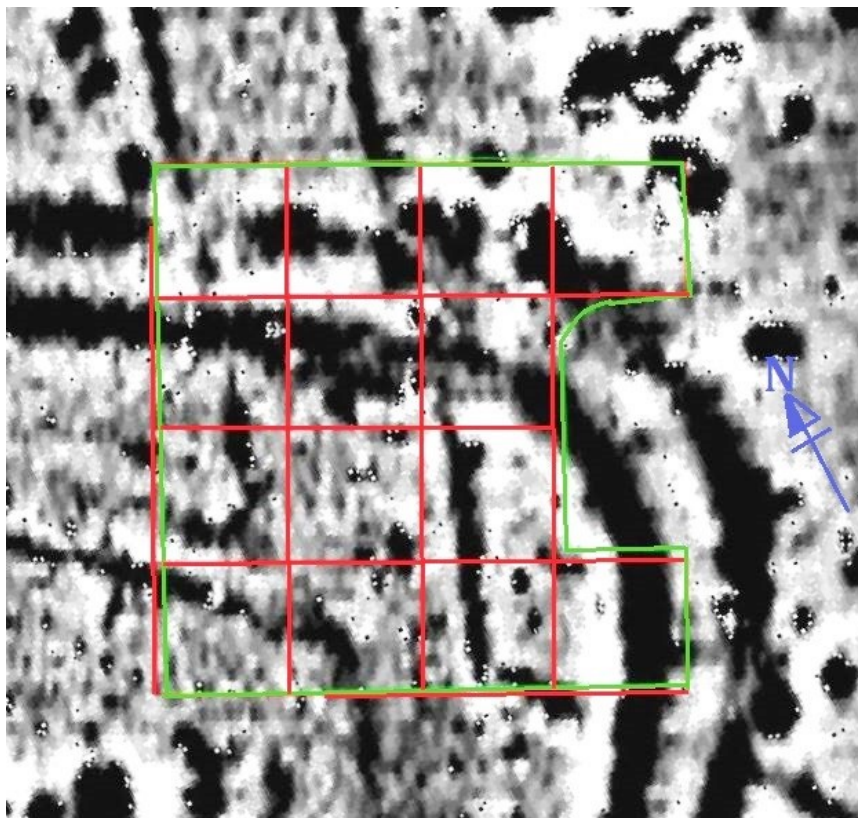
## 5.4 General Methodology 2015-17 (BF15-17)

- 5.4.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by volunteers and university undergraduate students, mainly from CCCU, under the supervision of CAP personnel.
- 5.4.2 All features revealed were sectioned using hand tools and recorded using a single context recording method for both features and finds. All works were carried out in accordance with standards and procedures of the Project Design (Millum, 2015) and the Project Site Manual (Millum, 2020). All excavated features were drawn in half section to a scale of 1:10 and the site was planned at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.4.3 Features deeper than 4.5m AOD were found to be waterlogged below this depth and in many cases had a hard iron-pan above this level that could initially be mistaken for the base of the feature. Knowledge gained in the 2013 and 2014 excavations allowed us to recognise this phenomenon and instruct diggers to excavate through the pan into the crucially important deeper contexts of these features. Where below the waterline larger features were pumped out using small submersible electric pumps powered by petrol generator, whilst smaller features were bailed and sponged regularly. In both cases the water level returned hampering continuous

excavation and subsequent recording.

## 5.5 Open Area Excavation 2015 (BF15)

- 5.5.1 On 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 a square open area trench, 40m x 40m minus an area of 20m x 10m on the SE side for the main spoil heap (1400sq.m) **(6)**, was opened in House Field over an area targeting the intersection of the London Road and side ditches with the two enclosure ditches using a hired 13-ton caterpillar-tracked mechanical digger driven by an experienced operator under CAP supervision.
- 5.5.2 Removal of the overburden was completed on 12th June 2015 with the removed topsoil consolidated in three linear spoil heaps along the NE, NW and SW sides plus a larger heap in the area set aside on the SE end, all set at a safe distance away from the trench edges.
- 5.5.3 Mechanical excavation was taken to a depth averaging 400-500mm, comprising 150-250mm ploughed topsoil layer and 200-300mm sub-soil, over the full expanse of the trench prior to mattocking and trowelling back the surface by hand to reveal any features.
- 5.5.4 The excavation, designated Trench 6, was located by GPS to between NGRs 543184 114466 (west corner), 543203 114501 (north corner), 543238 114482 (east corner) and 543219 114447 (south



**6:** Magnetometer image overlaid with Trench 6 area (green lines) and 10m grid (red lines)

- corner) with ground levels being 6.756 AOD in the west corner, 6.974m (east) and 7.118 (south).
- 5.5.5 A large tent was erected as a site office in the west corner with the marquee erected as site store at the site entrance in the east corner. This was an attempt to keep unnecessary people out of the office and provide a quieter area for recording **(7)**.
- 5.5.6 A site grid of 10m squares was set up over the trench with grid posts designated in metres east and north from the 100E/200N post in the west corner.

- 5.5.7 A site TBM was established at 6.98m AOD located at NGR 543188.760 114474.934 (SGP 100E/210N) as a reference for use with the surveyor's (dumpy) level or total station to take site levels and/or 3D locations.
- 5.5.8 Two students from the 2014 dig returned to take on supervision with Max Zeronian-Dalley as site supervisor and Molly Lockyear on finds.

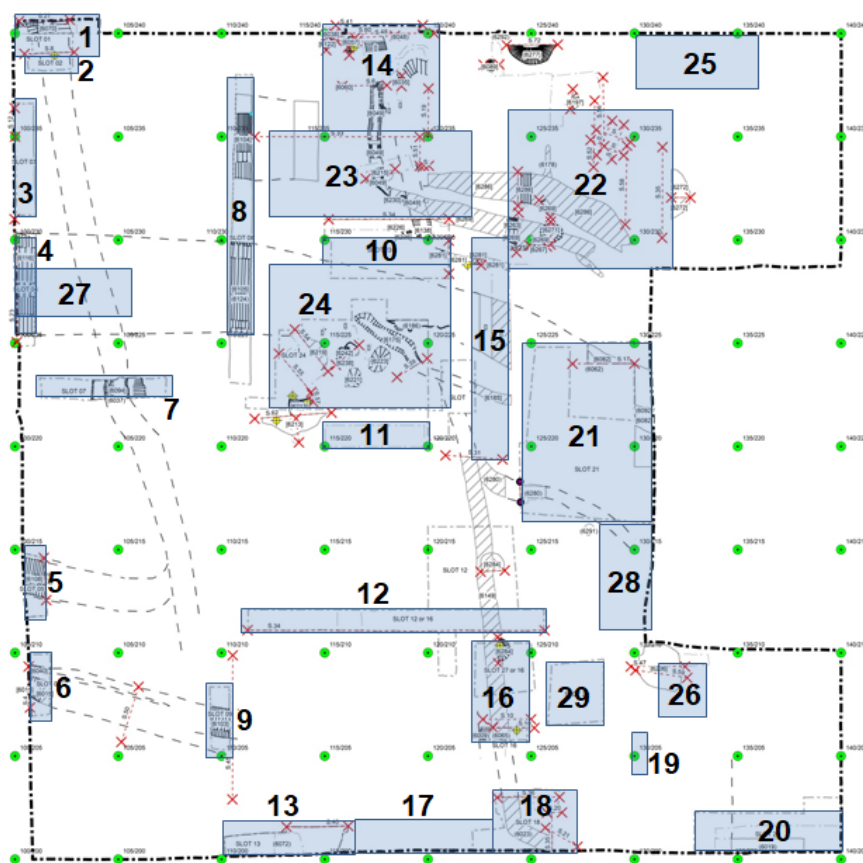


*7: Aerial drone shot on 28<sup>th</sup> June with some cleaned areas around the trench edge*

- 5.5.9 On 28th June Robin Day attended the site and undertook aerial photographic surveys of the site using a drone with a mounted remote-controlled camera providing still colour shots (**7**) of the excavated trench. The images show the lack of defined features on the trench surface at his early stage due to the dry spring and early summer. This is particularly clear in the north corner where triangular area had been cleaned back.
- 5.5.10 Volunteer and student participation commenced on site on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- 5.5.11 During 2015 excavation concentrated on locating and investigating the London road and its roadside ditches and their relationship to the 2 enclosure ditches, plus various pits and smaller features, **F013-F026**, context numbers **6000-6152**.
- 5.5.12 Due to the lack of clear features it was decided to mattock down 1m and 2m wide slots over the road, roadside ditches and enclosure ditches targeted from the geophysical images.
- 5.5.13 It was soon discovered that the multi-phase aspect of the site meant that the archaeology was far more complicated than the geophysics suggested. Excavation was also made difficult by the lack of contrast in the dry conditions between the fill of a feature and its surrounds.
- 5.5.14 Slots 4, 8, 20 & 21 (**8**) opened 1m sections across the **Inner Enclosure Ditch F13** at the NW, SE and SW baulks with Slot 8 on the 110E grid line across both enclosure ditches.



- 5.5.15 Slots 3, 8 & 22 **(8)** targeted the **Outer Enclosure Ditch F15**. Slot 3 at the NW baulk, Slot 8 on grid line 110E across both ditches and Slot 22 at 130E.
- 5.5.16 Slots 14, 17 & 23 **(8)** sought evidence of the remaining structure of **London Road F14** with deeper box slots 10, 11 & 12 **(8)** excavated to determine structure and depth.
- 5.5.17 Slots 1, 2, 5 & 7 **(8)** took 1m sections across the **Western Roadside Ditch F16** at the NE and NW baulks and midway between.
- 5.5.18 Sections of the **Eastern Roadside Ditch F17** were excavated in Slots 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 & 18 **(8)**.
- 5.5.19 Slots 6, 9 & 13 **(8)** cut sections across the curving **SW Roadside Ditch F18** edging the junction of the London Road with the western side road.
- 5.5.20 Slot 14 **(8)** proved to be particularly complicated with a seeming second roadside ditch **F19** and several postholes plus investigating a layer of flint **F23** to the east of eastern roadside ditch adjacent to the northern baulk.
- 5.5.21 Other than the above the remainder of the trench was subjected to only surface cleaning.
- 5.5.22 Section drawings 1-30 were completed together with those 5m square planning grid squares where features had been revealed.
- 5.5.23 Excavation ceased on the 29<sup>th</sup> August following some days of heavy wind and rain.
- 5.5.24 Deeper areas of the trench were covered with black plastic oversite membrane to aid preservation and continued investigation in 2016.



**8:** Site plan showing approximate location and size of Excavation Slots

- 5.5.25 The Finds Team continued artefact processing and recording through the autumn and into December with Ann Best and Nancy Wiginton undertaking the bulk of the workload.

## 5.6 Open Area Excavation 2016 (BF16)

- 5.6.1 A major conference in Lewes on April 9<sup>th</sup>, organised by the Sussex Archaeological Society, to look at 'Roadside Settlements in Britain and Beyond' and set Bridge Farm into a regional context. Project directors, Rob Wallace and David Millum gave the day's final presentation.
- 5.6.2 The excavation in 2016 started on the 27<sup>th</sup> June with the arrival of students for the training course being delayed a week until 4<sup>th</sup> July to facilitate a less hectic start to the season than experienced in 2015.
- 5.6.3 Ivo Fox-Cooper and Dave Ladds were enlisted as site supervisors with the finds supervision being vested in Ann Best and Nancy Wiginton, all of whom had been volunteers for many previous seasons. The 2015 season had shown the need for more experienced supervision of the inexperienced workforce on this complicated and busy site. The bulk of the students came from CCCU with 16 on the training course and 6 returning from 2015 for more practical experience.
- 5.6.4 A small but dedicated group of regular volunteers turned up in the first week to prepare the trench which had become overgrown with weeds during the spring excepting those areas covered with black plastic oversite sheeting **(9)**. Three days of intensive work saw the site mainly cleared **(10)**.
- 5.6.5 It was decided that after the series of narrow slots excavated in 2015, this season should concentrate on expanding the slots into larger open areas whilst recording all significant sections. This included Slot 23, the central area to the south of the NE baulk, and Slot 24, to the SW of Slot 10, in order to clarify further the relationship between the London Road and the Enclosure Ditches **(11)**.
- 5.6.6 Areas of the trench not investigated in 2015 were also targeted by cleaning back the surface and taking down the areas in spits to establish any features in plan as the slightly



**9:** A dedicated group of volunteers set to work to clear the trench with mattocks and hoes on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016



**10:** 30<sup>th</sup> June and the trench is mainly clear of weeds and the central surface and sections have been cleaned back

damper condition of the trench allowed slightly easier identification than in 2015. This included the area around 130E/210N where the geophysics suggested the possibility of a large pit (**F25**)



**11:** Students and volunteers working on Slots 23 & 24 over the road and ditch intersection

and the area around the **SW roadside ditch F18**.

- 5.6.7 Some sections excavated but not fully completed and/or recorded in 2015 due to the adverse weather were revisited including Slot 12 which cut through an area of more heavily metaled road surface **F14** which had only been photographed at the end of 2015 and was now re-cleaned before being fully recorded and the complete section §37 drawn (*see 15.5.1*).
- 5.6.8 Another important area requiring further excavation was Slot 22 which included a large pit **F26** between 128-130E and 234-236N which by the end of the season was beginning to reveal a quadrant of a stone-lined well at about 4.7m AOD and a deep section §36 (*see 15.16 F29*) thought mistakenly at that time to be across the outer enclosure ditch.
- 5.6.9 Other sections were also revisited, and in some cases re-recorded and drawn. This doubling of effort was valuable as it not only gave experience to the students on already established features but also acted as a check on the previous year's records and interpretations. This included the NW face of Slot 8, an important section across both enclosure ditches **F13 & 15**, where the opposite SE face had been recorded in 2015, as part of the further investigation and interpretation of the relationship between the ditches and the road.
- 5.6.10 The face of the NE baulk of the trench was taken back and recorded with section §41 (*see 15.7.3*) drawn to show the double ditches **F17 & 19** to the eastern side of the London Road.
- 5.6.11 Work was also undertaken on exposing the flint surface of the road **F14** and a dark layer which included an abundance of fired-clay **F21** in the eastern quarter of the trench over the enclosure ditches. This work had to be approached with care as the dark layer (6050/6095) was found to be very finds-rich particularly in copper alloy items and coins.
- 5.6.12 The excavation officially closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> August but some limited excavation of unfinished features continued under Ivo Fox-Cooper's supervision until August 26<sup>th</sup> when excavation was halted in order to facilitate outstanding planning and section drawing.
- 5.6.13 With the emergence of the well **F26** and a series of pits **F28** under the disturbed road flints in Slot 24 it became obvious that a third season within this trench was essential to excavate these new deep features and remove the remaining baulks between slots that were obscuring the overall plan of the archaeology.



5.6.14 It was decided that the extreme NW and SW areas of the trench had been investigated satisfactorily and so 10m along the NW side and 5m along the SW side were back filled by mechanical digger in late September.

5.6.15 Following the experience gained from the previous year larger areas of the trench were covered with black plastic oversite membrane and/or webbed plastic tarpaulins on the 24<sup>th</sup> September by CAP personnel **(12)** to protect the archaeology and facilitate a weed free start to 2017. The coverings were either dressed into the deeper features or laid over timbers and boarding. Security fencing and warning notices of deep excavations were erected around the entire site.



**Fig. 12:** CAP personnel covering the reduced trench

## 5.7 Open Area Excavation 2017 (BF17)

5.7.1 The main aims of the 2017 excavation were to investigate and record the well **F26** and a series of pits **F28** under the disturbed road flints in Slot 24 and to remove the remaining baulks between slots that were obscuring the overall plan of the trench which would include large areas of the dark, finds-rich, layer (6050/6095). A major area of this finds-rich layer had to be carefully removed in spits before further/deeper exploration could be undertaken safely on the well.

5.7.2 The excavation was planned to last between 26<sup>th</sup> June and the 6<sup>th</sup> August.

5.7.3 This last season in Trench 6 proved to be the most frustrating due to recurring days of rain which not only prevented access to the site due to the sandy-silt makeup of the soil but also undid and/or collapsed much of the good work achieved in previous days. This was particularly relevant to the well which being the deepest feature on site was quickly filled with surface water whilst also collapsing the newly prepared stepped 'safety' areas. Bucket chains and the drone of the generator and electric pumps became a regular feature of the dig **(13)**. Work on the adjacent baulk was delayed and the final excavation of the well did not start until after the original closing date and with recording running on through most of August.



5.7.4 One benefit of the wet weather was the distinct differentiation in colour of various contexts in both sections and on the trench surface, some being observed for the first time in 3 years.

5.7.5 Nick Hannon and Lindsay Banfield (14) provided experienced site supervision assisted by two CCCU graduates, Georgia Gunn and Wiki Krzoska who returned for their third year on site. After the first week we had 20 first-timers from CCCU on the training course plus 8 returning from 2016, including Andrew Marke who helped supervise the environmental flotation and recording. Numbers on site varied greatly from just a handful of volunteers and/or students to over 50, (on site or in finds) making advance planning of works a bit of a lottery.

5.7.6 Nancy Wiginton and Ann Best were once more our finds unit coordinators.

5.7.7 The better definition of contexts allowed several excavated features to be reassessed after cleaning back section faces. **F29** was resolved as being a large pit rather than a section of the outer enclosure ditch. Both the large pit [6212] in **F28** and **F29** had their remaining halves quarter sectioned to provide further detail on the opposing axis. It also became clear that the pit **F25** was square and that the previous section drawing was not at right angles to the sides and therefore the section was cut back and redrawn prior to complete excavation.

5.7.8 The removal of the baulks in the NE half of the trench revealed new features in plan including ditches **F31** and **F34** plus a further area of flint surface **F35** and pits **F30**, **F32** and **F33**.

5.7.9 The CCCU students were given the task of carefully cleaning back the London Road surface to leave the metalling in place. Then 2 students, Beata Szabo and Angela Majnic-Lane, drew a



*Fig. 13: buckets and pumps were employed regularly*



*Fig. 14: site supervisors, Nick and Lindsay*



*Fig. 15: a small select working-party carry on after the planned end of the dig to excavate the well*

- detailed plan of a heavily metallated area using planning frames and produced a fine result considering they had not undertaken this kind of work before other than in the short training exercise as part of the course (*see 15.5.2 in Part 3*).
- 5.7.10 During August after all the students and most volunteers had left a few regular CAP members were able to safely excavate the interior of the well to its base at a depth of 3.2m AOD, being 1.6m below the top of the remaining stone lining (**15**). Whilst it was not practical to half section the well, the interior was fully exposed and recorded by photographs and measured elevation drawings (*see 15.3 in Part 3*).
- 5.7.11 The primary fill of the well being below the permanent watermark was 100% extracted with all but a 20-litre retained sample being put through the flotation process on site to collect any waterlogged artefacts from the sticky mud. The retained sample was then floated under controlled conditions to produce residue and flot for subsequent analysis.
- 5.7.12 The recurring days of rain had meant that more students were available to help in the finds unit which had the added task of combining the 3 years of various material into numerical context order ready, when needed, for specialist analysis. With over 26,000 sherd of pottery, 240kg of ceramic building material and 430kg of iron production waste, together with all the other materials, this in itself was quite an undertaking. It was fortunate that the planned redevelopment of the old farm building which housed our finds unit had been delayed so that our occupation of this '*for gratis*' accommodation could continue for a further year.
- 5.7.13 Trench 6 was finally backfilled by mechanical digger on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

## **6 Summary of Results**

### **6.1 Results of non-excavation metal detecting (HF12-15 formerly DC1, 6 & 8)**

- 6.1.1 **1<sup>st</sup> century BC, 1st-5th century AD, plus Medieval to Georgian:** the 139 metal detecting finds collected by David Cunningham and George Read up to 2015 proved to be mainly from the Roman period with 45 Roman coins of 51 found which ranged from a denarius commemorating Pompey the Great from 40-42BC to a siliqua of Honorius from the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. Of the 19 lead items 6 were biconical weights and out of 52 copper alloy items at least 12 were probably fragments of bow brooches plus an intaglio, a stylus and finger ring.
- 6.1.2 A catalogue of these finds is included in Section 14.3.2 with an assessment of the coins, including post-Roman items, by Dr David Rudling included in Section 16.5.
- 6.1.3 These results show the importance of liaising with the local metal detecting community and showed the potential extent of the site and its predominantly Roman-period nature.

### **6.2 Results from Geophysical Survey (BF11)**

- 6.2.1 The results from the 2011 geophysical survey showed the intersection of the 2 presumed roadside/boundary ditches of the London Road with the 2 enclosure ditches that were established in 2013 ( (Millum & Wallace, 2017), together with a possible side road joining from the NW. It was from this data that the location and dimensions of Trench 6 was determined.
- 6.2.2 The geophysical survey images of Trench 6 and surrounding area can be seen in Section 15.2.

### 6.3 Results from the Open Area Excavation from 2015-2017 (BF15-17)

The main Features (**16**) are listed below in the period (**17**) suggested by the assessment of the pottery, coins and other artefacts recovered from specific contexts.

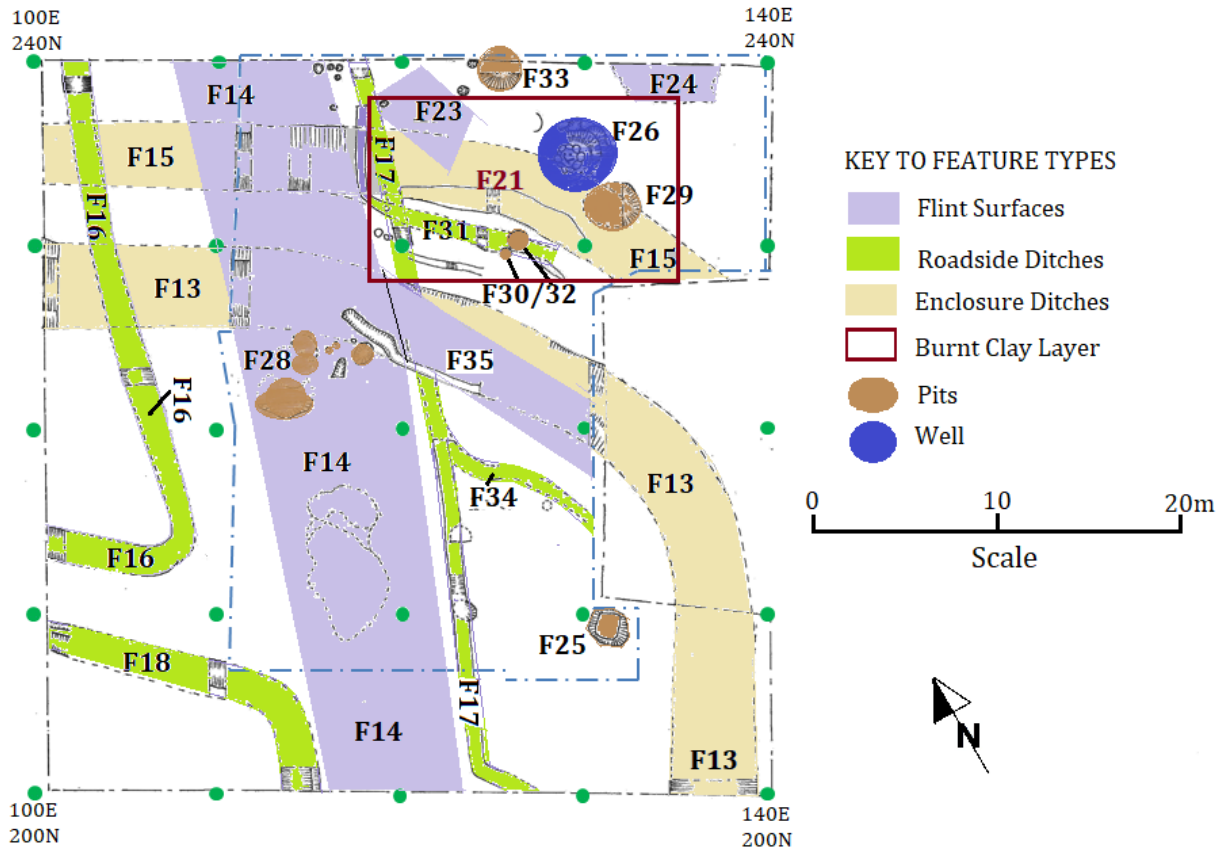


Fig. 16: Plan showing main Feature locations

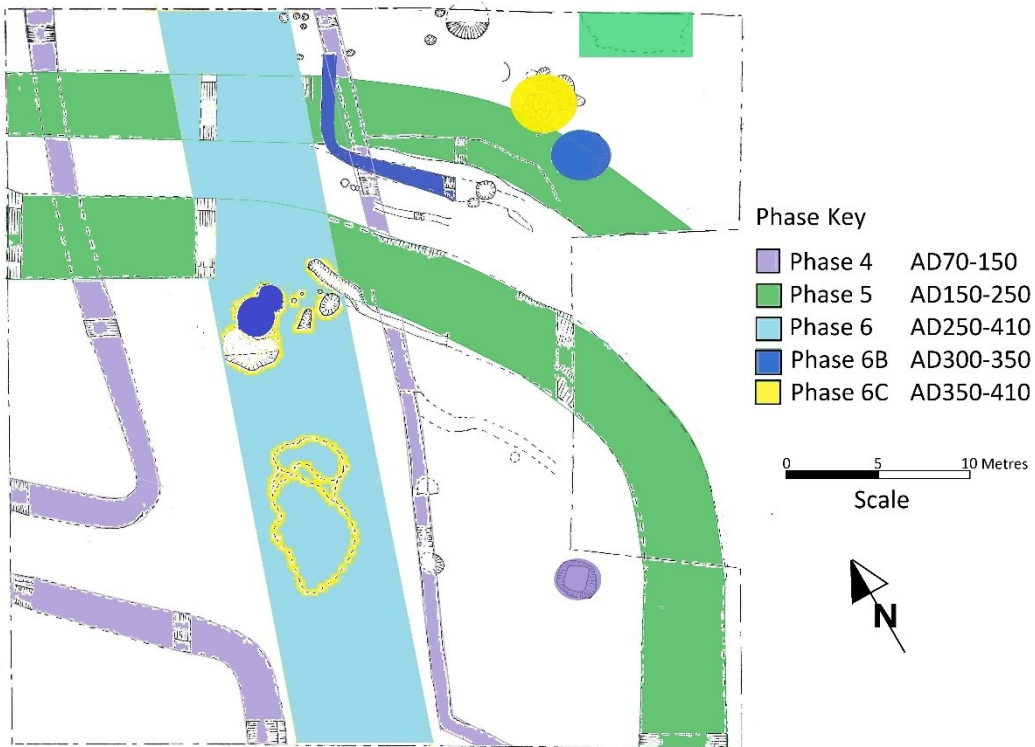


Fig. 17: Phase plan of main Roman-period features



6.3.1 **Prehistoric Periods 1 & 2 including Iron Age:** A lack of any pre-historic pottery suggests that this area of the site lacks any significant pre-historic occupation. All worked flint came from or above Roman-period features and are therefore clearly residual or derived.

6.3.2 **Roman Period 4: AD 70-150 (possibly Period 6 AD 250-410)**

**F16, F17 & F18** are dated to this period by an assessment of the pottery recovered from their various fills although the stratigraphic evidence from the intersection of the **London Road F14** with the two **Enclosure Ditches F15 & F17** suggest that they might date to Period 6. The 2011 geophysical survey shows these ditches continuing beyond the area excavated (*see Fig. 4*).

**F16(F20) the Western Roadside Ditch** of the London Road F14 (contexts:- Slot 1: 6130 - 6129 - [6128] – 6131 – 6132 – 6138 - [6070], Slot 2: 6016 – 6069 - [6070], Slot 5: 6021 - [6108], Slot 7: 6037 - [6094]). It runs south from the north corner of the Trench 6 from \$27 at 100.1-100.6E/240.3 in Slot 1 being 2150mm wide by 1000mm deep at 5.15m AOD to c.212N where it turns west along a side road to \$37 on the northwest baulk at 101.45E/212.23-214.75N in Slot 5 being 2150mm wide by 950mm deep at 5.40m AOD. The two trench edge sections, \$32 & \$27, have moderately sloping sides to a concave base which would appear to slope down towards the north. \$13 excavated in Slot 7 at 223.45N at 1570mm wide by 670mm deep was possibly not fully excavated at 5.49m AOD or truncated above and may represent only part of the feature (*see sections in 15.6*).

**F17 the Eastern Roadside Ditch** of the London Road F14 (contexts:- Slot 10: 6118 - [6154], Slot 12: 6018 – 6085 - [6158], Slot 14: 6048 - [6024], Slot 15: 6137 - [6142] – 6143 - [6138] (**18**), Slot 16: 6181 - [6182], Slot 18: 6008 – 6023 - [6007] running south from northern baulk at 118.00-119.30E / 240.75N for almost the length of the trench before turning to the southeast at 123.9-124.6E / 201.3-201.7N. Several sections were taken across this ditch five of which are listed below suggest this ditch had sloping sides curving to a flattish base (**18**) sloping down to the north.



**Fig. 18:** NE face of F17 (\$31) in Slot 15 showing the good definition seen in 2017

Sections of F17 from north to south (*see section drawings in 15.5.1 & 15.7*):

\$60 [6024] 1300mm wide by 700mm deep, base 5.56m AOD at 119E/240.7N in Slot 14

\$31 [6138] 1300mm wide by 750mm deep, base 5.60m AOD at 122.3E/219.2N in Slot 15 (**18**)

\$37 [6158] 2300mm wide by 1150mm deep, base 5.60m AOD at 123.6E/211.4N in Slot 12

\$10 [6149] 1900mm wide by 800mm deep, base 5.84 AOD at 124.2/206.7N in Slot 16 (recut?)

\$10 [6182] c.1700mm wide by 1100 deep, base 5.62 AOD at 123.6E/206.8N in Slot 16

\$20 [6007] 1400mm wide by 750mm deep, base 5.92 AOD at 124.2/202.3N in Slot 18

**Two pits cutting ditch F17** (*see drawing in 15.17.3*)

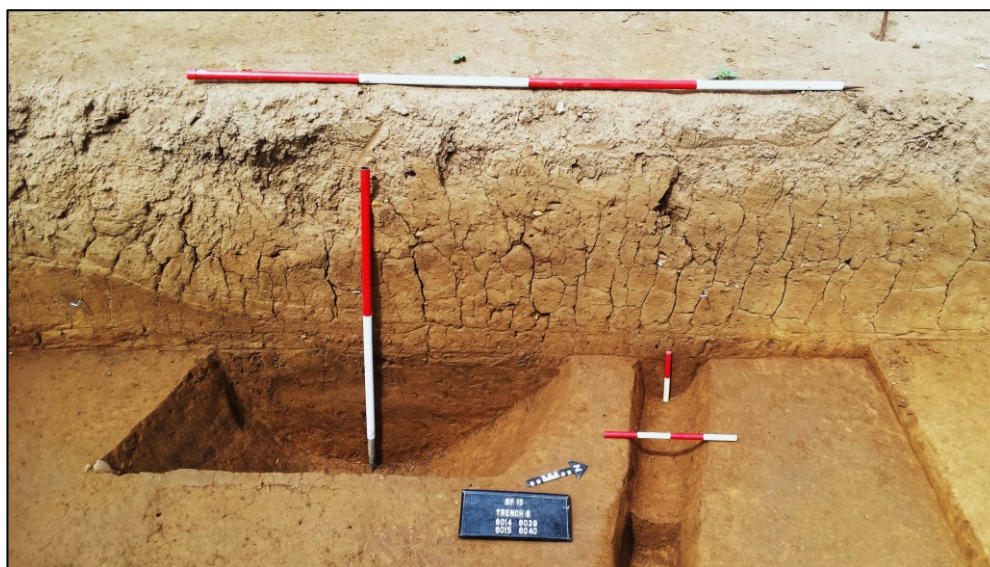
S66 [6273] shallow pit with steep sides to sloping base, undated. 1100 diameter by 300 deep to 5.95 AOD at 123.4E/210.5N.

\$79 [6284] shallow concave pit containing pottery dated to AD90-130. 1113mm wide by 300 deep to 6.12 AOD at 123.06E/213.96N.

**F18 the South-Western Roadside Ditch** of the London Road F14 and western side road (contexts:- Slot 6: 6014 - [6015], Slot 9: 6203 – 6202 - [6201] – 6200 – 6199 - [6198], 6041 - [6103], Slot 13: 6072 - [6096] – 6189 - [6190]). Within trench 6 this ditch ran SE along the southern side of the side road at the NW baulk at 207.40-209.15N in Slot 6 curving to the south to exit the SW baulk at 114.30-115.45E in Slot 13. A section excavated in Slot 9 at 110.50E / 202.90N – 110.55E / 209.88N at the beginning of the turn to the south proved difficult to interpret as 3 large depressions were recorded and it was not clear which was/were F18 although cut [6103] appears most likely. The cut to the south of the section [6192] does not have the conical cross-section seen in other areas and may be a large pit just outside the area of the road. Cut [6192] was not seen in plan in 2015-16 and was in the area backfilled at the end of 2016. Three further sections, \$18, \$40 and \$50, were excavated and drawn during 2015-16.

Adjacent to the northern side of the ditch between Slots 6 and 9 was a small conical gully 200mm wide and deep (**19**). Whilst originally thought to be some form of gutter for the sideroad it was subsequently decide that it was more likely a modern intrusion caused by recent subsoil anti-compaction ploughing.

Sections of F18 from northwest to south (*see section drawings in 15.8*):



**Fig. 19:** Roadside ditch F18 and adjacent gully in Slot 6 (Section \$4)

\$4 [6015] 1050mm wide by 500mm deep, base 5.55 AOD at 100.9E/208.2N in Slot 6

\$50 [6015] 900mm wide by 430mm deep, base 5.58 AOD at c.105.4E/206.7 in Slot 6/9



\$18 [6103] 1100mm wide by 350mm deep, base 5.87 AOD at 110.33E 206.88N in Slot 9  
 \$40 [6096] 1950mm wide by 900mm deep, base 5.69 AOD at 114.3E/201.7N in Slot 13 (recut?)  
 \$40 [6190] 1350mm wide by 700mm deep, 5.83 AOD at 115.2E/201.7N in Slot 13  
 \$14 [6096] 1050mm wide by 470mm deep, 5.57 AOD at 114.8E/200.3N in Slot 13

**F25 the Square Cut Large Pit** in Slot 26 in the southern corner of trench 6 (contexts:- 6172 – 6207 - 6171 s/a 6179 - 6183 s/a 6187 s/a 6188 – 6211 - [6206]). This appeared on the surface in 2015 as circular feature (6172) with a dark ring around its circumference (6171). In 2016 a section was marked across its centre and the pit was excavated on this section line drawn as \$47 at 129.74-132.41E / 209.32N with steps cut back into the natural on either side for safety and ease of access. This showed that the main body of the pit had vertical sides with a sharp break to a square flat base; the circular surface being caused by the collapse of the fine sandy-silt upper edge of an otherwise square pit. Prior to complete excavation in 2017 it was decided to cut back the section to create a true cross-section, drawing \$59 (see 15.12), at right angles to the sides at 130.20E / 209.12N to 132.54E / 208.78N (**20**). This gave dimensions of the excavated pit of 1280mm wide by 1650mm depth to 4.75 AOD at 131.2E/209.3N.



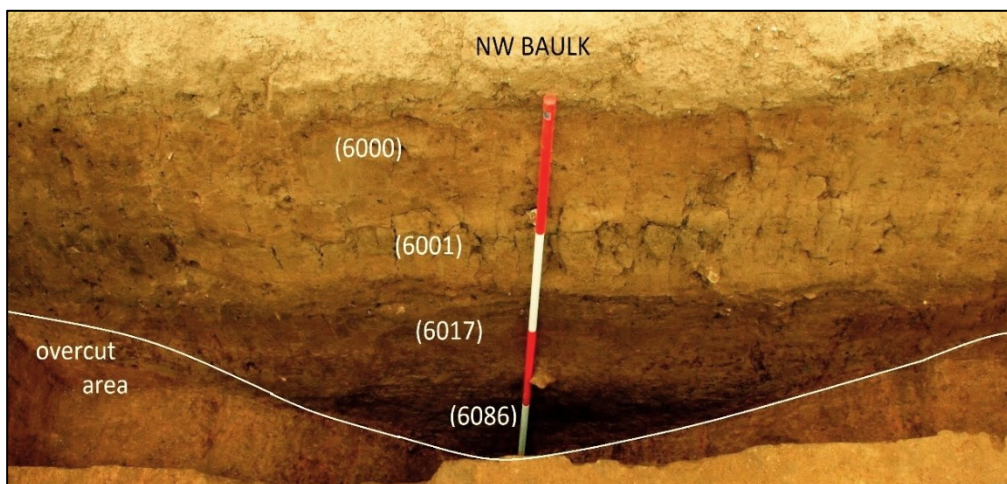
**Fig. 20:** The 'true' cross-section of the Square Pit F25

The pit yielded 1336 sherds of pottery dated to Periods 4 and 5 suggests that the pit was abandoned and backfilled during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. An Oldbury style glass bead found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> fill supports placing the origin of this feature into this earliest period for the settlement. The location of the pit would have been in the line of any banked defence inside the inner enclosure ditch so might have been backfilled as part of the provision of the earthwork defences if constructed at around AD200.

**PH3 at north baulk** (6054 - 6139 – [6058]) small post hole on northwest side of ditch F17 containing pottery dated to Ad 70-150. Very adjacent to PHs 3 & 4 although these are dated to late 4<sup>th</sup> century. \$29 (see drawing in 15.14.1) 410 diameter by 300 deep to 5.66 AOD at 115.8E/239.8N in Slot 14.

### 6.3.3 Roman Period 5: AD 150-250

**F13 the Inner Enclosure Ditch** (contexts:- Slot 4, NW baulk, 6017 – 6083 – 6086 – 6093 – [6116]: Slot 8, 6102 – 6114 – 6124 – [6105]: Slot 21, SE baulk, 6062 – 6080 – 6081 – 6092 – [6082]: Slot 20, SW baulk, 6173 – 6019 – 6066 – [6068]) runs from the northwest baulk of the trench (§23) **(21)** turning at right angles to head for the southwest baulk in the south corner of Trench 6 (§7). In 2013 it had only been possible to excavate one slot across the full width of this feature in Trench 4 so four slots were undertaken in Trench 6, three at the baulks and Slot 8 across both ditches on the western flank of the road F14 (§28 in 2015 & §38 in 2016). The sections are quite consistent with moderately sloping sides to a concave base with maximum width of 5m and depth of 1.4m. In Slot 8 §38 a layer of flints was seen on top of the gritty sand fill of (6114) suggest the sunken remains of the F14 road surface **(22)**.



**Fig. 21:** Inner Enclosure Ditch F13 at the NW baulk (§23)



**Fig. 22:** Inner Enclosure Ditch F13 showing the flints on the gritty sand of (6114) in Slot 8



Sections of F13 from northwest to south (*see section drawings in 15.4*):

§23 [6116] 5000mm wide by 1270mm deep, base 4.63 AOD at 100E/226N in Slot 4

§28 & §38 [6105] 5000mm wide by 1300 deep, base 4.75 AOD at 111.2E/227.7N in Slot 8

§9 [6082] Not true cross-section and levels taken are suspect. Slot 21

§7 [6068] 5000mm wide by 1300 deep, base 5.08 AOD at 136.3E/200.6N in Slot 20

**F15 the Outer Enclosure Ditch** (contexts:- Slot 3, 6100 – [6101]: Slot 8, 6064 – 6071 – [6105]: Slot 22 possibly 6287 - [6286]) crossed the northern area Trench 6 from the northwest baulk at c.234-237N. It was less distinct than the inner ditch with only Slot 8 providing a clear cut with moderately sloping sides to a sharp concave, almost pointed, base (**23**). Slot 3 was both truncated and indistinct both in plan and section. In Slot 22 a feature excavated as a shallow ditch [6286] in 2017, running above the path of F15 could alternatively be the truncated base of the outer ditch, although this was not obvious during excavation. In general terms the outer ditch appeared slightly smaller and more angular in profile than its inner companion.

A disturbed layer of moderate flints was apparent in fill (6071) in Slot 8 although much clearer in plan to the southeast where it was more convincingly the remains of the surface of road F14 immediately under the dark layer 6050/6091 and therefore overlaying the backfilled ditch (**23**).



**Fig. 23:** NW face of the outer enclosure ditch in Slot 8 showing the layer flint to the SE

Sections of F15 from northwest to southeast (*see section drawings in 15.4 and 15.17.2*):

§12 [6101] 2m excavated by c.650mm deep, base 5.05 AOD at 100.14E/235.91N in Slot 3

§28 & §38 [6104] 4150mm by 1140mm deep, base 5.06 AOD at 111.11E/235.03N in Slot 8

§70 [6286] 1600mm wide by 650mm deep, base 5.29 AOD at 124.35E/232.5N in Slot 22

**F24 a Flint Layer/Surface** (contexts:- 6013 – 6167). A discrete single layer of flints (150mm thick) adjacent to the eastern end of the northeast baulk at 130-137E/238-240+N. Pottery from the flint layer (6013) and the soil below (6167) were dated to between AD70 & 150/200.

**PH6 situated just west of pit F33** (contexts:- 6088 – [6089]) section §15 (*see drawings 15.18.2 - 3*) 380mm wide by 570mm deep to c.5.73 AOD at 123.2E/238.5N containing pottery from AD150-200.



**Pit at northwest baulk** (contexts:- 6123 – [6122]) shallow concave pit adjacent to PHs 3-4 but date by pottery to AD 50 -250. §24 (*see drawing in 15.14.1*) 450mm average diameter by 100mm deep to 5.93 AOD at 115.07E 239.64N in Slot 14.

**Roman Period 6: AD 250-410**

**F14 the Road Structure** (contexts:- o/a 6003: Slot 12, 6005 (slag rich patch) – 6121 – 6169 – 6170: Slots 14/23, 6115, 6061: Slot 24, 6209). Although described as the 'Road Surface' on the paper archive this layer of mainly small to medium Downland flint nodules is probably the remains of central metalling of the road which appears in Slot 12 to be laid on a bed of compacted fine sand and patched with areas of slag and river gravels (**24**)(*see section §37 in 15.5.1*). It is closely packed where slumping over the outer enclosure ditch in Slot 23 (**25**) and where patched with slag towards the southwest end of the trench around slot 12 (**26**)(*see plan in 15.5.2*). The area over the inner ditch in Slot 24 (6209) appeared more disturbed. A 4-6m wide band to the southeast of this, including Slot 11, was distinctly barren. A layer of flints and gritty sand was also recorded in the sections of the enclosure ditches in contexts (6114 and 6071) in Slot 8. The general context (6003) has pottery dated from c. AD200 to 400 with a few sherds of 650-1350 suggesting a continuation of road use or other surface activity into the Saxon and medieval periods.

**F16, F17 & F18 Roadside ditches** may also date and or continue in use to Period 6 (*see 6.3.2 above*).



**Fig. 24:** the central 3m of the NE face of slot 12 showing sand, flint and slag layers of F14



**Fig. 25:** compact flint layer of F14 in 2016 slumping down over outer enclosure ditch F15





**Fig. 26:** The road F14 from the southwest baulk in 2017 with Slot 12 in the foreground

Section of F14 (see drawings in 15.5)

\$37 111.23-125.47E/211.11-211.55N (6005-6169) includes ditch F17 [6158], c.7m wide, 350mm deep, base 6.3 AOD in Slot 12

**F23 flint layer between 120-125/234-240** (contexts:- 6046 s/a 6140) being one flint thick this quite dense layer was interpreted on site as being either a laid surface/floor between the road F14 and the well F26 or possibly a road heading southeast to cut across to the road to *Anderidos* (Pevensey). A more prosaic interpretation from studying the site plans and sections shows that the layer follows the path of the outer enclosure ditch suggesting that this might be either a top fill of the sunken surface or even alluvial run-off from the surface of F14 road. It was below the NE edge of F21 and therefore must be earlier than that layer.

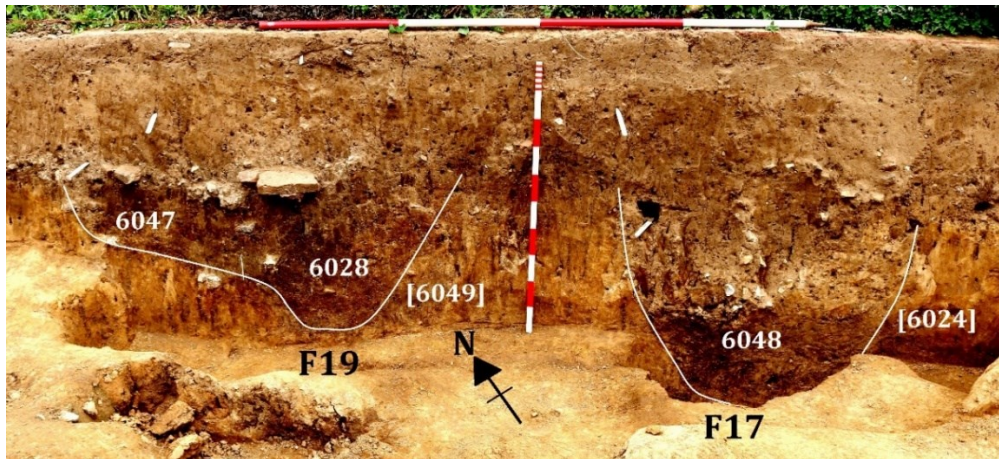
Plan and Sections of F23 (see drawings in 15.11)

15.11.1: Location Plan includes Section lines

\$19 120E/235.2-239.9N (6046) one flint thick, 5.84 AOD at 235.2N

\$22/15 123E/235-240N (6046) includes F21 (6095) one flint thick, 6.0 AOD at 123E/237.5N

**F19 north, a small ditch west of the F17 roadside ditch (27)** (contexts:- 6028 s/a 6109 s/a? 6034 – 6047- [6049] s/a? [6036]) falling from c.5.65 AOD at 240N to 5.31 at 233N. In most sections (\$6, \$30, \$48 & \$51) the ditch had steep sloping sides to a concave base similar to section \$64 of ditch F31. However, sections \$48 & \$60 show a wide less steep profile possibly caused by either recutting or intermingling of two distinct features not recognised during excavation. F19 was originally thought to be part of the eastern roadside ditch to road F14 but in opening the wider area in 2017 it appeared that F19 curved southeast to join F31 **(28)**.

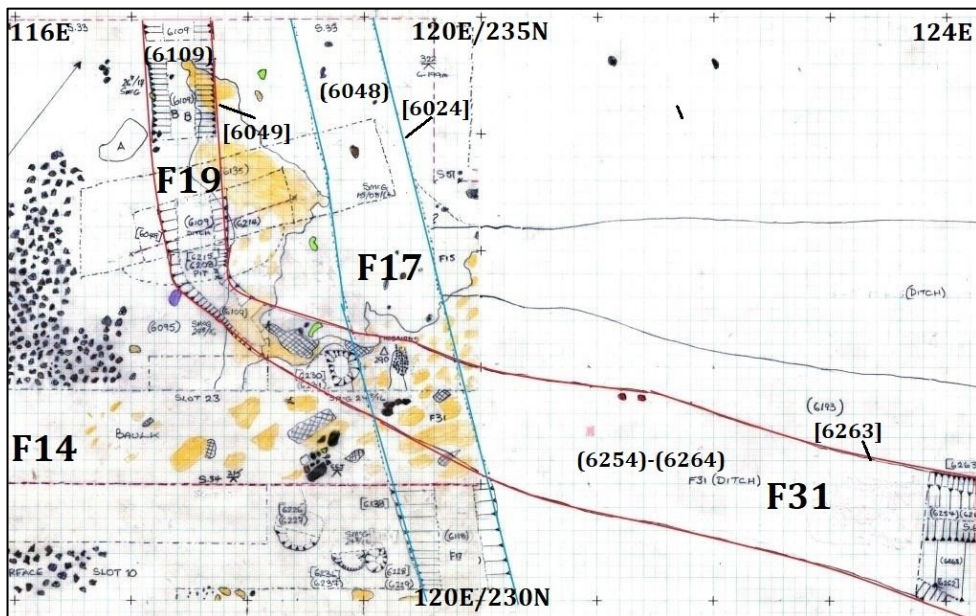


**Fig.27** The NE baulk showing F19 on the left of the scale and F17 on the right

Sections for F19 (see drawings 15.7.3 & 15.9.1)

- \$6 [6036] 1100mm wide by 500mm excavated to 5.79 AOD at 117.3E/237.5N in Slot 14
- \$30 [6049] 800mm wide by 640mm deep to 5.42 AOD at 117.4E/236.3N in Slot 14
- \$41 [6049] 800 wide by 640mm deep max to c.5.68 AOD at c.117.5E/240.4N in Slot 14
- \$48 [6049] c.1000mm wide by 390mm deep to 5.62 AOD at 117.3E/239.8N in Slot 14
- \$51 [6049] 650mm wide by 360mm deep to c.5.31 AOD at 119.3E/232.8N in Slot 23
- \$60 [6049] c.1100mm wide by 610mm deep to c.5.7 AOD at c.117E/240.65N in Slot 14

**F31 NW-SE ditch in NE corner (28)** (contexts:- 6254 – [6262] – 6264 – [6263]) running levelly along the inner edge of the outer enclosure ditch until crossing ditch F17 and seemingly turning into ditch F19. The original profile would appear to have steep sides to a concave base with either recutting or edge collapse causing a concave ledge on the SW side (29). If F35 was a sideroad heading across towards the road to *Anderidos* then F31 would be in the right location for the NE roadside ditch to this road with F34 forming the roadside ditch on the SW flank.



**Fig.28:** Notated 2017 site plans P48 & P49 showing F19 leading to F31



Section for F31 **(29)**

\$64 (6254 & 6264) 1300mm wide by 600mm deep to 5.3 AOD at 124.2E/230.7N in Slot 22



**Fig.29:** Section \$64 of ditch F31 showing the steep sided profile

**F34 ditch running southeast from ditch F17** (contexts:- 6280 – [6279]) between 122.5-130.6E & 214.9-218.8. It had oblique sides to concave base. If F35 was a sideroad heading across towards the road to *Anderidos* then F34 would be in the right location for the SW roadside ditch to this road with F31 forming the roadside ditch on the NE flank.

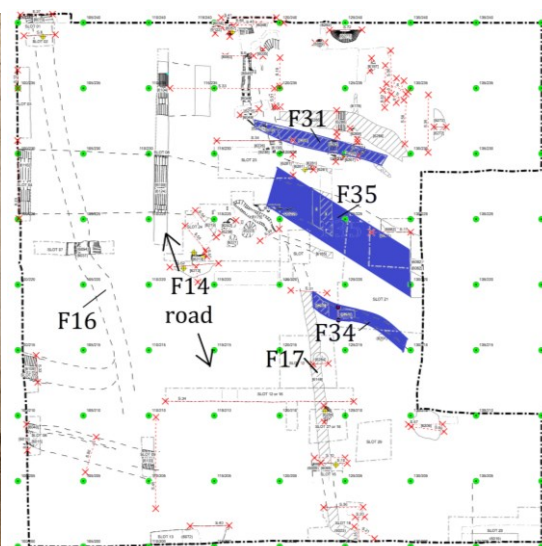
Section for F34

\$73 [6279] 850mm wide by 300 deep to 6.26 AOD at 124.53E/217.85N in Slot 21.

**F35 possible eastern road** (context:- 6285) uncovered in 2017 with the removal of the baulk between Slots 15 and 24 and found to continue into Slot 21. Located between 120-127E and 201-228N this dense single layer of flint **(30)** on a northwest to southeast path between the 2 ditches F31 and F34. These ditches add some credibility to the hypothesis that this layer was the remains of a road cutting the corner between the London Road F14 with the road heading east towards *Anderidos* F37. However, the layer of flint follows the path of the inner enclosure, as F23 lies over the outer ditch, and therefore could also be just run-off from the London road or deliberate surface filling of the sunken surface, especially as it appeared less dense as it got further from road F14. The two parallel side ditches **(31)** do make this a stronger contender for a south-eastern road but further excavation east of the enclosure would be needed to try to verify this interpretation.



**Fig.30:** the flint layer F35 within Slot 21



**Fig.31:** F35 with flanking ditches F31 & 34

**F33 large deep pit at north baulk** (contexts:- 6278 – [6277]) This large pit was half-sectioned close to the northeast baulk. It had very steep sides going to vertical on the southeast with a stepped sloping base. It was excavated as a single fill suggesting that it was deliberately backfilled rather than silted although the mixed early and late Roman pottery might suggest otherwise.

Section for F33 (see drawing 15.18.1)

§72 [6277] 2100mm wide by 1500mm deep to 4.82 AOD at 124.5E/239.4N



**Fig.32:** the steep sided pit F33

On its northwest flank of F33 were two small postholes (see drawings 15.18.2-3).

**PH9** (contexts:- 6194 – [6195] section \$49, 250 mm wide by 200mm deep to 5.92 AOD at 123.2E/238.8N. PH9 abuts PH6 to the west.

**PH10** (contexts:- 6292 – [6293]) section \$74, 450mm wide by 190mm deep to 6.03 AOD at 123.45E/240N having pottery dated to c.AD370-420.

Three small pits in slot 22 (see drawings 15.13.3 & 15.17.1)

**Pit north of F26** (contexts:- 6196 - [6197]) a shallow concave pit. \$46, 1200mm by 900mm by 190mm deep to 5.9 AOD at 126.93E/236.79N.

**F30 Small shallow pit** (contexts:- 6266 – [6267] very small and shallow sub-square pit, possible posthole base, with very steep sides and sharp break to flat base. \$63, 570mm wide by 70mm deep to 5.76 AOD at 125.35E/229.7N.

**F32 Small pit** (contexts:- 6270 – [6271]) shallow slope to south and near vertical to north curving to flattish base. \$65, 990mm wide by 190mm deep to 5.73 AOD at 127.8E/230.4N

#### 6.3.4 Roman Periods 6b-c: AD 300-410

**F28 Large Pits 1-3** (contexts:- Pit 1 6258 – 6265 – [6257] – 6212 – 6259 – [6213] – 6247 – [6246]: Pit 2 6234 – [6233]: Pit 3 6218 – 6225 - [6219]). Pits 2 & 3 were found below the disturbed flint layer (6209) at the base of Slot 24. They were either intercutting or so adjacent as to be virtually touching. Pit 3 had vertical sides curving to a wavy base (**33**) with pottery dating to AD 300-330 whilst Pit 2 had had a more concave profile (**34**) with pottery dated to AD 300-370. It is difficult to reconcile these dates with the stratigraphy as the pits appear to be in the centre of the road unless, as this area was very disturbed, the overlying flints are a remnant of the road structure redeposited above pits from a later date which contained residual 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Pit 1 is really 2 pits; the large pit 1a [6213] cut by a smaller pit 1b [6257]. In contrast to Pits 2 & 3, Pits 1a & b both extended to the surface of the main trench in the area devoid of road surface (**35**). They



not only contained pottery from AD 200-400 but the had 4 sherds dating to 1200-1350 from the upper fill of 1a (6212) which could either have come from later surface activity over a pit backfilled during the late Roman Period or indicate a much later use or origin for the pit.

Sections of pits 1-3 (see drawings \$62, \$69, \$55 & \$54 in 15.15)

Pit 1b; [6257] 1400mm wide by 600mm deep, base 5.86 AOD at 112.91E 221.73N

Pit 1a: [6213] c.4m wide by 940mm deep, base 5.575 AOD at 113.62E 221.67N

Pit 2: [6233] 1870mm wide by 580mm deep, base 5.09 AOD at 113.42E 223.53N in Slot 24

Pit3: [6219] 1840mm wide by 650mm deep, base 5.01 AOD c.114.76E/224.12 in Slot 24



**Fig.33:** Pit3 [6219] in Slot 24 with vertical sides and wavy base



**Fig.34:** Pit 2 [6233] in Slot 24 with a more concave profile than Pit 3



**Fig.35:** Pit 1- smaller pit 1b [6257] cutting large pit 1a [6213] both cutting clean surface

**F29 a Large Pit** adjacent to the well F26 (contexts:- 6166 – 6076 – 6078 – 6087 – [6272]). A large ovoid pit with vertical to steep sides with a long curve to a slightly concave base (36) seemingly

disturbed and partially truncated by the southwestern extremities of the well pit F26 in §26. Thought in 2015 to be part of the outer enclosure ditch F15 it was finally resolved in 2017 as separate pit F29 located on the eastern edge of the backfilled ditch, centred around 131E/232N. Pottery dates suggest this pit was broadly contemporary with the adjacent stone lined well F26.



**Fig.36:** §35 of the large pit F29 on the Se flank of Slot 22

Sections of F29 (see drawings in 15.16)

§26 [6127] 1680mm wide by 770mm deep, base 5.01 AOD at 130.10E/231.5-233.3N in Slot 22

§35 [6127] 2560mm wide by 1000mm deep, base 4.95 AOD at 131.25E/231.1-233.7N, Slot 22

§71 [6127] quarter section, 980mm wide by 900mm deep, base 4.98 AOD at 131.77E/232.04N

**F26 the stone lined well** (contexts:- 6052 s/a 6125 s/a 6157 – 6210 - 6217 – 6289 – 6290 – 6252 - [6294]) centred at NGR 543226 114483 (Site Grid 128.9E:234.9N) The structural elements of the well were originally discovered at the end of the 2016 excavation at the base of a large pit to the northeast edge of the northeast corner of the outer enclosure ditch F15 (site grid location 128.8-129.7E:234.6-235.6N) at 1.6m below the top of layer F21 (6050) that may indicate Romano-British ground level in this area of the site. The pit has shallow sloping sides from an irregular sub-circular surface approximately 3.5-4m across which appeared to have had a series of small pits dug into its northeast edge. One, designated **Posthole A**, appeared to be a definite posthole pit [6160](§44 in 15.13.3) at c.130.5E/236.15N. The other pits were open to the well cut and although originally two were designated as **Posthole B** [6162] at 129.10E/236.70N (§43 in 15.13.3) & **Posthole C** [6164] at 129.44E/236.70N, it is quite likely that they represented erosions of the well pit rather than separate features. The cut becomes much steeper lower down the opening, ending almost vertical. In 2016 the depth of the structure against the remaining section baulk being 2m (**37**) restricted excavation of the interior to four courses comprising of large blocks of a flint conglomerate over slabs of hard ferruginous sandstone and chalk (**38**). The upper area of the well pit was filled/overlayed by the dark brown layer F21 (6050) to a depth of 1m in the centre and 300mm at the edge. Below this layer was a silty sand layer (6052) which also slumped down towards the centre. Both these layers provided good pottery recovery with a range from AD200-400 from (6050) and AD270-300/400 from (6052).

The well-pit's relationship with the enclosure ditch was not clear due to the disturbance of the



ditch in this area. It would appear that the well itself is just outside the ditch line and constructed after the ditch had been backfilled, as layer F21 (6050 s/a 6095) overlays the flint surface of the London road, which itself overlays the refilled ditches.



**Fig.37:** 2016 excavation against baulk



**Fig.38:** Four courses of linina revealed



**Fig.39:** The well revealed again in 2017



**Fig.40:** The complex internal structure

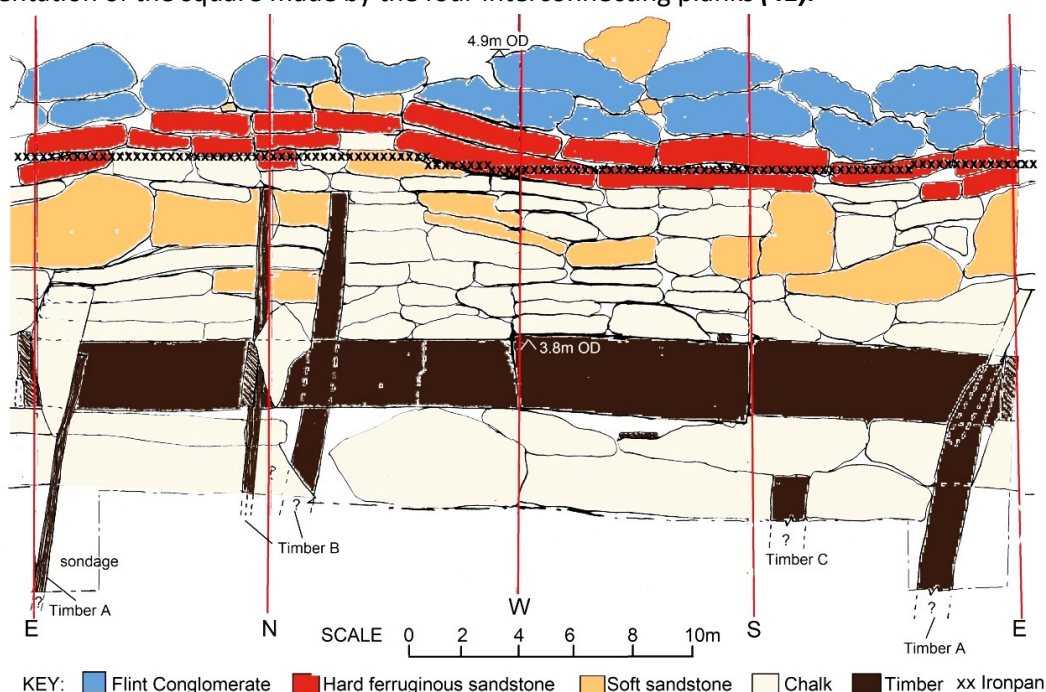
Dryer weather in August 2017 finally allowed the interior of the well to be excavated safely to a depth of 3.2m AOD, 1.6m below the top of the remaining lining at 4.8 AOD (39). This equates to a depth of approximately 2.8-3m below the suggested Romano-British ground level.

This revealed quite a complex structure (40) comprising layers of various materials which in descending order are: irregular flint-rich conglomerate blocks, ferruginous sandstone slabs, smaller chalk blocks with some softer sandstone blocks, 4 substantial oak planks forming a rough square, and larger chalk blocks at the base. The well was excavated down to a depth where the



fill changed to a more glutinous blue-grey clay and a small sondage in the east corner taken down to just under 3m AOD to follow a vertical timber revealed that this fill continued down and was therefore interpreted as the natural sediment into which the well had been dug. Subsequent augering adjacent to the well proved this to be the natural layer at this depth. We interpreted this clay to be the base of the well into which at least three vertical timbers had been driven as extra supports for the stone lining. Some Downland flint nodules were found at the base, but rather than forming part of a bottom liner it is more likely that they had fallen in from above as similar nodules were noticed within the fill adjacent to the top of the lining in 2016. These flints may be the remains of a robbed-out upper lining of the well, giving an indication of the upper structure, which may have resembled that of the well at Barcombe villa.

The well pit and the top of the well lining were added to the site plans. Sections of the pit to the four upper courses of the lining had already been drawn in 2016. The interior of the well was extensively photographed and a series of measurements taken (see table below) with measured drawings being made of the four interior faces of the well (*§75-78 in 15.13.5*), based on the orientation of the square made by the four interconnecting planks (**41**).



**Fig.41:** An amalgamation of the 4 measured drawings §75-78 of the internal faces

A group of thinner plank fragments (**42**) found at the hard sandstone level within the well could be the remains of either the inner surround or more likely of a cover to restrict sunlight preventing the growth of algae. The possibility of their being just discarded rubbish is made suspect by the lack, apart from a few cow bones, of other general rubbish in the grey fill at this level.

The construction of the well lining is intriguing, with the oak planks forming a level square frame on top of a substantial chalk



**Fig.42:** A group of plank fragments

base and with chalk and soft sandstone in coursed layers above. The planks appear to be joined at the corners by a simple lap or halving joint which in some cases had caused the plank to split at about mid-height due to the pressure of the surrounding soil/stone. It was not possible to define the joint used despite close examination with a thin blade without removing the timbers which was not possible for health and safety reasons but it is probable that these planks were arranged in an interlocking formation known as an Oxford frame. The chalk layers are capped by the hard ferruginous sandstone slabs and finally be the irregular lumps of conglomerate ending at 4.8m AOD. A hard iron-pan was noticed at the interface of the upper chalk with the hard sandstone slabs suggesting that this may have been a ground water level over a significant period. The occasional use of softer sandstone seems to have been either a symptom of a shortage of chalk blocks or of later repair, as they are clearly not as resilient to the waterlogged conditions as the chalk. The change from chalk to hard sandstone and the residual iron-pan may indicate the normal and/or expected level of water within the well as chalk, particularly the Lower Downland Chalk from deeper quarrying, is a robust material if used below ground level and not exposed to frost, even when waterlogged. It was used for the foundations of flint walls in the locality during the Roman period at Barcombe villa and bathhouse. The surrounding sandy silt alluvium and the chalk lining would have provided a basic cleaning filter for the well water. The following table gives the measurements taken on the four faces of the well as defined by the large oak planks surrounding the well which form a roughly 850mm sided square at between 3.8m and 3.55m AOD **(41)**.

SW face (site South)	NW face (site West)	NE face (site North)	SE face (site East)
300mm : 1-2 courses, irregular flint-rich conglomerate	300mm: 2 courses, irregular flint-rich conglomerate	400mm: 2 courses, irregular flint-rich conglomerate	300mm: 1-2 courses, irregular flint-rich conglomerate
200mm: 3 courses, ferruginous hard sandstone slabs	200mm: 2 courses, ferruginous hard sandstone slabs	200mm: 1-2 courses ferruginous hard sandstone slabs	200mm: 2 courses, ferruginous hard sandstone slabs
600mm 6-7 courses chalk blocks (70-100mm) with a 75mm wide timber strut at west end supporting chalk layer and continuing behind the plank into the clay base	600mm 4-5 courses Chalk blocks including soft sandstone block	550mm 3-4 courses Chalk blocks with blackened soft sandstone blocks	300mm 1 course of 2 large soft sandstone blocks
240mm Horizontal Oak plank	270mm Horizontal Oak plank Angling into well at top by about 10°	300mm Horizontal Oak plank Sloping down to E end by 70mm	260mm Horizontal Oak plank
350mm Single large chalk block	320mm Larger chalk blocks	400mm 2 courses Smaller chalk blocks with vertical timbers holding blocks in place	300mm 2 courses: 200mm chalk block sloping into well at base under 100mm level chalk slab
End of excavation at blue-grey sticky clay designated natural by external auguring			

*Table of materials and approximate depth of the various construction layers*

Sections of F26 all in Slot 22 (*see drawings in 15.13*)

§52 (6052-6210) NW edge of pit c.3200mm wide at 127.9E/233.5-236.236.7N

§56 (6052-6290) NE quarter of pit. Iron pan (6289) 4.4 AOD at 128.54E/234.55N

S58A (6052-6290) NE quarter of pit. Iron pan (6289) 4.4 AOD at 128.54E/234.55N

§75-78 [6252] the four interior faces, c.128.4-129.5E/234.3-235.15N

top of lining c.1450mm wide at 4.9 AOD,

top of timber frame c.850mm wide at 3.8 AOD,

base of well lining c.800mm wide at 3.27 AOD

**F21 Dark Oversight Layer** (contexts:- main 6050 s/a 6095, also 6022, 6045, 6062, 6085) with a distinct deposit of burnt clay fragments (6135) at its base covering the entire northeast corner of the enclosure ditches (**43**) plus an adjacent area of the London road. It was rich in metal finds, including coins, particularly in the area above the burnt clay. Contexts 6050, 6085 & 6095 yielded 7761 sherds of pottery (73,258g) of late Roman pottery, mostly 4<sup>th</sup> century but the coin assemblage was more varied with coins ranging from the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> to mid-4<sup>th</sup> centuries including many late 3<sup>rd</sup> century radiates. This Late-Roman layer could represent a period of destruction and/or change either in this area or close by.



**Fig 43:** §33(setback) showing F21 (6095-6135) at 119.6-122.4E/233.6N

Sections of F21 (*see drawings in 15.10*)

§33 (6095) NE face of Slot 14, 100-300mm deep, from c.6.3 AOD at 111.6-122.4E/233.6-234.9N

§34 (6095) overlaying ditch F17, c.300mm deep, 6.0-6.3 AOD at 119.8E/231.1N in Slot 10

§61 (6095) overlaying ditch F31, c.200-450mm deep, from 6.3 AOD at 121E/228.3-231.6N

**Five postholes in Slot 14 (44)**, 3 containing late 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery (*see drawings in 15.14.1*)

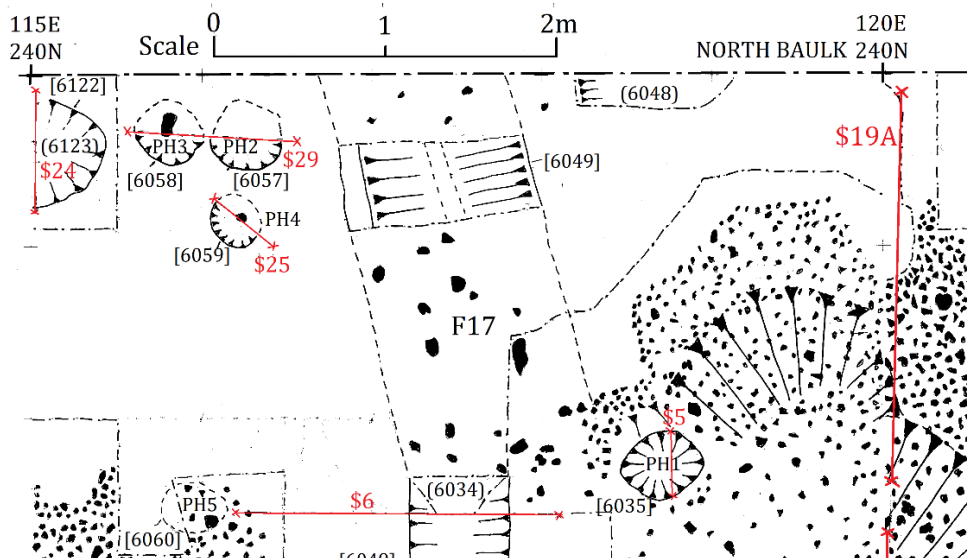
**PH1** (contexts:- 6033 – 6044 – [6035]) ovoid cut of vertical sides to pointed base with possible postpipe. Situated on southeast side of ditch F17. §5: 400mm by 520mm by 380mm deep to 5.78 AOD at 118.8E/237.84N.

**PH2** (contexts:- 6053 – [6057]) subcircular with steep to vertical sides curving to wavy base. Situated northwest of ditch F17, adjacent to northeast baulk. §29: 350mm diameter by 230mm deep to 5.7 AOD at 116.3E/239.8N.

**PH3** (contexts:- 6054 – 6139 - [6058]) subcircular steep sloping sides to concave base. Situated just northwest of PH2. §29: 400m diameter by 300m deep at 5.69 at 115.7E/239.8N.

**PH4** (contexts:- 6055 – [6059]) ovoid with vertical sides curving to wavy base. Situated northwest of ditch F17, southwest of PH2. §25: 270mm diameter by 200 deep to 5.73 AOD at 116.3E/239.1N.

**PH5** (contexts:- 6056 – [6060]) ovoid with vertical to concave sides curving to base. No datable material and no section drawn: 320mm by 240mm by 170 deep to 6.0 AOD at 115.8E 237.6N.



**Fig.44:** location plan for postholes PH1-5 in Slot 14

**Saxon -Medieval Periods 7 & 8**

**F14 Road metalling** (context:- 6003) produced eight fragments of Middle Saxon, Saxo-Norman and later Medieval pottery, with both (6004) and (6121) yielding a Medieval sherd each suggesting that the road was still in use during these periods, or if not as a road then at least specific areas of it were being used for some other purpose.

**F28 Pit 1** {6213} of the abraded 19 sherds from its main fill (6212) four were dated to c.AD.1200-1350 suggesting that this pit may have either been still in use or even originate from the medieval period.



## 7 *Summary of Site Archive*

### 7.1 **Work Carried Out on the Stratigraphic Archive**

The site records have been completed, checked and consolidated with those for Features, Slots, Contexts, Site Levels, Finds & Special Finds, Environmental Samples and the Drawing and Photographic Registers being copied into a computerised database (Sections 14 & 16). Where possible Contexts have been placed into preliminary phases using stratigraphic information adding dating provided by the specialist reports. Illustrations have been produced to accompany the results showing the location and preliminary phasing of the features.

### 7.2 **Stratigraphic Site Archive**

<b>Stratigraphic Site Archive (original paper records)</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Feature Sheets	33
Feature Register Sheets	2
Slot Register Sheets	2
Context Sheets	294
Context Register Sheets	25
Environmental Sample Sheets	36
Environmental Sample Register Sheets	4
Floatation Register	7
Flotation Residue Recording sheets	7
Plan Register Sheets	5
Section Register Sheets	6
Levels Sheets	73
General Finds Register sheets	24 (typed)
Special Finds Register sheets	21 (typed)
Special Finds Sheets	420
Photographic Register sheets	40
<b>Photographic Site Record (film numbers where available)</b>	<b>CD-Rs</b>
Black & White: 3784, 3786, 8713, 8714, 3370, 3380	4 CD-Rs
Colour Slides: 3737, 3738, 8790, 8835, 3372	4 CD-Rs
Digital Photos: BF15, BF16, (including DHM & Dave Ladds)	4 CD-Rs
BF17 (including DHM)	1 DVD
Aerial Photos: BF15, BF16, BF17	3 CD-Rs

## 12 Acknowledgements

### 12.1 Special Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the amazing patience, forbearance and general interest shown by the **Stroude family** in allowing us to trample over and dig vast holes in the middle of their highly productive working farm. It would never have happened without **Rob Wallace**, our inspirational founding director. Whilst the project will continue it will not be the same without our colleague **Stuart McGregor** who sadly died in October 2018.

**Nancy Wiginton** and **Mike Naylor** transcribed various written records into Excel spreadsheets that form the digital archive on which Part 2 of this report is based.

The agreement reached with **Canterbury Christ Church University** to pay for their current cohort of archaeology under-graduate students to attend the CAP training course at Bridge Farm as part of their degree programme provides much needed financial support, a consistent supply of committed workers for 4 weeks and supports our aim to provide training and practical experience to the next generation of archaeologists.

### 12.2 Others that have helped this project

For their support and very welcome advice **Casper Johnson** and **Greg Chuter**, the County Archaeologists, **Chris Butler** of CBAS, **David Rudling**, **Luke Barber** and **John Manley** of SAS, **Malcolm Lyne** for his analysis of the Roman pottery. **John Kane** for both his practical and technical support. **Mike Allen** for his geoarchaeological assessment of the area. **David Staveley** undertook the magnetometer survey of Bridge Farm as well as being the developer of the *Snuffler* software programme that we use for creating geophysical survey images. **David Cunningham** allowed access to his finds from pre-project metal detecting. Last but not least the numerous **volunteers and students** who came and gave their time and perspiration; it surely suffices to say that the project could not have happened without you.

**Thank you, one and all, for your support, knowledge, encouragement and continued interest.**

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### Appendix 1: East Sussex HER Summary Sheet

<b>HER enquiry number</b>	T.B.C.					
<b>Site code</b>	BF15, BF16 & BF17					
<b>Project code</b>	CAP					
<b>Planning reference</b>	Not applicable					
<b>Site address</b>	Trench 6, House Field, Bridge Farm, Barcombe Mills Road, Wellingham, Ringmer, East Sussex. BN8 5BX					
<b>District/Borough</b>	East Sussex, Lewes District, Ringmer Parish					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	543211 114474 (TQ43211 14474)					
<b>Geology</b>	River Terrace Deposits over Weald Clay					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval YES	Excav YES	WB* NO	HBR* NO	Survey Geophysics	Other Metal detecting
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	Geophysics from 2011. Excavation 10/06/2015 to 28/08/2017					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Culver Archaeological Project (CAP)					
<b>Project manager</b>	Robert Wallace PCIfA MA BA(Hons)					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	David Millum MCIfA MA BA(Hons)					
<b>Period summary</b>	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	<b>Roman</b> Roads, double ditch enclosure, stone-lined well, pits, postholes, ditches. 26,054 pottery sherds, 175 coins, 182 glass fragments, 2,383 metal artefacts, cbm, iron slag, fired clay, waterlogged timbers and leather.	<b>Anglo-Saxon</b> Pottery (scarce)	<b>Medieval</b> Pottery (scarce)	<b>Post-Medieval</b>	Other	
<b>Project summary</b>	An open area of 1400sq.m was excavated in 201-17 revealing a section of the London Road (RR14) with side ditches plus a western sideroad. The road was shown to overlay the double ditches of the 2.4h enclosure. A stone-lined well and a square pit together with other pits, ditches and postholes were also found. Geophysics suggests further features surround the excavation.					
<b>Museum Accession No.</b>	Finds are held at CAP archive store at Bridge Farm pending further assessment and rationalization in line with revised Sussex Museums Artefact Archiving policy. Together with the original paper and photographic archive.					
<b>Report</b>	A comprehensive post-excavation report, including digitised copies of the written and drawn archive is under preparation and will be lodged with ESHER, OASIS and the Sussex Archaeological Society Museum Library at Barbican House, Lewes, once all specialist reports are received. An initial draft report pending the specialists analyses is available on the Publications page of the CAP website <a href="http://www.culverproject.co.uk">www.culverproject.co.uk</a> . The report when complete will also be posted on <a href="http://www.academia.edu">www.academia.edu</a> and <a href="http://www.researchgate.net">www.researchgate.net</a>					

