

# **Bexhill to Hastings Link Road**

## **Archaeological Project Research Design and Written Scheme of Investigation**

### **Addendum 1 Mitigation Works (Phase 2. January - March 2013 and Outline Framework)**

**Oxford Archaeology  
Revised 31st January 2013**

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>GENERAL</b> .....	4
<b>3.2</b>	<b>PROCESS FOR AGREEMENT AND CONDUCT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS</b> .....	4
<b>3.3</b>	<b>TYPES OF MITIGATION SITE</b> .....	5
<b>3.4</b>	<b>DETAILED METHODOLOGIES FOR MITIGATION SITES</b> .....	6
<b>3.5</b>	<b>WATCHING BRIEF</b> .....	6
<b>3.6</b>	<b>PRESERVATION IN-SITU</b> .....	7
<b>4</b>	<b>PROPOSED MITIGATION SITES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>SITE 1 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	8
<b>4.3</b>	<b>SITE 2 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	9
<b>4.4</b>	<b>SITE 3 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	9
<b>4.5</b>	<b>SITE 4 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	9
<b>4.6</b>	<b>SITE 5 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	10
<b>4.7</b>	<b>SITE 6 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	10
<b>4.8</b>	<b>SITE 7 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	10
<b>4.9</b>	<b>SITE 8 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	10
<b>4.10</b>	<b>SITE 9 (STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION)</b> .....	11
<b>4.11</b>	<b>SITE10 (AREA EXCAVATION)</b> .....	11
<b>4.12</b>	<b>SITE 11 (AREA EXCAVATION)</b> .....	12
<b>4.13</b>	<b>SITE 12 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	12
<b>4.14</b>	<b>SITE 13 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	12
<b>4.15</b>	<b>SITE 14 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	13
<b>4.16</b>	<b>SITE 15 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	13
<b>4.17</b>	<b>SITE 16 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	14
<b>4.18</b>	<b>SITE 17 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	14
<b>4.19</b>	<b>SITE 18 (TARGETED EXCAVATION)</b> .....	14
<b>5</b>	<b>REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS (JANUARY - MARCH 2013)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>17</b>

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Proposed Mitigation Sites

# **Bexhill to Hastings Link Road, East Sussex**

## **Archaeological Project Research Design and Written Scheme of Investigation**

### **Addendum 1 Mitigation Works (Phase 1 Construction and Outline Framework)**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been contracted by Hochtief Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture and their archaeological consultants Jacobs Consulting on behalf of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to undertake the archaeological works along the route of the proposed Bexhill to Hastings Link Road (BHLR), East Sussex. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA June 2012) was produced in response to a brief (Project Design) supplied by Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist for ESCC (ESCC 2009). The WSI covered evaluation trial trenching, test pitting, borehole survey, metal detecting, fieldwalking, standing building and historic landscape feature survey and was termed Advance Works. It also outlined possible further mitigation works comprising a combination of preservation *in-situ* if possible, excavations and watching briefs leading to full analysis, reporting and dissemination. The detailed nature and scope of the further works was to be confirmed following a consideration of the results of the evaluative work and would be detailed in an updated WSI.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation trial trenching, test pitting and borehole survey work has now been completed and reported on (OA December 2012) and a review of proposed mitigation undertaken. This addendum to the existing WSI provides an update on the current position as regards the progress of the archaeological works and an outline of proposed mitigation sites based on the updated baseline information. An outline of the initial construction (enabling) works (Phase2) which are proposed for early 2013 is also given and it is intended that the WSI in conjunction with this addendum will provide sufficient information to enable the Planning Authority to confirm that they are satisfied that an acceptable Scheme of Investigation is in place for this initial phase and site work can proceed.
- 1.1.3 Methodologies for strip, map and sample excavations and watching brief are contained in the existing WSI and the strip map and sample areas defined in this addendum. Further mitigation sites (area and targeted excavations) as

outlined in this document will require agreement on strategy and detailed proposals and methodologies to be produced. A consideration of construction design, impacts and programme will also need to be made. When the scope of further work has been agreed by all parties further WSI addenda will be produced where required providing specific information for the mitigation sites and submitted for approval prior to work taking place.

## **2 CURRENT STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS**

- 2.1.1 As stated above the evaluation phase comprising trenches, test pits and boreholes has been completed and a report submitted.
- 2.1.2 A metal detector survey and fieldwalking survey of suitable fields was also required mitigation for the Scheme and this was undertaken by OA (with the assistance of local volunteers) in November and a report will be issued in January 2013. During the main post excavation phase of the project information from other archaeological investigations, where available, which have taken place in the Scheme area (for example the Wessex Archaeology field walking undertaken in 1994) will also be considered in the overall interpretation of the results.
- 2.1.3 The survey and recording of extant earthwork and historic landscape features which will be affected by the Scheme has also been taking place during December and will be completed in the field in January prior to any significant impacts on them. In some instances recording will take place after site clearance has removed vegetation making access and visibility easier.
- 2.1.4 Historic building recording of structures will start on the 23rd January 2013 and is programmed so as to be completed before structures are demolished or impacted by the Scheme.

## **3 MITIGATION**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation phase have been reviewed and consultation undertaken with Jonathan Mullis, Jacobs (Hochtief Taylor Woodrow JV Archaeological Consultant) and Casper Johnson County Archaeologist for ESCC. A number of specific sites or general areas have been identified as requiring archaeological mitigation. These sites are illustrated on the attached Figure 1 and listed in the table below.

### **3.2 Process for agreement and conduct of archaeological works**

- 3.2.1 In order to ensure that agreement is reached in a timely manner on all aspects of cultural heritage/archaeological mitigation and in particular the areas and time scales for strip, map and sample and requirements for watching briefs there will be a weekly site meeting, ideally on each Monday involving the

following: (OA Project Manager, OA Site Supervisor, Jacobs Archaeologist, ESCC Project Manager or representative, Environmental Clerk of Works, HTWJV Manager / Engineer as appropriate, Site Construction Manger/Ground works Manger and County Archaeologist). The broad aim of this weekly meeting will be to agree the following:

- Sign off any works from the previous week using plans
  - Discuss and agree all works during the week commenced e.g. any late changes, issues etc
  - Discuss and agree the outline programme for following weeks/months and the works to be undertaken, using marked up plans where appropriate
- 3.2.2 The above would be minuted by OA and those minutes circulated in order that each stage of the process can be formally approved in accordance with the WSI by the County Planning Authority.
- 3.2.3 It is also recommended that site processes such as Permits to Dig should include a consideration of archaeological work and a requirement to ensure that cultural heritage/archaeological mitigation has been agreed, approved and/or signed off before commencement. Contractors, in particular ground works companies, should be briefed regarding the conduct of archaeological works and site induction should also include a note with regard to what is expected with regard to cultural heritage/archaeological issues.
- 3.2.4 These processes will be necessary to manage areas of strip, map and sample and watching briefs to cover impacts resulting from the types of ground works covered by the planning conditions along the entire length of the scheme. These processes will also be needed to agree the detailed areas, logistics and timing for the set piece targeted and area excavations detailed below which will be undertaken in advance of construction.

### **3.3 Types of mitigation site**

- 3.3.1 Proposed mitigation sites are described as strip, map and sample, area excavation or targeted excavation. The general methodology for undertaking strip, map and sample and excavation works has already been presented in the former main project WSI and will not be repeated here. Area excavations and targeted excavations are formal archaeological investigations which differ only in their scale. The two area excavations cover general areas where there is a sufficient density and importance of recognised features and potential to warrant the archaeological strip and excavation of the area as a whole. While targeted excavations are focussed on the investigation of specific finds from the evaluation in most cases requiring a combination of a small area strip and discreet deeper excavation.
- 3.3.2 The fundamental difference between these and the strip, map and sample operations is that while the excavations will be undertaken proactively by

archaeologists the strip, map and sample is done in conjunction with the development works and dependant on impacts. The areas highlighted on the attached plan indicate zones of archaeological potential within which development works such as topsoil strip for elements such as compounds, haul roads, cycle ways etc must be conducted under archaeological supervision in accordance with the defined strip, map and sample methodology. However, parts of these 'sites' which will not be subject to development impacts will not require any archaeological work. The required works will be the subject of ongoing agreements throughout the project (see 3.2 above).

### **3.4 Detailed methodologies for mitigation sites**

- 3.4.1 The WSI and this addendum set out what is required for the conduct of the archaeological work on the Scheme with the exception of detailed methodologies and excavation details for the Area and Targeted Excavations. A further addendum or addenda will be produced for these when scopes and sampling methods and strategies etc have been agreed and these will be submitted for approval before work takes place in these locations. It is anticipated that all such documentation will be in place by the end of February 2013 or earlier if required. Details of watching brief, strip, map and sample excavation as well as the standard ESCC and OA procedures for undertaking fieldwork have already been supplied with the existing WSI and should cover most other eventualities.
- 3.4.2 The procedures already in place allow for the review of the requirements for archaeological work by all parties including the County Archaeologist and it is envisaged that with the exception of the specific sites methodologies all further work will be agreed between the parties as the project proceeds without further amendment to the formal WSI documentation.

### **3.5 Watching brief**

- 3.5.1 The provision for watching brief action on the Scheme is included in the main project WSI but while reviewing mitigation for the Scheme for the avoidance of doubt it will be mentioned briefly here. The sites listed below attempt to mitigate the impact on archaeology which the Scheme will have by highlighting action in areas of high potential or known find spots. However, the WSI provides for all works on the Scheme which will have below ground impacts to be reviewed and assessed as the project progresses to determine whether there is potential for them to reveal archaeological deposits or relevant information (this would include geoarchaeological data on the valley sequences). The developer will keep the Archaeological Consultant (Jacobs) and Contractor (OA) appraised of works being undertaken and their potential impacts and ascertain whether an archaeological attendance is required. If clarification is needed the consultant or contractor will discuss potential action with the County Archaeologist.

- 3.5.2 A particular area of interest which has been highlighted for the watching brief is the possibility of features and structures (which may include elements such as platforms) relating to the Bexhill West railway line at the western end of the Scheme. Information from railway enthusiasts who have contacted the County Archaeologist will be utilised with regard to this and incorporated into the project reporting as appropriate.
- 3.5.3 Works such as the excavation of ponds which may follow in a strip, map and sample area are likely to be subject to watching brief, as are discreet excavations in areas with unknown potential. This is likely to be the case in the southernmost part of the route where evaluation Trench 1 and Test Pits 1 and 2 could not be undertaken due to access restrictions.

### 3.6 Preservation in-situ

- 3.6.1 Preservation in-situ is also covered in the existing WSI but it can be re-stated that the possibility of avoiding rather than disturbing archaeological remains by changes to design or construction methodology is still possible and if alternative solutions are presented and agreed by all parties archaeological action will be amended accordingly.

## 4 PROPOSED MITIGATION SITES

- 4.1.1 A summary of the mitigation sites for the Scheme is presented in the table below, followed by an explanatory note on each providing further information. The sites are illustrated on the attached Figure 1 on which the Targeted Excavations are shown with indicative locations only. The exact size and locations for these discreet investigations will be provided in the forth coming additional WSI addenda for the project where chainages as used by the construction team will also be used for reference to avoid confusion (information on SMS areas, such as the table below will also be circulated to the contractors with chainage information).

Site	Field	Date Range and Feature Summary	Archaeological Action
1	1, 2, 12, 13 and 14	Mesolithic – Roman 2 features Mesolithic to Neolithic Flint cluster A Bronze Age? (Tr15-19) Flint finds (scatter B) (Tr34, 40-41) and (scatter C) (Tr30) Mesolithic to Neolithic Fields 12 and 13 not evaluated, possibly similar potential.	Strip, Map and Sample
2	S of 17	Not evaluated, area of wetland margin between Sites 13 and 14 with potential to contain similar evidence.	Strip, Map and Sample
3	6, 23, 24 and field to east of 24	possible eastern extension of activity targeted by Site 10 western and eastern margins of Powdermill Stream Valley. Contains known flint finds targeted by Sites 17 / 18	Strip, Map and Sample
4	S of Adams	Not evaluated, area of potential on wetland margin on eastern edge of Powder Mill Stream Valley.	Strip, Map and Sample

Site	Field	Date Range and Feature Summary	Archaeological Action
	Fm between 24 and 25		
5	27 and 28	1 undated pit in Tr150 potential for prehistoric wetland margin activity	Strip, Map and Sample
6	29	Iron Age – Roman earthwork/ditch feature (TR 159)	Strip, Map and Sample
7	31	Prehistoric 1 late Prehistoric feature 2 undated features	Strip, Map and Sample
8	33	4 undated linear features in Tr187	Strip, Map and Sample
9	19	No features noted, potential marginal activity to the north of area	Strip, Map and Sample
10	5, 7 and 22	Mesolithic – Roman 2 features Mesolithic to Neolithic 2 features Neolithic to Bronze Age 6 undated features and further possible features Flint scatter F1 (Tr99/100/102/103) Mesolithic to Neolithic Flint scatter F2 (Tr100/101) Bronze Age? Possible old soil horizon Contains known flint finds targeted by Sites 15 and 16	Area Excavation
11	30	Iron Age – Medieval 3 features late Iron Age to Roman 1 feature Saxon to Medieval 2 areas of intact post-Roman subsoil 13 undated features Flint cluster I (Tr168) Bronze Age? extant earthwork	Area Excavation
12	2	Colluvium late Iron Age to Roman (Target area of Tr41/42)	Targeted Excavation
13	17	Mesolithic – Neolithic Flint find (scatter D) (Tr75)	Targeted Excavation
14	18	Mesolithic – Bronze Age 1 possible worked timber, undated 2 Flints Mesolithic - Neolithic (Tr79)	Targeted Excavation
15	20 and 7	Neolithic - Bronze Age Flint scatter E (Tr86)	Targeted Excavation
16	22	Mesolithic – Neolithic Flint scatter G (Tr107/108)	Targeted Excavation
17	23	Prehistoric Flint scatter J (Tr117)	Targeted Excavation
18	6 and area to NE of 24	Mesolithic – Neolithic Flint scatter H (Tr126 / TP20)	Targeted Excavation (including 2nd investigation to the east in unnumbered field not evaluated)

#### 4.1.2 Table 1: Archaeological Mitigation Sites

### 4.2 Site 1 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)

4.2.1 In this area the archaeological remains constituted an overall low density of features that spanned the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods. There was a

possible Mesolithic to Neolithic ditch in Trench 30 and a pit in Trench 34; a Middle Bronze Age ditch in Trench 16; late Iron Age to Roman deposits and features in Trenches 41, 42, 51, 54; Post-medieval features and deposits in Trenches 18, 27, 32 and 36; and undated remains in Trenches 23-25, 33, 38, 52, 57 and 58 and TP6. Prehistoric activity is of importance and could highlight the changes from hunter-gatherer based existence to more sedentary agricultural and exploitation activity. There is also known later Iron Age to Roman metal-working activity to the north, and this area has material related to this process. Colluvial deposits containing such material are also specifically targeted in Site 12. Post-medieval activity is also present in the area but is of lower significance.

- 4.2.2 This area includes Field 12, the southern part of Field 13 and the northern part of Field 2 which have not been previously evaluated but are of similar potential. Indeed the upper slopes in Field 2 may contain a higher density of features possibly relating to the Iron Age and Roman deposits identified in hill wash deposits in Trenches 41, 42 etc. Further background from sources such as the HER that highlight the presence of iron working sites of probable Romano-British date east of Sidley, along the line of the railway and around Glovers Farm will be consulted as appropriate.

### **4.3 Site 2 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

- 4.3.1 This area between Field 17 and the southern boundary of the Scheme has not been previously evaluated but consists of an area of rising marginal land on the southern bank of the Watermill Stream Valley. Situated between Sites 13 and 14, both of which contain evidence of Prehistoric activity, this is an area of increased potential and will be subject to archaeological action if it is to be impacted.

### **4.4 Site 3 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

- 4.4.1 This area covers the Powdermill Stream Valley where flints have been identified on both the eastern and western margins. The specific find spots are targeted in Sites 17 and 18 but the sides of the valley have the potential to contain similar deposits. The central area of the Powdermill Stream contains deeper peat deposits and will be impacted by the excavation of a large balancing pond with the potential to reveal preserved prehistoric deposits or structures. The deeper bulk excavation in this area will also be subject to archaeological action (controlled watching brief).

### **4.5 Site 4 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

- 4.5.1 This area to the south of Adam's Farm also constitutes part of the eastern bank of the Powdermill Stream Valley. The evaluation trenches in Field 24 to the west demonstrated that the 'marginal' area on the edge of the valley with higher potential for prehistoric activity was outside the evaluation area in Site

4. Site 4 was wooded and not accessible for evaluation but will be subject to strip, map and sample excavation during construction works.

#### **4.6 Site 5 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

4.6.1 This area is situated on the western bank of Decoy Pond Valley. With the exception of a small undated pit in Trench 150 the evaluation was negative. However, with similar topographic locations in the valley sequences elsewhere exhibiting archaeology a c.100m wide 'test' strip across the route in the area of Trench 150 will be subject to archaeological action related to development impacts to provide for a more robust interpretation of activity (or lack of it) in the Decoy Pond Valley.

#### **4.7 Site 6 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

4.7.1 This area covers the slopes on the eastern side of the Decoy Pond Valley leading up to Upper Wilting Farm. The area has increasing potential for archaeological features up slope to the east although some potential archaeological deposits were identified in Trench 156 at the base of the slope. A single substantial late Iron Age to Roman period ditch was investigated towards the top of the hill in Trench 159. This may have utilised a pre-existing natural feature. It does indicate that a boundary ditch may enclose the low rise occupied to the east and it probably extends further NE and SW. The form of the ditch is difficult to discern and it may form a continuous circuit, be segmented or have one or more entrances. No bank was associated with the ditch but the steep slope of the field may have allowed it to erode away. A main focus of work will be the examination of this feature and any associated below ground features and deposits.

#### **4.8 Site 7 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

4.8.1 This area is where the main project compound will be located, necessitating a topsoil strip. The western half of this area has not been evaluated and is outside the main Scheme boundary but will form part of the compound area. Archaeological remains from the evaluation constituted a low density of undated features (Trenches 178 and 181) that may be later Prehistoric in date. The field is the site of a post-medieval hollow way or trackway (HAARG 1987), which is orientated north south and lies beyond the current Scheme boundary to the west. If surviving it will be visible in the western half of the compound area site.

#### **4.9 Site 8 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

4.9.1 This area is to the east of the railway line at the eastern end of the Scheme. Trench 187 contained 4 undated linear features and although the Scheme area to the north is heavily truncated this southern area retains some potential for surviving archaeology.

#### **4.10 Site 9 (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)**

4.10.1 Evaluation in this area did not reveal archaeological deposits. However, these trenches were in deeper valley sequences with Trench 193 showing the underlying ground rising to provide a more 'marginal' environment to the north. This will be the location of a new pond in the Scheme and topsoil strip, particularly to the north has the potential to reveal archaeology. The deeper bulk excavation of peat deposits will also be subject to archaeological action (controlled watching brief).

#### **4.11 Site10 (Area Excavation)**

4.11.1 In this area the archaeological remains constituted an overall low density of features that spanned the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods but the presence of a number of concentrations of flint finds and associated features on what would have been a significant spur of drier land encroaching into the wetland environment highlights this site as a key area in terms of past activity. Topographically after the ground surface begins to give way to peat deposits to the south there may be a further 'island' of relatively higher ground beneath parts of Trenches 108, 109 and 110 which could also be a focus of activity.

4.11.2 Flint sites, particularly those where artefacts may be found 'in-situ' rather than disturbed by ploughing or deposited in other features, require careful machining and meticulous hand excavation and recording. This area has therefore been designated as area excavation rather than strip, map and sample.

4.11.3 There were flints in a ditch (Trench 102), a posthole (Trench 103) and an old ground surface, (Trench 99); as well as flints in the topsoil (Trench 100) that dated to the Mesolithic to Neolithic period. These flints are described as a cluster (Scatter F1) that may not all be in situ.

4.11.4 There was also a cluster of flints (Scatter F2) of late Neolithic to Bronze Age date from a ditch in Trench 100 and deposits in Trench 101.

4.11.5 Two further flint concentrations within this area (Scatters E and G) are the subject of targeted excavation Sites 15 and 16.

4.11.6 Later Prehistoric (possibly Iron Age) activity was evident in Trench 96. There were a number of flints, in features and the topsoil across this area, without sufficiently diagnostic elements to closely date them (Trench 91). There were also features both ditches and probable postholes which lacked dateable material (Trenches 95, 104 and 111). The later Prehistoric activity could indicate the opening up of the landscape and the assertion of divisions and man made boundaries, linked to agricultural, functional or 'ownership' issues. The small flint assemblage had a strong domestic character and could suggest the potential for contemporary archaeological features.

4.11.7 Post-medieval features and deposits were identified in Trenches 93 and 94.

#### **4.12 Site 11 (Area Excavation)**

4.12.1 This area is on high ground at Upper Wilting Farm. Archaeological remains constituted an overall high density of features that spanned the late Iron Age to the post-medieval periods. There were possible late Iron Age to Roman deposits and features in Trenches 164 and 168; post-Roman to Medieval features and deposits in Trenches 161, 166 and 171; and undated remains in Trenches 161, 163, 164, 166 and 168.

4.12.2 The evidence shows probable boundary ditches established and used in the late Iron Age to Roman period. The paucity of dating means that at present it is difficult to establish whether there was any continuity or hiatus in occupation at the site, between the main phases. The earlier activity certainly seems to demonstrate a level of organisation. The lack of dating for metal working activity noted to the north of Trench 164 means it is not possible to determine whether the site includes another 'bloomery' of later Iron Age to Roman date. There are several known sites within the region and this could be another. It may also relate to later metal-working, further work will aim to establish this. The activity at the site during the later Medieval period is consistent with occupation and probably habitation. This settlement would almost certainly be associated with the management of the landscape for primarily agricultural purposes.

#### **4.13 Site 12 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.13.1 Site 12 is contained within the strip, map and sample area Site 1. Higher ground to the north may be the location of Iron Age / Roman activity, possibly iron working and a number of trenches in this general area demonstrated colluvium or hill wash deposits which contained material which had travelled down slope and been buried. The strip, map and sample works are unlikely to facilitate investigation of these deeper deposits in a controlled manner so the intention is to target a small excavation to specifically sample the colluvial deposits in the area of Trenches 41 and 42.

#### **4.14 Site 13 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.14.1 Targeted on a flint find in Trench 75. The potential in this location is unclear from the limited evidence so initially this will be a small exploratory investigation to examine the possibility of further flints or related deposits. A contingency will be included to extend the excavation if further evidence is revealed.

4.14.2 Note; the description in the evaluation of 'Scatter D' combines the find here with flints retrieved from Trench 79. In the mitigation works Trench 79 is the subject of a separate investigation (Site 14).

#### **4.15 Site 14 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.15.1 Focussed on Trench 79 this small area produced evidence of Mesolithic to Neolithic wetland margin activity in terms of flints sealed beneath the peats that contained natural wood, two samples radio carbon dated to  $3855 \pm 27$  and  $4359 \pm 27$  years BP indicate a later Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Whether some other elements of the wood in this trench may demonstrate human agency in their 'working' or placement is ambiguous. The finds of flints and later wood are located within a wider landscape with the potential for hunter-gatherer sites to be distributed across it and this area is located at one of the points where it is closest to the opposite bank and may have been a suitable crossing point over the Watermill Stream valley in the Mesolithic-Neolithic period. Radio carbon dating of wood samples will be an essential aid to interpretation of deposits such as this and provision will be made in the detailed WSI methodology to undertake this. With the Trench 79 material in particular a review will be undertaken as part of the design of the works to ascertain whether further RC dating of existing samples from the evaluation phase can provide useful information prior to further excavation.

#### **4.16 Site 15 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.16.1 Contained within the boundary of general area excavation Site 10 along the northern edge of Field 20 the evaluation located evidence of a flint scatter, visible in situ in Trenches 85 and 86 and a previous test pit (OA 2007; rev 2008b, TP 4). The scatter (Scatter E) shows some evidence of being disturbed by continued ploughing, with finds being present in the topsoil.

4.16.2 This scatter consists of 15 flints constituting a small collection of tools and flakes of probable Neolithic-early Bronze Age date. From TP 4 there were six flints, that included three tools and displayed a mix of soft-hammer and hard-hammer technology on finished forms. Trench 86 yielded a further seven pieces, (six flakes and a blade). There were also two flints from Trench 85 and one from Trench 83.

4.16.3 The forms may relate to a specialist site, however, the presence of piercing tools and notches suggests a range of activities such as leather and wood working and they may be part of a domestic site. Opportunities to investigate settlements of this period are rare.

4.16.4 The trenches excavated so far have been in Field 20 and are encroaching on the wetter valley area. However, it is probable that the focus of activity is to the NE in Field 7 which was not accessible for the evaluation. It is unclear to what extent any in situ flint scatters may have been disturbed by recent ploughing but some truncation is likely resulting in flints distributed in the topsoil deposits.

4.16.5 This targeted excavation will aim to determine the focus of the flint deposition on the higher ground first with a contingency to extend the excavation into the

wetland area at the most favourable location to test for associated deposits with preserved wood such as bank side revetments, track ways or boats. The area of wood fragments (which did not appear to be worked) in Trench 89 was heavily disturbed by outside agencies and the preference would be to open a new area close to this to investigate similar deposits. However, as stated above it is hoped that the most productive area for investigation out into the peat area will be indicated by the strip of the adjacent dry land.

4.16.6 Detailed proposals for the excavation and related contingencies will be presented for agreement in the detailed methodology WSI to follow. This excavation may well be carried out in conjunction with the excavation of the wider area of Site 10.

#### **4.17 Site 16 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.17.1 Contained within the boundary of general area excavation Site 10 a number of flints were identified from Trenches 107 and 108 (Scatter G) and may represent 'in-situ' deposition. This specifically targeted excavation will aim to carefully define the extent of any remains and employ an appropriate strategy to excavate and record them. This work may well be programmed to take place in conjunction with the excavation of Site 10.

#### **4.18 Site 17 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.18.1 Targeted on the area of Trench 117 where a number of flints were retrieved (Scatter J). The three flakes and blade-like flake were not diagnostic but demonstrate activity in a location on the western margin of the Powdermill Stream Valley.

#### **4.19 Site 18 (Targeted Excavation)**

4.19.1 Situated on the eastern margin of the Powdermill Stream Valley this site targets the location of a major flint scatter (Scatter H) retrieved from Trench 126 and Test Pit 20 which based on the numbers, types and working of the flints is of probable late Mesolithic date. This does not necessarily mean that all the scatter is of this date, on many occasions a favoured place in the landscape can be visited over several millennia and these 'persistent places' often coupled Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity. However, there is no single piece from this scatter that could not belong to a late Mesolithic assemblage. Another key issue in interpreting these finds is what type of site or sites does this scatter represent? Mesolithic sites are often viewed as representing a contrast between base camps and specialist camps, the latter often being described as hunting, gathering or resource extraction stations and these often have a limited range of lithic types and far smaller total assemblages. The assemblage from H is currently too small to be certain as to what type of site we have identified, however, there are several indications that it may be a base camp.

- 4.19.2 Although culturally the material retrieved so far can be considered to be Mesolithic or Neolithic an important focus of all the excavations on the Scheme will be to attempt to provide as detailed a chronology as possible for the flint assemblages and related evidence reinforced by methods such as radio carbon dating.
- 4.19.3 The presence of microlithic fragments in the burnt waste is of importance and strongly suggests a domestic focus. The fragments most likely originated from hunted game and their burnt and fragmentary condition has occurred due to them being cooked in the fire and either falling from the game, or being thrown/spat back onto the hearth. Concentrations of burnt microlith fragments are very often a feature of Mesolithic hearth deposits. Here, given the levels of fine flint debitage that had been heavily burnt, it would appear as if such hearths were routinely cleaned out and the waste dispersed away from the main domestic focus.
- 4.19.4 This site is in the location of a large balancing pond proposed for the Scheme but Site 18 will also have a secondary focus to the east on an area not evaluated but with significant potential given the proximity of the flint scatter and which will be impacted by a haul road. This area will also be investigated with a targeted excavation prior to any wider strip map and sample due to the potential for a find of further 'flint' archaeology to delay construction works.

## **5 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS (JANUARY - MARCH 2013)**

- 5.1.1 The **Phase 2 and Construction Programme Submission 3A November 2012** for the Scheme as contained in the CEMP has been reviewed with regard to archaeological mitigation for January - March 2012. Development impacts during this period are fairly limited and will not be repeated in detail here but include; site clearance, fencing, service diversions, bridge construction, some initial haul road construction and the creation of the main site compound at the eastern end of the Scheme.
- 5.1.2 As stated above arrangements for metal detecting, fieldwalking, earthwork and historic building survey are all in place and will be completed prior to any associated impacts. All impacts from development works will be reviewed as the project proceeds and actions such as watching brief put in place where necessary and agreed at the weekly meetings with the County Archaeological Officer on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 5.1.3 The main site compound is the subject of mitigation Site 7 (strip, map and sample) and provision is made by this addendum in conjunction with the main WSI to undertake that work. The programme indicates a start in January but the Project Managers have confirmed that this will not start till February due to issues in acquiring the land. In accordance with the WSI the County Archaeologist will be kept informed of the timing of any archaeological works.
- 5.1.4 A small amount of haul road construction will take place in the January - March period and where this encroaches on a strip, map and sample site (eg. chainage 1500 -1600 which will impact the very southern end of Site 1) this will be undertaken using the strip, map and sample methodology.
- 5.1.5 The haul road between chainage 2800 - 3400 will impact on the Area Excavation 10 and Targeted Excavation 15 Sites just at it's eastern end between Ch 3250 - 3400. The construction is not programmed to start till late March and may not reach this area till some time later if it progresses from the west end. Site 15 and the affected area of Site 10 will be prioritised for early archaeological action and will be undertaken prior to the haul road construction in that area.
- 5.1.6 The details of the development programme are clearly subject to revision during construction and the above works may change as updated versions of the CEMP are produced. If the above no longer reflects the most up to date programme then the programme will take precedence and the measures outlined in 3.2 above will provide a weekly forum to review ongoing works and agree and plan archaeological actions with all parties including the County Archaeologist who will monitor this process on behalf of the Planning Authority.

## 6 REFERENCES

ESCC 2009. Bexhill Hastings Link Road. Archaeology Project Design. ESCC brief produced by Casper Johnson.

HAARG, 1987 The HAARG Domesday Project; Upper Wilting Farm, Hollington, a first report

OA December 2012. Bexhill to Hastings Link Road. Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Evaluation Report. Oxford Archaeology Client Report

OA June 2012. Bexhill to Hastings Link Road. Archaeological Project Research Design and Written Scheme of Investigation. Advance Works. Oxford Archaeology Client Document