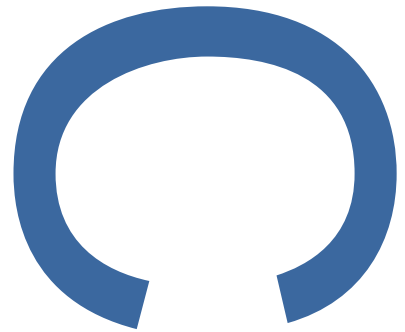


**WHITFIELD ASPEN SCHOOL,
MAYFIELD ROAD, WHITFIELD,
DOVER, KENT, CT16 3LJ: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

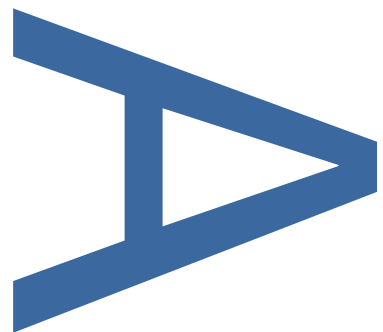


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**



SITE CODE: KVAS 17

SEPTEMBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**WHITFIELD ASPEN SCHOOL, MAYFIELD ROAD, WHITFIELD, DOVER, KENT,
CT16 3LJ: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: KVAS17

Central NGR: TR 309 450

Local Planning Authority: Kent County Council

Planning Reference: Pre-Planning

Commissioning Client: Pellings on behalf of Kent County Council

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


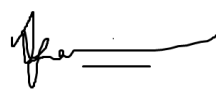
Site Name

Land at Whitfield Aspen School,
Mayfield Road,
Whitfield,
Dover,
Kent,
CT16 3LJ

Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on Land at Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3LJ and is centred at TR 309 450.
- 1.2 Following the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Fairman 2017), an archaeological evaluation was carried out between 4th and 11th September 2017 and was completed in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists and following the guidelines issued by Historic England and Kent County Council.
- 1.3 Natural head deposits of clay with flints were located at between 116.04m OD to the west of the site and 112.22m OD to the east.
- 1.4 The natural deposits were cut by a ditch and two postholes, none of which contained any dating evidence. The features were sealed by a Post-Medieval horticultural layer, which was in turn sealed by the topsoil of the current day land-surface.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation, commissioned by Pellings on behalf of their clients Kent County Council, was undertaken on land at Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent CT16 3LJ between 4th and 11th September 2017. It was undertaken in advance of a planning application for an expansion to the existing primary and SEN School. It is proposed to expand the 2FE mainstream plus 1 FE SEN School to a 4FE mainstream plus 2FE SEN by means of a separate 2 FE plus 1 FE SEN satellite Primary School.
- 2.2 The site comprised a roughly rectangular plot of land, centred at TR 309 450 and is located on the south-eastern side of Archers Court Road, between the village of Whitfield and the hamlet of Church Whitfield.
- 2.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Fairman 2017), detailed the methodology by which the evaluation was to be undertaken. The WSI followed the Historic England (Historic England GLAAS 2014) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIFA, 2014) in addition to Kent County Council trial trenching requirements (Manual of Specifications Part B). The evaluation was supervised by Guy Seddon and the project was managed by Amelia Fairman for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The project was monitored by Ben Found (Archaeology Officer, Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council).
- 2.4 The site was given a unique site code KWAS17. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the local receiving museum.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 A full planning background is laid out in the site specific Desk-Based Assessment, (Themeli 2017), below are the salient points.

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework

3.2.1 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced existing national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)). In summary, current national policy provides a framework which protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets and their settings, in appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions regarding the historic environment and provides for the investigation by intrusive or non-intrusive means of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation. Relevant paragraphs within the NPPF include the following:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

132. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest

significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

3.3 Local Planning Policy: Dover District Council

3.3.1 Dover District Council's Core Strategy (adopted 2010) sets out policies in respect of development within the district. The following is of direct relevance to the subject site:

Policy CP11: The Managed Expansion of Whitfield

The site to the west, north and east of Whitfield is allocated for an expansion of Whitfield comprising at least 5,750 homes supported by transport, primary education, primary health and social care utility services and green infrastructure together with retail, financial and professional offices, eating and drinking establishments (Use Classes A1 to A5). Planning permission will be granted provided:

- i. Any application for development is preceded by, and is consistent with, a masterplan for the whole site which has been agreed by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document;*
- ii. The proposals relate to the whole allocated development or if less do not in any way prejudice the implementation of the whole development;*
- iii. The proposals include a phasing and delivery strategy that is related to the provision of all forms of infrastructure and the creation of neighbourhood centres;*
- iv. An access and transport strategy is developed that maximises the potential for walking, cycling and use of public transport, especially to the town centre and the White Cliffs Business Park area, includes link/distributor roads to connect the site to the surrounding network, identifies access points to the site and between the site and the existing settlement, safeguards land for a park and ride facility and identifies construction access arrangements that do not disrupt existing residents;*
- v. An energy and water strategy is developed that will be capable of enabling the development throughout its lifetime to meet proposed national stepped requirements for sustainable construction under the Code for Sustainable Homes but enables residential buildings to achieve a minimum of Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 with immediate effect from adoption of the Core Strategy, non-residential buildings to achieve BREEAM excellent standard and schools to achieve zero carbon rating;*
- vi. Existing hedgerows and tree lines are, wherever possible retained and enhanced to form the basis of a green infrastructure network that connects with the wider network and also incorporates open spaces for recreational and other purposes, including the provision of facilities to deflect likely urbanisation and recreational pressures arising from the development away from the Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs Special Area of Conservation;*

vii. The design creates neighbourhood centres and incorporates a landmark building and foreground buildings and creates vistas and focal points using retained trees and having particular regard to relationships with the access and transport, energy, water and green infrastructure strategies;

viii. The mix of market housing is designed to broaden Dover's market offer and appeal and assist in attracting families and people of working age into the District while the provision of affordable housing should address prioritised need; and

ix. The proposals demonstrate how the development would protect the setting of listed buildings and integrate with existing residential areas while not causing any significant adverse effect on the amenities of existing residents.

- 3.3.2 The Dover District Heritage Strategy (adopted 2013) outlines the historic assets of the district and how their special character could contribute to the future of the area. The strategy also provides guidance on the management of those assets:

Theme 11 Archaeology

4.40 Dover District contains a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments from early prehistory to the twentieth century. The archaeological remains reflect the District's gateway position linking Britain and the continent. Remains associated with trade, movement of people, new cultures and ideas as well relating to the District's role as a frontline of defence dominate the area's archaeological record. Exceptionally well preserved archaeological remains are known in the District from both rural and urban contexts. The District's outstanding archaeological remains help to provide people with a direct physical link to the past and bring to life stories and events occurring at an international, national, regional and local level.

- 3.3.3 The Whitfield Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Adopted Masterplan (2011), contains the following statements in respect of the heritage assets of the area:

Heritage Assets:

3.47 Heritage assets is a collective term for all types of buildings, structures and remains that are of historic significance. In and around Whitfield these have been identified as:

Listed Buildings

The Hamlet of Church Whitfield

Rural Lanes, and

Archaeological Remains

Archaeology

3.57 *Desk based research indicates that the WUE area has a generally moderate archaeological potential with high potential based on known activity in localised areas. Potential for finds is heightened on the clay-with-flints geology on the western part of the WUE. This coincides with the heightened potential for medieval remains associated with a Preceptory of the Knights Templar, which is situated 75m west of the western boundary of the WUE in the vicinity of Temple Farm.*

3.58 *The potential for later prehistoric and Roman archaeology is heightened, but not exclusive to, higher ground where crop marks have been observed in the east of the WUE. Occupation activity can be expected south east of Church Whitfield where excavations have recovered iron age and early medieval remains.*

3.59 *On the basis of available information it is likely that further archaeological investigation would be needed. This would be dealt with by conditions attached to planning permissions.*

- *Archaeological investigation will be needed at the planning application stage of the development*
- *Opportunities should be taken to provide information and interpretation of the WUE's archaeology preferably as part of any new network of green infrastructure.*

3.3.4 Of the six listed buildings in and around Whitfield, none are located within or immediately adjacent to the subject site. The closest to the site is that of St Peter's Church to the north, which is considered as part of the hamlet of Church Whitfield.

3.4 **Site Specific Planning Constraints**

3.4.1 The proposed development site does not contain any Listed or Designated Heritage Assets. The proposed development site does not lie within or adjacent to a Conservation Area.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>) indicates that the bedrock geology underlying the study site is Margate Chalk Member – Chalk. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 71 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.
- 4.1.2 The site was located on superficial geology comprising Clay-with-flints Formation - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods. The local environment was previously dominated by weathering processes.
- 4.1.3 Geotechnical investigations had not been undertaken for the site. A borehole record just east of the study site in Great Pineham (TR34NW4), recorded 50mm of topsoil and 0.75m of flint overlying 1.70m of brown clay and 0.50m brown flint bound sand clay underneath.

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The site was located on relatively flat ground covering 26,489 m² in total. It was in use as agricultural land and sloped down to the south. There were no water resources in the vicinity and no significant trees.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A full archaeological and historical background is laid out in the site specific Desk-Based Assessment, (Themeli 2017), below are the salient points.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 The earliest finds of the general area include a number of Lower Palaeolithic (c. 900,000 – 100,000 years BP) flint artefacts. Within the search radius and in the vicinity of the site, a scatter of struck flints and occasional calcined flints were found during an archaeological evaluation Honeywood Parkway, c. 500m to the south of the study site (TR 34 SW 1095) dating back to the Palaeolithic period (650,000-10,000 BC).

5.2.2 The lack of significant Mesolithic evidence could be noted here, with the only example of a Mesolithic adze/axe found during an evaluation that took place at Honeywood Parkway (TR 34 SW613).

5.2.3 Further evidence for prehistoric activity ranging from the Early Neolithic to the Bronze Age (4,000-700 BC) can be seen in various sites in the Whitfield area. Much larger quantities of flintwork were discovered during an evaluation that took place at Whitfield Aspen School, c. 500m to the west of the site (TR 34 NW 248) as well as during the evaluation (TR 34 SW 613) and watching brief (TR 34 SW 910) at Honeywood Parkway. A large amount of prehistoric struck flints were collected; most of them were waste flakes, with several cores and one rough scraper, whilst two burnt “pot –boilers” were recovered. Most of the finds appeared to be Early Neolithic/Neolithic to Bronze Age in date.

5.2.4 There is considerable evidence for Neolithic activity in the vicinity of the study site, with a date range of 4,000-2,500 BC. An evaluation trench in Honeywood Parkway (TR 34 SW 625) uncovered a light scatter of struck flints in the plough soil, although no features were recorded. To the south of Pineham, c. 300m east of the site (TR 34 NW 245) a single pit was found containing calcined flint, struck flints and possible Neolithic pottery.

5.2.5 There is a little evidence of Bronze Age activity (2,500-700 BC), in close vicinity to the site. Less than 100m to the south of the site (TR 34 NW 2) a Late Bronze Age socketed axe was found on the Roman Road at Pineham, with a length of 4.375 inches. Sadly this was possibly lost during the Second World War, as the Dover Museum was partially destroyed.

5.2.6 By the later prehistoric period much of the land would have lain in an agricultural landscape. There are a number of possible ring ditches in the form of crop- or soil- marks on satellite aerial photographs of the site, in close proximity to the area of the proposed school. These include a ring-ditch or circular enclosure to the north of the study site (TR 34 NW 338) and a rectilinear enclosure with linear features and a ring ditch to the north-east (TR 34 NW 145) as well as a ring ditch slightly to the west (TR 34 NW 139).

5.2.7 An Early Iron Age settlement (700 BC-300 BC) was recorded after aerial photographs taken in 1987 identified some features. During improvement works for the A256, numerous features

were recorded, including pits, ditches and postholes, c. 300m to the north at Pineham. Pottery collected suggests deposition between c.550-300 BC (TR 34 NW 224).

5.2.8 A few metres to the east of the church at Church Whitfield another settlement was exposed during works associated with the A256. Dating to between the Mid and Late Iron Age, the investigations revealed an enclosure with a small number of internal features. Questions of a possible larger cemetery have arisen following the discovery of a ritual deposit of a human skull in the ditch of the enclosure and an inhumation burial to the south-east (TR 34 NW 222). The site dated to between c.150-50 BC.

5.2.9 An Iron Age ditch containing finds such as flints and pottery was also discovered in South Pineham (TR 34 SW 676, Map Ref. 9). Two further features were recorded with pottery and pot-boilers. Several findspots reveal a small number of coins, one made of gold (MKE65838) and three made of copper alloy (MKE63030), (MKE66093, Map Ref. 14) (MKE66185).

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 During the Roman Period (AD 43 – 410) Dover became a very important port, with very clear evidence of settlements with all the facilities of a Roman city. Although the Roman occupation across the area of Whitfield and Dover is well studied, there is little evidence of a Roman settlement in the area close to the study site, despite the presence of the Roman road running north to south connecting Richborough to Dover being located c.400m to the east of the site (TR 35 SW 357).

5.3.2 Archaeological remains within the search radius dating to the Roman period have been found during evaluation work at two locales; one along the line of the Whitfield - Eastry Bypass (TR 34 NW 244), which comprised a chalk quarry with a quantity of Iron Age and Roman pottery, and another to the south of the site at Honeywood Parkway (TR 34 SW 919), in which three ditches were found which may date to the Roman or medieval period.

5.3.3 There have also been several artefacts found within the search radius, including two copper alloy coins dating between the 3rd and 4th century AD, from findspots to the north east (MKE63897) (MKE63938).

5.4 Early Medieval

5.4.1 The early medieval settlement of Whitfield is located to the north of the study site at Church Whitfield. The early medieval and -Saxon church of St. Peter (TR 34 NW 284) was founded in this period (8th century) as a flint and plain tiled roof type structure.

5.4.2 During work on the Whitfield –Eastry Bypass an early medieval hamlet was recorded c. 400m to the north-east of the study site (TR 34 NW 246) dating to c.575-700 AD according to the pottery that was found. The site included several structures, two timber halls, a number of sunken huts and pit features.

5.4.3 Dated to the same period a few early medieval artefacts were collected, including a harness fitting (MKE63896) and a copper alloy bridle fitting (MKE63937) to the north east of the site.

5.5 Medieval

5.5.1 The main medieval settlement in the area appears to be located close to the harbour and royal castle of Dover, with small villages around Church Whitfield and Guston. Medieval finds from within the search radius, found to the north and north east of the site, include a jug (TR 34 NW 213) a copper alloy buckle (MKE64094), an oval- framed spur buckle (MKE95248), a brooch (MKE63621) and a copper alloy sword belt fitting (MKE63439). All the artefacts were dated to between 1066 AD and 1539 AD.

5.6 Post-Medieval

5.6.1 The tithe map of 1842 shows the settlement of Church Whitfield to the north of the site and Pineham to the north-east. The site is shown as divided into two fields, bounded to the north by Archer's Court Road. The site lay, as it does today, within arable fields. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1876 and 1898, show that a number of agricultural buildings were built both in close proximity and within the site during the 19th century. The southern boundary of the site is defined by a 'defaced' root of hedge, and a number of Boundary Stones (BS) are marked along the hedge line. The main part of the site remained arable fields as it is today.

5.6.2 The Historic Environment Records revealed a number of post-medieval structures and buildings, largely agricultural in nature, in the vicinity of the site. These farmsteads are dated c.1800 AD and are mainly of a regular courtyard 'L' type with working agricultural buildings and detached elements to the main plan. They are primarily located along Archer's Court Road, which possibly suggests that it would have serviced the connection between them (MKE87985), (MKE87991) and (MKE87993). An out-farm adjacent to Elm Farm House is marked directly to the west of the site and shown on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map (MKE87990) though it has since been demolished.

5.6.3 Other archaeological features of post-medieval date identified in the area include a boundary ditch which could be associated with a field or hedge bank (TR 34 NW 243) as well as a few gullies which could be related to drainage or deep ploughing. Several findspots revealed post-medieval finds such as copper alloy coin (MKE63936), a lead loomweight (MKE63939), a token (MKE63894) and double looped buckles (MKE63900).

5.7 Modern

5.7.1 As mentioned previously the site remained divided into two fields, until the 20th century when they were amalgamated into larger fields as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1907, 1933, 1951 and 1970-73. In the later nineteenth or early twentieth century a number of agricultural buildings were erected at what is now Elm Farm House.

5.7.2 In 1940 during the Second World War a Messerschmitt Bf109E-4 crashed on Church Farm, Church Whitfield (TR 34 NW 325) and a Supermarine Spitfire (X4057) crashed and burned near Pineham (TR 34 NW 320).

5.8 Unknown date

- 5.8.1 Within the radius of the study site aerial photos illustrate several features as cropmarks. Linear features, possibly part of a previous enclosure, were spotted by Archer's Court Road (TR 34 NW 147) and an indistinct linear cropmark, possibly a former trackway to the south of Church Whitfield Road (TR 34 NW 138). Also, a double ring ditch is visible as a cropmark (TR 34 NW 330). A scatter of 'splodges' is noted to the north of the site (TR 34 NW 137).
- 5.8.2 A number of artefacts such as a knife/scrapper (TR 34 SW 249, a token (MKE63898) and other unidentifiable objects have been collected from a few findspots, but are not believed to have been in situ.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving features at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Institute of Field Archaeology, in addition to trial trenching specifications as specified by Kent County Council (KCC Manual of Specifications Part B).
- 6.2 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Fairman 2017), the evaluation aimed to address the following issues:
- To confirm the presence or absence of prehistoric remains, particularly with regard to the nearby cropmarks, to establish the nature, date and extent of these features
 - To confirm the presence or absence of Roman remains;
 - To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon activity;
 - To confirm the presence or absence of medieval activity
- 6.3 The site was subject to twenty evaluation trenches which measured 30m by 1.8m.
- 6.4 All excavation of the low-grade overlying deposits was undertaken using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 6.5 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until the natural ground was exposed.
- 6.6 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The majority of the investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 6.7 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Features were evaluated so as to characterise their form, function and date.
- 6.8 All trenches were left open for over 48 hours to allow any features to weather out.
- 6.9 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.
- 6.10 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation consisting of a digital photographic archive that was maintained during the course of the archaeological investigation.

- 6.11 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the local receiving museum with site code KWAS17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

7.1 Out of the twenty evaluation trenches that were excavated on the study site, only two contained any features, Tr1 and Tr6, with the other eighteen showing a sequence of natural gravels in a silty clay matrix, overlain by subsoil, sealed by topsoil. The deposit descriptions for the majority of the trenches has therefore been tabulated, with in depth trench descriptions shown for Trenches 1 and 6 only.

7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 1 consisted of natural gravels within a silty clay matrix, (brickearth), recorded as [3].

7.2.2 The natural fell from a height of 116.04m OD at the southern end of Trench 1 to 115.34 OD at the northern end.

7.2.3 Cut into the natural was gully [6] at a height of 115.50mOD. It ran across the trench on an east-west alignment with a length of over 9.8m, a width of 0.54m and had a depth of 0.19m. Within the gully were two fills, the primary fill, [5] comprised a clean, firmly compacted, mid reddish grey/brown silty clay. The secondary fill, [4], was firmly compacted, mid yellowish grey clayey silt. No finds were also recovered from either fill.

7.2.4 Overlying the gully was subsoil layer [2], which was 0.10m thick and had a surface height of 115.53m OD. The subsoil was in turn sealed by topsoil layer [1], which had a surface height of 116.04m OD at Trench 1.

7.3 Trench 6

7.3.1 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 6 comprised natural gravels in a silty clay matrix [3]. The deposit fell from a height of 114.10m OD at the western end of the trench to 113.35m OD at the eastern end.

7.3.2 Cutting into the natural were two pits, [8] and [14]. Pit [8], located at 113.93m OD, had a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.27m. It contained three fills, [7], [9] and [10]. The primary fill [10] comprised very compacted burnt flints in a dark greyish brown silt matrix. The secondary fill [9] was very compact, mid yellowish brown silty clay, with moderate inclusions of burnt flint and very occasional charcoal flecks. The tertiary fill [7], comprised very compact, dark greyish brown silt with frequent inclusions of burnt flint and very occasional charcoal flecks. No datable finds were recovered from this feature.

7.3.3 Pit [14], at 114.00m OD, measured 0.76m east-west by 0.62m north-south and had a depth of 0.16m. It contained two fills, [12] and [13]. The primary fill of the pit, [13] comprised very compacted burnt flints in a dark greyish brown silt matrix. The secondary fill [12] was very firmly compacted silt with occasional inclusions of burnt flint. No dating evidence was retrieved from either fill.

- 7.4 In Trenches 3, 4, 6 - 11, 12, 15, 16 and 19 subsoil layer [11] sealed the cut features and the natural deposits. This comprised firmly compacted, mid grey, slightly silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout and was c. 0.20m thick.
- 7.5 Sealing the ditch in Trench [1], subsoil [11] in Trenches 6, 8 and 11, and the natural in all the other trenches was another sub-soil layer numbered [2]. This comprised firmly compacted, slightly greyish yellow clay with frequent flecks of chalk throughout and was c. 0.20m thick.
- 7.6 Sealing the subsoil in the trenches was topsoil, [1], which formed the current ground surface of the study site. This was c. 0.20m thick and fell from 116.45m OD at Trench 14, to the south-west of the site to 112.56m OD at Trench 11 on the east of the site.

Table of Contexts

Context No	Type	Description	Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth	OD Height (m)	
							Max	Min
1	Layer	Topsoil	All	*	*	0.2	116.45	112.56
2	Layer	Subsoil	1, 2, 5, 6, 8,10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17,	*	*	0.2	116.25	112.36
3	Layer	Natural	All	*	*	*	116.04	112.22
4	Fill	Secondary Fill of [6]	1	9.8	0.54	0.13	115.5	115.43
5	Fill	Primary Fill of [6]	1	9.8	0.42	0.19	115.5	*
6	Cut	Gully	1	9.8	0.54	0.25	115.5	115.2
7	Fill	Tertiary Fill of [8]	6	0.4	0.4	0.1	113.93	*
8	Cut	Pit	6	0.4	0.4	0.27	113.93	113.61
9	Fill	Secondary Fill of [8]	6	*	0.62	0.18	113.93	*
10	Fill	Primary Fill of [8]	6	*	0.64	0.3	113.93	113.69
11	Layer	Subsoil	3, 4, 6 - 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19	*	*	0.2	116.25	112.36
12	Fill	Secondary Fill of [14]	6	0.74	0.56	0.08	114	*
13	Fill	Primary Fill of [14]	6	0.72	*	0.16	114	113.92
14	Cut	Pit	6	0.74	0.67	0.16	114	113.84

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY PHASE

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.2 The natural deposits found on site were head deposits comprised of gravels within a clayey silt matrix, recorded as [3]. They fell from a height of 116.04m OD to the west of the site, in Trench 1 to 112.56m OD to the east of the site, in Trench 11.

8.3 Phase 2: Prehistoric

8.4 This phase represents the earliest human occupation of the site recorded during the evaluation. Cut into the natural were ditch [6] and two pits, [8] and [14]. No datable evidence was recovered from any of the features, however as they were all sealed by the sub-soil they have tentatively been dated to the prehistoric period.

8.5 Gully [6] ran across Trench 1 on an east-west alignment. Limited to the scope of the evaluation trench it is impossible to ascertain its function, however it could well be a field boundary. No finds were also recovered from either fill.

8.6 Pits [8] and [14] were both located in Trench 6. Pit [8], had a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.27m, whilst Pit [14] measured 0.76m east-west by 0.62m north-south and had a depth of 0.16m. The fills of both the pits contained high quantities of very compacted, burnt flints. The flints were not burnt in-situ as there was no discolouration of the surrounding soils and therefore must have been placed within the pits after the burning event. It is possible that the function of these pits is just to dispose of the burnt flint, however their extreme compaction suggests that this was a deliberate event and raises the possibility of them being post-pads. No datable finds were recovered from either feature.

8.7 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

8.7.1 Subsoil and topsoil forming the current land-surface overlay the earlier phases that were represented in the trenches and are indicative of the agricultural nature the site over the last 200 years.

9 RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Research Objectives

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Fairman 2017) highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

9.2 To confirm the presence or absence of prehistoric remains, particularly with regard to the nearby cropmarks, to establish the nature, date and extent of these features

9.2.1 All three features recorded on the study site have been tentatively placed within the prehistoric period. Although no dating evidence was recovered from any of the features they were all sealed by the sub-soil.

9.2.2 Pits [8] and [4] were both filled with very compacted, heavily burnt flint, with no sign of in-situ burning around the features, indicating that the flint had been burnt elsewhere and then placed within the pits. It could be that the pits were merely receptacles for the burnt material, i.e. rubbish pits, however it may be that the very compact surfaces provided by the burnt flints are in fact post-pads, which if so would indicate a larger structure within the area of Trench 6.

9.2.3 Gully [6], that was located in Trench 1, is most probably the remains of a field boundary, although due to limitations of the evaluation trench it is impossible to ascertain for certain.

9.3 To confirm the presence or absence of Roman remains

9.3.1 No Roman remains were observed on the study site.

9.4 To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon activity;

9.4.1 No Saxon remains were observed on the study site.

9.5 To confirm the presence or absence of medieval activity

9.5.1 No evidence of medieval activity was observed on the study site.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Pellings for commissioning the archaeological work on behalf of their client Kent County Council.

We also offer our thanks to Ben Found of Kent County Council for monitoring the site.

The author would also like to thank: Amelia Fairman for project managing and editing this report; Tilia Cammegh for the illustrations, Amparo Valcarcel for the building material assessment; Ella Egberts for the lithics assessment Märit Gaimster for the metal finds assessment; and Dan Britton and James Heathcote for their work on site.

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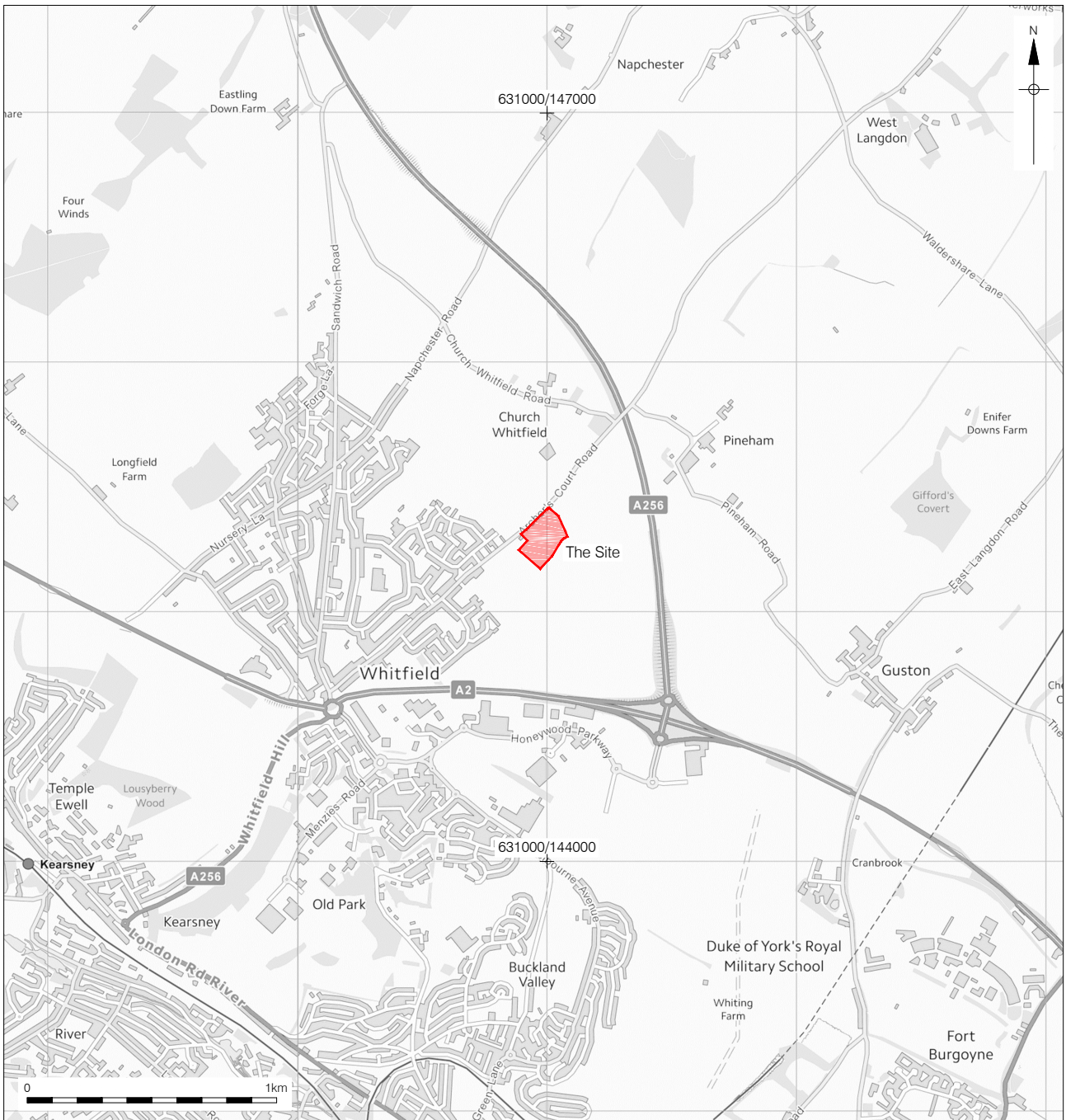
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 1:500,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

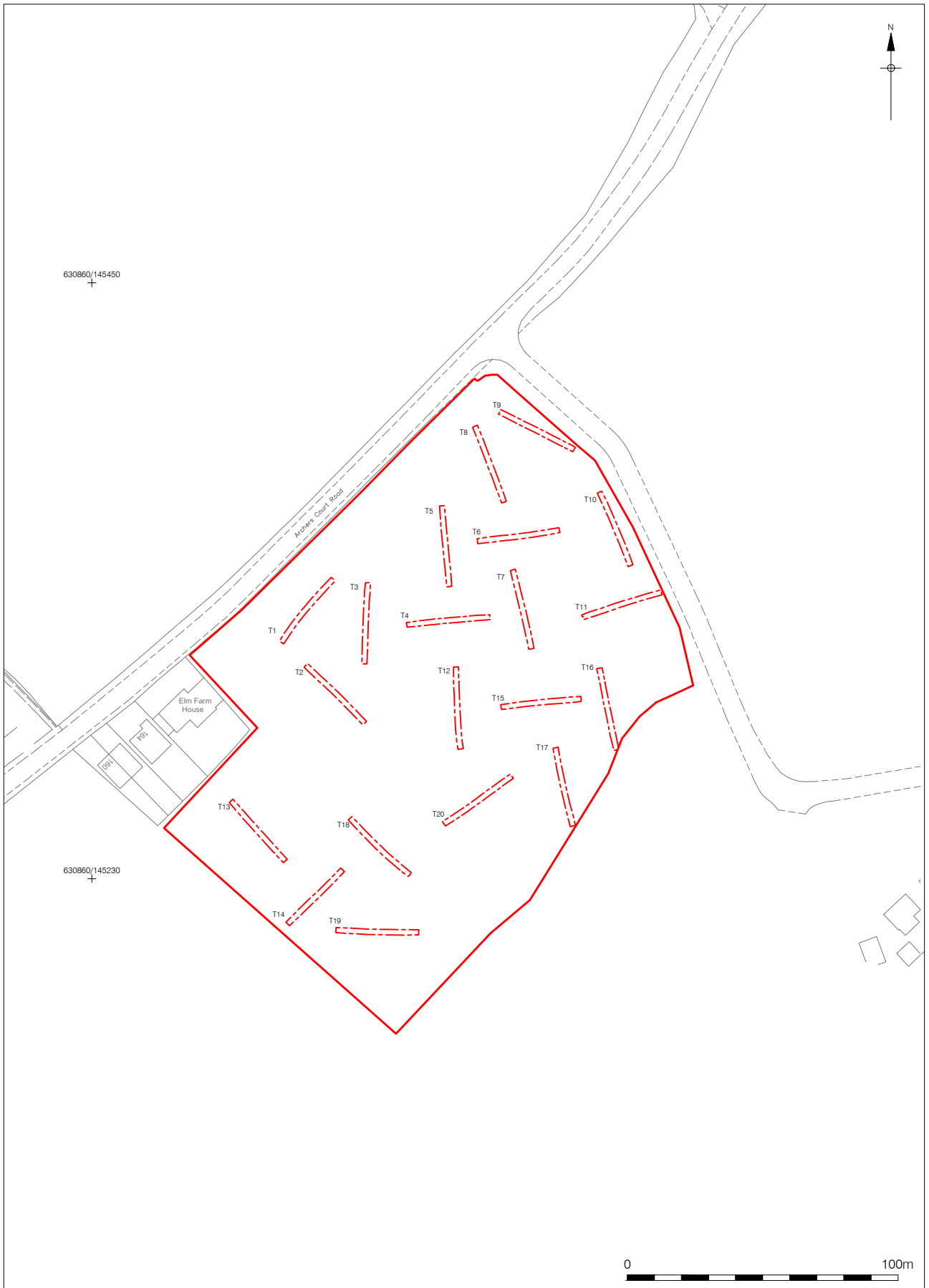


Figure 2
 Site and trench Location
 1:2,000 at A4

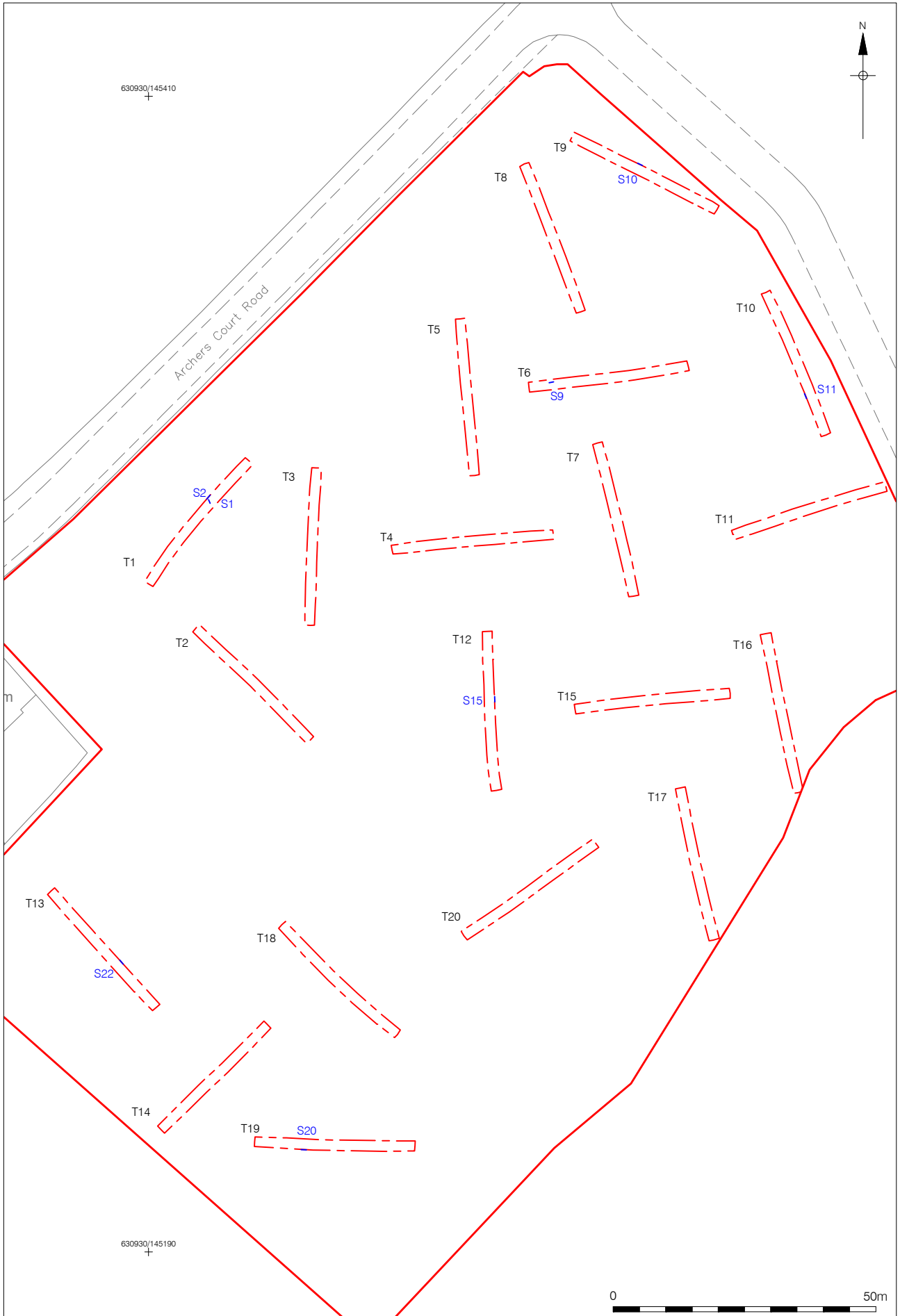
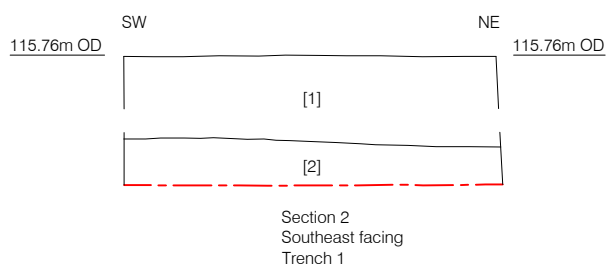
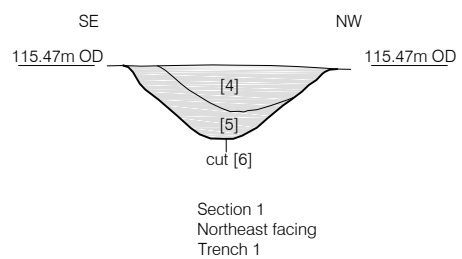
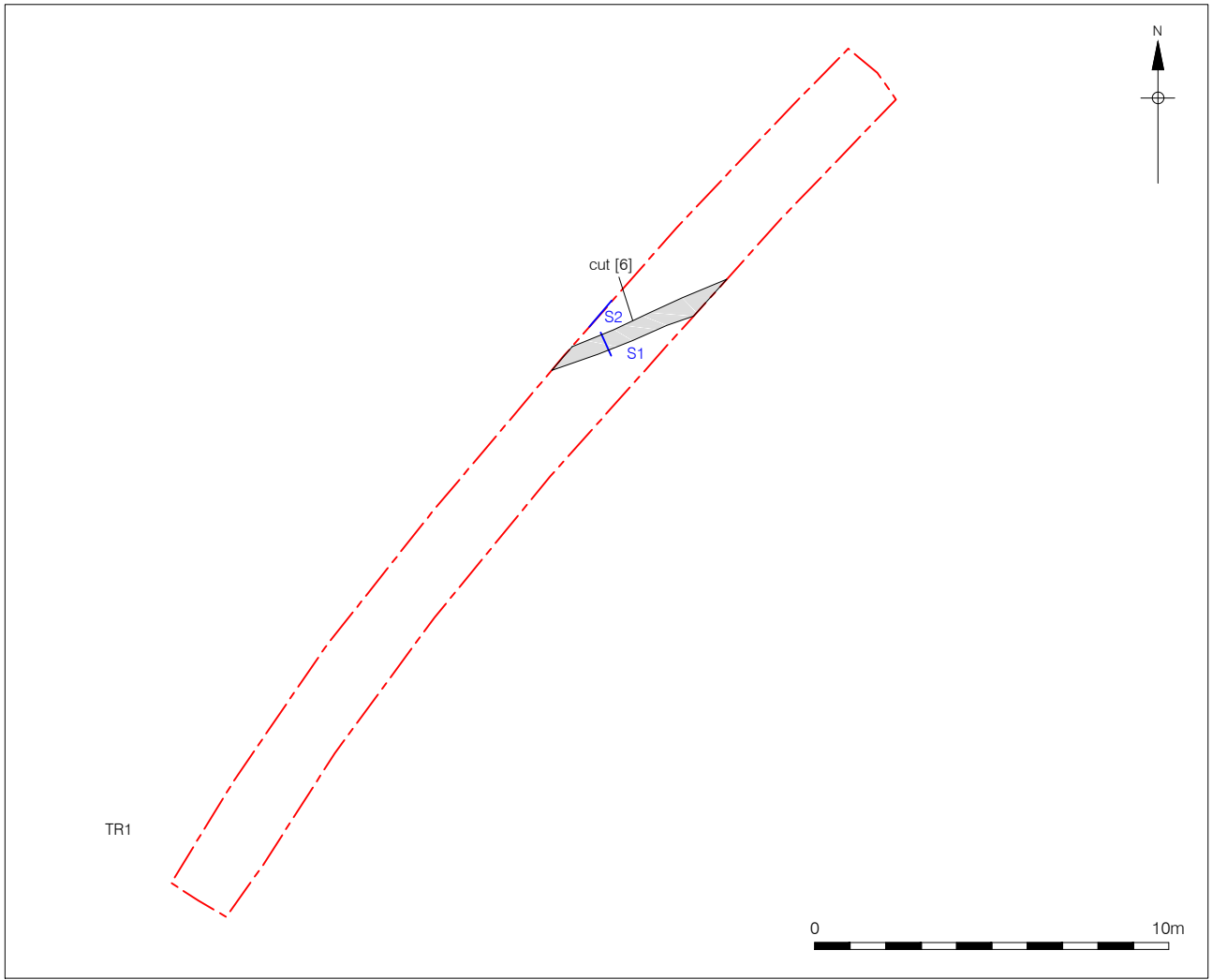
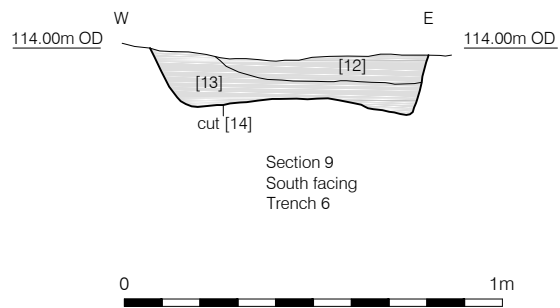
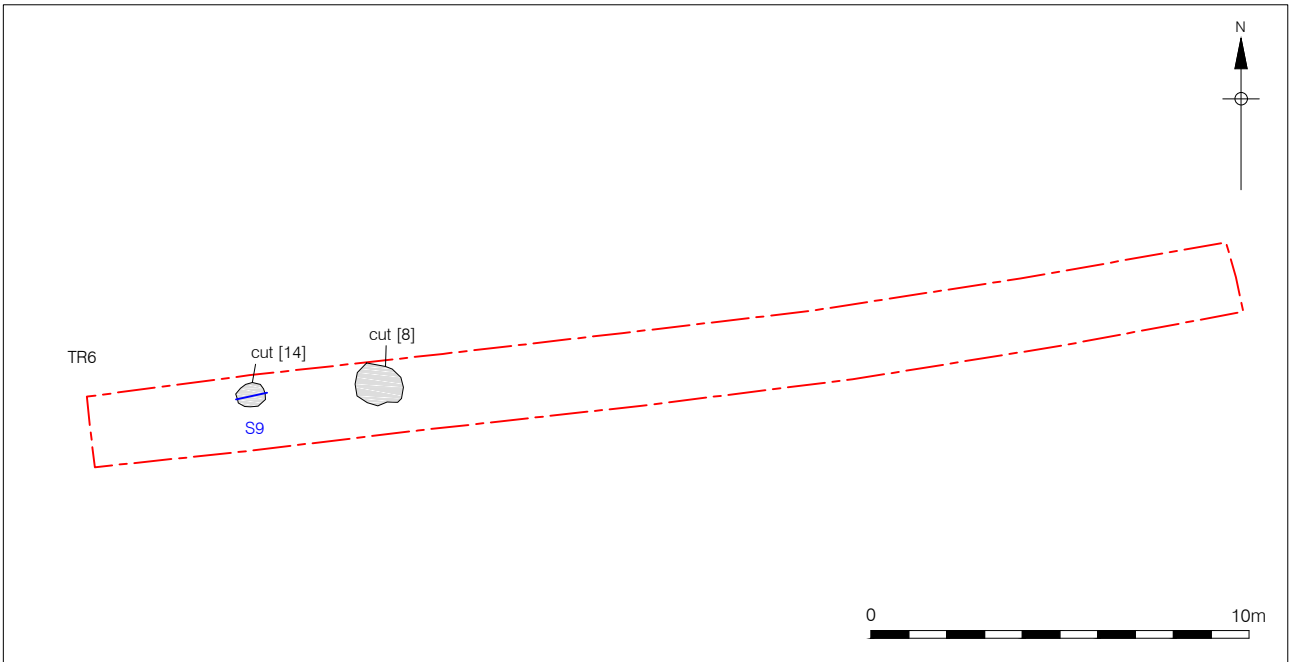


Figure 3
 Trench and section location
 1:1,000 at A4



Archaeological feature

Figure 4
Trench 1: Plans and sections
Plan at 1:200, sections at 1:20 at A4



■ Archaeological feature

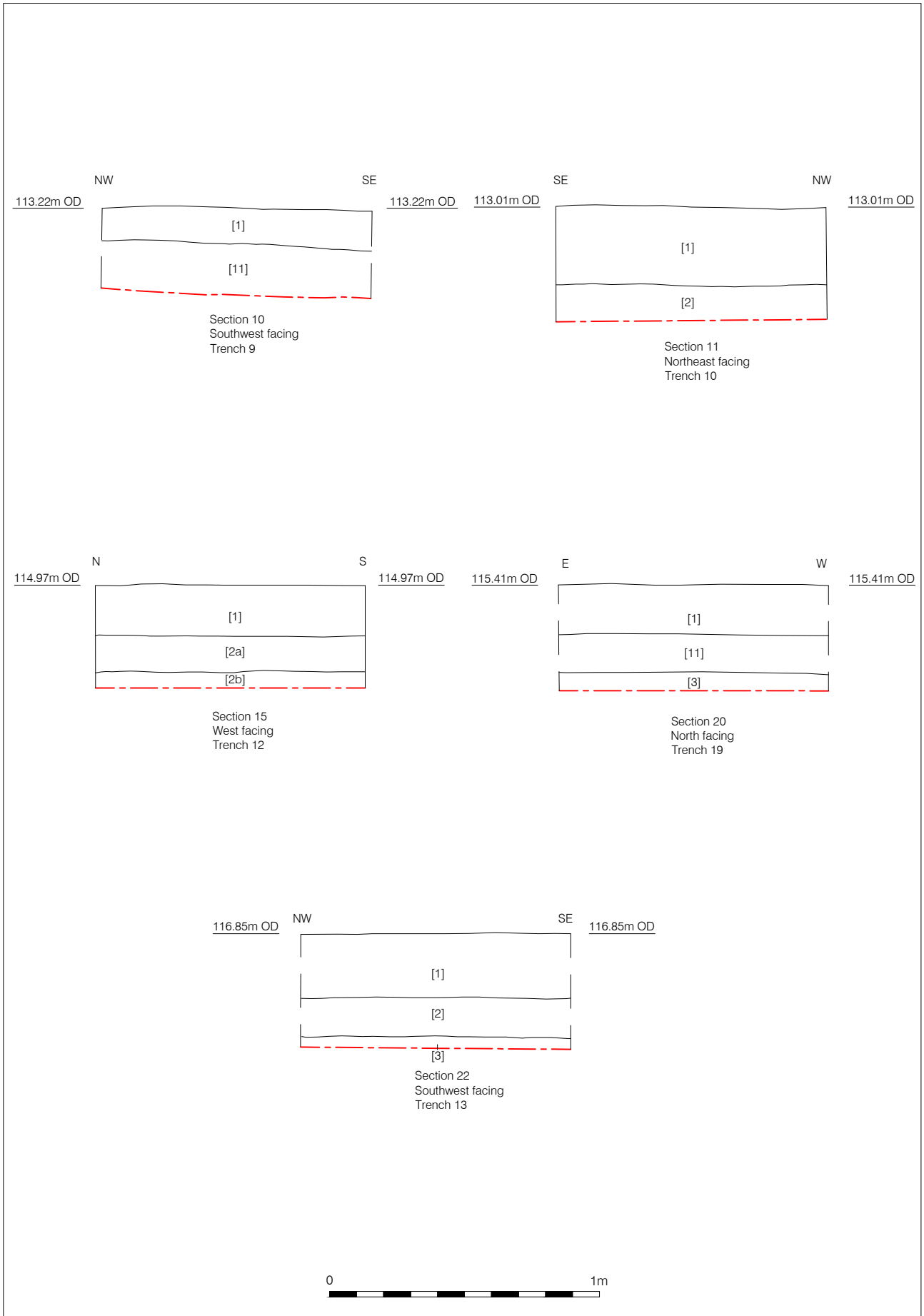


Figure 6: Sections

PLATES:



Plate 1: Trench 1, Looking South.



Plate 2: Gully [6], Trench 1, Looking West.



Plate 3: Trench 6, Looking East.



Plate 4: Pit [8], Trench 6, Looking East.

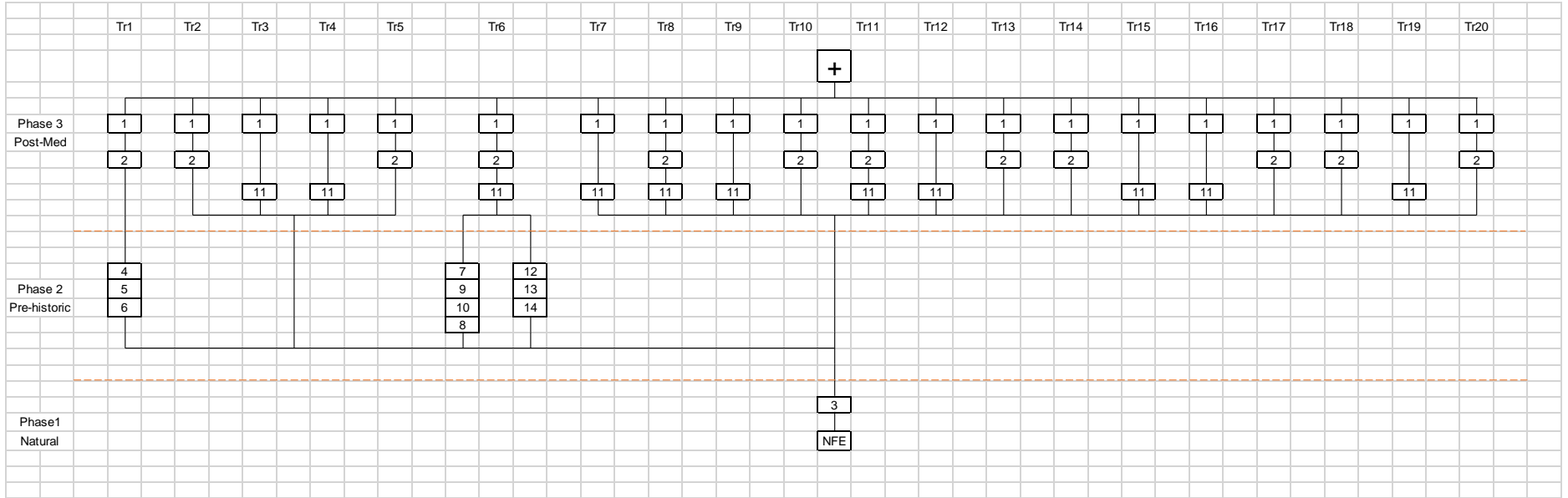


Plate 5: Pit [14], Trench 6, Looking North.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Type	Description	Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth	OD Height (m)	
							Max	Min
1	Layer	Topsoil	All	*	*	0.2	116.45	112.56
2	Layer	Subsoil	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17,	*	*	0.2	116.25	112.36
3	Layer	Natural	All	*	*	*	116.04	112.22
4	Fill	Secondary Fill of [6]	1	9.8	0.54	0.13	115.5	115.43
5	Fill	Primary Fill of [6]	1	9.8	0.42	0.19	115.5	*
6	Cut	Gully	1	9.8	0.54	0.25	115.5	115.2
7	Fill	Tertiary Fill of [8]	6	0.4	0.4	0.1	113.93	*
8	Cut	Pit	6	0.4	0.4	0.27	113.93	113.61
9	Fill	Secondary Fill of [8]	6	*	0.62	0.18	113.93	*
10	Fill	Primary Fill of [8]	6	*	0.64	0.3	113.93	113.69
11	Layer	Subsoil	3, 4, 6 - 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19	*	*	0.2	116.25	112.36
12	Fill	Secondary Fill of [14]	6	0.74	0.56	0.08	114	*
13	Fill	Primary Fill of [14]	6	0.72	*	0.16	114	113.92
14	Cut	Pit	6	0.74	0.67	0.16	114	113.84

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

REVIEW OF CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL WHITFIELD ASPEN SCHOOL, MAYFIELD ROAD, WHITFIELD, DOVER, KENT, CT16 3LJ (KVAS17)

Amparo Valcarcel

BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

Context	Fabric	Form		Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
2	Local sandy fabric	Local orange sandy fabric		3	1450	1900	1450	1900	1450-1900	No mortar

Review

The small assemblage (3 fragments) consists in pieces of post-medieval orange sandy brick. The fragments are very small and abraded, for that reason it is not possible to determine their date. No further work recommended.

APPENDIX 4: LITHICS ASSESSMENT

Archaeological Investigations at the Whitfield Aspen School Site, Mayfield Road, Whitfield, Dover

Site code: KWAS17

Lithic assessment

Ella Egberts September 2017

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation conducted at the above site resulted in the retention of 309 pieces of burnt flint and one worked flint. This report quantifies and describes the material, comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential.

Description

Burnt flint

A total of 309 pieces of burnt flint were recovered from various contexts at the Whitfield Aspen School Site. The quantities and details are presented in Table L01. Except three pieces of moderately burnt material, all remaining flints were very heavily burnt, fire-crazed, white and light grey decoloured. The largest piece of burnt flint weighs 463 g, the smallest pieces weigh <1 gram.

Worked flint

From Trench 9 context 11 one hammer/pounding stone was recovered. The translucent black/dark grey flint tool is 82mm long, 71mm wide, 47mm thick and weighs 313.8g. 25% of the flint is covered with slightly worn nodular cortex. The opposing side shows the heavily battered pounding surface (~40mm diameter). This is surrounded by some negative flake scars and some, probably accidental, flake removals which resulted from the use of the hammer/pounding stone. The piece does not show any chronologically diagnostic characteristics.

Context	Total pieces	Total weight (g)	Min weight (g)	Max weight (g)	Pieces with nodular cortex	Description
13	46	1214.2	1.9	139.7	15	All heavily burnt, fire-crazed, decoloured white to light grey
10	161	3188.7	0.6	135.3	48	Heavily burnt, fire-crazed, decoloured white to light grey, one red. Three pieces moderately burnt, fire-crazed throughout, not decoloured.
10	28	1688.1	0.6	463	16	All heavily burnt, fire-crazed, decoloured white to light grey
9	62	908.5	0.8	129.3	16	All heavily burnt, fire-crazed, decoloured white to light grey
7	12	259	0.3	106.2	5	All heavily burnt, fire-crazed, decoloured white to light grey, some pinkish red
7	1					Natural, unburnt flint. Discarded.
2 (Tr 2)	1					Natural, unburnt flint. Discarded.

Table L01: Details of the burnt flint from Whitfield, Aspen School, Kent.

Significance and recommendations

The homogeneity in the degree of burning on all pieces suggests deliberate rather than accidental burning. On 100 of the burnt flints nodular cortex was found. The cortex is thick and not worn, indicating that the flint was likely obtained directly from the Chalk bedrock present in the vicinity of the site, outcrops of which can be found in the cliffs on the coast and along the River Dour (British Geological Survey 2017). The high number of flint pieces with nodular cortex in this assemblage is remarkable for burnt flint scatters, which remains to be explained. Although at the moment no further analytical work is recommended, the material does indicate prehistoric activity at the site and further fieldwork could potentially elucidate the nature of activities conducted here. Should further work at the site be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in conjunction with any additional flint work following the completion of the archaeological programmes. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any

prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted.

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APPENDIX 5: METAL FINDS ASSESSMENT

THE METAL FINDS

Mårit Gaimster

Two metal objects were retrieved from the excavations, both from Context [2] in Trench 18. The objects consist of complete and, although corroded, relatively well-preserved iron hand sickle blades. Both are tang-hafted, with no visible remains of original organic handles. They have evenly curved blades from tang to tip, but are of two clearly different sizes. The smaller sickle has a span of 220mm from tang to blade tip; the blade is 20mm wide and the tang measures 65mm. The larger sickle has a span of 355mm and a blade width of 35mm; the tang is 95mm long.

Sickles represent an age-old agricultural tool for harvesting crops or cutting forage for livestock. The form and hafting of sickles changed little from the Iron Age and until modern times (cf. Goodall 2011, figs 7.7–8), so without further dating evidence, it is not possible to say how old the sickles from Whitfield Aspen school would be. The fact that the area remained agricultural until the 20th century, and the good preservation of the tools, would suggest they are unlikely to be earlier than the 19th century.

No further work is recommended for these objects. If relevant, they should be retained for deposition with a local museum.

APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-297133

Project details

Project name	Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Whitfield, Dover, An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 4th and 11th September 2017 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Natural head deposits of clay with flints were located at between 116.04m OD to the west of the site and 112.22m OD to the east. The natural deposits were cut by a ditch and two postholes, none of which contained any dating evidence. The features were sealed by a Post-Medieval horticultural layer, which was in turn sealed by the topsoil of the current day land-surface.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2017 End: 11-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any project codes associated with reference codes	KWAS17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric
Monument type	GULLY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods techniques	& "Sample Trenches", "Environmental Sampling"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DOVER WHITFIELD Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Rd, Whitfield
Postcode	CT164LJ
Study area	26489 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 309 450 51.156919441247 1.302467205391 51 09 24 N 001 18 08 E
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 112.22m Max: 116.04m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Pellings
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins
originator

Project Amelia Fairman
director/manager

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Pellings
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Local Museum
recipient

Physical Contents "Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive Local Museum
recipient

Digital Contents "Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive Local Museum
recipient

Paper Contents "Metal","Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey
available ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT163LJ,
An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Seddon, G

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