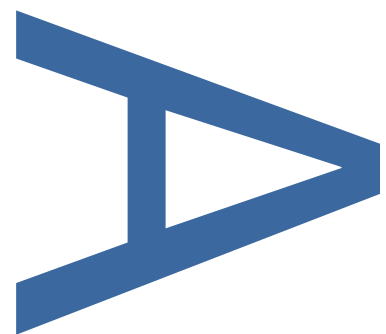
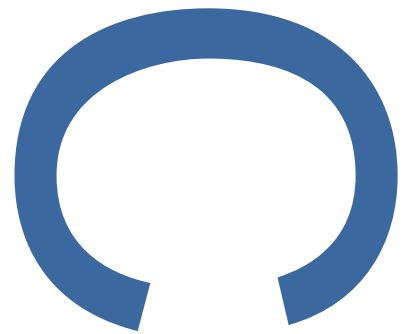


**LAND AT MAIDSTONE ROAD,  
MATFIELD, KENT, TN12 7JH**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: KM RM18**

**DECEMBER 2018**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**


**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**LAND AT MAIDSTONE ROAD, MATFIELD, KENT, TN12 7JH**

**Type of project**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Quality Control**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5843	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	13.12.2018	ZP	SG

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**LAND AT MAIDSTONE ROAD, MATFIELD, KENT, TN12 7JH**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

---

**Site Code:** KMRM18

**Central NGR:** TQ 6642 1620

**Local Planning Authority:** TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Planning Reference:** 17/01142/FUL

**Commissioning Client:** CGMS HERITAGE (PART OF RPS GROUP PLC)

**Written/Researched by:** Guy Seddon  
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**December 2018**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent TN12 7JH. The site is located within undeveloped pasture land and is centred at National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 6642 1620.
- 1.2 The fieldwork was carried out between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.
- 1.3 A sequence of topsoil, overlying subsoil, which in turn sealed the natural deposits was observed across the study site during the evaluation.
- 1.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent TN12 7JH. The site is located within undeveloped pasture land and is centred at National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 6642 1620 (Figures 1-2).
- 2.2 The site is located in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, in the northern part of Matfield to the west of Maidstone Road, c. 8km north-east of Royal Tunbridge Wells (Figure 1). The evaluation trenches were located in the area adjacent to Maidstone Road.
- 2.3 A planning permission has been granted for the erection of 20 No dwellings, consisting of two x 1-bedroom apartments, seven x 2-bedroom apartments + houses, six x 3-bedroom houses, five x 4-bedroom houses and associated development (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Ref. 17/01142/FULL), and it reads as follows:
- (21) Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:
- i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and
  - ii) further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority
- Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.
- 2.4 The evaluation took place over five days o between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.
- 2.5 The project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski (PCA) and was commissioned by CgMs Heritage, part of RPS Group PLC. The archaeological work was supervised by Guy Seddon.
- 2.6 The site lies to the north-west of Maidstone Road, within the area of extensive agricultural use of land in the post-medieval period, with numerous farmsteads in vicinity. The site itself contained arable fields and later 20<sup>th</sup> century orchard. The site also had some potential for prehistoric finds.
- 2.7 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited produced a written scheme of investigation for the site (PCA 2018) that designed the archaeological investigation.
- 2.8 The site archive was identified using the unique site code KMRM18, issued by PCA. The site archive will be deposited with the Sevenoaks Museum, under that code.
- 2.9 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:

- Land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent TN12 7JH. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief (PCA 2018)
- Kent County Council's (KCC) Generic Specification for Archaeological Evaluation
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Historic England 2016
- Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014)
- Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

### **3 RESEARCH DESIGN**

- 3.1 The archaeological work was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving deposits and features at the site and, if present, to investigate and record them.
- 3.2 The investigation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival.
- 3.3 The following site-specific research questions were also posed:
- Are there prehistoric remains present on the site, in particular of late prehistoric origins?
  - Is there an evidence of medieval and/or early post-medieval use of land for agricultural purposes, e.g. ridge and furrow?

### **4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 According to the British Geological Survey of England and Wales, the local geology consists of sandstone and siltstone of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded in the area.
- 4.2 The site lies on ground falling from north-west to south-east, on a high plateau forming part of the uplands of the High Weald. It is situated between 103m and 106m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and to the east of Tudeley Brook, the River Medway tributary.
- 4.3 The site is located to the north-west of Maidstone Road, just to the north of Matfield village centre and c. 3.25km north-east of Pembury near Tunbridge Wells (Figure 1). The site currently consists of pasture and overgrown scrub and development area is a rectangular plot of c. 1.4ha.

### **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by CgMs Heritage (2016) for the site. In summary:
- 5.2 Although no prehistoric archaeological remains are known from the immediate area, the site's location on a high plateau may have made it a favoured strategic location by the later prehistoric periods. Consequently, prehistoric archaeological evidence on the site cannot be entirely ruled out.
- 5.3 Evidence of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity is scarce. The site was likely located outside of any settlement.
- 5.4 The post-medieval period saw intensive agricultural development and the site contained arable land to the north of the post-medieval hamlet at Matfield. Historic maps show the site containing agricultural land and, in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, an orchard.



## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The research design set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Pozorski, 2018) aimed to address the research objectives detailed in Chapter 4 (see above).
- 6.3 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 11 trenches (see Figure 2). Each of the trenches measured 20m x 1.80m. The trenches were located within proposed development area, within the land adjacent west to Maidstone Road.
- 6.4 The machining was undertaken using an 8 tonne 360° mechanical excavator which excavated through the current ground surface and removed it using a toothless ditching bucket (1.80m wide). The machine then continued to remove modern overburden under the constant supervision of an archaeologist and spoil was mounded at least 1m from the edges of each trench.
- 6.5 All trenches were excavated, under constant archaeological supervision, in 100mm spits until the natural ground was exposed. Each trench was then fully investigated and recorded.
- 6.6 All deposits, sections and surfaces were examined by archaeologists. *In situ* soils and horizons (e.g. between topsoil and subsoil, and between subsoil and natural) were examined for artefacts, features, structures and deposits, non *in-situ* soils (e.g. spoil heaps) were examined for artefacts. All trenches were open for at least 48 hours to allow any features to weather out.
- 6.7 The trenches and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal-detector at regular intervals.
- 6.8 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation consisting of high-quality digital images.
- 6.9 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with a local museum with site code KMRM18.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

7.1 All of the evaluation trenches showed the same sequence of topsoil overlying sub-soil, which in turn sealed the natural deposits (see Appendix 1 for details). The archaeological sequence is characterised by phase.

### **7.2 Phase 1: Natural Deposits**

7.2.1 The earliest deposits found on site, recorded as [2], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22] and [23] comprised firmly compacted, mid greyish brown, fine, sandy silt with inclusions of weathered ragstone. The natural deposits were recorded at a maximum height of 105.37m AOD in Trench 4, located to the north-east of the site and minimum height of 103.60m AOD in Trench 9 in the south-eastern part of the site.

### **7.3 Phase 2: Post-Medieval**

7.3.1 Overlying the natural deposits, in all trenches was a layer of subsoil, recorded as [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12] and [13]. The deposit was formed of firmly compacted, mid reddish brown, fine sandy silt. It had a maximum height of 105.74m AOD in Trench 4, located to the north-east of the site and a minimum height of 103.95m AOD in Trench 9 in the south-eastern part of the site.

7.3.2 Within the subsoil post-medieval to early modern, likely late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic land drains were recorded across the site. The drains were aligned north-east to south-west roughly parallel to Maidstone Road and the following natural slope of land.

7.3.3 A single sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 5.

### **7.4 Phase 3: Modern**

7.4.1 The subsoil was sealed by topsoil, forming current ground level which was recorded at maximum height of 106.05m AOD in Trench 4, located to the north-east of the site to a minimum height of 104.15m AOD in Trench 9 in the south-eastern part of the site.

7.5 No archaeological features were observed during the investigation.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Natural Topography**

8.1.1 Levels recorded on the naturally deposited clay that formed the basal layer of all of the trenches suggested that the natural topography of the site slopes downwards gradually towards the south-west.

### **8.2 Archaeological deposits**

8.2.1 The natural deposits were sealed by a layer of subsoil, which appeared to have formed over a lengthy period. The presence of this horizon indicated that the site had probably been open agricultural land for a considerable length of time.

8.2.2 With an exception of one sherd of late post-medieval pottery, recovered from the subsoil, no archaeological finds or features were identified within the site.

## **9 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

9.1 Site-specific research aims and objectives were raised and addressed for the evaluation. The archaeological investigations sought to address these research questions and are answered in the following section.

### **9.2 Are there prehistoric remains present on the site, in particular of late prehistoric origins?**

9.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric occupation or any other remains were discovered during the evaluation.

### **9.3 Is there an evidence of medieval and/or early post-medieval use of land for agricultural purposes, e.g. ridge and furrow?**

9.3.1 There was no evidence of medieval and/or early post-medieval use of the study site.

## 10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Heritage for commissioning the archaeological investigation.
- 10.2 PCA would also like to thank Wendy Rogers of the Kent County Council for her advice.
- 10.3 The author would like to thank Dan Britton for assisting with the fieldwork to Anna Tonelli who prepared figures.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs Limited, 2016, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent*. Ref. 22798

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* ClfA 2014

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* ClfA 2014

Historic England, 2016, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment MoRPHE*

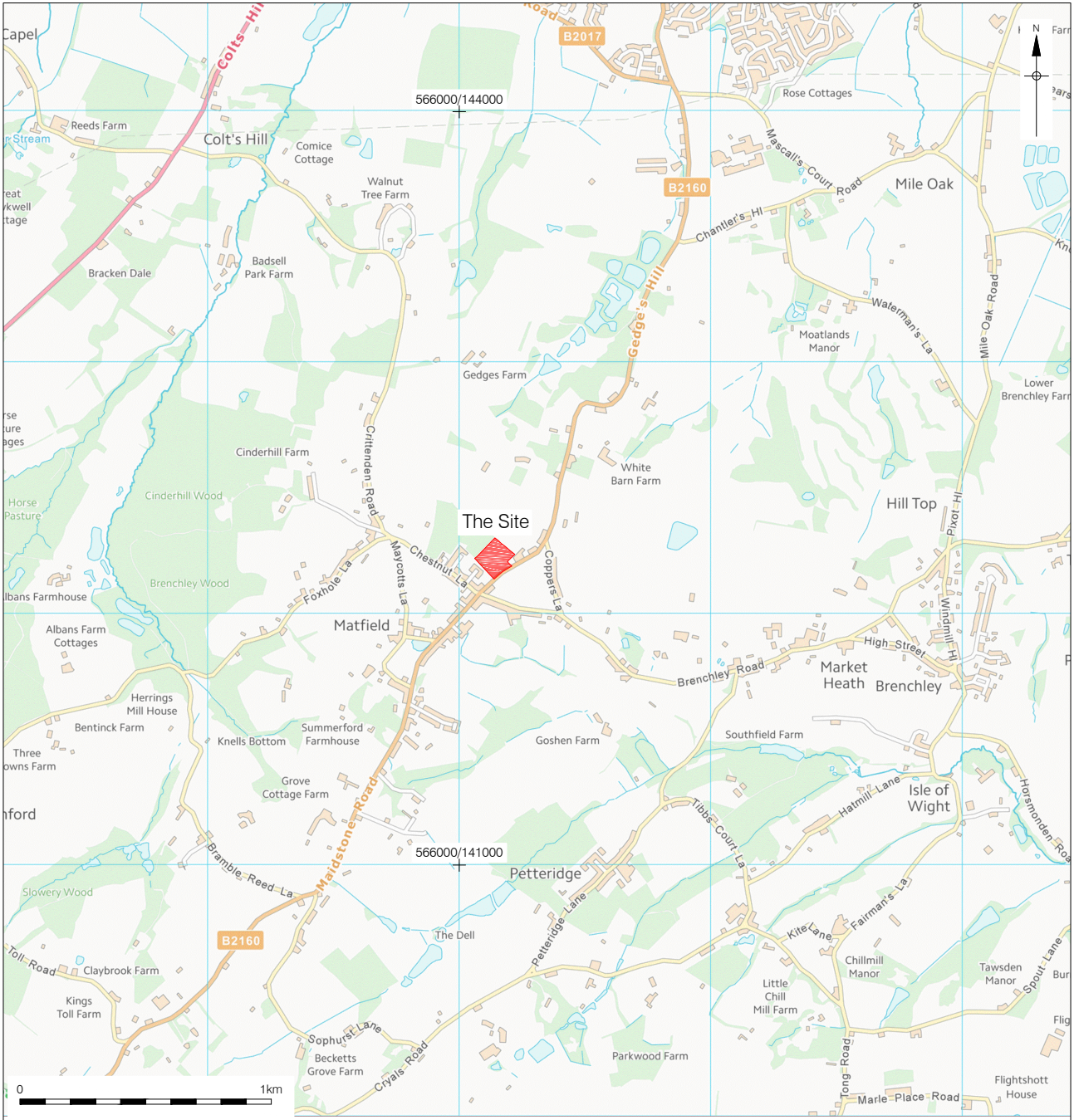
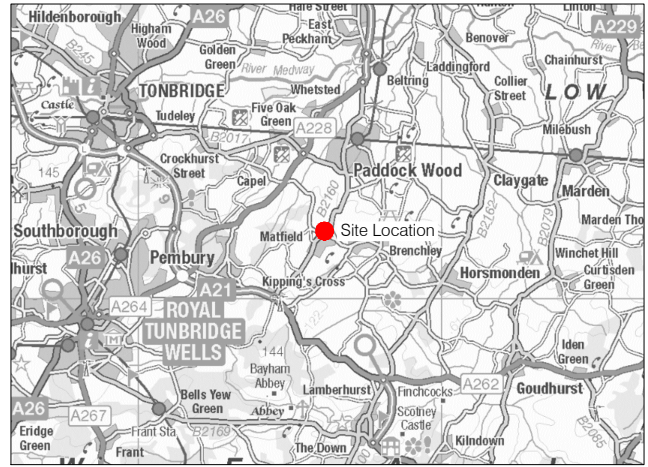
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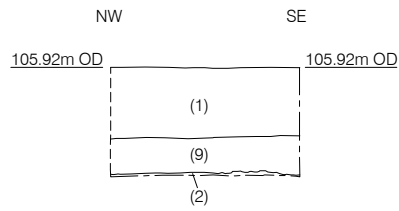
Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

Websites:

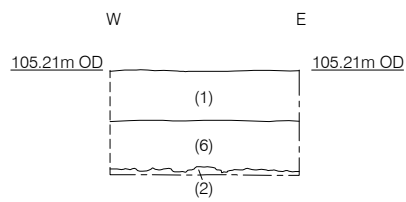
[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) British Geological Survey



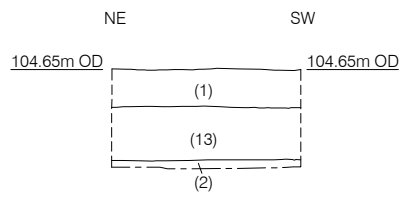




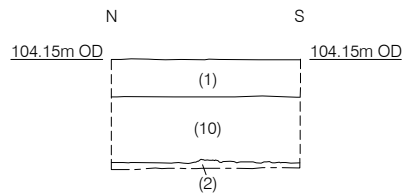
Section 7  
South West facing  
Trench 3



Section 4  
South facing  
Trench 7



Section 11  
North West facing  
Trench 8



Section 8  
West facing  
Trench 9



## PLATES



*Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west*



*Plate 2: Trench 3, looking north-west*





*Plate 3: Trench 6, looking north-west*



*Plate 4: Trench 9, looking south-east*



*Plate 5: Trench 5, Section 1, looking west*

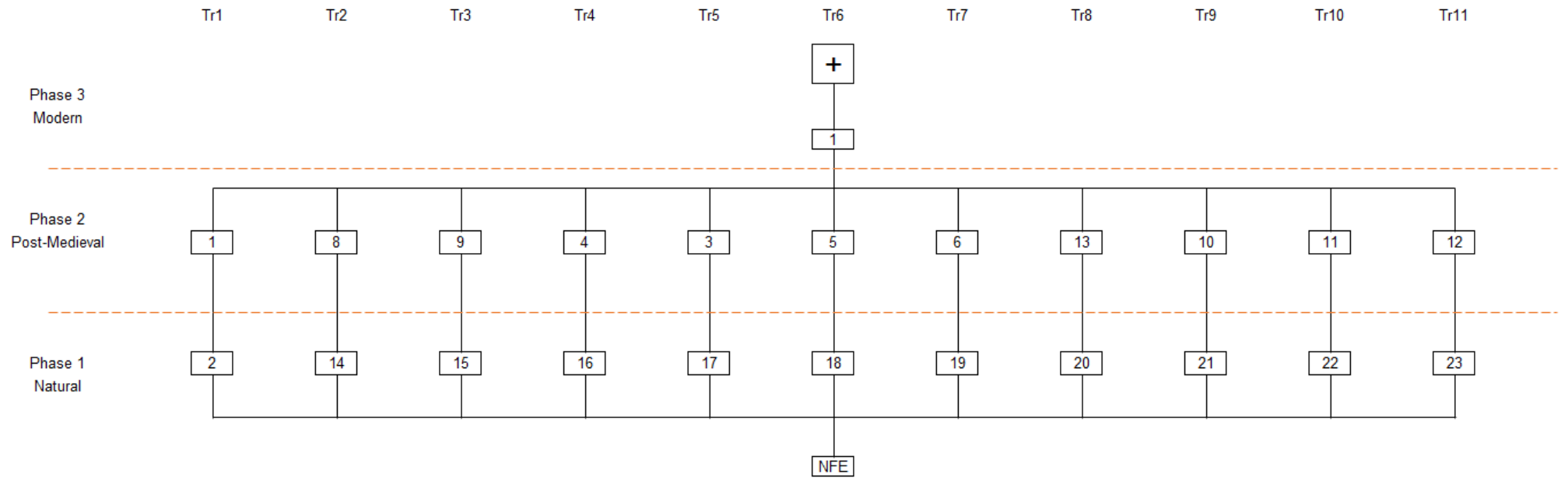


*Plate 6: Trench 10, Section 9, looking north-east*

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Trench No	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Height (mAOD)
1	All	Topsoil	*	*	0.35	
2	1	Natural	20	1.8	*	104.83
3	5	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.32	105.05
4	4	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.35	105.77
5	6	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.21	104.96
6	7	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.27	104.95
7	1	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.30	105.12
8	2	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.23	105.37
9	3	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.22	105.56
10	9	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.35	103.95
11	10	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.30	103.67
12	11	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.32	104.17
13	8	Sub-soil	20	1.8	0.28	104.45
14	2	Natural	20	1.8	*	105.13
15	3	Natural	20	1.8	*	105.31
16	4	Natural	20	1.8	*	105.44
17	5	Natural	20	1.8	*	104.73
18	6	Natural	20	1.8	*	104.67
19	7	Natural	20	1.8	*	104.68
20	8	Natural	20	1.8	*	104.18
21	9	Natural	20	1.8	*	103.60
22	10	Natural	20	1.8	*	103.67
23	11	Natural	20	1.8	*	103.85

## APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-336392

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### Project details

Project name	Land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent
Short description of the project	Evaluation of 11 trenches 20m x 1.80m each.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2018 End: 30-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KMRM18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS PEMBURY Land at Maidstone Road, Matfield, Kent
Postcode	TN12 7JH
Study area	8000 Square metres

Site coordinates	TQ 6642 1620 50.920638398062 0.368013411448 50 55 14 N 000 22 04 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 104.15m Max: 106.05m

---

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group
Project design originator	CGMS HERITAGE
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

---

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Sevenoaks Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Sevenoaks Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

---

Entered by	Zbigniew Pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)
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