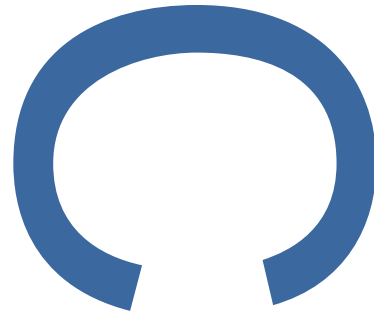
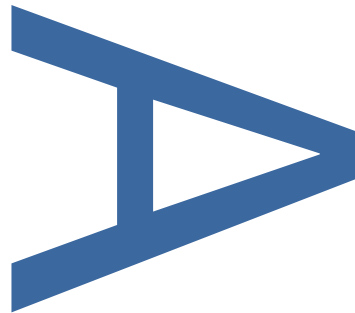


**Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course,
Maidstone, Kent ME12 3AZ**



An Archaeological Evaluation



<i>Planning reference</i>	18/504490/FULL		
<i>Local planning authority</i>	Maidstone Borough Council		
<i>PCA report no.</i>	R14078	<i>Site Code</i>	KCMP19
<i>PCA project no</i>	K5916	<i>Date</i>	March 2020

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

Project Information	
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Project type	An Archaeological Evaluation
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NGR	TQ 75126 59174
Local planning authority	Maidstone Borough Council
Planning reference	18/504490/FULL
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PCA Information			
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at the Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AZ. The site is located c. 2.38km to the north of Maidstone town centre on the valley slopes of the north bank of The River Medway and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 75126 59174.
- 1.2 The work was enabled by planning condition attached to the permission for remodelling and upgrading of the golf course (Maidstone Borough Council Planning Ref. 18/504490/FULL).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases: between the 18th and 21st of March 2019 and between the 2nd and 15th March 2020. In total, 19 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site.
- 1.4 The exposed natural drift geology varied between a clay-with-flints cap on the higher ground to Gault-like clays and sands in the lower areas where a degree of colluvium had formed. The underlying bedrock of chalk was exposed in Trench 15 at 44.63m OD. A colluvium or subsoil was present in only a limited number of trenches.
- 1.5 A number of heavily-patinated worked flints were recovered from the interface with the natural in Trenches 3, 12 and 16. The flints may date to between the Late Neolithic to early Iron Age with the former date more likely.
- 1.6 Late Iron Age ditch was uncovered in Trench 15 whilst a gully of the same date was present in Trench 11. The ditch may have been a part of a farming enclosure located to the south-west of the site.
- 1.7 Post-medieval features related to the farming of the area were also present, mostly in form of land drains. Modern truncation was present throughout the site and was linked to the landscaping work during creation of the golf course.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course (Figure 1). The site is located c. 2.38km to the north of Maidstone town centre on the north bank of the River Medway and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 75126 59174.
- 2.2 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of the existing clubhouse and its redevelopment and extension, remodelling of the access road and car park as well as an upgrade, remodel and recontour of the existing 18-hole golf course and Academy 9-hole course with associated landscaping and biodiversity enhancement through extensive planting and the connectivity of habitats (Maidstone Borough Council Planning Ref. 18/504490/FULL).
- 2.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment and heritage statement for the site was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Garwood & Hawkins 2018) which suggested that activity within the study area was mainly restricted to the post-medieval period and relating to low-scale agricultural activity. However, the site falls within the area identified in the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project as having a high potential for the survival of Palaeolithic remains within the River Terrace gravels. In the event, evidence for these gravels was not exposed during excavations.
- 2.4 The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases: the first being for four days between the 18th and 21st of March in 2019 (excavating trenches 9-11) and the second phase over ten days between the 2nd and 15th March 2020 (trenches 1-8 and 12 to 19). In total, 19 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site (Figure 2).
- 2.5 The project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski (PCA) and was commissioned by MyTime Active. The archaeological work was supervised by Wayne Perkins.
- 2.6 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Pozorski 2019) and approved by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, archaeological advisor to Maidstone Borough Council.
- 2.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course, Maidstone ME12 3AZ: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2019)
 - *Generic Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*, Kent County Council's (KCC)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) Historic England 2015
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014)

- *PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, PCA.

2.8 The site was allocated the unique site code KCMP19.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission was sought for the demolition of existing clubhouse and erection of new replacement clubhouse incorporating bar, meeting rooms, gym and exercise studio, linked 12 bay driving range, separate golf buggy store, bin store and covered bike rack. Existing car park and entrance road to be realigned and provide additional 47 parking spaces. Upgrade, re-model and re-contour the existing 18-hole golf course Academy 9-hole course; short game activity zone all on practice ground outfield. Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement through extensive planting and the connectivity of habitats (Maidstone Borough Council Planning Ref. 18/504490/FULL).
- 3.2 The Archaeological Advisor to the Maidstone Borough Council, Wendy Rogers of the Kent County Council, issued her advice to the planning office on 14th November 2018 requesting the programme of archaeological evaluation on the site. The recommended planning condition reads as follows:
- 3.3 Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:
- a) 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.*
- 3.4 Further consultation with Wendy Rogers (PCA, by email dated 6th December 2018) confirmed that the evaluation should be implemented across the area of all proposed groundworks. A two-phase approach was also agreed.
- 3.5 The recommended scope of works satisfied archaeological requirements of the KCC and fulfilled the relevant planning condition attached to the planning decision.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales, the local geology consists of a bedrock of Lewis Nodular Chalk Formation and the Gault Formation. The latter is a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately c. 93 – 89.9 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous Period (British Geological Survey 2020).

4.1.2 The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of alluvial deposits of Head made up of clay, silt, sand and gravel dating from the Pleistocene through to the Holocene (c.25 million to 11.7 thousand years ago). The sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin and are detrital, ranging from coarse to fine grained and from beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of the river (Garwood & Hawkins 208:17).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site was located on a series of undulating valleys, ranging in height from 44.87m Ordnance Datum (OD) to 23.58m OD.

4.2.2 The study site comprised the area within the angle of the M20 and A229, bordered to the south by Forstall Road, the west by the Forstall Business Park and by farmland to the north (Figure 1).

4.3 Geotechnical Data

4.3.1 A borehole is recorded to the north-west of the site (BOCM Silcock Aylesbury BH-4) which recorded three classifications of terrace deposit from the surface to a depth of 6.65m below ground level (BGL). These terraces 1-3 appear at 0-2m, 2m – 3.75m and 3.75m-6.65m and overlay a light grey silt clay (Cryoturbated Gault clay) (Garwood & Hawkins 2018:17)

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological desk-based assessment for the site was prepared by PCA (Garwood & Hawkins 2018). In summary:

- 5.1 The surrounding area and more specifically the proposed site falls within an area identified as having significant potential for early prehistoric remains as part of the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project. The sand and gravel deposits in the areas close to Maidstone have produced substantial quantities of Palaeolithic archaeological material, with key sites at Cuxton and Aylesford producing large quantities of Palaeolithic artefacts. Other sites in the area, although limited in the numbers of implements found, often only single hand-axes, are the result of very limited investigation and still represent significant sites. Flint implements of Late Acheulean to early Acheulian date, comprising hand axes, ovates, scrapers and flakes, have been found close by and to the south of Cobtree Manor Park.
- 5.2 The Medway Valley was clearly an important focus during the early prehistoric period with burial groups of chambered long barrows found close to Aylesford and evidence of former chambered tombs at Kit Cotys House, Lower White Horse Stone and Upper White Horse Stone. The site also lies close to the route of the North Downs Way, a prehistoric trackway, dating back to the early Mesolithic, which follows the ridge of the North Downs escarpment. Works just to the north-east have uncovered evidence of Neolithic structures and Peterborough ware pottery along with significant evidence of Bronze Age settlement at White Horse Stone, Pilgrim's Way and Boarley Farm sites and areas of Iron Age settlement close to the latter. It is considered that the site has a moderate-high potential for Palaeolithic artefacts and deposits and for settlement evidence from the Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age.
- 5.3 The site lies close and to the west of the former Roman Road connecting Rochester to Maidstone and Hastings. Roman boundary and drainage ditches suggestive of an agricultural landscape were found at the White Horse Stone site. There is also evidence for burial, in the form of in-urned cremations, both close to the roadside and just south of the site. More fragmentary evidence of Roman activities was also discovered to the south of the site along the route of the Maidstone bypass while numerous chance and detectorist finds are grouped to the east and south-east. At present there is no evidence of a significant settlement focus in the immediate area, and it seems more likely that drainage and boundary features associated with an agricultural landscape would be encountered, although the site of a farmstead or villa along the valley side could not be wholly discounted. It is therefore considered that the site has a moderate potential for Roman settlement and landscape remains of local significance.
- 5.4 Aylesford is noted in ancient history for the battle fought between the Britons and the Saxons (Battle of Aylesford) in the year 455, when Vortimer defeated the Saxons. The evidence for Anglo-Saxon activities in the area mainly originates from discoveries made along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). These comprise a late Saxon-early medieval burial found close to the CTRL Pilgrim's Way site and by a cluster of occupation features found west

of Boarley Farm. These sites lie not too distant from the Pilgrims Way, which excavation shows was probably in use during the Anglo-Saxon or early medieval periods. Given the low incidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the area it is considered the Site has a low potential for Anglo-Saxon remains, which would be of local significance only.

- 5.5 The site lies to the west of the scheduled Boxley Abbey, founded in 1146 by William d'Ipre, Earl of Kent, for monks of the Cistercian order, but dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538. The manor of Boxelle was granted to the abbey, and it would have exploited its hinterlands for farming or other related uses. The manor of Great Cossington and site of the Chapel of St Michael, founded by Sir Stephen de Cosenton in the 13th century, lies at a short distance to the north and the Pilgrims Way, the main route of pilgrimage to Canterbury, to the north-west. A medieval road connecting Boxley Abbey with the Pilgrims Way was found during investigations along the route of the CTRL, along with evidence of 11th-13th century medieval occupation in the form of pits, ditches, postholes and a corn drier and close to Boarley Farm evidence of a large medieval quarry pit, a pit and a boundary ditch. It seems probable that medieval settlement would have been focused closer to the manorial sites or the abbey, and the land that comprises the Site more likely in use as farmland. Accordingly, it is considered the site has a moderate potential for medieval remains of local significance.
- 5.6 The post-medieval period is characterised by a number of farm sites in the area around the Site. These include Tyland farmhouse and barn to the east of the Site and Little and Great Cossington to the north of the Site along Pratling Street.
- 5.7 Two farm sites are directly associated with Cobtree Manor House (formerly called Cobtree Hall). These date to the 18th-19th centuries. Documentary sources refer to 'Coptre' in title deeds of Sir Thomas Wyatt in 1596 and it is thought that his estate was farmed from the 17th century onward. Nineteenth and twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps show evidence of a parkland landscape, with a formal approach from Chatham Road to Cobtree Hall with woodland plantations, large orchards and an ornamental pond with waterfalls, in the southern part of the site and around the house and farm buildings, with larger enclosed agricultural fields to the north. The tithe map and apportionment suggest that some brick making was taking place within the Site in the early 19th century. It is considered that the Site has a high potential for post-medieval remains, mainly field boundaries, drains, trackways and brick kilns of local significance.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation followed the methodology set up in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the project by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Pozorski 2019).
- 6.2 The WSI proposed nineteen trenches made up of sixteen trenches measuring 50m x 1.80m (Trenches 1-8 and 12-19) and three measuring 30m x 1.8m (Trenches 9-11). The position of some of the trenches were subtly altered to avoid tree canopies and bushes on the site.
- 6.3 Trench positions (and any alterations to those locations) as well as OS datum levels were established on site by PCA using a GPS-system.
- 6.4 All machine (and manual) excavation was conducted under archaeological supervision. A CAT scanner was used by PCA prior to the opening of any trench to identify and avoid live services.
- 6.5 Excavation was carried out by 8t tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under a strict PCA's supervision, with spoil mounded at least 1m from the edges of the trenches. Machine excavation was undertaken in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata or natural ground was exposed, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.6 Each trench was fully investigated and recorded, and features tested to ascertain their function, date and significance. All arisings from each trench were carefully inspected to ensure that any artefacts were recovered. The trenches and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal-detector at regular intervals to enable finds recovery.
- 6.7 The trenches were backfilled by the PCA using the same type of machine as for opening the trenches, replacing the excavated arisings in the reverse order of excavation.
- 6.8 Once excavation had been completed and the trenches cleaned, all deposits were then recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. A digital photographic record was also kept of all eleven trenches.
- 6.9 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 6.10 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in Kent, which is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCAs *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor and Brown 2009, updated 2018).
- 6.11 In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills) are written in squared brackets [].
- 6.12 The complete archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with a local museum with site code KCMP19.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1a: Natural: Chalk Bedrock & Gault (Late Cretaceous Epoch c.93.9 – 89.9 million years ago)

Context	Trench	Highest (m OD)
62	15	44.63

7.2 Phase 1b: Natural: Drift Geology Clay-with-flints (Pleistocene to Holocene c.2.58 million years ago to 11.7 thousand years ago)

Context	Trench	Highest (m OD)
3	11	31.85
12	9	33.52
14	10A	33.62
16	10A	32.79
20	1	25.15
22	2	31.26
24	5	36.18
27	4	27.04
29	6	39.45
31	12	39.51
35	17	26.31
39	16	36.66
41	19	26.10
45	3	23.89
48	1	34.53
56	13	31.20
60	18	30.11
61	15	43.86
64	14	42.85
66	7	43.09

Trenches 1 - 19

7.2.1 There were variations within the natural across the site. On the higher ground it resembled a firm, mid brown to orange clay-with-flints whilst on the lower slopes it comprised a mid-grey Gault clay and mudstone. In Trench 15 an area of degraded, weathered chalk bedrock was exposed at 44.63m OD (Plate 1).

7.2.2 The drift geology was exposed at its highest point in Trench 15 at 43.86m OD and at its lowest point in Trench 3 at 23.89m OD.

7.3 Phase 2: Mesolithic to early Neolithic (c.11 700 BC to 3500 BC)

Context	Trench	Highest (m OD)
68	3	23.89
69	12	39.51
70	16	36.66

Trench 3

7.3.1 Disparate finds of work flint were recovered across the site from the interface of the natural or from within the natural layers themselves in trenches 3, 12 & 16 (Plate 2).

7.3.2 The natural geology in Trench 3 resembled an alluvial wash of a pale grey clay with frequent mollusc shell inclusions. A worked flint was recovered from the interface of this layer [68] during machining (Plate 3). This trench was at the lowest part of the study site located the furthest north which may have been within the meander corridor of the River Medway flood plain. The river is located only 1.03km to the south-west.

Trench 12

7.3.3 The interface with the natural [69] in Trench 12 lay at c.39.21m OD and also produced a worked flint.

Trench 16

7.3.4 The interface with the natural [70] in Trench 16 lay at 36.66m OD and produced a worked flint.

7.3.5 None of the flints were associated with archaeological features so it is likely that they had been moved from their original locations. This could be due to fluvial action (relating to the lower location of Trench 3) or through gravity via soil creep and hill wash from the higher slopes.

7.4 Phase 3: Late Iron Age (c. 350 BC to AD 43)

Trench 11

7.4.1 In Trench 11 a narrow ditch (or gully) [5] was recorded which was oriented north-west to south-east and ran for 3.4m (Plates 4-6). It measured 0.60m wide by 0.20m deep and its fill

[4] consisted of a firm, mottled brownish light grey silt clay which produced a number of worked, if crudely knapped flint flakes. Notably, this fill also included occasional inclusions of fragmentary mollusc shell.

Trench 15

7.4.2 A large Iron Age enclosure ditch [54] was uncovered in Trench 15 at the highest part of the site at 43.87m OD (Plate 7). It measured 2.54m wide and was over 1.10m deep (Plates 8-9). It appeared to have five fills in all; a single sherd of heavily abraded Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from tertiary fill [52], whilst further 13 pottery sherds (including thin-walled rim sherds) were recovered from quaternary fill [51]. Those were dated to the Late Iron Age and possibly early Roman. This fill was notable for the frequent occurrence of large flint nodule inclusions in the backfill. Animal bone recovered from the same fill [52] included a cattle scapula and axis and a red deer proximal scapula; both displayed evidence of butchery (Reilly Appendix 6). This deposit, in turn, was sealed by fill [50] which consisted of redeposited natural.

7.5 Phase 4: Post Medieval (18th-19th Centuries)

Context	Trench	Highest (m OD)
2	11	31.85
7	11	31.92
8	11	31.71
18	10B	32.63
23	5	36.31
32	12	39.47
34	17	37.62

7.5.1 The above table records the occurrences of subsoils or colluvium recorded across the site. On average, it was composed of a friable, greyish mid-brown silty clay with heavily abraded, fragmentary CBM, small glass sherds and pottery inclusions, along with occasional charcoal flecking. The layers may have been disturbed by light agricultural activity at the site and the pottery and CBM may have derived from manuring (although the constantly waterlogged fields would have been better suited to pasture). A total of three metal horseshoes were recovered (one of which was a from a large draught animal) from these layers suggesting low-scale animal husbandry.

7.5.2 A small pit [37] was excavated in Trench 17 whose fill [36] contained a rusty iron bracket (not retained) accompanied by a mix of broken, fragmentary window glass and CBM (Plate 10).

7.5.3 Land drains - both of the ceramic and gravel variety - were recorded across nearly all the trenches which were a testament to the proclivity of the underlying natural clays to create waterlogged conditions within the series of undulating natural valleys. One was investigated in Trench 3 [46] and was found to contain two fills [43] and [44]; the former clay backfill and the latter being a gravel-and-pebbles fill to funnel the water run-off.

7.5.4 A tree-throw [59] was investigated in Trench 18 which was irregular in plan with diffuse, gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Plate 11). Its fill [58] was composed of a friable, greyish dark brown silty clay with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. A couple of abraded sherds of pottery (or CBM) were recovered from the top of its fill; likely to have become incorporated when the tree was felled or grubbed out.

7.6 **Phase 5: Modern (20th Century)**

Context	Trench	Highest (m OD)
6	11	32.15
9	9	34.86
10	9	34.30
11	9	33.73
13	10A	33.77
15	10A	32.97
17	10B	32.75
19	1	25.37
21	2	31.51
25	5	36.46
26	4	27.24
28	6	39.59
30	12	39.81
33	17	37.72
38	16	36.83
40	19	26.29
42	3	23.58
47	8	34.69
49	15	44.87

55	13	31.45
57	18	31.19
63	14	43.06
65	7	43.37
67	7	43.16

7.6.1 The topsoil and turf layer which covered the entire site had been added to create an artificial surface for the golf course. The topsoil comprised a soft, greyish dark brown, between 0.18m to 0.30m thick depending upon the requirements of the landscaping. No finds were retained from this layer.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest archaeological remains encountered consisted of worked or knapped flints, some with retouched edges. The flints were recovered from the interface with the natural geology or just within the geological deposits themselves. The degree of recortication present and their identification as prismatic blades is consistent with other Upper Palaeolithic, post-Glacial assemblages although a later, Neolithic date cannot be ruled out (Bishop; Appendix 3). The lack of a consistent subsoil layer across the site indicated that it had been truncated to the natural when the golf course was landscaped. Any substantial evidence for the formation of subsoils is absent. Therefore, the flints are likely survivals from an already truncated/scoured geological deposit and may represent only a residue of what may have once been in place. The assemblage is small and predominantly residually deposited in secondary contexts (Bishop; Appendix 3).
- 8.2 During the Iron Age (Phase 3), a large ditch was created on the highest point of the study site at 44.87m OD and it run counter to the berm of the hill. It is possible it may have been enclosure ditch rather than simple drainage ditch or land boundary although it is only a speculation. The presence of animal bone suggests domestic activity in the area. The inclusion of the red deer scapula hints that hunting was still playing a part in the provision of food along with the domesticates. Both the cattle and red deer bones showed evidence for butchery (Rielly; Appendix 6) which may also suggest some proximity to settlement, although results of the evaluation do not indicate its presence within the site. Meanwhile, the pottery recovered from the ditch fills shows high levels of abrasion which may suggest derivation from a domestic deposit that had been exposed to weathering and trampling. They may have originated in a domestic context prior to their inclusion in the ditch fills (McNee; Appendix 4).
- 8.3 This area of the site around Trench 15 is defined by a small plateau or, rather, a plateau on a slight incline that is tilted towards the north-west. It sits on a ridge or spur that continues to the northeast before curving to the west. The high ground overlooks a naturally eroded basin which appears to be located on the margin of the river meander corridor (or floodplain) of the River Medway. Thus, the site is perfectly located to exploit both the resources on the headland and the riparian zone directly below it, with views to both the southern escarpment of the North Downs (to the north) and directly into the Medway Valley to the west.
- 8.4 The small gully or ditch [5] uncovered in Trench 11 was likely a drainage ditch or perhaps one defining a land parcel. The burnt flint and crudely struck flakes hint at a Late Iron Age date. Its orientation of north-west to south-east would direct water downhill and it is located at one of the lowest points of the site at 31.65m OD.
- 8.5 Sites dating to the Iron Age are numerous in the area. Occupation sites of the period are known from Pilgrim's Way, Boarley Farm (c. 665m to the north-east) (Garwood & Hawkins 2018), a cremation at Ashford Road, Maidstone (c. 4.45km to the south-east) (Kelley 1963:194-6), the famous Iron Age cemetery at Aylesford (2.37km to the west (and on the

River Medway) excavated by Sir Arthur Evans in 1886 and a new site recently discovered by PCA at Rochester Airport (PCA 2020 *forthcoming*). Incidental discoveries and recent rescue archaeology show that Kent was settled and farmed as other areas of southern England and that such open settlement may well have been farms, sometimes substantial, and ditched (Ashbee 2005: 167). Such settlement may have existed to the south-west of the site, beyond its boundaries, and the current evaluation just located its far north-eastern extent.

- 8.6 Enclosure of the landscape is considered to be a dominant characteristic of both late Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement (Booth 2011:264). In, '*New Narratives of the Later Iron Age*' (Haselgrove & Moore 2007) a number of suggestions were proposed. Hawkes & Dunning (1931) claimed that there was a 'culturally distinctive' Late Iron Age in the South-East of England triggered by Belgic immigrants, a theory supported by Cunliffe (1974) in '*Iron Age Communities in Britain*,' who suggested that, '*the spark of the social and cultural dynamism of the Late Iron Age was due to groups linked to the resurgence of external contacts.*' Haselgrove & Moore (2007: 9-10) note that in the Late Iron Age major changes occur in production and consumption patterns – there is an increase in the numbers of sheep and pigs, a rise in the cattle numbers and an increase in arable and meat production that differ from continental patterns. It also sees an intensification of land use, increasing emphasis in producing a surplus and a decline in storage.
- 8.7 The site also contained features apportioned to the post-medieval period; the small pit in Trench 17; the terracotta land drain in Trench 3 (although numerous gravel-filled examples were observed in nearly all of the trenches) and the tree throw in Trench 18. Taken together, these features amount to low-level agricultural land management as the study site appears to have been relatively open field systems bounded by hedges up to the 20th century. The Tithe Maps for Aylesford & Boxley (1840) & (1844) and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1869, 1898, 1909, 1934-5 & 1961 illustrate its continued use as orchards, fields or pasture. The heavily abraded and fragmentary CBM and pottery recovered from these features support this hypothesis. The poor condition of the fabric could place them within a time frame of Roman to post-medieval periods. A total of three horseshoes were recovered from this layer, one of which was of a type with a toe-clip which suggested a large draught animal (Gaimster; Appendix 5).
- 8.8 Finally, the landscaping required to construct the artificial contours of the golf course in the 1960's both removed original soil deposits and dumped redeposited soil across the site. This has had a detrimental effect on the archaeological resource and created truncation in some areas.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank MyTime Active for commissioning the archaeological work.
- 9.2 Thanks to the ground staff of Cobtree Golf Course for their help and enabling the works on site.
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- 9.4 The author would also like to thank: Zbigniew Pozorski for project managing and editing this report; Ray Murphy for the illustrations, Kevin Reilly for the animal bone assessment, Barbara McNee for the prehistoric pottery and Barry Bishop for the lithic assessments
- 9.5 Thanks also to Bruce Ferguson, David Harvard & Henry Geoghan for undertaking the fieldwork on site.

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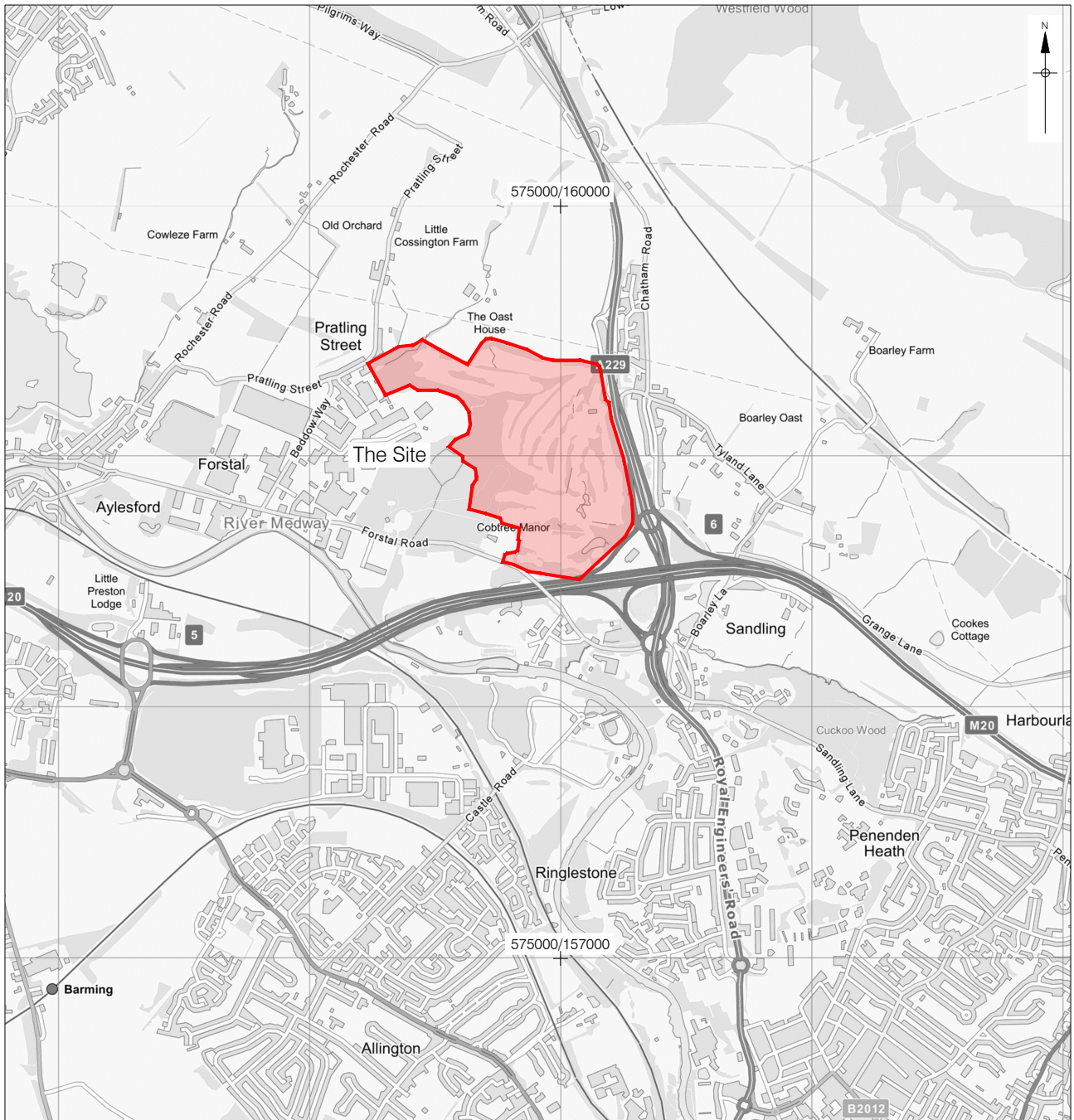
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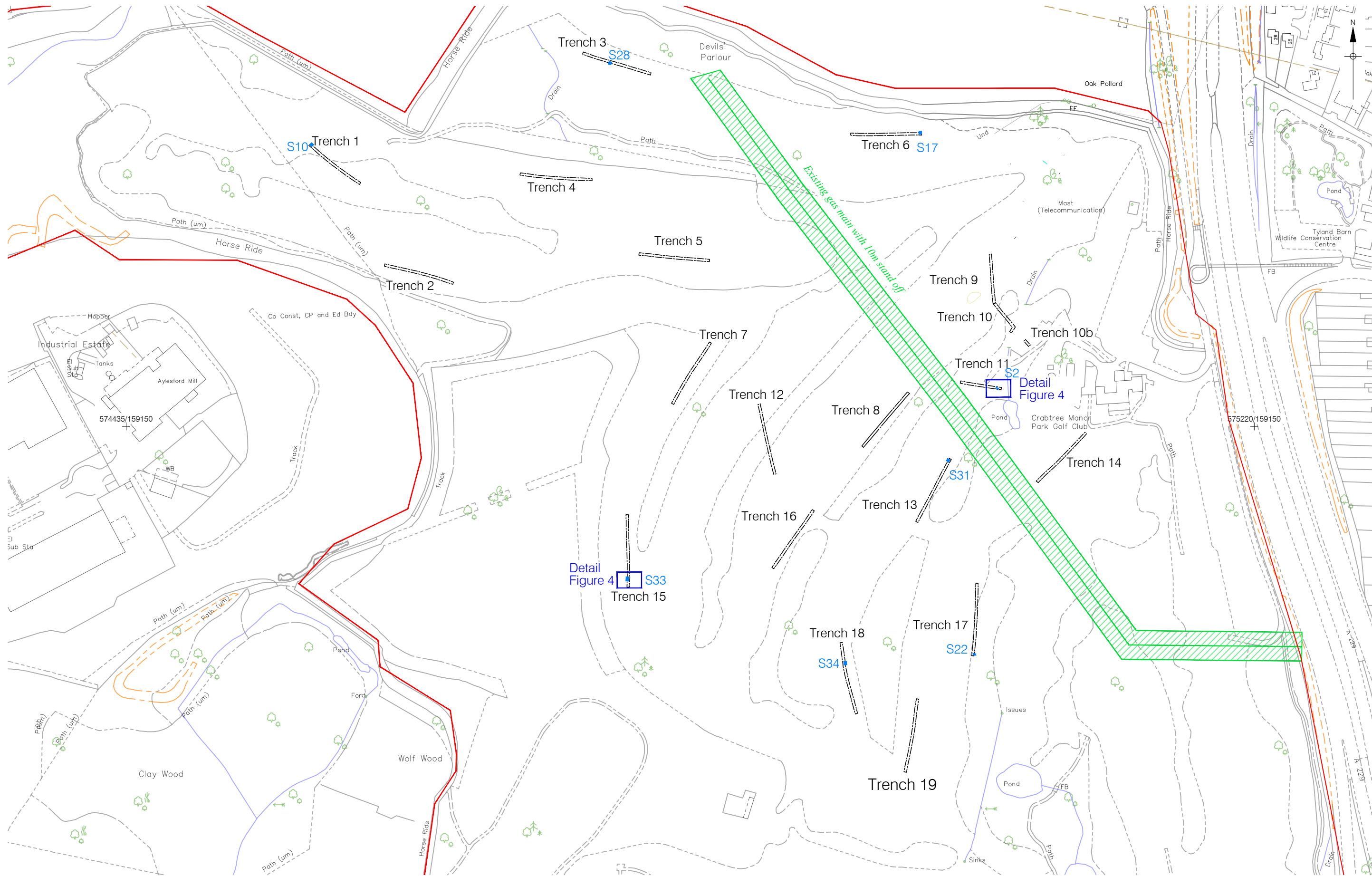
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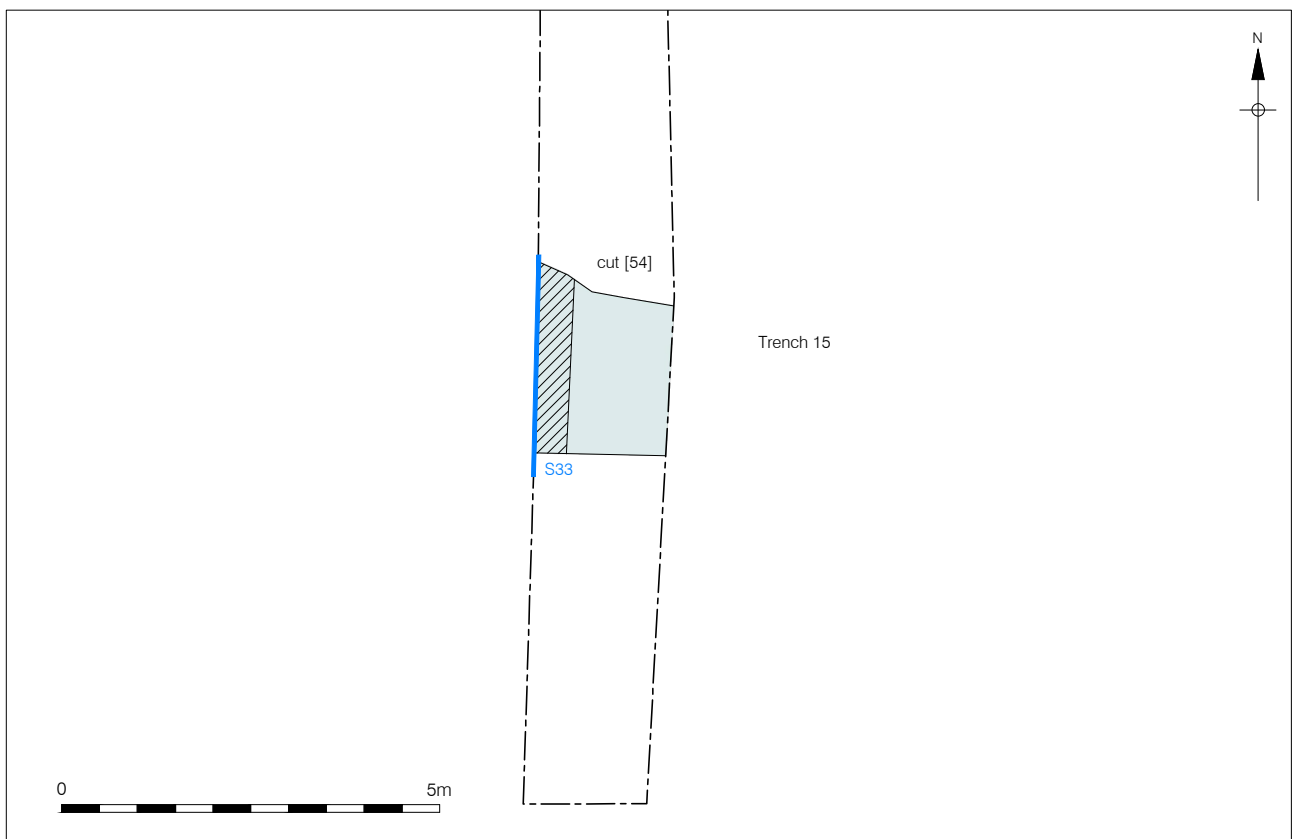
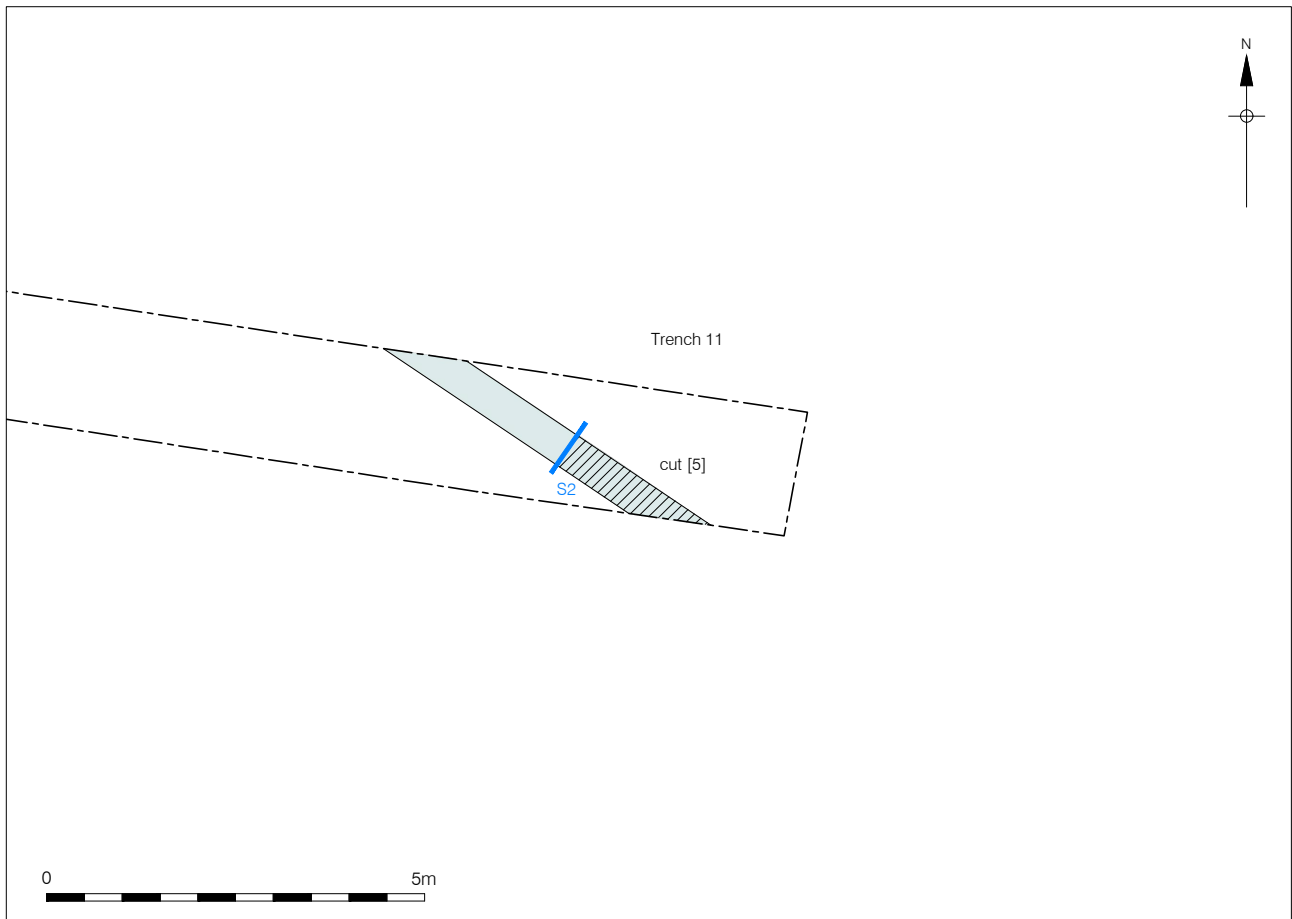
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 1:250,000; 1:25,000 at A4





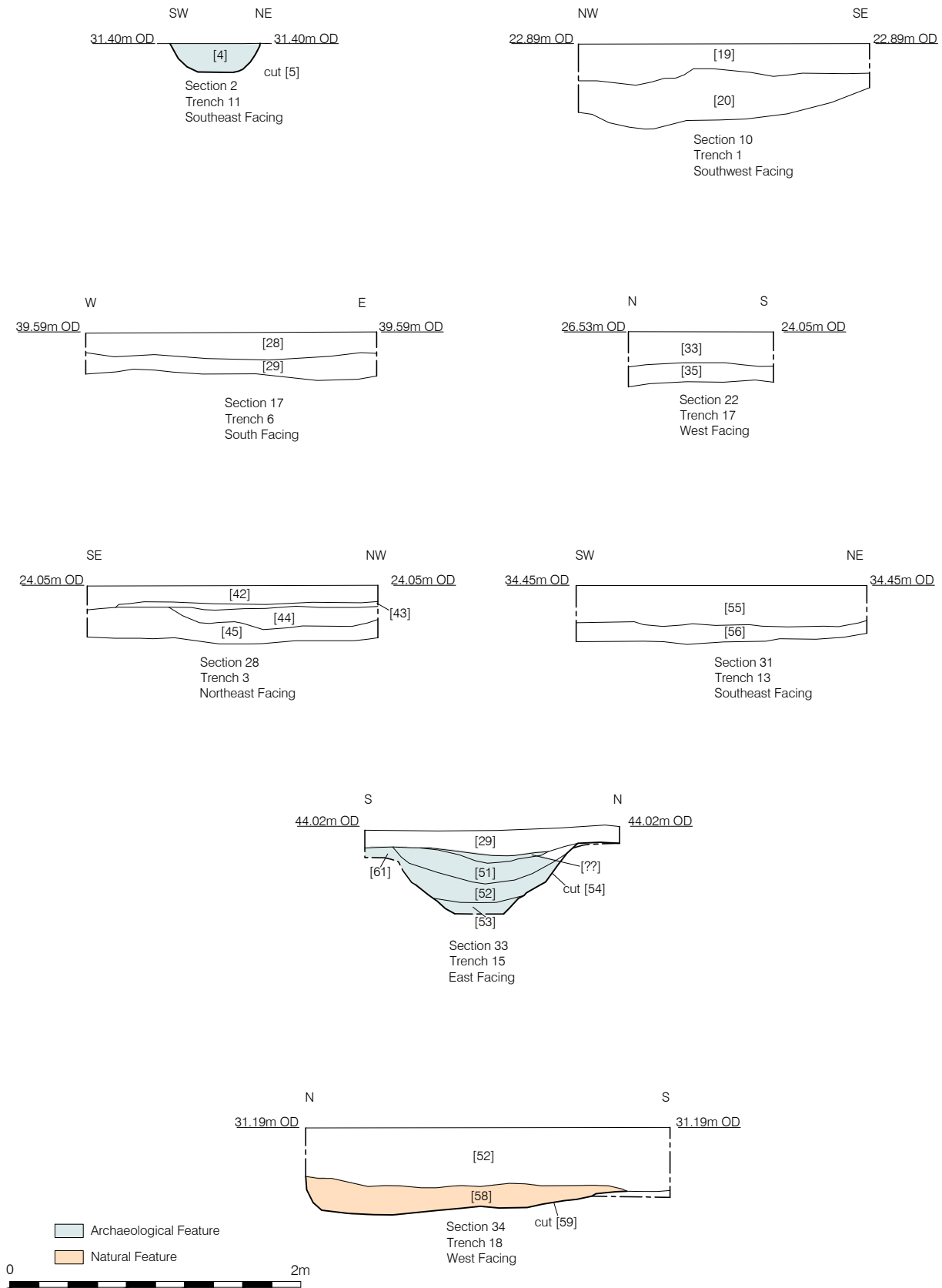


Figure 4
Sections
1:40 at A4

PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 15, Section 36, view to the west, scale 1m. Degraded bedrock chalk layer [62].



Plate 2: Trench 3, general shot, scale 1m, view to the north-west. A dark patch in the centre of the trench was a tree-throw which was investigated by hand.



Plate 3: Scale at 800mm. Worked flint recovered from the interface with the natural geology in Trench 3.



Plate 4: Trench 11, view to north-west, scale 0.30m. Ditch or gully [5].



Plate 5: Trench 11, view to the south-east, scale 0.30m. Gully or ditch [5].



Plate 6: Trench 11, Section 2, view to north-west, scale 0.30m Gully or ditch [5].



Plate 7: Trench 15, general shot, view to the north. Enclosure ditch [54] has been sprayed out in the foreground pre-excitation (blue dashed lines).



Plate 8: Trench 15, Section 33, view to the west, scale 1m. Ditch [54].



Plate 9: Trench 15, Section 33, ditch [54], view to south-west, scale 1m. Basal fill not excavated.



Plate 10: Trench 17, view to the west, scale 1m. Post medieval pit [37] containing rusted iron bracket.



Plate 11: Trench 18, Section 34, view to the east, scale 1m. Tree throw [59].

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Fill_of	Trench	Interpretation	Category	Length	Width	Depth	Levels_high	Levels_low	Phase
1	Layer		11	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.3	32.15		KCMP19-PH5
2	Layer		11	A sub soil formed through colluvium and composed of a firm, greyish-brown silty clay. Contains occasional fragmentary sherds of pottery and/or CBM and flecks of charcoal	Natural				31.85		KCMP19-PH4
3	Layer		11	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				31.85		KCMP19-PH1
4	Fill	5	11	A stiff, mottled brownish orange sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded and angular flints. Contained possible struck flint. Environmental sample <1> taken.	Natural Silting	3.4	0.65	0.2	31.85		KCMP19-PH3
5	Cut		11	A curvilinear gully with a flattened 'U' shape profile, running for 3.40m north-west to southeast across the trench. Measuring 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. Fill [4] contained struck flint.		3.4	0.6	0.2	31.65		KCMP19-PH3
6	Layer			Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.23	32.15		KCMP19-PH5
7	Layer		11	A sub soil formed through colluvium and composed of a firm, greyish-brown silty clay. Contains occasional fragmentary sherds of pottery and/or CBM and flecks of charcoal	Natural			0.21	31.92		KCMP19-PH4
8	Layer		11	Degraded natural of clay-with-flints	Natural			0.08	31.71		KCMP19-PH4
9	Layer		9	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			26	34.86		KCMP19-PH5
10	Layer		11	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural				34.6		KCMP19-PH5
11	Layer		9	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.21	33.73		KCMP19-PH5

12	Layer	9	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural	0.13	33.52	KCMP19-PH1
14	Layer	10A	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural	0.27		KCMP19-PH1
15	Layer	10A	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.18	32.97	KCMP19-PH5
16	Layer	10A	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural	0.16	32.79	KCMP19-PH1
17	Layer	10A	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.12	32.75	KCMP19-PH5
18	Layer	10B	Made ground consisting of dumped ash and cinders likely to have derived from a fire.	Make-up	0.2	32.63	KCMP19-PH4
19	Layer	1	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.25	25.37	KCMP19-PH1
20	Layer	1	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural		25.15	KCMP19-PH1
21	Layer	2	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.28	31.51	KCMP19-PH5
22	Layer	2	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural		31.26	KCMP19-PH1
23	Layer	5	A sub soil formed through colluvium and composed of a firm, greyish-brown silty clay. Contains occasional fragmentary sherds of pottery and/or CBM and flecks of charcoal	Other	0.25	36.31	KCMP19-PH4
24	Layer		Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural		36.18	KCMP19-PH1
25	Layer	5	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.15	36.46	KCMP19-PH5
26	Layer	4	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.3	27.24	KCMP19-PH5

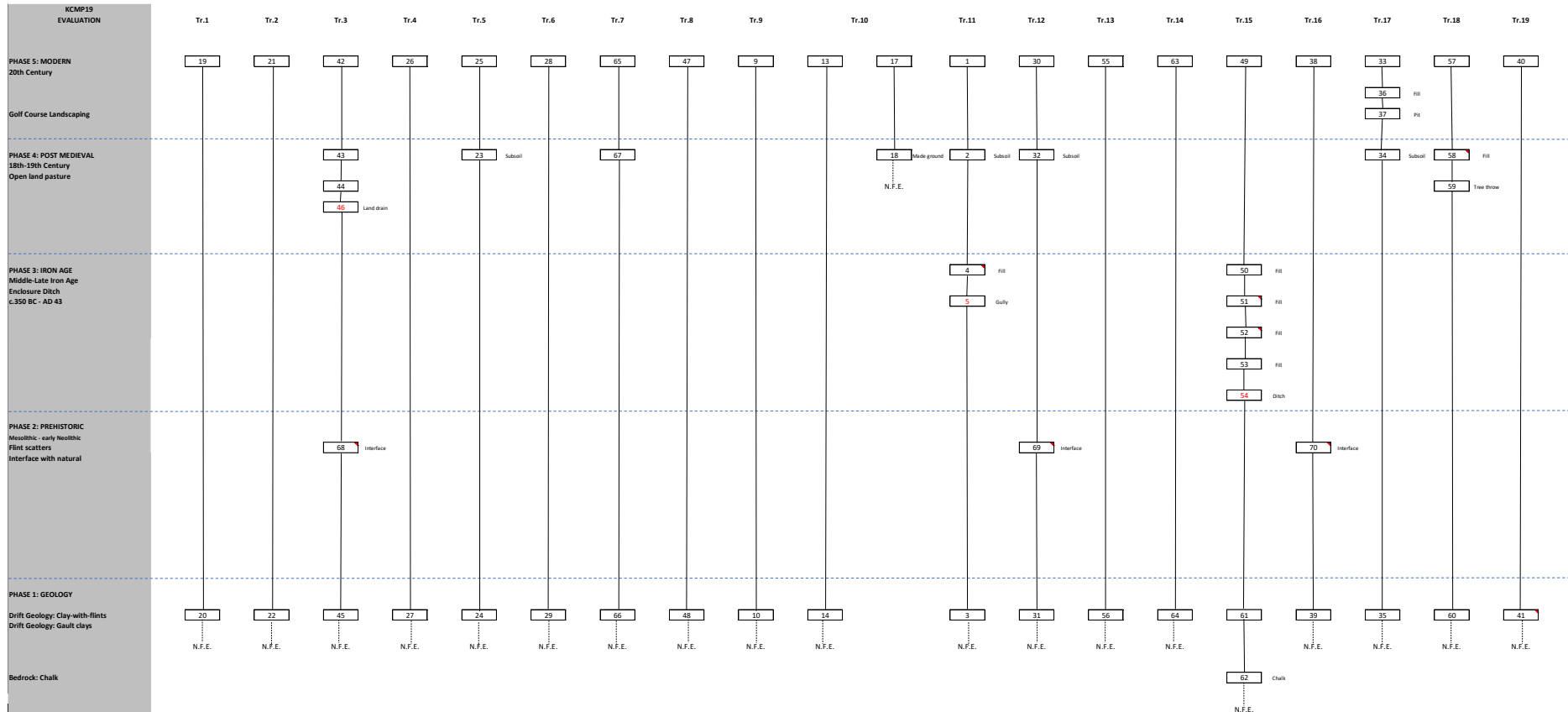
27	Layer		4	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural				27.04		KCMP19-PH1
28	Layer		6	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil		0.13		39.59		KCMP19-PH5
29	Layer		6	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				39.45		KCMP19-PH1
30	Layer		12	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil		0.3		39.81		KCMP19-PH5
31	Layer		12	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural				39.51		KCMP19-PH1
32	Layer			A sub soil formed through colluvium and composed of a firm, greyish-brown silty clay. Contains occasional fragmentary sherds of pottery and/or CBM and flecks of charcoal	Other		0.1		39.57		KCMP19-PH4
33	Layer		17	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil		0.1		37.72		KCMP19-PH5
34	Layer		17	A sub soil formed through colluvium and composed of a firm, greyish-brown silty clay. Contains occasional fragmentary sherds of pottery and/or CBM and flecks of charcoal	Other		0.2		37.62		KCMP19-PH4
35	Layer		17	Gault clay composed of mottled, brownish grey clay, silt, sand and gravel	Natural				26.31		KCMP19-PH1
36	Fill	37	17	A friable, greyish dark brown silty clay with fragments of CBM and sub angular pebble inclusions. Fill contained a large iron bracket (not retained)	Backfill		0.15		26.31		KCMP19-PH4
37	Cut		17	A shallow, sub-circular pit with a gradually sloped sides and slightly concave base. Contained backfilled rubbish including fragmentary CBM and a large iron bracket.	Pit	0.85	0.65	0.15	26.31	26.16	KCMP19-PH4
38	Layer		16	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.36	36.83		KCMP19-PH5

39	Layer		16	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				36.66		KCMP19-PH1
40	Layer		19	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil		0.26	26.29	25.58		KCMP19-PH5
41	Layer			Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural			26.1	25.68		KCMP19-PH1
42	Layer		3	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil		0.2	23.58			KCMP19-PH5
43	Fill	46	3	Fill of a land drain composed of a loose, greyish mid brown silty sand	Backfill		0.04	23.83			KCMP19-PH4
44		46	3	Backfill of a land drain composed of a friable, greyish mid brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular pebbles and flint inclusions	Backfill		0.25	23.89			KCMP19-PH4
45	Layer			Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints. Towards the western end of the trench this became increasingly alluvial in nature with a blueish hue and frequent snail shell inclusions	Natural			23.89			KCMP19-PH1
46	Cut		3	Land drain comprised of a linear slot filled with pebbles and gravel [44] sealed by backfill [43]	Drain	2.2	0.2	28	23.83	23.55	KCMP19-PH4
47	Layer		8	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.32	34.69		KCMP19-PH5
48	Layer		8	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				34.53		KCMP19-PH1
49	Layer		15	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.22	44.87	44.02	KCMP19-PH5
50	Fill	54	15	Quinary (or fifth) fill of enclosure ditch [54] composed of a firm, yellowish light-brown redeposited natural clay. Occasional sub angular flint nodule inclusions	Backfill		1.62	0.11	43.87		KCMP19-PH3

51	Fill	54	15	Quaternary (or fourth) fill of enclosure ditch [54]. Consisting of a friable, greyish dark brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions and a deposit of Iron Age pottery sherds; some potentially residual Bronze Age sherds as well.	Backfill		2.54	0.3	43.93		KCMP19-PH3
52	Fill	54	15	Tertiary fill of enclosure ditch [54]. Consisting of a soft to friable, greyish mid brown clayey silt with only occasional sub-angular flint inclusions. One sherd of pottery recovered from this context.	Natural Silting		2.2	0.38	43.83		KCMP19-PH3
53	Fill			Secondary fill of enclosure ditch [54]. Consisted of a friable, greyish dark brown clayey silt with moderate sub-angular flint inclusions. No finds recovered from this context.	Natural Silting		1.19	0.18			KCMP19-PH3
54	Cut		15	A substantial enclosure ditch measuring 2.54m wide and over 1.10m deep (not bottomed due to depth restrictions) which appeared to have five fills in total. Several Iron Age sherds, along with a couple of possible Bronze Age sherds were recovered.	Ditch	1.6	2.54	1.1	43.87	42.77	KCMP19-PH3
55	Layer		13	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.27	31.45		KCMP19-PH5
56	Layer		13	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				31.2		KCMP19-PH1
57	Layer			Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil			0.42	31.19	30.3	KCMP19-PH5
58	Fill	58	18	Fill of tree throw [59] composed of a friable, greyish dark brown silty clay with sub angular flint inclusions	Natural Silting	1.9	0.65	0.2	30.86		KCMP19-PH4
59	Cut		18	Tree throw cavity irregular in plan with undulating sides and slightly concave base	Natural	1.9	0.65	0.2	30.86	30.66	KCMP19-PH4
60	Layer			Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				30.11		KCMP19-PH1
61	Layer			Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural				43.86		KCMP19-PH1

62	Layer		An area of exosed bedrock composed of a heavily weatered and degarded chalk	Natural			44.63	KCMP19-PH1
63	Layer	14	Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.23		43.06	KCMP19-PH5
64	Layer	14	Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural			42.85	KCMP19-PH1
65	Layer		Turf and topsoil composed of a soft, greyish dark grey clayey silt.	Garden Soil	0.24		43.37	KCMP19-PH5
66	Layer		Natural geology composed of a mottled, brownish-orange, sandy clay-with-flints	Natural			43.09	KCMP19-PH1
67	Layer		Made ground consisting of dumped domestic rubbish including glass, rusted iron and building rubble	Make-up	0.21			KCMP19-PH5
68	Layer	3	Interface with the natural geology composed of a friable, greyish mid yellow clay with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions	Natural	0.1		23.89	KCMP19-PH2
69	Layer	12	Interface with the natural geology composed of a friable, light grey silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions	Natural	0.09		39.51	KCMP19-PH2

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

Archaeological investigations at the above site resulted in the recovery of small assemblages of both struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The material has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of each piece (Catalogue L01). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. The assemblage was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Retouched tools were classified following standard British works such as Healy (1988) and Bamford (1985). Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and distribution

Type	No.
Flake	5
Prismatic blade	2
Conchoidal chunk	1
Retouched	2
Flake struck from polished implement	1
Unworked burnt stone (no.)	2
Unworked burnt stone (wt:g)	13

Table L01: Quantification of the struck and burnt flint from Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course

A total of two pieces of unworked burnt stone weighing 13g and eleven pieces of struck flint were recovered during the investigations (Table L01; Catalogue L01).

Seven of the struck pieces were found at the interface between the natural deposits and sub-soil, with three coming from Trench 16, two from Trench 3 and single pieces coming from Trenches 12 and 19. One piece was recovered from topsoil deposits in Trench 9 and the remaining three pieces came from ditch [05] in Trench 11.

Both pieces of unworked burnt stone comprised flint that has heated to the extent that it had changed colour, fragmented and become 'fire-crazed'. One of the fragments came from ditch [05] in Trench 11 and the other from the surface of the natural deposits in Trench 16. The low quantities are most suggestive of background waste emanating from the use of ground-set hearths. It is not dateable but burnt flint is most often recovered from prehistoric contexts.

The struck flint assemblage

Raw material

Due to the development of recortication it was rarely possible to ascertain the colour of the flint but recent breaks on some pieces revealed these to be translucent dark to light grey. Cortex, where present, is rough but thin and weathered and thermal (frost fractured) surface scars are common. The raw materials were most likely to have been gathered from peri-glacially mass weathered deposits (Gibbard 1986), such as the Pleistocene 'head' deposits that can be found in the vicinity of the site (BGS 2020).

Condition

The majority of the struck flints are in a good or only slightly chipped condition, consistent with being residual, but there is little evidence for any intensive post-depositional damage, and it is likely that most were recovered from close to where originally discarded. Two of the three pieces from ditch [05] are in a still sharp condition and it is possible that they may have entered the features relatively soon after manufacture; the other piece is heavily burnt. All of the unburnt pieces show evidence of recortication, which ranges from being incipient to thick and white. The development of recortication may have chronological implications although it cannot be used to directly date the pieces.

Technology, Typology and Dating

The assemblage is chronologically mixed and was manufactured over a long period. The earliest pieces are the prismatic blades, one of which came from Trench 3 and the other from Trench 19. These are both the product of a systematically undertaken blade-based reduction strategy that was employed from the Upper Palaeolithic until the Early Neolithic. The notable size of the blades tentatively suggests an early date within that sequence and they would not be out-of-place within late Glacial or Early post-Glacial assemblages, although neither displays specific diagnostic traits that could confirm such as attribution.

Also of interest is the flake struck from the edge of a ground (polished) implement, most probably an axehead of Neolithic or perhaps Early Bronze Age date, and also an end section of a finely made knife that corresponds to Clark's classic plano-convex types. These appear to be confined to the Early Bronze Age and were frequently used as grave goods/offerings (Clarke 1932; Saville 1985). Possibly of similar date is the edge-trimmed flake from Trench 12 which would fit comfortably within Neolithic or Early Bronze Age assemblages.

The two flakes from natural deposits in Trench 16 and the two flakes from ditch [05] are all thick and rather clumsily struck, and the burnt struck piece also from ditch [05] appears to represent a minimally worked core. These pieces are more reminiscent of later prehistoric industries, particularly those of the later second and first millennium BC (e.g. Herne 1991; Young and Humphrey 1999; Humphrey 2003).

Significance

The main significance of the struck flint assemblage is that, despite its small size, it demonstrates flintworking activities occurring at the site over a long period, perhaps from the Upper Palaeolithic but certainly from the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, and with flintwork from the Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and the Later Bronze Age or Iron Age also being identified. However, as it stands the assemblage is

small and predominantly residually deposited, which limits its interpretation value and it can contribute little to understandings of the precise chronology or nature of the activities conducted at the site.

Recommendations

Due to its limited interpretative potential of the struck flint assemblage, this report and accompanying catalogue is all that is required for the purposes of archiving and no further analytical work is warranted. The assemblage does, however, provide evidence for prehistoric activity at the site and can contribute to wider appreciations of prehistoric landscape use in the area. It is therefore recommended that it is recorded in the Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.

The unworked burnt flint appears to have been largely incidentally produced and is of limited interpretational significance. It has been fully recorded and subsequently discarded, and no further work beyond a mention in any published account is recommended.

Should further work at the site be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in conjunction with any additional material found 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 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Barbara McNee

Introduction

A total of 16 pottery sherds weighing 100gms, and with a lower than average mean sherd weight of 6gms were recovered a small number of features. The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

Quantification

A breakdown of the assemblage is listed in (table 1). Much of the dating is tentative as the assemblage contained mostly worn featureless sherds, and close dating cannot be achieved with any degree of confidence when small body sherds alone are represented. The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group also suggests that a minimum of 25 sherds should be present in a context in order for a reliable estimation of phase to be carried out (PCRG 1997: 21). The pottery derived from three contexts.

Table 1: quantification and breakdown of the assemblage by context

Context	Sherd count and weight (gms)	Comments
51	13 (88gms)	Two rim sherds and eleven body sherds, a variety of fabrics, later Iron Age date
52	1 (1gm)	Body sherd, coarse sandy fabric, probably late Iron Age/early Roman
58	2 (11gms)	Worn fired clay, could be Roman or CBM

Fabrics

Seven basic fabric groups have been identified during preliminary examination. This has been classified based on dominant inclusions, and further subdivided based on clay matrix type (silt or sand).

Fabric Groups

Coarse sandy fabric (glaucanite and quartz sand) with calcined flint.

Coarse sand sized glaucanite and very coarse sand sized quartz.

Grog inclusions in a silty clay matrix.

Grog and glaucanitic sand.

Shell and flint in a sandy clay matrix (includes glauconite).

Very coarse rounded quartz.

Oxidised orange fabric with few inclusions.

Details of the geology surrounding the site have been obtained from British Geological Survey Map, Sheet No. 288. This includes deposits of Lower and Middle Chalk, Folkestone Beds, Clay-with-flints and Gault clay. Some of the sherds include crushed flint temper, and a number of sherds contain coarse sand. The Chalk deposits or Clay-with-flints may have been the source for the flint inclusions. The Middle Chalk would also have provided abundant flint nodules suitable for burning and crushing to make flint temper (McNee 2012: 172). The Folkestone Beds would have produced sandy clays suitable for potting, and these geological deposits were formally used to make bricks (Dines *et al*, 1954: 148). This could be obtained from a number of deposits surrounding the site.

Most of the sherds have been made with a glauconitic rich clay. In terms of date, there appears to be a considerable increase in the use of glauconitic sandy fabric vessels during the middle Iron Age (Morris 2006), and this distinct fabric continues into the late Iron Age (Pollard 1988: 31). The Medway valley itself is the focus for a group of sites with glauconite-rich fabrics employed for 'Belgic' forms, and has a distinct spatial concentration in the Medway valley and perhaps particularly in the Maidstone area (*ibid*). The actual date of the inception and cessation of these distinct pottery fabrics can be difficult to establish, and it could be the case that the glauconite rich clay sources were exploited long before the appearance of later Iron Age forms (Raynor 2005: 50). Similar fabrics have been used to make earliest Iron Age pottery at the nearby site of Holborough Quarry (McNee 2010). Probable sources for this clay may derive from the Gault Clay, which contains highly glauconitic sandy clay (Dines *et al* 1954: 25). These deposits would have provided a source of good potting material, suggesting the pots were locally made.

Forms, decoration, surface treatments and visible usewear

The assemblage contained just two rim sherds. One small rim sherd was recovered from context (51) and belongs to an Iron Age bowl. Similar pots can be found at Danebury (Brown 2000, Bowl Type BC, cp 4-7, cp 360+). A second rim possibly derives from a neckless ovoid type jar, with an internal bevel. This may be paralleled amongst the Highstead Period 4 late Iron Age assemblage. The late Iron Age potter from Highstead Period 4 has been phased to 100 BC+ (Couldrey 2007, figure's 103/26 and 105/49). A good example may also be found at West Malling (Jones 2009, figure 1.14/19). This has also been dated to the late Iron Age.

The sherds are undecorated, however three sherds (context 51) displays worn exterior combing, in a grog and glauconitic fabric. Three sherds have been burnished on the exterior, but generally speaking

surface treatments have been worn away. There is no evidence of visible usewear.

Discussion

The pottery from context (51) can be phased to the Iron Age, possibly from the middle Iron Age onwards, around 350 BC. One body sherd (contains glauconite, shell and flint) could be slightly earlier, possibly early–middle Iron Age. It is difficult to tell as this fabric can occur in the late Iron Age. The two rim sherds would certainly suggest a later Iron Age date, and examination of the fabrics relating to the body sherds would indicate that overall, the assemblage is predominantly of late Iron Age date. Pottery from the nearby site of Thurnham Roman Villa (Lyne 2006), indicates that the glauconitic fabrics preceded the appearance of grog-tempered ones, although there still seems to have been a substantial overlap in the chronology of the two traditions (Booth 2006: 198). The dominance of glauconitic fabrics at Cobtree may suggest that some of pottery dates to the earlier part of the late Iron Age. One worn rounded body sherd (context 52) is probably late Iron Age or Roman. Two pieces of fired clay (context 58) are most likely Roman.

Pottery sherds from the Cobham Manor Farm site show high levels of abrasion on all surfaces. This suggests possible derivation from a rubbish collection open to weathering and trampling, residual sherds or general use in a domestic context prior to ending up in their excavated context.

Summary, significance and research potential

This small pottery assemblage is important as an indicator of settlement or use within the Maidstone area during the later prehistoric and Roman period. There is little potential for further analysis due to the condition of the pottery, and the lack of diagnostic sherds, and therefore no further work is recommended for the pottery assemblage. The pottery is well bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation. It is recommended that all of the prehistoric material be retained for long-term storage. In the event of further excavations being carried out on the site, the assemblage should be re-analyzed with any additional prehistoric and Roman pottery that might be recovered.

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APPENDIX 5: METAL & SMALL FINDS ASSESSMENT

By Marit Gaimster

A complete but corroded iron horseshoe was recovered from Subsoil [32]. The shoe is substantial, with a length of 180mm and a width spanning 155mm it would have been used for a heavy-size draught horse. In spite of corrosion, it is possible to establish that the shoe is unfullered and has four nails to each branch. The branches are finished with long thickened caulkins, extending 35 mm from the tip. Unfullered shoes with caulkins are characteristic of 19th-century draught shoes (Sparkes 1976, 26). However, the best dating evidence is presence of a toe clip, a feature introduced around 1825 and first and foremost for the heavy draught horse (Ward 1939, 171).

Significance and recommendations for further work

The horseshoe from Cobtree manor Park is of little or no significance for an understanding of the site. It could date from the 19th century or later and having been recorded may now be discarded.

References

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APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Rielly

Introduction

This site is situated within the northern half of the Cobtree Manor golf course adjacent and on the western side of the A229 on the northern perimeter of Maidstone. It consists of 19 evaluation trenches, these revealing evidence for prehistoric (Neolithic to Iron Age) and post-medieval (18th century to modern) occupation. Animal bones were hand recovered from a single feature - an Iron Age (Phase 3) enclosure ditch.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of faunal assemblage

The excavations provided a total of 4 bones, all from (51) the fill of cut [54] in Trench 15 (south-western part of the study area), this interpreted as part of a substantial enclosure ditch placed in Phase 3. This collection consisted of a cattle axis and scapula shaft fragment, a red deer proximal scapula (in two pieces) and a cattle-size indeterminate piece, possible part of a vertebrae. Each of these bones displayed a moderate degree of root etching. The cattle axis had been butchered, an attempted splitting cut from a ventral direction while the red deer scapula has a deep cut parallel with the longitudinal axis in the central part of the medial surface extending from the neck to about ¼ blade (bone broken at this point). This same scapula also displays minor osteophytic lipping at the lateral, posterior and medial perimeter of the proximal articulation. Such joint disease is relatively rare in the bones of the shoulder girdle and, like other parts of the skeleton, may well be associated with age (Bartosiewicz 2013, 108 and 117).

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

This small assemblage is relatively well preserved, minimally fragmented and clearly includes a good proportion of identifiable bones. The good condition is also shown by the presence of butchery marks. These bones include cattle and red deer, a combination of domestic and game, the latter, a red deer scapula, certainly from an adult individual. This collection is clearly of interest, however, while suggesting some potential value, there is the notable disadvantage concerning the quantity of bones recovered relative to the size of the excavation. Further work will undoubtedly provide more bones, but it is unlikely that these will provide more than tentative impressions of prehistoric (assuming more of the same) animal usage in this area. Deposits associated with the earlier phases have been limited to trenches 11 (close to the club house in the central/eastern part of the site) and 15 and it can be

suggested that any further work should be concentrated in these two areas. In addition, as the bones are relatively well preserved, it can be recommended that such work should incorporate a sieving strategy.

References

Bartosiewicz, L, 2013 *Shuffling Nags, Lamé ducks: The Archaeology of Animal Disease*, Oxbow Books: Oxford and Oakville

APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-390226

Project details

Project name	Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course, Maidstone, Kent evaluation
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course. The site is located c. 2.38km to the north of Maidstone town centre on the north bank of the River Medway and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 75126 59174. The work was enabled by planning condition attached to the permission for remodelling and upgrading of the golf course (Maidstone Borough Council Planning Ref. 18/504490/FULL). The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases: between the 18th and 21st of March 2019 and between the 2nd and 15th March 2020. In total, 19 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. The exposed natural drift geology varied between a clay-with-flints cap on the higher ground to Gault-like clays and sands in the lower areas where a degree of colluvium had formed. The underlying bedrock of chalk was exposed in Trench 15 at 44.63m OD. A colluvium or subsoil was present in only a limited number of trenches. A number of heavily-patinated worked flints were recovered from the interface with the natural in Trenches 3, 12 and 16. The flints may date to between the Late Neolithic to early Iron Age with the former date more likely. Late Iron Age ditch was uncovered in Trench 15 whilst a gully of the same date was present in Trench 11. The ditch may have been a part of a farming enclosure located to the south-west of the site. Post-medieval features mostly related to the farming of the area were also present, mostly in form of land drains. Modern truncation was present throughout the site and was linked to the landscaping work during creation of the golf course.</p>
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2019 End: 15-03-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KCMP19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
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	Golf course
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course
Postcode	ME12 3AZ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 75126 59174 51.304152129365 0.512633733058 51 18 14 N 000 30 45 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.58m Max: 44.87m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group
Project design originator	n/a
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Wayne Perkins
Name of sponsor/funding body	MyTime Active

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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