

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Sandling Place, Sandling Lane,  
Maidstone, Kent**

**Site Code: KSLM 04  
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 7570 5790**

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# 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at Sandling Place, Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site by Ward Homes.
- 1.3 No archaeological features were observed on the site. A number of finds from varying periods were recovered from the deposits overlying the natural. Four pieces of struck flint (lithics) broadly dating to between the late Upper Palaeolithic and late Neolithic periods were collected. Their condition suggesting that they were found close to their original place of deposition. A single sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of either cbm or possibly amphora together with fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (cbm) are not thought likely to represent significant human activity in the immediate vicinity. More probably they represent casual loss or the deposition of domestic refuse.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at Sandling Place, Sandling Lane (Figure 1) in advance of possible redevelopment.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Ward Homes.
- 2.3 The evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches measuring 9.8-21.6m in length, positioned across the site (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is TQ 7570 5790
- 2.5 The site was assigned the unique code KSLM 04.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and assisted by Neil Hawkins. The project was managed by Jon Butler for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

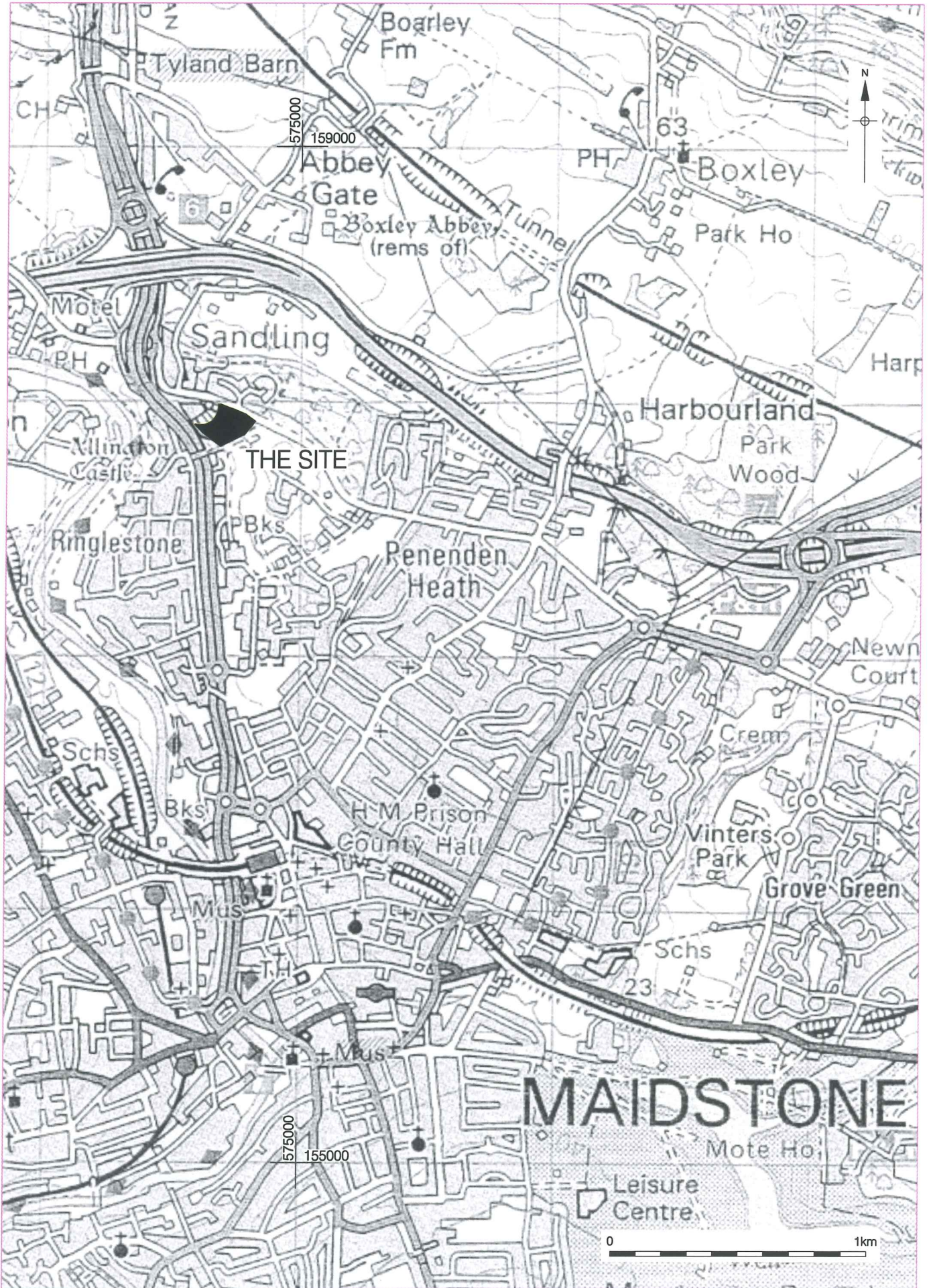


Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000



Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1000

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Planning background**

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of Maidstone Borough Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Council's deposited draft 'Maidstone Borough-Wide Local Plan', adopted in 2000, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development is subject to the Environment Policy:

#### **POLICY ENV17**

**PLANNING PERMISSION WILL ONLY BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON REMAINS OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE IF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OUTWEIGHTS THE LOCAL VALUE OF THE REMAINS. IF PLANNING PERMISSION IS GIVEN FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT REMAINS OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE, CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED TO ENSURE THAT THE REMAINS ARE PROPERLY RECORDED AND EVALUATED AND, WHERE PRACTICABLE, PRESERVED.**

#### **POLICY ENV18**

**IF PLANNING PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO DEVELOP ANY SITE WHERE THERE ARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH REMAINS EXIST, CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED TO SECURE THE EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR REMOVAL OR PRESERVATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IF JUSTIFIED, BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS.**

3.1.3 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings on site.

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

3.2.1 The specification produced by CgMs Consulting (Hawkins 2004) and agreed by Kent County Council proposed that consideration should be given to all periods but that there was a moderate potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon/early medieval remains.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Hawkins, 2004) was prepared prior to the commencement of the project. Below is a summary of the findings of this exercise.
- 4.2 A search was made of the Kent County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) with the intention of locating known archaeological sites and to predict and extrapolate the likely archaeological conditions within the development area from finds made nearby. This latter analysis is important, as many entries onto the SMR result from chance discoveries and are, at best, a small and unrepresentative sample of the total buried heritage. Further study of published and unpublished material and land-use through cartographic sources was also incorporated.
- 4.3 No evidence for prehistoric activity was found within the study area. The position of the site in relation to nearby watercourses and the underlying geology suggests that it may not have been favourable for settlement or arable farming and is likely to have been in an area of woodland or pasture.
- 4.4 It is thought that 'Old Chatham Road' is situated upon the line of a Roman road connecting Maidstone and Chatham. This would pass by c.100m to the west of the site centre. A Romano-British burial has been recorded on the west side of the road approximately 350m to the south of the site. A coin of the Emperor Tetricus I was recorded some 400m to the southwest of the site, at a position more suitable for a farming settlement.
- 4.5 An Anglo-Saxon Ansate Brooch of the 9<sup>th</sup> century was found at Cuckoo Wood to the northeast of the site. This is likely to have been a casual loss rather than signifying settlement or similar such human activity.
- 4.6 The early cartographic evidence of the 18<sup>th</sup> century shows the site as agricultural land on the slopes of a small hill. Sandling Place was built in 1823 and is depicted in detail on the Ordnance Survey map of 1867 with the land surrounding the house being woodland and pasture. By 1897, the house was enlarged and a number of paths had been laid out across the site. A few small buildings adjacent to the main house were constructed prior to its requisition by the Army in 1941. It remained in their possession until the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation. The excavation of sixteen trenches was agreed with the Kent County Council. These were positioned across the proposed building footprints, landscape parking and associated works, as much of the site will remain in its existing form as open space.
- 5.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 5.3 The presence of underground services was taken into consideration and the area scanned using a Cable Avoiding Tool prior to excavation.
- 5.4 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon. The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence.
- 5.5 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and where necessary in section using standard recording methods. A photographic record was also made as appropriate using 35mm black and white negative and colour transparencies.
- 5.6 The levels of principal strata were related to Ordnance Datum using spot heights from detailed site drawings supplied by the developer, which, in turn, were related to the OS Benchmark on the southeast corner of the south face of the Public House on Sandling Lane.
- 5.7 Following the completion of the works, the trenches were backfilled with the excavated material by machine.

## 6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The site is located upon the Folkestone Beds of the Lower Greensand Group according to the Geological Service. No geotechnical investigation data was made available prior to the commencement of the evaluation.
- 6.2 The site is situated of the southern and western flanks of a small hill and varies in height quite dramatically from 50.5mOD at the northeast to 35mOD at the southwest and 39m at the southeast with a hummock in the central northern part of the site rising to 54.5mOD.
- 6.3 The site lays 400m to the east of the River Medway where its meandering course changes direction towards the northwest. A tributary to the Medway flows westwards, passing the site approximately 100m to the north.
- 6.4 The excavations exposed deposits of sand, which varied in silt content, between 40.72m and 53.52mOD varying across the site commensurate with the natural topography.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The evaluation revealed a similar sequence across the site of natural deposits overlain by topsoil. On the northern part of the site, on the hummock where the trenches were located, in an area of recently felled woodland, a layer of subsoil (probably constituting an old topsoil) was identified- the topsoil here being comprised of humic leaf litter.

### 7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 This trench measured 19.60m in length orientated east-west and located within an area of grass between the two paths leading to Sandling Place.

7.2.2 Natural mid yellowish red brown coarse sand with slight iron staining [10] was observed at a level between 45.45m and 45.43mOD within the trench, overlain by up to 0.52m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil. No finds were recovered.

### 7.3 Trench 2

7.3.1 This trench measured 18.50m in length and was orientated north-south. At its northern end it joined the eastern end of Trench 1.

7.3.2 Natural mid yellowish red brown coarse sand with slight iron staining [12] was observed at a level between 45.40m and 44.19mOD within the trench, overlain by up to 0.57m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil. A single fragment of post-medieval peg tile was recovered.

### 7.4 Trench 3

7.4.1 This trench measured 12.85m in length and was orientated northeast-southwest and was positioned between the angle formed by Trenches 1 and 2.

7.4.2 Natural mid yellowish red brown coarse sand with slight iron staining [14] was observed at a level between 43.99m and 41.89mOD within the trench, overlain by up to 0.52m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil. No finds were recovered.

### 7.5 Trench 4 (Figure 3 and 4)

7.5.1 This trench measured 20.00m in length and was orientated east-west and was positioned in a grassed area in the southeast corner of the site.

7.5.2 At the eastern end of the trench a patch of natural flints in a silty sand matrix [3] was revealed below natural mid yellowish red brown coarse sand with slight iron staining [2]. These deposits were observed at a level between 44.50m and 43.64mOD below up to 0.48m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil from which, a fragment of post-medieval peg tile was recovered.

#### 7.6 **Trench 5**

7.6.1 This trench measured 12.5m in length and was orientated north-south, positioned to the south of the western end of Trench 4.

7.6.2 Natural mid yellowish red brown coarse sand with slight iron staining [5] was observed at a level between 44.33m and 43.39mOD within the trench, overlain by up to 0.52m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil from which, a sherd of glass from an 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century bottle and a fragment of post-medieval peg tile were recovered.

#### 7.7 **Trench 6**

7.7.1 This trench was excavated on the edge of a wooded area to the south of Trenches 4 and 5. It measured 12.25m in length and was orientated east-west.

7.7.2 A deposit of natural flints, similar to that exposed in Trench 4 was revealed [8] which was likewise visible below coarse mid yellowish red brown sand with slight iron staining [7] between 41.76m and 40.72mOD. Up to 0.44m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil was present above the natural.

7.8 The following trenches were excavated in the northern part of the site between the access road to Sandling Place and Sandling lane.

#### 7.9 **Trench 7** (Figure 4)

7.9.1 This trench measured 9.80m in length and was orientated east-west.

7.9.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [29] was exposed at a level between 50.15m and 50.15mOD. Excavation into this deposit was continued to a level of 49.78m in order to ensure that no deposits were sealed by it. This natural was overlain by mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil up to 0.48m in thickness.

#### 7.10 **Trench 8**

7.10.1 This trench was orientated east-west and measured 10.85m in length.

7.10.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [31] was exposed at a level between 50.21m and 49.97mOD and overlain by up to 0.69m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil.

7.11 **Trench 9**

7.11.1 This trench measured 19.50m in length and was orientated north-south.

7.11.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [33] was exposed at a level between 50.23m and 50.00mOD. This was overlain by up to 0.46m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil.

7.12 **Trench 10**

7.12.1 This trench was orientated east-west, measuring 21.60m in length.

7.12.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [35] was exposed at a level between 50.12m and 49.90mOD with up to 0.54m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil above. From this, a single struck flint was recovered.

7.13 **Trench 11**

7.13.1 This trench measured 20.85m in length and orientated north-south.

7.13.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [37] was exposed at a level between 50.06m and 50.32mOD with a maximum of 0.45m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil from which, a single struck flint, a sherd of North Kent fine ware Roman pottery and a small fragment of Roman cbm or possibly amphora were recovered. Both were in a highly abraded condition.

7.14 **Trench 12**

7.14.1 This trench was excavated to 13.50m in length and orientated in a north-south direction.

7.14.2 The natural deposits attained in this trench comprised of mid yellowish orange fine slightly silty sand [17] at a level between 50.79m and 51.02mOD. This was overlain by a 0.28m thick mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil [16] from which a single struck flint and a fragment of post-medieval peg tile were recovered. A dark brownish grey silty sand topsoil [15] 0.16m thick formed the most recent deposit.

7.15 **Trench 13** (Figure 4)

7.15.1 This trench measured 16.60m and was orientated northeast-southwest.

7.15.2 The natural deposits attained in this trench comprised of mid yellowish orange fine slightly silty sand [20] at a level between 51.36m and 53.52mOD. This was overlain by a 0.26m thick mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil [19] and dark brownish grey silty sand topsoil [18].

**7.16 Trench 14**

7.16.1 This trench was orientated east-west and measured 12.80m in length.

7.16.2 The natural deposits attained in this trench comprised of mid yellowish orange fine slightly silty sand [23] at a level between 51.71m and 51.82mOD. This was overlain by a 0.18m thick mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil [22] from which a single struck flint and an abraded fragment of fired clay either daub or brick were recovered. A dark brownish grey silty sand topsoil [21] completed the sequence.

**7.17 Trench 15**

7.17.1 This trench measured 12.00m and was orientated north-south.

7.17.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [25] was exposed at a level between 49.79m and 49.92mOD, with 0.58m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil.

**7.18 Trench 16**

7.18.1 Measuring 13.50m in length, this trench was orientated northwest-southeast.

7.18.2 Light yellowish brown silty sand natural with occasional flint nodules [27] was exposed at a level between 50.18m and 50.21mOD. A maximum of 0.40m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil was present over the natural.

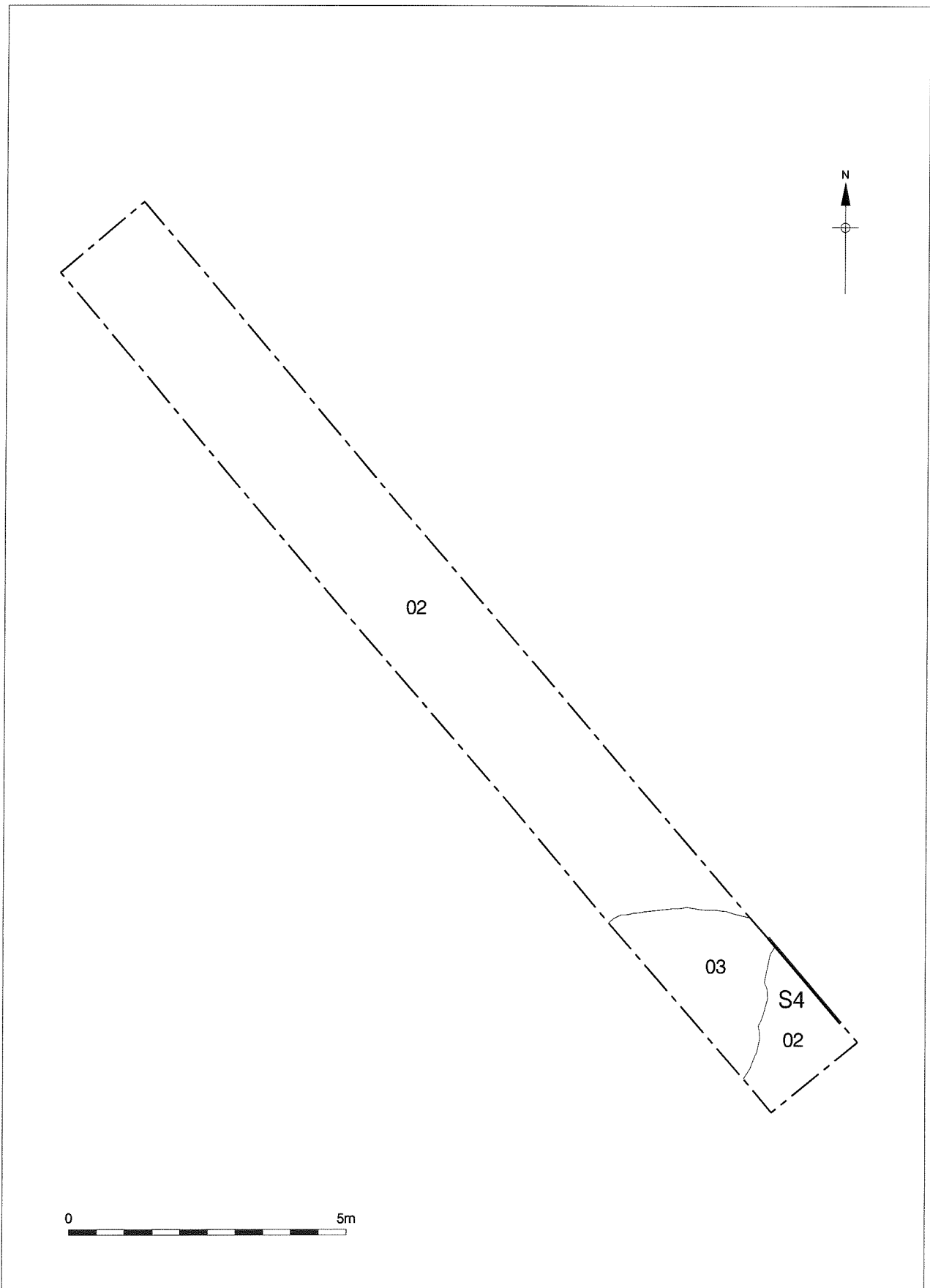
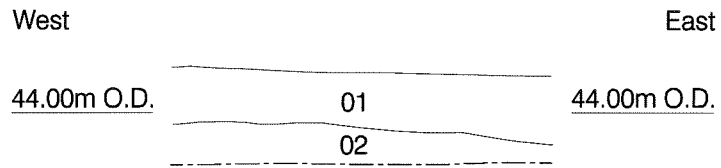
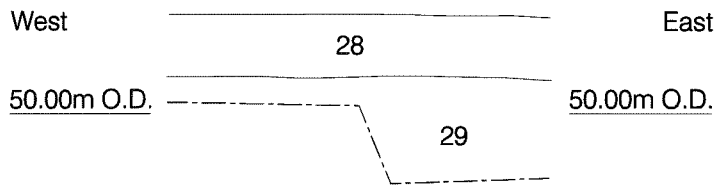


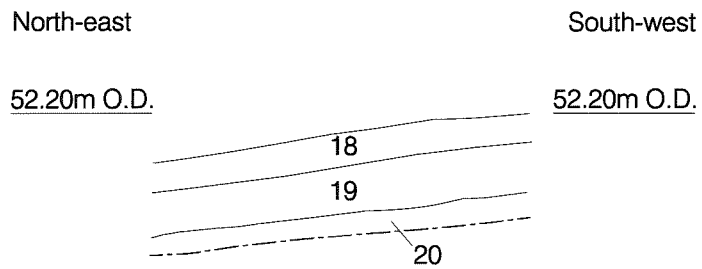
Figure 3  
Plan of Trench 4  
1:100



Trench 4  
 Section 4: A sample of the south facing section



Trench 7  
 Section 7: A sample of the south facing section



Trench 13  
 Section 13: A sample of the north-west facing section

Figure 4  
 Sections 4, 7 and 13  
 1:40



## **8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The evaluation revealed a complete absence of archaeological features.
- 8.2 The presence of the lithics in an un-abraded condition suggests that it was recovered close to its original place of deposition, which implies that there was activity occurring on, or near to the site in prehistoric times. As the assemblage was small in size and the pieces undiagnostic, it has not been possible to narrow the dating down to a specific period. It is possible that with more evidence the assemblage could be reanalysed with this task in mind. The absence of any features excludes the possibility of targeted excavation and therefore archaeological monitoring of further groundwork, particularly in the northern part of the site where all the flint artefacts were found, would offer a more plausible solution.
- 8.3 The Roman and post-medieval finds are likely to represent casual loss and merit no further research.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Ward Homes. The author would like to thank the following: Neil Hawkins for his jovial attitude on site; Natalie Barrett for the surveying; Adrian Nash for the illustrations; the finds specialists (Barry Bishop, lithics; John Brown, cbm; Berni Sudds, Roman pottery); and Jon Butler for his project management and editing.

## 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CgMs unpublished report

Hawkins, D. 2004 *Specification for an Archaeological Field Evaluation, Land at Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent.* CgMs unpublished report

Maidstone Borough Council 2000 *Maidstone Borough-Wide Local Plan* Deposited Draft



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Comments	Findings	Max OD
1	Layer	4	Topsoil	CBM	44.98
2	Natural	4	Nat sand		44.50
3	Natural	4	Nat flint		44.50
4	Layer	5	Topsoil	CBM, Glass	44.85
5	Natural	5	Nat sand		44.33
6	Layer	6	Topsoil	CBM	42.10
7	Natural	6	Nat sand		41.76
8	Natural	6	Nat flint		41.76
9	Layer	1	Topsoil		45.97
10	Natural	1	Nat sand		45.45
11	Layer	2	Topsoil	CBM	46.03
12	Natural	2	Nat sand		44.19
13	Layer	3	Topsoil		44.54
14	Natural	3	Nat sand		43.99
15	Layer	12	Topsoil	Struck flint, CBM	51.84
16	Layer	12	Subsoil		51.68
17	Natural	12	Nat sand		51.02
18	Layer	13	Topsoil		53.93
19	Layer	13	Subsoil		53.77
20	Natural	13	Nat sand		53.52
21	Layer	14	Topsoil	Struck flint, CBM	52.47
22	Layer	14	Subsoil		52.31
23	Natural	14	Nat sand		51.82
24	Layer	15	Topsoil		50.50
25	Natural	15	Nat silty sand		49.92
26	Layer	16	Topsoil		50.61
27	Natural	16	Nat silty sand		50.21
28	Layer	7	Topsoil		50.60
29	Natural	7	Nat silty sand		50.15
30	Layer	8	Topsoil		50.90
31	Natural	8	Nat silty sand		50.21
32	Layer	9	Topsoil		50.62
33	Natural	9	Nat silty sand		50.23
34	Layer	10	Topsoil	Struck flint	50.60
35	Natural	10	Nat silty sand		50.12
36	Layer	11	Topsoil	Struck flint, Roman pottery, CBM/amphora	50.70
37	Natural	11	Nat silty sand		50.32

## APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE FINDS John Brown

### 1.0 METHODOLOGY

1.1 The ceramics were examined using the London system of classification. A fabric number is allocated to each object, specifying its composition, form, method of manufacture and approximate date range. The material was examined under magnification (x20), quantified and weighed. A description of the fabrics appears at the end. Examples of the fabrics can be found in the archives of PCA and/or the Museum of London.

1.2 Quantification of items was undertaken and the data recorded onto pro-forma record sheets, and/or entered onto a computer database (Microsoft Access 2000). After analysis the common fabric types were discarded, with a type sample kept for archive. Unusual pieces or uncommon fabrics were also kept for archive.

### 2.0 QUANTITY AND CONDITION

2.1 Total No. Boxes: 1

Total no contexts producing finds: 7

The breakdown of finds by context is given below with comments:

CONTEXT	Fabric	Type	No	Weight g	Abraded	COMMENT
1	2276	Peg Tile	2	202	Yes	Lighter firing variant with very fine moulding sand
4	2276	Peg Tile	2	208	No	As above
	GLASS BOTTLE		1	18	Yes	Body sherd of 19th - early 20th century brown glass bottle. The surface is chemically altered and appears gold (pyrites?)
6	2276	Peg Tile	2	86	Yes	Lighter firing variant with very fine moulding sand
11	2276	Peg Tile	2	122	No	As above
16	2276	Peg Tile	1	76	Yes	As above
	3033	Brick	1	304	No	Unfroged brick in orange sandy fabric.
22	3102	Daub	1	2	Yes	Well fired, orange soft silty fabric, very abraded, possibly brick
36	3500	UNK	1	4	Yes	Pinkish buff fabric with marbled silty clay matrix, 'rose' quartz visible at abraded surface but less visible in core.

CONTEXT	Fabric	Type	No	Weight g	Abraded	COMMENT
						Possibly an amphora fabric.
	NKFW	POT	1	4	Yes	Very abraded. Identified as North Kent fine ware (Davies et al 1994, 152). Reduced core and brown burnished surface, some mica inclusions visible on surface. Body sherd, possibly a beaker.

2.2 All of the material was fragmentary, and most very abraded, indicating significant post-depositional processes acting on the material, and suggesting secondary deposition.

### 3.0 DISCUSSION

3.1 The Roman assemblage consists of one very abraded fragment of a North Kent fine ware (NKFW) beaker, and one very abraded fragment of CBM or possibly amphora, both from [36]. This provides ephemeral evidence for occupation during this period. One very small and abraded fragment of fired clay may represent a daub fragment, or abraded brick fragment, from [22], and could not be dated with certainty. The majority of the material assessed however consisted of post-medieval ceramic building materials, particularly peg roof tile, indicating development of the area at least from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The fabrics were local variants of London fabric 2276 (for the tiles) and 3033 (for the brick). One fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century brown bottle glass was recovered from [04].

### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The assemblage is unremarkable and warrants no further work.

### 5.0 DATE RANGES

5.1 The **Date range** is the earliest date for the earliest CBM within the context and the latest date of the latest CBM in the context. The **Latest Date** represents the range for the latest dated CBM fabric. The **Best-fit date** compares the latest date for the earliest CBM and the earliest date for the latest CBM. The **Deposition Date** is the suggested date of deposition for the materials in the context. Also noted is the **Size** (number of sherds) and **Weight** (grams) of each context. Groups are determined as

small (1-30 sherds), medium (31-100 sherds), large (over 100 sherds), very large (over 10 boxes).

## 5.2 CBM by context with size/weight and date ranges

Context	Size	Weight	Date range	Latest Date	Best-fit date	Deposition Date
1	2	202	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 to 1900
4	3	226	1480 1930	1800 1930	1800 1900	1800 to 1900
6	2	86	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 to 1900
11	2	122	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 1900	1480 to 1900
16	2	380	1450 1900	1480 1900	1480 1700	1480 to 1900
22	1	2	-1500 1666	-1500 1666	-1500 1666	-1500 to 1666 [R]
36	2	8	50 400	50 400	70 200	70 to 200 [R]

*Contexts in italic are samples from masonry contexts.*

[I] Possibly inclusive material

[R] Residual material

## 6.0 FABRICS

### Brick:

3033

Some bricks have moderate coarse quartz <0.8mm, otherwise moderate quartz <0.5mm. Occasional black iron oxide <0.8mm, yellowish white silty inclusions <4mm, occasional fine stones & pebbles. Individual bricks have a high degree of uniformity of texture & colour. Soft texture crumbles easily if scratched. Stock moulded bricks, often frogged, often indented borders.

### Tile:

22/6

Hard, well fired fine texture with few visible inclusions - occasional quartz <0.6mm, occasional calcium carbonate and red iron oxide <0.5mm, muscovite mica <0.05mm. Same as [2271] except with fine moulding sand.

### Other fabric codes:

3102

Daub

Generally soft, silty or sandy clay fabric with varying inclusions often burnt or baked. Used as rendering material for wattle structures.

## Bibliography

Davies B, Richardson B & Tomber R 1994; *A dated corpus of early Roman pottery from the City of London*, CBA Research Report 98.



## APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF THE LITHICS Barry John Bishop 2004

### INTRODUCTION

An Archaeological Evaluation at the above site recovered four struck flints, all from topsoil / sub-soil deposits. This report quantifies and describes the material, offers some comments on its significance and recommends any further work required. As the material was only cursorily examined and no statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses were attempted, a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

### THE ASSEMBLAGE

#### Context [16]

Blade of semi-translucent light-grey flint in good condition. Edge-trimmed striking platform, diffuse bulb of percussion and overshoot distal termination. Dorsal has several flake scars and c. 70% pre-flaking thermal scars. Lateral margins have heavy battering/crude bifacial retouch. Measures 70mm X 31mm X 12mm. 24g.

#### Context [22]

Burnt flake fragment. Cortical striking platform, pronounced bulb of percussion, distal missing. Dorsal has two unidirectional flake scars and c. 5% thin chalky cortex. Measures >32mm X >29mm X 7mm. 6g.

#### Context [34]

Core of patchy translucent black / opaque grey flint in good condition. Extensively reduced with one major flaked platform reduced all-round and retaining blade / narrow flake scars, and a keeled platform on the opposed end. Abandoned due to thermal flaws and step fracturing. Measures 74mm X 64mm X 61mm. 400g.

#### Context [36]

Decortication/core shaping flake of patchy translucent black / opaque grey flint in good condition. Striking platform missing, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Dorsal has five parallel blade / narrow flake scars and c. 60% thin, rough chalky cortex. Measures > 112mm X 58mm X 25mm. 195g.

### DISCUSSION

Despite the absence of sub-soil features at the site, the flintwork indicates prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The raw materials utilized were of good quality, although prone to thermal

fracturing, and typical of flint found in surface deposits from on and around the North Downs. The flintwork was in good condition, indicating that it had experienced only limited post-deposition attrition, and was probably recovered close to where it had been originally discarded. No typologically diagnostic pieces were present although technologically the assemblage as a whole would be consistent with industries dateable from the late Upper Palaeolithic to the Early Neolithic.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to its size and lack of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. The material is of some significance as it demonstrates activity in the area not otherwise represented in the structural record. Although the material as recovered is not closely dateable, there is a possibility that it could represent late Glacial / Early Holocene activity (cf Barton 1991) which, if so, would be of regional significance. It is therefore recommended that attempts should be made to monitor any further ground disturbance at the site with the aim of recovering a larger and, hopefully, more diagnostic assemblage, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities at the site.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barton, N. 1991 Technological Innovation and Continuity at the End of the Pleistocene in Britain. In: R.N.E. Barton, A.J. Roberts and D.A. Roe (Eds.) *Late Glacial Settlement in Northern Europe: Human Adaptation and Environmental Change at the End of the Pleistocene*, 234-245. Council for British Archaeology Research Report 77. Council for British Archaeology.

Saville, A. 1980 On the Measurement of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools. *Lithics* 1, 16-20.

## APPENDIX 5: KENT SMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

<b>Site name:</b> Sandling Place, Sandling Lane, Maidstone (KSLM 04)		
<b>Site address:</b> Sandling Place, Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent		
<p><b>Summary:</b> An evaluation consisting of sixteen trenches was undertaken by PCA Ltd that revealed no archaeological features. Few finds were recovered from the topsoil including four pieces of struck flint, two sherds of Roman pottery and a small assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material. The lithics were in good condition and are likely to have been recovered close to their original place of deposition, possibly indication activity on, or near to the site. The later material, however, is likely to represent casual loss and not be indicative of activity or settlement on the site.</p>		
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Maidstone		<b>Parish:</b>
<b>NGR (centre of site: 8 figures):</b> TQ 7570 5790 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b>		
Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking
Documentary Study	Building Recording	Earthwork Survey
Excavation	Geophysical Survey	Field Survey
Geoarchaeological Investigation		
<b>Date of recording:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2004		
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
<b>Geology:</b> Mixed deposits of the Folkestone Beds formation		
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Land at Sandling Place, Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation. Stuart Holden		
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results</b> (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate):</p> <p><u>Upper Palaeolithic to Late Neolithic</u> Four pieces of struck flint were recovered in an un-abraded condition and may signify activity occurring on or near to the site in prehistoric times.</p> <p><u>Roman</u> A single sherd of North Kent fine ware and fragment of cbm or possibly amphora were recovered from topsoil. Both were found in a very abraded condition.</p> <p><u>Medieval and post-medieval</u> Fragments of roof tile and brick were found within topsoil across the site.</p>		
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> PCA Ltd		
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Jon Butler		<b>Date:</b> November 2004

## APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-4780

### Project details

Project name Land at Sandling Place, Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent

Short description of the project Archaeological evaluation comprising 16 trenches. No archaeological features were identified. A number of struck flints, a single abraded sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of post-med cbm were recovered from the topsoil.

Project dates Start: 04-11-2004 End: 11-11-2004

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes KSLM 04 - Site code

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

### Project location

Country England

Site location KENT MAIDSTONE BOUGHTON MALHERBE Sandling Lane, Maidstone, Kent

National grid reference TQ 757 579 Point

Height OD Min: 40.72m Max: 53.52m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Duncan Hawkins
Project director/manager	Jon Butler
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Sponsor or funding body	Ward Homes
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report'
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes
Entered by	Stuart Holden (sholden@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	12 November 2004