

Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent

Archaeological evaluation report

Project Code: EV URH 18
 Planning Ref: 15/503325/HYBRID
 NGR: 583300 144700 (centred)
 Report No: 2018/168
 Archive No: 4209

November 2018

Document Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Prepared by	Position	Date
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 1 and 26 October 2018 on land adjacent to Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent (NGR: 583300 144700). The works were commissioned by the Chartway Group Ltd in preparation for redevelopment, comprising the construction of up to 220 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure. This report presents results of the evaluation which comprised machine excavation of 59 trenches, 20–30m in length and 1.6–1.8m in width, representing an approximate 3.5% sample of the total proposed development area of 8.33ha. The evaluation was conducted to assess the presence, character and extent of any buried archaeological features.

Archaeological remains were only recorded in 19 of the excavated trenches and comprised a total of 29 features. These comprised possibly 8 ditches/linear features, 17 small pits and postholes, a quarry, two fire pits or furnace bases, one prehistoric pot burial and a few modern or undifferentiated features.

A small scatter of prehistoric worked flints, probably all residual was recovered, but the assemblage is undiagnostic and not indicative of significant activity. A single, apparently isolated pot burial was located in trench 59. Probably of mid to late Bronze Age date, it was badly truncated but suggests some activity of this period in the area. An isolated feature containing charcoal and a small quantity of burnt bone (possibly pyre related material) in trench 5 may also date to the prehistoric period.

More extensive remains dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The truncated bases of two possible iron smelting furnaces were examined in trench 36. These appeared to be set within a fragmented rectilinear field system represented by shallow ditches in a number of trenches in the same area. Small quantities of dating evidence were recovered from some of these features, suggestive of a nearby settlement beyond the periphery of the site.

No Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains were identified within the proposed development area, although a layer of near sterile, but probably post-Roman colluvium was present across the lower, south-east part of the site. Post medieval features consisted of field boundary ditches, some shown on early Ordnance Survey maps and scatters of pits and postholes, all probably agricultural in derivation. A small quarry of post-medieval date may have been backfilled fairly recently.

Recovery of artefacts from investigated archaeological features was low, with dateable finds limited to pottery, although ceramic building material, worked flint (mostly waste flakes) was also recovered. Preservation of environmental data was poor.

The proposed development has a potential to impact on heritage resources of local, and perhaps regional significance, but the features are significantly truncated, particularly scattered and in low concentration, so in this respect, the overall impact can be considered low.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 1 and 26 October 2018 on land adjacent to Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent (NGR: 583300 144700 centered; Figs 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 The works were commissioned by the Chartway Group Ltd in preparation for redevelopment, comprising the construction of up to 220 residential dwellings together with areas of open space, a nature conservation area, landscaping and new and improved access roads.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken following the submission of a formal planning application (Planning Ref: 15/503325/HYBRID) to Maidstone Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority. The planning application was granted with the following condition:

10) The development shall not commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written 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.

- 1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT for approval by the Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeological Officer detailing an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken as the first stage of the archaeological works outlined in condition 10 (CAT 2018a). CAT was subsequently commissioned to implement the archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed development area (PDA) in order to satisfy the aims and objectives set out within the WSI and to ascertain the presence/absence of a potential archaeological resource across the site. The results of the evaluation will inform the scope of any further archaeological mitigation that may be required at the site.
- 1.1.5 The work was project managed by Jon Rady CMIfA and supervised by Andy Macintosh and Adrian Gollop. Jess Twyman carried out the sample processing and Marion Green spot-dated the Roman and post-Roman pottery. Barbara McNee has reported on the prehistoric material, while Tania Wilson provided identification of the very small worked flint assemblage.

1.2 Site location and designations

- 1.2.1 Headcorn lies within the low Weald of Kent, situated 13km south-east of Maidstone town centre and 18km west of Ashford. The PDA lies to the north of the historic centre of Headcorn and is situated on the west side of Ulcombe Road and to the east of Mill Bank.
- 1.2.2 The site is formed from two large agricultural fields that cover an area of approximately 8.3 hectares. The fields are bounded by the rear gardens of properties fronting Mill Bank (A274) and a hedgerow to the west, school playing fields and residential development to the south, Ulcombe Road to the east and Hazelpits Farm and fields to the north.

1.3 Geological & topographical background

- 1.3.1 The underlying bedrock geology across the site was divided into two main types; Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone across most of the southern half of the site, and Weald Clay Formation

– Limestone to the north.¹ Whilst superficial deposits of alluvium have been recorded towards the south-eastern limits of site, no alluvial deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.

- 1.3.2 The site occupies an east-facing convex slope and grades down to the north, east and south from the highest point of the site, which lies close to the centre of the western boundary at around 30.68m Ordnance Datum (OD). The lowest point of the site (at around 21.02m OD) lies at its south-eastern extent, close to a small tributary of the River Beult.

1.4 Archaeological & historical background potential

- 1.4.1 The archaeological potential was based on the proximity of historical and archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent County Council (KCC) Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, the CAT Annual Reports on-line and grey literature report lists and reports have been checked.
- 1.4.2 A search of the KCC HER covers a radius of 1km around the PDA (centred on NGR 583300 144700). These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report.
- 1.4.3 A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken in September 2014 (Boast and Moody) and forms the main point of reference for this section. The report concluded there may be a low to medium potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site based on the records of discoveries already made within the landscape (*ibid*, 5.3.12). Furthermore, the report concluded that if archaeological remains are present on the site then they are most likely to be of post-medieval date, although archaeology of any period may be present (*ibid*, 9.10).

Previous archaeological interventions

- 1.4.4 Very little archaeological work has been undertaken in and around the Headcorn area and no previous archaeological interventions are recorded in the nearby vicinity, other than an evaluation undertaken by CAT at Grigg Lane in 2011, located approximately 650m east of the site, which exposed no archaeological features or finds (Holman 2011). Slightly further afield an evaluation by the Smarden Local History Society at Little New House Farm, about 1km to the south of the PDA (TQ 84 SW 238) revealed evidence for Roman and Iron Age settlement (see para 8.4 below).

Designations

- 1.4.5 The southern boundary of the PDA lies approximately 150m north of the Headcorn Conservation Area, as designated in 1977.
- 1.4.6 Over forty listed buildings are recorded with a 1km search radius of the PDA, thirty-four of which are situated within the conservation area and found along the High Street, Forge Lane, Church Walk and Station Road. Included in this number is the Grade I listed Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (List Entry no. 1049057), which originated in the eleventh century; the late fifteenth-century Grade II* listed Cloth Hall (List Entry no. 1344312); Headcorn Manor (List Entry no. 1060835) which is a Wealden hall house dating from the early sixteenth century; and The Barn, Maidstone Road (List Entry no. 1054090), which is a Grade II listed fifteenth-century timber-framed building, now converted into a residential dwelling.
- 1.4.7 The nearest listed building to the site is the Grade II listed Hazelpits Farmhouse (List Entry

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

no.1060819), located approximately 40m north of the site boundary. This is a timber-framed farmhouse with a late eighteenth-century façade, although the building may be of earlier date.

- 1.4.8 Further information on listed buildings within proximity of the PDA can be found in the desk-based assessment (Boast and Moody 2014, Section 3).

Prehistoric (c 500,000BP–AD43)

- 1.4.9 Although few prehistoric finds are recorded in proximity of the PDA, the presence of alluvial deposits within the south-eastern corner of the site could indicate the potential for preserved Palaeolithic and palaeo-environmental remains.
- 1.4.10 A Neolithic polished flint axe was found in the bed of a stream in Headcorn parish in 1935 (KHER: TQ84 SW7), recorded as located approximately 600m south-west of the PDA, although its precise location remains unknown. A leaf-shaped Neolithic flint axe was found during metal detecting of fields, at a location approximately 550m north-east of the site (Boast and Moody 2014, 5.2.3).
- 1.4.11 Further afield there is a series of cropmarks and other features within the wider landscape that have not been investigated but are of potential prehistoric date.

Romano-British (c AD43–450)

- 1.4.12 Finds and features of the Romano-British period are scarce in this area. Metal detecting in a field located approximately 250m west of the PDA revealed three items of Roman date, comprising an incomplete, circular and enamelled copper alloy box seal lid; a zoomorphic terminal from a silver finger ring or bracelet, and a copper alloy locking key handle in the form of a lion (*ibid*, 5.2.4).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (c 450–1540)

- 1.4.13 Although little is known of the early history of Headcorn, it is likely that there was a settlement here since at least the early medieval period as it is situated at a crossing point over the River Beult on a wide and waterlogged flood plain and forms a route to the heavily forested Weald, which was exploited for iron ore mining, seasonal pannage and wood. The parish church at Headcorn is mentioned in Domesday as being subordinate to the church in Maidstone, and monks of the Order of the Brethren of the Cross held lands associated with their monastery at Mottenden, located to the north-east of Headcorn and founded in 1224 (*ibid*, 4.1.7).
- 1.4.14 Headcorn rose to prosperity as a market town following improvements to the woollen cloth industry in the early fourteenth century. This industry also had great influence in the development of some of the typical Wealden architectural forms of the later medieval period such as the Wealden House form and Cloth Halls (*ibid*, 4.1.9), examples of which lie within proximity of the PDA (see 4.6).

Post-medieval (c 1540 – 1900)

- 1.4.15 A series of ponds mark the site of a disused Bethersden marble quarry of post-medieval date, located 260m north-east of the site. Scatters of waste marble are visible in the adjacent field. The marble was sometimes used in the construction of the foundations of medieval timber-framed houses (*ibid*, 5.2.5).
- 1.4.16 The remains of a homestead moat at Moat Farm (KHER: TQ84 SW5) are located 220m to the

south-west of the PDA. The moat predates preliminary Ordnance Survey drawings of 1789 and is likely to have medieval origins. The tithe map of 1843 shows the moat encircling the site with a causeway in the northeast corner and small enclosures or structures shown to the north and east of the eighteenth-century farmhouse. The construction of the Headcorn to Staplehurst road destroyed all traces of the south side of the moat and east side was filled in by the late nineteenth century. A watching brief in 2009 in the northern part of the site found evidence of post-medieval rubbish disposal including two pottery sherds dating from the fifteenth to mid sixteenth century and the sixteenth to seventeenth century.

- 1.4.17 A number of post-medieval farmsteads are recorded in proximity to the PDA, most of which date from the early nineteenth century. Earlier farmsteads include Tilden which dates from 1540 and is located 600m north-east of the PDA boundary. The house at Tilden is a listed fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century Wealden house, and Little Tilden, located to its north-east, is also recorded as a Wealden house of similar date.
- 1.4.18 Several find-spots are recorded in proximity to the PDA. They include a post-medieval gold finger ring of sixteenth or seventeenth century date, found 230m west of the PDA, and a pewter spoon (dated 1600 – 1700) found 130m to the south-east.
- 1.4.19 The location of a smock windmill, known as Black Mill, is recorded approximately 500m west of the PDA. Built in the 1760s a steam mill was installed alongside the mill in 1846. The mill ceased to work in 1890 and was demolished in 1910.
- 1.4.20 The route of the main London to Dover Railway line was completed in 1844 and is located 450m to the south of the PDA.
- 1.4.21 An archaeological evaluation carried out 420m south of the site at Long Meadow Hall in 2005 by SWAT Archaeology found no archaeological features, although there was evidence of nineteenth-century and later land consolidation and dumping (*ibid.* 5.2.18).

Modern (1900 – present)

- 1.4.22 During the Second World War, Headcorn was designated a category B nodal point with the Home Guard responsible for its defence in case of invasion by the enemy. The crash site of a Messerschmitt aircraft which fell on the 7th October 1940 at Oak Farm, is a Protected Military Remains controlled site, located 300m to the east of the PDA.
- 1.4.23 The technological advances of warfare and political instability between the eastern and western blocs in the post war period is reflected by the construction of an underground nuclear explosion and fallout monitoring post (KHER: TQ84 SW26) to the west of the site in the early 1960s (Boast and Moody 2014, 5.3.10). Cutbacks in domestic spending on defence lead to the closure of the monitoring post in 1968.
- 1.4.24 Map regression has demonstrated that the site is encompassed by the boundaries of four former field boundaries, two of the boundaries were subsequently removed to create two large fields. Ordnance Survey maps from the late nineteenth century to the late twentieth century show the site underwent little recorded change, and that the site as a whole has remained as open land and has been under agricultural cultivation as arable or pasture until the present day.
- 1.4.25 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent Historic Environment Record.

1.5 Aims & objectives

1.5.1 The primary aim of the evaluation work was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survived on site. The evaluation was thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

1.5.2 More specific aims included (not exclusively):

- to determine whether there was any prehistoric settlement or activity on the valley sides and/or associated with the tributary of the River Beult;
- to determine if there was any evidence for quarrying of medieval or post-medieval date on the site;
- to determine whether any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with Hazelpits Farm (a dispersed multiyard plan farmstead) extended into the site.

1.6 Methodology

1.6.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with parts A and B of the WSI (CAT 2018a) and in accordance with methods of practice outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa 2014).

1.6.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation by machine of fifty-nine archaeological trenches within the footprint of the intended development area. The trenches measured between 20–30m in length and 1.6–1.8m in width and provided an area sample of about 3.5% of the entire site (areas of proposed open space and a reptile receptor site were excluded from the investigation). The final trench layout is included within this report (Fig. 2). There were no significant restraints at the time of evaluation.

1.6.3 The results of previous soil investigation surveys indicated the trenches were likely to reveal natural geology at a depth of 0.3–0.6m below present ground surface (Evans and Langford LLP 2016), which was confirmed by the evaluation results.

1.6.4 Mechanical excavation was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was the higher. Ground reduction was undertaken using an 8 tonne back-acting 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil and modern overburden was removed in spits of *c* 100mm thickness. Following the mechanical clearance of overburden, excavation was undertaken by hand to expose the top of any significant archaeological horizon.

1.6.5 Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits or structures by unnecessary excavation. In particular, the underlying geological deposits were not reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present surface (also expressed as height above the Ordnance Datum).

1.6.6 Any archaeological features encountered were mapped, recorded and photographed. Archaeological features or layers were partly hand excavated to elucidate the stratigraphic sequence and secure datable materials for assessment. Where identified, all artefacts were retrieved from stratified archaeological contexts. Retrieval of finds from non-stratified deposits removed by machine was carried out on an opportunistic basis. Full excavation was not undertaken at this stage.

1.7 **Recording methodology**

- 1.7.1 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on CAT *pro forma* trench record sheets.
- 1.7.2 Plans and sections of all trenches were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 scales on polyester based drawing film.
- 1.7.3 All survey was undertaken and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum using differential GPS (Leica Viva GS08) connected to Ordnance Survey correctional data in real time via live internet feed from Leica SmartNet. A positional accuracy of within 50mm (3D) was achieved using the ETRS89 to OSGB conversion via the OSTN02 projection and the OSGM Geoid.
- 1.7.4 All Ordnance Survey data was reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. License No. AL100021009.
- 1.7.5 The trench was levelled in respect to Ordnance Datum, with a temporary benchmark set out with GPS equipment.
- 1.7.6 A full colour digital photographic record of all phases of the evaluation works was produced. The photographic record will comprise part of the site archive.
- 1.7.7 All structures, deposits and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in: 'Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007).
- 1.7.8 The project archive is presently held in the offices of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).

2 **Results**

2.1 *Trench 1 (Not illustrated; Plate 3)*

Trench length: 27.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE–SW				
Ground level: 27.40m OD (NE) – 27.86m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
101	Natural	Light yellowish brown Wealden Clay with rare outcrops of limestone and abundant manganese flecking.	0.15	---

2.2 Trench 2 (Not illustrated; Plate 4)

Trench length: 29.10m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 27.04m OD (NW) – 27.50m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
201	Natural	Light yellow-orange very compact Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.18	---

2.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench length: 27.70m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 28.69m OD (NE) – 28.92m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Modern post-hole and test pit located within north-eastern half of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
300	Topsoil	Light brown friable topsoil; common organic material and vegetation.	---	Modern
301	Natural	Light yellow-orange very compact Wealden clay with outcrops of limestone and frequent manganese flecks.	0.14	---
302	Fill of post-hole [303]	Mid brown clay, compact, occasional peg tile. Very dry condition.	0.28	Modern
303	Cut for post-hole	Sub square post-hole, filled by 302, cut into 301.	0.28	Modern
304	Backfill of test pit [305]	Light grey clay, probable backfill of geotechnical test pit.	0.28	Modern
305	Cut for test pit	Large machine cut rectangular pit (geotechnical test pit), unexcavated.	0.28	Modern

2.4 Trench 4 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.30m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 28.16m OD (NW) – 28.67m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
401	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.21	---

2.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Plates 5 – 6)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE–SW				
Ground level: 27.20m OD (NE) – 28.00m (SW)				
Description: Post-medieval ditch and undated pit located at north-east end of trench. Two field drains and modern linear in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
501	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.20	---
502	Fill of ditch [503]	Mid grey brown clay, very firm, rare brick and tile fragments.	0.25	Post-medieval
503	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, on alignment of historic boundary ditch, not fully excavated.	0.25	Post Medieval
504	Fill of pit [505]	Dark reddish-brown clay, firm with abundant charcoal. Sample taken, no finds.	0.25	Unknown
505	Cut of pit	Cut of sub oval pit, shallow with steep sides and flat base, filled by 504.	0.25	Unknown

2.6 Trench 6 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.70m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 26.94m OD (NW) – 26.85m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
601	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.25	---

2.7 Trench 7 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.70m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 29.25m OD (NW) – 29.93m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
701	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.12	---

2.8 Trench 8 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.10m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 29.35m OD (NW) – 29.68m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
801	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.20	---

2.9 Trench 9 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.80m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 28.20m OD (NE) – 29.16m (SW)				
Description: Post-medieval ditch located in north-eastern half of trench. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
901	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.16	---
902	Fill of ditch [903]	Dark brown mixed with light yellowish, mid greyish and mid reddish brown compact silty clay, occasional post-medieval brick.	0.20	Post-medieval
903	Cut of ditch	North-east to south-west aligned historic ditch, recorded on OS map (not excavated)	0.20	Post-medieval

2.10 Trench 10 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.10m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 27.66m OD (NW) – 27.65m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Seven field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1000	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
1001	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.19	---

2.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 3; Plates 7 – 8)

Trench length: 27.90m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 26.07m OD (NE) – 27.32m (SW)				
Description: Post medieval ditch; a pit, two post-holes and two stake-holes - all undated.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern

1101	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.19	---
1102	Fill of ditch [1103]	Dark grey silty clay, firm, common charcoal.	0.35	Late- or post-medieval
1103	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch; broadly S-NE alignment, shallow with a flat base.	0.35	Late- or post-medieval
1104	Fill of pit [1106]	Red, heated clay, upper fill of pit [1106]		---
1105	Fill of pit [1106]	Mid grey soft silty clay, primary fill of pit [1106]	---	---
1106	Cut of pit	Sub-oval shallow pit, partially excavated, smaller depression to the north.	0.28	---
1107	Fill of post-hole [1108]	Grey, soft silty clay, fill of post-hole [1108]	---	---
1108	Cut of post-hole	Circular cut of post-hole, filled by (1107)	0.28	---
1109	Fill of post-hole [1110]	Grey, soft silty clay, fill of post-hole [1110]	---	---
1110	Cut of post-hole	Circular cut of post-hole, filled by (1109)	0.34	---
1111	Stake-hole	Stake-hole, no further detail. Probably a root hole	0.33	---
1112	Stake-hole	Stake-hole, no further detail. Probably a root hole	0.33	---

2.12 Trench 12 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 26.62m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 29.16m OD (NE) – 29.97m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Modern field boundary and two field drains located in north-eastern half of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
1201	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.19	---

2.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 4; Plate 9)

Trench length: 27.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 28.89m OD (NW) – 28.69m (SE)				
Description: Undated post-hole or possible cremation in centre of trench. Two field drains located in south-eastern half of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
1301	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.19	---
1302	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, no further recording.	0.25	---
1303	Fill of post-hole [1302]	Light grey silty clay with charcoal flecks. Top fill of post-hole [1302]	---	---
1304	Fill of post-hole [1302]	Dark grey with frequent orange flecking, very compact silty clay.	---	---

2.14 Trench 14 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.33m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE- SW				
Ground level: 27.20m OD (NE) – 28.17m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1401	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.18	---

2.15 Trench 15 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 26.42m OD (NW) – 26.69m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Six field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1501	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.23	---

2.16 Trench 16 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 29.60m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 25.18m OD (NE) – 26.03m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1601	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.18	---

2.17 Trench 17 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.60m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 24.96m OD (NW) – 24.39m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1701	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.23	---

2.18 Trench 18 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 23.98m OD (NE) – 24.25m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1801	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.20	---

2.19 Trench 19 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 24.07m OD (NW) – 23.37m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Five field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
1900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
1901	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.16	---

2.20 Trench 20 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 30.68m OD (NW) – 30.07m (SE)				
Description: Undated ditch in centre of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2000	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern
2001	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.20	---
2002	Fill of ditch [2003]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional red mottling, occasional brick and tile fragments.	0.26	Post-medieval
2003	Cut of ditch	Linear feature, possible continuation of boundary ditch in trenches 9 and 12. Not excavated.	0.26	Post-medieval

2.21 Trench 21 (Fig. 4)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 29.21m OD (NE) – 29.99m (SW)				
Description: Probable post-medieval quarry within south-western extent of trench. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	Modern

2101	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.19	---
2102	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay, occasional manganese flecks, modern iron nail, rare ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. Quarry fill.	0.20	Post-medieval
2103	Fill of cut [2104]	Pipe set in grey loose gravel, occasional glass fragments	0.20	Modern
2104	Field drain	Field drain		Modern

2.22 Trench 22 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 28.06m OD (NE) – 28.86m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2201	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.10	---

2.23 Trench 23 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.16m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 27.66m OD (NW) – 27.21m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2301	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.17	---

2.24 Trench 24 (Fig. 4; Plate 10)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 25.86m OD (NE) – 26.93m (SW)				
Description: Two undated post-holes located in south-western extent of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2401	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.18	---
2402	Fill of post-hole [2403]	Blue orange silty clay, firm, no finds recovered.	---	---
2403	Cut of post-hole	Cut of small post-hole, filled by (2402)	0.26	---
2404	Fill of post-hole [2405]	Blue orange silty clay, firm, no finds recovered.	---	---
2405	Cut of post-hole	Cut of very shallow post-hole.	0.26	---

2.25 Trench 25 (Fig. 5)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 25.52m OD (NW) – 24.78m (SE)				
Description: Four undated post-holes in centre and north-eastern extent of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2501	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.21	---
2502	Fill of post-hole [2503]	Mid grey silty clay, moderate manganese, fill of post-hole.	---	---
2503	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, circular, filled by (2502)	0.30	---
2504	Fill of post-hole [2505]	Mid grey silty clay, moderate manganese, fill of post-hole.	---	---
2505	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, circular, filled by (2504)	0.30	---
2506	Fill of post-hole [2507]	Mid greyish yellow sandy clay, soft, occasional manganese. Fill of [2507]	---	---
2507	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, circular, filled by (2506)	0.30	---
2508	Fill of post-hole [2509]	Mid greyish yellow sandy clay, soft, occasional manganese. Fill of [2509]	---	---
2509	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, circular, filled by (2508)	0.30	---

2.26 Trench 26 (Fig. 5; Plate 11)

Trench length: 28.16m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 23.63m OD (NE) – 24.61m (SW)				
Description: One undated post-hole in centre of trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2601	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.18	---
2602	Fill of post-hole [2603]	Mixed pale grey silty clay with organic matter and charcoal.	---	---
2603	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole	0.20	---

2.27 Trench 27 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 29.30m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 23.77m OD (NW) – 22.85m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2701	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.30	---

2.28 Trench 28 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 22.77m OD (NE) – 23.13m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2801	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.14	---

2.29 Trench 29 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 20.90m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 29.46m OD (NE) – 29.79m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
2900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
2901	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.16	---

2.30 Trench 30 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.70m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 29.24m OD (NW) – 28.23m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3000	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3001	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.30	---

2.31 Trench 31 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: E-W				
Ground level: 27.30m OD (E) – 28.76m (W)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3101	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.20	---

2.32 Trench 32 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 28.20m OD (NW) – 27.47m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Four field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3201	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.15	---

2.33 Trench 33 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 19.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 26.11m OD (NE) – 26.35m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3301	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.38	---

2.34 Trench 34 (Fig. 5)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 25.74m OD (NW) – 24.84m (SE)				
Description: Undated pit in north-western extent of trench. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3401	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.19	---
3402	Natural	Reddish brown sandy clay, abundant manganese, extremely weathered	0.34	---

3403	Fill of pit [3404]	Mid grey silty clay, common manganese, 1 flint flake, fill of pit.	---	---
3404	Cut of pit	Small oval pit with shallow sides and concave base, unknown function.	0.34	---

2.35 Trench 35 (Fig. 6; Plate 12)

Trench length: 29.70m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 23.85m OD (NE) – 24.75m (SW)				
Description: Undated ditch in centre of trench. Four field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3501	Colluvium	Mid yellowish brown compact silty, sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.19	---
3502	Natural	Reddish brown sandy clay, abundant manganese, extremely weathered	0.34	---
3503	Fill of ditch [3504]	Mottled grey and orange brown flecked compact sandy clay, frequent manganese flecks, rare medium tile, rare struck flint. Tile maybe intrusive from field drain	0.35	---
3504	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear feature aligned north-east to south-west cut by north-west to south-east aligned field drain	0.35	---

2.36 Trench 36 (Fig. 6; Plates 13–15)

Trench length: 29.80m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 23.76m OD (NW) – 22.80m (SE)				
Description: Two late Iron Age/early Roman furnace pits in south-eastern half of trench. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3601	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.18	---
3602	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.32	---
3603	Fill of furnace pit [3604]	Light grey silt clay, abundant manganese common charcoal and rare pottery fragments. Fill of furnace pit [3604]	0.36	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3604	Furnace pit?	Sub oval pit feature, with heat affected clay on sides, filled in phase of metalworking/pottery firing.	0.36	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3605	Upper fill of furnace pit [3606]	Mid yellow brown with common manganese. Burnt clay fragments, as well as pottery and charcoal. Rare burnt bone. Sample # 015	0.36	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3606	Furnace pit?	Sub oval pit feature, with heat affected clay on sides, filled in phase of metalworking/pottery firing.	0.36	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3607	Fill of furnace pit [3606]	Dark yellow brown silty clay with manganese, burnt clay and charcoal. Sample # 016	---	Late Iron Age/early Roman

3608	Fill of furnace pit [3606]	Dark yellow brown silty clay with manganese, burnt clay and more concentrated charcoal. Sample # 016	---	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3609	Fill of furnace pit [3606]	Dark orange burnt clay lining of furnace pit 3606	---	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3610	Fill of furnace pit [3604]	Dark orange burnt clay lining of furnace pit 3604 Sample #014	---	Late Iron Age/early Roman

2.37 Trench 37 (Fig. 6; Plate 16)

Trench length: 28.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 22.19m OD (NE) – 22.69m (SW)				
Description: Undated ditch at south-western end of trench. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3701	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.23	---
3702	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.38	---
3703	Fill of ditch [3704]	Light orange grey sandy clay with abundant manganese and iron panning. Fill of ditch.	0.40	---
3704	Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch. Steep sided, u shaped profile with flat base filled in one phase. Cuts 3702.	0.40	---

2.38 Trench 38 (Fig. 7; Plate 16)

Trench length: 28.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 22.30m OD (NW) – 21.78m (SE)				
Description: Prehistoric ditch in north-western extent of trench. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3801	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.12	---
3802	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks.	0.36	---
3803	Fill of ditch [3805]	Pale yellow grey very compact clay, common manganese. Very rare small black pot.	---	Late Iron Age or early Roman
3804	Fill of ditch [3805]	Mid grey orange very compact clay, common manganese.	---	Late Iron Age or early Roman
3805	Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch, filled in two phases.	0.36	Late Iron Age or early Roman

2.39 Trench 39 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 28.99m OD (NW) – 27.07m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
3900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
3901	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.26	---
3902	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.20	---

2.40 Trench 40 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.30m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 26.63m OD (NE) – 27.57m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4000	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4001	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.27	---
4002	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.23	---

2.41 Trench 41 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 28.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 27.01m OD (NW) – 25.46m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4101	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.18	---
4102	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.23	---

2.42 Trench 42 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.20m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 26.24m OD (NW) – 24.91m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4201	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.23	---
4202	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.35	---

2.43 Trench 43 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 19.14m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 23.56m OD (NE) – 24.17m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4301	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.26	---
4302	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.21	---

2.44 Trench 44 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 23.76m OD (NW) – 22.81m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Four field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.		---
4401	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.20	---
4402	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.28	---

2.45 Trench 45 (Fig. 7; Plate 17)

Trench length: 30.14m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 22.08m OD (NE) – 22.85m (SW)				
Description: Recorded as 2 intercutting ditches now interpreted as ditch and two plough scars. A small shallow pit. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4501	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.09	---
4502	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.32	---
4503	Fill of ditch terminal? [4504]	Light grey silty clay with orange mottle, high manganese content, firm with pottery. Disturbed by modern land drain.	---	Late Iron Age or early Roman
4504	Cut of ditch terminal?	Cut of possible ditch terminal, truncated at an angle by modern field drain, uncertain edges in plan and section.	0.32	Late Iron Age or early Roman
4505	Fill of ditch [4506]	Light grey sandy clay with frequent manganese and sandstone fragments.	---	Late Iron Age or early Roman
4506	Cut of ditch	Roughly u-shaped in section, obscured in plan, same as [4508].	0.32	Late Iron Age or early Roman
4507	Fill of ditch [4508]	Same as (4505)	---	Late Iron Age or early Roman
4508	Cut of ditch	Same as [4506]	0.32	Late Iron Age or early Roman

2.46 Trench 46 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 30.05m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 22.06m OD (NW) – 21.25m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Four field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4601	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.11	---
4602	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.34	---

2.47 Trench 47 (Fig. 7; Plate 18)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 21.69m OD (NW) – 21.02m (SE)				
Description: Undated post-hole. Four field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---

4701	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.14	---
4702	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.30	---
4703	Fill of post-hole [4705]	Light yellow grey silt clay, occasional iron pan and manganese. Friable to firm.	0.33	---
4704	Fill of post-hole [4705]	Mid reddish brown sandy clay with abundant manganese and iron panning. Very firm.	---	---
4705	Cut of post-hole	Cut of post-hole, defined edges and u-shaped profile, circular in plan, moderate slope, 45 degrees inclination.	0.33	---

2.48 Trench 48 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 22.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 25.40m OD (NE) – 25.89m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4801	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.20	---

2.49 Trench 49 (Fig. 8; Plate 19)

Trench length: 31.60m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 26.11m OD (NW) – 23.84m (SE)				
Description: Post-medieval ditch identified across base of trench. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
4900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
4901	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.21	---
4902	Void			---
4903	Fill of ditch [4904]	Light grey flecked with occasional orange brown very compact sandy silty clay, common manganese, rare iron panning and rare CBM	0.30	Post-medieval
4904	Cut of ditch	North-west to south-east aligned ditch	0.30	Post-medieval

2.50 Trench 50 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 24.08m OD (NE) – 24.66m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5000	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5001	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.20	---

5002	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.24	---
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2.51 *Trench 51 (not illustrated)*

Trench length: 28.35m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 24.44m OD (NW) – 22.86m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5100	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5101	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.20	---
5102	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.24	---

2.52 *Trench 52 (not illustrated)*

Trench length: 25.50m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 22.45m OD (NW) – 21.40m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5201	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.21	---
5202	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.36	---

2.53 *Trench 53 (not illustrated)*

Trench length: 28.21m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 21.60m OD (NE) – 22.25m (SW)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5301	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.20	---
5302	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.24	---

2.54 Trench 54 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 22.16m OD (NW) – 21.25m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5401	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.23	---
5402	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.30	---

2.55 Trench 55 (Fig. 8; Plate 20)

Trench length: 27.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 24.92m OD (NW) – 22.69m (SE)				
Description: Undated possible pit. Two field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5500	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5501	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.23	---
5502	Fill of field drain [5503]	Probable field drain of modern date although no pipe evident	---	Modern
5503	Cut of field drain	Probable field drain of modern date.	---	Modern
5504	Upper fill of pit [5507]	Mid yellow soft grey silty clay with manganese, rare burnt clay.	0.40	---
5505	Fill of pit [5507]	Mid yellow brown compact clay silt with manganese. Common small rare burnt, occasional charcoal with more concentrated patches.	---	---
5506	Fill of pit [5507]	Pale yellow brown very compact clay silt, small daub fragments. Sample #010	---	---
5507	Cut of pit	Cut of feature, unknown purpose.	0.40	---
5508	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.40	---
5509	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.34	---

2.56 Trench 56 (Fig. 8; Plate 21)

Trench length: 33.40m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 22.92m OD (NE) – 22.87m (SW)				
Description: Undated possible pit. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5600	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---

5601	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.14	---
5602	Fill of pit [5603]	Mid greyish brown compact clay silt with common charcoal and manganese flecks.	0.34	---
5603	Cut of pit?	Shallow sides and flattish base, potential tree bole burnt in situ.	0.34	---
5604	Natural	Mid to light yellow orange clay with manganese and grey silt lenses.	0.34	---

2.57 Trench 57 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 26.30m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: ENE-WSW				
Ground level: 22.48m OD (ENE) – 23.04m (WSW)				
Description: No archaeology.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5700	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5701	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.25	---
5702	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.34	---

2.58 Trench 58 (not illustrated)

Trench length: 27.00m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NW-SE				
Ground level: 22.97m OD (NW) – 21.64m (SE)				
Description: No archaeology. Three field drains in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5801	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.32	---

2.59 Trench 59 (Fig. 8; Plates 22 – 23)

Trench length: 29.02m Trench width: 1.6m Orientation: NE-SW				
Ground level: 21.22m OD (NE) – 21.14m (SW)				
Description: Prehistoric buried vessel located at south-western extent of trench. One field drain in trench.				
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Minimum depth from ground surface (m)</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
5900	Topsoil	Mid brown grey friable to firm silty clay loam, common rooting, rare small fragments of limestone.	---	---
5901	Colluvium	Light yellow hard/very firm sandy clay, abundant manganese.	0.20	---
5902	Natural	Light yellow-orange Wealden clay with frequent manganese flecks	0.30	---
5903	Fill of pit [5905]	Mid yellow brown compact clay with manganese, containing vessel of potentially prehistoric date	0.34	Mid-late Bronze Age
5904	Fill of vessel SF1 in [5905]	Mottled yellow brown and reddish brown silty clay within prehistoric vessel.	0.34	Mid-late Bronze Age

5905	Cut of vessel deposition	Cut for vessel deposit, with edges defined by pot. Excavated in half section, before removed.	0.34	Mid-late Bronze Age
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3 Finds assessment

3.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the evaluation. This is summarized in Table 1 below:

Find No.	Material	Description	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spot-date
BF1	Pottery		1102	2	22	AD 1475-1525
BF2	Industrial Material	Slag	1102	1	64	
BF3	Pottery	Fragments	1304	2	5	
BF4	Industrial Material	Slag?	1304	2	6	
BF5	Stone	Fragments	1304	32	57	
BF6	Pottery	Post- Roman	2002	1	8	15th - 16th century: late medieval to early post-medieval
BF7	Ceramic	Tobacco Pipe	2002	1	2	
BF8	Ceramic Building Material	Tile - Medieval/ Post- medieval	2002	1	9	
BF9	Flint	Waste struck flake	3404	1	3	
BF10	Flint	Waste struck flakes	3601	4	8	
BF11	Pottery	Roman?	3603	2	31	Roman?
BF12	Pottery	Fragments	3603	2	12	Uncertain
BF13	Ceramic Building Material	Burnt ceramic / mortar?	3603	1	9	
BF14	Industrial Material	Slag	3603	1	74	
BF15	Stone	Fragment	3603	1	23	
BF16	Pottery	Roman	3605	9	81	1st century AD
BF17	Ceramic	Burnt ceramic / mortar?	3609	25	108	
BF18	Pottery	Sherd	3803	1	2	Late Iron Age/Roman?
BF19	Ceramic Building Material	Daub?	3808	1	2	
BF20	Flint	Possible blade - damaged	4101	1	5	
BF21	Pottery	Post-Roman	4201	1	10	17th - 18th century
BF22	Ceramic Building Material	Tile - Medieval/post-medieval	4201	1	183	

BF23	Flint	Waste struck flake	4201	1	26	
BF24	Bone	Animal (jaw teeth fragments)	4201	15	79	
BF25	Pottery	Roman	4503	2	65	1st century AD or earlier?
BF26	Pottery	Roman	4505	14	32	1st century AD or earlier?
BF27	Flint	Waste struck flake frag,	5501	1	1	
SF1	Pottery	Vessel	5903	1		1300 - 1100BC Middle to late Bronze Age transition

Table 1: Finds assemblage

3.2 The late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and post-Roman pottery assemblages are too small to warrant any detailed discussion, but have been spot-dated (by Marion Green). A report on the Bronze Age vessel was commissioned from Barbara McNee.

3.3 Prehistoric pottery assessment (Barbara McNee)

Introduction

3.3.1 Several sherds belonging to the same vessel were recovered from archaeological investigations at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, south-east of Maidstone. The pottery is in poor condition, and mostly consists of at least sixty small body sherds. There is also a large number of pottery ‘crumbs’ belonging to this pot, and it has not been possible to count them all.

Methodology

3.3.2 The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). The sherds were examined and assigned to a broad fabric group after macroscopic examination and by using a binocular microscope (x10 power). The fabric group was established based on dominant inclusion types and clay matrix. The pottery has also been assessed in order to identify its potential for further analysis.

Discussion

3.3.3 The pottery was recovered from a pit (context 5903, fill of pit [5905]), and is described as a placed deposit. The presence of so many sherds belonging to the same pot would certainly suggest deliberate deposition. This could be interpreted as a ceremonial act, perhaps relating to a sepulchral activity. The vessel may have been deposited complete, and then become badly fragmented and dispersed over the centuries. It is also possible that a certain portion of the pot was buried, probably the base. Two sherds could belong to a base, suggesting a thick-walled flat-bottomed base, measuring some 25mm. Most of the body sherds are also thick walled, and these could relate to the lower area of the pot. The deliberate deposition of whole base sherds has been observed on other Kentish sites, for example Holborough Quarry (McNee 2007, revised 2010).

Chronology

3.3.4 The precise dating of this particular assemblage is somewhat hampered by the lack of diagnostic traits, and consequently the dating is tentative. Close dating cannot be achieved with any degree of confidence when small body sherds alone are represented. The fabric, firing and vessel wall thickness would suggest a later prehistoric date range, probably the middle Bronze Age. The fabric consists of common amounts of coarse flint temper and a silty clay matrix. This fabric is typically employed during the middle Bronze Age period (1500-1100 BC), but the crushed flint temper is usually denser. This may suggest that the vessel is

slightly later belonging to the middle to late Bronze Age transition (1300-1100 BC). It is tentatively suggested that this transitional period is characterised by the introduction of finer flint fabrics which are used to make traditional middle Bronze Age bucket forms. (McNee 2012, 222). Similar vessels have been recovered to the east of the Ulcombe Road site at Beechbrook Wood (Jones 2006) and Tutt Hill (Morris 2006). In conclusion the pottery assemblage would suggest that this particular area of Kent was occupied or used during later prehistory, from possibly around 1400-1000 BC.

Conservation

- 3.3.5 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.

Potential for further research

- 3.3.6 In terms of the pottery assemblage recovered from Ulcombe Road, potential for further analysis is limited due to the condition of the pottery, and the lack of diagnostic sherds. Consequently, there is little scope for further analysis.

4 Environmental assessment (Enid Allison)

Introduction

- 4.1 Eleven bulk environmental samples (BS/GBA samples sensu Dobney *et al.* 1992) were taken from features revealed during the evaluation. This report provides a basic record of the remains recovered

Methods

- 4.2 The samples were all relatively small (2 – 10 litres). Individual sample volumes are shown in Table 2. After being soaked overnight in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate), each was wet-sieved with flotation to recover biological material (Kenward *et al.* 1980). Flots were collected on 0.5mm mesh, and heavy residues on nested 2mm and 1mm sieves. All fractions were air-dried.
- 4.3 The dried residue fractions >2mm have been sorted in their entirety for animal and plant remains and cultural material. Any heat-affected clay fragments and burnt flint were weighed and discarded. Pot sherds and bone has been passed to the Finds Department for recording and storage. A magnet was used to check the fine residue fractions (>1mm) for hammer scale and other magnetic material, but these fractions have not been systematically examined at this stage. The dried flots were briefly scanned under a microscope (x10) and abundance of remains was recorded semi-quantitatively on a four-point scale as: occasional +, moderately frequent ++, frequent +++, abundant +++++.

Results

- 4.4 General comments. Natural ferrous concretions made up the bulk of all but one of the sample residues. Although some fragments were attracted to a magnet, none were identified as relating to iron working.
- 4.5 Modern fine roots were frequent in most flots. Uncharred seeds were also present indicating movement of modern material down the soil profile as a result of bioturbation. This is a common occurrence on many archaeological sites, and since a very limited range of taxa is involved, in most cases there is no difficulty in distinguishing the seeds from ancient charred material. Small numbers of clearly recent invertebrate remains (earthworm egg capsules, millipedes, and beetle sclerites) were also noted. None of these categories are mentioned further below but they are noted along with more ancient material in Table 2.

- 4.6 Context 504 [Fill of small charcoal-rich feature, possible pyre material]
The sample residue >2mm produced only a small number of fragments of calcined bone (total weight ~1g). Tiny calcined bone fragments were moderately common in both the fine residue (>1mm) and the sample flot (>0.5mm) however, and calcined bone fragments and charcoal were present as inclusions within small sediment concretions in the flot. Charcoal fragments accounted for the bulk of the flot. Small fragments of heat-affected clay/earth were moderately common in the fine residue (>1mm). The combination of remains recovered supports the provisional interpretation of the deposit as funerary-related, possibly pyre material.
- 4.7 Contexts 5903 and 5904, samples <4>, <5> and <7> [Mid – late Bronze Age pot burial]
Pot sherds were common in the residues of all three samples, particularly in sample <5> where the bulk of the residue appeared to consist of disintegrated pot (heat-affected clay and burnt flint fragments). Small white stone fragments (other than burnt flint) were common. The sample flots produced charcoal fragments, a trace of poorly preserved charred cereal grain (sample <4>), small charred seeds (samples <4> and <5>) and small vitreous globules and fragments, possibly melted ash (sample <4>).
- 4.8 Contexts 3603 (sample <13>), 3605 (sample <15>), 3607 (sample <16>)
[Fills of late Iron Age/early Roman kiln/fire pit]
There was evidence of burning in the form of natural ferrous concretions with charcoal inclusions, heat-affected clay/earth fragments and small quantities of charcoal. Small amounts of burnt bone were present in samples <13> and <15>. The sample flots consisted chiefly of fine charcoal fragments. Other charred material included occasional tree buds and seeds, and traces of cereal grain and ?chaff.
- 4.9 Context 3803, sample <12> [Fill of late Iron Age/early Roman ditch]
No cultural material was recovered from the sample residue. The small flot (20ml) contained fine charcoal and occasional charred seeds.
- 4.10 Context 1102 [Fill of ditch; possibly late Iron Age/early Roman]
Heat-affected clay fragments weighing 90g were recovered in the residue >2mm, and a small amount of fine charcoal in the flot.
- 4.11 Context 5505, sample <9> [Fill of pit; currently undated]
Heat-affected clay weighing 413g was recovered in the sample residue >2mm, and a small amount of fine charcoal in the flot.

Context	Sample	Description	Litres washed	>2mm Residue (kg)	Contents >2mm residue	Flot (ml)	Contents flot >0.5mm
504		Fill of small charcoal-rich feature, possible pyre material?	5	0.07	Ferrous concretions ++; burnt bone fragments 1g	150	Charcoal ++++; heat-affected earth/ clay fragments +; tiny fragments burnt bone (1mm scale) ++; hard sediment concretions with charcoal inclusions and tiny white flecks (some of which appears to be burnt bone) ++; uncharred seeds +; earthworm egg capsule fragments +; trace coal +; fine roots +
1102		Fill of ditch; ?LIA/E Roman, dating currently uncertain	8	0.8	Ferrous concretions +++; heat-affected clay fragments 90g	20	Charcoal ++; uncharred (modern) seeds +++; very recent millipedes, woodlouse, beetle fragments and earthworm egg capsules ++; fine roots +++; coarser modern plant material ++
1304	<3>	Fill of post-hole, dating currently uncertain	2	0.06	Ferrous concretions +; small poorly-preserved ?pot sherds 2g; charcoal fragments +	30	Charcoal ++
3603	<13>	Fill of kiln/fire pit; LIA/E Roman	9	1.1	Ferrous concretions, some with charcoal inclusions +++; pot sherds 11g; burnt bone fragments <1g; charcoal fragments +	50	Charcoal ++; charred seeds +; modern beetle fragment; fine roots ++
3605	<15>	Fill of kiln/fire pit; LIA/E Roman	10	1.55	Ferrous concretions, some with charcoal inclusions +++ SAMPLE KEPT; heat-affected clay 142g; burnt bone fragments 2g; charcoal fragments ++	40	Charcoal ++; charred tree buds +; traces fragmentary charred cereal grain and ?chaff; uncharred seeds +; fine roots ++
3607	<16>	Fill of kiln/fire pit; LIA/E Roman	4	0.4	Ferrous concretions, some with charcoal inclusions +++; heat-affected clay/earth 55g; heat-affected sediment and charcoal lumps ++; charcoal fragments ++	60	Charcoal ++; trace poorly preserved charred cereal grain; trace charred seeds; trace uncharred seeds; modern beetle larva; fine roots +++
3803	<12>	Fill of ditch; LIA/E Roman	9	0.85	Ferrous concretions +++	20	Charcoal +; charred seeds +; uncharred (modern) seeds ++; uncharred (?recent) ?cherry stone; modern millipede; modern woodlouse; fine roots ++
5505	<9>	Fill of pit; undated	10	0.9	Ferrous concretions +++; heat-affected clay 413g; charcoal fragments +	50	Charcoal ++; uncharred seeds ++; very recent millipedes, beetle fragments and earthworm egg capsules +; fine roots +++
5903	<7>	Mid-Late BA pot burial [compact clay therefore difficult to disaggregate]	4	0.1	Ferrous concretions ++; pot sherds 9g; trace charcoal; small white stone fragments (<5mm) ++	10	Charcoal +; fine roots ++
5903/5904	<4>	Mid-Late BA pot burial	9	0.8	Ferrous concretions ++; pot sherds 45g; heat-affected clay 139g; charcoal fragments +; small white stone fragments (<5mm) +++	75	Charcoal ++++; trace poorly preserved charred cereal grain; charred seeds +; uncharred seeds ++; small vitreous globules and fragments (?melted ash) ++; earthworm egg capsule fragments +
5904	<5>	Mid-Late BA pot burial	9	0.8	Much of residue consists of disintegrated pot (KEPT IN ITS ENTIRETY AFTER SORTING); poorly preserved pot sherds 61g; heat-affected clay 8g; small burnt flint fragments (<5mm) ++; other small white stone fragments (<5mm) +++	70	Charcoal ++; small charred seeds ++; uncharred seeds +; earthworm egg capsule fragments +; fine roots +++

Table 2: Environmental assemblage

5 Interpretation

5.1 *Natural geology*

- 5.1.1 The undisturbed geological sandy clay subsoil was compatible with the Weald formation of mudstone, but was very weathered and oxidized. It was notable for the concentration of manganese and ferrous oxide nodules it contained; these are often recorded during archaeological evaluations on Weald Clay (see Mordue 2014 for example). No evidence for Wealden limestone was noted, suggesting it mostly outcrops to the north of the site (where most of the old quarries are located).

5.2 *General prehistoric*

- 5.2.1 A very small quantity of worked flint was recovered (nearly all from colluvium; below), comprising mostly waste struck flakes, with one potential blade from Trench 41. Pit 3404 yielded a single flake, probably residual. The corpus is small, undiagnostic and the pieces are too scattered for any firm conclusions to be made, but the amount of material is not indicative of any concentrated activity or occupation in the area during the earlier prehistoric period.

5.3 *Bronze Age*

- 5.3.1 Only one feature can be dated to the Bronze Age, feature 5905 in Trench 59. This comprised a pot buried in a small pit not much bigger than the vessel itself (about 0.4m in diameter and 0.24m deep). The pot was heavily truncated and what remained was very fragmentary with few analytical feature sherds but it can be identified as either a middle Bronze Age vessel, or based on fabric, a middle-late Bronze Age transitional pot (see McNee above). The fill of the pot yielded no evidence of burnt bone and only small quantities of potentially informative bio-environmental material (see Allison above).
- 5.3.2 The lack of any human bone residues within the vessel indicates that the feature probably does not represent a cremation burial. It is quite likely to be a ritual emplacement of which there are many examples from both the later prehistoric and Roman periods. Very often these single complete vessels are buried in pits, ditches or other features (Millett *et al* 2016, 651–653), but they are sometimes found in isolation (see McNee 2007, revised 2010 for example) or in association with nearby cremation burials (see for example Boden 2006, 28). There was no evidence in the trench of any associated features however.

5.4 *Late Iron Age/early Roman*

- 5.4.1 Two small pits (3604 and 3606) in Trench 36 yielded small quantities of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery. Both were similar, although 3604 was more tear drop shaped than the circular 3606 – the former was *c* 0.6m long and 0.35m wide at maximum, the latter had a diameter of about 0.5m. Both were heavily truncated with U-shaped profiles about 0.18m deep and with edges of heat affected clay. The fills also contained burnt clay and charcoal; a piece of slag was recovered from 3604.
- 5.4.2 These features may have been the remnants of some form of clamp kiln, but it is more likely that they represent the lower (below ground) part of a type of domed or shaft furnace for smelting metal (probably iron ore), sometimes referred to as ‘bowl furnaces’, but probably of the type classified by Cleere (1981, 68) as Type A or Type B see (Cleere 1981, Fig. 7; Cleer and Crossley 1995, 39-41). The Type A furnaces (none slag-tapping types) had a basal below ground pit (usually all that survives), surmounted by a cylindrical or dome shaped superstructure (probably constructed of clay or a stone and clay mix) with flues in the sides near ground level. The B types (or slag-tapping furnaces) had an external shallow depression

at the base of the superstructure where the molten iron was collected (rather similar in plan to feature 3604; Fig. 6). Generally, it is very difficult to assign excavated physical remains to one or other of the types as none of the superstructure usually survives, as here. It is worth noting that the earlier A types are assumed to have a westerly distribution in Britain (suggested to date from 400 BC to the first century BC) with the later (early Roman) B types being distributed in eastern regions including the Weald (Cleere 1981, 68). However, none slag-tapping types (A) may have been used in Surrey in the first century BC (ibid.) but not apparently in the Weald as far as is known (Cleere and Crossley 1995, 39).

- 5.4.3 These relatively primitive types of furnace would have been charged with a mix of iron ore and charcoal, fired to a sufficient temperature to reduce the ore to a probably relatively impure form of iron. In these furnaces, temperatures were too low (or kept too low) to completely melt the ore, so the metal was formed by a direct reduction process. Cleere (1981, 48) states 'The temperature of the process must be high enough to produce sufficient carbon monoxide for reduction of the ore and to enable the free metal to become pasty and sink down the furnace, but it must not be too high so as to allow the metal to become liquid, in which phase it will take carbon into solution, producing a metal that the early ironmaker was not technically competent to process further'. The small pits found in the evaluation, were therefore not heavily burnt or vitrified as the seat of the fire would have been above ground, the pits merely being the receptacles for the iron residues and slags as they descended downwards during the firing. The ferrous concretions with charcoal inclusions found in the environmental samples (Allison above) may be result of the smelting process. After firing, the 'A' type of furnace would then need to be demolished to retrieve the smelted iron probably resulting in the fragments of burnt clay found in the pits although erosion, damage or demolition would have similar results in the 'B' types.
- 5.4.4 The likelihood that these features are related to ore smelting rather than some other process (such as pottery production) is reinforced by their location in the Weald, which has a long history of iron production (Cleere and Crossley 1995 *passim*). The geology of sands and clays yielded the iron ore, as well as the clay, stone and brick (in later industries) to build the furnaces; the woodland provided the charcoal fuel.
- 5.4.5 Two, possibly three ditches in the eastern half of the site also yielded small quantities of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, one possible sherd from ditch 3805 in Trench 38 and somewhat more from the features in Trench 45. Three features sealed by colluvium were recorded in Trench 45 (4504, 4506 and 4508), although they were difficult to define in the field; they probably represent recuts of the same field boundary. Ditches located in Trenches 35 and 37 (3504 and 3704 respectively) may be of similar date – they were all sealed by a colluvial deposit in the lower areas of the site as far as could be determined (see below), but their fills provided no dating evidence. All align roughly north-west/south-east or at near right angles, although ditch 3805 was slightly at variance with this. This ditch could be a later boundary as it was aligned perpendicular to Ulcombe Road.
- 5.4.6 None of these ditches (some of which were relatively shallow) extended far enough to appear in more than one trench, but even so it is probable that they represent a now fragmentary sub-rectilinear field system. It is likely that a more undulating pre- and early Roman landscape has been truncated by landscape erosion and post-Roman ploughing, which has removed substantial elements of any field system. All of the features of, or potentially of this period undoubtedly relate to a nearby settlement but there was no evidence for this on the site itself (see below). None of the environmental samples from these features were particularly productive (see Allison above).

5.5 *Colluvium*

5.5.1 The early features were probably sealed by colluvium on the lower part of the site (mostly on the lower slopes below the 25m contour), though this relationship was very difficult to ascertain in the field (some of the above described ditches were filled by material that may be directly equivalent). The material was very similar to the natural subsoil although generally lighter in colour or of a slightly different hue. Apart from a few residual worked flints it was virtually sterile. As it probably derived through erosion caused by over-cultivation and denudation on the upper slopes to the north-west of the site, this suggests that there was little activity or occupation in this area. Post-medieval artefacts from a colluvial layer in trench 42 were either intrusive or derived from an unnoticed field drain. The deposit cannot be closely dated but may have been deposited in the post-Roman period.

5.6 *Post-medieval*

5.6.1 Ditches on the western side of the site probably all date to the post-medieval period and can be confidently interpreted as field boundaries. Some may originate earlier, in the later medieval period, such as ditch 1103 in Trench 11 which yielded late medieval pottery, but only two sherds. The remainder of the ditches all yielded brick or peg tile fragments (such as ditch 4904 in Trench 49 and ditch 2003 in trench 20). The ditch located in Trenches 5, 9 and 12 can be directly related to a boundary shown on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey, while heavy root disturbance in Trenches 42 and 51 indicated the hedged field boundary shown there. Modern disturbance in Trench 21 undoubtedly relates to a backfilled quarry shown on the early OS map (Fig. 10).

5.7 *Uncertain*

5.7.1 A considerable number of features cannot be dated but the majority were small shallow pits and relatively isolated post-holes which probably relate purely to agricultural activity. Many are probably relatively recent, although some could represent isolated agricultural features within the late Iron Age/early Roman field system posited above. Most significant is probably the small isolated pit in Trench 5 at the far north end of the site (505), which contained quantities of charcoal and some burnt bone (see Allison above). The charcoal and bone could represent pyre residue but the bone is probably too small to be certainly identified as human in origin.

5.7.2 Other features included small, heavily truncated potential pits in the south-east corner of the site, pits 5507 in Trench 55 and 5603 in Trench 56 although the latter was interpreted as a tree bole. The small pit or post-hole 3404 in Trench 34 could potentially be of earlier provenance, but it was extremely shallow and only contained a very small and broken struck flint which is almost certainly residual.

5.7.3 All of the other features were post-holes (including a single post-hole in both Trenches 13 and 47). Three small round pits or post-holes in Trench 11 contained soft un-compacted fills and are probably modern. Two undated post-holes were found in Trench 24 and three in Trench 25 – very circular in plan they are probably modern in date – one in the nearby trench 26 contained organic matter indicating a very recent origin. They are all probably due to recent agricultural activity.

6 Significance

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has successfully met the principal objectives set out within the WSI (CAT 2018a). Assessment of the results has demonstrated that the archaeological data is sufficient to understand the character, form, extent and date of the archaeological deposits and features revealed, to inform the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic environment.
- 6.2 The data complements the results of previous investigations and contributes to our understanding of the past land use and human activity within the local setting.
- 6.3 The level of significance of the data, where significance refers to the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest (NPPF 2012),² has been assessed in accordance with Table 3. Also considered are the local saved policies from the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan (2017) with the relevant policy SP18. While the regional South East Research Framework for the historic environment (SERF) is still in preparation, initial outputs are available on-line and have been considered in preparing this report, in order to take current research agendas into account.

Level	Criteria
<i>Very high</i>	Archaeological remains of International/National significance such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence associated with designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wrecks, Registered Battlefields or Listed Buildings Non-designated remains of equivalent status to the above, such as those identified in national research frameworks as being significantly rare
<i>High</i>	Archaeological remains considered as being of particular significance according to national and regional and/or academic research frameworks, making a special contribution to knowledge of past societies
<i>Moderate</i>	Archaeological remains considered as being of District, Regional or academic significance, adding comparative data for developing knowledge of past societies
<i>Low</i>	Archaeological remains considered as being of local significance, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites of a local or parish value or interest for education or cultural appreciation Sites so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade.
<i>Negligible</i>	Archaeological remains considered as being of little or no significance, or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade.

Table 3: Levels of archaeological significance

- 6.4 The archaeological significance for the excavated features and deposits is summarised by period in Table 4.

Period	Summary	Significance
<i>Earlier prehistoric</i>	A small scatter of worked flints, probably all residual was recovered. The assemblage is undiagnostic.	Negligible
<i>Bronze Age</i>	A single, apparently isolated pot burial was located in trench 59. Probably of mid to late Bronze Age date, it was badly truncated. An isolated feature containing charcoal and very small amounts of burnt bone (possibly pyre related material) in trench 5 may also date to the prehistoric period.	Moderate

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

<i>Late Iron Age/early Roman</i>	The truncated bases of two possible iron smelting furnaces were examined in trench 36. These appeared to be set within a fragmented rectilinear field system represented by shallow ditches in a number of trenches in the same area. Small quantities of dating evidence were recovered from these features, suggestive of a nearby settlement beyond the periphery of the site.	Moderate
<i>Post-medieval</i>	Various field boundary ditches, pits and post-holes recorded in some trenches. Probable post-medieval quarry.	Negligible

Table 4: Summary of potential archaeological significance of stratigraphic narrative by period

7 Impact assessment

- 7.1. Due to the shallow depth of the natural horizon across the site, any archaeological features are likely to be significantly affected by most elements of the proposed development (new roads, foundation trenches, services and landscaping including new ponds). Depths to this significant archaeological horizon from present ground level were less than 200mm in almost two thirds of the trenches. Towards the south-east the level was more deeply buried, partly by an accumulation of colluvium (approximately contained within the spread of colluvium indicated in Fig. 9); the depth varied from 300mm to 380mm at maximum.
- 7.2. However, large areas of the site would appear to be devoid of any significant archaeological remains. In addition, those features of significance are particularly scattered and in low concentration, so in this respect, the impact can be considered negligible. Potential ancient features associated with those recorded in the vicinity of trenches 5, 36 and 59 (if they are present) will however be significantly affected

8 Conclusion

- 8.1. Archaeological remains of moderate significance survive within the PDA, but they appear to be isolated and in low concentration. In addition, the remains have been severely truncated by erosion, ploughing and colluviation.
- 8.2. The evidence suggests that occupation and settlement in the immediate area during most of the prehistoric period was negligible – much of the landscape was probably wooded. The mid to late Bronze Age pot burial is therefore of some regional significance and indicative of probably transient activity in this part of the Low Weald at this time. This conclusion is reinforced by the recovery of a middle Bronze Age palstave or axe (TQ 84 SW 239) during fieldwalking about 1km south of the present site (NGR 58315 14325; Aldridge 1995), but it is notable that there are few other finds of the period in the vicinity.
- 8.3. The late Iron Age/early Roman finds and features (probably late first century BC into the early first century), do suggest that areas of woodland had been cleared by this time and it is also possible that field systems were laid out during this period. Although there was no evidence for settlement directly within the PDA, the remains suggest that there was occupation nearby, probably to the south-east and perhaps closer to the tributary of the River Beult.
- 8.4. The suggested settlement was probably small and perhaps short-lived and may be comparable to a late Iron Age/Roman settlement (TQ 84 SW 238) at Little New House Farm, about 1km south of Headcorn (NGR 58313 14317). Here, trial trenching by Smarden Local History Society found evidence of a Roman settlement enclosed by a ditch; the ditch was potentially dated to the late Iron Age period from a complete vessel in its base. A probable Iron Age round-house drip gully was found below the Roman site. As well as a cremation burial and domestic debris, there was evidence for metalworking due to a surface spread of iron slag,

although no smelting activity was recorded in the excavations. Any furnaces were probably positioned in the fields away from domestic structures.

- 8.5 At least two other minor iron-working 'settlements' of this form are known from the Weald (Minepit Wood and Pippingford Park), which operated for a short period in the mid first century AD and were based on single smelting furnaces. Cleere (1981, 43) suggests that 'it is not unlikely that these sites were both 'satellites' of late Iron Age settlements that continued into the Roman period' The two fire-pits, both found within possibly contemporary fields in a discrete area in the east part of the PDA (Fig. 9) are almost certainly the remnants of iron smelting furnaces, but have been very heavily truncated so only the very base survives. It is therefore difficult to say much more about their exact form and function.
- 8.6 The post-Roman features, mostly field boundary ditches are of no great significance and need no further comment (Fig. 10).
- 8.7 In terms of the specific aims of the evaluation therefore, the work has suggested that:
- there was no settlement on the valley sides and/or associated with the tributary of the River Beult in this location until the very end of the late Iron Age period, although some activity is indicated by the Bronze Age pot burial in trench 59;
 - there was little evidence for quarrying of medieval or post-medieval date on the site apart from a single small quarry shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map which was probably of post-medieval date. It is likely that easily reachable outcrops of suitable stone do not extend this far south;
 - there was no evidence for any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with Hazelpits Farm (a dispersed multiyard plan farmstead) extending onto the site.
- 8.8 Overall, even with the difficult ground conditions due to a long period of dry weather and the intractable subsoil, the confidence rating of this evaluation is considered to be good.

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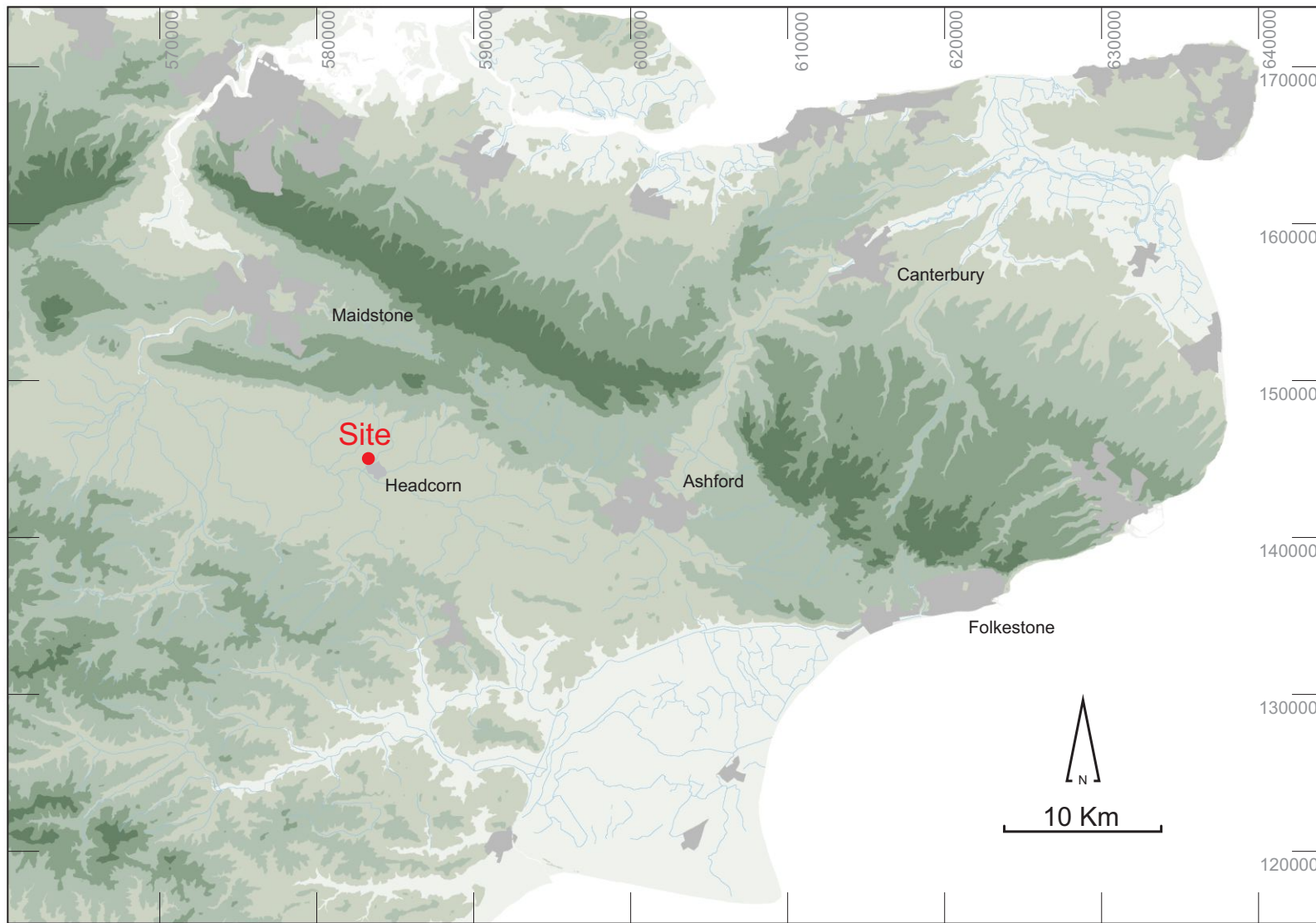
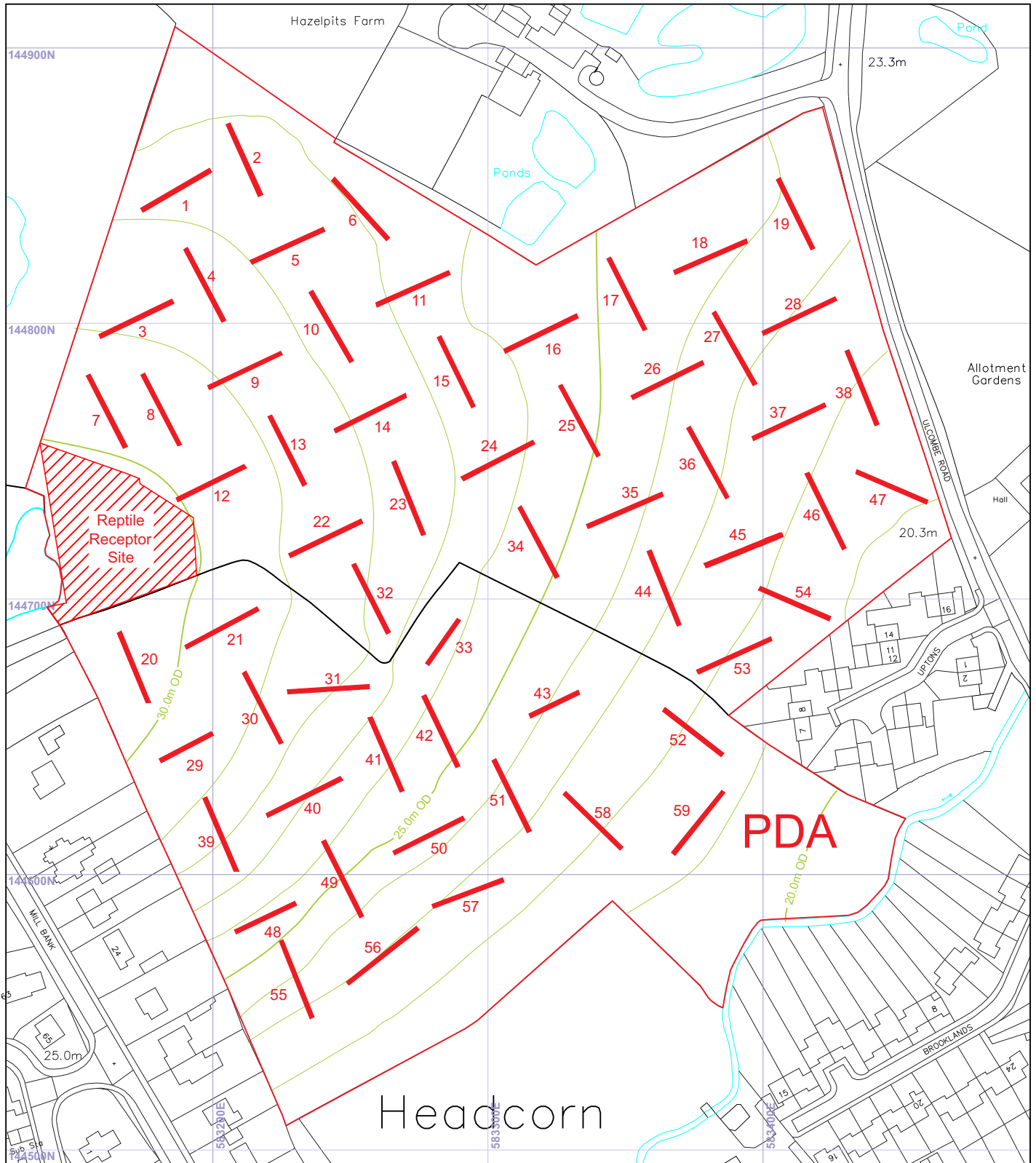


Fig. 1: Site location (1: 400, 000)



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	Ulcombe Road, Headcorn	JR	-
	PROJECT CODE	DATE	LAST REVISION
	EV URH 18	07/11/18	07/11/18
SITE ADDRESS	CHECKED		
Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent	---		
	REF/DRG NO.		
	Fig 2		

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Figure 2: Location and extent of PDA and trench layout (@1:2000)

Fig. 3.1

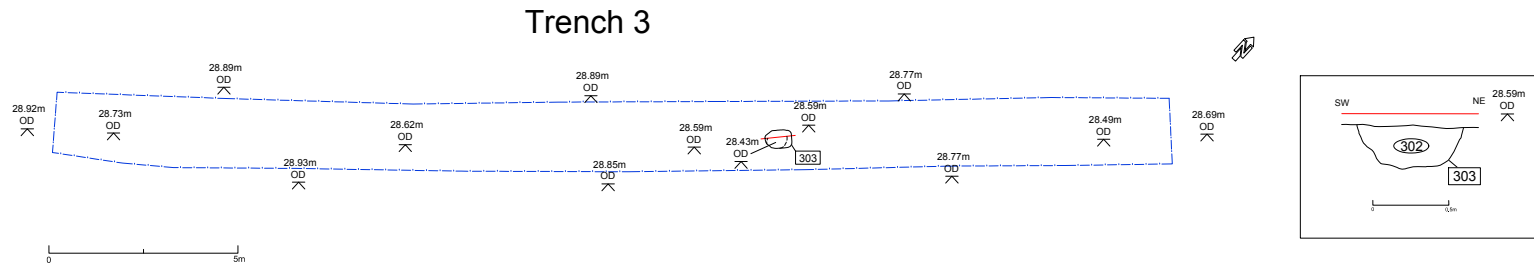


Fig. 3.2

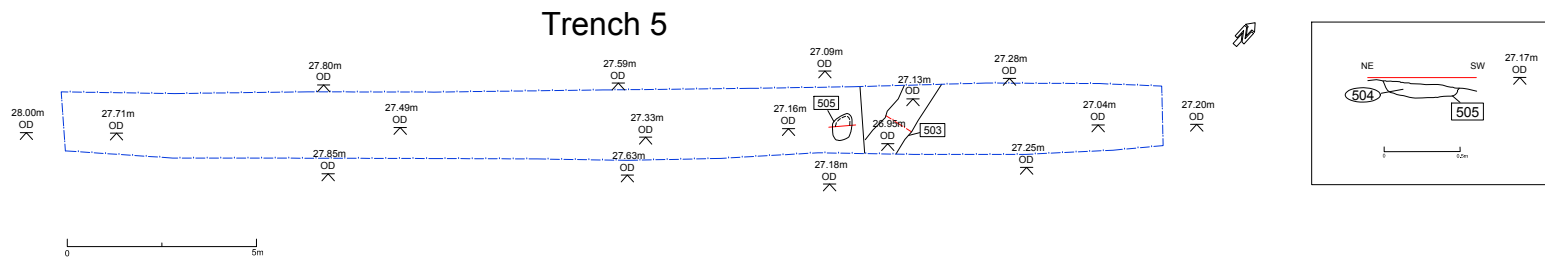


Fig. 3.3

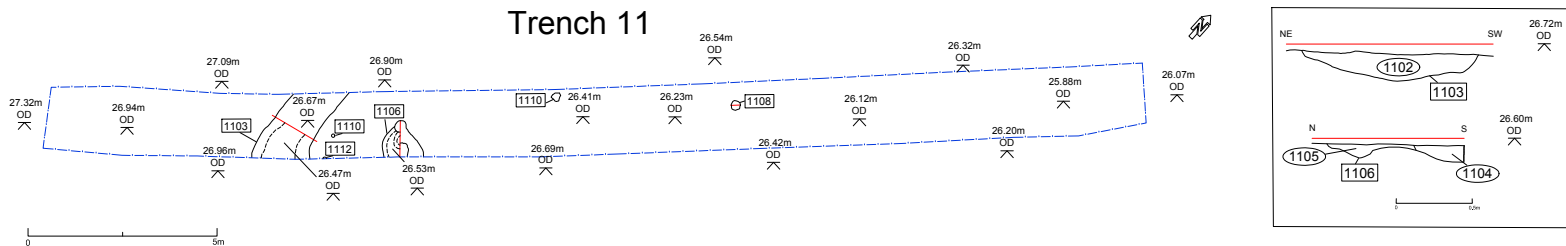


Figure 3: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 3, 5 and 11

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	PROJECT CODE EV URH 18	DATE 06/11/18	LAST REVISION 06/11/18	
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Fig. 4.1

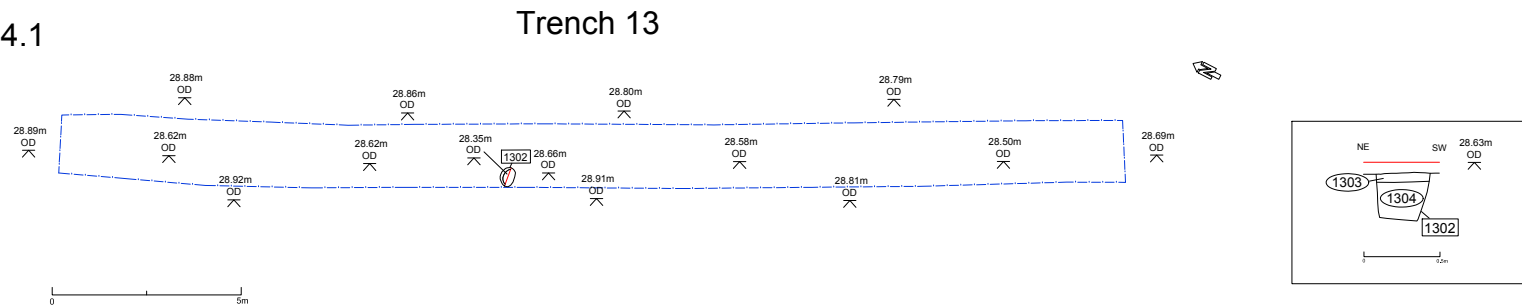


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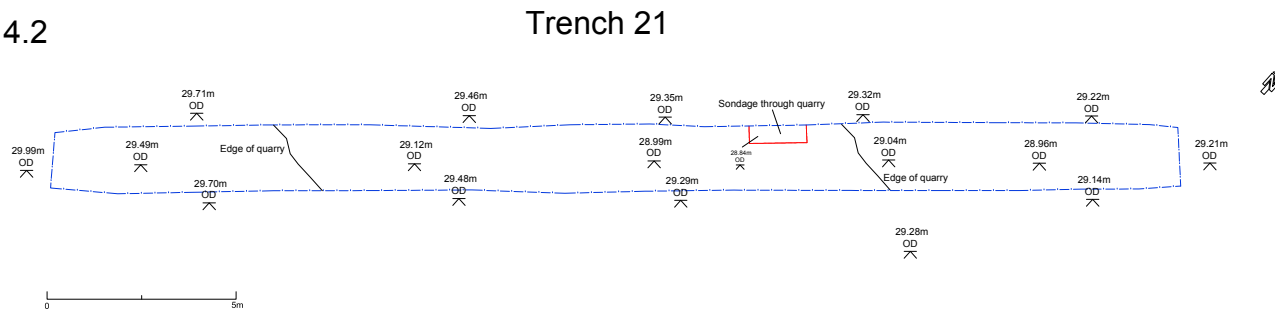


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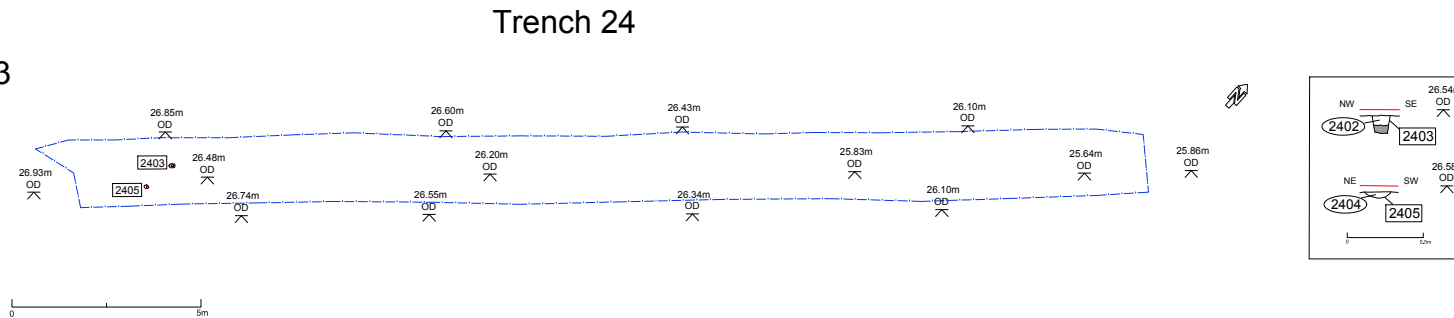


Figure 4: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 13, 21 and 24

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	PROJECT CODE EV URH 18	DATE 06/11/18	LAST REVISION 06/11/18	
	SITE ADDRESS Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent	CHECKED ---	REF/DRG NO. Fig 4	

Fig. 5.1

Trench 25

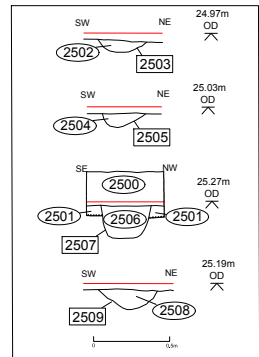
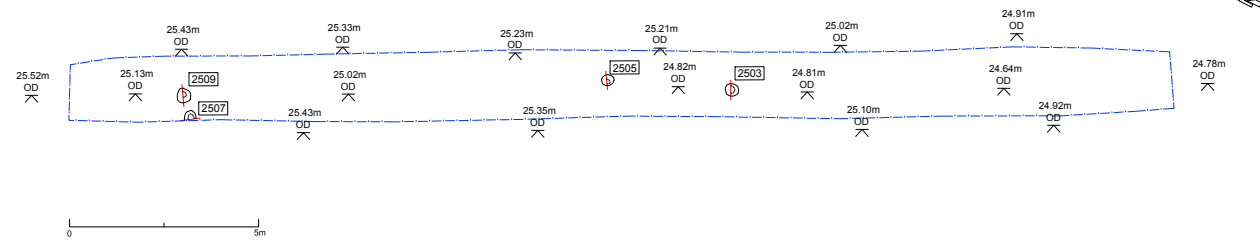


Fig. 5.2

Trench 26

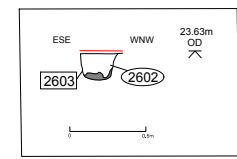
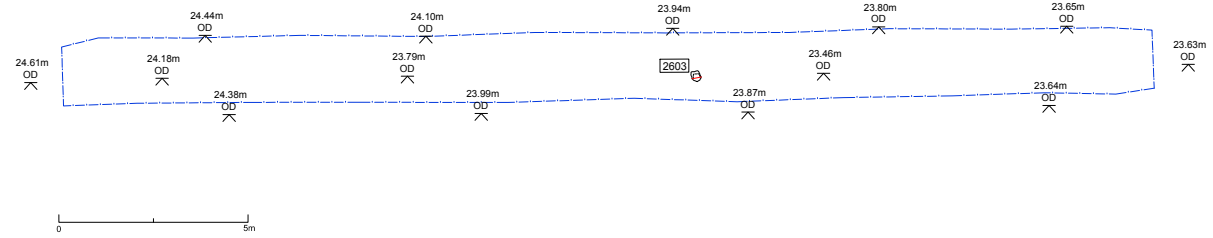


Fig. 5.3

Trench 34

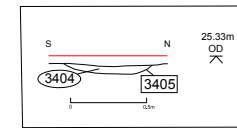
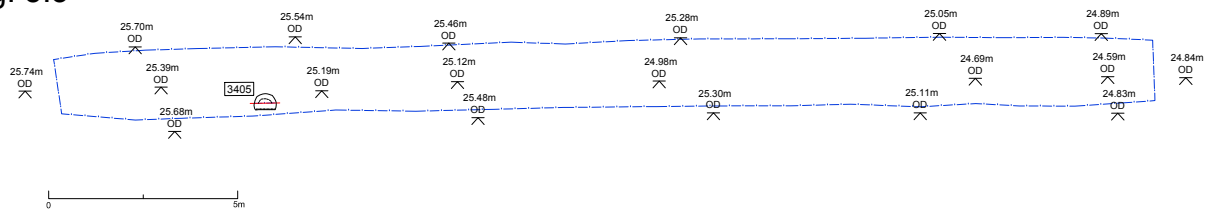


Figure 5: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 25, 26 and 34

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	SITE ADDRESS Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent	CHECKED ---	
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Fig. 6.1

Trench 35

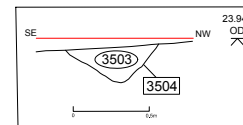
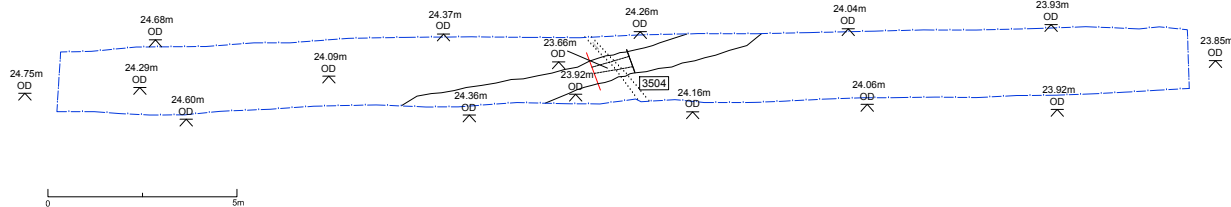


Fig. 6.2

Trench 36

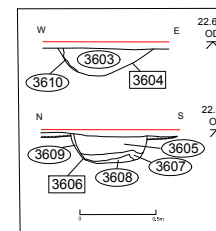
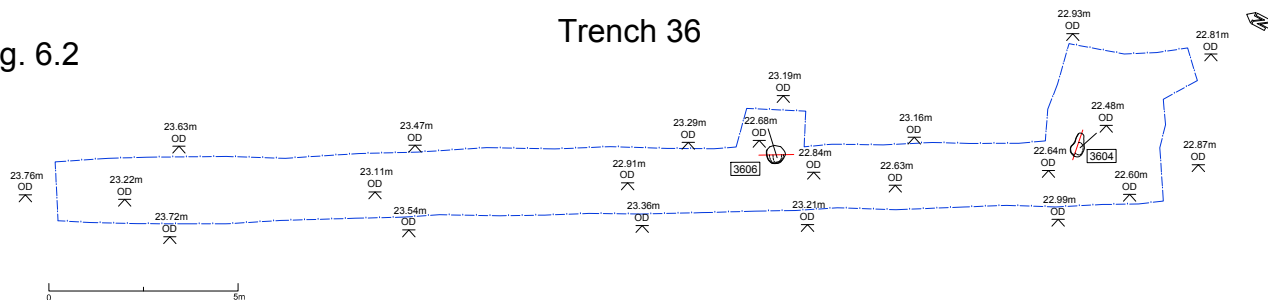


Fig. 6.3

Trench 37

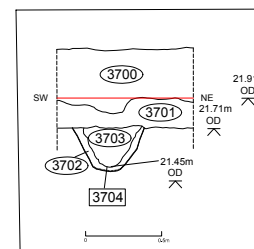
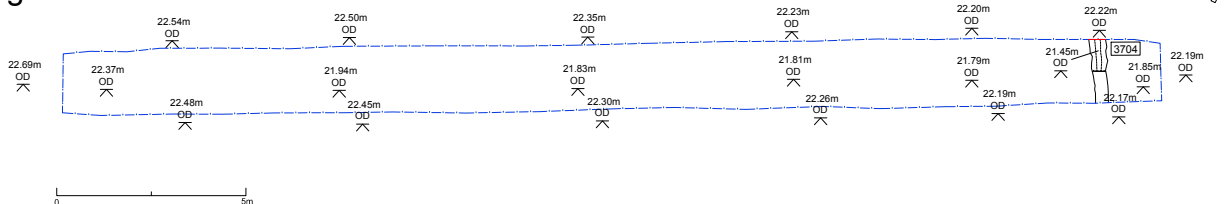


Figure 6: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 35, 36 and 37

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	PROJECT CODE EV URH 18	DATE 08/11/18	LAST REVISION 08/11/18	
	SITE ADDRESS Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent	CHECKED ---	REF/DRG NO. Fig 6	

Fig. 7.1

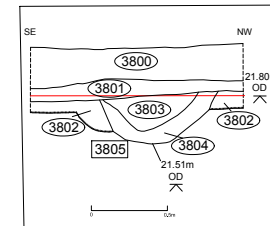
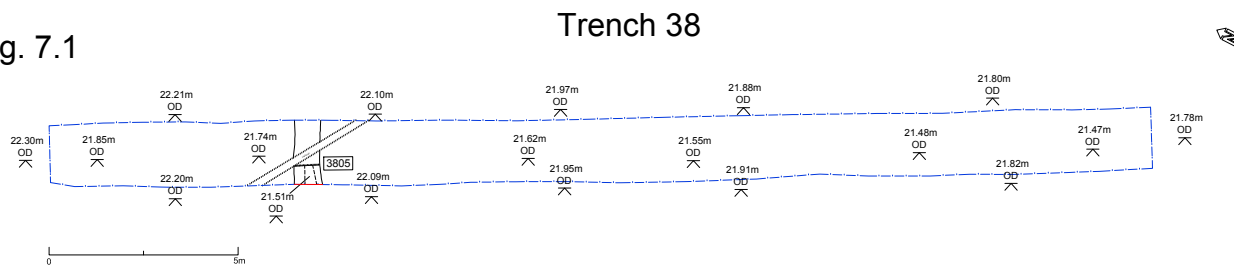


Fig. 7.2

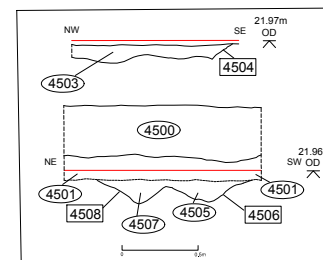
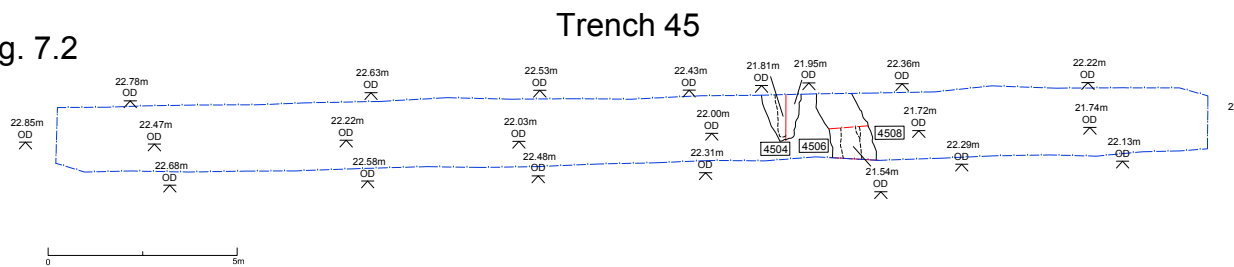


Fig. 7.3

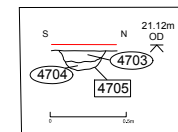
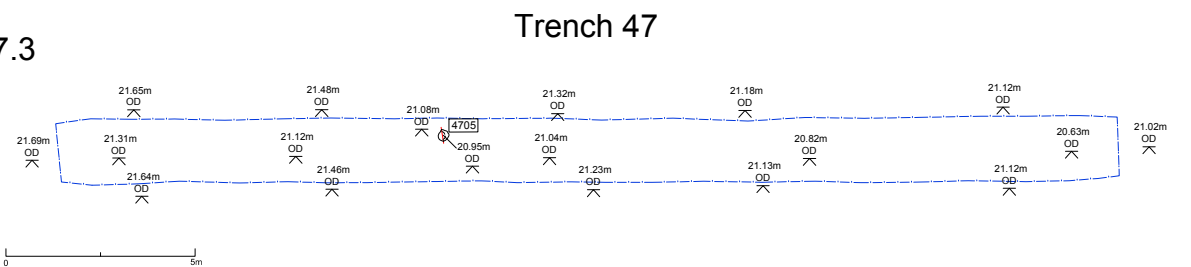


Figure 7: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 38, 45 and 47

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Fig. 8.1

Trench 49

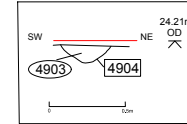
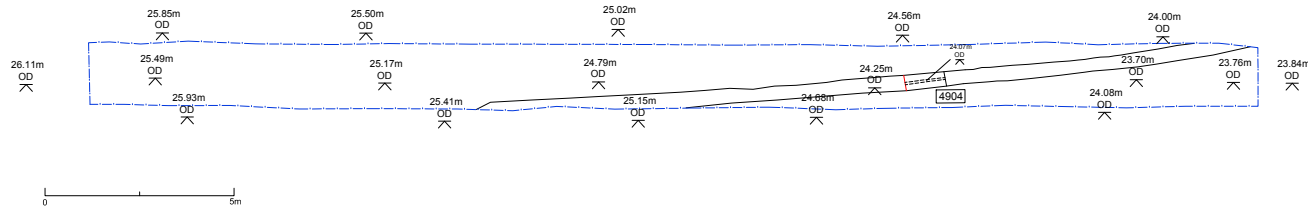


Fig. 8.2

Trench 55

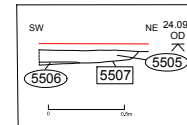
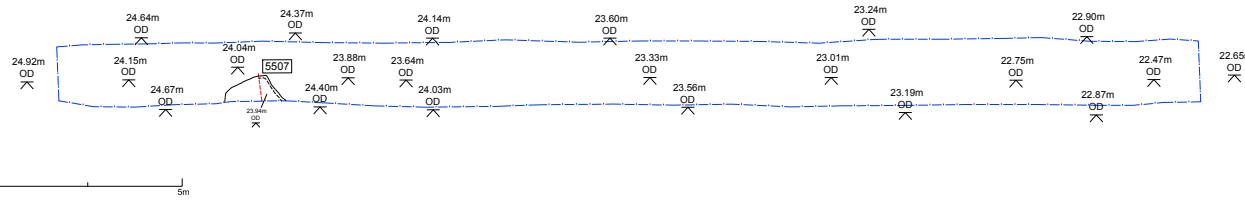


Fig. 8.3

Trench 56

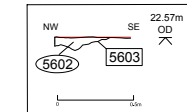
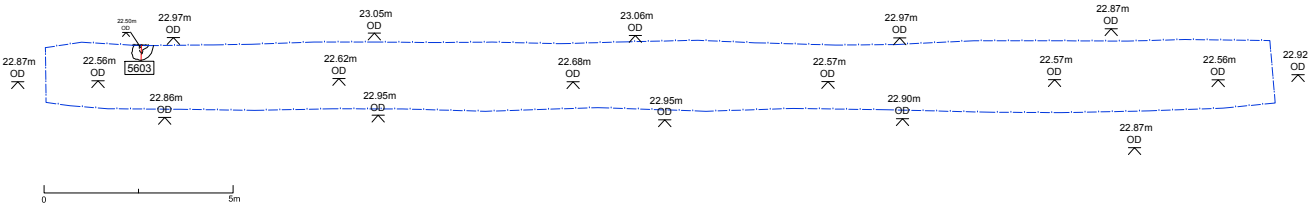
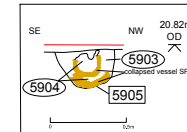
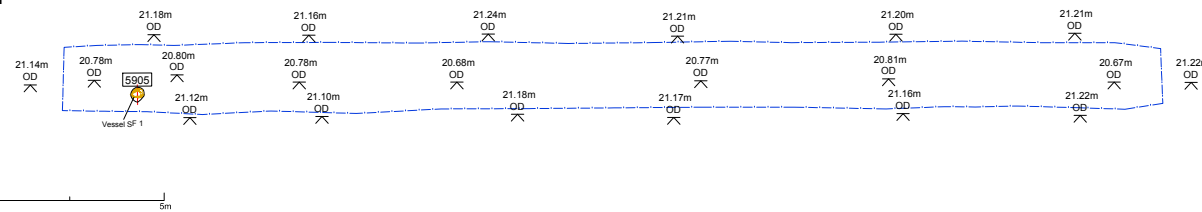


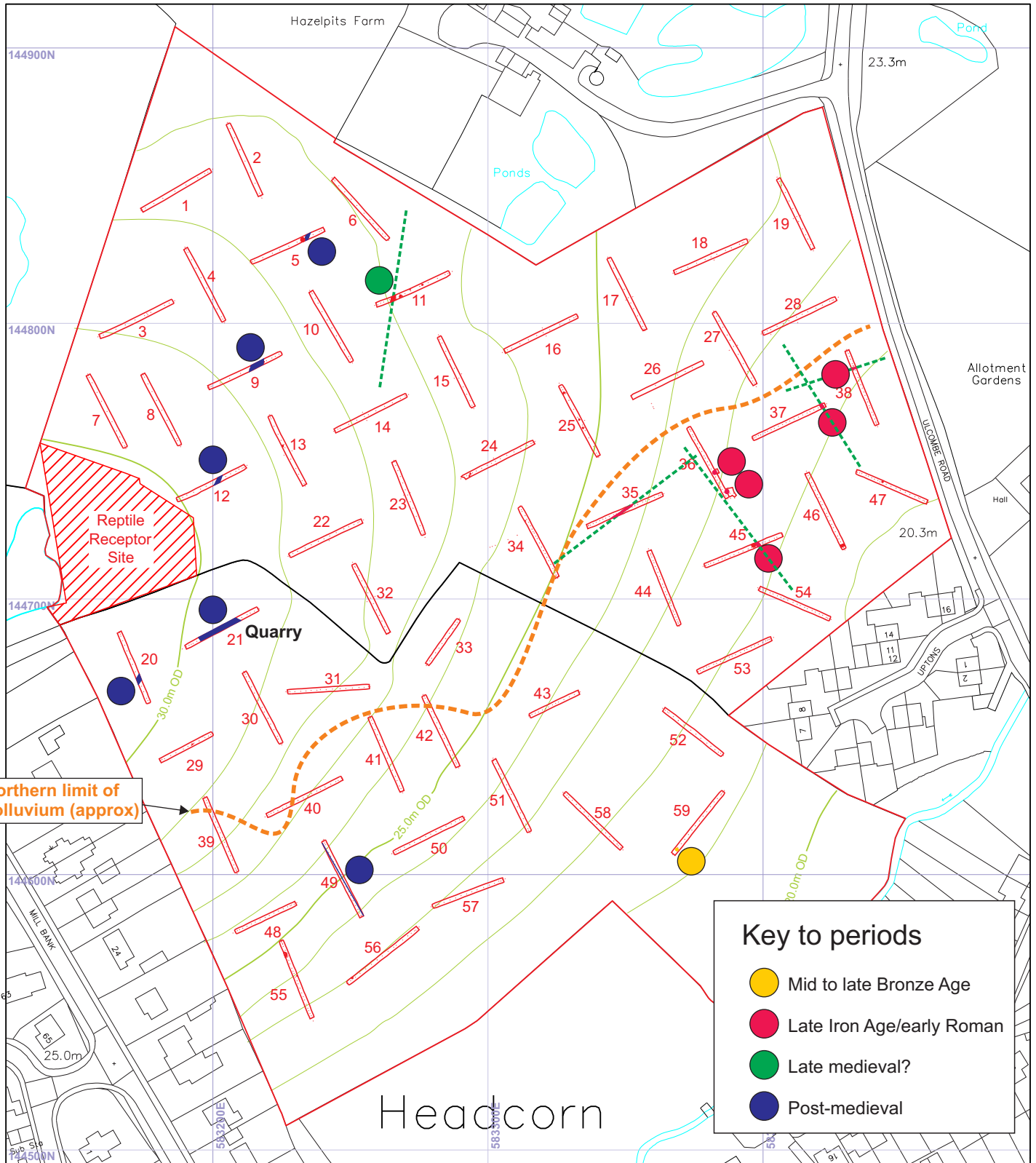
Fig. 8.4

Trench 59



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Figure 8: Plans (@1:200) and sections (@1:25) of features in trenches 49, 55, 56 and 59



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PROJECT NAME
 Ulcombe Road, Headcorn

PROJECT CODE
 EV URH 18

SITE ADDRESS
 Land at Ulcombe Road,
 Headcorn,
 Kent

DRAWN BY
 JR

DATE
 11/11/18

CHECKED

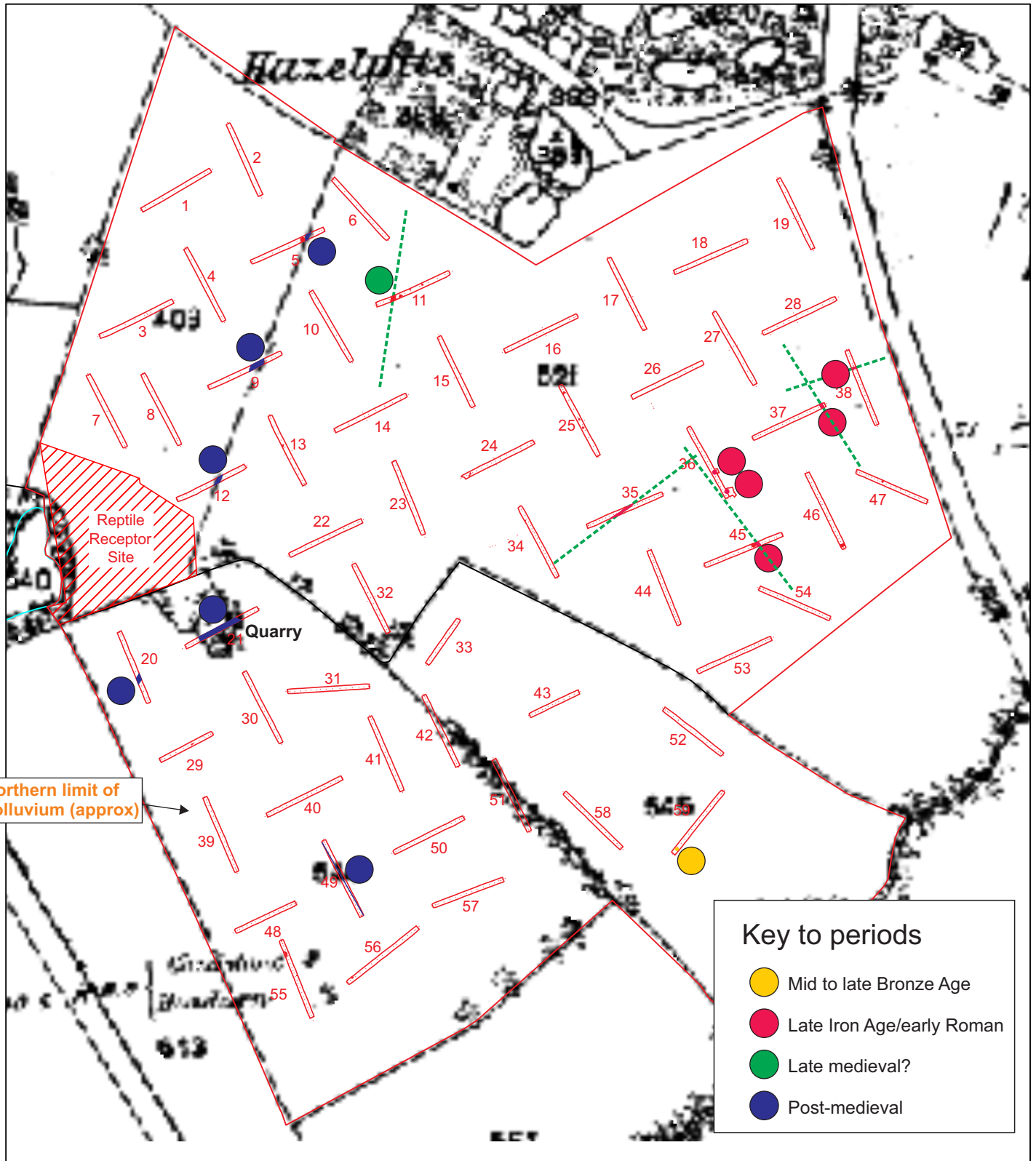
REF/DRG NO.
 Fig 9

SCALE(S)
 -

LAST REVISION
 11/11/18

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Figure 9: Location of trenches and features recorded (@1:2000)



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	PROJECT CODE EV URH 18	DATE 11/11/18	LAST REVISION 11/11/18	
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Figure 10: Results overlaid on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (@1:2000)



Plate 1: Pre-excavation view of site, looking west.



Plate 2: Pre-excavation view of site, looking east.



Plate 3: View of sterile excavated trench (Trench 1), looking south-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 4: View of sterile section sample (Trench 2), looking north-east. Scale 1m.



Plate 5: View of post-medieval ditch [503] in Trench 5, looking north. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 6: View of pit [505] in Trench 5, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 7: View of post-medieval ditch [1103] in Trench 11, looking north. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 8: View of pit [1106] in Trench 11, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 9: View of posthole [1302] in Trench 13, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 10: View of posthole [2403] in Trench 24, looking south-west. Scale 0.1m.



Plate 11: View of posthole [2603] in Trench 26, looking south-east. Scale 0.1m.



Plate 12: View of ditch [3504] in Trench 35, looking north-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 13: View of pit/kiln [3604] in Trench 36, looking north-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 14: View of pit/kiln [3606] in Trench 36, looking north-east. Scale 0.2m.



Plate 15: View of pit/kiln [3606] in Trench 36, looking north-east. Scale 0.2m.

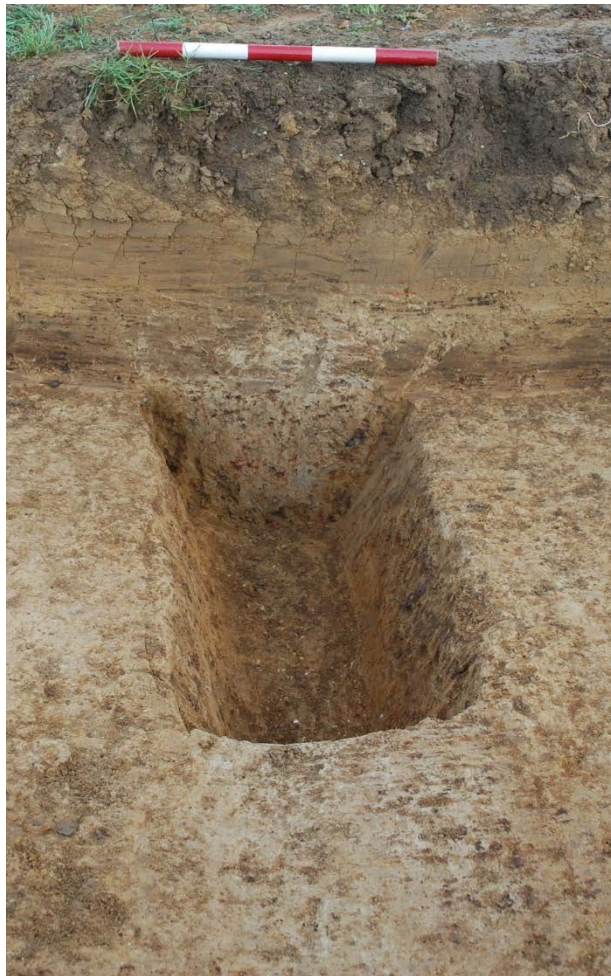


Plate 16: View of ditch [3704] in Trench 37, looking north-west. Scale 0.5m.

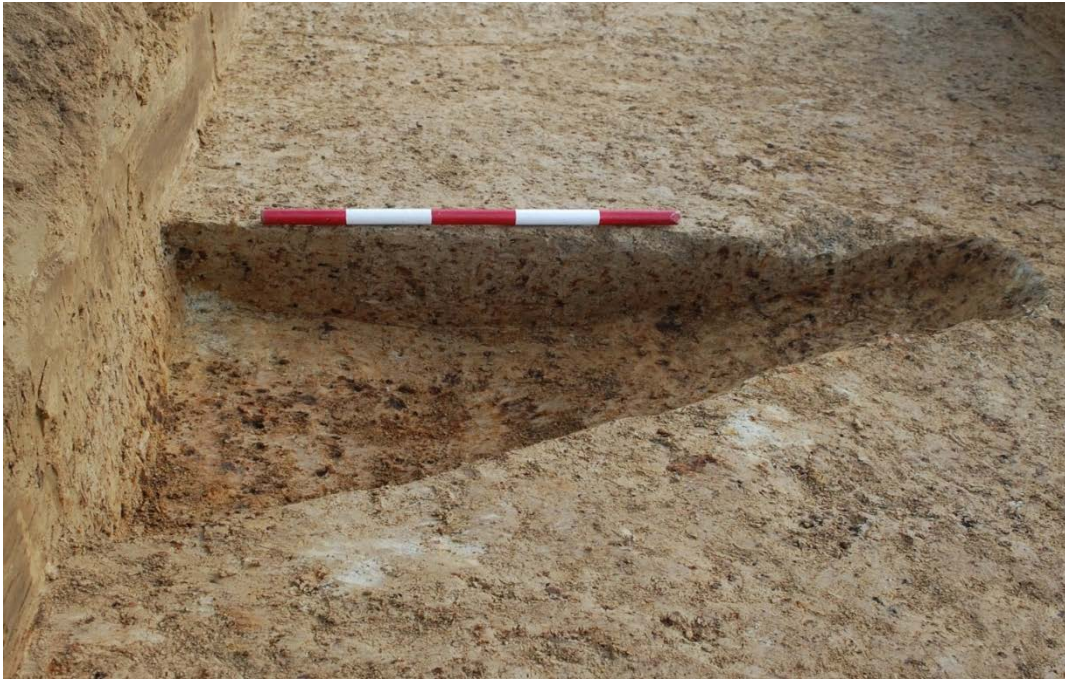


Plate 17: View of feature [4504] in Trench 45, looking north-east. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 18: View of pit [4706] in Trench 47, looking west. Scale 0.1m.



Plate 19: View of ditch [4904] in Trench 49, looking north-west. Scale 0.2m.



Plate 20: View of pit [5507] in Trench 55, looking north-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 21: View of pit [5603] in Trench 56, looking north-east. Scale 0.1m.



Plate 22: View of pit [5905] and *in situ* pottery vessel in Trench 59, looking south-west. Scale 0.1m.



Plate 23: View of pit [5905] and *in situ* pottery vessel in Trench 59, looking south-west. Scale 0.1m.

Appendix 1: Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Address: <i>Ulcombe Road, Headcorn</i>	
Summary: <i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 1 and 26 October 2018 on land adjacent to Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent. The works were commissioned by the Chartway Group Ltd in preparation for redevelopment, comprising the construction of up to 220 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure. The evaluation which comprised machine excavation of 59 trenches, 20–30m in length and 1.6–1.8m in width, representing an approximate 3.5% sample of the total proposed development area of 8.33ha.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Maidstone Borough</i>	Parish: <i>Headcorn</i>
Period(s): <i>Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Post-medieval, Modern</i>	
NGR (Centre of site): 8 figures: <i>8330 4470</i>	
Type of Archaeological Work: <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>1 to 26 October 2018</i>	
Unit Undertaking Recording: <i>Canterbury Archaeological Trust</i>	
Geology: <i>Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone across most of the southern half of the site, and Weald Clay Formation – Limestone to the north</i>	
Title and Author of Accompanying Report: <i>Rady, J. and Macintosh, A. 2018, Land at Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent – Evaluation Report, unpublished CAT report 2018/168</i>	

Summary of fieldwork results: *Archaeological remains were only recorded in 19 of the excavated trenches and comprised a total of 29 features. These comprised possibly 8 ditches/linear features, 17 small pits and postholes, a quarry, two fire pits or furnace bases, one prehistoric pot burial and a few modern or undifferentiated features.*

A small scatter of prehistoric worked flints, probably all residual was recovered, but the assemblage is undiagnostic and not indicative of significant activity. A single, apparently isolated pot burial was located in trench 59. Probably of mid to late Bronze Age date, it was badly truncated but suggests some activity of this period in the area. An isolated feature containing charcoal and a small quantity of burnt bone (possibly pyre related material) in trench 5 may also date to the prehistoric period.

More extensive remains dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The truncated bases of two possible iron smelting furnaces were examined in trench 36. These appeared to be set within a fragmented rectilinear field system represented by shallow ditches in a number of trenches in the same area. Small quantities of dating evidence were recovered from some of these features, suggestive of a nearby settlement beyond the periphery of the site.

No Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains were identified within the proposed development area, although a layer of near sterile, but probably post-Roman colluvium was present across the lower, south-east part of the site. Post medieval features consisted of field boundary ditches, some shown on early Ordnance Survey maps and scatters of pits and postholes, all probably agricultural in derivation. A small quarry of post-medieval date may have been backfilled fairly recently.

Recovery of artefacts from investigated archaeological features was low, with dateable finds limited to pottery, although ceramic building material, worked flint (mostly waste flakes) was also recovered. Preservation of environmental data was poor.

The proposed development has a potential to impact on heritage resources of local, and perhaps regional significance, but the features are significantly truncated, particularly scattered and in low concentration, so in this respect, the overall impact can be considered low.

Location of Archive/Finds: *Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad St, Canterbury, CT1 2LU*

Contact at Unit: *Jon Rady*

Date: *14.11.18*