



Pitstock Solar Farm,
Pitstock Road,
Rodmersham,
Kent,
ME9 0QP

Archaeological evaluation report

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Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Pitstock Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP (centred NGR 591589 160090) between 29 July and 6 August 2024. The work was commissioned by Stantec Ltd on behalf of their client Voltalia UK Ltd in support of proposals for the development of the land as a solar farm (Planning Ref. 24/500125/FULL).

The proposed development area had previously been subject to geophysical survey, which was undertaken in November 2023 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The results of the survey identified a cluster of potential archaeological features within two areas (Fields 2 and 4).

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation which comprised a total of 16 trenches. Ten trenches were cut in Field 2 and six trenches in Field 4, each positioned to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

The local topography is that of an undulating landscape with Fields 2 and 4 situated on slight plateaus. In Field 2, underlying geological head deposits of gravel, silt and sand, were recorded at a height ranging between 69.07m OD and 71.60m OD. In Field 4, a deposit of colluvium was recorded which sealed similar head deposits. Here, natural geology was recorded at 61.60m OD to 66.57m OD.

Archaeological features were identified in each trench, with linear features, pits and possible furnace-related features all represented. At least two phases of activity are represented at the site, the earliest of which may represent a series of ditched enclosures associated with a field system. Pottery dated to the later Bronze Age / Iron Age period was recovered, which may be related to this phase of activity.

In Field 2, ditches were identified which corresponded to the geophysical anomalies. Together the evidence suggests that an entrance to a large, ditched enclosure at the west of the area is represented. Contemporary features situated within the interior and to the exterior of the enclosure, were all recorded, including a potential quarry feature and evidence for possible furnace bases. Further evidence for metalworking associated with this phase was provided by the presence of iron slag in many of the features. Pottery recovered suggests a late first century BC to first century AD date for this activity.

To the east in Field 4, small pits and linear ditches were identified. These may represent a rectangular enclosure in this area, with perhaps evidence for a trackway continuing beyond to the south-east. The activity in this area appears to be broadly contemporary with the later phase in Field 2. Iron slag was recovered from several features in this area and a similar date range is represented by the pottery.

One large possible quarry feature of post-medieval date was recorded in trench 11 and modern features were identified in trench 1.

The results of the evaluation identified a correspondence between the geophysical anomalies and the features containing quantities of metalworking waste. However, features with no metalworking waste and those of earlier date were not identified by the geophysical survey.

The local topography, in combination with truncation due to agricultural activity, has resulted in a variation in the depth below present ground level of the archaeological horizon. In Field 2 archaeological features survived at a depth of between 0.23m to 0.50m, and in Field 4 between 0.16m to 0.43m.

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The project was commissioned by Stantec Ltd on behalf of their client Voltalia UK Ltd.

The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Between 29 July and 6 August 2024, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Pitstock Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP (centred NGR 591589 160090; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Stantec Ltd on behalf of their client Voltalia UK Ltd, in response to proposals in support of development of the land as a solar farm (Planning Ref. 24/500125/FULL).

1.1.2 The planning application submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Swale Borough Council, describes the proposed development as follows:

the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station in the form of ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays with associated inverter/ transformer units, control house, substations, grid connection equipment, storage containers, site access including gates and internal access tracks, security measures, other ancillary infrastructure, and landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

1.1.3 In mitigation of the potential impact that the proposed works may have on the potential buried archaeological resource, and in accordance with the provisions of the *National Policy Planning Framework* (NPPF; DLHC 2023), an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site. The archaeological works followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) compiled by CAT (2024a).

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen trenches across the site, the locations of which were situated within areas referred to as Field 2 and Field 4. The trenches were positioned to target geophysical anomalies identified during a geophysical survey which was conducted in November 2023 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA; Meadows and Manktelow 2023). The purpose of the evaluation was to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource surviving within the proposed development area (PDA). The results will enable the LPA to formulate the scope of any archaeological mitigation works that may be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidance.

1.1.5 The evaluation was monitored by the Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer for the Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group (HCG).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The overall PDA covers approximately 65 hectares of land spread across five fields and situated approximately 2.6km south of Sittingbourne. This archaeological evaluation focused on two areas of farmland to the north-west and south-east of Penfield Lane (identified as Fields 2 and 4 in Meadows and Manktelow 2023). Field 2 is bounded by Penfield Lane to the south-east, and agricultural fields form the remainder of the boundary. Field 4 is bounded by Penfield Lane to the north-west, Pitstock Farm to the north, Pitstock Road to the east, and agricultural fields to the south. The site sits within a wider landscape of agricultural fields, patches of woodland, small villages and isolated buildings (CAT 2024a).

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the PDA is mapped as Thanet Formation sand, silt and clay, with a narrow band of Seaford Chalk Formation recorded to the south-east of the PDA. Superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay overlay much of the north-western and central parts of the site (BGS 2024).

1.2.3 The evaluation trenches in Field 2 covered an area measuring approximately 100m by 170m. The ground level gently sloped from 71.88m OD at the south-west to 69.47m OD at the north-

east (Figure 2; Plate 1). In Field 4, the trenches were located on a plateau which targeted an area measuring approximately 138m by 66m. The ground level sloped to the east and the south-east from 66.95m OD to 60.58m OD and 63.53m OD respectively (Figure 3; Plate 2). A sharp drop to the south-east beyond the limit of trenching was evident (see surveyed contours on Figure 3). Here the eastern edge of the plateau dropped from 60.96m OD to 57.23m OD.

2 Archaeological background

2.1 Designations

2.1.1 The PDA does not affect or directly impact upon any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, or Registered Battlefields.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

2.2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of historical and archaeological remains presently recorded in the KCC Historic Environment Record (HER) which lie within, or in immediate proximity to the PDA. Data available from the Kent HER was detailed within a recent Desk Based Assessment (Stantec 2023) and is summarised below.

2.3 Prehistoric (500,000 BP – AD 43)

2.3.1 Few remains pre-dating the post-medieval period are recorded within 1km of the PDA, with those listed predominantly relating to isolated artefactual findspots. A Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded as being found in the vicinity of Rodmersham Green, near College Wood which is located to the north of the PDA (TQ 96 SW 226). The findspot for a Mesolithic period pick is also recorded near Rodmersham (TQ 96 SW 68). A suspected Bronze Age round barrow is recorded approximately 750m west of the site, in the area of Cromers Wood (TQ 96 SW 40). The exact location of this is unknown, but an associated hammerstone and pottery found in the area supports a Bronze Age date for this feature. The findspot for a late Iron Age gold coin is also recorded from the local area (MKE113942).

2.4 Romano British (AD 43–450)

2.4.1 The site of Rodmersham Roman Villa (TQ 95 NW 23) is recorded approximately 1km to the east of the PDA. The villa complex, surveyed and partially excavated in the 1980s, includes evidence for a bath house, a tessellated floor and a hypocaust system.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon (AD 450–1066)

2.5.1 No Anglo-Saxon remains or finds are recorded in the immediate area.

2.6 Medieval (AD 1066–1540)

2.6.1 There is little recorded on the HER relating to the medieval period in the vicinity of the proposed development, but it is likely that the area was put to agricultural use at this time.

2.7 Post-Medieval (AD 1540–1900)

2.7.1 The known historical landscape setting of the PDA is predominantly that of scattered post-medieval farmsteads. Within the PDA itself sits the farmstead of Penfield House (MKE85382), with another farmstead sited 200m to the north-west at Pitstock Farm (TQ 96 SW 147), and at Pinks Farm Cottage 450m to the south-east (MKE85381). Other similarly dated farmstead sites

lay within 1km of the PDA to the south-west along Rawling Street (MKE85345) and at Dungate House (MKE85383).

- 2.7.2 A number of lime kiln sites are also recorded in the area, most notably one recorded approximately 350m north of the PDA at Bargains Hill (TQ 96 SW 195) dated to 1868, with another recorded near Rawling Street to the southwest (TQ 95 NW 28).
- 2.7.3 The post-medieval farmstead of Penfield House (MKE85382) sits towards the centre of the PDA, with another, Pitstock Farm (TQ 96 SW 147) located to the north-east.

2.8 Modern (AD 1900 - present)

- 2.8.1 Later post-medieval to modern features are also known, including a Royal Observer Corps post (comprising an underground, two-man bunker) located just to the north of Pitstock Farm (TQ 96 SW 185). Several disused and infilled pits likely relating to chalk quarrying are also recorded along the east side of Pitstock Road to the north of the PDA. Further evidence for chalk quarry activity was also identified during the 2023 geophysical survey, along with a number of historic field boundaries (Meadows and Manktelow 2023). The survey also picked up the line of modern utility runs across the PDA.

2.9 Recent investigations

- 2.9.1 During November 2023, a geophysical survey was undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) across approximately 65 hectares of land spanning five fields within the PDA (Meadows and Manktelow 2023). The survey identified a series of potential archaeological features, including groups of curvilinear and linear anomalies located within Fields 2 and Field 4. It was noted that while the geophysical survey detected some potential archaeological features, the magnetic response was patchy, and the geology was not ideally suited to this type of survey. The report concluded that the full extent of detected features and further archaeological remains may still lay undetected (*ibid*, 7).

3 Methodology

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; 2023a) is to:

determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area. The scope of the work will be described in a project design that is fit for purpose and will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that design and the CIfA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological field evaluation. All archaeological field evaluations will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive.

- 3.1.2 The principal objective of the evaluation work was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposits, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.1.3 More specific objectives included to:
 - Assess the nature and date of the anomalies identified during geophysical survey of the area.

- Place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.
- 3.1.4 Assessment of the results will provide guidance on what additional mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority and the KCC HCG Principal Archaeological Officer.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 The archaeological investigations were carried out in accordance with the WSI (CAT 2024a), and to professional standards as set out in ClfAs' *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023b). CAT is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with ClfA and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.
- 3.2.2 All archaeological work was undertaken by professional archaeologists in the employ of CAT.
- 3.2.3 In undertaking all works, the archaeological contractor abided by ClfAs' *Code of Conduct and Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*.
- 3.2.4 All fieldwork and subsequent reporting were conducted by an archaeologist of recognised competence, suitably experienced in work of this character. Monitoring, management and oversight of the archaeological work was undertaken by Tania Wilson (MCIfA), Project Manager at CAT as the appointed archaeological contractor on behalf of Stantec Ltd.
- 3.2.5 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 16 evaluation trenches using a 20-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Trenches 1 to 6 were located in Field 4, and trenches 7 to 16 located in Field 2. The trenches were positioned across the locations of geophysical anomalies. Mechanical excavation was limited to the removal of overburden, topsoil, subsoil and colluvium, to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits.
- 3.2.6 Following mechanical clearance, the exposed soil profiles in each trench were photographed and the trenches recorded using *pro forma* trench recording sheets. Trenches and archaeological features were tied to the Ordnance Survey grid using GPS equipment. A digital photographic record of the evaluation was produced.
- 3.2.7 In variation to the methodology as stated in the WSI, and following consultation with the KCC HCG Principal Archaeological Officer, trenches 8, 11 and 14 were extended (see Figure 2). The aim was to confirm the continuation or termination of features in trenches 8 and 11, and to identify any continuation of features from trench 11 into trench 14.

3.3 Health, safety and welfare

- 3.3.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2024b), and CAT's Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare (CAT 2024c).
- 3.3.2 All CAT operatives held valid Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is Acclaim SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accredited.
- 3.3.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services,

and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool.

3.4 Project archive

- 3.4.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the procedures laid down in Historic England's 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), the archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020), and the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines (Brown 2011).
- 3.4.2 The archive name 'Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP', CAT site code EV PSS 24, and archive number 5173 have been used.
- 3.4.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using AutoCAD and QGIS. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records.
- 3.4.4 All retained artefacts recovered during the project have been processed, catalogued, and packaged in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines (UKIC 1990). The finds have all been washed and marked where appropriate.
- 3.4.5 All bulk finds are presently retained as part of the project archive and are stored by context in polybags held in 'standard' (0.4 × 0.3 × 0.2m³ with 0.1m deep lift off lid, capacity 0.03m³) or 'half sized' (0.4 × 0.3 × 0.1m² with 0.1m deep lift off lid, capacity 0.015 cubic metres) brass wire-stitched museum boxes (1.9mm double kraft-lined, pH 6.5–8) supplied by the Ryder Box Co.
- 3.4.6 All registered finds have been stabilised and are stored in sealable plastic containers, with silica gel and a humidity indicator strip, as required.
- 3.4.7 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body as recommended by KCC.

4 Results

(Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation results are presented in trench tables listed below. Context data is expressed as thickness of deposit/feature and depth below ground level (BGL) in metres to the top of the deposit.

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 In Field 2, underlying geological head deposits of gravel, silt and sand, were recorded at a height ranging between 69.07m OD and 71.60m OD at a depth of between 0.23m to 0.50m below present ground level. In Field 4, a deposit of colluvium was recorded which sealed similar head deposits. Here, natural geology was recorded at 61.60m OD to 66.57m OD at a depth of between 0.16m to 0.43m.

4.3 Trench 1

4.3.1 Trench 1 was situated within Field 4 and aligned west to east (Plate 3). The existing ground level ranged from 62.10m OD at the west to 60.58m OD at the east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TR 1	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 62.10m OD (W) – 60.58m OD (E)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
100	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.20	-	Modern	
101	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Mid brownish mid grey mid grey friable silty clay, with common small chalk flecks.	0.05	0.20	Post-medieval /modern	
102	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets	0.10+	0.24	-	
103	Cut of post-hole	Sub-circular pit or post-hole. 0.55m x 0.55m. Unexcavated.	-	0.24	No date	
104	Cut of post-hole	Sub-circular pit or post-hole. 0.73m x 0.48m+ Unexcavated.	-	0.24	No date	
105	Natural	Natural linear deposit of gravel. Geological.	-	0.24	No date	
106	Cut of feature	Cut of amorphous feature. Possibly a quarry pit. Unexcavated.	-	0.24	Post-medieval /modern?	
107	Fill of [108]	Greyish light brown clayey silt with common small subangular and subrounded flint.	0.17	0.16	No date	
108	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast - southwest.	0.17	0.16	No date	
109	Cut of pit	Unexcavated.	-	0.34	Modern	
110	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast - southwest. Unexcavated.	-	0.24	No date	
111	Fill of 103	Yellowish mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flint.	-	0.24	No date	
112	Fill of 104	Yellowish mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flint.	-	0.24	No date	
113	void	Void	-	-	-	
114	Fill of 106	Yellowish mid brown silty clay with rare brick fragments and occasional small rounded flint.	-	0.24	Post-medieval /modern?	
115	Fill of 109	Dark grey loose silty clay, occasional ferrous nails, 1 x modern used shotgun cartridge.	-	0.24	Modern	
116	Fill of 110	Greyish mid brown firm and friable silty clay.	-	0.24	No date	

4.3.2 A total of six archaeological features were identified in this trench. At the east of the trench, two ditches [108] and [110] probably represent the earliest features. The ditches were broadly aligned north-east to south-west and did not correspond to mapped geophysical anomalies. Ditch [108] produced iron slag, but no other dateable material was recovered.

4.3.3 Centrally, one large irregular feature [106] measuring 4.21m in width may represent a quarry. The feature contained fragments of brick suggesting a post-medieval/modern date. Of similar date were two small pits/post-holes [103] and [104], one of which produced a used shotgun cartridge.

4.3.4 Feature [105] which corresponded to a geophysical anomaly, appeared to be a band of natural gravel.

4.3.5 The features were sealed by a subsoil or buried plough soil (101), which was in turn sealed by topsoil (100).

4.4 Trench 2

4.4.1 Trench 2 was situated within Field 4 and aligned north-east to south-west. The existing ground level ranged from 66.95m OD at the north-east to 66.73m OD at the south-west. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TR 2						
	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 66.95m OD (NE) - 66.73m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
200	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.13	-	Modern	
201	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Dark greyish mid brown compact silty clay with abundant chalk flecking and occasional small flint round and sub-round pebbles.	0.14	0.13	Post-medieval /modern	
202	Fill of 203	Very dark brownish dark grey compact silty clay, with occasional pot sherds, occasional small to medium iron slag lumps and occasional small lumps of charcoal.	0.46	0.30	Mid-late C1st AD	
203	Cut of ditch	Northwest – southeast aligned linear ditch. 0.78m (W), 2m+ (L), 0.46m (D)	0.46	0.30	Mid-late C1st AD	
204	Fill of 205	Mid to dark grey mottled brown very firm silty clay with common small to medium rounded pebbles, common medium to larger angular flints, very common small to medium charcoal lumps, very common small burnt clay/daub lumps	0.34+	0.30	Mid-late C1st AD	
205	Cut of ditch	Wide linear feature aligned northwest - southeast. Not fully excavated. Truncates pit [207]. 2.94m (W), 2m+ (L), 0.35m+ (D)	0.34+	0.30	Mid-late C1st AD	
206	Fill of 207	Mid to dark grey mottled brown very firm silty clay with common small to medium rounded pebbles, common medium to larger angular flints, abundant small to medium charcoal lumps, very common small burnt clay/daub lumps. Very common pot sherds and very common small to medium iron slag lumps.	0.30	0.30	No date	
207	Cut of pit	Cut of a small pit. Not fully excavated. Cut by linear [205]. 0.67m (W), 0.78m (L).	0.30	0.30	No date	
208	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.30+	0.30	-	
209	Colluvium	Light greyish light brown firm silty clay.	0.16-0.23	0.21	No date	

4.4.2 A total of three archaeological features were recorded in trench 2. The earliest feature was an undated pit [207]. The pit was cut by ditch [205] which produced mid to late first-century AD pottery including fine white ware. Just to the south, ditch [203] was filled with a single deposit containing iron slag, and pottery of a similar date including fragments of Samian. Residual pottery broadly dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age was also recovered from this feature. Both ditches were on a north-west to south-east alignment and corresponded with geophysical anomalies.

4.4.3 No feature was identified in the area of a further geophysical anomaly mapped to the south.

4.4.4 The features in this trench were sealed by a deposit of colluvium (209), measuring 0.16–0.23m thick. This deposit was sealed by subsoil (201), which was in turn sealed by topsoil (200).

4.5 Trench 3

4.5.1 Trench 3 was situated in Field 4 and aligned north-east to south-west. The trench intersected with trench 6. The existing ground level ranged from 64.78m OD at the north-east to 64.86m OD at the south-west. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR 3	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 64.78m OD (NE) – 64.86m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
300	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.26	-	Modern	
301	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Dark greyish mid brown compact silty clay with abundant chalk flecking and occasional small flint round and sub-round pebbles.	0.20	0.26	Post-medieval/modern	
302	Fill of 303	Dark blackish brown firm silty clay with occasional medium to large angular flint and occasional small to medium lumps slag.	0.28	0.43	No date	
303	Cut of ditch	Thin linear gully/ditch aligned Northwest – southeast. 0.56m (W), 0.28m (D), 2m+ (L). Cuts ditch [305].	0.28	0.43	No date	
304	Fill of 305	Mid yellowish mid brown loose silty clay with rare small round pebbles and angular flint and occasional small to medium lumps of iron slag and pottery sherds.	0.20+	0.43	LBA/IA	
305	Cut of ditch	Wide linear aligned northwest – southeast. Cut by ditch [303]. 2.05 (W), 0.20m+(D), 2m+(L). Partially excavated.	0.20+	0.43	LBA/IA	
306	Fill 307	Mid dark blackish brown firm silty clay with common small to large angular flints.	-	0.43	No date	
307	Cut of pit or ditch terminus	Bulbous ditch terminus aligned northwest – southeast. 0.99m(W), 1.36m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.43	No date	
308	Fill of 309	Light greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to large angular flint.	-	0.46	No date	
309	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. Unexcavated. 1.22m(W), 2m+(L)	-	0.46	No date	
310	Fill of 311	Light greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to large angular flint.	-	0.46	No date	
311	Cut of ditch	Wide linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. Unexcavated. 1.99(W), 2m+(L)	-	0.46	No date	
312	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets	0.15+	0.43	-	
313	Colluvium	Light greyish light brown firm silty clay.	0.16	0.26	No date	

4.5.2 A total of five archaeological features were recorded in trench 3. To the north, ditch [305] was aligned north-west to south-east and produced pottery of late Bronze Age to Iron Age date. Cutting this ditch was ditch [303] which lie on a similar alignment. This feature did not produce any dateable material, but iron slag was recovered. To the south, ditches [309] and [311] were also aligned north-west to south-east, but no dateable material was recovered.

4.5.3 Centrally, feature [307] may represent a pit or ditch terminus. Iron slag was recovered from the fill.

4.5.4 Each of the features identified in this trench corresponded with geophysical anomalies. Ditch [303] or [305] appears to correspond with ditch [508] in trench 5. Ditch [309] may correspond to ditch [504] and [311] to [506].

4.5.5 The archaeological features were sealed by a deposit of colluvium (313) measuring 0.16m in depth. This deposit was sealed by subsoil (301), which was sealed by topsoil (300).

4.6 Trench 4

4.6.1 Trench 4 was situated in field 4 and aligned north-east to south-west. The existing ground level varied between 63.60m OD at the north-east end and 64.55m OD at the south-west end. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Trench 4 contexts

TR 4		Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 63.60m OD (NE) – 64.55m OD (SW)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
400	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.36	-	Modern	
401	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Dark greyish mid brown compact silty clay with abundant chalk flecking and occasional small flint round and sub-round pebbles.	0.16	0.36	Post-medieval/modern	
402	Fill of 403	Pale greyish brown firm silty clay with rare small to medium iron slag lumps.	-	0.21	No date	
403	Cut of ditch	Wide linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest and tapering on the southwestern side. Possibly two intercutting linear ditches. 2.64m(W), 3m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.21	No date	
404	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 0.81m(W), 3m+(L) Unexcavated.	0.71	0.35	No date	
405	Fill of 406	Pale brown firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flint.	-	0.21	No date	
406	Cut of ditch	Wide linear aligned north – south. 2.32m(W), 3m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.21	No date	
407	Fill of 404	Pale greyish brown firm silty clay with common medium to large angular flint and rare possible flint flakes.	0.71	0.35	No date	
408	Colluvium	Light greyish light brown firm silty clay.	0.16	0.35	No date	
409	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.05+	0.51	-	

4.6.2 A total of three linear ditches were identified in this trench, all on a rough north to south alignment. No dateable material was recovered, although ditch [403] contained some iron slag. This ditch was notably wide, and it is thought that the feature may represent the convergence of ditches [603] and [611] recorded in trench 6. Ditch [404] may represent a continuation of ditch [605].

4.6.3 All features broadly corresponded with geophysical anomalies. The features were sealed by a deposit of colluvium (408) measuring 0.16m thick, which was overlaid by subsoil (401) and topsoil (400).

4.7 Trench 5

4.7.1 Trench 5 was situated in field 4 and was north-east to south-west. The existing ground level varied between 65.66m OD at the north-east end and 66.27m OD at the south-west. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Trench 5 contexts

TR 5	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 65.66m OD (NE) – 66.27m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
500	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.23	-	Modern	
501	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Dark greyish mid brown compact silty clay with abundant chalk flecking and occasional small flint round and sub-round pebbles.	0.05-0.16	0.23	Post-medieval/modern	
502	Colluvium	Light greyish light brown firm silty clay.	0.16-0.23	0.16	No date	
503	Fill of 504	Light greyish light brown firm silty sandy clay with occasional small to medium rounded flints, occasional small to medium iron slag lumps and small rare worked flint flakes.	-	0.38	No date	
504	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned Northwest – southeast. 1.06m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.38	No date	
505	Fill of 506	Soft and friable greyish dark brown silty clay with occasional small to medium rounded and sub-round flint and occasional small pottery sherds.	-	0.60	C1st BC-C1st AD	
506	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. 0.64(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.60	C1st BC-C1st AD	
507	Lower fill of 508	Brownish mid grey firm and friable silty clay with rare small iron slag fragments, rare medium rounded flint nodules, rare small burnt flint and abundant pottery sherds.	0.05+	0.52	Mid-late C1st AD	
508	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. Contained abundant pottery, particularly one definite and one potential crushed vessels in (510).	0.10+	0.52	Mid-late C1st AD	
509	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets		0.53	-	
510	Upper fill of 508	A deposit of two crushed vessels. Vessel 'A' significantly crushed by a large flint nodule (0.30 x 0.30m). Vessel 'B' completely crushed and fragmentary.	0.10+	0.52	Mid-late C1st AD	

- 4.7.2 A total of three linear ditches were recorded in trench 5. At the north, ditch [508] contained a probable structured deposit (510) comprising two crushed pottery vessels laid beneath a large flint nodule (Plate 4). The vessels have been dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman period. This ditch may correspond with ditch [303] or [305] in trench 3.
- 4.7.3 To the south, ditch [504] produced iron slag, and ditch [506] contained pottery dated first century BC to first century AD. These ditches may correspond with ditches [309] and [311] respectively. The latter also possibly relating to ditch [203].
- 4.7.4 Each of the ditches were aligned north-west to south-east, [504] and [508] corresponded to mapped geophysical anomalies. The features were sealed by a deposit of colluvium (502) measuring 0.23m thick. This deposit was overlain by subsoil (501) and topsoil (500) (Plate 5).

4.8 Trench 6

- 4.8.1 Trench 6 was located in Field 4 and intersected with Trench 3 it was aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 65.47m OD at the north-west and 63.90m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Trench 6 contexts

TR 6	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 65.47m OD (NW) – 63.90m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
600	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.35	-	Modern	
601	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Dark greyish mid brown compact silty clay with abundant chalk flecking and occasional small flint round and sub-round pebbles.	0.10	0.35	Post-medieval/modern	
602	Fill of 603	Greyish pale brown soft to firm clayey silt with rare small angular flint.	0.35	0.60	No date	
603	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. V-shaped profile with straight-sloping edges and a slightly concave base. Unclear relationship with ditch 605.	0.35	0.60	No date	
604	Fill of 605	Dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with rare small angular flint.	0.30	0.60	No date	
605	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. Concave in profile with concave edges and base. Unclear relationship with ditch 603.	0.30	0.60	No date	
606	Fill of 607	Mid greyish orangey brown clayey silt with rare pottery sherds, occasional small to medium subangular and sub rounded flint.	0.17+	0.67	Mid C1st AD	
607	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. Half exposed within the trench; full profile is unclear as not fully excavated but has a concave edge in the exposed half.	0.17+	0.67	Mid C1st AD	
608	colluvium	Light greyish light brown firm silty clay.	0.20-0.30	0.43	No date	
609	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets	0.28+	0.80	-	
610	Fill of 611	Greyish pale brown soft to firm clayey silt with rare small angular flint.	-	0.60	No date	
611	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 1.05m(W), 2m+(L).	-	0.60	No date	
612	Fill of 613	Greyish pale brown soft to firm clayey silt with rare small angular flint.	-	0.38	No date	
613	Cut of pit or ditch terminus	Bulbous ditch terminus aligned northeast – southwest.	-	0.38	No date	

4.8.2 A total of five features were recorded in trench 6. Ditch [607], located at the north-western extent of the trench, produced pottery dated mid first century AD. To the east, two intercutting ditches [603] and [605] were recorded. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine which of these features was the earlier, and no dateable material was recovered. Adjacent to these ditches, ditch [611] was also undated.

4.8.3 Feature [613] may represent a pit or ditch terminus. This feature was also undated.

4.8.4 The linear features were broadly aligned north-east to south-west and corresponded to mapped geophysical anomalies. The features were sealed by a deposit of colluvium (608) measuring 0.43m thick. The colluvium was overlain by subsoil (601) and topsoil (600).

4.9 Trench 7

4.9.1 Trench 7 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 69.61m OD at the north-west and 68.74m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Trench 7 contexts

TR 7		Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 69.61m OD (NW) – 68.74m OD (SE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
700	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.28	-	Modern	
701	Fill of 702	Greyish brown compact silty clay with common small angular flint and rare small daub flecks.	0.32	0.28	No date	
702	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch northeast – southwest aligned (within trench). 1.49m(W). Unexcavated.	-	0.32	No date	
703	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	-	0.30	-	

4.9.2 A single ditch [702] aligned west to east was recorded in this trench. The ditch did not produce any dateable material but did correspond to a mapped geophysical anomaly. Subsoil was not present in this trench and the feature was directly sealed by topsoil (700).

4.10 Trench 8

4.10.1 Trench 8 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 70.67m OD at the north-west and 70.85m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 8.

4.10.2 The trench was extended to the south-west by 3.70m at the request of KCC HCG Principal Archaeological Officer. The aim of this extension was to determine whether a mapped geophysical anomaly correctly identified a ditch terminus.

Table 8. Trench 8 contexts

TR 8		Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 70.67m OD (NW) – 70.85m OD (SE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
800	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.		-	Modern	
801	Void	Void	-	-	-	
802	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.		0.42	-	
803	Fill of 804	Mottled greyish orange firm silty clay with abundant small to medium sub-round and subangular flints.	0.16	0.50	No date	
804	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest.	0.16	0.50	No date	
805	Fill of 806	Light brown firm silty clay with common small round flint pebbles, rare medium flint nodules, rare small lumps of iron slag and rare pot sherds.	0.08+	0.50	No date	
806	Cut of ditch	Cut of wide linear ditch aligned 1.77m(W), 2m+(L).	0.08+	0.50	No date	
807	Cut of boundary ditch terminus	Wide curvilinear boundary ditch terminus aligned northeast – southwest. 2.66m(W), 3.2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.50	No date	
808	Cut of possible pit	Sub-round pit largely under the LOE, aligned northwest - southeast. 1.27m(W), 0.43m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.50	No date	
809	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 1.02m(W), 2m+(L).	-	0.50	No date	
810	Fill of 807	Dark greyish mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium subangular and sub-sound flints and common small to medium iron slag fragments.	-	0.50	No date	
811	Fill of 808	Dark greyish mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium subangular and sub-sound flint.	-	0.50	No date	

TR 8	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 70.67m OD (NW) – 70.85m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
812	Fill of 809	Light brown firm silty clay with common small round flint pebbles and rare medium flint nodules.	-	0.50	No date	

4.10.3 A total of five features were identified in trench 8. Ditches [804] and [809] may represent the earliest features in this trench. The ditches, each parallel and aligned north-east to south-west, produced no dateable material but had notably different, pale and more sterile fills to that of the other features. These features were not identified by the geophysical survey.

4.10.4 To the north, ditch [807] measured 2.66m in width and contained common iron slag. Extension of the trench confirmed that the ditch did terminate to the west as suggested by the geophysical survey (Plate 6). Considering the mapped geophysical anomalies and the character of fills, this ditch likely relates to ditch [906] in trench 9. Ditch [806] was of similar character to [807] and on this basis may be broadly contemporary.

4.10.5 One undated pit [808] was also recorded.

4.10.6 Subsoil was not present in this trench and all features were sealed directly by topsoil (800).

4.11 Trench 9

4.11.1 Trench 9 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-east to south-west. The existing ground level varied between 69.80m OD at the north-eastern end and 70.34m OD at the south-western end. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 9.

Table 9. Trench 9 contexts

TR 9	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 69.80m OD (NE) – 70.43m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
900	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.36-0.40	-	Modern	
901	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.15-0.26	0.20	-	
902	Geology	More mottled reddish and yellowish firm and friable silty clay.	0.20+	0.50	-	
903	Upper fill of 906	Mixed brown grey silty sandy clay with occasional small daub and iron slag lumps.	0.27	0.29	No date	
904	Middle fill of 906	Burnt clay/daub deposit with medium to large iron slag lumps and subangular flint.	0.20	-	No date	
905	Lower fill of 906	Small to medium iron slag and silt deposit with common large charcoal lumps and rare pottery sherds.	0.11	-	LBA/IA	
906	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. 1.49m(W), 2m+(L), 0.57m(D).	0.57	0.29	LBA/IA	
907	Fill of 908	Dark grey clayey silt with medium subangular flints, rare small to medium daub and iron slag lumps.	-	0.34	No date	
908	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. 0.79m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.34	No date	
909	Fill of 910	Dark grey clayey silt with medium subangular flints, rare small to medium daub and iron slag lumps.	-	0.28	No date	
910	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest – southeast. 0.0.63m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.28	No date	

4.11.2 A total of three parallel linear ditches each aligned north-west to south-east were identified. All ditches were of similar character and produced iron slag (Plate 7). Ditch [906] produced pottery dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age.

4.11.3 The features corresponded with mapped geophysical anomalies. However, no feature was identified with one of the anomalies. Subsoil was not present in this trench and topsoil (900) directly sealed all features.

4.12 Trench 10

4.12.1 Trench 10 was situated in Field 2 and aligned approximately west to east. The existing ground level varied between 71.29m OD at the western end and 70.87m OD at the eastern end. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Trench 10 contexts

TR 10		Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 71.29m OD (W) – 70.87m OD (E)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1000	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.23-0.29	-	Modern	
1001	Fill of 1002	Brownish mid grey firm and friable sandy clay.	0.14	0.23	No date	
1002	Cut of ditch	Thin linear gully aligned northwest – southeast. Concave profile. 0.53m(W), 3m+(L).	0.14	0.23	No date	
1003	Fill of 1004	Brownish mid grey firm and friable sandy clay with small angular flints.	-	0.38	No date	
1004	Cut of post-hole	Oval in plan, aligned north – south. 0.28m(W), 0.52m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.38	No date	
1005	Fill of 1006	Brownish mid grey firm and friable sandy clay with small angular flints.	-	0.25	No date	
1006	Cut of post-hole	Oval in plan, aligned northwest – southeast. 0.23m(W), 0.38m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.25	No date	
1007	Fill of 1008	Brownish mid grey firm and friable sandy clay.	-	0.25	No date	
1008	Cut of ditch	Thin linear gully aligned northeast – southwest. 0.50m(W), 3m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.25	No date	
1009	Fill of 1010	Dark grey-black carbon rich clay with occasional rounded pebbles.	0.05	0.25	No date	
1010	Cut of pit	Shallow concave pit. Oval in plan, aligned west – east. 0.52m(W), 0.35m(L).	0.05	0.25	No date	
1011	Fill of 1012	Mottled dark greyish brown and yellowish light brown soft silty clay with common charcoal and daub flecks, small to medium angular and subangular flint.	-	0.31+	No date	
1012	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. Not fully excavated. 0.75m(W), 2m+(L). Cut by ditch 1014.	-	0.31+	No date	
1013	Fill of 1014	Dark greyish brown silty clay with common medium charcoal lumps, common small to medium subangular flint, occasional small to medium iron slag lumps and common pottery sherds.	0.43+	0.38	C1st-C2nd AD	
1014	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. Not fully excavated. 0.93m(W), 2m+(L). Truncates ditch 1012.	0.43+	0.40+	C1st-C2nd AD	
1015	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	-	0.23-0.25	-	

4.12.2 A total of seven features were recorded in trench 10. Ditches [1002] and [1008] may represent the earliest features, with fills of similar characteristics to those of ditches [804] and [809]. Ditch [1002] is aligned north-west to south-east and ditch [1008] north-east to south-west. No corresponding geophysical anomalies are mapped for these features.

- 4.12.3 Ditch [1012] was found to underlie ditch [1014], the latter possibly representing a later recut. Aligned north-east to south-west, ditch [1014] contained charcoal, daub and iron slag, along with common pottery of late first to second century AD date.
- 4.12.4 Three undated oval pits [1004], [1006] and [1010] were all undated.
- 4.12.5 Subsoil was not present in this trench, and topsoil (1000) sealed all features (Plate 8).

4.13 Trench 11

- 4.13.1 Trench 11 was situated in Field 2 and aligned south-west to north-east. The existing ground level varied between 71.50m OD at the south-west and 71.04m OD at the north-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 11.
- 4.13.2 The trench was extended to the north by 6.80m at the request of KCC HCG Principal Archaeological Officer. The aim of this extension was to determine whether a mapped geophysical anomaly correctly represented a large feature.

Table 11. Trench 11 contexts

TR 11		Length: 30m	Width: 2m - 8.4m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 71.75m OD (SW) – 71.04m OD (NE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1100	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.27-0.32	-	Modern	
1101	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Mid brownish mid grey mid grey friable silty clay, with common small chalk flecks.	0.07-0.11	0.27	Post-medieval/modern	
1102	Upper fill of 1104	Might mid yellowish brown firm clayey silt with occasional small to medium angular flints.	0.10-0.23	0.35	Medieval /post-medieval	
1103	Lower fill of 1104	Mid-dark greyish brown loose to firm clayey silt with common chalk flecking, occasional medium round pebbles, occasional small to medium angular flint, rare small iron slag lumps, and rare CBM/tile fragments.	0.26+	0.57	Medieval /post-medieval	
1104	Cut of quarry pit	Large quarry pit investigated with a sondage. The pit has a convex edge. Truncates ditch 1106. 4.23m+(W)	0.44+	0.35	Medieval /post-medieval	
1105	Fill of 1106	Light pale grey loose silty clay with occasional small angular flint.	-	0.35	No date	
1106	Cut of ditch	Thin linear gully aligned northeast – southwest. 0.52m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated. Cut by quarry pit 1104.	-	0.35	No date	
1107	Fill of 1108	Light grey firm clayey silt with common medium round pebbles, angular flint.	-	0.35	No date	
1108	Cut of pit	Sub-circular pit. 0.46m(W), 0.46m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.35	No date	
1109	Upper fill of 1110	Dark greyish brown compact silty clay with common small medium flint, occasional large angular flints, occasional large daub and iron slag lumps and rare pottery sherds.	0.16	0.35	No date	
1110	Cut of quarry pit	Cut of possible large ditch terminus or quarry pit. 5.26m(W), 6.42m+(L). Truncates linear ditch 1123. Not fully excavated.	0.46+	0.35	C1st BC – C1st AD	
1111	Fill of 1112	Pale greyish brown compact silty clay with common pottery sherds.	-	0.35	Prehistoric	
1112	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 0.73m(W), 3m+(L). Unexcavated. Equivalent to 1123.	-	0.35	Prehistoric	
1113	Fill of 1114	Light blackish grey firm clayey silt with common medium round pebbles, angular flint and rare charcoal flecks.	-	0.35	No date	
1114	Cut of pit	Oval pit aligned northeast – southwest. 0.53m(W), 0.37m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.35	No date	

TR 11		Length: 30m	Width: 2m - 8.4m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 71.75m OD (SW) – 71.04m OD (NE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date		
1115	Fill of 1116	Light greyish brown firm clayey silt with common small to medium round pebbles, medium angular flint and rare charcoal.	-	0.35	No date		
1116	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 0.46m(W), 3m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.35	No date		
1117	Fill of 1118	Light greyish brown firm clayey silt with common small to medium round pebbles, medium angular flint.	-	0.35	No date		
1118	Cut of ditch	Wide linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. 1.72m(W), L3m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.35	No date		
1119	Fill of 1110	Very dark greyish brown compact silty clay with common small medium flint, occasional large angular flints.	0.25+	0.43	C1st BC – C1st AD		
1120	Fill of 1110	Very dark brownish grey compact silty clay with common small medium flint, occasional large angular flints.	0.13	0.48	No date		
1121	Fill of 1123	Mixed yellowish brown compact silty clay with common small orangey red flecks of daub and charcoal throughout.	0.38+	0.35	No date		
1122	Fill of 1123	Pale greyish brown compact silty clay with common pottery sherds.	-	0.35	No date		
1123	Cut of linear	Linear ditch aligned northeast – southwest. Cut by quarry pit/ditch terminus 1110. 0.69m(W), 10.83m+(L). Not fully excavated. Equivalent to 1112.	0.47m+	0.35	No date		
1124	Lower fill of 1110	Mixed yellow silty firm clay and darkish brown firm silty clay with common small to medium angular flints.	0.03-0.16+	0.35	No date		
1125	Geology	reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.05+	0.35	-		

- 4.13.3 A total of eight features were recorded in this trench. Ditches [1106], [1112/1123], [1116] and [1118] may represent the earliest phase of activity. All of these ditches were parallel, aligned north-east to south-west and contained pale fills. Pottery of indeterminate prehistoric date was recovered from ditch [1112]. This ditch and ditch [1118] appear to correlate to geophysical anomalies, and a continuation of ditches some of these ditches was evident in trench 14.
- 4.13.4 Cutting ditch [1112/1123] was a large quarry-like feature [1110] (Plate 9). The feature measured 5.26m in width and 6.42m+ in length, extending south beyond the limit of the trench. Daub, iron slag and pottery dated first century BC to first century AD was recovered from the fill. The extension of the ditch was successful in identifying the northern limit of this feature.
- 4.13.5 At the east of the trench, a further quarry pit [1104] was recorded (Plate 10). The feature extended beyond the limit of the trench but had a visible length of 4.23m. The recovery of fragments of peg-tile from the fill suggests a medieval or post-medieval date for this feature.
- 4.13.6 Two small undated pits [1108] and [1114] were also recorded.
- 4.13.7 A deposit of subsoil (1101) was preserved in the upper section of quarry pit [1104]. However elsewhere in the trench, subsoil did not survive, and the features were sealed directly by topsoil (1100).

4.14 Trench 12

- 4.14.1 Trench 12 was situated in field 2 and aligned north-east to south-west. The existing ground level varied between 69.75m OD at the south-west and 69.47m OD at the north-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 12.

Table 12. Trench 12 contexts

TR 12	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 69.47m OD (NE) – 69.75m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1200	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.28	-	Modern	
1201	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Mid brownish mid grey mid grey friable silty clay.	0.15-0.23	0.28	Post-medieval/modern	
1202	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.18+	0.29-0.35	-	
1203	Fill of 1204	Very pale grey friable clayey silt with occasional large rounded and angular flints.	0.14	0.40	No date	
1204	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned north – south. Concave profile. 0.92m(W), 2m+(L), 0.14(D)	0.14	0.40	No date	

4.14.2 A single ditch [1204] was recorded in this trench. Aligned north to south, the ditch contained a pale fill which produced no dateable material, perhaps indicating association with the earlier phase of activity. This ditch did not correspond to the mapped geophysical anomaly, and no feature was identified in that position.

4.14.3 The feature was sealed by subsoil measuring 0.23m thick, which was in turn sealed by topsoil (1200).

4.15 Trench 13

4.15.1 Trench 13 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 70.12 OD at the north-west and 69.88m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Trench 13 contexts

TR 13	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 70.12m OD (NW) – 69.88m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1300	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.23	-	Modern	
1301	Fill of 1303	Darkish grey brown compact silty clay with occasional small yellowish brown clay patches	0.13+	0.23	No date	
1302	Burnt lining of 1303	Baked hard clay lining, initially pale blueish grey, with concentric radiating rings of yellowish brown clay followed by an outer ring of orangey red burnt clay.	0.13+	0.23	No date	
1303	Possible furnace base	Likely circular fire pit/furnace base extending under the LOE. Sealed by subsoil 1300. Unexcavated.	0.13+	0.23	No date	
1304	Fill of 1305	Scorched orangey red clay.	-	0.23	No date	
1305	Possible furnace base	Likely circular fire pit/furnace base extending under the LOE. Sealed by subsoil 1300. Unexcavated.	-	0.23	No date	
1306	Upper fill of 1310	Greyish light brown firm silty clay with common small to medium subrounded and subangular flints.	0.18	0.23	No date	
1307	Fill of 1308	Darkish brown firm silty clay with an orangey red ring of burnt clay radiating out from the cut and deposit. Contained occasional small to medium iron slag lumps.	0.11	0.23	No date	
1308	Possible furnace base	Circular cut of a fire pit/furnace base. 39m(W), 0.40m(L), 0.11m(D).	0.11	0.23	No date	

TR 13		Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 70.12m OD (NW) – 69.88m OD (SE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1309	Lower fill of 1310	Greyish dark brown compact silty clay with common small angular flint and rare flecking with occasional small daub and iron slag lumps.	0.18	0.35	LBA/IA	
1310	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch north-south aligned. Likely forms curvilinear with ditch 704. 0.89(W), 2m+(L).	0.32	0.23	LBA/IA	
1311	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.04+	0.23	-	

4.15.2 A total of four features were recorded in this trench. Ditch [1310] was aligned north to south and produced iron slag and pottery dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age.

4.15.3 To the west, a cluster of three small, shallow possible furnace bases [1303, 1305 and 1308] was recorded. These features have been interpreted as such due to areas of *in situ* burning and discolouration to the surrounding natural deposits (Plate 11). Daub and iron slag was recovered from feature [1308] (Plate 12).

4.15.4 Subsoil was not present in this trench and all features were sealed directly by topsoil (1300).

4.16 Trench 14

4.16.1 Trench 14 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 71.83m OD at the north-west and 70.74m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 14.

4.16.2 The trench was extended to the south-east by a further 23.30m at the suggestion of the KCC HCG Principal Archaeologist. The aim of this extension was to determine whether feature [1110] in trench 11 continued in this direction.

Table 14. Trench 14 contexts

TR 14		Length: 53.3m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 71.83m OD (NW) – 70.74m OD (SE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1400	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.12	-	Modern	
1401	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Greyish mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium subangular and sub round flint.	0.13	0.13	Post-medieval/modern	
1402	Geology	Reddish and yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.10+	0.23-0.28	-	
1403	Void	Void	-	-	-	
1404	Fill of 1405	Greyish mid brown firm silty clay with rare medium daub and CBM fragments.	0.48	0.29	No date	
1405	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast to southwest. 1.70m(W), 2m+(L).	0.48	0.29	No date	
1406	Fill of 1407	Greyish mid brown firm silty clay with rare charcoal lumps.	0.20	0.32	No date	
1407	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast to southwest.	0.20	0.32	No date	
1408	Fill of 1409	Dark brownish friable silty clay with common small daub and iron slag lumps.	0.20	0.25	No date	
1409	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast to southwest. 1.20m(W), 2m+(L). Truncates ditch 1411.	0.20	0.25	No date	
1410	Fill of 1411	Greyish light brown friable silty clay with common small to medium subangular and sub round flint and common small to medium iron slag lumps.	0.18	0.25	No date	

TR 14	Length: 53.3m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 71.83m OD (NW) – 70.74m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1411	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned northeast to southwest. 1.26m(W), 2m+(L). Cut by ditch 1409.	0.18	0.35	No date	
1412	Cut of pit	Sub circular pit or posthole. Unexcavated. 0.47m(W), 0.50m(L).	-	0.35	No date	
1413	natural	Natural gravel deposit. Unexcavated.	-	0.23	-	
1414	natural	Natural gravel deposit. Unexcavated.	-	0.23	-	
1415	Fill of 1412	Dark brownish friable silty clay.	-	0.25	No date	
1416	Fill of 1417	Dark brownish friable silty clay.	-	0.25	No date	
1417	Cut of pit	Subcircular pit or post-hole. 0.61m(W), 0.72(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.25	No date	

4.16.3 A total of six features were identified in trench 14. Ditch [1411] may represent one of the earlier features in this trench. Aligned north-east to south-west, this ditch may equate to ditch [1112] in trench 11. On a similar alignment, ditches [1405] and [1407] may also correspond to features identified to the north. Ditch [1409] cut ditch [1411]. No dateable material was recovered from the ditches, although iron slag was recovered from [1409] and [1411]. The features broadly correspond to mapped geophysical anomalies.

4.16.4 Two subcircular pits [1412] and [1417] were also recorded.

4.16.5 All features were sealed by a deposit of subsoil (1401), measuring 0.13m thick, this was in turn sealed by topsoil (1400).

4.16.6 The extension to this trench was successful in confirming that features in trench 11 did not continue to the south.

4.17 Trench 15

4.17.1 Trench 15 was situated in Field 2 and aligned north-west to south-east. The existing ground level varied between 70.85m OD at the north-west and 70.91m OD at the south-east. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 15.

Table 15. Trench 15 contexts

TR 15	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 70.85m OD (NW) – 70.91m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1500	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.10	-	Modern	
1501	Subsoil/ buried plough soil	Greyish mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium subangular and sub round flint. 8m+ (NW-SE).	0.08	0.10	Post-medieval/modern	
1502	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.11+	0.19	-	
1503	Fill 1504	Mottled grey with brownish-orange silty clay with common small subangular flint.	0.13	0.36	No date	
1504	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned west – east. 0.69m(W), 6m+(L)	0.13	0.36	No date	
1505	Fill of 1506	Greyish light to mid brown firm silty clay with common small pebbles and occasional small to medium subangular and subrounded flint.	0.31	0.41	No date	
1506	Cut of possible quarry pit	Amorphous pit, possibly multiple intercutting pits. measured 5.84m+ (NW-SE) and 2m+ (NE-SW).	0.31	0.41	No date	

- 4.17.2 Two features were recorded in this trench. Linear ditch [1404], aligned west to east, contained a pale fill, and on this basis may represent the earlier phase of activity. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.
- 4.17.3 To the west, a large irregular feature [1506] was recorded. The feature extended beyond the limit of the trench but had visible dimensions of 5.84m (NW-SE) by 2m (NE-SW). This feature is undated.
- 4.17.4 Subsoil deposits (1501) survived at the west of the trench but petered out towards the east. Topsoil (1500) completed the sequence.

4.18 Trench 16

- 4.18.1 Trench 16 situated in Field 2 and aligned north-east to south-west. The existing ground level varied between 71.25m OD at the north-east and 71.78m OD at the west. A summary of recorded contexts is presented in Table 16.

Table 16. Trench 16 contexts

TR 16 Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 71.25m OD (NE) – 71.78m OD (SW)					
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1600	Topsoil /agricultural horizon	Dark Brownish grey friable and loose silty clay.	0.26	-	Modern
1601	Geology	Yellowish light brown firm and friable silty clay with occasional gravel pockets.	0.08+	0.26	-
1602	Fill of 1603	Greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small flecks of manganese and pottery sherds.	-	0.29	LBA/IA
1603	Cut of pit or post-hole	Subcircular pit or post-hole. 0.61m(W), 0.48m(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.29	LBA/IA
1604	Fill of 1605	Greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to medium subangular and subrounded flint.	-	0.31	No date
1605	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch northwest - southeast aligned ditch. 0.45m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.31	No date
1606	Fill of 1607	Brownish pale grey firm silty clay with occasional small angular flint.	-	0.29	No date
1607	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch northwest - southeast aligned ditch. 0.73m(W), 2m+(L). Unexcavated.	-	0.29	No date
1608	Upper fill of 1611	Dark greyish brown firm clayey silt with occasional small charcoal, daub and burnt flint fragments. Contained occasional pottery sherds.	0.27	0.22	LBA/IA
1609	Mid fill of 1609	Mottled very light brown with mottled yellowish grey firm silty clay. Contained rare small to medium angular flints and rare pottery sherds.	0.08-0.22	-	C1st BC – C1st AD
1610	Lower fill of 1611	Mottled pale grey and greyish orange firm silty clay. rare small sherds of pottery.	0.23	-	LBA/IA
1611	Cut of ditch terminus	Linear ditch terminus approximately northwest - southeast aligned ditch. Sloping profile with steep and straight edges and a flat base.	0.56	0.22	C1st BC – C1st AD

- 4.18.2 A total of four features was recorded in trench 16. Two parallel linear ditches aligned north-west to south-east [1605] and [1607] may represent the earlier phase of activity on the basis of each containing pale fills. However, no dateable material was recovered. Positioned between these ditches was a sub-circular post-hole [1603] which produced pottery dated late Bronze age/iron Age.

- 4.18.3 To the west, a possible ditch terminus [1611] was recorded. Aligned west to east, this feature produced pottery dated first century BC to first century AD.
- 4.18.4 No subsoil deposits survived in this trench and all features were sealed by topsoil (1600).
- 4.18.5 No geophysical anomalies were mapped for this trench.

5 Finds

5.1 Quantification and provisional dating

- 5.1.1 A significant assemblage of bulk finds was recovered during the evaluation (Table 17). The assemblage includes iron slag, and pottery dating from the late Bronze Age/Iron Age period and the first century BC to the first century AD. The recovery of these artefacts suggest that settlement and industrial-type activities were taking place at the site.

Table 17. Bulk finds assemblage

Trench	Context	Material/Type	Spot-date	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	108	Slag	-	1	11
2	202	Pottery	mid-late C1st AD	4	45
2	202	Pottery	LBA/IA	2	14
2	202	Slag	-	14	2016
	202	Flint	-	2	56
2	202	Charcoal	-	2	<1
2	202	VFA	-	27	278
2	202	CBM	-	2	38
2	204	Pottery	LBA/IA	17	105
2	204	Pottery	mid-late C1st AD	17	111
2	204	Slag	-	8	399
2	204	CBM	-	6	11
2	206	Pottery	LBA/IA	18	148
2	206	Pottery	C1st AD	1	8
2	206	Slag	-	15	1344
2	206	Charcoal	-	2	6
3	302	Slag	-	4	143
3	304	Pottery	LBA/IA	1	5
3	304	slag	-	1	289
4	402	CBM	-	2	8
4	403	Flint	-	2	8
5	503	Slag	-	16	915
5	503	Flint	-	1	31
5			C1st BC-C1st AD		
	505	Pottery		15	228
5	505	Slag	-	1	<1
5	507	Pottery	mid-late C1st AD	274	1927
5	507	Pottery	?LIA/EROM	40	342
5	507	Pottery	?LBA/IA	1	2
5	507	Pottery	LBA/IA	6	61
5	507	Slag	-	5	105
5	507	Flint	-	2	7
5	507	Flint	-	1	82
5	510	Pottery	mid-late C1st AD	65	473
5	510	Pottery	?LIA/EROM	29	421
5	510	Flint	-	1	15
5	606	Pottery	Mid C1st AD	30	314
8	806	Slag	-	3	171
8	806	Charcoal	-	1	<1
8	806	CBM	-	3	3
9	904	Slag	-	13	635
9	905	CBM	-	3	10
9	905	Slag	-	13	544
10	1013	Pottery	C1st-C2nd AD	20	200
10	1013	Pottery	LBA/IA	11	160
10	1013	CBM	-	2	17

11	1103	Slag	-	1	124
11	1103	CBM	-	1	46
11	1109	Slag	-	21	1035
11	1109	CBM	-	2	45
11	1109	VFA	-	1	24
11	1111	Pottery	-	1	26
11	1111	CBM	-	1	3
11	1119	Pottery	C1st BC-C1st AD	1	1
11	1119	Slag	-	10	307
11	1121	Slag	-	11	917
11	1121	CBM	-	1	13
11	1121	Flint	-	1	1
13	1307	Slag	-	6	660
13	1309	Pottery	LBA/IA	1	12
13	1309	Slag	-	5	216
13	1309	CBM	-	1	14
14	1405	Slag	-	6	925
14	1405	CBM	-	2	19
14	1405	VFA	-	1	15
14	1407	Flint	-	1	16
14	1411	Slag	-	1	66
14	1411	CBM	-	19	382
16	1602	Pottery	LBA/IA	1	13
16	1608	Pottery	C1st BC-C1st AD	11	26
16	1608	CBM	-	1	40
16	1608	Slag	-	1	8
16	1609	Pottery	LBA/IA	6	144
16	1609	Pottery	C1st BC-C1st AD	1	6
16	1610	Pottery	LBA/IA	2	5

6 Conclusion

6.1 Interpretation

- 6.1.1 The local topography of the PDA is that of an undulating landscape with Fields 2 and 4 situated on slight plateaus. With views over the surrounding landscape, it is thought that these features may have presented favourable positions for past activities represented at the site (Plates 13–17).
- 6.1.2 Natural geological deposits comprising head gravel, silt and sand, were observed in all trenches. A deposit of colluvium was recorded in the area around trenches 2–6 in Field 4. In Field 2, underlying geological head deposits of gravel, silt and sand, were recorded at a height ranging between 69.07m OD and 71.60m OD at a depth of between 0.23m to 0.50m below present ground level. In Field 4, natural geology was recorded at 61.60m OD to 66.57m OD at a depth of between 0.16m to 0.43m.
- 6.1.3 At least two main phases of archaeological activity were represented at the site, and evident in both fields. These phases have been characterised by presence/absence of artefactual material, fill types and, where present, stratigraphic relationships. The earliest phase of activity appears to be represented by features infilled with pale, sterile deposits. These features may be associated with pottery broadly dated late Bronze Age / Iron Age, which was largely recovered from later features. A later phase, characterised by pottery dated to the late Iron Age / early Roman period appears to be represented by features with dark carbon-rich fills containing pottery, daub and iron slag.
- 6.1.4 The earliest phase is principally represented by a series of linear ditches, all on a broad north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east alignment. Ditches [110] and [305] in Field 4 may date to this phase. Similarly, in Field 2, ditches [804], [809], [1002], [1008], [1106], [1112],

[1116], [1118], [1204], [1405], [1407], [1411], [1504], [1605] and [1607]. It is suggested that these features represent a coaxial field system of late Bronze Age to Iron Age date.

- 6.1.5 The majority of the remaining features are associated with the later phase of activity dated to the later Iron Age and early Roman periods. It was notable that there was a correlation between the geophysical anomalies and the features associated with this phase. This is likely a result of the nature of the fill content and the high presence of iron slag.
- 6.1.6 Activity during this later phase is more complex. Geophysical data, supported by the results of this evaluation, suggests the presence of a large, ditched enclosure in the western area of Field 2. This enclosure extended to the west beyond the site limit. The extension to trench 8 confirmed that one enclosure ditch terminated at this point, suggesting the position of a south-east facing entrance. A small number of other features were recorded within the interior of the enclosure. However, evidence for a large quarry-type feature and potential metalworking was situated outside of the enclosure.
- 6.1.7 In Field 4, geophysical and evaluation results suggest a second enclosure. In this instance the enclosure appears to be rectangular in plan. However, excavated ditches suggest a slightly different layout to that indicated by the geophysical survey. There was no direct evidence of metalworking within this area, but metalworking waste was recovered from several features, suggesting contemporary or continuing industrial activities. The discovery of a structured deposit within trench 5, and the recovery of quality early Roman pottery from features in trench 2 is also notable. Parallel ditches to the north-west of the enclosure and geophysical anomalies to the south-east, all on a similar alignment, may indicate the presence of an associated trackway. It is worth noting that the alignment of this potential trackway leads to the site of Rodmersham Roman villa which is situated approximately 1km to the south-east (Plate 17).
- 6.1.8 Later activity at the site was represented by the possible medieval / post-medieval quarry in trench 11, and modern features in trench 1.
- 6.1.9 Archaeological features sealed by the colluvium deposit in Field 4 have been well preserved. However, it was evident that agricultural activities are impacting on some areas of the archaeological resource. In Field 2, trenches 7–11, 13, 15 and 16 recorded no or partial survival of subsoil, this indicating that the resource is gradually being truncated in this area.

6.2 Statement of Significance

- 6.2.1 The evaluation has identified evidence for a possible coaxial field system of late Bronze age to Iron Age date, which is of local significance. Currently there is sparse evidence for Bronze Age and earlier activity in the locality. The recovery of pottery of this date may also indicate the presence of a nearby settlement.
- 6.2.2 The discovery of enclosures within both fields, along with associated features, evidence for metalworking and other artefactual material dating to the late Iron Age to early Roman period is of particular significance. With the exception of Rodmersham Roman villa, there are few discoveries of Iron Age and Roman date recorded in the area. However, discoveries of iron-working sites of this date in this region of the North Downs are now coming to light, which are considered to be of regional significance (Simon Mason pers comm).

6.3 Development impact

- 6.3.1 Archaeological features of local and regional significance were recorded across the Fields 2 and 4 within the PDA. The archaeological resource lies at a depth ranging between 0.23m and 0.5m in Field 2 and 0.16m and 0.43m in Field 4.

6.3.2 The proposed development of the site as a solar farm is to include the installation of ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays, a control house, substations, grid connection equipment, storage containers, site access including gates and internal access tracks, other ancillary infrastructure, and landscaping. As such any ground reduction and groundworks associated with this development will likely impact upon the archaeological resource.

6.4 Confidence rating

6.4.1 The evaluation is considered to have satisfactorily determined the nature, character, depth and extent of archaeology surviving within the two study areas.

6.4.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted under fair weather and normal ground conditions.

6.4.3 The overall confidence rating is good.

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Appendix 1. Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Pitstock Solar Farm	
Site Address: Pitstock Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent ME9 0QP	
Summary: A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Pitstock Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP (centred NGR 591589 160090) between 29 July and 6 August 2024. The work was commissioned by Stantec Ltd on behalf of their client Voltaia UK Ltd in support of proposals for the development of the land as a solar farm (Planning Ref. 24/500125/FULL). The proposed development area had previously been subject to geophysical survey, which was undertaken in November 2023 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The results of the survey identified a cluster of potential archaeological features within two areas (Fields 2 and 4). The archaeological evaluation comprised a total of 16 trenches. Ten trenches were cut in Field 2 and six trenches in Field 4, each positioned to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.	
District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council	Parish: Rodmersham
Period(s): Late Bronze Age/Iron Age, late Iron Age to early Roman, post-Medieval and Modern	
NGR: 591589 160090 (centered)	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 28/08/2024	
Unit undertaking recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust	
Geology: Head deposits of gravel, silt and sand	
Title and author of accompanying report: Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent ME9 0QP. Archaeological evaluation report. CAT report no. 2024/103 Jamie Purnell and Tania Wilson	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate): The local topography is that of an undulating landscape with Fields 2 and 4 situated on slight plateaus. In Field 2, underlying geological head deposits of gravel, silt and sand, were recorded at a height ranging between 69.07m OD and 71.60m OD. In Field 4, a deposit of colluvium was recorded which sealed similar head deposits. Here, natural geology was recorded at 61.60m OD to 66.57m OD. Archaeological features were identified in each trench, with linear features, pits and possible furnace-related features all represented. At least two phases of activity are represented at the site, the earliest of which may represent a series of ditched enclosures associated with a field system. Pottery dated to the later Bronze Age / Iron Age period was recovered, which may be related to this phase of activity. In Field 2, ditches were identified which corresponded to the geophysical anomalies. Together the evidence suggests that an entrance to a large ditched enclosure at the west of the area is represented. Contemporary features situated within the interior and to the exterior of the enclosure, were all recorded, including a potential quarry feature and evidence for possible furnace bases. Further evidence for metalworking associated with this phase was provided by the presence of iron slag in many of the features. Pottery recovered suggests a late first century BC to first century AD date for this activity. To the east in Field 4, small pits and linear ditches were identified. These may represent a rectangular enclosure in this area, with perhaps evidence for a trackway continuing beyond to the south-east. The activity in this area appears to be broadly contemporary with the later phase in Field 2. Iron slag was recovered from several features in this area and a similar date range is represented by the pottery. One large possible quarry feature of post-medieval date was recorded in trench 11 and modern features were identified in trench 1. The results of the evaluation identified a correspondence between the geophysical anomalies and the features containing quantities of metalworking waste. However, features with no metalworking waste and those of earlier date were not identified by the geophysical survey. The local topography, in combination with truncation due to agricultural activity, has resulted in a variation in the depth below present ground level of the archaeological horizon. In Field 2 archaeological features survived at a depth of between 0.23m to 0.50m, and in Field 4 between 0.16m to 0.43m.	

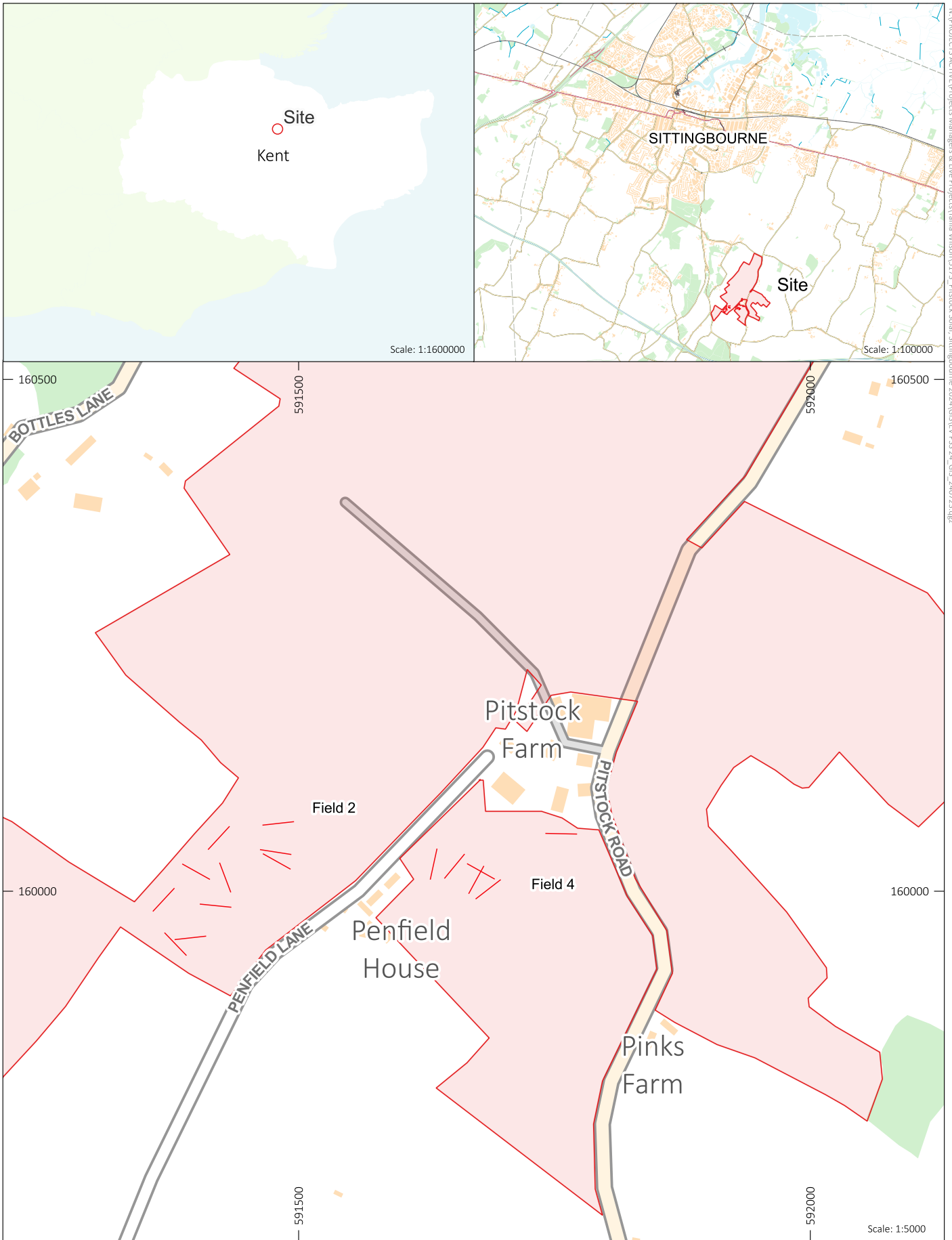
Location of archive/finds: Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU	
Contact at Unit: Tania Wilson	Date: 28/08/2024

OASIS Summary for canterbu3-527672

OASIS ID (UID)	canterbu3-527672
Project Name	Evaluation at Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent ME9 0QP
Sitename	Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent ME9 0QP
Sitecode	EV PSS 24
Project Identifier(s)	Pitstock Solar Farm, Rodmersham, Kent
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/500125/FULL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	29-Jul-2024 - 06-Aug-2024
Location	Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent ME9 0QP NGR : TQ 91589 60090 LL : 51.30767219735252, 0.747351901483359 12 Fig : 591589,160090
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Kent Local Authority District : Swale Parish : Rodmersham
Project Methodology	A total of 16 evaluation trenches were cut, each positioned to target anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey.
Project Results	At least two phases of activity are represented at the site, the earliest of which may represent a series of ditched enclosures associated with a field system. Pottery dated to the later Bronze Age / Iron Age period was recovered, which may be related to this phase of activity. In Field 2, ditches were identified which corresponded to the geophysical anomalies. Together the evidence suggests that an entrance to a large ditched enclosure at the west of the area is represented. Contemporary features situated within the interior and to the exterior of the enclosure, were all recorded, including a potential quarry feature and evidence for possible furnace bases. Further evidence for metalworking associated with this phase was provided by the presence of iron slag in many of the features. Pottery recovered suggests a late first century BC to first century AD date for this activity. To the east in Field 4, small pits and linear ditches were identified. These may represent a rectangular enclosure in this area, with perhaps evidence for a trackway continuing beyond to the south-east. The activity in this area appears to be broadly contemporary with the later phase in Field 2. Iron slag was recovered from several features in this area and a similar date range is represented by the pottery. One large possible quarry feature of post-medieval date was recorded in trench 11 and modern features were identified in trench 1.
Keywords	Coaxial Field System - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Enclosed Settlement - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Metal Working Site - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Other utilities or infrastructure company Voltalia Ltd
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work	Tania Wilson
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 01 Sep 2024, 11:58




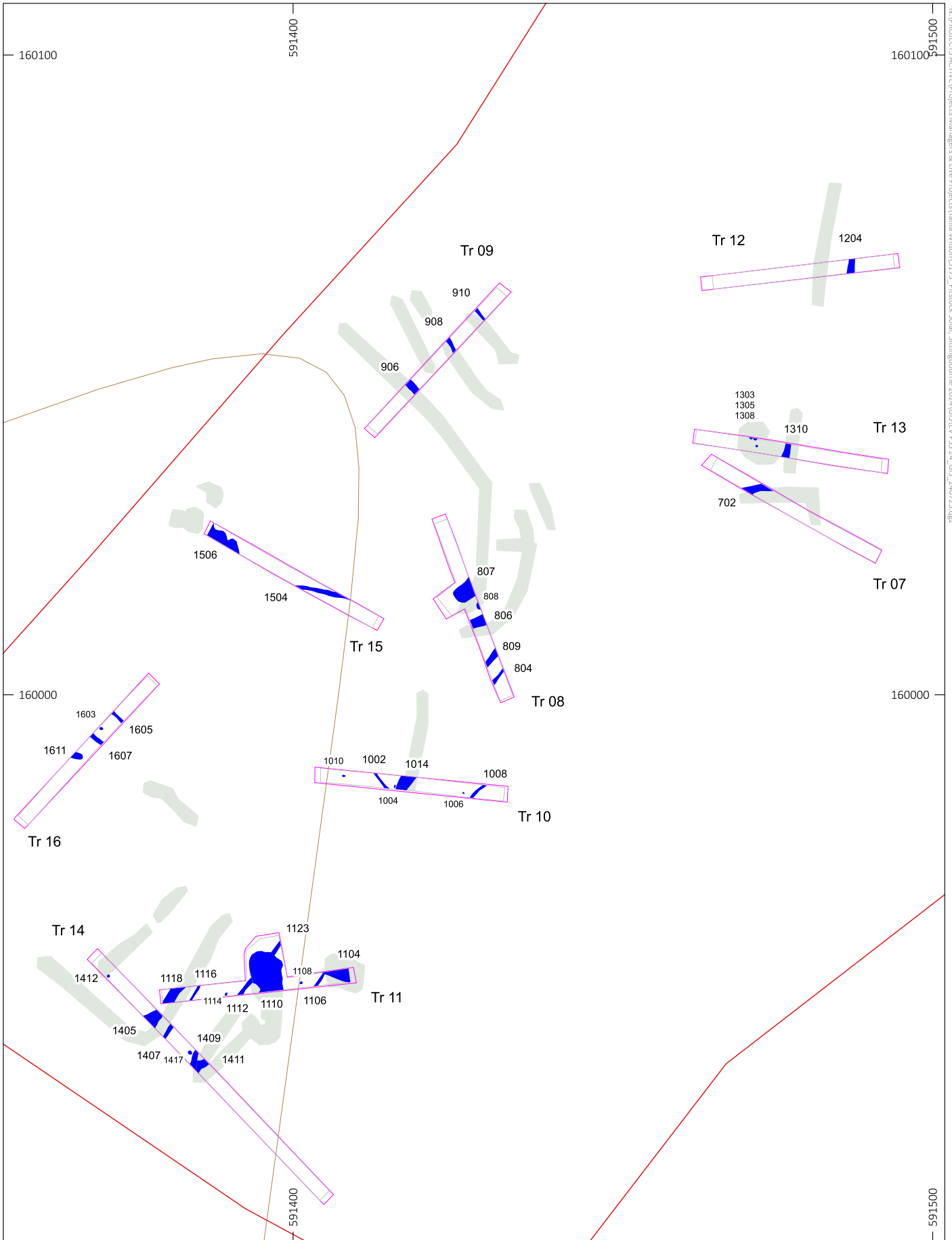
 <p>Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU</p> <p>t: 01227 462062 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk w: canterburytrust.co.uk</p>	<p>PROJECT Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP</p>	<p>DRAWN BY TW</p>	<p>SCALE(S) 1:5000@A4</p>	
	<p>COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2024. CRS: OSGB36 / British National Grid</p>	<p>DATE 15/08/2024</p>	<p>LAST REVISION -/-/-</p>	<p>CHECKED -</p>
	<p>REF/DRG NO. EVSS 24_Fig01</p>	<p>0 0.075 0.15 km</p>		
	<p>Legend: Proposed Development Area Evaluation trench</p>			

Figure 1. Site and trench location.





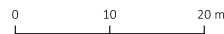




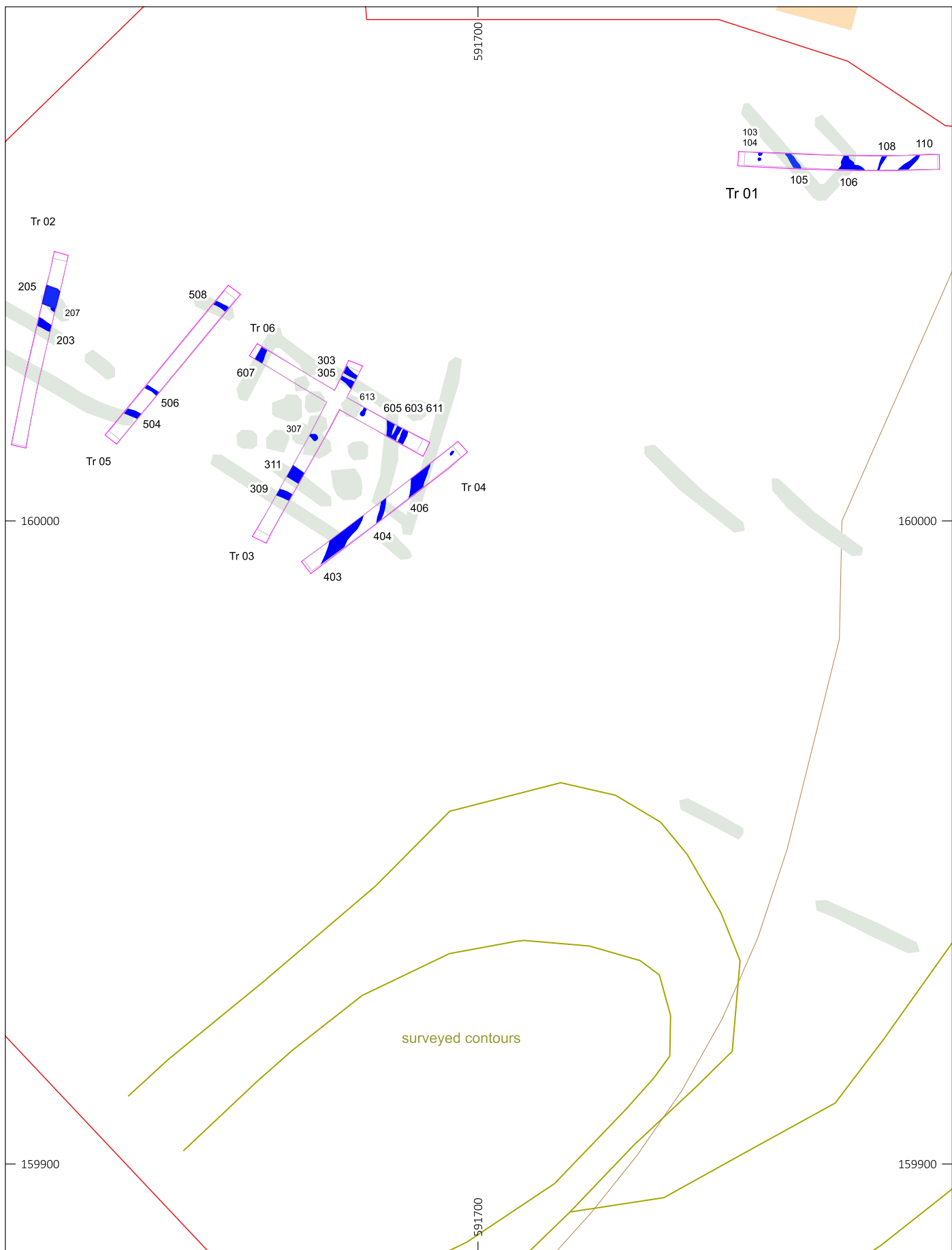
 <p>Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU</p> <p>t: 01227 462062 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk w: canterburytrust.co.uk</p>	<p>PROJECT Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP</p>	<p>DRAWN BY TW</p>	<p>SCALE(S) 1:800@A4</p>	  <ul style="list-style-type: none">  trench  feature  geophysical anomalies  contours
	<p>COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2024.</p>	<p>DATE 21/08/2024</p>	<p>LAST REVISION 20/08/2024</p>	
	<p>CHECKED —</p>			
	<p>REF/DRG NO. EV PSS 24_Fig02</p>			

Figure 2. Field 2 results



PROJECT Pitstock Solar Farm, Pitstock Road, Rodmersham, Kent, ME9 0QP	DRAWN BY TW	SCALE(S) 1:800@A4
COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2024.	DATE 21/08/2024	LAST REVISION 20/08/2024
	CHECKED —	
	REF/DRG NO. EV PSS 24_Fig03	

Legend:

- trench
- feature
- geophysical anomalies
- contours

0 10 20 m

Figure 3. Field 4 results



Plate 1. Field 2, looking north-east.



Plate 2. Field 4, looking south-east.



Plate 3. Trench 1, looking east. Scale 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 5. Structured deposit in ditch [508], showing upper vessel with large flint nodule. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 5. Trench 5, representative section 5.1 showing soil sequence. Scale 1m.



Plate 6. Trench 8, enclosure ditch terminus [807], looking north-east. Scale 2m.



Plate 7. Trench 9, enclosure ditch [906], looking north-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 8. Trench 10, representative section 10.1. Scale 1m.



Plate 9. Trench 11, quarry pit [1110] and ditch [1112], looking south-west. Scale 2m by 1m.



Plate 10. Trench 11, intervention in quarry pit [1104], looking north-east. Scale 1m.



Plate 11. Trench 13, furnace bases [1303] and [1305], looking north. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 12. Trench 13, furnace base [1308], looking north. Scale 1m.



Plate 13. Topography of south-west corner of Field 2, looking north-west.



Plate 14. Topography of Field 2 with views towards The Swale and the Isle of Sheppey, looking north-west.



Plate 15. Topography of Field 2, looking north-east.



Plate 16. Topography of Field 4, looking north-east.



Plate 17. Topography of Field 4, looking east with views towards the site of Rodmersham Roman villa at Kingsdown.