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HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL,
HERNE BAY, KENT
NEW ALL WEATHER PITCH

An Archaeological Excavation
Interim Site Narrative

Site Code: HAT 504
Parish: Herne & Broomfield
District: Canterbury
NGR: TR 1670 6690

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust



HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
Report No. 996

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(616 745, 166 920)

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HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, HERNE BAY, KENT NEW ALL WEATHER PITCH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

During September 2001, HAT carried out an archaeological excavation of part of the site of a new all weather sports pitch at Herne Bay High School, Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent.

Numerous cut features were recorded throughout the area of excavation, including linear ditches on differing alignments, dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. This evidence ties in with previous excavations to the east of Bullockstone Road, which revealed elements of a multi-period landscape, the principal features of which related to extensive late Iron Age/Romano-British field systems and associated occupation situated on the crest of the hill. Previous works by HAT on other areas of the High School site revealed a continuation of a previously-identified prehistoric trackway/holloway and a number of related features of possible Bronze Age/Iron Age date.

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Evaluation of the current site by HAT in early 2001 revealed extensive features of late Iron Age/Romano-British date to be present within the area of the proposed sports pitch.

↳ see KCC Heritage 2002/15.

The construction proposals for the sports pitch comprised some excavation of the sloping ground upon which the site is situated, with the remainder of the pitch to be 'raised' above existing levels. On this basis, the local planning authority required archaeological excavation of the areas of the pitch which were to be impacted by the proposed development, and preservation of archaeological remains in situ below the remainder of the sports pitch.

1 INTRODUCTION (Figs. 1 & 2)

1.1 During September 2001, the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological excavation of parts of a proposed new all-weather sports pitch at Herne Bay High School, Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent (NGR TR 1670 6690) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Chelstoke Educational Consultants on behalf of the Governors of the High School in advance of construction of the all-weather sports pitch, located partially over an area currently in use a football pitch. The archaeological excavation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by Kent County Council (based on advice from Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group) (KCC HCG).

1.2 The archaeological excavation was conducted in accordance with a specification prepared by KCC HCG (dated 7/8/01). All stages of the excavation complied with the specification, and with procedures and guidance contained within *Management of*

Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

1.3 An archaeological evaluation of the site in early 2000 confirmed the presence of archaeological features within the area of the proposed sports pitch (Boyer & Hounsell 2001). These mostly comprised ditches and pits, dated primarily to the late Iron Age (Belgic)/early Roman period (based on the diagnostic ceramic evidence). Following the results of the evaluation, KCC HCG required archaeological excavation of those archaeological features that could not be preserved *in situ* when the proposed all-weather sports pitch was constructed on the sloping site. The remainder of the area was to be preserved by stripping of the vegetational topsoil only, this surface sealed by a geotextile membrane and the pitch constructed on a hardcore base above this level.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The development area is located to the south-west of the centre of Herne Bay in the suburb of Greenhill (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the east by Bullockstone Road. The area of proposed development lies directly to the south of the existing, central tennis courts. The proposed development area covers an area of c.99m x 60m, at a height of c.15.8m, but slopes slightly down toward the east. Roughly two thirds of this area falls within the existing sports pitch which is currently in use by the school.

Geology, Soils and Topography

2.2 The soils on the site are undefined as it lies within an unsurveyed urban area. Soils of the Windsor association predominate directly to the south, comprising slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. Some fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils and, locally on slopes, clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging. The parent material is Tertiary (London) clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983). The north Kent coast lies some 1.3 km to the north. The site occupies a slightly crested location locally, before the terrain rises steeply once more to the south.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1998 on land abutting the east side of Bullockstone Road, immediately opposite the current development (Houlston, 1998) followed by further excavation (CAT, 2000). Topsoil stripping and mapping identified a high density and complexity of archaeological features. These were interpreted as representing two principal phases of activity on the basis of morphology and recovered finds. Regular patterns of linear trackways, possible enclosure ditches and associated pits and postholes all yielded pottery of an early Roman date. In addition a small number of Roman cremations were recorded. This complex of features was interpreted as comprising part of a large late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, though possible early Bronze Age features

and two possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ring ditches and associated pits were also recorded.

3.2 HAT had previously undertaken an initial archaeological assessment of the High School area. This investigation comprised the planning of archaeological features and surface collection of finds in three areas prior to the construction of a two-storey building (Block M) and temporary car park. The latter adjacent to Bullockstone Road was the only area that revealed archaeological features and finds, the other areas showing evidence for truncation related to the construction of the school. A substantial linear feature some 8-9 m. wide, aligned NW – SE, traversed the area of the temporary car park. This was interpreted as the continuation of a probable trackway/holloway mapped on the eastern side of Bullockstone Road by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (above). Small quantities of flint-tempered pottery were collected from the trackway and associated features, suggesting a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. The exposed archaeological features were covered with geotextile sheeting and carefully backfilled to preserve them *in situ*, by agreement with the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Adviser (advisor to the local planning authority on that particular project).

3.3 A programme of monitoring and recording was conducted by HAT between September 1999 and April 2000 (HAT, 2000a) along the line of new drainage works adjacent to Bullockstone Road and the mapped area from the previous evaluation (see above, 3.1). In addition to considerable disturbance due to recent landscaping, a ditch yielding pottery of a probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date was recorded. However, possibly as a result of the evident disturbance no trace of the possible trackway/holloway was recorded.

3.4 The first archaeological evaluation at the High School undertaken by HAT (HAT 2000c) examined areas (Block N) almost adjacent to the current proposed site. This evaluation revealed a number of features, primarily pits and ditches dated by ceramic evidence to the early-late Iron Age, which on the basis of ceramic finds placed the date of the features firmly in the early-late Iron Age.

3.4 As noted above, six evaluation trenches were excavated by HAT within the area of the proposed all-weather pitch in February 2001. These revealed features of primarily late Iron Age (Belgic)/early Roman date to be present within the site, with some possible earlier material of Bronze Age date identified.

3.6 Further work in the surrounding area has indicated the presence of both later prehistoric and Roman period activity, and clearly the area in which the current site lies fits in to the intensive pattern of settlement recognised within this part of the north Kent coast.

4 METHODOLOGY (Figs. 2 & 3)

4.1 The proposed all-weather pitch was situated in an area that sloped downwards to the south, and creation of a level pitch would involve the excavation of part of the pitch area and 'building up' of the lower part of the pitch area, thus effectively preserving archaeological features *in-situ* beneath it. KCC HCG required those parts of the all-weather than pitch that would affect buried archaeology to be subject to formal archaeological excavation. In practice, the areas that could not be preserved and were thus subject to formal excavation were a triangular, wedge-shaped strip in the northern part of the pitch, and the entire perimeter of the pitch where the new areas of floodlighting bases and service trenches were to be located.

4.2 The areas subject to archaeological excavation were stripped of overburden using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator. Topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision until the underlying natural drift deposits were visible. Thereafter, exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand as appropriate and further excavation undertaken manually. Identified deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. In addition, excavated spoil was checked for finds and a metal detector was used throughout the duration of the project.

4.2 The project complied with the KCC HCG Specification and Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, (1994, revised 1999).

4.3 The project was monitored on site by KCC HCG, who suggested the required sampling strategy. This strategy involved the sample excavation of the majority of linear features, in addition to representative samples of pit groups, examples of ill-defined features (to check if they were indeed tree-hollows) and any other significant features.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 The site revealed a common stratigraphy:

0.00 – 0.30m	L5001. Topsoil. Dark brown silty loam, with occasional flint pebbles, brick/tile fragments, occasional glass fragments and modern pottery sherds.
0.30 – 0.60m	L5002. Subsoil. Light brown, compact clayey silt, with occasional small, sub-angular flint pebbles.
0.60m+	L5003. London Clay. Mid yellow/brown stiff clay with occasional silt. Occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular flint pebbles.

Archaeological features

As described above, four 'arms' of excavation were undertaken. These are noted as; the northern triangular area of the proposed pitch, the eastern arm, western arm and southern arm. Each of these areas will be discussed separately.

NORTHERN AREA

Archaeological features comprising ditches and pits were recorded. These features are discussed separately from a west to east direction.

Nineteen ditches and twenty-seven pits were recorded for this particular section of the excavated area.

Ditches

Feature 5130 was a curvilinear ditch, approximately 1.60m wide and 0.18m in depth, aligned N/S. It exhibited regular sides and a shallow concave base. It contained a single fill (L5131) consisting of an orange/grey silty loam. Pottery (4g, dating to the mid to late 1st century AD to AD70), and burnt flint (36g) were found within the fill.

Feature 5136 was a narrow ditch with a rounded terminus measuring 1.11m in width and 0.16m in depth. Orientated NE/SW, the ditch had slightly concave sides which formed a shallow base. The terminus of the ditch was truncated by a modern pit or posthole that was filled with concrete at its northern edge. This ditch contained one fill (L5137) which was a light yellowish brown/grey silty clay. It contained medium-sized flint inclusions as well as pottery sherds (2g, mid 1st century AD to c. late 2nd century AD).

F5189 was a rectangular linear ditch that extended between the north and south main trench sections. It was 1.50m wide and 0.20m deep and was a moderate sloping ditch. Its fill (L5190) consisted of a mid grey-brown silty loam, probably re-deposited brick-earth. No finds were recovered from the feature.

A crescent-shaped feature (L5152) was a shallow ditch that measured 1.78m in width and 0.20m in depth. The concave sides broke to a flat base. Its fill (L5153) was similar to L5190. It contained occasional small flint pebbles and small charcoal fragments. Finds included pottery sherds (31g, mid 1st century BC to mid 4th century AD), burnt clay (4g) and burnt flint (11g).

Feature 5154 was as pit or ditch terminal. This shallow feature was 1.48m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill (L5155) consisting of a mid grey-brown silty loam, probably re-deposited brick-earth, which contained occasional small flint pebbles and small fragments of

charcoal. Finds included pottery sherds (39g, mid 1st century BC to mid 4th century AD), tile (3g) and burnt flint (21g).

Feature 5118 was likely a tree bole. It was generally shallow, with deeper irregular areas to the base. It was 5.90m wide and up to 0.27m deep. The fill (L5119) was a light orange/grey silty clay. Finds were residual and very degraded, including 3g of pottery dating from the mid 1st century AD to at least AD70, and 5g dating to c. AD 1720-1780.

A narrow shallow ditch (F5078) was excavated in three segments (2 termini and a section where the ditch was believed to have been cut by a pit). The ditch was V-shaped and was c.0.60m wide and around 0.18m deep. The fill (L5079) was a light brownish grey silty clay. Finds included pottery (16g, mid to late 1st century AD to early 2nd century AD) and burnt flint (33g).

Feature 5132 was a small shallow ditch with a flat base. It was 1.29m wide and 0.36m deep. Its fill (L5133) was re-deposited brick-earth which contained a number of finds. These included pottery sherds (143g, mid 1st century AD to AD70), burnt clay (10g), animal bone (35g), burnt flint (35g) and a small amount of struck flint (<1g).

Feature 5100 was a shallow ditch with a rounded terminus, which disappeared into the main trench section at its southern end. It was orientated north to south and was 1.81m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained one fill (5101) which was a light yellowish brown/grey silty grey clay. Pottery sherds were the only finds (32g, mid 1st century BC to at least AD70).

F5102 was a shallow ditch with a rounded terminus and orientated north-south. It was 1.56m wide and 0.18m deep and disappeared into the trench edge to the south. The ditch exhibited irregular sides breaking to a flat base and contained just one fill (L5103). The latter comprised a light yellowish brown/grey silty clay and contained pottery sherds (1g, mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5134 was a ditch with steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.32m wide and 0.29m deep, containing a mid grey/brown fill (L5135), probably a re-deposited brick-earth. Finds included 37g of pottery (mid 1st century AD to at least AD70), 9g of struck flint and 24g of burnt flint.

F5084 was a ditch terminal whose profile varied from shallow to moderately deep. It measured approximately 0.65m to 1m in width and 0.23m in depth. Its fill (L5085) consisted of an orange/dark grey silty clay and occasionally contained sub-angular flint pebbles. The ditch was excavated in two segments. Segment A contained 2g of pottery (mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD) and segment B contained 7g of pottery (mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5120 was a shallow ditch with a rounded terminus, V-shaped in profile and N/S alignment. It was 1.39m wide and 0.31m deep and disappeared into the trench edge to the south. It contained a light yellowish brown/grey silty clay fill (L5121) and a number of finds

were recovered from the fill. These included pottery (20g, mid to late 1st century BC to at least AD70), tile (2g), daub (5g) and burnt flint (12g).

A shallow ditch (F5086), orientated east/west, cut through a large irregular pit [F5088]. It exhibited steep sides and a concave base. The ditch was 1.25m wide and 0.27m deep and its fill (L5087) was a greyish brown/orange silty clay. Finds consisted of pottery (49g, AD5 to c. AD50 and mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD) and animal bone (9g), the latter which was in poor condition.

Feature 5175 was a large amorphous feature, which was excavated in two segments. It cut features that lay adjacent to it and the concave sides broke to a concave base. The feature measured around 10m in width and was 0.44m deep. Its fill (L5176) was a light grey silty grey and contained pottery sherds (18g, mid 1st century AD to at least AD 70).

Feature 5177 was a N/S aligned ditch. It was up to 1.7m wide and 0.2m deep. The fill (L5178) was a greyish orange silty clay, which very occasionally contained sub-angular flint pebbles. Finds included pottery (12g, mid to late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), tile (13g), a large amount of struck flint (75g) and burnt flint (93g).

Ditch 5170 was a linear N/S ditch measuring at least 8m in length and 1.5m wide. Sides sloped steeply to an undulating base. Its base was filled with dark grey fibrous, organic silty clay (L5171) which contained pottery (117g, late 1st century AD). The ditch was subsequently re-cut (F5185) and the light orange-brown silty clay fill (5172) of this new cut contained 4g of pottery dating from the mid-late 1st century BC to at least AD70.

A shallow, amorphous feature (F5173) (running E/W and measuring 7.7m in length and 1.5m in depth) cut both ditches F5171 and F5172. Feature F5173 was filled with light orange and mottled grey slightly fibrous silty clay (L5174), which contained pottery (23g, mid to late 1st century BC to at least AD70). The feature was likely a tree bole.

Feature 5163 was a shallow ditch aligned NE/SW, measuring 1.87m in width and 0.44m in depth. Its fill (L5164) consisted of a grey clay with organic matter. It was thought to be deliberate backfill and contained a large amount of finds. These included 39g of pottery (c. mid 1st century AD), tile (7g) and burnt flint (64g). The natural upper fill of the ditch, [5165], contained pottery (6g, mid 1st to late 2nd century AD date).

Feature 5166 was a rounded ditch with a regular terminus that disappeared into the trench edge to the SW. It was orientated NE/SW and measured 1.6m wide and 0.33m deep. Its fill (5167) was a light yellowish brown/grey silty clay that contained a moderate amount of flint inclusions. No finds were recorded within the feature.

5181 was a shallow ditch with a sub-circular terminus, orientated in an east-west direction. It was 1.45m wide and 0.24m deep with a fill (L5182) that consists of a yellowish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of flint inclusions. Finds included 21g of pottery (mid to late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), struck flint (14g) as well as a flint scraper (SF2).

Pits

Feature 5122 was a sub-circular pit, which was shallow with an undulating/flat base. It measured 1.34m wide and 0.18m deep and its relationship with an adjacent pit [F5128] was unclear. Its fill (L5123) was a yellowish brown/grey silty clay that occasionally contained flint inclusions. Finds included 4g of struck flint.

Adjacent to this feature was a moderate sub-circular pit [F5128]. It was 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep with a fill (L5129) consisting of a light yellowish brown/grey silty clay. It contained occasional flint inclusions but no finds.

Feature 5138 was a shallow oval pit that was orientated north/south. It measured 1.10m wide and 0.19m deep. Its fill (L5139) was a yellowish brown/clay silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. Finds included struck flint (21g).

Feature 5148 was a shallow oval/sub-circular pit that was 1.71m wide and 0.17m deep. It contained a single fill (L5149) that consisted of a reddish brown/grey silty clay.

A shallow sub-circular pit [F5140] measured 1m in width and 0.1m in depth. Its fill (L5141) was a greyish orange silty clay, which contained 6g of pottery (mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5142 was an oval shallow pit that was orientated in a NE/SW direction. It was 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (L5143), a greyish orange silty clay which contained 27g of pottery (c. AD 1375 – 1525).

To the east of [F5142] was a moderate irregular-shaped pit that could possibly be a tree bole [5146]. It measured 1.3m wide and was 0.17m deep. Its fill (5147) was a greyish orange silty clay. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5144 lay to the north of tree bole [F5146]. It was the cut of a ditch terminal, with shallow sides sloping down to a concave base. The ditch was 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep, filled with L5145, which was a greyish orange silty clay. It contained struck flint (26g), burnt flint (33g) and pottery (33g, mid 1st century AD to at least AD70).

Feature 5156 was a circular shallow pit, measuring 1.50m in width and 0.21m in depth. It contained one fill (5157) which was a mid grey-brown colour, probably re-deposited brick-earth. It contained occasional small flint pebbles and charcoal fragments. Finds included pottery (13g, mid to late 1st century BC to at least AD 70), tile (55g) and burnt flint (17g).

Feature 5074 was a moderate elliptical pit, orientated north/south. The pit measured 1.25m wide and 0.19m deep and its fill (L5075) was an orange/grey silty clay. Struck flint (23g) and pottery (3g, mid 1st century BC to AD70) were found in this fill.

To the southeast of the former feature was a shallow irregular pit [F5080]. It measured 1.13m wide and 0.18m deep and cut into a ditch [5078]. Its fill (L5081) was a light brownish grey silty clay and contained 8g of burnt flint.

Feature 5114 was a sub-circular moderate pit measuring 2.24m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained one fill (L5115), an orange/grey silty clay with finds including pottery (11g, mid-late 1st century BC to at least AD70) and struck flint (21g).

Feature 5116 was a moderate sub-circular pit with an irregular, flat base. It was 1.95m wide and 0.25m deep. Its fill (L5117) was a grey brown/orange silty clay. Pottery (13g, early 1st century AD to AD 100/110) was found in this deposit.

An oval pit with moderate slopes breaking to an irregular and undulating base [F5082] lay close by. This large pit measured 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep with a fill (5083) that consisted of light orange silty clay with a substantial dark grey mottling.

Feature 5110 was a shallow oval pit with regular sides breaking to a concave/flat base. It measured 0.9m in width and 0.1m deep, orientated north/south. It was likely a tree bole. The fill (L5111) was an orange/grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions.

Feature 5112 was an irregular oval pit with a concave base measuring c. 2m in width and 0.15m in depth. It was probably a tree bole, and contained a single fill (L5113). Pottery (3g, mid to late 1st century to at least AD 70) was recovered.

Feature 5187 was a sub-circular pit, which appears to cut through natural rooting to the southeast. It is a moderate pit with regular sides whose base is slightly rounded towards the centre, measuring 1.09m in width and 0.27m deep. Its fill (L5188) was a grey silty clay. A quantity of finds were found in this pit including pottery (99g, mid 1st century AD to at least AD 70), struck flint (4g), burnt flint (51g) and a piece of worked flint (SF3).

F5104 was possibly a shallow post-hole with regular sides. It measured 0.7m in length and 0.1m deep. Its fill (L5105) was a pale greyish orange silty clay and contained some pottery (11g, mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5124 was an irregular, shallow, sub-circular pit. It measured 1.60m wide and 0.24m deep. There was only one fill (L5125), an orange/grey silty clay. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5106 was a slightly round pit with regular concave sides and a concave base. It was either a very shallow posthole or a tree bole. It measured around 0.6m in length and 0.05m in depth. The fill (L5107) was a greyish orange silty clay. No finds were recovered.

F5108 was an oval shallow pit, possibly a posthole that forms part of a line. It exhibited irregular sides and a concave base. The feature was 0.65m deep and its fill (L5109) was a greyish orange silty clay. Finds included sparse pottery (3g, mid 1st century BC to at least AD70) and burnt flint (3g).

Feature 5126 was an elliptical, sub-circular pit whose concave sides broke to a flat base. It measured 1.75m in width and 0.15m deep. The fill (L5127) was a grey-orange silty clay, which contained find of pottery (23g, dating to the mid to late 1st century AD to at least AD70) and struck flint (36g).

F5161 was a shallow oval pit with regular concave sides, gradually breaking to a flat base. It was orientated NE/SW and was 1.78m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained one fill (L5162) which consisted of a grey/orange silty clay. Finds included pottery (3g, c. mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), struck flint (11g) and burnt flint (92g).

Feature 5158 was possibly an oval pit, partially obscured in the western and NE edge through rooting. It exhibited regular sides and a concave base. It was orientated east/west and cut [F5150]. It was 1.15m wide and 0.3m deep. Fill (L5159) is a greyish orange silty clay with finds of burnt clay (16g) and a large amount of burnt flint (163g).

Feature 5150 was a shallow pit (or possibly tree bole), cut by F5158. It had regular sides and a flat base, and was 1.4m+ wide and 0.17m deep. The fill (L5151) was a greyish orange silty clay and contained burnt flint (4g) and a flint blade (SF1).

Feature 5024 was a circular pit with regular sides and base which deepened toward the west. It measured 1.50m in width and reached a maximum depth of 0.36m. The fill (L5025) was a mottled grey/orange silty clay and contained sparse small chalk and charcoal inclusions. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5186 was a small, rounded pit with shallow sides sloping to a concave base. It measured 0.80m in width and 0.20m deep. The fill (L5160) was a greyish orange slightly friable silty clay which contained pottery (27g, mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5179 was a shallow pit. Its sides sloped to a regular flat base and it measured 0.94m wide and 0.23m deep. Its fill (L5180) was a mid-dark grey soil, consisting of a mix of silts and re-deposited brick-earth. It contained sparse inclusions of small sub-angular and rounded flint pebbles. Finds included pottery (39g, mid to late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), struck flint (<1g) and a large amount of burnt stone (127g).

Feature 5168, much like [F5179], was partially revealed within the trench. It was a medium-sized pit or possible a ditch terminus whose concave sides sloped to a flat base. It measured 1.25m in width and 0.30m in depth. The fill (L5169) was a mid grey/brown soil, probably re-deposited brick-earth with occasional small sub-angular and rounded flint pebble inclusions. Finds consisted of pottery (7g, c. mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

EASTERN ARM

Archaeological features comprising ditches and pits were recorded. These features are discussed separately from a north to south direction.

Ditches

Feature 5026 was a curvilinear ditch with regular sides and a slightly undulating base. It was 0.95m wide and 0.19m deep. It was aligned NE-SW, and filled with F5027, a mottled grey/orange silty clay which contained no recorded finds.

Feature 5040 was a moderate irregular-shaped ditch with steep sides and a flat base. It was 0.69m wide and 0.23m deep. Its fill was a mid-greyish brown soil, probably re-deposited brick-earth, and contained occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and charcoal flecks. No finds were recorded for this feature.

Feature 5036 was a steep-sided pit or ditch terminal with a flat base, some 1.32m wide and 0.32m deep. The fill (L5037) was a mid-greyish brown deposit, probably derived from re-deposited brick-earth. It occasionally contained small to medium sized sub-angular flint pebbles and fine flecks of charcoal. Pottery (4g, mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD) was recorded in this fill.

Feature 5058 was similar to [F5156] and was a moderate rectangular ditch whose concave sides slope to a rounded base. It was a drainage ditch, which has been heavily truncated on the northern side by [F5060], with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch was 1.23m wide and 0.32m deep and contained just one fill (L5059). The latter was a mid-greyish/brown re-deposited brick-earth, containing a moderate inclusion of small fragments of charcoal and occasional small fragments of sub-angular flint pebbles. Pottery (59g, c. 1225 – 1350 AD) was recovered from the fill.

Feature 5056 was a ditch with an eroded V-profile. It was 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep. Its fill (L5057) was a mid greyish/brown re-deposited brick-earth. It contained occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and small fragments of charcoal. Finds included a large amount of pottery (110g, mid-late 1st century AD) and struck flint (9g).

Feature 5034 exhibited a similar profile. A ceramic land drain was contained in its base. The ditch was 1.42m wide and 0.51m deep. The fill (L5035) was a mid-grey/brown silty clay. The drain-pipe was made of orange clay (with few inclusions) and oval shaped with a joining seam running the length of the outside wall. Its thickness varied along the length. Finds included pottery (8g, c. mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), tile (25g), clay pipe stem (<1g). The presence of the land drain could be coincidental, but the different alignment of this ditch compared to the majority of others on the site suggests that it is a recent feature.

5008 was a NE/SW aligned ditch, with moderately steep sides and an eroded, V-profile. It was 1m wide and 0.16m deep. It is possible that the ditch was cut by F5010. The fill (L5009) was a grey/orange silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. Two sherds of pottery (11g) dating to the mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD were recorded in this deposit.

Feature 5010 was a pit or possible tree bole. It measured c.1.5m in length and 0.16m deep, with shallow, irregular sides sloping to a concave base. Its fill (L5011) contained pottery (6g, mid 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD).

Feature 5052 was a NE/SW aligned linear ditch with steep sides and an irregular base. It measured 1.40m wide and 0.50m deep. The fill (L5053) was a mottled orange/grey silty clay with no recorded finds.

Feature 5016 was a moderate linear ditch with irregular sides that break to a concave and sloping base. It measured 0.39m wide and 0.18m deep. A single fill (L5017) consisted of a light orange/brown silty clay. Quantities of finds were recovered, including pottery (46g), fired clay (2g), tile (2g) and struck flint (8g). Two sherds of pottery dated to the mid-late 1st century BC to AD 70. The third sherd dated from the late medieval period. All the pottery was heavily abraded.

5014 was a shallow linear feature with irregular sides, breaking to a concave base. It was 0.61m wide and 0.13m deep. Its fill (L5015) was a dark brown/grey silty clay with occasional small chalk inclusions. Finds recorded included pottery (1g) dating to the mid 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD, daub (1g) and tile (2g).

Pits

Feature 5024 was a sub-circular pit with moderately sloping sides and a slightly sloping base. It was 1.50m wide and 0.36m deep. The fill (L5025) was a mottled grey/orange silty clay which vary occasional small chalk and charcoal inclusions. No finds were recorded.

5044 was a circular pit with steep sides and a flat base. It was 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep and appeared to be cut by F5041. The fill (L5045) was a mid-greyish/brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Feature 5042 was interpreted as a small pit or shallow scoop of post-mediaeval/recent date and was circular in plan. Its sides were moderately steep and it exhibited a rounded base. It was 0.58m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with a mid-greyish/brown silty clay (L5043). The deposit contained occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and small fragments of charcoal. Finds included late 18th/19th century pottery (3g).

Feature 5048 was interpreted as another posthole and was sub-circular in shape. It had moderately steep sides and flattish base, measuring 0.59m in diameter and 0.18m deep. The fill (L5049) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

F5046 was also a possible posthole. It was circular in plan and its concave sides broke to a flat base. Its diameter was 0.63m and it was 0.28m deep. Its fill (L5047) was a mid-greyish/brown silty clay. No finds were recorded from the feature.

Feature 5022 was a shallow oval pit with steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.65m wide and 0.55m deep and was filled with a single deposit (L5023). This fill was mid-grey/brown silty clay with occasional small fragments of charcoal and flint pebbles. No finds were recorded for this feature.

F5060 was a large pit or possible natural feature, with steep sides and a flat base. It was 3.32m in diameter and 0.37m deep. Its fill (L5061) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay. Finds included pottery (17g, mid-late 1st century BC to late 1st century AD) and daub (<1g).

F5012 was a shallow circular pit with regular sides and a concave base. It was 0.90m in length and 0.12m deep. This feature is thought to cut [F5010]. The fill (L5013) was an orange/grey to black silty clay that contained large amounts of charcoal and burnt clay. Charcoal was probably burnt *in situ* as illustrated by a layer of burnt red clay lining the pit. Finds included a piece of daub (1g).

Feature 5020 was oval in plan and could possibly have been a root hole. It exhibited irregular sides that slope to a concave base. The feature was 0.15m wide and 0.06m deep. Its fill (L5021) was a grey/brown silty clay and no finds were recorded.

Feature 5018 was a moderate circular pit with irregular sides, which sloped down to the west. Its diameter was 0.30m and 0.13m deep. The relationship with F5016 was unclear, but it almost certainly cut the latter. Its fill (L5019) was an orange/brown silty clay and contained post-mediaeval pottery (3g, c. 1550-1800AD) and tile (11g).

SOUTHERN ARM

A single archaeological feature was interpreted as a ditch. A number of ceramic land drains were also present.

Feature F5050 was a N/S aligned linear ditch that is orientated north/south, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.10m wide and 0.45m deep, filled with a pale greyish orange silty clay (L5051) which contained a large quantity of brick (206g).

WESTERN ARM

Archaeological features comprising ditches and pits were recorded, and are discussed from north to south.

Ditches

Feature 5098 was a shallow rectangular ditch, which could possibly be a continuation of F5130, though with a different profile. It had moderately steep sides and flat base, and was 0.73m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (L5099) was a mid-grey/brown silty clay soil, which contained no finds.

Feature 5096 was a shallow rectangular ditch with concave sides and flat base. The fill (L5097) was a mid greyish brown silty clay, containing occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles. No finds were recovered.

Feature 5094 was a shallow rectangular ditch with steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.10m wide and 0.1m deep. Its fill (L5095) was a grey/brown silty clay. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5029 was a linear ditch with a concave profile. It was orientated NE/SW and was 1.35m in width and 0.30m in depth. The fill (L5028) was a light greyish brown silty clay with chalk flecks and small to medium-sized sub-angular flint pebbles. The fill contained pottery (6g, mid- 1st century BC to mid- 1st century AD), daub (19g) and burnt flint (38g).

Feature 5038 was a shallow linear ditch with moderately steep sides and concave base. It was 2.20m wide and 0.42m deep, filled with one deposit (L5039). This fill was an orange/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery (13g, mid 1st century AD) was recovered from this fill.

Feature 5066 was a moderate ditch terminus with regular sides and a V-shaped base. The ditch was orientated ENE/WSW and measured 1.35m in width and 0.4m in depth. The fill (L5067) was a pale greyish orange clay with very occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Finds include pottery (<1g) and slag (<1g).

Feature 5031 was a moderate linear ditch with steep sides and a concave base. The feature was orientated east/west and measured 0.58m wide and 0.2m deep. A single deposit of light grey/brown silty clay filled the feature (L5030). It contained occasional, chalk flecks, medium-sized sub-angular flint pebbles, burnt flint and charcoal flecks. Finds included a single mediaeval pottery sherd (2g, c. 1175-1325 AD).

Feature 5004 was a linear ditch with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was 1.60m wide and was 0.36m deep. Its fill (L5005) was a mottled orange/grey clay and contained no finds.

Pits

Feature 5092 was a small shallow sub-circular pit with a concave base. It was 0.94m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (L5093). This fill was a grey/brown silty clay, containing occasional small sub-angular flint pebble inclusions. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5090 was a medium-sized, sub-circular pit with steep sides and a narrow, concave base. convex sides. It was 1.22m wide and 0.31m deep, containing a single fill (L5091), a greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles. No finds were recorded.

Feature 5072 was a small shallow circular pit. It was concave in profile, with moderately steep sides. It was 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep and contained one fill (L5073 – a greyish brown silty clay). No finds are recorded for this feature.

Feature 5064 was a medium-sized elliptical pit. It exhibited irregular sides and a concave base. It was 0.95m in diameter and 0.17m deep, with the longer axis orientated SW/NE. The fill (L5065) was an orange/grey silty clay and contained no finds.

Feature 5062 was a shallow sub-circular pit, with irregular sides and a concave base. The diameter of the pit was 0.50m and it was 0.14m deep. The fill (L5063) was a light brown silty clay. It contained occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles and a single struck flint (1g).

Feature 5070 was a small shallow sub-circular pit with irregular concave sides and an undulating base. It measured 0.65m wide and 0.08m deep, and contained a light yellowish orange/grey silty clay fill (L5071). No finds are recorded.

Feature 5068 was medium-sized sub-circular pit with irregular concave sides breaking to an undulating and irregular base. It was up to 2.1m wide and 0.21 m deep. The fill (L5069) was a light orange, mottled grey silty clay.

Feature 5006 was shallow circular pit with irregular sides and a sloping base. It was 1.20m wide and 0.13m deep, containing a single fill (L5007). The latter was dark grey/black clay with moderate amounts of charcoal inclusions. No finds were recorded.

14 CONFIDENCE RATING

14.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the identification of archaeological features or finds, though part of the site contained a high groundwater table (principally the north-western part of the site).

15 DEPOSIT MODEL

15.1 Generally, up to 0.6m of topsoil and subsoil overlay London Clay. The archaeological features were sealed by the subsoil. Many of the 'natural' features were filled by a brickearth-like soil.

16 DISCUSSION

16.1 A large number of tree hollows were present, and many of the undated features were also probably tree hollows.

16.2 The site revealed widespread evidence of exploitation of the landscape in the later Iron Age/early Roman period, and corresponds with the previously excavated evidence from the other side of Bullockstone Road to the north east. The features are principally dated by the small ceramic assemblage, much of which was in an abraded condition. As noted in the ceramic report, the finds evidence points to a relatively low-status rural settlement, with occupation between the mid to late 1st century BC until the middle of the 1st century AD. A small quantity of mediaeval and post-mediaeval finds indicate agricultural use during this period.

16.3 No definite evidence of earlier prehistoric occupation was noted, though a number of struck flints were found in residual late Iron Age/early Roman contexts suggesting a presence during this period. Two possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ring ditches and associated pits had been recorded across Bullockstone during the CAT excavations in 2000, and a wide trackway of probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date was recorded on the latter site and also on the present site to the north of the current excavations during a previous phase of work by HAT

16.4 The site appears to have been on the agricultural periphery of the main late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement further up the hill to the north east, and the ditches likely comprise part of field systems of this date, seemingly respecting the contours of the hillside. No evidence of Roman cremations, recorded on the latter site, was found here.

ARCHIVE

The archive comprises 3No. A4 files, A1 plan sheets, photographs and the finds listed in the Concordance.

The archive will be deposited with the local museum, subject to the agreement of the landowner and KCC HCG.

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Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Area	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
5008	5009	B	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50	11g				
5010	5011	B	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	6g				
5012	5013	B	Pit fill			Daub 1g			
5014	5015	B	Trench fill	c. 50BC - AD50	1g	Daub 1g Tile 2g			
5016	5017	B	Trench fill	c. 50BC - AD70, Late medieval	46g	Fired clay 2g Tile 2g		8g	
5018	5019	B	Posthole fill	c. AD1550 - 1800	3g	Tile 11g			
5029	5028	B	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50	6g	Daub 19g			Burnt flint 38g
5031	5030	D	Ditch fill	c. AD1175 - 1325	2g				
5034	5035	B	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50+	8g	Tile 25g			Clay pipe stem <1g
5036	5037	B	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50	4g	CBM <1g		20g	
5038	5039	D	Ditch fill	c. AD50	13g			11g	Burnt flint 15g
5040	5041	B	Ditch fill	Early Roman	2g				
5042	5043	B	Pit fill	c. AD1780 - 1900	3g				
5050	5051	C	Ditch fill			Brick 206g			
5056	5057	B	Ditch fill	AD50 - 100	110g			9g	
5058	5059	B	Ditch fill	c. AD1225 - 1350	59g				
5060	5061	B	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	17g	Daub <1g			
5062	5063	D	Pit fill					1g	
5066	5067	D	Ditch terminus fill		<1g				Slag <1g
5068	5069	D	Pit fill						
5074	5075	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	3g			23g	
5076	5077	A	Pit fill					12g	
5078	5079	A	Ditch fill	c. 50AD - AD200	16g				Burnt flint 33g
5080	5081	A	Pit fill						Burnt flint 8g
5084	5085	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50BC - AD50	6g				
5084	5085	A Seg A	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50BC - AD50	2g				

Feature	Context	Area	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
5084	5085	A Seg B	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50BC - AD50	7g				
5086	5087	A	Ditch terminus fill	AD5 to c. AD50	49g		9g		
5088	5089	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	27g				
5100	5101	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50AD - AD70	32g				
5102	5103	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50BC - AD50	1g				
5104	5105	A	Posthole fill	c. 50BC - AD70	11g				
5108	5109	A	Posthole fill	c. 50BC - AD70	3g				Burnt flint 3g
5112	5113	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	3g				
5114	5115	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	11g			21g	
5116	5117	A	Pit fill	AD50 - 100/110	13g				
5118	5119	A Seg D	?Tree bole fill	c. AD50 - AD70	8g				
5120	5121	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD70	20g	Tile 2g Daub 5g			Burnt flint 12g
5122	5123	A	Pit fill					4g	
5126	5127	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	23g			36g	
5130	5131	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. 50BC - AD70	4g				Burnt flint 36g
5132	5133	A	Ditch fill	c. 50AD - AD70	143g	Burnt clay 10g	35g	<1g	Burnt flint 35g
5134	5135	A	Ditch fill	c. 50AD - AD70	37g			9g	Burnt flint 24g
5136	5137	A	Ditch terminus fill	AD50 - 175	2g				
5138	5139	A	Pit fill					21g	
5140	5141	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	6g				
5142	5143	A	Pit fill	AD1375 - 1525	27g				
5144	5145	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. AD50 - 70+	33g			26g	Burnt flint 27g
5150	5151	A	Pit fill					SF1 (4g)	Burnt flint 4g
5152	5153	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD350	31g	Burnt clay 4g			Burnt flint 11g

Feature	Context	Area	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
5154	5155	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD350	39g	Tile 3g			Burnt flint 21g
5156	5157	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	13g	Tile 55g			Burnt flint 17g
5158	5159	A	Pit fill			Burnt clay 16g			Burnt flint 163g
5161	5162	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	3g			11g	Burnt flint 92g
5163	5164	A	Ditch terminus fill	c. AD50	39g	Tile 7g			Burnt flint 64g
5163	5165	A	Ditch terminus fill	AD50-200	6g				
5168	5169	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	7g				
5170	5171	A	Ditch fill	c. AD50-100	117g				
5173	5174	A	Irregular feature? fill	c. 50BC - AD70	23g				
5175	5176	A	Irregular feature? fill	c. 50BC - AD70	18g				
5177	5178	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50	12g	Tile 13g		75g	Burnt flint 93g
5179	5180	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	39g			<1g	Burnt stone 127g
5181	5182	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD50	21g			SF2 (14g)	
5185	5172	A	Ditch fill	c. 50BC - AD70	4g		3g		
5186	5160	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD50	27g				
5187	5188	A	Pit fill	c. 50BC - AD70	99g			SF3 (5g) 4g	Burnt flint 51g

The Pottery

Late Iron Age and Roman by *A. R. Fawcett, BA. MA.*

Medieval and later by *Berni Sudds BSc MA.*

Introduction

This report provides dating evidence for each context that contained pottery at Herne Bay High School, Kent. Dating is based (where possible) upon both the identification of form and fabric. The report also contains a brief summary of the results of analysis.

Methodology

Quantification is by sherd count and weight per fabric. A summary of the results are presented below. The assemblage from each context was given a brief macroscopic examination. No detailed fabric description of any of the material and no detailed comparison with other material of a similar nature has been attempted. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd. However, where appropriate a range is given and comments are directed toward the condition of the majority of pottery. Fabric and form keys are provided below to ease reference. The fabric key utilises codes that relate to the national system (Tomber & Dore 1998).

Fabric Key

Roman

CAN OX	Canterbury oxidised ware
UNS OX	Unsources oxidised ware
BSW	Black surfaced or Romanising grey ware
CAN RE	Canterbury reduced ware
GRS	Unsources sandy grey wares
SOB GT	Southern British grog tempered ware
UNS FG	Unsources flint and grog tempered ware (fine versions as listed)
UNS FS	Unsources flint and sand tempered ware (fine versions as listed)
UNS GS	Unsources grog and sand tempered ware (fine versions as listed)
UNS SG	Unsources shell and grog tempered ware (fine versions as listed)
UNS FT	Unsources flint tempered ware (fine versions as listed)

**Those fabrics and dates which appear in italics denote an unsure identification or date.*

Medieval, late medieval and post-medieval fabrics

M1	Tyler Hill ware / Tyler Hill sandy (c. 1225 – 1350 AD)
M44	South Hertfordshire Greyware (c. 1175 – 1325 AD)
LM1	Late medieval Tyler Hill ware / Tyler Hill sandy (c. 1375 – 1525 AD)
LM100	Late medieval miscellaneous / unidentified ?English
PM1	Red earthenware (c. 1550 – 1800 AD)
SWSG*	Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (c. 1720 – 1780 AD)
RFWE*	General refined white earthenwares (c. 1780 – 1900 AD)

Codes (excluding *) based on the Canterbury Archaeological Trust Fabric Series (provided on John Cotter).

Form Key

A = platter, C = bowl, D = mortaria, G = jar, H = beaker.

Ceramic Catalogue

5009 B	2x UNS FT - (11g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	Sherds join.
5011 B	2x UNS FS - (2g) 2x UNS FT - (4g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	The UNS FL is fairly fine whereas within the UNS FS flint is common to sparse. Both sherds are small and abraded.
5015 B	1x UNS FT - (1g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	The sherd is very small and abraded.
5017 B	1x SOB GT - A? - (3g) 1x UNS FG - (4g) 1x LM100 (39g)	(see comments) Late medieval	<p>A date range of the mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70 is appropriate for the SOB GT and UNS FG sherds which concurs with the general site dating, but these were recovered with a single late medieval oxidised rim sherd. With so little material and all in poor condition it is difficult to determine which is likely to be primary.</p> <p>The flint is sparse within UNS FG. LM100: Everted flat topped rim. Sandy fabric, oxidized surfaces. Abraded. Decorated with stab marks around the top of the rim and the remains of an internal and external white slip and green glaze.</p>
5019 B	1x PM1 (3g)	c. 1550 - 1800 AD	Internal clear glaze. Small and abraded.
5028 B	1x UNS FT - (6g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	Sherd is abraded.
5030 D	1x M44 (2g)	c. 1175 - 1325 AD	
5035 B	5x UNS OX - (5g) 1x UNS FT - (3g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD?+	All of the UNS OX join but are small and abraded. The fabric contains sparse grog and is likely to be very early Roman in date. Both of the UNS FL sherds join.

5037 B	2x UNS FT - (4g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	Sherds join.
5039 D	2x CAN OX - (2g) 1x BSW - (2g) 2x SOB GT - (1g) 4x UNS FT - (6g) 2x Fired clay - (2g)	c Mid 1st C AD	All the sherds are small and abraded.
5041 B	2x UNS OX (2g)	Early Roman	Both of the sherds contain common to sparse grog.
5043 B	1x RFWE (3g)	c. 1780 - 1900 AD	
5057 B	4x CAN OX - G mid/late 1st C AD?+ - (51g) 2x BSW - (34g) 3x SOB GT - (9g) 6x UNS FT - (15g) 1x Fired clay - (1g)	Mid/late 1st C AD	All of the CAN OX sherds join. The general jar style can be observed in Pollard (No 64 1988, 76). The remaining sherds (except BSW) are small and abraded.
5059 B	1x SOB GT - (14g) 1x M1 (45g)	c. 1225 - 1350 AD	The SOB GT sherd is considerably abraded. M1: Green glazed jug rim. Good condition.
5061 B	4x SOB GT - (12g) 1x Fired clay - (5g)	Mid/late 1 st C BC to at least AD70	All of the sherds are small and abraded.
5075 A	1x SOB GT - (3g)	Mid/late 1 st C BC to at least AD70	The sherd is considerably abraded.
5079 A	1x CAN OX - G mid/late 1 st to early 2 nd - (8g) 1x GRS - (2g) 1x SOB GT - (6g)	Mid/late 1 st C AD to early 2 nd C AD	All of the sherds are abraded.
5085 A seg A	1x UNS FT - (2g)	c Mid 1 st C BC to mid 1 st C AD	
5085 A seg B	1x UNS FT - (7g)	c Mid 1 st C BC to mid 1 st C AD	
5087 A	3x SOB GT - G AD5-50 - (48g) 1x UNS FT - (1g)	AD5 to c AD50	The flint tempered sherd is very small and abraded. All of the SOB GT sherds join to form a jar in the B3-1 range (Thompson 1982, 139).
5089 A	1x CAN OX - (4g) 2x SOB GT - (19g) 2x UNS FT - (4g)	Mid/late 1 st C BC to mid 1 st C AD	The CAN OX sherd appears to be an early version containing sparse but large grog.
5101 A	2x CAN OX - (4g) 6x SOB GT - G - (22g) 1x Fired clay - (6g)	c Mid 1 st C AD to at least AD70	All of the sherds in this context are small and very abraded.
5103 A	1x UNS FT - (1g)	c Mid 1 st C BC to mid 1 st C AD	The sherd is very small and abraded.

5105 A	1x <i>UNS OX</i> - (3g) 2x <i>UNS FT</i> - (8g)	c Mid 1 st C BC to mid 1 st C AD	The <i>UNS OX</i> sherd is a low fired fabric containing sparse shell. It is very abraded in comparison to the flint fabrics.
5109 A	1x <i>CAN RE</i> - (1g) 3x <i>SOB GT</i> - (2g)	Mid 1 st C AD to at least AD70	All of the sherds are extremely small and abraded.
5113 A	2x <i>SOB GT</i> - (3g)	Mid/late 1 st C BC to at least AD70	The sherds are small and very abraded.
5115 A	3x <i>SOB GT</i> - (11g)	Mid/late 1 st C BC to at least AD70	The sherds are all very abraded.
5117 B	1x <i>LGF SA</i> - AD40 to c 100/110 (0.25g) 3x <i>SOB GT</i> - G AD5 to 75 - (7g) 5x <i>UNS SG</i> - (6g)	Early 1 st C AD to 100/110	All of the sherds are very small and abraded. The jar fits into the B1-1 range (Thompson 1982, 87)
5119	1x <i>UNS OX</i> - (2g) 1x <i>SOB GT</i> - (1g) 1x <i>SWSG</i> (5g)	Mid 1 st C AD to at least AD70 / c. 1720 - 1780 AD	No fixed date / area of rooting.
5119 A seg D	1x <i>CAN OX</i> - ?B - (5g) 1x <i>SOB GT</i> - (3g)	Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	Both sherd are small and abraded.
5121 A	3x <i>SOB GT</i> - A - (18g) 1x <i>Fired clay</i> - (1g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70	The sherds are all very abraded. No form match attempt can be made with the platter sherd.
5127 A	1x <i>CAN OX</i> - (5g) 3x <i>BSW</i> - (3g) 5x <i>SOB GT</i> - (15g)	Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	The sherds are small and abraded.
5131 A	2x <i>SOB GT</i> - (4g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70	The sherds are small and abraded.
5133 A	1x <i>CAN OX</i> - (1g) 1x <i>BSW</i> - (4g) 1x <i>CAN RE</i> - (1g) 18x <i>SOB GT</i> - G 1st C AD+ - (120g) 3x <i>UNS GS</i> - (8g) 1x <i>UNS FT</i> - (9g)	c Mid 1st C AD to AD70	The <i>CAN OX</i> sherd again appears to be an early one with sparse grog. The majority of sherds in <i>SOB GT</i> belong to the same storage jar. All of the pottery is small and abraded with the exception of the <i>SOB GT</i> jar sherds.
5135 A	1x <i>BSW</i> - (1g) 1x <i>GRS</i> - (1g) 10x <i>SOB GT</i> - (35g)	Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	Again all of the sherds are small and abraded.
5137 A	1x <i>CAN RE</i> - (2g)	Mid 1st C AD to the c late 2nd C AD	
5141 A	1x <i>UNS FT</i> - (6g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	
5143 A	1x <i>CAN OX</i> - C/D - (12g) 3x <i>LMI</i> (15g)	c. 1375 - 1525 AD	M1: Good condition. Quite fine sandy fabric.

5145 A	1x UNS OX - (1g) 4x SOB GT - (32g)	Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	One of the SOB GT sherds displays combing on the outside.
5153 A	3x CAN RE - (6g) 1x GRS - C flanged mid 3rd to mid 4th C AD - (3g) 4x SOB GT - (17g) 1x UNS FG - (1g) 2x UNS FT - (2g) 1x <i>Fired clay</i> (2g)	(see comments) Mid 1st C BC to mid 4th C AD	All of the sherds in this context are in the same poor condition being small and very abraded. The only evidence for later material is the one GRS sherd. All of the other fabrics fit in with the already established date profile of the site. One of the CAN RE sherds contains sparse dark grog.
5155 A	1x CAN OX (1g) 1x UNS OX - C flanged mid 3rd to 4th C AD - (4g) 7x SOB GT - (18g) 3x UNS GS - (11g) 1x UNS FT - (5g)	(see comments) Mid 1st C BC to 4th C AD	The comments for 5153 (<i>above</i>) in terms of dating also apply to this context. The UNS OX sherd is fairly close to a Canterbury fabric.
5157 A	6x SOB GT - G - (13g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70	The jar sherd is too small for an accurate identification but is probably within the B1-1 range (Thompson 1982, 87). All of the sherds are small and abraded.
5160 A	1x CAN RE - (5g) 4x SOB GT - (9g) 2x UNS FT - ?G - (13g)	Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	A crude upright, although slightly everted rim, is noted in UNS FL. The style has more in common with the pre- 'Belgic' Iron Age pottery tradition.
5162 A	1x UNS FT - (3g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	The sherd is small and abraded.
5164 A	1x CAN OX - (1g) 1x UNS OX - (3g) 8x SOB GT - (22g) 1x UNS FG - (1g) 4x UNS FT - (12g)	c Mid 1st C AD	All of the sherds in this context are small and considerably abraded.
5165 A	1x <i>CAN OX</i> - (6g)	<i>Mid 1st to late 2nd C AD</i>	
5169 A	3x UNS FT - (7g)	c Mid 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	All of the sherds are small and abraded.
5171 A	5x UPC FR - late 1st to 2nd C AD - (39g) 6x SOB GT - G - (55g) 4x UNS GS - (5g) 1x UNS FT - (14g)	c Late 1st C AD	The jar in SOB GT is again too small for a secure identification but looks like it could be in the B1-1 range (Thompson 1982, 87).
5172 A	1x SOB GT - (4g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70	The sherd is small and abraded.

5174 A	1x SOB GT - G - (23g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to at least AD70	This is another jar rim in the B1-1 range (Thompson 1982, 87). The fabric is fully oxidised, although very abraded.
5176 A	2x CAN RE - (14g) 1x SOB GT - (4g)	Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	
5178 A	1x LGF SA - AD40 to 100/110 - (<1g) 1x UNS OX - (<1g) 1x SOB GT - (3g) 1x UNS FT - (6g)	c Mid/late 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	All of the sherds are small and abraded however, SOB GT and UNS FT are better preserved.
5180 A	5x SOB GT - (16g) 1x UNS SG - (2g) 2x UNS GS - (4g) 5x UNS FT - (17g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	One of the flint tempered sherds is considerably finer than the rest. All of the sherds are small and abraded.
5182 A	1x UNS FG - (8g) 1x UNS FT - (11g) 1x Fired clay - (2g)	Mid/late 1st C BC to mid 1st C AD	The UNS FG sherd belonged to a necked jar.
5188 A	1x CAN RE - (3g) 1x UPC FR - H - (2g) 17x SOB GT - G B1-1, G C1-2 - (72g) 4x UNS SG - (15g) 1x UNS GS - (<1g) 1x UNS FT - (7g)	c Mid 1st C AD to at least AD70	The UPC sherd is too small and abraded to comment beyond the description of beaker. The jar sherd in SOB GT listed as C1-2 (Thompson 1982, 217). All of the sherds are small and abraded.

Discussion

A total of 296 sherds (weighing 1274g) were recovered from the excavation at Herne Bay High School, Kent.

Late Iron Age and Roman

The Late Iron Age and Roman period accounts for 287 sherds (weighing 1162g) with an average sherd weight of just 4g. As the latter suggests without exception the assemblage is small and abraded (many sherds are considerably abraded). A large percentage of the contexts contain between only one and three sherds (the few contexts with a higher number of sherds contain only around 20).

Individual features and contexts are insecurely dated. In general terms throughout the site the ceramic evidence is consistent. Two other factors have influenced the approach to dating. There are few diagnostic sherds (c.15 different rim sherds) and the majority cannot be identified other than their general class (eg jar). Secondly there is a virtual absence of closely-dated fabrics (eg short lived coarsewares or finewares).

The eastern sector of Kent, and in particular the Herne Bay area, is defined during the Late Iron Age by a mixture of flint and grog tempered fabrics. The flint-based fabrics

have their origins in the Iron Age but in this area continue until the mid 1st century AD. However it is noted that they were most prolific during 1st century BC and the earliest years of AD (Pollard 1988, 43). Wheel thrown examples in this fabric are also known (Thompson 1982, 14).

The flint-based fabrics are often found in association with the traditional grog-tempered fabrics of the period, which in eastern Kent have a life span that extends into the later 2nd century AD (Pollard 1988, 212). This interaction of fabrics compounds the problems of dating, because the grog is not standard. Grog tempering and evidence for Gallo-Belgic imports appear to be confined to the eastern half of the county. Indeed the Medway Valley has been described as the intersection of fabric 'style-zones' of west to east (Pollard 1988, 32). Contexts where grog occurs in association with true Romanised fabrics are dated mid 1st to at least AD70, indicating possible continuity. Where flint tempered and grog-tempered fabrics occur together the date range starts from the mid 1st century BC and extends to the mid 1st century AD. Finally grog tempered wares which occur alone are dated mid 1st century BC to at least AD70.

There is a limited range of fabrics present on the site and a virtual absence of finewares. There are two examples of La Graufesenque samian ware from southern Gaul. However both of the sherds weigh less than a gram each. There are no Gallo-Belgic imports or *amphorae* fabrics present. Nothing to indicate status. Two contexts contain sherds from the early fine reduced industry of Upchurch (c 19 miles away to the west). This is the only Romano-British 'fineware' recorded.

The coarseware assemblage reflects the low status and rural location of the site. All of the fabrics are of a local origin. Essentially the site is dominated by two main fabrics, UNS FT and SOB GT. Thereafter a small number of combinations are recorded e.g. fabrics with grog and flint, or grog and sand. The true Roman fabric range is just as restricted. Apart from a small number of unsourced reduced and oxidised fabrics the bulk of the assemblage derives from Canterbury c.4 miles to the south of Herne Bay. One or two examples of the oxidised fabric contain sparse grog alongside the fairly dense and well sorted quartz. There are no other imports either from within the county, London or southern Essex.

The form range is virtually restricted to jars (mostly within SOB GT) with three bowls, a platter and a beaker. None are of a sufficient size to be able to accurately form match. Amongst the flint-tempered assemblage there is not a single diagnostic sherd.

The site as a whole (bearing in mind the problems of dating) has its main period of activity starting from c.mid/late 1st century BC up until the mid 1st century AD. The small amount of 'true' Roman data is always associated with the localised fabrics. This in turn may suggest that one of the main periods of activity on the site occurred around the mid 1st century AD or shortly after.

Only two flanged bowl rims (5153 & 5155) demonstrate evidence for the later Roman period (3rd to 4th century AD). However both occur in mixed contexts. None of the well known, late, rural pottery industry fabrics are present.

In summary, the pottery may not be in its primary context. Nonetheless the consistent date range suggests that the associated activity was nearby. The ceramics comprise a low status rural assemblage

Medieval and later material

The medieval and later material recovered from site amounts to just 9 sherds weighing 112g. With an average sherd weight of 12g the material is generally in good condition but is dispersed across the site. Although dominated by features of Late Iron Age and Roman date medieval and post-medieval activity may be presented on site by ditch [5031], posthole [5018] and pit [5042] all containing medieval or post-medieval wares in isolation. Other features contain products of medieval and late medieval date but in association with Late Iron Age / Roman material (ditches [5058], [5016] and pit [5142]). The condition of some of the former may suggest a later date for certain of these features but with so few sherds of either phase a secure spot date cannot be provided. The possibility that at least some of the medieval and later material, particularly where in relatively poor condition, is present on site through manuring and potentially intrusive in earlier features must also be considered.

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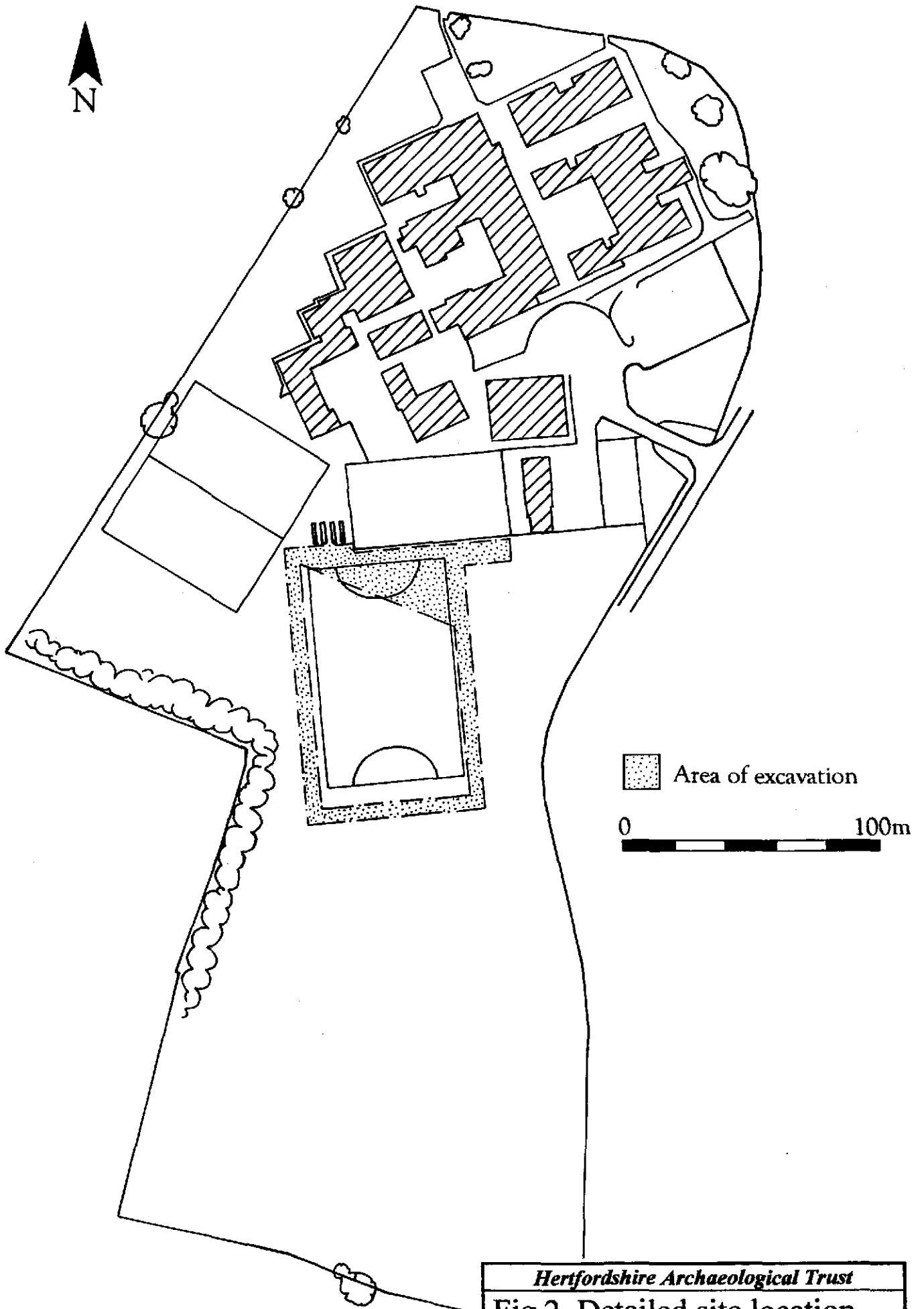
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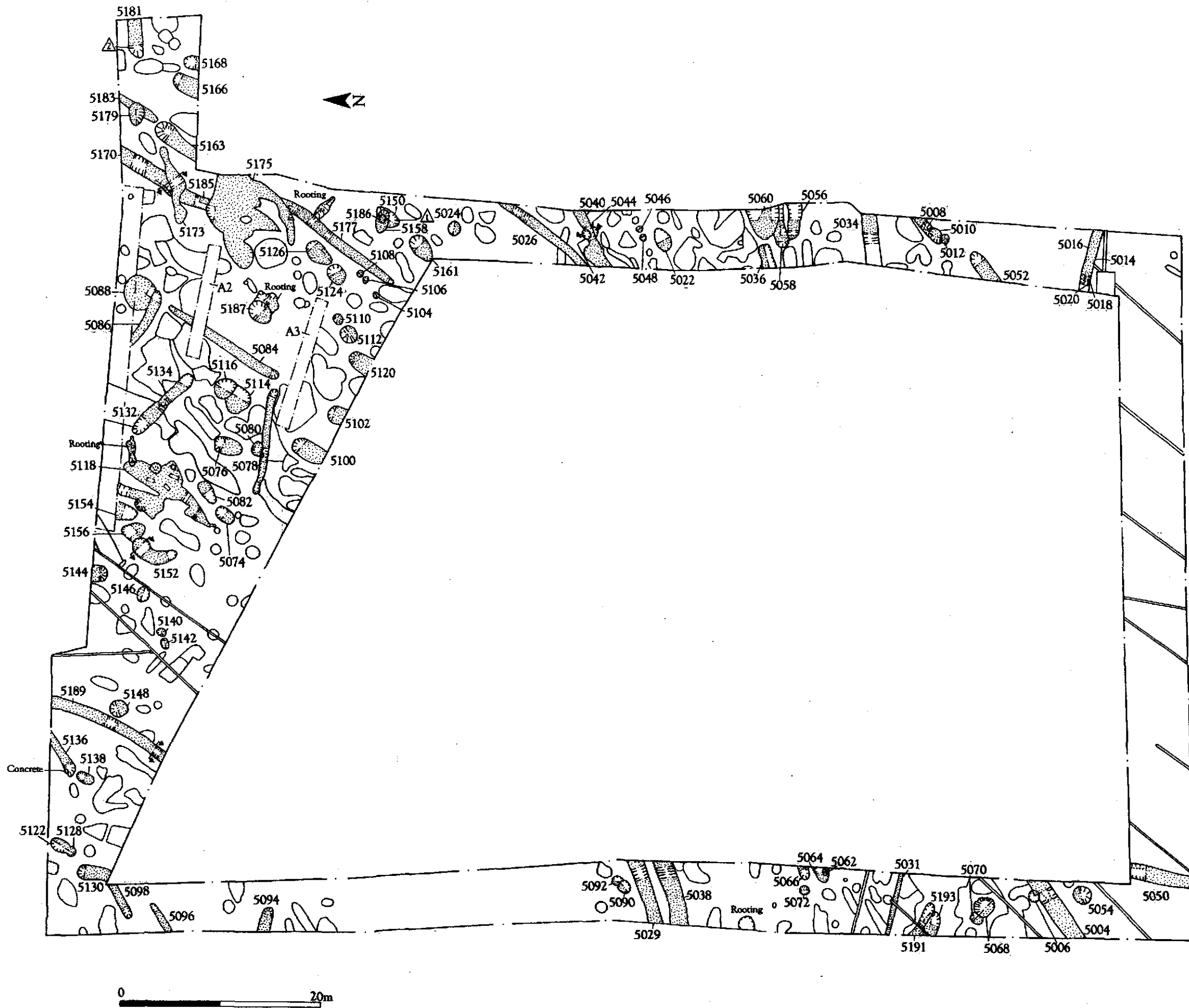
Herne Bay



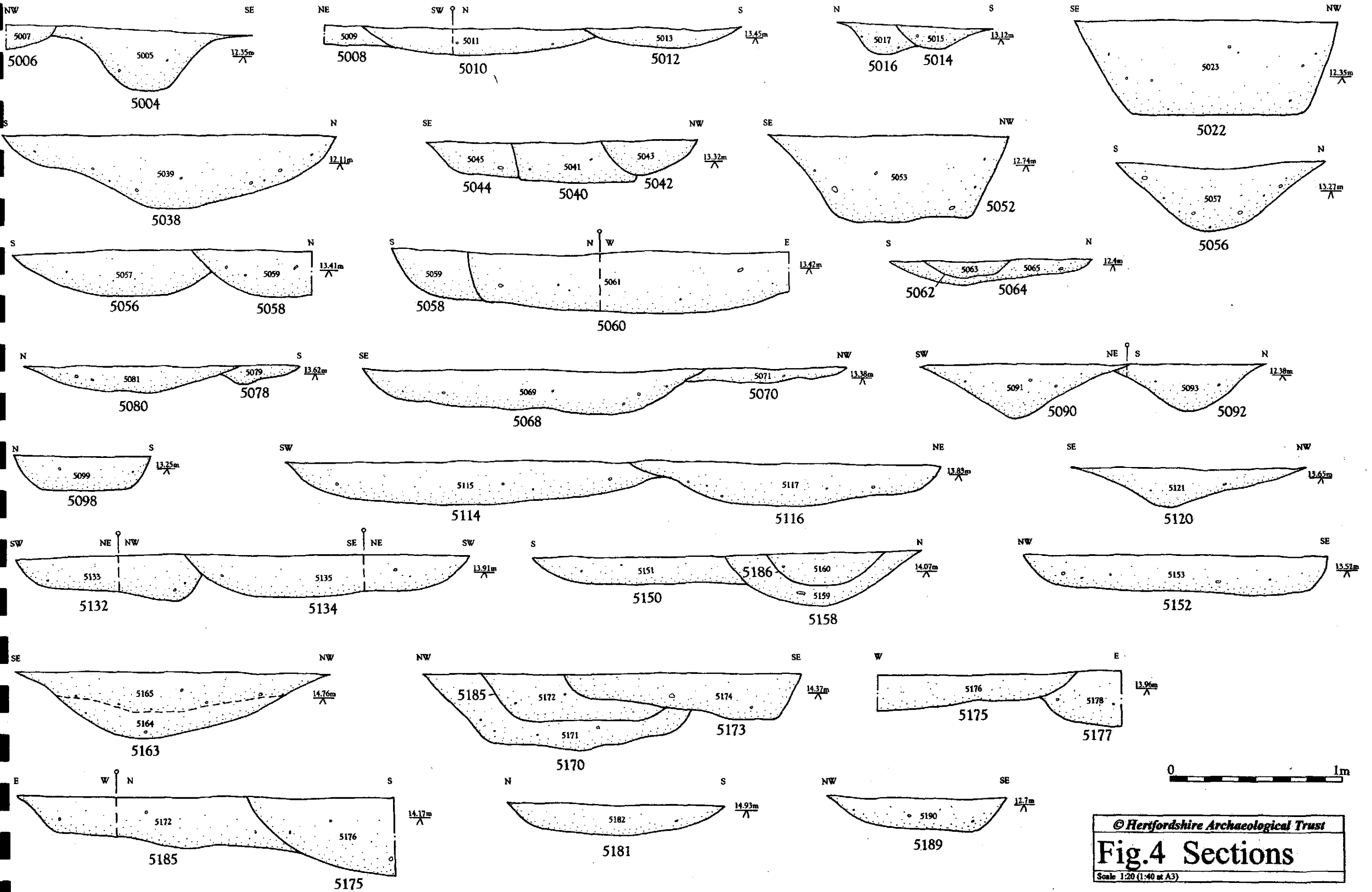
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Fig.1 Site location
Scale 1:25000



Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig.2 Detailed site location
Scale 1:2000



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Fig.3 Site plan
 Scale 1:200 (1:400 at A3)



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Fig.4 Sections
 Scale 1:20 (1:40 at A3)

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL	
Site Address: HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL BULLOCKSTONE ROAD HERNE BAY KENT CT6 7NS	
Summary: LATE IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH DITCHES, LIKELY TO BE PART OF FELD SYSTEMS. THESE DITCHES WERE PROBABLY ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE MAIN LATE IRON AGE / ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT ON THE CREST OF THE HILL TO THE NORTH EAST.	
District/Unitary: CANTERBURY	Parish: HERNE + BROOMFIELD
Period(s): LATE IRON AGE (BELGIC) EARLY ROMAN	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): TR 1670 6690 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete)	
Evaluation:	Watching Brief Field Walking
Documentary study	Building recording Earthwork survey
Excavation:	Geophysical Survey Field Survey
Geoarchaeological investigation	
Date of Recording: SEPTEMBER 2001	
Unit undertaking recording: HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST	
Geology: LONDON CLAY	
Title and author of accompanying report: HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, HERNE BAY, KENT NEW ALL WEATHER PITCH. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION. INTERIM SITE NARRATIVE. DAN HOANSELL and SARAH RALPH	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ NO EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION BUT SOME RESIDUAL STRUCK FLINT ◦ SPARSE POSSIBLY BRONZE AGE MATERIAL ◦ LATE IRON AGE (BELGIC)/EARLY ROMAN AGRICULTURAL DITCHES AND PITS DATING TO c. MID-LATE (1st OR TO MID 2nd AD. POTTERY RECOVERED WAS MOSTLY LOW STATUS AND OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE. ◦ SPARSE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL MATERIAL, SOME AGRICULTURAL DITCH FEATURES <p style="text-align: right;">(cont on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: LOCAL MUSEUM	
Contact at Unit: JON MURRAY	Date: 26 NOV. 2001