

PARK HOLIDAYS UK

BIRCHINGTON VALE HOLIDAY PARK, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

July 2017



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PARK HOLIDAYS

Birchington Vale Holiday Park, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Blaise Vyner Consultancy on behalf of Park Holidays UK to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Birchington Vale Holiday Park, Kent (centred on National Grid Reference TR 3219 6836). The archaeological work was undertaken in associated with the proposed siting of new static caravan bases on an existing touring field in the northern part of the site. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which was approved by Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, in advance of the fieldwork taking place.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches, each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide, across the Phase 1 proposed development area that measured 1.27ha in total. Archaeological remains were found in three trenches. The remains appear to be concentrated in the northern part of the site, with a single ditch encountered on the west side of the study area. Based on previous archaeological work in the vicinity, the data recovered indicated past activity on the site potentially dating to the prehistoric or Romano-British periods. This activity was represented by two shallow ditches, containing fragments of shell and some metalworking slag and charcoal, which could potentially represent boundary or enclosure ditches. The majority of the finds from the site were post-medieval from topsoil deposits and were considered to be of low archaeological importance.

Soil-stripping for the new static caravan bases is unlikely to impact on the identified remains, which were revealed at a depth of c.0.55m below ground level on the north side of the side. However, there is the potential for some limited impact upon the archaeological remains through the excavation of service trenches in this area, depending on the proposed depth of excavation.



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Wardell Armstrong thanks Blaise Vyner, Blaise Vyner Consultancy for commissioning the project on behalf of Park Holidays UK, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong also thanks Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, and Josh Cole, Associate Director at Stroods Specialist Contractors, for their help.

The evaluation was undertaken by Kevin Horsley, Jonathan Banasko and Michael Mann, and the report was written by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler. The finds assessment was by Sue Thompson and the paleoenvironment assessment was by Lynne Gardner. The project was managed by Martin Railton, WA Senior Project Manager. Frank Giecco, WA Technical Director, edited the report.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In June 2017, Wardell Armstrong undertook an archaeological evaluation at Birchington Vale Holiday Park, Kent (centred on National Grid Reference TR 3119 6836; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Blaise Vyner Consultancy on behalf of Park Holidays UK in advance of the proposed construction of new static caravan bases on an existing touring field in the northern part of the site.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission is currently being sought for the siting of new static caravan bases with associated access, parking and services, utilising existing access from the existing park to the south. An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development area has previously been undertaken to inform the planning application (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2016). The assessment identified archaeological evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval, post medieval and World War II activity within or close to the site boundary. Of particular significance is the presence of cropmarks immediately to the north of the site forming three rectangular enclosures with internal features, which are interpreted as the remains of Romano-British buildings (Scheduled Monument No.1005137). Previous evaluation to the north of the existing park in 2002 has also identified ditches containing Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and Roman pottery of late 1st-2nd century date.
- 1.1.3 A magnetometer survey was undertaken of the site in December 2016. A series of anomalies were detected immediately to the south-east of the proposed development area, interpreted as a possible ring ditch, ditches and pits, although these features were weakly defined. The results of the survey of the current proposal area were inconclusive due to the presence of fences and strong magnetic debris associated with ground consolidation (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2017).
- 1.1.4 It was considered that the proposed development may impact on below-ground remains associated with prehistoric/Romano-British activity, the heritage significance of which may be affected by the proposals. As a result, the archaeological trial trench evaluation was commissioned in order to establish the presence/absence, extent and significance of potential archaeological remains within the area proposed for the new static caravan bases.



1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced to provide a specific methodology for the archaeological trial trench evaluation (Wardell Armstrong 2017a). This was approved by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014a), and in accordance with Kent County Council in their Manual of Specifications: Part B, Evaluation -Trial trenching requirements (KCC 2010).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has previously been prepared by Trust for Thanet Archaeology (2016), which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site. Information derived from this document has been included within the Historical and Archaeological Background (Section 3.2) below.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

- 2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches, each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide, across the Phase 1 proposed development area that measured 1.27ha in total (Figure 2). The trenches were placed to sample the whole of the Phase 1 development area, but excluding perimeter earth banks, services and existing fences, representing a 4% sample of the overall site.
- 2.3.2 The general aims of these investigations were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.



The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Wardell Armstrong 2017b).

- 2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b; EAC 2014 and Watkinson and Neal 1998). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.3.5 On completion the evaluation trenches were reinstated by the site contractor by replacing the excavated material.
- 2.3.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited in consultation with Kent Museums Service, with copies of the report sent to the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier: LE15020/BVH-A
- 2.3.7 Wardell Armstrong and Kent County Council support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-288048.



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located to the south-east of Birchington, to the south-west of Margate in Kent, immediately to the south of the junction of Shottendale Road and Park Road (Figures 1 and 2). The area is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference TR 3219 6836 and covers approximately 2.75ha of land in total.
- 3.1.2 The site is bounded to the south by the existing holiday park, to the north-east by Park Road, and to the north-west by Shottendale Road, with grassed areas for touring caravans to the east and west. The proposed development is currently separated into a number of narrow strips for touring caravans, separated by fences and hedges.
- 3.1.3 The topographic profile of the site is largely flat with an elevation of *c*.30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The bedrock geology consists of the Margate Chalk Member, and superficial deposits consist of Head 2 clay and silt (BGS 2017).
- 3.1.4 The proposed development area has remained agricultural land until around 2002, when the Two Chimneys Caravan Park (now Birchington Vale Holiday Park) was extended to the north to provide more accommodation for touring caravans (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2016).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A desk-based assessment has previously been produced to determine the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 800m centred on NGR 632078 168218 (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2016). It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document.
- 3.2.2 Prehistoric: Human skeletal material disturbed by badgers cleaning out their set at an extant mound in a wooded copse within Quex Park (located to the west of the current study site) may represent a burial within a barrow of Bronze Age (or Anglo Saxon) date. Other cropmarks which may represent further barrows are known to the south of this wooded area of Quex Park.
- 3.2.3 A linear feature possibly associated with cropmarks of ring ditches and barrows of Bronze Age date is located east of the site, following a north-east to south-west alignment. The cropmarks of ring ditches or barrows are located along a broadly similar alignment.



- 3.2.4 Roman: Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure and internal features are located southeast of the Sparrow Castle Pumping Station, adjacent to Manston Road. Cropmarks of two possible ring ditches are located in close proximity. These cropmarks appear to represent a multi-period site consisting of two possible Bronze Age ring ditches and a Romano British enclosure, overlaid with medieval activity.
- 3.2.5 To the north-west of the site, cropmarks show three rectangular enclosures with internal features which may represent the foundation trenches of Romano British buildings. The lower of the two cropmarks, adjacent to the junction of Park Road and Manston Road, is a rectangular enclosed settlement with internal features. These cropmarks are protected as Scheduled Monument No.1005137.
- 3.2.6 To the south-east of the site is a further Scheduled Monument, identified as cropmarks, and believed to be the remains of a Roman villa. The rectangular enclosure is defined by three ditches which are now infilled and survive as buried features (No.1005135). Systematic fieldwalking, and geophysical survey, undertaken by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology between 2010 and 2012 recovered ceramic material predominantly of Early to Late Roman date.
- 3.2.7 *Medieval:* The site is located within the ecclesiastical parish of Acol. The name is first recorded as *de Acholt* in 1270 in the Assize Rolls for Kent and Acholte in 1343 in the Feet of Fines of Kent. The name is believed to be Old English: *āc* meaning '*oak*' and *holt* meaning '*wood*'. The place name 'Birchington' is first recorded as de Birchilton, de Birchenton in 1240, and as Byrchelton in 1274. The name is derived from Old English *bierce* meaning '*birch*', *hyll* meaning '*hill*' and *tūn*, meaning a settlement.
- 3.2.8 In 2000, four evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of the construction of a farm building on Park Road, located to the south-east of the site. Only a single feature consisting of a small area of burnt earth, which produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, was exposed.
- 3.2.9 **Post Medieval:** Woodchurch Farm, located to the south-east of the site, is recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record as a high status farmstead originating in its present form around the 1800s, although historic sources suggest that a farmstead was located here from the 17th century. Somali Farm, to the north-west of the site, is of a similar early 19th century date, along with Sparrow Castle Farm. Historical mapping throughout the 19th century, and into the early 20th century, shows the present study site as agricultural land.



- 3.2.10 The property 'Two Chimneys' was erected in the 1920s, and in 1955 the site became a camp site, with touring caravans being accommodated in 1974.
- 3.2.11 There is some potential for features relating to the World War II period to survive within the site boundary, as a possible bomb crater was identified to the southwest of site.
- 3.2.12 *Previous Archaeological Work:* There have been several phases of archaeological work undertaken at Two Chimneys Caravan Park, now known as Birchington Vale Holiday Park, all associated with the expansion of the site.
- 3.2.13 In 2002, an archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of an earth bund around the perimeter of the northern part of the site. A total of 21 evaluation trenches were excavated, of which 16 did not contain archaeological remains. Within one of the trenches, a ditch was revealed which contained a single worn sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. Within Trenches 12 and 20 two ditches of Roman date were exposed. One ditch contained four sherds of Roman Upchurch Ware of late 1st to mid-2nd century date. A curvilinear ditch contained sherds of Roman native coarse wares and a single sherd of fine Roman sandy ware. Within Trench 21, a shallow ditch was revealed which contained 115 sherds of the same medieval vessel dating to 1125-1175AD.
- 3.2.14 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2007 during the construction of an earth bund for an extension to the south side of the Two Chimneys Caravan Park, with subsequent monitoring during the construction of static caravan bases and associated services. No archaeological features were identified.
- 3.2.15 In 2010, following the production of a Desk Based Assessment, an archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the change of use of agricultural land to a leisure facility for the Two Chimneys Caravan Park. Archaeological features dating from the Late Bronze age to possibly the World War II were encountered within 14 of the trenches.
- 3.2.16 The historical and archaeological background above has been summarised from the archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken in 2016 (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2016). The desk-based assessment has identified that there is a high potential for archaeological features to survive below ground within the site boundary. These could date from the Early Iron Age through to the post medieval period, and World War II. There is a very high potential for features of Roman date associated with the Quex Park Settlement cropmarks.



3.2.17 As noted in 1.1.3 above, in December 2016, a geophysical survey was undertaken of the site. The results of the survey indicated the presence of several weakly positive anomalies in the north-eastern part of the site. These included a positive curvilinear anomaly which may indicate a small ring ditch-like feature. In the western part of the site, linear zones of strongly magnetic debris indicated ground consolidation and no significant anomalies were located in magnetically quieter strips adjacent to the debris (Archaeological Services Ltd 2017).



4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 14th and 19th June 2017, with ten trenches (Trenches 1-10) excavated across the Phase 1 proposed development site (Figure 2). The trenches were to sample the whole of the Phase 1 development area, but excluding perimeter earth banks, known services and existing fences.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 Topsoil with varying depths was removed across the site (averaging *c*.0.25m deep) to reveal a subsoil deposit comprising compacted fine red/brown silty clay, with inclusions of flint, with depths ranging between 0.2m to 1.6m across the site. This overlay the natural chalk, which was uneven in some trenches, leaving discrete patches of subsoil. These were investigated in several trenches but found to be natural fissures in the chalk substrate.
- 4.2.2 Potential archaeological features were identified in three trenches (Trench 2, Trench 4 and Trench 5) on the north and west sides of the study area, which comprised shallow undated ditches seen to cut the natural chalk substrate. Potential archaeological features were absent from the remainder of the trenches. Some unrecorded modern sewage and water pipes were encountered (in Trench 1 and Trench 10) which were associated with the existing holiday park facilities.
- 4.2.3 In the following text context numbers are given in brackets (), with square brackets used for cut features []. Full trench descriptions are also included in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.4 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was situated in the northern corner of the proposed development area, aligned northeast to southwest, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (101) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m in the southwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.05m in the northeast end of the trench (Plate 1).
- 4.2.5 In Trench 1 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.3m to 0.5m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (102), above which was c.0.2m of topsoil (100) containing some fragments of ceramic, which were retained.
- 4.2.6 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 1.
- 4.2.7 Trench 2: Trench 2 was located to the southwest of Trench 1, and was also aligned northeast to southwest on the northwest side of the site, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (201) was encountered at a depth of 0.3m and was



- a relatively consistent depth throughout this trench. In Trench 2 the chalk was overlain by a 0.3m to 0.5m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (202), above which was up to 0.4m of topsoil (200) containing some possible fragments of ceramic building material.
- 4.2.9 At the southwest end of Trench 1, an east-west aligned ditch [203] was seen to cut both the subsoil (202) and chalk substrate (201). The ditch was 1.5m wide with concave sides and base, and measured 1.85m long where it crossed the trench (Figure 3). The overall depth of the ditch was 0.66m which was filled with moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay with flint inclusions (204), being very similar to the surrounding material.
- 4.2.10 An environmental sample was taken from the fill at the bottom of the ditch **(204)** where it cut the chalk bedrock to a depth of 0.06m (Plate 2). The only finds recovered from this feature were fragments of shell.
- 4.2.11 *Trench 3:* Trench 3 was situated on the north side of the proposed development area, aligned northwest to southeast, also being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (301) was encountered at a depth of 0.66m in the northwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.5m in the southeast end of the trench (Plate 3).
- 4.2.12 In Trench 3 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.8m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (302), above which was 0.2m to 0.6m of topsoil (300) containing possible fragments of ceramic building material.
- 4.2.13 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 3.
- 4.2.14 *Trench 4:* Trench 4 was also situated on the north side of the proposed development area, to the south of Trench 3, and was also aligned northwest to southeast, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (401) was encountered at a depth of 0.62m in the southeast end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.57m in the northwest end of the trench (Plate 4).
- 4.2.15 In Trench 4 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.2m to 1.57m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (402), above which was up to 0.2m of topsoil (400).
- 4.2.16 At the southeast end of Trench 4, a north-south aligned ditch **[403]** was seen to cut the chalk substrate **(401)**. The ditch was 0.4m wide and 0.9m long where visible within the trench, being 0.4m deep (Figure 4). The ditch had a slightly concave base (Plate 5) and was filled with moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay with flint inclusions



- (404), from which a sample was taken. No finds were recovered from the ditch fill.
- 4.2.17 *Trench 5:* Trench 5 was situated on the northeast side of the proposed development area, to the south of Trench 4, and was also aligned northwest to southeast, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (501) was encountered at a depth of 0.77m in the northwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.19m in the southeast end of the trench (Plate 6).
- 4.2.18 In Trench 5 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.2m to 1.19m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (502), above which was up to 0.48m of topsoil (500) containing some fragments of ceramic material.
- 4.2.19 Two potential archaeological features were identified in the northwest end of Trench 5 (Figure 5). A ditch [503] was seen to cut the chalk substrate (501) in the northwest end of Trench 5, aligned north to south. The ditch was 0.92m wide and 1.82m where visible within the trench, being 0.12m deep (Plate 7). The ditch had a slightly concave base and was filled with moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay with flint fragments (504), which was sampled. This was on the same alignment as the ditch in Trench 4 [403] and was believed to be the same feature. A large chunk of metalworking slag was recovered from the ditch fill.
- 4.2.20 The base of a second ditch [505] was also revealed cutting the chalk substrate (501) at the northwest end of Trench 5, aligned northwest to southeast, which apparently immediately to the west to the north-south aligned ditch [503]. The ditch terminus [505] measured 2.10m long, being 0.69m wide and 0.22m deep, with straight sides and a concave base (Figure 5). This was filled with a similar moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay with flint fragments (506). The interface between the two ditches was investigated but this ditch contained no finds. A sample was taken for environmental assessment but found to be inconclusive.
- 4.2.21 *Trench 6:* Trench 6 was situated at the centre of the proposed development area, aligned northwest to southeast, also being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (601) was encountered at a depth of 0.64m in the southeast end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.37m in the northwest end of the trench (Plate 8).
- 4.2.22 In Trench 6 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.65m to 0.8m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (602), above which was 0.15m to 0.2m of topsoil (300).
- 4.2.23 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 6.



- 4.2.24 *Trench 7:* Trench 7 was also situated at the centre of the proposed development area, aligned northwest to southeast, also being 30m long and 1.8m wide, to the east of Trench 6. This trench was moved from the original proposed location to avoid a sewerage pipe.
- 4.2.25 The natural chalk substrate **(701)** was encountered at a depth of 1.0m in the northwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.6m in the southeast end of the trench (Plate 9).
- 4.2.26 In Trench 7 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.65m to 1.6m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (702), above which was up to 0.7m of topsoil (700) containing possible fragments of ceramic building material.
- 4.2.27 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 7.
- 4.2.28 *Trench 8:* Trench 8 was situated on the east side of the proposed development area, aligned northwest to southeast, also being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (801) was encountered at a depth of 0.8m in the northwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.26m in the southeast end of the trench (Plate 10).
- 4.2.29 In Trench 10 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.6m to 0.95m deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (702), above which was 0.1m to 0.25m of topsoil (700).
- 4.2.30 No potential archaeological features were identified.
- 4.2.31 *Trench 9:* Trench 9 was situated on the south side of the proposed development area, also aligned northwest to southeast, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (901) was encountered at a depth of 0.74m in the northwest end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.15m in the southeast end of the trench (Plate 11).
- 4.2.32 In Trench 9 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.66m to 0.73 deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (902), above which was 0.1m to 0.25m of topsoil (900).
- 4.2.33 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 9.
- 4.2.34 *Trench 10:* The final trench, Trench 10, was also situated on the south side of the proposed development area, aligned northwest to southeast, being 30m long and 1.8m wide. The natural chalk substrate (1001) was encountered at a depth of 0.8m in the southeast end of the trench, increasing to a depth of 1.30m in the northwest end of the trench (Plate 11).



- 4.2.35 In Trench 10 the chalk substrate was overlain by a 0.9m to 0.95 deep subsoil deposit of compact fine red/brown silty clay with inclusions of flint (1002), above which was 0.2 of topsoil (1000) containing some fragments of ceramic material. A modern sewage pipe crossed the northwest side of this trench.
- 4.2.36 No potential archaeological features were identified in Trench 10.



5. FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 27 artefacts were recovered from deposits during the archaeological evaluation on land at Birchington Vale Holiday Park, Kent.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson and Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (CIfA 2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011) and EAC (2014).
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

5.1.4 Quantification	i of bulk finds b	y context is visible in Table 1.
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Context	Trench	Qty	Wgt(g)	Material	Period	Notes
100	1	3	20	СВМ	PM	Tile fragments including one corner - traces of glaze
200	2	3	13	СВМ	PM	Undiagnostic fragments
300	3	1	4	СВМ	PM	Tile fragments - one glazed
500	5	5	27	СВМ	PM	Tile fragments - edge - traces of white slip/paint?
700	7	3	29	СВМ	PM	Tiles fragments
1000	10	1	19	СВМ	PM	Tile fragment
700	7	1	45	Fired Clay		Abraded undiagnostic lump - frequent inclusions
504	5	1	64	Flint		White flint - large flake
100	1	1	2	Pottery	PM - Modern	Refined whiteware - plate rim
300	3	1	35	Pottery	PM	Red sandy fabric, flat ware glazed internally
504	4	7	1927	Slag		Fragments of single lump
Total		27	2185			

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.2 **Ceramics**

- 5.2.1 A total of two pottery sherds were recovered from topsoil deposits during the evaluation.
- 5.2.2 A single red earthenware sherd, weighing 35g, was recovered from topsoil (**300**) in Trench 3, and is in moderate condition with some signs of abrasion. The fine sandy fabric has a laminated appearance and a clear outer margin, although the outer surface is missing. Traces of an orange brown glaze survives internally. The sherd is slightly concave, and could be part of a wide shallow dish or pancheon, and potentially



- of early post-medieval date.
- 5.2.3 A single pottery sherd, weighing 2g, was recovered from topsoil deposit (**100**) in Trench 1. The small, unabraded sherd is the rim of a white earthenware plate with red-banded linear decoration and dates to the early 20th century.
- 5.2.4 No further analysis is warranted.

5.3 **Ceramic Building Material**

- 5.3.1 Sixteen fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), weighing 112g, were recovered from topsoil deposits in six trenches (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition with little post-depositional abrasion and are likely to be of post-medieval to modern date.
- 5.3.2 The CBM fragments are a hard mid-orange fabric with few inclusions and are an average thickness of 10mm. Although the fragments are small, all are flat with a rough back. No diagnostic pieces are present and could represent flanged, nib or peg tiles. The fragments could therefore be medieval to post-medieval in date (McComish 2015).
- 5.3.3 No further analysis is warranted on the CBM.

5.4 **Fired Clay**

- 5.4.1 A single abraded fragment of fired clay, weighing 45g, was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 7.
- 5.4.2 The fragment is a moderately hard mid-orange fabric with chalk inclusions of 1-4mm. No original surface remains of the fired clay and it is therefore undiagnostic.
- 5.4.3 No further analysis is warranted on this material.

5.5 **Slag**

- 5.5.1 Seven fragments from a single lump of slag were recovered from context (**504**), in Trench 5 weighing 1,927g. The slag is heavy and has a dense structure, with a dark grey reduced core, and a rusty orange outer surface.
- 5.5.2 The lump forms a 'cake', and could be the remnants of bloomery iron smelting (slag cake), or potentially smithing (hearth cake) (Dungworth 2015).
- 5.5.3 Further analysis would identify metal working processes and potentially date the feature.



5.6 **Flint**

- 5.6.1 A single flint flake, weighing 64g, was also recovered from context (504). The large flake is potentially modified (Pers. Comm. David Jackson, WA Carlisle Office 2017); however, it is similar to other fragments found within the natural geological deposits and is not diagnostic.
- 5.6.2 No further analysis is warranted.

5.6 Conclusions

5.7.1 The finds assemblage appears to be largely post-medieval in date and while the flint and fired clay artefacts are potentially prehistoric, they are undiagnostic and of limited value.

5.7 Statement of Potential

- 5.8.1 The finds recovered from topsoil deposits are of low archaeological importance. As the slag was recovered from an archaeological feature, it is of interest and could potentially warrant further investigation.
- 5.8.2 The finds will be retained with the archive.



6. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Four bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of an archaeological evaluation. This report presents the results of the assessment of the palaeobotanical and charcoal remains in accordance with Campbell *et al.* (2011) and Historic England (English Heritage 2008).
- 6.1.2 The bulk environmental samples were processed by Wardell Armstrong. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard Wardell Armstrong pro-forma recording sheets (Table 2). The samples were processed with 500micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and any artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction. The smaller fraction was scanned with a magnet in order to retrieve any evidence of micro-slags and has been re-floated in order to maximise any archaeobotanical or molluscan yield.
- 6.1.3 The flot, plant macrofossils, charcoal and molluscs were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope at up to x45 magnification (Table 3). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the pro forma. Any finds from the samples are presented in Table 4.
- 6.1.4 The plant remains and charcoal were identified to species as far as possible, using Cappers *et al* (2012), Cappers and Bekker (2013), Cappers and Neef (2012), Hather (2000), Jacomet (2006) and Schoch *et al*. (2004), Schweingruber (1982) and the author's reference collection. Nomenclature for plant taxa followed Stace (2010) and cereals followed Cappers and Neef (2012). Molluscs were identified using Cameron (2008), Evans (1972) and Kerney (1999), whilst nomenclature followed Anderson (2005).



Table 2: Sample data

С	<>	TQ	TN	рН	СР	TP	MP	PW	PV	CS	Components (sorting)	Α	SA	SR	R	SW	SV
404	1	2	all	7.42	very pale yellowish brown	friable	Silt, chalk and flint	19.75	20	white/grey + pale yellowish brown	flint/chalk>1cm 60%: flint/chalk<1cm 30%: sand 10%	yes	-	-	1	3350	3500
504	2	3	all	8.22	very pale yellowish brown	friable	silty sand, chalk with flint	29.5	30	white/grey + pale yellowish brown	flint/chalk>1cm 80%: flint/chalk<1cm 15%: sand 5%	yes	-	-	-	2950	2000
506	3	3	all	8.05	very pale yellowish brown	friable	silty clay, chalk with flint	29.75	30	white/grey + reddish brown	flint/chalk>1cm 50%: flint/chalk<1cm 20%: sand 30%	yes	-	-	-	1350	1000
204	4	3	all	7.83	very pale yellowish brown	friable	silty sand, chalk and flint	30	30	white/grey + pale reddish brown	flint/chalk>1cm 50%: flint/chalk<1cm 40%: sand 10%	yes	-	-	-	1300	1000

Key: C= context, <>= sample number, TQ= tub quantity, CP= colour of pre-processed sediment, TP= texture of pre-processed sediment, MP= matrix of pre-processed sediment, PW= weight (kg) of pre-processed sediment, PV= volume (I) of pre-processed sediment, CS= colour of dried retent, A, SA, SR or R= geology shape A= angular, SA= sub-angular, SR= sub-rounded or R= rounded, SW= weight (g) of dried retent residues, SV= volume (ml) of dried retent residues

Table 3: Flot data

С	<>	<>n	Wt flot (g)	V flot (ml)	IPR	AMS?	Ch	Components	EWC	Comments
404	1	1	9.2	50	1	no		fine rootlets 95%: chalk 5%	-	molluscs c20
504	2	1	13.1	35	3	no	1	very fine rootlets 70%: molluscs 20%: sand 10%	-	molluscs +,
506	3	1	18.2	40	-	?	10	chalk 5%: fine/very fine rootlets 95%	-	molluscs +*
204	4	1	13.4	75	1	no	3	fine rootlets 90%: chalk 10%	-	molluscs c20

Key: C= context, <>= sample number, <>n= flot number (1 denotes first flot), Wt flot (g)= weight (g) of flot, V flot (ml)= volume (ml) of flot, IPR= plant remains, AMS?= suitable material for radiocarbon dating?, Ch= charcoal (actual), EWC= earthworm capsules, +=>100, *=not recovered



Table 4: Finds from the samples

С	<>	Material	Description	Actual qty	Qty 1-10	Weight (g)	>4mm	<4mm
404	1	mollusc	marine	1	-	<1	yes	-
404	1	magnetic matter			yes	0<1	-	yes
506	3	magnetic matter			yes	0<1	-	yes
204	4	mollusc	marine	2	-	3	yes	-
204	НС	mollusc	marine	9	-	2.1	-	-

Key: C= context, <>= sample number, Qty 1-10= abundance, >4mm/<4mm indicates from what fraction

6.2 **Results**

- 6.2.1 Trench 2: (204) <4> fill of ditch [203]: The 30l (30kg) sample from this fill yielded a single, poorly preserved and degraded possible barley (Hordeum sp.) grain. Three very small fragments of charcoal were also observed; all were too small for identification purposes.
- 6.2.2 Mussel (Mytilus edulis L. 1758) were hand-collected during the evaluation; the fragments (n=9) were poorly preserved. Two further fragments were observed within the sample, these were both umbone fragments.
- 6.2.3 The terrestrial molluscs were dominated by Cecilioides acicula, although there were low quantites of other species observed: Vallonia sp., Pupilla muscorum and cf. Oxychillius sp.
- 6.2.4 *Trench 4: (404) <1> fill of ditch [403]:* The predominately flint sample of 20l (19.75kg) yielded some magnetic matter, molluscs (marine and terrestrial) and a single charred poorly preserved Poaceae fruit. The marine shell was solely a juvenile common mussel fragment whereby the terrestrial molluscs were dominated by Cecilioides acicula although other species were observed, such as Pupilla muscorum and Oxychillius sp.
- 6.2.5 Magnetic matter was also recovered from the sample residues, these contained very small quantites of micro-slags: plate and spherical hammerscale.
- 6.2.6 *Trench 5: (504) <2> fill of ditch [503]:* The 30l (29.5kg) sample yielded no artefactual material with only ecofactual material presented within the flot. This comprised a single poorly preserved possible naked wheat (Triticum sp.) grain and two possible cabbage-type (Brassica sp.) seeds. There was a single fragment of oak (Quercus sp.) charcoal.
- 6.2.7 The molluscs were all terrestrial and the largest assemblage from this site. This was dominated by Cecilioides acicula but the presence of Discus rotundatus, Lauria cylindracea, Oxychillius sp., Trochulus sp. and Vallonia sp. were also noted.



- 6.2.8 *Trench 5: (506) <3> fill of ditch [506]:* This sample was also 30I (29.75kg). Magnetic matter was the only artefactual material recovered from the sample residues. This contained very small quantities of plate and spherical hammerscale.
- 6.2.9 No plant remains were observed but ten fragments of comminuted charcoal were recovered, those examined were diffuse porous roundwood species. The molluscs were dominated by Cecilioides acicula with single examples of Lauria cylindraces and Oxychillius sp.

6.3 **Discussion**

- 6.3.1 The dearth of plant remains and charcoal prohibited any meaningful discussion. Due to the porosity of the archaeological sediments (mostly flint and chalk), and the majority of the flots containing fine rootlets, the presence of the micro-slags may be attributed to bioturbation and thus would not be deemed reliable as an archaeological indication of smithing.
- 6.3.2 The bioturbation issue may also relate to the mollusc presence; all the fills sampled were from relatively shallow depth. The dominance of Cecilioides acicula throughout all the assemblages is not significant in that they are a ground-burrowing species and are usually thought to be intrusive when observed in archaeological contexts. The other species present may allude to past environments; they cover species that prefer dry, calcareous grasslands, exposed rocks and woods. The marine molluscs may represent the remnants of human foodstuff waste.

6.4 Statement of Potential

- 6.4.1 No suitable material for radiocarbon dating was present, possibly with the exception of charcoal from Sample <3> which would require further work in order to achieve a species identification prior to submission. The secondary flots could be examined for further charred plant remains if required.
- 6.4.2 The pH levels indicated weak alkalinity. These levels on the chalk geology are suitable for the preservation of many ecofactual material such as carbonised plant remains, charcoal, animal bone and molluscs (Campbell *et al*, 2011, 5). Therefore, if further archaeological interventions occur in the vicinity then a sampling strategy should be implemented to reflect the potential recovery of these ecofacts.
- 6.4.3 Once the requirements of any radiocarbon requirements have been met the palaeoenvironmental material from this evaluation may be discarded.



7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 Archaeological remains were found in three trenches. The remains appear to be concentrated in the northern part of the site, with a single ditch encountered on the west side of the study area. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site potentially dating to the prehistoric or Romano-British periods. This activity was represented by two shallow ditches identified in Trench 4 and Trench 5, which could potentially represent early boundary ditches.
- 7.1.2 Although no finds were recovered with which to conclusively date these features, previous evaluation work undertaken immediately adjacent to the study area in 2002 revealed a ditch containing a single worn sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, and a ditch containing Roman Upchurch ware of late-1st to mid-2nd century date (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2016).
- 7.1.3 It is possible that the ditch identified in Trench 2 is a later boundary ditch, as it was seen to cut the subsoil in this trench, and the alignment of the ditch is similar to former field boundaries depicted on the Acol Tithe map of 1832, and later historic mapping.
- 7.1.4 The majority of the finds recovered during the evaluation were from topsoil deposits and of post-medieval date. A single lump of metal-working slag and some charcoal were recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 5, but would require further analysis to confirm the date. The results of the palaeoenvironmental analysis were limited.
- 7.1.5 The survival of the archaeological features was poor. Survival had been influenced by past ploughing, which had heavily truncated the ditches on the north side of the site.

7.2 **Development Impact**

7.2.1 Soil-stripping for the new static caravan bases is unlikely to impact on the identified remains, which were revealed at a depth of *c*.0.55m below ground level on the north side of the side. However, there is the potential for some limited impact upon the archaeological remains through the excavation of service trenches in this area, depending on the proposed depth of excavation.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 0.96m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
U/S	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
100	Topsoil	Moderately compacted grey/brown silty loam	0.2m-0.3m	Disturbed by modern water pipe running north-south across the trench
101	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
102	Subsoil	Compact fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.3-0.5m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.06m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth/Width	Discussion
200	Topsoil	Moderately compacted grey/brown silty loam	0.05m-0.4m	Topsoil deposit
201	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural. Cut by ditch [203]
202	Subsoil	Compact fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.3-0.7m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint. Also, cut by ditch [203]
203	Cut	Cut of ditch crossing southwest end of trench, aligned east-west, cutting chalk substrate	0.6m wide and 0.06m deep	Shallow ditch with concave base of uncertain date
204	Deposit	Moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay with flint inclusions	0.6m wide and 0.06m deep	Fill of ditch [203] containing no finds other than shell fragments



Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.5m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
300	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.2m-0.6m	Topsoil deposit
301	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
302	Subsoil	Compact fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.8m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.

Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.57m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth/Width	Discussion
400	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.2m	Topsoil deposit
401	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Cut by ditch [403]
402	Subsoil	Compact fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.2m-1.57m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.
403	Cut	Cut of ditch crossing southeast end of trench, aligned north-south, cutting chalk substrate	0.4m wide and 0.4m deep	Ditch with concave sides and flat base of uncertain date. Appears to continue in Trench 5 to the south
404	Deposit	Moderately compacted red/grey silty clay with flint inclusions	0.4m wide and 0.4m deep	Fill of ditch [403] containing no finds. Interface with (402) disturbed by ploughing

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 1.19m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth/Width	Discussion
500	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty Ioam	0.5m	Topsoil deposit



501	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Cut by ditches [503] and [505]
502	Subsoil	Compact fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.2m-1.19m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.
503	Cut	Cut of ditch crossing northwest end of trench, aligned north-south, cutting chalk substrate	0.92m wide and 0.12m deep	Ditch with concave sides and flat base of uncertain date. Appears to continue as [403] in Trench 4
504	Deposit	Moderately compacted red/grey silty clay with flint inclusions	0.92m wide and 0.12m deep	Fill of ditch [503] containing no finds. May be the same as deposit (404) in Trench 4
505	Cut	Cut of ditch in northwest end of trench, aligned northwest-southeast, cutting chalk substrate	0.6m wide and 0.22m deep	Ditch with concave base appears to terminate in northwest end of trench to the west of ditch [503]
506	Deposit	Moderately compacted red/grey silty clay with flint inclusions	0.6m wide and 0.22m deep	Fill of ditch [505] containing no finds

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.37m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
600	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.15m-0.2m	Topsoil deposit
601	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
602	Subsoil	Loose fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.8m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 1.0m Maximum Depth: 1.6m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
700	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0m-0.7m	Topsoil deposit disturbed by sewage pipe at the centre of the trench
701	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits,



				which were investigated but found to be natural
702	Subsoil	Moderately compacted fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.6m-1.6m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 1.26m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
800	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.1m-0.25m	Topsoil deposit
801	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
802	Subsoil	Moderately compacted fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.6m-0.95m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.

Trench 9

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.75m Maximum Depth: 1.15m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
900	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.1m-0.25m	Topsoil deposit
901	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
902	Subsoil	Moderately compacted fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.66m-0.75m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.



Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Average Depth: 0.8m Maximum Depth: 1.3m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
1000	Topsoil	Loose grey/brown silty loam	0.1m-0.25m	Topsoil deposit disturbed by sewage pipe at the northwest end of the trench
1001	Natural Substrate	Hard white chalk substrate containing some flint inclusions	N/A	Interface of the chalk uneven in places leaving discrete subsoil deposits, which were investigated but found to be natural
1002	Subsoil	Moderately compacted fine red/brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of flint	0.7m-0.95m	Subsoil deposit comprising silty clay with flint.



APPENDIX 2: PLATES





Plate 1: View of Trench 1 showing chalk substrate, looking southwest



Plate 2: Section through shallow ditch [203] in Trench 2, looking southeast





Plate 3: View of Trench 3 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest



Plate 4: View of Trench 4 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest





Plate 5: View of sectioned ditch [403] in Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 6: View of Trench 5, looking northwest





Plate 7: View of sectioned shallow ditches [503] and [505] in Trench 5, looking south



Plate 8: View of Trench 6 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest





Plate 9: View of Trench 7 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest



Plate 10: View of Trench 8 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest





Plate 11: View of Trench 9 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest



Plate 12: View of Trench 10 showing chalk substrate, looking northwest



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

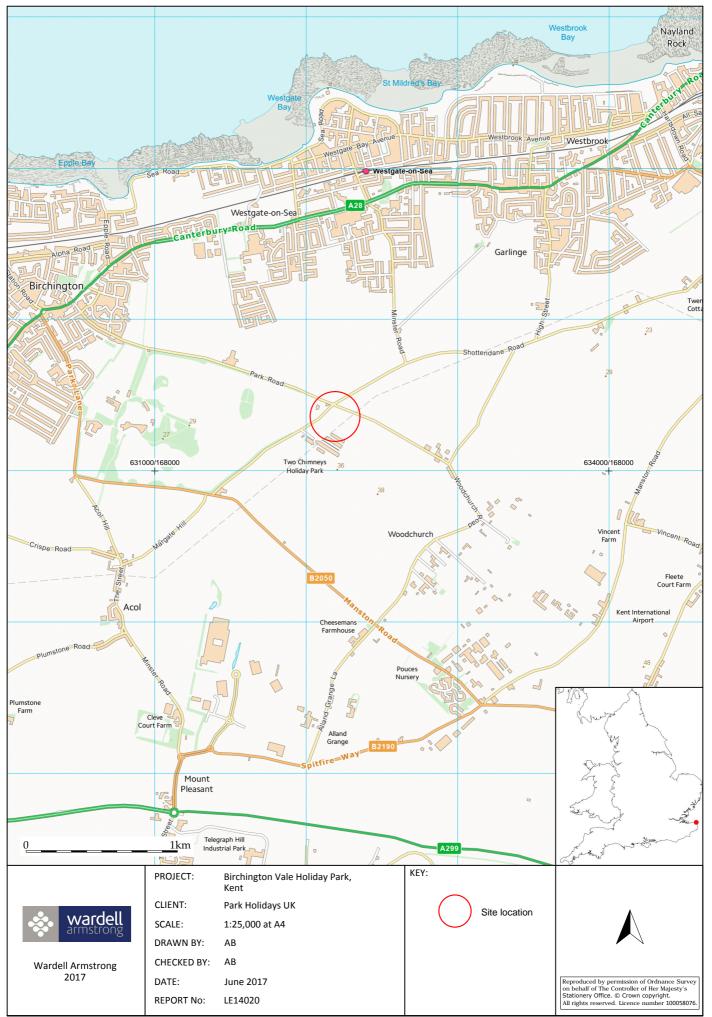


Figure 1: Site location.

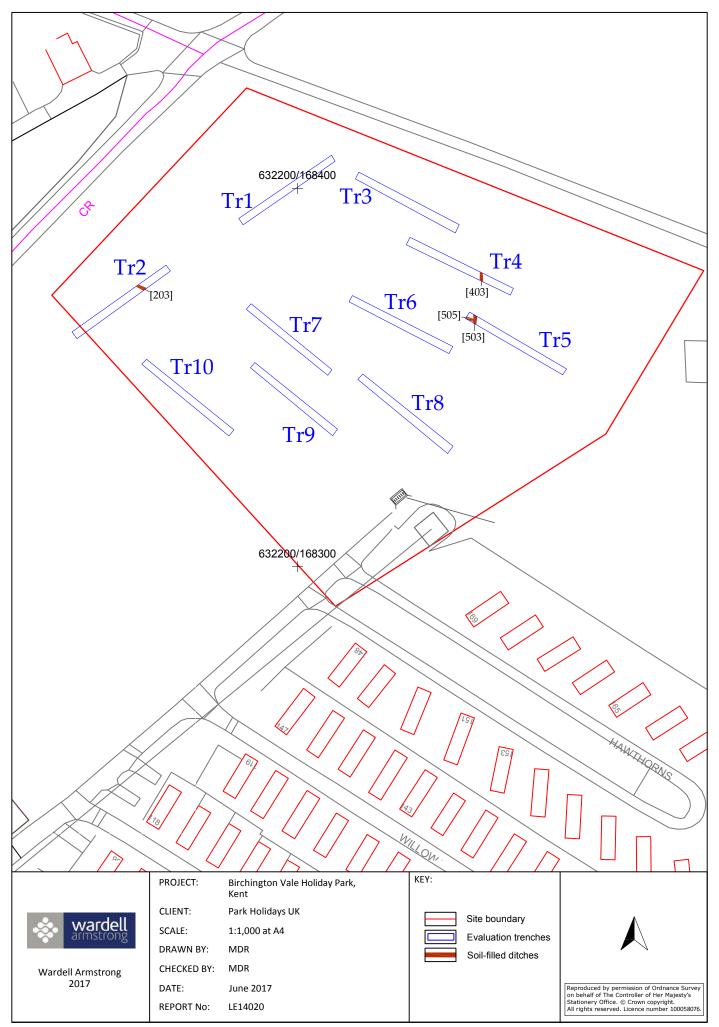


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches (TR1-10).

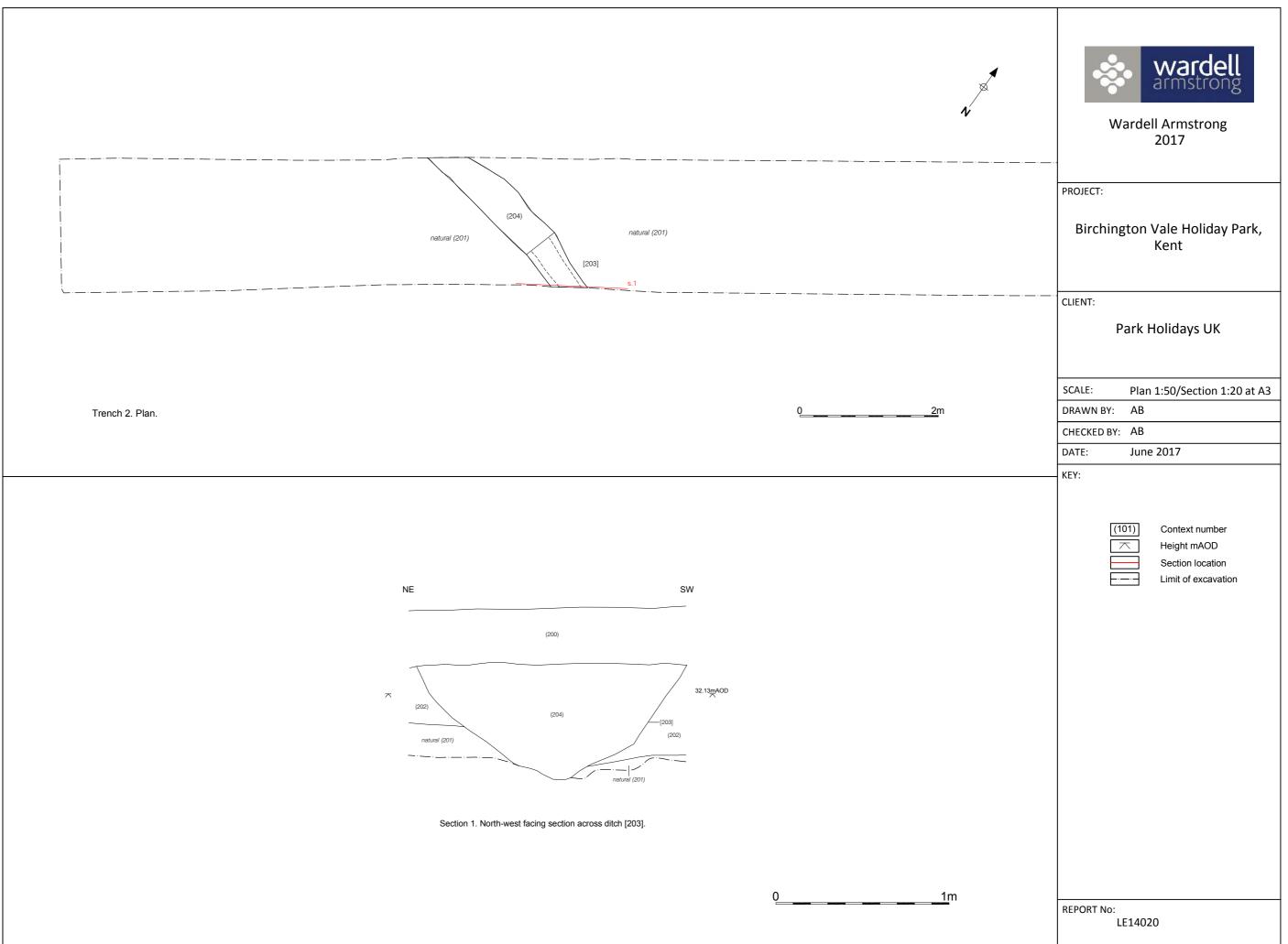


Figure 3: Trench 2; plan and section.

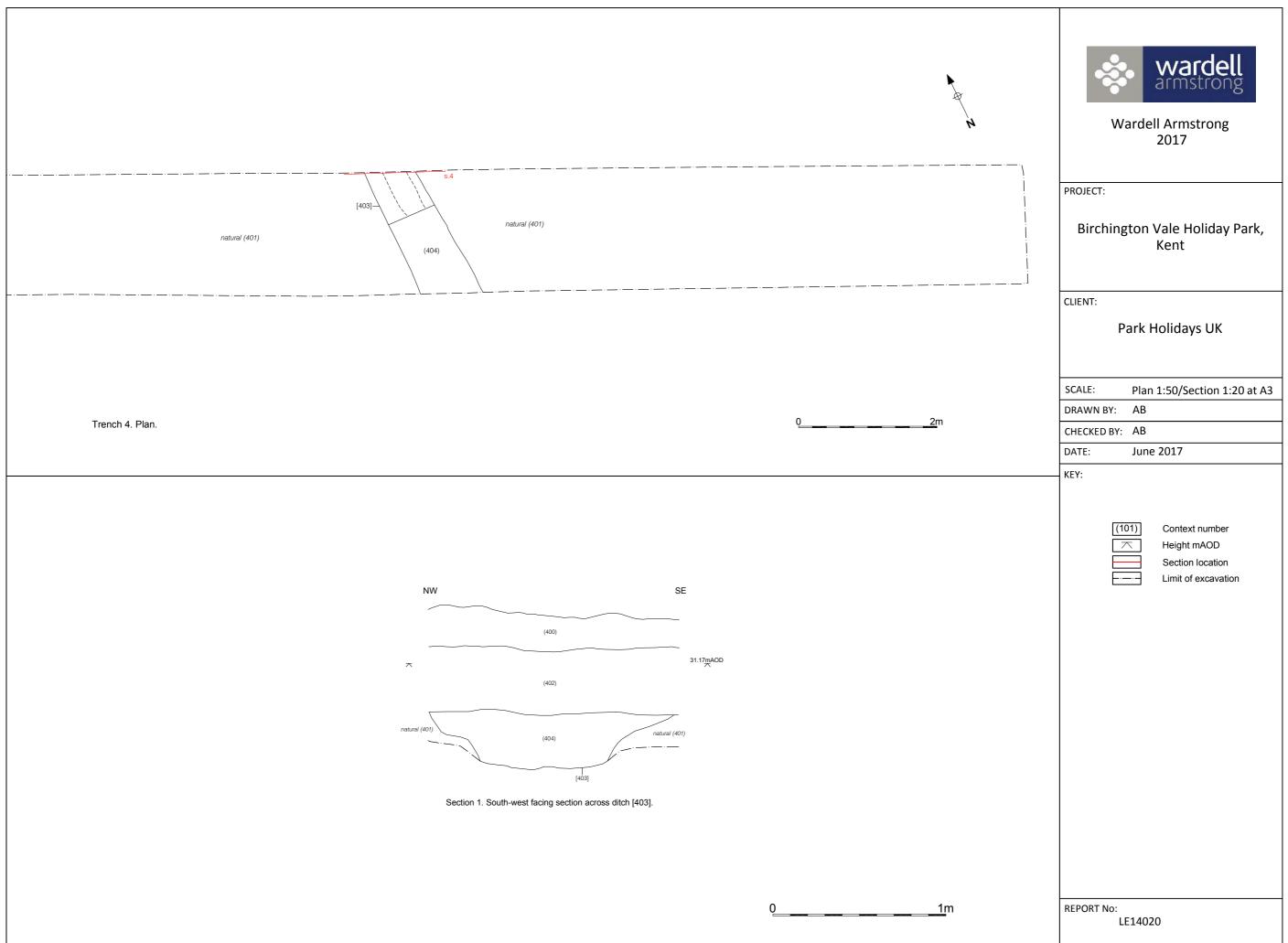


Figure 4: Trench 4; plan and section.

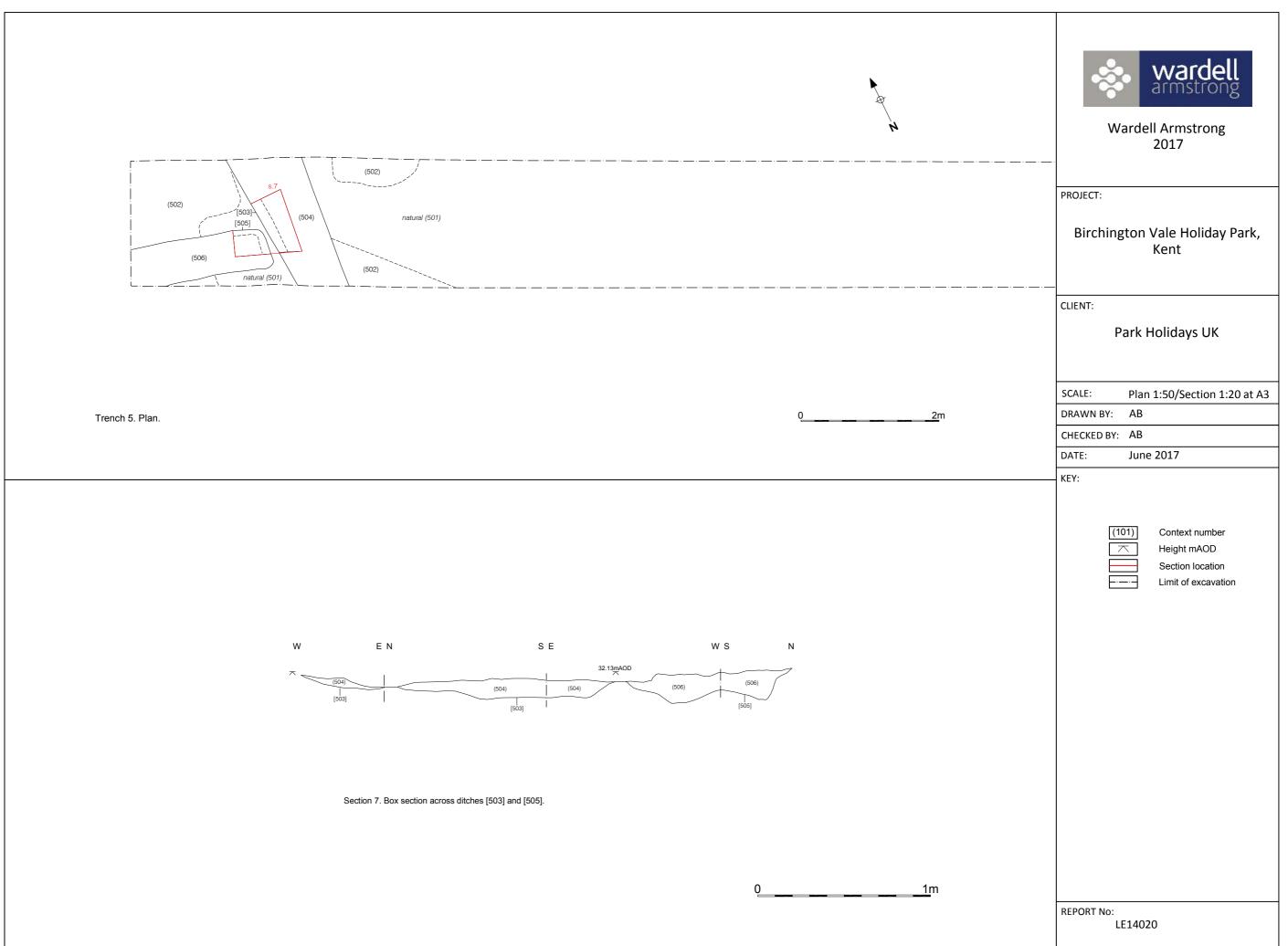


Figure 5: Trench 5; plan and section.

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