



Folkestone Cricket Club, The County Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent

Mitigation Works Assessment Report





**FOLKESTONE CRICKET CLUB, THE COUNTY GROUND,
CHERITON ROAD, FOLKESTONE, KENT**

Mitigation Works Assessment Report

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Contents

SUMMARY	VI
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VII
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT	1
1.2 PLANNING REFERENCES	1
1.3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SURROUNDING AREA	1
2.1 RECENT INVESTIGATIONS IN THE AREA	1
<i>Mesolithic and Neolithic (8500 – 4000 and 4000 - 2400 BC)</i>	2
<i>Beaker/Early Bronze Age (2450 – 1600 BC)</i>	2
<i>Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)</i>	2
<i>Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)</i>	2
3 METHODOLOGY	2
3.1 INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES	2
3.2 SITE STRIP AND FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY	3
3.3 MONITORING	3
3.4 RECORDING	3
3.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY	3
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	4
4.1 INTRODUCTION	4
<i>Natural deposits and soil sequences</i>	4
4.2 SUMMARY OF THE EXCAVATION RESULTS	4
4.3 MIDDLE TO LATE BRONZE AGE (c.1500 – 700 BC)	4
4.4 LATE BRONZE AGE (c.1500 – 700 BC) TO EARLY IRON AGE (700 – 400 BC)	4
4.5 MIDDLE TO LATE IRON AGE (c.400 – 100 BC)	6
4.6 LATE PREHISTORIC	6
4.7 ROMANO-BRITISH (AD 43 – 410)	7
4.8 FEATURES OF UNCERTAIN DATE	7
4.9 EXTENSION AREA	7
5 ARTEFACTS	8
5.1 INTRODUCTION	8
5.2 POTTERY	8
5.3 WORKED FLINT.....	10
5.4 HUMAN BONE	11
5.5 ANIMAL BONE.....	11
6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	12
6.1 INTRODUCTION	12
6.2 CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND WOOD CHARCOAL	12
7 FURTHER POTENTIAL	12
7.1 OVERVIEW OF THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE.....	12
7.2 FINDS POTENTIAL.....	13

<i>Pottery</i>	13
<i>Worked flint</i>	13
<i>Human Bone</i>	13
<i>Animal Bone</i>	13
7.3 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL	13
8 AIMS AND METHODS	14
8.1 INTRODUCTION	14
8.2 STRATIGRAPHIC.....	14
8.3 FINDS	14
<i>Pottery</i>	14
<i>Worked Flint</i>	14
<i>Human Bone</i>	14
<i>Animal Bone</i>	14
8.4 ENVIRONMENTAL	14
<i>Charred plant remains and Wood charcoal</i>	14
9 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION.....	14
9.1 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE	14
9.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND QUALITY STANDARDS	15
9.3 DESIGNATED PROJECT TEAM	15
9.4 PROPOSED PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION	15
9.5 TASKLIST	16
10 STORAGE AND CURATION	17
10.1 MUSEUM	17
10.2 ARCHIVE	17
10.3 CONSERVATION.....	17
10.4 DISCARD POLICY	17
10.5 COPYRIGHT.....	17
10.6 SECURITY COPY.....	17
11 REFERENCES	18
APPENDIX 1	19
APPENDIX 2	1

List of Figures

- 1 Site location plan
- 2 Phase plan of archaeological features and Watching Brief Area

List of Plates

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Front | Working shot view from south |
| Back | Working shot view from south |
| 1 | Ditch Group 1109 view from west |
| 2 | Ditch group 1112 view from south-east |
| 3 | Ditch Group 1113 and pit 1015 view from east |
| 4 | Ditch Group 1117 view from north |
| 5 | Ditch Group 1116 view from north |
| 6 | Ditch Group 1115 view from north |
| 7 | Ditch Group 1110 view from north |
| 8 | Pre excavation shot of cremation 1106 |
| 9 | Ditch 1072 view from west |

List of Tables

- 1** All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)
- 2** The composition of the flint assemblage by type
- 3** The project team
- 4** Publication report synopsis
- 5** Tasklist for analysis and publication

**FOLKESTONE CRICKET CLUB, THE COUNTY GROUND,
CHERITON ROAD, FOLKESTONE, KENT****Mitigation Works Assessment Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust, to undertake a programme of mitigation works, largely comprising archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at Folkestone Cricket Club, Folkestone, Kent. The Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 621406, 136773 and lies on the northern side of Cheriton Road. The Site is bounded to the south and south-west by Folkestone Football Ground, the Indoor Bowling Centre and the Harvey Grammar School. To the north and west are residential developments and to the east is Cornwallis Avenue. The Site was occupied by a number of football and cricket pitches. An all terrain pitch was located immediately east of the main excavation area.

The Site is located on a gentle east facing slope which falls away towards Folkestone town centre and the harbour. The course of the Pent Stream, now culverted, formerly ran through the northernmost part of the Site. The Site itself has been subject to modern landscaping and is now generally level. The Site was L shaped in plan and covered approximately 0.12 hectares in size.

The archaeological sequence indicates approximately five phases of activity. The earliest main phase of activity relates to a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosure system which was either augmented or superseded by a subsequent Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure system, which underwent a series of re-cuts on the same alignment.

The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age elements appear typical of a relatively low status enclosure system extending into the watching brief area to the east. The lack of internal features within this enclosure may indicate it was largely used for livestock husbandry and pastoralism rather than associated directly with settlement. However, internal features may have been destroyed by modern landscaping. The presence of a single un-urned cremation identified immediately east of the main excavation area, may be indicative of settlement activity close by. The later parallel ditches in the far north-eastern part of the Site may indicate a change of usage.

The Middle to Late Iron Age features in the southern part of the Site are indicative of an enclosure system, albeit one that has required periodic re-establishment through re-cutting of ditches on identical alignments. Once again the lack of exposed internal features, suggest an association with agricultural activity, rather than focussed settlement.

**FOLKESTONE CRICKET CLUB, THE COUNTY GROUND,
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This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Matthew Smith in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Ben Found Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council for his advice.

The report was researched and compiled by Rob De'Athe. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex. The excavation was supervised by Rob De'Athe with an excavation team comprising Marie Kelleher, Lisa McCraig, Dan Jackson, Jo Cunliffe and Steve Price. Pottery was assessed by Loraine Mephram, human bone by J. I. McKinley and the flint assemblage by Matt Levers. The environmental samples were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles and processed by Nicki Mulhall. The illustrations were provided by Kitty Brandon.

FOLKESTONE CRICKET CLUB, THE COUNTY GROUND, CHERITON ROAD, FOLKESTONE, KENT

Strip, Map & Sample Excavation & Watching Brief Assessment Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of the document

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust, to undertake a programme of mitigation works, largely comprising archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land at Folkestone Cricket Club, Folkestone, Kent. The Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 621406, 136773 (hereafter referred to as the Site) and lies on the northern side of Cheriton Road. The Site is bounded to the south and south-west by Folkestone Football Ground, Indoor Bowling Centre and The Harvey Grammar School. To the north and west are residential developments and to the east is Cornwallis Avenue. The Site was occupied by a number of football and cricket pitches. An all terrain pitch was located immediately east of the main excavation area.

1.2 Planning References

1.2.1 The Site has planning permission for the erection of a sports pavilion and sports hall, the reconfiguration of a car park following the removal of an existing cricket pavilion, the construction of two all terrain pitches, two outdoor netball courts and one multi use games area, the refurbishment of existing cricket stands, the construction of cricket nets and associated operational development, landscaping and other external works. The Local Planning Authority planning reference for the scheme is Y10/0075/SH.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site is located on a gentle east facing slope which falls away towards Folkestone town centre and the harbour. The course of the Pent Stream, now culverted, formerly ran through the northernmost part of the Site. The Site itself has been subject to modern landscaping in order to provide level ground for various sport activities.

1.3.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the Site, which is located at approximately 35-40m aOD, lies on Folkestone Beds of Lower Greensand Group. This was confirmed by a recent archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East.

2 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SURROUNDING AREA

2.1 Recent investigations in the area

2.1.1 The strip map and sample excavation followed trial trench evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East in February 2011 (ASE 2011).

2.1.2 An archaeological desk-based study of the Site was produced by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust (Smith 2010).

Mesolithic and Neolithic (8500 – 4000 and 4000 - 2400 BC)

2.1.3 Previous evidence of early prehistoric activity is limited, to a few finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic struck flint, which have been made in the area.

Beaker/Early Bronze Age (2450 – 1600 BC)

2.1.4 Finds of Early Bronze Age 'beaker' pottery were recovered from the neighbouring golf course and a Bronze Age beaker is recorded as having been found in the Folkestone area.

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.1.5 Archaeological investigations at the Harvey Grammar School revealed evidence of occupation and inhumation burials dating to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. A Roman cremation burial was recorded during the construction of a stand at the adjacent Folkestone Football Ground.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

2.1.6 Evidence for early medieval activity in the vicinity of the Site is sparse, with the nearest recorded remains being over 1km away to the north. The Site lies adjacent to the site of Broadmead Manor, which is believed to date back to the 13th/14th century. A house and barn of late medieval date belonging to the manorial complex survive to the east of the Site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

3.1.1 The strip, map and sample excavation sought to establish the following:

- Establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed following the stripping of overburden on the Site
- Provide a refined chronology of the archaeological phasing
- Investigate the function of structural remains and the activities taking place within and close to the Site

3.1.2 Aside from these general objectives more specific aims were:

- To clarify the character and extent of the archaeological remains identified during the earlier evaluation
- To understand the character, form, function and date of any archaeological activities on the Site
- To include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the Site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages
- To consider the Site's geology and topography in terms of any activity encountered

- To understand any prehistoric occupation at the Site
- To understand the nature of the Romano-British occupation of the Site and how this may relate to any occupation during the Iron Age
- To relate any findings to others made locally, particularly at the neighbouring Harvey Grammar School and Folkestone Football Club
- To place any remains exposed in their wider setting and contribute to the understanding of the history of Folkestone
- To contribute to the environmental and landscape history of the area; and
- To contribute to the objectives of the South-East Regional Research Framework

3.2 Site Strip and Fieldwork Methodology

3.2.1 The Site was L shaped in plan and covered approximately 0.12 hectares in size. Overburden was removed using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to the north of the excavation area in sealed bunds. Stripping continued until either the natural geology or the uppermost archaeological horizon was revealed. All subsequent archaeological feature excavation was carried out by hand.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 Monitoring of the excavation was carried out by Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council who attended the site on several occasions and offered advice regarding excavation and environmental sampling.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

3.4.2 During the excavation the limits of interventions, datum lines and grid points were surveyed using a GPS device and later transferred onto digitised site plans.

3.5 Health and Safety

3.5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.5.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2011), which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Following the strip and map of the Site, it was clear that the archaeological remains in the main comprised linear features, interspersed with a few discrete features. A cluster of ditches were present at the extreme southern part of the Site with a second cluster in the northern extent. Fewer ditches were present in the central area. Relationships between these features were established following hand excavation, which enabled the production of a phased plan of the Site.

Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.1.2 The natural deposits present on the Site were characterised by a deep layer of topsoil, especially noticeable in the south, gradually becoming shallower in depth towards the north. Almost no subsoil was identified in the southern area with only a thin layer remaining *in situ* in the northern. This is understood to be due to extensive landscaping which was undertaken in the past to form the present level playing fields that are located to the west and north of the Site. It would appear that some of the topsoil had been redeposited in the southern part of the Site where it was recorded up to 1m thick. Several sandstone outcrops were visible across the Site, being more prevalent in the southern and central areas. These outcrops were characterised by soft yellowish/brown and red sandstone 'slabs' within the natural sand some of which were observed in the base of ditches.

4.2 Summary of the excavation results

4.2.1 The following stratigraphic sequence was identified by the hand excavation of relationships between features across the Site. All features described below are illustrated on **Figure 2**.

4.3 Middle to Late Bronze Age (c.1500 – 700 BC)

4.3.1 Gullies **[1003 & 1005]** extended from the eastern baulk section in the southern half of the Site and were characterised by steep straight/concave sides and concave bases. The features measured 0.62 and 0.75m wide and 0.48m and 0.42m deep respectively. The southern most gully, **[1005]**, was observed to cut earlier northern gully **[1003]**. Both gullies were aligned broadly east/west with a slight turn towards the south-west. These gullies were not identified in Trench 8 of the Archaeology South-East evaluation (ASE 2011) and have been interpreted as terminating or being truncated by the main ditch **Group 1115**. The function of the gullies is unclear but they may represent a small enclosure/boundary which required re-cutting due to silting. Middle Bronze Age pottery was retrieved from gully **[1003]**.

4.4 Late Bronze Age (c.1500 – 700 BC) to Early Iron Age (700 – 400 BC)

4.4.1 One of the earliest stratigraphic features in the northern region of the site was ditch **Group 1109**. This ditch extended westwards from the north-eastern baulk for a distance of approximately 26m before describing a right angle turn to the south for a further 37.5m before entering the eastern baulk section (**Plate 1**). The ditch measured c.1.9m wide, at its widest, was approximately 0.40m deep becoming shallower towards the extreme southern extent of its length where truncation by past levelling activity had

occurred. It was characterised by a shallow concave base with moderately sloping concave sides.

- 4.4.2 It is likely this represents a major enclosure ditch with the main focus of activity extending to the east beyond the excavation area. The ditch was observed to be cut by four later ditches in the north-eastern corner of the Site; **Groups 1110, 1111, [1095 & 1099]** and **[1064]** (see below); and by ditch **[1082]** to the west. In the central section of the Site the ditch was also cut by later gully/ditch **[1080]**. Dating evidence recovered from ditch **Group 1109** indicates a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.
- 4.4.3 Due to the truncation caused by modern landscaping for the all terrain pitch to the east, it was considered that any internal features of this enclosure would have been removed (see section 4.9 below).
- 4.4.4 Ditch **Groups 1110, 1111, [1095 & 1099]** and **[1064]** (**Plate 7**) were all located in the extreme north-eastern extent of the Site and all similarly aligned (north-east/south-west). All these features had relatively steep sides and concave bases measuring, in general, 0.80m in width and 0.30m in depth. Pottery recovered from the fills of these ditches indicates a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. These features are likely to be related to field boundaries, which required continual re-establishment over relatively short periods of time. The fills of these features were uniformly wind blown sand/silts and would have rapidly silted, up. This can be observed where **[1099]** has truncated earlier ditch **[1095]**, albeit that they are on an identical alignment.
- 4.4.5 In the central section of the Site, ditch **Group 1112** extended westwards from the eastern baulk for a distance of c.3m before turning southwards for a further 15m where it terminated (**Plate 2**). The ditch was cut by later gully/ditch **[1080]** 5.6m north of its terminal end. The ditch was c.1m wide and c. 0.27m deep with steep concave sides and a shallow concave base. It is likely that the ditch has been truncated by modern landscaping. Finds from the ditch indicate a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.
- 4.4.6 A large truncated ditch terminus, **Group 1113**, was located in the southern central part of the Site and extended from the western baulk for a distance of c. 5m (**Plate 3**). The ditch measured 2.1m in width and 0.40m in depth and had a large 'slab' of sandstone in the base. This rock was part of the natural ground and did not form a separate deposit. The ditch had been cut by a small pit **[1015]** at a roughly central position. The terminal cut through earlier ditch **Group 1114** to the east. It is likely that this ditch has been truncated by landscaping and would have been a distinctive feature in the landscape in its original form. Finds retrieved from this feature indicate a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.
- 4.4.7 Opposing ditch terminal **[1072]**, which was located some 5m to the east of **Group 1113**, measured approximately 3.3m in width and c. 0.50m in depth (**Plate 9**). This ditch, along with **Group 1113**, may have formed an entrance, although whether this entrance was to access areas to the north or south remains unclear, due to the narrow nature of the excavation area. The ditch was characterised by a shallow straight side to the east with a steeper concave side to the west, falling to a shallow concave base. As with ditch **Group 1113** this would have been a distinctive feature in the landscape had

it not been truncated by levelling. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature but has been dated by association with **Group 1113**.

4.5 Middle to Late Iron Age (c.400 – 100 BC)

4.5.1 Gully/ditch **[1080]** traversed the central part of the Site on a broadly east/west alignment and measured 1.05m wide and 0.20m deep. The ditch was characterised by shallow concave sides falling to a shallow concave base and contained a single wind derived sand/silt deposit. Finds recovered from this feature indicate a Middle/Late Iron Age date.

4.5.2 It may be that this feature represents a field boundary rather than an internal enclosure. It is on a similar alignment to ditch **Group 1114** which exhibited a similar width, depth and cut and may be directly related to this ditch which was located 16.7m to the south (see below).

4.5.3 Pit **[1015]** was located in the central part of ditch **Group 1113** and measured approximately 0.85m in diameter and 0.60m deep with straight steep almost vertical sides, falling to an irregular base. Finds retrieved from the feature indicate a Middle/Late Iron Age date. The function of the pit remains unknown but it is possible it represents a large post hole.

4.5.4 Ditch **Group 1116** was recorded as extending from the southern baulk for a distance of 17.3m before turning to the west for a further 4m where it entered the western baulk. The ditch was characterised by a shallow concave cut measuring 1.10m wide and 0.15m deep and had probably been truncated (**Plate 5**). The ditch was cut by later phase ditches **Groups 1115** and **1117** and was observed to be the central ditch in this group of three. Pottery recovered from the ditch indicate a Middle/Late Iron Age date, however pottery of Romano-British date was also recovered from the feature which may be intrusive in origin or later re-use of the ditch system.

4.5.5 Ditch **Group 1115** extended from the southern baulk, albeit 5m eastwards of **Group 1116**, on a broadly north/south alignment for c. 18m before turning to the west for a further c. 7m where it entered the western baulk section. The ditch was observed to be severely truncated along its northern length where it survived to a depth of 0.45m, but survived to a depth of c. 0.60m where it was recorded in the southern baulk section (**Plate 6**). The ditch was characterised by steep almost straight sides and a concave 'V' shaped base and measured approximately 2.35m at its widest point (southern baulk section). This feature was identified by Archaeology South-East in Trench 8 during the evaluation phase of the project where it was recorded as being 1.30m wide and 0.80m deep also with a 'V' shaped cut. Middle/Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the ditch along with two sherds of tentatively dated medieval (possibly intrusive) pottery.

4.6 Late Prehistoric

4.6.1 Ditch **Group 1117** also extended from the southern baulk for a distance of 17m before following an almost right angled turn to the west (**Plate 4**). This ditch cut through gully remnant **[1033]** on its western side and **Group 1116** on its eastern (along its northern length). The ditch, which was no doubt truncated, was characterised by shallow concave sides falling to a very shallow concave base and measured 1.25m in width and c.0.17m in depth. Dating evidence recovered from this feature indicate a late prehistoric date.

4.7 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.7.1 Possible gully terminus **[1047]** was located 3m to the north of pit **[1024]** in the central section of the Site, and was recorded as extending westwards from the eastern baulk for a distance of 1.4m before terminating. The feature was characterised by an extremely shallow cut with shallow straight sides and a flat base. The feature appeared to have been severely truncated. Romano-British pottery was recovered from this feature.

4.8 Features of uncertain date

- 4.8.1 Ditch **[1082]** extended westwards from the north-western baulk section for a distance of 2m before turning to the north-east for a further distance of 5m where it terminated. The ditch truncated the western corner of ditch **Group 1109** and measured c.2.6m wide at its widest point, was approximately 0.26m deep and was characterised by moderate concave sides with a relatively flat base. The width of the feature would suggest this ditch has also been truncated by the landscaping. Only a short length of the ditch was observable but it suggests another possible enclosure system to the north-west. No dating evidence was retrieved from this feature.
- 4.8.2 Gully fragment **[1033]** was located to the immediate west of ditch **Group 1117** and was cut by this feature. The gully remnant measured approximately 2.7m in length and was 0.30m wide. The feature was characterised by moderate concave sides falling to a shallow concave base and contained a single deposit (**1034**). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.8.3 Small pit **[1024]** was situated in the northern central region of the Site against the eastern baulk. The pit measured 0.70m in diameter and 0.20m in depth with steep straight sides falling to a flat base.
- 4.8.4 Ditch **Group 1114** was aligned broadly east/west and measured 0.80m in width and 0.20m in depth. The ditch was characterised by a shallow U shaped cut with only c. 5m visible. The ditch was cut by later ditch terminals **Group 1113** and **[1072]** to the west and east respectively. Ditch **Group 1114** may be directly related to ditch **[1080]** to the north and may have functioned as a boundary feature.
- 4.8.5 Several tree throw hollows were observed across the Site, all tree throw hollows were investigated by hand excavation for finds but were not recorded. No finds were retrieved from these natural features.

4.9 Extension Area

- 4.9.1 Following the main strip, map and sample excavation phase of the project an additional strip to the east was undertaken during the removal of the all terrain pitch to ascertain whether if archaeological remains continued from the excavation area eastwards, they had survived the construction of the pitch installation. This phase was carried out between 20.04.11 and 25.04.11 and comprised the monitoring of the removal of the all terrain surface and make up layers beneath by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket by a qualified archaeologist.
- 4.9.2 A single archaeological feature, a small undated pit **[1106]** which contained a cremation related deposit (**Plate 8**) was identified. The pit was sub-circular

in plan measuring c. 0.40m in diameter and was 0.15m deep. The pit contained a single charcoal rich deposit (**1105**) within which cremated bone could be observed. The feature was located approximately 6m east of possible gully terminus **[1047]** described above and appears to be the only surviving feature beneath the all terrain pitch. It is likely the feature survived due to its relatively 'high' level in relation with the surrounding ground where truncation due to levelling is evident. It is probable that more features were present in this area possibly relating to the enclosure ditch **Group 1109** but they have been lost through terracing activities in the recent past.

- 4.9.3 A layer of Made Ground comprising compact clay was also identified to the east and south of the cremation feature which suggests the area (and archaeological features) was significantly reduced in height before levelling utilising the compact clay material was undertaken.
- 4.9.4 To the south-east of **[1106]** a World War Two air raid shelter, was uncovered during the removal of the all terrain pitch. The shelter comprised a series of roofed corridors of concrete construction. A detailed report on the shelter remains will be presented in a separate building recording report.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the fieldwork, consisting almost entirely of worked flint and pottery. The date range is predominantly prehistoric, with a few Romano-British items, and a few pottery sherds could be Saxon or early medieval.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Most of the pottery assemblage is of later prehistoric date, with a few Romano-British sherds. Three sherds are of uncertain date, but could be Saxon or early medieval. The dating of the pottery has been hampered by the lack of diagnostic sherds, combined with the lengthy currency of certain inclusion types (grog, flint) during the later prehistoric period. The problem has been exacerbated here by the poor condition of much of the pottery – sherds are generally small and have suffered relatively high levels of abrasion. Mean sherd weight overall is 6.8g.

Prehistoric

- 5.2.2 All but 14 of the 128 sherds recovered have been dated as prehistoric, although the possibility that the date range of some extend into the early Romano-British period cannot be ruled out. Most sherds are in fabric tempered with flint or grog, or sometimes with a combination of the two. There are also a few sandy sherds. Diagnostic sherds are restricted to one small rim, a carination or shoulder, and five body sherds with external scoring (a technique used to give a deliberately roughened external surface). These diagnostic sherds, combined with the variation in the size and frequency of the inclusions, suggests that there are elements here from the Middle Bronze Age (thick-walled sherds with coarse flint, from context **1004**), Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (the rim and carination, and some

less coarsely tempered fabrics with flint, e.g. contexts **1014, 1028, 1079, 1090**) and Middle/Late Iron Age (sandy fabrics, scored sherds, e.g. contexts **1004, 1010, 1016, 1019, 1036, 1046, 1081**). The use of any of the pottery for dating purposes is, however, hedged with *caveats*, including the low frequency of pottery by context, and the poor condition. The confidence with which the pottery can be regarded as representing *in situ* rather than redeposited sherds is low.

- 5.2.3 Two sherds, probably of later prehistoric date by association, are too heavily burnt to identify fabric type.

Romano-British

- 5.2.4 Twelve sherds are Romano-British. These include some grog-tempered sherds, continuing the indigenous later prehistoric ceramic tradition, as well as wheel thrown 'Romanised' sandy wares. One of the sandy greywares derives from a cordoned jar with burnished lattice decoration, of later 1st or 2nd century AD date (context **1010**), while an oxidised sandy sherd comes from a shallow dish (context **1048**).

Possible Saxon and medieval

- 5.2.5 One sherd in a coarse, hard-fired sandy fabric, from context **1046**, could conceivably be of early/mid Saxon date, although an Iron Age date is also a possibility.
- 5.2.6 Two sherds from context **1058** differ from the rest of the assemblage in their range of inclusions – both contained calcareous inclusions, now leached out, and some sub-angular flint. One is a rim sherd, with an everted, flat-topped profile, although the vessel form is uncertain. It could derive either from a jar or dish form. A possible medieval date is suggested for these sherds, although an earlier date range cannot be entirely ruled out. Flint-tempered wares, sometimes also containing shell, are known amongst early medieval (11th to 13th century) assemblages from the south Kent coast (e.g. Cotter 2006, 156-67).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint	Pottery
1004			2/6	5/23
1006				1/17
1008	14/11		2/6	8/44
1010				9/148
1012			3/7	2/35
1014			5/73	3/126
1016	10/4		1/10	4/13
1019	6/36		3/8	10/43
1021			2/11	1/8
1025				4/5
1028			6/59	8/35
1030			2/3	1/2
1036			2/8	1/6
1038			1/5	
1040			2/8	
1044				2/6

1046				1/10
1048				5/22
1052	11/19			
1054			3/13	7/19
1056			5/72	10/33
1058	49/52		2/4	12/66
1060		1/2	26/238	3/4
1063			3/77	
1065				2/9
1071			1/10	2/18
1073			2/4	4/48
1079			5/48	4/14
1081			2/19	12/53
1083			2/11	
1085			7/84	2/1
1087			4/23	
1090				1/39
1097			1/2	2/12
1098			1/3	
1101			9/78	2/5
TOTALS	90/122	1/2	104/890	128/864

5.3 Worked Flint

5.3.1 104 pieces were recovered. The breakdown of the total assemblage by type is given in **Table 2**.

Table 2: The composition of the flint assemblage by type

Type	No	%
Cores and fragments	9	8.65
Blades and bladelets	3	2.88
Flakes	75	72.12
Chips	1	0.96
Irregular debitage	1	0.96
Scrapers	2	1.92
Knives	1	0.96
Piercers	1	0.96
Microdenticulate	1	0.96
Miscellaneous retouch	10	9.61
Total	104	99.98

5.3.2 Raw materials are varied, including an element of good quality black chalk flint, probably from the Kentish Downs, amongst worn pebbles and cobbles that are likely to come from various sources in the drift geology, from gravels, beaches and so on. There are a small but notable number of pieces of a speckled greenish brown material of unknown source, but which occurs at other sites in Kent.

5.3.3 Condition is generally good, with only a little rolling and a very few pieces with patina or staining.

- 5.3.4 Most of the material is flake debitage; this element includes a large number of crudely-struck quite thick angular pieces that appear to be later prehistoric, amongst which, are a smaller number of more accomplished pieces, including core trimming flakes, which appear to be later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date. There is also a very small component from a blade technology: either blades (**1040**, **1060**), blade fragments (**1012**) or trimming flakes from blade cores (**1028**, **1087**). This element may be Early Neolithic.
- 5.3.5 Cores are all multi-platform irregular flake cores struck with hard hammers. None show signs of planned preparation or maintenance (despite the presence of trimming flakes), and some utilise large flakes or already-patinated chunks. Several have frequent incipient cones of percussion on platforms and other surfaces. These are generally indicative of later prehistoric flint working, and the cores are no earlier than the Early Bronze Age.
- 5.3.6 Retouched pieces are under-represented. Most are flakes with direct retouch on one or more edges (more are simply flakes or chunks which have been expediently used for cutting or chopping). More diagnostic pieces are limited to a cortical-backed knife on a secondary flake from **1004** (probably Early Bronze Age); a squat blade with microdenticulate retouch on both margins from **1028** (perhaps Early Neolithic); a piercer from **1040** (undated); and two crude end and side scrapers (from **1060** and **1079**), probably later prehistoric. In addition, a proximal fragment from a large tertiary flake from **1085** has what appear to be the beginnings of bifacial thinning on both margins; the piece may be an Early Bronze Age knife which broke in the early stages of manufacture.
- 5.4 Human Bone**
- 5.4.1 A small quantity (2.8g) of well oxidised (white) cremated human bone was recovered from the charcoal-rich fill of a small pit (**1106**; 0.15m deep). The bone comprises small fragments (max. 90mm) of compact bone (long bone shaft) from a sub adult/adult individual (>12 yr.). The small size of the fragments, absence of trabecular bone and the slightly worn/eroded appearance of the bone are all largely reflective of the acidic burial environment (Greensand).
- 5.4.2 The bone was dispersed throughout the 0.15m deep fill; the distribution together with the charcoal-rich nature of the matrix suggests the deposit represents redeposited pyre debris. The feature was the sole survivor within an area subject to extensive modern terracing and is undated, though likely to be prehistoric in origin. Unfortunately, insufficient bone survives to undertake radiocarbon dating, though if suitable charcoal samples are available such analysis would be advisable. No further work is recommended.
- 5.5 Animal Bone**
- 5.5.1 Other finds comprise a small quantity of animal bone in very poor condition (including cattle teeth fragments), and a single piece of burnt, unworked flint.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age gully, slots **1091** and **1093**, and a series of four samples from undated cremation related deposit **1106**. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood charcoal

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under an x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were generally small with varying quantities of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Only a very few charred plant remains were recovered within the gully samples. These included a grain of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), a glume base of spelt (*Triticum spelta*), fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and a seed of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). These are indicative of settlement activity in the vicinity.

6.2.4 The samples from cremation related deposit **1106** also only contained a small number of charred plant remains, including a couple of indeterminate grain fragments and a glume base of ?emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). There were also a few charred stem/root fragments. Small quantities of wood charcoal fragments >4mm were retrieved from this deposit.

7 FURTHER POTENTIAL

7.1 Overview of the stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The archaeological sequence provides evidence for at least five main phases of activity within the excavation area, principally relating to the lay out of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosure and a potential Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure, which evidence suggests was re-cut on the same alignment over time.

7.1.2 The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age elements appear typical of a relatively low status enclosure system extending to the east. The lack of internal features within this enclosure may indicate its function was primarily focussed on livestock husbandry and pastoralism, rather than enclosing occupation areas. However, many internal features may have been removed by modern. The presence of a single un-urned cremation identified in the watching brief area may indicate that whilst settlement activity, may not have been the focus of the enclosures identified on Site, occupation areas cannot have been too far away. The later parallel ditches in the far north-eastern

part of the site may indicate a change of, or more intensive usage of the landscape.

- 7.1.3 The Middle/Late Iron Age features in the southern part of the Site are indicative of an enclosure system, albeit one that has required periodic re-establishment through re-cutting of ditches on identical alignments. Once again the lack of internal features (due in part to the narrow dimensions of the excavation area) appears to indicate that the focus of activity is likely to have been pastoral or agricultural. Whilst the lack of cereal remains in environmental samples may support this assumption, their absence may also be due to the environmental conditions of the soil. Very little animal bone for example was recovered from the Site.
- 7.1.4 The stratigraphy of the ditch features was relatively easy to discern through the numerous intersections, which in combination with the pottery assemblage, aided the phasing of the Site. There was a relatively low density of other features few of which had inter-relationships. Phasing and dating is unlikely to be improved upon.
- 7.1.5 The phasing as set out above is unlikely to be improved upon by any further post-excavation analysis. The finds assemblage is insufficient to provide a clear chronological separation of the sequences particularly within the Middle to Late Iron Age phases.

7.2 Finds potential

Pottery

- 7.2.1 The artefact assemblage is restricted in both size and range; it has a correspondingly limited potential for further elucidation of the Site. The limitations of the dating evidence have been discussed. The finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is warranted.

Worked flint

- 7.2.2 Further analysis of the material is not required.

Human Bone

- 7.2.3 Further analysis of the material is not required.

Animal Bone

- 7.2.4 Further analysis of the material is not required.

7.3 Palaeoenvironmental Potential

Charred plant remains and Wood charcoal

- 7.3.1 There is no potential for the charred plant remains to provide any detailed information on the nature of the settlement, local environment, range of crops and agricultural practices due to the paucity of the remains recovered.
- 7.3.2 Analysis of the wood charcoal from the cremation related deposit may provide information on the nature and exploitation of the local woodland resource as well as augmenting the data on the funerary practice.

8 AIMS AND METHODS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Post excavation work to date has included checking and ordering of the stratigraphic archive, compilation of an access database for all context records, digitisation of all features, section lines etc (using AutoCAD 2004) and provisional phasing of all contexts

8.2 Stratigraphic

8.2.1 The provisional phasing will be checked and refined at the analysis stage. Following this, a structural narrative will be prepared, presenting the site by phase based on the assessment report which is presented here.

8.2.2 A discussion will be prepared which will bring together the results of the excavation and watching brief, finds and environmental analysis. This will consider the site sequence in all its phases, with particular reference to what is known from previous archaeological and other work in Folkestone regarding the archaeological periods identified in this report. Comparisons will be drawn with other similar activity where appropriate.

8.3 Finds

Pottery

8.3.1 Further analysis of the material is not required.

Worked Flint

8.3.2 Further analysis of the material is not required.

Human Bone

8.3.3 Further analysis of the material is not required.

Animal Bone

8.3.4 Further analysis of the material is not required.

8.4 Environmental

Charred plant remains and Wood charcoal

8.4.1 No further work is proposed on the charred plant remains.

9 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

9.1 Management Structure

9.1.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-Excavation Manager who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.

9.1.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication

report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. They will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

9.2 Performance Monitoring and Quality Standards

9.2.1 The Post-Excavation Manager will be assisted by the Reports Manager (Julie Gardiner), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

9.3 Designated Project Team

9.3.1 The team consists primarily of internal Wessex Archaeology staff. The post-excavation project will be managed by Richard Greatorex. The following staff (**Table 3**) will be scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list (**Table 5**) and the programme.

Table 3: The project team

Name	Position
Richard Greatorex	Senior Project manager
Rob De'Athe	Senior Project Officer
Helen McIntyre	Archive Officer
Julie Gardiner	Reports Manager
Linda Coleman	Illustrator

9.4 Proposed publication and dissemination

9.4.1 The local significance of the results obtained from the excavations and the watching brief warrants their publication as an extended note in an appropriate academic journal. It is therefore proposed that a short publication will be submitted to *Archaeologia Cantiana* either for print or web publication whichever is the most appropriate. This will enable relatively rapid publication as well as dissemination to as wide an audience as possible. The publication will include appropriate illustrations and photographs in support of the text.

9.4.2 The proposed format of the report is outlined below in **Table 4**. The final format and precise word counts and illustrations will be subject to variation during the course of final analysis work. The views of the County Archaeological Officer to the recommendations may also need to be taken into account.

Table 4: Publication report synopsis

Section heading	Pages (c. 1000 words pp)	Figures and Plates	Tables
Summary	0.25		
Introduction	0.5	1 plan of site area	
Archaeological background	0.25		
Fieldwork Methodology	0.25		
Results			
Introduction	0.5		
Overview	0.0.5	1 plan of area and plates	
Discussion –	0.75		

Research themes for Late Bronze Age, Middle to late Iron Age chronology, landscape and economy			
Acknowledgements & Archive	0.5		
Bibliography	0.5		
Appendices (optional)	1		
Totals			
Total Report Length c. 4 pages			

9.5 Tasklist

9.5.1 **Table 5** below lists the stages and tasks, the personnel and scheduled work duration required to achieve the project objectives.

Table 5: Tasklist for analysis and publication

Task No	Task	Grade	Name	Days
Management				
1	General management	SPM	R Greatorex	1
Stratigraphic				
4	Analysis	SPO	R De'Athe	1
5	Site narrative	SPO	R De'Athe	1
6	Figures for publication	DO	Illustrator	2
Report				
7	Assemble report	PO	R De'Athe	1
9	Edit Report	PM	J Gardiner	0.5
10	Journal costs	EXT		£250
Archive				
11	Archive preparation	PO	H McIntyre	0.5
12	Microfilm job sheets and checking	PO	H McIntyre	0.5
13	Microfilm paper records*	Ext	Fee	@£30/file
14	Archive deposition	PO + vehicle		1
15	Box storage grant	-	-	£1000

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 No repository has at this stage been identified for the deposition of the project archive. Deposition of the finds, when a suitable repository is identified, will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Archive

10.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the WA site code (70301), and a full index will be prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 2 files/document cases of paper records & A3/4 graphics

10.3 Conservation

10.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field.

10.4 Discard Policy

10.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt (unworked) flint has already been discarded. The discard policy will be fully documented in the project archive.

10.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms to nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

10.5 Copyright

10.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

10.6 Security Copy

10.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National

Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

11 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1
Archive Index
Site Name: Folkestone Cricket Club
Wessex Archaeology project number: 77310

File no.	Details	Format	No. sheets
Stratigraphic archive			
1	Index to archive	A4	4
1	Client report	A4	36
1	Project specification	A4	21
1	Day Book	A4	5
1	Site graphics	A4	23
1	Site graphics	A3	11
1	Photographic register	A4	11
1	Environmental sample register	A4	1
1	Environmental records	A4	4
1	Site context records	A4	117

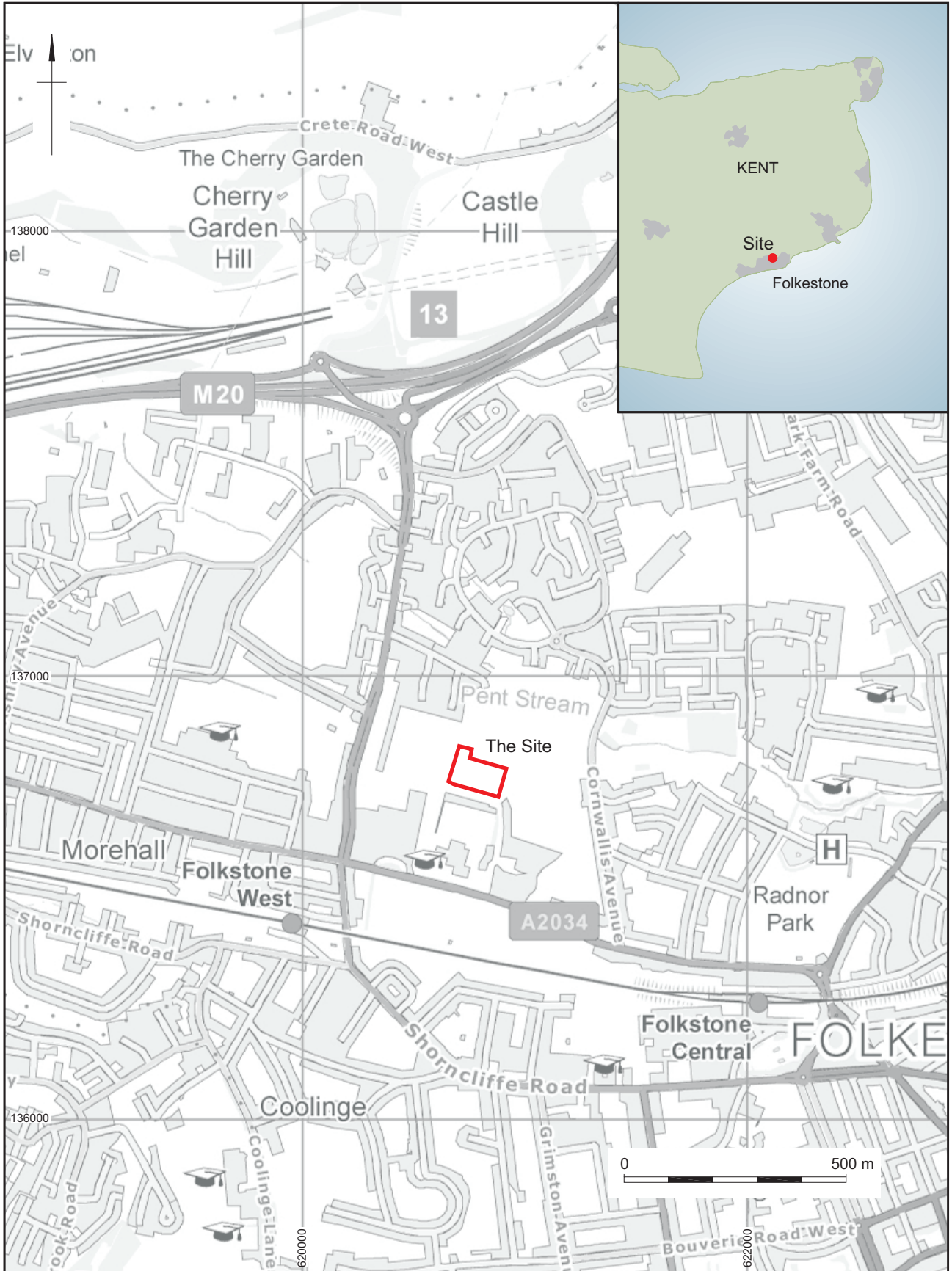
APPENDIX 2



Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age												
Gully												
1091	1092	1	18	50	70	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	<1/<1 ml	-	-
1093	1094	2	18	50	60	C	C	C	Hulled wheat grain x 1, Spelt glume base x 1, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> x 1, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/<1 ml	-	-
Undated												
Cremation Related Deposit												
1106	1105 NW	4	3	20	5	C	-	-	Indeterminate grain frag, few charred stem/root frags	2/3 ml	-	-
1106	1105 SW	5	4	25	5	-	-	-	Few charred stem/root frags	2/3 ml	-	-
1106	1105 NE	6	4	30	5	-	C	-	?emmer glume base x 1, few charred stem/root frags	2/4 ml	-	C
1106	1105 SE	7	4	40	5	C	-	-	Indeterminate grain frag, few charred stem/root frags	4/4 ml	-	C

Key:

A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5 Analysis: C = charcoal



 Site location 	Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010 Digital Map Data © (2005) XYZ Digital Map Company. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	
	Date: 05/05/11	Revision Number: 0
	Scale: 1:12,500 @ A4	Illustrator: KJB
	Path: Y:\PROJECTS\77310\Drawing Office\Report figs\Assessment\11-06-01	

Site location plan

Figure 1



Phased plan of archaeological features and Watching Brief Area

Figure 2



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