



# Land at Harps Farm Minster-on-Sea, Sheppey, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 4.5 ha parcel of land located within a proposed development area (hereafter 'the PDA') at Harps Farm, Minster of Sea, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 595182,172332. Existing ground levels within the PDA are approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of phase 3 and fall to approximately 13m aOD at the southern boundary of phase 1.

The underlying geology is mapped as the London Clay Formation with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer).

The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swale Borough Council (SW13/1455) in 2013 for the construction of up to 431 dwellings within Parcels D, E, F, & G. The archaeological evaluation was focused on Parcel G phases 1-5.

The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 12 evaluation trenches. A single undated ditch was identified towards the centre of the site, the ditch was not identified within any adjacent trenches. The date and function of the ditch remains uncertain, although its proximity to a post medieval – modern agricultural structure (now demolished) may be indicative of a later date for the ditch, most likely a former field boundary associated with the sites former use as an agricultural plot.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS), for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Simon Mason, County Archaeologist for Kent County Council, who monitored the project on behalf of Swale Borough Council.

The fieldwork was directed by Lisa McCaig, with the assistance of Aleksandra Bialobrzewska and Lance Lewis. This report was written by Lisa McCaig and William Santamaria and edited by Rob De'Athe. The project was managed by Rob De'Athe on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Land at Harps Farm Minster on Sea

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land located at Harps Farm, Minster of Sea, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 595182,172332 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 A Planning application (SW13/1455) was submitted to Swale Borough Council in 2013 for the construction of up to 431 dwellings within Parcels D, E, F & G of land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent. The evaluation area is focussed within Parcel G phases 1-5.

1.1.3 Planning permission was granted on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

*Condition: "No development shall take place on a phase of the development until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:*

*(i) archaeological field evaluation works for that phase in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."*

*Reason: "To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record."*

1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The County Archaeologist for Kent County Council (KCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 12 trial trenches was undertaken from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.



- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

### **1.3 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is situated on the southern side of Minster on Sea, Sheerness, Kent. The total area of the proposed development area (PDA) is 10.9 ha with parcel G totalling 4.5ha and is located adjacent to Heron Drive.
- 1.3.2 To the north of the PDA is a housing association development and a disused railway line that borders the existing development of Minster on Sea. To the south of the PDA is a residential development which forms part of the larger Thistle Hill development. To the east of the PDA are arable fields. The PDA is bordered to the west by parcels D-F and Heron Drive.
- 1.3.3 Existing ground levels within the PDA are approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of phase 3 and fall to approximately 13m aOD at the southern boundary of phase 1.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as the London Clay Formation with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the PDA was addressed by Simon Mason, senior archaeological advisor to the LPA on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Comment was made to the recent discoveries within the wider Thistle Hill site that range from prehistoric to the First World War in date. Of particular note was the identified of an early medieval fire pit found on Heron Drive on the southern boundary of the phase 5 area.

### **2.2 Archaeological and historical context**

- 2.2.1 Before 1999, there had been no systematic survey of the archaeology of the Isle of Sheppey. A small number of surface scatters of prehistoric and Roman pottery have been recorded in the vicinity of the PDA (ASE 2000, 1) and an unpublished excavation at Norwood Manor, revealed Bronze Age/Iron Age and early medieval features. Metal detector finds in the area include a Bronze Age axe fragment and coins of Late Iron Age and medieval date.
- 2.2.2 Extensive archaeological works at Kingsborough Manor, to the north-east of the PDA, by ASE in March 1999 and Wessex Archaeology 2002-2005 produced a wealth of archaeological information. A number of important archaeological features were recorded dating from the Neolithic to Medieval periods (ASE 2000, WA 2005). These included a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure with the remains of a Romano-British period sub-square enclosure with an internal division overlying the north-eastern extent of the Causewayed Enclosure. The Romano-British enclosure was c. 43m square and comprised an 'internal' enclosed area of c. 28m by c. 14m. Pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD date dominated the Romano-British pottery assemblage from the excavation.
- 2.2.3 Two Romano-British urned cremation burials were recorded cutting the upper fills of the Causewayed Enclosure outer ditch circuit. The finds assemblages from both cremation burials consisted of pottery and glass vessels of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD date.





- 2.2.4 Excavations carried out in 2001 in advance of construction of the Community Hospital to the west of PDA at Barton Hill Drive (CAT 2001) revealed evidence of four main phases of occupation representing Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity indicated by a series of ditches, pits and postholes. A thinner spread of features dating to the early medieval and late post-medieval period was also identified on the site.
- 2.2.5 In February 2006 an evaluation comprising twenty-eight trial trenches was carried out on Land Parcels 6, 7 and 8 of the residential development at Thistle Hill to the south of the PDA (WA 2006). The remains of three urned Romano-British cremation burials dating to the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD were identified within Land Parcel 8. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified in the remaining trial trenches.
- 2.2.6 An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken to the southeast of the PDA by ASE in 2007 on Land Parcels 4, 12, 13, POS 5 and School Site (ASE 2007). The evaluation, which comprised the excavation of sixty-five trenches, identified archaeological features in five trenches all within Land Parcel 4. The features recorded comprised pits dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. A number of the pits produced fragments of burnt clay. Most significantly thirty fragments of fired clay perforated kiln plates of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date were recovered suggesting the presence of a pottery kiln within the vicinity. Four linear features from which medieval pottery was recovered and a pit of probable medieval date was also recorded which may be an indication of settlement activity during this period.
- 2.2.7 This was followed by an archaeological evaluation of Land Parcel 10 by Wessex Archaeology in the same year (WA 2007a). The majority of the features recorded were tree-throws with a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic core recovered from one 240m to the southeast of the PDA. A Mesolithic bladelet was also found. No further archaeological remains were recorded. Wessex Archaeology also conducted an evaluation of Scocles Road which borders the southern boundary of the Phase 5 area (WA 2007b). Archaeological features revealed comprised of a shallow pit and three gullies. Residual medieval and Romano-British artefacts were also recovered during the evaluation.
- 2.2.8 From 2009-2011 ASE conducted a further series of evaluations and excavations on Land Parcels 13, 14 and 17 of the Thistle Hill Development and found the remains of a large medieval farmstead (ASE 2009, ASE 2011). A number of ditches and pits were found containing pottery of 12th and 13th century date. A subsequent excavation found these to belong to a 12th and 13th century farmstead. A rectilinear arrangement of ditches formed a compact enclosure system. A second phase of activity was evident on the site. A post-built structure was found within the enclosure. A number of pits were also found. During the watching brief to the north, a ditch was found along with possible evidence of rubbish disposal from the farmstead. Military ditches were also found in the northern part of the site containing modern material including an unfired Mark 7.303 bullet. The trenches themselves form a zig-zag pattern and are thought to date to the First World War. In addition to the WWI trenches, further evidence of medieval activity was recorded which has confirmed the presence of a medieval farmstead 250m to the southeast of the PDA.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and KCC's *Manual of Specifications part B: trial trenching requirements*, were:



- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

### 3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

- 4.2.1 Due to presence of numerous on-site obstacles such as spoil heaps and material stockpiles, the trench locations were set out on commencement of the fieldwork, aiming to provide a thorough spread across the site. This was agreed in advance with the client and KCC's County Archaeologist and is a revision to the original layout proposed in the WSI (WA 2018) (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 12 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the County Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

#### *Recording*

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies**

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

### **4.4 Monitoring**

4.4.1 The County Archaeologist for KCC, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the evaluation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the County Archaeologist.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 1 of the 12 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating extremely limited remains are present toward the centre of the site (**Fig. 2**).

5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts from each trench are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**), trenches containing no archaeological features or deposits will not be discussed in the archaeological results below but are included in the appendix. **Figure 1** shows the site location and evaluation trenches. **Figure 2** shows the trenches location in more detail with the archaeological feature recorded within Trench 5. **Plate 14** shows the single feature encountered, while **plates 1- 13** provide a selection of trench photos and representative sections recorded across the site.

## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 A fairly common stratigraphic sequence was encountered across the site, typically consisting of a thin layer of topsoil average 0.2m thick which immediately overlay the natural geology. The only significant exception was in Trenches 5 and 9 which recorded a much deeper stratigraphic sequence and included a subsoil deposit which overlay the natural geology.

## 5.3 Trench 5

- 5.3.1 A single undated ditch **504 (Fig. 2, plate 14)**, aligned northwest-southeast was identified towards the centre of Trench 5. The ditch measured 1.74m wide and exhibited a shallow concave profile, measuring just 0.15m deep and containing a single fill. Small fragments of animal bone and two small fragments of fired clay were recovered from the fill but neither artefact could provide a secure date for the feature.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from Trench 5. The assemblage has been cleaned and quantified by material type; this information is summarised in Table 1.

### 6.2 Animal bone

- 6.2.1 Part of a left cattle pelvis and a fragment of burnt (calcined and charred) cattle-sized long bone shaft came from ditch 504.

### 6.3 Other finds

- 6.3.1 Two small, amorphous fragments of fired clay were recovered from ditch 504. They are abraded and it is not possible to ascertain their function or date. A single piece of burnt flint was also recovered from this feature.

**Table 1** Quantification of finds

Context	Fired clay		Burnt flint		Animal bone	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
505	2	1	1	6	6	39

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental assessment were identified during the course of the evaluation

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Discussion

- 8.1.1 A single undated ditch was identified towards the centre of the site, the ditch was not identified within any adjacent trenches. The date and function of the ditch therefore remain uncertain, although its proximity to a post medieval – modern agricultural structure (now demolished) may be indicative of a later date for the ditch, most likely a former field boundary associated with the lands former use as an agricultural plot.



## 9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. No museum has agreed as yet to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### 9.2 Preparation of the archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the accepting museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code 205880**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A4 graphics;

### 9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

### 9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### 9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## 10 COPYRIGHT

### 10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was



produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

## **10.2 Third party data copyright**

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1		Length 30m	Width 1.50m	Depth 0.50m
Easting 595301.59		Northing 172422.73		MaOD 17.55
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey. Clayish silt. Common rooting. Rare small pebbles and chalk flecks.	0-0.25
102		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown. Silty clay.	0-25-0.38
103		Natural	Brownish yellow. Clay. Rare manganese flecks.	0.38-0.4+

Trench No 2		Length 30m	Width 1.50m	Depth 0.32m
Easting 595258.90		Northing 172434.97		MaOD 17.89
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey. Clayish silt. Occasional rooting and small stones.	0-0.2
202		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown. Silty clay	0.2-0.3
203		Natural	Brownish yellow. Clay.	0.3-0.32+

Trench No 3		Length 30m	Width 1.50m	Depth 0.25m
Easting 595234.27		Northing 172436.90		MaOD 17.88
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey. Silty clay. Occasional rooting and small stones.	0-0.14
302		Natural	Brownish yellow. Clay. Rare manganese flecks.	0.14-0.25+

Trench No 4		Length 30m	Width 1.50m	Depth 0.30m
Easting 595203.25		Northing 172422.65		MaOD 16.84
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey. Clayish silt. Occasional rooting and small stones.	0-0.15
402		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare small stones.	0.15-0.30
403		Natural	Brownish yellow. Clay. Rare manganese flecks.	0.20-0.30+





Trench No 5		Length 30m	Width 1.50m	Depth 0.45m
Easting 595214.94		Northing 172387.37		MaOD 16.39
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey. Clayish silt. Occasional rooting and small stones.	0-0.15
502		Subsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional chalk flecks.	0.15-0.25
503		Natural	Brownish yellow. Clay. Very common, rounded stones.	0.25-0.3+
504	505	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50m. Width: 1.64m. Depth: 0.15m.	0.25-0.40
505	504	Deliberate backfill	Dark brownish grey clayish silt with common gravel, sub-angular flints inclusions. Archaeological components: Frequent charcoal flecks, occasional CBM, bone, burnt bone	0.25-0.40

Trench No 6		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.40m
Easting 595183.93		Northing 172375.57		MaOD 15.30
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Dark grey brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flint.	0.0-0.35
602		Natural	Mid reddish yellow. Clay. Patches of moderate rounded flint.	0.35+

Trench No 7		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.34m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare CBM. Rare rounded flint.	0.0-0.24
702		Natural	Light yellowish brown. Clay. Rare chalk fleck.	0.24+

Trench No 8		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.28m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flints.	0.0-0.13
802		Subsoil	Mid brown. Clay. Rare chalk flecks.	0.13-0.25
803		Natural	Yellowish red brown. Clay. Common rounded flint.	0.25+



Trench No 9		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.53m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flint.	0.0-0.27
902		Subsoil	Mid brown. Clay. Rare charcoal and CBM.	0.27-0.47
903		Natural	Light yellowish brown. Clay. Rare rounded flint.	0.47+

Trench No 10		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.28m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flint and CBM.	0.0-0.22
1002		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. Clay. Common rounded and sub rounded flint.	0.22+

Trench No 11		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.31m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flint.	0.0-0.24
1102		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. Clay. Moderate rounded flint.	0.24+

Trench No 12		Length 30m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.32m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare rounded flint.	0.0-0.13
1202		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Clay. Rare small rounded flint.	0.13-0.25
1203		Natural	Mid yellowish brown. Clay. Common rounded flint.	0.25+



## Appendix 2 KCC HER Summery Form

<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent	
<b>Summary of discoveries:</b> Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 4.5 ha parcel of land located within a proposed development area (hereafter 'the PDA') at Harps Farm, Minster of Sea, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 595182,172332. Existing ground levels within the PDA reaches approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of phase 3 and falls to approximately 13m aOD at the southern boundary of phase 1.  The underlying geology is mapped as the London Clay Formation with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer).  The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swale Borough Council (SW13/1455) in 2013 for the construction of up to 431 dwellings within Parcels D, E, F, & G. The archaeological evaluation was focused on parcel G phases 1-5.  The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 12 evaluation trenches. A single undated ditch was identified towards the centre of the site, the ditch was not identified within any adjacent trenches and did not yield artefacts suitable for dating. The date and function of the ditch therefore remains uncertain, although its proximity to a post medieval – modern agricultural structure (now demolished) may be indicative of a later date for the ditch, most likely a former field boundary associated with the lands former use as an agricultural plot.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Swale	<b>Parish:</b> Minster on Sea
<b>Period(s):</b> Unknown	
<b>NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m):</b> 595182,172332	
<b>Type of archaeological work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	
<b>Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From:</b> 18/2/19 <b>To:</b> 20/2/19	
<b>Unit/contractor undertaking recording:</b> Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> London Clay Formation	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation. Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b> A single undated ditch was identified.	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Wessex Archaeology (Maidstone)	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> R. De'Athe	<b>Date:</b> 22/02/2019



## Appendix 3 OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-346009**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 4.5 ha parcel of land located within a proposed development area (hereafter 'the PDA') at Harps Farm, Minster of Sea, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 595182,172332. Existing ground levels within the PDA reaches approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of phase 3 and falls to approximately 13m aOD at the southern boundary of phase 1. The underlying geology is mapped as the London Clay Formation with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer). The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swale Borough Council (SW13/1455) in 2013 for the construction of up to 431 dwellings within Parcels D, E, F, and G. The archaeological evaluation was focused on parcel G phases 1-5. The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 12 evaluation trenches. A single undated ditch was identified towards the centre of the site, the ditch was not identified within any adjacent trenches and did not yield artefacts suitable for dating. The date and function of the ditch therefore remains uncertain, although its proximity to a post medieval - modern agricultural structure (now demolished) may be indicative of a later date for the ditch, most likely a former field boundary associated with the lands former use as an agricultural plot.
Project dates	Start: 18-02-2019 End: 20-02-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SW/13/1455 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	FIRE CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONES Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	KENT SWALE MINSTER-ON-SEA Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent
Postcode	ME12 3SD
Study area	4.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 595182 172332 50.931878473058 0.270342953215 50 55 54 N 000 16 13 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	WGS 84 Datum
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13m Max: 18m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor	Lisa McCaig
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS)

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#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	No museum assigned yet
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	No museum assigned yet
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	No museum assigned yet
Paper Media available	"Report"

---

#### Project bibliography 1

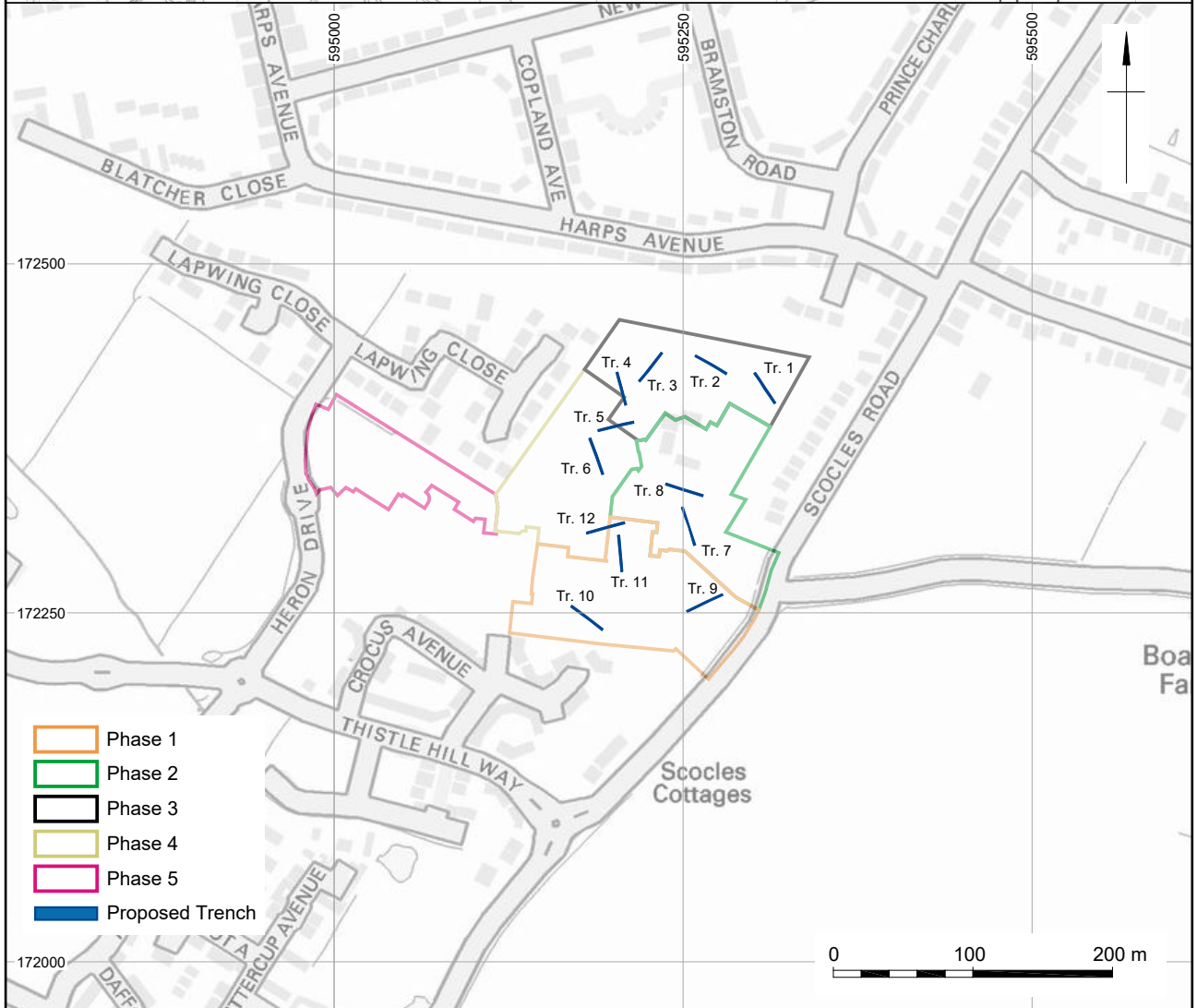
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Harps Farm, Minster on Sea, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	McCaig, L and Santamaria, W




Other bibliographic details 205880.02  
Date 2019  
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology  
Place of issue or publication London and South East Office  
Description 20 pages of grey literature with report of findings, figures and plates during the archaeological evaluation

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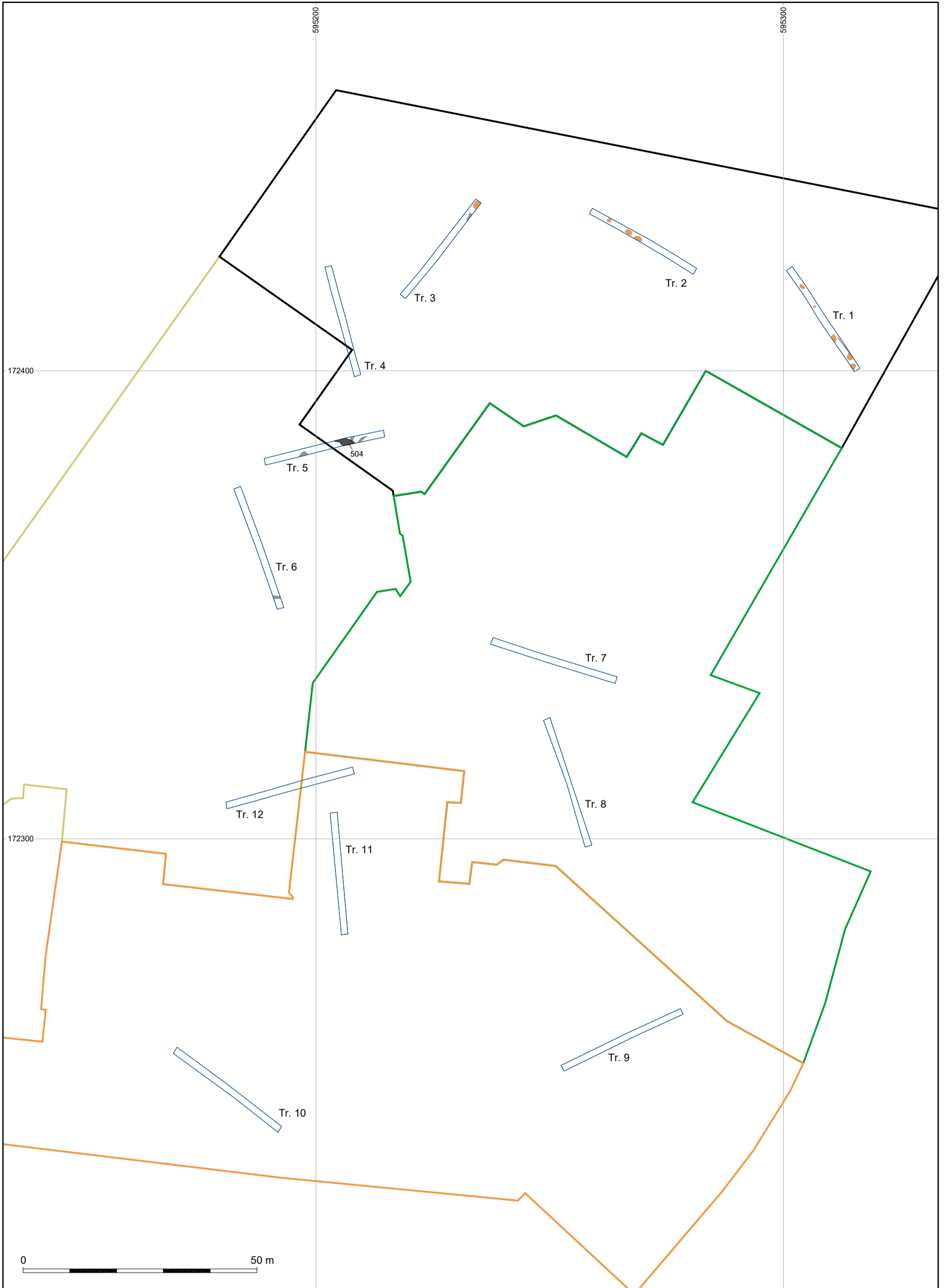
Entered by Guillermo Santamaria (g.santamaria@wessexarch.co.uk)  
Entered on 18 March 2019



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Site Location and proposed trench layout

Figure 1













	 Phase 1	 Proposed Trench	
	 Phase 2	 Archaeology	
	 Phase 3	 Disturbance	
	 Phase 4	 Tree Throw	
	 Phase 5		
Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)			
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Plate 1: Trench 2, viewed from the northwest



Plate 2: Northeast facing representative section of Trench 4


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Plate 3: Trench 5, viewed from the west



Plate 4: North facing representative section of Trench 5


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Plate 5: Trench 7, viewed from the east-southeast



Plate 6: South-southwest facing representative section of Trench 7


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Plate 7: Trench 8, viewed from the south-southwest



Plate 8: East-northeast facing representative section of Trench 8


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Plate 9: Trench 9, viewed from the south-southwest



Plate 10: South-southeast facing representative section of Trench 9


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Plate 11: Trench 10, viewed from the west-southwest



Plate 12: South-southwest facing representative section of Trench 10



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Plate 13: Trench 11, viewed from the north-northeast



Plate 14: Ditch 504, viewed from the southeast

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