



Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**PARK VIEW, THE STREET,
SEDLSCOMBE, EAST SUSSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared for

**Constantgreen Homes Ltd
M3 House
71 London Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1AX**

By

**Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Constantgreen Homes Limited to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 578300 117790.

Six trenches were excavated, two of which (Trenches 3 and 4) revealed evidence of tannery associated structures, provisionally interpreted as a fellmonger's pits. A fellmonger would have been employed in the preparation of the skins for the tannery. No datable material was obtained from the pits, but they are likely to be post-medieval in date (Lawrence Stevens, pers. comm.). Trench 3 also exposed the footings of the outbuilding which had previously occupied the Site and had been demolished shortly before the archaeological evaluation took place. Trench 6 revealed the north-east corner of the floor of the barn. Evidence of a substantial disused drainage ditch was found in Trenches 2 and 6. Trenches 2 and 5 exposed an organic rich peaty layer containing significant quantities of waterlogged woody material, potentially dating from the Bronze Age or Iron Age.

The archaeological evaluation demonstrated the presence of significant structural remains relating to the tanning and fellmonging activities known to have been taking place within the vicinity of the Site from the medieval period to the late 19th century.

Following the results of the evaluation, and in consultation with the County Archaeologist for East Sussex County Council, a staged approach to further works, comprising an auger survey of the northern area and strip, map and sample of the southern area of the Site, has been recommended in advance of any development.

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The evaluation was carried out by David Parry with the assistance of Darryl Freer and Peter James. This report was compiled by David Parry with illustrations and plates prepared by Will Foster. The environmental samples were processed by Darren Baker. The bulk and waterlogged samples were assessed by Dr Chris J. Stevens. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Constantgreen Homes Limited (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Park View, The Street, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 578300 117790 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The programme of works, required by East Sussex County Council (ESCC), comprised evaluation by machine excavated trial trenches in order to assess the level of survival of archaeological remains on the Site, in advance of the construction of a proposed residential development.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is approximately 0.20ha in area and until recently comprised a house and barn along with associated land. It is bounded to the south, east and north by open fields and to the west by the rear of properties which front onto The Street. It is accessed via a lane which passes between No. 3 Tanyard Cottages and Kester House.

1.2.2 The Site is relatively flat, sloping slightly from the north-west down to the south-east, lying at approximately 11.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The underlying geology comprises Clay in Ashdown Beds with potential Head Deposits (Geological Survey of Great Britain Solid and Drift 1:50,000; Sheet 320/321; Hastings & Dungeness).

1.3 Development Proposals

1.3.1 It is intended that the Site be redeveloped as four residential properties with associated vehicular access, services and parking.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A previous desk-based assessment carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2007), covering a 250m radius centred on the Site, identified archaeological sites in the area and commented on the potential for archaeological remains to survive on the Site. The results of this are summarised below.

- 2.1.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site boundary.
- 2.1.3 As suggested in the DBA, there is a low potential for the survival of prehistoric and Romano-British remains within the Study Area.
- 2.1.4 The Site lies within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area and a Conservation Area, which encompasses the whole village from Sedlescombe Bridge north to The Old Gun House, extending east and west into open fields. This designation is justified in the Sedlescombe Conservation Area Appraisal on the basis of the village's long history and absence of more recent development in the historic core, suggesting that there is a strong possibility of archaeological deposits being present. This may be especially true of the wetter ground beside the river, to the east of the Site, where organic remains associated with the former tannery may survive.
- 2.1.5 The Site lies within the historic core of the village of Sedlescombe, and although the ESSMR records only one entry of medieval date, comprising documentary evidence for the site of a medieval monastic tannery, the suspected location of this site is within the open field immediately to the south of the Site, between the Site and the Brede River.
- 2.1.6 The Site lies within an area of the village that appears to have been the focus of post-medieval industry, with a gunpowder mill, a corn mill, a tanyard, a wheel wrights and a smithy all recorded in this area. There is therefore a moderate potential for the survival of post-medieval features and deposits within the Site. Cartographic evidence indicates that the Site lay behind an inn, the Coach and Horses, in the late 19th century and that the recently demolished buildings also occupied the Site at that time. Subsequent documentary evidence indicates the presence of a tanyard or fellmonger's yard within the Site at least during the 19th century.

2.2 Recent Investigations

- 2.2.1 Recent building recording works undertaken on the existing structures (an outbuilding and a house) at the Site prior to demolition and a watching brief carried out during the subsequent demolition of the structures was conducted by Wessex Archaeology during April 2008 (WA 2008). The works identified that the earliest phase of the outbuilding was a timber-framed structure, probably of 17th century date. This building underwent several phases of alteration. The Tithe map and apportionment show that it clearly formed part of a William Piper's fellmonger's yard in 1843. The building recording also established that the earliest part of the house was built between 1875 and 1898, replacing an earlier, possibly non-residential building. The house may have been built when the tanyard closed down. The house was extended to the north between 1898 and 1909. Further extensions and alterations were made in the mid and late 20th century.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 To determine or confirm the presence/absence and the specific nature and depth below current ground surface of any archaeological remains present on the Site.
- 3.1.2 To determine or confirm the character, condition, approximate date or date range, distribution and potential of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.
- 3.1.3 To provide information on which to base future decisions concerning the treatment of any archaeological remains on the Site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Machine-dug trial trenches

- 4.1.1 Six machine-dug trial trenches were excavated as indicated on **Figure 1**. These were originally all intended to be 10m x 1.8m, however ground conditions and the need to further clarify certain features and deposits meant that Trench 1 was shortened to 8.20m whilst, on the advice of the County Archaeologist for ESCC Trenches 2, 3, 4, and 6 were all extended. Trench 6 was also moved due to the extent of disturbance resulting from the demolition of Park View, the residential dwelling which had previously occupied the Site.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (as amended 1994), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 4.2.2 The trial trenches were laid out in the pattern shown in **Figure 1**. Adjustments to the original layout were required to take account of ground conditions and localised disturbance, as discussed above. The trial trench locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 4.2.3 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator, using a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation proceeded until the top of the archaeological levels or the top of natural deposits, whichever was the higher.

- 4.2.4 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed via mechanical-excavation, cleaning of the trial trench bases was undertaken by hand where necessary.
- 4.2.5 As a result of the high water table, flooding was a problem in a number of the trenches, which limited the degree to which they could be recorded during the evaluation. However, these trenches were photographed and inspected for archaeological features or deposits prior to flooding.
- 4.2.6 Due to the limited extent of the tannery related pits exposed within the evaluation trenches, it was decided in consultation with ESCC that intrusive archaeological excavation at this stage would be inappropriate, especially given that the archaeological excavation of the Site was anticipated to commence immediately following the completion of the evaluation.
- 4.2.7 Palaeo-environmental samples were taken from the sealed peaty deposits and the layers immediately above these within Trenches 2 and 5. The results of the samples are discussed below.

4.3 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy and Risk Assessment

- 4.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4.4 REINSTATEMENT

- 4.4.1 The trenches were not backfilled due to the expectation of excavation commencing on Site immediately following the completion of the evaluation, on the instruction of the Client.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Site is situated on the low lying area on the edge of the Brede River flood plain and suffered from extensive flooding, mainly from the high water table but also from rain. This hampered observation and recording of some of the evaluation trenches.
- 5.1.2 The footings of the house that had occupied the Site, and its subsequent demolition, led to a large part of the site being heavily disturbed and in situ archaeological remains did not survive in these areas.
- 5.1.3 Consequently, although presence, depth and extent of the archaeology were determined, little dating evidence was obtained. Given the limitations of the evaluation trenches and expected further mitigation work, it was agreed after

consultation with the County Archaeologist that only minimal investigation of the tannery features should be carried out as part of the evaluation.

- 5.1.4 Full tabulated results of the evaluation are presented as **Appendix 1** and trench locations in conjunction with any archaeological features recorded during the evaluation are illustrated on **Figure 2**.

5.2 Site-wide deposits

Topsoil

- 5.2.1 Garden topsoil was observed to a depth of between 0.20m (Trench 4) and 0.38m (Trench 1). This was universally a dark-greyish brown clay-loam, with occasional modern rubbish including building rubble.

Subsoil

- 5.2.2 This was generally mid-greyish brown silty clay with some reddish iron panning. Occasional fragments of modern CBM were observed.

Peat layer

- 5.2.3 Evidence from Trenches 2 and 5 (**Figure 3**), along with observations recorded during the demolition of the house; suggest that the Site straddles the boundary between the marshy floodplain of the River Brede to the south and east of the Site and the drier high ground in the western and northern areas of the Site.
- 5.2.4 The stratigraphic sequences in these trenches suggest a series of flooding events and the burying of decayed trees and plants at the edge of fen or wet woodland.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 (8.20 x 1.60m) was orientated roughly north to south, in the north of the Site (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m. This maximum depth was reached in a machine-dug sondage at the south end of the trench.
- 5.3.2 A modern tree throw hole (stump still in situ) was exposed at the north end of the trench.
- 5.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were identified or recovered from Trench 1.

5.4 Trench 2

- 5.4.1 Trench 2 (12.00 x 1.60m) was orientated roughly east-west, along the north east boundary of the Site (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.50m. This maximum depth was reached in a machine-dug sondage near the middle of the trench. The original trench was extended to the west in an attempt to find the extent of peaty deposits

205/207 (**Figure 3**) however; this was not established within the confines of the trench area.

5.4.2 The complex stratigraphic sequence in this trench indicated repeated flooding events and an inundation of wet woodland.

5.4.3 At the base of the machine-dug sondage was a river gravel deposit, identified at a depth of 1.40m. This indicated a probable palaeochannel running through the Site prior to the addition of drainage systems in the area.

5.4.4 No archaeological finds or features were identified or recovered from Trench 2.

5.5 Trench 3

5.5.1 Trench 3 (12.10 x 5.50m max.) was orientated roughly north to south, near the western boundary of the Site (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.18m.

5.5.2 In order to clarify an anomaly at the southern end of the evaluation trench, c.3m of the trench was machined a little deeper and an extension was dug by machine from the east edge of the trench, c.4 x 3.50m. This confirmed the presence of a series of pits associated with tanning or fellmongery.

5.5.3 The pits form a grid pattern (**Plate 2**), each c.0.30m apart, with external dimensions of c.2 x 1.5m, internal dimensions of c.1.7 x 1.2m and a depth of c.0.9m. Each pit is lined with a clean, blue-grey and pinkish clay c.0.20m thick. At least some were shown to have an additional wood plank lining on the inside of the clay lining.

5.5.4 Some pits appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with rubbish and demolition rubble, while feature 310 was backfilled with fairly clean yellow brown silty clay (similar to the natural drift material recorded on the Site).

5.5.5 Within the southern area of the trench a deposit of dirty bluish grey clay (321) and tree bark (306) was revealed. It was unclear whether this was associated with the pits or possibly represented the infilling of an old channel.

5.5.6 Features 322 and 323 were also recorded in this trench. Their position within the Site confirms them as the wall footing trenches for the barn that had been demolished prior to this evaluation (WA 2008). Finds from the brick rubble within 322 were dated to the post-medieval period.

5.6 Trench 4

5.6.1 Trench 4 (12.30 x 1.60m max.) was orientated roughly north to south, near the south west corner of the Site, several metres south east of Trench 3 (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m. This maximum depth was reached in a machine-dug sondage at the southern end of the trench.

- 5.6.2 Evidence of pits similar to those in Trench 3 was found in this trench. The pits were not as clearly defined but seemed generally to be of a similar size and on the same alignment. There was no clear evidence of the clay and wood lining as recorded in Trench 3.
- 5.6.3 The pits form a grid pattern, each pit c.0.60m apart. Modern services and other disturbance within the trench meant that the precise dimensions of the pits were difficult to determine. Some pits appear to share the internal measurements of the pits in Trench 3, while others appear to share the external measurements. It may be that the lining of the pits is obscured and that these pits are in fact the same as those in Trench 3.
- 5.6.4 Deposits were similar to those identified in the Trench 3 pits. Some pits were backfilled with clean yellow brown silty clay, while feature 404 was deliberately backfilled with domestic rubbish.
- 5.6.5 A small sondage was hand excavated in the north corner of Pit 404. The fill was a dark reddish brown clay loam with common fragments of CBM and Victorian china tablewares (not retained). The pit appears to have been deliberately backfilled with rubbish after having gone out of use.
- 5.6.6 At a depth of c.0.30m the sondage in Pit 404 was flooded by rising ground water. Excavation was stopped at this point. Pieces of wood were observed in the sides of the sondage. It was unclear whether these were in any way prepared and may represent the collapsed wood lining of the tanning / fellmonger pit.
- 5.6.7 The apparent differences in plan between the features in Trench 3 and Trench 4 may indicate different chronological phases of tanning or fellmonging activity.

5.7 Trench 5

- 5.7.1 Trench 5 (10.30 x 1.60m) was orientated roughly north-south, in the south-east corner of the Site (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.75m. This maximum depth was reached in a machine-dug sondage at the north end of the trench.
- 5.7.2 The deep sondage was excavated in order to ascertain the depth of peaty layer 506 (**Figure 3**). This layer consisted of partially decomposed tree branches and roots along with other more broken down organic material, apparently derived from boggy woodland. The material was waterlogged and the deposit was sealed by clay layer 505 (the same as 204). Layer 506 was 1.00m thick.
- 5.7.3 Similar material was observed during demolition of the house, some 8m to the west of Trench 5.
- 5.7.4 No archaeological finds or features were identified or recovered from Trench 5.

5.8 Trench 6

- 5.8.1 Trench 6 (12.60 x 1.60m) was orientated roughly east-west, towards the centre of the Site (**Figure 2**). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.87m. This maximum depth was reached in a machine-dug sondage in the centre of the trench.
- 5.8.2 The deep sondage was excavated in order to confirm the nature and depth of deposits in this area which had been disturbed by demolition of the outbuilding.
- 5.8.3 The north east corner of the outbuilding/barn was exposed at the west end of the trench. Remnants of the wall footings and brick floor from the structure were also recorded.
- 5.8.4 On a roughly north-south alignment towards the middle of the trench was a silty clay filled channel which, according to local residents, was where a previous drain trench, now situated along the eastern edge of the Site, once ran (**Figure 4**).
- 5.8.5 Deep disturbance was observed in the middle of the trench, thought to be as a result of the digging and subsequent demolition of foundations for an extension to Park View. It is expected that no in situ archaeological remains would have survived within the footprint of the extension however; local residents indicated that oak lined tanning pits were identified during building works associated with the construction of the extension.

6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from context 304 (the north wall footing of the barn), comprising five sherds of pottery, one piece of ceramic roofing tile, and two pieces of animal bone. Both pottery and roof tile are of post-medieval date, the pottery comprising one coarse redware and four refined whitewares. The finds have not been retained.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 Introduction

- 7.1.2 Four bulk samples were taken from Trenches 2 and 5, comprising clay (204; 505) overlying peat (505; 506). The samples were processed for the recovery of waterlogged and charred material, as well as the assessment of other palaeo-environmental remains.

7.1.3 Methodology

7.1.4 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Appendix 1, Table 2**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains.

7.1.5 Sub-samples of 1 litre were taken from bulk samples from the samples and processed for the recovery of waterlogged remains. Laboratory flotation was undertaken with flots retained on a 0.25mm mesh and residues on a 0.5mm mesh. Residues and flots were stored in sealed containers with Industrial Methylated Spirits (IMS). The larger fraction (>5.6mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were visually inspected under a x10 to x40 stereobinocular microscope to determine if waterlogged material occurred. Where waterlogged material was present, preliminary identifications of dominant taxa, were conducted and are presented below (**Appendix 1, Table 3**).

7.1.6 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below for both charred and waterlogged samples, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

7.1.7 The samples all contained large amounts of waterlogged plant material, particularly wood, twigs, branch material and roots. It was notable that the sample from the shallowest deposit clay layer at 0.6-0.7m has quite large numbers of probable modern roots.

7.1.8 Charred plant remains

7.1.9 The samples contained very few charred plant remains; the only seed came from Trench 2 (Context 204), and was a well preserved grain of oats (*Avena* sp.). Unfortunately the wild and cultivated grains of oats are indistinguishable on morphology alone.

7.1.10 Wood Charcoal

7.1.11 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1, Table 2**. While none of the samples contained any significant quantities of wood charcoal it was significantly greater in the clay layers above the peat (204; 505), while the peat itself contained only the occasional fleck or fragment. Some of the larger fragments of charcoal from both the clay and peat layers could be seen to be ring-porous and so of probable oak (*Quercus* sp.). The sample from context 204 also contained some roundwood from twig or branch material. This same sample in addition had occasional fragments of a viscous charred conglomerate, as well as occasional fragments of probable coal.

7.1.12 Waterlogged plant remains

- 7.1.13 Waterlogged plant remains were noted in all four samples. They were particularly abundant in the clay layer within Trench 2 (context 204) and peat layers, context 506, they were also relatively abundant in peat layer (205). The clay layer from Trench 5 (505) as stated above had probably modern roots and relatively little waterlogged material.
- 7.1.14 The samples were generally similar in the waterlogged remains they contained. All but the clay layer 505 had abundant remains of twigs and wood. The species recorded cover a range of habitats. The peat layer (506) from Trench 5 had good evidence for fen-woodland with occasional cones of alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), wood club-rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*), gypsy-wort (*Lycopus europaeus*), and bramble (*Rubus* sp.), while pill sedge (*Carex* cf. *pilulifera*) can be found in open woodland on base-poor peaty soils. Based on its size and association with wetland peat, the seed of violet (*Viola* sp.) is more likely to be of *V. odorata* or *V. palustris*, with both species associated with wet-woodlands.
- 7.1.15 The sample also contained several species of general wetlands including rush (*Juncus* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *Batrachium*) and bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), that is found in marsh fields and ditches. Other than this last species no seeds of waste places were found in this context.
- 7.1.16 The sample from the peat layer within Trench 2 (205), had less material, but that recovered included pepperwort (*Persicaria hydropiper/mitis*), which is also found in more shaded environments. Unlike the other peat layer 506, however, a single seed of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), a species of open disturbed soils, was recovered.
- 7.1.17 The sample from the clay layer within Trench 2 (204) had many more species of open conditions, these included those of more nitrogen rich disturbed soils orache (*Atriplex* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), many-seeded goosefoot (*C. polyspermum*), while both redshank (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*) and hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.). Hairy buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*) and bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*) are both common in open wetlands close to coastal areas. The only species associated with more woody scrub were those of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.).
- 7.1.18 The sample from the peat layer in Trench 5 (506) suggests that it formed under alder carr while the species recovered from the clay layer in Trench 2 (204) are more indicative of more open conditions.

7.1.19 Previous work in Sussex has shown peats forming under alder carr to still be present along river valleys until the Middle Bronze Age (Wessex Archaeology 2006). After this point for much of England such riverine woodland is often gradually removed (e.g. Allen and Robinson 1993; Sidell *et al.* 2000) and may suggest that the sequences span the later Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. The clay layers indicate a largely open, disturbed environment and the presence of wood charcoal is indicative of quite high levels of human activity in the vicinity. While cereal remains were absent even the presence of charcoal can be related to probable settlement. The samples are then likely to be no earlier than the Late Bronze Age, but if truncation has occurred could be much more recent.

7.1.20 Insect and other animal remains

7.1.21 Insect remains were noted in several of the samples, including heads and elytra. Worm cocoons were also frequent in the peat samples, and the clay layer within Trench 5 (505). The presence of worm cocoons within the peat may relate to periods of drying and soil formation, or possibly input from such sources. Given the number of probably modern roots within clay layer 505 the worm cocoons in this sample probably relate to modern soil formation.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The evaluation has confirmed the existence of a series of pits, or vats on the Site, associated with tanning or fellmonging. The structure of the features suggests that they are likely to be post-medieval in date (Lawrence Stevens pers. Comm.) The structure of pits in Trench 3 differed from that in Trench 4 and may suggest extended use of the tannery over two phases. However, the pits share the same alignment and neither produced any dating evidence during the evaluation. Further investigation of the pits during excavation may clarify this.

8.1.2 The Ordnance Survey map of 1873 (**Figure 4**) shows clearly a structure consisting of a number of cells. This structure possibly relates to the findings in Trenches 3 and 4. The structure shown on the map does not precisely coincide with the layout of the pits revealed during the evaluation, which could also indicate more than one phase of tannery on the Site, or simply that the mapping was not particularly precise.

8.1.3 According to research carried out by Lawrence and Patricia Stevens (Stevens 2003) the majority of the Site would have been a fellmonger's yard, with its associated tanyard adjoining to the north.

8.1.4 The business was sold at auction several times during the early 1800s and numerous buildings and barns for use in the tannery and fellmongery business are mentioned. In the sale notice of 1807, 54 vats are mentioned. It is unclear if these are in one block or in several blocks on different parts of the Site.

- 8.1.5 Given the anecdotal evidence of wooden vats dug up during excavations for the extension to Park View sometime before 1990, it is possible that a grid of pits perhaps six wide from north-west to south-east and nine long from south-west to north-east stretched between Trench 4 and the house.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1.1 Due to the presence of the thick peat deposits and clay layers observed along the north-east and southern boundaries of the Site and given the waterlogged nature of that part of the Site, along with the lack of any archaeological features or deposits, it has been recommended in consultation with ESCC that a staged approach be employed to further works on the Site. This would comprise an auger survey of the northern part of the Site with a view to establishing the extent of the waterlogged deposits within this area and its interface with the drier, higher northern part of the Site.
- 9.1.2 Subsequently the southern area of the Site (as proposed in **Figure 2**) will be stripped to the archaeological levels and all features mapped using GPS or Total Station surveying equipment.
- 9.1.3 Following the strip and map stage, it is recommended that a sample of the tannery/fellmonger's pits should be excavated by hand in order to characterise them, determine their function and obtain dating evidence. It is anticipated that earlier phases of pits or vats and associated drainage features beneath will be uncovered and that the relationship between these and the phase or phases observed within the evaluation trenches should be established.
- 9.1.4 Samples from the peat and clay layers identified on the Site have some potential for characterising the broader landscape which would be supplemented by taking samples for pollen and analysis of insect remains from the bulk samples. It is recommended that bulk samples are taken for insect remains and monolith samples for sediment descriptions and pollen analysis during both the auger survey and excavation stages of the works. The samples previously taken do not appear to be conducive to the survival of either land or water molluscs. While the samples taken during the evaluation are undated there is suitable material within the waterlogged samples for radiocarbon dating.
- 9.1.5 In addition it is recommended that any archaeological features that are uncovered during the course of further works should be sampled, especially if such features are phased or part of structures. Such samples should come from individual, secure contexts.

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1.1 The project archive comprises a ring bound file that contains the written scheme of investigation (WA 2008), site location plans and a written record of the evaluation. This archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code 64732.03 but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at Hastings Museum.

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12 APPENDIX 1:

Table 1: Trench summary tables

Trench 1

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
8.20m	1.60m	1.30m	Top: 11.85
Context	Description	Depth	
100	Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam with sparse modern rubble, including plastic	0.00-0.38m	
101	Subsoil – mid grey brown clay loam with rare charcoal flecks and modern CBM	0.38-0.64m	
102	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay with patches of iron panning throughout (sondage excavated to 1.30m at south end of trench)	0.64m+	

Trench 2

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
12.00m	1.60m	1.50m	Top: 11.58
Context	Description	Depth	
201	Topsoil – mid grey brown clay loam; rare gravel, some iron panning at interface with subsoil	0.00-0.37m	
202	Subsoil – light brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks	0.37-0.54m	
203	Iron pan layer – this probably marks the base of layer 202	0.54-0.58m	
204	Alluvium – layer of floodplain material; mid blue grey clay	0.58-0.68m	
205	Peat layer – very dark grey brown; appears to be buried woodland surface	0.68-0.79m	
206	Alluvium – layer of floodplain material; light grey clay with some evidence of root systems	0.79-0.89m	
207	Peat – mixed layer of tree material and clay; concentration of dark brown waterlogged woody material at top of layer, with common wood and roots in light grey clay matrix making up majority of layer	0.89-1.43m	
208	Natural – yellow brown gravel and silty clay; probably river terrace material	1.43m+	
209	Mid blue grey clay – fill of drain ditch 211	0.65-0.83m	
210	Mid green grey clay – fill of drain ditch 211; appears to be cassy material; possibly the same as 204	0.83-1.05m	
211	Cut – probable land drain ditch; probable earlier path of ditch still in use to east of Site	0.65-1.05m+	

Trench 3

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
12.10m	(max.) 5.50m	1.18m	Top: 11.42
Context	Description	Depth	
300	Levelling layer – compacted yellow brown sandy clay with some building material and concrete; bedding for brick floor of barn and yard/driveway immediately outside barn	0.30-0.63m	
301	Subsoil – mid grey brown silty clay with patches of iron panning	0.63-0.92m	
302	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay with patches of iron panning throughout	0.92m+	
303	VOID		
304	Wall footings c.0.40m wide, roughly laid bricks with rubble in cut 322; part of north wall of barn	0.00-0.75m	
305	Dark blue grey clay – part of construction of fellmonger's pits; forms a grid pattern separating individual pits; unexcavated		
306	Fill of 320. Deposit of tree bark within 321 – possibly associated with tanning pits		
307	Clay lining of 310. Light blue grey clay		
308	Fill of 310. Mid yellow brown silty clay deliberately backfilled within clay and wood lined pit		
309	Wooden shuttering within 310		
310	Cut of tanning/fellmonging pit		
311	Cut of tanning/fellmonging pit		
312	Clay lining of 311		
313	Deliberate backfill of 311		
314	Cut of tanning/fellmonging pit	0.35m	
315	Clay lining of 314		
316	Wooden shuttering within 314		
317	Backfill of 314		
318	Wood lining in 311		
319	Wooden shuttering		
320	Possible cut – possibly natural channel		
321	Fill of 320		
322	Cut of wall 304 – barn wall foundation		
323	Cut of wall 324 – barn wall foundation		
324	Wall footings		
325	Clay lining of 326		
326	Cut of tanning/fellmonging pit or channel		
327	Demolition rubble associated with wall 304		

Trench 4

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
12.30m	1.60m	1.10m	Top: 11.20
Context	Description	Depth	
401	Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam with sparse modern rubble, coke and charcoal flecks	0.00-0.20m	
402	Subsoil – mid grey brown silty loam with patches of iron panning and manganese staining; common roots	0.20-0.32m	
403	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay, mottled, with some iron panning and manganese staining	0.32m+	
404	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
405	Fill of 404 – deliberate backfill; dark brown clay silt loam with dumped rubbish		
406	Boundaries between pits; mottled grey and red clay		
407	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
408	Fill of 407 – light yellow clay silt		
409			
410	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
411	Boundaries between pits; mottled brown clay		
412	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
413	Possible backfill of 412/417		
414	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
415	Cut – sub-rectangular pit; associated with tannery	0.32m	
416	Fill of 412		
417	Cut – ?pit, possibly same as 412		

Trench 5

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
10.30m	1.60m	1.75m	Top: 11.10
Context	Description	Depth	
501	Topsoil – mid grey brown clay loam; rare gravel, some iron panning at interface with subsoil	0. 0-0.30m	
502	Subsoil – light brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks	0.27-0.46m	
503	Layer – floodplain material; mid blue grey clay	0.46-0.52m	
504	Iron pan layer – this probably marks the base of layer 503	0.52-0.59m	
505	Layer – floodplain material; mid blue grey clay	0.59-0.68m	
506	Peat layer – very dark grey brown; appears to be buried woodland surface	0.68-1.68m	
507	Natural – blue grey clay	1.68m+	

Trench 6

Length	Width	Max Depth	maOD
12.60m	1.60m	0.87m	Top: 11.40
Context	Description	Depth	
601	Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam garden soil; disturbed by roots and building and demolition activity	0.0-0.24m	
602	Subsoil – dark grey brown silty clay disturbed by building footings and demolition rubble	0.13-0.34m	
603	Layer – light yellow brown silty clay; effectively natural, though probably an alluvial deposit; some demolition rubble in top of layer	0.34-0.61m	
604	Fill of 605 – blue grey silty clay; rare pieces of tree wood	0.61m+	
605	Cut – probable drainage ditch	0.00-0.75m	
606	Cut – barn foundation	0.15m	
607	Footings demolition rubble in 606		

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

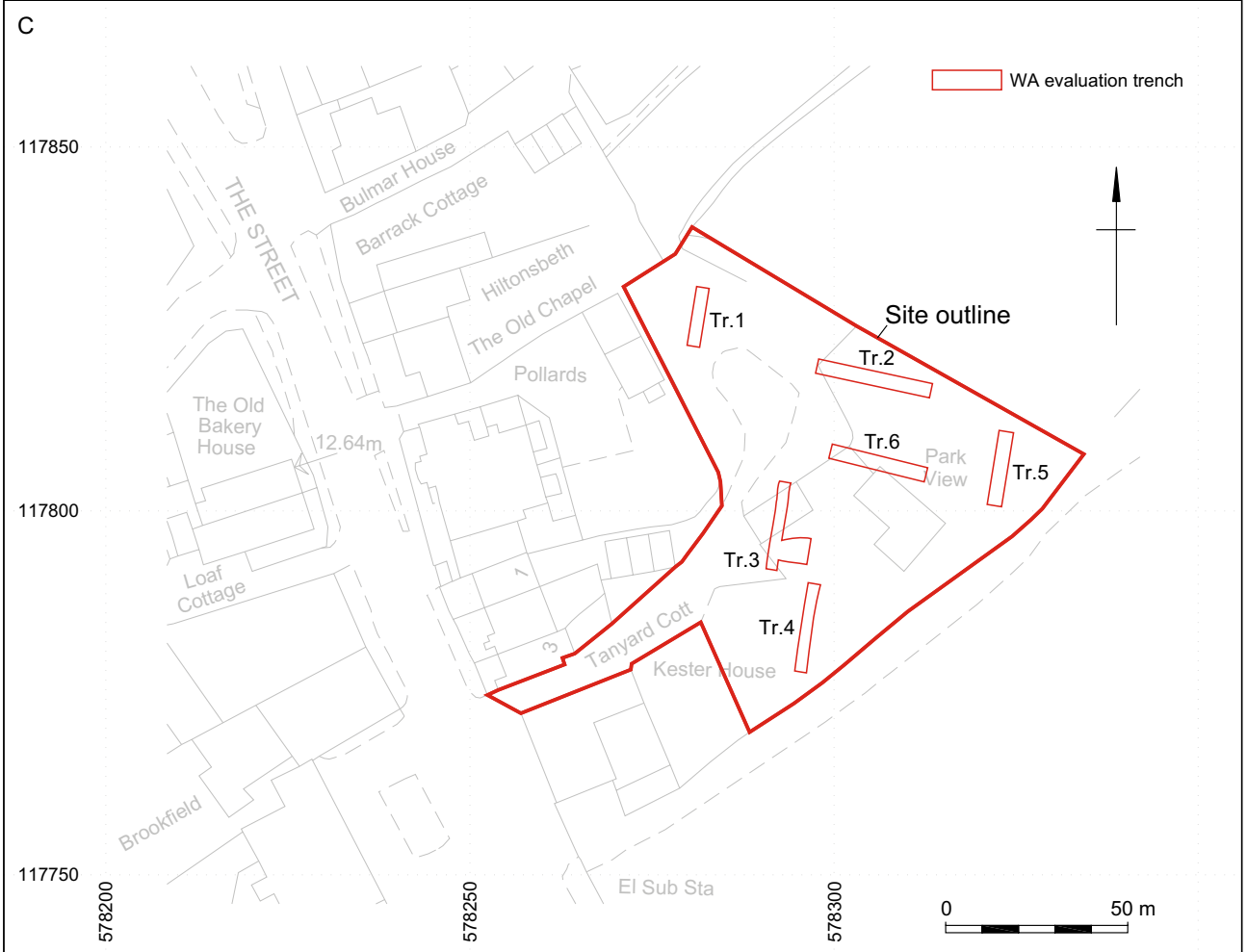
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot					Notes	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	analysis
				flot size ml	%roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other				
Trench 2												
clay layer 0.70-0.80m	204	3	5	100	n/a	-	-	C	oak? roundwood; viscous charred conglomerate; ?coal; 1x Avena sp.	4/3ml	-	
peat layer 0.80-0.90m	205	4	1	400	n/a	-	-	-	occasional charcoal.	0/0.1	-	
Trench 5												
clay layer 0.60-0.70m	505	1	5	60	80%	-	-	-	Oak;	2/3ml	-	
peat layer 0.70-0.80m	506	2	4	50	n/a	-	-	-	nothing but occasional flecks of charcoal.	0/0	-	

KEY: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = ≥10 items, B = 9-5 items, C = <5 items: sab/f = small mammal/fish bones; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions. gb=glume base. sf= spikelet fork.

Table 3: Assessment of the waterlogged samples (each sample was 1 litre in size)

layer	Depth	Context	Sample	Flot			Other	analysis
				NOTES				
Trench 2								
clay layer	0.70-0.80m	204	3	Atriplex sp. Rubus sp.; Carex sp.; Isolepis; Galeopsis x1; Stellaria sp.; C. Polyspermum; C. album; Sambucus nigra; Ranunculus sardous; R. flammula; R. Batrachium (R. aquatilis); Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa; Glyceria?			Insects (B) charcoal (B)	
peat layer	0.80-0.90m	205	4	Less waterlogged; Twigs and bark (B); Persicaria hydropiper/mitis; Carex/Rumex? x1; Juncus x1; fine roots; Batrachium sp.; C. album;			Insects (C) worm cocoon (B)	charcoal (C)
Trench 5								
clay layer	0.60-0.70m	505	1	very few twigs (C) Atriplex sp.;			worm cocoon	charcoal (B)
peat layer	0.70-0.80m	506	2	Twigs (A*); Rubus sp.; Sparganium erecta; Ranunculus flammula x1 Ranunculus cf. Batrachium; Carex (trig) x1; Carex (lens) x1; Carex cf. pilulifera; Lycopodium europaeus; Juncus sp.; Scirpus sylvaticus; Viola sp.; Alder cones;			Insects (B) worm cocoon	charcoal (C)

KEY: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = ≥10 items, B = 9-5 items, C = <5 items: sab/f = small mammal/fish bones; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions. gb=glume base. sf= spikelet fork.



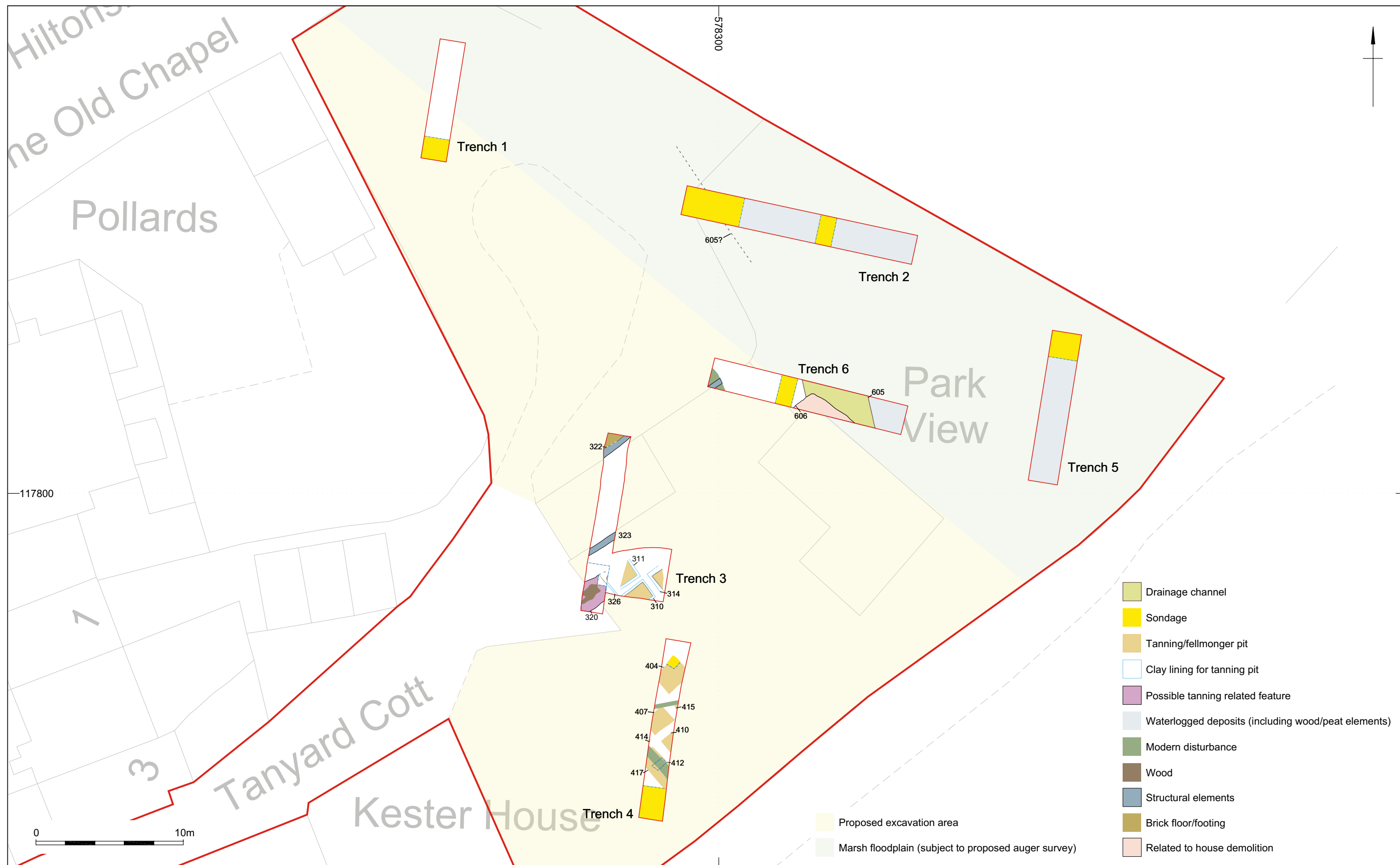
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Site location plan

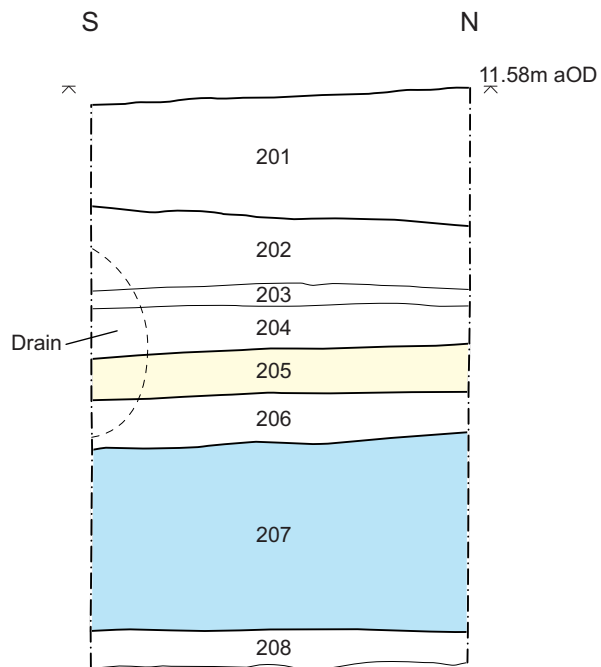
Figure 1



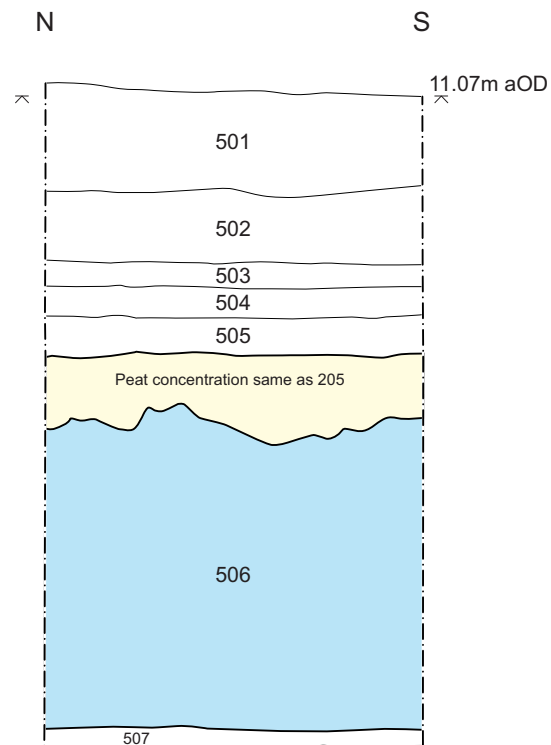
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Plan of evaluation trenches showing all features

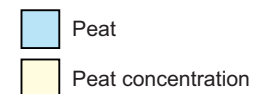
Figure 2



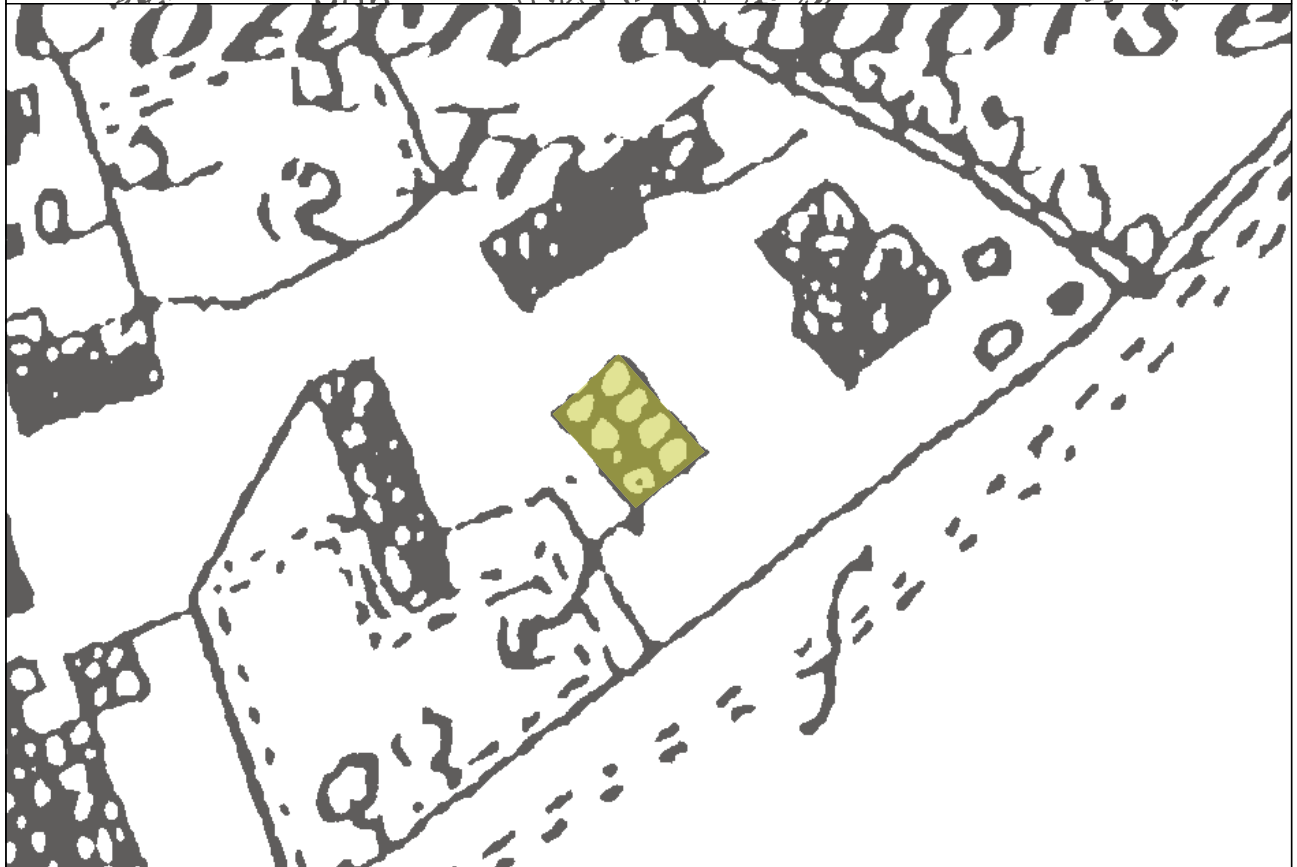
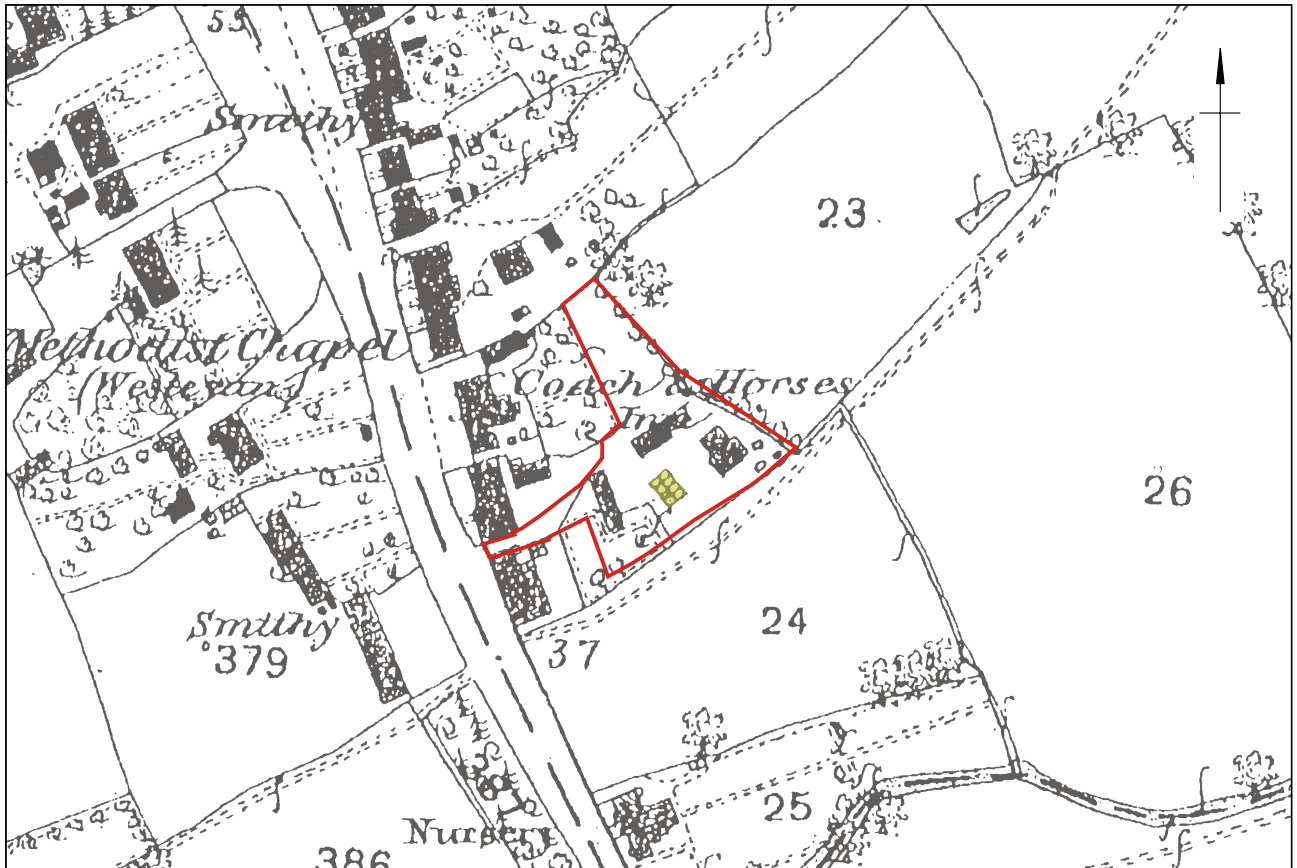
Section through Trench 2 showing peat deposit (viewed from the east)






Section through Trench 5 showing peat deposit (viewed from the west)



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 Possible tanning pits  Approximate site outline	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
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Map regression 1873 OS map showing possible tanning pits (with detail)


Figure 4



Plate 1: Section through Trench 2 showing peat deposit



Plate 2: Overall view of Trench 3 showing tanning / fellmongers pits

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

