



# Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works on land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent (NGR 569416 158108). The work was required under condition of planning permission (TM/19/01814/OA), granted on appeal (APP/H2265/W/20/3256877), for residential development on an 18.28 ha site. Five areas, totalling 0.66 ha, were targeted for excavation based on the results of a previous trial trench evaluation. The fieldwork was undertaken between 4 July and 16 August 2022.

A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch, initially recorded during the trial trenching, was more fully exposed and investigated, although no contemporary remains were identified. Another less closely dated but nevertheless late prehistoric (c. late 2nd–1st millennium BC) ditch was exposed 190 m to the south; this may, very tentatively, have formed part of a trackway along with two further, inconclusively dated sections of ditch. Other traces of prehistoric activity were limited to a very sparse assemblage of chronologically undiagnostic worked flint and pottery from undated or clearly later contexts

A possible Romano-British hollow-way and several contemporary ditches, probably forming part of a field system, were recorded in another area to the east. The only other convincingly Romano-British feature was an isolated pit, although small amounts of pottery and pieces of box flue and tegula were also found residually in later features throughout the site. The bulk of the datable finds suggest a focus of activity within the earlier part of the period (e.g., the 1st –early 3rd century).

Elsewhere, a series of partially re-cut ditches and a possible hollow–way/eroded track seem to have formed part of a system of medieval/post-medieval agricultural land divisions, further elements of which may have been encountered within nearby trial trenches. Other features, dispersed throughout the excavated areas, essentially consisted of a few mostly small, shallow ditches – several of which defined post-medieval land divisions (e.g., field boundaries) whilst others are of uncertain date and function – along with two modern sheep burials and a very sparse scatter of undated pits, postholes and tree-throw hollows.

The finds are of the late prehistoric to modern date and occurred in a restricted range of material types; none were present in any great quantity nor were they atypical for the region. The environmental evidence retrieved through selective sampling was limited.

Further analysis and publication are not recommended due to the limited significance of the results and lack of research potential. However, the project results should be disseminated by making this document accessible via the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and Kent HER, and through preparation of the project archive for deposition.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Ltd for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Head of Heritage Conservation for Kent County Council, who monitored the project for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.



# Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent

## Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd ('the client'), to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of five areas totalling 0.66 ha, centred on NGR 569416 158108, at London Road, Leybourne, Kent, ME19 5EU (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out under condition (Condition 15) of planning permission granted on appeal on 22 March 2021 for residential development on a site of approximately 18.28 ha (application TM/19/01814/OA, submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council; appeal reference APP/H2265/W/20/3256877).
- 1.1.3 The excavations were preceded by a trial trench evaluation, undertaken in February–March 2022 (Wessex Archaeology 2022a; see section 2.1).
- 1.1.4 The excavations were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Team (KCC HCT) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork. The excavation was undertaken between 4 July and 16 August 2022.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation and assesses the potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The excavation areas/development site are located at the southern edge of Leybourne, between East Malling and West Malling. Prior to the excavations, the development site comprised several parcels of agricultural land. The site is bounded to the north by the A20 London Road, to the east by Winterfield Lane, to the south by Lucks Hill, and to the west by open fields.
- 1.3.2 The development site lies approximately 500 m south-east of the Malling Stream and Leybourne Stream, and 2.5 km west of the River Medway. It is situated within an undulating landscape, with the highest points along the south-east boundary at 38 m OD and it is at its lowest points (26 m OD) to the north and north-west.



- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Lower Greensand Group (Folkestone and Sandgate Formations). No superficial deposits are recorded within the development site (BGS 2022).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Previous works related to the development

#### *Trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a)*

- 2.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 124 trial trenches, which identified 21 ditches and nine pits across 18 trenches. The features were mainly concentrated in two areas, located centrally and towards the eastern and southern boundaries. A relatively large assemblage of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (62 sherds, 1290 g) and fired clay (447 g) came from a ditch (6403; Trench 64) in the northern part of the development site. Many of the other features could not be closely dated due to the paucity of finds, although small amounts of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval/post-medieval material were recovered, indicating at least some activity within the area during those periods. The ditches likely belonged to several phases of land division, whilst the functions of the pits were not established. At least some of the identified features were thought to potentially be geological.

### 2.2 Archaeological and historical context

#### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2.1 Evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the local area principally derives from small amounts of worked flint recovered from topsoil/subsoil and later archaeological features during investigations preceding construction of the A228 West Malling/Leybourne Bypass (Ellis 2009), and occasional finds reported elsewhere in the surrounding landscape (as documented in the HER). Further finds on the bypass included an unusual Beaker vessel, found fragmented but almost complete in a small pit, and small amounts of probable Bronze Age flintwork (*ibid.*).
- 2.2.2 Little evidence of later prehistoric activity has been recorded in the immediate area. However, the quantity and distribution of metalwork, field systems and potentially 'high status' settlements across the north Kent coast and the Medway and East Stour valleys appear to reflect the increasing importance of the region during the late 2nd–1st millennium BC, as well as the role of the Thames as a gateway for socio-economic interaction with mainland Europe (Yates 2007, 20–5, 110, figs 3.2–3.3).

#### *Late Iron Age–Romano-British*

- 2.2.3 The Medway valley was also a major focus of activity during the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods, as demonstrated by major sites including: a barrow at Holborough that was used for interments in the Roman period (Jessup 1954); probable farmsteads/settlements and villas at Holborough (Wessex Archaeology 1998) and Wouldham (Archaeology South East 2002); Mount Roman villa in Maidstone (Houlston 1999; Kelly 1992) and a possibly associated cemetery c. 400 m to the south-south-east (Edwards 2007); a villa of winged corridor type and ranges surrounding a courtyard with a very early bath house at Snodland (Archaeology South East 2010; Birbeck 1995; Ocock and Syddell 1967); a villa built on a palatial scale near Eccles, that was in use from the 1st–4th century (Detsicas 1989); and further villa sites tentatively identified at Florence Road, Maidstone (Rady and Shand 2004) and Teston (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1991). Another substantial villa was discovered in 1955 in East Malling (Wacher 1965). Further concentrations of major Romano-British sites are known 10 km to the west around Plaxtol and Ightham (Davies





2009; Wessex Archaeology 2011), and along Watling Street, 11 km to the north (Allen *et al.* 2015).

- 2.2.4 The West Malling/Leybourne Bypass excavations revealed evidence of Late Iron Age–Roman settlement in two areas. ‘Area A’, 1.15 km north of the site, contained an enclosure with evidence for repeated phases of recutting, associated with dumps of charcoal-rich material, fired clay, metal working debris, burnt animal bone and pottery, along with the remains of a small rectangular post-built structure – possibly a granary. Meanwhile, excavation in ‘Area E2’, 360 m to the north-west of the site, revealed traces of a possible open settlement that was later enclosed with a subdivided D-shaped enclosure. Associated features included ditches, pits and the undated remains of a neonatal burial. Evidence of domestic activity, including textile manufacture, animal butchery, crop processing and metal working were also found (Ellis 2009). Further remains associated with later Iron Age and Romano-British settlement have been recorded during excavations at Leybourne Grange, approximately 2 km north-west of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2017), and 1.5 km east of the site at East Malling/Larkfield (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1996). Evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity of the site is limited. However, the remains of two Romano-British cremation burials, a samian patera and a c. 1st century jar were discovered to the south-east of West Malling in 1892 by workmen laying gas mains (Payne 1895).

#### *Anglo-Saxon and medieval*

- 2.2.5 The West Malling/Leybourne Bypass excavations revealed an early/middle Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building c. 320 m west of the site. This measured 4.9 m x 3.6 m and was associated with pottery, animal bone, fired clay and copper alloy fragments (Ellis 2009). Several Anglo-Saxon or early medieval finds have been recovered in the vicinity of the development site, including a copper alloy brooch (Kent HER MKE75457) and two copper alloy stirrups (Kent HER MKE75675).
- 2.2.6 The Domesday Survey recorded (East and West) Malling as a relatively populous landholding, containing 66 households, with extensive ploughlands, meadow and woodland, along with two mills and a church. Leybourne, with 28 households, was a smaller but nonetheless moderately large settlement, again with substantial ploughlands, meadow, woodland, a mill and a church.
- 2.2.7 The later medieval landscape would have been dominated by Leybourne Castle (NHLE 1007461), a 13th/14th century enclosure castle with possible 11th/12th century origins located 750 m north of the development site. The West Malling/Leybourne Bypass excavations identified several 12th–13th century field boundaries and a pit approximately 480 m west of the site. Within the corner of one of the field boundaries was a sub-rectangular building that contained two ovens and a hearth-like structure. A rich assemblage of charred cereal remains, and the absence of evidence for metal working or pottery production, suggested that the structure was a bakery – perhaps associated with the manorial estate of Leybourne Castle (Ellis 2009).

#### *Post-medieval*

- 2.2.8 The location of the site is shown on the 1769 Andrews, Drury and Herbert Map of Kent as undeveloped land, bounded to the north and east by roads. A road leads north of the site toward Leybourne Castle. ‘Leybourne Mill’ is marked to the north-west. Excavations prior to construction of the West Malling/Leybourne bypass uncovered the remnants of a leat (poorly dated) that would have carried water to the mill race and mill at Leybourne (Ellis 2009). Ordnance Survey editions spanning the late 19th and 20th centuries indicate that



the site coincided with several parcels of agricultural land, crossed by footpaths, that remained largely unchanged until the area was brought forward for development.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

#### **3.2 Research objectives**

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the South East Research Framework, the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b) were to:

- determine the date, extent and character of land management organisation, and its development from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age period;
- determine the purpose of the pits identified in the evaluation; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

### **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 2022b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 Five areas were selected for excavation based on the results of the trial trench evaluation (Fig. 1):

- Area 1 (Fig. 2) measured 3490 m<sup>2</sup> and was focused on five evaluation trenches (Trenches 104, 114, 115, 116 and 117), which contained several undated ditches and a pit. Two sherds of shell-tempered pottery (6 g) that pre-dated AD 150 were recovered from the subsoil.
- Area 2 (Fig. 5) measured 355 m<sup>2</sup> and was targeted on the southern end of Trench 78, which contained two pits (7804 and 7806) and a tree-throw hollow (7808), all three of which were undated.



- Area 3 (Fig. 5) measured 1500 m<sup>2</sup> and was intended to examine an area of archaeological potential indicated by several ditches, from which small amounts of Romano-British pottery were recovered, in Trenches 87, 88 and 93.
- Area 4 (Fig. 10) measured 940 m<sup>2</sup>, and was focussed on Trenches 63 and 64. These coincided with three ditches, one of which (6403) contained a large quantity of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and fired clay (see section 2.1). Another of the ditches (6305) produced small amounts of animal bone, post-medieval and Romano-British pottery and a piece of iron; ditch 6406 was undated.
- Area 5 (Fig. 13) measured 320 m<sup>2</sup>, and targeted the south-west end of Trench 89, which contained a small pit (8904) with suggestions of *in situ* burning. The feature produced no finds, but contained small amounts of charred plant remains that were potentially consistent with a Bronze Age to Romano-British date.

## 4.2 Fieldwork methods

### *General*

- 4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same positions proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed 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 in level spits until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw hollows, was also investigated.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.4 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including 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.
- 4.2.5 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 OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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 Finds and environmental strategies

#### *General*

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing, and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). 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), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

### 4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The KCC HCT monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the KCC HCT.

## 5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

#### *Summary of archaeological features and deposits*

- 5.1.1 The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch recorded during the trial trenching was more fully exposed and investigated in Area 4, although no contemporary remains were identified. Another less closely dated but nevertheless late prehistoric (c. late 2nd–1st millennium BC) ditch was exposed 190 m to the south in Area 1; this may, very tentatively, have formed part of a trackway along with two inconclusively dated sections of ditch. Other traces of prehistoric activity were limited to a very sparse assemblage of chronologically undiagnostic worked flint and pottery from undated or clearly later contexts
- 5.1.2 A possible Romano-British hollow-way and several contemporary ditches were recorded in Area 3. The only other convincingly Romano-British feature was a pit in Area 4, although small amounts of pottery and distinctive types of ceramic building material (e.g., box flue, tegula) found residually in later features provide some additional evidence of activity during the period.
- 5.1.3 A series of partially re-cut ditches and a possible hollow-way/eroded track in Area 1 seem to have formed part of a system of medieval/post-medieval agricultural land divisions, further elements of which may have been encountered within the trial trenches.
- 5.1.4 Other features, dispersed throughout the excavated areas, essentially consisted of a few mostly small, shallow ditches – several of which defined post-medieval land divisions (e.g., field boundaries) whilst others are of uncertain date and function – along with two modern sheep burials and a very sparse scatter of undated pits, postholes and tree-throw hollows.

#### *Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data*

- 5.1.5 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.



## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence was broadly similar across the site, consisting of a 0.20–0.30 m thick mid-brown grey to dark yellowish-brown silty sandy clay topsoil above a light brown silty sandy clay/mid-brownish-yellow silty sand subsoil (0.22–0.50 m thick). The natural substrate was varied in composition and appearance, being recorded as a very mottled mid-reddish brown, light grey-brown to light yellow sand/sandy loam.

## 5.3 Area 1

### *Late prehistoric*

- 5.3.1 A 14 m long section of ditch (12764), up to 2.1 m wide with a maximum depth of 0.24 m, extended east–west across the central part of the excavation area (Figs 2 and 4). It had moderately steeply sloping sides and a flattish base, and contained unremarkable light yellow/greyish brown sandy fills that were likely formed through natural silting. In plan, the ditch segment appears to have belonged to the same phase of land division as L-shaped ditch/hollow-way 12760 and ditch 12765 (see below), perhaps defining part of an entrance. However, this is contraindicated by the associated finds; 49 sherds (199 g) of exclusively late prehistoric pottery came from ditch 12764, along with an undiagnostic piece of worked flint and an intrusive iron nail, whereas those from the other features suggests that they were of post-medieval origin. Additionally, the western terminal of ditch 12764 was seemingly cut by ditch 12765.
- 5.3.2 Ditch 12764 was potentially contemporary with a pair of shallow, parallel sections of east–west ditch (12762 and 12763) that were spaced 4 m apart; these discontinuous ditches possibly defined part of a trackway, and may have been partially re-cut, dug in sections to varying depths and/or partially truncated away. Ditches 12762 and 12763 were approximately 0.8 m wide and 0.1–0.28 m deep, had slightly irregular, concave profiles and contained undistinctive secondary fills. The only find from them is a sherd (7 g) of late prehistoric pottery. The ditches were also truncated by medieval/post-medieval land divisions (see below).

### *Medieval/post-medieval*

- 5.3.3 A group of shallow, discontinuous and occasionally re-cut ditches (12695, 12758, 12759, 12761 (Fig. 4), 12766, 12767 and 12770) appear to have defined part of a co-axial system of agricultural land divisions (i.e., field boundaries). The ditches were orientated NNE–SSW and WNW–ESE, and typically measured up to 1 m in width and 0.2 m in depth. All contained mid-light greyish brown silty sandy fills, likely formed through gradual silting. The only finds from the ditches are two tiny sherds (5 g) of late prehistoric pottery, a sherd (14 g) of medieval (12th-century) pottery, an undiagnostic flint flake, a piece of undated ceramic tile (66 g; and another tiny flake weighing 1 g) and a left oyster shell.
- 5.3.4 The ditches forming the NNE–SSW axis of the medieval/post-medieval field system (12758/12761/12770) were ostensibly re-cut on a slightly different alignment and modified by the creation of ditches 12671/12760 and 12765; the stratigraphic relationship was, however, slightly ambiguous.
- 5.3.5 Although recorded as a single L-shaped ditch, up to 4 m wide, feature 12671/12760 (Fig. 4) appears to have consisted of a broad, shallow (up to 0.2 m deep) and discontinuous depression – likely a hollow-way or eroded track – with a 0.54 m deep ditch along its western and southern edges. There was a 12.5 m gap between this feature and its counterpart to the south (ditch 12765; 1.5 m wide and 0.41 m deep) which, together with the in-turning of ditch/hollow 12671/12760 seems to have formed part of an entrance within the enclosure system. The features all contained largely indistinguishable light yellow/grey brown silty,

sandy secondary fills, similar to those within the apparently earlier field boundary ditches. Finds from ditch/hollow 12671/12760 comprise a sherd (26 g) of Romano-British pottery, 41 pieces (693 g) of medieval/post-medieval tile, eight undiagnostic fragments of ceramic building material (mainly brick), a piece of tegula (164 g), and tiny pieces of animal bone, oyster shell and slag. The only finds from ditch 12765 were two tiny sherds (7 g) of residual late prehistoric pottery.

- 5.3.6 Although the system of land divisions was potentially of post-medieval date, an earlier (i.e., medieval) origin is also conceivable – it is perhaps of note that these features did not conform closely to the layout of the extant field system, or any land divisions marked on early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping. A few undated ditches recorded elsewhere during the trial trenching (some erroneously dismissed as being of natural origin) occupied similar alignments and could have belonged to the same phase of land division.

#### *Modern*

- 5.3.7 Pit 12707 (1.7 m by 1 m and 0.24 m deep), in the southern part of Area 1, contained the remains of a modern sheep burial (12708). A tiny piece of undiagnostic ceramic building material and a residual sherd (4 g) of late prehistoric pottery were also recovered from the feature.

### **5.4 Area 2**

#### *Undated*

- 5.4.1 The excavation of Area 2 (Fig. 5) revealed a tree-throw hollow and several other natural features. The only anthropogenic feature was a pit (12565) that was partially exposed at the western limit of the area. It measured 1.6 m by at least 0.8 m and was 0.5 m deep, with moderately steeply sloping, concave sides and a concave base. No finds were retrieved from its undistinctive light yellow/greyish brown fills.

### **5.5 Area 3**

#### *Romano-British*

- 5.5.1 A broad and shallow linear depression (12628), up to 3.8 m wide and 0.21 m deep, extended north-east–south-west across the full width of Area 3 (Figs 5 and 8). The feature was probably a hollow-way, formed by erosion and gradually infilled through natural silting processes after it fell into disuse. Associated finds comprise single sherds of late prehistoric (10 g) and early–middle Romano-British (13 g) pottery, two small fragments (77 g) of ceramic building material (pieces of box-flue and undiagnostic tile) and a tiny piece of iron (1 g). Although similar to probable hollow-way 12760 in Area 1 (see above), the features seem to be unrelated as they followed different alignments, and no trace of either was identified in the intervening trial trenches. Moreover, the finds from probable hollow-way 12760 indicate a post-medieval date, whereas feature 12628's spatial relationships suggest contemporaneity with Romano-British ditches 12629 and 12631 (see below).
- 5.5.2 Probable hollow-way 12628 was flanked, between 0.8–4 m to the south, by ditch 12629 (Fig. 6). This was up to 1.16 m wide and 0.26 m deep, and had moderately steeply sloping concave sides and a concave base. Ten sherds (86 g) of (mainly early/middle) Romano-British pottery, two pieces (185 g) of possibly Roman tile and an iron nail shank were retrieved from its single secondary fill. The ditch was also recorded within Trench 92, demonstrating that it extended at least another 35 m south-west of Area 3.
- 5.5.3 Ditch 12631 (Fig. 7) was perpendicular to ditch 12629, and evidently belonged to broadly the same phase of land division – likely defining part of an enclosure. It extended at least

19 m to the south-east, continuing beyond the limit of excavation, and terminated at its north-west end, 2.5 m south-west of ditch 12629; it was very shallow (0.1 m) at this point and may have been lost to truncation. The ditch was a maximum of 1.14 m wide, up to 0.24 m deep, and had a shallow, concave profile. It contained a light–mid yellow/greyish brown silty, sandy loam secondary fill. Twenty-nine sherds (264 g) of mainly early/middle Romano-British pottery came from the ditch, along with a small, residual late prehistoric sherd (5 g) and a piece of retouched flint.

- 5.5.4 Another ditch (12633), possibly associated with the same phase of land division, extended 6.5 m to the north-east from the southern limit of the excavation area before terminating. It was approximately 0.4 m wide and up to 0.15 m deep, with moderately steeply sloping concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single large, albeit abraded sherd (40 g) of Romano-British pottery, a tiny late prehistoric sherd (1 g) and an iron nail.
- 5.5.5 Ditch 12630 lay approximately 6 m south-east of ditch 12629 and 8 m south-west of ditch 12631; it meandered in a broadly north-west to south-east direction for 16.3 m. The ditch had moderately steep, concave sides with a concave base and was up to 1 m wide and 0.31 m deep. Nineteen sherds (141 g) of mostly early/middle Romano-British pottery and a tiny late prehistoric sherd (1 g) were recovered from the ditch. Two additional Romano-British sherds (45 g) were collected from the ditch during the trial trenching, along with 46 g of fired clay. Other finds from the excavation – two pieces of post-medieval brick (216 g), an undated piece of tile or brick (84 g) and a small sherd (10 g) of post-medieval pottery – were probably intrusive/surface finds or misattributed to the ditch. Samples of the dark greyish brown silty, sand loam ditch fill contained abundant charred cereal (wheat, including spelt, and barley) grain and chaff – consistent with a Romano-British date – as well as the charred remains of various wild species and small amounts of charcoal.

#### *Undated*

- 5.5.6 A pair of undated ditches (12627 and 12632) extended north-west–south-east across the full width of the excavation area, approximately 33.5 m apart. These appear to derive from a later phase of land division, as the southern-most ditch (12632) was cut through Romano-British ditches 12630 and 12633. They cannot be correlated with any land divisions marked on early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping, but they were approximately co-axial to extant field boundaries suggesting a post-medieval origin. The ditches were between 0.4–0.85 m wide and up to 0.15 m deep, had shallow, concave profiles and contained unremarkable secondary fills. The only associated find – a sherd (13 g) of early/middle Romano-British pottery from the intersection of ditch 12632 (slot 12611) and Romano-British ditch 12630 – was probably residual.
- 5.5.7 An irregular pit or tree-throw hollow (12597), which measured 2.2 m by 1.66 m wide and 0.16 m deep, was also exposed and investigated. No finds were recovered from the feature.

#### *Modern*

- 5.5.8 Pit 12623 contained a modern sheep burial (Fig. 9), similar to that in Area 1 (pit 12707; see above). The pit measured 0.8 m by 0.55 m and was 0.12 m deep. No other finds came from the feature.

## **5.6 Area 4**

### *Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age*

- 5.6.1 The continuation of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch 6403, identified during the evaluation (see sections 2.1 and 4.1), was exposed and recorded as ditch 12547 (Figs 10 and 11) during the excavation of Area 4. The ditch extended 25 m north from the southern

limit of the excavation before terminating. It contained a single fill, likely formed through natural silting, had moderately steep, concave sides with a concave base and was 0.8–0.95 m wide and up to 0.26 m deep. In addition to the pottery (62 sherds, 1290 g) and fired clay (447 g) from the evaluation, a further 12 late prehistoric sherds (161 g), 161 g of animal bone and a few tiny pieces of fired clay and (intrusive) brick were recovered from the ditch

- 5.6.2 Ditch 12547 was cut by a small subcircular pit (12593; 0.64 m by 0.49 m and 0.14 m deep). This contained a mixed, dark greyish-brown silty sand fill, from which 49 g of burnt animal bone, 11 sherds (32 g) of late prehistoric pottery, an intrusive iron nail and small piece of ceramic building material were recovered. Samples of this deposit contained small quantities of charcoal, as well as coal and clinker/cinder (presumably post-medieval contaminants).

#### *Romano-British*

- 5.6.3 Pit 12508 (Fig. 12) was located in the north-eastern part of Area 4. It was subcircular, measured 1.54 m by 1.22 m, was 0.25 m deep and had a slightly concave base and moderately steep, concave sides. Twelve sherds (306 g) of Romano-British pottery (from a single vessel) and a residual sherd (6 g) of late prehistoric pottery came from its single undistinctive fill.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 5.6.4 A shallow, discontinuous and partially re-cut ditch (recorded as 6303/6305/12528, to the west, and 12546 to the east) extended east–west across the northern part of Area 4, approximately parallel to the A20 London Road, 18 m to the north. It was a maximum of 0.8 m wide and 0.12 m deep, and had probably been mostly lost to truncation. Five, mostly small and abraded sherds (39 g) of Romano-British pottery also came from the ditches, but these were apparently residual as other finds comprised five small sherds (14 g) of post-medieval pottery, three pieces of clay tobacco pipe, nine pieces of brick and tile (248 g; predominantly of medieval or post-medieval date) and several iron nails.
- 5.6.5 Ditch 12548 extended approximately 15.5 m west from the eastern limit of Area 4, 5.3 m to the south of ditch 6303/6305/12528/12546. It was up to 0.9 m wide and 0.4 m deep, had a moderately steeply sloping, concave profile and contained a mid-yellow/grey sandy secondary fill. Associated finds comprise small pieces of brick and tile (46 g), several of post-medieval date, a small sherd (5 g) of post-medieval pottery, several pieces of modern iron wire, an undiagnostic piece of worked flint and a sherd (6 g) of late prehistoric pottery.

#### *Undated*

- 5.6.6 Ditch 12549 extended from the western limit of Area 4 before terminating 31 m to the south-east. The ditch had a shallow, concave profile, was 0.8 m wide on average and up to 0.19 m deep, and contained an undistinctive light greyish brown secondary fill. It produced no finds but was cut through late prehistoric ditch 12547; its alignment suggests that it did not belong to the same phase of land division as any of the other features in Area 4.
- 5.6.7 Other undated features in Area 4 comprised two postholes (12522 and 12524), a pit (12506) and a tree-throw hollow (12530), none of which contained finds. The postholes were set 1.1 m apart and measured approximately 0.4 m in diameter and 0.1–0.16 m deep; their function is unclear. The pit was subcircular, measured 1.1 m by 0.9 m and 0.3 m deep, and had moderately steeply sloping concave sides and a concave base. It contained light, yellowish brown sandy fill of ambiguous formation.





## 5.7 Area 5

### *Post-medieval*

- 5.7.1 The excavation of Area 5 (Fig. 13) revealed a pair of parallel, NNE–SSW ditches (12768 and 12557) that were probably the continuations of ditches 12758 and 12770 in Area 1, 35 m to the south. Ditch 12768 was at least 13.3 m long, up to 0.93 m wide, 0.1 m deep and had a flat/slightly irregular base and concave to irregular sides. Ditch 12257 was located 1.35 m east of ditch 12768 and extended 1.7 m NNE from the southern limit of Area 5 before terminating. It had irregular sides and a sloping base, and was 0.56 m wide and 0.11 m deep. No finds came from the ditches.

### *Undated*

- 5.7.2 The unexcavated part of pit 8904 from the evaluation (see section 4.1) was examined and recorded as 12559. It measured 0.98 m by 0.64 m and was 0.32 m deep. A small piece of undated ceramic building material was recovered from its surface during the excavation.

## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of 6.3 kg of finds was recovered, dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. The finds have been quantified by material type (Table 1) within each context and the data recorded in a digital database forming part of the project archive.

**Table 1** Summary of finds by material and count/weight in grams

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone	404	2352
Ceramic building material	75	2378
Fired clay	5	35
Flint	4	35
Iron	9	17
Pottery	168	1442
Shell	2	22
Slag	1	11
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>6292</b>

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage (168 sherds, 1442 g) is primarily split between the late prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with just a few sherds of later material. The assemblage has been subdivided into broad ware (e.g., sandy wares) or known fabric types (e.g., Patchgrove grog-tempered ware) and quantified by sherd count and weight. Featured sherds were assigned a form type referencing standard corpora where appropriate (e.g., Monaghan 1987) and other variables (e.g., surface treatment, decoration, firing and evidence of use) were also recorded. The level of recording accords with the ‘basic record’ aimed at rapid characterisation of the assemblage and producing a comparative dataset (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5). A breakdown of the assemblage by ware type is shown in Table 2.
- 6.2.2 The condition of the assemblage is moderate, with an overall mean sherd weight of 8.6 g and limited surface abrasion. Diagnostic sherds, however, are scarce in all periods (13 rims in total) and the majority are broken at a high point on the shoulder or above the neck/shoulder junction.



**Table 2** Breakdown of pottery chronology and ware type

Period	Ware	No.	Wt. (g)	MSW (g)	
Late Prehistoric	Sand and flint-tempered ware	39	143	-	
	Glaucanitic sandy ware with flint	24	202	-	
	Flint-tempered ware	10	58	-	
	Organic tempered ware with flint	7	31	-	
	Grog-tempered ware	3	11	-	
	Glaucanitic sandy ware	1	1	-	
	Sandy ware	3	9	-	
		<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>87</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Romano-British	Gaulish amphorae 1 (GAL AM 1)	14	318	-	
	Baetican (Early) amphorae 1 (BAT AM 1)	1	40	-	
	Central Gaulish samian	1	4	-	
	Patchgrove-style grog-tempered ware	30	245	-	
	Grog-tempered ware	6	18	-	
	Sandy ware	8	92	-	
	Thameside Kent ware	1	4	-	
	Un sourced ?British mortaria	4	53	-	
	White-slipped oxidised ware	4	119	-	
	Verulamium region white ware (VER WH)	2	7	-	
	Oxidised ware	2	7	-	
	North Kent fine greyware	3	12	-	
		<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>76</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>12.1</b>
	Medieval	Ashford-Potters Corner ware (CAT code EM.M5)	2	48	-
		<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>24</b>
Post-medieval/Modern	Post-medieval redware	2	15	-	
	Flowerpot	1	5	-	
		<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>168</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>8.6</b>	

#### *Later prehistoric*

- 6.2.3 Dating of the group is severely hampered by the lack of diagnostic pieces and the long tradition of fabrics in the region. Later prehistoric material was retrieved from 13 features, predominately ditches, most of which contained 10 sherds or less. Larger quantities were only recovered from pit 12593 (11 sherds, likely to be from one vessel in a glaucanitic sandy ware with flint fabric) and ditch 12764 (49 sherds, sandy, flint, flint and organic and sand and flint-tempered wares). The group from ditch 12764 consists of mixed body sherds with just one small rim fragment present. Only six sherds were found in features also containing Romano-British material.
- 6.2.4 Flint is the predominant tempering agent, which mostly occurs with other inclusion types, especially sand, but also organics. The sandy and sand and flint-tempered fabrics indicate at least two sources, glaucanitic and non-glaucanitic. The former is well-recognised in the West Malling area (Jones 2009, 18–19). Diagnostic sherds are limited to just three small rim fragments in the flint-tempered fabrics: an upright flattened rim (ditch 12547), an upright rounded rim (ditch 12764) and a rounded rim fragment (ditch 12765). From its well-finished surfaces and thin walls, the upright rounded rim is possibly from a fineware bowl, but it is too poorly preserved to be definitive.

### *Romano-British*

- 6.2.5 The material was derived from 12 contexts in nine features (mostly ditches). The largest quantities were retrieved from pit 12508 (12 sherds, from one vessel), along with ditches 12630 (19 sherds) and 12631 (29 sherds). The larger ditch groups, as might be expected, are still relatively poorly preserved and lack diagnostic pieces. The remaining feature groups are all 10 sherds or less. Most of the material is likely to date to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with recognisable Late Roman material absent.
- 6.2.6 The assemblage is characterised by a reliance on coarsewares (Table 2); the largest component being grog-tempered fabrics (47% by count). Patchgrove products represent most of these wares. Most have distinctive orange surfaces, but some variation is apparent consistent with Breen's description (1987, section 1.3–1.5). These wares date from the mid-1st century AD, possibly extending through into the 3rd century AD (*ibid.*, section 8; Pollard 1988, 124). Three fragments from jar or bowls with everted rims (ditches 12630 and 12631) are present, but all are broken above the neck/shoulder junction and are too small to be diagnostic.
- 6.2.7 The remaining coarsewares are quite diverse and comprise small quantities (Table 2) of reduced and oxidised sandy fabrics. The reduced sandy wares are mostly body sherds, but two small rim fragments survive: an unsourced early Roman bead-rimmed jar (ditch 12630; Monaghan 1987, 86, type 3E2) and a Thameside Kent ware plain 'pie dish' (ditch 12629; Monaghan 1987, 140, type 5C1) which dates to AD 120–250. Some of the body sherds may also be Thameside products, but they lack the distinctive colours usually observed for such wares. Oxidised wares are again primarily unsourced, with the only known source being the Verulamium kilns in Hertfordshire (Table 2) which operated between the late 1st and mid-2nd centuries AD. Unsourced, probably British mortaria are included in this group, a body sherd recognisable by the survival of a single trituration grit (ditch 12633) and three sherds (ditch 12630) likely to be from a flange. The white-slipped oxidised wares (ditch 12631) comprise a mortarium spout fragment probably from a bead and flange type and an amphora-style flagon. It has not been possible to find an exact parallel for the flagon, but it has similarities to amphora-style Verulamium products (Davies et al 1994, 45, fig 36, 138 and 139) and miscellaneous flagons from Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 337, fig 6.20, 503 and 504).
- 6.2.8 Romano-British finewares are almost absent, consisting of just three undiagnostic sherds of North Kent fine greyware (ditches 12630 and 12631). Imported wares however are well-represented and amphorae comprise 14 sherds of Gauloise type (ditches 12630 and 12546; pit 12508), used to carry wine, and one sherd of the common olive oil container (ditch 12631) from Southern Spain, both of 1st to mid-3rd centuries AD date (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136, 143). The olive oil container is, however, of the earlier fabric (Tomber and Dore 1998, 48) which was used until around the mid-2nd century AD. The final import is a Central Gaulish samian dish rim (ditch 12631), which is likely to date to the 2nd century AD.

### *Medieval*

- 6.2.9 A jar rim (subsoil) and base sherd (ditch 12767) in Ashford/Potter's Corner ware are the only medieval sherds present. Both date to the 12th century AD.

### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 6.2.10 An internally glazed redware bowl rim (ditch 12630) and body sherd (ditch 12548) are the only post-medieval sherds. A piece of flowerpot, which could date to either the post-medieval or modern periods, was also found in ditch 12546.



### 6.3 Animal bone

- 6.3.1 A total of 404 fragments (2.352 kg) of animal bone were recovered. This includes two associated bones groups (or ABGs), which together account for 379 fragments (2.119 kg). The entire assemblage was rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).
- 6.3.2 The animal bones recovered from late prehistoric pit 12593 are fragmented, in poor condition, and mostly charred or calcined. Consequently only a few are identifiable to species and skeletal element. Most are sheep/goat post-cranial bones, but two cattle bones and several small, eroded pieces of deer antler, were also recorded.
- 6.3.3 Two modern sheep burials were recorded in shallow, purpose dug features, 12623 and 12707. The sheep are both large, hornless types, with estimated shoulder heights of 0.7 m. The animals are generally characteristic of modern improved breeds. One is aged approximately 2 years and the other between 3–3 years.
- 6.3.4 A few cattle and sheep/goat bones were also recovered from undated ditches 12504, 12687 and 12743.
- 6.3.5 The above is in addition to the small quantity of animal bones recovered from the evaluation. This comprised a partial lamb skeleton and a few disarticulated sheep/goat and cattle bones from two trenches.

### 6.4 Ceramic building material

- 6.4.1 Ceramic building material amounted to 75 pieces (2378 g), derived from 20 deposits, the majority of which were ditch fills. The earliest material comprises a Roman *tegula* (flanged roof tile) fragment from ditch 12760 and a tile fragment with keying, probably box flue tile, from ditch 12628. Post-medieval brick fragments came from ditch 12630 and a roof tile with a peg hole from ditch 12528. The rest of the assemblage is very fragmented, including brick, tile, and flakes, but the majority are not closely dateable, although the hardness of these fabrics suggests they are probably of later medieval or later date.

### 6.5 Fired clay

- 6.5.1 Just five items of fired clay were recorded, deriving from ditches 12526 (one) and 12544 (four). All occur in a slightly sandy, orange-firing fabric but all are abraded and amorphous, retaining no original surfaces. Their origin and date are therefore unknown.

### 6.6 Flint

- 6.6.1 Only four pieces of worked flint were recovered during the excavations, mirroring its scarcity (two pieces) from the preceding evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). These were found in four contexts distributed widely across the site. All are in relatively fresh condition and derive from ditches ranging in date from modern/post-medieval to late prehistoric.
- 6.6.2 One retouched piece was found residually in probable Romano-British ditch 12625. This is a miscellaneous retouched flake which might be an expedient form of scraper. The remaining pieces are all flakes (one broken). One was found in modern/post-medieval ditch 12544 and is also clearly residual. The other two came from ditches of later prehistoric date and given their fresh condition, may be contemporary with these features. However, a lack of diagnostic artefacts and the small, dispersed nature of the assemblage mean it is difficult to assign dates with confidence.



6.6.3 The raw material is a translucent, pale brown or grey flint of a moderately good quality. Its exact origin is uncertain, but flint is readily available in the local chalk outcrops just six kilometres to the north, and from river gravels in the Medway valley, 4 km to the east.

## 6.7 Metalwork

6.7.1 Metal finds are limited to nine iron objects. Five are fragments of nails, with round, flat heads, and square-sectioned tapering shanks. These were introduced during the Romano-British period and continue largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period. The remaining four items are fragments of wire from ditch 12544 and are probably of modern date.

## 6.8 Shell

6.8.1 The shell is limited to single oyster shells from ditches 12723 and 12743. The shells cannot be intrinsically dated. The oysters were probably sourced from the Thames estuary to the north of the site.

## 6.9 Slag

6.9.1 A single fragment of ironworking slag was recovered from ditch 12760. It is not closely datable.

## 6.10 Conservation

6.10.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field, but subsequent examination has identified the iron objects as being of an unstable material type potentially in need of further conservation treatment.

6.10.2 As a potentially unstable material, the iron objects are all stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity. The items have been subjected to x-radiography to aid identification and to form part of the permanent archive. No further conservation requirements have been identified.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Eight bulk sediment samples were taken, including two taken during the evaluation stage from pits, with a further six taken from ditches and a pit during the mitigation stage. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed. The samples break down into the following feature groups:

**Table 3** Sample provenance summary

Feature type	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)
<i>Evaluation samples</i>		
Pits	2	10
<i>Mitigation samples</i>		
Ditch	2	76
Pit	4	24.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>110.5</b>



## 7.2 Aims and methods

- 7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site and their potential to address the project aims. Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (English Heritage 2011).
- 7.2.2 The larger bulk sediment samples were 38 litres each in volume and the smaller samples were six litres on average. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions of the residues (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x40.
- 7.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial molluscs, were recorded.
- 7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al.* 2006). Wood charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse section to identify the presence of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak species. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).
- 7.2.5 All remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A\* = 30–100 ('Common'), A\*\* = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A\*\*\* = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

## 7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. The flots from the bulk sediment samples are of varying volumes. Potential indicators of bioturbation are common, indicating the high probability of contamination from later intrusive material including abundant modern roots, modern seeds, burrowing blind snails, fungal sclerotia, modern insects, and earthworm eggs, together with small quantities of highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder. Terrestrial molluscs were noted in some features, although these may be recent contaminants as they are very well-preserved.

### *Summary of evaluation samples*

- 7.3.2 The sample from pit 8904 produced a small flot containing frequent charred plant remains. These include hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains together with some grains and chaff from an indeterminate glume wheat (*Triticum* sp.) species. Wild taxa are particularly well-represented, notably hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, alongside grass species (Poaceae), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), trefoils/medicks/clovers (Trifolieae), vetches/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), and rushes (*Juncus* sp.). A very small quantity of charcoal includes fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and hazel.

- 7.3.3 The sample from pit 11704 produced a moderate-sized flot composed almost entirely of oak charcoal with weak growth ring curvature and abundant tyloses indicating the presence mature heartwood. There is a single charred hulled barley grain present.

*Assessment of mitigation samples*

- 7.3.4 The two samples taken from ditch group 12630 (fills 12576 and 12586) are consistent. They contain numerous glume wheat grains, likely of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and/or emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*). Many of which are germinated. The chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks) of glume wheat species, including spelt wheat, is abundant in the samples. Hulled barley grains and rachis segments are occasionally present, alongside indeterminate wheat grains (Triticeae) detached cereal embryos and coleoptiles (detached cereal sprouts). Wild taxa are also abundant in the samples. Present in both ditch segments were species indicative of disturbed ground (e.g., arable field margins, waste ground) such as black bindweed, docks, grass species including frequent oats (*Avena* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and rye-grass/fescues (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), alongside other taxa such as cleavers, trefoils/medicks/clovers, vetches/wild peas, species of the daisy family (Asteraceae) including scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), champions (*Silene* sp.), and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Damp/wet habitats (e.g., slow moving waterbodies, standing water, poorly drained fields) are possibly indicated by the presence of sedges (Cyperaceae). Monocotyledon stems, oat-type (*Avena* sp.) awns, and indeterminate seeds were also noted. Hedgerow/scrub/woodland environments are indicated by fragments of a sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) endocarp.

- 7.3.5 Pit 12593 contained a moderate quantity of charcoal, provisionally identified as mostly oak (*Quercus* sp.) species, which included fragments with strong growth ring curvature, and abundant tyloses indicating the presence of mature heartwood. A small quantity of non-oak species is also noted. The samples produced a small array of charred plant remains including rye-grass/fescues, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), docks and monocotyledon/herbaceous stems.

## 7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The samples contain evidence which is typical of a later prehistoric to Romano-British settlement in southern England (Lodwick 2017). The sample compositions are broadly consistent in the array of plant taxa, comprising glume wheat grains and chaff together with barley and wild taxa. Hulled barley and glume wheat species such as spelt were the main crops cultivated in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (*ibid.*). The cereal remains suggest that the samples contain some crop-processing debris; however, the high-density cereal remains in ditch group 12630, and in particular the germinated glume wheat grains and chaff alongside detached embryos and coleoptiles, are consistent with assemblages recovered in association with Romano-British crop-dryers. This raises the possibility that this is a rake-out deposit from a crop-dryer that may be beyond the area of excavation.
- 7.4.2 Small quantities of fragmented coal and clinker/cinder may have become reworked into features across the site due to bioturbation. Coal became widely used as a fuel source in the later medieval/post-medieval periods, although there is some evidence for its use in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Claughton *et al.* 2016).



## 8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

### 8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 The quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and less closely datable late prehistoric pottery from two isolated ditches, 190 m apart in Areas 1 and 4, seem consistent with debris generated by nearby domestic activity. However, no obviously contemporary remains were identified, aside from a small pit cut into one of the ditches, a handful of residual finds and, perhaps, a few other inconclusively dated features. It is possible that ploughing in modern and historical periods had been responsible for the loss of other remains, given the sometimes insubstantial nature of the evidence for late prehistoric settlement (e.g., many sites being small, unenclosed and/or short-lived, and often containing only a few post-built structures and scattered pits; Brück 2007). Alternatively, the remains of contemporary settlement may have lain beyond the excavation areas and trial trenches.
- 8.1.2 The functions of the ditches are unclear, although they may have originally been part of a settled and enclosed/organised landscape comparable to those established across large parts of southern Britain during the mid-2nd–early 1st millennia BC, including elsewhere on the Kentish Greensand and along the Medway valley (Champion 2019, 9; Yates 2007, figs 3.3 and 12.2). The short sections of ditch could represent ‘gang junctions’ – the product of land divisions created in stages, with ditches dug in sections to variable depths and often on slightly irregular alignments (Yates 2007, 128–9). In such cases, only the deepest sections may have been liable to survive truncation. This may also be compatible with the highly tentative suggestion that late prehistoric ditch 12764 in Area 1 formed part of a trackway, together with ditch sections 12762 and 12763.
- 8.1.3 Whilst the ditches and associated finds are of some intrinsic interest, they are of minor significance relative to the more extensive, substantial and well-preserved late prehistoric remains known in the surrounding landscape. There is no potential to gain a more detailed understanding of contemporary activity and land-use/organisation through further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence. Neither have investigations in the immediate area provided additional context that would substantially enhance their interpretation.
- 8.1.4 Evidence of (predominantly earlier, e.g., 1st–late 2nd/early 3rd century AD) Romano-British activity was largely confined to Area 3, where a probable holloway and ditches forming part of an enclosure/field system were uncovered. Other Romano-British remains comprised an isolated pit in Area 4 and stray finds from undated and later contexts dispersed across the development site. Given the densely settled and intensively farmed character of the surrounding landscape, the evidence provides only a minor contribution to the recorded distribution of Romano-British sites in the region. Whilst of some interest, there is little potential to gain further understanding through subsequent analysis of these remains.
- 8.1.5 The system of land divisions partially uncovered in Area 1 (and a few nearby trial trenches) possibly formed part of the rural landscape attached to neighbouring medieval landholdings but could equally be the result of later (i.e., post-medieval) enclosure. Whilst potentially of some local interest, the probable field system has negligible potential for further research as its components cannot be closely dated and were incompletely exposed, meaning that their role in the organisation and development of the landscape organisation/development cannot be clearly understood. Furthermore, there was no accompanying evidence to illuminate the associated arable regime or animal husbandry practises, nor any contemporary remains that might provide additional interpretative context.





8.1.6 The remainder of the stratigraphic evidence from the excavation and trial trenching, comprising a few features of uncertain date and function, as well as later post-medieval field boundaries, is of negligible significance and has no further research potential.

## 8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 This section considers the combined assemblages from the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and the excavation, as described above, and summarised in Table 4. The finds are of mixed date and occur in a restricted range of material types which echo a number a larger published assemblages from the area (Ellis 2009; Morris 2006). No items of intrinsic interest were recovered and none of the material types present occur in any great quantity. As such, the archaeological significance and further research potential of the finds are correspondingly limited.

**Table 4** Summary of finds from evaluation and excavation

Material	Evaluation		Excavation		Grand total	
	Count	Wt. (g)	Count	Wt. (g)	Count	Wt. (g)
Animal bone	18	28	404	2352	422	2380
Ceramic building material	21	560	75	2378	96	2938
Clay tobacco pipe	6	11	-	-	6	11
Fired clay	12	493	5	35	17	528
Flint	2	7	4	35	6	42
Glass	4	20	-	-	4	20
Iron	13	160	9	17	22	177
Pottery	93	1605	168	1442	261	3047
Shell	1	16	2	22	3	38
Slag	-	-	1	11	1	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>2900</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>6292</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>9192</b>

8.2.2 However, the overall finds distribution indicates Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity in the vicinity of Area 4, reinforced with later prehistoric ceramic evidence. Some Romano-British activity (1st to early 3rd century AD) is also apparent and although this is more ephemeral, it does appear to be concentrated in Area 3. A low-level scatter of medieval and post-medieval material extends across the whole area.

8.2.3 The pottery assemblage is of local interest and provides some evidence for the ceramic influences of the region during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Romano-British periods, but the material survives only in moderate condition. Its high fragmentation rate, paucity of diagnostic pieces and low number of statistically viable groups further limits its potential.

8.2.4 None of the other materials occur in sufficient quantity to provide any further research potential beyond already recorded.

## 8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 No further work is recommended for the environmental remains.



## 9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

### 9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 Where possible, the original project aims (section 3) have been achieved. In view of the limited potential for further research, the revised aim of the project is to disseminate the results.

### 9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 No further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence is recommended.

### 9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 The finds have been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes and no further work is proposed.

### 9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 No further analysis of the environmental evidence is recommended.

### 9.5 Proposals for dissemination

9.5.1 Publication is not recommended due to the limited significance of the results and lack of potential for further analysis. However, the project results should be disseminated by making this document accessible via the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and Kent HER, and through preparation of the project archive for deposition.

### 9.6 Programme

9.6.1 The project archive will be prepared for deposition when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the KCC HCT, on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by the client.

### 9.7 Personnel and resources

9.7.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication:

**Table 5** Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
1	Project management	0.5	WA Project Manager
2	Third-party liaison	0.25	WA Archivist
3	Archive preparation (scanning, finds and environmental checks)	1	WA Archivist/Environmental Supervisor
4	Digital archive preparation	2	WA Archivist
5	Transportation costs	Ext.	Ext.
6	Physical archive deposition	0.5	WA Archivist
7	Museum fee (box storage grant)	Ext.	Ext. – Museum
8	Digital archive deposition	0.75	WA Archivist
9	ADS fee	Ext.	Ext. – ADS



## 9.8 Management structure

- 9.8.1 The team will be headed by a Project Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the execution of the project as outlined in the Updated Project Design. The Project Manager will ensure performance targets, academic or budgetary, are met within the agreed timetable.

## 10 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The project archive is currently held in the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting museum. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

### 10.2 Preparation of the archive

#### *Physical archive*

- 10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).
- 10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 09 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
  - 02 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

#### *Digital archive*

- 10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs, and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

### 10.3 Selection strategy

- 10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.



- 10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (combining evaluation and excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 2). The proposals are summarised below.

#### *Finds*

- Animal bone: few identified bones from late prehistoric pit 12593 have no further research potential and can be discarded. Sheep ABGs of relatively recent date and small quantity of bone from undated ditches or no intrinsic value and can also be discarded.
- Ceramic building material: limited research potential. Retain featured fragments, discard rest.
- Clay tobacco pipe: no research potential, discard
- Fired clay: no research potential, discard
- Flint: limited research potential, retain
- Glass: limited research potential, modern, discard
- Prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery: of local interest and some limited research potential; retain all
- Post-medieval/modern pottery: common types within the region; no further research potential; discard
- Metalwork: limited research potential, discard
- Shell: no research potential, discard
- Slag: no research potential, discard

#### *Palaeoenvironmental material*

- Assessed samples not recommended for further work should be retained as they may have significance beyond the scope of this project
- The residues were discarded after sorting

#### *Documentary records*

- 10.3.4 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.



#### *Digital data*

- 10.3.5 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

### **10.4 Security copy**

- 10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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.

### **10.5 OASIS**

- 10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the KCC HCT on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

## **11 COPYRIGHT**

### **11.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 11.1.1 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*.
- 11.1.2 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.

### **11.2 Third party data copyright**

- 11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., 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 Environmental evidence

Trench/Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
Tr117	Pit	11704	11705	-	253880 _1	2.5	100	1%	C	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	-	-	50	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/hw	Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (C)	Good, slight mineral- coating
Tr89	Pit	8904	8906	-	253880 _2	7.5	10	10%, C, CA	B	C	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume wheat species) grain + glume base, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (straight grain)	A*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell A*, <i>Fallopia convolvus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., Poaceae (inc. <i>Avena</i> sp., small- seeded species), <i>Galium aparine</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., Trifolieae, <i>Juncus</i> sp. A	1	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/hw, <i>Corylus avellana</i> rw	Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (C)	Poor



Trench/Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
A3	Ditch	12575	12576	12630	253881 _1	38	60	25%, B, E, F, CA (A*)	A**	A***	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume wheat species (many germinated)) grain + spikelet forks, glume bases (incl. <i>T. spelta</i> ), <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain + rachis (incl. six-row), Triticeae grains, detached embryos, coleoptiles	A**	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., Poaceae (inc. <i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Bromus</i> sp., <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp., small-seeded species), <i>Galium aparine</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., Trifolieae, <i>Silene</i> sp., Asteraceae (incl. <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> ), <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Cyperaceae, Monocot stems, <i>Avena</i> -tp. awns, indet seeds.	2	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (B)	Good
A3	Ditch	12585	12586	12630	253881 _2	38	60	30%, B, E, I, CA (A*)	A*	A***	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume wheat species (many germinated)) grain + spikelet forks, glume bases (incl. <i>T. spelta</i> ), <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain, Triticeae grains, detached embryos, coleoptiles	A*	<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., Poaceae (inc. <i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Bromus</i> sp., <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp.), <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., Trifolieae, <i>Silene</i> sp., <i>Spergula arvensis</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> tp. awns, Monocot stems, indet seeds.	1	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (B)	Good



Trench/Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
A4	Pit	12593	12594	-	253881_3	6.5	7	30%, B, E	-	-	-	C	<i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp.	2	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp. (incl. frags. with strong growth ring curvature, and mature hw) with some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Moll-t (C), Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (A)	Fair
A4	Pit	12593	12594	-	253881_3	5	8	30%, B, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp. (incl. frags. with strong growth ring curvature, and mature hw) with some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Moll-t (C), Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (B)	-
A4	Pit	12593	12594	-	253881_3	5	7	60%, B, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp. (incl. frags. with strong growth ring curvature, and mature hw) with some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Moll-t (C), Coal + clinker/cinder fragmented (B)	-



Trench/Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
A4	Pit	12593	12594	-	253881_3	8	15	60%, B, F	-	-	-	C	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., Monocot/herbaceous Stem	4	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp. (incl. frags. with strong growth ring curvature, and mature hw) with some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp.	Moll-t (C), Coal fragmented (C)	Fair

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A\* = 30–100, A\*\* = 100–500, A\*\*\* = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs.



## **Appendix 2 Selection Strategy**

253881–2  
**Land south of London Road, Leybourne**  
 version 2, 13.02.2023

Selection Strategy

**Project Information**

**Project Management**

<b>Project Manager</b>	Tom Wells
<b>Archaeological Archive Manager</b>	Moira Taylor
<b>Organisation</b>	Wessex Archaeology (WA)

Stakeholders		Date Contacted
<b>Collecting Institution(s)</b>	Archaeology Data Service	
<b>Project Lead / Project Assurance</b>	Lead: Simon Flaherty Assurance: Tom Wells	N/A
<b>Landowner / Developer</b>	NAME TBC	
<b>Other (external)</b>	External finds & environmental specialists (see WSI) KCC Senior Archaeological Advisor	
<b>Other (internal)</b>	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Officer (Inés López Dóriga) WA Geomatics Manager (Chris Breedon) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process

**Resources**

**Resources required**

WA Finds and Environmental specialists; external finds and environmental specialists; WA archives team

**Context**

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

#### General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *Maidstone Museum*

#### Relevant research agendas

#### Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

#### Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

### **Research objectives of the project**

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- determine the date, extent and character of land management organisation, and its development from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age period;
- determine the purpose of the pits identified in the evaluation; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

### **REVIEW POINTS**

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

## **1 – Digital Data**

### **Stakeholders**



WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Maidstone Museum Senior Archaeological Advisor; ADS

## Selection

### Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	3
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	As above	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	As above	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	As above	2, 3

Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	As above	3
Photographic media (photogrammetry)	All terrestrial photogrammetry recording will generate orthographic photos. For those features or finds which are particularly archaeological significant, 3D models will be generated and deposited but raw photos will only be selected where models have been selected and OBJs are to be deposited, where re-processing may have some archaeological value (eg very significant features, or where the model is less accurate than the surveyed georeference targets or of lower quality and the quality of the original photos is good enough to represent a reasonable chance of better future outcomes). Aerial photogrammetry topographic surveys will generate 3D models and orthographic photos, and the final outputs in the form of the report. These will all be selected, but not the raw photos from aerial surveys.	As above	2, 3
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	As above	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	As above	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	As above	2, 3
LIDAR data	All will be selected	As above	2, 3

Laser Scan data	All will be selected	As above	2, 3
Geophysical data	RAW data and Interpretation Geotiffs	As above	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	As above	3

### De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

### Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

## 2 – Documents

### Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Maidstone Museum; KCC Senior Archaeological Advisor

### Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	3

Reports	Hard copies of all reports (WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	As above	2, 3
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	As above	2, 3
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	As above	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	As above	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	As above	3

### De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

### Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

## 3 – Materials

<b>Material type</b>	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	<b>Section 3.</b>	3.1
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### Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; external specialists; Maidstone Museum; Senior Archaeological Advisor; landowner

### Selection

Proposals have been made by WA internal specialists based on observations made during assessment.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Animal bone	Few identified bones from late prehistoric pit 12593 have no further research potential and can be discarded. Sheep ABGs of relatively recent date and small quantity of bone from undated ditches or no intrinsic value and can also be discarded.	As above	2, 3
Ceramic building material	Limited research potential. Retain featured fragments, discard rest.	As above	2, 3
Clay tobacco pipes	No research potential, discard.	As above	2, 3
Fired clay	No research potential, discard.	As above	2, 3
Glass	No research potential, modern, discard.	As above	2, 3
Marine shell	No research potential, discard.	As above	2, 3
Metalwork	Limited research potential, discard.	As above	2, 3
Pottery, prehistoric, Roman and medieval	of local interest and some limited research potential; retain all.	As above	2, 3
Pottery, post-medieval/modern	Common types within the region; no further research potential; discard.	As above	2, 3
Slag	No research potential, discard	As above	2, 3
Worked flint	Limited research potential, retain	As above	2, 3

### Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material was left *in situ*

### De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

#### Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

### 3 – Materials

<b>Material type</b>	Palaeoenvironmental material	<b>Section 3.</b>	3.2
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#### Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; external specialists; Maidstone Museum; KCC Senior Archaeological Advisor

#### Selection

Proposals have been made by WA internal specialists based on observations made during assessment.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Assessed flots	Assessed samples not recommended for further work should be retained as they may have significance beyond the scope of this project.  The residues were discarded after sorting.	As above	2, 3

#### Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material was left *in situ*

#### De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

#### Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



## **Appendix 3 OASIS summary**



# Summary for wessexar1-506957

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-506957
Project Name	Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent
Sitename	Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent (Evaluation & Excavation),
Activity type	Evaluation, Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	253880, 235881
Planning Id	TM/19/01814/OA, (appeal ref. APP/H2265/W/20/3256877)
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	21-Feb-2022 - 16-Aug-2022
Location	<p>Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent (Evaluation)            NGR : TQ 69173 58040            LL : 51.2963552698888, 0.425106990063337            12 Fig : 569173,158040</p> <p>Land south of London Road, Leybourne, Kent (Excavation)            NGR : TQ 69416 58108            LL : 51.2968939667627, 0.428621291841873            12 Fig : 569416,158108</p>
Administrative Areas	<p>Country : England            County : Kent            District : Tonbridge and Malling            Parish : East Malling and Larkfield</p>
Project Methodology	<p>124 trial trenches, each originally measuring 30 m in length and 2.1 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. Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.</p> <p>Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.</p> <p>Based on the results of this trial trench evaluation five areas, totalling 0.66 ha, were targeted for subsequent investigation through archaeological excavation under Wessex Archaeology project code 235881. The excavations were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Team (KCC HCT) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork. Please see Wessex Archaeology report ref:253882.1 for further excavation methodology. The evaluation was undertaken between 21st February to 23th March 2022 and the excavation fieldwork was undertaken between 4th July and 16th August 2022.</p>

## Project Results

A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch, initially recorded during the trial trenching, was more fully exposed and investigated, although no contemporary remains were identified. Another less closely dated but nevertheless late prehistoric (c. late 2nd–1st millennium BC) ditch was exposed 190 m to the south; this may, very tentatively, have formed part of a trackway along with two further, inconclusively dated sections of ditch. Other traces of prehistoric activity were limited to a very sparse assemblage of chronologically undiagnostic worked flint and pottery from undated or clearly later contexts

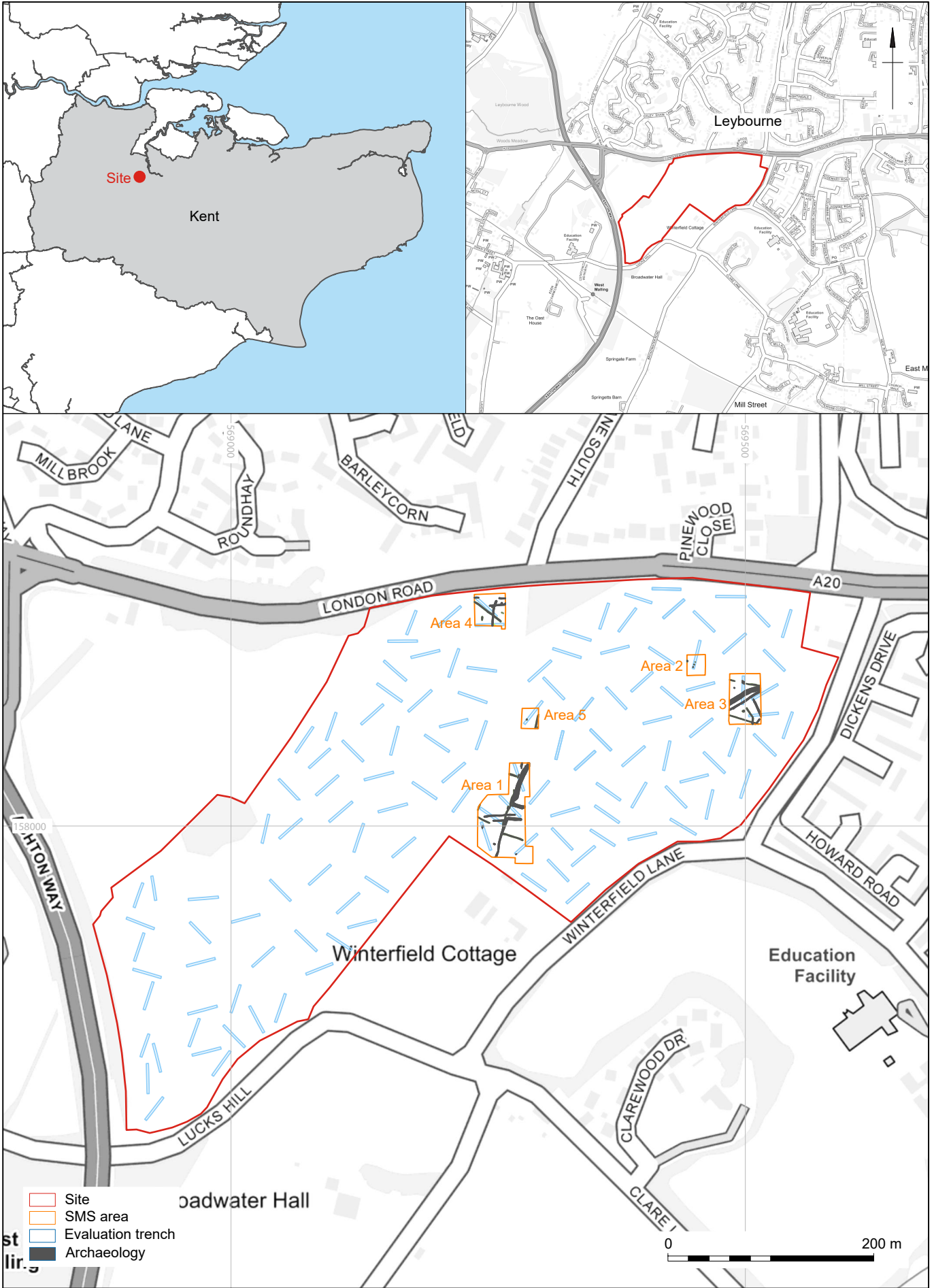
A possible Romano-British hollow-way and several contemporary ditches, probably forming part of a field system, were recorded in another area to the east. The only other convincingly Romano-British feature was an isolated pit, although small amounts of pottery and pieces of box flue and tegula were also found residually in later features throughout the site. The bulk of the datable finds suggest a focus of activity within the earlier part of the period (e.g., the 1st –early 3rd century).

Elsewhere, a series of partially re-cut ditches and a possible hollow-way/eroded track seem to have formed part of a system of medieval/post-medieval agricultural land divisions, further elements of which may have been encountered within nearby trial trenches. Other features, dispersed throughout the excavated areas, essentially consisted of a few mostly small, shallow ditches – several of which defined post-medieval land divisions (e.g., field boundaries) whilst others are of uncertain date and function – along with two modern sheep burials and a very sparse scatter of undated pits, postholes and tree-throw hollows.

The finds are of the late prehistoric to modern date and occurred in a restricted range of material types; none were present in any great quantity nor were they atypical for the region. The environmental evidence retrieved through selective sampling was limited.

The majority of these features remain undated due to the paucity of archaeological material recovered from across the evaluation area, with only five features able to be given tentative dates. Material dating to the prehistoric, in particular the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval/post-medieval and modern periods was identified during the evaluation indicating at least some activity within the area during those periods. It is possible that the paucity of archaeological material is indicative of at least some of the identified features being geological in origin.

Keywords	Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hollow Way - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Animal Remains - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Rim Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Rim Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Rim Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tegula - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Retouched Flake - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Flake - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Finlay, Wood, Simon, Flaherty
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Archives: no repository; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

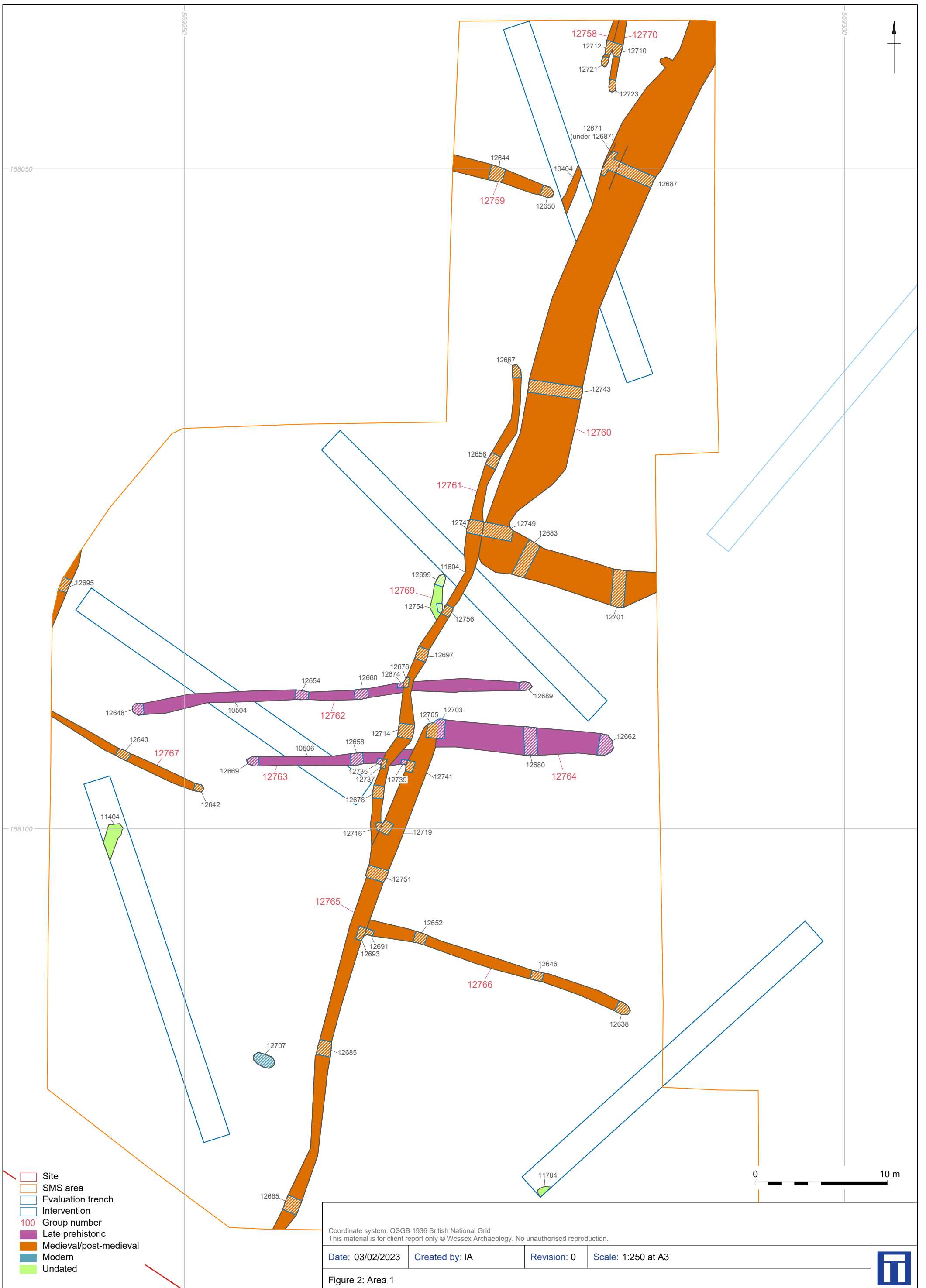


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Figure 1: Site location





- Site
- SMS area
- Evaluation trench
- Intervention
- 100 Group number
- Late prehistoric
- Medieval/post-medieval
- Modern
- Undated

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Figure 2: Area 1

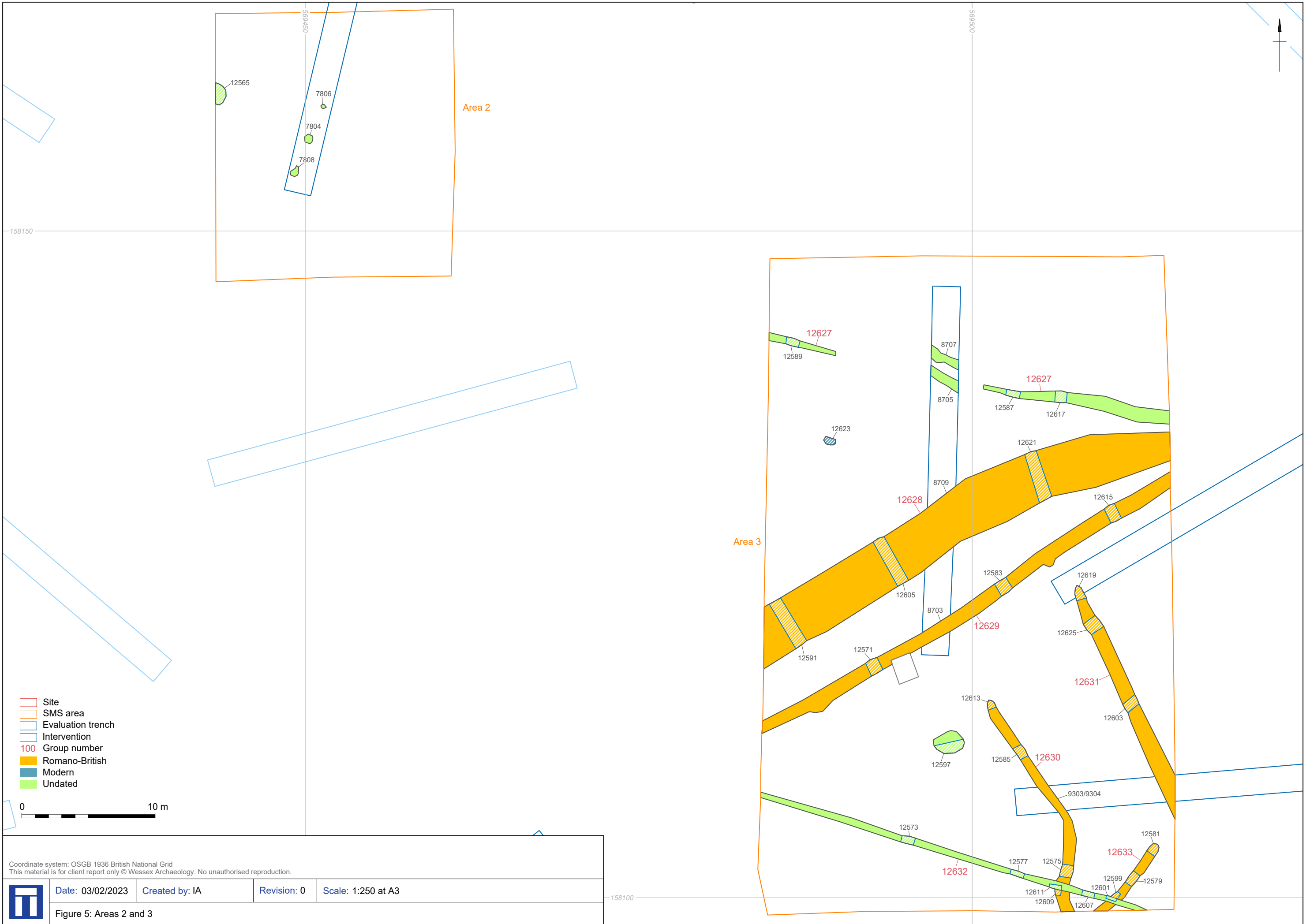




Figure 3: East facing section of late prehistoric ditch terminal 12764. Scale 1 m



Figure 4: North-north-east facing section of medieval/post medieval ditches 12760 and ditch 12761. Scale 2 m



- Site
- SMS area
- Evaluation trench
- Intervention
- 100 Group number
- Romano-British
- Modern
- Undated

0 10 m

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Figure 5: Areas 2 and 3

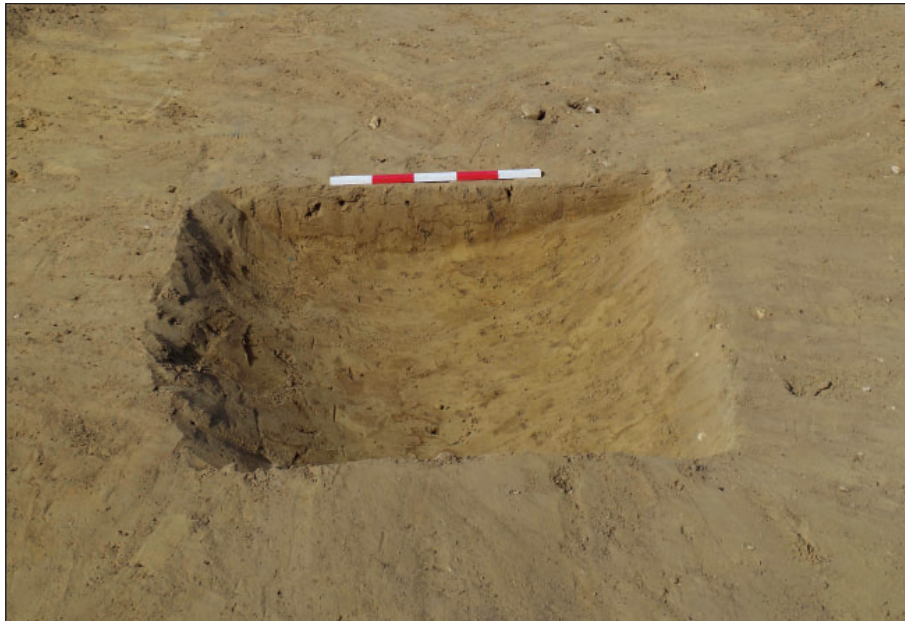


Figure 6: North-east facing section of Roman-British ditch 12629. Scale 0.5 m



Figure 7: South-east facing section of Romano-British ditch 12631. Scale 0.5 m

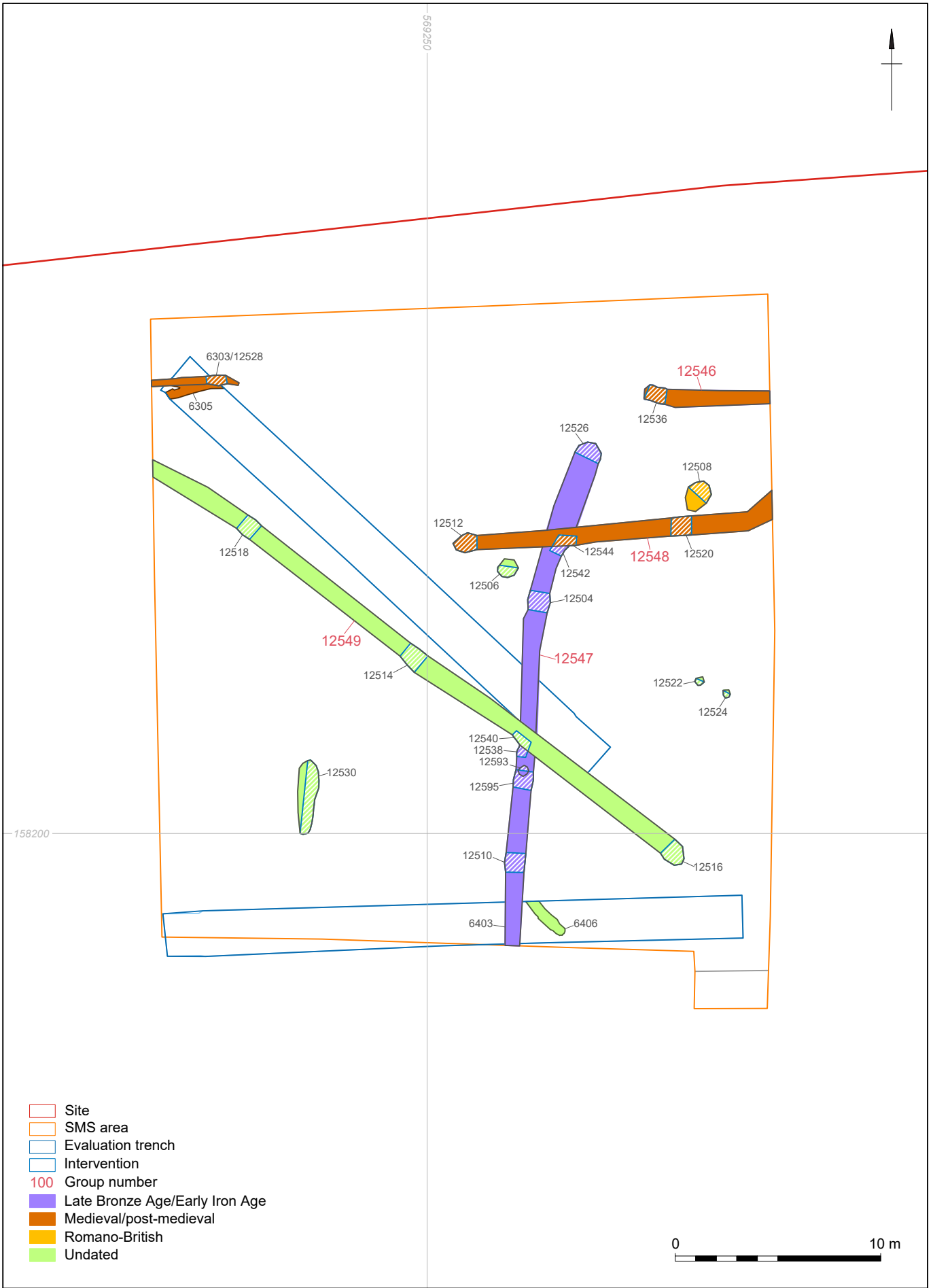




Figure 8: North-east facing section of probable possible Romano-British hollow-way 12628. Scale 2 m



Figure 9: View from the south-south-west of pit 12623 containing a modern animal burial. Scale 0.5 m



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Figure 10: Area 4



Figure 11: North-east facing section of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch terminus 12547. Scale 1 m.

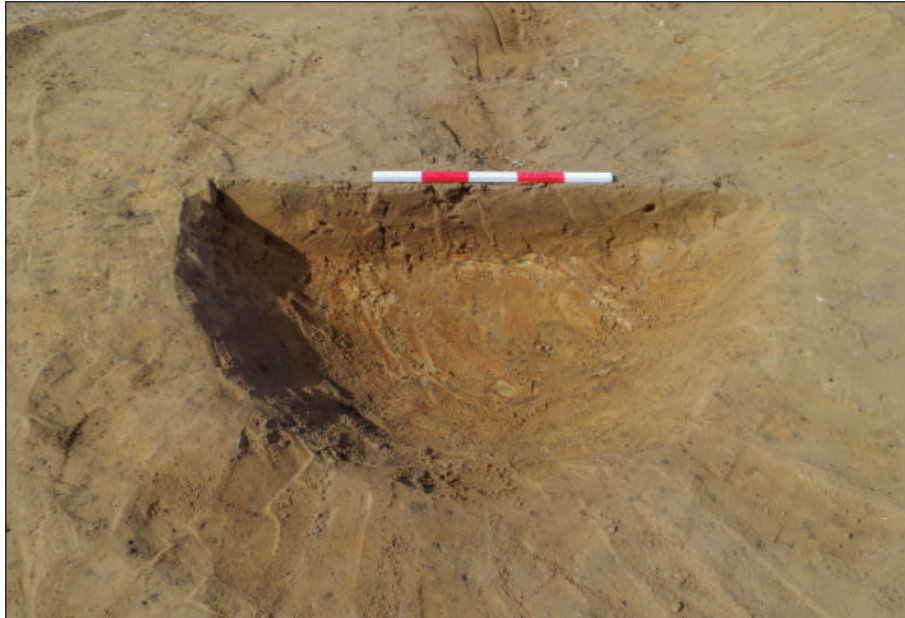
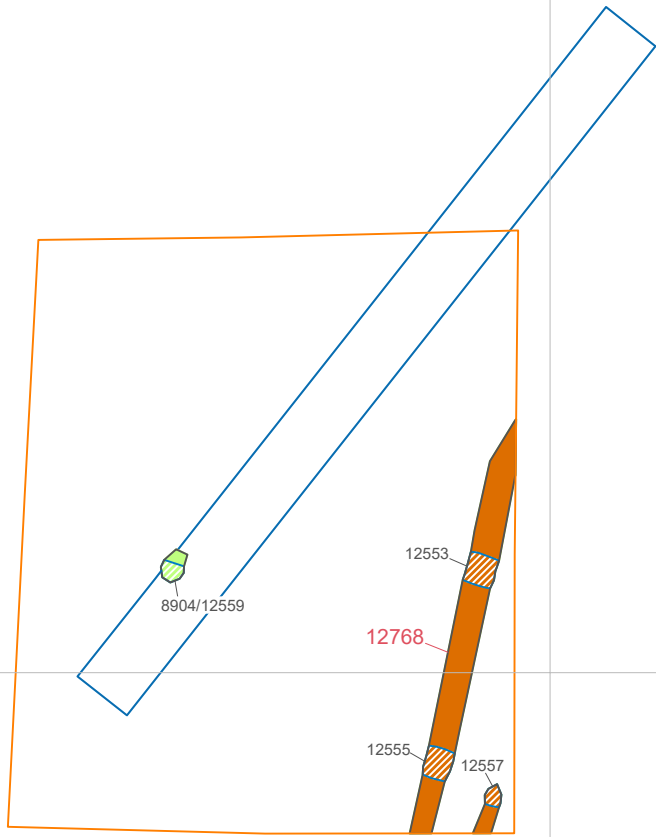


Figure 12: North-east facing section of Romano-British pit 12508. Scale 0.5 m



158100

006699



- Site
- SMS area
- Evaluation trench
- Intervention
- 100 Group number
- Medieval/post-medieval
- Undated



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Figure 13: Area 5





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