



White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation SMS Areas 1 and 2

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WSP UK Ltd, on behalf of Kent County Council, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and contingency mitigation strip, map and sample (SMS) excavations on land adjacent to White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, centred on NGR 631910 144190. The works were conducted in association with proposals for development of the White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, which were intended for approval under the *Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) Special Development Order 2020* but have not subsequently been progressed/implemented.

The evaluation and SMS excavations formed part of a staged approach to determining the archaeological potential of the site and mitigating the potential impact of the development. Earlier non-intrusive investigations comprised a desk-based assessment and two geophysical surveys. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 208 trial trenches and three SMS areas (totalling 9198 m²). This report addresses the results from SMS Areas 1 and 2, which encompassed 5810 m² and 1305 m², respectively. The evaluation results and those from SMS Area 3 are presented in a separate report (Wessex Archaeology 2024), due to the limited significance.

The evaluation and excavation of SMS Area 3 were undertaken between 7 December 2020 and 19 March 2021; SMS Areas 1 and 2 were excavated between 8 March and 24 May 2021.

The excavation of SMS Areas 1 and 2 was prompted by the identification, within several evaluation trenches in the south-eastern part of the site, of a concentration of features associated with Romano-British pottery.

The earliest evidence of activity latterly identified in SMS Areas 1 and 2 dates to the first part of the 3rd millennium BC and consists of a Late Neolithic pit associated with Grooved Ware pottery, worked flint and charred plant remains. Worked flints, probably of mostly later Bronze Age date, were also recovered from ditches and pits, indicating background levels of later prehistoric activity; this accords with finds from the wider evaluation, which included a later Bronze Age ditch and a scatter of late prehistoric pits.

Most of the features in SMS Areas 1 and 2 were of Romano-British date. These include the remains at least one, probably two rectangular structures, as well as several pits and postholes. A double-ditched boundary to the south-east may represent a contemporary trackway or banked hedge, whilst nearby enclosure ditches appeared to define parcels of land for livestock/arable farming. A probable solution hollow may have retained some surface expression and been infilled during the period. The associated finds include pottery, metal objects and fragments of glass; much of this material was broadly dated, but some of the pottery and a copper alloy brooch date to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, while a glass bead is more typical of later Roman activity. The remains appear broadly consistent with domestic and agricultural activity.

Roman pottery also came from several inconclusively dated ditches examined in evaluation trenches across the central and western parts of the site; it is possible that these formed parts of a wider Romano-British field system. The projected route of the Roman road from *Dubris* (Dover) to *Rutupiae* (Richborough) crossed the site approximately 350 m to the west; whilst no certain trace of this was recorded in the evaluation, the road would have enabled connections to nearby urban centres as well as the relatively densely settled East Kent countryside in the early centuries AD.

The evidence of Neolithic and Romano-British activity is of local significance and has some, albeit limited potential for further study. Accordingly, it is proposed that, following further, selective analysis of the stratigraphy, finds and environmental evidence, the results of the excavations will be reported



on in the form of a short illustrated article in the regional journal, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, and the archive prepared for deposition.

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White Cliffs Inland Border Facility Dover, Kent

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Areas 1 and 2 Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WSP UK Ltd, on behalf of Kent County Council (KCC), to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation with contingency mitigation strip, map and sample (SMS) excavations within a 36 ha parcel of land adjacent to White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, centred on NGR 631910 144190 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The works were undertaken in association with proposals for development of the White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, which were intended for approval under the *Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) Special Development Order 2020* but have not subsequently been progressed/implemented.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation and SMS excavations formed part of a staged approach to determining the archaeological potential of the site and mitigating the potential impact of the development. Earlier non-intrusive investigations comprised a desk-based assessment (WSP 2021a) and two geophysical surveys (Wessex Archaeology 2020a–b).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 208 trial trenches and three SMS areas (totalling 9198 m²). This report addresses the results from SMS Areas 1 and 2, which encompassed 5810 m² and 1305 m², respectively. Due to the limited significance of the evidence from SMS Area 3, this element of the mitigation programme is incorporated in a separate report detailing the evaluation results (Wessex Archaeology 2024).
- 1.1.5 The evaluation and excavation of SMS Area 3 were undertaken between 7 December 2020 and 19 March 2021; SMS Areas 1 and 2 were excavated between 8 March and 24 May 2021.
- 1.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WSP 2021b), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed. The Archaeological Advisor at KCC approved the WSI prior to the fieldwork.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation of SMS Areas 1 and 2, and assesses their potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI (WSP 2021b). Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for 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 curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site covers parts of three large arable fields, approximately 1.7 km to the east of the village of Whitfield and 2.5 km to the north of Dover, Kent. The site is bounded by the A2 to



the north, Dover Road to the east, arable fields to the south and the White Cliffs Business Park to the west; a small area of residential properties lie to the south-east.

- 1.3.2 The site lies within the North Chalk Downs (Croft *et al.* 2001) on higher ground to the north of the River Dour Valley. The topography is gently undulating with a high point of 123 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) to the south and a low point of 114 m OD to the north-east.
- 1.3.1 The bedrock geology is Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member, which is overlain by superficial deposits of clay-with-flints across the majority of the site. Head deposits (clay, silt, sand, and gravel) are mapped in the north-eastern part of the site (British Geological Survey 2024).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical context of the proposed development area was assessed in a prior historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA; WSP 2021a) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within 500 m (for previous investigations, as well as documentary and cartographic sources) and 1 km (for designated heritage assets) of the site. The results are summarised below.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The earliest artefacts identified during the development of White Cliffs Business Park, adjacent to the site, were two Palaeolithic hand axes; one dated to the Lower and the other the Middle Palaeolithic period. Lower Palaeolithic worked flints were also recovered during the construction of the Dover–Lydden bypass (A2), 30 m north and 280 m east of the site.
- 2.2.2 A broken Mesolithic adze was recovered during an archaeological evaluation along the route of the Honeywood Parkway.
- 2.2.3 Evidence of Neolithic activity is more widespread/better represented in the locality. This has probably been helped not only by chance surface finds but by systematic fieldwalking on arable land around the development area. Flints found during fieldwalking include a sickle, recovered near the Duke of York's Royal Military School, 500 m to the east, and a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead found near Guston, 170 m to the north of the site. Flint scatters, pits and postholes of this date were also recorded at Honeywood Parkway and White Cliffs Business Park (ASE 2016).
- 2.2.4 The distribution of evidence for Bronze Age activity within the study area follows a similar pattern, with lithic scatters and some *in situ* remains identified. A circular cropmark has also been identified, which may represent a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow.
- 2.2.5 Ditches and enclosures of Iron Age date were also identified at White Cliffs Business Park (ASE 2016). A pottery scatter of this period was recorded during investigations ahead of improvement works at the A2/A256 intersection – some 210 m north-west of the site.
- #### *Romano-British AD 43–410*
- 2.2.6 The HEDBA (WSP 2021a) concluded that there was high potential for Romano-British remains.

2.2.7 The site lay within the hinterland of the Roman fort, settlement and harbour at Dover (*Dubris*), 1.2 km south of the site. The harbour was one of the major bases of the *Classis Britannica*, the Roman provincial fleet. The projected route of a Roman road, as identified by Margary and listed as Roman Road 100 (Margary 1967), which linked the early fort at Richborough (*Rutupiae*), near Ramsgate, with Dover, extends north–south through the western half of the site. Its route corresponds with the position of the North Downs Way National Trail and extant land boundaries and, consequently, was inaccessible for examination during the trial trenching, but was subsequently investigated by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT 2022). However, the road was investigated ahead of the construction of the Lydden–Dover bypass (A2), 30 m to the north of the site. Here, the remains of the road and numerous Romano-British pottery sherds and several horseshoes were recovered (Crellin 1975). As a major line of communication and transport, the road is likely to have attracted nearby settlement activity and possibly also burials, as cemeteries were typically located off the main road outside the settlement.

2.2.8 Linear, curvilinear and pit-like anomalies potentially dating to this period were identified by the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) records the chance find of a Roman coin from within the site, minted between AD 307 and 361. Immediately to the west of the site, several archaeological investigations in the location of the White Cliffs Business Park and Honeywood Parkway have revealed ditches, pits, postholes and two Roman cremation burials (Parfitt and Helm 2004). Excavation of the latter site also recovered pottery, ceramic building material (tile), rotary querns and a glass bead, indicating domestic activity in the area (WSP 2021a).

Medieval

2.2.9 The Roman road would probably still have been in use during the early post-Roman period. Sites recorded in the Kent HER include an early medieval burial, discovered in 1864; the individual was interred in a stone cist/coffin with a disc brooch on their chest (WSP 2021a). The burial's exact location is unknown, but it might be from Guston Parish. More recently a copper alloy pendant has been recovered here by metal detectorists, and two more from land to north of the site (*ibid.*).

2.2.10 The site was located away from the main areas of medieval settlement and was likely utilised as pasture or for arable cultivation – this is reflected in the geophysical survey results, where numerous linear anomalies, thought to associated with ridge and furrow cultivation, were identified (WSP 2021a).

Post-medieval and modern

2.2.11 Historic maps show limited development within the site during this period although there is cartographic evidence for a 16th-century trackway linking Guston to the route of the Roman road. Throughout this period, much of the site remained open farmland, under arable cultivation or pasture. Nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show a small quarry ('Barntie Shaw') within the western part of the site.

2.2.12 The site is known to have contained First World War landward defensive trenching immediately to the north of Frith Farm. This is clearly visible on aerial photography imagery dating to 1960 (WSP 2021b); however, the trenching has been backfilled and does not appear on later satellite imagery and was not detected by the geophysical survey, possibly due to the presence of green waste in this part of the site.

2.2.13 The Kent HER records an extant Second World War Type 24 pillbox in the centre of the western half of the site. However, it is likely that this record relates to a pillbox located a

short distance to the west, identified during the HEDBA, which is a Type 22 pillbox based on its hexagonal shape (WSP 2021a).

2.3 Other investigations within the development area

Geophysical surveys

- 2.3.1 Two geophysical surveys have been undertaken within the site (Figs 1–3). The first was carried out ahead of the Dover Rapid Bus Transit scheme and was located along the southern edge and within the western field. It identified anomalies relating to the Second World War, including a pill box or gun battery and a road associated with a heavy anti-aircraft battery. Former chalk pits were also identified along with numerous discrete anomalies, interpreted as possible pits of archaeological interest (Wessex Archaeology 2020a).
- 2.3.2 The second geophysical survey was carried out within the eastern part of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). The survey identified possible remains of ditches, interpreted as Romano-British field boundaries. This interpretation is further strengthened by the route of a Roman road which is known to cross the western end of the site. However, they could equally relate to later agricultural land divisions, or the extensive 20th-century military activity documented at the site and wider landscape. Pits were also recorded and could represent either Romano-British features or chalk extraction quarries. Agricultural activity, represented by traces of ridge and furrow, was also identified in the northern field.

Trial trench evaluation and SMS Area 3

- 2.3.3 The evaluation (Fig. 1) identified three broad areas of archaeological remains, located in the south-eastern corner, the northern part, and towards the western side and south-western corner of the development area. Recorded features chiefly comprised ditches, pits, postholes, cultivation furrows and large pits/trenches related to early–mid 20th-century military activity. Natural features such as tree-throw holes, other bioturbation-related features, geological features and deposits of colluvium were also identified (Wessex Archaeology 2024).
- 2.3.4 Early activity was indicated by small quantities of worked flint, including a probable Palaeolithic flake, while a microlith and two other blades date to the Mesolithic period. A large, probably later Bronze Age ditch was exposed in four trenches in the northern part of the site. A cluster of pits towards the south-western part of the site produced large amounts of burnt flint; later prehistoric pottery from one indicates this activity may date to the late 2nd to mid-1st millennium BC. Broadly dated prehistoric pottery and worked flints, found residually in topsoil, subsoil, colluvium and clearly later features provided further evidence of a prehistoric presence in the landscape.
- 2.3.5 A concentration of features was recorded in the south-eastern part of the site. Ten ditches, three pits and a solution hollow were revealed within trenches 61–73 (subsequently SMS Area 1; Fig. 2). Of these, ten features produced artefacts, mostly of Romano-British date, with some residual prehistoric and possibly intrusive medieval finds. A further ditch, one posthole, a possible hedgerow and a natural feature were identified in trenches 76–78 and 226–227 (subsequently SMS Area 2; Fig. 3). A small collection of Romano-British pottery, residual worked flint (including a microlith) and burnt flint came from the ditch. Following excavation and recording of these features it was decided, via consultation between the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team, to proceed to SMS excavation in these areas.

- 2.3.6 Roman pottery also came from several inconclusively dated ditches across the central and western parts of the site. No remains certainly associated with the Roman road, projected to extend north–south through the western part of the site, were found, although two undated ditches lay parallel to it.
- 2.3.7 There was also evidence of later activity, including medieval/post-medieval cultivation, post-medieval/modern quarrying, as well as earlier 20th-century military features.
- 2.3.8 The excavation of SMS Area 3, in the northern part of the site (Fig. 1), revealed a scatter of pits and several ditches, all of uncertain date and function.

Dover Fastrack scheme (SMS Area 2b)

- 2.3.9 A programme of mitigation was undertaken by Red River Archaeology in association with the development of the Dover Fastrack scheme, the footprint of which extended through the southern and western parts of the White Cliffs Inland Border Facility site (Fig. 1). The only element of the investigations associated with the scheme that coincided with the site comprised the strip, map and sample excavation of a single area ('SMS Area 2b'; Fig. 3) of 2352 m² (measuring 62 m by 38 m), situated between SMS Areas 1 and 2. The results from the excavation, conducted in May–June 2022, were limited and have been reported in full elsewhere (Red River Archaeology 2023).
- 2.3.10 A ditch (007, 1 m wide and 0.36 m deep; Fig. 3) extended north–south through SMS Area 2b; this corresponded with a land division depicted on 19th-century OS mapping, which had become fossilised by a mature hedgerow by the time of the excavation. To the west of the ditch, a spread of modern debris (006), some 4.3 m by 2.5 m across, incorporated abundant burnt/charred material, iron fittings and a modern door. Other artefacts observed during the excavation (e.g., leather shoes, nails and CBM) were largely of post-medieval/modern date. The only other feature in SMS Area 2b was an undated, sub-circular pit (004). This contained a single fill of dark grey–black sandy silt, had an approximate diameter of 0.60 m and was 0.10 m deep; no finds came from the pit.
- 2.3.11 Although projected to continue east into SMS Area 1, no trace of the Romano-British and undated ditches recorded previously during the excavation of SMS Area 1 (Fig. 3; see Section 5) were observed in SMS Area 2b; the reasons for this are unclear.

Dover Inspection Border Facility (SMS Areas 4 and 5)

- 2.3.12 An archaeological strip map and sample excavation that targeted two areas, totalling 1086 m² (SMS Areas 4 and 5), was carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in association with the Dover Inspection Border Facility (CAT 2022). The two areas were positioned along the route of the North Downs Way National Trail and were intended to investigate the possible Roman road, thought to have been a precursor to the current pathway. The results of the excavation, conducted in November–December 2021, have been reported elsewhere (*ibid.*).
- 2.3.13 Within both excavated areas a metalled road surface, of two phases, was investigated. The road was approximately 5.4–6.0 m wide and comprised flint cobbles set in a matrix of sandy clay and was at most 0.40 m deep; its surface was cambered in SMS Area 4, whereas in SMS Area 5 it had a concave surface. Wheel rutting was evident in both areas. A coin dating from 1735, during the reign of George II (1727–1760) was found within the upper metalling in SMS Area 4, other finds include horseshoes, pottery and ceramic building materials. A small ditch, located to the east of the road in SMS Area 5, was also produced an 18th-century coin and may belong with the same phase of activity as the road.



2.3.14 No evidence of a Roman origin for the road was apparent during the strip, map and sample excavation.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aim of the SMS excavations, as stated in the WSI (WSP 2021b; Appendix E), was to mitigate the impact of the development on significant archaeological remains through a strategy of 'preservation by record.' Following ClfA guidance, the SMS excavations were to comprise:

'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (CIFA 2014a).

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 The WSI (WSP 2021b) included general objectives, primarily designed with the trial trench evaluation in mind, although several were also applicable to the SMS excavation. Therefore, the general objectives of the SMS excavation were to:

- examine the archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the excavation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance and seek a better understanding of the resource; and
- compile a lasting record of the resource and make available information about site by reporting on and disseminating the results of the excavation.

3.3 Site-specific research objectives

3.3.1 With consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, as informed by the HEDBA (WSP 2021a), the regional research framework (SERF 2019), and geophysical surveys (Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2020b), the following site-specific research objectives were defined in the WSI (WSP 2021b):

- What evidence is there for prehistoric (Palaeolithic through to Iron Age) activity? If present what is its nature, extent and significance?
- If present, are prehistoric remains chronologically and spatially related to prehistoric remains identified in the study area?
- If Late Iron Age remains are present, is there evidence of cross-Channel trade and the pre-Conquest Romanisation of local communities?



- If present, are Romano-British remains chronologically and spatially related to Roman-British remains identified in the study area?
- Is there evidence for maintenance of the Roman Road? Is there evidence for its maintenance beyond the end of Roman occupation?
- If present, how do early medieval burials fit into the regional chronology for such sites?
- Is there any evidence for previously unrecorded medieval or post-medieval remains, in the form of agricultural features or evidence of landscape management?
- Are there any previously unrecorded significant buried remains relating to First World War landward defensive trenching?
- Are there any previously unrecorded significant buried remains relating to the Second World War which survive on site (i.e. gun emplacements or trenches)?
- What are the nature and levels (OD) of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (WSP 2021b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a–b) and Kent County Council's *Manual of Specifications* (KCC nd). The reporting follows advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 In the course of the trial trench evaluation, it was identified that there was a potential risk of delays to the construction programme and a reduced window for undertaking archaeological mitigation work. Consequently, a revised WSI (WSP 2021b) was issued and implemented, following consultation between WSP and the Archaeological Advisor at KCC. This included an increase in the proposed contingency area of up to 10% (36,000 m²). The revised strategy comprised:

- *Iterative trial trenching:* Where significant remains were revealed, following close liaison between the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team and the Archaeological Advisor at KCC, trenches were extended and areas opened up to establish the full extent of any significant remains.
- *Identify 'hot spots' and reduce risk.* The aim is to reduce risk and be better informed on 'hot spots' and the areas with little significant archaeology. Two or three 'hot spots' might be established, for example.
- *Straight to archaeological SMS:* SMS mitigation followed on directly from the evaluation, to investigate and record 'hot spots' in close consultation with the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team (WSP 2021b).

4.1.3 The above strategy was used, in agreement with the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team, to further define the extent of



archaeological remains. Contingency trenching and SMS areas were deployed to define the extent of archaeological remains and, in some cases, provide mitigation via preservation by record.

- 4.1.4 In general, where evaluation trenches identified archaeological features of medium or high significance, an increased area was stripped to define the nature and extent of the remains. Following the increased stripped area, excavation of features, spot dating of finds and environmental sampling, a decision on the need to deploy further contingency was made by the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor at KCC. If the density and nature of the features was deemed sufficient, a decision was then made to move straight to SMS excavation.
- 4.1.5 During the fieldwork three SMS excavation areas were identified. Details of the areas, their location, size and reason for investigation are provided in Table 1. The size and scope of each area was agreed following discussions between the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team.

Table 1 SMS Area and reporting details

Trench/Area number	Size	Evaluation results	Report
SMS Area 1	5810 m ²	Romano-British ditches and pits	This report
SMS Area 2	1305 m ²	Romano-British ditches	This report
SMS Area 3	2083 m ²	Undated ditches	WA 2024

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 Machine stripping of the SMS excavation areas beyond the trial trench footprints was carried out by a 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological direction. Undifferentiated topsoil overburden of recent origin was removed to the uppermost level of any identified archaeological features, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.2.2 Care was taken during machining not to impact any archaeological remains buried at shallow depths. No machinery (or vehicles) crossed stripped areas until they were given the 'all-clear' by the on-site archaeologist, especially in wet weather conditions, as rutting and compaction by plant and vehicles may have had an impact on archaeological remains. All earthmoving and other vehicles avoided travelling on the freshly stripped subsoil and areas of archaeological investigation. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 4.2.3 The topsoil was stored separately to subsoil. All spoil heaps were metal detected by an experienced operative on a regular basis, for the purpose of retrieving any metal artefacts missed during the monitoring and hand excavation.
- 4.2.4 A digital pre-excavation site-plan of archaeological features was prepared at an appropriate scale. All archaeological features were surveyed using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet. 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.
- 4.2.5 The archaeological team undertook monitoring of the machine stripping, hand-cleaning and planning in close succession (on the same or consecutive days) in order to ensure the pre-excavation site plan captured all archaeological features.



Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features 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 OS National Grid.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service was used to survey the location of excavated 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.
- 4.2.8 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

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (WSP 2021b). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c), *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; ClfA 2022a).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Archaeological Advisor at KCC monitored the works through a series of weekly meetings, which were also attended by the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 The earliest feature was a Late Neolithic pit, associated with Grooved Ware pottery, worked flint and charred plant remains. No other features of this date were revealed, although chronologically undiagnostic worked flints came from undated pits and ditches, with further, residual material recovered from later features. Together, these finds indicate at least a background level of prehistoric activity.
- 5.1.2 Most of the features in the excavation areas were of Romano-British date. These include the remains of at least one, probably two rectangular structures, as well as pits, postholes and ditches. A double-ditch to the south-east may represent a trackway or banked hedge, and was probably contemporary with the other Romano-British features. Enclosure ditches appeared to define parcels of land for livestock/arable farming and were probably associated with the structures. A probable solution hollow was investigated to the east of the two structures. Its upper layers may have been backfilled during the Romano-British period. Evidence of later activity was largely restricted to a post-medieval rubbish pit.

- 5.1.3 Figures 2–3 show the archaeological features recorded within the SMS excavation areas, together with the preceding geophysical survey results. Selected section drawings are shown on Figure 4, and photographs of the features are provided in Figures 5–19.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment

- 5.1.4 All hand written 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 across the excavation areas comprised topsoil and subsoil above the natural clay. The topsoil, a mid-brownish grey silty loam, was typically 0.30 m thick; subsoil was recorded across most of the stripped areas although towards the east no subsoil was apparent. The subsoil (0.1–0.25 m thick) comprised a mid-reddish brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-angular flint inclusions. The upper surface of the natural substrate, a mid-yellow brown to mid-reddish brown silty clay, was 0.25–0.45 m below ground level (bgl).
- 5.2.2 All archaeological features were cut directly into the geological substrate and sealed by subsoil.

5.3 Late Neolithic

Pit 30225

- 5.3.1 An oval pit, 30225 (Figs 2, 4 and 5), of Late Neolithic date was identified towards the northern edge of SMS Area 1. No other features of this date were evident in the SMS excavation areas, nor elsewhere within the wider scope of the project (Wessex Archaeology 2024). Two undated pits/postholes (30143 and 30151) lay within 3 m of the pit, to the north and south, and may have been associated (see section 5.7), although the prevalence of Romano-British features in this area suggests a later date is more likely.
- 5.3.2 Pit 30225 had a shallow, bowl-shaped profile, measured 0.90 m by 0.70 m and was 0.23 m deep. It contained two fills; a primary fill of redeposited natural lined the base and sides, above which was a clearly anthropogenic layer of charcoal-rich silty clay that contained 12 pieces of worked flint, 33 sherds (200 g) of Grooved Ware pottery and burnt flint (109 g). Tools were present amongst the worked flint and include a backed knife, chisel arrowhead and scraper. Residues from environmental samples of the upper fill incorporated fragments of charred hazelnut shell, oak charcoal and indeterminate cereal remains.

5.4 Prehistoric

- 5.4.1 A small collection of worked flint was recovered from a short length of north-west to south-east ditch, 30343, exposed at the eastern edge of SMS Area 2 (Fig. 3). The ditch had a shallow undulating profile, and was approximately 0.70 m wide and 0.10 m deep. No other finds were recovered. Some 30 m to the west, three worked flints came from a small pit 30042 (Fig. 3); it had an approximate diameter of 0.8 m, was 0.18 m deep and contained a charcoal-rich deposit. Further west, pit 30079 (Fig. 3) produced almost 2 kg of burnt flint along with four pieces of worked flint.
- 5.4.2 Although of uncertain date, these features may relate to prehistoric occupation; elsewhere worked flint, perhaps largely of later Bronze Age date, was found residually in later features, adding to indications of a background level of prehistoric activity.



5.5 Romano-British

- 5.5.1 The main phase of activity dates to the Romano-British period and was represented by the remains of structures, as well as ditches, pits and postholes. The associated finds include pottery, metal objects and fragments of glass; much of this material was broadly dated but some of the pottery and a copper alloy brooch date to the 1st to 2nd centuries, while a glass bead is more typical of later Roman activity.
- 5.5.2 Two structures were identified: 30316 and 30291 (Fig. 2). Building 30316 dates to the broad Romano-British period, and although finds of worked and burnt flint came from structure 30291, these are probably residual. It is likely that the two structures date to the same phase – they share a similar alignment, and both appear to respect enclosure ditches in the vicinity.

Building 30316

- 5.5.3 This rectangular building (Figs 2, 4 and 6), aligned north-east to south-west, measured approximately 13.60 m by 6.50 m and was represented by narrow foundation trenches/beam-slots that were 0.30–0.7 wide and 0.07–0.43 m deep. The building was subdivided towards the north-east; the northern room measured approximately 3.60 m by 5.50 m wide (north-east–south-west) and there was no obvious threshold in the floor plan. To the south of the partition the larger room measured approximately 8.50 m by 5.50 m (north-east–south-west). An opening, approximately 3 m wide, was located midway along the south-eastern side of the building, suggesting the location of an entrance.
- 5.5.4 Two postholes (30304 and 30306; Fig. 2) indicate additional structural elements. These were located at the north-west end of the internal wall partition and in the building's north-west corner. The latter (30306) was observed to cut the fill of the foundation trench.
- 5.5.5 The foundation trenches were filled with mid–light grey brown silty clays. In places, notably on the western side and in the south-eastern corner, flint nodules/cobbles were evident. These inclusions may represent stone packing or potentially wall material that had become incorporated into the fill following the abandonment of the building (Figs 7 and 8). There was little evidence of structural material (e.g., dark soils indicative of timber posts or ceramic building material) from the building, although the narrow nature of the foundation trench may imply it held timber beams, possibly with partially stone-built walls above.
- 5.5.6 Artefacts from the building (total of 552 g) comprised a variety of pottery (including fragments of amphora, storage jars and beakers), ceramic building material (CBM), a small quantity of fired clay and residual worked flint.

Internal features

- 5.5.7 Six pits (Fig. 2) were associated with building 30316; five were located within the larger south-west room, two of which were intercut, and one lay within the north-east room.
- 5.5.8 A large, shallow, oval pit 30285, measuring 2.70 m long, 1.56 m wide and 0.14 m deep, lay towards the northern part of the southern room; a small circular pit 30287 was dug into its western side. The shallow depth of 30285 may indicate that the pit was not deliberately cut, but it might represent a hollow formed by activity with the building. Its location, directly opposite the entrance, where increased foot fall may have taken place, could be significant in this regard. The single 'fill' produced a tiny amount of Romano-British pottery.
- 5.5.9 To the immediate north-east of this feature was small pit 30252. The shallow but well-defined feature had a diameter of 0.66 m, was 0.10 m deep, and contained a large dump of pottery sherds, predominately amphora (54 sherds, 5 kg), as well as a hobnail and burnt



flint (Figs 2 and 9). The finds probably relate to activities carried out within the building, perhaps representing a used, broken and dumped storage vessel.

- 5.5.10 Two pits (30203 and 30333; Figs 2 and 10) lay close to the southern end of the building. Pit 30203 contained a single charcoal-rich fill that produced a range of artefacts comprising pottery, iron, fired clay, CBM and three pieces of worked stone. One stone (ON 9) was part of an upper rotary quernstone, and the other two (both ON 10) were possible quern fragments. The quern fragments and charcoal-rich fill suggest activities such as food processing may have taken place within the building.
- 5.5.11 Shallow pit 30268 (Fig. 2) was identified within the smaller northern room, positioned to the immediate south of the foundation trench. The oval pit (0.60 m wide and 0.13 m deep) contained a single charcoal-rich deposit, similar to those of other pits in the area e.g., 30203. Although undated it appears, on spatial grounds, to be associated with the use of the building; however, there was no datable evidence to support this, and it could be coincidental.

External features

- 5.5.12 Two pits and an L-shaped gully were located outside and close to building 30316, and all appear to be contemporary with the structure's use. Pit 30289 (Figs 2 and 11) lay close to the opening on the south-eastern side and pit 30308 was situated just beyond the north-western end of the building. Both pits contained material pertaining to domestic refuse activities, finds include a glass counter/gaming piece (ON 24), a glass bead (ON 25), a glass vessel handle, slag, iron nails, lead and copper alloy waste, as well as pottery and other materials. Their fills were charcoal-rich, particularly the latest fill in 30308, although no evidence of *in situ* burning was recorded. Both pits were well defined; their profiles varied from moderately steeply convex to steeply concave and measured 1.18–1.73 m by 1.10–1.37; pit 30308 was more substantial at 0.48 m deep, with 30289 being 0.31 m deep.
- 5.5.13 To the immediate south of the building was a small L-shaped gully 30331 (Fig. 2). The shallow, 0.16 m deep, gully was approximately 2.45 m long and 0.75 m wide, and contained a single homogenous silty clay that produced two sherds of Romano-British pottery. On its western edge the gully was cut through a shallow pit (30327; 0.15 m deep). Finds from the pit comprised three small sherds of Romano-British pottery and two worked flints.

Structure 30291

- 5.5.14 Approximately 17 m to the east of building 30316 was a second possible structure (30291; Figs 2, 4 and 12). It was represented by segmented gullies that formed a sub-rectangular arrangement, possibly defining the north-western and south-western corners of the structure; a third, parallel, gully lay to the east and a shallow feature to the north-east may also have been associated. Together these features appear to form a north-east to south-west orientated footprint, measuring approximately 7.30 by 3 m internally. The gullies may represent foundation trenches/beam slots, but in comparison to those of structure 30316 they were shallow (between 0.13–0.28 m deep) with diffuse edges. Given their form it is unclear if the breaks in the gullies were intentional and represent entrances or were related to truncation/erosion.
- 5.5.15 The gullies were filled with dark brown to reddish brown silty clays, and the only finds recovered were two pieces of worked flint and a fragment of burnt flint. These finds are considered to be residual and a Romano-British date seems more likely for structure 30291 given its spatial arrangement with other Roman features such as building 30316 and ditch 30362.



External features

- 5.5.16 Three pits (6505, 30126 and 30246) were identified close to structure 30291 (Fig. 2). The pits had shallow concave to undulating profiles, measured 1.05–1.34 m by 0.62–0.88 m and were at most 0.22 m deep. Each contained a single fill; dumping of waste material was indicated by charcoal-rich lenses, and pottery was recovered from pits 30126 and 30246.

Double-ditched boundary

- 5.5.17 Two parallel, north-west to south-east ditches (30353 and 30354; Fig. 2), 2.5–3 m apart, formed a boundary at least 70 m in length. Their arrangement suggests they were contemporary, perhaps forming a double-ditched boundary with central bank or possibly a trackway, although the narrow central area between the ditches may preclude this interpretation.
- 5.5.18 Phases of ditch-digging were apparent along the southern side of the boundary. At the north-western end of 30354 two ditches were recorded, with subsequent ditches shifting to the north-east. Re-cutting was also recorded towards the south-east, where a sequence of pits and ditches were identified (Figs 2, 4 and 13). A small, truncated pit or ditch (30089; 0.40 m wide and 0.08 m deep) was the earliest feature and had been truncated by pit 30092. The pit was filled with a sequence of dumped deposits that contained burnt waste material, rich in charcoal and pottery (42 sherds, 992 g), fired clay was also visible within the deposits. As with sections to the north, two phases of ditch were identified, again shifting from south-west to north-east.
- 5.5.19 The south-western ditch of the boundary (30354; Fig. 2) had a concave profile with moderately sloping sides, was 0.45–1.90 m wide and 0.15–0.48 m deep. The north-eastern ditch (30353) was more variable, with shallow to steeply sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.75–1.45 m wide and 0.16–0.33 m deep.
- 5.5.20 Both ditches generally contained single fills that together produced 3.1 kg of finds. The assemblage was dominated by Romano-British pottery (93% by weight), with small amounts of fired clay, burnt flint, iron nails, slag, worked flint and stone also recovered. Some of this material may have been dumped within the disused ditch, for example 72% of the total finds assemblage came from a charcoal-rich fill (30097) of one section in ditch 30354 (Fig. 4).

Enclosure ditches

- 5.5.21 In addition to the double-ditched boundary, a series of ditches, probably forming parts of enclosures, were also identified. These were spread across the excavated areas; to the west they had similar orientations to the two buildings/structures, and this pattern was generally repeated to the east, although other orientations were apparent (e.g., ditch 30365). Across the areas the ditches were 0.60–1.60 m wide, varied from 0.10–0.80 m deep, and generally had U- or V-shaped profiles, although some shallower, concave examples were also identified.
- 5.5.22 In the western part of the excavation area ditches 30362, 30363 and 30364 appear to form contemporary elements of a field or enclosure system. Ditches 30362 and 30363 followed a common north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 2), a small gap of 0.60 m between the western terminal of ditch 30362 and the corner of ditch 30363 possibly indicating a small entranceway. Further north, ditch 30364 (Fig. 2) also appears to be contemporary, given its spatial arrangement, terminating broadly in line with the western end of ditch 30363, and turning to the north-east, suggesting a common arrangement of the boundaries. Ditch 30363 was the most substantial; it had a variable U-shaped profile with moderate to steep,

concave or convex sides and was 0.7–1.34 m wide and up to 0.46 m deep (Fig. 15). The other two ditches had concave profiles that were between 0.09–0.32 m deep. Fills were typically light to mid-greyish brown silty clays and Romano-British pottery (99 sherds, 535 g) and two worked flints were recovered from them.

- 5.5.23 To the south of building 30316 a further curvilinear enclosure ditch (30361; Fig. 2) was partially exposed. The ditch, up to 1.08 m wide and 0.20 m deep, was filled with dark to mid-greyish brown silty clay. Pottery from the ditch (21 sherds, 241 g) indicates a Romano-British date, and its similar arrangement and proximity to building 30316 suggests they were contemporary. Two pits (30317 and 30319; Fig. 2) lay to either side of ditch 30361 (see below), both containing Romano-British pottery (approximately 55 g each), and may have been related to the use of the enclosure.
- 5.5.24 Further field boundaries and enclosures were investigated in the south-eastern part of SMS Area 1. Here, three ditches (30351, 30352 and 30355; Fig. 2), all orientated north-east to south-west, appear to form elements of a field system. The ditches had V- or U-shaped profiles that were between 0.60–1.14 m wide and 0.20–0.80 m deep. All three appear to terminate at relatively similar points, approximately 13–26 m apart, suggesting a common layout.
- 5.5.25 These ditches all lay to the south of the double-ditched boundary, and it is possible that they pre-dated its establishment. This is possibly indicated by their relationship to other field ditches. Close to the northern end of ditch 30351 was ditch 30085 (Fig. 2); these ditches were laid out at broad right angles and a 2 m wide gap between their terminals may represent an entranceway. Ditch 30085 continued to the east and was truncated by 30054, the southern side of the double-ditched trackway/boundary.
- 5.5.26 Similarly to the west, stratigraphic relationships between ditches 30355 and 30365 indicate that the north-east to south-west ditches were of an earlier phase. Here, the later ditch (30365; Figs 2, 4 and 16) followed a north-east to south-west alignment for 8.5 m before turning to an ENE–WSW orientation, where it truncated ditch 30355, continuing to the ENE and terminating 2.5 m short of the double-ditched boundary. This relationship with 30355 suggests 30365 was a later addition to the field system and that it was associated with ditch 30354. Finds from ditch 30365 include Romano-British pottery (71 sherds, 695 g) and the foot of a copper alloy brooch. Only part of the brooch (ON 8) survives but it probably dates to the 1st–2nd centuries AD. Ditch 30365 had a substantial V-shaped profile, 1.20 m wide and up to 0.65 m deep, with a narrow channel at its base; the course of the ditch appeared to turn in order to avoid/respect feature 30145 (see below) indicating that the large hollow was visible when the field ditches were in use.
- 5.5.27 A third phase of field ditches is represented by ditch 30350 (Fig. 2). This broadly north to south orientated ditch was the latest stratigraphic phase, truncating ditch 30365. Ditch 30350 had a shallow concave profile (1.0 m wide and 0.25 m deep) and a small amount of Romano-British pottery, animal bone and piece of worked flint came from its fill. The different orientation of this field boundary may imply minor reorganisation of the field boundaries at some point during the 1st–4th centuries AD.
- 5.5.28 A broadly north–south aligned ditch, 30342, crossed SMS Area 2 (Fig. 3). This was approximately 1.20 m wide, 0.20 m deep, and contained a single homogenous mid–dark greyish brown silty clay. Romano-British pottery, an iron object, burnt flint and a few pieces of residual worked flint were recovered. A short section of ditch, 30055, situated 20 m to the west, produced a small amount of Romano-British pottery (11 sherds, 35 g) and may have been contemporary.

Pits and postholes

- 5.5.29 Across the excavation area were 20 pits that have been phased to the Romano-British period. These commonly occurred in proximity to the buildings (see above), with additional examples identified within amongst the field system/enclosure ditches.
- 5.5.30 Three Romano-British pits, 6204, 6206 and 30240, and an undated pit, 30234, were identified to the immediate north of ditch 30364 (Fig. 2). Pit 30240 (Figs 2 and 17) was the largest of the group with an approximate diameter of 1.55 m, had a slightly stepped concave profile that was 0.50 m deep, and contained three fills. Artefacts were recovered from all of the fills, with larger amounts from two dumped deposits, comprising Romano-British pottery (45 sherds, 280 g), burnt flint and an oval hammerstone (ON 20). Two intercutting small pits (6204 and 6206), excavated during the evaluation, were located to the west. They were very shallow, measuring at most 0.14 m deep, with diameters of 0.50 m. Pit 6206, the later feature, contained a charcoal-rich fill that produced ten sherds of Roman pottery (87 g). No finds were recovered from pit 30234 but, given its proximity to the other dated examples, it seems likely that this was contemporary with them.
- 5.5.31 Close to the southern edge of SMS Area 1, pits 30317 and 30319 were located either side of curvilinear ditch 30361 (Fig. 2). The oval pits, somewhat disturbed by bioturbation, had moderately steeply sloping concave sides and irregular bases, measured 1.50 m by 1.20 m and were up to 1.3 m deep. Both contained small amounts of Romano-British pottery (approximately 55 g in each pit) and residual worked flint.
- 5.5.32 Pits and postholes were found close to or cut by the double-ditched boundary. These include well-dated Romano-British examples, as well as less conclusively dated features that probably also belonged to this period. Two pits, 7105 and 30092 (see above; Fig. 2), were both cut by ditch 30354; pit 30092 contained almost 1 kg of Romano-British pottery, while tiny fragments of pottery and fired clay were noted during the excavation of 7105. A substantial pit, 7110 (Figs 2 and 18), lay 6 m to the south of the double-ditched boundary; excavated during the evaluation, it had a concave profile with a diameter of 2.40 m and was 0.45 m deep. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery (30 sherds, 136 g), along with residual prehistoric pottery and a worked flint came from its single fill.
- 5.5.33 In addition to the dated examples, three undated features (30087, 30113 and 30258; Fig. 2) were found in the area of the double-ditched boundary. These features cannot be firmly phased to the Romano-British period, but given the relative lack of later dated features and their proximity to well-dated Romano-British features it seems likely that they belong to this phase of activity.
- 5.5.34 Further to the south-east, pit 30049 (Fig. 3) produced a sherd of Romano-British pottery. The shallow sub-circular pit, 0.72 m wide and 0.14 m deep, also contained two worked flints.

5.6 Post-medieval/modern

- 5.6.1 Evidence of post-medieval activity was largely restricted to pit 30045 (1.55 m by 1.10 m; Fig. 3), close to the eastern edge of SMS Area 2, which produced eight pieces of 19th-century glass and 37 small fragments of iron sheet, totalling 163 g, with maximum dimensions of 28 mm by 25 mm. The oval pit had a shallow, 0.18 m deep profile with steep, straight sides; although relatively isolated, its proximity to Dover Road (20 m to the east) could suggest modern activity alongside or close to the road.

5.7 Undated

Pits and postholes

- 5.7.1 Eleven undated pits and postholes were identified and investigated. Although technically undated, some (e.g., pits 30268 and 30287) appear to have been associated with Romano-British structure 30316. Others, such as posthole 30087 (Fig. 2), located to the immediate south-west of the double-ditched boundary, and pit 30111 which was within 3 m of Romano-British ditch 30355 (Fig. 2), may have been of similar date.
- 5.7.2 Other undated pits/postholes potentially derived from earlier activity. Four undated features (22603, 30047, 30051 and an unnumbered example; Fig. 3) were found in SMS Area 2; all four had concave profiles with moderate to steeply sloping sides, diameters between 0.25–1.0 m and were up to 0.13 m deep. No finds were recovered but the small unnumbered pit was near possible prehistoric pit 30042 and may have been contemporary. A prehistoric date could also be tentatively suggested for pits/postholes 30143 and 30151, situated to the north and south of Late Neolithic pit 30225 (Fig. 2). The sub-circular features (0.50–0.70 m diameter and 0.2 m deep) were evenly spaced either side of the pit; both contained similar fills and produced no finds.

Ditches

- 5.7.3 Ditch 30357 was partially exposed close to the south-eastern corner of SMS Area 1 (Fig. 3). It was orientated WNW–ESE, had a concave profile and was between 0.70–0.80 m wide and 0.20–0.25 m deep. Three worked flints were collected from its fill; it is likely that these are residual. Ditch 30357 may be associated with Romano-British ditches 30342 and 30350 based on their relative orientations; the three ditches lie at broad right angles and may form parts of a field system, however given the short, exposed length of ditch 30357 this is uncertain.

Possible solution hollow

- 5.7.4 A substantial, sub-circular feature, 30145, with a diameter of 17 m was initially identified in the evaluation and subsequently almost fully exposed during the excavation of SMS Area 1 (Figs 2 and 19). A hand-excavated section investigated the upper layers, which were typically dark grey brown silty clays; one of the upper layers was notably chalk-flecked and formed a 'halo' around the central part of the feature, and below this was layer 30147 which contained abundant flint nodules. Following hand excavation and discussion with the Archaeological Advisor at KCC, an east–west machine-excavated trench was dug to record the full extent of the feature. This showed the feature to be at least 1.36 m deep – its base was not attained within the excavated section. The exploratory trench also allowed for further investigation of layer 30147. This flint-rich deposit was 0.8 m thick and produced Romano-British pottery (eight sherds, 162 g), fired clay and iron slag. It is possible that the flint nodules relate to the demolition of structure 30316, located some 30 m to the west. This may also be the case for the various artefact recovered; in total the feature produced a finds assemblage of 1.28 kg, which includes pottery, CBM and fired clay.
- 5.7.5 Feature 30145 may represent a large, natural feature (solution hollow), and although its upper fills contained Romano-British finds, its date remains uncertain. The finds from its backfill may represent a *terminus post quem* for its upper layers, which were perhaps infilled following the abandonment of the buildings. Interestingly, the Romano-British features seem to 'respect' the position of 30145, particularly ditch 30365, which turned to avoid the hollow, and possibly structure 30291 which was positioned close to its north-western side.



Bioturbation/tree-throw holes

5.7.6 Two areas of bioturbation or tree-throw holes were recorded within SMS Area 1. Both features (30266 and 30279; Fig. 2) were irregular in plan and section, measuring 1.80–2.90 m long by 1.80–2.60 m wide, and up to 0.18 m deep. Romano-British pottery was recovered from 30266, field excavation notes suggest these may have been disturbed through bioturbation from a pit. Elsewhere, various bioturbation-related features were investigated by hand to clarify their origin (unnumbered on plan).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This report discusses the finds from SMS Areas 1 and 2; finds from the evaluation trenches and SMS Area 3 are reported on elsewhere (Wessex Archaeology 2024).
- 6.1.2 The assemblage is of moderate size, amounting to around 34 kg, and ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. Finds were recovered mainly from discrete features (pits, ditches, postholes etc), with some from topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layers.
- 6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised by material type in Table 2. Finds from the mitigation are listed by context in Appendix 1.

Table 2 Finds totals by material type

Material Type	SMS AREA 1		SMS AREA 2		TOTAL	
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
Pottery	954	13,309	22	109	976	13,418
<i>Prehistoric</i>	41	228	-	-	41	228
<i>LIA/Romano-British</i>	912	13,679	22	109	934	13,788
<i>Post-medieval</i>	1	2	-	-	1	2
Ceramic Building Material	8	1317	-	-	8	1317
Fired Clay	33	902	-	-	33	902
Worked Flint	91	-	15	-	106	-
Burnt Flint	582	2909	-	-	582	2909
Stone	5	11,850	-	-	5	11,850
Glass	7	5	8	258	15	263
Slag	7	118	-	-	7	118
Metalwork	74	-	38	-	112	-
<i>Cu alloy</i>	18	-	-	-	18	-
<i>Lead</i>	4	-	-	-	4	-
<i>Iron</i>	52	-	38	-	90	-
Animal Bone	32	12	-	-	32	12

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The combined pottery assemblage amounts to 976 sherds, weighing 14,018 g. It ranges in date from early prehistoric to post-medieval/modern, with a clear focus on the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period.
- 6.2.2 Condition is fair to poor. The assemblage is fragmented, sherds are generally small and the majority have suffered surface and edge abrasion; this is particularly marked on the grog-tempered sherds, presumably softer-fired. Sherds from pit 30308 include a few that appear to have been either overfired (during manufacture) or burnt (during/after use). Mean sherd

weight overall is 14.4 g. Some conjoins were noted (none cross-context), but nearly all of these are on fresh breaks.

- 6.2.3 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context; Table 3 gives a quantified chronological breakdown of the assemblage by ware type. Broad types have been used for prehistoric and Roman wares (e.g., flint-tempered wares, grog-tempered wares); no detailed fabric analysis has been undertaken at this stage.
- 6.2.4 Note has been made of identifiable forms, and the presence of decoration, surface treatment and other salient features have also been noted. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used as the number of measurable rims is low; as an alternative means of quantification, the Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) has been used, counting each non-joining sherd as a separate vessel except where there is a high probability of a context containing same-vessel sherds (the fragmentation of the assemblage is reflected in the total MNV, which is 778). The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5).

Table 3 Pottery totals by ware type (combined assemblage)

	No. sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
<i>Neolithic</i>			
Grooved ware	33	200	33
<i>Prehistoric unspecified</i>			
Flint-tempered ware	8	28	7
<i>Romano-British</i>			
Dressel 20 amphora	67	5477	9
Greyware	243	1231	204
Grog/flint-tempered ware	1	13	1
Grog-tempered ware	425	5157	366
Oxidised Coarse Sandy ware	137	1073	108
Oxidised ware	24	84	22
Oxon colour coat	4	43	4
Samian	21	460	18
Sandy/grog-tempered	12	250	5
<i>Sub-total LIA/Romano-British</i>	934	13,788	737
<i>Post-medieval/Modern</i>			
Redware	1	2	1
Overall total	976	14,018	778

ENV = Estimated Number of Vessels

Prehistoric

- 6.2.5 The earliest pottery from the site comprises a group of 33 sherds from pit 30225. These have been identified as Late Neolithic Grooved Ware. They are in a grog-tempered fabric and include rim, body and base sherds. All sherds are abraded, but at least seven show traces of decoration (four of these and possibly up to six could belong to a single vessel). On the grounds of sherd thickness and firing (both of which are variable across the group) and decorative designs, it appears that sherds from more than one vessel are present, including one thinner-walled (represented by rim and plain body sherds) and at least two

thicker-walled, decorated vessels (one with impressed dots, one with tooled cross-hatching within zones bounded by raised cordons).

- 6.2.6 A further eight sherds are dated as prehistoric, all in flint-tempered fabrics, none diagnostic and none closely datable. Given the longevity of flint-tempered fabrics in Kent, dating this small group is practically impossible but, in the absence of any worked flint of Neolithic date apart from that associated with the Grooved Ware, a late prehistoric date seems most likely; this could fall anywhere between Middle/Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age. One feature (gully 30359) contained only prehistoric pottery, but this was just a single, very small sherd which could well be residual. All other prehistoric sherds were clearly residual in later contexts.

Romano-British

Coarsewares

- 6.2.7 Locally produced coarsewares dominate the assemblage. The most numerous are the grog-tempered fabrics (including sandy/grog-tempered and grog-/flint-tempered) which make up 46.9% of the total Romano-British assemblage by sherd count. This ceramic tradition has a long currency in the region, widely used during the 1st century BC to 1st century AD and well into the Roman period. Jar forms predominate amongst the identifiable vessel forms, and these are mostly of everted rim type, with only three bead-rimmed examples. Other vessel forms are limited to a flared dish from ditch 30363, and a possible jug/flagon (handle) from ditch 30354. There is also a small group of vessels in a markedly fine, silty fabric variant; these include at least two cordoned jars from pit 30289, a small jar or beaker from ditch 30363, and a sharply carinated vessel (jar or bowl) from ditch 30354.
- 6.2.8 Greywares make up 26% of the Romano-British assemblage. Everted rim jars are again the most common vessel form, but the repertoire here is a little wider, including one butt beaker and another probable beaker form, a dish, and a platter or lid. There are no reconstructable profiles, but one group of sherds from ditch 30363 makes up a large part of a small carinated jar.
- 6.2.9 The oxidised wares (17.2% of the total) have been subdivided into coarser and finer variants – the latter may include some wares originally colour coated (see below, British finewares). Once again, jars are the most common vessel forms (maximum ten examples), including one small jar or beaker from pit 30308; there are also one flagon neck and two handles, and one bowl. Five of the jar rims, the bowl and one flagon handle all came from ditch 30354, and some of the sherds from this context appear to have been overfired.

Imports

- 6.2.10 Imports are limited to samian and amphoras. The samian (21 sherds) is in poor condition, with surface slips in many cases totally or almost totally removed by abrasion. This has also removed the detail from at least one potter's stamp from feature 30145 (and possibly another from pit 30289), and neither is at all legible. There are two decorated sherds, one of which comes from a Drag. form 37 bowl (ditch 30354). Other identifiable forms include three platters in the Drag. 18–18/31–31 range (ditches 30351, 30353 and 30364) and a possible Drag. form 33 cup (ditch 30355). While detailed fabric analysis has not been carried out for the samian, it appears that the majority of sherds are likely to be Central Gaulish, and this is supported by the limited range of forms, which focus on the 2nd century AD.
- 6.2.11 All of the amphoras are Spanish Dressel 20 vessels. Fifty-four of the 67 sherds recovered came from pit 30252 and are likely to represent a single vessel (there are some conjoining sherds); body and base sherds are present, but all are abraded. A handle came from ditch



30353, and the other sherds (all body sherds) were spread in small quantities between five other feature fills.

British finewares

6.2.12 British finewares have been identified but with some difficulty. Four sherds are probably Oxfordshire colour coated wares, but as noted for the samian, surface slips have almost entirely worn off. One sherd from ditch 30353 is from a probable mortarium (although of uncertain type); other sherds are undiagnostic. It is possible that some other unslipped sherds quantified as 'oxidised wares' may in fact also be abraded Oxfordshire wares.

Post-medieval/modern

6.2.13 There is one later sherd, from a modern unglazed redware flowerpot (from ditch 30355).

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

6.3.1 All eight fragments of CBM recovered are Romano-British, including fragments from a maximum of three *imbrices* (pit 30203, structure 30316) and two flat featureless fragments (feature 30145).

6.4 Fired clay

6.4.1 This consists of small, largely amorphous lumps, mostly in silty fabrics, likely to represent structural material. One larger lump from pit 30308 retains a possible wattle impression. One small fragment from ditch 30353 is burnt almost to vitrification and could therefore be interpreted as hearth lining. The fired clay, of which only a small quantity was recovered (33 fragments, weighing 902 g), is intrinsically undatable; it came from either Romano-British or undated features.

6.5 Worked flint

6.5.1 The worked flints from the two mitigation areas have been quantified and the totals are shown in Table 4. A total of 106 pieces was recovered.

Table 4 Flint totals by type

No. of contexts	Feature types	Blade Cores	Flake Cores	Broken Cores/Frags	Blades	Broken Blades	Flakes	Broken Flakes	Chips/micro debitage	Scrapers	Other Tools	Projectile Points	Core Tools	Debitage	Misc Retouched	TOTAL
12	Pits	1	1	-	1	-	17	13	1	2	1	1	1	0	3	42
29	Ditches	-	1	1	4	3	24	18	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	55
6	Other	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
	Total	1	2	1	5	3	44	37	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	106

6.5.2 The combined totals show that artefacts were found predominantly in three context types: pits, ditches and 'others'. Of these, the pits are more likely to contain collections that are contemporary with the formation of the feature, while ditch fills frequently incorporate material which has been reworked from the surrounding landscape. 'Others' are similarly poorly associated. Artefact totals are low; apart from pit 30225, which produced 12 pieces



of worked flint. The pits and ditches examined during the evaluation and excavation phases produced comparable mean artefact densities of approximately two pieces per context.

Raw material and condition

- 6.5.3 The flint is predominantly of relatively good quality and grey or pale brown in colour with cortex that is generally thin white or buff and often heavily abraded. These flint types are undistinguished and may have originated from a variety of sources, including the local chalk outcrops, associated head, and beach deposits that lie only a few kilometres to the south. Such diverse sources are also likely to account for the presence of Bullhead flint, a distinctive flint type that occurs in Kent. Individual pieces often show evidence of thermal fracturing in the parent nodules.
- 6.5.4 Artefact condition varies but is invariably linked to the context from which the material was recovered. The pieces from pits and ditches are generally in mint or sharp condition, or only slightly altered by post-depositional edge damage, while collections from subsoil or colluvium have been modified extensively and flecked by iron staining. Most pieces are unpatinated, while isolated examples show a deep white or 'frosted' pale blue patina; these were often found in the subsoil or colluvium.

The assemblage

- 6.5.5 The flint assemblage consists predominantly of undiagnostic, unretouched core trimming flakes. The largest single group of material, containing 12 pieces of worked flint, was found in pit 30225 and contrasts in quantity to collections made elsewhere on site. The assemblage includes a well-made end scraper, made on a flake, the butt of a broken flaked axe, a chisel arrowhead, a retouched flint knife (ON 11) and a flake with miscellaneous retouch. The relatively high proportion of retouched implements from the pit and scarcity of flaking debris suggests that the contents represent the residue of domestic or ritual activity, not tool manufacture. The most closely dated object in the collection is the chisel arrowhead, projectiles which were prevalent in the Middle Neolithic and remained in use into the early part of the Late Neolithic period. This broad date is confirmed by the recovery of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery from the pit. However, the chronology of Grooved Ware pottery sub-styles remains insufficiently precise to provide a more accurate date beyond an estimated range within the first part of the 3rd millennium BC.
- 6.5.6 The other pits contained insufficient quantities of worked flints to indicate whether they may be contemporary, although the presence of additional material seems very probable. Flake production, as exemplified by finds from the evaluation trenches, employed a distinctly crude method of reduction. This technique produced thick, irregular flakes with no convincing examples of platform preparation or careful core management. This is typical of later Bronze Age technology and, therefore, the bulk of the worked flint may be attributed to this period.

6.6 Burnt flint

- 6.6.1 Burnt, unworked flint is intrinsically undatable, but often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. It was found in moderate quantities (2.91 kg) in ten features, all pits or ditches; approximately two-thirds of the total by weight came from undated pit 30079.

6.7 Stone

- 6.7.1 Five pieces of stone were recovered. Three of them came from pit 30203. One of these (ON 9) is the upper stone from a rotary quern of Romano-British date. It is in greensand and extremely heavily worn (diameter ranges from 255–285 mm). The other two fragments (ON 10) from the feature are in a gritty sandstone and could also be quern fragments



although the identification is more tentative – there is a hint of a curved edge on one, but the fragments are irregular, and no obvious grinding surface survives.

- 6.7.2 A smooth, waterworn pebble from Romano-British pit 30240 (ON 20) appears to have been used as a hammerstone; the object is roughly oval with battering-type wear on one flatter face; it fits best in the left hand.
- 6.7.3 The fifth object came from Romano-British ditch 30353; this is a small, naturally occurring flint/quartz spheroid (diameter 24 mm) showing no obvious signs of utilisation.

6.8 Glass

- 6.8.1 The glass includes both vessel glass (13 fragments) and objects (two). No glass was recovered from the evaluation. Eight of the 13 vessel fragments are from a 19th-/early 20th-century beverage (soda) bottle from pit 30045. The other five, all from pit 30308 (extracted from a sieved soil sample), are Romano-British. All these are in blue/green glass and include a possible handle fragment, although precise vessel types cannot be determined.
- 6.8.2 The two objects also came from pit 30308 (extracted from a sieved soil sample) and are both Romano-British. They comprise a roughly circular, plano-convex counter or gaming piece, appearing black in colour, and part of a segmented colourless bead enclosing gold foil (Guido 1978, 93–4, fig. 37, type 3b). This bead type is dated as 2nd–4th-century AD but is predominantly late Roman. The type continued in use until the 7th century AD.

6.9 Metalwork

- 6.9.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy (19), lead (four) and iron (96). The ironwork in particular is in a poor, corroded condition which has hindered identification, even after X-radiography.
- 6.9.2 The most diagnostic object is the foot of a Romano-British bow brooch from ditch 30365; not enough of this survives to determine the brooch type but the date range is likely to fall within the 1st–2nd centuries AD. Other probable Romano-British objects comprise iron hobnails, of which eight were identified, from pit 30289 (six), pit 30252 (one) and ditch 30354 (one). There is one modern object (a cartridge case end), recovered from made ground.
- 6.9.3 Other objects are less chronologically distinctive, but most have been dated as Romano-British on the basis of associated pottery. These include 28 nails/shank fragments. The remaining objects are either undiagnostic (sheet and bar fragments, unidentifiable lumps, all iron) or comprise solidified melted waste (copper alloy and lead). One lead object from pit 30308 resembles a post-medieval lead round shot with attached casting sprue, in which case it is presumably intrusive in this context.

6.10 Animal bone

- 6.10.1 The animal bone is quantified in Table 2 and was assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019). Animal bones were recovered from a few contexts during the evaluation and mitigation phases of fieldwork, these being fragmented and in generally poor condition. Most have abraded edges and eroded cortical surfaces with few surviving details such as butchery marks or canid gnawing.
- 6.10.2 Several small, eroded fragments of cattle-sized long bone shaft were recovered from the secondary fill of Romano-British ditch 30350 in SMS Area 1. These finds comprise all of the animal bone assemblage from the mitigation phase of work.



6.11 Other finds

- 6.11.1 Other finds comprise seven small fragments of slag, of which only one appears to represent ironworking (feature 30145).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Twelve samples were taken from SMS Areas 1 and 2. The samples, retrieved from a ditch and several pits, were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed.
- 7.1.2 Eleven samples were taken during the evaluation phase of works, and a single bulk sediment sample was taken from SMS Area 3; the results from the assessment of these samples are reported elsewhere (Wessex Archaeology 2024).
- 7.1.3 The samples assessed in this report break down into the following feature groups:

Table 5 Sample provenance summary

SMS Area	Feature type	No. of bulk samples	Volumes (litres)
Area 1	Ditch	1	35
	Pit	10	202
Area 2	Pit	1	19
Totals		12	256

7.2 Aims

- 7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site (e.g., charcoal, charred plant remains) and their potential to address the project aims. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (English Heritage 2011).

7.3 Methods

- 7.3.1 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 6 and 35 litres, with an average volume of approximately 19 litres. Some of the samples were pre-soaked in a solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to help break up the clayey sediment. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flots 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 stereo microscope at magnifications of up to x40.
- 7.3.2 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds alongside the presence of animal remains, such as burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs and modern 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, and small animal bone, was recorded.



- 7.3.3 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al.* 2006). The volume of charcoal (≥ 2 mm) from the flots and fine residue fractions was recorded, and preliminary classifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse section: oak, non-oak/diffuse porous and coniferous. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).
- 7.3.4 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').

7.4 Results

- 7.4.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2. The flots vary in volume. Potential indicators of bioturbation are present (e.g., modern roots, modern seeds, modern insects).
- 7.4.2 Environmental evidence comprises charred plant remains preserved by charring, wood charcoal, and a small quantity of terrestrial molluscs. The charred plant remains and wood charcoal were generally well preserved. Mineral staining was noted in some samples. Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder was also present in most of the samples.
- 7.4.3 The samples from ditch 30354 (section 30096) and pits 30240, 30289 and 30308, are all very similar in composition, with the sample from ditch 30354 being particularly abundant in plant remains. Charred cereal remains (both grains and chaff) recovered include spelt/emmer wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*), spelt wheat (*T. spelta*), indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), and indeterminate cereals. Other potential economic crops recovered, identified in the sample from ditch 30354, include large-seeded legumes, noted to resemble broad beans/garden peas (*Vicia faba/Pisum sativum*). An array of wild taxa was also noted in the sample from ditch 30354, including many species that prefer disturbed environments (e.g., the margins of arable fields, waste ground). These species include wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), knotgrasses (*Polygonum* sp.), species of the carrot family (Apiaceae), small-seeded vetches (Viciaeae), trefoils/medicks/clovers (Trifolieae), buttercups (*Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus*), species of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae), red bartsia/eyebrights (*Odontites vernus/Euphrasia* sp.), stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), narrow fruited corn salad (*Valerianella dentata*) and grasses (Poaceae), such as meadow grass/cat's tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.). Also present, and potentially indicative of wet places (e.g., slow moving waterbodies or the poorly drained margins of arable fields), were sedges (Cyperaceae). The samples from pits 30240, 30289 and 30308 contained significantly smaller densities of wild plant taxa (between 1 to 5 items), but constituted the same taxa identified in ditch 30354. These samples also contained variable quantities of moderately well-preserved wood charcoal, of both oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak species.
- 7.4.4 The samples from pits 30092, 30252, 30268, and shallow pit 30258, all contained very small quantities of plant remains, including poorly preserved cereal remains such as barley and indeterminate cereals, alongside grasses, and trefoils/medicks/clovers.
- 7.4.5 Pits 30042, 30113 and 30225 contained a small volume of highly fragmented hazelnut shells, with pit 30225 also producing fragmented indeterminate cereals and an unidentifiable tuber/rhizome. These samples contained a mixture of oak and non-oak wood charcoal in good to moderate condition, with the sample from pit 30042 containing a high volume of charcoal.



7.4.6 Pit 30079 was sterile in charred plant remains and only contained a moderate quantity of well-preserved wood charcoal, which was identified to comprise mostly non-oak species.

7.5 Discussion

7.5.1 The samples produced some significant environmental evidence. The charred hazel nutshell fragments, fragmented cereals and charcoal recovered from Late Neolithic pit 30225 represent a typical assemblage for this period (Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012). Additionally, the absence of cereal chaff and wild taxa (e.g., crop-processing debris) supports the interpretation that the assemblage is likely to be earlier prehistoric in date, as opposed to the potentially later prehistoric or Romano-British features (see below). The plant remains and charcoal also occur alongside a deposit of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware and a worked flint assemblage (see Section 6 above).

7.5.2 Ditch 30354 (section 30096), and pits 30240, 30289, and 30308, produced consistent arrays of plant taxa, comprising glume wheat grains and chaff together with barley and wild taxa. Some wild taxa such as wild radish, black bindweed and narrow-fruited corn salad, amongst others, are likely to be arable weeds. Hulled barley and glume wheat species such as spelt were the main crops cultivated in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Campbell and Straker 2003; Lodwick 2017). The charred plant remains likely reflect the deposition of crop processing debris, potentially alongside domestic refuse and hearth waste.

7.5.3 Small quantities of fragmented coal and clinker/cinder, present in most samples, may have become reworked into some 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 Project aims and stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 Broad aims and detailed archaeological research objectives, specific to the site, were outlined in the WSI (see Section 3 above; WSP 2021b). The strip, map and sample excavations and assessment of the results have allowed for some of these aims and objectives to be met and are summarised and discussed below. The results of the evaluation are included where appropriate, additional discussion of the evaluation results and their ability to meet the research objectives of the project are available in the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2024).

8.1.2 The archaeological sequence investigated in SMS Areas 1 and 2 is of local interest, although there is limited potential for additional information to be gained from any further detailed study. The stratigraphic sequence was relatively simple and well understood. Few features dating to later periods (medieval–modern) were identified and these have no further potential for analysis.

Evidence for prehistoric activity and how does it relate to remains in the area?

8.1.3 The evaluation and excavation have identified remains dating from the Palaeolithic to the later Bronze Age. The earliest remains, a probable Palaeolithic flake, came from the evaluation, in addition a microlith and two other blades were found and date to the Mesolithic period (Wessex Archaeology 2024). A Late Neolithic pit investigated in SMS Area 1 was the earliest ‘cut’ feature, with a large ditch and several pits probably dating to the later Bronze Age also recorded during the evaluation (*ibid.*). These finds accord well with the

known archaeological landscape of this part of Kent which includes flint and artefact scatters such as two Palaeolithic handaxes from White Cliffs Business Park and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint scatters, pits and postholes are known from Honeywood Parkway and White Cliffs Business Park (ASE 2016).

- 8.1.4 The Late Neolithic pit is of local interest. The pit contained an assemblage of pottery, worked flint and environmental remains that provide information on human activity during the earlier 3rd millennium BC in this part of Kent. Nationally, there is much debate around deposition within Neolithic pits (see papers in Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012) and whilst this single pit can offer little to such discussions, it is significant.

Are Romano-British remains chronologically and spatially related to Roman-British remains identified in the area?

- 8.1.5 Romano-British features dominated the site sequence and represent the main phase of activity. During the 1st–4th centuries AD, a small settlement comprising two structures, field/enclosure ditches, a double-ditched boundary and various pits occupied the site. The features appear to be largely contemporary, although there was evidence of maintenance or reworking of the double-ditched boundary as well as alterations to the fields/enclosures over time.
- 8.1.6 The rectangular structures in the western part of SMS Area 1 shared common orientations with the field ditches, suggesting that they were broadly contemporary. Building 30316 was the more complete example and may represent the principal structure, with 30291 functioning as a less substantial, ancillary building. The narrow foundation trenches of building 30316 indicate they may have held timber beams, and the presence of postholes in two locations its north-western part suggest a timber structure. Flint cobbles/nodules were found within the fill indicating stone packing or perhaps elements of the above ground structure. Eight pits situated internally and externally were likely contemporary with the structure's occupation. Finds from the foundation trenches and pits indicate domestic occupation and include glass objects (a vessel handle, gaming counter and bead), pottery, worked stone (including quern fragments) and small amounts of fired clay and CBM. Few finds or structural elements were identified in 30291, supporting its interpretation as an ancillary building.
- 8.1.7 The site lay 1.2 km from *Dubris* (Dover), one of the bases of the *Classis Britannica*, the Roman provincial fleet, between 117–138 AD (Philp 2004, 23), and the Roman road from *Dubris* to *Rutupiae* (Richborough) crossed the site some 350 m to the west. These factors would have provided connections to urban centres as well as the relatively densely settled East Kent countryside in the early centuries AD. Within 2 km north of the site, rectangular buildings have been recorded at Old Park, Whitfield, Dover (Wessex Archaeology 2008) and Honeywood Road, Whitfield (Pratt 1998). The former, built on flint foundations, date to the mid–late 1st to late 2nd or 3rd centuries AD (Wessex Archaeology 2008), with the latter represented by beam slots. Further afield, a more substantial aisled building with stone foundations and internal timber posts dating to the 3rd century AD was excavated at Downlands, Walmer, 7.6 km to the north-east (Jarman 2010). More widely, rectangular buildings became the dominant architectural style in the south of Britain by the later 1st century AD (Smith 2016, 50). Further research should identify other local examples, aiding an understanding of the building's function and possible connections with contemporary settlements.



Evidence for the Roman road and was it maintained beyond the end of Roman occupation?

- 8.1.8 No evidence for the Roman road was recorded during the evaluation or excavation. Two undated ditches were investigated during the evaluation (see Wessex Archaeology 2024, figs 3–4) and lie parallel to its supposed course, but subsequent investigation has shown the routeway to date from the 18th century (CAT 2022).

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The finds assemblage is of moderate size and many of the material types are represented in very small quantities (such as animal bone, likely due to aggressive soil conditions), while others (such as pottery) are in relatively poor condition. Size and condition limit the further potential of the assemblage.
- 8.2.2 There are, nevertheless, some points of interest, amongst which are the worked flint and early prehistoric pottery. The assemblage is of insufficient quantity to warrant extensive additional work, but the project has produced results of local interest that are worthy of more formal record. The recovery of an assemblage containing both pottery and worked flint implements of Late Neolithic date (together with environmental remains) from one feature is especially notable and may benefit from further dissemination. Such a record should also reference the presence of earlier Mesolithic material on the site, which can be added to the corpus of material already known from the county.
- 8.2.3 Apart from the early prehistoric component, the rest of the pottery assemblage is unlikely to repay further analysis due to its fragmentary nature, generally poor condition and lack of any large feature groups – the largest comprises 178 sherds (ditch 30354) which include parts of several vessels but for which little reconstruction was possible. Only three other features produced more than 50 sherds (80 from ditch 30365, 52 from pit 30308 and 65 from pit 30252, the latter including 54 sherds that may be from a single amphora), with another ten features yielding 25 sherds or more.
- 8.2.4 Apart from pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts attest to Romano-British activity on the site – there is minimal structural evidence (CBM) and the metal objects are limited, but the vessel glass and glass objects are of intrinsic interest and some further targeted analysis will provide further parallels in order to enhance the existing catalogue records.
- 8.2.5 Other material types have little or no further potential, due to small quantities, poor condition and/or lack of intrinsic interest.

8.3 Environmental potential

- 8.3.1 Further analysis of the charred plant remains from ditch 30354 (section 30096) and pits 30240 and 30308 have the potential to provide additional information on arable agriculture, trade, the local economy and the past environment of the site and its surrounding area. The data may be valuable to future research and syntheses of data including this area. Analysis of the charred plant remains should be supported by radiocarbon dating where precise phasing for features cannot be established through artefactual evidence or stratigraphic relationships.
- 8.3.2 There is limited scope for detailed analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal from Late Neolithic pit 30225 due to the small number of fragments present. However, paired radiocarbon dates of a hazel nutshell fragment and another short-lived item (plant remain or wood charcoal fragment) from this deposit are necessary to confirm the dating of the archaeobotanical assemblage suspected to also date to the Late Neolithic, to better



understand the span of the activities on the site, and refine the pottery chronology and site phasing.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 The aims and objectives of the project have been met, where possible; furthermore, the results of the excavation have potential to contribute to some of the site-specific research objectives, particularly those relating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. As such the updated project aims are to:

- refine the interpretation of the excavation results, focussing on the Late Neolithic and Romano-British remains, and to contextualise them through a literature review;
- selected analysis on the finds and environmental remains to inform and enhance the understanding of the archaeological remains, types of activities and rural economy;
- undertake radiocarbon dating to refine the date of the Late Neolithic pit 30225;
- to disseminate the results of the project in an appropriate format.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 It is recommended that grey literature reports, published sites/excavations, synthetic studies and other relevant archaeological and historical sources are reviewed to enable the results to be contextualised and understood more fully. This will be focused on the Late Neolithic pit and Romano-British remains, particularly the structures. Some very minor reappraisal of the stratigraphic sequence may also be required in light of this, and other specialist analyses recommended below.

9.2.2 The results from the trial trench evaluation and SMS Area 3 will also be incorporated within the subsequent publication (see Section 9.6) where appropriate (e.g., as a phased plan and/or summary within the text) to provide an overview of the entire site.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 Some enhancement will be undertaken of existing records for the Neolithic pottery and flint from pit 30225. For the pottery, further details of fabric and decorative techniques will be recorded. Both pottery and flint will be briefly discussed within their local and regional contexts. A maximum of five sherds of pottery (one rim, four decorated body sherds) will be illustrated. Up to four flint objects (scraper, flaked axe butt, arrowhead, knife) will be illustrated and/or photographed.

9.3.2 The Romano-British glass (vessel and objects) will be described and briefly discussed, citing parallels to support identifications. The counter and the bead will be illustrated.

9.3.3 No further work is proposed for the other finds categories. The information provided in this report can be adapted and summarised for inclusion in any publication report. No other illustration is recommended.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a 'P' in the analysis column in Table 6. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the <5.6/4 mm residues and the



flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The identifications will be undertaken using stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to 40x and in consultation with a modern seed reference collection and specialised literature where appropriate. Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012), for cereals.

Table 6 Analysis potential and recommendations

Site Sub-division	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Analysis potential	Analysis recommendations
SMS Area 1	Pit	30079	30080	241702_3	C	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30092	30094	241702_4	-	-
SMS Area 1	Ditch	30098	30097	241702_5	P	P
SMS Area 1	Pit	30113	30114	241702_6	-	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30225	30227	241702_7	P	C14
SMS Area 1	Pit	30240	30243	241702_8	P	P
SMS Area 1	Pit/Hollow?	30258	30259	241702_9	-	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30252	30253	241702_10	-	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30268	30269	241702_11	-	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30289	30290	241702_12	-	-
SMS Area 1	Pit	30308	30310	241702_13	P	P
SMS Area 2	Pit	30042	30043	241702_2	C	-

9.5 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

- 9.5.1 Two samples (a pair from pit 30225) should be submitted for radiocarbon dating to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast, or the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory (Table 7).
- 9.5.2 The Grooved Ware pottery recovered from pit 30225 (see Section 6.2.5) suggests a Late Neolithic date (first part of the 3rd millennium BC) for this feature, which is potentially supported by the plant remains. However, the chronology of Grooved Ware pottery sub-styles is imprecise and further chronological definition could be gained from paired direct radiocarbon dating of the archaeobotanical assemblage.

Table 7 Scientific dating recommendations

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Material	Number of dates
Pit	30225	30227	241702_7	Charred plant remain: <i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel) nutshell fragment & Charred plant remain and/or wood charcoal fragment (preferably of a short-lived species) (to be selected)	x2 (paired date)



9.6 Proposals for publication

- 9.6.1 It is proposed that, following the further analysis of the stratigraphy, finds and environmental evidence, the results of the excavation will be reported on in the form of a short, illustrated article in the regional journal, *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

Provisional synopsis of journal publication

Introduction	500 words
Results	2000 words
Finds reports	2500 words
Environmental and radiocarbon dating reports	2000 words
Discussion	1000 words

Total: approximately 8,000 words, 8 figures, 6–8 tables

9.7 Programme for analysis and publication

- 9.7.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the Archaeological Advisor at KCC and the work has been commissioned in full by the client.
- 9.7.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around 12 months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

9.8 Personnel and resources

- 9.8.1 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 8 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
1 Management and support			
1.1	Project management	2.5	WA Project manager
1.2	Finds management	0.25	WA Finds manager
1.3	Environmental management	0.25	WA Enviro manager
1.4	Environmental admin	0.25	WA Enviro supervisor
2 Pre-analysis			
2.1	Check phasing and update site database	0.5	WA Author
2.2	Digitisation of selected drawings	0.5	WA Illustrator
2.3	Project meetings	0.5	All
2.4	Background research	1	WA Author
2.5	Extraction of environmental materials	1	WA Enviro supervisor
2.6	Sampling for radiocarbon dating	0.5	WA Radiocarbon specialist
3–6 Analysis and specialist reporting			
3 Stratigraphic			
3.1	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting	4	WA Author
4 Finds			



Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
4.1	Neolithic pottery: analysis and reporting	1	WA Finds specialist
4.2	Worked flint: analysis and reporting	1	WA Finds specialist
4.3	Glass: analysis and reporting	0.5	WA Finds specialist
4.4	Other finds (Roman pottery, CBM, fired clay, burnt flint, stone, metalwork, animal bone): summary	2	WA Finds specialist
5 Environmental			
5.1	Charred plant remains analysis and reporting	3	WA Enviro Specialist
5.2	Overview and palaeoenvironmental summary	1	WA Enviro Specialist
6 Scientific dating			
6.1	Radiocarbon dates (2x samples)	-	Ext – radiocarbon laboratory
6.2	Radiocarbon reporting	0.5	WA Radiocarbon specialist
7 Report compilation and production			
7.1	Introduction and background	0.5	WA Author
7.2	Compile and integrate reports	1	WA Author
7.3	Discussion	2	WA Author
7.4	Bibliography	0.25	WA Author
7.5	Captions (figures and tables)	0.25	WA Author
7.6	Prepare brief for illustrations	0.25	WA Author
7.7	Illustrations: site plans, sections etc	4	WA Illustrator
7.8	Illustrations: finds (five pottery sherds, four flint objects, two glass objects)	4	WA Illustrator
7.9	Edit report	2	WA Project/Finds/Enviro manager
7.10	Revise report following journal review	1	All
7.11	Revise illustrations following journal review	1	WA Illustrator
7.12	Check proofs	0.5	All
7.13	Journal publication fee	-	Ext – Kent Archaeological Society
8 Archiving			
8.1	Physical archive preparation	6	WA Archivist
8.2	Digital archive preparation	5	WA Archivist
8.3	Physical archive deposition – transportation	-	Ext – vehicle hire
8.4	Physical archive deposition – staff time	0.5	WA Archivist
8.5	Physical archive deposition – museum fee	-	Ext – museum
8.6	Digital archive deposition – staff time	1.5	WA Archivist
8.7	Digital archive deposition – ADS fee	-	Ext – ADS

9.9 Management structure

- 9.9.1 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 are met within the agreed timetable.
- 9.9.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also liaise with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication, and the recipient museum of the project archive.



- 9.9.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 It is recommended that selected elements of the physical archive, currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury, is deposited with Dover Museum. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 10.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dover 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, for all project phases (geophysics, evaluation and SMS excavation) currently comprises the following:

- Nine cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- Four files/document cases of paper records
- 123 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. The digital archive will also be supplied to the Kent Historic Environment Record. Digital data will be prepared following KCC requirements (KCC nd, section 17) and 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 Data 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 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, i.e., 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* (ClfA 2022b). 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 4).

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 5). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Advisor at KCC. 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 Finds by context (SMS Areas 1 and 2 only)

Context	Description	Group	Burnt flint	Fired clay	Worked flint (No)	Metal (No)	Pottery	Other finds
30043	Pit 30042	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
30046	Pit 30045	-	-	-	-	37 Fe	-	8 glass
30050	Pit 30049	-	-	-	2	-	1/11	-
30056	Ditch term 30055	-	-	-	-	-	11/35	-
30072	Ditch 30071	30353	1/3	-	-	-	1/31	-
30074	Ditch 30073	30353	-	-	1	-	3/8	-
30078	Ditch 30077	30357	-	-	3	-	-	-
30080	Pit 30079	-	406/1992	-	4	-	-	-
30082	Ditch 30081	30353	-	-	-	-	15/334	-
30084	Ditch 30083	30353	-	-	-	-	3/6	-
30090	Ditch 30089	-	-	-	-	-	1/23	-
30093	Pit 30092	-	-	-	-	-	21/441	-
30094		-	-	-	-	-	9/168	-
30095		-	-	-	-	-	12/383	-
30097	Ditch 30096	30354	22/94	1/8	6	1 Fe	158/2187	-
30101	Ditch 30100	30354	-	-	-	1 Fe	9/121	-
30103	Ditch 30102	30351	-	-	1	1 Fe	5/45	-
30105	Ditch 30104	30353	-	-	-	-	3/23	1 stone
30110	Ditch term 30109	30352	-	-	1	-	3/31	-
30114	Pit 30113	-	1/10	-	3	-	-	-
30116	Ditch 30115	30354	-	-	-	-	7/23	-
30120	Ditch 30119	30353	-	1/8	-	-	1/6	1 slag
30122	Ditch 30121	30353	-	-	1	-	3/181	-
30124	Ditch 30123	30365	-	-	-	-	10/103	-
30125	Ditch 30123	30365	3/19	1/13	3	-	23/250	-



Context	Description	Group	Burnt flint	Fired clay	Worked flint (No)	Metal (No)	Pottery	Other finds
30127	Pit 30126	-	-	-	5	-	21/202	-
30131	Ditch 30130	30365	-	-	-	1 Cu	2/13	-
30133	Posthole 30132	-	-	-	-	-	2/17	-
30137	Ditch term 30134	30355	-	-	-	-	6/68	-
30140	Ditch 30138	30365	-	-	-	-	23/242	-
30142	Ditch 30141	30355	-	-	1	-	21/142	-
30147	Cut 30145	-	-	4/51	-	-	8/162	1 slag
30148		-	-	3/173	1	-	10/128	2 CBM
30149		-	-	-	-	-	2/20	-
30150		-	-	-	-	3	-	17/65
30154	Ditch 30154	30352	-	-	-	-	1/8	-
30157	Ditch 30155	30365	-	-	1	-	13/87	-
30161	Ditch 30160	30354	-	-	-	-	1/7	-
30163	Ditch 30162	-	-	-	-	-	2/9	-
30169	Ditch 30166	30355	-	-	2	-	9/54	-
30170		30355	-	-	2	-	5/32	-
30172	Ditch 30171	30350	-	-	1	-	-	32 animal bone
30174	Gully 30173	30359	-	-	-	-	1/1	-
30176	Ditch 30175	30353	-	-	-	-	2/15	-
30178	Ditch term 30177	30351	-	-	4	-	-	-
30180	Ditch 30179	30350	-	-	-	-	3/15	-
30182	Ditch 30181	30354	-	-	-	-	3/12	-
30186	Ditch 30185	30354	-	-	-	-	1/1	-
30187	Ditch 30187	30351	-	-	1	-	-	-
30190	Ditch term 30189	30358	-	-	-	-	1/5	-
30192	Ditch 30191	30358	-	-	-	-	5/43	-
30200	Ditch 30199	30199	-	-	-	-	2/5	-
30204	Pit 30203	-	-	6/196	-	17 Fe	17/288	5 CBM; 3 stone
30208	Ditch 30207	30364	-	-	-	-	3/32	-



Context	Description	Group	Burnt flint	Fired clay	Worked flint (No)	Metal (No)	Pottery	Other finds
30210	Ditch term 30209	30364	-	-	-	-	3/28	-
30212	Ditch 30211	30362	-	-	-	-	3/11	-
30214	Ditch term 30213	30363	-	-	-	-	3/10	-
30216	Ditch 30215	30363	-	-	-	-	8/50	-
30218	Ditch term 30217	30362	-	-	-	-	7/31	-
30220	Ditch 30219	30364	-	-	-	-	3/31	-
30222	Ditch 30221	30363	-	-	-	-	6/37	-
30224	Ditch 30223	30363	-	-	-	-	25/63	-
30227	Pit 30225	-	4/109	-	12	-	33/200	-
30233	Ditch 30232	30363	-	-	-	-	17/74	-
30241	Pit 30240	-	-	-	-	-	10/51	-
30242		-	-	-	-	-	13/121	-
30243		-	5/15	-	-	-	22/108	1 stone
30247	Pit 30246	-	-	-	-	-	14/119	-
30253	Pit 30252	-	5/19	-	-	1 Fe	65/5104	-
30255	Ditch 30254	30291	-	-	1	-	-	-
30267	Tree-throw hole 30266	-	-	-	-	-	35/160	-
30276	Pit 30274	-	-	-	4	-	2/21	-
30280	Tree-throw hole 30279	30291	1/13	-	1	-	-	-
30282	Ditch 30281	30363	-	-	-	-	12/81	-
30284	Ditch 30283	30363	-	-	7	-	9/87	-
30286	Pit 30285	-	-	-	-	-	2/21	-
30290	Pit 30289	-	-	-	1	7 Fe	43/530*	-
30309	Pit 30308	-	-	-	2	2 Fe	11/62*	-
30310		-	134/635	9/408	2	13 Cu; 22 Fe; 4 Pb	32/156	7 glass; 4 slag
30311		-	-	-	-	-	4 Cu	9/31
30202	Construction cut 30201	30316	-	8/45	-	-	2/115	1 CBM
30239	Construction cut 30238	30316	-	-	-	-	3/24*	-
30245	Construction cut 30244	30316	-	-	-	-	2/28*	-



Context	Description	Group	Burnt flint	Fired clay	Worked flint (No)	Metal (No)	Pottery	Other finds
30249	Construction cut 30248	30316	-	-	-	-	2/4*	-
30229	Construction cut 30228	30316	-	-	-	-	2/7*	-
30231	Construction cut 30230	30316	-	-	1	-	7/90*	-
30293	Construction cut 30292	30316	-	-	-	-	2/6*	-
30299	Construction cut 30298	30316	-	-	-	-	2/2*	-
30301	Construction cut 30300	30316	-	-	4	-	1/6*	-
30313	Construction cut 30312	30316	-	-	-	-	4/23	-
30337	Construction cut 30335	30316	-	-	2	-	5/25	-
30339	Construction cut 30338	30316	-	-	-	-	11/30	-
30341	Construction cut 30340	30316	-	-	-	-	4/28	-
30318	Pit 30317	-	-	-	4	-	12/58	-
30320	Pit 30319	-	-	-	1	-	17/56	-
30322	Ditch 30321	30361	-	-	1	-	4/113	-
30324	Ditch 30323	30361	-	-	-	-	3/16	-
30326	Ditch 30325	30361	-	-	1	-	6/25	-
30328	Pit 30327	-	-	-	2	-	3/2	-
30332	Ditch 30331	-	-	-	-	-	2/15	-
30334	Pit 30333	-	-	-	1	-	5/12	-
30062	Ditch 30361	30342	-	-	1	1 Fe	-	-
30064	Ditch 30063	30342	-	-	2	-	-	-
30066	Ditch 30065	30342	-	-	3	-	1/1	-
30068	Ditch 30067	30342	-	-	1	-	-	-
30054	Ditch 30053	30043	-	-	2	-	-	-
30060	Ditch 30059	30042	-	-	1	-	9/62	-
Total			582/2909	33/902	106	18 Cu; 90 Fe; 4 Pb	976/14,018	-

CBM = Ceramic Building Material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron; Pb = lead



Appendix 2 Environmental assessment data

Area	Feature Type	Group	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred	Other Notes	Preservation	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other
1	Pit	-	30079	30080	241702_3	10	40	<5%, A, I	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mostly non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Good condition.	-
1	Pit	-	30092	30094	241702_4	6	1	70%, C, I	-	-	-	C	Large-seeded legume (cotyledon), Poaceae	P	<1	Highly fragmented	-
1	Ditch	30354	30096	30097	241702_5	35	30	10%	A*	A**	<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> and <i>T. spelta</i> grains and chaff (spikelet forks, glume bases), <i>Triticum</i> sp. grains, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains, Triticeae grains	A**	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> seed capsule frags., <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Polygonum</i> sp., Cyperaceae, Apiaceae, small-seeded Viceae, large-seeded Viceae (<i>Vicia faba/Pisum sativum</i>), Trifolieae, Chenopodiaceae, <i>Odontites vernus/Euphrasia</i> sp., <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Ranunculus</i> subg. <i>Ranunculus</i> , <i>Valerianella dentata</i> , Poaceae (incl. Poa/Phleum)	H	9	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp., some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate condition.	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder (A*)
1	Pit	-	30113	30114	241702_6	8	7	20%, C	-	-	-	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell frags.	M	3	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate condition.	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder (A*)
1	Pit	-	30225	30227	241702_7	16	7	<10%	C	-	Triticeae	A	Tuber/rhizome, <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell frags.	M	5	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate condition.	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder (A)



Area	Feature Type	Group	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Preservation	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other
1	Pit	-	30240	30243	241702_8	34	7	20%, C	A	A*	<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> and <i>T. spelta</i> grains and chaff (spikelet forks, glume bases), <i>Triticum</i> sp. grains, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains, Triticeae grains	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell frags., Viciae, Chenopodiaceae, <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> seed capsule frags.	M	2	Mostly non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate to good condition. Fragmented.	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder (A*)
1	Pit/Hollow?	-	30258	30259	241702_9	10	3	90%, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	Poaceae	P	Trace	Mineral stained, highly fragmented	Highly fragmented coal (B)
1	Pit	-	30252	30253	241702_10	20	15	50%, I	C	-	<i>Hordeum</i> sp., Triticeae	C	Poaceae	P	5	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate condition, some fragments mineral stained.	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder (A*)
1	Pit	-	30268	30269	241702_11	8	17	50%, I	-	-	-	C	Trifolieae	P	10	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Moderate to good condition.	Coal (A)
1	Pit	-	30289	30290	241702_12	28	4	70%, I	B	A	<i>Triticum speltadicoccum</i> grains, <i>T. spelta</i> grains and chaff (glume bases), <i>Triticum</i> sp. grains,	C	Viciae, <i>Odontites vernus/Euphrasia</i> sp., indet ?Cyperaceae	P	Trace	-	Coal (A*)



Area	Feature Type	Group	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Preservation	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other
											<i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain, Triticeae grains (very fragmented)						
1	Pit	-	30308	30310	241702_13	33	100	0.1	A*	-	<i>Triticum speltadicocum</i> grains, <i>T. spelta</i> grains, <i>Triticum</i> sp. grains, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains, Triticeae grains	C	<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , Poaceae, Viceae	M	80	<i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Roundwood (some large frags.). Good condition.	Coal (A*)
2	Pit	-	30042	30043	241702_2	19	80	<5%, A	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell frag.	P	50	Mostly <i>Quercus</i> sp., some non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Good condition.	Highly fragmented clinker/cinder (C)

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), I = insects.



Appendix 3 KCC HER Form

Site Name: White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent	
Site Address: Land adjacent to White Cliff Business Park, Dover, CT15 5EL	
Summary of discoveries: Pits, land division boundaries, settlement, building, ancillary structure, field boundaries, postholes, field system, 20th-century military activity (defensive trenches)	
District/Unitary: Dover	Parish: Guston
Period(s): Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Late Neolithic, later prehistoric, Romano-British, post-medieval, modern (20th century).	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 631910 144190	
Type of archaeological work: Trial trench evaluation, strip, map and sample excavation.	
Date of fieldwork From: 07/12/2020 To: 24/05/2021	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: Bedrock geology is mapped as Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member with overlying superficial deposits of clay-with-flints across the majority of the site. Superficial Head deposits (clay, silt, sand, and gravel) are mapped in the north-eastern part of the site.	
Title and author of accompanying report: 1) White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and SMS Area 3 Authors: Elisha Meadows, Rebecca Fitzpatrick and John Powell 2) White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent. Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation SMS Areas 1 and 2. Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Authors: Rebecca Fitzpatrick and John Powell	
Summary of fieldwork results: Wessex Archaeology completed an archaeological trial trench evaluation, contingency evaluation trenching and a strip, map and sample excavation of a parcel of land located adjacent to White Cliff Business Park, Dover, centred on NGR 631910 144190. The archaeological trial trench evaluation and strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation were undertaken in association with the proposed White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, near Dover in Kent. The evaluation and SMS mitigation formed part of a staged approach in determining and mitigating the archaeological resource at the site. Earlier non-intrusive works comprised a cultural heritage desk-based assessment as well as two geophysical surveys. The fieldwork comprised 208 archaeological trial trenches, and three strip, map and sample areas, totalling 1.15 hectares. The evaluation, identified three broad areas of archaeological activity situated in: the south-eastern corner, the northern part and towards the western side and south-western corner of the site. Recorded features chiefly comprised ditches, pits and postholes, although cultivation furrows and large pits/trenches related to 20th-century military activity were also investigated. Given the greatest density of features lay in the south-eastern corner of the site, further investigation was undertaken here via strip, map and sample excavation (SMS Areas 1 and 2). The earliest activity dates to the first part of the 3rd millennium BC and is represented by a Late Neolithic pit that produced an assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery, worked flint and charred plant remains. Traces of earlier activity were highlighted by the recovery of worked flints of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date from the wider evaluation. These together with worked flints, a large land division boundary and pits of probable later Bronze Age/late prehistoric date, indicate background levels of later prehistoric activity, across the wider evaluation area.	



Most of the features in the excavation area were of Romano-British date. These include a building, another structure, pits, postholes and ditches, a natural solution hollow also appears to have been utilised during the Roman period. The building, 13.60 m long and 6.50 m wide, was represented by narrow foundation trenches that may have held timber beams; postholes in its north-western room also suggest a timber framed structure. Flint cobbles/nodules were found within the fill and perhaps indicate stone packing or perhaps elements of the above ground structure.

A double ditched boundary to the south-east, may represent a trackway or banked hedge, and is probably contemporary with the other Romano-British features. Enclosure ditches appeared to form parcels of land for livestock/arable farming. The artefact assemblage includes pottery, metal objects and fragments of glass; much of this material was broadly dated but some of the pottery and a copper alloy brooch date to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD while a glass bead is more typical of later Roman activity.

Finds from the wider evaluation include Roman pottery from various uncertainly dated field boundaries and it is possible that these ditches formed parts of a wider Romano-British field system. Some, traced across some 200 m, appear to form coherent land divisions associated with the more securely dated features in SMS Areas 1 and 2. The north-south course of the Roman road from Dover to Richborough, crossed the site 345 m to the west, and would have enabled connections to nearby urban centres as well as the densely settled East Kent countryside in the early centuries AD.

Later activity was largely agricultural in nature and comprised field boundaries and cultivation furrows although a possible backfilled quarry indicates an exploitation of the local resources. More recent features include 20th-century military trenches and defensive structures. These are probably associated with the position of a known First World War landward defensive trenching system visible on aerial photographic imagery from the 1960s.

Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury office

Contact at Unit: Nina Olafsson

Date: 01/05/2024



Appendix 4 Selection Strategy



SELECTION STRATEGY

Project Information

Project name		
White Cliffs Inland Border Facility		
Project code(s)		
241700 – Geophysical Survey 241701 – Trial trenching 241702 – Mitigation 241704 – Post-excavation assessment and reporting		
Version control		
Issue	Date	Description/summary of revisions
1	16/05/2024	Selection strategy created at project review/assessment/reporting stage
2	tbc	Revised at archiving stage
Project management		
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Project Manager	Fieldwork: Nina Olofsson Post-excavation: Tom Wells	
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Jessica Irwin	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	Dover Museum Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: John Powell Assurance: Tom Wells	N/A
Landowner / Developer	tbc – Department for Transport/ Kent County Council (KCC)	
Local planning authority (LPA) curatorial service / archaeological advisor	KCC Archaeological Advisor	
Other (external)	-	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics Manager (Chris Breeden) WA finds and environmental specialists (see project design/WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA finds and environmental specialists; external finds and environmental specialists (where applicable); WA archives team	
Context		

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA (n.d.) *Archives Selection Toolkit* and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the project design/WSI(s).

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- Archaeological Archives Forum [AAF] 2011. *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition).
- Society of Museum Archaeologists [SMA] 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.
- Deposition of Archaeological Archives with Dover Museum and Bronze Age Gallery: Guidelines for Depositors (v2, Jan 2016)

Relevant research agendas

- South East Research Framework (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/south-east-research-framework>)

Finds

- Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H., and Wood, I. 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. PCRG, SGRP and MPRG.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [ClfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Environmental

- English Heritage 2008. *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- English Heritage 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- English Heritage 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition). Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- Historic England 2015. *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2018. *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation*. Swindon: Historic England.

Research objectives of the project

The research objectives of the project, as stated in the relevant project design/WSI, were:

- What evidence is there for prehistoric (Palaeolithic through to Iron Age) activity? If present what is its nature, extent and significance?
- If present, are prehistoric remains chronologically and spatially related to prehistoric remains identified in the study area?
- If Late Iron Age remains are present, is there evidence of cross-channel trade and the pre-Conquest Romanisation of local communities?
- If present, are Romano-British remains chronologically and spatially related to Roman-British remains identified in the study area?
- Is there evidence for maintenance of the Roman Road? Is there evidence for its maintenance beyond the end of Roman occupation?
- If present, how do early medieval burials fit in to the regional chronology for such sites?
- Is there any evidence for previously unrecorded medieval or post-medieval remains, in the form of agricultural features or evidence of landscape management?
- Are there any previously unrecorded significant buried remains relating to WWI landward defensive trenching?



- Are there any previously unrecorded significant buried remains relating to WWII which survive on site (i.e. gun emplacements or trenches)?
- What are the nature and levels (OD) of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?

The research objectives of the project, as revised within the Updated Project Design, are to:

- refine the interpretation of the excavation results, focussing on the Late Neolithic and Romano-British remains, and to contextualise them through a literature review;
- selected analysis on the finds and environmental remains to inform and enhance the understanding of the archaeological remains, types of activities and rural economy;
- undertake radiocarbon dating to refine the date of the Late Neolithic pit 30225;
- to disseminate the results of the project in an appropriate format.

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

Section 1: Digital Data

Stakeholders		
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics Manager; receiving Museum (if required); LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; ADS		
Selection		
This document is designed to link to the project data management plan (DMP).		
To promote long-term future re-use, deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance and the requirements of the digital repository.		
Any sensitive data will 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.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Records completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include project designs/WSIs, interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports and (where possible, subject to copyright restrictions) publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	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.	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 selected to include only good quality images with potential for re-use and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	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.	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.	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.	2, 3	
Geophysical data	Raw data and interpretation Geo-tiffs	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.	3	
De-selected digital data			
De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers during the lifetime of the project. 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

Section 2: Documents

Stakeholders		
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor		
Selection		
A security copy of all paper/drawn records will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.		
Note that information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (project designs/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.	2, 3
Specialist reports and 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.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	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.	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

Section 3.1 Materials – Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)

Stakeholders		
WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; landowner		
Selection		
Human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).		
The following selection proposals have been formulated by WA specialists at Review Point 2 (assessment stage). They may be modified further at Review Point 3.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Animal bone (76 frags)	Small, poorly preserved assemblage mostly from undated/poorly dated ditches. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Burnt (unworked) flint (38.1 kg)	Large quantity but intrinsically undatable and largely restricted to insecurely dated single pit group. Already discarded.	2
Ceramic building material (20 frags)	Negligible quantity, includes 8 Romano-British fragments. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Clay tobacco pipes (2 frags)	Negligible quantity; no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Fired clay (75 frags)	Small assemblage, probably of structural origin; undatable although some from Romano-British features. Limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Glass (13 frags + 2 objects)	Small assemblage; mixed date. Romano-British vessel glass (5 frags) and objects are of intrinsic interest; retain all. Modern bottle glass (8 frags) of no archaeological significance and no further research potential; retain none.	2, 3
Metalwork (119 objects)	Small assemblage; ironwork in particular in poor condition and all vulnerable to continued deterioration. Few diagnostically Romano-British objects (brooch fragment, hobnails); these are of intrinsic interest; retain all. Other objects, including those from Romano-British contexts, are of little or no intrinsic interest (nails, miscellaneous fragments, etc), have little or no	2, 3



	archaeological significance and no further research potential; retain none. NB. X-radiographs act as a basic record for metal objects.	
Metalworking residues (7 frags)	Negligible quantity, only one fragment related to metalworking; undatable; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Pottery (1408 sherds)	Moderate-sized prehistoric to Romano-British assemblage; relatively poor condition not and diagnostic material scarce. Nevertheless, adds to ceramic dataset for region and has some limited research potential beyond remit of current project. Retain all except medieval and later sherds.	2, 3
Stone (5 objects)	Very small quantity but worked objects of intrinsic interest. Retain all.	2, 3
Worked flint (173 pieces)	Small assemblage of which the majority comprises undiagnostic waste material (probably largely Bronze Age); this part of the assemblage is of limited archaeological significance and has no further research potential. Retain none. Neolithic component from pit 30225 is of intrinsic interest, as are isolated earlier pieces (possible Palaeolithic flake; Mesolithic microlith and two blades). Retain these pieces only.	2, 3

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>

Section 3.2 Materials – Palaeoenvironmental material

Stakeholders		
WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor		
Selection		
All environmental sampling has been undertaken following a site-specific sampling strategy and/or Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a), and as stated in the relevant project designs/WSIs.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Unprocessed samples	No unprocessed samples have been retained	2
Assessed samples	All assessed materials with further potential will be retained as part of the site archive, as they may have research potential beyond this project. The samples with no further potential should be discarded.	2, 3
Residues	The residues were discarded after sorting, with the exception of the residue from sample number 3, which was retained for burnt/worked flint.	2
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

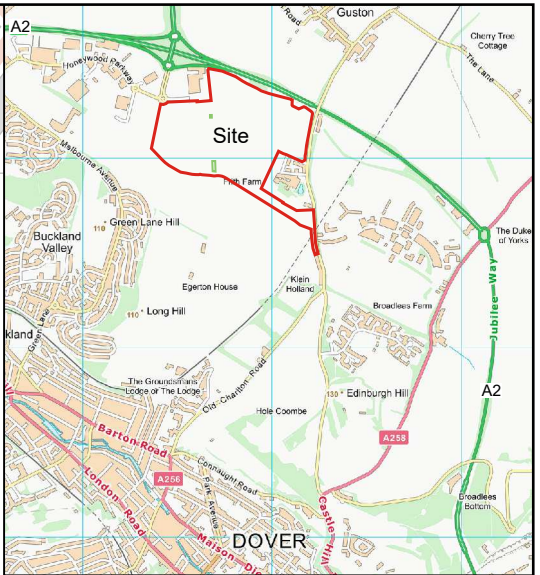
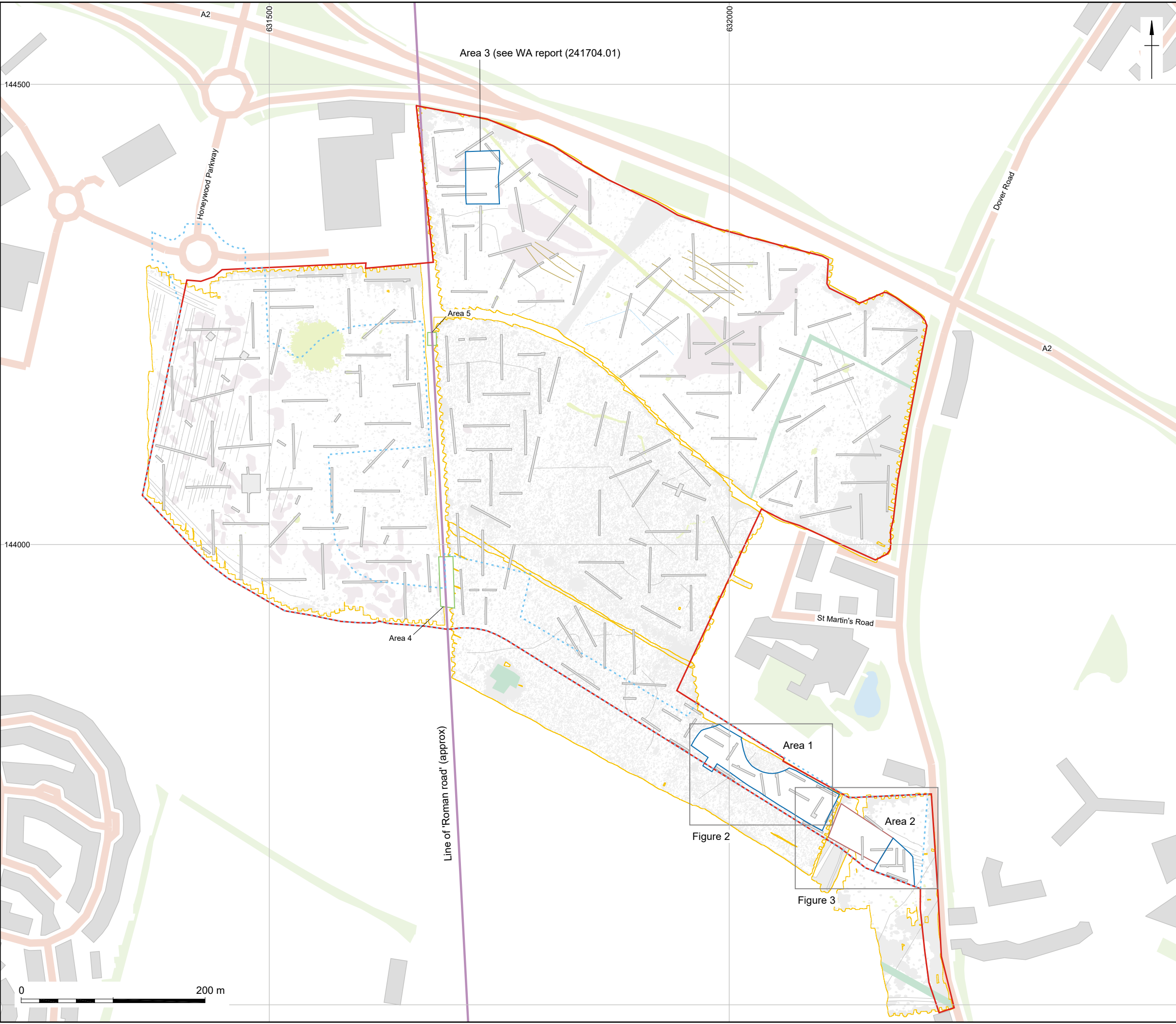


Appendix 5 OASIS summary wessexar1-508460

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-508460
Project Name	Evaluation, Strip Map and Sample at White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent
Sitename	White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent
Site code	241701
Project Identifier(s)	241701, 241702
Activity type	Evaluation, Strip Map and Sample
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	07-Dec-2020 - 24-Mar-2021
Location	White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, Dover, Kent NGR: TR 31910 44190 LL: 51.149955831013905, 1.314607877492867 12 Fig: 631910,144190
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Kent Local Authority District: Dover Parish: Guston
Project Methodology	<p>The initial evaluation comprised 173 trial trenches which varied from 25–50 m in length and comprised a 4% sample of the area; a 1% contingency was also included. A number of trenches (63) were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies interpreted as potential archaeological remains, with remaining trenches distributed evenly across the site to include blank areas.</p> <p>Due to the potential risk of delays to the construction programme and the reduced window for undertaking archaeological mitigation work revised methods were issued and implemented following consultation between the client and Archaeological Advisor at KCC, this included an increase in proposed contingency area to up to 10% (36,000 sqm). The revised strategy comprised:</p> <p>Iterative trial trenching: Where significant remains were revealed, trenches were extended and areas opened up to establish the full extent of any significant remains.</p> <p>Identify hot spots and reduce risk. The aim is to reduce risk and be better informed on hot spots and the areas with little significant archaeology. Two or three hot spots may be established, for example. Straight to archaeological SMS: SMS mitigation followed on directly from the evaluation, to investigate and record 'hot spots.'</p> <p>During the fieldwork 172 trenches (No 1–47 and 49–173) were excavated, these were followed by 36 (200–214 and 216–236) trenches and three SMS areas (total 1.15 ha), investigated and recorded following the revised methodology.</p>
Project Results	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WSP, on behalf of Kent County Council, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and contingency mitigation strip, map and sample of a parcel of land located adjacent to White Cliff Business Park, Dover, centred on NGR 631910 144190.</p> <p>The archaeological trial trench evaluation and strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation were undertaken in association with the proposed White Cliffs Inland Border Facility, near Dover in Kent. The proposed development comprises the construction of an inland processing facility and will comprise parking for heavy goods vehicles and associated facilities, landscaping, drainage/utilities and planting. The evaluation and SMS excavations were undertaken in support of a Special Development Order.</p> <p>The evaluation and SMS mitigation formed part of a staged approach in determining and mitigating the archaeological resource of the site. Earlier non-intrusive works comprised a cultural heritage desk-based assessment as well as two geophysical surveys. Overall, the fieldwork comprised 208 archaeological trial trenches, and three strip, map and sample areas (1.15 hectares).</p> <p>The evaluation identified three broad areas of archaeological activity, located in the south-eastern corner, northern part and towards the western side and south-western corner of the site. Recorded features chiefly comprised ditches, pits, postholes, although cultivation furrows</p>



	<p>and large pits/trenches related to 20th-century military activity were also investigated. In addition, natural features such as tree-throw holes, bioturbation related features, geological features and deposits of colluvium were also identified.</p> <p>Early activity was indicated by small quantities of worked flint; one is of probable Palaeolithic date, and a microlith and two other blades date to the Mesolithic period. The earliest feature was a Late Neolithic pit that produced an assemblage of pottery, worked flint and charred plant remains.</p> <p>A large ditch crossed four trenches in the northern part of the site and finds from one trench suggest a later Bronze Age date. A cluster of pits towards the south-western part of the site produced large amounts of burnt flint, later prehistoric pottery from one indicates this activity area may date to the late 2nd to mid-1st millennium BC. Broadly dated prehistoric pottery and worked flints were also found in topsoil, subsoil and colluvium and provide further evidence of a prehistoric presence in the landscape.</p> <p>Most of the features in the excavation area were of Romano-British date. These include a building, another structure, pits, postholes and ditches. A double ditched boundary to the south-east, may represent a trackway or banked hedge, and is probably contemporary with the other Romano-British features. Enclosures ditches appeared to form parcels of land for livestock/arable farming. Roman pottery came from various uncertainly dated field boundaries across the central and western parts of the site; it is possible that these ditches formed parts of a wider Romano-British field system. Some of these ditches were traced across some 200 m and appear to form coherent land divisions associated with the more securely dated features in the south-east. The course of the Roman road from Dover to Richborough, crossed the site from south to north, and although no evidence of the road was found during the evaluation, two undated ditches lay parallel to its course.</p> <p>Later activity includes post-medieval/modern quarrying and cultivation as well as 20th century military activity. Two large pits/trenches and a ditch lined with sandbags probably relate to the position of a known First World War landward defensive trenching system visible on aerial photographic imagery from the 1960s</p>
Keywords	Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Building - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - LATE NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Trench - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Lithic Implement - PALAEOLOGICAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - MESOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	County Council Kent
HER	Kent HER - unRev – STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Nina Olofsson, Tom Wells
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Dover Museum;

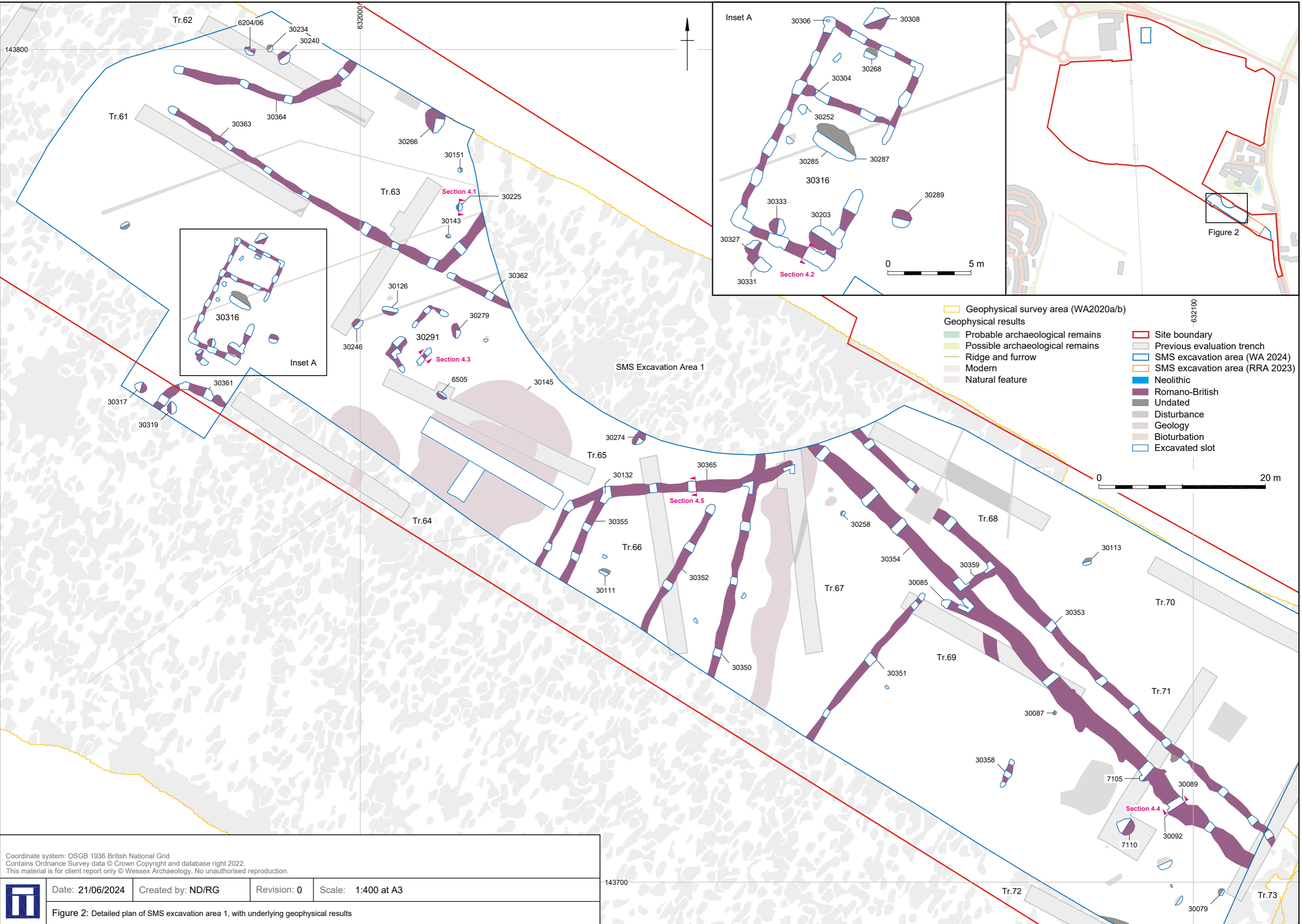


- ▭ Site boundary
 - ▭ Previous evaluation trench
 - ▭ SMS excavation area
 - ▭ Dover Fastrack Scheme Area 2
 - ▭ SMS excavation area 2b (Red River Archaeology 2023)
 - ▭ SMS excavation area (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 2022)
 - ▭ Approximate line of 'Roman road'
 - ▭ Geophysical survey area (WA2020a/2020b)
-
- Geophysical results**
- ▭ Probable archaeological remains
 - ▭ Possible archaeological remains
 - ▬ Ridge and furrow
 - ▭ Modern
 - ▭ Natural feature

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Figure 1: Site location showing evaluation trench layout, location of SMS excavation Areas, and extents covered by more detailed figures

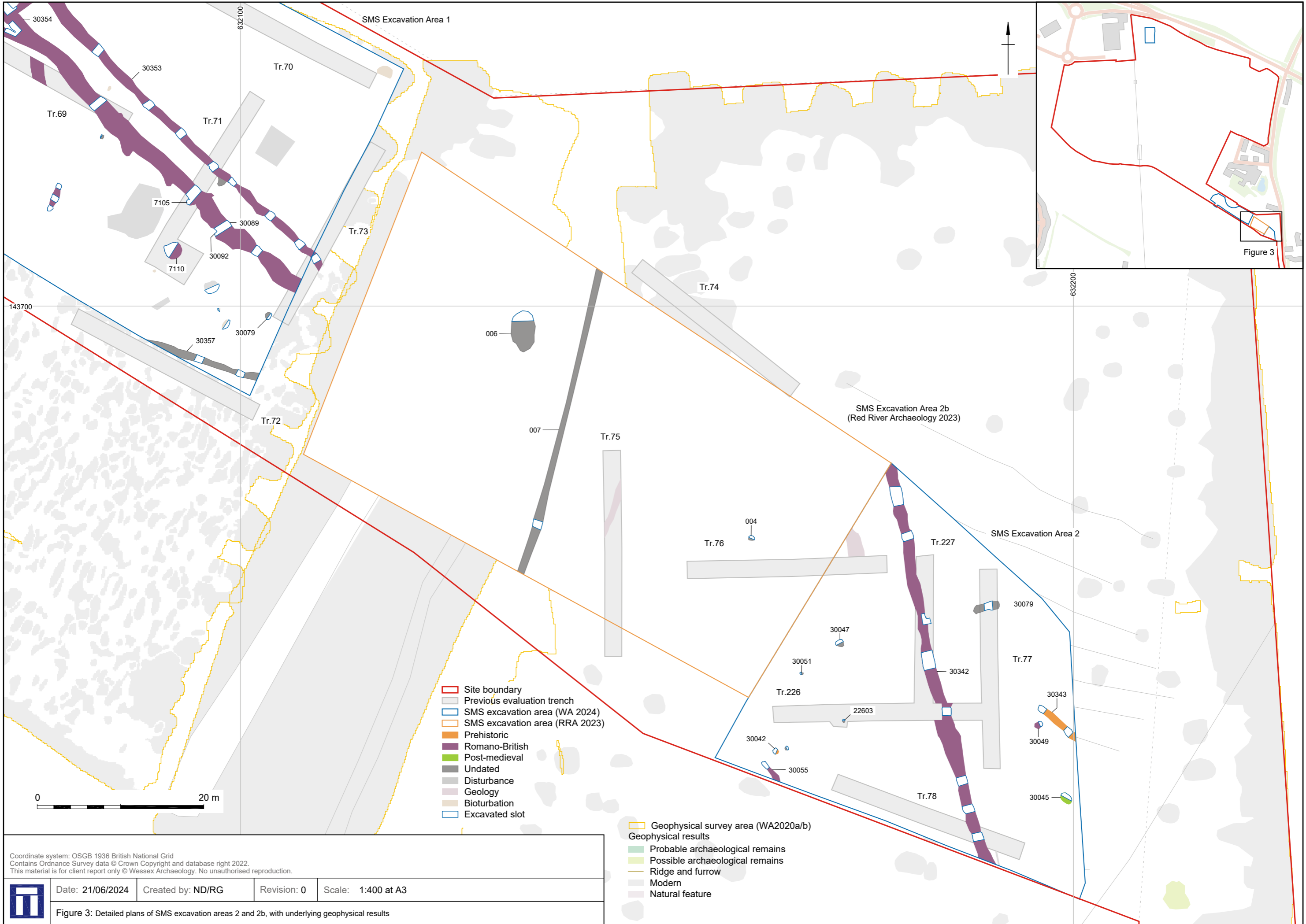


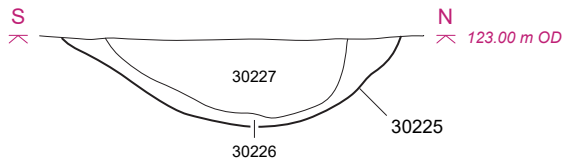
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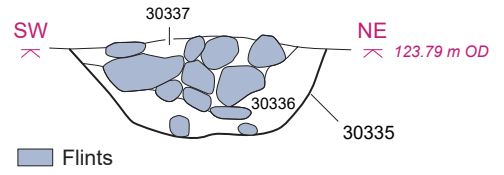
Figure 2: Detailed plan of SMS excavation area 1, with underlying geophysical results

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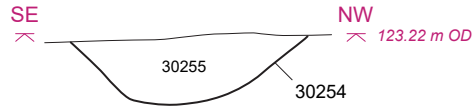




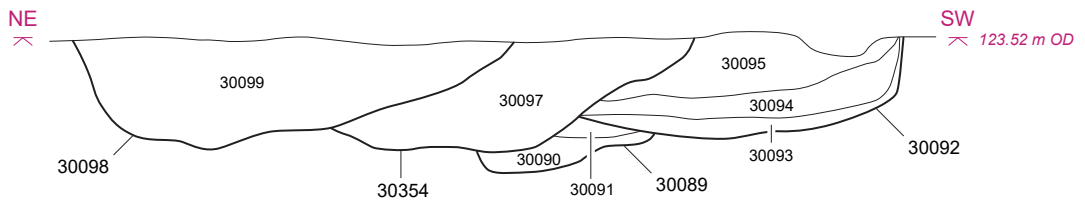
Section 1: East facing section of Late Neolithic pit 30225



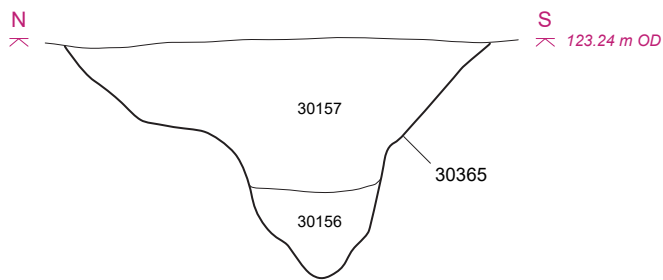
Section 2: South-east facing section of structure 30316



Section 3: North-east facing section of structure 30291



Section 4: North-west facing section of ditches 30098, 30354, 30089 and pit 30092



Section 5: West facing section of ditch 30365



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Figure 4: Selected section drawings





Figure 5: Late Neolithic pit 30225 viewed from the east, scale: 0.5 m



Figure 6: Structure 30316 viewed from the south-west, scales: 1 m and 2 m



Figure 7: Detail of flint nodules in construction cut of structure 30316 viewed from the north-west, scale: 0.5 m



Figure 8: Western side of structure 30316 showing flint nodules within construction cut, viewed from the SSW, scale: 2 m



Figure 9: Pottery dump within pit 30252, scale: 0.5 m



Figure 10: Pit 30203 and structure 30316 viewed from the north-east, scale: 1 m



Figure 11: Pit 30289 viewed from the south, scale: 1 m



Figure 12: Structure 30291 viewed from the south-west, scales: 1 m and 2 m



Figure 13: Ditches 30354, 30098 and pit 30092 viewed from the north-west, scale: 1 m



Figure 14: Ditch 30353 viewed from the north-west, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 15: Ditch 30363 viewed from the north-east, scale: 1 m



Figure 16: Ditch 30365 and posthole 30132, viewed from the west, scale: 1 m



Figure 17: Pit 30240 viewed from the east, scale: 1 m



Figure 18: Pit 7110 viewed from the north-east, scale: 2 m



Figure 19: Geological solution hollow viewed from the west, scales: 1 m and 2 m



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