

**A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND
UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN
ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
LAND PARCEL 14, THISTLE HILL
ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT**

NGR: TQ 594929 172043

Planning Reference: SW/04/1059

**ASE Project No: 4134
Site Code: THW09**

**ASE Report No: 2011172
OASIS ID: archaeol6-105477**

**By Andrew Margetts
With contributions from Luke Barber, Anna Doherty
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Abstract

This report summarises the results of an archaeological work carried out by Archaeology South-East at the Thistle Hill development (Land Parcel 14), Near Minster, Sheppey, Kent during October 2009 (evaluation) and between June 2010 and May 2011 (excavation). The fieldwork was commissioned by Bloor Homes Ltd.

The excavations recorded evidence of transient Mesolithic/Neolithic activity and late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval occupation and agriculture. The late prehistoric and medieval evidence relates to that seen elsewhere on sites in the immediate area.

Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. It is proposed that data from this site should be integrated with that from investigations at proximate ASE sites on Thistle Hill with the aim of producing a joint publication.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location, Geology and Topography (Figures 1 and 2)

- 1.1.1 The site consists of a single parcel of land on the eastern side of the Thistle Hill development near Minster (Isle of Sheppey), south of Thistle Hill Way and to the north and west of Scocles Farm known as Thistle Hill Parcel 14 (NGR: TQ 594929 172043; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The site occupies low lying land (c.12m O.D.) at the head of a dry valley leading northwest towards Sheerness. The topography of the site slopes gently from the southeast up to the northwest.
- 1.1.3 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet no 272, Chatham), the wider underlying geology at the site is predominately London Clay. To the south of the site deposits of alluvium overlie the clay.
- 1.1.4 The encountered natural London Clay within the footprint of the site was fairly consistent in nature and comprised mid yellow brown and mid red yellow silt clay with occasional inclusions of tertiary gravels. This underlying natural was disturbed by both post-medieval and modern land-drains.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 The Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (HCGKCC) had advised Swale Borough Council that the outline planning consent for the entire Thistle Hill development should be subject to a thorough programme of archaeological work (ref SW/04/1059). The design and layout of the development of 50 dwellings on Parcel 14 at Thistle Hill was detailed in application SW/09/0445.
- 1.2.2 During 2009 prior to the involvement of ASE in the project, a number of houses in the southwest corner of the site had begun construction. These were monitored under a watching brief by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex 2011) who were apparently working without an archaeological specification from HCGKCC.
- 1.2.3 Subsequently, Wessex Archaeology were replaced by ASE as the client's archaeological contractors and were commissioned by Bloor Homes Ltd later in 2009 to conduct an archaeological evaluation of the site during October 2009 (ASE 2009b) under the guidelines of a specification for archaeological evaluation provided by HCGKCC (HCGKCC 2009a).
- 1.2.4 Four of the seventeen proposed evaluation trenches were not excavated (Trenches 8, 9, 14 and 15) as the western half of the site had already been machine stripped and house footings constructed (ASE 2009b). This area therefore remained unevaluated and unavailable for further mitigation.
- 1.2.5 The field evaluation was otherwise successfully conducted and the results showed that whilst southwest corner of the site was now heavily disturbed, there was archaeological potential in the north-eastern part of the site (ASE 2009b) and a specification outlining the requirement and

methodology for an archaeological 'strip and map' excavation in this area was subsequently produced (HCGKCC 2009b).

1.3 Circumstances and Dates of Fieldwork

1.3.1 Prior to the excavation, further construction-related work was undertaken in the northern parts of the site. This will have further diminished archaeological survival at the site.

1.3.2 The excavation was undertaken by ASE between June 2010 and May 2011? and was supervised by Andrew Margetts, project managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

1.4 Archaeological methodology

1.4.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specifications (HCGKCC 2009b) and complied with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists, (IFA 2001). The complete adopted methodology can be referenced in the specification document. A summary of the methodology is given below.

1.4.2 The excavation was targeted on an area of the site informed by the evaluation. A pre-excavation plan was produced immediately after the site had been mechanically stripped. A contingency to strip a further 500 square metres in order to investigate any areas of past activity outside the excavation extent was allowed for.

1.4.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification (HCGKCC 2009b) using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets and complied with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists, (IFA 2001). All pits and post-holes were half-sectioned first and then fully excavated for improved finds recovery as and where necessary. Ditches were investigated by sondage and layers were excavated and recorded stratigraphically.

1.4.4 For the purpose of context recording and differentiation, contexts revealed during the excavation were numbered sequentially from [100], with evaluation contexts starting at [001] and prefixed with the trench number (e.g. 1/001). The finds and environmental archives of both the evaluation and excavation were recorded under a single site code: THW09.

1.4.5 The excavation area was located and levels reduced in relation to Ordnance Datum using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS). All archaeological features or deposits were planned and sections of every feature were hand-drawn. A photographic record was maintained throughout the excavations.

1.4.6 Samples of archaeological deposits were collected for environmental processing in accordance with the specification (HCGKCC 2009b).

- 1.4.7 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE but will be deposited at Minster Museum in due course. ASE informed Minster Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The contents of the archive are tabulated below in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	139
No. of files/paper record	2
Plan and sections sheets	4
Bulk Samples	9
Photographs	62 (digital)
Bulk finds	3 large boxes
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	5

Table 1: Site archive quantification table

1.5 Organisation and Scope of the report

- 1.5.1 The principle underlying the concepts of post-excavation assessment and updated project design were established by English Heritage in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and refined within *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (English Heritage 2006) and are to seek to summarise the results of archaeological work at the site and the potential for future analysis, as well as determining the requirements for publication and archiving of the results.
- 1.5.2 Accordingly, and where appropriate, the results from the evaluation (ASE 2009b) were integrated with those from the main excavation and assessed together. Any relevant results from the watching brief (Wessex 2011) and finds reports from the evaluation will be incorporated at publication analysis stage.
- 1.5.3 This report therefore, seeks to place the results from the site within the local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims, list any new research criteria; and to lay out what further analysis work is required to enable final dissemination, and what form that should take.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 The earliest known remains in the vicinity of the site date to the later prehistoric period. Remains connected with an Iron Age farmstead have been located immediately west of the site (Pratt 1998; SMR Ref. TQ 97 SW 76). The farmstead was represented by various pits, postholes and a possible ditch.
- 2.1.2 Further excavation work in the immediate area during 2001 revealed evidence for an outlying field system(s) surrounding the farmstead (Diack 2002). Prehistoric linear features, thought to represent the boundaries of an enclosure, as well as pits and postholes were recorded and pottery dating from the mid- Bronze Age to early- Iron Age was recovered.
- 2.1.3 Archaeological investigation adjacent to the site of Minster Abbey revealed evidence of Bronze Age and/or Early Iron Age settlement sealed beneath the colluvium (HCGKCC 2009b).
- 2.1.4 Earlier phases of work undertaken by ASE on the wider development itself identified two linear features of possible Bronze Age origin (ASE 1999, ASE 2006).

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 More recent archaeological work (ASE 2009) immediately to the west of the site has revealed a scatter of pits dating from the Late Iron Age period to the Early Roman period. These seemed to suggest activity that one may expect to find on the periphery of a settlement and included indications of possible pottery production and Roman box-flue and tile were also recovered.
- 2.2.2 Roman remains have also been found within the Minster Abbey precinct are not been reported on fully (HCGKCC 2009b).
- 2.2.3 Romano-British burials have been found at a site north-west of the development area (HCGKCC 2007b) and evidence of further Romano-British activity in the form of coins have been discovered in the wider area.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.3.1 Minster Abbey scheduled monument lies approximately 1km to the north-east (*ibid*). The Abbey was founded as a nunnery in 664AD by Queen Sexburgha and further possible Saxon remains have been revealed by excavation at Barton Hill Drive where five features were interpreted as possible Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings were recorded (Diack 2002).

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 Medieval farming activity is known to have occurred in close proximity to the site (Diack 2002). Fieldwork undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust to the northwest of Land Parcel 14 revealed evidence for medieval activity, including a field system and a pit containing residual Roman material.
- 2.4.2 A 12th to 13th century farmstead was recorded immediately west of the current site (ASE 2009 and Figure 8 of this report). The farmstead comprised boundary and drainage ditches that defined small rectilinear enclosures and areas of possible livestock management as well as a structure, possibly a dwelling consisting of both a byre and living quarters.
- 2.4.3 Further medieval features were also recorded during previous phases of archaeological fieldwork on the west and south sides of Thistle Hill (ASE 1999). These included a linear feature and a possible in-filled pond dating to the 13th century. It was determined that these features probably indicated pastoral activity in the area.

2.5 Post-medieval

- 2.5.1 Scocles Farm, including the early 18th century Grade II listed Scocles Court to the east of the site may have Elizabethan or earlier origins. In 1594 Queen Elizabeth is recorded as funding the re-building of Scocles Farm and indenturing it to Sir Thomas Hoby (Sheppey Access History website). The site, together with the rest of the wider Thistle Hill development, would all have been part of the Scocles farmland.
- 2.5.2 The only other known archaeological sites in the area of post-medieval date include elements of the Sheppey Light Railway and occasional quarry pits.

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 A series of site specific research aims were developed for the project in the specification document (HCGKCC 2009b) drawing on additional information gained from previous fieldwork both on the site (ASE 2009b) and in the vicinity (*op cit*). These have been arranged here chronologically and numbered RA1, RA2 etc.

3.2 Mesolithic/Early Neolithic

- *RA1: Can the lithic material be related to discrete areas of activity, periods or practices?*

3.3 Later Prehistoric

- *RA2: What activity does the later prehistoric evidence represent?*
- *RA3: How is the site related to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age farmstead at Sheppey Community Hospital?*

3.4 Medieval

- *RA4: Is there any further evidence of medieval farming in the development area?*
- *RA5: How does the medieval activity present relate to the contemporary farmstead site to the south?*

3.5 All Periods

- *RA6: Does the site indicate intensive landuse at any period and can it improve our understanding of the human exploitation of lower-lying ground on Sheppey?*

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS (Figures 2 - 8)

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The archaeology is presented within a framework of chronological phases, created primarily by the dateable ceramics refined through the creation of relative chronologies where stratigraphic relationships exist. Each phase includes features of a comparable date. Dated sub-groups form the basis of the stratigraphic narrative. These are made up of single contexts which have been grouped together to enable discussion of the archaeology whilst reducing the need to refer to large quantities of context numbers.
- 4.1.2 Residual prehistoric finds of Mesolithic/Neolithic date suggest that transitory activity occurred in the area during these periods.
- 4.1.3 During the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and into the Early Roman period there is some evidence of on-site occupation and land division from pits and ditches. A number of pottery sherds were also recovered from overburden deposits.
- 4.1.4 Medieval activity of mid 12th to mid 14th centuries date included a cluster of pits, a tree-throw together and two ditches.
- 4.1.5 Post-medieval features of 17th-20th century date include a pit, a posthole and a ditch.

4.2 Conventions Used Within the Report

- 4.2.1 Individual contexts are referred to thus [***], and sub-groups thus (SGP **). Occasionally, where multiple contexts and sub-groups have been generated, features are labelled thus 'Ditch 1'. Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <*>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>. References to sections within this report are referred to thus (3.7). A full context register is included as Appendix 1 near the back of the report.

4.3 Residual Earlier Prehistoric Material: Mesolithic/Neolithic

- 4.3.1 Prehistoric flintwork was recovered during both the evaluation and excavation either residually in later features, from undated features or from unstratified contexts. The assemblage includes material dated to the Mesolithic and/or Neolithic periods. This evidence probably represents transient activity at the site which may have included at least some tool manufacture and maintenance.

4.4 Phase 1: Later Prehistoric (Figure 4)

- 4.4.1 Two pits (SGP 45 and 46) were encountered within Trench 3 during the evaluation stage (ASE 2009b). Pit SGP 45 had concave sides and a sloping base. Pit (SGP 46) had concave sides and a rounded base. Both features were filled with similar deposits of orange brown stiff clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Pit (SGP 45) produced a residual Mesolithic bladelet fragment and four sherds of late prehistoric pottery. Subcircular pit (SGP 46) contained only one sherd of late prehistoric pottery.

4.4.2 Two shallow features, thought to be ditches, were recorded in the evaluation (SGP 43 and 44; Trenches 11 and 12; *ibid*). However, the conjectured continuance of these features was not recorded during the main excavation probably due to construction related damage.

4.5 Phase 2: Medieval mid 12th- mid 14th centuries (Figure 5)

4.5.1 Two pits and a tree-throw (SGP 49, 20 and 31) dated to this phase were encountered within Trench 7 during the evaluation stage. One of the pits and the tree-throw (SGP 20 and 31 respectively) were reinvestigated during the excavation. The only dating material recovered from these features came from the evaluation stage.

4.5.2 Tree-throw (SGP 20) had shallow concave sides and an undulating base. The orange brown stiff clay fill [7/007 and 123] contained a residual Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint core and a sherd of mid 12th-mid 13th century medieval pottery.

4.5.3 Pit (SGP 31) had stepped concave sides and a rounded base. The fill was yellow brown stiff clay [7/009 and 149] and produced three sherds of mid 12th – mid 14th century medieval pottery.

4.5.4 Pit (SGP 49) was subcircular with steep shallow sides and a flat base. The orange brown stiff clay fill [7/005] produced a 13th century medieval pottery sherd.

4.5.5 Ditch 1 (SGP 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) comprised two short sections and was orientated on a northeast to southwest axis. The ditch was investigated by means of five sondages which showed it to be of shallow depth (c.0.10m) and of between 0.20m and 0.50m width with a rounded base. The northernmost terminus (SGP 10) was recorded in evaluation Trench 5 and provided the only datable medieval find from the feature; one small sherd (2g) of mid 13th – mid 14th medieval pottery. The only other finds from this feature were derived from (SGP 8) and consisted of fragments of animal bone and an even smaller piece of post-medieval CBM (<2g) that was noted during excavation to be from the uppermost part of the fill and therefore probably intrusive. The tentative assigning of Ditch 1 to this phase becomes stronger when viewed in conjunction with similarly dated features from earlier phases of work in the vicinity (see Figure 8).

4.6 Phase 3: Post-medieval 17th-20th centuries (Figure 6)

4.6.1 Pit (SGP 18) was shallow in depth (0.10m) and had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by mid grey brown silt clay [117] that contained a piece of 17th-18th century peg tile and a tiny chip of pottery.

4.6.2 Posthole (SGP 48) was recorded within evaluation Trench 6. It was subcircular in plan with near vertical sides and a tapered base. The fill [6/001] was of green brown silt clay with occasional coal lumps. The presence of the coal inclusions suggested the feature was likely to be of post-medieval date.

4.6.3 Ditch 2 (SGP 24, 27 and 30) orientated on an east-west axis, extended beyond the limits of the excavation area. It was fairly regular in profile and measured c.30m long as exposed. The ditch had fairly steep concave sides and a rounded base and was filled by mid to dark blue grey clay silt that contained no noticeable inclusions but produced finds of 17th-19th century peg tile and fragments of stone.

The ditch ran parallel to the modern land parcel boundary and it is probably an earlier version of that boundary.

- 4.6.4 A second linear feature (SGP 11 and 12), discounted as a probable tractor-wheel rut, was located roughly east of centre within the excavation area. It measured approximately 0.50m in width, c.0.10m in depth and had an overall length of c.10m. The fill of the feature was similar to the topsoil. The only find from the feature comprised a single piece of Roman or (more likely) post-medieval CBM (see 5.3.4).

4.7 Unphased and undated features (Figure 7)

- 4.7.1 The majority of the undated features were pits, postholes and tree-throws. Most of these were undated as they contained no finds but it is hoped that most can be included in the dated phases for the final publication. Some contained small quantities of (probably residual) worked flint.
- 4.7.2 One of the more interesting pits contained a whole sheep carcass (SGP 33). It was sub-oval in plan and measured c.1m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.10m in depth and had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. The good preservation of the bone, the presence of clinker and coal burning slag and the habit of modern day farmers to dispose of sheep carcasses in this way may indicate the fairly recent origin of this feature.
- 4.7.3 The only undated linear feature (SGP 4 and 5) was located in the south of the site, was orientated on a northeast to southwest axis and extended beyond the limit of excavation. This perhaps fits most comfortably within Phase 1.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

5.1 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.1.1 Only 12 prehistoric bodysherds, weighing 176 grams were recovered during the excavation, all of which were unstratified. Most of the sherds are flint-tempered; three of these contain quite coarse ill-sorted flint and very little quartz, suggesting that they are of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Three other flint-tempered sherds contain much better sorted inclusions and moderate to common silt-sized quartz, characteristics which might indicate a Middle Iron Age to early Roman date. Also belonging to this broad period are four glauconitic sherds. A further two sherds are in grog-tempered fabrics almost certainly dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

5.1.2 Although the sherds were not found in archaeological contexts, they are relatively large and unabraded suggesting that activity of later prehistoric to early Roman date was happening close-by.

5.2 The post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery – 11 small sherds weighing 80g, from five individually numbered contexts. The majority of the assemblage was recovered during the evaluation: six sherds weighing 18g. The earliest of these are tempered with shell with no/rare sand (Canterbury fabric EM2). Context [7/007] (SGP 20) produced a single relatively unabraded oxidised cooking pot bodysherd (2g) while [7/009] produced two more in the same fabric (7g). The thin walls of these vessels suggest they come toward the end of the shell-only tempering tradition, perhaps placing them between the mid 12th and early/mid 13th centuries. Context [7/009] (SGP 31) also produced an abraded sherd from a London-type ware jug with external white slip under a patchy green glaze, dated between the mid 12th and mid 13th centuries. Context [7/007] (SGP 20) produced an abraded brown/grey cooking pot bodysherd in sand tempered ware with rare shell inclusions (4g), probably of 13th- century date while context [5/004] (SGP 10) contained a small (2g) sherd from an oxidised sand tempered cooking pot of mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date. This is possibly a Tyler Hill product from the north of Canterbury (Canterbury fabric M1). Post-Roman pottery from the Stage 2 works was only recovered from unstratified deposits. However, three possible Late Saxon sherds are present, two reduced body sherds in a low/medium fired sandy ware (Canterbury fabric LS1) and part of a heavily abraded oxidised sagging base tempered with fine sand and moderate quartz and flint grits to 1mm. The other two unstratified sherds are in the EM2 shelly ware noted during the evaluation. Both sherds are from thickened triangular club rims from cooking pots of the 12th- to very early 13th centuries.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of six fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 196g were recovered from five contexts. The assemblage consisted of peg tile of post-medieval date and a fragment of brick of uncertain date.

5.3.2 The material has been quantified by count and weight and a provisional fabric series has been drawn up with the aid of a X10 binocular microscope (Table 2). The data have been entered onto pro-forma recording forms and an Excel spreadsheet for archive. The assemblage has been retained.

Fabric	Form	Description	Date range
T1	Peg tile	Fine orange fabric with moderate micaceous speckling and sparse red iron rich inclusions	C17th-C19th
T2	Peg tile	Fine orange fabric with moderate medium sized quartz	C17th-C19th
B1	Brick	Pale cream sandy fabric with sparse coarse quartz and sparse very coarse iron rich inclusions.	Uncertain

Table 2: Provisional fabric descriptions

5.3.3 Peg tile of broad 17th to 19th century date was identified in two fabrics, T1 and T2, both similar fine orange fabrics with T2 containing a moderate amount of quartz. Peg tile in fabric T1 was recovered from context [120] (SGP 8) (1/<2g) and [133] (SGP 24) (1/80g) and peg tile in fabric T2 was recovered from contexts [117] (SGP 18) (1/32g), [133] (SGP 24) (1/42g) and [147] (SGP 30) (1/26g).

5.3.4 A single highly abraded fragment of brick was recovered from context [115] (SGP 12; 1/10g). The fragment lacked form to assist in date identification and dating is problematic, the fragment may possibly be of Roman date, though a post-medieval date is more likely.

5.4 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.4.1 Excavation work at Thistle Hill, Parcel 14 yielded a total of 24 struck flint weighing 271g. Thirteen pieces were recovered unstratified and eleven pieces were collected from across nine numbered contexts with no marked clustering. The assemblage of struck flints potentially dates from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic period. The flintwork was quantified by piece count and weight and was directly catalogued into an Excel spreadsheet. A breakdown of the composition of the assemblage is provided in Table 3.

5.4.2 The raw material chosen for the production of the lithics is characterised by an orange to orange-brown to almost black fine grained flint with occasional cherty inclusions and a grey to off-white outer surface abraded to a thin smooth surface. The material, which appeared to be of reasonable flaking quality derived most probably from local flint gravel deposits. Overall, the flintwork exhibited only slight edge damage. But although the majority of the struck flints were quite fresh and unabraded, a large percentage of the assemblage was recorded as broken suggesting a small degree of post-depositional damage. This also indicates that the artefacts are almost certainly residual in later archaeological contexts.

Context	Flake	Broken flake	Broken blade	Blade-like flake fragment	Shattered piece	Core preparation flake	Core	Burnt unworked flint - No./Mt. (g)
Unstrat	3	2		2	4	1	1	1/24
104		1						5/30
105		1						
137		1	1					45/422
143								2/48
152					1			2/16
155					1			
160								1/4
164		1						
166		1						
170		1						
176		2						
Total	3	9	1	2	6	1	1	56/544

Table 3: The Flintwork

5.4.3 The assemblage was composed almost entirely of pieces of flint debitage (23 pieces or 95.8% of the total assemblage) although a small damaged opposed-platform bladelet core weighing 54g was recovered unstratified. The latter is indicative of Mesolithic activity. Core maintenance was represented by a potential rejuvenation tablet also found unstratified. The assemblage included also a blade fragment, two blade-like flake fragments and several flakes with flake scar removals on the dorsal face ([105] (SGP 14), [164] (SWGP 37), [170] (SGP 4)) which are all characteristic of the Mesolithic and Neolithic. The presence of edge-abrasion on a couple of flakes is also indicative of a Mesolithic - Neolithic date.

5.5 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.5.1 The excavations produced a small assemblage of bone from three contexts: medieval ditch [120] (SGP 8), undated pit [155] (SGP 33) and post-hole [174] (SGP 40). The bone was in a good state of preservation with little surface erosion, but highly fragmentary.

5.5.2 Wherever possible the bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using ASE in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972). To assist with the MNE calculations and in an attempt to avoid the distortion caused by differing fragmentation rates, the elements have been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present.

5.5.3 *Medieval*
 Ditch fill [120] (SGP 8) produced a tarsal and a rib fragment identified as sheep or sheep-sized. No further information was obtainable.

5.5.4 *Undated*

The 252 fragments of animal bone recovered from undated pit [155] (SGP 33) represented the almost complete remains of a mature sheep skeleton. No evidence of butchery or pathology was present. Post-hole [174] (SGP 40) produced a single fragment of bird femur.

5.6 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.6.1 The archaeological work recovered just two pieces of stone both from Ditch 2. The first consists of a 173g fragment of concreted fossilised marine worm tubes from [133] (SGP 24). This is almost certainly from a local Tertiary or Pleistocene deposit. The other piece consists of a well weathered 585g cobble of Kentish Ragstone from [142] (SGP 27). Both stone types would have been available locally and neither piece shows signs of having been modified by man.

5.7 **The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Six small fragments (12g) of clinker and coal-burning slag were recovered from [115] (SGP 33). These are likely to be of later post-medieval date. Context [158] (SGP 34) produced an 88g fragment of slightly magnetic undiagnostic iron slag as well as a 12g piece of black aerated clinker. The latter piece again suggests a later post-medieval date.

5.8 **The Environmental Samples** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.8.1 Five bulk soil samples were extracted to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca and to assess their potential to provide information regarding the exact nature and date of the features sampled as well as to provide information relating to the environmental regime. The environmental samples came from contexts which are only provisionally dated. They originated from ditch features [111] (fill [112] (SGP 9) <1>) and [140] (fill [139] (SGP 6) <3>), pit features [131] (fill [132] (SGP 23) <2>) and [176] (fill [175] (SGP 41) <5>) and possible tree hole [113] (fill [114] (SGP 17) <4>).

5.8.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the flots and residues were retained on 250 and 500µm meshes respectively. Residues were sieved through 2mm and 4mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for artefact and environmental remains (Appendix 3). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made for through comparison with reference material and reference manuals/texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

5.8.3 Sampling produced small flots which were dominated by uncharred vegetation that made up 94% or more of the total volume of the flots. It consisted principally of modern rootlets but also included some infrequent uncharred seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. In addition, the flot from sample <3> contained moderate number (4%) of probable modern fungal sclerotia, which are common in active soils. The significant level of roots present in the features

together with the presence of fungal resting bodies could indicate a small degree of modern disturbance and potential contamination of the deposits.

- 5.8.4 Nonetheless, sampling confirmed the presence of a moderate assemblage of wood charcoal fragments, charred macrobotanicals and infrequent burnt and unburnt bone fragments. Although the charcoal fragments were scarce in the flots, small to moderate quantities were present in the residues. The assemblage was principally represented by fragments <4mm in size, although infrequent pieces measuring >10mm were also recorded. Occasional pieces were vitrified; and a high percentage of these fragments were extensively concreted with sediments and some pieces were also percolated by sediment particles which could be an indication of fluctuating ground water. This can result in the internal damage to, and obscuring of anatomical structures, restricting the level of identifications obtainable. Nonetheless, the assemblage contains some fragments which are well enough preserved for identifications. The assemblage may also present material suitable for radiocarbon dating.
- 5.8.5 Charred macroplant remains were sparse in these samples. Ditch [140] (SGP 6) contained a single charred grain of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), pit [131] (SGP 23) contained a single grass seed (Poaceae) and ditch [111] (SGP 9) produced a small assemblage of charred macroplants including hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), probable oat (cf. *Avena* sp.), wild grasses (Poaceae) and a single weed seed of cleaver/woodruff (*Galium* sp./*Asperula arvensis*). Overall, these remains were moderately well preserved.
- 5.8.6 Infrequent fragments of cremated bones were evident in the residue from sample <5> and small unburnt bones were recorded in the residue from sample <1>. A small amount of flint, fire cracked flint, industrial debris, iron, glass, pottery and CBM was recorded in those deposits.

6.0 POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE

This section seeks to address the original research agenda (3.0) as well as highlighting new areas of potential based on the assessment of significance resulting from preliminary analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental archives.

6.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

- Mesolithic/Neolithic
 - *RA1: Can the lithic material be related to discrete areas of activity, periods or practices?*

6.1.1 The lithic material at the site was Mesolithic and/or Neolithic in date. No specific concentrations of flintwork suggesting 'in-situ' material was encountered at the site and neither could features that contained lithic material be dated to the Mesolithic/Neolithic periods with any certainty.

6.1.2 The residual nature of the flintwork probably indicates transient activity. Some of the pieces did however suggest at least sporadic tool manufacture/maintenance at the site.

- Phase 1: Later Prehistoric
 - *RA2: What activity does the later prehistoric evidence represent?*
 - *RA3: How is the site related to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age farmstead at Sheppey Community Hospital?*

6.1.3 The sparse evidence for the Phase 1 late prehistoric activity relates to two pits and two unproven 'ditches' of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Date along with unstratified pottery of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date. It is probable that this activity relates to limited (possibly agricultural) utilisation of the site during this period(s).

6.1.4 The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features probably represent outlying activity related to the farmstead of the same date encountered at Sheppey Community Hospital (Diack 2002). The later unstratified material more likely relates to the evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity encountered during archaeological investigations immediately to the west (ASE 2009; Figure 12)

- Phase 2: Medieval mid 12th – mid 14th centuries
 - *RA4: Is there any further evidence of medieval farming in the development area?*
 - *RA5: How does the medieval activity present relate to the contemporary farmstead site to the south?*

6.1.5 The archaeological investigations at the site confirmed the presence of medieval farming activity.

6.1.6 The activity related to this phase is contemporary with the medieval farmstead encountered immediately to the west (ASE 2009). The pits, tree throw and truncated ditch probably existed within an agricultural landscape the tree throw and ditch possibly indicating field systems and at least limited clearance.

- All Periods

- *RA6: Does the site indicate intensive landuse at any period and can it improve our understanding of the human exploitation of lower-lying ground on Sheppey?*

6.1.7 Before development the site had never received intensive land-use. The archaeological work has illustrated that from at least the Late Bronze Age it has probably existed as part of an agricultural landscape.

6.2 Prehistoric Pottery

6.2.1 The assemblage from the excavation phase is very small and was not stratified in archaeological deposits and therefore has no significance or potential for further study.

6.3 The post-Roman Pottery

6.3.1 The post-Roman pottery assemblage from the site consists of small isolated sherds, frequently showing signs of having been reworked and sometimes in unstratified deposits. Too few sherds and diagnostic feature sherds are present to refine dating and the assemblage appears to represent relatively low levels of activity between the 10th/11th and 13th centuries. The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for detailed analysis and no further work is proposed.

6.4 Ceramic Building Material

6.4.1 No further work is recommended on the assemblage, the results of this report should be incorporated into any further report as required.

6.5 Flintwork

6.5.1 The flint assemblage recovered from the site is indicative of earlier prehistoric activity in the area. Although no retouched pieces were recovered, the presence of an unstratified core and an unstratified rejuvenation flake tablet indicate that this activity might have included tool manufacture and maintenance. A large proportion of the flint assemblage was found unstratified and the artefacts recovered from stratified contexts represent isolated finds which are most likely residual. Therefore, no further analysis is proposed for the assemblage.

6.6 Animal Bone

6.6.1 The assemblage is small and largely undated, mostly comprising of a single sheep. It therefore has no potential for further work.

6.7 The Geological Material

6.7.1 The material has no potential for analysis and no further work is proposed.

6.8 The Metallurgical Remains

6.8.1 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for analysis and no further work is proposed.

6.9 Environmental Samples

6.9.1 Sampling confirmed the presence of charred macroplant remains, charcoal as well as burnt and unburnt bones. The bulk environmental samples taken during the excavation work confirmed also the presence of a limited assemblage of modern uncharred macrobotanical remains, roots and fungal sclerotia that provide evidence for modern disturbances, potential contamination and movement within the deposit. Their presence lessens the value of remains within these samples for further dating work.

6.9.2 Although a small to moderate assemblage of charcoal was recovered from the deposits, a high number of pieces were poorly preserved. Fragments that are sufficiently well preserved to provide identifications aren't numerous and the assemblage of wood charcoal suitable for identifications is too limited to provide detailed indication about fuel use or woody vegetation.

6.9.3 Cereal grains were identified including infrequent grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) in ditch fill contexts [112] (SGP 9) and [139] (SGP 6) as well as probable oat (*Avena* sp.) in ditch fill [112] (SGP 9). Hulled barley has been cultivated in southern England since the Neolithic period. However, with the absence of chaff components, it is impossible to determine if the oat grains are of the wild (*Avena fatua*) or cultivated (*Avena sativa*) variety. Infrequent wild/weed seeds were present in ditch [111] (SGP 9) and pit [132] (SGP 23) including grass seeds and a single seed of cleaver/woodruff. Although the small assemblage of charred macroplants provides evidence for the use of crop remains such as barley, the assemblage is too limited to provide any significant information about the agricultural economy. It simply represents a background of redeposited burnt waste material.

6.9.4 Due to the limited quantity of macrobotanicals, the samples hold no potential to provide further information regarding the agricultural economy or the local vegetation of the site and although samples have revealed moderate assemblages of charcoal, the majority of the fragments are too small and too poorly preserved to provide significant information regarding fuel use and past local woody vegetation. Therefore these samples show no potential for further work.

7.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

7.1 Revised research agenda: Aims and Objectives

In this section the research aims from the original research agenda listed in 3.0 and addressed in 6.0 have been re-cast into new research aims to provide an updated research agenda analogous with the preliminary results from the excavation. The research agenda is posed as a series of numbered revised research aims (RRAs) and where appropriate a series of revised research objectives (RROs) that contribute towards the broader aim.

Late Prehistoric (Phase 1)

RRA1: In the light of previous late prehistoric finds in the vicinity and the wider area, does the Land Parcel 14 evidence enable us to contextualise these findings with more confidence and clarity?

Medieval (Phase 2)

RRA2: To what extent can the medieval activity identified be further characterised?

RRA3: To investigate the site within the wider context of the 12th to 14th century landscape of the Minster Area, the Isle of Sheppey and beyond.

RRO3.1: Can integration of the results of this work with the evidence from the contemporary farmstead located to the west shed more light on the 12th-14th century agricultural exploitation of the Isle of Sheppey?

All Periods

RRA4: In the light of previous archaeological investigation in the vicinity and wider area, does the Land Parcel 14 evidence help us understand the past exploitation of the low-lying ground on the Isle of Sheppey?

7.2 Preliminary publication synopsis

7.2.1 In the interests of both cost-effectiveness and intellectual expediency it is proposed to integrate and incorporate the results from this site with those from other all other Thistle Hill development sites on which ASE have conducted archaeological work in order to produce a single narrative, or thematically, driven volume.

7.2.2 As such, it is not possible to provide a synopsis of such a volume at this stage until all sites have been completed and assessed. However, it is envisaged that the Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14 element will comprise about 3500-4500 words and will detail the later prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains. Summary specialist reports will be prepared for integration as appropriate into this narrative.

7.3 Task sequence

7.3.1 Stratigraphic Method Statement

The finds, environmental and stratigraphic results should be integrated with previous phases of investigation on the site (watching brief and evaluation) and from the wider Thistle Hill development. The results of the stratigraphic sequence should be grouped and discussed by land use and period together with the findings of other phases of work and then incorporated with the findings of other ASE Thistle Hill sites to produce an integrated stratigraphic narrative.

7.3.2 The Finds and Environmental Assemblages

No further analysis work has been suggested for the various finds and environmental assemblages recovered from the site. However, publication texts will need to be written for inclusion into the proposed greater publication text and selection of the various finds types will be required for illustration.

Stratigraphic Tasks	Person days	Initials
Incorporate all watching brief data	0.5 day	AM
Incorporate all evaluation data (including specialist info.)	0.5 days	AM
Grouping	0.75 day	AM
Landuse	0.75 day	AM
Period	0.75 day	AM
Write text	2 days	AM
Integrate text into publication	1 days	AM
Total	7 days	
Specialist Tasks		
Prehistoric pottery text	0.75 day	AD
Post-Roman pottery text	0.75 day	LB
CBM text	0.75 day	SP
Flintwork text	0.75 day	KleH
Environmental samples text	1 day	LA
Total	4 days	
Publication Costs		
Stratigraphic illustration / publication figures	2 days	FG FG
Editing	1 days	JS/LR
Project management	1.5 days	JS/LR
Publication costs	fee	-
Total		

Table 4: Resource for completion of the period-driven narrative

7.4 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

- 7.4.1 Following completion of all post-excavation work the artefacts recovered during the archaeological work will be offered to a suitable local museum (probably Minster Museum) to be agreed with the landowner and HCGKCC.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Bloor Homes Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Adam Single County Archaeologist (Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council) for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Giles Dawkes, the excavation by Andrew Margetts, Simon Stevens and Robert Cole. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Louise Rayner who project managed the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: Context Register

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
THW09	100	L	NS	100	1			
THW09	101	L	NS	101	2			
THW09	102	L	NS	102	3			
THW09	103	C	P/TH	103	13			
THW09	104	F	P/TH	103	13			
THW09	105	F	TH	106	14			
THW09	106	C	TH	106	14			
THW09	107	F	P/TH	108	15			
THW09	108	C	P/TH	108	15			
THW09	109	F	TH	110	16			
THW09	110	C	TH	110	16			
THW09	111	C	D	111	9	2		
THW09	112	F	D	111	9	2		<1>
THW09	113	F	TH	114	17			<4>
THW09	114	C	TH	114	17			
THW09	115	F	XX	116	12	3	Disturbance	
THW09	116	C	XX	116	12	3		
THW09	117	F	P	118	18	3		
THW09	118	C	P	118	18	3		
THW09	119	C	D	119	8	2		
THW09	120	F	D	119	8	2		
THW09	121	F	SP	122	19			
THW09	122	C	SP	122	19			
THW09	123	F	TH	124	20	2		
THW09	124	C	TH	124	20	2		

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
THW09	125	F	P	126	21			
THW09	126	C	P	126	21			
THW09	127	C	D	127	7	2		
THW09	128	F	D	127	7	2		
THW09	129	F	SP	130	22			
THW09	130	C	SP	130	22			
THW09	131	F	P	132	23			<2>
THW09	132	C	P	132	23			
THW09	133	F	D	134	24	3		
THW09	134	C	D	134	24	3		
THW09	135	F	SP	136	25			
THW09	136	C	SP	136	25			
THW09	137	F	P	138	26			
THW09	138	C	P	138	26			
THW09	139	F	D	140	6	2		<3>
THW09	140	C	D	140	6	2		
THW09	141	C	D	141	27	3		
THW09	142	F	D	141	27	3		
THW09	143	F	TH	144	28			
THW09	144	C	TH	144	28			
THW09	145	F	XX	146	29		Disturbance	
THW09	146	C	XX	146	29			
THW09	147	F	D	148	30	3		
THW09	148	C	D	148	30	3		
THW09	149	F	P	150	31	2		
THW09	150	C	P	150	31	2		
THW09	151	C	P	151	32			
THW09	152	F	P	151	32			

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
THW09	153	VOID						
THW09	154	VOID						
THW09	155	F	P/PR?	156	33			
THW09	156	C	P/PR?	156	33			
THW09	157	C	P/SP?	157	34			
THW09	158	F	P/SP?	157	34			
THW09	159	C	P/SP?	159	35			
THW09	160	F	P/SP?	159	35			
THW09	161	C	P/SP?	161	36			
THW09	162	F	P/SP?	161	36			
THW09	163	C	P/SP?	163	37			
THW09	164	F	P/SP?	163	37			
THW09	165	C	P/SP?	165	38			
THW09	166	F	P/SP?	165	38			
THW09	167	C	P/SP?	167	39			
THW09	168	F	P/SP?	167	39			
THW09	169	C	D	169	4			
THW09	170	F	D	169	4			
THW09	171	C	D	171	5			
THW09	172	F	D	171	5			
THW09	173	C	SP	173	40			
THW09	174	F	SP	173	40			
THW09	175	C	SP	175	41			
THW09	176	F	SP	175	41			<5>
THW09	1/001	L	NS	1/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	1/002	L	NS	1/002	42		Redeposited natural + brick rubble	
THW09	1/003	L	NS	1/003	1		Topsoil	

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
THW09	1/004	L	NS	1/004	3		Natural	
THW09	2/001	L	NS	2/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	2/002	L	NS	2/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	2/003	L	NS	2/003	3		Natural	
THW09	3/001	F	P	3/002	45	1		
THW09	3/002	C	P	3/002	45	1		
THW09	3/003	F	P	3/004	46	1		
THW09	3/004	C	P	3/004	46	1		
THW09	3/005	L	NS	3/005	1		Topsoil	
THW09	3/006	L	NS	3/006	2		Subsoil	
THW09	3/007	L	NS	3/007	3		Natural	
THW09	4/001	L	NS	4/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	4/002	L	NS	4/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	4/003	L	NS	4/003	3		Natural	
THW09	5/001	L	NS	5/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	5/002	L	NS	5/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	5/003	L	NS	5/003	3		Natural	
THW09	5/004	F	D	5/005	10	2		
THW09	5/005	C	D	5/005	10	2		
THW09	5/006	F	P	5/007	47			
THW09	5/007	C	P	5/007	47			
THW09	6/001	F	SP	6/002	48	3		
THW09	6/002	C	SP	6/002	48	3		
THW09	6/003	L	NS	6/003	1		Topsoil	
THW09	6/004	L	NS	6/004	2		Subsoil	
THW09	6/005	L	NS	6/005	3		Natural	
THW09	7/001	L	NS	7/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	7/002	L	NS	7/002	2		Subsoil	

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
THW09	7/003	L	NS	7/003	3		Natural	
THW09	7/004	C	P	7/004	49	2		
THW09	7/005	F	P	7/004	49	2		<1>
THW09	7/006	C	TH	124	20	2		
THW09	7/007	F	TH	124	20	2		<2>
THW09	7/008	C	P	150	31	2		
THW09	7/009	F	P	150	31	2		<3>
THW09	7/010	C	XX	7/010	11	3	Disturbance	
THW09	7/011	F	XX	7/010	11	3		<4>
THW09	10/001	L	NS	10/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	10/002	L	NS	10/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	10/003	L	NS	10/003	3		Natural	
THW09	11/001	L	NS	11/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	11/002	L	NS	11/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	11/003	L	NS	11/003	3		Natural	
THW09	11/004	F	P/D?	11/005	43	1		
THW09	11/005	C	P/D?	11/005	43	1		
THW09	12/001	L	NS	12/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	12/002	L	NS	12/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	12/003	L	NS	12/003	3		Natural	
THW09	12/004	F	P/D?	12/005	44	1		
THW09	12/005	C	P/D?	12/005	44	1		
THW09	13/001	L	NS	13/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	13/002	L	NS	13/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	13/003	L	NS	13/003	3		Natural	
THW09	16/001	L	NS	16/001	1		Topsoil	
THW09	16/002	L	NS	16/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	16/003	L	NS	16/003	3		Natural	

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_CON	SUBGROUP	PHASE	COMMENTS	<SAMPLE_NO>
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THW09	17/002	L	NS	17/002	2		Subsoil	
THW09	17/003	L	NS	17/003	3		Natural	

Appendix 2: Residues Quantification

Residues quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and weights (in grams)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	112	Fill of ditch [111]	20	20	*	<2	*	<2	*	<2			*	<2	Pottery */4g - Glass */<2g - Metal */<2g
2	131	Fill of pit [132]	10	10	*	<2	*	<2							FCF */32g
3	139	Fill of ditch [140]	20	20	*	<2	**	<2							FCF */<2 - Slag */<2 - Iron ***/30g - Glass */12g - CBM */66g - Pottery */<2g
4	113	Fill of pos. tree hole [114]	20	20	***	8	***	36							FCF */14g
5	176	Fill of pit [175]	20	20	**	12	**	4			*	<2			FCF */2g - Flint */<2g

Appendix 3: Flots Quantification

Flots quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment % seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Ind debris hammerscale
1	112	2	40	94	1 * Chenopodi aceae	*	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	+ +	cf <i>Avena</i> sp., Poaceae, <i>Galium</i> sp./ <i>Asperula arvensis</i>	++ to +++	
2	131	2	20	98	1	*			*	Poaceae	++	
3	139	2	25	94	1 * Chenopodi aceae	*	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>				*
4	113	<2	3	98	1 * Chenopodi aceae	*	*					
5	176	<2	2	99	1							

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Form

Site Code	THW09					
Identification Name and Address	THISTLE HILL, LAND PARCEL 14, NEAR MINSTER, ISLE OF SHEPPEY					
County, District &/or Borough	KENT					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 594929 172043					
Geology	LONDON CLAY					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4134					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. X	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. June-2010 toMay- 2011	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Bloor Homes Ltd.					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. X	Neo. X	BA X	IA X	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p>This report summarises the results of an archaeological work carried out by Archaeology South-East at the Thistle Hill development (Land Parcel 14), Near Minster, Sheppey, Kent during October 2009 (evaluation) and between June 2010 and May 2011 (excavation). The fieldwork was commissioned by Bloor Homes Ltd.</p> <p>The excavations recorded evidence of transient Mesolithic/Neolithic activity and late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval occupation and agriculture. The late prehistoric and medieval evidence relates to that seen elsewhere on sites in the immediate area.</p> <p>Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. It is proposed that data from this site should be integrated with that from investigations at proximate ASE sites on Thistle Hill with the aim of producing a joint publication.</p>						

Appendix 5: OASIS Summary sheet

OASIS ID: archaeol6-105477

Project details

Project name A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THISTLE HILL, LP14

Short description of the project This report summarises the results of an archaeological work carried out by Archaeology South-East at the Thistle Hill development (Land Parcel 14), Near Minster, Sheppey, Kent during October 2009 (evaluation) and between June 2010 and May 2011 (excavation). The fieldwork was commissioned by Bloor Homes Ltd. The excavations recorded evidence of transient Mesolithic/Neolithic activity and late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval occupation and agriculture. The late prehistoric and medieval evidence relates to that seen elsewhere on sites in the immediate area. Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. It is proposed that data from this site should be integrated with that from investigations at proximate ASE sites on Thistle Hill with the aim of producing a joint publication.

Project dates Start: 07-06-2010 End: 13-05-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes THW09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type FEATURES Late Prehistoric

Monument type FEATURES Medieval

Monument type FEATURES Post Medieval

Significant Finds FLINT Early Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Open-area excavation'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SWALE SHEERNESS Thistle Hill, Land Parcel 14

Postcode ME12 3XX

Study area 0.25 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 594929 172043 50.9316257868 0.269970524744 50 55 53 N 000 16 11 E
Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 11.00m Max: 13.00m

Project creators

Name of Archaeology South East
Organisation

Project brief Heritage Conservation Kent County Council
originator

Project design The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council
originator

Project Darryl Palmer
director/manager

Project supervisor Andrew Margetts

Type of Bovis Homes Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Bovis Homes Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive Local Museum
recipient

Physical Archive ID n/a

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics'

Digital Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive n/a
recipient

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Digital Archive n/a
notes

Paper Archive No
Exists?

Paper recipient Archive n/a

Paper Archive ID n/a

Paper available Media 'Manuscript','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General
Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes n/a

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THISTLE HILL, LAND
PARCEL 14, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Margetts, A.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No: 2011172

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South East

Place of issue or publication Portslade

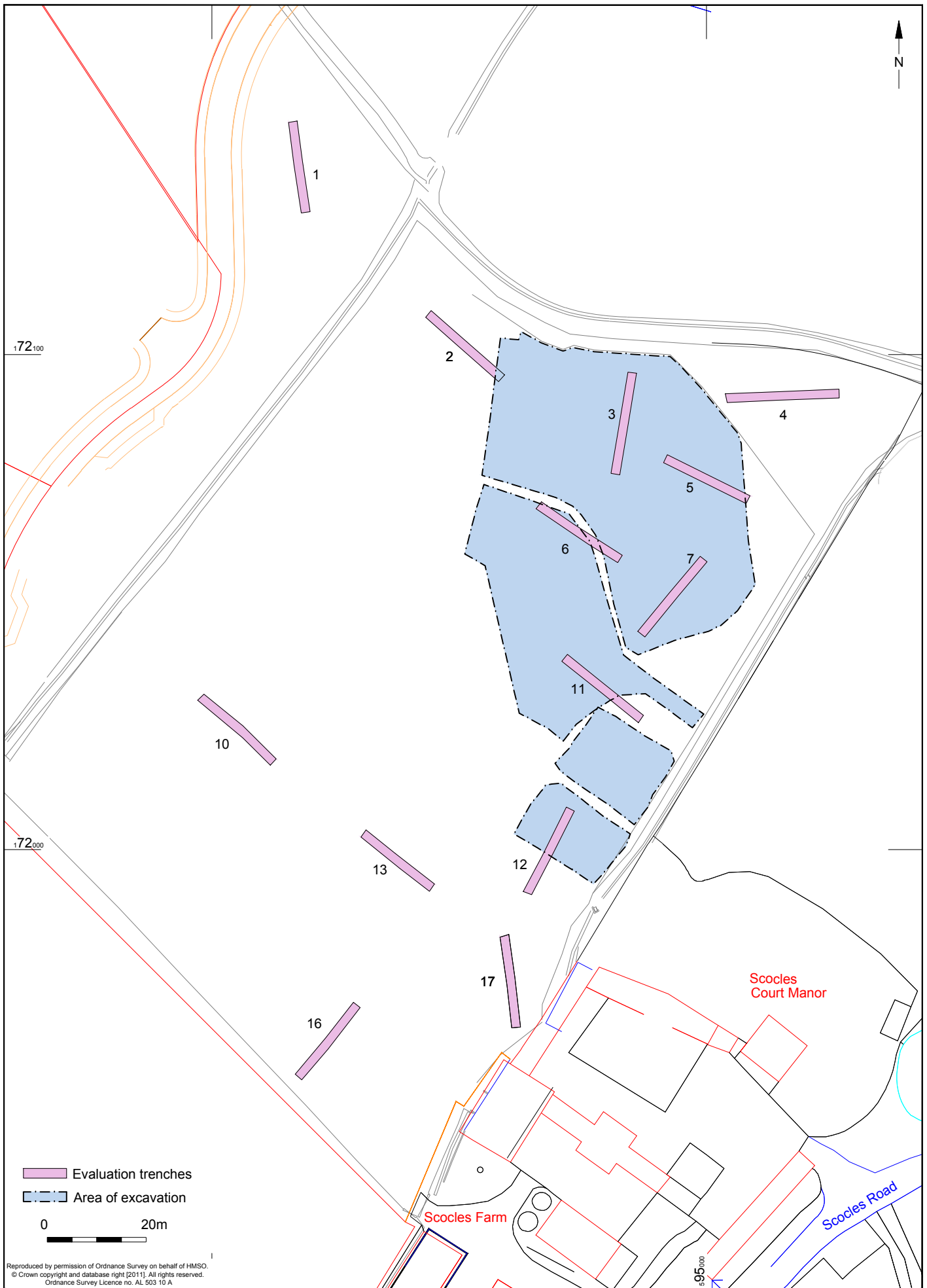
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Entered by andy margetts (andrew_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)

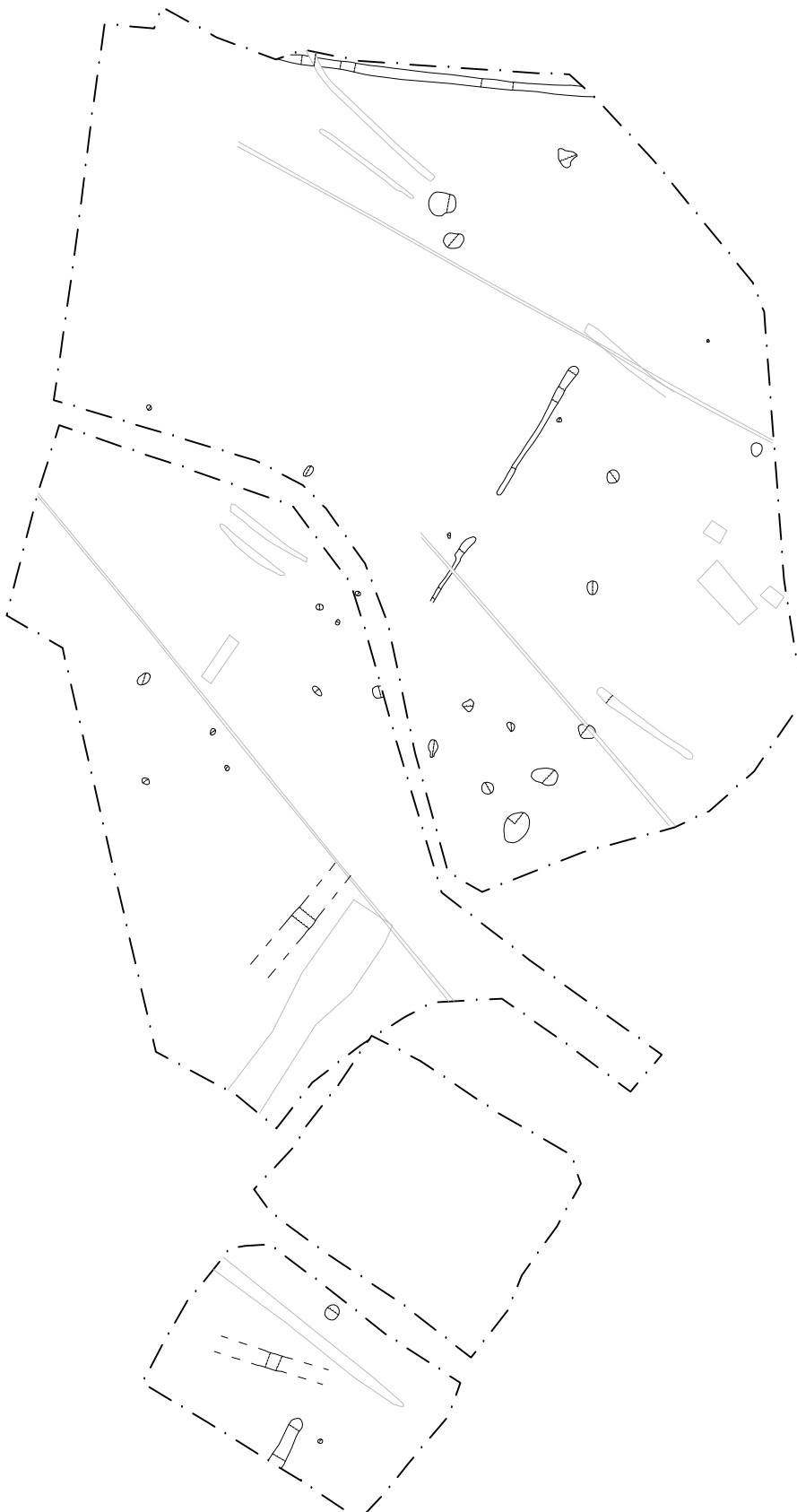
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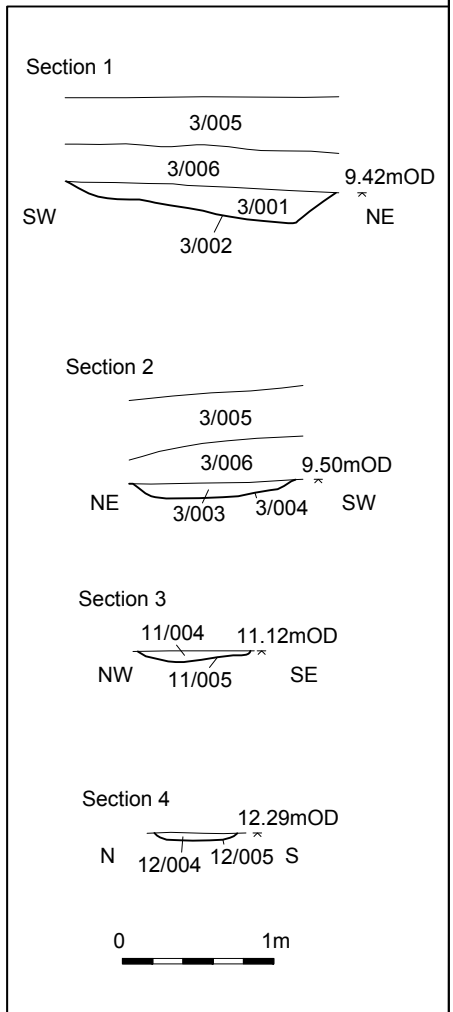
© Archaeology South-East		Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	Site plan, excavation and evaluation	
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: LD		

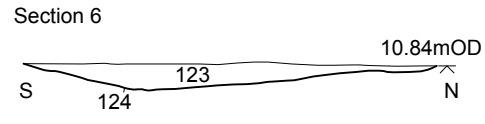
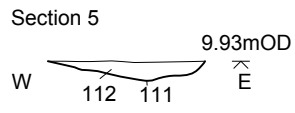
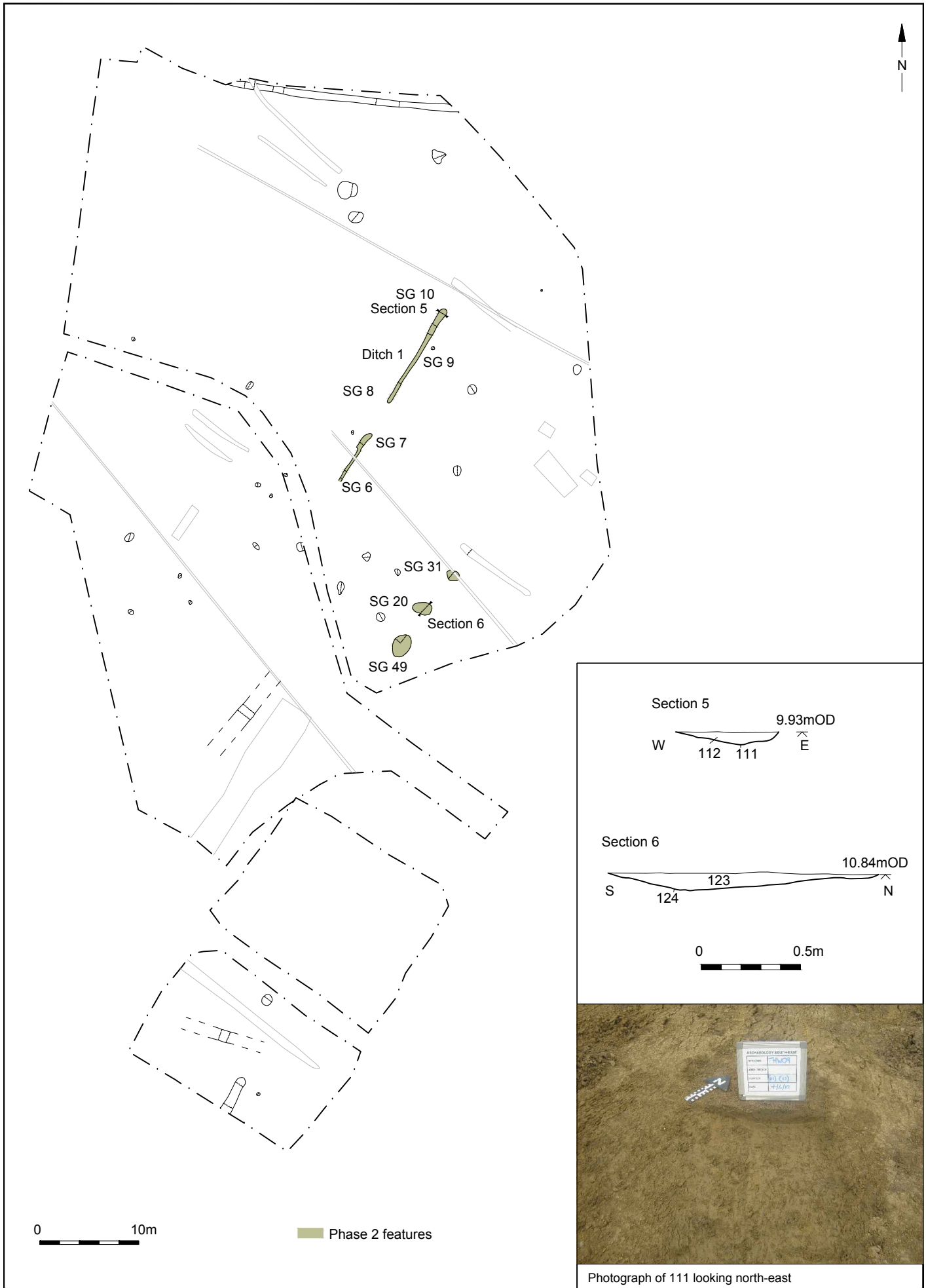
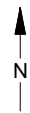


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Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	All recorded features	
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: LD		



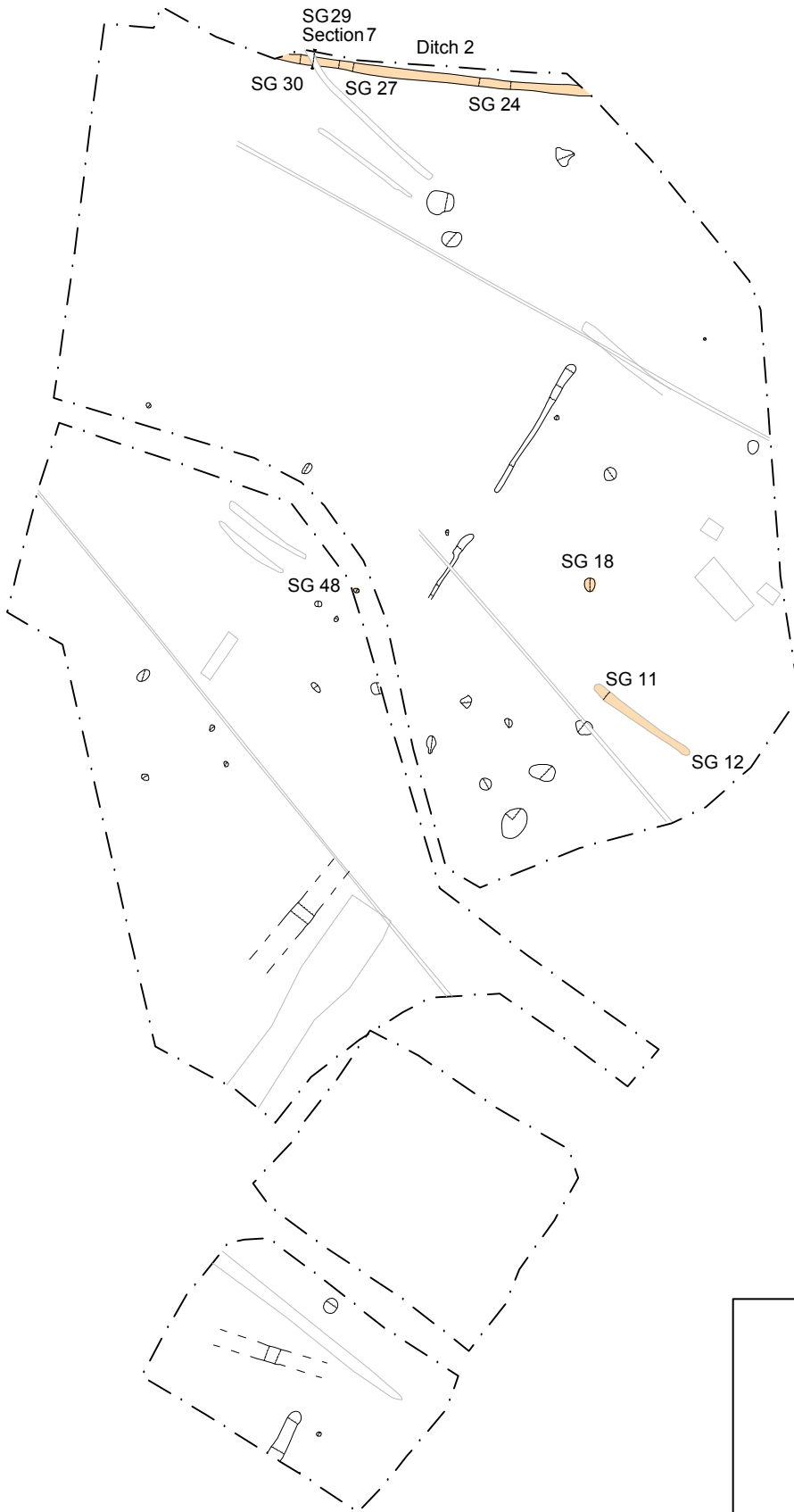
South-east facing photograph of 12/005

© Archaeology South-East		Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	Phase 1: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: LD		



Photograph of 111 looking north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	Phase 2: plan and selected photograph and section	
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: LD		

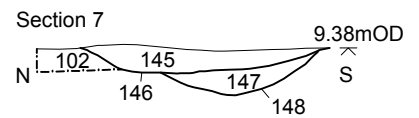


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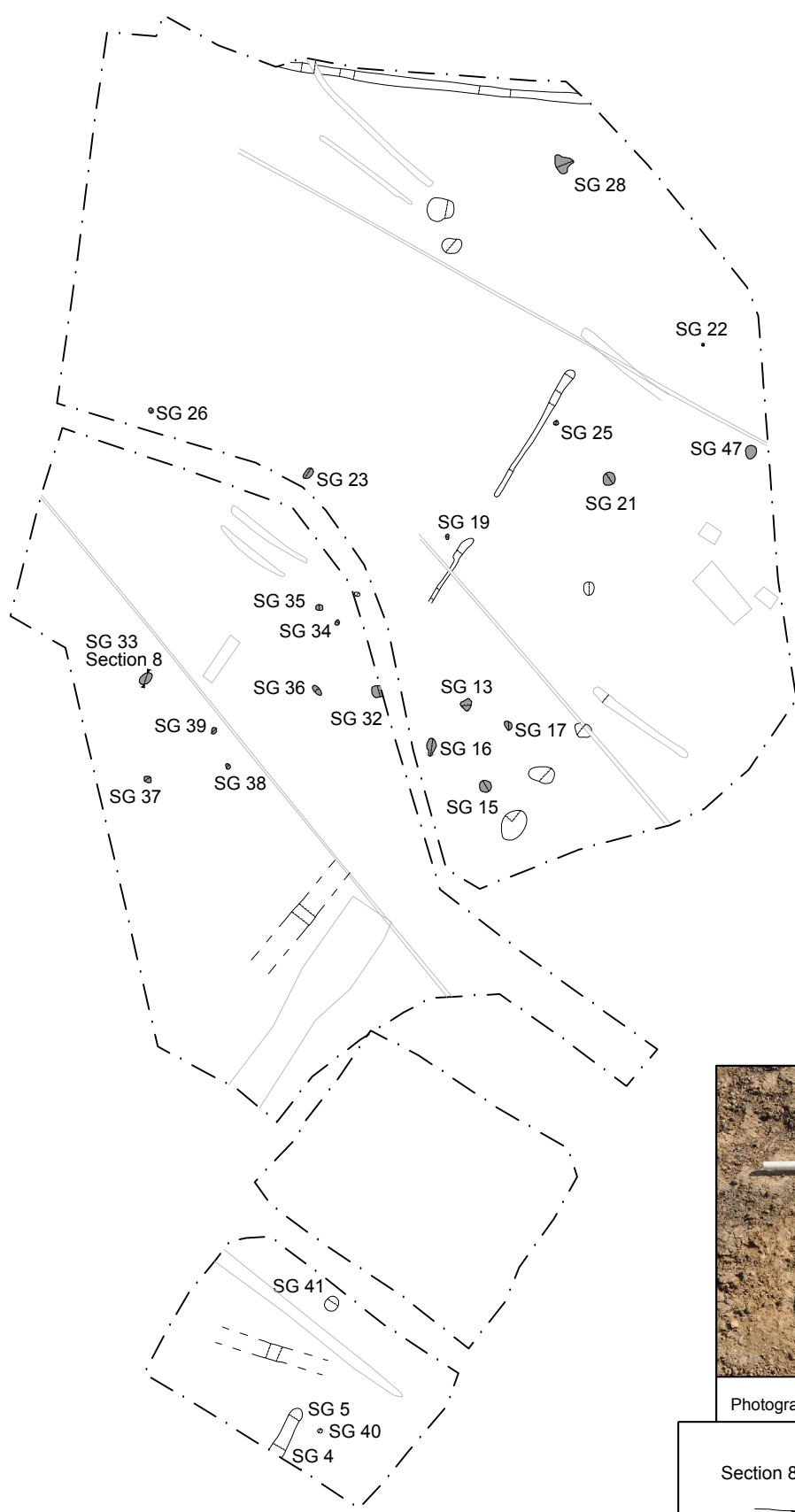
Phase 3 features



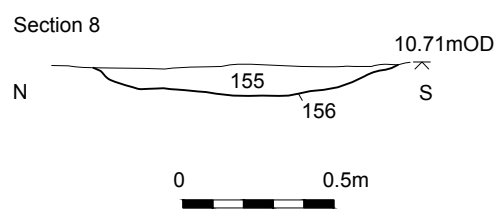
Photograph of 146 and 148 looking east



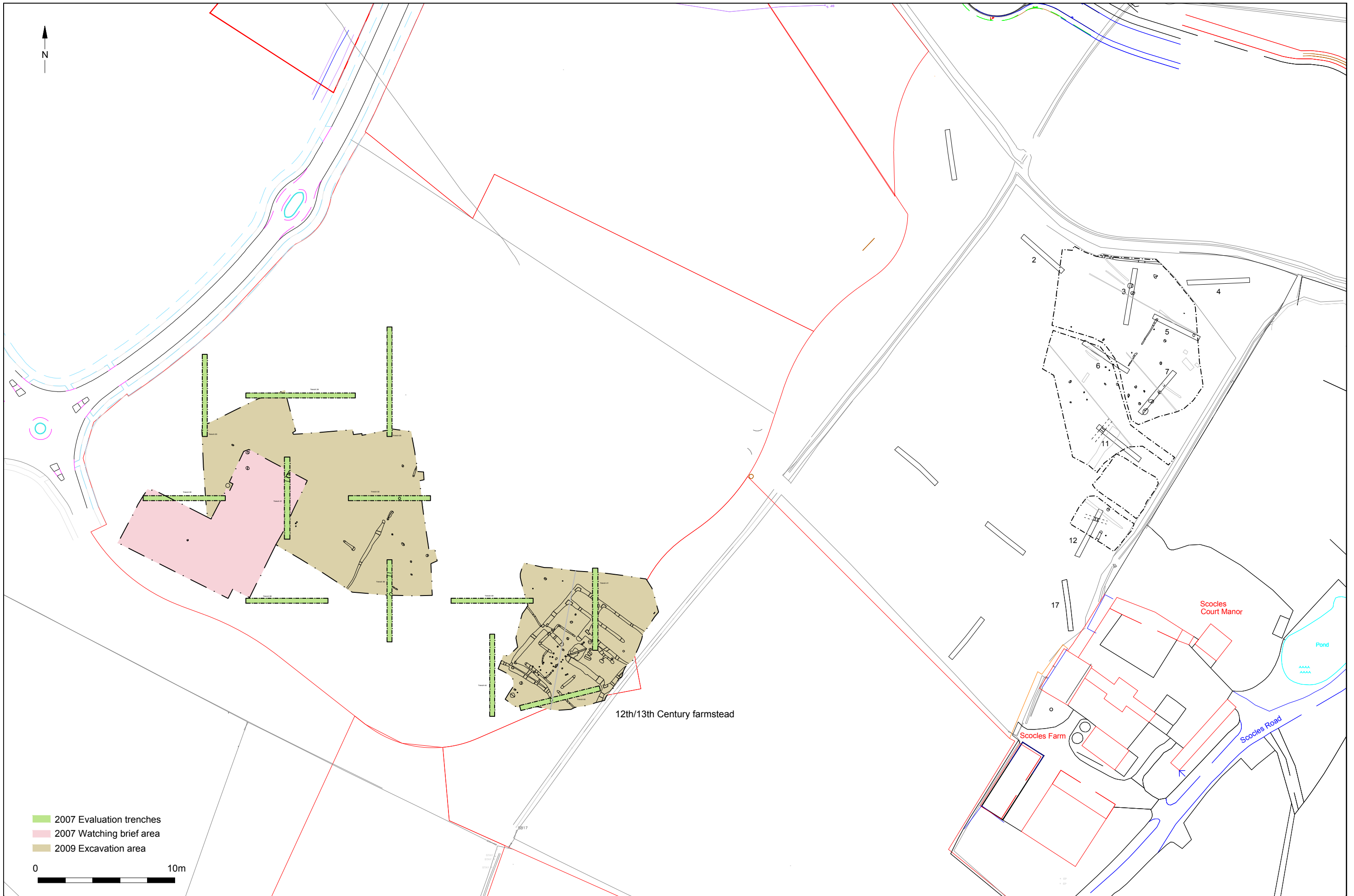
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Photograph of 156



© Archaeology South-East		Thistle Hill Land Parcel 14	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 4134	July 2011	Undated features plan	
Report Ref: 2011172	Drawn by: LD		



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