

**AN EVALUATION ON LAND AT MOUNTFIELD,  
QUEENBOROUGH, ISLE OF SHEPPEY**

**(Site Centre NGR 591413 172224)**

**Planning Ref: SW/06/0377**

**By**

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**With Geoarchaeological Report by  
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**Project No. 2982**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-31426**

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***Abstract***

Ten evaluation trenches on land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (NGR 591413 172224.), adjacent to a Branch Railway Station, revealed the cutting for a light railway in operation from the early to mid 1900's, a post-medieval wall of uncertain purpose and an area of greensand rubble floor of unknown date. A 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd was also recovered. The evaluation was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007. No further archaeology was revealed. The land is programmed for residential development.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) were commissioned by Knapp Hicks and Partners Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Mountfield, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. (Figure 1). The site is located to the east of Queenborough castle, adjacent to the railway line. The site centre is taken to be at NGR 591413 172224.
- 1.2 This evaluation sought to assess the archaeological potential of the land that is intended for development at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Proposals include the construction of 14 three bedroom houses at two and three storeys, a new access road, landscaping and car parking. The results of this work will be used to inform any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.
- 1.3 This initial evaluation follows the recommendations made by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council to Swale Borough Council in response to planning application SW/06/0377. The following condition was attached to the planning consents:
- ‘No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation for a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority’*
- 1.4 The British Geological survey [Sheet 272 Chatham] indicates that the underlying bedrock on the site is London Clay.
- 1.5 This is the first phase of the archaeological work addressing the above condition, carried out by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) and Caroline Russell (Assistant Archaeologist) for Archaeology South East (UCLFAU) between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Following the results of this it may be necessary to undertake further mitigation measures.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information has been extracted from the Kent County Sites and Monuments Record held in the Heritage Conservation Group, Strategic Planning Directorate, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.
- 2.2 Although not within the conservation area of Medieval Minster, the property in question lies very close to its limits in an area of considerable archaeological potential. Notable features in the vicinity include, among

others, the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Queenborough Castle (SMR NO: TQ 97 SW 1) c.40m to the west. In addition Queenborough Station (SMR NO: TQ 97 SW 50) is situated directly adjacent with potential for 20<sup>th</sup> century remains from a light railway running northeast – southwest through the site and an unidentified site believed to be an early camp (SMR NO: TQ 97 SW 2) c.100m to the east. The site is situated within an area of archaeological potential associated with the fourteenth century planned medieval settlement of Queenborough. Earlier occupation is thought to have existed within the adjacent area. The light railway went out of use in the mid 1900's, the land being then used as allotments. On arrival the land was heavily overgrown with blackberries and stands of fruit trees.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 1.0 The objective of the evaluation was to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation was thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- 2.0 The evaluation was to establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.
- 3.3 Particular issues that were to be addressed by the evaluation include:
  - *Is there any further evidence of medieval activity in the area? How does this relate to previous findings within the surrounding area, such as major roads, settlement etc? Does the activity inform further on the location and character of settlement of this period in the area?*
  - *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity within the area?*
- 3.4 A minimum of 5% of the development area was evaluated, with the trench location being designed to give a representative sample of the proposed development site, targeted within area of the proposed development (including new access and parking areas). A trench location plan for approval by the County Archaeologist was submitted prior to any works. Any amendment to the trench design due to on site constraints was agreed in advance with the office of the County Archaeologist.
- 3.5 The excavation was taken down to the top of 'natural' or the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was the higher. The office of the County Archaeologist was informed as to the nature of the archaeology and was consulted for permission to close down such trenches as would have endangered public safety had they been left open for later inspection.

- 3.6 In the event that alluvial deposits were encountered, mechanical excavation of sondages were to be carried out under the guidance of a suitably qualified specialist, in order to evaluate the geoarchaeological potential of the assessment area. Results have been prepared with reference to geotechnical ground investigation surveys. Based on early results indicating silty clay deposits with small rounded pebbles, a geoarchaeologist was called in to make an assessment.
- 3.7 Full excavation of features was not undertaken at this stage. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 3.8 The office of the County Archaeologist was notified of the start date and progress of work on site in order that monitoring visits could be undertaken.
- 3.9 Environmental samples were not taken as no appropriate features were exposed.
- 3.10 Recording**
- 3.11 All structures, deposits and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 3.12 The site was tied into the National Grid, and located on a 1:25000 map of the area.
- 3.13 Plans indicating the location of the excavated trenches were located on a 1:1000 map of the development. Trenches were recorded on trench record forms. Plans and sections were levelled with respect to OD.
- 3.14 All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 3.15 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology was maintained as appropriate.
- 3.16 A full black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record of the work was kept. The photographic record is regarded as part of the site archive.
- 3.17 Artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They have been suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no.2* and on completion of the archaeological

post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist and Swale Borough Council.

- 3.18 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the archive will be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the County Archaeologist and Swale Borough Council.
- 3.19 Copies of this report will be provided to:
- the Developer
  - the County Archaeologist
  - the Local Planning Authority
  - the Kent Archaeological Society
  - the project archive.
- 3.20 All excavation was undertaken with a machine equipped with a suitably sized (1.8m) toothless bucket wherever practicable.
- 3.21 Ten evaluation trenches were excavated, each one being 1.8m in width and 10m in length. Their positions and orientations are as indicated in figure 2. Each trench had the spoil arranged either side to discourage public access and the trench ends were blocked with thorny bushes, being in abundance on the largely un-cleared site. Any deep excavations were covered over with Hargas fence panels whilst permission to backfill was sought.
- Trench **5** was moved 15 metres west to respect an area of ground in use and maintained by local residents for recreation.
  - Trenches **6** and **10** were rotated about their southern ends by forty five degrees to the east, to become north – south orientated. Trench 10 was further moved ten metres south. This was carried out to avoid substantial stands of trees or overgrowth.
  - Trenches **2**, **4** and **5** were excavated, recorded and backfilled after consultation with the office of the County Archaeologist, due to continual public presence and access to the site. These trenches constituted a risk to public safety due to their depth.
- 3.22 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form has been completed online at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> following the completion of fieldwork and a printout is included as an appendix with this report.

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The following table provides details of sediments / soils encountered.

**TABLE 1. Context descriptions**

Context	Depth	Colour	Components	Inclusions	Notes
<b>1/01</b>	330mm	D. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Frequent <10mm Flint Gravel	Topsoil
<b>1/02</b>	480mm	M. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Frequent <20mm Flint Gravel	Subsoil
<b>1/03</b>	.57m LoE	M. Grey Brown	Silty Clay		Natural
<b>2/01</b>	240mm	D. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Frequent <10mm Flint Gravel	Topsoil
<b>2/02</b>	80mm	D. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Frequent <10mm Flint Gravel	Subsoil
<b>2[4] (5)</b>	500mm	Black	Ash	V. Frequent <20mm Flint Gravel	Backfill
<b>2/06</b>	350mm	Grey Brown	Sand	Occ Rounded Pebble >30mm	Backfill
<b>2/07</b>	360mm	Black Grey	Ash	V. Frequent <20mm Flint Gravel	Backfill
<b>2/03</b>	LoE	Orange Brown	Clay		Natural
<b>3/01</b>	220mm	D. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Frequent <10mm Flint Gravel	Topsoil
<b>3/02</b>	200mm	M. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Occ. Rounded Flint Gravel <20mm	Subsoil
<b>3/03</b>	180mm LoE	M. Grey Brown	Silty Clay	Occ. Rounded Flint Gravel <20mm	Natural
<b>4/01</b>	540mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Modern Debris & CBM	Topsoil
<b>4[3] (4)</b>	500mm	Black	Ash	V. Frequent <20mm Flint Gravel	Backfill
<b>4/02</b>	360mm LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>5/01</b>	670mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Modern Debris & CBM	Topsoil
<b>5[3] (4)</b>	1.2m	Black	Ash	V. Frequent <20mm Flint Gravel	Backfill
<b>5/02</b>	1.2m LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>6/01</b>	<401mm	D. Black Brown	Silty Clay	Occ. Mod. CBM & Cobbles 50mm	Topsoil
<b>6/02</b>	250mm	M. Grey Brown	Clay	Occ. Mod. CBM	Topsoil
<b>6/04</b>	Wall	Whitish Yellow	Hand made Brick	Degraded lime Mortar and Tile frag	Structure
<b>6/03</b>	.8m LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>7/01</b>	300mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Modern Debris & CBM	Topsoil
<b>7/05</b>	80mm		Gravel		Deposit
<b>7/02</b>	120mm	M. Grey Brown	Clay	v.occ. chalk frags <20mm	Subsoil
<b>7/03</b>	110mm	Whitish	Lwr Greensand	Floor / Hard-standing w. Mod. Postholes	Structure
<b>7/04</b>	1.3m	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>8/01</b>	270mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Freq. Modern CBM & Chalk frags	Topsoil
<b>8/02</b>	260mm	M. grey Brown	Clayey Silt	Occ. Modern CBM	Subsoil
<b>8/03</b>	.15m LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>9/01</b>	300mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Freq. Mod. CBM & V. Occ. Chalk	Topsoil
<b>9/02</b>	200mm	M. grey Brown	Clayey Silt	Occ. Modern CBM	Subsoil
<b>9/03</b>	LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural
<b>10/01</b>	420mm	D. Grey Brown	Mixed	Modern Debris, CBM & Chalk 80mm	Topsoil
<b>10/02</b>	130mm	M. Grey Brown	Clayey Silt	Occ. Mod. CBM <20mm Chalk .2m	Subsoil
<b>10/03</b>	LoE	Orange Grey	Clay	Freq. Rounded Cobbles >50mm	Natural

4.2 The above table indicates that the site is generally characterised by silt / clay matrices deposited on the underlying London Clay. On top of



these the site has been covered in re-deposited mixed soils together with significant amounts of gravel, domestic detritus and backfilling of the railway cuts with ash and sand deposits.

#### 4.3 Trench Descriptions

4.4 Trenches 1, 3, 8, 9 and 10 were devoid of archaeology except for modern postholes in 8, 9 and 10. The remaining trenches are summarised as follows (see figure 2):

- **Trench 2** (Figure 3, Section) Sloping gently from the northwest to the southeast, and bottoming out to form a railway cutting. With three impressions of railway sleepers indicating a northeast – southwest orientation of the old light railway at this point the cutting [2/04], truncates the subsoil (2/02). At the base of the subsoil, at the northwest end of the trench, a 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd was recovered. The cutting has been backfilled by deposits of ash and sand (2/05, 2/06 & 2/07), before an overall deposit of topsoil (2/01).  
Top of Natural: NW 3.801m AOD – SE 2.117m AOD (Base of Cut)
- **Trench 4**, a northeast – southwest orientated trench, sloped up from the southwest to the northeast. The southwest corner revealed part of the eastern edge of the railway cutting [4/03], filled by (4/04) a black ash / charcoal deposit similar to (2/05). No further archaeology was recovered.  
Top of Natural: NE 3.659m AOD – SW 3.004m AOD (Base of Cut)
- **Trench 5**, a north – south orientated trench, contained another longer portion of the eastern edge of the railway cutting running southwest – northeast. The fill of the cut [5/03] was (5/04) a black ash / charcoal deposit similar to (2/05). No further archaeology was recovered.  
Top of Natural: N 3.538m AOD – S 3.407m AOD
- **Trench 6** (Figure 3), a south-southeast to north-northwest orientated trench revealed 2.5 metres of an east – west orientated, poorly made wall of mixed material without apparent foundations. In places, two courses high and two courses wide, the wall was constructed from un-bonded bricks of two sizes and un-worked lumps of greensand. A small post hole was also noted (see figure 3). Lime mortar was observed to adhere to some of the bricks which have been dated as 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century. The bricks have been re-used and no secure dating for the structure has been obtained. Oyster shell and bone have been found within the fabric together with some associated metal

strips from the soil that has filled the gaps between bricks. A fragment of 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century peg tile was also recovered. The remains of the wall are covered directly by modern deposits (6/01) & (6/02) containing modern ceramic building material (CBM) and domestic detritus.

Top of Natural: NNE 3.72m AOD – SSW 4.29m AOD

Top of Wall (First Course): 3.70m AOD

- **Trench 7** contained a layer of greensand rubble (**7/03**) laid directly onto the natural. This was pierced by four modern square cut postholes in alignment together with two metal posts. A modern wooden post was recovered from one of the postholes.

Top of Natural: W 4.367m AOD – E 4.741m AOD

Top of Rubble Floor W 4.967m AOD – Mid trench 5.105m AOD

4.5 Geoarchaeological Test Pits were excavated in three trenches (1, 6 and 9) and the report detailing the results of this work is included as Appendix 1.

## 5.0 Finds Report - Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey by Elke Raemen

### 5.1 Spot dates

[2/003] Mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century (x 1 pot)

[6/004] Early post-medieval (CBM only!)

### 5.2 THE FINDS

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of finds from two different contexts. A summary of these can be found in Table 2.

**Table 2. Quantification of the finds from the evaluation.**

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
2/003	1	4										
6/004			2	1418	1	8	1	8	2	672	3	190

5.3 Only one piece of pottery was recovered. Context [2/003] contained a medium fired, moderate fine to medium sand-tempered sherd tempered with sparse shell and flint to 1 mm. The piece dates to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- 5.4 Context [6/004] produced two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM). One of these is a medium fired, sparse fine sand-tempered roof tile fragment with a round peg hole. The fragment dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century. A crude, hand-made, yellow “Flemish-type” brick with abundant fine silt/sand-tempering was also recovered. The piece, dating to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century, is low fired and measures 210 mm long, 51 mm high and 100 mm wide.
- 5.5 A fragment from a sheep’s cervical vertebra was recovered from [6/004]. The fragment exhibits a single cut mark but is otherwise undiagnostic. In addition, [6/004] contained an iron strip fragment and an upper valve from an oyster shell. Two pieces of probable lower greensand were also recovered, neither of which are worked.
- 5.6 The current assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. No further work is required.

## 6.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The railway cutting that progresses from the south west of the site along the western edge and then heads north east in a gentle curve across the site, will have truncated any archaeology for its entire length to a width of approximately 6 metres.
- 6.2 The greensand surface from **Trench 7** and the wall from **Trench 6** appear to have been laid directly on to the natural, which suggests a significant proportion of the site has been cleared to that level, thus removing any shallow archaeological features. The clearance may be associated with the light railway construction, use or demolition.
- 6.3 The apparent reuse of building materials in the wall in **Trench 6** and the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century date for the peg tile would suggest a post-medieval date for the construction at the earliest. The associated posthole suggests a gate or door. The lack of robust foundations suggests an ancillary structure, or light retaining wall. The absence of demolition material in the immediate vicinity suggests clearance has taken place after the building has gone out of use.
- 6.4 The modern post holes cutting the greensand layer in **Trench 7** do not provide a date for the greensand layer. It should be noted that similar greensand material was used in the wall in **Trench 6**.
- 6.5 The presence of a 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Century pot fragment in **Trench 2** indicates that there is a possibility of surviving medieval remains. No earlier archaeology was recovered or indicated from the geoarchaeological examination.

- 6.6 The surviving wall in **Trench 6** indicates the existence of post-medieval archaeology within the site boundaries. The relationship between the wall in **Trench 6** and the greensand layer in **Trench 7** is not known. The extent and full nature of the post-medieval wall is not known. It is expected that further post-medieval remains, possibly early post-medieval, lay within the development area.
- 6.7 Given the poor nature of the soils any development is likely to impact on the known archaeology.
- 6.8 The trenching area and pattern have been successful in profiling the archaeological potential of the site, but not in establishing the purpose or date of the archaeology discovered. The results are conclusive as to the remains of post-medieval archaeology, but the interpretation is based on very limited evidence.

## **7.0 SUMMARY**

- 7.1 Ten evaluation trenches on land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent adjacent to a Branch Railway Station, revealed the cutting for a light railway in operation from the early to mid 1900's, a post-medieval wall of uncertain purpose and an area of greensand rubble floor of unknown date. A 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd was also recovered. No further archaeology was revealed. The land is programmed for residential development.

## **8.0 REFERENCES**

Heritage Conservation Group , 'Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation in Advance of the Construction of a New Residential Development at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent' Kent County Council, November 2006.

**APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING UNDERTAKEN AS A COMPONENT PART OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND AT MOUNTFIELD, QUEENBOROUGH, ISLE OF SHEPPEY.**

**Application: SW/06/0377**

**AUTHOR:** C. A. PINE.

**Site:** Mountfield Road Queenborough Isle of Sheppey

**Site centred at:** NGR 591413 172224

**Commissioning Agent:** Archaeology South East [ASE]

**ASE Project Site code:**

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**Tables**

**Table: 1.** Synthesis of Test pit logs for TP 1-3.

### **Introduction:**

This summary report presents details of the findings of a programme of Geoarchaeological investigation, by test pit excavation at the study site.

The work was guided by a 'Specification' for survey works provided by Kent County Council [KCC]. Should potentially significant sediments be encountered at the site provision was made within the specification [Section 4.4] for Geoarchaeological survey to elucidate preliminary findings. It was anticipated that archaeological evaluation might expose key sediment sequences, specifically alluvial sediments that might contain organic artefacts.

It is understood this Geoarchaeological summary report is to form a component part of the archaeological investigation report to be submitted by Archaeology South East [ASE].

Although no provision / requirement was made for sample analysis selected 'pinch' / 'sub' samples from representative sedimentary units were to be collected for laboratory based description to supplement field based descriptions.

### **Aims and objectives of the survey:**

The primary objectives of the field evaluation were:

- Provide an initial assessment as to likely mode of deposition for sediment bodies/units at the site.
- Assess the Geoarchaeological and palaeogeographic significance / potential of sediment bodies / units present at the site.
- Determine the presence of, or potential for, undisturbed primary context archaeological remains / artefacts in the sediments encountered.
- Assess and attempt preliminary integration of the site stratigraphic model with selected key area sites of known Geoarchaeological and palaeogeographic significance.
- To assess the nature and significance of key sediment units, particularly alluvial sediments, at the site that may be under threat of impact from proposed development works.

### **Summary local geology and topography.**

The British Geological survey from the area [Sheet 272 Chatham] shows that bedrock within site area is likely to be London Clay [Eocene] seen in association with and overlain by alluvium.

The site lies at an approximate altitude of +4.00m OD on the western margin of the Isle of Sheppey at the confluence of the River Medway estuary and north west terminal of the Swale Channel.

Presently the site is scrub / waste land situated between a residential housing estate to the east and rail line and station complex to the west.

### **Methodology:**

Three purposive test pits were excavated using a c. 12 ton 360<sup>o</sup> tracked excavator fitted with an approximately 1.80m wide toothed bucket. [Note as excavation was undertaken within previously excavated archaeological evaluation trenches [For Geoarchaeological Test Pit 1-3 locations see Figure 2, main report].

The use of a toothed bucket was considered satisfactory as the absence of archaeological features at location of test pits had been confirmed by ASE. Machining was in less than 5cm spits.

At all test pit locations selected sections were hand trowelled to section heights of less than c.1.50metres below ground level. All observations below c. 1.50meteres were made from observations from the side of test pits and from arisings.

Recording was undertaken using standard sedimentological terminology and colours recorded using a standard Munsell colour chart.

Whilst no provision was made at this assessment phase for controlled sample recovery selected pinch samples [c. 1ltr] were retained for off site examination and possibly preliminary analysis.

Selected section faces at each test pit location were photographed using digital [6mfp] camera; these photographs are presently held by the author and may be passed to ASE as a part of the site archive.

The results of the survey are presented below:

## Results

Table 1: Synthesis of stratigraphy for Test Pits 1-3. .

[TP1] Ground level at +3.60m OD  
 [TP2] Ground level at +4.30m OD  
 [TP3] Ground level at + 4.75m OD

UNIT	DEPTH BGL	DESCRIPTION
3	0.00-0.35/0.45	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown friable silt. Part adulterated contains frequent sub rounded sub angular flint clasts to small cobble size and frequent modern debris [Topsoil / made ground]  0.35/45 moderately sharp contact
2	0.35/45-0.50	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay silt. Matrix has no visible structure and is very dense firm and compact. Matrix supports sparse sub rounded flint clasts to <2cm diameter. Unit shows some indication of re-working with pockets of moderately dense to occasionally friable silt supporting modern brick / clinker fragments.  Disturbed 'weathered' contact to underlying bedrock unit.  0.55 / 0.60 diffuse horizontal contact [c. + 3.00 at TP 1 to + 4.25 at TP2]
1[iii]	0.50- 0.80	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown clay silt to silty clay. Matrix is very dense firm and compact. At 0.60 there is a thin band of well rounded pebbles clasts <3cm diameter [London Clay part weathered]  0.80 diffuse contact
1 [i]	0.80- 1.20  1.20	As 0.50-0.80 though with frequent pockets of 10YR 7/3 very pale brown granular silt There are pockets of sub rounded to well rounded flint clasts to 3cm diameter. From c. 1.00 there are sparse pockets of 10YR 5/4 to 10YR dark yellowish brown with mottles of 7.5 YR 5/8 strong brown silt. Matrix is very dense firm and compact. Defined fracture planes within clay silt. [London Clay bedrock]



		1.20 diffuse contact
<b>1</b>	1.20-2.50	10YR 4/3 brown clay silt with pockets of 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay as concretions [London Clay]
	Continued to 2.50m [GTP1] 2.00m [GTP2] 2.00m [GTP3]	

Table 1: Synthesis of stratigraphy for Test Pits 1-3. Continued.

### Discussion: Recorded Stratigraphy

All test pits exhibited very similar stratigraphy that can be summarises as:

**Unit 1 to 1[iii]:** London Clay Bedrock: London Clay is lithologically very uniform and consists principally of marine clay that is blue grey when fresh but weathers in upper exposures to mid brown. Pebble lenses [marine derived] occur through out with a predominance towards the base of the formation. Calcareous shale and concretions cement stones [termed septaria] are present throughout. Though fossils are generally rare the cement stones of the Isle of Sheppey in particular yield a large fauna which includes remains of the starfish *Astropecten crispatus* the crab *Xanthopsi leachi*, the lobster *Holoparia gammaroides* and many molluscs. The clear ‘marine’ characteristics of contributing sediments, particularly well rounded flint beach pebbles , result in frequent misinterpretation of near surface outcrops of this formation as Holocene marine or alluvial derive deposits. Archaeological potential / significance Low / nil.

**Unit 2:** Weathered [modern weathering] of upper contact to London Clay. Adulteration of friable silt supporting modern brick / clinker fragments suggest some landscaping has taken place in the general site are possibly associated with engineering works associated with the rail facilities to the west. Archaeological potential / significance Low / nil.

**Unit 3:** Made ground. Archaeological potential / significance Low / nil.

Given the probable disturbance to upper c. 0.50 metres of the general site and high contact to London Clay, the site may be considered to have generally low to very low palaeoenvironmental and palaeogeographic potential / significance

### **Recommendations for further work.**

The author is unaware of final impact depths for ground works associated with the proposed development at the study site, though given the low palaeoenvironmental and palaeogeographic potential / significance of the site it is considered that no additional geoarchaeological survey is required at this site.

### **Bibliography and referenced works:**

British Geological Survey: Chatham England & Wales Sheet 272 [Drift Edition]  
1: 50,000

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## Appendix – 2 Oasis Summary Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-31426**

### Project details

Project name	Mountfield Queenborough Isle of Sheppey
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Ten trenches were excavated measuring 10m each. A total of 100m of trenches were excavated. Evidence for post medieval activity was recorded in the form a wall base. A fragment of 12th- 13th Century pot was found in trench 3. Undated layer of greensand rubble was found in Trench 7, similar to material found in the wall in Trench 6
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2007 End: 10-08-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Significant Finds	SN Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE QUEENBOROUGH Mountfield
Postcode	ME115
Study area	1000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 591413 172224 50.9318858461 0.264978489334 50 55 54 N 000 15 53 E Point
Height OD	Min: 3.20m Max: 4.20m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Heritage Conservation Kent County Council
Project design originator	The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	knapp hicks ltd

### Project archives

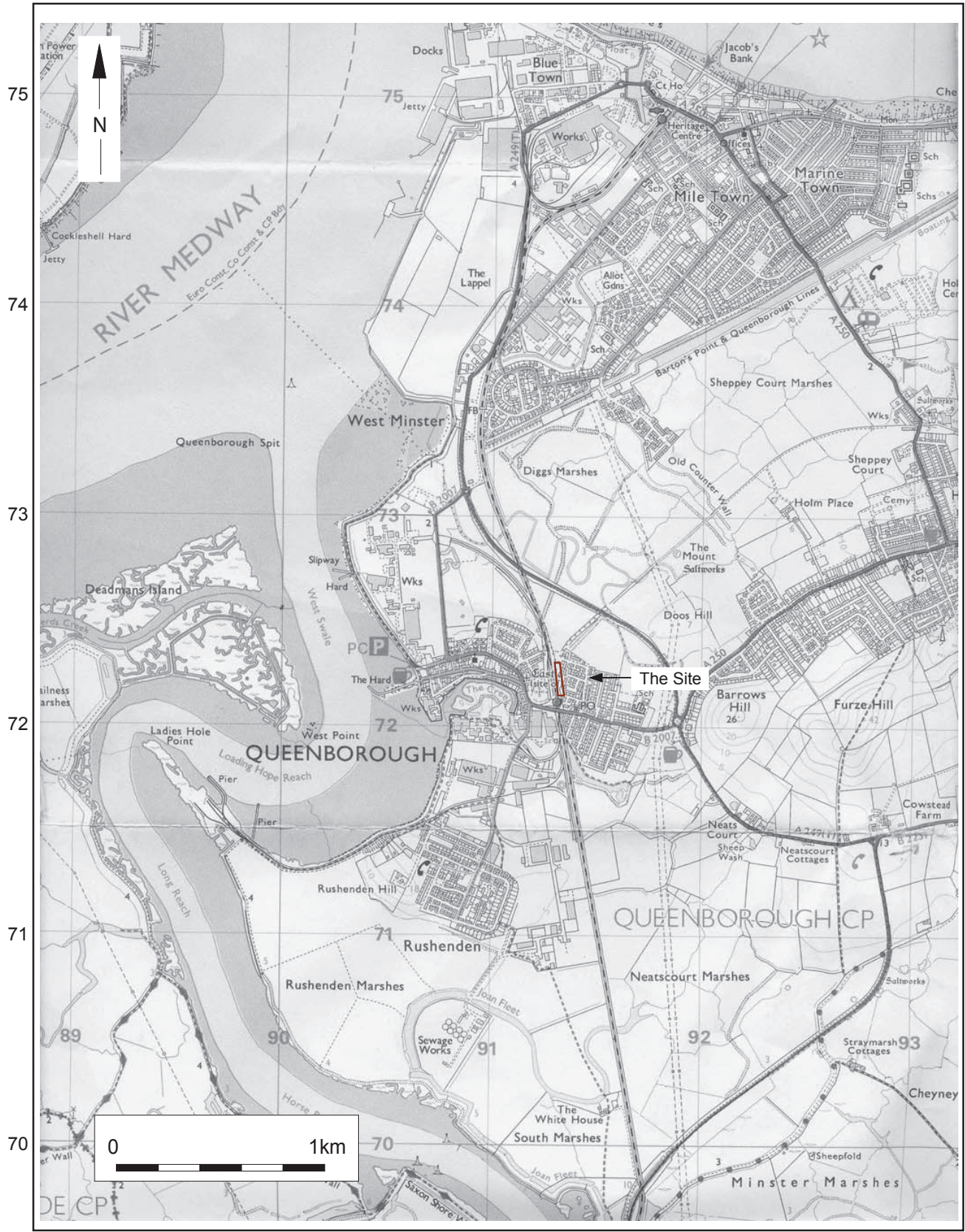
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'other'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic', 'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Section', 'Drawing', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Evaluation on Land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Whittaker, D.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Postlade Sussex
Description	A4 Spiral Bound Card Cover Ariel Word PProcessed
Entered by	deon Whittaker (mushak@hotmail.co.uk)
Entered on	14 September 2007

**KENT SMR SUMMARY FORM**

<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey	
<b>Site Address:</b> Mountfield Queenborough Isle of Sheppey	
<b>Summary:</b> An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Ten trenches were excavated measuring 10m each. A total of 100m of trenches were excavated. Evidence for post medieval activity was recorded in the form a wall base. A fragment of 12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> Century pot was found in trench 3. Undated layer of greensand rubble was found in Trench 7, similar to material found in the wall in Trench 6	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Swale	<b>Parish:</b> Minster
<b>Nature of Development:</b> Residential development	
<b>Period(s):</b> Post-medieval Medieval	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> NGR 591413 172224 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Evaluation	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2007	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> Archaeology South-East	
<b>Geology:</b> London Clay	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> An Evaluation on Land at Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey By Deon Whittaker	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  A fragment of 12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> Century pot was found in Trench 3 Two courses of 15 <sup>th</sup> –16 <sup>th</sup> Century brick were found probably reused and mixed with other building materials. The wall contained a fragment of 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> Century round hole peg tile	
<b>Likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on-site:</b>  Evidence suggests post-medieval features survive on the site	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Currently held at the offices of ASE	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Neil Griffin	<b>Date:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2007



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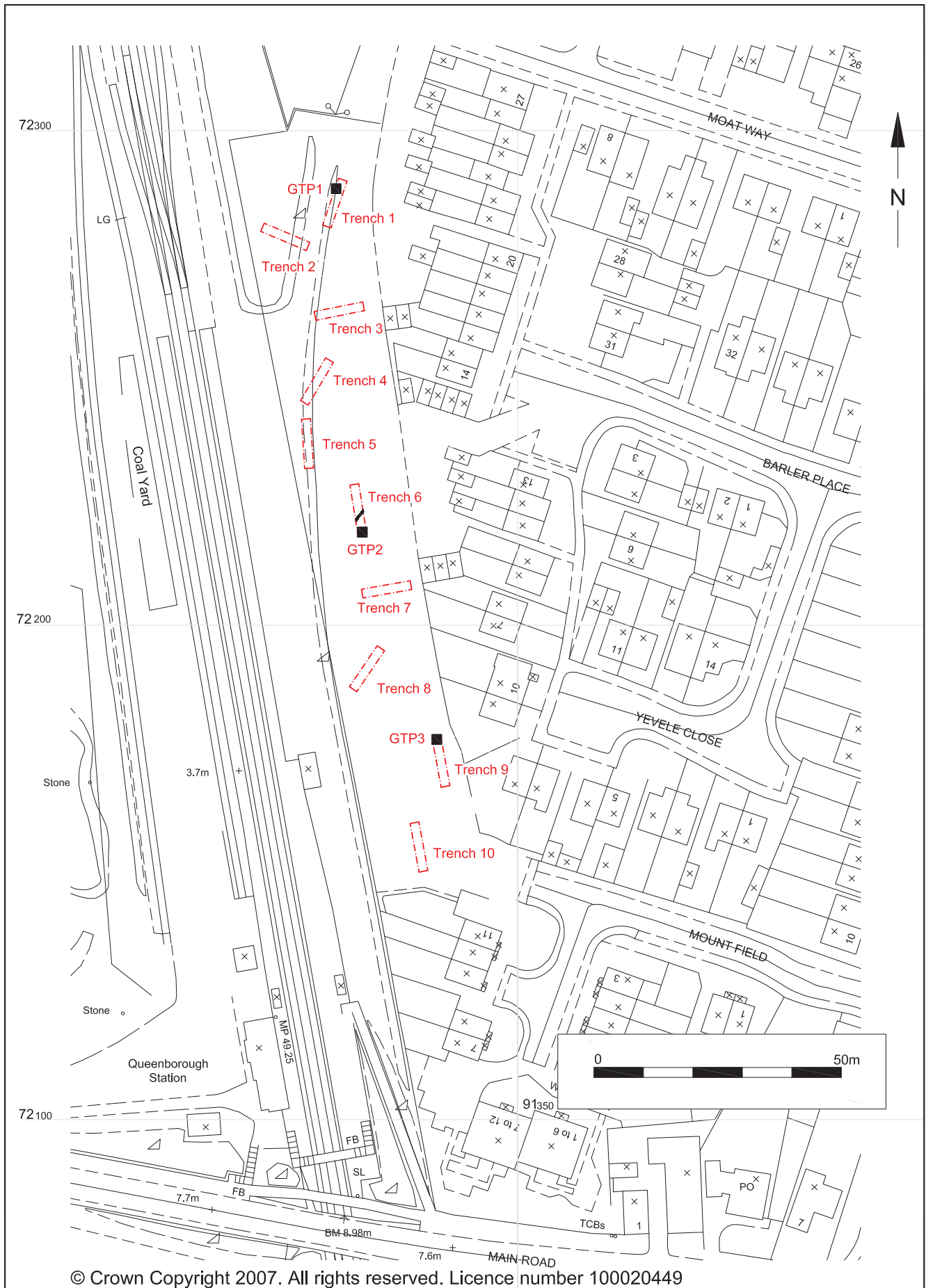
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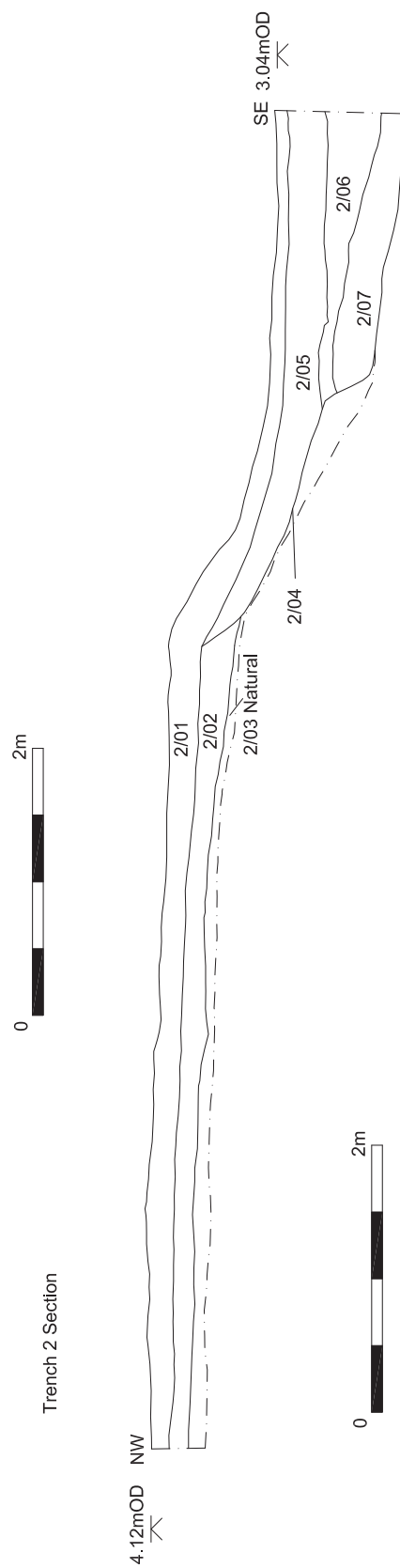
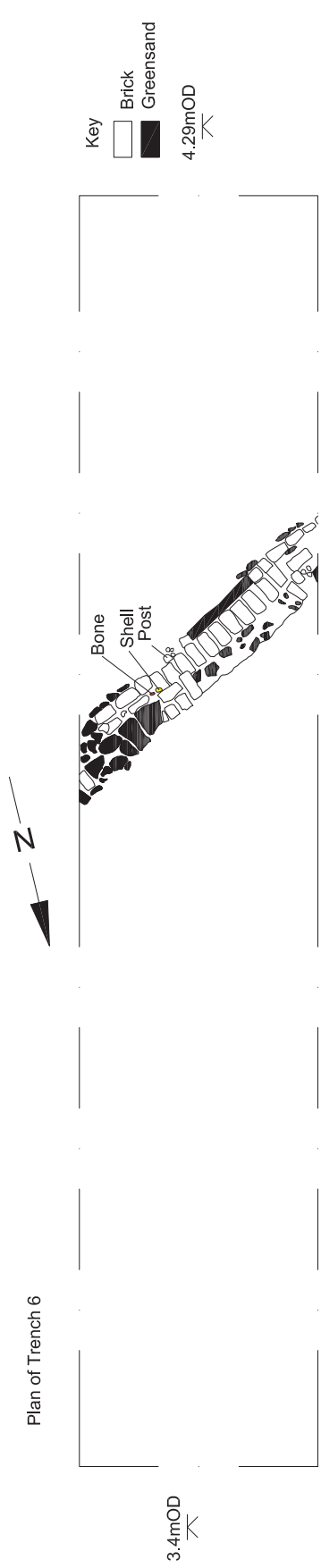
© Archaeology South-East			Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey	Fig. 1
Ref: 2982	Sept 2007	Drawn by: SM	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East			Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey	Fig. 2
Ref: 2982	July 2007	Drawn by: SM	Location of Trenches and Geographical Test Pits	



© Archaeology South-East		Mountfield, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey		Fig. 3
Ref: 2982	Sept 2007	Drawn by: SM	Trench plan and sections	