

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Plot 6.5, Eureka Business Park, Ashford**

Planning Ref: AS/04/0044

NGR TR 00692 45438

**Project No. 3379
Site Code: EPA08**

**ASE Report No. 2008043
OASIS id: archaeol6-41817**

**Alice Thorne
With contributions by
Trista Clifford, Gemma Driver, Chris Butler, Lucy Allot and Anna
Doherty**

April 2008

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Plot 6.5, Eureka Business Park, Ashford, Kent (NGR TR 00692 45438). Seventeen trenches were machine excavated, each measuring 30m in length. Evidence for Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity in the form of ditches, pits and a substantial posthole was identified. These are thought to form a continuation of the field systems and occupation activity attested during previous phases of archaeological work at the Business Park. In addition, a complete Early Bronze Age urned cremation burial was identified in Trench 5.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 The Finds
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples
- 7.0 Discussion

Bibliography

- Appendix 1: Finds Quantification
- Appendix 2: Spot Dates
- Appendix 3: Residue Quantification
- Appendix 4: Flot Quantification

SMR Summary Sheet OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Trench Location
- Figure 3: Plans and sections: Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
- Figure 4: Plans and sections: Trenches 7, 9, 10 and 11
- Figure 5: Plans and sections: Trenches 12, 13, 16 and 17
- Figure 6.1: Working shot during excavation of 5/004
- Figure 6.2: Box slot following excavation of 5/004
- Figure 6.3: Plan shot of 12/006

TABLES

- Table 1: HER data of a 1km search around the study area.
- Table 2: Quantification of site archive
- Table 3: The flintwork

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Quadrant Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new business park on land adjacent to Trinity Road, Boughton Aulph, Kent. The area of the proposed development currently under archaeological investigation is known as Plot 6.5 (hereafter referred to as *the site*) (Figures 1 and 2) (NGR TR 00692 45438).

1.1.2 The site is situated west of Bockhanger and Kennington, to the north of the M20, Junction 9. It is bounded to the north and north-east by residential development and to the east by new business units. The areas to the south and west of the site currently consist of open fields.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet no 289, Canterbury), the wider underlying geology at the site is predominately Folkestone Beds, a deposit of cross bedded sands with minor clay beds and local cherty or calcareous stone bands. To the east of the site later deposits of Head Brickearth are present.

1.2.2 The site is situated on a gentle south- facing hill slope. To the south and east of the evaluation area thick deposits of modern made ground have been imported onto site, creating a flattish area of terrace, with a steep bank bordering the business units to the east.

1.2.3 The ground surface ranged from 67.27mOD at the northern corner of the site to approximately 63.29 mOD at the southern corner, a drop of approximately 4 metres between the highest and lowest parts of the evaluation area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Ashford Borough Council for the construction of a new business park (ref. AS/04/00044). Owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation with the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (Ashford Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues) a condition was attached to this consent requiring a programme of archaeological works to be implemented at the site prior to development.

1.3.2 A specification for a Stage 1 evaluation phase for the current site was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (HCGKCC 2005). This document outlined a strategy for the archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The stated objective of the evaluation was to:

'establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site which may be affected by the proposed development. The evaluation is thus to

ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.’ (HCGKCC, 2005)

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current phase of work forms part of a continuation of a programme of archaeological work at Eureka Park (for further details see section 2.4). This document relates to the archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2008 within Plot 6.5.
- 1.5.2 The Stage 1 field work was carried out by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist), Louise Munns and Justin Barton (Assistant Archaeologists). The illustrations were produced by Justin Russell and Sally Mortimore. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. Recent work by Archaeology South-East at Brisley Farm on the southern side of Ashford has produced extensive Late Iron Age settlement and funerary evidence with suggestions of continuity into the Roman period; indicating that Iron Age occupation of the Ashford area was much greater than previously suspected (ASE forthcoming).
- 2.2 An archaeological desk based assessment for the Eureka Business Park was prepared by Archaeology South-East outlining the archaeological potential of the site (ASE 2003). The assessment concluded that the site had moderate potential for Romano-British remains and a low potential for all other periods.
- 2.2 The following table contains the entries in the Kent County Council's Historic Environment Record which lie within a 1km radius of the site. The location of these sites is plotted on Figure 1.

No	HER No.	NGR (TR)	Description
1	TR 04 NW 109	0042244294	Post-Medieval to Modern infectious diseases hospital built in c. 1867
2	TR 04 NW 3	00514572	A Romano-British burial was found in a disused sand pit to the north of Ashford near Sandhurst Farm, Kennington. The remains comprised a small globular one-handed flagon of reddish pottery
3	TR 04 NW 18	00804546	An Iron Age or possible Early Roman cremation group, comprising a jar (urn), a bowl and a dish (possibly used to lid the urn) was found in 1963 at Duck Farm
4	TR 04 NW 25	001455	Mesolithic finds from Sandhurst Lane. Finds included an axe, 35 blades/flakes and seven scrapers
5	TR 04 NW 68, 69	014459	Tower Lodge, a Grade II listed Building
6	TR 04 NW 82	012459	Grade II farmhouse
7	TR 04 NW 91-KE8743	00454574	Grade II Post Medieval house. Sandpit cottages.
8	TR 04 NW 67	016455	Stone House, A Grade II listed Building
9	TR 04NW 2	01674525	A Roman glass bottle was found in Kennington in 1923: this two handled vessel was identified as a 'dolphin flask' dating from the 2nd to 3rd centuries

Table 1: HER data of a 1km search around the study area.

- 2.3 The SMR indicates that Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and funerary activity is known to have occurred within close proximity to the site. Funerary remains have been discovered to the north and north-west, and a Roman bottle was discovered to the east. Most of these discoveries have been made during late 19th and early 20th century groundwork and quarrying. Mesolithic material is known from Sandhurst Farm. The remainder of the SMR entries refer to post-medieval buildings within the locality.

2.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.4.1 Previous phases of archaeological field work at the Business Park include a Stage 1 archaeological evaluation and a subsequent Stage 2 excavation and watching brief conducted in 2006 on land immediately to the east of the current excavation area. A series of Late Iron Age/Romano British ditches, several pits and postholes and two Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British cremation urns accompanied by accessory vessels were discovered. Later features included two medieval/post-medieval pits (ASE 2006).
- 2.4.2 In 2007 a further phase of evaluation took place within Plots 2 (Herald) and 20 (Local Centre), located within 300m to the south and the south-east of the current site respectively. The evaluation trenches in Plot 2 produced no evidence of archaeological activity. However, several features were identified within the trenches located within Plot 20, and a subsequent Stage 2 excavation phase targeted within this area revealed evidence of Late Iron Age to Early Roman field systems, a possible droveway and a concentration of posthole and pits. Whilst no clear structural remains could be discerned, the large quantities of domestic pottery, evidence for food processing, textile production and smithing waste indicates occupation within the vicinity. Examples of complete, or semi-complete vessels recovered from one corner of a field boundary, and from within the upper backfill of a large pit has provided evidence for deliberate depositional practises occurring on the site (ASE 2007).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The trial trenching at the site was undertaken from the 14th to the 25th of April 2008. This work was undertaken under site code EPA08, Project Number 3379.
- 3.2 The trenches were laid out using a Global Positioning System, and were excavated using a flat bladed bucket fitted to a mechanical digger. A total of 17 trial trenches, measuring 1.8m by 30m long were excavated to a cumulative length of approximately 510 metres.
- 3.3 In each case, the trenches were excavated to the top of the 'natural' or the top of any significant archaeological deposit. In several cases, deep deposits of modern redeposited soils required the trenches to be stepped for safety reasons.
- 3.4 Due to the presence of these deep excavations, the whole site was Herras fenced.
- 3.5 All features were sampled sufficiently only to characterise and date them. Environmental samples were taken where appropriate.
- 3.6 All deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards (Institute of Field Archaeologists, *standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2001*).
- 3.7 Plans of the trenches were maintained at a 1:50 scale, and all sections were drawn at 1:10. A full photographic record (including black / white, colour film and digital images) was kept. All trenches and features were levelled with respect to Ordnance Datum.

Number of Contexts	91
No. of files	1
Plan and sections sheets	5
Bulk Samples	9
Photographs	2 black and white film, 2 colour film, 114 digital images
Bulk finds	1 soil bag
Registered finds	N/A

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

- 3.8 The archive is currently held at the Archaeology South-East offices. Following completion of the post-excavation work the archive will be offered to a suitable repository to be agreed with the landowner and the County Archaeologist.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The trenches were located across an area of open pasture to the rear of the Eureka Business Park. The southern and eastern parts of the evaluation site had been used for the deposition of thick deposits of mixed modern made ground. This is understood to have derived from landscaping following previous phases of groundwork at the business park.

4.2 The made ground was located upon trenches 3 (southern end), 4 (eastern end), 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Trenches 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17 required stepping for safety. The depth of deposits within trenches 13 and 14 required the trench to be double stepped.

4.3 As has been found during previous phases of work at the park, the underlying geology was variable across site. The geology predominately comprised the soft yellowish brown sand of the Folkestone Beds. This was found to outcrop in trenches 1, 2, 7 and the western end of trench 12. An overlying deposit of sandy Brickearth, becoming sandier to depth, was found within the remainder of trenches on site.

4.4 Trench Results (Figures 3 - 5)

4.4.1 Trench 1

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	SW end: 63.83 NE end: 64.91
1/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.05m	-
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 63.51 NE end: 64.40
1/004	Cut	Possible feature	1.5m	0.90m	Max. 0.38m	64.36
1/005	Fill	Fill of possible feature	1.5m	0.90m	Max. 0.38m	64.36

Summary

The natural Folkestone Beds comprised a soft yellow sand, with patches and mottling of a mid orangish brown sandy brickearth, occasionally containing seams of flint gravels (1/003). A shallow and often indistinct subsoil or interface layer of a mid orangish brown silty sand (1/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish- brown sandy silt topsoil (1/001).

One possible feature was identified within this trench. This comprised a parallel sided feature partially exposed extending from the baulk, terminating with a rounded end [1/004] (Figure 3). The feature had steep tapered sides, with a rounded base, and was filled by a soft, mid orangish

brown slightly silty sand, which contained moderate charcoal flecks (1/005) (Fig 3, Section 1). This feature may represent the terminus of a ditch or an elongated pit. However, as the edges of the feature were very ephemeral, and the fill was similar in colour and texture to the surrounding natural it was also thought possible that this feature may represent an area of tree rooting, or variation within the surrounding geology. The charcoal fragments may be intrusive, resulting from rooting and worm disturbance.

4.4.2 Trench 2

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20–0.30m	SW end: 65.90 NE end: 67.08
2/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.05–0.10m	-
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 65.57 NE end: 66.18
2/004	Cut	Possible feature	-	0.86m	Max. 0.22m	65.87
2/005	Fill	Fill of possible feature	-	0.86m	Max. 0.22m	65.87

Summary

The natural comprised a soft yellow sand, with a band of orangish brown sandy Brickearth containing flint gravels located at the northern end of the trench (2/003). An interface layer of a mid orangish brown silty sand (2/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish- brown topsoil (2/001).

A possible feature was identified, crossing the trench on a slight north-west to south-east orientation [2/004] (Figure 3). This had an ephemeral shallow concave profile, and was filled by a mid orangish-brown silty sand (2/005). The fill was sterile, and was noted to be very similar to the colour and texture of the subsoil layer above. As such, it is thought probable that this feature is of geological or biological origin.

4.4.3 Trench 3

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
3/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.20m – 0.52m	SW end: 63.89 NE end: 64.11

3/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m	-
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 63.24 NE end: 64.24

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown Brickearth, blending into an orangish brown silty sand towards the NE end of the trench (3/003). A mid greyish brown sandy silt buried topsoil layer was present in places towards the SE end of the trench (3/002). This was intermittent, and had been truncated during the deposition of (3/001), a thick and mixed modern made ground deposit.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within this trench.

4.4.4 Trench 4

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	NW end: 64.33
4/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	-
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	NW end: 63.73 SE end: 63.33
4/004	Layer	Made ground	SE end of trench	Tr.	0.60m	SE end: 64.01
4/005	Layer	Spread	Tr.	Approx 1.80m	Max 0.40m	63.45

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown Brickearth (4/003). An interface or subsoil layer of a mid orangish brown silty sand (4/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish- brown topsoil (4/001). At the SE end of the trench a deposit of modern made ground (4/004) had partially truncated the topsoil deposit.

Located towards the south-eastern of the trench a spread of firm mid greyish brown sandy silt was identified (4/005) (Figure 3). This contained moderate quantities of charcoal fragments and evidence of substantial worm and rooting disturbance. Some 37 fragments of fired clay were recovered from this context. However, no datable fragments of pottery, or functionally diagnostic clay pieces were present. A 4.5m long slot was excavated along the line of the baulk but the feature was ephemeral and indistinct in plan and no clear edges could be obtained in section. The character of this feature cannot therefore be discerned with confidence. It is thought that the feature may represent the very base of a cut feature, the edges of which have been obscured as a result of worm movement causing

soil displacement. However, the layer may also represent infill of a hollow or the remnant of an occupation spread, and is comparable to a deposit noted in trench 6 (6/004).

4.4.5 Trench 5

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30m	SW side: 64.68 NE side: 65.48
5/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	-
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW side: 64.08 NE side: 64.94
5/004	Vessel	Complete EBA vessel	-	-	-	64.91

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (5/003). An indistinct interface layer of a mid orangish brown silty sand which contained four fragments of Mid to Late Iron Age pottery (5/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish- brown topsoil (5/001).

The base of an Early Bronze Age inverted vessel was identified immediately below the interface layer (5/004) (Figure 3). Despite successive cleaning in both plan and section no cut for this feature could be identified (Figure 6.1). The vessel was therefore excavated using a small box slot. The pot was found to be complete (although not intact) and was lifted with the contents in situ.

Following the lift further cleaning and investigation of the area failed to identify any associated feature (Figure 6.2). It is thought that the initial excavation of the pit, placing of the vessel and the backfill of the feature with the surrounding natural soil is likely to have been a rapid depositional event. It is probable that during the succeeding three to four thousand years all trace of the original cut feature has been lost through the action of worms and soil movement.

4.4.6 Trench 6

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30-40m	NW end: 66.56 SE end: 65.49

6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10 - 0.20m	-
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	NW end: 66.03 SE end: 65.05
6/004	Layer	Spread	Tr.	Approx 4m	Max 0.26m	65.49

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown silty sand (6/003). A mid orangish brown silty sand subsoil which contained fragments of Mid to Late Iron Age and 1st to early 2nd century pottery (6/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish- brown topsoil (6/001).

An indistinct spread of mid greyish brown slightly silty sand was located within the centre of the trench (6/004) (Figure 3). A slot 6m long and 0.50m wide was dug against the baulk section to attempt to characterise the feature. No edges could be discerned. It was noted that the slightly darker silts, containing frequent charcoal fragments and flecks of burnt clay bled into the surrounding natural. This deposit contained 20 sherds of late 1st century BC / early 1st century AD pottery.

This feature is thought to represent the remnant of a form of occupation spread or trample, and is possibly related to feature (4/005).

4.4.7 Trench 7

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	SW side: 66.71 NE side: 67.27
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	-
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW side: 66.32 NE side: 66.83
7/004	Cut	Linear	Tr.	1.56m	0.26m	66.67
7/005	Fill	Linear	Tr.	1.56m	0.26m	66.67
7/006	Cut	Pit	0.80m	0.65m	0.09m	66.86
7/007	Fill	Pit	0.80m	0.65m	0.09m	66.86
7/008	Burrow	-	0.08m	0.06	0.06m	66.67

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sand, with silty sand patches and mottling often associated with a concentration of flint gravels (7/003). A subsoil layer comprising a mid orangish brown silty sand containing a single sherd of AD10-120 pottery (7/002) lay immediately below the dark greyish-

brown topsoil (7/001).

A parallel-sided ditch was identified crossing the trench on an approximate west-east orientation [7/004] (Figure 4). This was found to have shallow concave sides, with a rounded point to the base. It was filled with a dark greyish brown silty sand, containing occasional charcoal flecks (7/005). Six fragments of pottery were recovered from this fill, dating to the early 2nd century AD, and which included a single large sherd of a samian vessel, showing evidence of repair using lead solder. A burrow on the southern side of the ditch had dragged a small area of ditch fill out into the surrounding natural. Fragments of chicken bone deriving from the partial remains of one animal were recovered (7/008).

Located approximately 8m to the north of this linear, a sub-oval feature was identified [7/006] (Figure 4). This had a dark grey brown soft sand fill with frequent charcoal fragments (7/007). It had very irregular worm and root turned edges, leaving many clear casts and areas of intrusion into 7/003 below. As a result the original profile could not be ascertained with certainty, but it was thought to comprise a small circular pit with shallow concave edges. A single sherd of AD10-120 pottery was recovered from the surface of the feature during cleaning.

4.4.8 Trench 8

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
8/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.47–0.88m	NW end: 64.27 SE end: 63.73
8/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17–0.27m	-
8/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.05m	-
8/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	NW end: 63.45 SE end: 62.37

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown Brickearth (8/004). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer (8/003) was present immediately below a buried topsoil layer (8/002). The trench was sealed by a deposit of mixed modern made ground, which became deeper to the south-east (8/001).

No archaeological finds or features were identified within this trench.

4.4.9 Trench 9

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
9/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m – 1.21m	SW end: 64.13 NE end: 63.77
9/002	Deposit	Natural- Brickearth	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 62.80 NE end: 63.26
9/003	Deposit	Natural- Sand	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 62.80 NE end: 63.26
9/004	Cut	Possible linear	Tr.	0.88m	0.35m	62.39
9/005	Fill	Fill of possible linear	Tr.	0.88m	0.35m	62.39
9/006	Cut	Possible linear	Tr.	1.30m	0.20	62.62
9/07	Fill	Fill of possible linear	Tr.	1.30m	0.20	62.62

Summary

The natural ground within this trench comprised a very mixed mid orangish brown Brickearth (9/002) and a yellow to reddish orange sand (9/002). The level of the natural was very uneven within this trench as the overlying deposits of made ground (9/001) had truncated the underlying geology.

Two possible features were investigated within this trench, but are believed to be of geological origin. The first, an apparent linear terminus was found to have an irregular concave profile with an undulating base [9/004] (Figure 4). The fill (9/005) was a sterile mid greyish brown silty sand containing occasional flint gravels. The second feature was a possible linear crossing the trench, and was found upon excavation to have a smooth and convincing concave profile, with a rounded base cut through the sand [9/006] (Figure 4). However the fill (9/007) was found to be a sterile mid orangish brown silty sand, and was indistinguishable to the natural Brickearth located elsewhere within the trench.

Despite the apparently clear 'cuts' of these features, it is thought that this trench is situated on a cusp of variation within the underlying geology, and that these features represent the surface of undulations within the sand and Brickearth natural.

4.4.10 Trench 10

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	NW end: 64.30 SE end: 63.52
10/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m	-
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA	NW end: 63.79 SE end: 63.04
10/004	Cut	Pit	Dia: 1.05m	-	Max 0.18m	63.45
10/005	Fill	Fill of Pit	Dia: 1.05m	-	Max 0.18m	63.45

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (10/003). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt interface layer containing three sherds of Early Roman pottery (10/002) was present immediately below a topsoil deposit (10/001).

A circular concentration of charcoal was identified towards the centre of the trench (Figure 4). This feature was recorded as a cut and fill [10/004], (10/005). However, the edges of this feature were very ephemeral in plan and section. The fill, a mid orangish silty sand was rich in charcoal and it is thought that rather than a cut feature, this represents the remnant of surface burning, possibly a small bonfire, with bioturbation dragging fragments of charcoal and tiny fragments of burnt clay from the surface into the natural matrix.

4.4.11 Trench 11

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	SW end: 64.28 NE end: 64.89
11/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m	-
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA	SW end: 63.75 NE end: 64.34
11/004	Cut	Possible pit	Dia: 0.80m	-	Max 0.06m	64.29
11/005	Fill	Fill of Possible pit	Dia: 0.80m	-	Max 0.06m	64.29

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (11/003). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt interface layer containing two sherds of Early

Roman pottery (11/002) was present immediately below a topsoil deposit (11/001).

A circular concentration of charcoal was also identified within the trench (Figure 4). This feature had a shallow and irregular concave profile with substantial evidence of bioturbation [11/004]. It was filled by a charcoal stained sandy silt (11/005). The presence of occasional patches of reddish orange burnt clay towards the edge of the feature indicates burning in situ, and it is thought that this feature represents the very base of a small fire.

4.4.12 Trench 12

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28-0.34m	NW end: 66.30 SE end: 64.89
12/002	Layer	Interface	Tr.	Tr.	0.06-0.10m	-
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA	NW end: 65.76 SE end: 64.49
12/004	Cut	Linear	Tr.	1.28m	Max 0.35m	64.85
12/005	Fill	Fill of Linear	Tr.	1.28m	Max 0.35m	64.85
12/006	Cut	Posthole	Dia: 0.50m	-	0.50m	64.91
12/007	Fill	Fill of posthole	Dia: 0.50m	-	0.50m	64.91
12/008	Cut	Pit	Dia: 1m	-	0.16m	64.93
12/009	Fill	Fill of pit	Dia: 1m	-	0.16m	64.93
12/010	Cut	Possible posthole	Dia: 0.38m	-	Max 0.14m	65.14
12/011	Fill	Fill of possible posthole	Dia: 0.38m	-	Max 0.14m	65.14
12/012	Cut	Linear	Tr.	1.25m	Max 0.58m	64.49
12/013	Fill	Fill of linear	-	1.25m	Max 0.42m	64.49
12/014	Fill	Fill of linear	-	-	Max 0.16m	-

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sand becoming siltier to the south-east (12/003). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt interface layer (12/002) was present immediately below a topsoil deposit, which contained seven fragments of 1st century to early 2nd century pottery (12/001).

Several archaeological features were identified within the south-eastern half of this trench. Feature [12/004] comprised a parallel-sided linear, orientated east to west crossing the trench (Figure 5). It had a concave profile and was filled by a dark greyish brown silty sand (12/005). In total, 21 fragments of Early Roman pottery were recovered from this ditch.

Feature [12/006] comprised a circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 5). It was infilled with a mid greyish brown silty sand, which contained blocks of limestone, flint nodules and patches of clay packing materials (12/007) (Figure 6.3). No datable material was recovered from the posthole.

Feature [12/008] comprised a sub-circular pit with a shallow concave profile (Figure 5). It had a gradually sloping northern side with a steeper southern slope. The edges had suffered substantial bioturbation in the form of worm casts and rooting. The fill (12/009), a mid orangish brown silty sand, contained two sherds of Early Roman fabric.

Feature [12/010] comprised a small circular feature with a shallow concave profile (Figure 5). It was filled by soft orangish brown sand (12/011). No finds were recovered and the edges were unclear. It is possible that this feature represents very base of a shallow posthole, or an area of burrowing or natural disturbance.

The final feature within the trench comprised a substantial linear located at the far south-eastern side of the trench [12/012] (Figure 5). This feature had tapered sides, with a rounded base and a slight break of slope on its eastern edge. It had a primary fill (12/014) comprising a light greyish brown silty sand containing occasional charcoal fragments. The upper fill comprised a firm dark greyish brown silty sand containing fourteen sherds of 2nd century pottery (12/013).

4.4.13 Trench 13

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
13/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.1.35-1.55m	SW end: 63.29 NE end: 63.91
13/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.05-0.20m	-
13/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	-
13/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 61.82 NE end: 62.05
13/005	Cut	Possible pit	Dia: 0.36m	-	0.10m	61.96
13/004	Fill	Fill of possible pit	Dia: 0.36m	-	0.10m	61.96

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (13/004). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer (13/003) was present at the northern end of the trench, immediately below a buried topsoil layer (13/002). The topsoil layer was variable in depth as a result of intrusion from the thick deposits of mixed made ground which cover the area (13/001).

A small circular concentration of charcoal was identified within the trench (Figure 5.16). This feature (recorded as a cut and fill [13/005], (13/006)) was found to comprise a very irregular and uneven area of charcoal stained sand. No clear edges were visible, and areas of clear sands intermixed with areas of grey topsoil-like silts and charcoal fragments indicate that this feature is likely to represent a remnant of surface burning, possibly a small bonfire or hearth, with bioturbation dragging fragments of charcoal and silts down into the natural.

4.4.14 Trench 14

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
14/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.20–1.65m	NW end: 63.85 SE end: 63.42
14/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	-
14/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	-
14/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	NW end: 62.05 SE end: 61.80

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt. This contained some variability in colour, with a greyish brown mottling and staining towards the eastern end of the trench believed to result from the thick scrub which is known to have covered this area (14/004). The level of rooting is attested by the decaying organic material which is detectable at the base of the made ground deposit in this trench. A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer containing two tiny grog-tempered sherds of probable AD10-120 date (14/003) was present immediately below a buried greyish brown topsoil layer (14/002) in the eastern and central parts of the trench. A thick deposit of mixed modern made ground which sealed all deposits had been cut into the ground surface in the western part of the trench, removing trace of the topsoil and truncating strips of the underlying natural (14/001).

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

4.4.15 Trench 15

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
15/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.60 – 0.93m	SW end: 63.45 NE end: 63.80
15/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20 - 0.30m	-
15/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	-
15/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 62.46 NE end: 62.46

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (15/004). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer (15/003) was present immediately below a buried topsoil layer (15/002). The trench was sealed by a deposit of mixed modern made ground (15/001).

No archaeological finds or features were identified within this trench.

4.4.16 Trench 16

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
16/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40 – 1.05m	NW end: 63.99 SE end: 63.60
16/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	-
16/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	-
16/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	NW end: 63.11 SE end: 62.27
16/005	Fill	Fill of fire pit	Dia: 0.84m	-	0.20m	62.48
16/006	Cut	Cut of fire pit	Dia: 0.84m	-	0.20m	62.48

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (16/004). A shallow mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer (16/003) was present immediately below a buried topsoil layer (16/002). The trench was sealed by a deposit of mixed modern made ground (16/001).

Within this trench evidence of a small circular hearth or fire pit was identified [16/006] (Figure 5). This feature had a shallow concave cut, with a sharp break of slope at the top. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand, which contained frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal and fragments of burnt clay (16/005). A 1–2cm thick halo of reddish brown burnt clay, most clearly visible at the edges in the centre and west of the feature provided evidence of in-situ burning. It is thought that this feature may represent the base of a small hearth or bonfire.

4.4.17 Trench 17

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. AOD
17/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.43 – 0.86m	SW end: 64.16 NE end: 64.15
17/002	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	-
17/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	-
17/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	SW end: 62.93 NE end: 63.08
17/005	Fill	Pit	-	-	0.16m	63.23
17/006	Cut	Fill of Pit	-	-	0.16m	63.23

Summary

The natural comprised a mid orangish brown sandy silt (17/004). A shallow and ephemeral mid orangish brown sandy silt subsoil layer containing nine sherds of Early Roman pottery (17/003) was present immediately below a buried topsoil layer (17/002). The trench was sealed by a deposit of mixed modern made ground (17/001).

Within this trench evidence of a small charcoal rich pit was identified, partially exposed extending from the trench edge [17/005] (Figure 5). The feature had a maximum exposed diameter of 0.33m and had a concave profile. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand, which contained frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal (17/006). The fill was heavily bioturbated, and seams of natural silts deriving from worm disturbance were identified within the fill of the feature. The edges of the feature were ill-defined, but two small patches of reddish brown burnt clay staining along the circumference of the feature may suggest in-situ burning.

5.0 THE FINDS

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the evaluation and is quantified in Appendix 1.

5.1 Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

Three pieces of peg tile were recovered from subsoil deposits [17/003],

[11/002] and [16/004]. The fabric is sparse medium sand-tempered with occasional white ?chalk and iron rich inclusions <1mm. An early post-medieval date is probable. Small undiagnostic fragments of red brick were recovered from deposits [11/002] and [12/001].

5.2 Fired clay by Trista Clifford

A small assemblage of 46 fragments weighing 278g was recovered from four separate contexts. Two fabrics are represented:

F1: medium - fine sandy matrix with frequent quartz sand up to 1mm, fairly frequent organic voids

F2: Fine sand tempered with sparse angular flint and iron rich inclusions up to 2mm

The assemblage as a whole is undiagnostic of form or function. The largest sample of 37 fragments from occupation spread [4/005] contains mostly fragments in Fabric F1. A single piece in Fabric F2 has one pale buff flat outer surface but no other diagnostic features. Deposit [6/004] contained a single piece in both fabrics along with a vitrified fragment. Small, abraded fragments were recovered from the subsoil in [10/002] and posthole fill [12/007]

5.3 Iron by Trista Clifford

Subsoil deposit [12/001] contained a highly corroded heavy duty nail fragment with a circular head.

5.4 Slag by Trista Clifford

A small piece of fuel ash slag was recovered from subsoil deposit [17/003]

5.5 Bone by Gemma Driver

A small assemblage of bone, consisting of 10 fragments, was recovered from one context during excavation (7/008). The assemblage consists of chicken bone fragments including the proximal end of a left coracoid and the distal end of both a left and right coracoid. The remaining fragments form part of the vertebrae including the axis.

5.6 Flintwork by Chris Butler

A small assemblage of seven pieces of worked flint weighing 32g was recovered during the work, and is summarised in Table 3. The flint raw material comprised either a mottled grey coloured flint, with a light buff coloured cortex, or a black coloured flint.

Type	Number
Hard hammer-struck flakes	2
Soft hammer-struck flakes	2
Fragments	2

End scraper	1
Total	7

Table 3: The flintwork

This small assemblage comprised mostly debitage. Two of the flakes are hard hammer-struck, and the remaining two are soft hammer-struck, however none of these had any evidence for platform preparation. The two small fragments were undiagnostic.

The only implement was a small end scraper, manufactured on a small undiagnostic flake.

Some of these pieces may date to the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic, but the remainder were largely undiagnostic. Previous work at Eureka Park recovered flintwork that dated to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age, as well as some Mesolithic and Early Neolithic pieces. It is likely that the flintwork from this site has a similar date range.

5.7 The Pottery by Anna Doherty

An assemblage of 154 sherds weighing 2.46 kg was excavated in this phase of evaluation. In general the pottery was of a very similar type to that recovered from previous phases of evaluation and excavation; the majority of the contexts being Late Iron Age to early Roman in date, with some evidence of transitional Middle to Late Iron Age activity. In addition a complete Early Bronze Age cremation vessel was recovered.

The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope. The prehistoric fabrics were defined according to a site specific fabric type-series created for the Eureka Park Plot 20 excavations (Doherty 2007). In the absence of an established type-series in Kent, Roman fabrics and forms have been recorded using the Southwark typology (Marsh and Tyers 1979), whilst pre-Roman forms have been quantified by the same broad vessel classes with further description in the text and, where possible, cross-referencing to other relevant typologies, e.g. Thompson (1982).

The spot dates are provided in Appendix 2

5.7.1 Early Bronze Age Pottery

In addition to the existing type-series, the following fabric was defined for the Early Bronze Age vessel:

GR3 The matrix is almost entirely composed of abundant ill-sorted grog or other fine sedimentary inclusions ranging from 2-7mm in size. Where these inclusions are oxidised on surfaces they are pale or white in colour, but dark in the core. There is a notable lack of any other inclusions in the fabric.

A large part of the assemblage is made up by sherds from a relatively small plain Collared Urn cremation vessel which was excavated intact, in an inverted position, but which fragmented during micro-excavation of the cremation deposit. The vessel is very coarsely tempered either with fine-textured inclusion-free white grog or other sedimentary inclusions. The small size (14cm diameter) and plainness of the form possibly suggests a date

somewhere towards the end of the Collared Urn tradition of the earlier half of the 2nd millennium BC.

5.7.2 Late Iron Age/ early Roman Pottery

Of the remaining Late Iron Age/Early Roman assemblage around a third of fabrics (quantified by sherd count) are made up by small quantities of a variety of sandy, glauconitic, flint-tempered and shell-tempered wares which have their origins in the Middle Iron Age. All of these fabrics may have continued to be produced in small quantities after the widespread adoption of grog-tempering in east Kent (probably around the turn of the 1st century AD). However, when quantified by weight, this group of fabrics make up less than 15% of the total and this small sherd size may indicate a high degree of residuality; two forms recorded in these wares are plain rim forms probably developed from 'saucepan-pot' forms of the Middle Iron Age. The vast majority of these sherds occurred in association with grog-tempered pottery and one form, in a glauconitic ware, is a cordoned, necked jar which shows clear Gallo-Belgic affinities. Interestingly however, this sherd was recovered from a moderate-sized group, in context [6/004], which contained no grog-tempered sherds and which may therefore date to the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD.

Well over half of the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman assemblage is made up by 'Belgic' style grog-tempered wares. Previous work at this site and elsewhere in the Ashford area shows that type of pottery is dominant from the early 1st century AD and continues to make up the majority of well-dated groups until the early 2nd century with little typological change (Doherty 2007; Thompson forthcoming). A very small quantity of these were classified as the slightly coarser fabric variant (GR2) with iron-rich inclusions, which has been identified mainly in earlier groups in previous work. One of the forms recorded in this ware, a plain rim with a slight shoulder, is perhaps more characteristic of Middle Iron Age pottery styles; however this vessel and all the sherds in this fabric occurred with the more standard GR1 fabric.

There are many examples of necked jars amongst the grog-tempered wares, including several examples of Thompson's form B2-1 jar with rippled shoulders. A lid and a small rim sherd from a bead-rim jar are the only other forms recorded in this ware. Unlike in other regions where wheel-throwing technology was adopted well before the conquest, the grog-tempered wares continued to be hand-made. As in the assemblages from other phases of work, a number of vessels have some kind of pitch or resin around the rim and vessel upper.

Only 16 sherds of Romanised fabrics are present in the assemblage and these include 5 sherds of Patch Grove ware, a Roman grog-tempered ware influenced by Gallo-Belgic traditions. There is one foot-ring base from platter probably imitating samian forms, in a pale pink/buff fine ware probably produced by kilns in the North Kent/Thameside industry (see Monaghan 1987, type 7A, 158). Most of the rest of the pottery is made up by unsourced sandy grey and oxidised wares. At least two of these vessels are in a coarse fabric, similar to that produced at Canterbury but no diagnostic forms are present. Given the fairly small quantity of Romanised pottery, it is quite surprising that there are two large sherds of central Gaulish samian, which both date to around AD120-150/160, including a decorated Dragendorff 37

bowl. The other vessel, an 18-31R dish, shows evidence of repair using lead solder, suggesting that it was not deposited immediately after AD120. The pattern of samian vessels, which are later than the rest of the assemblage, was noted elsewhere on the site and could indicate a short-lived period of high-status activity just before the settlement finally went out of use.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction and methods

Nine bulk samples were taken during the evaluation at Eureka Park and a further six sediment samples were extracted during off-site excavation of a cremation from context [4/005]. The large samples were processed in a flotation tank and the small cremation samples were bucket floated. The flots and residues from each were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively. The residues were air dried, passed through stacked sieves, and sorted for environmental and archaeological remains (Appendix 3). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and their contents documented in Appendix 4.

6.2 Results

Sampling has confirmed the presence of a small assemblage of environmental remains. Varying quantities of charcoal, occasional charred plant remains including cereal grains, pulses and weed seeds as well as burnt bone, small pottery fragments and a piece of iron are present.

Preservation of charred crop and weed seeds varies from moderate to poor and many of the samples contain fewer than 10 charred botanicals. Two moderately preserved but fragmented glume bases are present in sample <1006>, context [12/005]. These are most likely chance inclusions in this linear rather than indicating a specific activity area.

Much of the charcoal in these samples is highly fragmented although two samples, <1007> from context [10/005] and <1009> from a possible hearth fill [16/005] contain moderate quantities of fragments >4mm. The charcoal rich contents of [16/005] suggest the on-site interpretation of the feature as a hearth may be accurate. The sample contents do not indicate whether this hearth was used for a specific purpose.

The cremation samples contain very few charcoal fragments and the majority that are present are <2mm in size. Sample <1001> was extracted from soil immediately surrounding and beneath the cremation vessel (context [5/003]). Its contents are similar to those from inside the vessel. No identifiable charred plant remains are present in the samples although sample <1001>, and spits 3 and 4 (<1013> & <1014>) contain some fragments of charred plant remains. Based on their internal structures these are not wood charcoal but are more likely seeds or fruits charred at very high temperatures with the cremation. Identifiable features and their overall structures have been lost during charring. Soil from inside the cremation produced occasional burnt bone fragments in both the residues and the flots. All bone fragments measure <5mm. They are white (calcined), undiagnostic, very soft and fragile which is probably due to on-site preservation conditions (Sibun pers. comm.).

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 A thick and mixed modern made ground deposit is present across much of the southern and eastern part of the site. This is understood to have resulted from landscaping following earlier phases of groundwork at the Eureka Business Park. In most trenches the made ground had been laid over the ground surface, thereby sealing a buried topsoil, and allowing preservation of any potential buried archaeological features. However in some parts of the site, particularly trenches 3, 9, 13 and 14 there was evidence that the made ground had truncated parts of the underlying natural.

7.2 Most of the well preserved, datable archaeological activity identified at the site was found to be concentrated in the central and northern parts of the site, some way from the main mass of made ground.

7.3 Mesolithic – Bronze Age

A small assemblage of largely undiagnostic flint flakes, but including one small end scraper was collected during the evaluation. Previous work at Eureka Park has recovered flintwork dating to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age, as well as some Mesolithic and Early Neolithic pieces. The current assemblage constitutes a normal background scatter of material for this area.

7.4 Bronze Age

The complete Early Bronze Age funerary urn located within Trench 5 is an important find. Unfortunately no other Bronze Age finds or features were identified during the evaluation, and at present the vessel appears in archaeological isolation. However, there is the potential for some of the undated features located within nearby trenches (if not of geological origin) to be of prehistoric date.

7.5 Iron Age

Middle to Late Iron Age activity at the site is attested by pottery sherds recovered from subsoil deposits in Trenches 5 and 6. The fairly large assemblage recovered from the spread within Trench 6 suggests a Late Iron Age to early 1st century AD date. The undated spread of material in Trench 4 has a similar character to (6/004), and may prove to be contemporary.

7.6 Roman

The majority of the pottery recovered from the site indicates an Early Roman or 1st to early 2nd century AD date. A concentration of features comprising two ditches, a pit and a substantial posthole was identified within Trench 12. The pottery indicated a general 'Early Roman' date for one ditch and the pit. The second linear was dated to AD120-150. A second concentration of archaeological activity, comprising a ditch and shallow pit, was located in Trench 7. The linear produced an AD 120 – 150 date and the pit has been provisionally dated to AD 10 – 120.

7.7 Undated Features

Trenches 10, 11 and 13 each contained a single small charcoal-rich feature.

Excavation demonstrated that these features lacked definition, and appeared to consist of patches and seams of charcoal within the surface of the underlying natural. These features are thought to represent a trace of small surface bonfires or hearths, with remnants of the charcoal residue dragged down through worm movement. However, two further features in Trenches 16 and 17 both contained convincing greyish brown sandy silt charcoal-rich fills, with traces of in-situ burning. These are thought to represent the base of small fire pits or hearths.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The evaluation has indicated a continuation of the Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity identified during previous phases of work at Eureka Park. The available evidence suggests the possibility for a continuation of the Romano-British field systems and evidence for some settlement activity, concentrated in particular in the northern part of the site (Trenches 12 and 7). Some Middle Iron Age activity at the site is indicated by the presence of an amorphous spread in Trench 6, and a possibly contemporaneous spread in Trench 4. Evidence for activity at the site during the Early Bronze Age period is attested by the discovery of a complete funerary vessel in Trench 5.
- 8.2** Full details of the proposed development of Plot 6.5 at Eureka Park have not yet been provided to Archaeology South-East. However it is understood that the new phase of development is likely to include construction of new business units, access roads, car parks and landscaping. Considerable ground impact is therefore anticipated. The mass of made ground presently on the site is also likely to require removal. The potential for archaeological preservation at the site is therefore considered to be low.
- 8.3** The methodology employed is considered to be appropriate to the site, and confidence in the results is high.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East. 2003. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of Land at Eureka Business Park, Ashford, Kent*. ASE Project No. 1766.

Archaeology South-East. 2006. *Archaeological Investigations on land at on land at Eureka Park, Trinity Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent. Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design for Publication*. ASE Project No. 2389

Archaeology South-East. 2007. *Archaeological Investigations at Plot 20 "Local Centre", Eureka Business Park, Ashford. Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design for Publication*. ASE Report No. 2007252

Archaeology South-East, forthcoming, *Excavations at Brisley Farm, Ashford*. (working title)

Doherty, A. 2007. 'The Pottery'. In Thorne, A. *An Archaeological Investigation at Plot 20, "Local Centre", Eureka Business Park, Ashford*. Unpublished ASE report 2926

HCGKCC, 2005 *Specification for archaeological evaluation of the Eureka Science Park, Trinity Road in Boughton Aluph near Ashford in Kent*.

Marsh, G. and Tyers, P. 1979. *The Roman pottery from Southwark, Southwark Excavations 1972–74*. LAMAS and Surrey Arch reprint

Monaghan, J. 1987. *Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery: A Ceramic Typology, First to Third Centuries A.D.*, BAR(B), no. 173, Oxford

Thompson, C. forthcoming. 'The Pottery' in Stevenson, J. *Excavations at Brisley Farm, Ashford*. (working title)

Thompson, I. 1982. *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*. BAR British series 108: Oxford

Appendix 1: Finds Quantification

Context	Pottery	weight (g)	CBM	weight (g)	Bone	weight (g)	Flint	weight (g)	Iron	weight (g)	Stone	weight (g)	Fired clay	weight (g)	Charc	weight (g)	Slag	weight (g)
10/002	3	28											1	<2				
11/002	5	28	2	12			1	2										
12/001	7	42	1	<2					1	34								
12/005	21	654																
12/007											1	3340	5	2				
12/009	3	12																
12/013	14	226																
14/003	2	4																
16/004			1	22														
17/003	9	28	1	14			1	6									1	4
3/005							2	20										
4/005							2	10					37	258	1	<2		
5/002	4	42																
5/004	54	1104																
6/002	4	36																
6/002 or 6/003	5	28																
6/004	20	126					1	<2					3	18				
7/002	1	6																
7/005	6	106																
7/007	2	22																
7/008					10	<2												
Total	160	2492	5	48	10	0	7	38	1	34	1	3340	46	278	1	0	1	4

Appendix 2: Spot dates

Context	Spot-date	Comments
5/002	Middle to Late Iron Age Early Bronze	Small group of bodysherds, no grog
5/004	Age	Cremation vessel
6/002	AD10-120?	Small group of grog tempered sherds
6/002- 6/003		
Interfac e	Middle to Late Iron Age	Small group of bodysherds, no grog
6/004	50/25BC- AD30+	Fairly large group, no grog-tempered sherds but one 'Belgic' style form in a more Middle Iron Age fabric type
7/002	AD10-120?	One sherd in a slightly coarse grog fabric samian vessel shows evidence of repair, probably not deposited immediately after first imported
7/005	AD120-150	
7/007	AD10-120?	One sherd in a slightly coarse grog fabric
10/002	Early Roman	three sherds one in a Romanised fabric
11/002	Early Roman	two sherds one in a romanised fabric Small group of grog-tempered sherds, no Romanised material which suggests a date before c, AD70 is more likely but this sort of pottery continues to at least AD120
12/001	AD10-120?	
12/005	Early Roman	Mostly grog tempered with one Romanised vessel represented
12/009	Early Roman	two sherds one in a romanised fabric
12/013	AD120-150	Probably early in this range
17/003	Early Roman	Most sherds in this context (even the Romanised ones) are very heavily abraded- could be residual?
14/003	AD10-120?	Tiny grog-tempered sherds

Appendix 3: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51-250, **** = >250) and weight in grams**

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant)	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1001	5/003		sediment surrounding crem.	6	6							
1002	12/007		P-h fill	10	10	*	<1	*	<1			
1003	11/005		pit fill	20	20	*	1	**	2			
1004	7/005		linear fill (roman?)	24	24	*	2	**	1			Pot (*6)
1005	7/007		pit fill	12	12	**	4	***	2			
1006	12/005		linear fill	40	40	**	6	***	4			Fe (*6), Pot (*22)
1007	10/005		pit fill	24	24	***	10	****	6			
1008	6/004		pot rich deposit	24	24	*	<1	***	<1			Pot (*24)
1009	16/005		poss. hearth	24	24	***	18	***	6			
1010	5/004	1	Crem fill	2	2	*	<1	*	<1			
1011	5/004	2	Crem fill	1	1	**	<1					
1012	5/004	3	Crem fill	2	2			*	1	*	1	
1013	5/004	4	Crem fill	2	2					***	<1	Pot (*1)
1014	5/004	5	Crem fill	2	2	*	2	*	<1	***	1	Pot (**/4),
1015	5/004	6	Crem fill	2	2					**	<1	

Appendix 4: Flot Quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** >250)

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant)	Context / deposit type	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Crop Seeds charred	Weed seeds charred	Other botanical charred	Burnt bone	LSS
1001	5/003		sediment surrounding crem.	<2	<5								* indet frags (poor pres.)		
1002	12/007		P-h fill	2	<5	70		*	***	* cerealia indet., Leguminosae indet. (poor pres.)	* Polygonum/Rumex sp., Chenopodiaceae (mod. pres.)				**
1003	11/005		pit fill	4	10	20	5	*	**	****					
1004	7/005		linear fill (roman?)	<2	5	80		*	*	***	* cerealia indet., 1 <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (mod-poor pres.)				
1005	7/007		pit fill	18	25	20	5	*	**	****	* Cerealia indet frags (poor pres.)	* (mod. pres.)	* (1) stem & node (mod. pres.)		
1006	12/005		linear fill	12	45	25	5	*	**	****	** <i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp. & frags (mod. pres.)	* (mod. pres.)	* glume bases (2 noted) (mod-poor pres.)		
1007	10/005		pit fill	24	90	5		*	**	****	* indet cerealia (poor pres.)	* indet seeds (poor)			
1008	6/004		pot rich deposit	6	10	25	30	*		****	** <i>Triticum</i> sp. (mod. pres.)				
1009	16/005		poss. hearth	30	130	15		*	**	****	* indet cerealia (poor pres.)	* indet seeds (poor)	* stem frags (poor pres.)		
1010	5/004	1	Crem fill	<2	5	<5	90		*(1)	**					
1011	5/004	2	Crem fill	2	<5		90			**					
1012	5/004	3	Crem fill	2	<5		80			***			* indet (poor pres.)		
1013	5/004	4	Crem fill	4	<5		30			***			* indet cpr (poor pres.)		
1014	5/004	5	Crem fill	2	<5		80		*	***				*** mostly <2mm and poor pres.	*
1015	5/004	6	Crem fill	<2	<5		95			**					

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	EPA08					
Identification Name and Address	Eureka Business Park, Ashford					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TR 00692 45438					
Geology	Folkestone Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3379					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 14 th -25 th April 2008	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Quadrant Estates Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA ✓	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Plot 6.5, Eureka Business Park, Ashford, Kent (NGR TR 00692 45438). 17 Trenches were machine excavated, each measuring 30m in length. Evidence for Late Iron Age to Early Roman ditches, pits and a substantial posthole were identified. This activity is thought to form a continuation of the field systems and occupation activity attested during previous phases of archaeological work at the development site. In addition, a complete Early Bronze Age funerary vessel was identified in Trench 5.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-41817

Project details

Project name	Plot 6.5, Eureka Business Park
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Plot 6.5, Eureka Business Park, Ashford, Kent (NGR TR 00692 45438). 17 Trenches were machine excavated, each measuring 30m in length. Evidence for Late Iron Age to Early Roman ditches, pits and a substantial posthole were identified. This activity is thought to form a continuation of the field systems and occupation activity attested during previous phases of archaeological work at the site. In addition, a complete Early Bronze Age funerary vessel was identified in Trench 5.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2008 End: 25-05-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3379 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EPA08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT Early Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'

Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD BOUGHTON ALUPH Eureka Business Park
Postcode	XXXXXX
Study area	1.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 00692 45438 51.1723086310 0.871283514910 51 10 20 N 000 52 16 E Point
Height OD	Min: 63.00m Max: 67.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of	Quadrant Estates

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at

Author(s)/Editor(s) Thorne, A

Other bibliographic details 3379

Date 2008

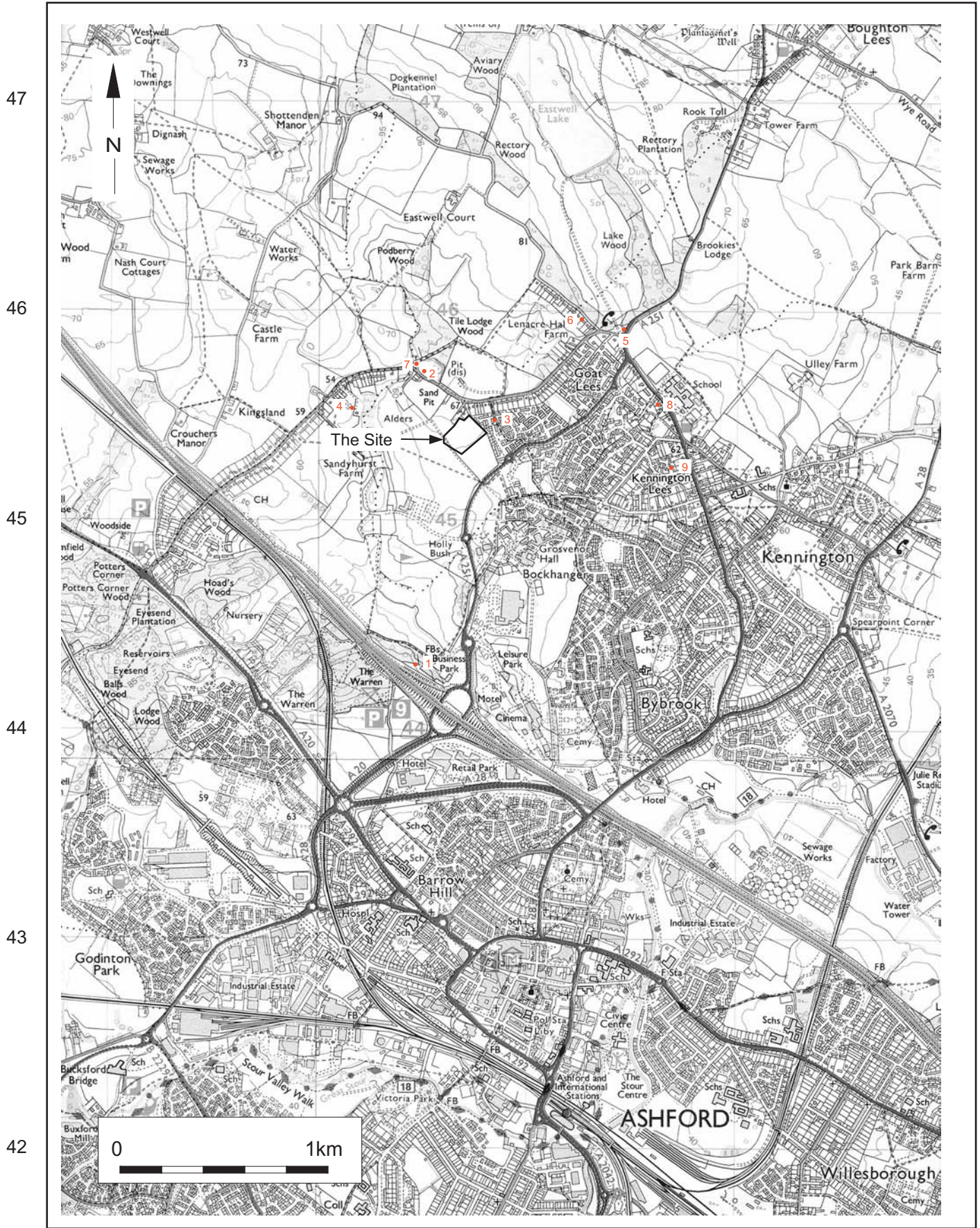
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South - East

Place of issue or publication Archaeology South- East

Description grey literature report

Entered by Alice Thorne (tornath@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 7 May 2008

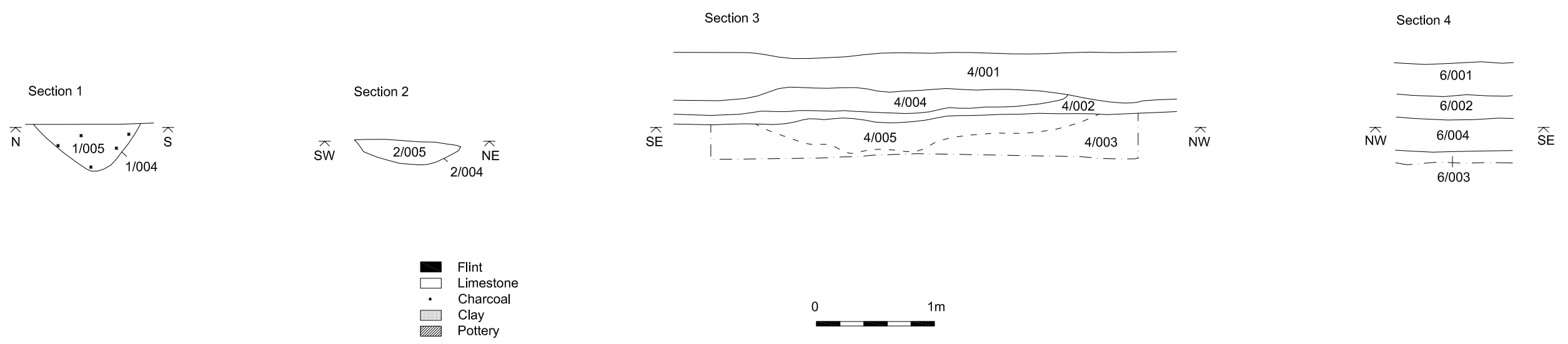
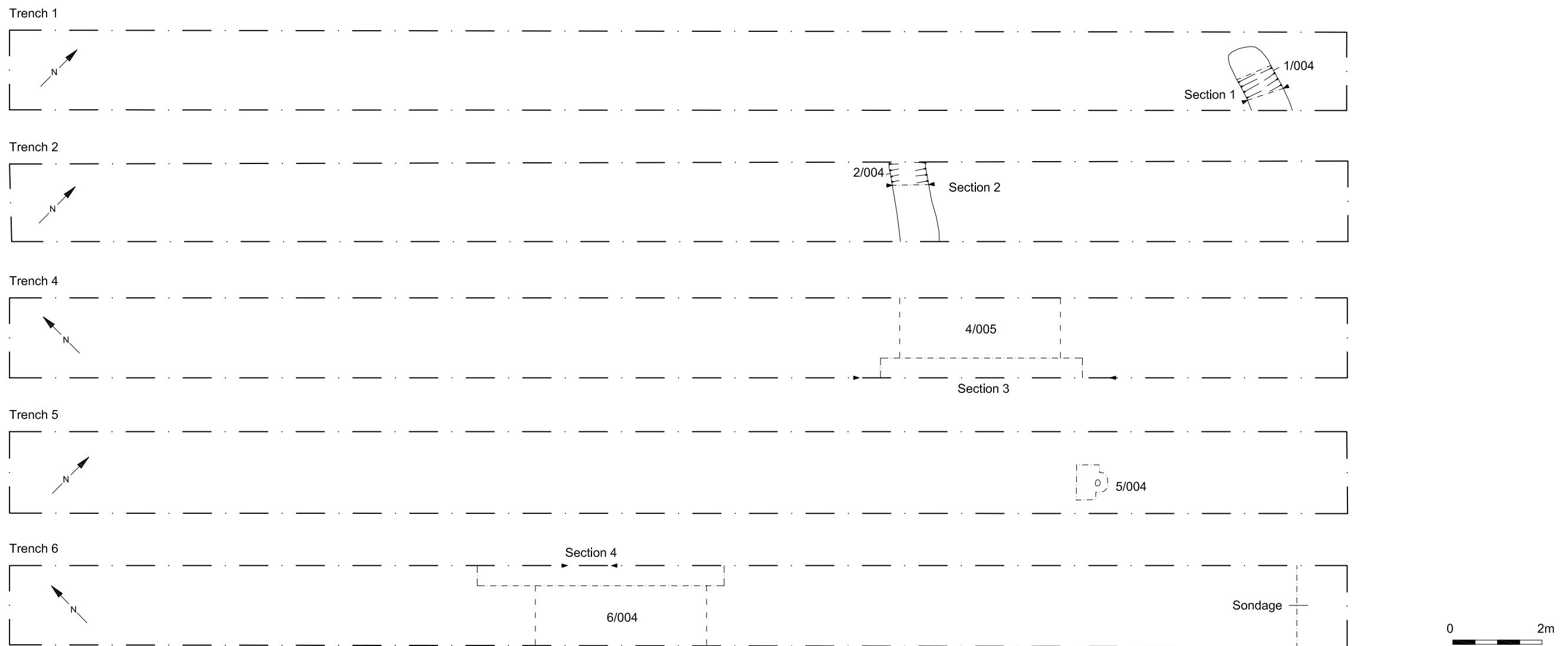


© Archaeology South-East		Eureka Park, Plot 6.5	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3379	May 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2008043	Drawn by: JLR		

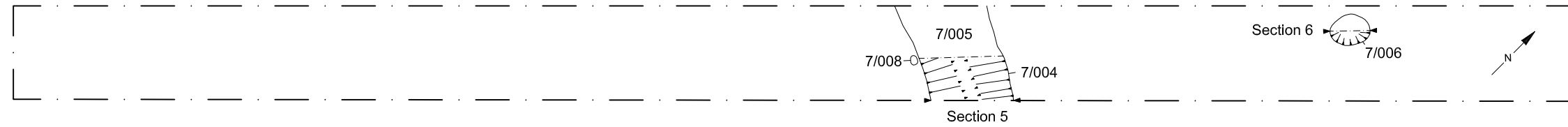
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A



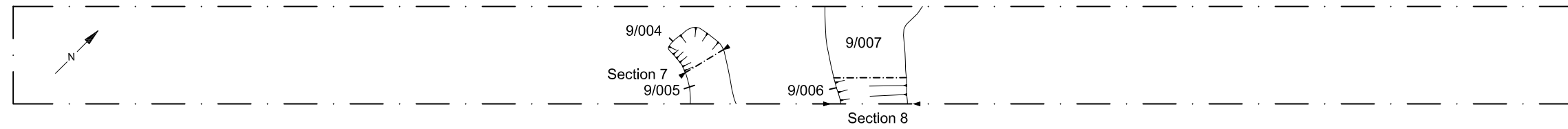
© Archaeology South-East		Eureka Park, Plot 6.5	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3379	May 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2008043	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 7



Trench 9



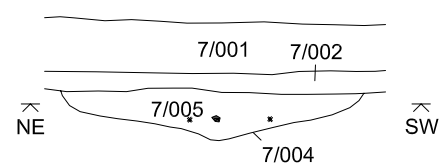
Trench 10



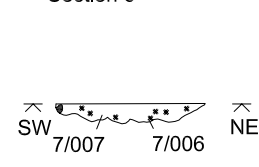
Trench 11



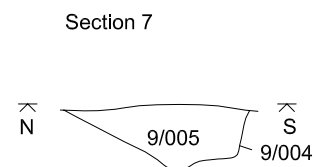
Section 5



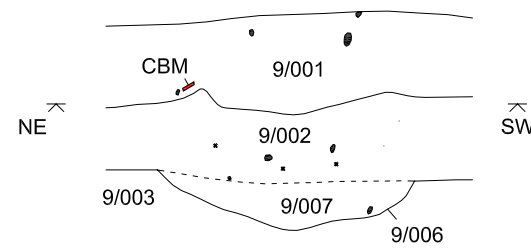
Section 6



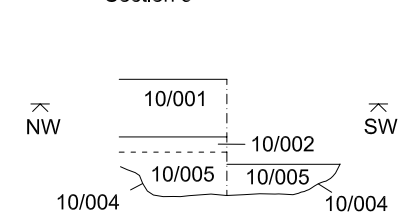
Section 7



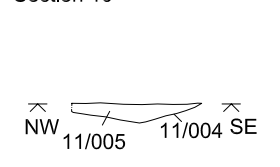
Section 8



Section 9



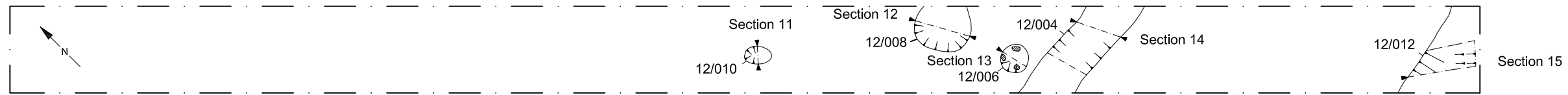
Section 10



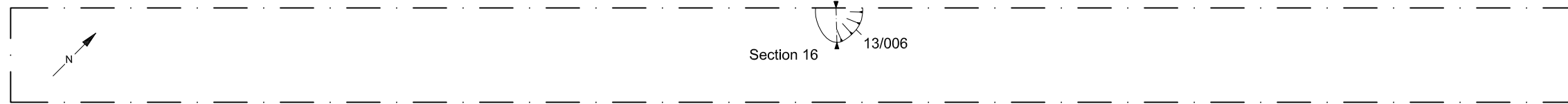
- Flint
- Limestone
- Charcoal
- ▨ Clay
- ▩ Pottery



Trench 12



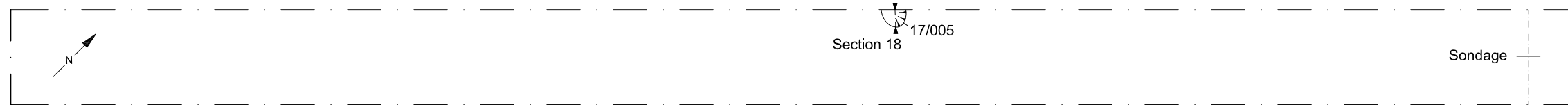
Trench 13



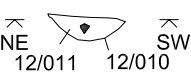
Trench 16



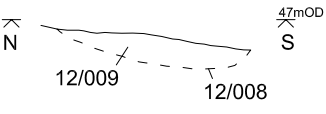
Trench 17



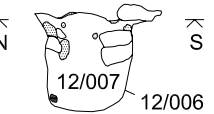
Section 11



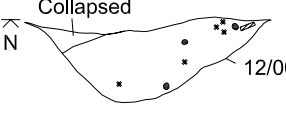
Section 12



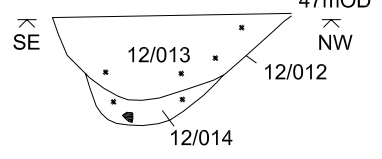
Section 13



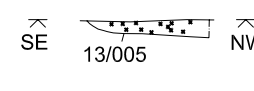
Section 14



Section 15



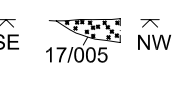
Section 16



Section 17



Section 18



- Flint
- Limestone
- Charcoal
- ▨ Clay
- ▩ Pottery





Fig. 6.1: Working shot during excavation of 5/004



Fig. 6.2: Box slot following excavation of 5/004

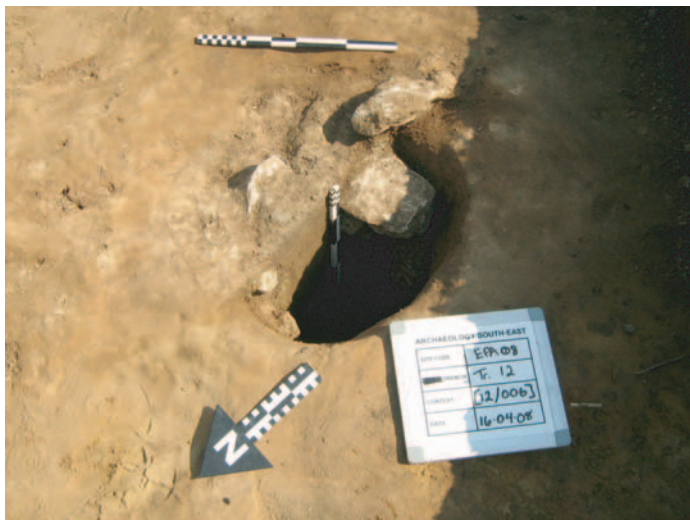


Fig. 6.3: Plan shot of 12/006

© Archaeology South-East		Eureka Park, Plot 6.5	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3379	May 2008	Figures 6.1 - 6.3	
Report Ref: 2008043	Drawn by: JLR		