

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road,
Canterbury, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury and Sean Wallis

Site Code: LRC14/248

(TQ 1773 5800)

**Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road,
Canterbury, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millwood Designer Homes**

by James McNicoll-Norbury and Sean Wallis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRC 14/248

April 2015

Summary

Site name: Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 1773 5800

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 4th February to 24th March 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisors: James McNicoll-Norbury and Sean Wallis

Site code: LRC 14/248

Area of site: 2.4ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified during the course the evaluation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Canterbury Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.03.15 Steve Preston ✓ 31.03.15 |
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Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury and Sean Wallis

Report 14/248

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent (TR 1773 5800) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Bodman of Millwood Designer Homes, Bordyke End, East Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1HA.

Planning permission (CA/14/00535/FUL) has been gained from Canterbury City Council to redevelop the site for residential use. The consent is subject to a standard condition (13) relating to archaeology, which requires that an evaluation of the site be carried out prior to the commencement of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Officer with Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury, Matthew Cano and Sean Wallis between 4th February and 24th March 2015 and the site code is LRC 14/248. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Canterbury Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Littlebourne Road which leads east out of Canterbury, Kent (Fig. 1). The site comprises open playing fields surrounded by trees and current housing to the north, west and east. The site is generally flat, and lies at a height of approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying natural geology consists of Head Brickearth and River Terrace Gravels (BGS 1982), and this was confirmed in the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a search of the Kent County Historic Environment Record (HER). In summary, the site lies immediately north of the Roman road from Canterbury (*Durovernum*) to Richborough (*Rutupiae*). Although this is thought to have run just to the south of the present Littlebourne

Road (A257), there is the possibility of features associated with roadside activity being present within the site. A Roman or medieval building has been recorded to the north of the site at Scotland Hills, and it has been suggested that it may be a fort. A medieval moated house once stood to the east of the site. Polo Farm is regarded as being a historic farmstead dating from at least the post-medieval period, although only the farmhouse now survives (KCC 2014).

Objectives and methodology

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the proposed area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant recording under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if archaeological deposits associated with Roman roadside activity are present.

It was proposed to excavate 13 trenches, each 30m long and 1.6m, across the site, which would target those areas which would be most affected by the new housing development. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a JCB or 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was to be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers.

Results

All trenches were excavated close to their intended positions, with very slight adjustments for logistical reasons (Fig. 3). All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and ranged between 28.30m and 31.20m in length and 0.40m and 0.70m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

This trench was aligned approximately W-E and was 28.50m long and up to 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil, 0.13m of made ground consisting of silt, gravels, chalk and brick fragments and 0.36m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay (Fig. 4). No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 2 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately SSW-NNE and was 28.50m long and up to 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.33m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay. A modern ditch (1) was observed within the trench, and partially excavated, but was not recorded in detail.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE and was 28.50m long and up to 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil, overlying the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 4 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 30.50m long and up to 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy (Fig. 4) consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately WSW-ENE and was 28.60m long and up to 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 6 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately WSW-ENE and was 31.20m long and up to 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. A modern pit was observed at the western end of the trench, but was not recorded in detail.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE and was 29.50m long and up to 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained frequent gravel inclusions. A modern ditch was observed at the eastern end of the trench, but was not recorded in detail.

Trench 8

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 29.80m long and up to 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy (Fig. 4) consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.17m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 9

This trench was aligned approximately SW-NE and was 28.40m long and up to 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil, overlying the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 10 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and was 30.00m long and up to 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 11

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 28.60m long and up to 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.32m of subsoil, overlying the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 12

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and was 30.00m long and up to 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy (Fig. 4) consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.44m of subsoil, overlying the natural orange brown sandy clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 13

This trench was aligned approximately W-E and was 28.30m long and up to 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil, 0.12m of made ground consisting of silt, gravels, chalk and brick fragments, and 0.33m of subsoil, overlying natural orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered. The material from the modern features identified during the evaluation was retained on site.

Conclusion

The evaluation at Littlebourne Road successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the new housing development. Despite the fact that the site does not appear to have been truncated or significantly disturbed in the past, no features of archaeological interest were recorded. It is therefore considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 289, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.

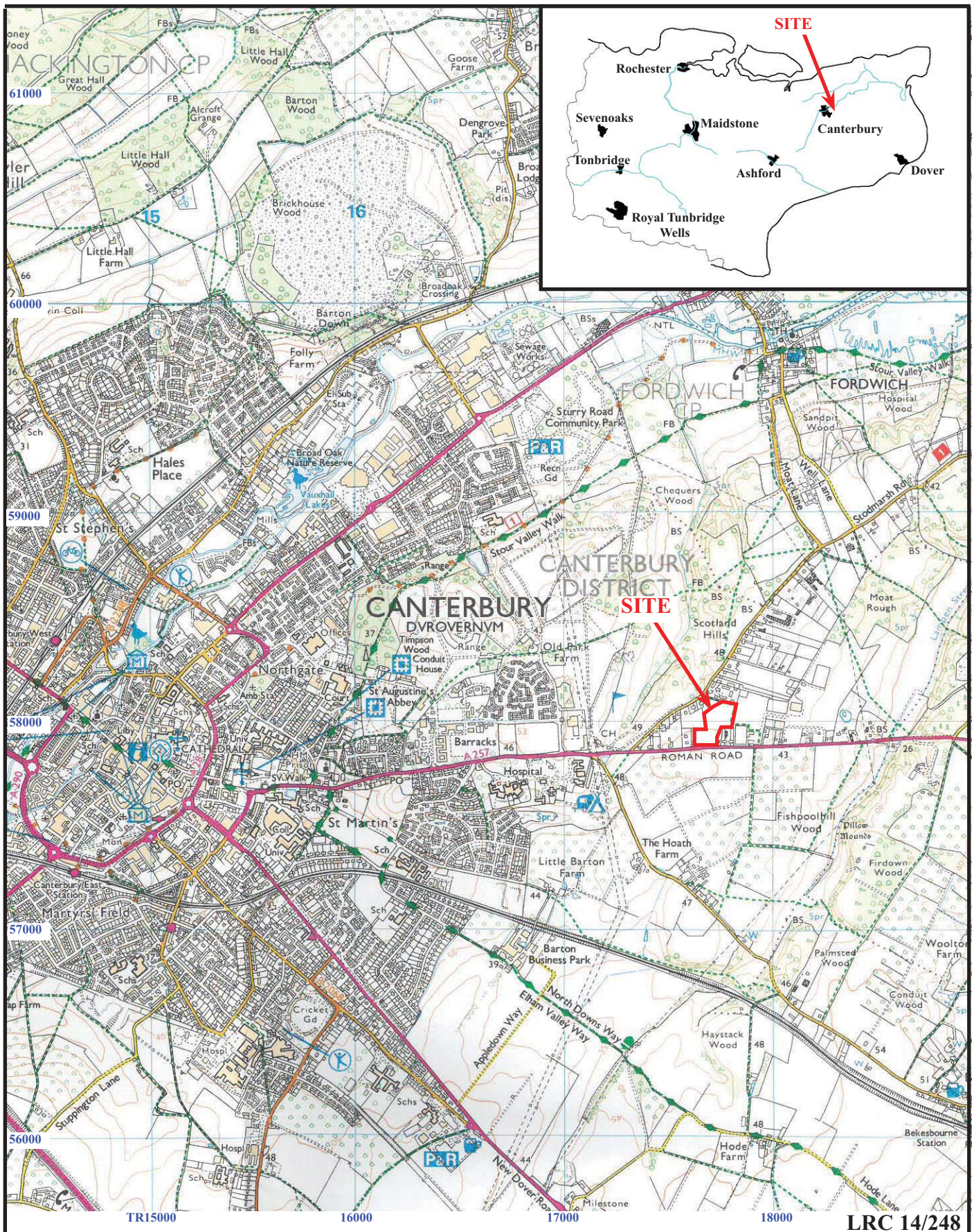
KCC, 2014, Search of the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), Maidstone

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TS0).

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 28.50 | 1.60 | 0.65 | 0–0.16m topsoil, 0.16-0.27m made ground, 0.27-0.63m subsoil, 0.63m+ orange brown sandy clay (natural geology). |
| 2 | 28.50 | 1.60 | 0.70 | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.53m subsoil, 0.53m+ orange brown sandy clay (natural geology). Modern ditch [PI. 1] |
| 3 | 28.50 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12-0.50m subsoil, 0.50m+ gravel (natural geology). |
| 4 | 30.30 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.38m subsoil, 0.38m+ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions (natural geology). [PI. 2] |
| 5 | 28.60 | 1.60 | 0.42 | 0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.40m subsoil, 0.40m+ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions (natural geology). |
| 6 | 31.20 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.38m subsoil, 0.38m+ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions (natural geology). Modern pit. [PI. 3] |
| 7 | 29.50 | 1.60 | 0.42 | 0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.36m subsoil, 0.36m+ orange brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions (natural geology). Modern ditch. |
| 8 | 29.80 | 1.60 | 0.45 | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.37m subsoil, 0.37m+ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions (natural geology). |
| 9 | 28.40 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12-0.47m subsoil, 0.47m+ gravel (natural geology). |
| 10 | 30.00 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.40m subsoil, 0.40m+ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions (natural geology). [PI. 4] |
| 11 | 28.60 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.47m subsoil, 0.47m+ gravel (natural geology). |
| 12 | 30.00 | 1.60 | 0.64 | 0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17-0.61m subsoil, 0.61m+ orange brown sandy clay (natural geology). |
| 13 | 28.30 | 1.60 | 0.65 | 0–0.16m topsoil, 0.16-0.27m made ground, 0.27-0.60m subsoil, 0.60m+ orange brown sandy clay (natural geology) |

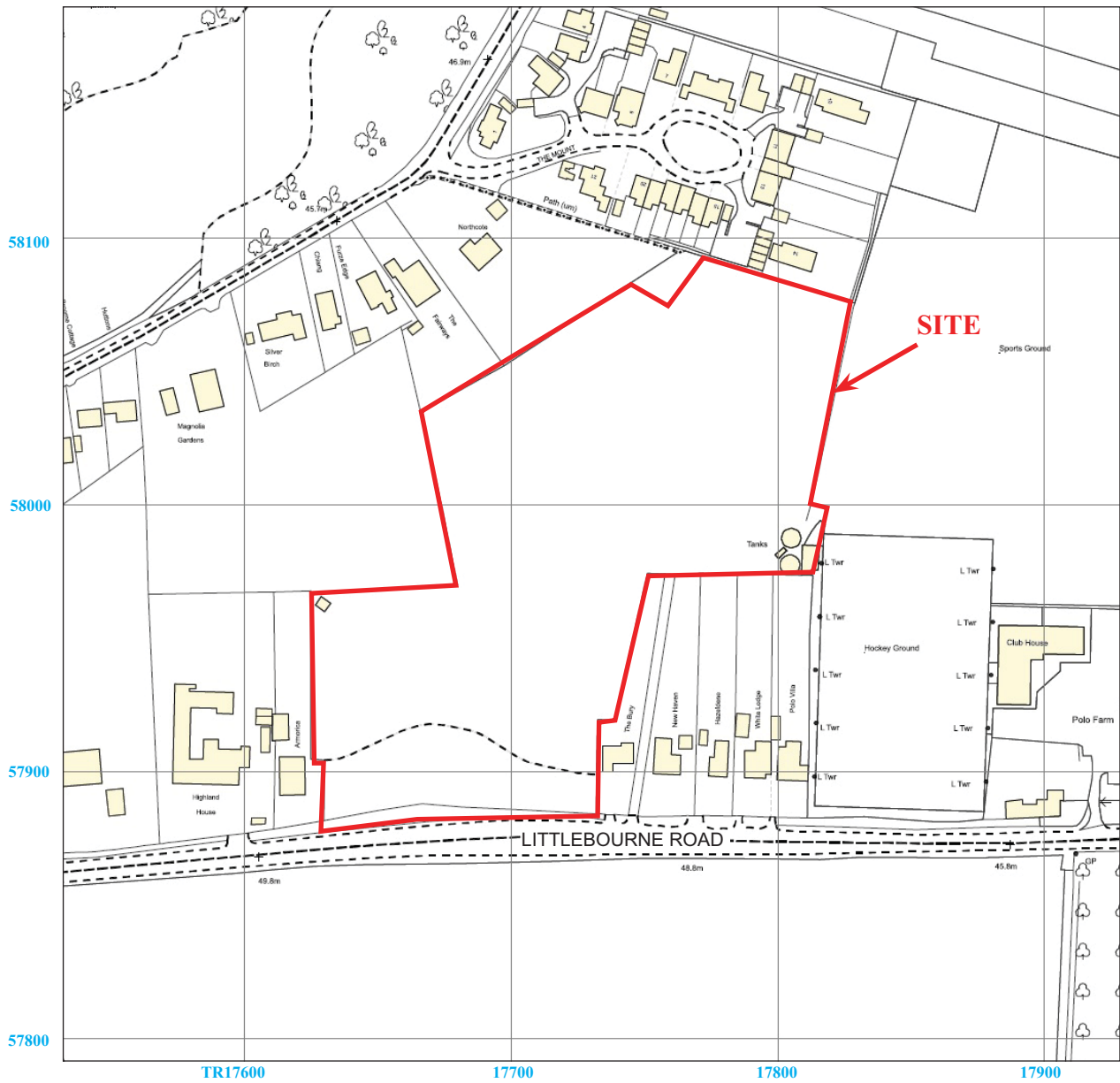
| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Site Name: Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury | |
| Site Address: Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury | |
| Summary of discoveries: Nil | |
| District/Unitary: Canterbury | Parish: Canterbury |
| Period(s): Nil | |
| NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): TR 17718 27980 | |
| (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs) | |
| Type of archaeological work (delete) | |
| Evaluation | |
| Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 04/0//15 To: 24/03/15 | |
| Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd | |
| Geology: Brickearth and (3rd) river terrace gravel | |
| Title and author of accompanying report: Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation James McNicoll-Norbury and Sean Wallis | |
| Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Natural gravel or clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil; modern made ground layer between subsoil and topsoil in one trench only. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont on attached sheet)</p> | |
| Location of archive/finds: to go to Canterbury museum | |
| Contact at Unit: Sean Wallis | Date: 31/03/2015 |
| | |



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Canterbury, Kent, 2015
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Canterbury and Kent.

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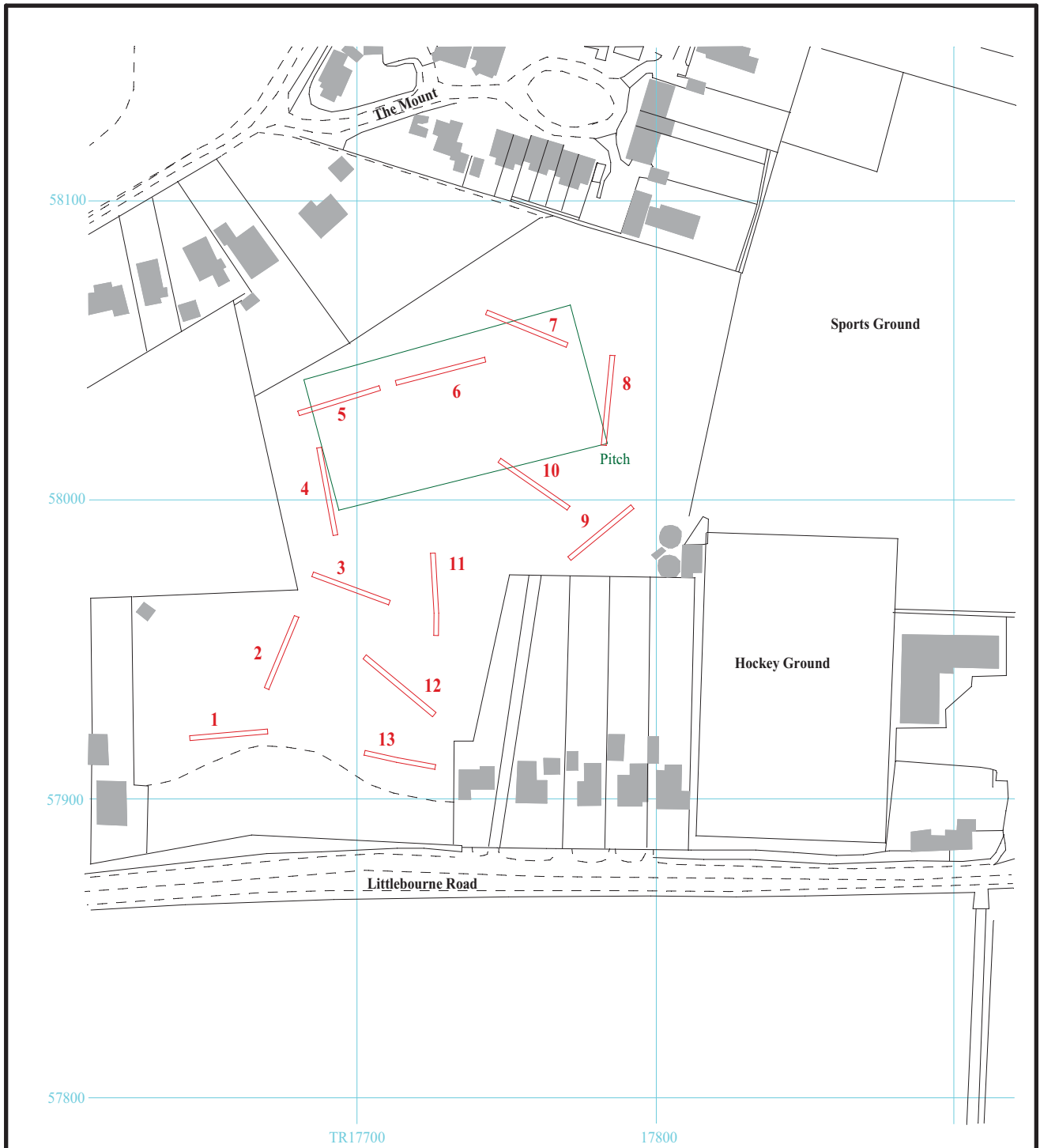


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Littlebourne Road.

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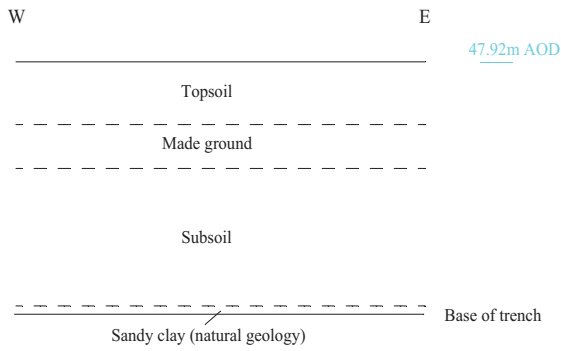
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

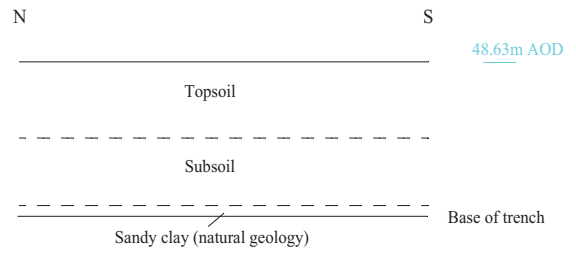


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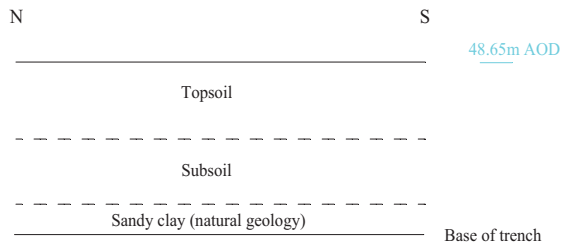
Trench 1



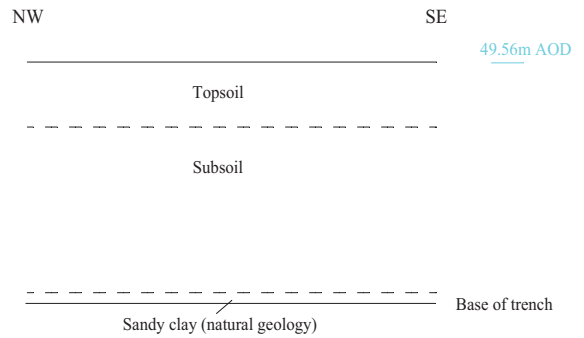
Trench 4



Trench 8



Trench 12



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Figure 4. Representative Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north. Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking east. Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 10, looking north-west. Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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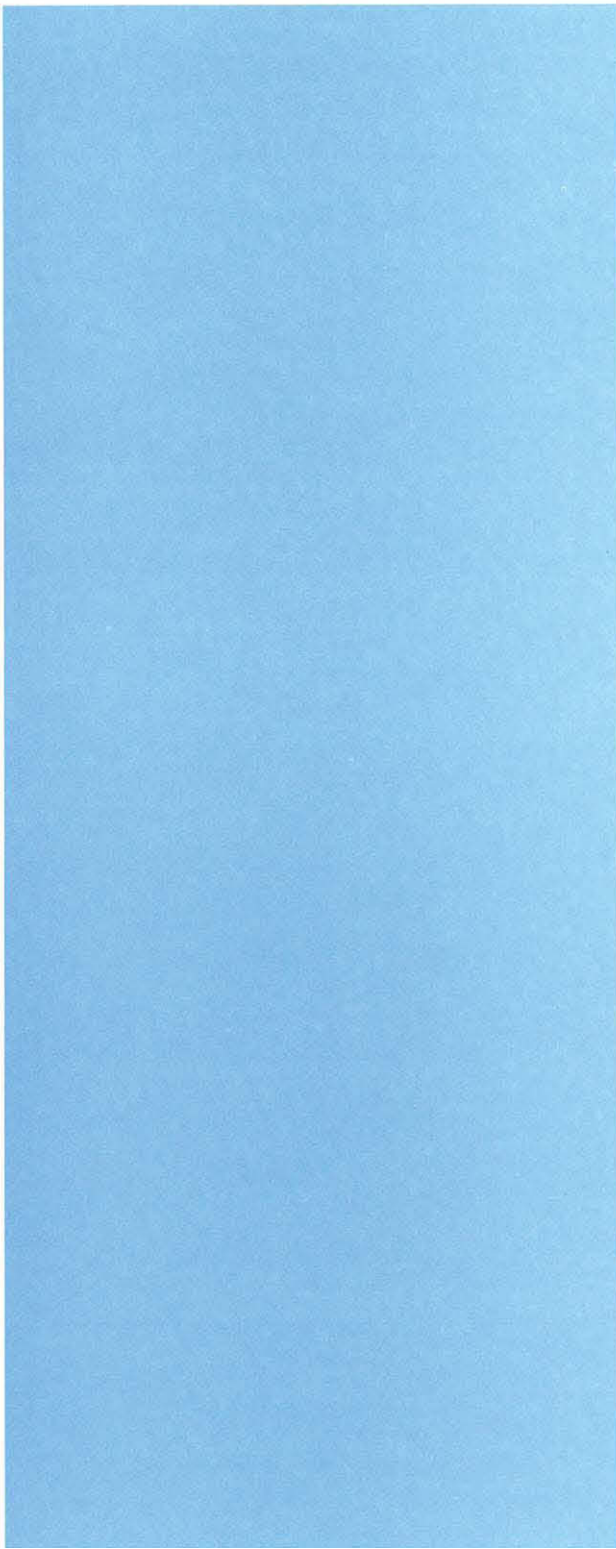
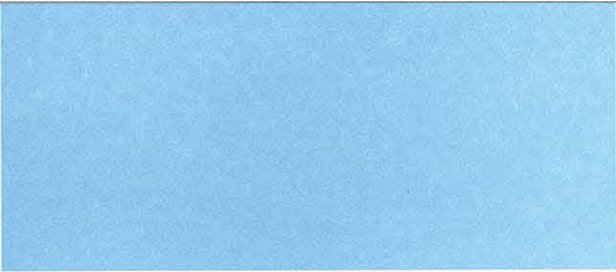
Plates 1 - 4.

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TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 750 BC |
| | |
| Bronze Age: Late ----- | 1300 BC |
| Bronze Age: Middle ----- | 1700 BC |
| Bronze Age: Early ----- | 2100 BC |
| | |
| Neolithic: Late | 3300 BC |
| Neolithic: Early | 4300 BC |
| | |
| Mesolithic: Late | 6000 BC |
| Mesolithic: Early | 10000 BC |
| | |
| Palaeolithic: Upper | 30000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Middle | 70000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Lower | 2,000,000 BC |





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