

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

**Land at Stanley Farm, Marden,
Maidstone, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site Code: SFM 13/118

(TQ 7456 4420)

Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone, Kent

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millwood Designer Homes Ltd**

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SFM 13/118

May 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 7456 4420

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st March to 8th April 2016

Project manager: Andrew Weale

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site code: SFM 13/118

Area of site: c. 5 ha

Summary of results

The evaluation has revealed the presence of archaeological deposits on the site which consist of a small number of widely dispersed later Bronze Age pits along with undated ditches and gullies.

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

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Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz

Report 13/118b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone, Kent (TQ 7456 4420) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Bland of Millwood Designer Homes Ltd, Bordyke End, East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HA.

Outline planning permission has been granted (13/1585) by Maidstone Borough Council to develop the site for 85 residential units, open space and allotments with access from Plain Road and Napoleon Drive. The consent is subject to a standard condition (7) relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer of Kent County Council, the Borough Council's archaeological advisers. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz, Mariusz Paszkiewicz and Nick Dawson between 21st March and 8th April 2016 and the site code is SFM13/118. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services and will be deposited with Maidstone Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of the historic core of Marden village. It is currently a large arable field, which is criss-crossed by a number of footpaths, and there is a small pond in the north-west corner (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the west and south-west by farmland, to the north by a recreation ground and modern housing, and to the east and south-east by further houses and their gardens. There are hedgerows along the western and south-western boundaries, which contain a number of mature oak trees. The site is relatively flat, although the western part does slope down gently towards the north, and lies at a height of between 30m and 32m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology for much of the site consists of Quaternary river gravels, with Weald Clay deposits present in the north-west and south-west corners of the site (BGS 1993). A mixture of gravels and clays were observed within the trenches across the site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk based assessment (Wallis 2013). In summary the site lies within an area with little recorded of archaeological interest. The site is located within the Weald which has a predominant clay geology and neither the region nor the geological outcrop are noted as being archaeologically rich. It is considered by some that The Weald was heavily forested until post-medieval times. However, the paucity of recorded archaeology may also be partly due to the lack of archaeological fieldwork in the area. Recent archaeological projects in the Weald have revealed evidence of activity from the Mesolithic period onwards. An example of this is the Bronze Age house which was found close to Burgess Hill, West Sussex, on Wealden Clay geology (Wallis 2016). The Weald is known to have been an important area for iron production from the Iron Age period right up until the early 19th century, and it is interesting to note that an iron smelting furnace was discovered within Marden during a recent watching brief. It should also be noted that the site is partly located on a gravel terrace, which may have been preferentially settled in the past.

Historically Marden was a clearing within the area known as *Andredes weald*, meaning 'the forest of Andred', which is now simply known as the Weald. Marden was not included in Domesday Book (AD1086) (Williams and Martin 2002) and the place-name is first recorded as *Maeredaen* in about 1100.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The general objectives of the project were to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.; and
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits associated with iron production are present.

A total of 46 trenches 25m long and 1.8m wide were to be excavated across the site. Topsoil, and any other overburden was to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled to an agreed fraction by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any that might warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place where sufficiently well stratified subsoil deposits were located. Metal detectors were to be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds.

Results

The majority of the trenches were excavated as intended with minor variations apart from Trenches 44 to 46 the positions of which were moved due to the presence on site of overhead power lines and ecological considerations (Fig. 2). This was done after consultation with Ms Wendy Rogers. The trenches varied from 23m to 28m long and from 0.30m to 0.90m deep. Three test pits were excavated through the gravels at the ends of Trenches 1, 5 and 43 to confirm their interpretation as natural geology and to explore the possibility for Palaeolithic deposits.

Trenches 4, 6, 9, 11-12, 15-18, 20, 22-26, 29, 31-36, 38 and 40-46 contained no archaeological features nor were any artefacts recovered from them. Only those trenches containing certain or probable archaeological features are described in detail below. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3, 6)

Trench 1 was aligned SE-SW was 28.0m long and a maximum of 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.26m thick above subsoil 0.32m thick which overlay natural gravels. It contained a single posthole (9) which was circular in plan 0.30m in diameter and 0.16m deep. Posthole 9 was filled with a light yellow brown silty clay (60) but contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3, 6)

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE was 24.0m long and a maximum of 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.26m thick above 0.22m of subsoil which overlay natural gravels. Ditch 10 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 1.10m wide and 0.18m deep, It was considerably disturbed by roots, making its

outline somewhat irregular. It was filled with a light grey brown silty clay (61) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and Pl. 7)

Trench 3 was aligned SE-NW was 23.40m long and a maximum of 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.14m thick which overlay natural gravels. Pit 5 was oval in plan up to 0.78m across and 0.56m deep. It was filled with light brown silty clay (56) which contained 11 sherds of Middle and Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery. Ditch 4 was aligned south-west to north-east, and was 0.91m wide and 0.32m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (55) that contained no artefacts. Ditch 3 was parallel to ditch 4 and was 0.80m wide and 0.23m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (54) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3, 6)

Trench 5 was aligned W-E and was 27.0m long and a maximum of 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.26m thick above subsoil 0.34m thick which overlay mixed natural geology of yellow red gravels with yellow red clay. Ditch 7 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 1.28m wide and 0.23m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (58) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 4, 6)

Trench 7 was aligned W-E was 25.0m long and a maximum of 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.25m thick above subsoil 0.35m deep which overlay natural mixed yellow red gravels with yellow red clay. Pit 8 which was circular in plan 0.45m in diameter and 0.06m deep. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (59) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 8 (Figs 2, 4, 7)

Trench 8 was aligned S-N was 25.70m long and a maximum of 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.26m thick above subsoil 0.39m deep which overlay natural yellow red gravels with yellow red clay. Ditch 16 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 1.12m wide and 0.43m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (66) that contained no datable artefacts. Ditch 13 was aligned roughly ESE to NNW, and was 0.77m wide and 0.32m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (63) that contained no datable artefacts. Pit 12 which was roughly oval in plan up to 2.10m across contained the remains of a large articulated animal burial that was slightly malodorous and thus relatively recent. It was not further excavated. Finally Ditch

11 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 0.78m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (73) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 10 (Figs 2, 4, 8)

Trench 10 was aligned SW-NE was 26.00m long and a maximum of 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.30m deep which overlay natural yellow red gravel and yellow red clay. At the south-western end of the trench was Gully 18 that was curvilinear in plan aligned roughly south to north and was 0.43m wide and 0.28m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (70) that contained no datable artefacts. Just to the north east of Gully 18 was a possible Gully (19) which was also curvilinear in plan aligned roughly west to east. On excavation it was considered be more likely to be a natural channel.

Trench 13 (Figs 2, 4, 7 and Pl. 2)

Trench 13 was aligned S-N was 29.0m long and a maximum of 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.20m deep which overlay natural yellow red gravel and yellow red clay. Ditch 14 was aligned roughly east to west and was 5.34m wide and 0.94m deep. It contained two fills, the upper of which (64) was a mid grey brown silty clay which was 0.74m deep. Beneath 64 was 72 which was a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 2 sherds of modern pottery, 8 fragments of post-medieval to modern ceramic building material and a single piece of iron, probably a buckle. Ditch 15 was aligned south west to north east and was 0.79m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (65) that contained no artefacts.

Trench 14 (Figs 2, 5 and 8)

Trench 14 was aligned WNW-ESE was 23.70m long and a maximum of 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.45m thick above subsoil 0.20m thick which overlay natural red yellow gravel. Ditch 17 was aligned we to east and was 1.16m wide and 0.22m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (67) that contained no artefacts.

Trench 19 (Figs 2, 5, 8 and Pl. 3)

Trench 19 was aligned S-N, was 25.20m long and a maximum of 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.25m thick above a subsoil 0.10m thick which overlay natural yellow red silty clay. Pit 21 was oval in plan up to 2m across and 0.32m deep with an irregular base which might suggest it was originally several features. It was filled with a light yellow grey silty clay (77) which contained four sherds of Iron Age pottery

Trench 21 (Figs 2, 5, 8)

Trench 21 was aligned SE-NW was 25.50m long and a maximum of 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.15m thick which overlay natural yellow grey clay with gravel. Gully 24 was aligned west to east and was 0.65m wide and 0.11m deep. It was filled with a light grey silty clay (80) that contained no artefacts.

Trench 24 (Figs 2, 5, 7; Pls 8 and 4)

Trench 24 was aligned SW-NE was 27.00m long and a maximum of 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.25m thick above subsoil 0.05m thick which overlay natural yellow grey clay with gravel. No cut features were observed within this trench but two patches of pottery (74, 75) were recorded lying on the top of the natural geology. Patch 74 consisted of 78 sherds of Bronze Age pottery and patch 75 another 18 sherds.

Trench 27 (Figs 2, 5, 7; Pls 5, 10 and 11)

Trench 27 was aligned SSW-NNE was 25.00m long and a maximum of 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.15m thick which overlay natural yellow grey clay with gravel. Pit 23 which was circular in plan 0.82m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It was filled with two deposits, the uppermost of which was a light brown silty clay with gravel and frequent stone (79) which contained 56 sherds of Bronze Age pottery, three pieces of fired clay all from one loom weight and a fragment of burnt fired clay that could be kiln or oven structure. Beneath fill 79 was 81 a light blue white clay that contained no artefacts.

Trenches 28 (Figs 2, 5 and 8)

Trench 28 was aligned SE-NW was 25.00m long and a maximum of 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.30m thick which overlay natural yellow grey clay with gravel. Posthole 25 was oval in plan up to 0.46m across and 0.19m deep. Its fill (82) of light grey brown silty clay contained no artefacts.

Trench 30 (Figs. 2, 8)

Trench 30 was aligned S-N was 27.30m long and a maximum of 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.20m thick above subsoil 0.05m thick which overlay natural yellow brown clay. Gully 26 was aligned south-west to north-east was 0.67m wide and 0.27m deep. It was filled with a light brown silty clay (83) that contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 37 (Figs 2, 5, 8)

Trench 37 was aligned S-N was 25.40m long and a maximum of 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.30m thick which overlay natural gravel. Pit 20 was circular in plan 0.60m in diameter and 0.28m deep. It was filled with a light red brown silty clay (76) that contained a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery.

Trench 39 (Figs 2, 5 and 8; Pl. 9)

Trench 39 was aligned SW-NE was 25.80m long and a maximum of 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil which was 0.30m thick above subsoil 0.20m thick which overlay natural gravel. Pit 22 was circular in plan 0.52m in diameter and 0.19m deep. It was filled with a dark brown with red brown patches silty clay with gravel (78) that contained 9 sherds of Bronze Age pottery.

Three Test Pits were excavated through the gravels to examine if there were any artefacts within the underlying gravels.

Test Pit 1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 9)

Test pit 1 was excavated at the north-western end of Trench 1. The gravel natural at the base of Trench 1 (68) was a light yellow red sub angular gravel and extended to a depth of 0.90m. Beneath 68 was a loose red yellow sub angular fine gravel (69) which extended to a depth of 1.50m, and beneath 69 was clay which was excavated to a depth of 1.60m but at this point flooding occurred. The water table existed at the base of 69 at 1.50m. Two bulk samples were taken of 68 and of 69. The remaining gravels were examined on site for the presence of artefacts although none were observed

Test Pit 2 Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 9)

Test pit 2 was excavated at the eastern end of Trench 5. The gravel natural (85) at the base of Trench 5 was found to be a maximum of 0.05m thick beneath which was clay which was excavated to a depth of 2.0m with no change.

Test Pit 3 Trench 43 (Figs 2, 9 and Pl. 10)

Test pit 3 was excavated at the western end of Trench 43. The gravel natural at the base of Trench 43 (84) was a loose red brown sub angular gravel that extended to a depth of 1.30m beneath which was clay to a depth of 1.70m. The water table was encountered at 1.60m. A bulk sample of 84 was taken. The remaining gravel was examined on site for the presence of artefacts although none were observed

Finds

Prehistoric Pottery by Richard Tabor

The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprised a total of 177 sherds weighing 2481g (Appendix 3). The weights, fabrics and vessel parts of all sherds were recorded. The assemblage appeared to derive from three episodes, two later Bronze Age and one Iron Age. The sherds were allocated to fabric groups based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions. Vessel forms were grouped also by characteristic profiles, where reconstruction was possible, or by rim or other diagnostic features, including surface treatments in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010).

Kent has benefited from two reviews of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery. The earlier was limited to the eastern part of the county (MacPherson-Grant 1992) but a recent one has provided an assessment of the county's Middle Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery (McNee 2012), comprising a chronological vessel morphology and a fabric series founded on detailed petrological analysis. Reference is made to McNee's system of classification within which five ceramic phases cover an approximate time span of 1500 to 400BC (McNee 2012, 55), taking in the material from the nearby site at Westborough School, Maidstone (Rayner 2005).

Fabrics

The fabrics have been divided into two Bronze Age groups made up of flint and flint and grog mixtures and flint; a Late Bronze Age group of fine flint and grog mixture; and a presumed Iron Age fabric including grains of soft rock (Appendix 4). With the exception of the last fabric the dating of the material is supported by association with sherds carrying diagnostic traits.

Bronze Age: flint

F1 (Coarse) Moderately hard grey fabric with buff orange exterior and grey interior surfaces including common angular burnt flint (<2mm).

feF1 (Medium) Soft grey fabric with buff orange exterior and grey interior surfaces including sparse to moderate angular burnt flint (<5mm) and rare to sparse iron oxides (<1.5mm).

Bronze Age: flint and grog mixtures

FG1 (Coarse) Poorly fired grey fabric with red brown exterior and red brown to grey interior surfaces including common poorly sorted burnt angular flint (<6mm) and sparse to moderate rounded grog (<3mm).

feFG1 (Medium) Moderately fired grey fabric with buff orange exterior and grey surfaces including moderate to common angular burnt flint (<3mm), moderate grey grog (<1.5mm), and sparse red brown round iron oxides (<0.2mm).

Late Bronze Age: flint and grog mixture

FG2 (Medium fine) Moderately soft grey fabric with red brown exterior and interior surfaces including common, well-sorted, angular flint (<1.5mm) and moderate to common subrounded grog (<1mm).

Iron Age: white gritted

fW1 (Coarse) Moderately hard grey fabric with red brown exterior and brownish grey interior surfaces including common, poorly sorted, pitted white rock grains (<7mm), rare to sparse to moderate angular flint (<4mm) and sparse brown iron oxides including limonite (<2mm).

The flint fabric F1 corresponds broadly with McNee's medium flint fabric F/8 whilst the coarse feF1 appears to match F/13 (McNee 2012, 359). The coarse FG1 flint and grog mixture is similar to FG/8, the medium feFG1 is similar to FG/5 but may overlap with FG/8; the finer FG2 relates most closely to FG/2 (McNee 2012, 361). FG1 also compares well with GF1 from Tutt Hill, Westwell. It was a hugely dominant component of the Middle Bronze assemblage there, strongly represented in the Middle to Late Bronze Age assemblage and absent from later assemblages (Morris 2006, table 3). Fabric feFG1 is likely of the same broad suite.

The strong representation of flint fabrics compares well with the large assemblage from West Borough School and the much smaller one from Cripple Street where material was considered to date to the last quarter of the second millennium BC (Rayner 2005, 47-8; Tabor 2016). However, McNee's fabrics F/8 and F/13 had currencies extending across the full span of her study period. More usefully, the flint and grog mixture FG1 which dominates the present assemblage by weight is most common (as McNee's FG/8) during the period from roughly 1300 to 800BC.

The white grains of fW1 may be a decayed calcareous material, possibly matching McNee's fabric C/8, although no examples of it were noted in her survey (McNee 2012; 364, table 5.3).

Vessel forms

Middle to Late Bronze Age

S1. FG1. [23] (79). Biconical jar. Deep fingertip impressions into rim surface causing slight outward expansion. Lower wall and girth with deeply fingertip impressed applied cordon probably from same vessel. Rim radius: 145mm. Wall thickness approximately 9mm. Possible smoothing on upper outer surface.

- S2.** FG1. [23] (79). Ovoid jar. Near upright, simple rounded, rim *c.* 50mm above roughly horizontal row of perforations executed prior to firing. Perforations fully penetrate the 16mm wall and are oval to nearly circular with outer surface diameters *or c.* 8mm and inner of 5mm. Rim radius: 170mm. Wall thickness approximately 16mm.
- S3.** FG1. [23] (79). Weakly ovoid jar. Gently incurved, flattened, fingertip impressed, rim. At approximately 45mm below the rim a single perforation executed prior to firing was probably part of a horizontal row. The perforation fully penetrates the 14mm wall and is circular with an outer surface diameter of 8mm and inner of 6mm. Wall thickness approximately 14mm.
- S4.** FG1. [23] (79). Three wall sherds from same vessel, one with applied D-profiled cordon attached, the other scarred wall with detached cordon. Probably from S2.
- S5.** FG1. [23] (79). Wall sherds with applied V-profiled cordon forming ledge on upper side. Possibly from S3.
- S6.** FG1. [22] (78). Neutral jar. Upright, simple rounded, rim. Rim radius: 65mm. Wall thickness approximately 12mm.
- S7.** feF1. (74). Possible Globular Urn. Simple rounded rim. Rounded shoulder from which one imperforate elongated, narrow horizontal lug survives. Wall thickness approximately 6mm to 11mm.

Plain Globular Urns with a slight shoulder, sometimes with perforate or imperforate lugs, were late features of the Middle Bronze Age assemblage at the Kimpton, Hampshire, Bronze Age cemetery and in the Bournemouth area (Ellison 1981, 169-70; figs 16 and 17; Calkin 1962, 27-8) and are related to vessels from Kent sites at Iwade, Dartford, Sheppey and Sittingbourne (McNee 2012, 273, 274, 286, *G1*; Seager-Thomas 2003, fig. 2).

The decorative repertoire of the assemblage from pit 23 has several characteristics consistent with a later Middle Bronze Age date. Fingertip impressions on pottery from the Middle Bronze Age to the earlier Middle Iron Age are unremarkable in themselves but the depth of the impressions on top of the rim and on the cordon of S1 are noteworthy and may be compared with a bulbous jar with a row of perforations below the rim found at Tutt Hill and radiocarbon dated within the range 1200-1050BC (McNee 2012, 278; *J4*). Rows of pre-firing perforations were closer to the rim on two vessels from Tutt Hill (Morris 2006, 9). This form of decoration is rare in Kent and is exclusive to the Middle and Middle to Late Bronze (McNee 2012; 183). The earlier examples include a flat, incurved rim with lighter fingertip impressions from Snodland (McNee 265; *J1*) which compares well with S3. The class *J1* would also include the near straight-sided S6 from pit 22. The beaded effect achieved

by moulding below the rim of the ovoid jar S2 corresponds well with an example from Westwood Cross (McNee 2012, 270).

Globular Urns were current through much of the second half of the second millennium BC but the possible plain example from deposit (74) is likely to date from the last quarter of the 2nd millennium whilst the shouldered jar from pit 5 is typically Late Bronze Age. The other vessel forms vary in diagnostic value. McNee's *J1* occurs throughout the study period but types *J3* and *J4* are restricted to currency in the Middle and Late Bronze Age (McNee 2012, 107-8 and 113). The most salient decorative motives are cordons and perforation which do not occur in assemblages after the period from 1500 to 1100BC (McNee, table 4.13).

The minimum number of vessels from this phase is three from pit 23 and one each from pit 22 and deposits 74 and 75, a total of six.

Late Bronze Age

S8. FG2. [5] (56). Shouldered jar. Straight, vertically-necked simple rounded rim. Rim radius: 60mm. Wall thickness approximately 7mm.

Shouldered jars with upright necks, often with simple rims have been found at Cobham, Shrubsholes and Iwade. A radiocarbon date range of 980–820BC was associated with the Cobham vessel which is also the example closest in form to S8 (McNee 2012, 295; *J7*).

A minimum of one vessel from pit 5 is from this phase. Other sherds from the same pit are likely to be residual.

Summary

The combined evidence of fabrics, forms and decoration places the greatest amount of the pottery recovered during the evaluation within the final quarter of the 2nd millennium BC. A small group of sherds from a single vessel in a pit are datable to the earlier 1st millennium BC and a few featureless sherds on the evidence of fabric alone may be Iron Age. The Middle to Late Bronze Age assemblage is a small but significant addition to a growing body of contemporary material from Kent in general and from Maidstone in particular.

Post Medieval to Modern Pottery by Andrew Weale

Two sherds of post-medieval to modern pottery were recovered from Ditch 14, fill 72. One sherd (5g) was a white glazed creamware, the second piece (6g) appears to be a white glazed whiteware with a black and yellow transfer print under the glaze. Both sherds appear to be modern.

Fired clay by Richard Tabor

Four pieces of fired clay were recovered from deposit 79 of pit 23, weighing 670g.

Loomweight in three pieces, 520g. Brittle orange fabric with yellow and grey patches. Sandy, slightly micaceous including sparse rounded quartz (<1mm) and brown iron oxides (<2mm). Ovoid cylinder with maximum length of 120mm, width 82mm and depth 55mm. Slightly angled tubular perforation with 25mm upper diameter and 19mm lower surface diameter biased from centre towards one end along long axis. The loomweight is not of the regular cylindrical form typical of the Bronze Age but is well dated to the middle to later part of period by pottery from the same pit.

Furnace/oven superstructure, one piece, 150g. Hard grey fabric with red brown surfaces. Fine silty clay. One surface is smooth, slightly convex, with dark brown iron oxide accretions. The other is slightly concave with three converging 6mm deep furrows. The furrows narrow from up to 30mm at one end to 19mm at the other. The furrows may be impressions of stick on which the clay had been mounted. It is very well fired hence must have been exposed to intense heat. It is likely to be the outer layer of clay raised over an oven or furnace.

Metalwork by Andrew Weale

A single piece of metalwork was recovered from ditch 14 (72). The object weighs 35g and consists of a iron loop and contacted iron plate. The object appeared to be a buckle or harness fastening.

Ceramic Building Material by Andrew Weale

A small assemblage of eight pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from Ditch 14, fill 72. There are five fragments of tile, of which one was peg tile and one piece was moulded and glazed on one edge. There were a further three pieces of glazed pipe, of which one fragment had mortar attached to it. Whilst the peg tile can not be closely dated the glazed tile and glazed pipe would suggest a post medieval to modern date.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising four struck flints was recovered during the evaluation, all from topsoil or subsoil contexts (Appendix 5). Two of the pieces were flakes and a third was a scraper, which was iron stained. The most interesting piece came from the surface of the field 11m south of Trench 11. It was a pointed flake with convex sides with its striking platform intact. It had been invasively pressure flaked covering about half of the dorsal surface, with some edge retouch. One fine removal on the ventral side may have been intended to remove

the bulb of percussion. A small portion of the piece is mottled as if it had been exposed to fire. It is considered that the piece might be an unfinished arrowhead with the possibility that instead it was a small knife.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Jo Pine

12 sub samples of between 5 and 20L were processed from deposits encountered during the evaluation including three from test pits. The flots were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40.

No charred plant macrofossils were present in any of the samples. Charcoal was present in only three samples: sample 3, ditch 5(56); sample 4, gully 19 (71) and sample 9 pit 23 (79). For samples 3 and 4 the charcoal was small and/or sparse. For sample 9 a few larger pieces of charcoal were present.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed the presence of a modest range of archaeological deposits on the site. Where datable, these are of later Bronze Age date, and mostly consist of a small number of seemingly isolated pits spread across the majority of the site area. Apart from unambiguously modern features, the others are all ditches or gullies with non producing any dating evidence and thus their relationship to the Bronze Age features is unclear. One curvilinear feature, from its form, may be of prehistoric date though no artefacts were recovered.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at South, West or South West end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	28	1.90	0.64	Topsoil 0-0.26m. Subsoil 0.26-0.58m. 0.58m + gravel (Natural Geology?) Possible Posthole 9 [PI. 1] Test pit 1 to 1.60m. Gravel to .15m onto clay. Water table at 1.5m.
2	24	1.90	0.55	Topsoil 0-0.26m. Subsoil 0.26-0.48m. 0.48m + gravel (Natural Geology?) Land Drain 1, Possible ditch 10
3	23.40	1.90	0.48	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.44m. 0.44 + gravel (Natural Geology?). Land Drain 2, Ditch 3, Ditch 4, Pit 5 . [PI. 7]
4	25	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. 0.30-0.56m. Subsoil 0.56m + gravel (Natural Geology?) Land drain
5	27	1.90	0.65	Topsoil 0-0.26m. Subsoil 0.26-0.60, 0.60 + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Ditch 7. Test pit 2 to 2.0m; gravel gave way to clay at 0.70m.
6	23	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.40m. Subsoil 0.40-0.65m. 0.65m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?).
7	25	1.90	0.65	Topsoil 0-0.0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.60m, 0.60m+ mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Possible pit 8
8	25.70	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.26m. Subsoil 0.26-0.65. 0.65 mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Possible Ditch 11, Animal Burial 12, Ditch 13, Ditch 16
9	26.30	1.90	0.56	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50. 0.50m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?)
10	26	1.90	0.68	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60. 0.60m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Possible Gully 18, Paleochannel 19???
11	26	1.90	0.90	South end Topsoil 0-0.50m. Subsoil 0.50-0.80. 0.80 + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). North end Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.80. 0.80 + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?)
12	25.70	1.90	0.65	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60. 0.60m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?)
13	29	1.90	0.65	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50. 0.50m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Ditch 14, Ditch 15. PI. 2]
14	23.70	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.45m. Subsoil 0.45-0.65m. 0.65 + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?) Ditch 17
15	25.40	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.55. 0.55m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?)
16	25.60	1.90	0.45	Topsoil 0-0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.40. 0.40m + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
17	25.30	1.90	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.40m. 0.40m + red yellow silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology?)
18	24.80	1.90	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.20m. Subsoil 0.20-0.45m. 0.45m + mixed yellow white clay with red yellow silty clay with gravel
19	25.20	1.90	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.35m. 0.35m + mixed yellow white clay with red yellow silty clay (Natural Geology?). PI. 3]
20	26.0	1.90	0.48	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.40m. 0.40m + blue white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?)
21	25.50	1.90	0.55	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.45m. 0.45 + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
22	24.80	1.90	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.35m. 0.35 + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
23	24.70	1.90	0.38	Topsoil 0-0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.35m. 0.35 + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
24	27	1.90	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.25m. Subsoil 0.25-0.30m. 0.30m + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?). Pottery Deposit 74, Pottery Deposit 75. Pls 4and 8]
25	25	1.90	0.30	Topsoil 0-0.23m. Subsoil 0.23-0.25m. 0.25m + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
26	24.70	1.90	0.30	South end Topsoil 0-0.25m. 0.25m + yellow white clay with gravel (Natural Geology?). South end Topsoil 0-0.25m. 0.25m + gravel.
27	25	1.90	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.45m. 0.45m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). Pit 23.. [Pls 10 and 11]
28	25	1.90	0.68	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60m. 0.60m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). Possible posthole 25.
29	25.40	1.90	0.30	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + yellow brown clay (Natural Geology?).
30	27.30	1.90	0.30	Topsoil 0-0.20m. Subsoil 0.20-0.25m. 0.25m + yellow brown clay with gravel (Natural Geology?).
31	27.30	1.90	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.35m. 0.35m + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology?)
32	25.40	1.90	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.45m. 0.45m + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology?)
33	26.60	1.90	0.58	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + yellow brown silty clay (Natural Geology?)
34	27.80	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.40m. Subsoil 0.40-0.65. 0.65m + 0.40-0.65 (Natural Geology?)
35	27.30	1.90	0.66	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60m. 0.60m. 0.60m + yellow brown silty clay with

				gravel (Natural Geology?)
36	25.10	1.90	0.55	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology?)
37	25.40	1.90	0.65	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60-m. 0.60m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). Possible Pit 20
38	27.70	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.40m. Subsoil 0.40-0.65. 0.65m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?).
39	25.80	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). Pit 22.. [Pl. 9]
40	25	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?). Pit 22.
41	24.70	1.90	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.45m. 0.45m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?).
42	24.80	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.55m. 0.55m + mixed gravel with yellow red silty clay (Natural Geology?).
43	27.70	1.90	0.70	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.60m. 0.60 + gravel (Natural Geology?). Test pit 3 [Pl. 12] . Test pit 3 to 1.7m. Gravel to 1.3m onto clay. Water table at 1.6m.
44	24.70	1.90	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.50m. 0.50m + gravel (Natural Geology?).
45	25.40	1.90	0.55	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.40. 0.40 + yellow brown silty clay (Natural Geology?)
46	25.40	1.90	0.46	Topsoil 0-0.30m. Subsoil 0.30-0.40m. 0.40 + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology?). Ditch 41

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	52		Land Drain	Modern	Terracotta Pipe
3	2	53		Land Drain	Modern	Form
3	3	54		Ditch	Undated	None
3	4	55		Ditch	Undated	None
3	5	56	3	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery
4	6	57		Land Drain	Modern	Form
5	7	58		Ditch	Undated	None
7	8	59		Pit	Undated	None
1	9	60		Post Hole	Undated	None
2	10	61		Ditch	Undated	None
8	11	73		Ditch	Undated	None
8	12	62		Pit	Modern	Animal Burial
8	13	63	5	Ditch	Undated	None
13	14	64, 72		Ditch	Modern	Pottery
13	15	65		Gully	Undated	None
8	16	66		Ditch	Undated	None
14	17	67		Gully	Undated	None
10	18	70		Gully	Undated	None
10	19	71	4	Gully/natural	Undated	None
37	20	76	6	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery
19	21	77	7	Pit	Iron Age	Pottery
39	22	78	8	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery
27	23	79, 81	9, 10	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery
21	24	80		Gully	Undated	None
28	25	82	11	Posthole	Undated	None
30	26	83		Ditch	Undated	None
24		74		Pottery	Bronze Age	Pottery
24		75		Pottery	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
	TP1	68,69	1,2			
	TP3	84	3			

Appendix 3: Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

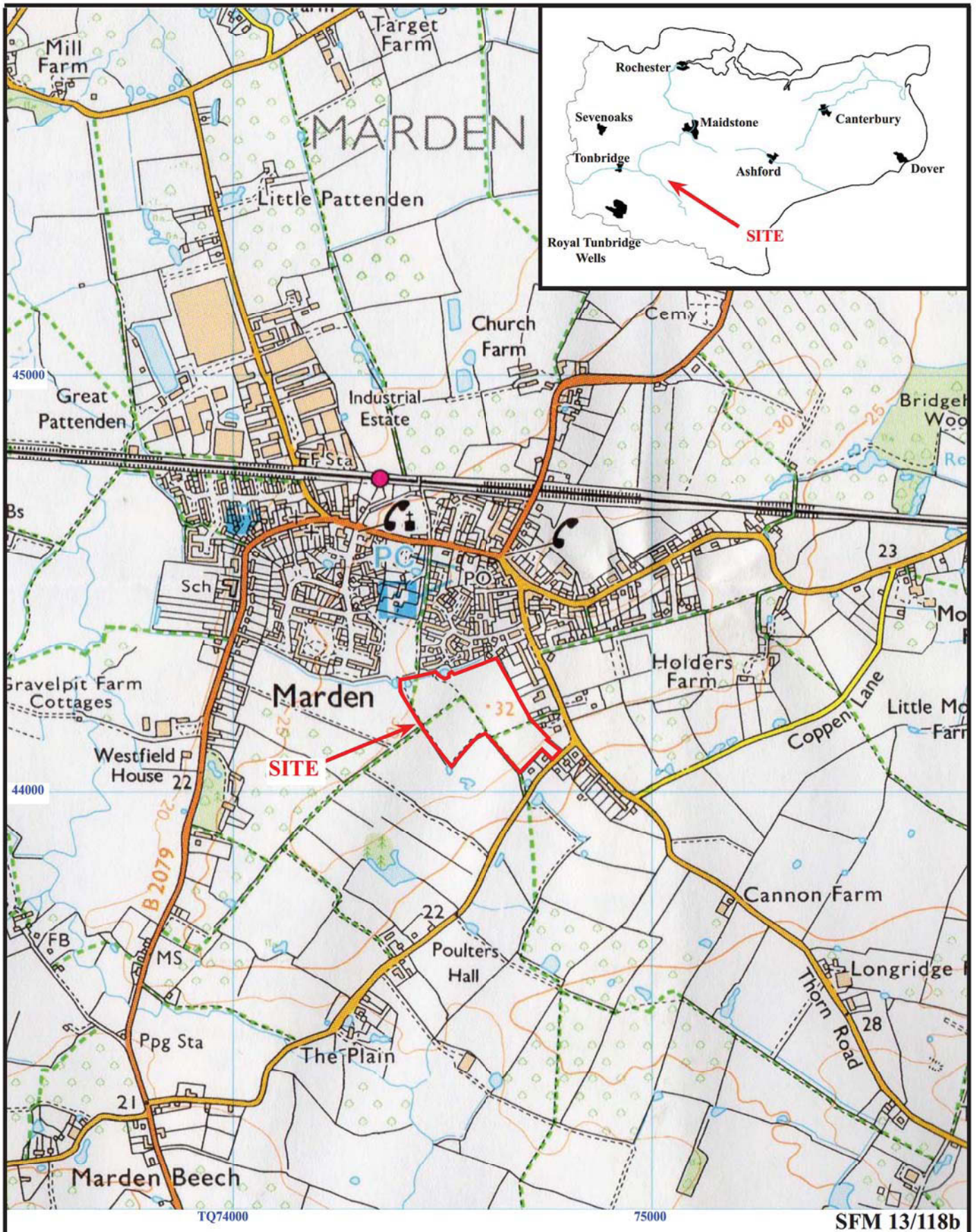
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	F1		feF1		FG1		feFG1		FG2		fw1	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
3	5	56	1	19			6	77			4	26		
19	21	77											4	26
24	-	74			78	567								
24	-	75							18	68				
27	23	79					56	1523						
37	20	76	1	4										
39	22	78					9	171						

Appendix 4: Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery fabric summary

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>% sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Mean wt (g)</i>
F1	2	1.1	23	0.9	11.5
feF1	78	44.1	567	22.9	7.4
FG1	71	40.1	1771	71.4	24.9
feFG1	18	10.2	68	2.7	3.8
FG2	4	2.3	26	1.0	6.5
fW1	4	2.3	26	1.0	6.5

Appendix 5: Flint catalogue

<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>
50 (topsoil)	Broken flake
51 (subsoil)	Broken flake
50 (topsoil)	Scraper (iron stained)
Surface find	Unfinished arrowhead or knife



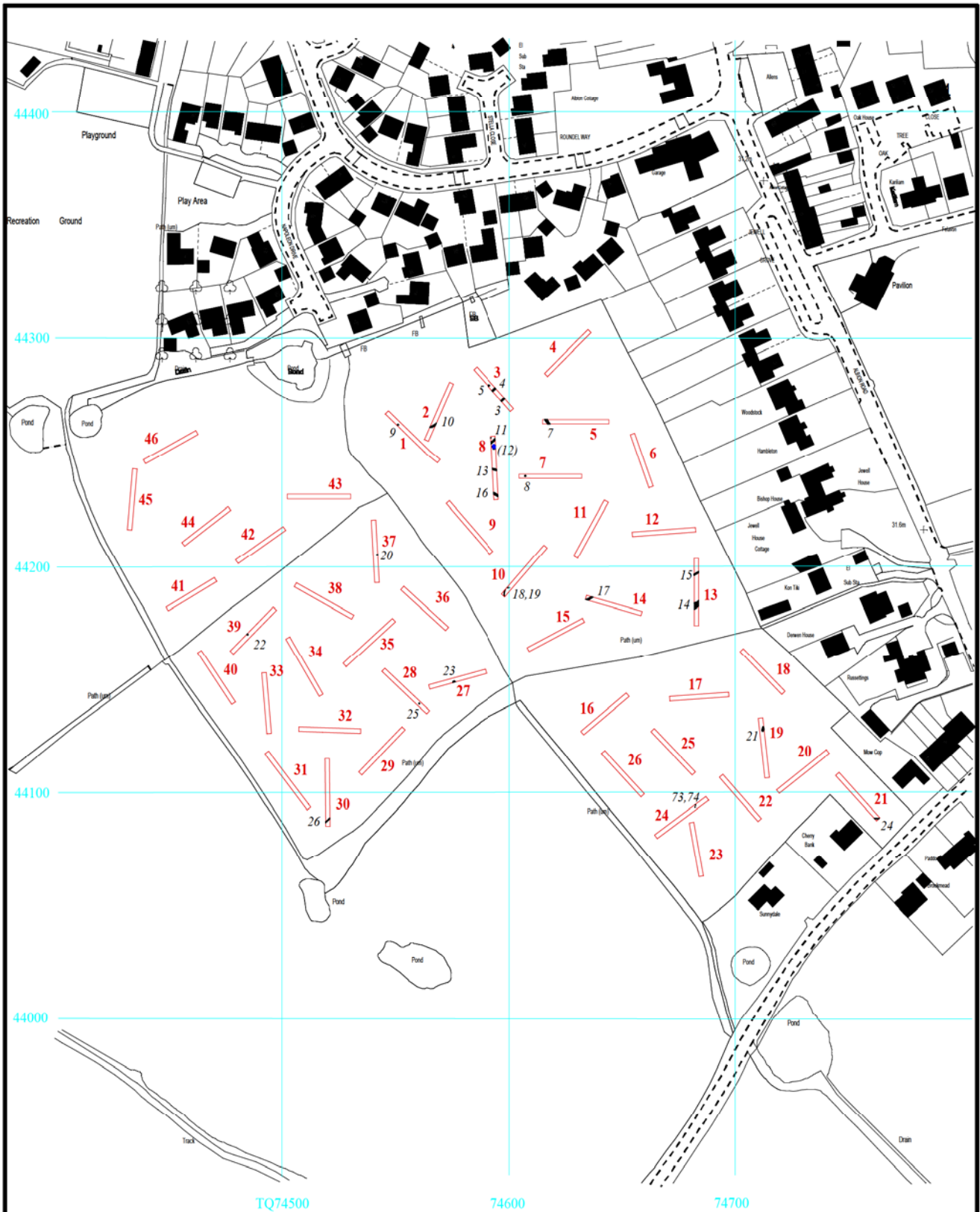
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Figure 1. Location of site within Marden and Kent.

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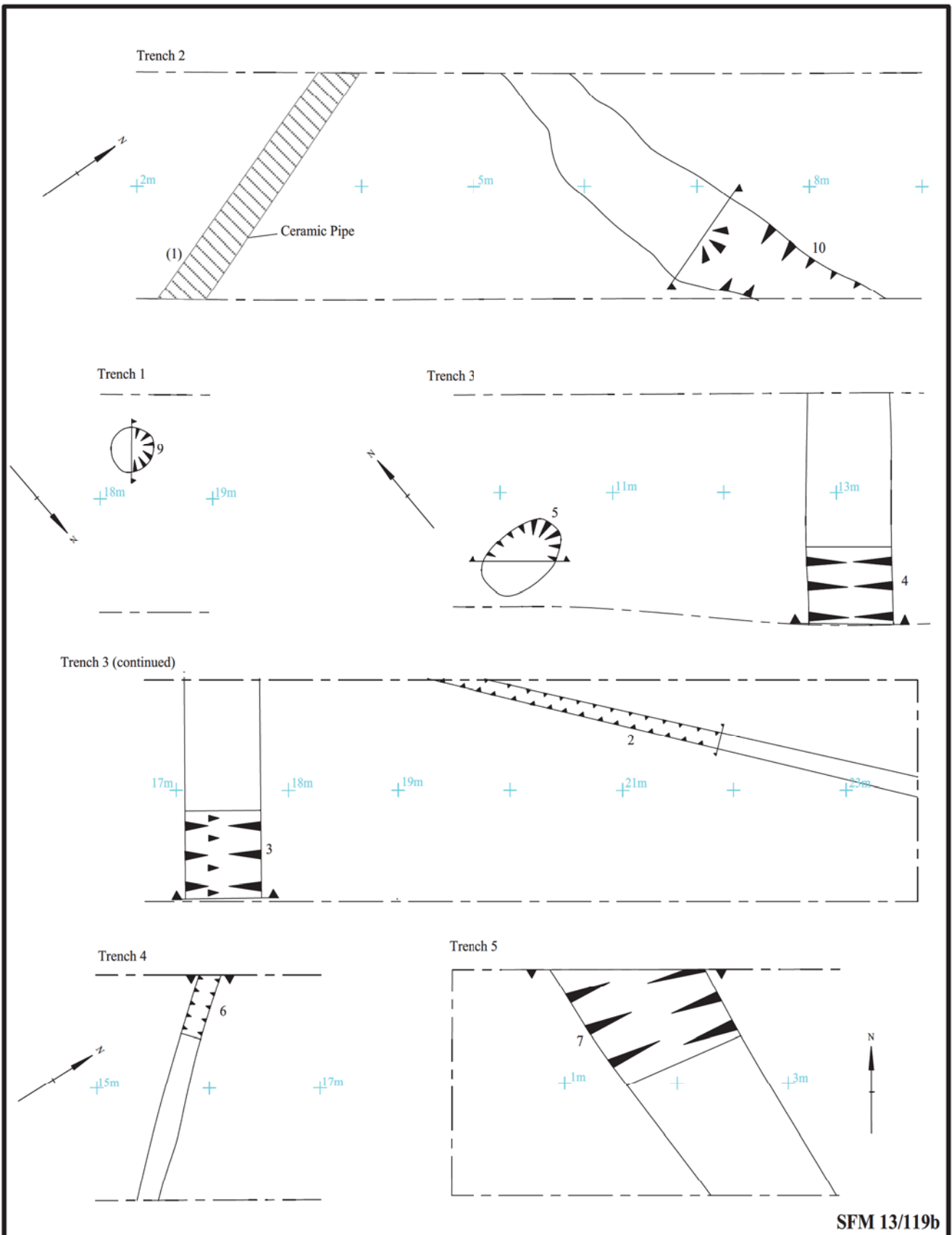
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Figure 2. Location of trenches and features.





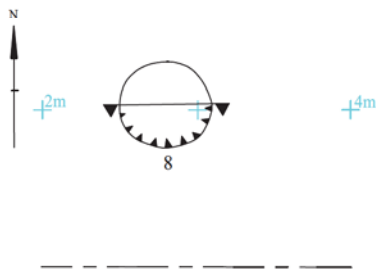
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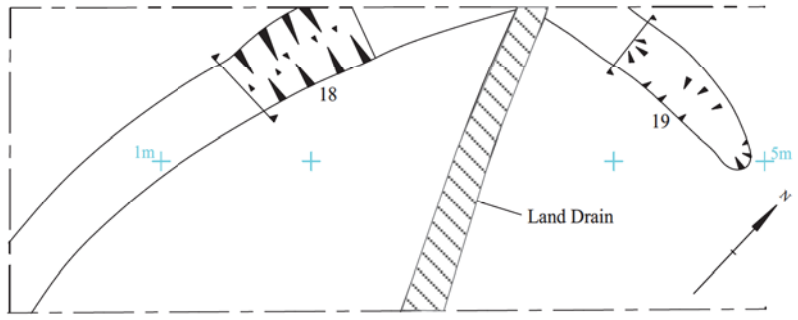
Figure 3. Plans for Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



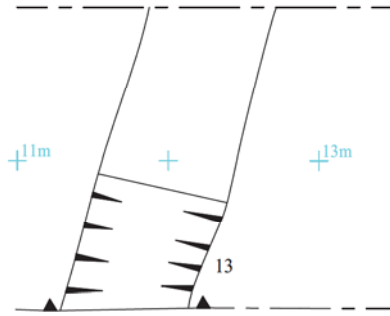
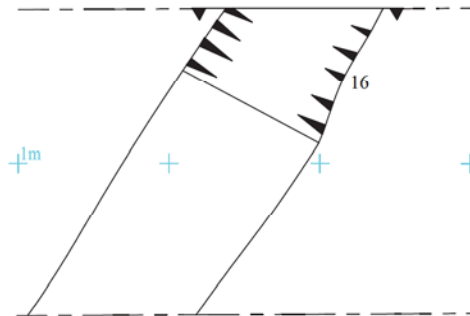
Trench 7



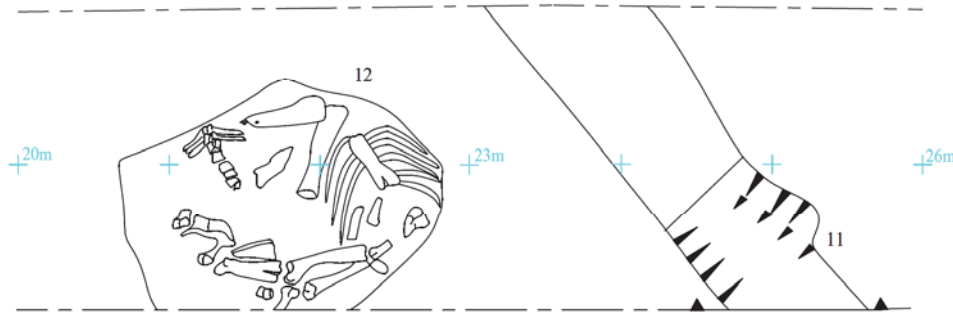
Trench 10



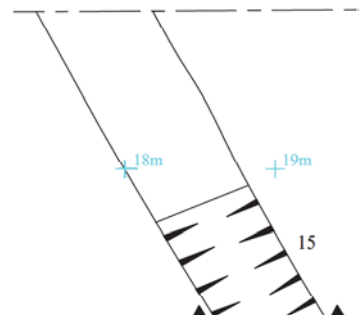
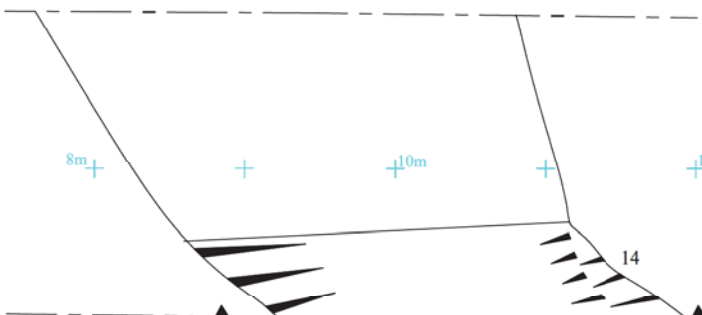
Trench 8



Trench 8 (continued)



Trench 13



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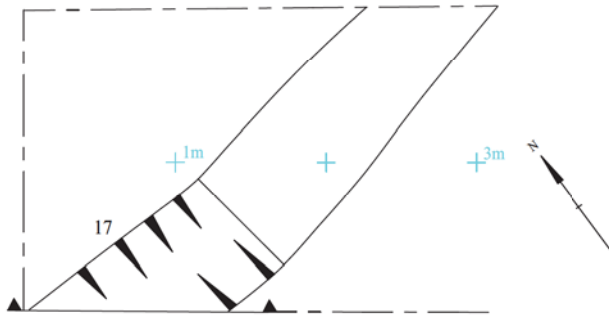
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Figure 4. Plans for Trenches 7, 8, 10 and 13

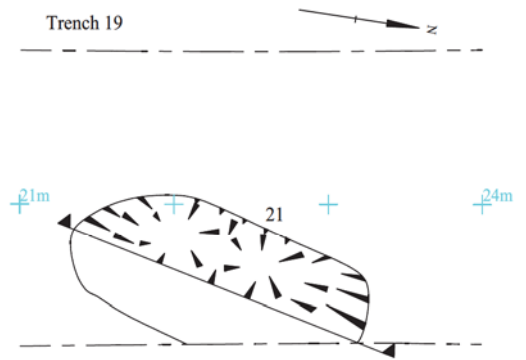


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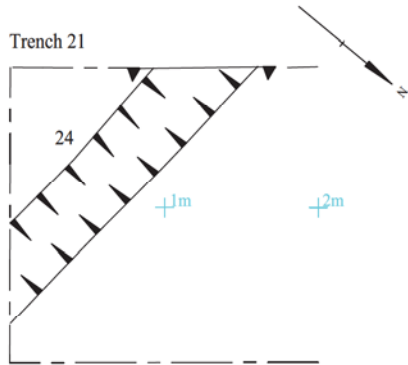
Trench 14



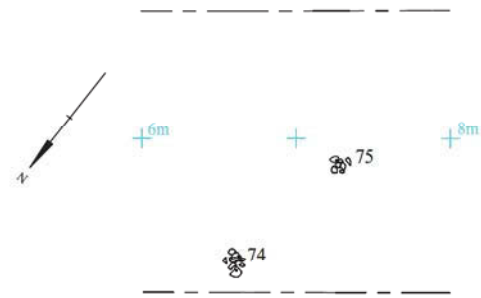
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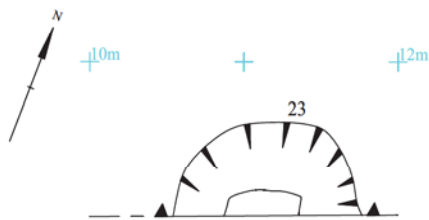
Trench 21



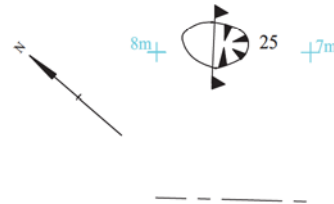
Trench 24



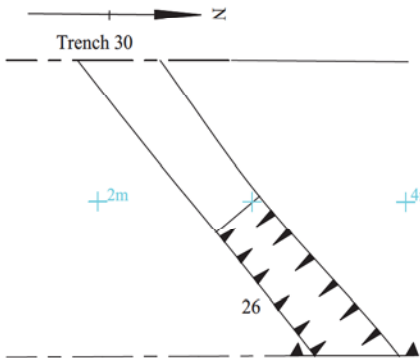
Trench 27



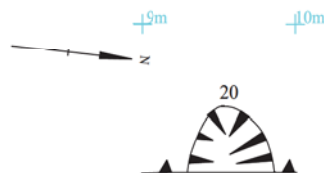
Trench 28



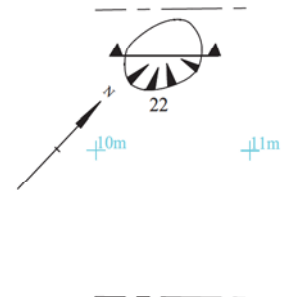
Trench 30



Trench 37



Trench 39

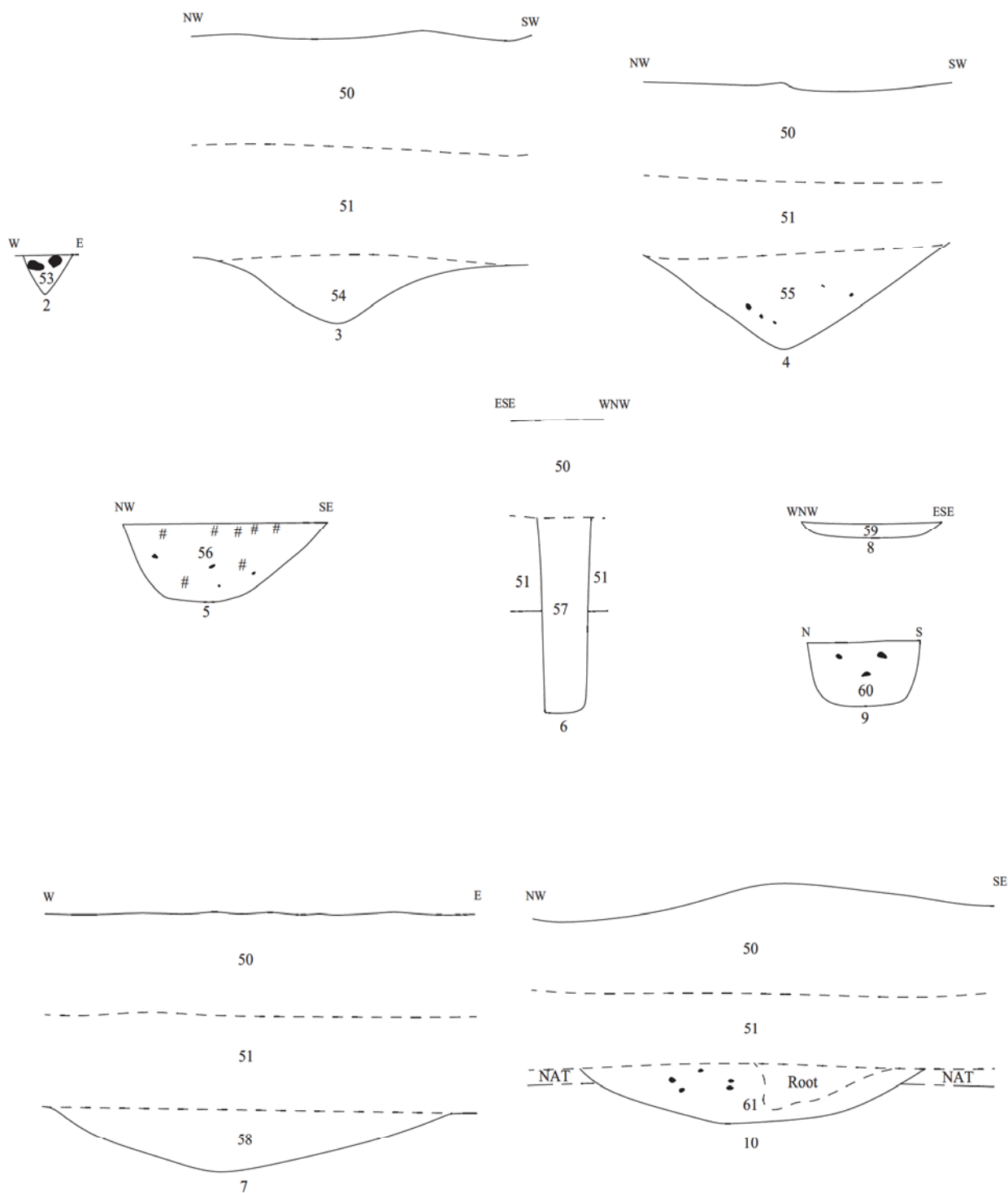


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Figure 5. Plans of Trenches





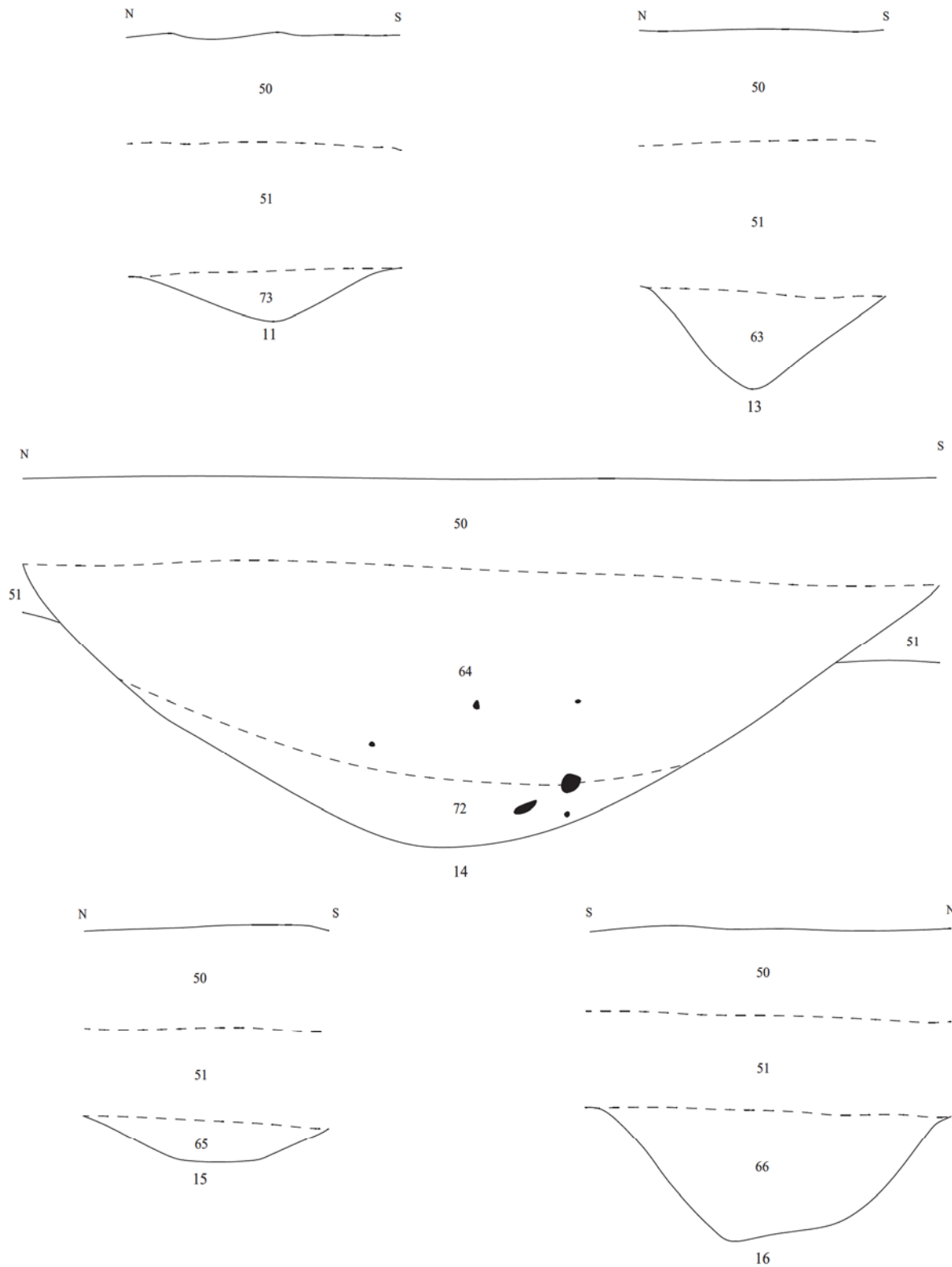
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Figure 6. Sections



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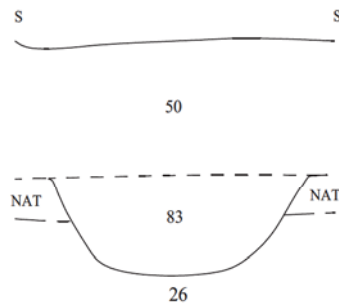
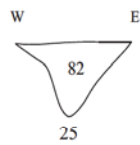
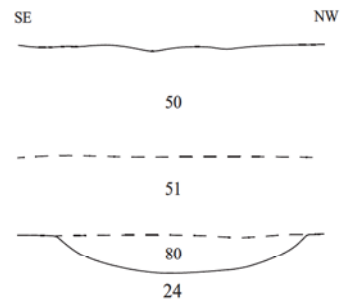
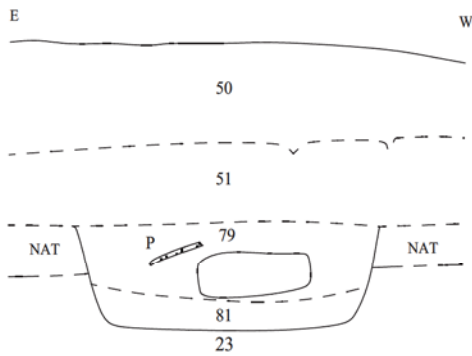
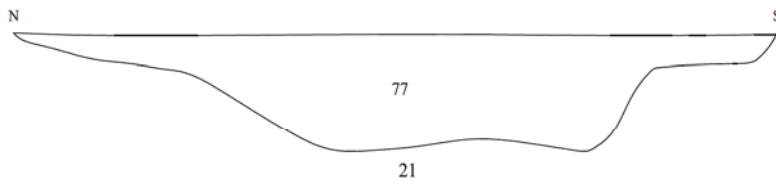
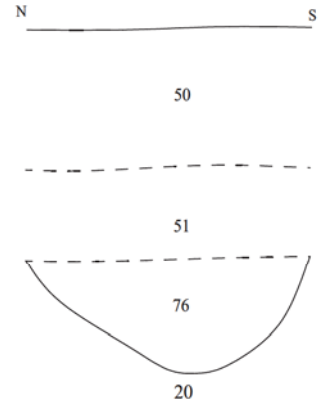
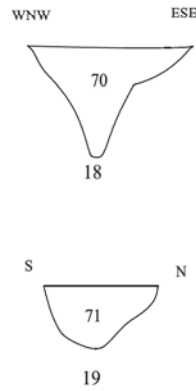
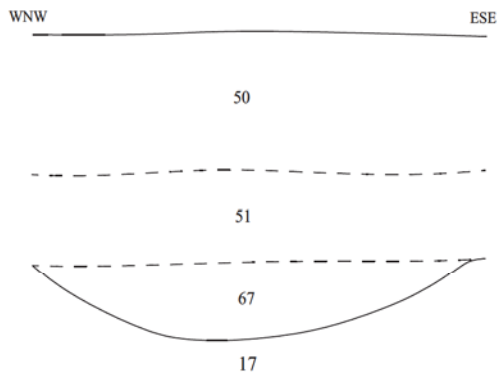
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Figure 7. Sections



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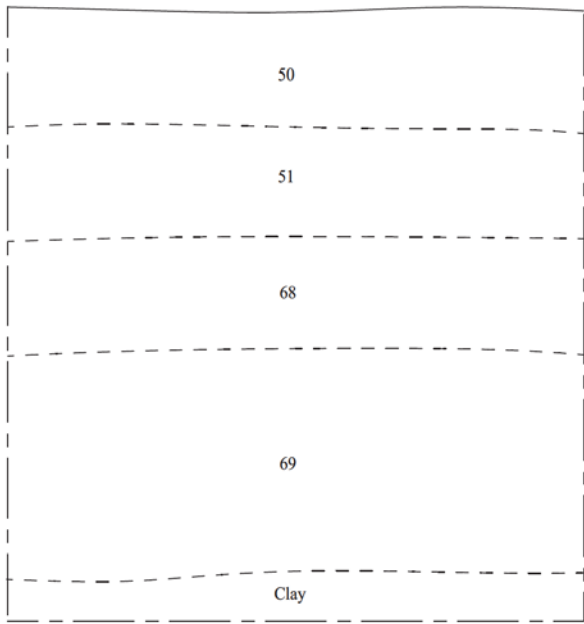
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Figure 8. Sections

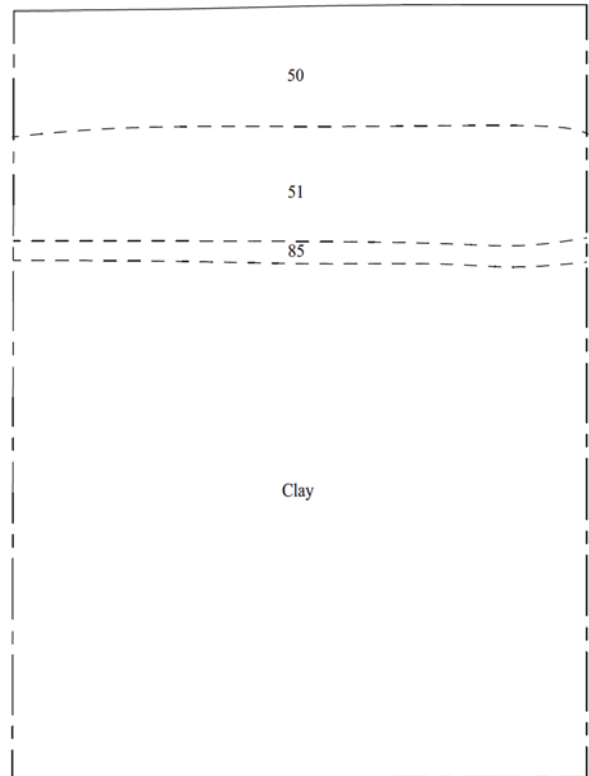


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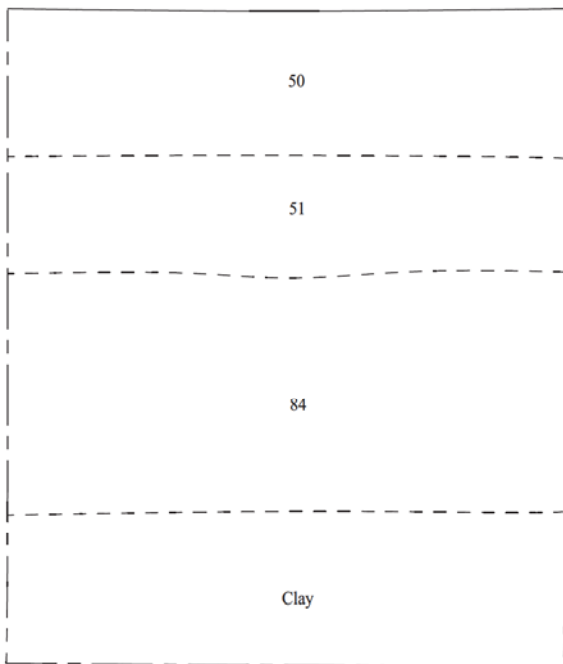
NW Test Pit 1 SE



E Test Pit 2 W



W Test Pit 3 E



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**Land at Stanley Road, Marden,
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Figure 9. Test pit sections





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



Plate 2. Trench 13 Looking north east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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**Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 19 looking south, Scales: 2m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Trench 24 looking north east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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**Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 27 looking east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m



Plate 6. Trench 39 looking north east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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**Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
Kent 2016
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH



Plate 7. Trench 3 Pit 5 looking north east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m

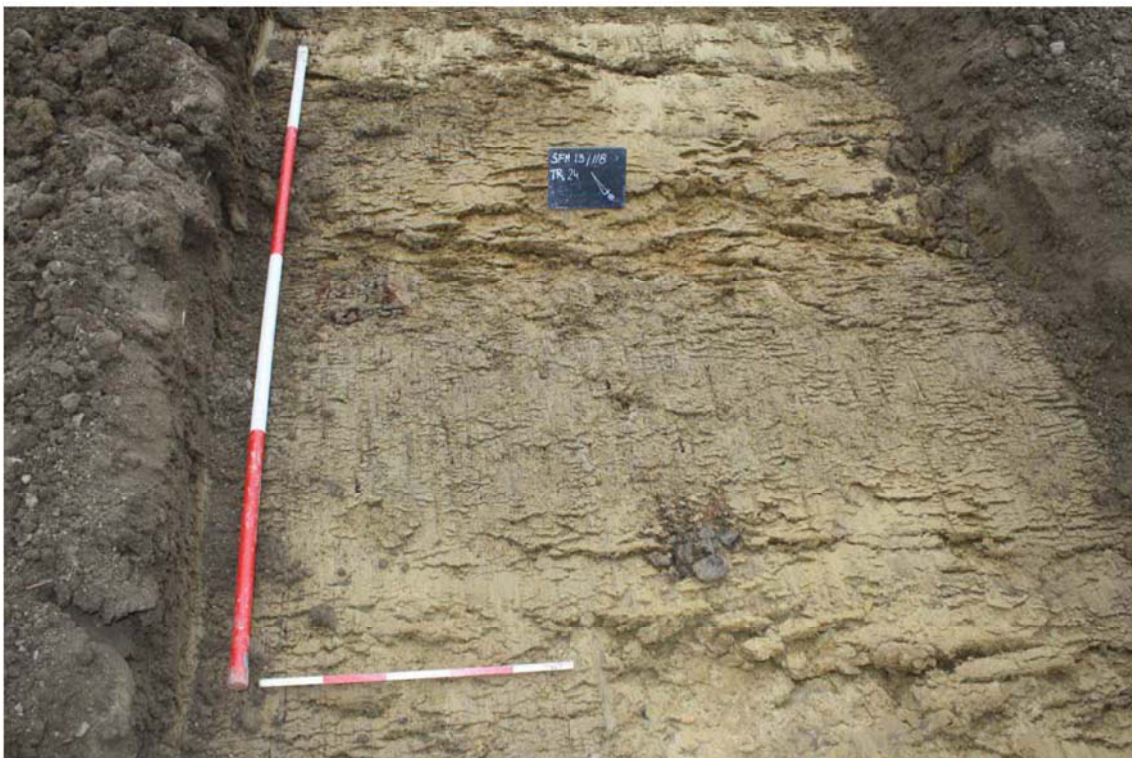


Plate 8. Trench 24 looking south west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
Kent 2016
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 and 8.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

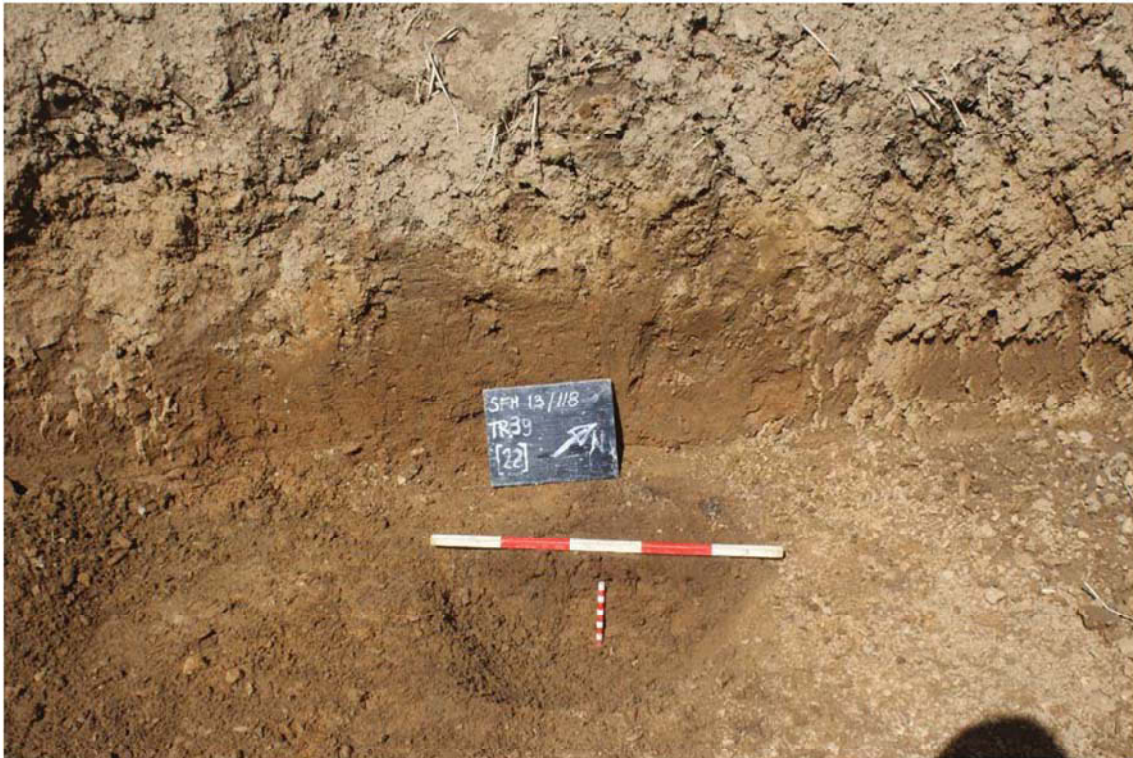


Plate 9 Trench 39 looking north west, Pit 22, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m



Plate 10. Trench 27 looking north west, Pit 23, Scale: 0.5m

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Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
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Archaeological Evaluation
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Plate 11. Trench 27 looking south east, pit 23, Scale: 0.1m



Plate 12. Trench 43 looking north, Test pit 3, Scales: 2m and 1m

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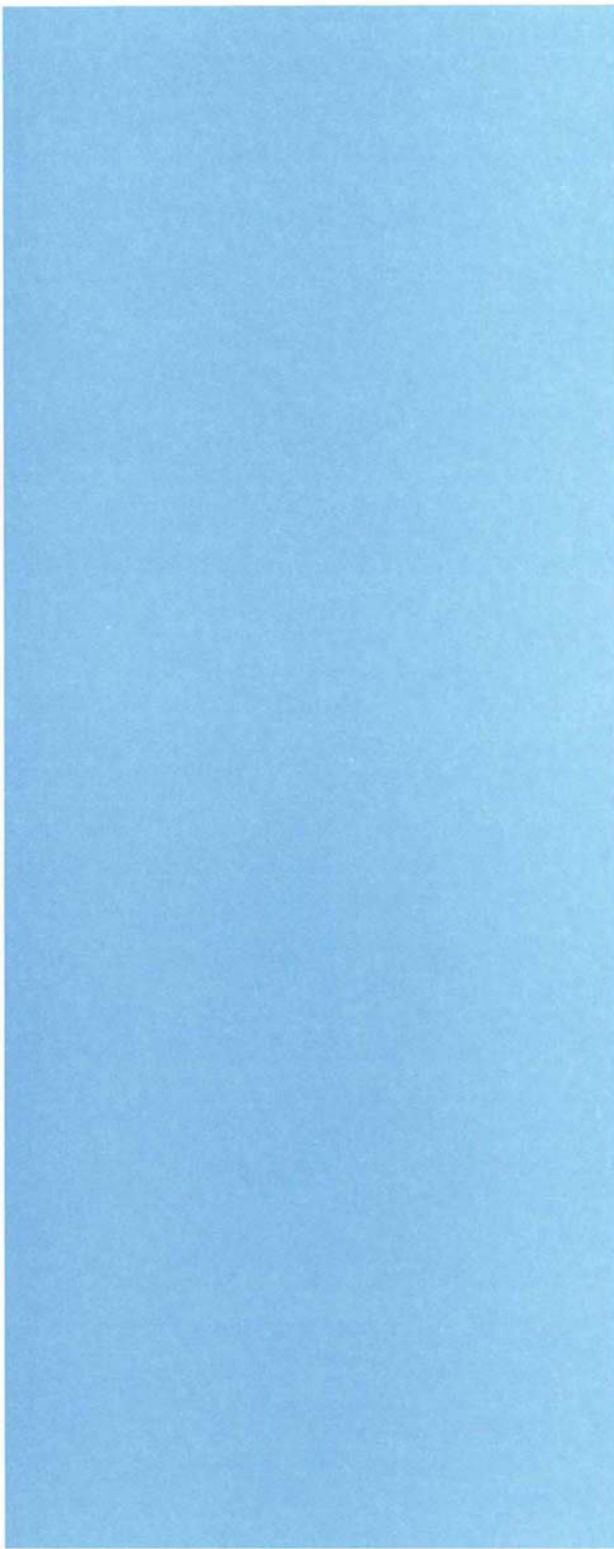
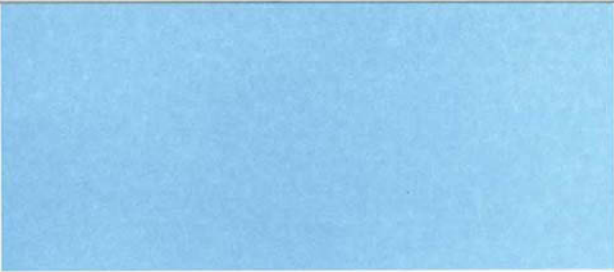
**Land at Stanley Farm, Marden, Maidstone,
Kent 2016
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 11 and 12.**

THAMES VALLEY
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SOUTH

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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