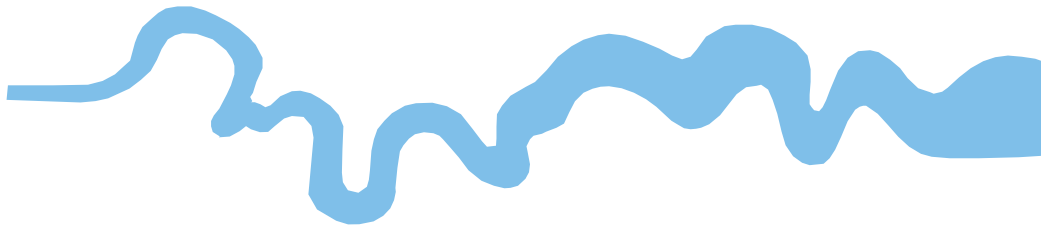


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
Sandwich, Kent**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: WRS21/231**

**(TR 3242 5753)**

# **Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Abbey Developments Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

TVAS South

Site Code WRS 21/231

**January 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent

**Grid reference:** TR 3242 5753

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Planning reference:** DOV/19/00243

**Date and duration of project:** 13th - 15th December 2021

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** WRS 21/231

**Area of site:** c. 1.55 ha

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features in the north-east corner of the site. One of the features was clearly a ditch, whilst another large feature could represent either pits or linear features. A small amount of pottery was recovered from the features which suggest that they may date from the Early to Middle Iron Age. The rest of the site is considered to have a low potential for archaeological features being present.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓13.01.22 Steve Preston✓13.01.22
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# Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 21/231

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the east of Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent (TR 3242 5753) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates, on behalf of Abbey Developments Ltd, Abbey House, 2 Southgate Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5DU.

Planning permission (DOV/19/00243) has been granted by Dover District Council for a major housing development to the south-west of the historic core of Sandwich. The consent is subject to a standard planning condition (14) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* as revised in 2019 (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr Ben Found. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jake Flower-Bond, Virginia Fuentes, and Sean Wallis between 13th and 15th December 2021, and the site code is WRS 21/231. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately to the east of Woodnesborough Road, and to the north of Black Lane, about 700m south-west of the historic core of Sandwich (TR 3242 5753) (Fig. 1). The site consists of an irregular shaped parcel of land, measuring about 1.55ha, with residential areas to the north and west, allotments to the east, and Black Lane to the south (Fig. 2). Until recently it was a garden with numerous mature trees and hedges. The site had largely been cleared of trees prior to the commencement of the evaluation. The ground generally rises towards the north, and the south-west corner was noticeably lower than the rest of the site, which may be associated with a pond which is shown on the modern Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2). As a result, the height above

Ordnance Datum varies from about 4.50m in the south-west corner up to about 8.50m in the north-east. The underlying geology is mapped as Thanet Beds (BGS 1977), and this was confirmed in all the trenches as a mid orange brown sandy clay with varying amounts of gravel inclusions.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site was originally considered in a desk-based assessment (White 2017). In summary, the site is located in an area of former farmland to the south-west of the historic core of Sandwich. Although metal detectorists had recovered numerous finds dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods in the vicinity, very few archaeological features had been recorded. The Roman road from Woodnesborough to Sandwich was known to run through the area, about 260m north-west of the present site, and a Roman villa had been discovered and excavated from 1978–80, approximately 360m to the west (Parfitt 1980; 1981).

An archaeological excavation was recently carried out on the part of the development site to the south of Black Lane. Numerous archaeological features were recorded, which included some rare evidence of Mesolithic activity. Roundhouses and sunken-featured buildings, largely dating from the Iron Age, were also recorded, within a field system which was defined by ditches. Traces of medieval and post-medieval fields were also observed. The features were concentrated in the southern part of the excavation area, and very little was found in the area immediately to the south of the present site (Ian Meadows pers. comm.).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development.

Specific aims of the 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 from the Mesolithic period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the Iron Age period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the Roman period are present.

Seventeen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

## **Results**

Most of the trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although several had to be repositioned slightly to avoid features such as retained trees, concrete hard-standings, and an existing electricity substation (Fig. 3). The excavated trenches were all 1.90m wide, and measured between 8.00m and 27.40m in length, and between 0.40m and 1.30m in depth. The sandy clay geology was observed in all of the trenches, with varying amounts of flint gravel inclusions. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Figs 4, 5 and 6; Pls 1, 11 and 12)

This trench was orientated NW-SE, and was 27.00m long and up to 0.48m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.05m of subsoil (51). Ditch 1 was recorded at the north-western end of the trench, and a slot was excavated through it by hand. This revealed that the ditch was up to 1.06m wide and 0.16m deep, with a single fill of mid brownish grey sandy clay (54). Seven small sherds of pottery, probably dating from the Early Iron Age, were recovered from the ditch, along with three struck flints.

A large feature was encountered at the southern end of the trench. It was not clear if the feature represented a large pit, or series of pits, or whether it was linear in nature, but if the latter it did not continue into any of Trench 3 to the south, Trench 2 to the east or Trench 16 to the west. Two small slots (2 and 3) were excavated through the feature, although excavation was hampered by the high water table in this part of the site. The feature was seen to be at least 0.24m deep, and appeared to have a fairly uniform fill of mid brownish grey sandy clay (55 and 56). No finds were recovered from slot 2, but a relatively large sherd of pottery, probably dating from the Early Iron Age, was found in slot 3.

### Trench 2

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 23.80m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.27m of topsoil (50) and 0.13m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 3 (Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 26.10m long and up to 0.45m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.08m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 27.40m long and up to 0.48m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). Several modern post-holes were noted within the trench, and these were planned but not recorded in detail. They probably represent the positions of former hop-poles. No other features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 5 (Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 24.80m long and up to 0.46m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.12m of subsoil (51). Several modern post-holes were noted within the trench, and these were planned but not recorded in detail. They are again likely to relate to historic hop production on the site. No other features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 6

This trench was orientated close to N-S, and was 24.00m long and up to 0.42m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). Several more modern post-holes were the only features within the trench, and again these were planned but not recorded in detail. A large sherd of Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil (51).

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 5; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 26.10m long and up to 0.47m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.40m of topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 8 (Pl. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 25.10m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 5; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 20.40m long and up to 0.45m deep. The trench was slightly shorter than originally planned due to the presence of retained trees. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 10

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 8.00m long and up to 0.50m deep. The trench had to be moved from its original intended position and shortened due to the presence of an electricity substation, trees,

and other nearby trenches. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.36m of topsoil (50). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 25.00m long and up to 0.47m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.12m of made ground (52), 0.23m of buried topsoil (50) and 0.06m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 5; Pl. 7)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 25.00m long and up to 1.30m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.23m of made ground (52), 0.23m of re-deposited clay (53), 0.38m of buried topsoil (50) and 0.31m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 13 (Pl. 8)

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 25.50m long and up to 0.76m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.16m of made ground (52), 0.23m of buried topsoil (50) and 0.31m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 14 (Pl. 9)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 18.70m long and up to 0.55m deep. The trench had to be moved slightly and shortened due to the presence of a tree and an existing concrete road. The natural sandy clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.12m of made ground (52), 0.35m of buried topsoil (50) and 0.03m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 15

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 21.10m long and up to 0.50m deep. The trench had to be moved and shortened slightly due to the presence of a tree, an existing concrete hard-standing, and various piles of material. The natural sandy clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.22m of topsoil (50) and 0.17m of subsoil (51). Two modern post-holes were planned but not recorded in detail. As with the other post-holes across the central portion of the site, they probably represent former hop-poles. No other features or finds were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 16 (Pl. 10)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 27.10m long and up to 0.40m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.15m of made ground (52) and 0.19m of buried topsoil (50). No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trench.



### Trench 17 (Fig. 5)

This trench was orientated NW-SE, and was 25.50m long and up to 0.42m deep. The trench had to be moved eastwards to avoid a number of trees. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.14m of made ground (52) and 0.20m of buried topsoil (50). Again, a few modern post-holes were planned but not recorded in detail. No other features or finds were recorded in the trench.

## **Finds**

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

Three struck flints were recovered from ditch 1 (54). They are in a fresh unpatinated condition and one is made of flint with a thin grey cortex, presumably from a gravel source. The pieces comprise two broad flakes, one broken, and a spall (piece less than 20x20mm). They are not intrinsically closely datable but are likely to be of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

### *Pottery* by Barbara McNee

A total of 9 later prehistoric sherds weighing 115 g, were recovered during the evaluation( Appendix 3). The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

The dating is tentative as the assemblage contained worn featureless sherds, and close dating cannot be achieved with any degree of confidence when small body sherds alone are represented. Diagnostic forms are under-represented, and consequently dating has to rely on the identification of fabric types and region-wide trends. This is problematic due to the use of fabrics which are long lived. Ideally, a minimum of 25 sherds should be present in a context for a reliable estimation of phasing (PCRG 1997: 21).

### Fabrics

Five basic fabric groups have been identified during preliminary examination. This has been classified based on dominant inclusions, and further subdivided based on clay matrix type (silt or sand).

**GQ/1.** Grog inclusions in a clay matrix which includes medium sand sized quartz.

**FIO/1.** Sparse flint inclusions in a clay matrix containing black iron oxides? Iron staining is also evident.

**FGI/1.** Sparse flint inclusions in a clay matrix containing very common (30%) very fine rounded glauconite.

**FGI/2.** Flint inclusions in a clay matrix containing abundant (40%) medium rounded glauconite.

**F/1.** Flint inclusions in a silty clay matrix.

The geology of the Sandwich area includes Thanet Beds, Woolwich Beds, Alluvium, Upper chalk and Head Brickearth. Most of the sherds contain varying densities of crushed calcined flint temper (8 sherds), and

this is very typical of prehistoric assemblages across Kent (McNee 2012). Flint would have derived from Chalk deposits, which when burnt and crushed provide suitable temper for pottery making. The diverse range of geological deposits would have provided clays which were suitable for potting. At least five clay sources were exploited by the potters. The Woolwich Beds can contain iron staining and coarse sands (Osbourne White 1928), and Thanet Beds are also described as iron-shot. The latter can also contain glauconite and this could suggest that the pots were locally made. However, two different types of glauconitic sandy clay appear to have been exploited. One body sherd (context 54) contains abundant quantities of larger glauconitic grains, and may be non-local. Possible sources for this clay may derive from the Gault Clay, which contains highly glauconitic sandy clay (Dines *et al* 1954, 25).

### Discussion

The pottery derived from three contexts. There are no rim sherds present within the assemblage, and therefore some tentative dating is based on fabrics, firing, vessel wall thickness and surface treatments. One large oxidized hard fired possible base disc (fabric GQ/1), was recovered from the subsoil (51) in trench 6. The exterior surface appears to have shallow indented impressions, which may have derived from the wet clay being placed on some sort of cloth. The fabric and firing would suggest a later Iron Age date.

The pottery from ditch 1 (54) is slightly vitrified, suggesting use in some form of pyrotechnical activity. Three different vessels are represented, which would not be out of place during the earliest or early Iron Age. The lone body sherd from feature 3 (56) is also slightly vitrified. A similar date range is suggested.

This small pottery assemblage is important as an indicator of settlement or use within the Sandwich area during the later prehistoric period, possibly commencing at some point during the earliest or early Iron Age and includes one sherd which is more consistent with that of a later Iron Age phase (from the 1st century BC).

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation to the east of Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Although certain parts of the site had been affected by rooting and a limited amount of modern truncation, there was no evidence for the area being heavily truncated in the past. Apart from a number of modern post-holes related to historic hop production, the only archaeological features recorded were in the north-east corner of the site (Trench 1). One of the features was clearly a ditch, whilst another large feature could represent either pits or linear features. A small amount of

pottery was recovered from the features in trench 1 which suggest that they may date from the Early Iron Age.

The rest of the site is believed to have a low potential for archaeological features being present.

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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

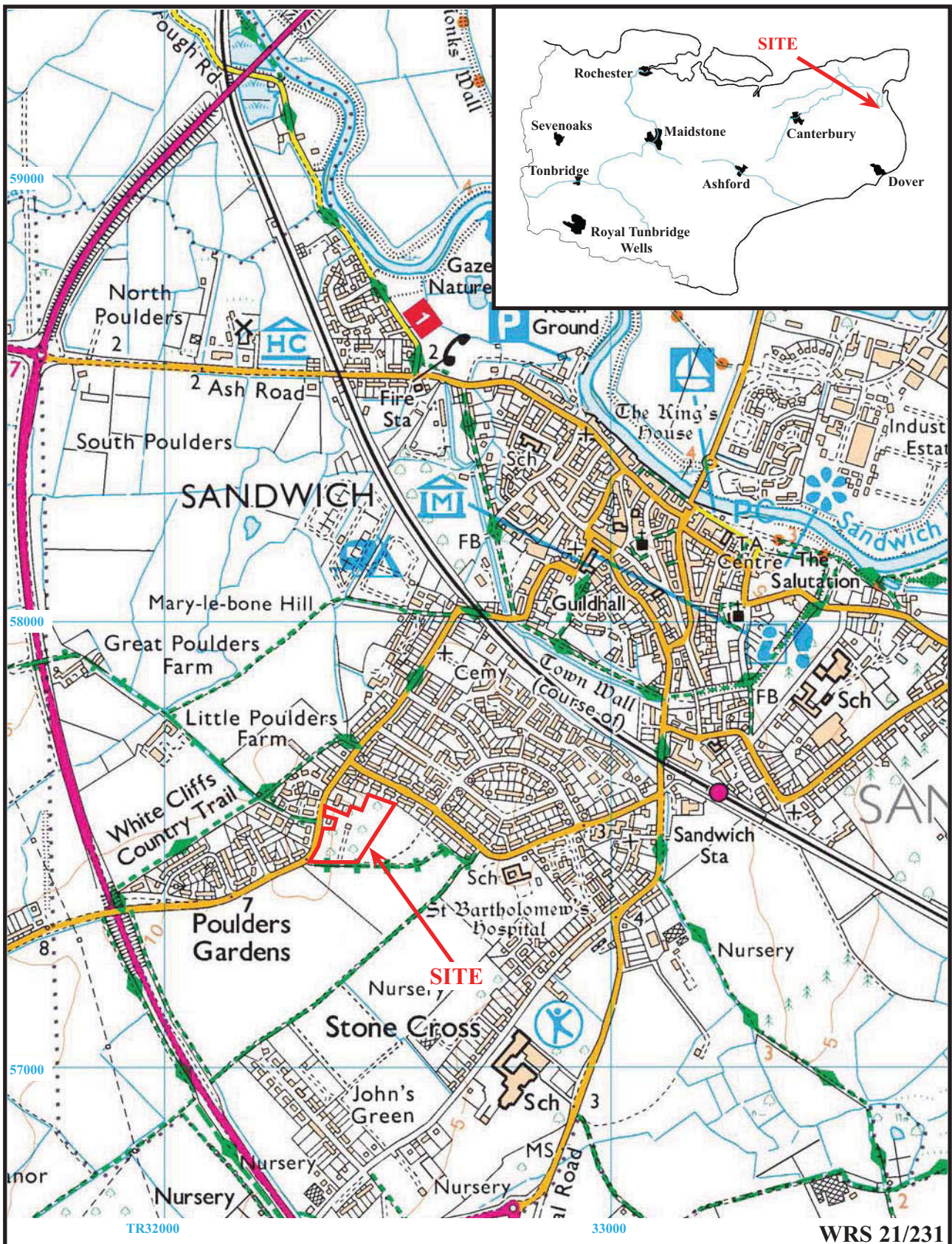
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	27.00	1.90	0.48	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30-0.48m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). Ditch 1, ditch or pit 2 / 3. <b>[Pls 1, 11 and 12]</b>
2	23.80	1.90	0.50	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.50m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
3	26.10	1.90	0.45	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.45m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
4	27.40	1.90	0.48	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.48m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
5	24.80	1.90	0.46	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37-0.46m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
6	24.00	1.90	0.42	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.42m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
7	26.10	1.90	0.47	0-0.40m topsoil (50); 0.40-0.47m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
8	25.10	1.90	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41-0.50m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
9	20.40	1.90	0.45	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.39m subsoil (51); 0.39-0.45m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 6]</b>
10	8.00	1.90	0.46	0-0.36m topsoil (50); 0.36-0.46m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
11	25.00	1.90	0.47	0-0.12m made ground (52); 0.12-0.35m topsoil (50); 0.35-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41-0.47m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
12	25.00	1.90	1.30	0-0.23m made ground (52); 0.23-0.46m made ground (53); 0.46-0.84m topsoil (50); 0.84-1.15m subsoil (51); 1.15-1.30m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
13	25.50	1.90	0.76	0-0.16m made ground (52); 0.16-0.39m topsoil (50); 0.39-0.70m subsoil (51); 0.70-0.76m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
14	18.70	1.90	0.55	0-0.12m made ground (52); 0.12-0.47m topsoil (50); 0.47-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50-0.55m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 9]</b>
15	21.10	1.90	0.50	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.39m subsoil (51); 0.39-0.50m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).
16	27.10	1.90	0.40	0-0.15m made ground (52); 0.15-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.40m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds). <b>[Pl. 10]</b>
17	25.50	1.90	0.42	0-0.14m made ground (52); 0.14-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.42m+ natural geology (Thanet Beds).

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence / comments</i>
1	1	54	Ditch	Early - Middle Iron Age	Pottery
1	2	55	Ditch / Pit	Early - Middle Iron Age	Possibly the same feature as 3.
1	3	56	Ditch / Pit	Early - Middle Iron Age	Pottery. Possibly the same feature as 2.

### APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery

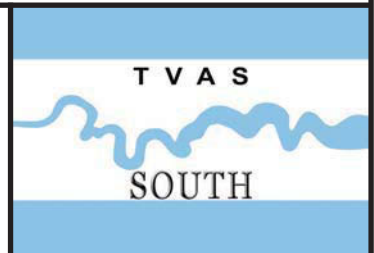
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6		51	Subsoil	1	62	Late Iron Age/early Roman base disc
1	1	54	Ditch	7	21	Worn body sherds from 3 prehistoric vessels, possibly earliest Iron Age-early/middle Iron Age
1	3	56	Ditch/pit	1	32	Flint tempered body sherd (fabric FG1/2), possibly earlier Iron Age-early/middle Iron Age

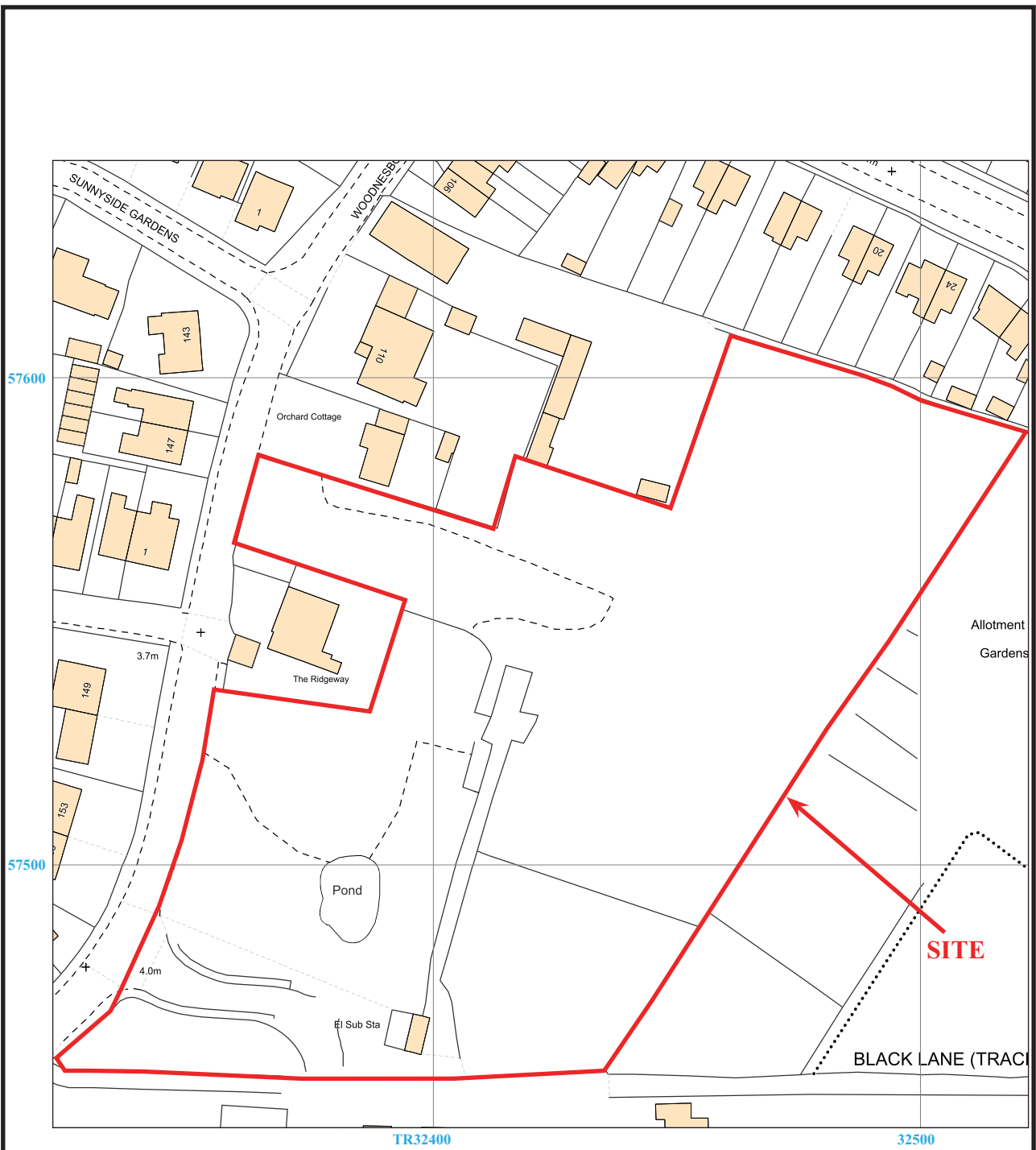


**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
Sandwich, Kent, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Sandwich and Kent.

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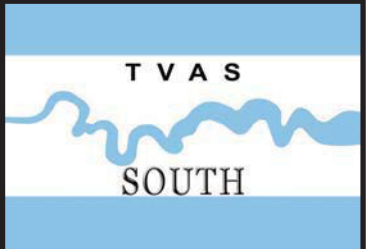
WRS 21/231



**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
Sandwich, Kent, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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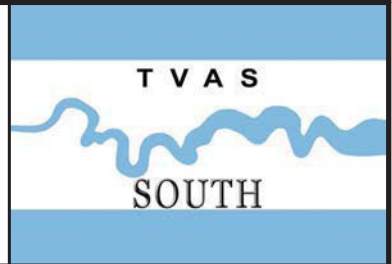




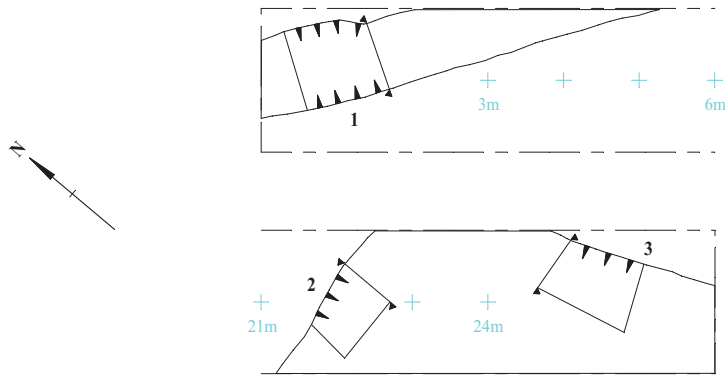
WRS 21/231

**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
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Figure 3. Plan showing the evaluation trenches and features recorded.



Trench 1



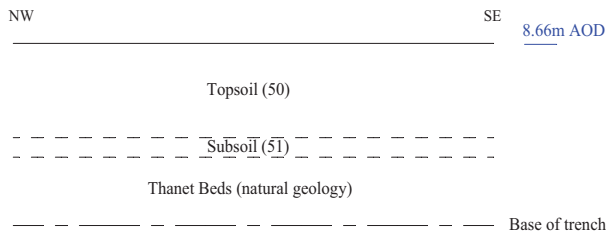
WRS 21/231

**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
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Archaeological Evaluation**

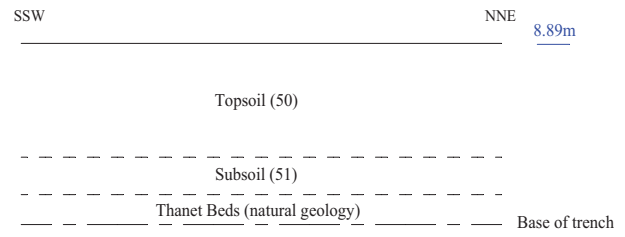
Figure 4. Plan of trench 1.



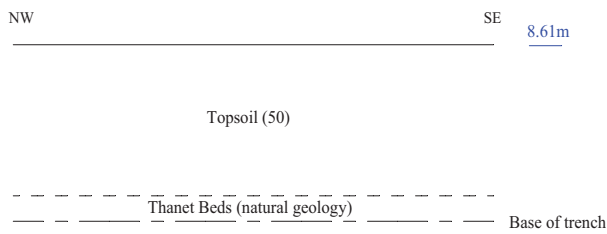
**Trench 1**



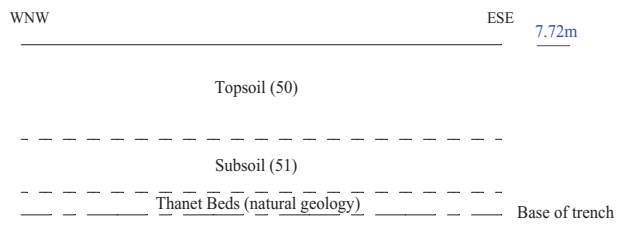
**Trench 4**



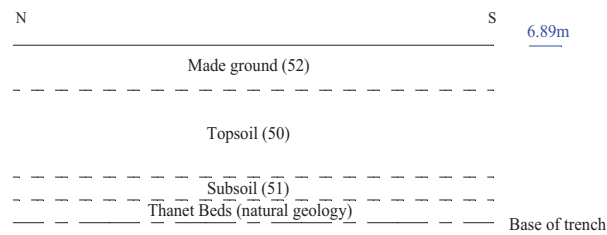
**Trench 7**



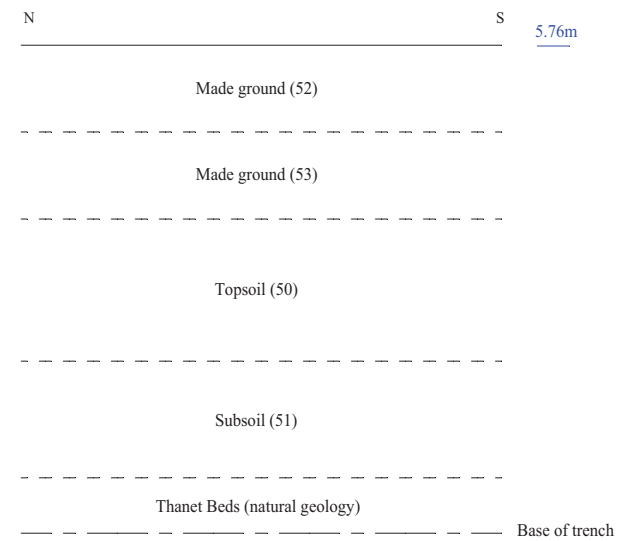
**Trench 9**



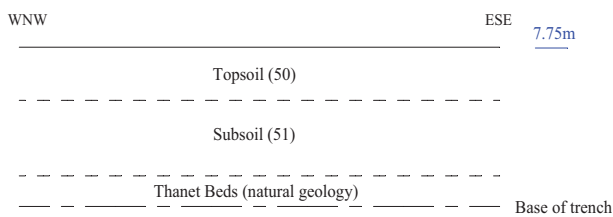
**Trench 11**



**Trench 12**



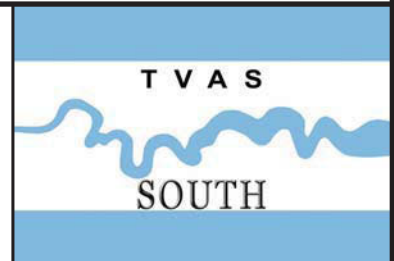
**Trench 17**



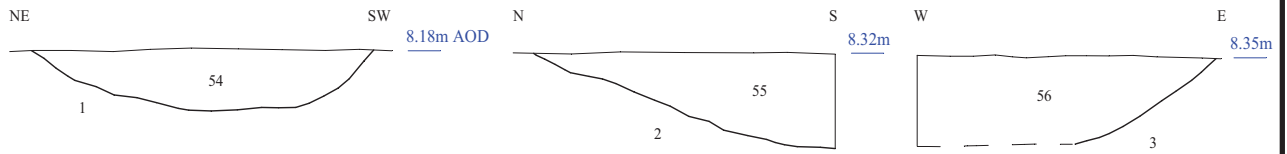
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**Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
Sandwich, Kent, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Representative sections.



Trench 1



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Figure 6. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 5, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 5. Trench 8, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 9, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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Plates 1 to 6.





Plate 7. Trench 12, looking North.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 8. Trench 13, looking East.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 9. Trench 14, looking North.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 10. Trench 16, looking South-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



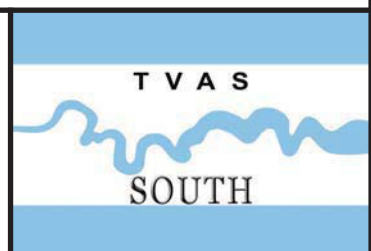
Plate 11. Trench 1, ditch 1, looking South-east.  
Scales: 0.50m and 0.20m.



Plate 12. Trench 1, feature 2, looking South-east.  
Scales: 0.50m and 0.20m.

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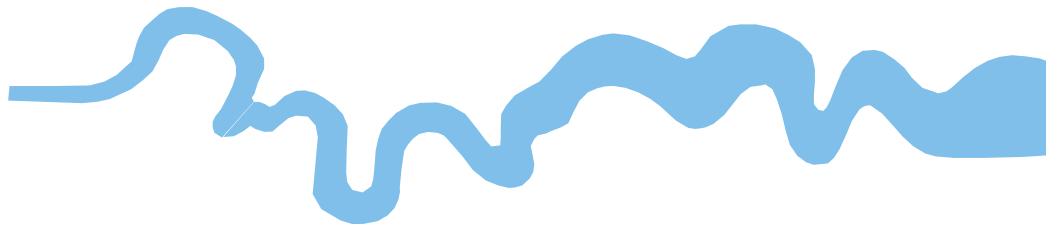
Land to the east of Woodnesborough Road,  
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Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 7 to 12.



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





**TVAS (South),  
77a Hollingdean Terrace  
Brighton, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198  
Email: [south@tvas.co.uk](mailto:south@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/south](http://www.tvas.co.uk/south)**

***Offices in:  
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough  
and Ennis (Ireland)***