

Land at 14a Shipbourne Road Tonbridge Kent

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Archaeology Collective

on behalf of
DAP Architecture

CA Project: 770529
CA Report: 17133

March 2017



Land at 14a Shipbourne Road
Tonbridge
Kent

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770529
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at 14a Shipbourne Road
Location:	Tonbridge, Kent
NGR:	TQ 5919 4726
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28 February 2017
Planning Reference:	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council planning ref: TM/16/02920/FL
Location of Archive:	There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of Kent. The project archive will be held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes until such time as a suitable depository is available
Site Code:	SHIP 17

During February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent. The work was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the residential development of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches.

The evaluation identified a ditch containing modern pottery, orientated broadly parallel to Shipbourne Road, as well as a small area of bioturbation, most likely related to a former orchard located within the site and depicted on historic mapping.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent (centred on NGR: TQ 5919 4726; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective (AC) on behalf of DAP Architecture.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a three-storey apartment building with associated parking and landscaping (Planning ref: TM/16/02920/FL; Condition 10).
- 1.3 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of four trenches, was defined during discussions between the Archaeology Collective and Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council (SAOKCC), the archaeological advisors to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC; the local planning authority). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by the Archaeology Collective (2017) and approved by Wendy Rogers, SAOKCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The site is located towards the centre of Tonbridge, situated at the junction between the A227 Shipbourne Road to the east and Manor Grove to the north (Fig. 1). The development site measures approximately 330m², and comprises a broadly rectangular plot of land (Figs 2 & 3). It is bounded to the north by Manor Grove Road, to the east by Shipbourne Road, to the south by properties and gardens fronting onto Shipbourne Road and to the west by residential properties fronting onto Manor Grove. The site lies on relatively flat ground at approximately 38m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, interbedded sandstone and siltstone of the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS

2017). The evaluation recorded light grey orange silty clay with degraded chalk inclusions across the site.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Shipbourne Road is believed to follow the course of a prehistoric trackway which led to an early crossing of the River Medway. This route way may have retained its importance throughout the early medieval and medieval periods, as a means of accessing the nearby castle and trading settlement located c. 600m to the south on the northern bank of the River Medway.

2.2 Historic maps show that the site remained a greenfield site, largely open land/garden with one or two small outbuildings, throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. It was situated on the eastern edge of the grounds of the 18th-century Dryhill Manor House, which was subsequently incorporated into Tonbridge School. At the turn of the 20th century the grounds of the school were built over with residential properties.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed in the WSI (AC 2017), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014). This information will enable Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

3.2 The specific aim of the project was to assess the results against the current state of knowledge as expressed in *The South East Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* that is awaiting publication.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four 5m by 1.5m trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 3). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. However, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of Kent. The project archive will therefore be held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 1-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.

General stratigraphy

- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified across the site. The natural geological substrate, which comprised soft mid grey orange silty clay with elements of degraded chalk and ironstone patches, was encountered at an average depth of 0.24m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was directly overlain by topsoil,

composed of friable mid brown grey silty loam, which was heavily truncated across the whole of the site by recent on-site ground clearance.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

- 5.3 A rectangular concrete slab, forming the covering for a modern service trench was identified towards the southern end of the trench, extending westwards beyond the limit of excavation. No archaeological, finds, features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

- 5.4 North-east/south-west orientated ditch 202 was partially revealed at the eastern end of Trench 2 (Fig. 5; section AA). As revealed it was linear in plan with a steep, straight western edge and a flat base. An initial sondage was hand excavated to a depth of 1m bpgl; this slot was extended by machine excavation to reveal the full 1.25m depth. The initial fill (203), which comprised deliberately backfilled, loose mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent rubble and stone inclusions, contained a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery. This was overlain by fill 204, which comprised mid brown yellow clay silt, which was subsequently overlain by fill 205, comprising soft light brown grey clay silt.
- 5.5 The continuation of this ditch was identified within Trench 4 as ditch 402.

Trench 3 (Fig. 6)

- 5.6 Located within the south-western end of the trench was a discrete area of soft mid brown grey sandy silt. Excavation revealed this to be a naturally derived feature (302), most likely the result of root action. It measured in excess of 1.5m in length and more than 0.66m wide, with a depth of 0.28m. It contained a single fill (303), from which a small fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 7)

- 5.7 North-west/south-east orientated ditch 402 was partially revealed running the length of Trench 4 (Fig. 7; section BB). It measured in excess of 5.2m in length, 1.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m without its base being revealed. It had a moderately sloping, straight western side. The earliest encountered fill (403), comprised friable mid grey brown clay silt, which contained small quantities of post-medieval pottery and glass. This was, in turn, overlain by fill 404, which comprised firm mid yellow grey silty clay redeposited natural, which contained a small quantity

of CBM. Both fills appeared to have been deposited as a result of deliberate acts of backfilling.

- 5.8 The probable continuation of this ditch was identified within Trench 2 as ditch 202.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from four deposits (ditch fills and a bioturbation fill). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric.

Pottery: post-medieval/modern

- 6.2 A total of seven sherds (301g) of unabraded pottery were recorded from this date range. Post-medieval pottery comprised four sherds of glazed red-firing earthenware (GRE), dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries. Also represented were: Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed ware (SMB), of late 17th to 18th-century date; transfer-printed Pearlware (TPP), dating to the late 18th to mid-19th centuries; and mocha ware (MOC, 19th century).

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 A total of four fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the site. The fragment from fill 303 of bioturbation 302 was too fragmentary and abraded to allow dating or narrower classification. Fill 404 of ditch 402 produced three fragments of flat roof tile of post-medieval date. These were in a relatively unabraded condition.

Other finds

- 6.4 Three fragments of pale green-coloured window glass, most likely of post-medieval date, were retrieved from fill 403 of ditch 402.



7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation has recorded evidence for a single archaeological feature within the site, comprising a linear ditch, as well as a small area of bioturbation, most likely related to a former orchard located within the site and depicted on historic mapping. The ditch contained pottery dating from the post-medieval and modern periods and most likely represents a boundary or garden feature.

7.2 No finds, features or deposits were identified which pre-date the post-medieval period.

Post-medieval

7.3 The only archaeological feature encountered during the evaluation comprised ditch 202/402, identified within Trenches 2 and 4 respectively. A small quantity of dating evidence was recovered from this ditch, with dates ranging from the Late 17th to 19th centuries. Based on these finds it seems likely that the ditch remained extant until at least the 19th century, before being deliberately backfilled.

7.4 The ditch broadly fits within the general alignment of the surrounding field systems depicted on current and historic Ordnance Survey mapping and runs broadly parallel to Shipbourne Road. Based on morphological characteristics these field systems predominantly relate to Parliamentary Enclosures of the post-medieval period, with partial surviving elements of earlier medieval strip fields.

Natural features

7.5 The natural feature, investigated within Trench 3 is likely to represent the remains of post-medieval tree planting. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1867 depicts an Orchard within the site.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by Anne Templeton. The report was written by Ralph Brown. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.

9. REFERENCES

AC (Archaeological Collective) 2017 Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeological Evaluation): Land at 14A Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3DN *Project Ref: 00411A*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 1 March 2017

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty loam, heavily disturbed by recent onsite activities	>5	>1.5	0.16
1	101	Layer		Natural	Soft mid grey orange silty clay with elements of degraded chalk and 5% patches of iron stone	>5	>1.5	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty loam, heavily disturbed by recent onsite activities	>5	>1.5	0.25
2	201	Layer		Natural	Soft mid grey orange silty clay with elements of degraded chalk and 5% patches of iron stone	>5	>1.5	
2	202	Cut		Ditch	Steep straight sides ~60° with rounded break of base and flat base	>1.7	>3	1.25
2	203	Fill	202	Deliberate backfill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent rubble and stone inclusions	>1.7	>1.14	0.33
2	204	Fill	202	Deliberate backfill	Soft mid brown yellow clay silt with occasional stone and rubble inclusion and a high content of redeposited natural	>1.7	>3	0.7
2	205	Fill	202	Deliberate backfill	Soft brown grey clay silt with moderate chalk and stone inclusions	>1.7	1.45	0.5
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty loam, heavily disturbed by recent onsite activities	>5	>1.5	0.25
3	301	Layer		Natural	Soft mid grey orange silty clay with elements of degraded chalk and 5% patches of iron stone	>5	>1.5	
3	302	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular shape in plan and sides with a flat base	1.5	>0.66	0.28
3	303	Fill	302	Secondary silting	Soft mid brown grey sandy silt with rare small iron stone inclusions	1.5	>0.66	0.28
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty loam, heavily disturbed by recent onsite activities	>5	>1.5	0.31
4	401	Layer		Natural	Soft mid grey orange silty clay with elements of degraded chalk and 5% patches of iron stone	>5	>1.5	
4	402	Cut		Ditch	Steep straight sides ~60°. The base wasn't reached	>5.2	>1.5	>80
4	403	Fill	402	Buried topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt with rare small sub angular stones	>5.2	>0.7	0.5
4	404	Fill	402	Deliberate backfill	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay	>5.2	>0.42	0.76

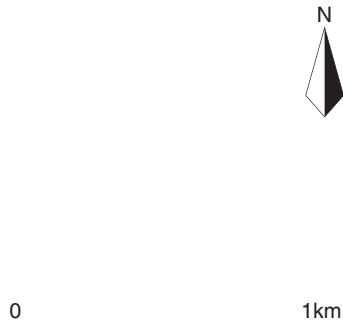
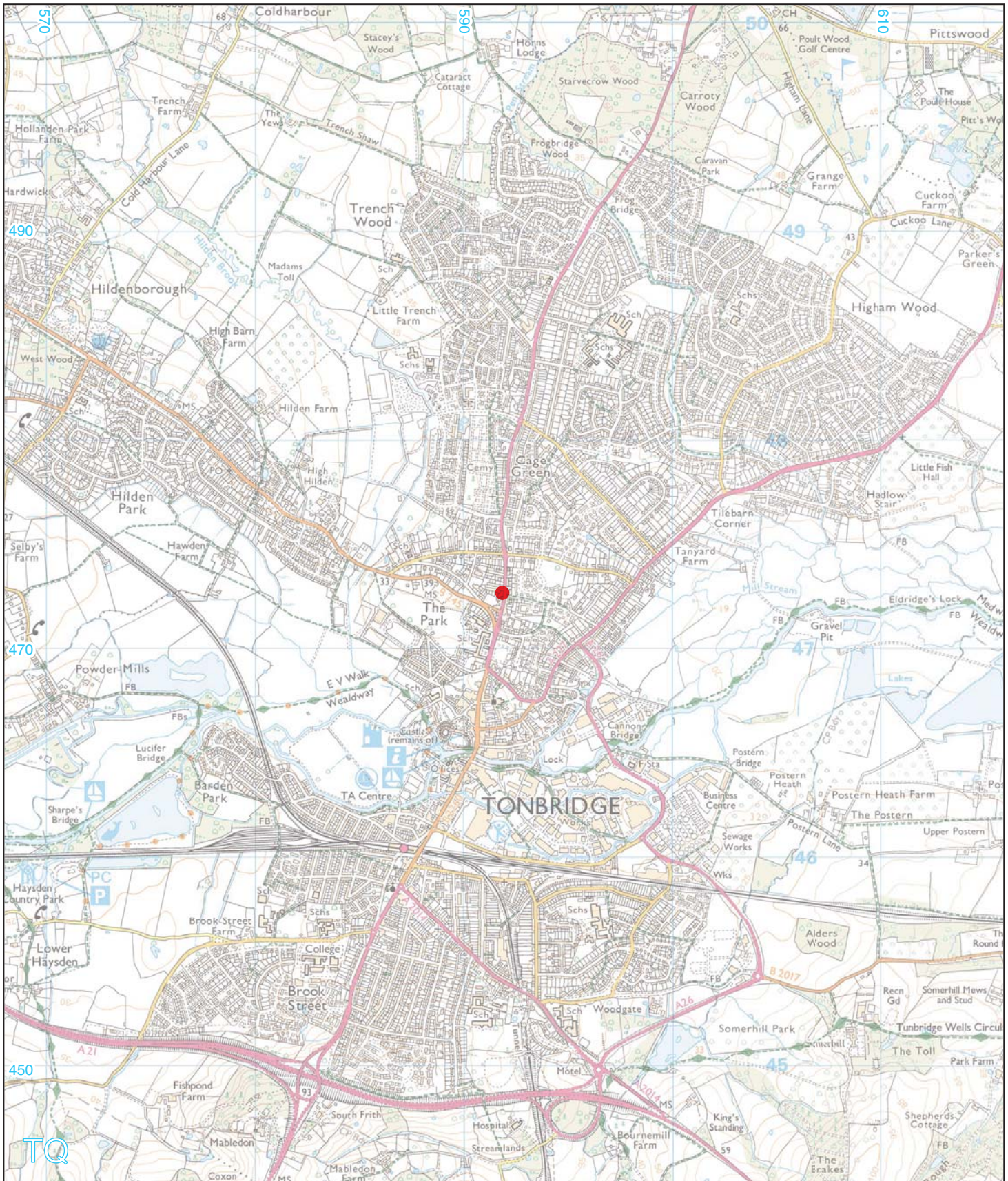
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
203	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	2	230	C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed pearlware	TPP	1	19	
	Modern pottery	Mocha ware	MOC	1	8	
303	Ceramic building material	Fragment		1	7	-
403	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	2	35	LC17-C18
	Post-medieval pottery	Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed earthenware	SMB	1	9	
	Post-medieval glass	Window		3	56	
404	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile		3	164	Post-medieval

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent.	
Short description	<p>During February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent. The work was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the residential development of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a ditch containing modern pottery, orientated broadly parallel to Shipbourne Road, as well as a small area of bioturbation, most likely related to a former orchard located within the site and depicted on historic mapping.</p>	
Project dates	28 th February 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	NGR: TQ 59194 47265	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Kent County Council on behalf of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Archaeological Collective	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Ralph Brown	
MONUMENT TYPE	Possible ditch	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Physical	Cotswold Archaeology – Milton Keynes	Post-medieval/modern pottery and ceramic building material, Post-medieval glass.
Paper	Cotswold Archaeology – Milton Keynes	Site records
Digital	Cotswold Archaeology – Milton Keynes	Report and digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17133.		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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Site, looking north-east



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Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

2



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4726

TQ

5920



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Bioturbation
- Ⓐ Ⓑ Section location



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

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Trench 1, looking south (1m scales)



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Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

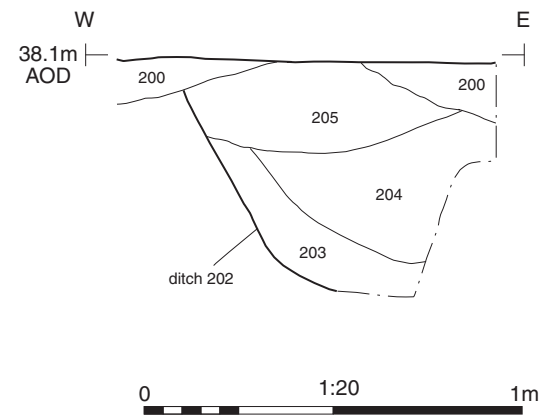
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FIGURE NO.

4



Section AA



Ditch 202, looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 202, machine excavated, looking north (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: section and photographs

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Trench 3, bioturbation 303, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

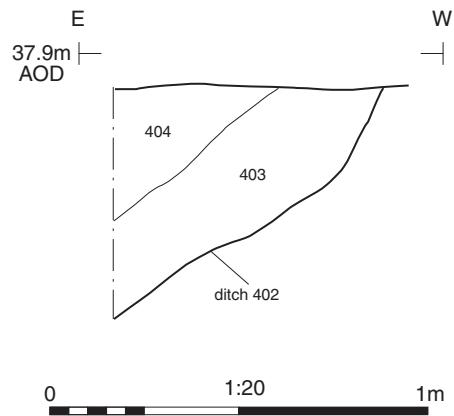
Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6

Section BB



Possible ditch 402, looking south (1m scale)



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Land at 14a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7

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