ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

LAND SOUTH OF IWADE KENT

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APRIL 2008 (REVISED OCTOBER 2008)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED **ASSESSMENT**

LAND SOUTH OF IWADE **KENT**

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SITE CENTRED AT: TQ 89700 67400

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting on behalf of HillIreed Developments Limited.
- 1.2 The assessment considers land at Iwade Village Centre, Kent. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 89700 67400 (Fig 1).
- 1.3 In accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPG16) this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.4 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Kent County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), considers the results of nearby archaeological investigations, incorporates published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise.
- 1.5 As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and/or archaeological solutions to the potential identified.

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2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 2.3 In short, government guidance provides a framework which:
 - Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Protects the settings of these sites
 - Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
 - Has a presumption in favour of in-situ preservation of important remains
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.
- 2.4 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Kent and Medway Deposit Structure Plan adopted July 2006. The Plan contains the following policy which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY QL7: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR SETTINGS, WILL BE PROTECTED AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, ENHANCED. DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THEM WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

WHERE IMPORTANT OR POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY EXIST, DEVELOPERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ARRANGE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND/OR FIELD EVALUATION TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ADVANCE OF THE DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS. WHERE THE CASE FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IS ACCEPTED, THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN SITU. WHERE PRESERVATION IN SITU IS NOT POSSIBLE OR JUSTIFIED, APPROPRIATE PROVISION FOR PRESERVATION BY RECORD WILL BE REQUIRED.

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2.5 The Swale Borough Local Plan, adopted February 2008. The policy relating to archaeology is:

POLICY E16

- 1. DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP OR SUBSEQUENTLY DESIGNATED, OR OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT MONUMENT OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, OR ITS SETTING.
- 2. WHETHER THEY ARE CURRENTLY KNOWN OR DISCOVERED DURING THE PLAN PERIOD, THERE WILL BE A PREFERENCE TO PRESERVE IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN-SITU AND TO PROTECT THEIR SETTINGS. DEVELOPMENT THAT DOES NOT ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE MITIGATION OF ADVERSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EFFECTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PERMITTED AND PRESERVATION IN-SITU IS NOT JUSTIFIED, THE APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING, IN ADVANCE OF AND/OR DURING DEVELOPMENT.

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3.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 <u>Geology</u>

- 3.1.1 The geology of the study site is shown on British Geological Survey Sheet 272 Chatham (1977). The study site is located in an area of Head Gravels, which in turn overlay the London Clay.
- 3.1.2 Experience of large scale archaeological excavation to the north and north east of the study site indicates that the Head gravels here are 'patchy' and the bulk of the site will actually be located on London Clay.

3.2 <u>Topography</u>

3.2.1 The study site is bisected by a small stream flowing from south to north through the middle of the site. The site falls gently from c. 22m AOD on the north west to c.14.5m at the stream before rising again to 17.5m on the south east.

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4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND Including Map Regression Exercise.

4.1 Timescales used in this report.

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	450,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

Historic

Roman	AD	43	-	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD	410	-	1066
Medieval	AD	1066	-	1485
Post Medieval	AD	1486	-	Present

4.2 Introduction

- 4.2.1 What follows is a review of a 1km radius of archaeological findspots held within the Kent Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It can be seen that there is a generally thin spread of finds and features from the early prehistoric periods to the Post Medieval period, with evidence of intensive late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity to the north and north east of the study site.
- 4.2.2 Much of the recent archaeological work at Iwade, concentrated to the north and north east of the study site, has yet to be entered into the Kent SMR, and a review of this new data is also detailed below. Extensive archaeological investigation took place on blocks of land, at Pink's Corner/Ferry Road, and Ferry Road/Grove Road, as well as at the junction of The Street and Old Ferry Road.

4.3 **Palaeolithic**

- 4.3.1 No finds of Palaeolithic date have been identified from a kilometre radius of the study site, either recorded in the Kent SMR, or during recent archaeological fieldwork within Iwade village.
- 4.3.2 Although the Swale gravels north of the study site may contain artefacts and ecofacts of Palaeolithic age, such material is likely to be derived, and not in situ. The

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archaeological potential of the study site for in situ or derived remains of this period can therefore be defined as low.

4.4 **Mesolithic**

- 4.4.1 Late Mesolithic flintwork represents the earliest human remains identified at Iwade, with small quantities of flint recovered from a former tree throw hollow, to the north east of the study site (Fig. 2). Other residual Mesolithic flintwork has also been identified in later contexts from a number of archaeological investigations in Iwade, suggesting sporadic activity from small groups of hunter-gatherers.
- 4.4.2 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can probably be defined as low. Residual struck flints are likely to be present, though in very small quantities, as has been demonstrated on the recently excavated sites to the north and north east. It is however most unlikely that intact Mesolithic palaeolandsurfaces will be present on the study site.

4.5 **Neolithic**

- 4.5.1 The pattern of periodic land use established during the Late Mesolithic can be shown to continue through the Neolithic period. This may reflect the 'heavy' soil types found in Iwade village and Iwade's location at the edge of the Swale Marshes, an environment in which a pastoral rather than an arable economy would have dominated. Diagnostic flintwork, including arrowheads, together with two pits containing Peterborough ware, have been discovered in excavations to the north east of the study site (Fig. 2).
- 4.5.2 Overall the site's archaeological potential for the Neolithic can be defined as low. Small quantities of residual finds are most likely to be encountered.

4.6 **Bronze Age**

4.6.1 Extensive Late Bronze Age remains have been found during excavations to the north east of the study site (Fig. 2). These have included field systems and a trackway bounded by ditches, together with traces of a pond, storage pits, fencelines, a copper alloy palstave, and hearths containing large, unabraded pottery sherds. The evidence points to a highly developed pastoral farming community. The late Bronze Age field systems and trackway identified north of the study site are very likely to extend into the eastern part of the study site.

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- 4.6.2 Bronze Age finds within a 1km radius of the study site include a truncated pit containing Late Bronze Age pottery found during an evaluation at Great Grovehurst Farm, c. 1km east of the study site (SMR ref TQ96NW 1081-WX 19420, grid ref TQ 9075 6714).
- 4.6.3 The extensive excavations around Iwade, and researches made of the wider surrounding area including more recent excavations at Kemsley, have identified a relationship between the topography and late prehistoric land use. Bronze Age finds from the area have typically been identified above 16m AOD, and below that level, finds are very scarce. The situation of the study site therefore, indicates a good archaeological potential for this period above 16m AOD and a low potential elsewhere.

4.7 Iron Age

- 4.7.1 A substantial late Iron Age farmstead was identified to the north and north east of the study site during archaeological excavations in 2000 (Bishop and Bagwell, 2005). Finds included building remains, enclosures, field systems, hearths and burials with large quantities of pottery and metal small finds.
- 4.7.2 Archaeological evidence suggests Iwade was occupied into the Iron Age, after which activity ceases for several hundred years. Prehistoric pottery, including a sherd of Iron Age pottery and fire-cracked flint, was identified c.1.25km northeast of the study site (SMR ref TQ96NW 71-KE 15772, grid ref TQ 9093 6792). "Urns and burnt stones" were observed at a field named 'The Downs', c.600m south west of the study site (SMR ref TQ86NE 28-KE 3015, grid ref TQ 8922 6756).
- 4.7.3 As with the Bronze Age in the Iwade area, Iron Age finds from the surrounding area are not normally located below 16m AO. The situation of the study site therefore, indicates a good archaeological potential for this period above 16m AOD and a low potential elsewhere.

4.8 Roman

4.8.1 Roman finds from a kilometre radius of the study site include a Romano-British ditch, dated by pottery and a coin, together with a truncated pit containing Romano-British pottery, found during an evaluation at Great Grovehurst Farm, c. 1km east of the study site (SMR ref TQ96NW 1081-WX 19420, TQ 96NW 66-KE 15406, grid ref TQ 9075 6714, TQ 9073 6712). A spread of abraded Romano-British pottery and tile was

identified c.1km east of the study site (SMR ref TQ96NW 76-KE 15930, grid ref TQ 9094 6804).

4.8.2 The Roman presence at Iwade has been interpreted as occasional pastoral use, owing to the paucity of finds in the area. The Late Iron Age settlement would appear to have been abandoned at the time of the Roman conquest with settlement perhaps shifting northwards towards the Marsh edge, and settlement at Iwade only appears to recommence in the medieval period. Consequently the likelihood of Roman material being discovered at the study site can be categorised as low.

4.9 Anglo Saxon

4.9.1 No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been identified from within a kilometre radius of the study site, and it is likely that during this period the site comprised mainly of pastureland. During this period much of the marshland north of the study site is thought to have been flooded. Therefore the likelihood of Anglo-Saxon finds being located at the study site can be summarised as low.

4.10 Medieval

- 4.10.1 Iwade developed as a result of marshland recovery after the 11th century, as a small cluster of farmsteads based around 'The Street'. Archaeological evidence from north and north east of the study site confirms this. A series of north-south agricultural ditches were identified which have been dated to 1250-1350. Further finds include a large trackway and the corner of a field.
- 4.10.2 In 2001 archaeological investigations on the Iwade Phase III site, south of All Saints Church revealed evidence for low intensity activity from the 13th and 14th centuries followed by a hiatus in the late 14th and 15th centuries. Further low intensity activity from the 16th to the early nineteenth century was also recorded. The archaeological record suggests generally low intensity use of the Phase III site with enclosures, possible ancillary structures and agricultural activity. The chancel nave and tower of the church have been dated to the 13th century (SMR ref TQ96NW 2-KE 3508, grid ref TQ 9012 6795).
- 4.10.3 During this period it is likely that the whole of the site lay in agricultural land. The field systems and trackway identified to the north will almost certainly extend into the eastern part of the study site.

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4.11 Post Medieval

4.11.1 Edward Hasted wrote of Iwade in 1798 that:

"This parish lies very low and on a level with the adjoining marshes, the situation and look of it is not unlike the fens in Lincolnshire. It is hardly known, excepting to those who travel towards the Isle of Sheppey, to which the road leads through this parish over the marshes to the Kings Ferry, from which the village, and the church stand at about a mile distance, and about two from the town of Milton north westward. There are sixteen houses in it, and about sixty or seventy inhabitants".

- 4.11.2 Chapman & Andre's Map of Kent dated 1769 (Fig 3) shows the 'village' of Iwade bordered by marsh to the north and east. Effectively the 'village' at this time consisted of three or four farmsteads grouped together. The study site appears to have been unoccupied at this time. Hasted's Map dated 1798 (not reproduced here) shows the study site unchanged from 1769.
- 4.11.3 The Iwade Tithe Map of 1842 (not reproduced here) shows the study site as agricultural land.
- 4.11.4 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1862 (Fig 4) shows the study site as agricultural land. Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps show minor variations in land use with the land utilised either as pasture, arable or for orchards (Figs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10).
- 4.11.5 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can be defined as highly limited.

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5.0 <u>SITE CONDITIONS AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</u>

- 5.1 <u>Site Conditions</u>
- 5.1.1 The study site currently comprises of agricultural land (Fig. 11).
- 5.1.2 Experience of previous archaeological excavation at Iwade indicates that past agricultural land use is unlikely to have had any significant archaeological impact.
- 5.2 <u>The Proposed Development</u>
- 5.2.1 No details have been received of the proposed development although it is understood that it is proposed to comprehensively develop the study site for residential purposes.
- 5.2.2 Past experience indicates that any archaeological remains now present on the study site would be unlikely to survive the development process.

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6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Land at Iwade Village Centre is proposed for residential development.
- 6.2 In accordance with central and local government policy, set out in PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning", a desk based assessment has been undertaken to clarify the archaeological potential of the study site.
- 6.3 The study site can be shown to have a good archaeological potential for the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval periods. The study sites archaeological potential for all other periods of human activity can be identified as low.
- 6.4 Past land use is unlikely to have had any significant archaeological impact.
- 6.5 Any archaeological remains now present on the site are unlikely to survive the redevelopment process.
- In view of the archaeological potential of the study site and the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development a suite of archaeological mitigation measures will require implementation in advance of development groundworks. However, it is suggested that these could follow planning consent secured by a PPG16 style archaeological planning condition, eg:

"NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE APPLICANT HAS SECURED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT AND APPROVED BY THE PLANNING AUTHORITY".

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SOURCES CONSULTED

1. **General**

British Library

Centre for Kentish Studies

Kent County Sites and Monument Record.

2. **Bibliographic**

CgMs Ltd Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Land at Iwade Phase 7 (unpublished document) August 2002

Edward Hasted A History & Topographical Survey of Kent Vol 6 1798

PCA Iwade: Occupation of a North Kent Village from the Mesolithic to the Medieval period. Barry Bishop and Mark Bagwell, 2005

3. Cartographic

1768 Andrews & Drury

1798 Edward Hasted

1842 Tithe Map

1862 Ordnance Survey

1898 Ordnance Survey

1908 Ordnance Survey

1939 Ordnance Survey

1961 Ordnance Survey

1986 Ordnance Survey

2008 Ordnance Survey

Google Earth, 2008

4. Aerial Photographs

1 May 1946

24 June 1961

13 June 1967

14 July 1990

24 July 1995

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Figure 1: Site location

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Figure 2:Previous Archaeological Investigations at Iwade, superimposed on modern street layout

Figure 3:1768 Andrews and Drury

Figure 4: 1862 Ordnance Survey

Figure 5: 1898 Ordnance Survey

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Figure 6: 1908 Ordnance Survey

Figure 7: 1939 Ordnance Survey

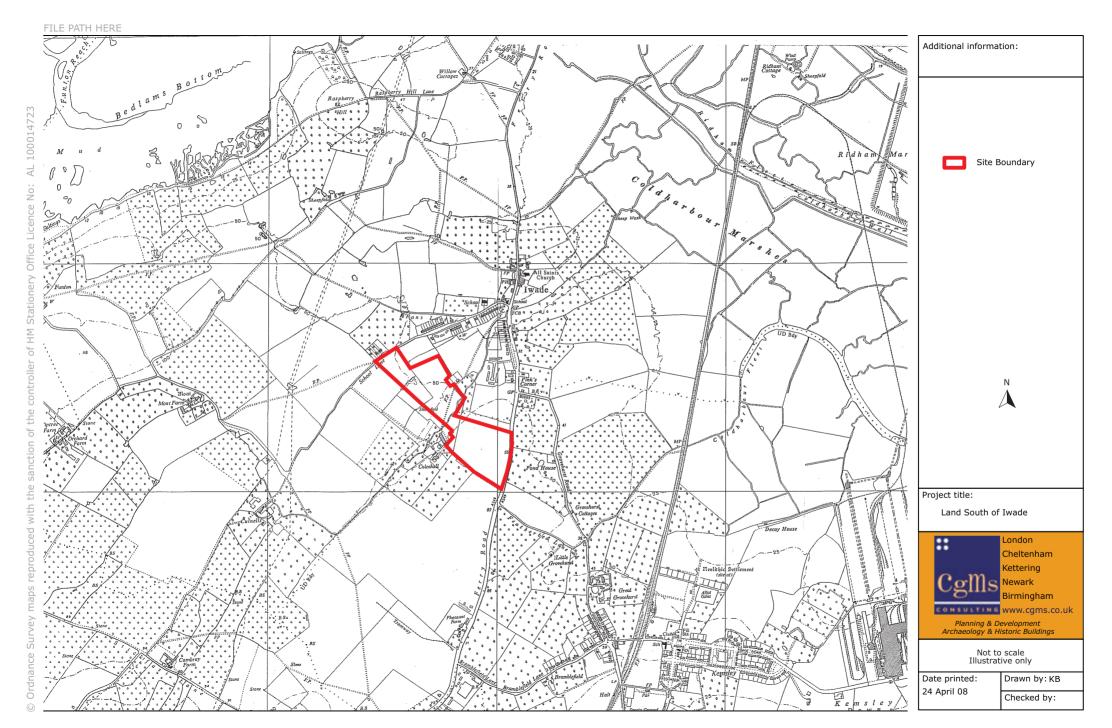


Figure 8: 1961 Ordnance Survey

Figure 9: 1986 Ordnance Survey

Figure 10: 2008 Ordnance Survey

Additional information: Site Boundary Project title: Land South of Iwade London Cheltenham Kettering www.cgms.co.uk Planning & Development Archaeology & Historic Buildings Not to scale Illustrative only Date printed: Drawn by: KB 24 April 08 Checked by:

Figure 11: Google Earth, 2008



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