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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Land at  
Great Grovehurst Farm  
Sittingbourne  
Kent**

**October 2017**

## Contents

	Summary .....	i
	Acknowledgements.....	i
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	1.1 Project background .....	2
	1.2 The Site location .....	2
	1.3 The Site geology .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	2.1 Introduction .....	3
	2.2 Recent investigations .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	3.1 Introduction .....	6
	3.2 The objectives of the evaluation .....	6
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
	4.1 Introduction .....	7
	4.2 Archaeological Evaluation .....	7
	4.3 Recording.....	7
	4.4 Health and Safety.....	8
<b>5</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
	5.1 Introduction .....	8
	5.2 Site-wide stratigraphy and geology.....	9
	5.3 Archaeological evaluation result.....	9
<b>6</b>	<b>ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>11</b>
	6.1 Introduction .....	11
	6.2 Pottery.....	12
	6.3 Worked flint .....	12
	6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM).....	13
	6.5 Animal bones .....	13
	6.6 Other finds.....	13
	6.7 Summary.....	13
<b>7</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....</b>	<b>13</b>
	7.1 Introduction .....	13
<b>8</b>	<b>DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
	8.1 Summary.....	14
	8.2 Conclusions.....	14
<b>9</b>	<b>ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
	9.1 Museum .....	14
	9.2 Preparation of the archive .....	14
	9.3 Selection policy .....	15
	9.4 Security copy.....	15
	9.5 OASIS.....	15
<b>10</b>	<b>COPYRIGHT .....</b>	<b>15</b>
	10.1 Archive and report copyright .....	15
	10.2 Third party data copyright .....	15
<b>11</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>17</b>
	11.1 Bibliography.....	17
<b>12</b>	<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
	12.1 Appendix 1: Evaluation trench tables .....	18
	12.2 Appendix 2: Kent County Council HER Summary Form.....	27

12.3 Appendix 3: OASIS form..... 0

**Figures:**

- Figure 1:** Site location and evaluation trenches  
**Figure 2:** Evaluation trenches and archaeological results  
**Figure 3:** Trench 5-17: Archaeological results

**Plates:**

- Cover:** General site view from the east  
**Plate 1:** South facing representative section of Trench 10  
**Plate 2:** South facing section of pit 204  
**Plate 3:** Northeast facing section of ditch 404  
**Plate 4:** Relationship slot showing ditches 706 and 709, viewed from the south-southwest  
**Plate 5:** West facing section of pit 804  
**Plate 6:** Shot of Trench 11, viewed from the northeast

**Tables:**

- Table 1:** Artefacts recovered by context

## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on Grid Reference (NGR) 590585 166588.

These works comprised the 17 trial trenches each measuring 50m x 1.80m situated within an irregular parcel of land, approximately 3.08ha in size.

The fieldwork was undertaken from 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

The evaluation has identified Prehistoric and post – medieval / modern activity. Archaeological remains comprised of boundary ditches and a few isolated pits were concentrated in the southeast of the site. Many of which were undated but Neolithic / Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery was found in features within Trenches 4, 8 and 11.

Several modern features, likely to be associated with recent farming activities, were recorded across the Site and were predominant in the northern area.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology (WA) would like to thank CgMs Consulting Limited for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Thanks, are also due to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

# Land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprised of 17 trial trenches measuring 50m x 1.80m on land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 590585 166588 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out to support a planning application in anticipation of a request by Kent County Council and along with a previous Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2006) and forms part of an archaeological assessment of the Site, which is aimed at providing archaeological information to aid the planning process. The overall proposed development includes new housing and associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological excavation was undertaken between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

#### 1.2 The Site location

- 1.2.1 The Site consists of an irregular parcel of land, approximately 3.08ha in extent to the immediate south of Swale Way. The Site is bounded to the west by Grovehurst Road, south by Great Grovehurst Farm House and residential dwellings beyond and a South Eastern rail line to the east. The Site is currently occupied by unremarkable grassland and there remain several farm buildings situated along the western boundary.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located on rising ground which increases in height from approximately 10m AOD on the extreme north west to approximately 17m AOD on the extreme south east. The higher southern part of the Site forms part of a ridge of higher ground extending west from Kemsley Paper Mill and Kemsley Village.
- 1.2.3 North of the Site ground level falls away toward the Coldharbour marshes below 5m AOD. A substantial pond is present just outside the southwestern boundary of the Site possibly fed by a spring line.

#### 1.3 The Site geology

- 1.3.1 The underlying geology of the Site is recorded as Head Brickearth overlying London Clay (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2017).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A full detailed description of the archaeological background to the Site has been presented in the DBA previously produced by CgMs Consulting Limited (CgMs 2006). For the purposes of this report a comprehensive summary of those findings has been presented below.

#### *Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43) to Romano-British (AD 43- 410)*

2.1.2 No finds of Palaeolithic material were recorded within the immediate vicinity of the study site, and within a 5km radius single finds were recorded at Lower Halstow and Newington. The Lower Halstow find (TQ 86 NE 7; TQ 8677 6877) was clearly associated with Swale gravels and were derived rather than in situ.

2.1.3 During the Palaeolithic period the study site would have been dry land suitable for settlement, and would have been covered with a dense, mixed forest of lime, oak and elm, with scatters of pine, birch and hazel.

2.1.4 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period for both in situ and derived remains was thought to be low.

2.1.5 Areas of higher drier ground such as the study site were favoured hunter gatherer campsite locations, from which the lower lying marshland to the north could be exploited.

2.1.6 Large Mesolithic flint assemblages indicating camp sites were recorded at Milton Regis (TQ 96 NW 26; TQ 900 650) and Lower Halstow (TQ 86 NE 8: TQ 8678 6857, TQ96 NW 26: TQ 8633 6770, TQ 86 NE 39; TQ 870675, TQ 86 NE 40, TQ 860 670, TQ 86 NE41; TQ 860 670 and TQ 86 NE 43: TQ 860 670). Residual Mesolithic material was recorded from the site of Castle Rough east of the study site (Pratt, 1997). Both the Milton Regis and Lower Halstow camp sites are located in topographically similar positions overlooking tributaries of the Swale (The Milton Creek and the Halstow Creek).

2.1.7 The electricity substation site north east of the study site was thought to be the location of an extensive and important Neolithic activity site recorded from 1871 (SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW6, TQ 9088 6666). The site was first discovered during brickearth quarrying and by 1898 was marked on Ordnance Survey maps. The precise details of the find are unclear. The site was originally interpreted as a permanent settlement within sunken floored roundhouses represented by circular hollows c.3m to 3.6m in diameter, and c.0.90m deep, containing 'occupation' debris including evidence for wattle and daub superstructures. It is now thought the features were more likely to represent a pit complex associated with ceremonial activity. The Neolithic remains were probably largely destroyed by 1898 by which date most of the what is now the area of the electricity substation site had been quarried. It is unlikely that the Grovehurst Neolithic settlement extends into the study site.

2.1.8 Archaeological interventions adjacent and north of the study site and adjacent and east of the study site, revealed certain in situ Mesolithic or early Neolithic material, and a very few residual artefacts of possible late Neolithic date. The archaeological potential of the study site for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods in general can therefore probably be defined as low.

- 2.1.9 An archaeological evaluation and fieldwalking exercise around Great Grovehurst Farm immediately north and adjacent to the study site) revealed evidence for low density late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity with evidence suggesting agricultural land use (SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1078; TQ 9061 6688, SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1079; TQ 905 667; SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1080; TQ 905 667; SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1081; TQ 9075 6714; SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1082; TQ 906 669; SMR Ref: TQ 96 NW 1083, TQ 906 668).
- 2.1.10 Archaeological excavations at Iwade west of the study site revealed Middle Bronze Age pits and a well shaft, with a trackway and field-system established by the late Bronze Age. The site was then abandoned until the Late Iron Age when it was occupied by a farmstead with three roundhouses.
- 2.1.11 At the Kemsley Fields Distributor Road and Northern Housing Area excavation to the east of the study site, Late Bronze Age activity was recorded along the Ridham Avenue frontage, which could be a continuation of the mid to Late Bronze Age occupation found to the south east at Kemsley Down (Hutchings and Willson 2001). Late Bronze Age flintwork was observed across this site. On the highest part of the Northern Housing Area in the south-west there was a small Middle Iron Age settlement, comprised of four penannular ditches representing roundhouses. A probable trackway led down to the marshes in the north. The settlement in this area was observed at levels between c. 15m AOD on the south and c. 12m AOD on the north.
- 2.1.12 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the Bronze Age and Iron Age can probably be defined as low to moderate with low density agricultural activity most likely to be represented. It is perhaps unlikely that additional Bronze and Iron Age settlement sites will be represented on this site given the proximity of the Iwade and Kemsley settlements.
- 2.1.13 Archaeological evaluation immediately north and adjacent to the site in 1996 revealed evidence for Roman agricultural activity (Wessex Archaeology, 1996). An archaeological evaluation, from the railway bridge to the road junctions, 3, 5 and 6 of the Kemsley Fields Distributor Road in 2002, revealed three Late Iron Age or early Roman ditches in Trench 35/36. These were thought to represent a rural track or 'Hollow way' and a possible field boundary.
- 2.1.14 The excavation at Kemsley Fields Distributor Road and Northern Housing area, east of the study site, revealed a number of small pits or postholes along the Ridham Avenue frontage containing Late Iron Age/early Roman artefacts. There were several ditches.
- 2.1.15 A major one running north west to south east, was probably a field boundary and it contained a large amount of pottery. Although no structures were found, there was clearly Roman settlement nearby, probably located on the crest of the higher ground to the south.
- 2.1.16 Archaeological excavations at Iwade recorded only a temporary re-use of an Iron Age enclosure in the 2nd century.
- 2.1.17 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site itself for this period can probably be defined as low, although there may be evidence of land division and agricultural activity.

*Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)*

- 2.1.18 None of the archaeological interventions, adjacent or nearby to the study site have encountered any evidence of Anglo Saxon or Early Medieval activity. It was formerly suggested that local earthwork known as Castle Rough (TQ 96 NW 10, SAM 12729) c. 1.5km east-south-east of the study site, represented the remains of a fortress associated with the Vikings, despite its small size. However an excavation in 1972 uncovered 13th or 14th century pottery within the mound suggesting it was much more likely to be a medieval moated manor house. The earthwork is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

*Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500) to Modern*

- 2.1.19 During the later medieval period the whole of the study site would have lain in agricultural land. Overall the archaeological potential of all parts of the study site for the Anglo Saxon and medieval periods can be defined as low.
- 2.1.20 The Andrews, Drury and Herbert Survey of 1769 clearly identify a farmstead at 'Grove Hurst' a precursor to the existing farm complex.
- 2.1.21 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 shows the study site in detail.
- 2.1.22 At this time the study site was occupied by the ancillary buildings of a farm complex known as 'Great Grovehurst'. The farmhouse itself lay south of the study site.
- 2.1.23 Between 1867 and 1897 only minor alterations took place on the study site, as can be seen in the Ordnance Survey map for the latter year.
- 2.1.24 The Ordnance Survey map of 1908 shows only minor changes from that of 1897. This is also the case with the Ordnance Survey map of 1938.
- 2.1.25 By 1964 a new house had been added to the north of the farm complex together with two substantial agricultural buildings. Between 1964 and 1979 all of the pre twentieth century agricultural buildings on the site were demolished. Subsequently a number of early twentieth century buildings were demolished and the remaining buildings now date to the mid to late twentieth century.
- 2.1.26 Although footings of former farm buildings and associated features may be present the archaeological potential of the study site for the post medieval period can now be defined as low.

## **2.2 Recent investigations**

- 2.2.1 In June 2013 Wessex Archaeology conducted a trial trench evaluation on land immediately to the north (beyond Swale Way) of the Site (WA 2013). The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches each measuring 25m x 1.8m. The archaeological work was undertaken to assess the level of disturbance, notably from deep ploughing, that may have occurred across the Site on the archaeological features identified during a previous evaluation conducted by Wessex Archaeology in 1996 (WA 1996). The previous evaluation revealed evidence of Neolithic/Bronze Age, late Bronze Age and Romano-British activity.



- 2.2.2 Following the evaluation an archaeological investigation was undertaken as part of an ongoing programme of works to confirm the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the areas of ground reduction on the Site (WA 2014). The works comprised the machine excavation of two areas, one in the northern and the second in the southern region of the Site, and three evaluation trenches. As a result of the archaeological remains uncovered, these two areas were fully recorded and a third area, incorporating the evaluation trenches, was stripped under archaeological control. The archaeological monitoring of a trench extending across the location of the Northern Pond was also recorded.
- 2.2.3 The archaeological investigations revealed evidence for activity across the Site dating from the Neolithic through to the modern period, with a focus on early prehistoric activity taking place towards the southern end of the Site and to the north of the Site.
- 2.2.4 The Northern Excavation Area revealed one large rubbish pit of modern date and a few tree throws from which one produced three sherds of early medieval pottery. The Central and Southern Excavation Areas uncovered a series of ditches aligned north west – south east and one ditch aligned north east – south west. These ditches most likely functioned as field boundaries although only two appear to be contemporary and both date to the Middle Bronze Age. Within the Southern Excavation Area (to the north of the Site this document relates to) seven large pits with very similar characteristics were identified scattered across the area. These pits were all sterile and may have been used as wells or post pits. Towards the centre of the excavation area a few shallow postholes were encountered although no discernible structure could be identified from their spatial arrangement. Only one pit, found in isolation, produced artefacts of possible Neolithic date however its function is unclear. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief on the trench situated across the Northern Pond.
- 2.2.5 The investigation works also recorded the stratigraphic sequence across the Site and revealed an area of colluvium confined to the Central and Southern Excavation Areas. This colluvial layer sealed the archaeological horizon between 0.44m and 0.59m below ground level.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, nature, character and significance of archaeological remains as may exist on the Site; to report on the results of the evaluation so that an informed decision on their subsequent treatment can be made, in light of the impact of the proposed development.

#### **3.2 The objectives of the evaluation**

3.2.1 The objectives of the trial trenches were to:

- *provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features;*
- *establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed;*

- *investigate the function of any structural remains and the activities taking place within and close to the Site;*
- *to inform and provide information for any future mitigation for the Site in order to inform any future planning application.*

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (WA 2015) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014b) and Kent County Council's *Manual of specifications Part B: Evaluation-trial trenching requirements*. The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Archaeological Evaluation

- 4.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of seventeen evaluation trenches each measuring 50m x 1.80m (**Figure 1**) positioned across the Site to provide the optimum results from the investigation. The trenches were positioned to avoid extant below ground and overhead obstructions with particular emphasis on avoiding extant newt habitation areas located in the northern, eastern, southern and part of the western Site boundaries
- 4.2.2 Prior to machine excavation, investigation locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable avoidance tool (CAT). The position of all detected services was marked on the ground. The areas where services were located by the cable scan were not excavated.
- 4.2.3 All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed by a 360-degree mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.2.4 The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m below current ground levels. Trenches were not fenced.
- 4.2.5 Excavated material was visually examined for archaeological material and a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 4.2.6 Each trench was cleaned by hand, where appropriate, and planned prior to any hand-excavation. All pre-modern stratified deposits were excavated by hand. A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural geology was recorded.
- 4.2.7 A sufficient sample of each feature type/deposit was examined in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.
- 4.2.8 Areas under archaeological observation were surveyed using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

### 4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology was to be maintained as appropriate.

Context sheets were to be primarily filled in by the archaeologist excavating the feature or deposit.

- 4.3.2 A digital photographic record was maintained. The photographic record was illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.
- 4.3.3 A complete drawn record of mapped archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.
- 4.3.4 All plans and sections were to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 4.3.5 Wessex Archaeology ensured that the complete site archive including finds and environmental samples were kept in a secure place throughout the period of excavation and post excavation works.

#### 4.4 Health and Safety

- 4.4.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.4.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.4.3 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.
- 4.4.4 Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000), copies of which can be provided on request.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological mitigation. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 5.1.2 **Figure 1** presents the overall location and **Figure 2** shows trench plan including archaeological investigations **Figure 3** provides a close up view of Trenches 5-17. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-6**.
- 5.1.3 Trench 1 contained modern disturbance and a tree throw, Trench 5 contained modern disturbance, Trench 6 was shortened to 38m in length due to a below ground service and was blank as were Trenches 9, 12, 13, and 17 save disturbance and tree throws .

## 5.2 Site-wide stratigraphy and geology

- 5.2.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was recorded within the Site (**Plate 1**) and consisted of a grass rooted dark brownish grey, almost black, silty clay plough soil approximately 0.30m in thickness overlying buried subsoil comprising mid greyish brown silty clay containing small frequent flints inclusions. The overburden sealed the natural geology consisting of a dark yellowish orange brickearth. Natural geology was recorded at approximately 0.40 – 0.50m below ground level (BGL).

## 5.3 Archaeological evaluation result

### *Trench 2 (Figure 2)*

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the northern most part of the Site. One sub-oval shaped pit **203** was recorded. The pit was characterised by a concave base and moderately sloping concave profile (**Plate 2**) and measured 0.87m x 0.74m with a depth of 0.19m and contained single fill. Several areas of modern disturbance likely to be associated with modern farming activity were investigated within the eastern portion of the trench.

### *Trench 3 (Figure 2)*

- 5.3.2 A single oval shaped pit **304** with a flat base and moderate to gradual sloping concave profile was recorded to the east and adjacent to the south edge of the trench. The exposed part of the feature measured 0.85m x 0.72m, 0.12m deep, a fragment of abraded medieval roof tile and oyster shell were retrieved from the fill. The tile is believed to be residual due to the wear exhibited on the fragment. Modern disturbance was investigated in the western end of the Trench and was found to be similar to that investigated in Trench 2 to the north.

### *Trench 4 (Figure 2)*

- 5.3.3 The northwest to southeast aligned Trench 4 was situated to the north of the Site. One likely Neolithic / Bronze Age in date ditch **404 (Plate 3)** aligned southwest to northeast was identified in the southeast end of the trench. Characterised by a concave base and steep concave sides the ditch was 1.80m+ long, 1.10m wide and 0.46m deep and comprised of two fills containing very abraded sherd of pottery and a few worked flints.

### *Trench 7 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.4 Trench 7 was positioned broadly in the centre of the Site approximately 14m east of a known below ground service and associated exclusion zone. The trench was aligned west to east. Three linear features were identified within this trench.
- 5.3.5 Boundary ditch **704** was aligned south east /northwest and was located in the centre of the trench. The ditch measured 1.10m wide and 0.30m deep. The feature was characterised by a concave base and a moderately sloping concave profile and contained a single fill containing common charcoal flecking, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and roof tile pieces.
- 5.3.6 Two north-northeast to south-southwest intercutting ditches were situated to the east of the trench. A 1.10m wide and 0.64m deep ditch **706** with a concave base and steep slightly stepped sides was cut by shallower and narrower ditch **709** which had a steep sloping concave profile and a concave base (**Plate 4**).
- 5.3.7 Their origin remains uncertain due to a lack of dating evidence however, a sherd of post medieval / modern CBM was recovered from the fill of **709**. Both are likely to be modern in date and related to farm activity, they did not extend into Trench 9 to the south.

*Trench 8 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.9 Within the south to north orientated Trench 8 a single large pit **804 (Plate 5)** was identified situated broadly in the centre of the trench and adjacent to its eastern edge. The exposed portion was 1.72m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.69m deep. Possibly sub-circular in shape with a flat base and steep to vertical concave to straight sides; the feature contained four fills which produced pottery dating to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age period.

*Trench 10 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.8 The east to west orientated Trench 10 was located to the south of the Site. Four linear features were recorded within the trench. The most eastern ditch **1004** was aligned southwest to northeast and was 2m+ long, 0.41m wide with a depth of 0.38m. This undated feature had a concave base and a steep sloping straight profile.
- 5.3.9 Approximately 2m northwest of ditch **1004** another undated 1.05m wide and 0.37m deep ditch **1006**, with an irregular base and gradually sloping straight sides, was recorded.
- 5.3.10 Ditch **1008**, located to the east end of the trench, had a similar profile. Measured 1.46m in width and 0.24m in depth the feature was cut by gully **1010** which had a concave base and steep straight sides, its dimensions were 0.18m wide and 0.40m deep. No archaeological artefacts were retrieved from the fills of either feature.

*Trench 11 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.11 Two wide intercutting north to south aligned linear features **1104** and **1106** were identified within the south-eastern portion of this trench (**Plate 6**). The features continued to the south where they were investigated in Trenches 15 and 16. Several sherds of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the features.

*Trench 14 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.12 Within Trench 14, two archaeological features were recorded. Located to the north a ditch **1404** on a west to east orientation had a flat base and a shallow slightly concave profile and measured 0.78m in width with a depth of 0.08m. This feature was likely to be a continuation of ditch **1504** in Trench 15 to the east. No dating evidence was recovered from the single secondary fill.
- 5.3.13 An undated pit **1406** was identified towards the southern end of the trench. The circular, 0.75m deep feature extended beyond trench edge and its estimated diameter was 1.70m. The pit had a concave base and steep concave sides and contained no finds.

*Trench 15 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.14 Trench 15 was positioned on a west to east orientation within the south-eastern portion of the Site. Four linear features were identified within this trench. Aligned west to east 30m+ long ditch **1504** was recorded, this feature was seen to continue into Trench 14 to the west as **1404**. The ditch had a shallow concave profile with a flat base and measured 0.71m wide and 0.09m deep and did not contain any dating evidence within the single secondary fill.
- 5.3.15 Three parallel ditches **1506**, **1508** and **1510** we identified in the eastern end of the trench and were all aligned broadly north-south. Undated ditch **1510** was 1.20m wide, 0.23m deep and had a flat base with a steep to shallow sloping concave profile.

- 5.3.16 Approximately 1m west of **1510** a 0.90m wide and 0.29m deep undated ditch **1508** was investigated which had a flat slightly irregular base and steep to shallow concave sides.
- 5.3.17 The most western ditch **1506** was 1.11m wide and 0.21m deep and had a concave base and a moderately sloping stepped profile. Its single secondary fill consisted of a small amount of charcoal flecking, some burnt flints and possibly Iron Age pottery.

*Trench 16 (Figure 3)*

- 5.3.18 Trench 16 was located at the southeast corner of the Site and contained two archaeological features. An almost north to south aligned ditch **1606** measuring 2m+ long, 1.26m wide and 0.22m deep had a flat base and a shallow to steep concave profile. The ditch was interpreted as a continuation of one of the ditches investigated within Trenches 11 and 15. A single worked flint was recovered from the fill.
- 5.3.19 An oval shaped pit **1604** with a flat base and steep concave sides was excavated to the southwest end of the trench. The feature was adjacent to the trench edge and the exposed part measured 1.20m x 0.90m with a depth of 0.30m. A deliberate dumped deposit comprised a large amount of young calf bones and an iron object of relatively recent date.

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 A small finds assemblage of approximately 1.5kg was recovered from 14 contexts in eight of the evaluation trenches. This material ranges in date from Neolithic / Bronze Age to modern. The finds have been quantified (number and weight of pieces) by material type within each context; these totals are presented in **Table 1**. All material types have been scanned to establish their nature, condition and potential date range.



**Table 1** Artefacts recovered by context (number / weight in grammes)

Feature	Context	Pottery	Worked Flint	Animal bone	CBM	Other finds
subsoil	202	1/11				
Pit 204	205					Fired clay 1/3
Pit 304	305				2/34	Fired clay 1/100; Shell 1/5
Ditch 404	405		3/8			
Ditch 404	406		4/37			
Ditch 704	705	1/4			1/6	
Ditch 706	708				2/168	
Pit 804	808	10/96				Fired clay 2/32
Ditch 1104	1105	2/39				
Ditch 1106	1107	3/46				
Subsoil	1202		1/18			
Subsoil	1502		1/17			
Ditch 1506	1507	1/1				Burnt flint 2/113
Pit 1604	1605			78/648		Iron 5/139
Ditch 1606	1607		1/5			
<b>Total</b>		<b>18/197</b>	<b>10/85</b>	<b>78/648</b>	<b>5/208</b>	<b>12/392</b>

## 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. Despite a mean sherd weight of 10.9 g, the condition of the assemblage is poor, with the majority of pieces having suffered severely from surface abrasion and edge damage. It is possible that most, if not all, of this material is residual within the features in which it was found. Given the absence of any diagnostic or featured sherds, the material has been dated on the basis of fabric alone.
- 6.2.2 With the exception of a single 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century refined whiteware sherd with sponge decoration from ditch **704**, the assemblage is late prehistoric in date. Sixteen (192 g) coarse flint-tempered sherds, some with linear voids possibly deriving from burnt out organic inclusions, came from subsoil **202**, pit **804** and ditches **1104** and **1106**. A tentative Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age date has been ascribed to this material.
- 6.2.3 Elsewhere in the area, a broad range of flint-tempered fabrics sometimes with chaff-hollows were identified amongst the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ceramic assemblages from Iwade (Hamilton and Seager Thomas 2005, 22) and Kemsley (McNee 2012, 250) both located within two kilometres to the north of Great Grovehurst Farm. A single oxidised, sand and flint-tempered sherd was found in ditch **1506**; this piece may possibly date to the Iron Age.

## 6.3 Worked flint

- 6.3.1 A small assemblage of 10 flint flakes was recovered from five contexts. The raw material is mid-brown in colour and a couple of pieces have worn, buff cortex. This material is probably from a secondary source.

- 6.3.2 Some edge damage and abrasion is evident and one piece from feature **404** has been burnt. This material is not particularly diagnostic and the size of the assemblage hampers interpretation but a Neolithic or Bronze Age date would not be out of place.

#### **6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)**

- 6.4.1 Five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered including a very abraded, probably residual fragment of medieval roof tile (pit **304**). The remaining pieces are of post-medieval or modern date and comprise one piece of roof tile (pit **704**); one brick fragment (ditch **706**) and two featureless fragments (pit **304** and ditch **706**).

#### **6.5 Animal bones**

- 6.5.1 The 78 fragments (648 g) of animal bone recovered from undated pit **1604** are from a young calf aged less than a few months old. The size and condition of the bones suggests that they are relatively modern in date and represent the burial of a natural fatality.

#### **6.6 Other finds**

- 6.6.1 The four fragments of fired clay came from three pits (**204**, **304** and **804**). All are in slightly sandy, predominantly oxidised fabrics with iron oxides; the featureless fragment from pit **304** also contains sparse calcareous flecks. One of the fragments from pit **804** has one flat surface and a possible withy impression on the reverse, indicating the presence of structural debris.
- 6.6.2 Two pieces of burnt flint came from ditch **1506**. This material type is intrinsically undateable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity; these pieces have been recorded and discarded.
- 6.6.3 Five bent iron strip fragments (pit **1604**) are likely to be from a single, possibly structural, unidentifiable object and of relatively recent date.
- 6.6.4 A single fragment of oyster shell came from pit **304** and most likely represents food remains.

#### **6.7 Summary**

- 6.7.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field or during the subsequent examination of the assemblage as part of this assessment.
- 6.7.2 The small finds assemblage has already been recorded to the recommended minimum standards for the archiving of archaeological finds and as a result no further work is proposed at this stage. In the event of further fieldwork taking place, this material will need to be reconsidered alongside any additional artefacts recovered.

### **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

#### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 No features suitable for environmental analysis were identified during the evaluation.



## 8 DISCUSSION

### 8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has identified Prehistoric and post – medieval / modern activity. Archaeological remains comprised of boundary ditches and a few isolated pits were concentrated in the southeast of the area. Many of which were undated but Neolithic / Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery was found in features within Trenches 4, 8 and 11.
- 8.1.2 Several modern features, likely to be associated with recent farming activities, were recorded across the Site and were predominant in the northern area.

### 8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 The evaluation has identified low level activity predominantly dating to the Prehistoric period and mainly focused in the south eastern part of the overall Site. Several ditches were identified in this area of which some can be dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age while the majority can only be dated to the Prehistoric period mainly due to the paucity and abraded nature of artefacts. It was clear during the evaluation that the features had undergone truncation through ploughing with some ditches surviving to very shallow depths while the usual single secondary fills within the features were sterile.
- 8.2.2 A system of ditches in the far eastern part of the Site identified in Trenches 11, 15 and to a lesser extent Trench 16 indicate a re-establishment of a boundary here in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age although the scarcity of remains to the west of these may suggest that any focussed activity of this period may lie outside the development footprint to the east. The paucity of domestic artefacts would suggest that any Prehistoric settlement lies outside the Site, a lack of any evidence suggesting domestic activity was noted as was the relatively modern disturbance due to farming activity which was identified across the Site.

## 9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. In the absence of any museum in the area actively collecting archaeological archives, no final repository for the project archive has yet been identified. The archive will continue to be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology until such time as the situation is resolved. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### 9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by appropriate museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **111830**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

### **9.3 Selection policy**

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

### **9.4 Security copy**

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### **9.5 OASIS**

- 9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

### **10.2 Third party data copyright**

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain

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## 12 APPENDICES

### 12.1 Appendix 1: Evaluation trench tables

Trench No 1		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.56m	
Easting 590446.7000			Northing 166722.6045			MaOD 13.210	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
101		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.18	
102		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.18-0.38	
103		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.38-0.56+	

Trench No 2		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.51m	
Easting 590451.1560			Northing 166735.4555			MaOD 13.000	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
201		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.36	
202		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.36-0.47	
203		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.47-0.51+	
204	(204)	Pit	Sub-oval pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.19m.				
205	[204]	Secondary fill	Light orangey yellow silty clay. Rare small sub-rounded flints, occasional manganese flecks. Archaeological components: rare CBM (one sherd very abraded).				

Trench No 3		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.47m	
Easting 590465.2170			Northing 166707.1855			MaOD 14.010	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
301		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.33	
302		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.33-0.45	
303		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.45-0.47+	
304	(305)	Pit	Oval pit with gradual-moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.12m.				
305	[304]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish orange sandy silt. Frequent tiny pieces of chalk. Archaeological components: CBM, oyster shell				

Trench No 4		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.43m	
Easting 590518.8245			Northing 166714.9906			MaOD 13.770	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
401		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.26	
402		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.26-0.39	
403		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.39-0.43+	
404	(405), (406)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.46m.				
405	[404]	Secondary fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Rare small manganese inclusions, occasional small rounded pebbles. Archaeological components: rare charcoal flecks, flints				
406	[404]	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Rare small sub-angular flints well sorted, common manganese inclusions. Archaeological components: pottery, worked flints.				

Trench No 5		Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.48m
Easting 590574.4015		Northing 166686.6130		MaOD 13.850
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.	0.00-0.25
502		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.	0.25-0.46
503		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.	0.46-0.48+

Trench No 6		Length 38m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.64m
Easting 590595.5970		Northing 166658.3670		MaOD 14.080
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. With moderate small sub-rounded stones and frequent rooting. Clear interface between topsoil and subsoil.	0.00-0.30
602		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown. Silty brickearth. Clear interface between subsoil and topsoil.	0.30-0.55
603		Natural	Mid brownish orange brickearth with very rare small sub-rounded stones and frequent manganese specks.	0.55-0.64+

Trench No 7		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.60m	
Easting 590534.3525			Northing 166625.3515			MaOD 15.230	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
701		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.40	
702		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.40-0.53	
703		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.53-0.60+	
704	(705)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.30m.				
705	[704]	Secondary fill	Light brownish grey silty clay. Common very small manganese inclusions, sparse small chalk inclusions, occasional small rounded pebbles. Archaeological components: common small charcoal flecks, ceramic, CBM				
706	(707), (708)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, slightly stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.64m.				
707	[706]	Primary fill	Light brownish yellow with white mottling sandy clay. Very fine pebbles rare, occasional manganese flecks. Archaeological components: rare charcoal				
708	[706]	Secondary fill	Mid pale grey with white mottling silty clay with sandy patches. Rare fine pebbles, occasional manganese flecks. Archaeological components: rare CBM and charcoal				
709	(710), (711)	Ditch	NNE-SSW ditch with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.55m.				
710	[709]	Primary fill	Light brownish yellow with whitish mottling silty clay with sandy patches. Rare fine pebbles and manganese flecks. Archaeological components: rare charcoal flecks				
711	[709]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay with sandy patches. Occasional manganese flecks and chalk. Archaeological components: none				



Trench No 8		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.70m	
Easting 590588.3250			Northing 166646.5450			MaOD 14.390	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
801		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silt with moderate small sub-rounded stones. Frequent rooting.			0.00-0.40	
802		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown. Silty brickearth.			0.40-0.64	
803		Natural	Mid brownish orange brickearth with very rare small sub-rounded stones and frequent manganese specks.			0.64-0.70+	
804	(805), (806), (807), (808)	Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep-vertical, concave-straight sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.69m.				
805	[804]	Primary fill	Mid brownish orange sandy silt				
806	[804]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey blue sandy silt. Rare small sub-rounded pieces of chalk. Archaeological components: rare pieces of charcoal - 0.02m				
807	[804]	Secondary fill	Mid greyish orange sandy silt. Manganese smears.				
808	[804]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey grey silt. Very rare small sub-rounded stones and chalk; rare angular thin pieces of flint. Archaeological components: pottery, fired clay.				

Trench No 9		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.51m	
Easting 590565.3570			Northing 166613.9150			MaOD 15.240	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
901		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey (almost black). Silty clay. Common small to medium sized sub-angular flints / stones, rare modern glass, CBM, metal, plastic etc. Heavily rooted. Very loose.			0.00-0.30	
902		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Very common charcoal flecks, rare chalk inclusions, common small sub-angular flints, rounded pebbles, occasional modern CBM. Slightly rooted. Medium compaction.			0.30-0.49	
903		Natural	Dark yellowish orange. Silty clay. With patches of light yellow silt. Hard compacted.			0.49-0.51+	

Trench No 10		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.65m	
Easting 590563.7900			Northing 166585.9310			MaOD 15.800	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1001		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Moderate rooting.			0.00-0.27	
1002		Subsoil	Reddish brown. Silty clay. Rare sub-angular chalk.			0.27-0.49	
1003		Natural	Light brown. Silty clay. Rare sub-angular chalk.			0.49-0.65+	
1004	(1005)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.38m.				
1005	[1004]	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Rare small stone.				
1006	(1007)	Ditch	Linear ditch with gradual, straight sides and an irregular base. Depth: 0.37m.				
1007	[1006]	Secondary fill	Mid orange grey silty clay. Sparse manganese flecks.				
1008	(1009)	Ditch	Linear ditch with gradual, straight sides and an irregular base. Depth: 0.24m.				
1009	[1008]	Secondary fill	Light yellowish brown clay silt. Rare manganese flecks.				
1010	(1011)	Gully	Linear gully with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.40m..				
1011	[1010]	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Sparse manganese flecks.				

Trench No 11		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.50m	
Easting 590610.4990			Northing 166611.1680			MaOD 14.630	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1101		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silt with moderate small sub-rounded stones and frequent rooting.			0.00-0.30	
1102		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown. Silty brickearth.			0.30-0.45	
1103		Natural	Mid brownish orange brickearth. Very rare small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Frequent manganese specks.			0.45-0.50+	
1104	(1105)	Ditch	Linear ditch, unknown sides and a base.				
1105	[1104]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Common manganese inclusions, sparse small rounded pebbles, occasionally chalk inclusions. Archaeological components: pottery, common charcoal flecking throughout.				
1106	(1107)	Ditch	Linear ditch, unknown sides and a base.				
1107	[1106]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Archaeological components: pottery, charcoal flecks.				
Two possible intercutting ditches. Not investigated as continued within other trenches and there excavated. Finds recovered from the surface.							

Trench No 12		Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.66m
Easting 590527.7130		Northing 166562.0800		MaOD 16.480
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey. Silt with rare small sub-rounded stones. Abundant rooting.	0.00-0.30
1202		Subsoil	Light orangey brown. Clay silt, mixture of silt and brickearth. NP stone inclusions.	0.30-0.61
1203		Natural	Mid orangey brown. Silty clay brickearth. Very rare small stone inclusions. Abundant Manganese specks.	0.61-0.66+

Trench No 13		Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.50m
Easting 590545.7195		Northing 166580.4690		MaOD 15.970
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1301		Topsoil	Mid brown. Silty clay.	0.00-0.29
1302		Subsoil	Reddish brown. Silty clay.	0.29-0.39
1303		Natural	Light brown. Silty clay.	0.39-0.50+

Trench No 14		Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.54m
Easting 590563.7620		Northing 166576.0480		MaOD 15.940
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.00-0.30
1402		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clay silt.	0.30-0.46
1403		Natural	Light yellowish brown clay silt. Sparse manganese flecks.	0.46-0.54+
1404	(1405)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, slightly concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.08m.	
1405	[1404]	Secondary fill	Light orange brown silty clay. Archaeological components: none	
1406	(1407)	Pit	Circular pit with steep, concave / stepped in parts sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.75m.	
1407	[1406]	Secondary fill	Dark brown clay. Heavily rooted. Archaeological components: none	

Trench No 15		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.62m	
Easting 590588.2975			Northing 166567.2105			MaOD 15.920	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Sparse rooting.			0.00-0.34	
1502		Subsoil	Reddish brown. Silty clay. Rare sub-angular flint.			0.34-0.48	
1503		Natural	Light brown. Silty clay.			0.48-0.62+	
1504	(1505)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, slightly concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.09m.				
1505	[1504]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Archaeological components: none				
1506	(1507)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave / stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.21m.				
1507	[1506]	Secondary fill	Light to mid greyish brown silty clay. Rare medium angular stone (1%). Archaeological components: burnt flint, pot, 1% charcoal flecking				
1508	(1509)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep / shallow concave sides and a flat irregular base. Depth: 0.29m.				
1509	[1508]	Secondary fill	Mid brown. Silty clay. 0.29m thick.				
1510	(1511), (1512)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep / shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.23m.				
1511	[1510]	Secondary fill	Mid brown with black patches silty clay.				
1512	[1510]	Secondary fill	Mid brown silty clay.				

Trench No 16		Length 50m		Width 1.80m		Depth 0.59m	
Easting 590638.4225			Northing 166555.0840			MaOD 15.510	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1601		Topsoil	Greyish mid brown. Sparse rooting. Silty clay.			0.00-0.33	
1602		Subsoil	Silty clay. Reddish brown.			0.33-0.45	
1603		Natural	Silty clay. Light brown. Firm compact.			0.45-0.59+	
1604	(1605)	Pit	Oval pit with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.30m.				
1605	[1604]	Deliberate backfill	Dark brown silty clay. Single chalk inclusion. Archaeological components: animal bones.				
1606	(1607)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow / steep, concave sides and a flat / irregular base. Depth: 0.22m.				
1607	[1606]	Secondary fill	Mid brown mottled black patches silty clay. Archaeological components: single worked flint				

Trench No 17		Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Depth 0.59m
Easting 590536.9770		Northing 166521.5290		MaOD 16.900
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt. Sparse medium stones. Sparse abraded CBM.	0.00-0.34
1702		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.34-0.48
1703		Natural	Light yellowish brown clay silt.	0.48-0.59+

12.2 Appendix 2: Kent County Council HER Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne Kent, ME9 8RB	
<b>Summary of discoveries:</b> The evaluation has identified Prehistoric and post – medieval / modern activity. Archaeological remains comprised of boundary ditches and a few isolated pits were concentrated in the southeast of the area. Many of which were undated but Neolithic / Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery was found in features within Trenches 4, 8 and 11. Several modern features, likely to be associated with recent farming activities, were recorded across the Site and were predominant in the northern area.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Iwade	<b>Parish:</b> Sittingbourne
<b>Period(s):</b> Prehistoric and Post-medieval AD1500 – 1800.	
<b>NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m):</b> 590585, 166588 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work</b> Archaeological Evaluation	
<b>Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From:</b> 21/08/2017 <b>To:</b> 25/08/2017	
<b>Unit/contractor undertaking recording:</b> Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> Head Brickearth overlying London Clay (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2017).	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent by Emilia Seredynska.	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b> The evaluation has identified low level activity predominantly dating to the Prehistoric period and mainly focused in the south western part of the overall Site. Several ditches were identified in this area of which some can be dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age while the majority can only be dated to the Prehistoric period mainly due to the paucity and abraded nature of artefacts. It was clear during the evaluation that the features had undergone truncation through ploughing with some ditches surviving to very shallow depths while the usual single secondary fills within the features were sterile. A system of ditches in the far eastern part of the Site identified in Trenches 11, 15 and to a lesser extent Trench 16 indicate a re-establishment of a boundary here in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age although the scarcity of remains to the west of these may suggest that any focussed activity of this period may lie outside the development footprint to the east. The paucity of domestic artefacts would suggest that any Prehistoric settlement lies outside the Site, a lack of any evidence suggesting domestic activity was noted as was the relatively modern disturbance due to farming activity which was identified across the Site.	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Rob De'Athe	<b>Date:</b> 11/10/2017

## 12.3 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-297886

### Project details

Project name	Land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation at Great Grovehurst Farm Sittingbourne, Kent, centered on National Grid Reference 590585, 166588. The development comprised of demolition and converting a range of agricultural buildings into varied business and retailing structures. The excavations uncovered ditches, pot, worked flint, animal bone and fe objects.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2017 End: 25-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	111830 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	200002532081 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCHES Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINTS Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE SITTINGBOURNE Great Grovehurst Farm
Postcode	ME9 8RB
Study area	3.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	0 0 590585 00 00 N 166588 00 00 E Point
Site coordinates	TQ 590570 166618 50.926871431596 0.263535047451 50 55 36 N 000 15 48 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor	Lisa McCaig
Project supervisor	Emelia Seredynska
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

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### Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Digital Archive ID	111830.04
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Paper Archive ID	111830.04
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

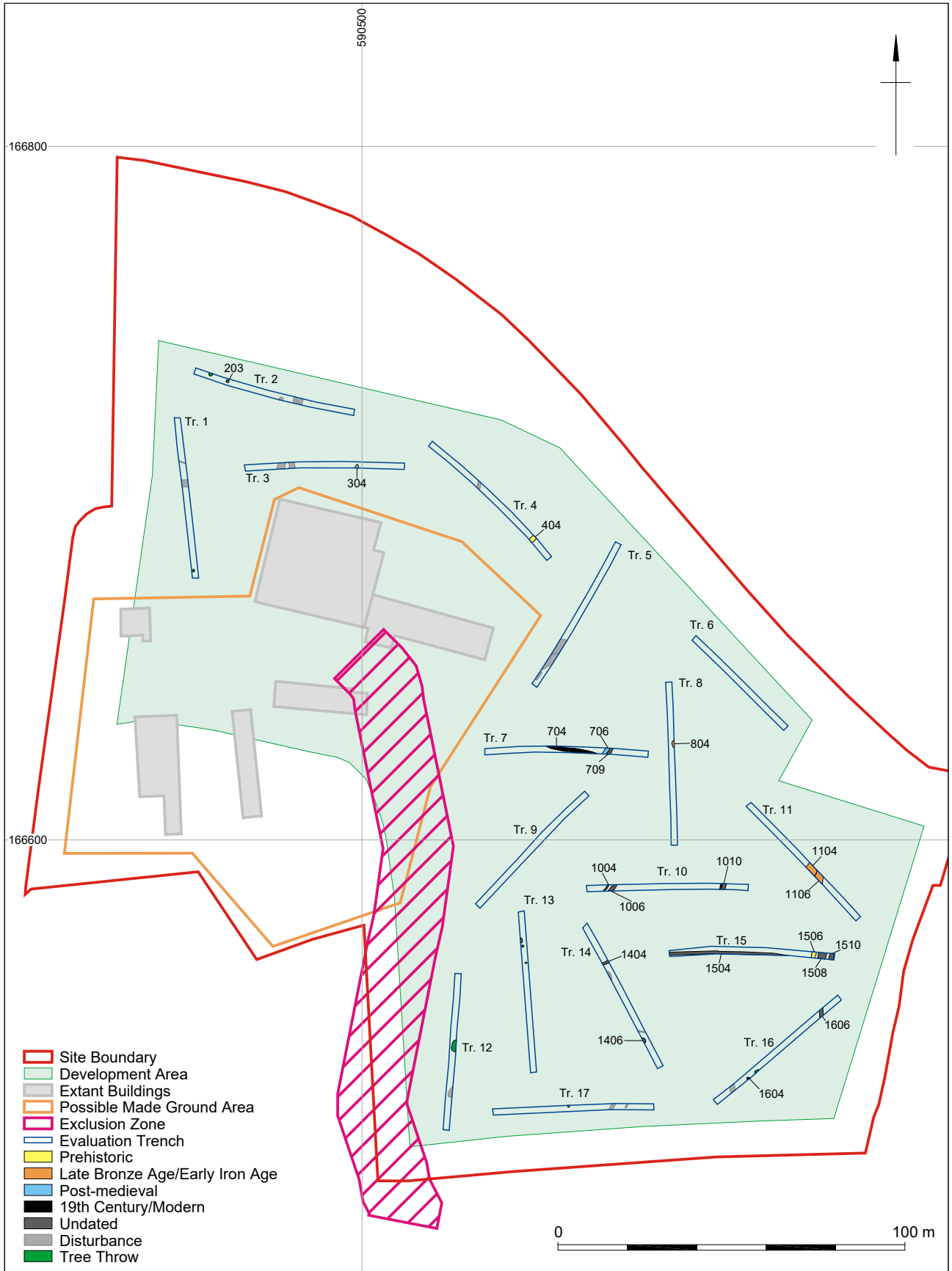
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Great Grovehurst Farm, Sittingbourne Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seredynska, E
Other bibliographic details	111830.04
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Maidstone
Description	Report detailing the results of an archaeological evaluation. Grey Literature Report.

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Entered by	Lance Lewis (Lance_L@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	10 October 2017



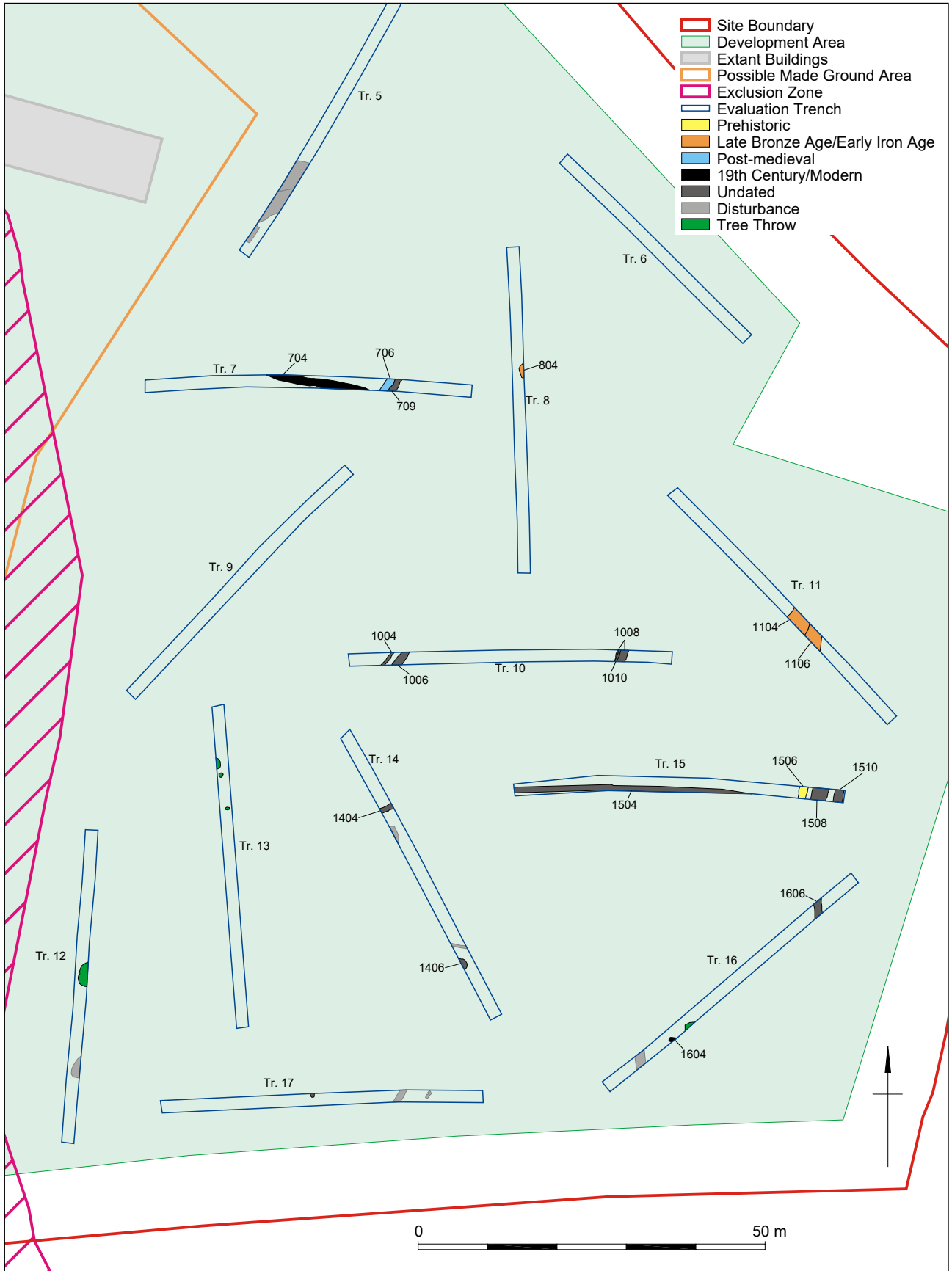




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Evaluation trenches and archaeological results

Figure 2



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Trench 5-17: Archaeological results

Figure 3



Plate 1: Caption

Plate 1: South facing representative section of Trench 10



Plate 1: Caption

Plate 1: Caption

Plate 2: South facing section of pit 204

Plate 2: Caption

Plate 2: Caption

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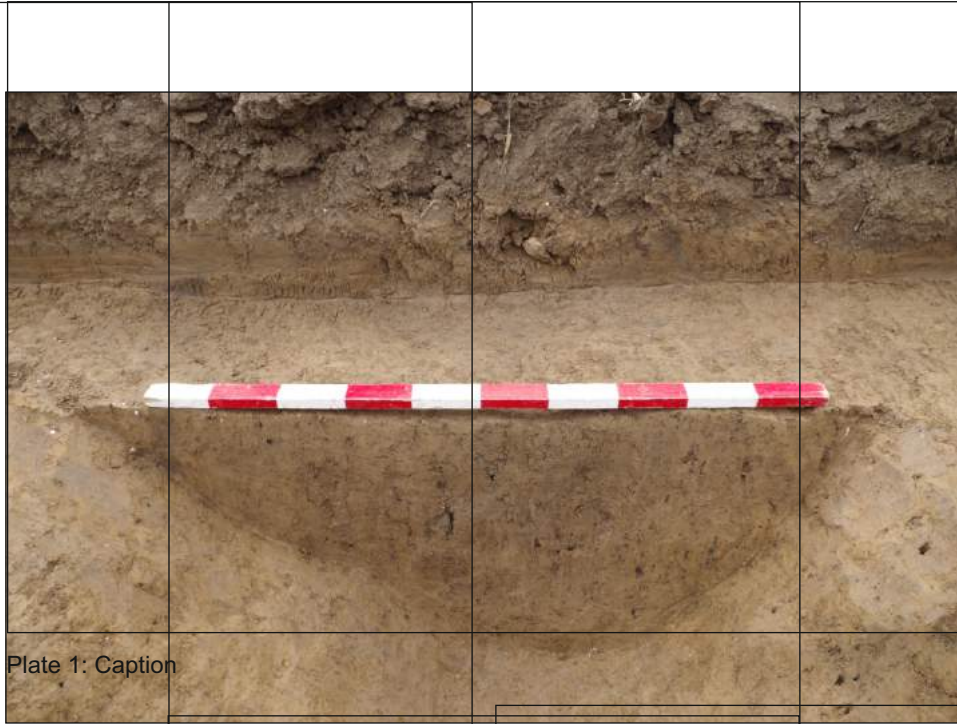


Plate 1: Caption

Plate 3: Northeast facing section of ditch 404

Plate 1: Caption

Plate 1: Caption



Plate 4: Relationship slot showing ditches 706 and 709, viewed from the south-southwest

Plate 2: Caption

Plate 2: Caption

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Plate 5: West facing section of pit 804

Plate 1: Caption



Plate 1: Caption

Plate 1: Caption



Plate 6: Caption

Plate 2: Caption Plate 6: Shot of Trench 11, viewed from the northeast

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