



**Archaeological Post-Excavation  
Assessment Report for land at  
Home Farm, Boyden Gate, Marshside,  
Herne, Kent  
*January 2008***

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# **Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

Land at Home Farm, Boyden Gate Hill  
Marshside  
Herne  
Kent

Planning Application Number: CA/06/00594/CHI

Submitted to  
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Canterbury City Council  
&  
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# **Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

## **Land at Home Farm, Boyden Gate Hill, Marshside, Herne, Kent**

### **i SUMMARY**

*Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) carried out a Programme of Assessment and Archaeological Excavation of land adjacent to Home Farm, Boyden Gate Hill, Marshside, Herne, Kent, between February and April 2007. A planning application (PAN: CA/06/00594/CHI) for the erection of an orchard store with yard and vehicular access, along with associated services at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council, at which time it was requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The evaluation, carried out by SWAT revealed the presence of pits and post holes dating to the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, confirming the presence of archaeological activity which would be threatened by development proposals. As a result, further investigation comprising an area excavation of the entire site, was considered in order to mitigate against archaeological impact caused during any proposed development.*

*Archaeological excavations carried out within the proposed development area revealed the presence of pits, post holes, stake holes and ditches associated with the division of the landscape for arable and pastoral purposes. An associated droveway and smaller internal divisions possibly representing corrals or pens formed a sinusoidal-shaped network of herding features essential to the successful management and control of livestock. In addition, an extension to previously recorded prehistoric field systems was located, along with a potential Roman flint foundation.*

*This document forms the initial phase of post excavation assessment, which will be followed by the production of a Final Report and publication, where necessary.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project Background**

Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) was contracted by Rural Partners Limited on behalf of F. W. Mansfield and Son to conduct an archaeological excavation of land at Home Farm, Boyden Gate Hill, Marshside, Herne, Kent (NGR. TR2173966080). The excavation was conducted under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson



(SWAT) between February and April 2007 in accordance with requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (Canterbury City Council 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

A planning application (PAN: CA/06/00594/CHI) for the erection of an orchard store with yard and vehicular access, along with associated services at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby it was requested that an Archaeological Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. Initial mitigation proposals required the excavation of trial trenches in order to determine the presence and condition of archaeological deposits. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

[Reason: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest]

The archaeological evaluation, carried out by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT), revealed the presence of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age features within the extent of the site. As a result, further mitigation measures were considered necessary comprising an Archaeological Excavation of the entire site. This was required in advance of any development on the site. The programme of work aimed to preserve, by record, archaeological features present within the extent of the proposed development site.

The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within the Archaeological Specification (CCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.

### **1.2 Project Timescales**

Archaeological investigation commenced in February 2007, with the cutting of four trial trenches within the proposed development area. The duration of the evaluation was approximately 1 week, following which an excavation of the entire site commenced. All archaeological fieldwork was completed by Easter 2007.

## 2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In undertaking this archaeological work the principles set out in PPG 16 regarding the need to safeguard archaeological remains have been adhered to;

*'Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed.'* (Para A6)

Following on from the initial stage of evaluation work, suitable mitigation measures were proposed and agreed. The preferable option for important archaeological remains was "preservation by record" (i.e. archaeological excavation).

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) defines an excavation as being;

*'....a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and that results of that study published in detail appropriate to that design'* (IFA 1999b:2)

The primary objectives of the excavation were to identify, excavate and record any significant archaeological remains present, which were under threat by the development as a contribution to knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Highstead.

The aims of this archaeological investigation were therefore (not exclusively):

- to understand the character, form, function and date of any other archaeological remains on the site. The work should include analysis of the spatial organisation of activities on the site during this period through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- to assist in the understanding of the prehistoric occupation of Highstead through examination of the date, form and character of the site in the context of its topographical position and that of other similarly dated findings within the area and beyond.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Archaeological Excavation

Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon,



under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Exposed surfaces were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes and detailed on pro-forma SWAT context sheets; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Plans of all features were made using a scale of 1:20, with sections recorded at 1:10. A full photographic record of all stages of the excavation was kept, which included working shots showing working constraints and conditions.

Upon completion of mechanical excavation, a 10m grid was established and a pre-excavation plan generated using global positioning satellite (GPS) technology recording three dimensional points every 0.10m. For ease of reference the site was subsequently divided into 4 distinct areas.

Table 1 provides an area by area summary of the site at Highstead, as well as detailing the frequency of archaeological features encountered and investigated.

Area	Location	Archaeological Features			
		Total	Investigated (No.)	<i>In situ</i> (No.)	Excavated (%)
1	Proposed Orchard Store & Concrete Apron (south)	22	21	1	95%
2	Proposed Hardcore Apron (south)	11	10	1	90%
3	Proposed Hardcore Track	5	5	0	100%
4	Proposed Orchard Store, Concrete Apron & Hardcore Apron (north)	11	10	1	90%

*Table 1 Location and Frequency of Archaeological Features Encountered (Note: Linear features have been included, where present, within individual areas)*

### 3.2 Project Constraints

No constraints were associated with this project.



### **3.3     *Project Monitoring***

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the excavation by CCC, at which time methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

## **4        *ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***

### **4.1     *Archaeological Evaluation***

The proposed development site has been the subject of an archaeological evaluation (Site Code BGH06), undertaken by SWAT Archaeology on 21 December 2006. Four trenches were excavated according to a written scheme of investigation dated 12 December 2006 submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Archaeological features were recorded within trench 3 comprising four pits or post-pits, the backfill containing pottery of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, circa 550/450 B. C. No features were recorded within trenches 1, 2 and 4. The results indicate a discreet pattern of features suggesting nearby occupation across the south-west corner of the proposed development site. The buried archaeology can be classed as of local/regional importance, but has been severely truncated by modern ploughing.

### **4.2     *Previous Archaeological Assessments within the Area***

Recently published archaeological investigations carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust between 1975 and 1977 and Canterbury Archaeological Society in 1974 has revealed an extraordinary, complex, multi-phased settlement area on the higher (30m AOD) gravel terrace to the immediate west (Bennett *et al* 2007). Five distinct periods of occupation were recognised. Period I, which dated to the Mesolithic and Late Neolithic periods, provided the earliest evidence for settlement, suggesting the continuation of local activity adding to the already catalogued Palaeolithic flint assemblages recorded during 20<sup>th</sup> century quarrying operations. Period II, which incorporates both the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (900-600BC) is reflected by the presence of three enclosures, one of which (B70) comprised a possible rampart, palisades and deeply cut internal and external banks, strongly suggesting some kind of defensive stronghold. A second enclosure (A24) provided a domestic focus to the site that included internal structures, suggestive of houses, hearths and fire pits placed within internal divisions demarcated by post alignments. By Period III (600-100BC) the defensive nature of the site had ceased, with the complete abandonment of the defensive enclosure. Additional enclosures were constructed throughout the early stages of this period followed by a more domestic 'open settlement' (2007: 37) characterised by circular timber dwellings with associated 'penannular gullies' (2007: 39), hearths, clay lined pits, cremations, granaries, salterns and a possible rectangular shrine (2007: 47). By the Middle



Iron Age it is suggested that the site was completely abandoned, possibly reflective of a Kentish trend associated with 'continental influences' (2007: 65). Following abandonment, Period IV (100BC–AD75) witnessed a flurry of enclosure-type settlements later replaced by Period V (AD75-250+), a settlement comprising field systems, droveways, a rectangular timber building, cremation and inhumation burials. In addition, contemporary pottery associated with a stone built 'hypocaust room' or bathhouse (Area C, 2007:95-99) was recorded, located approximately 100m to the west of the proposed development area.

Excavation carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) in 1989 have since added to the overall archaeological record of Highstead by positively identifying the presence of Roman surfaces and trackways at Highstead Farm, along with earlier Iron Age domestic structures surrounded by enclosures and field systems.

### **4.3    *Archaeological Sites & Monuments Record***

In addition to the assessment of previous archaeological investigations in the area, it is recognized that the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at Kent County Council contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape. As a result, a search was carried out within a 1km radius of the proposed development site (18 December 2007).

Extensive cropmarks are recorded within the surrounding landscape. Already covered in some detail by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (2007:5) these include linear droveways, enclosures, ring ditches and 'macula', or blotches. Monuments TR26NW34, TR26NW70, TR26NW85, TR26NW88, TR26NW89 and TR26NW90 are recorded within the surrounding landscape. In addition to a Mesolithic axe and associated cores (TR26NW59), early settlement was evident from the discovery of Roman building debris (suggestive of a small furnace) was revealed approximately 700m to the south during ploughing (TR26NW25). In addition a small incised slab, possibly part of a tombstone or memorial tablet (TR26NW12) dated to the Roman period is recorded at Ford Manor to the west. Medieval occupation within the area is evident from Ford Manor House (TR26NW8) to the west, salt working mounds to the northeast (TR26NW30) and southeast (TR26NW31) with a barn (TR26NW58) and farmhouse (TR26NW202) to the northwest.

Additional records held by Kent County Council detail later post-medieval quarrying activity, comprising chalk pits (TR26NW93 & TR26NW200), gravel pits (TR26NW98, TR26NW99 & TR26NW100), as well as a clamp kiln (TR26NW92).



#### **4.4    *Geology and Topography***

The British Geological Society shows that the local geology consists of Thanet beds and Early Eocene sands overlying solid chalk. To the west of the site Pleistocene gravel deposits, associated with former courses of the River Stour, are attributed four primary sequences; 200ft (61m), 150ft (45m), 100ft (30m) gravels, along with others at intermediate heights. Archaeological deposits within the region have established associations with the 100ft and 150ft gravel terraces, particularly on slopes facing the former Wantsum channel.

Highstead is located midway between Herne Bay and Ramsgate, approximately 7km south of the Thanet Way. The proposed development site is situated on the eastern side of Boyden Gate Hill centred on NGR TR 21739 66080 (Fig. 1). The site measures approximately 0.8 hectares in area and is situated on an east facing slope with ground levels varying between 25m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) to the west and 20m AOD to the east. Prior to the excavation the site was used for arable purposes.

### **5       REVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

#### **5.1    *Stratigraphical Deposit Model (SDM)***

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/overburden (**001**) overlying a colluvial subsoil (**002**) and the natural Thanet Beds. The topsoil/overburden consisted of relatively loose dark brown silty clay with frequent to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. The subsoil comprised moderately dense mid orange brown silty clay that not only sealed all archaeological deposits recorded on site, but also contained fragments of friable abraded pottery and charcoal. A clear line of horizon gave way to variable natural deposits where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the average depth of the natural geology being located between 0.4m (east) 0.8m (west) below the existing ground level. Archaeological deposits were recorded between 20.83m and 23.97m AOD. Each feature will be looked at separately, in conjunction with the full context list set out in Appendix 1.

#### **5.2    *Area 1***

Area 1 measured approximately 27m x 22m and was located within an area set aside for the construction of the southern extent of the proposed orchard store and concrete apron. Four linear features, a single curvilinear feature, five pits and seven post holes were present within this area, along with up to 60 discrete stake holes, all of which are detailed below. A description of each feature is provided below, with a phased site narrative included within section 6 of this report.



## Linear Features

Distinctive patterns, characteristics and relationships between the four linear features were evident from the offset. **Linear A** measured approximately 2m in length, with a visible terminus at each end. Nine sections excavated through this ditch [016], [018], [020], [022], [024], [026], [028], [030] & [202] revealed an average width of 0.81m and depth of 0.22m, with a single fill comprising mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks (015, 017, 019, 021, 023, 025, 027, 029, 201). No dateable finds were associated with this feature although a relationship was determined with later Linear B, which truncated the western extent of Linear A. **Linear B** [032], [034], [188], [190], [192] & [194] orientated on a northeast-southwest alignment, measured approximately 0.98m in width with an average depth of 0.23m. The single fill of this feature (031, 033, 187, 189, 191 & 193) comprised mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay sporadically appearing at the base and rare charcoal flecks. Once again, dateable finds were not present.

The south-western extent of **Linear C** was present within Area 1, with four sections [062], [064], [066] and [136] possessing a much more distinct profile than any other features on site. With an average width of 0.98m and depth of 1.96m, this feature, which possessed fill comprising light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles, and finds dating between 900-600BC, had been truncated by Linear D. **Linear D** was orientated northwest-southeast, parallel to Linear A and at 90° tangent to Linear B. Five slots were located within Area 1 to further characterise this ditch [052], [054], [056], [058] & [060], which was shown to possess a shallow (average of approximately 0.21m) bowl-shaped profile filled by mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks (051, 053, 055, 057 & 059), containing ceramic finds dating between AD1075-1100. **Linear K** (or rather curvilinear) was located within the northern extent of Area 1. Initially thought to represent a natural tree throw or animal burrow, this feature curved at a tight angle nearly completing a full circle with projected radius of approximately 2m. Three slots [036], [082] & [084] were positioned so as to gain as much information as possibly, revealing shallow undulating profiles filled by mid orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (035, 081 & 083). Finds retrieved from the fill of this feature dated between AD1100-1125.

## Pits

Five pits were recorded within Area 1. Within the northern corner of the site two pits [186] and [042] were similar in size and both contained fills comprising mid-dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks (185 & 041 respectively), although neither possessed any dateable material. Further to the south, a larger pit [072] truncated the



upper fill of Linear D and contained a high carbon content initially thought to represent cremation deposit (011) containing ceramic evidence dating between AD1075-1125. To the immediate west and cut by Linear D, pit [014], which measured 1.01m in diameter with a depth of 0.98m, contained 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery sealed within mottled brown grey sandy silt (010). The final pit [160] within Area 1 was located adjacent to the junction of Linear D and Linear E had a maximum depth of 0.05m comprising a fill of silty clay with frequent shell inclusions (059). The shallow nature of the fill, coupled with the undulating shallow base, suggested that this feature represented a shell dump rather than a deliberately cut pit.

### **Post Holes and Stake Holes**

The post holes within Area 1 formed three main clusters. Located within the northern extent of this area and to the north of Linear A, a group of three post holes [078], [080] and [118] may have formed part of a structure associated with two, or possibly three additional post holes to the east. Added to that, two additional post holes were present within the area bounded by Linear A and Linear D. Of particular note was feature [113] which measured approximately 1m in diameter and formed a construction pit for an internal post-pipe [116] measuring 0.41m in diameter with a depth of 0.87m. To the west three additional post holes formed a final cluster that truncated the upper horizons of Linear, suggesting a later date. No post holes within Area 1 contained any dateable finds, which presents difficulties when attempting to reconstruct the past landscape(s). That said, there may be close parallels with a series of incredibly discrete stake holes that were apparent within this area. Two of these features were investigated, [156] and [158], but were far too ephemeral to record in section. It was therefore decided that the distribution of these features was of greater importance, so the location of each was recorded in plan and will be discussed in Section 6 below.

### **5.3 Area 2**

Area 2 measured approximately 28m x 27m in width and was located within an area set aside for the construction of the southern extent of the proposed concrete apron. Three linear features, a single pit and six post holes were present within this area, all of which are detailed below. A description of each feature is provided below, with a phased site narrative included within section 6 of this report.

### **Linear Features**

All linear features within Area 2 were present and recorded within Area 1 (see above). **Linear C** continued on a northeast-southwest alignment disappearing beneath the far eastern extent of the site, naturally following the contours of the surrounding landscape. Eleven additional slots [087], [089], [106], [110], [120], [132], [142], [144], [146], [148], [162] and [164] were excavated within Area 2, each providing a rather contrasting profile to those



recorded within Area 1. With an average depth of 0.23m and width of 0.58m, it seemed probable that a greater amount of erosion of the north-eastern extent of the site had occurred, and that the ditch may have originally run down slope towards the southwest. Unfortunately, dateable finds were limited with only fill (129) providing confirmation of a prehistoric date (900-600BC). In contrast to this, Linear D and Linear E both produced significant amounts of dateable evidence in the form of ceramic pottery dating between AD1075-1150. Investigation at the junction of the two features [102], coupled with their tangential alignments and similar characteristics would also suggest a contemporary date. **Linear D** continued on a northwest-southeast alignment, with six additional slots [069], [070], [071], [098], [099] & [100] reflecting characteristics determined during investigations within Area 1. Eight slots [101] [102], [108], [110], [124], [150], [152], [154] and were excavated through **Linear E** revealing a bowl-shaped profile, with an average width of 0.78m and depth of 0.17m. Context (095), fill of [101], consisted of dark orange brown silt clay with pottery dating between AD1125-1150, confirming a contemporary date with Linear D.

### **Pits and Post Holes**

A total of eight post holes were recognised within Area 2. Contexts [120] and [122] were located within the western enclosure, suggesting an association with three to the west (see Area 1 above). Unfortunately no dating was available from either of these features, although it could be postulated that this series of post holes may in fact be associated with the surrounding Early Medieval enclosure, thus representing former gates, corral fencing etc. A second cluster of post holes located to the east of Linear C, comprising [128], [134], [138] and [140], may form part of a small four post structure, two of which are dateable to the Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

## **5.4 Area 3**

Area 3 comprised the area cut for the access road, measuring approximately 7m in width, orientated north-south from Boyden Gate Hill and curving west uphill towards the proposed Orchard Store. Two linear features and two pits were present within this area, which are detailed below. A description of each feature is provided below, with a phased site narrative included within Section 6 of this report.

### **Linear Features**

Two additional linear features were recorded within Area 3, both of which appeared orientated northwest-southeast, on the same alignment as Linear D within Area 1. **Linear G** had a maximum width of 0.78m, while **Linear H** was slightly larger at its maximum extent with a width of 1.12m. These two features were recognised at a late stage within the investigation process, so could not be fully investigated, although it is extremely likely that



Linear G provided the eastern continuation to Linear D, and formed part of a surviving driveway with Linear H.

## **Pits**

Two pits were present within Area 3, [073] and [074], which were both planned and surveyed into the site grid.

## **5.5 Area 4**

Area 4 measured approximately 58m x 10m in width and was located within an area set aside for the construction of the southern extent of the proposed Orchard Store and concrete apron. Five linear features, two pits and four post holes were present within this area, all of which are detailed below. A description of each feature is provided below, with a phased site narrative included within Section 6 of this report.

## **Linear Features**

**Linear C** and **Linear E** continued through on their established alignment, with four additional slots [178], [208], [210] and [212] being afforded to Linear E and one addition slot to Linear C [216]. In addition to these, three linear features were present within Area 4. **Linear F** measured approximately 22m in length, with an average width of 0.74m, orientated on a northwest-southeast alignment. Seven excavated slots [038], [040], [164], [168], [172], [176] & [180] revealed a shallow undulating profile, approximately 0.31m in depth, filled by mid orange brown silty clay (037, 039, 163, 171, 175 & 179) that contained rare charcoal flecks, occasional gravel and sherds of pottery dating between AD1075-1100. To the immediate north, **Linear I** consisted of a flint filled foundation (075 & 183) measuring approximately 0.28m in width [076] & [184], disappearing beneath the northern extent of the trench. Located within the eastern extent of the trench, **Linear J** had an exposed length of nearly 10m before disappearing beneath the northern and eastern baulks. Measuring approximately 0.41m in width [204], [206] & [214] the fill (203, 205, & 213) comprised mid orange brown silty clay, with dark brown clay mottling. Occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks were present throughout the fill, which also produced pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

## **Pits and Post Holes**

Two pits were present within the western extent of Area 4, both of which form a close alignment with the adjacent Linear F. Pit [182] measured approximately 0.35m in diameter while [178] was slightly larger with a diameter of approximately 0.53m. Both features were filled by mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks (181 and 177 respectively), although neither produced any dateable material. Directly



overlying linear F, the first of the four post holes [170] within Area 4 measured 0.12m in diameter, with a fill consisting of dark grey brown clay with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks (169). Once again, no dateable evidence was present within the fill of this feature, although a date later than the underlying ditch is assigned. The remaining post holes [196], [198] & [200] formed a smaller cluster adjacent to and partially respecting Linear J, each possessing a diameter of c. 0.15m.

#### **4      ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE**

The purpose of this archaeological narrative is to draw the various strands of evidence together into a coherent picture. The presence of archaeological features, their characteristics and contents enable us to propose a provisional chronological matrix for the site, although it should be mentioned at this point that this may be subject to revision following the preparation of additional specialist assessments.

No proven features predating the Middle Bronze Age were discovered, which comes as a surprise given evidence for Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic material on the higher ground to the west (see Section 4.2 above). The lack of evidence for intensive early prehistoric occupation on the lower levels at Highstead need only reflect the relatively small scale of excavation to date, but it might also reflect the fact that the earlier settlement(s) were attracted to the higher ground within an emerging wetter landscape.

The main elements of the excavation will be approached period-by-period, which includes suggestions for the nature of undated features within contemporary landscapes.

##### ***4.1      Phase I – Prehistoric (1500-550BC)***

The earliest evidence for occupation within the proposed development area comes in the form of four post holes. Dating to the Middle Bronze Age (1500-1300BC), these features appeared in complete isolation. The physical similarities and spatial relationships between these features would be indicative of some sort of structure (4-posts?), which when contrasted with the absence of contemporary features within the landscape suggest a short-lived temporary structure.

In contrast to this, Linear C appears to be associated with a more sedentary settlement. Dating between 900-600BC this feature forms part of a managed landscape contemporary with Highstead Period II as detailed by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (2007:16). Interestingly, however, the excavations on the higher ground at Highstead in the 1970's produced little to suggest an agricultural theme to this particular period, in fact the suggested nature of Period II is 'enclosure-type settlement', including designated domestic and defensive structures. It is of



course possible that Linear C is associated with similar structures – deep profiles within the southern extent of the site [062], [064] & [066] possess characteristics reflective of those associated with Enclosure B70 (2007:18). In addition, the cluster of undated post holes within the eastern extent of Area 4 [196], [198] & [200] appear to be on alignment with Linear C – possibly the remains of a second rampart? What is worthy of note is that Linear C, along with the cluster of post holes appear to be associated with Linear J, and yet although phasing of this feature places it within Highstead Period IIIA (900-600BC - Early Iron Age), the dating is tentative (see 5.2 below). Unfortunately, this ditch was only partially exposed and any junction or relationship between the two ditches remains in situ, on the periphery of the proposed development area.

#### **4.3 Phase II – Romano-British (AD43-400)**

Despite evidence within the surrounding landscape, no confirmed Roman features were recovered during the course of the excavations. However, one particular undated feature is of interest. Recorded as Linear I, this flint-filled slot had all the characteristics one normally associates with the lower layers of a Roman foundation. Unfortunately only the very end of this feature was extant within the site, so while its presence is noted, definitive associations are difficult. The early Roman period is certainly well represented by Period V to the west, which among other things comprises a hypocausted building (2007:95), a rectangular timber structure (2007:85), along with cremations and inhumations (2007:89).

A number of pottery sherds associated with the Late Iron Age (*Belgic*) period (Highstead 4C) and the transition between the Late Iron Age and Romano-British period (Highstead 4D) were also recorded as residual deposits on site, albeit associated with residual contexts deposited through colluvial actions. This provides further confirmation for more extensive settlement on the higher ground to the west.

#### **4.4 Phase III – Early Medieval (AD1075-1175)**

All remaining dateable features on site can be associated with the Early-Medieval period (AD1075-1175), and provide an additional element to the multi-phased settlement patterns at Highstead. No contemporary features are recorded on the higher ground to the west, suggesting that the field system demarked by Linear features A, D, E and F lie on the periphery of a settlement, possibly to the north. The parallel and tangential relationship of the ditches suggests the division of the landscape for arable and pastoral purposes (Linear D & E), with an associated droveway (Linear G & H) and smaller internal divisions (Linear A & F) possibly representing corrals or collecting pens. The presence of up to 60 small discrete stake holes [156] & [158], as well as undated post holes within the western Early Medieval enclosure further supports the use of small temporary ‘farming’ features associated with the



batching, sorting and inspection of animals. The physical characteristics of post hole [116] alone, suggest a much more robust structure that needed to withstand greater forces – perhaps an internal fence, gate post or drafting gate, subdividing the enclosure into pens used for temporary segregation. Ultimately, and with the exception of the isolated undated post hole [115], all discrete features were located within the western enclosure, which when analysed as part of the Early Medieval landscape, form a sinusoidal-shaped network of herding ditches, posts and fences essential to the successful management of livestock.

## **5      ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS**

### **5.1    *Lithic Assemblage***

Quantification and analysis of flint artefacts is, at present, ongoing. A full assessment of all findings will be compiled to form part of the final report associated with this project, and will be included within any future publications.

### **5.2    *Ceramic Assemblage***

A full assessment of the ceramic assemblage is provided in Appendix 2.

### **5.3    *Environmental Evidence***

Quantification and analysis of environmental evidence is, at present, ongoing and being carried out by Royal Holloway University of London. A full assessment of all findings will be compiled to form part of the final report associated with this project, and will be included within any future publications.

### **5.4    *Faunal Assemblage***

Quantification and analysis of the faunal assemblage is, at present, ongoing. A full assessment of all findings will be compiled to form part of the final report associated with this project, and will be included within any future publications.

## **6      SUMMARY OF SITE ARCHIVE**

### **6.1    *Quantity of Archaeological Material and Records***

In addition to artefact assemblages mentioned above, the site archive comprises the following elements;

- Correspondence



- Photographs: 273 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 07/086. 51 35mm colour trans.
- Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps: NA
- Drawings: 36 A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.
- Context Register including: Context Register Sheets (10), Drawings Register Sheets (11), Photographic Register Sheets (15), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register Sheets (2) and Context Sheets (218)

A full archival catalogue will be prepared following receipt of final specialist assessments, which will be incorporated within a final report.

## **6.2 *Storage of Archaeological Material***

The complete archaeological archive will be temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until provision is made by Canterbury City Council for an adequate storage facility. The archive will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*.

# **7 RECOMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

## **7.1 *Statement of Potential***

The archaeological excavations at Boyden Gate Hill have confirmed the presence of continued settlement to the immediate east of an extensive multiphase site recently published by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and English Heritage (2007). In light of this, it is recommended that further archaeological assessment focus on the recommendations of artefact specialists, in order to supplement Highstead assemblages recorded within the surrounding area. To date, the ceramic assemblage has been assessed and recommendations made (Appendix 2), which will be adhered to in order to attain publication standards.

## **7.2 *Preparation of Full Report & Publication***

A Full Report will be produced and submitted within 18 months of the submission of this post-excavation assessment. Within this time SWAT Archaeology and Rural Partners Limited will discuss and agree with the Canterbury City Archaeologist the scope of the Full Report and the format and destination of subsequent publication(s) arising from excavation and post-excavation work on the site.

As a minimum at this stage, it is recommended that a short summary be compiled and provided to the Kent Archaeological Society for publication within *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

### **7.3    *Format***

The Final Report will be submitted to the Canterbury City Archaeologist in a bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied for preference in .pdf format or alternatively in .rtf format accompanied by digital copies of images, plans and maps in .bmp, .tif or .jpg format. The medium will be a PC CD-ROM (CD-R format only), unless otherwise requested. Digital files will be supplied in a PC readable format.

### **7.4    *Dissemination***

Subject to confidentiality arrangements, copies of the Final Report will be provided to the client, Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council and the Kent Archaeological Society. Copies to additional organisations, such as local or regional archaeological organisations or groups will also be produced on request.

## **8        CONCLUSIONS**

This archaeological excavation has been carried out in accordance with a written Specification produced by Canterbury City Council. Archaeological remains present within the development area have been assessed and reported, enabling preservation of archaeological deposits by record. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (CCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in order to satisfy Condition 9 of Planning Application CA/06/00594/CHI.

## **9        ACKNOWLEDEMENTS**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Paul Mansfield and Rural Developments Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Archaeological Officer Canterbury City Council for his advice and assistance, as well as Andrew Mayfield (Sites and Monuments Record Officer) of Kent County Council. Paul Wilkinson, Geoff Morley, Julie Martin and James Madden carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden.

David Britchfield

January 2008



## 10 REFERENCES

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## Appendix 1 – Context Register

Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Area	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type etc)	ASSIGNED DATE
001	L	Topsoil	Loose dark brown silty clay with frequent to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.			Overburden	x	Site	1500-1300BC	Residual	NA
002	L	Subsoil	Moderately dense mid orange brown silty clay				x	Site			
003	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[067 ]		Linear G		3	25-50AD	Roman finds although likely residual as feature in alignment with Linear D	Early Medieval
004	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[068 ]				3	25-50AD		
005	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[069 ]		Linear D	58	2	900-600BC	Residual LBA/EIA finds?	Early Medieval
006	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[070 ]			57	2			
007	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[071 ]			55 & 56	2	1125-1150AD		
008		Fill of post hole	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[074 ]				3			
009	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions	[013 ]		Linear H		3			
010		Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with mottled grey clay with rare flint inclusions			Linear D	40	1	12th Century		Early Medieval
011	F	Cremation fill	x	[072 ]				1	1075-1125AD		Early Medieval
012	F	Fill of pit	x	[073 ]				3	x		
013	C	Ditch cut			(009)	Linear H		3			
014	C	Ditch cut			(010)	Linear D	26 & 40	1			Early Medieval
015	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[016 ]		Linear A	7 & 8	2	x		Early Medieval
016	C	Ditch cut			(015)		7 & 8	2			
017	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[018 ]			9 & 10	2	x		
018	C	Ditch cut			(017)		9 & 10	2			
019	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[020 ]			11 & 12	2	x		
020	C	Ditch cut			(019)		11 & 12	2			
021	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[022 ]			13 & 14	2	Early Med		
022	C	Ditch cut			(021)		13 & 14	2			
023	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[024 ]			15 & 16	2	x		
024	C	Ditch cut			(023)		15 & 16	2			
025	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[026 ]			17 & 18	2	x		
026	C	Ditch cut			(025)		17 & 18	2			
027	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[028 ]			19 & 20	2	x		
028	C	Ditch cut			(027)		19 & 20	2			
029	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	[030 ]			21	2	x		
030	C	Ditch cut			(029)		21 & 22	2			
031	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay at base. Rare charcoal flecks	[032 ]		Linear B	5	1	x	Tangential alignment with Linear D, parallel to Linear E	Early Medieval
032	C	Ditch cut			(031)			1			
033	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay at base. Rare charcoal flecks	[034 ]			6	1	x		
034	C	Ditch cut			(033)		6	1			
035	F	Fill of ovoid linear	x	[036 ]		Linear K	41 & 49	1	1100-1125AD		Early Medieval
036	C	Ovoid linear			(035)		41 & 49	1			
037	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks and occasional sub angular gravel	[038 ]		Linear F	1 & 2	4	x	Tangential alignment with Linear E, parallel to Linear D	Early Medieval
038	C	Ditch cut			(037)		1 & 2	4			
039	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks and occasional sub angular gravel	[040 ]			3 & 4	4	x		
040	C	Ditch cut			(039)		3 & 4	4			



Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Area	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type etc)	ASSIGNED DATE
041	F	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown clayey silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[042]			39	1	x		
042	C	Pit			(041)		39				
043	F	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown clayey silty sand with rare sub angular and rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[044]			45	2	1100-1125AD		Early Medieval
044	C	Cut of pit			(043)		45	2			
045	F	Fill of post hole	Pale mid brown sandy silt with rare rounded pebbles	[046]			46	2	x		
046	C	Post hole			(045)		46	2			
047	F	Fill of post hole	Pale mid yellow brown sandy silty clay with rare pebbles	[048]			48	2	x		
048	C	Post hole			(047)		48	2			
049	F	Fill of post hole	Pale mid yellow brown sandy silty clay with rare pebbles	[050]			47 & 72	2	x		
050	C	Post hole	Cut into Linear C		(049)		47 & 72	2			
051	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[052]			23	1	x		
052	C	Ditch cut			(051)		23	1			
053	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[054]			25	2	x		
054	C	Ditch cut			(053)		25	2			
055	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[056]		Linear D	26 & 27	1	1075-1100AD		Early Medieval
056	C	Ditch cut			(055)		26 & 27	1			
057	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[058]			28 & 29	2	x		
058	C	Ditch cut			(057)		28 & 29	2			
059	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown clayey sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles	[060]			30 & 31	1	x		
060	C	Ditch cut	Cut into Linear C		(059)		30 & 31	1			
061	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[062]			33 & 34	2	900-600BC		
062	C	Ditch cut			(061)		33 & 34	2			
063	C	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[064]		Linear C	35	2	x		Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
064	C	Ditch cut			(063)		35	2			
065	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[066]			37	2	x		
066	C	Ditch cut			(065)		37	2			
067	C	Ditch cut			(003)			3		Roman finds, although likely residual as feature in alignment with Linear D	Early Medieval
068	C	Ditch cut			(004)	Linear G		3			
069	C	Ditch cut			(005)			2		No finds present but same feature as [054], [056], [058] & [060]	Early Medieval
070	C	Ditch cut			(006)	Linear D		2			
071	C	Ditch cut			(007)			2			
072	C	Cremation pit			(011)		51	1			Early Medieval
073	C	Pit			(012)			3			
074	C	Pit			(008)			3			
075	F	Flint wall	x	[076]				4			
076	C	Flint wall foundation	x		(075)			4			
077	F	Fill of post hole	x	[078]				1			
078	C	Post hole			(077)			1			
079	F	Fill of post hole	x	[080]				1			
080	C	Post hole			(079)			1			
081	F	Fill of ovoid linear	Mid orange brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks	[082]			42 & 73	1	x		
082	C	Ovoid linear			(081)		42 & 73	1			
083	F	Fill of ovoid linear	Mid orange brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks	[084]		b	43 & 44	1	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear K (035) contexts	Early Medieval
084	C	Ovoid linear			(083)		43 & 44	1			
085	F	Slump - redep. gravel	Pale yellow/orange mottled brown clayey sandy silt	[036]			41 & 49	1	x		
086	C	Ditch cut		[087]		Linear C	60	2			Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
087	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles		(086)		60	2	x		



Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Area	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type etc)	ASSIGNED DATE
088	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[089]			61	2	900-600BC		
089	C	Ditch cut			(088)		61	2			
090	F	Fill of pit	x	[104]		x		3	x	x	x
091	F	Fill of pit	x	[104]		x		3	x	x	x
092	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks			Linear D	54	2	x	Residual finds? Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear D contexts	Early Medieval
093	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks				53	2	900-600BC		
094	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks				52	2			
095	F	Fill of pit	Dark orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stones	[218]				2	1125-1150AD		Early Medieval
096	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[102]		Linear E		2	1075-1175AD		Early Medieval
097	F	Fill of ditch		[103]		Linear D		1	900-600BC		Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
098	C	Ditch cut			(092)	Linear D		2			
099	C	Ditch cut			(093)			2			
100	C	Ditch cut			(094)			2			
101	C	Ditch cut			(095)	Linear E		2			
102	C	Ditch cut			(096)			2			
103	C	Ditch cut			(097)	Linear D		1			
104	C	Pit	x		(090) (091)			3		x	x
105	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[106]		Linear C	62	2	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear C contexts	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
106	C	Ditch cut			(105)		62	2			
107	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[108]		Linear E		2	1075-1125AD		Early Medieval
108	C	Ditch cut			(107)			2			
109		Fill of ditch	x	[110]		Linear D		1			
110		Ditch cut			(109)						
111	F	Fill of post hole	Pale orange brown clayey sandy silt with rare small flint inclusions	[113]				2	x	Post hole & post pipe	
112	F	Fill of post pipe	Dark grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional charcoal. Very humic (post rotted in situ?)	[116]			50	2	x		
113	C	Post hole			(111)		50	2			
114	F	Fill of pit	x	[115]			50	2			
115	C	Pit	Cremation		(114)			3			
116	C	Post pipe			(112)		50	2		See (111) - (113)	
117	F	Fill of post hole	x	[118]				1			
118	C	Post hole			(117)			1			
119	F	Fill of post hole	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[120]			69	2	x		
120	C	Post hole			(119)		69	2			
121	F	Fill of post hole	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[122]			70	2	x		
122	C	Post hole			(121)		70	2			
123	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[124]		Linear E		2	1075-1150AD		Early Medieval
124	C	Ditch cut			(123)			2			
125		Not used									
126		Not used									
127	F	Fill of post hole	Mid-dark brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[128]				2	1500-1300BC		Middle Bronze Age
128	C	Post hole			(127)			2			
129	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[130]		Linear C	64	2	900-600BC	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear C contexts	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
130	C	Ditch cut			(129)		64	2			
131	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[132]			63	2	x		
132	C	Ditch cut			(131)		63	2			
133	F	Fill of post hole	x	[134]				2	1500-1300BC		Middle Bronze Age
134	C	Post hole			(133)			2			
135	F	Fill of ditch	x	[136]				2			



Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Area	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type etc)	ASSIGNED DATE
136	C	Ditch cut	x		(135)	Linear C	31 & 71	2	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear C contexts	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
137	F	Fill of post hole	Mid-dark brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[138]				2	x		
138	C	Post hole			(137)			2			
139	F	Fill of post hole	Mid-dark brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[140]				2	x		
140	C	Post hole			(139)			2			
141	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[142]				3	x		
142	C	Ditch cut			(141)			3			
143	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[144]			59	3	x		
144	C	Ditch cut			(143)			3			
145	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[146]		Linear C		3		Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear C contexts	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
146	C	Ditch cut			(145)			3			
147	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[148]				3	x		
148	C	Ditch cut			(147)			3			
149	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[150]			65 & 66	2	x		
150	C	Ditch cut			(149)		65 & 66	2			
151	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[152]		Linear E	67	2	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear E contexts	Early Medieval
152	C	Ditch cut			(151)		67	2			
153	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[154]			68	2	x		
154	C	Ditch cut			(153)		68	2			
155	F	Fill of stake hole		[156]				2			
156	C	Stake hole			(155)			1			
157	F	Fill of stake hole		[158]				1			
158	C	Stake hole			(157)			1			
159	F	Fill of pit		[160]				2	1075-1125AD		Early Medieval
160	C	Pit?			(059)			2			
161	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[162]				3	x		
162	C	Ditch cut			(161)	Linear C		3			
163	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[164]				3	x		
164	C	Ditch cut			(163)			3			
165	F	Fill of ditch	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[166]				2	x	Tangential alignment with Linear E, parallel to Linear D	Early Medieval
166	C	Ditch cut			(165)	Linear F		2			
167	F	Fill of ditch	x	[168]				4	1075-1100AD		Early Medieval
168	C	Ditch cut			(167)			4			
169	F	Fill of post hole	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[170]				4	x		
170	C	Post hole			(169)			4			
171	F	Fill of ditch	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[172]				2	x		
172	C	Ditch cut			(171)	Linear F		2		Tangential alignment with Linear E, parallel to Linear D	Early Medieval
173	F	Fill of ditch	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[174]				2	x		
174	C	Ditch cut			(173)			2			
175	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[176]		Linear E		2	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear E contexts	Early Medieval
176	C	Ditch cut			(175)			2			
177	F	Fill of pit	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[178]				4	x		
178	C	Pit			(177)			4			
179	F	Fill of ditch	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[180]		Linear F		2	x	Tangential alignment with Linear E, parallel to Linear D	Early Medieval
180	C	Ditch cut			(179)			2			



Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Area	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type etc)	ASSIGNED DATE
181	F	Fill of pit	Mottled brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[182]				4	x		
182	C	Pit			(181)			4			
183	F	Flint wall foundation?	Mottled orange brown silty clay with frequent rounded stones and flint nodules	[184]		Linear I		2	x	On alignment with Linear B and E	Early Medieval
184	C	Cut of wall foundation?			(183)			2			
185	F	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	[186]				2	x		
186	C	Pit			(185)			2			
187	F	Fill of ditch	x	[188]				1			
188	C	Ditch cut			(187)			1			
189	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay at base. Rare charcoal flecks	[190]		Linear B		1	x	Tangential alignment with Linear D, parallel to Linear E	Early Medieval
190	C	Ditch cut			(189)			1			
191	F	Fill of ditch	X	[192]				1			
192	C	Ditch cut			(191)			1			
193	F	Fill of ditch	X	[194]				1			
194	C	Ditch cut			(193)			1			
195	F	Fill of post hole	X	[196]				4			
196	C	Post hole			(195)			4			
197	F	Fill of post hole	X	[198]				4			
198	C	Post hole			(197)			4			
199	F	Fill of pit	X	[200]				4			
200	C	Pit			(199)			4			
201	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay at base. Rare charcoal flecks	[202]		Linear B		2	x	Tangential alignment with Linear D, parallel to Linear E	Early Medieval
202	C	Ditch cut			(201)			2			
203	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay, with dark brown clay mottling. Occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[204]		Linear J		3	650-550BC		Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
204	C	Ditch cut			(203)			3			
205	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay, with dark brown clay mottling. Occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[206]				3	LBA/EIA		
206	C	Ditch cut			(205)			3			
207	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[208]		Linear E		2	x		Early Medieval
208	C	Ditch cut			(207)			2			
209	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[210]				2	1100-1150AD		
210	C	Ditch cut			(209)			2			
211	F	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange clayey silt with moderate rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks	[212]				2	1100-1150AD		
212	C	Ditch cut			(211)			2			
213	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay, with dark brown clay mottling. Occasional rounded stones and charcoal flecks	[214]		Linear J		3	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear J contexts	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
214	C	Ditch cut			(213)			3			
215	F	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare inclusions of charcoal and pebbles	[216]		Linear C		3	x	Dated from finds retrieved from contemporary Linear C contexts	Early Medieval
216	C	Ditch cut			(215)			3			
217	C	Ditch cut			(136)			1			
218	C	Pit	1.41m x 1.23m ovoid in plan		(095)			2			



## Appendix 2 – Ceramic Assessment

### THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM: BOYDEN GATE, HIGHSTEAD 2007 (BGH-07)

#### *A. Primary quantification :*

**Overall sherd count : 305 sherds (+ scraps)**

**Overall sherd weight : 2kgs. 149gms**

#### *B. Period Codes employed :*

LPP = Later Prehistoric Pottery

MBA = Middle Bronze Age

LBA/EIA = Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition

EIA = Early Iron Age

LIA = Late Iron Age

LIA/B = Late Iron Age/'Belgic' transition

B/ER = 'Belgic'/Early Roman transition

ER = Early Roman

EM = Early Medieval

EM NFR = Early Medieval, North French

Med = Medieval

#### *C. Context dating :*

**CONTEXT : UNSTRATIFIED**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 44gms)**

**1 sherd ER sandy ware : CHECK**

**Comment :** The sherd is too large and relatively unworn to be derived from manure scatters and has to stem from a Roman-period context.

#### **CONTEXT : 001**

**Sherds : 9 (weight : 144gms)**

9 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1600/1500-1100 BC)

**Likely context date : c.1500-1300 BC**

**Comment :** Sherds are small to medium-sized, most fairly heavily worn, 2 with only unifacial abrasion suggesting fairly long-term exposure before final burial.

#### **CONTEXT : 003**

**Sherds : 77 (weight : 442gms)**

8 sherds LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

33 sherds B/ER 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.25-50/75 AD; **all same vessel**)

37 sherds B/ER fine sandy ware (c.25-50/75 AD; **all same vessel**)

**Likely context date : c.25-50 AD**

**Comment :** The LBA/EIA sherds are all small and very worn and residual. For the later material, parts of 2 vessels are represented and definitely indicate discard into a contemporary feature. The Conquest-period fine sandy ware vessel is a rather crude un-decorated bead-rimmed jar (copying 'Belgic'-style equivalents) with the same level of production quality as the jar from *Context 004* – so both contexts are likely to be broadly contemporary. The 'Belgic'-style vessel from this context (003) should be contemporary also – however there is an interesting marked difference in condition. The latter is also fairly heavily worn but its soft grogged fabric would be far more abraded if its post-loss history was the same as the fine sandy ware jar. This suggests a slightly earlier discard into a more rapidly infilling level, than that for the sandy bead-rim jar.

#### **CONTEXT : 004**

**Sherds : 78 (weight : 233gms)**

2 sherds LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

1 sherd LIA/B grog and flint-tempered ware (c.50 BC/0-50 AD)

75 sherds B/ER fine sandy ware (c.25-50/75 AD; **same vessel**)

**and :**

9 small-large lumps natural iron-pan (weight : 87gms) - **DISCARDED**

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**Likely context date : c.25-50 AD**

**Comment :** The 2 LBA/EIA sherds are small and heavily worn. The LIA/B sherd is unlikely to be radically earlier than the B/ER fine sandy ware vessel. The latter is a wheel-made pedestalled jar copying native 'Belgic' styles and sufficiently under-fired and poorly thrown to suggest a date early within the range of this essentially Gallo-Belgic influenced potting tradition with its main currency around the Conquest-period. This vessel is highly fragmented and severely worn, suggesting discard into an open feature, ditch or pit, which remained unsealed for a relatively long period of time.

**CONTEXT : 005**

**Sherds : 4 (weight : 29gms)**

4 sherds LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**and :**

1 lump natural iron-pan (weight : 23 gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : c.900-600 BC**

**Comment :** Two coarseware jar sherds (very worn and abraded), 2 conjoining fineware jar sherds with horizontal incised-line decoration are fresher. Should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

**NB :** Check context location. These sherds *could* be MBA but the temper is marginally finer than the definite examples from *Contexts 127/128, 133/134*

**CONTEXT : 006**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 2gms)**

1 sherd LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**and :**

4 scraps natural iron-pan (weight : 2gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : ? Residual material in a later context**

**Comment :** Sherd is small with heavy unifacial wear.

**CONTEXT : 007**

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**Sherds : 33 (weight : 512gms)**

9 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1100/1125-1150 AD; **6 same vessel**)

10 sherds EM N. Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1125-1150/1175 AD; **same vessel**)

14 sherds EM ? Norfolk fine sandy ware (c.1125/1150-1175 AD; **same vessel. CHECK**)

**Likely context date : c. 1125-1150 AD**

**Comment :** With 3 vessels represented, each by a number of sherds (some conjoining), this has to be a contemporary deposit. However its dating is complicated by several factors. The form of the Canterbury sandy ware vessel (interestingly a damaged but sellable 'second') is a little too small for a cauldron-style stew-pot and the neck too narrow for a smaller cooking-pot – so a pitcher form is more likely. There is one example from the Canterbury Mintyard sequence which has a similar rim type – and was dated to between c.1125-1150 AD (after c.1150 AD the forms of local pitchers were influenced by imported pitcher/jug forms – unlike here). The North Kent shelly cooking-pot is a definite copy of Continental-style Flemish forms occurring in south-east English, mostly near-coast, sites with a known currency-band of between c.1125-1175 AD. Generally potters are conservative and copying new styles not an immediate process and using this general principle, a date after c.1150 AD is an allowable likelihood. However, under certain circumstances, influential marketing forces could encourage earlier copying, so a date for this vessel between c.1125-1150 AD is reasonable. It is these two vessels that encourage the context's dating. The ?? Norfolk fine sandy ware vessel is more difficult. As a type it has only recently been recognised among Sandwich and Dover assemblages and has been given only a tentative local range of between ? c.1175-1250 AD. The identification needs to be checked, but is likely, and again – there is no known reason why it could not occur earlier than recognised.

**CONTEXT : 010**

**Sherds : 9 (weight : 128gms)**

7 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD; **5 from same vessel**)

2 sherds EM N. Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD)

1 sherd EM NFR/Flanders Black Ware (reduced fine sandy; c.1075/1100-1125 AD)

**Likely context date : c.1100-1125 AD**

**Comment :** None of the sherds are heavily worn and some of the sherds from the same Canterbury sandy cauldron-style stewing-pot are fairly large and conjoining. Its form is predominantly current within the last quarter of the 11th century (if any later not much after c.1100 AD). In the Canterbury sequence the currency of Black Ware pitchers CAT. Fabric Code EM18) has been given as beginning c.1100/1125 AD sherd – though



there is no known reason why it could not occur slightly earlier. There is not quite enough evidence allowing for placement of the whole group between c.1075-1100 AD, however tempting. Equally a date as late as c.1125 AD is unlikely.

#### **CONTEXT : 10/14**

##### **Sherds : 2 (weight : 1gm)**

1 sherd LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

1 sherd EM N. Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1075-1175/1200 AD)

##### **Likely context date : Broadly C12 AD (but probably as main context-trend)**

**Comment :** The LBA/EIA sherd is small and residual; the Early Medieval sherd small but fairly fresh – if it is not intrusive it should be from a contemporary context

**NB :** *Does this context equal Context 010?*

#### **CONTEXT : 011**

##### **Sherds : 10 (weight : 103gms)**

7 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1125 AD)

2 sherds EM N. Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1125 AD)

1 sherd EM NFR Normandy Gritty Ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD)

**also :**

1 moderate-sized lump natural iron-pan (weight : 15gms ) - **DISCARDED**

##### **Likely context date : c.1100-1125 AD**

**Comment :** A beaded Canterbury sandy ware rim provides the dating. It and a few other sherds (including one shell-tempered sherd) are only slightly worn and should be contemporary with the final infill of the context. A few of the other sandy ware sherds are more worn and should be slightly residual in their context.

#### **CONTEXT : 21**

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**Sherd : 1 (weight : >1gm)**

1 sherd Romanising 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.75-100/125 AD)

**Likely context date : Residual in an Early Medieval or later context**

**Comment :** Sherd very abraded and worn

**CONTEXT : 35**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 5gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD)

**and :**

2 lumps natural iron-pan (weight : 15gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : c.1100-1125 AD**

**Comment :** Sherd is small, but a little worn – should be slightly residual in an Early Medieval context

**CONTEXT : 43 – Area 1**

**Sherds : 2 (weight : 23gms)**

2 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1150 AD)

**and :**

1 unpatinated worked flint flake (weight : >1gm)

**Likely context date : c.1100-1125 AD**

**Comment :** Sherds are moderate-sized, fairly fresh, conjoined and should be from a contemporary deposit

**CONTEXT : 55 – Linear C**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 39gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD)

**Likely context date : c.1075-1100 AD**

**Comment :** Sherd is fairly large, only slightly worn and should be from a contemporary deposit

**CONTEXT : 59**

1 scrap daub (weight : 1gm)

**Likely context date :** Uncertain but probably first millennium BC

**CONTEXT : 61**

**Sherds : 4 (weight : 5gms)**

3 scraps probable LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (1075/1100-1175 AD)

**Likely context date :** Possibly 900-600 BC

**Comment :** The 3 flint-tempered sherds are scrappy, fresh and only slightly worn. Though the Early Medieval sherd is larger, it is fairly heavily worn and *may* be intrusive.

**CONTEXT : 88/89**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 5gms)**

1 sherd LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**and :**

1 lump natural iron-pan (weight : 4gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date :** If not residual, c.900-600 BC

**Comment :** Though fairly small, sherd is not so eroded that it need be residual in a later context

**CONTEXT : 93**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 3gms)**

1 sherd LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)



**Likely context date : c.900-600 BC**

**Comment :** Sherd is only slightly worn and moderate-sized – and could be from an undisturbed contemporary context

**CONTEXT : 094**

**Sherds : 3 (weight : 3gms)**

3 sherds probably LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**Likely context date : Residual in a later context?**

**Comment :** Sherds are small and highly worn

**CONTEXT : 95**

**Sherds : 9 (weight : 62gms)**

2 sherds LIA-B/ER 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (c.25 BC/0-50 AD)

6 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1080-1100/1125 AD)

1 sherd Med Canterbury Tyler Hill shell-dusted sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

**and :**

4 lumps natural iron-pan (weight : 17gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : c.1125-1150 AD**

**Comment :** The 'Belgic' sherds are residual; the Early Medieval sherds are small-moderate sized and too worn to represent contemporary discard. They should be a little residual in an Early Medieval context. The thinner Medieval sherd is considerably more worn and should be intrusive, possibly from manuring scatters.

**CONTEXT : 96 – Linear E**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 2gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1175 AD)

**Likely context date : See Context 123 below**

**CONTEXT : 97**

**Sherds : 3 (weight : 4gm)**

3 sherds LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**and :**

3 sherds ?? decorated fired clay object (weight : 19gms)

2 scraps natural iron-pan (weight : 5gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : c.900-600 BC**

**Comment :** The sherd is from a sub-fineware vessel with traces of combed decoration similar to examples from Highstead Period 2. In association, are two fairly large conjoining fragments from an apparently flat thick slab, similar to perforated slabs from Highstead Phase 2 (and from other contemporary assemblages in the region) – though this example appears to have a rough applied and finger-tip decorated applied strip. One very abraded small sherd is probably residual in this context.

**CONTEXT : 107**

**Sherd : 2 (weight : >5gms)**

2 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1050/1075-1150 AD)

**and :**

1 unpatinated flint flake (>1gm)

1 scrap natural iron-pan (weight : 3gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : If not residual, c.1075-1125 AD**

**Comment :** One sherd is small and fairly worn, another scrap is very abraded. If context is Early Medieval - these sherds should be fairly residual

**CONTEXT : 123 – LINEAR E**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 6gms)**

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1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1150/1175 AD)

**Likely context date : Broadly c.1075-1150 AD**

**Comment :** Neither sherd from *Linear E* (Contexts 96, 123) are closely datable, except that neither need be pre-1066/1075, and are unlikely to be later than the main site trend. Both sherds are slightly worn.

**CONTEXT : 127/128**

**Sherds : 20 (weight : 169gms)**

10 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury grog and flint-tempered ware (c.1600/1500-1300 BC; **most same vessel**)

10 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1600/1500-1300 BC)

**Likely context date : c.1500-1300 BC**

**Comment :** Apart from one very worn either residual or plough-damaged sherd, all others, although fairly small and fragmentary, are fresh, and should form an undisturbed contemporary deposit. There is no doubt of the MBA attribution and the presence of sherds from a jar in a mixed-temper fabric suggests that the assemblage is earlier, rather than later, in the date range for this period.

**CONTEXT : 129**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 8gms)**

1 sherd LBA/EIA transition flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

**Likely context date : c.900-600 BC**

**Comment :** Sherd is only slightly worn and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context

**CONTEXT : 133/134**

**Sherds : 5 (weight : 27gms)**

5 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1600/1500-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

**Likely context date : c.1500-1300 BC**

**Comment :** All sherds are small and fragmentary but are fresh and unworn and should be from an undisturbed

contemporary context

**CONTEXT : 137**

**Sherds : None**

**Comment : Stiff clay – not potting clay. DISCARDED**

**CONTEXT : 141**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : >1gm)**

1 scrap LPP flint-tempered ware (c.900-600/50 BC)

**Likely context date : ? Residual LBA/EIA material in a later context**

**Comment :** The sherd is very small, scrappy with rounded edges.

**CONTEXT : 143**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 4gms)**

1 sherd LPP flint-tempered ware (c.1600/900-50 BC)

**Likely context date : ? Residual LBA/EIA material in a later context**

**Comment :** Sherd is heavily abraded with rounding edges.

**CONTEXT : 159 – AREA 1**

**Sherds : 9 (weight : 89gms)**

9 sherds EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1150 AD)

**Likely context date : c.1075-1125 AD**

**Comment :** All sherds are fresh, unworn and some fairly large and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.



**CONTEXT : 167/168 – AREA F**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 20gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1100/1125 AD)

**Likely context date : c.1075-1100 AD**

**Comment :** Sherd is moderate-sized, fairly fresh and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

**CONTEXT : 203/204**

**Sherds : 7 (weight : 31gms)**

7 sherds LBA/EIA-EIA flint-tempered ware (c.900/600-400 BC)

**Likely context date : c.650-550 BC**

**Comment :** Sherds are small or moderate-sized and fairly worn. Dating is difficult – the thicker body walls incline the dating towards the EIA, the fine flint-tempering for the fineware sherds and the basal skin on profuse flint grits on a base sherd incline towards LBA/EIA potting traditions. Period 3A at Highstead is equivalent to those contexts where both traditions appear together in contemporary contexts. This period was principally recorded from Highstead 1976 Area B and fairly close to the present site. Tentatively this context is similarly dated.

**CONTEXT : 205/206**

**Sherds : 2 (weight : 7gms)**

2 sherds LPP flint-tempered ware (c.1600/900-600 BC)

**Likely context date :** Slight preference for LBA/EIA, but could be earlier

**Comment :** Sherds are fairly small and highly abraded

**CONTEXT : 207 – LINEAR B – AREA 4 (1)**

**Sherds : 2 (weight : 2gms)**

2 sherds LPP flint-tempered ware (c.1600-900/600 BC)

**Likely context date : Residual ? MBA material in later context**

**Comment :** One sherd is very worn with rounded edges and is visually similar to a worn sherd from the MBA Context 127/128. Another smaller sherd is fresher and from a fineware vessel with an apparently angular shoulder from an LBA/EIA or EIA fineware bowl. However, it could also be the type of off-set shoulder found on MBA globular fineware jars. The equations with MBA trends are possible but not categoric.

**CONTEXT : 209 – LINEAR B – AREA 4 (1)**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 13gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1050/1075-1125 AD)

**Likely context date : c.1100-1150 AD**

**Comment :** Moderate-sized, moderately worn: probably slightly residual from LC11-EC12 AD activity

**CONTEXT : 211 – LINEAR B – AREA 4 (1)**

**Sherd : 1 (weight : 7gms)**

1 sherd EM Canterbury sandy ware (c.1075-1125/1150 AD)

**and :**

1 lump natural iron pan (weight : 4gms) - **DISCARDED**

**Likely context date : c.1100-1150 AD**

**Comment :** Sherd is fairly worn, moderate-sized and probably fairly residual from LC11 AD activity

**D. Assessment :**

A moderate-sized assemblage with variable small-fairly large sherds exhibiting variable wear patterns from severely abraded residual to virtually unworn sherds. The latter includes conjoining material and fragmented part-vessels from undisturbed contemporary contexts – eg. *Contexts 003-004, 007*. Though from new contexts, a fair proportion of the pottery recovered comes from previously recognised phases of activity recorded from adjacent areas during the 1975-1976 work; equivalent Highstead Periods are provided below. However at least 2 new periods are represented and these are indicated in **bold**. A period-based land-use implications assessment is given below :



PERIODS	SHERD QUANTITY	ASSESSMENT
MODERN	-	-
LPM	-	-
PM	-	-
LM	-	-
M	1	-
EM	80	Occupation between c.1075-1150 AD
LS	-	-
MS	-	-
ES	-	-
LR	-	-
MR	-	-
ER	2	-
B/ER	112	Equivalent to Highstead Period 4D
LIA 'Belgic'	36	Equivalent to Highstead Period 4C
LIA	-	-
MIA	-	-
EIA	-	-
LBA/EIA	34	Equivalent to Highstead Period 2
LBA	-	-
MBA	34	Occupation between c.1500-1300 BC
EBA	-	-
LN	-	-
MN	-	-
EN	-	-

Indeterminate : ? MBA : 2; ?LBA/EIA : 5

#### *Earlier Prehistoric :*

1. The Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead *may* be a hunting loss. Irrespective, it adds to the general phase of EBA activity in the area between c.2200-1700 BC (Highstead Period 1) represented by the 2 intact Beakers recovered during earlier (pre-1975) quarrying north-west of the present site. There is no known record of contexts for these Beakers so they are either from a ring-ditch burial or from a flat cemetery.

#### *Middle Bronze Age :*

2. The Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury element is a new addition to the existing Highstead sequence. Post the previously recorded Mesolithic, Neolithic and EBA activity, the first definite indication of occupation was the LBA/EIA Period 2 enclosure B70 in 1976 Area B. This was followed by continuous occupation through the rest of the LBA/EIA and into the EIA (Period 3B) until a currently *assumed* end of earlier Iron Age activity around c.400 BC. The commencement-date for Phase 1 B70 is around c.900 BC. However at least another 3 enclosures were recorded with, bar one, insufficient recovered data to be really confident of their dating. At the moment they are tentatively assumed to belong somewhere within Period 2 – but one, possibly two, at least might be somewhat earlier. In addition, some zones of 1975 Area A were insufficiently examined but surface finds indicated the likelihood of occupational activity down slope from the Period 1 enclosure A24. This is topographically fairly close to the present 2007 excavation and, to this analyst, a few of the coarseware sherds recovered from this area looked marginally cruder than the majority of Period 2 material. However there was insufficient to be confident. The *potential* implication is that the occupation represented by the present 2007 finds and features may have originally spread across the mid-lower slopes of Highstead Hill, and on either side of the present Boyden Gate to Highstead road.

The 2007 assemblage contained at least 2 examples of vessels with perforations immediately below the rim, and characteristic of many MBA assemblages. One of these, from *Context 001* is from a typical thick-walled coarseware bucket-urn type of storage vessel. In addition, the sherd group from *Context 127/128* contained both purely flint-tempered and grog-and-flint-tempered fabrics. As recovered to date, the use of grog does not occur consistently in all regional Deverel-Rimbury assemblages. In later LBA/EIA and most earlier IA assemblages it occurs as only a minor ingredient type, and not as profusely as here. Conversely, grog is a major fabric ingredient from the Late Neolithic and into the Early Bronze Age, occurring as a mixed-temper (but predominantly grogged) fabric type in e.g. the Collared Urn assemblage from Castle Hill, Folkestone (CT.F72 1988). Its occurrence amongst only *some* regional Deverel-Rimbury assemblages suggest that it could be used as a chronological indicator of relative earliness within the MBA, i.e. closer to its c.1600/1500 BC commencement, rather than later – and among assemblages producing fineware globular urns, rather than the rounded bowls of Birchington Hoard type. The latter have been dated to between c.1300-1100 BC and the implication here, therefore, is that the Highstead MBA group should be dated between **c.1500-1300 BC**. However this reasonable likelihood does require greater regional confirmation from larger MBA domestic assemblages associated with C-14 dating. Irrespective of its final date, the 2007 MBA component implies that Highstead *may* have witnessed continuous occupation from the MBA onwards with, *broadly* per period, settlement foci shifting around within only a relatively small topographic zone.

#### *Late Bronze-indigenous Late Iron Age*

3. Only a thin scatter of Highstead Period 2-type LBA/EIA sherds was recorded. The 2007 area is just down slope from the Period 2 or 3A enclosure B144 and it is reasonable to assume some activity in this area between **c.900-600 BC**. However, it is now very clear from both this excavation and the previous work, that the area witnessed long-term Later Prehistoric activity - so that a few of the more worn sherds could date to anywhere



between the MBA and the indigenous LIA (Highstead Period 4).

*'Belgic'-style Late Iron Age :*

4. Only a small quantity of 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered sherds were recovered. The 1976 evidence implies that the current 2007 area, south-east of the main Period 4 settlement focus, was reserved for agriculture. The evidence for this period from the present site would tend to confirm this likelihood, so that a few sherds may stem from agricultural activity associated with Highstead Periods 4B-4C (c.50 BC-50 AD).

*'Belgic'/Early Roman transition :*

5. However most of the total 'Belgic'-style pottery recorded represents part of one vessel from *Context 003*. It was associated with part of another vessel made in 'Belgic'-Early Roman fine sandy ware. Part of another vessel in the same fabric type was also recorded from *Context 004*. This was a dominant fabric type during the immediate post-Conquest AD Highstead Period 4D phase of activity and dated c.50-75 AD, although the rather poor potting quality of both may indicate an earlier date, perhaps between c.25-50 AD. During Highstead Period 5A (c.75-150 AD) the existing Period 4D field-system on Area A was replaced with a new one aligned south-east to north-west. This new orientation is virtually identical to that recorded from the current excavation and, assuming they are not Early Medieval, usefully means that this re-organisation affected the land on either side of any possible forerunner of the present Boyden Gate-Highstead road. It also implies that the point made in 4 above – that the area of land south-east of the Period 4 settlement focus was used for agriculture – is realistic. The recovery of the B/ER fine sandy ware jars from *Contexts 003 & 004* may mean that the process of re-organising the field-system began earlier than Period 5A, i.e. within Period 4D – but this does require a check of current contextual associations.

*Early Medieval-Medieval :*

6. No post-Roman features were recorded during the 1975-1977 work, so the recovery of Early Medieval pottery is a welcome addition to the history of the overall site. The sherd groups from *Contexts 007, 010, 011, 95 and 159* are all fresh, some with conjoining sherds from the same vessels, and may indicate that discard is relatively close to any contemporary structure. Though the bulk of the assemblage contains basic domestic wares, large cauldron-type stewing-pots and smaller cooking-pots, the recovery of imported wares is interesting but perhaps not surprising in view of the site's closeness to the Wantsum Channel which, in view of the mostly C12-C13 salt-extraction mounds recorded from it, was still tidal and navigable during this period. Sherds from two kitchen ware vessels and a fine tableware represent three different sources - one possibly from East Anglia, and two continental – a cooking-pot from North France/Flanders, and a glazed pitcher from Normandy. The latter implies a degree of relative wealth and whilst it is possible that all three vessels were acquired in a nearby market (Sturry or Canterbury), the site's proximity to the Wantsum could imply that the buyer's apparent wealth came from a source other than just agriculture – possibly former continental connections or some association with the trade in salt.

7. A single very worn earlier thirteenth-century AD sherd was recovered from *Context 95*. Its condition indicates that it was intrusive into its context and probably derived from manure scatters. It is the only sherd recovered that post-dates **c.1150/1175 AD** and, though a larger area excavation might negate this point, its presence could indicate that there was a further shift in settlement focus/activity area by the mid-late twelfth century, the area excavated remaining under agriculture.

***E. Recommendations :***

1. None of the pottery recovered is worth illustrating for a publication report (any necessary references can be made to existing published material).
2. However up to 2 MBA, 1 LBA/EIA and possibly 2 B/ER, elements require drawing for archive purposes. An estimate of time and cost will be provided if there is agreement to do so.
3. The material is of sufficient academic value to warrant provision of an available Archive Report, which would include the material drawn at 2. An estimate of time and cost will be provided if there is agreement to do so.
4. Prior to the preparation of any final report, context data is required to confirm/amend the statements made in **Section D**. This section can be used as a presentation in any subsequent report or abstracted from as required

**Analyst :** N. Macpherson-Grant 1.6.2007

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### ***Appendix 3 – Figures***

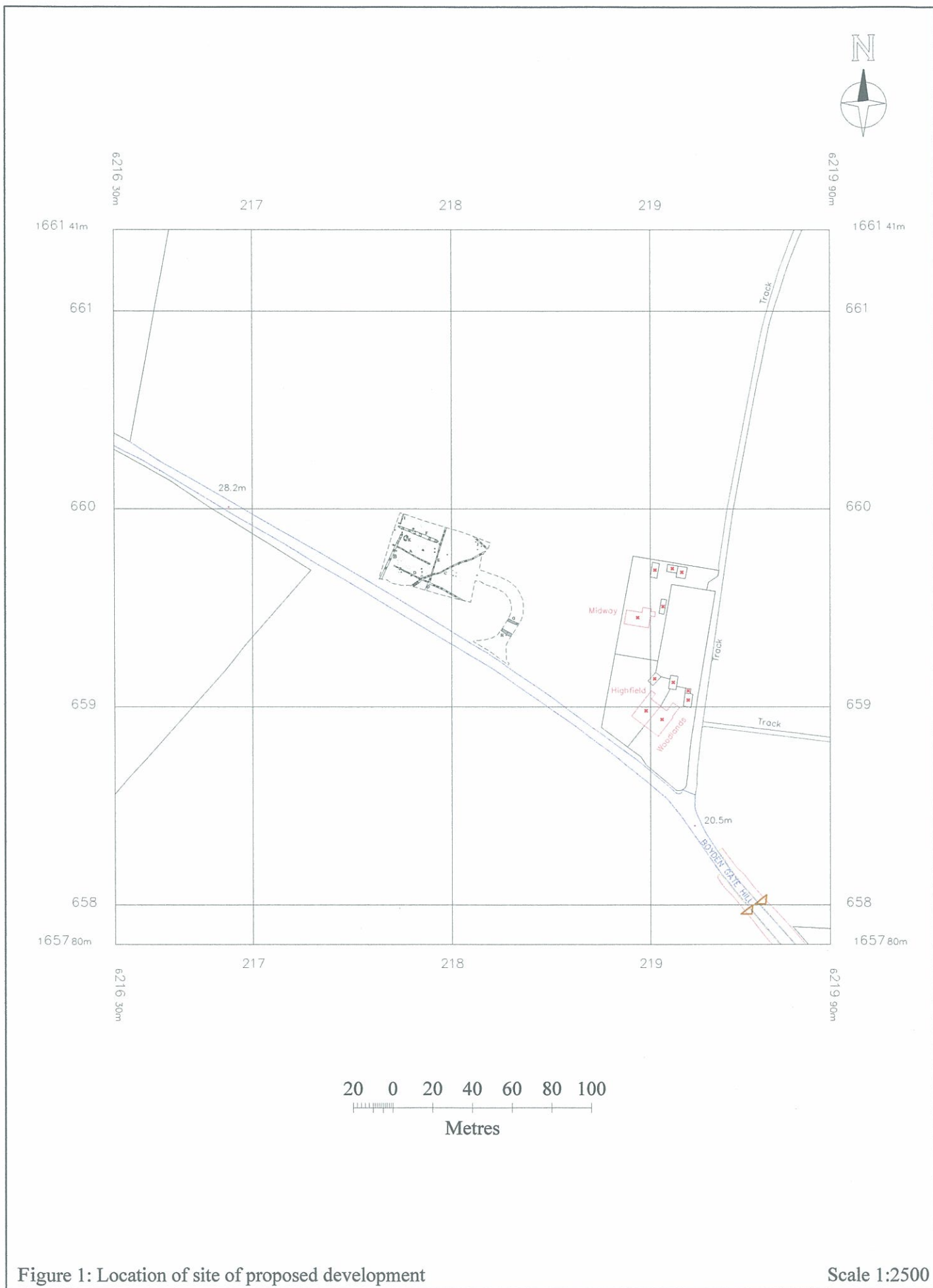


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

Scale 1:2500











6218 20m

1659 80m

0m 20m

6217 80

1659 80m

1659 80m





1659 40m

1659 40m

218 40m

Linear G

[067]

Linear H

[013]

[074]

[073]

1659 20m

1659 20m

6218 40m

0m

10m







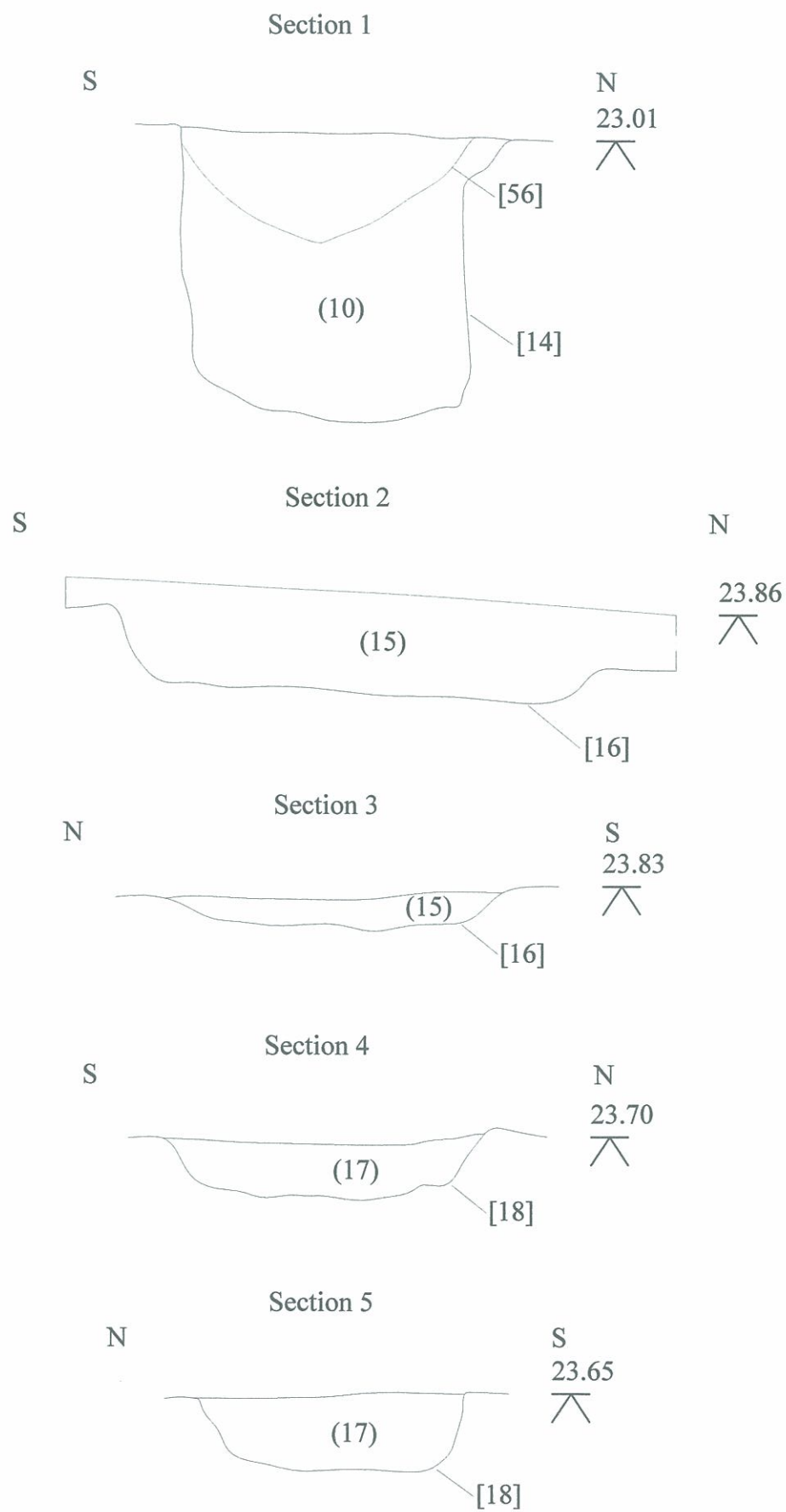
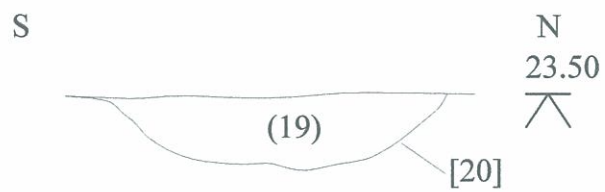


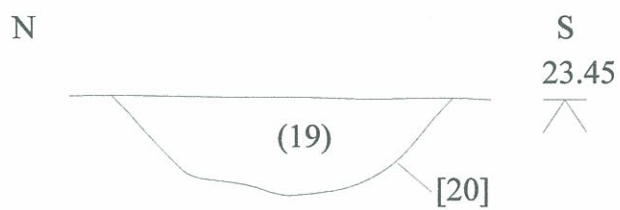
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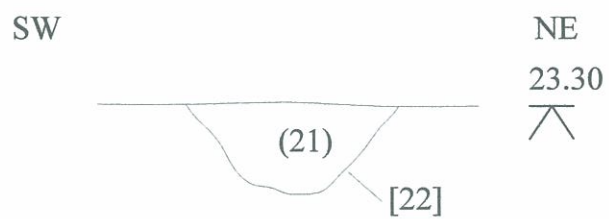
Section 6



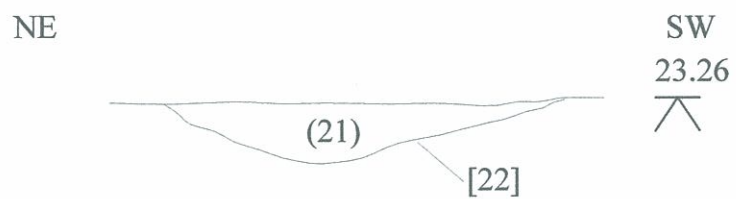
Section 7



Section 8



Section 9



Section 10

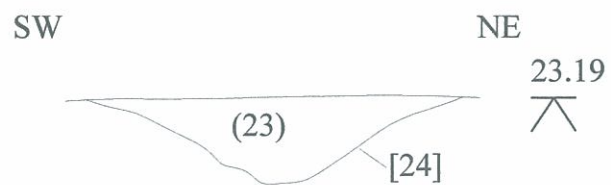
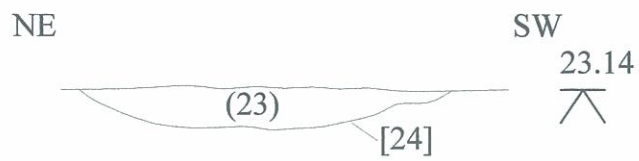


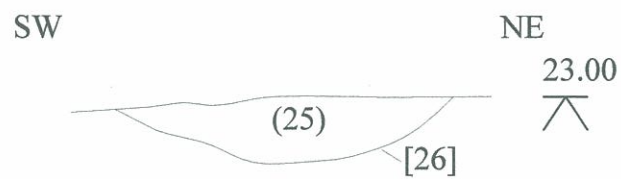
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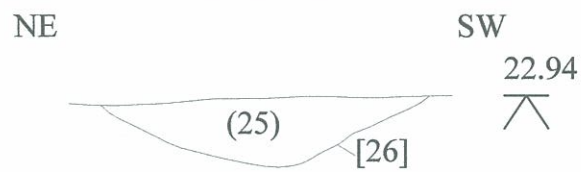
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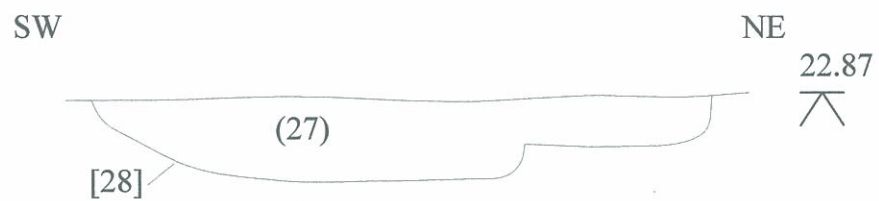
Section 12



Section 13



Section 14



Section 15

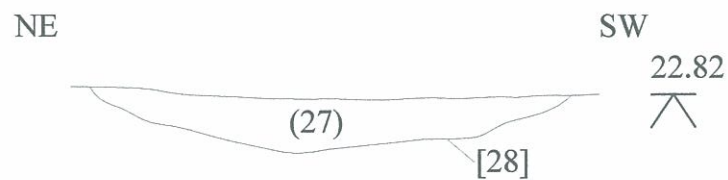


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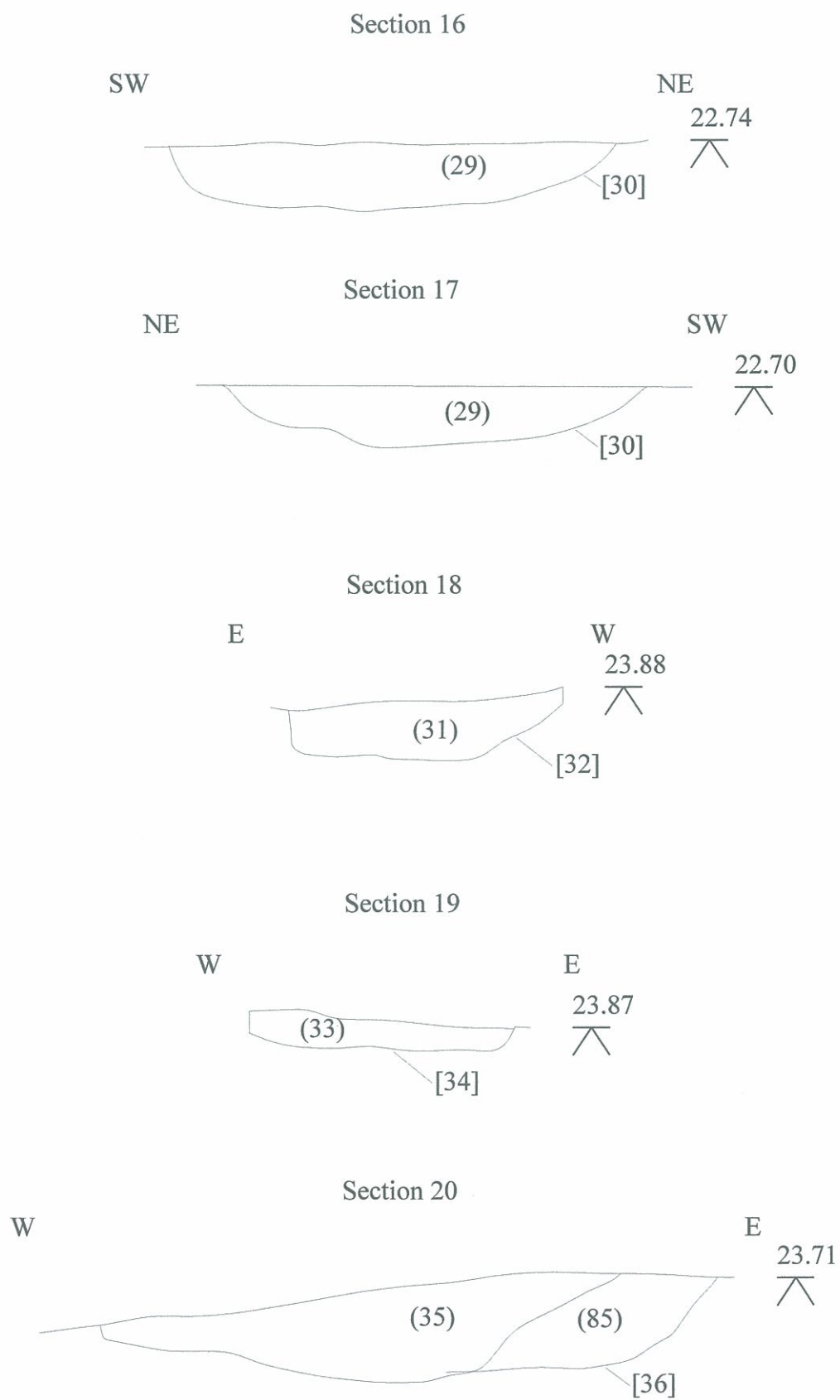


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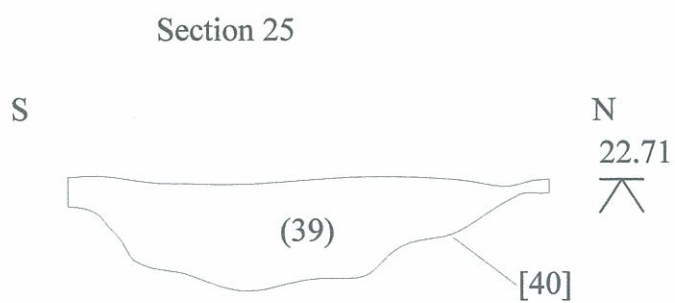
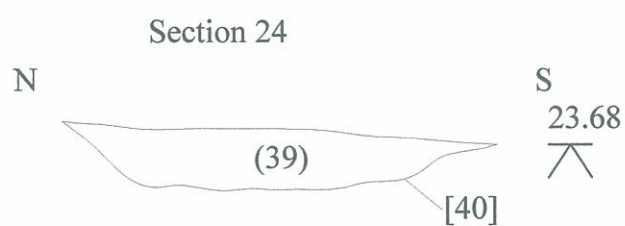
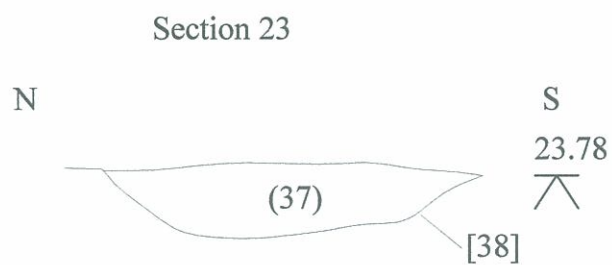
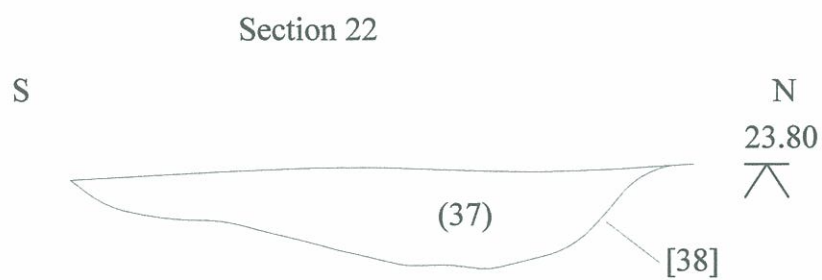
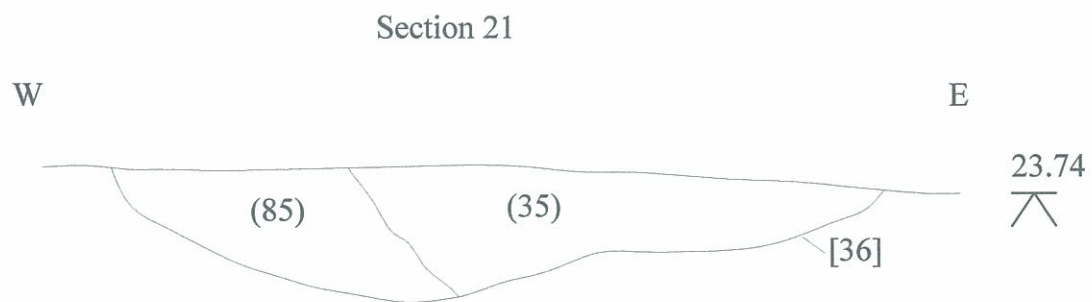
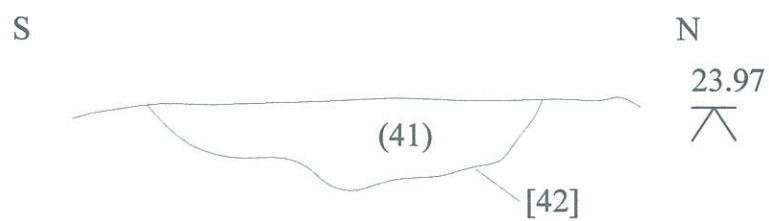


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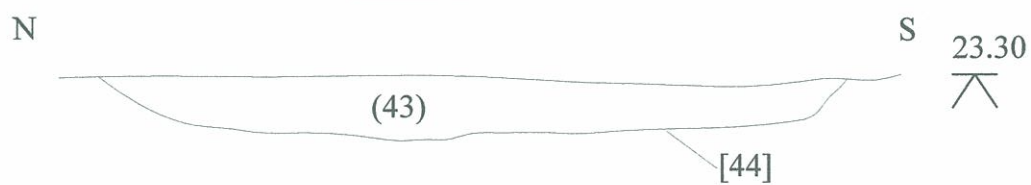




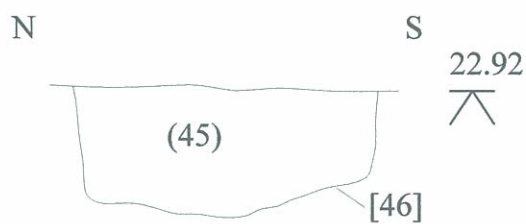
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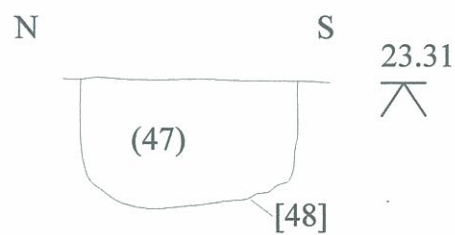
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### Section 28



### Section 29



### Section 30

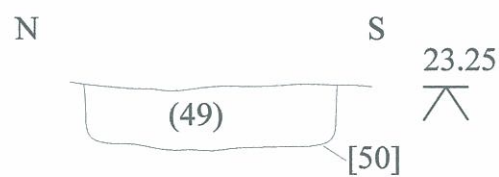
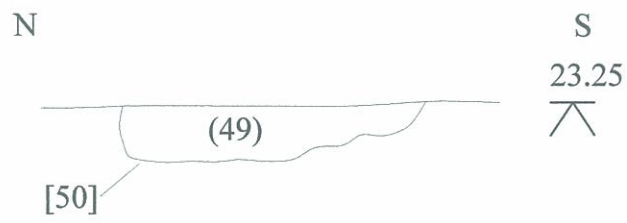


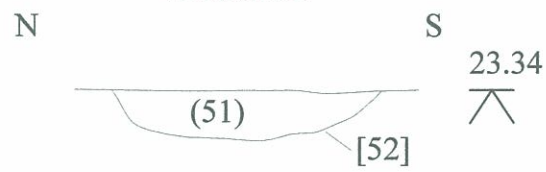
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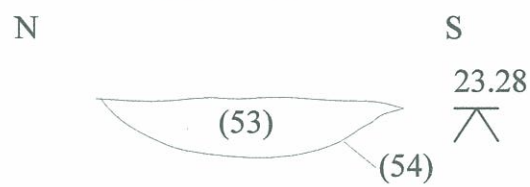
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### Section 32



### Section 33



### Section 34



### Section 35

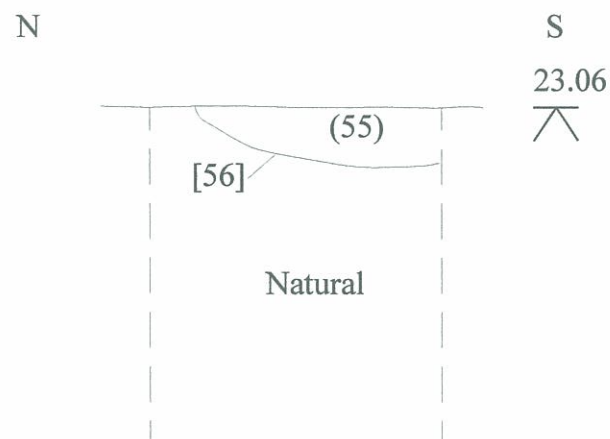


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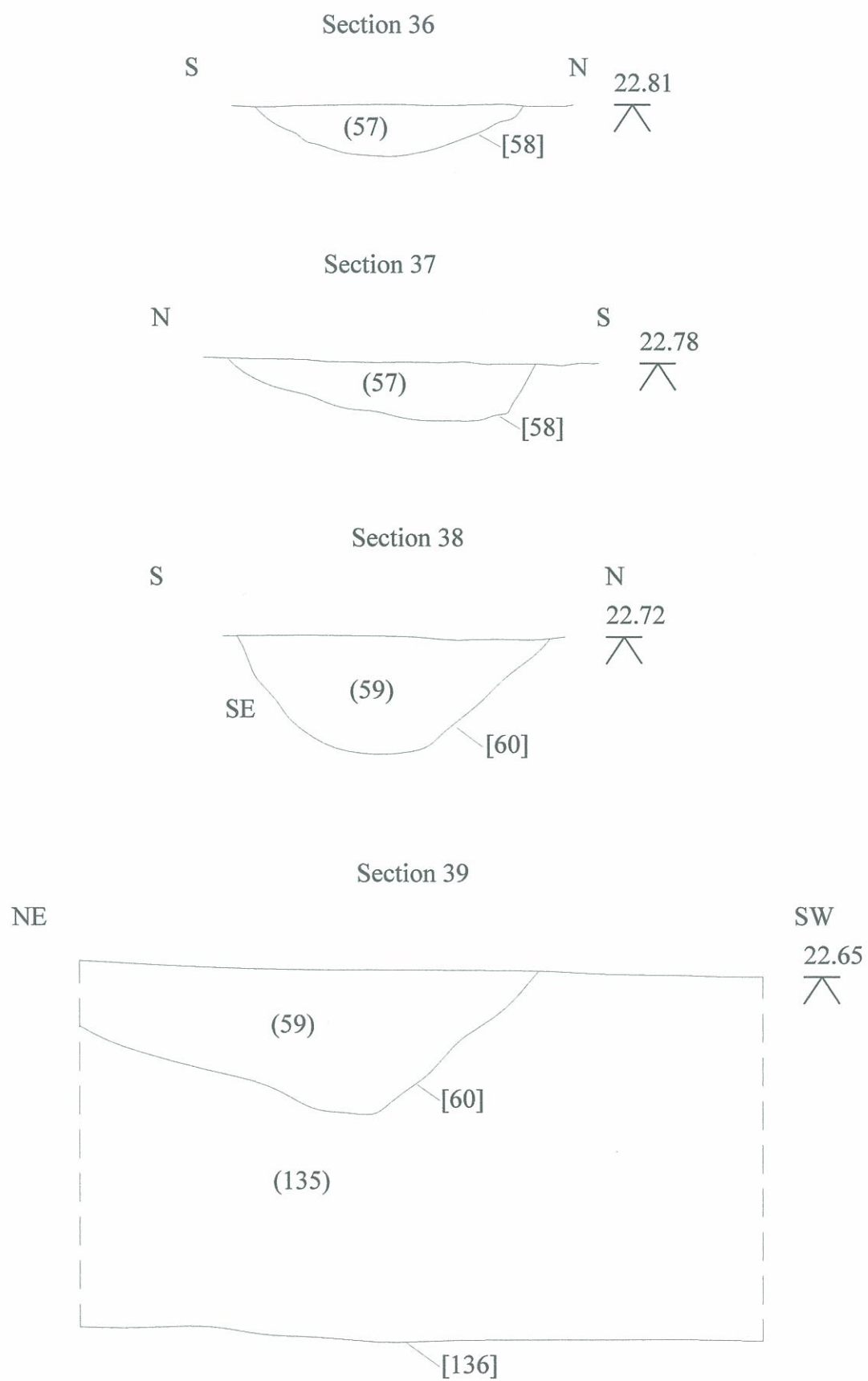


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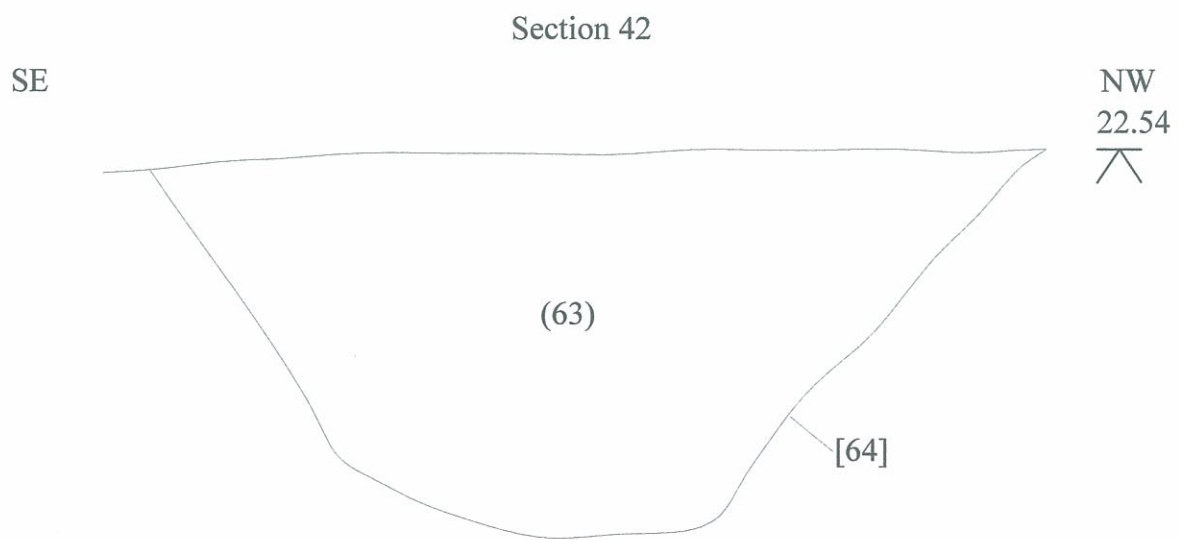
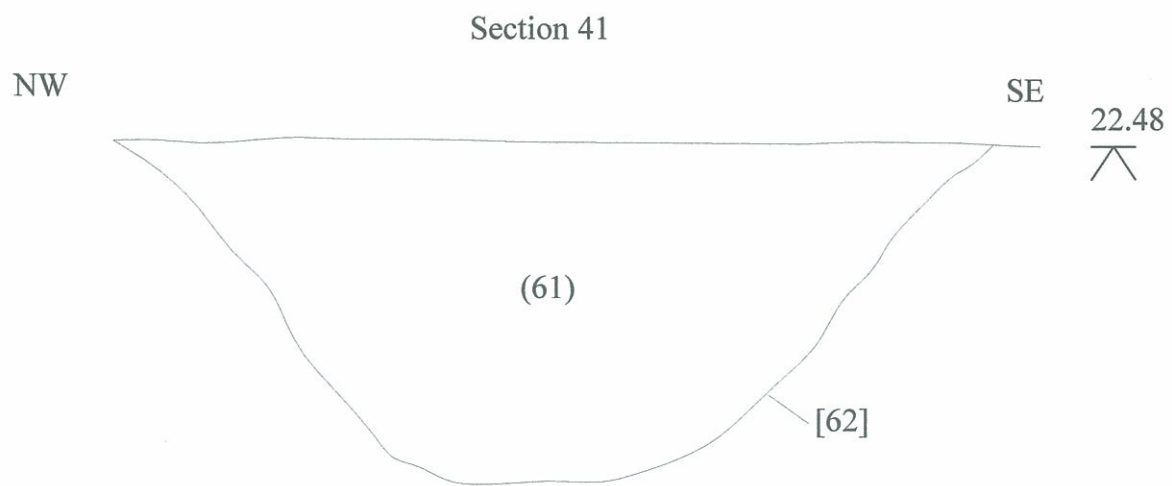
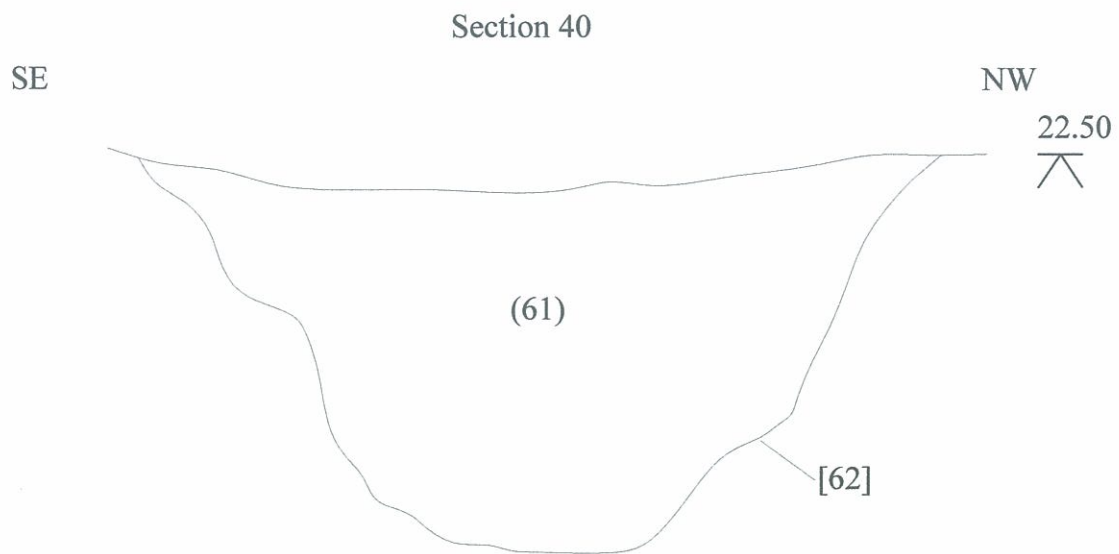


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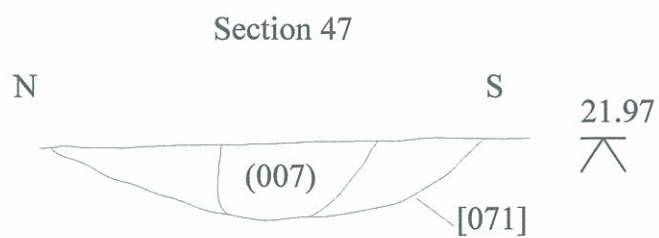
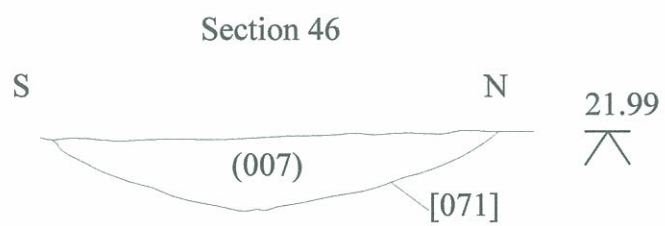
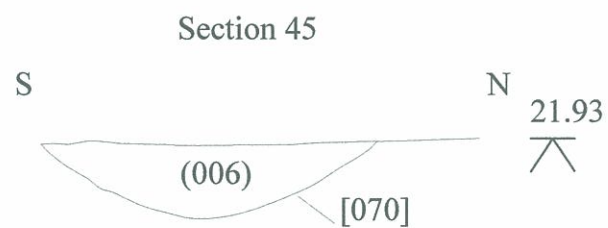
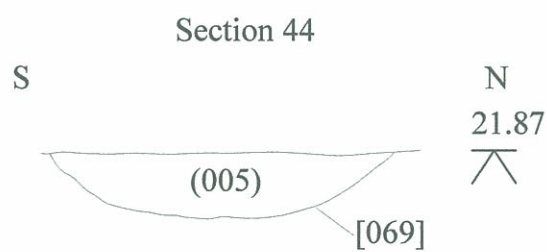
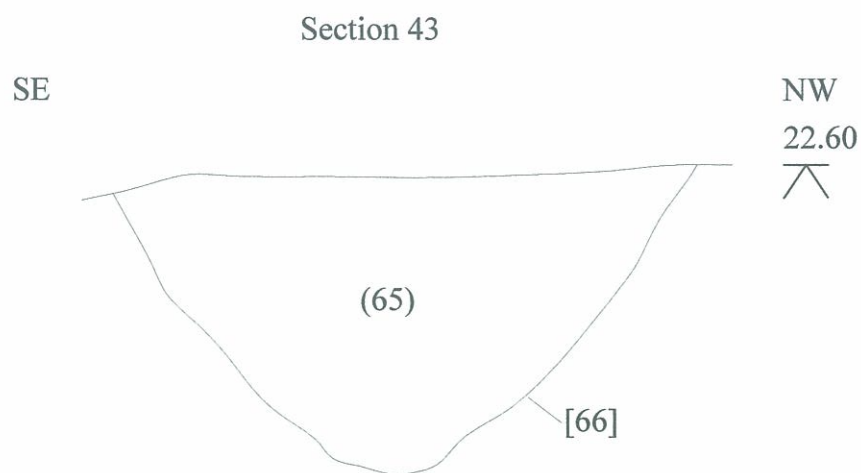


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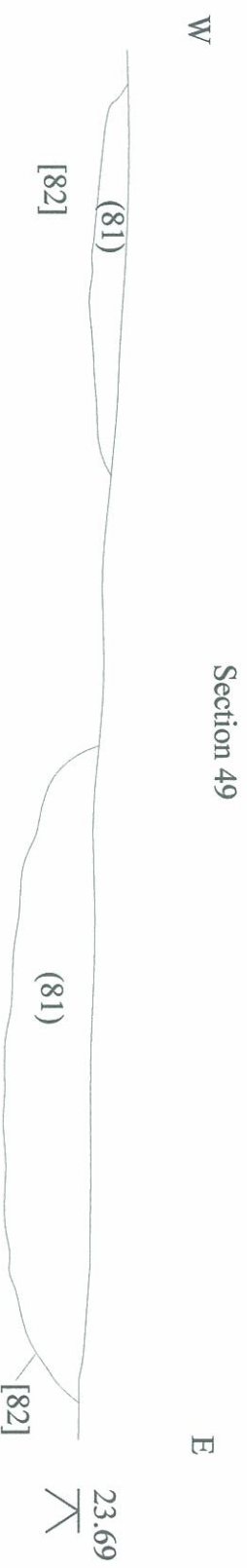
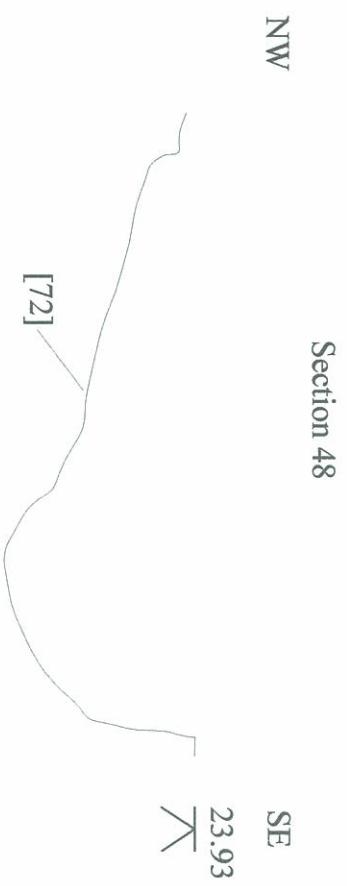


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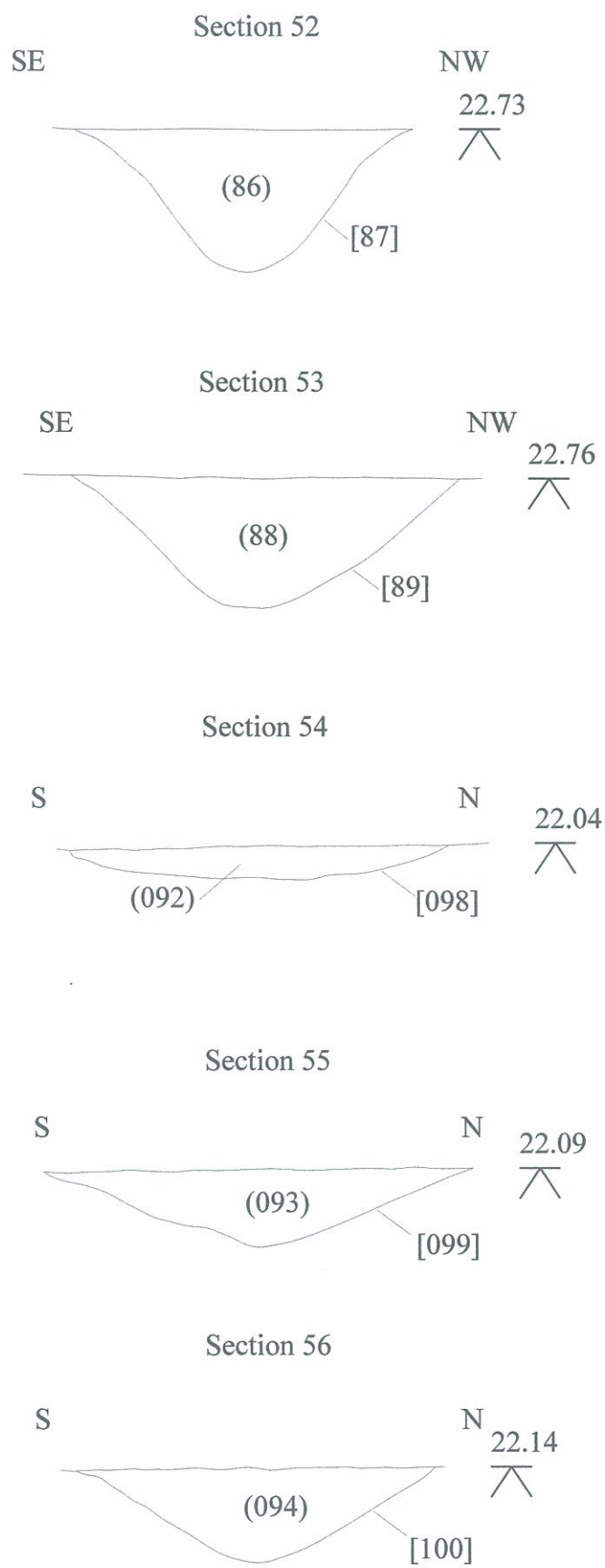


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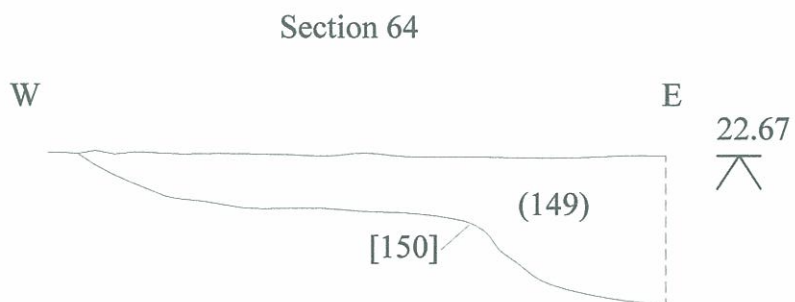
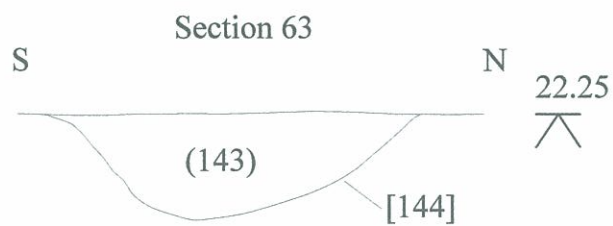
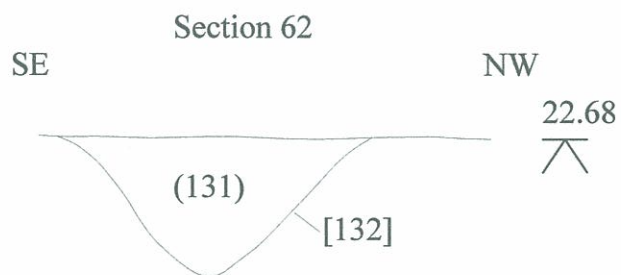
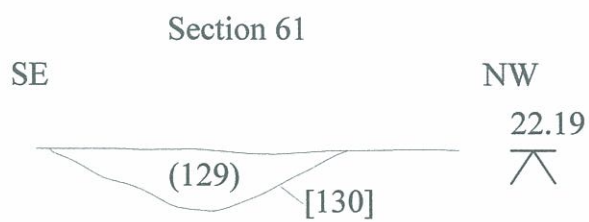


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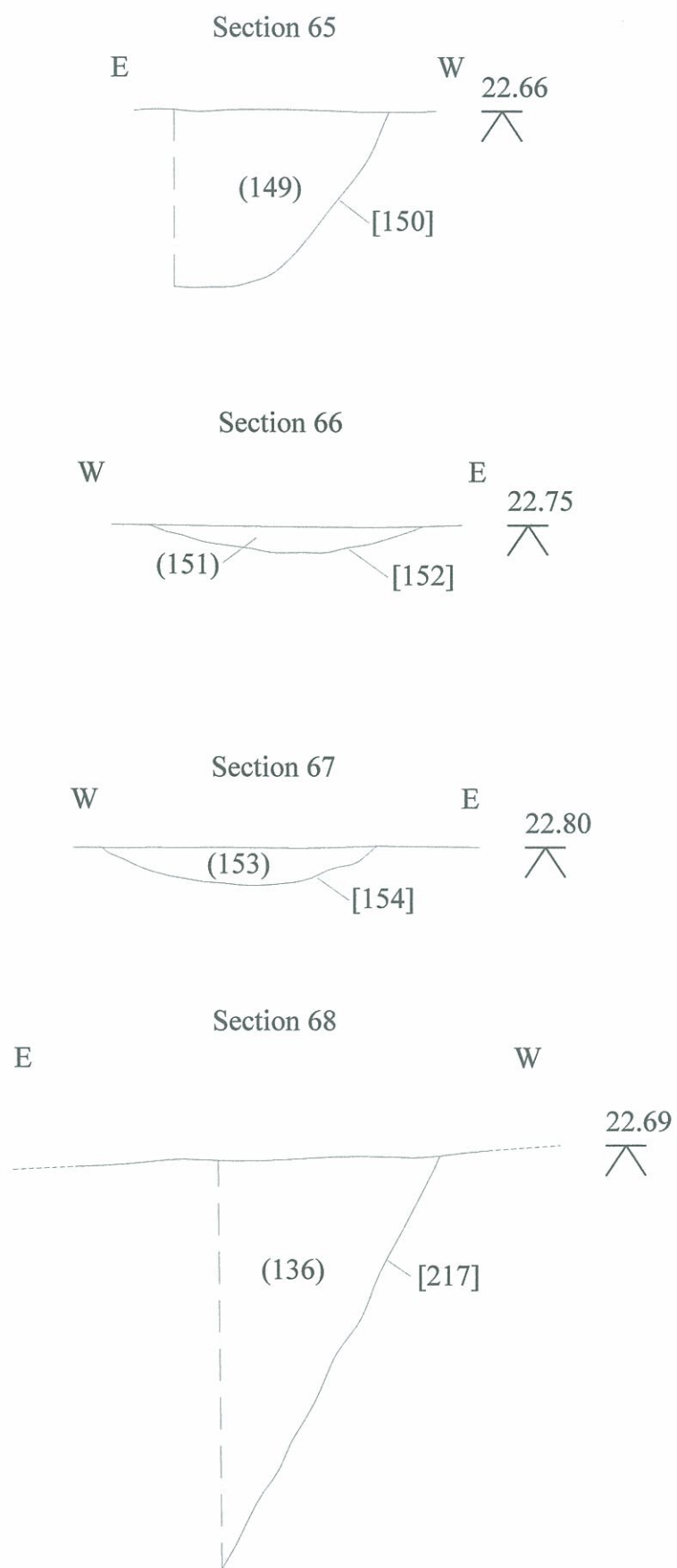


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