Archaeology South-East

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An Archaeological Investigation at Talmead House, Mill Lane, and on Land to the West of Mill Lane, Eddington, Herne Bay, Kent

Planning Refs. CA/02/1241/HBA and CA/02/1242/HBA
Kent : Canterbury

Project No. 2949
Site Codes: TLHB 07 EX & MLHB 07 EX

Report No. 2008063

TR 1897 6721

Simon Stevens BA MIFA

with contributions from

Anna Doherty, Luke Barber, Chris Butler, Lucy Sibun
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Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR
Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
email : fau@ucl.ac.uk
website : www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2003 uncovered a scatter of archaeological features on the western side of Mill Lane. A further evaluation in 2007 identified a Roman cremation burial dating to the 1st century AD in the grounds of Talmead House on the opposite side of Mill Lane. Subsequently three separate areas were stripped in order to identify and record any further archaeological features prior to redevelopment. A limited number of features were encountered and excavated, including evidence of two further Roman cremation burials.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Planning permission was granted by Canterbury City Council for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of dwellings at Talmead House, Mill Lane, Eddington, Herne Bay, Kent (planning ref. CA/02/1241/HBA), and also for the construction of further dwellings on the western side of Mill Lane (planning ref. CA/02/1242/HBA). A Specification for the archaeological evaluation of both of the areas was produced by CGMS Consulting (Hawkins 2002). The initial phase of evaluation was carried out on the western side of Mill Lane by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2003 (Gollop 2003). A subsequent archaeological evaluation of the grounds of Talmead House was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in 2007 (Stevens 2007)

Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake further archaeological investigations on both sides of Mill Lane in May 2007. Subsequent excavation and monitoring of groundworks in three discrete areas continued from early May until mid July 2007. A Written Scheme of Investigation for this phase of work was produced by Archaeology South-East (2007).

The archaeological work at the site was carried out by a team comprised of Simon Stevens, Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologists), Alice Thorne, Andi Margetts (Archaeologists), David Atkin, Rob Beck, Gemma Driver, Louise Munns, Elke Raemen and Jeremy Webster (Assistant Archaeologists). The on-site surveying was undertaken by Mark Tibble (former Head of Geomatics). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation Manager).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site covered by the two planning permissions lies to the north of the A299 Thanet Way (Fig. 1), straddling Mill Lane. Talmead House lay to the east of the lane and was surrounded by gardens with a pond to the north of the house. The area to the west of the lane was open ground with a gentle slope downwards to the east, which dramatically increased to the east of the excavated areas. According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 273), the underlying geology consists of blue grey London Clay (solid) underlying head gravels and Brickearth (drift).

The site is located in an area of Kent rich in known archaeological remains. Although a full archaeological background to the site is given elsewhere (Hawkins 2003; Gossop 2003), in summary a number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the general area in recent years. A multi-phase site has been excavated to the west of the current site. Remains dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods were encountered (Jarmand & Shand 1999). The results of further evaluation work suggest that this site is large in extent and straddles the current alignment of the A299 (Macpherson Grant 1991; 1992). Another evaluation uncovered evidence of Iron Age and medieval activity to the west (Gossop 1999).

Archaeological investigations to the east of the current site have also uncovered evidence of prehistoric and medieval activity at Willow Farm (Helm 2000), and at Bogshole Lane, Broomfield (Helm 2001).

In addition, within the boundaries of the site itself, a Roman cremation burial was discovered in the 19th century in the vicinity of the pond immediately to the north of Talmead House. It has been suggested that the burial might be associated with the Roman road from Canterbury to Reculver, which may lie close to the current alignment of Reculver Road (Gossop 2003).

THE SITE

The 2003 Evaluation

A report on the results of this phase of evaluation, which was undertaken in April and May 2003 has been produced (Gollop 2003). In summary, forty-seven trial trenches were mechanically excavated on land to the north of the A299 and to the west of Mill Lane. A small number of archaeological features were identified, mostly ditches and gullies. Dating was based on a small assemblage of pottery, and suggested Late Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity, mainly agricultural in nature.

The 2007 Evaluation

A report on the results of this phase of evaluation, which was undertaken in April and May of 2007 has been produced (Stevens 2007). In summary, five trial trenches and a small open area were mechanically excavated within the grounds of Talmead House, on the eastern side of Mill Lane. Only one significant archaeological feature was encountered, which was a Romano-British cremation burial of 1st Century AD date. Following discussions with Duncan Hawkins of CgMs and Richard Cross of Canterbury City Council, it was decided to lift the feature in a block for off-site micro-excavation under controlled conditions. This investigation had not been completed by the time the evaluation report was written, so the results of this work are included in this report, along with discussion of the finds from the evaluation phase (see below). This allows the consideration of the site as a whole.

Excavation Area A (Figs. 1-3)

Following further discussions between Duncan Hawkins and Richard Cross, it was decided to target a small-scale excavation area around the location of the cremation deposit uncovered during the evaluation phase, in order to locate, excavate and record any further surviving archaeological features in the vicinity. This involved re-opening Trench 1 and the surrounding area, which corresponded to the proposed position of a group of dwellings, as well as the position of a protected tree, which was left *in situ*.

Following the mechanical removal of *c.*250mm of dark brown humic garden soil [1], and 150mm of a dark orangey brown clayey silt interface layer between the garden soil and the 'natural', [2], the surface of the 'natural', [3] was revealed. The 'natural' varied in colour between brownish orange and brownish yellow and contained occasional pockets of gravel.

A small number of archaeological features were revealed in addition to those previously seen in evaluation Trench 1. An isolated post-hole, [4] was encountered in the north-western corner of the stripped area. It was 600mm in diameter and 800mm in depth (Fig. 5, S1). Small sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from the single brownish grey, clayey silt fill, [5]. Another post-hole, [12] was found in the south-eastern part of the site. It was 350mm in diameter and

150mm in depth (Fig. 5, S2). The single fill, [13] was a mid-brownish grey silty clay. No datable finds were recovered from the feature. Another feature, [8] of similar diameter and depth (Fig. 5, S3) was also encountered. No datable finds were recovered from the grey silty clay fill, [9].

Another discrete feature, [19], with a diameter of 200mm was lifted as a block as it was considered to be a possible Romano-British cremation deposit. Micro-excavation proved that this was indeed the case, although the deposit was more heavily truncated than the cremation encountered during the evaluation phase (see below). The greyish brown silty clay fill, [20] contained sherds of Romano-British pottery and cremated bone.

The most striking feature was a shallow ditch that ran from east to west across the south-eastern corner of the stripped area. Two sections were excavated through the feature. The first, [10] showed a 'v' shaped profile, with a width of 950mm and a depth of 400mm, with two distinct fills (Fig. 5, S4). The uppermost, [11] was a brownish grey silty clay, and the basal deposit, [14] was a bluish grey clayey silt, probably the result of primary silting of the feature. The second section, [17] showed a similar profile, with a width of 800mm and a depth of 320mm (Fig. 5, S5). The single fill, [18] was a brownish grey silty clay. No datable artefacts were recovered from the feature.

Two other features were encountered in the stripped area; Cut [6] was an irregularly shaped pit, with a depth of only 50mm (Fig. 5, S6). The feature contained an assortment of artefacts, mostly post-medieval in date, but with residual medieval pottery. A sample was taken from the charcoal-rich dark silty clay fill, [7], and was found to contain partially charred wood, suggesting recent deposition, probably the result of a garden bonfire.

The other feature was another irregularly shaped pit of similar depth, [21], with a more mixed fill, consisting of garden soil and clay, [22], which had partially truncated the Romano-British cremation deposit encountered in evaluation Trench 1. A small quantity of cremated bone and Romano-British pottery was recovered from the feature, as well as a piece of post-medieval brick. The nature of the fill and the presence of the brick, strongly suggest that this was also a garden feature, which contained residual Roman-British material owing to the truncation of the cremation deposit.

Excavation Area B (Figs 1, 2 & 4)

Area B was located on the western side of Mill Lane, and corresponded to the location of a group of dwellings and associated access, garages and gardens. The initial work involved the mechanical removal of *c.*250mm of mid-brown humic topsoil [100], and *c.*100mm of a dark orangey brown silty clay interface layer between the topsoil and the 'natural', [101]. The 'natural' was a sandy clay, which varied in colour between light brownish orange and brownish yellow, [102].

The geological deposits were complex, with evidence of folding, and overlapping, which on occasion resembled linear features. A number of areas of these deposits were subject to sectioning to check their character, and all were found to be geological in origin.

Only two archaeological features were identified in the area. Cut [103] was an isolated possible post-hole with a diameter of 300mm and a depth of 100mm (Fig. 5, S7). The single fill, [104] was a greyish yellow clayey silt with numerous charcoal

flecks, but no datable artefacts. At the request of Richard Cross of Canterbury City Council, a sample was taken for the analysis of the charcoal (see below).

The only other identified feature was a large post-hole/small pit, [105]. It had a diameter of 520mm and a depth of 140mm (Fig. 5, S8). The single fill was a yellowish grey silty clay, [106]. A small scrap of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the feature.

Excavation Area C (Figs 1, 2 and 4)

Following the mechanical removal of the topsoil and subsoil, [200] and [201] respectively, which were similar in character and depth to those encountered in Area B, the surface of the 'natural', [202] was revealed, Oncemore, this deposit was similar in character to the 'natural' encountered in Area B, and again there was the need for extensive testing of anomalies in colour to ascertain their origin. Most were found to be geological, but six archaeological features were positively identified, although these formed no obvious pattern. All were shallow pits or post-holes.

Close to the southern baulk, two features were located and recorded. Shallow pit [203] had a diameter of 1.67m and a depth of 130mm (Fig. 5, S9). No datable artefacts were recovered from the greyish brown silty clay fill, [204]. A post-hole, [205] was located nearby. It was 750mm in diameter and 120mm deep (Fig. 5, S10). Similarly, no datable artefacts were recovered from the single greyish yellow silty clay fill, [206].

Further to the north, two more features were located in close proximity to each other. Shallow pit [207] had a diameter of 1.58m and a depth of 140mm (Fig. 5, S11). No datable artefacts were recovered from the single greenish grey fill, [208]. The other feature was another shallow pit, [209]. It was 130mm in diameter and 160mm deep (Fig. 5, S12). A small sherd of early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the single greyish yellow silty clay fill, [210].

Cut [211] was an isolated elongated pit, which was 2m long, 540mm wide and only 90mm deep (Fig. 4, S13). No datable artefacts were recovered from the greyish brown silty clay fill, [212]. The other excavated feature was [213], a post-hole with a diameter of 540mm and depth of 120mm (Fig. 5, S14). A small assemblage of early- to mid-Saxon pottery, and a residual sherd from a prehistoric vessel were recovered from the single brownish, grey silty clay fill, [214].

The Watching Brief (Fig 2)

A watching brief was maintained during the mechanical removal of the footings of Talmead House following the demolition of the above-ground elements of the structure. The house sat on substantial brick and concrete footings, often extending to more than 1.5m below ground level. Clearly the excavations for these foundations would have removed any localised archaeological deposits. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered during this monitoring, which was undertaken in May 2005.

THE FINDS

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

A small assemblage totalling 453 sherds, weighing 450g was recovered from all stages of archaeological work at the site. All but a few sherds came from a Roman cremation burial. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count and weight

The assemblage contains two flint-tempered sherds weighing 6g. One of these, a coarse ill-sorted fabric with a sand free matrix, from [214], can be broadly assigned to the later Bronze Age, but is present residually in a later group. Another very thin-walled sherd in a finer fabric with a silty matrix is more likely of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date; no other finds were recovered from [106], but as the sherd is tiny, the dating of this feature is uncertain.

The most complete vessel in cremation deposit [1/007], a samian Dragendorff 36 type bowl of south Gaulish origin (vessel C) has almost certainly been deposited as an accessory vessel. It was produced between AD 70-100. The surface of the vessel is severely abraded and the typical samian slip does not survive, probably due to post-depositional factors and the acidic burial environment.

Two further vessels, products of the North Kent/Thameside industry, have been labelled by the excavators as accessory vessels although both are less than half complete and in a very fragmentary condition. The more complete of the two, vessel B, is a carinated beaker similar to Monaghan's type 2G1 which dates to around AD70-130 (Monaghan 1987, 68). Most of the sherds are from the lower wall area which could indicate that it has been truncated at the top. Very little of vessel A survives but two small rim sherds indicate that it is probably a vessel similar to B, although it is very thin-walled.

Four sherds from another North Kent/Thameside bowl are also present in the fill. This is similar to Monaghan's type 7A2.4, dated to AD 43-120/140 (Monaghan 1987, 158). There are also four sherds of a Romanised grog-tempered fabric similar to Patch Grove ware which was first produced soon after the conquest and had probably declined by the end of the Trajanic period (Pollard 1988, 39, 64).

Also of interest is the small group from cremation deposit [20] from excavation Area A. There is no indication of whole accessory vessels in this context but it is notable that, like cremation [1/007], it contains a rim sherd of a south Gaulish Dragendorff 36 bowl, a form often recovered in association with cremations. The ivy leaf design along the rim may be identified with Bacchus, the god of feasting and wine, and was seen as symbolic of immortality in the Greco-Roman world. It therefore seems likely that this sherd was deliberately placed. The other pottery in the context consists of four small body sherds from one vessel in a coarse oxidised ware similar to those produced at Canterbury between the Flavian and mid Antonine periods. This suggests a broadly similar date for both cremations. A piece of modern tile in this context appears to be intrusive and related to the disturbance of the cremation.

Overall the date range for the groups is probably around AD 70-100/120; the samian vessels were certainly produced before the turn of the 2nd century but it is possible that they were curated for slightly longer as all the other pottery in the groups could have still been in production in the Trajanic period. Interestingly two unpublished cremations were excavated within 10 metres of these groups in the 1930s. The SMR

lists one as containing a coarse jar (presumably containing the cremation) alongside a poppy-head beaker: a form contemporary with the date range given above. The other cremation is listed as containing only coarse ware sherds.

Other possible Roman contexts are: [210], containing a rim-sherd from an unsourced necked greyware jar which cannot be closely dated and [14], featuring a possible Patch Grove ware bodysherd. A small grog-tempered sherd and a sherd of North Kent greyware from the topsoil/subsoil are contemporary with the rest of the group.

The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

Anglo-Saxon material is represented by a small assemblage of 12 reduced grass tempered sherds (19g) from [214]. Although the sherds are small they are not abraded and it is likely they all originate from the same vessel. An early (to mid) Saxon date is likely. The sherd of prehistoric pottery in this deposit is residual. Two unstratified shell-tempered bodysherd from Area C may be of 10th- to 11th- century date.

Pottery of the 13th to 14th centuries is more common in the assemblage. The vast majority of this is from sand-tempered cooking pots, probably from the Tyler Hill industry just to the north of Canterbury. The largest group, consisting primarily of unabraded sherds, was recovered from subsoil [2] (10 sherds weighing 52g). Other forms include a crude bunghole/socket from pit fill [7] and a glazed jug rim from posthole fill [5]: further unstratified Tyler Hill sherds were recovered from Areas B and C. Subsoil [2] also produced a bodysherd of 13th- century sand- and shell-tempered ware and further sherds of this ware, including a bowl fragment with stabbed rim and incised wavy line decoration, were recovered from unstratified deposits in Trench 1 and Area B.

The only 'Transitional' pottery recovered consists of part of a plain rim with horizontal handle in an unglazed oxidised fine sandy earthenware (Trench 1, U/S). It is probably of 15th- to 16th- century date.

The remainder of the pottery assemblage consists of 19th- to early/mid 20th- century industrialised wares from unstratified/topsoil contexts in Trench 1, Area B and Area C. These include unglazed earthenware, glazed red earthenware, pearlware, red and blue transfer-printed china, plain and moulded china, yellow ware and English stoneware and porcelain.

Although the pottery from the site covers a wide chronological range the assemblage consists of small, usually abraded bodysherds, which are never in large groups and usually in open contexts.

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The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

The small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered primarily from unstratified deposits in Trench 1, Area B and Area C. The earliest tile from these deposits consists of an unstratified medium-fired medium sand- tempered peg tile fragment of mid 13th- to 14th- century date. The remainder of the unstratified assemblage includes 19th- century hard-fired brick, peg tiles and land drain fragments in a number of fine sand-tempered fabrics and 20th- century machine-made peg tiles with a granular texture. The only exception to this consists of the nib from a fine sand-tempered valley tile of 18th- to 19th- century date (Area B).

The only stratified ceramic building material from the site is from pit fill [1/005], pit fill [7] and cremation deposit fill [20]. The former deposit produced only ceramic building material: that which is present is indicative of an 18th- to 19th- century date. The material includes a coarsely mixed medium fired brick fragment tempered with abundant fine sand and iron oxides to 4mm together with several fragments of medium fired roof tile with fine sand tempering. The five peg tile fragments from [7] are in a medium fired sparse fine sand tempered fabric which is not particularly diagnostic of date but looks later than the associated pottery. A 14th- to 15th- century date is possible, but they could easily be of the 16th to 17th centuries. The single fragment of peg tile from [20] is in a granular 20th- century fabric and is totally at odds with the Roman pottery from this deposit.

The Burnt Clay by Luke Barber

The small assemblage (17 pieces) is nearly entirely composed of amorphous lumps in fine sandy low/medium fired oxidised clay with varying amounts of iron oxides. A single piece from subsoil [2] has sparse calcined flint inclusions to 1mm and the water-rounded piece from pit fill [22] could be from a low-fired post-medieval brick. The only dated early pieces consist of a fragment from pit fill [7] and a tiny (<1g) lump from possible prehistoric deposit [106].

The Worked Flint by Chris Butler

A small assemblage of 30 pieces of worked flint weighing 420g was recovered during the fieldwork (Table 1). The raw material comprised a typical range of flint that is found on sites in this part of Kent, all of which can be derived from local sources. Most of the flintwork was a black or grey unpatinated flint, with some other pieces having an orange staining. A small number of pieces were Bullhead flint.

Hard hammer-struck flakes	14
Soft hammer-struck flakes	2
Soft hammer-struck blades	6
Flake/blade fragments	2
Chips	1
Cores	2
Core fragment	2
Core rejuvenation piece	1
Total	*30*

Table 1: Quantification of struck flint

The majority of the flintwork assemblage comprised hard hammer-struck flakes, but there was also a significant proportion of soft hammer-struck blades together with some soft hammer-struck flakes. One soft hammer-struck flake and five of the blades had evidence of platform preparation. The two cores comprised a single-platform flake core and a multiple platform flake core. There were also two core fragments and a single core-rejuvenation flake. There were no implements or retouched pieces in the assemblage.

The flintwork is predominantly Mesolithic in date, although there could be one or two later pieces amongst the undiagnostic flakes and fragments.

The Miscellaneous Material by Luke Barber

Two undecorated 19th- century stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes were recovered from the overburden of Trench 1, and three pieces of 19th- to 20th- century glass were recovered from unstratified deposits from the same trench (wine bottle) and Areas B (clear bottle) and C (moulded polychrome ?bowl).

A 19th- century iron boot heel reinforcer was recovered from Area B (U/S) and two tiny fragments of totally mineralised iron nail were recovered from [1/007]. It is not clear whether these were intentionally or accidentally incorporated into the pyre. Pit fill [7] contained the largest assemblage of metalwork – 28 amorphous fragments/nails most of which appear to have been burnt. A single piece of undiagnostic iron slag was recovered from Area B (U/S).

Very little geological material was recovered from the site. Probably the earliest consists of seven granules (8g) from a German lava quern from Roman context [210]. A piece of chalk was recovered from [7], a septarian nodule from ditch fill [11] and a piece of ferruginous carstone (Trench 1, U/S). Some 19th- century material is present including Welsh slate and a piece of coal shale (both from the Trench T1 overburden). The 19th- century material almost certainly is derived from the same 'night-soiling' activity as the pottery of this period.

Two pieces of shell were recovered from undated contexts, both of which are in good condition. The lower valve from an oyster was recovered from pit fill [212] and a fragmentary whelk came from [206].

The Cremated Bone by Lucy Sibun

Introduction

The evaluation and excavation (Area A) recovered the remains of two cremation burials; the first recovered during the evaluation (1/007); the second recovered during the excavation (19) had a possible urn associated with it. Cremated human bone was also recovered from another feature on site (22).

Burial (19) was removed from site and micro-excavated in spits according the guidelines set out by McKinley (1993; 2000, 2004), Burial (1/007) was partially excavated in the field before removal in a block for micro-excavation. The bone from (22) was recovered by hand during on site excavation.

Methodology

The bone was examined in accordance with standard procedures (McKinley 2004). The micro-excavation of the burials produced information with regards to the bone distribution within the vessel. However, this information is severely limited due to the truncation and disturbance suffered by both burials. The assemblage greater than 5mm in size was sieved and separated into 5-10mm, 10-20mm and >20mm. The total weight for each size group was established. Each assemblage was then subdivided where possible into skull (Sk), axial skeleton (Ax), lower limb (LL) and upper limb (UL) and the total weight of each group calculated. The percentage of identifiable fragments was estimated and any fragments identifiable to element were recorded.

The colour of the bone was assessed, as was any available demographic and osteological data. The presence of animal bone or other material was noted.

Results

In general the preservation of bone was poor to moderate, with highly fragmented assemblages and patches of unrecoverable disintegrating bone. The poor condition of the assemblage and an almost complete absence of trabelular bone probably reflect the acidic nature of the geology.

Burial [1/007]

This deposit was removed from site for micro-excavation. Preservation of cremated bone is moderate, but the plans produced during the micro-excavation show patches of disintegrating bone, from which larger fragments were recovered.

The micro-excavation was undertaken in three spits, totalling 220mm in depth. The bone itself, although recovered from all three spits was concentrated in two horizontal spreads, on the surface of the deposit in Spit 1 extending to a depth of 40mm, and approximately 20mm beneath it in Spit 2, in an irregular shaped area a maximum of 140mm by 200mm across and 60mm in depth. This concentrated spread was located adjacent to and partially beneath one of three accessory vessels. In addition, three isolated patches of disintegrating bone a maximum of 60mm in diameter were recovered from Spit 2.

The assemblage therefore appears to have been deposited in several small groups. The largest was from Spit 2 and was deposited before the vessels, the second recovered from the surface of Spit 1 was deposited on top of the vessels. The irregular shape of the bone deposits and the presence of outlying isolated patches suggest that the bone itself was deposited straight into the ground and had not been contained.

The table below summarises the results of the analysis.

Spit	Frag. Size (mm)	Total Weight (g)	Sk.	Ax.	UL	LL	Approx % identifiable fragments	Age	Other
1	0-5	32	Y		Y		5		
	5-10	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	5		
	10-15	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	75	A	
	15-20	12.5	Y	Y	Y	Y	95	A	
	20-30	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	99	A	
2	0-5	19.5	Y				0.5		
	5-10	34	Y		Y	Y	15		
	10-15	18.5	Y	Y	Y	Y	100	A	Inc. lower premolar
	15-20	52	Y		Y	Y	50	A	
	>20	23.5	Y	Y	Y	Y	100		
3	0-5	<1					0		
	5-10	0.5	Y		Y		50		
	10-15	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	50		
	15-20	<1	Y		Y	Y	100		
	>20	1	Y		Y	Y	100		
	Total	288.5							

Table 2: Analysis of cremated bone from [1/007]

The assemblage of cremated bone totalled 286.5g. No repeated elements were noted suggesting that the remains represent a single individual. All parts of the skeleton are recorded but the axial skeleton is the least well represented, probably resulting from the poor site preservation conditions. The remains appear to represent an adult but no sexually diamorphic features were noted, preventing an estimate of sex. Nothing indicative of skeletal pathology was noted.

Apart from the concentrated patches of bone, there do not appear to be any patterns evident with regards to the placing of skeletal elements within the deposit.

No animal bone fragments were noted in the assemblage but the deposit did contain possible pyre debris in the form of ceramic building material (<5mm) and charcoal (<4mm) in small quantities. A single unidentifiable fragment of bone had an amorphous iron lump adhering to its surface; this may relate to the two tiny fragments of mineralised iron nail also recovered in [1/007]. An efficient cremation process is suggested by the highly calcined nature of the assemblage with 97% of the assemblage a consistent off-white colour.

Burial [19]

This burial produced only 11g of bone but had suffered severe truncation, with only 160mm depth of deposit remaining. The bone itself was moderately preserved and highly fragmented. Few pottery sherds were present, thought possibly to represent a badly disturbed urn.

The deposit was removed for off-site micro-excavation. This was undertaken in two spits, totalling 160mm in depth. In the centre of the soil matrix was a circular area with darker grey colouring, thought to define the limits of the cremation burial itself. All bone was collected from within this area, which measured approximately 250mm by 200mm and 60m in depth.

The results of the cremated bone analysis are summarised in the table below:

Spit	Frag. Size (mm)	Total Weight (g)	Sk.	Ax.	UL	LL	Approx % identifiable fragments	Age	Animal Bone
1	5-10	1					0		
	10-15	3			Y	Y	75		Sheep tooth
	15-20	1	Y				100		
	>20	3		Y	Y	Y	100		
2	15-20	1				Y	100		
	>20	2				Y	100		
	Total	11							

Table 3: Analysis of cremated bone from [19]

The assemblage of cremated bone is extremely small, only 11g. Although this may suggest that this context is in fact redeposited pyre debris only cremated bone was recovered, with an absence of other common pyre debris. The small assemblage size probably reflects the severe truncation suffered by the burial.

No repeated elements were noted suggesting that the remains represent a single individual. Based upon size alone the remains appear to represent an adult but no sexually diamorphic features were noted, preventing an estimate of sex. Nothing indicative of skeletal pathology was noted.

The cremated bone was collected from both spits but no obvious concentrations or patterns were noted. A single fragment of cremated animal bone, a sheep molar, was recovered from spit 1. Although blue-grey colouration was noted on a few fragments, 85% of the assemblage was a highly calcined off-white colour.

Context [22]

This context was interpreted as a garden feature of post-medieval/modern date that had disturbed an earlier cremation feature. A total of 34g of cremated bone were recovered during hand excavation on site. The assemblage was highly fragmentary but this is not surprising given the disturbed nature of the context. The results of the analysis are outlined in the table below.

Frag. Size (mm)	Total Weight (g)	Sk.	Ax.	UL	LL	Approx % identifiable fragments	Age
5-10	17			Y		5	
10-15	7	Y	Y	Y		75	A
15-20	3			Y		100	
>20	7	Y			Y	100	
Total	34						

Table 4: Analysis of cremated bone from [22]

The size of the elements suggests that the bone is from an adult individual but no other demographic or pathological information was obtainable. All parts of the skeleton were represented in small quantities.

Approximately 80% of fragments were highly calcined, indicative of an efficient cremation with the remaining fragments blue-grey in colour. The assemblage also contained small quantities of ceramic building material and charcoal (<5mm). Whilst this might suggest pyre debris, the fact that the cremated material is probably all redeposited and mixed within this garden feature and the makes this interpretation unreliable.

The Animal Bone by Gemma Driver

A total of 16 fragments were recovered from four contexts. Pit fill [7] produced 3 fragments of bone of which two are identifiable as cattle teeth. The general preservation of the bone is poor and specific teeth cannot be identified. Pit fill [210] produced a small, unidentifiable fragment of calcined bone. Pit fill [212] contains two fragments of antler, both of which display signs of butchery, and two unidentifiable fragments. Posthole [214] contains 8 small fragments of unidentifiable bone. The surface of the bone is poorly preserved.

The Environmental Samples by Lucy Allott

Introduction

Three samples were taken to establish the presence of environmental remains such as wood charcoal and charred seeds. A large piece of charcoal was also collected from pit fill [7] and is discussed here. This report aims to assess the potential of these samples for providing further information regarding domestic and agricultural activities during land use and occupation.

Methodology

The samples were processed using tank flotation and the flots and residues were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively. Residues and flots were air-dried. Archaeological and environmental remains present in the residues were removed and quantified (Table 5). Environmental remains in the flots have been recorded (Table 5) and were possible identifications are given.

Results

Uncharred vegetation such as roots and seeds were not common in any of the samples although some of the wood charcoal fragments in Sample <2> appear to be only partially charred. Such preservation is unusual unless in waterlogged conditions and suggests that the charcoal fragments in this irregular shaped pit, [7], may result from modern burning. Small amounts of uncharred weed seeds and land snail shell fragments, likely to result from modern disturbance, were also present in these samples.

Sample <1> contained a poorly preserved *Triticum* sp. (wheat) caryopses and an indeterminate weed seed. Charcoal fragments in this sample were sparse and highly fragmented. Samples <2> and <3> contained moderate quantities of charcoal fragments. The majority of these were highly comminuted although this does not necessarily preclude identification. Sample <2> also contained charred and partially charred thorns.

Charcoal that was hand collected from [7] has been examined under a microscope at magnifications of x50-400. A large piece was identified to the Maloideaea taxa group that includes apple, pear, rowan and hawthorn. Based on their wood anatomy these species cannot be distinguished. A small piece of roundwood was identified as *Calluna vulgaris* (heather). Unlike the fragment collected in Sample <2> from this context these pieces appear to be fully charred.

The presence of partially charred wood in Sample <2>, Context [7] indicates that some (or all) of this charcoal may originate from a modern source. Although these fragments may be identifiable the value of undertaking such analysis is minimal. Wood charcoal fragments within Sample <3> have the potential to provide information regarding the woody taxa present in this pit/posthole feature however as this is a small isolated feature that is undated identifying the woody taxa present will not contribute greatly to our understanding of the use of the site or the vegetation environment in the vicinity.

Sample No.	**1**		**2**		**3**

Context No.	11, 14 boundary		7		106	
	flot	residue	flot	residue	flot	residue
Volume	25		130		445	
Total Weight	6		44		170	
Uncharred %	<5%		<5%		<5	
Sediment %	70%		<5%		<5	
weed seeds uncharred		1?			** *Chenopodium* sp.	
Charcoal >4mm	*	*/2g	***	***/9g	***	*/2g
Charcoal <4mm	***	*/1g	****	****/6g	****	**/2g
Charred crop seeds	* Triticum sp.					
Charred weed seeds	* indet frags		* indet			
Charred other			** thorns			
Land snails					*	
CBM						2/2g
Burnt Clay						**/<2g
Fe				*/14g		
FCF						1/2g

Table 5: Flot and residue quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weight (g).

DISCUSSION

The two excavation areas sited to the west of Mill Lane revealed a limited number of features with a broad date range, spread over a wide area, with no large or particularly interesting assemblages of artefacts. This mirrored the findings from the evaluation of that area (Gossop 2003), and suggests that the encountered features represent the surviving evidence of long-term agricultural activity.

Arguably the presence of early/mid-Saxon material is important given the relative rarity of pottery of this date, but clearly no firm conclusions can be drawn from the small number of features and limited size of assemblages encountered during the evaluation or excavation phase. It would appear that the local focus of Anglo-Saxon activity (and potentially for other periods) lies elsewhere, perhaps to the north. However, discoveries of Romano-British cremation deposits on the eastern side of the lane, in the former garden of Talmead House were of undoubted significance.

The characteristics of Romano-British internments are as yet not fully understood in rural areas, but Cleary (2000, 132) has noted that burial sites range from small formally laid-out cemeteries close to the course of Roman roads to apparently isolated burials in the corners of fields or enclosures. The cemetery at Talmead seems to fall into the former category, as although the exact alignment of the road between Canterbury to Reculver has not been traced in the vicinity, it must lie close to the site (Gossop *op. cit.*).

Evaluation work has shown clear evidence of Romano-British occupation in the general area (e.g. Jarmand & Shand 1999), and it is possible that the small cemetery at Talmead served a roadside settlement, or farmstead. The recent discovery of 1st century cremations in association with a roadside settlement at Hersden highlights that this was a recognisable practice in this part of Roman Kent (Barrett 2006), and it is possible that the Talmead cemetery occupied a ditched enclosure as at Hersden (*ibid.*)

Further afield in eastern Kent, smaller scale excavations have also uncovered groups of early Roman cremations at Hawkinge, but without evidence of domestic occupation in the examined area (Thorne 2007), as at Talmead. At Hawkinge the excavation area was arguably too small to have picked up such evidence (*ibid.*), but at the current site it is clear that there was no indication of a Romano-British settlement to the immediate east or west of the site of the cremations, and with the archaeologically evaluated line of the A299 to the immediate south, it appears likely that such a farmstead or settlement might lie to the north, in areas now occupied by houses, or even the cutting for the railway line.

Hence the character of the settlement that was served by the cemetery remains unclear, and the Talmead cremations do not offer any proof of the site of a villa, leaving the still unresolved problem of why there is such a paucity of villas in the area (Millett 2007). Further fieldwork will be needed to solve this conundrum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of Duncan Hawkins of CgMs and of Richard Cross, Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council and of Harold Gough, Herne Bay Historical Records Society is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the on-site contractors for their co-operation.

Appendix 1 : Finds by Context

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Fired clay	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Clay Pipe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
Evaluation																						
T1 u/s	7	88							1	28	2	44									1	26
1/005			6	100																		
1/007	42	390																				
Excavation Area A																						
2	6	36					3	100														
5	1	4																				
7	2	58	5	70	3	22			2	26	3	12	30	186	1	6						
11							10	86	1	10					13	64						
14	1	20																				
18							4	120	1	18												
19	9	42																				
20	5	20	1	38	7	<2	1	14														
22						32									1	72						
Excavation Area B																						
u/s	23	250	11	32			18	270					1	12					2	4		
106	1	<2																				
Excavation Area C																						
u/s	23	418	2	28																		
206					8	16											1	12				
210	1	6			1	<2																
212					4	70											3	34				
214	14	22																				

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SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	TLHB 07 EX & MLHB 07 EX					
Identification Name and Address	Talmead House, Mill Lane, Herne Bay, and land to the west of Mill Lane, Herne Bay					
County, District &/or Borough	Canterbury City, Kent					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	TR 1897 6721					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2949					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.✓	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Field Walking	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other *Also Former Garden*		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. *May2007* -	Excav.	WB.	Field-Walking		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer/Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo.	BA ✓	IA	RB ✓
	AS ✓	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2003 uncovered a scatter of archaeological features on the western side of Mill Lane. A further evaluation in 2007 identified a Roman cremation burial dating from the first century AD in the grounds of Talmead House on the opposite side of Mill Lane. Subsequently three separate areas were stripped in order to identify and record any further archaeological features prior to redevelopment. A limited number of features were encountered and excavated. There was evidence of two further Roman cremation burials.

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-36077

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Investigations at Talmead House
Short description of the project	Evaluation followed by area excavation, and watching brief. Only feature of particular note was a Romano-British cremation deposit.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2007 End: 13-07-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TLHB 07 EX & MLHB 07 EX - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2949 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	cremation Roman
Significant Finds	pottery Roman
Significant Finds	cremated bone Roman
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation','Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Status	Complete

Project location

Site location	KENT CANTERBURY HERNE BAY Talmead House, Mill Lane, Herne Bay
Postcode	CT6 7ED
Study area	8000 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TR 1897 6721 LL - 51.3610656753 1.14571445162 (decimal) LL - 51 21 39 N 001 08 44 E (degrees) Point
Height OD	Min: 36m Max: 38m
Status	Complete

Project creators

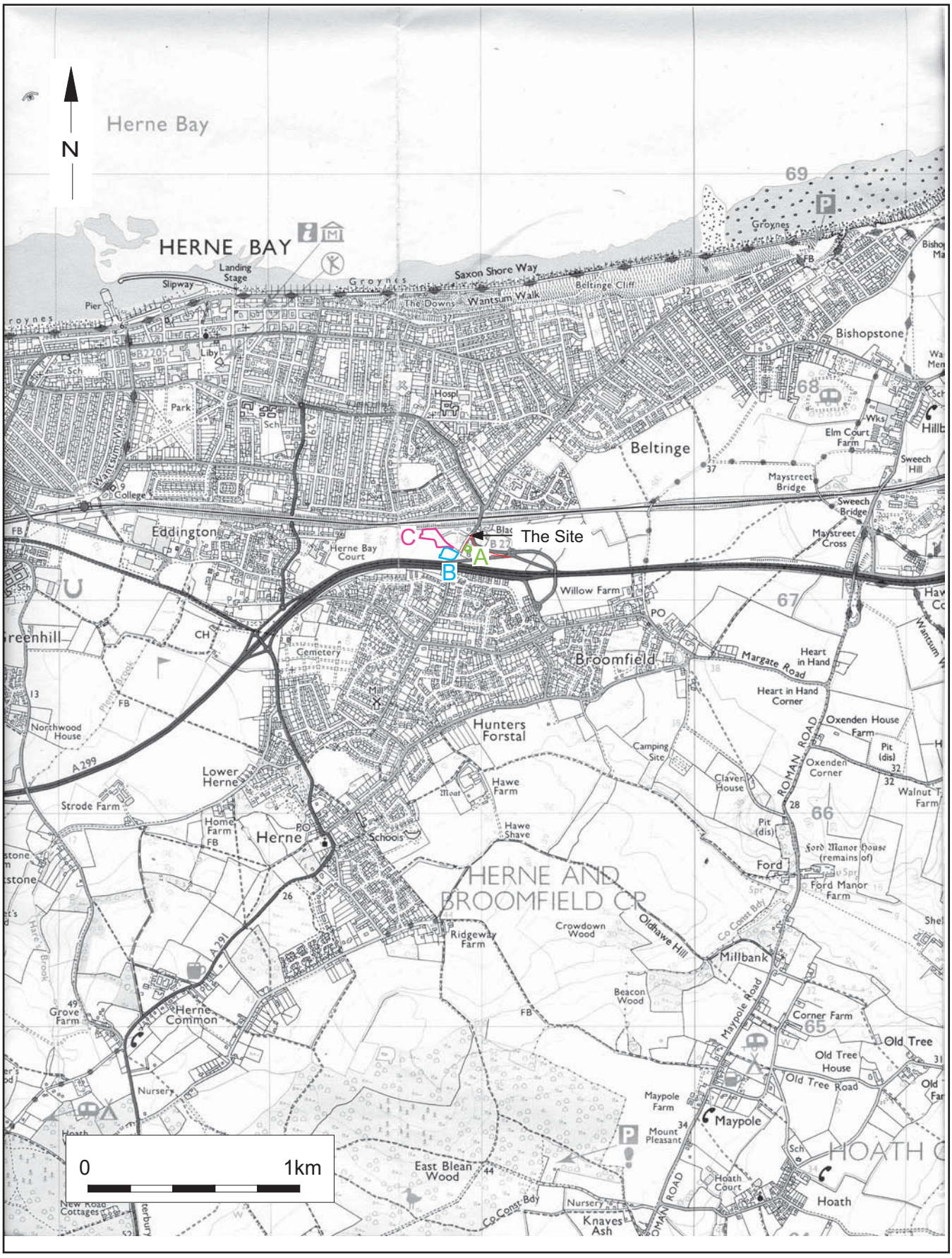
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Status	Complete

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human Bones','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Status	Complete

Project bibliography 1

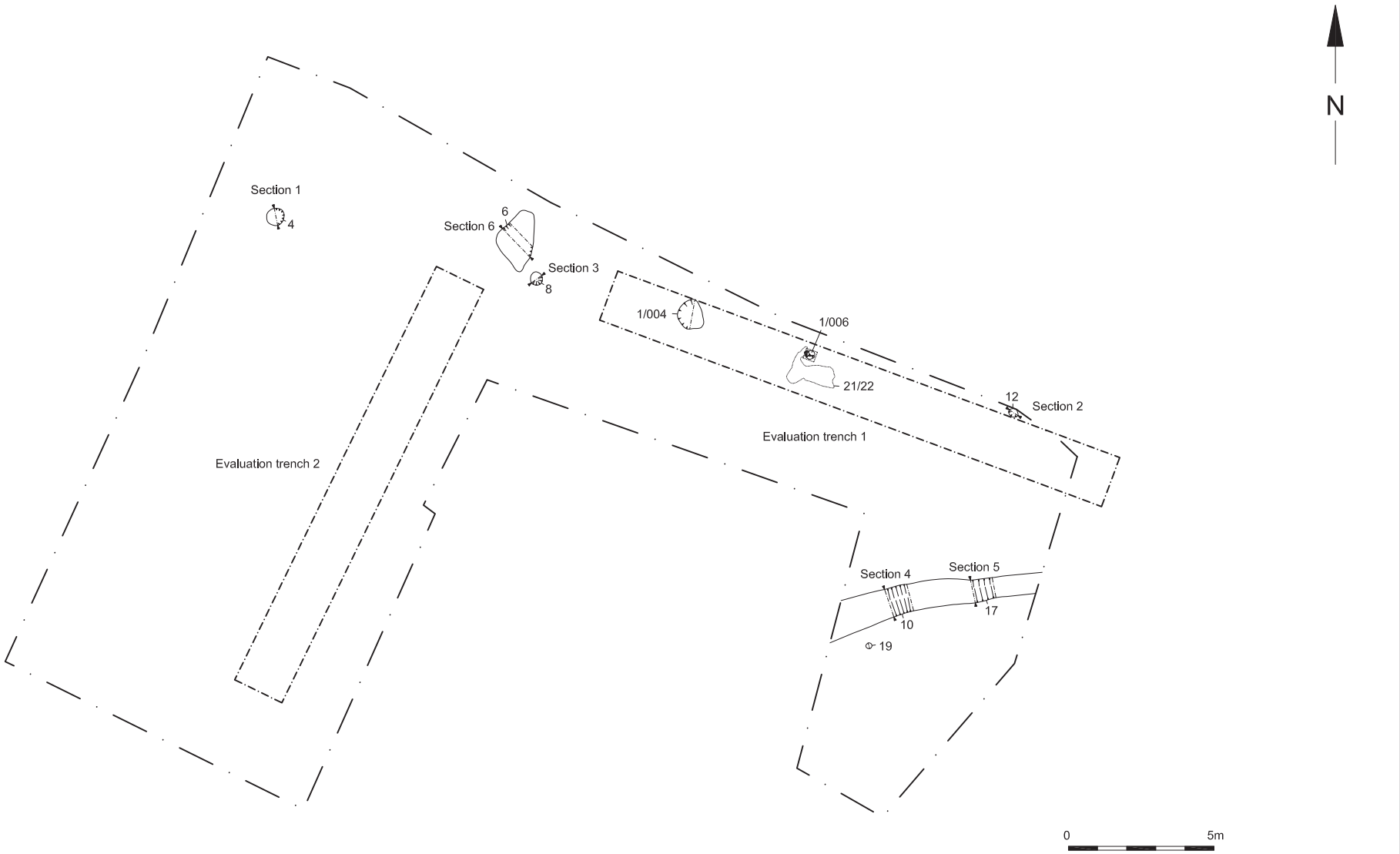
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1
Title	Archaeological Investigations at Talmead House, Mill Lane, Herne Bay
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 2949
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE A4 format.
Status	Complete



© **Archaeology South-East**		Talmead House, Eddington	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2949	April 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

618700
618800
618900
618900
167300
167200
N
Area C
Area B
FB
Blacksole Farm
Moyne
ROAD
MARGATE
38.2m
MILL LANE
37.8m
Drain
Drain
FB
Pond
Pond
Pond
Area A
Trench 1
Trench 2
Trench 4
Trench 6
Trench 3
Trench 7
Posts
Monitored area
BM 38.61m
0
20m

© Archaeology South-East		Talmead House, Eddington	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 2949	April 2008	Site plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 2949	April 2008	Plan of Area A	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

N

Area C

Section 14

213

211

Section 13

Section 11

207

209

Section 12

205

Section 10

Section 9

203

103

Section 7

Area B

Section 8

105

0 10m

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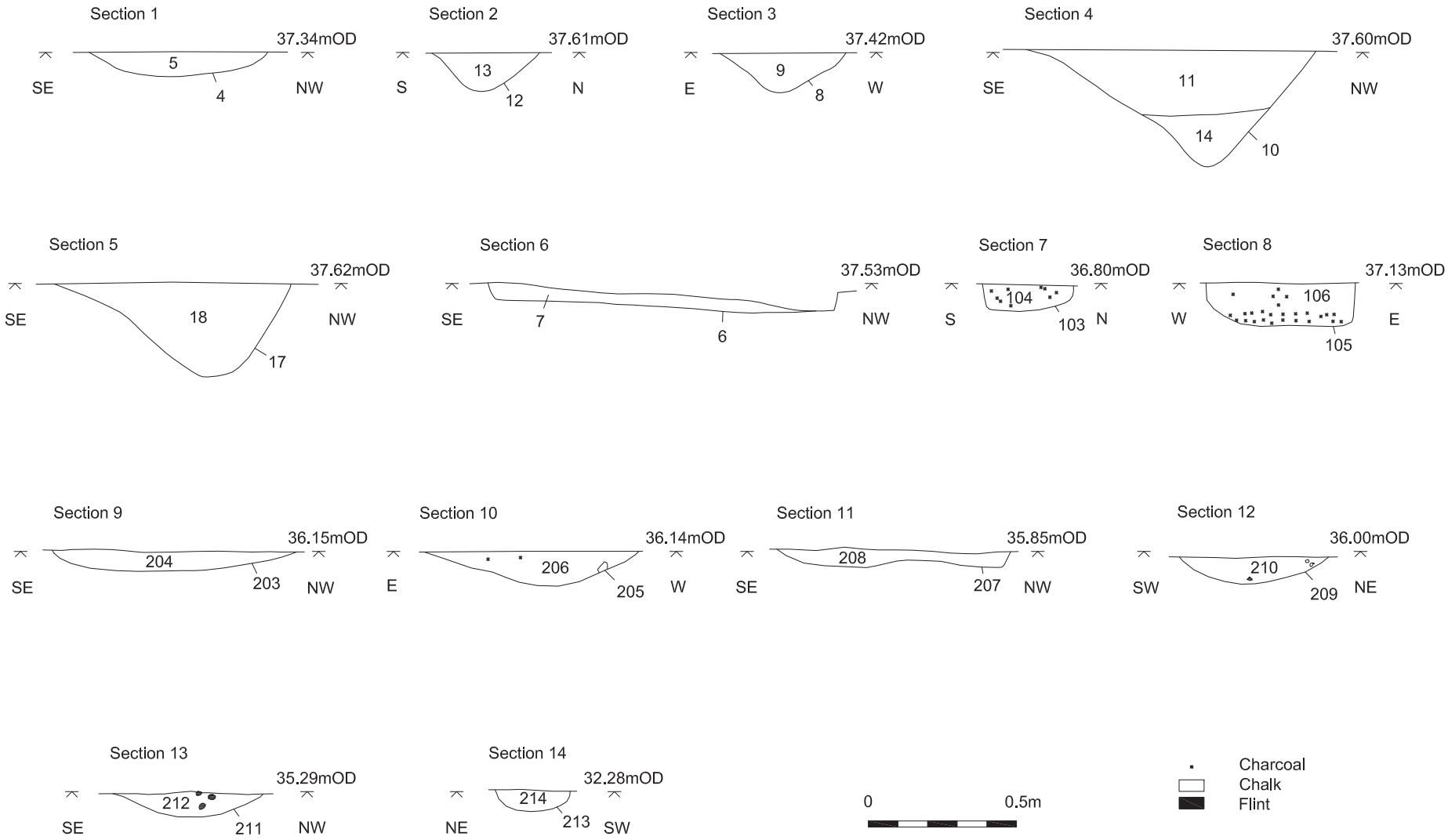
Project Ref: 2949	April 2008	Plan of Areas B and C	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 2949	Jan 2008	Sections	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: SM/JR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London