Archaeology South-East

ASE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN REPORT LAND OFF HERMITAGE LANE MAIDSTONE, KENT

NGR: TQ 731 556

ASE Project No: 7638
Site Code: MLH15
ASE Report No: 2016041
OASIS ID: archaeol6-245918

By Odile Rouard

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Abstract

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land off Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent between 22th June and 28th July 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by Bovis Homes in advance of housing development on the site.

The earliest activity is represented by two pits and a possible enclosure, which are uncertainly dated but attributable to the pre-Middle Bronze Age periods.

The most significant aspect of the archaeology is the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. This period is represented by evolving field systems, a possible droveway and another enclosure possibly suggesting settlement, although the poor preservation of the site (due to ploughing and the presence of a modern orchard) does not allow us to draw any further conclusions.

Even though occupation for this period was relatively short-lived (the pottery was dated from the mid-1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD), evidence of briquetage was found, suggesting salt processing was taking place on this site, as well as the growing of crops and possibly animal husbandry. Several pits of this period also yielded a fair amount of charcoal as well as cremated human and animal bone. The Iron Age cremation cemetery of Aylesford being nearby, it is a possibility that there is a link between the two sites.

A post-medieval field boundary ditch was identified in the north-western part of the site. Recent activity such as ploughing and the plantation of an orchard affected the preservation of the site and damage was especially visible in the northern part of the site where modern tree throws seem to have destroyed any chance of recovering earlier features. The site was also used as arable land until 2012, adding to the truncation.

Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. This has highlighted what further analysis work is required in order to enable suitable dissemination of the findings which it is suggested should take the form of a short article in Archaeologia Cantiana.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Bovis Homes, to carry out archaeological evaluation and excavation at Barming Heath off Hermitage Lane near Maidstone, Kent prior to the development of the site (NGR TQ 731 556; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site comprises an irregularly-shaped plot of land to the west of Hermitage Lane. It is bounded to the north by Aylesford reservoir, to the west by Fullingpits Wood, and to the south by residential and commercial buildings.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological survey (2015) shows the site to be located on bedrock of Hythe Formation – sandstone and limestone. The western part of the site is located on bedrock of the Sandgate Formation – sandstone, siltstone and mudstone.

1.3 Scope of the Project

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of residential dwellings with associated access, car-parking and services was granted consent by Kent County Council (ref: MA/13/1702). A condition of the planning required that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken prior to the commencement of any construction work.

1.3.2 In accordance with this Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bovis Homes to undertake archaeological evaluation (ASE 2015b) which led to the requirement by the Heritage Conservation Group of KCC (HCGKCC) for limited excavations in the south of the site (ASE 2015a and shown on Figure 2).

1.3.3 All fieldwork was undertaken between June and August 2015. The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason, the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift and was supervised by Odile Rouard with auxiliary supervision from John Hirst.

1.4 Dates of Work

1.4.1 DBA (CgMs 2013)

Eval (ASE 2015b)

ASE Excavation June – July 2015

1.5 Archaeological methodology

1.5.1 The circumstances, methodology, results and interpretation of the archaeological evaluation are discussed fully in the evaluation report (ASE 2015b) and are only referred to in this report where relevant. The archaeological excavation that followed was a 0.95ha area centred on the Iron Age and early Roman features revealed in the evaluation (Figure 2).

1.5.2 The area was excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator to the top of the underlying natural sediments, or until archaeological deposits were encountered. The excavator was fitted with a smooth grading bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned as necessary and a pre-excavation plan prepared using Global Positioning System (GPS) planning technology in combination with Total Station surveying.

1.5.3 This plan was made available in Autocad and PDF format and printed at a suitable scale (1:20 or 1:50) for on-site use. The plan was updated by regular visits to site by Archaeology South-East Surveyors who plotted excavated features and recorded levels.

1.5.4 All excavation work was carried out in line with Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work in Kent (KCC 2003) and in line with the interim document (ASE 2015a).

1.5.5 After the cleaning and planning of the excavation areas the following sampling strategy was employed:

- ditches and gullies had all relationships defined, investigated and recorded. All terminals were excavated. Sufficient of the feature lengths were excavated to determine the character of the feature over its entire course; the possibility of recuts of parts, and not the whole, of the feature were considered

- post holes, stake holes and small pits were fully excavated ensuring that all relationships were investigated

1.5.6 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.

1.5.7 A full digital photographic record of all features was maintained. This illustrates the principal features and finds both in detail and in a general context. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.

1.5.8 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy.

1.5.9 Samples were collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silted features, and sealed features containing evident carbonised remains.

1.5.10 The sampling aimed to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site. This was best achieved by sampling a range of feature types (pits, ditches, post-holes) from across the site, the fills of which can be compared and contrasted. Where clearly defined fills were evident within features or in large features with superficially homogenous fills, stratified data was obtained by taking multiple samples spread through the deposits.

1.5.11 A standard bulk sample size of 40 litres (or 100% of small features) was taken from dated/datable sealed contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

1.6.1 This post-excavation assessment (PXA) and updated project design (UPD) has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008).

1.6.2 The report seeks to summarise and quantify the excavation findings and to place the results within the local archaeological and historical setting; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims; list any new research criteria; to lay out what further analysis work is required to enable their final dissemination, and what form the latter should take.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *Prehistoric*

2.1.1 Two late Mesolithic or early Neolithic struck flints and five undated flints are recorded immediately adjacent to the site from an archaeological evaluation in 2011 on the site of the Aylesford Reservoir, Hermitage Lane (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW375, TQ 7309 5579).

2.1.2 An archaeological evaluation in 1998 on the east side of Hermitage Lane, Barming revealed two pieces of late Neolithic pottery on a site of subsequent Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW140; TQ 7327 5617).

2.1.3 Two Bronze Age beakers, probably representing cremation burials are recorded from north west of the site at Hermitage Farm, Barming Heath (HER Ref: TQ 74 NW14; TQ 7318 5612). Few details are recorded about these finds but it seems likely that cremation burials were represented.

2.1.4 A late Bronze Age and early Iron Age occupation site possibly a small farmstead was recorded during 1998 on the east side of Hermitage Lane at what is now the extreme northern end of Maidstone Hospital (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW 141; TQ 7328 5610). The settlement remains comprised post holes, pits, ditches and gullies. Approximately 175 sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery were recovered.

2.1.5 Further evidence of Bronze Age activity was recorded on the extreme east of the Maidstone Hospital site during an archaeological evaluation in advance of the Phase III car park in 2003-2005 (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW168; TQ 73531 55947). Two Bronze Age pot sherds were recovered together with an undated posthole.

2.1.6 A very late Iron Age or very early Roman cremation burial (Aylesford/Swarling type) with associated finds is recorded at 'the Old Hermitage' directly north of the study site (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW13; TQ 7318 5617).

2.1.7 The late Bronze Age and early Iron Age occupation recorded at the northern end of the Maidstone Hospital site continued into the middle and late Iron Age, and into the succeeding early Romano British period (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW141; TQ 7328 5610/HER Ref: TQ 75 NW142; TQ 7328 5610). Similarly the Bronze Age activity recorded on the extreme east of the Hospital site was succeeded by periods of early, middle and late Iron Age occupation with settlement extending into the early Roman period (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW 167; TQ 73266 56027).

2.1.8 Two mid to late Iron Age pits are recorded immediately adjacent to the study site during an archaeological evaluation in 2011 on the Aylesford Reservoir site (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW 374; TQ 7309 5579).

2.1.9 The evaluation produced several pieces of flint dated between the Mesolithic and the Early Neolithic. However, most of them were unstratified

or have been found to be residual after features were more accurately dated.

2.1.10 Trench 72 of the trial trench evaluation (the southernmost trench within the excavation area; Figure 2) produced sherds belonging to a bead rim jar in an Iron Age sandy ware (dated to the Middle / Late Iron Age). They were found in a ditch in the south-western area of the site. Another ditch, running parallel to the first one, also contained Iron Age pottery.

2.1.11 A pit, also dug during the evaluation, produced grog-tempered pottery that shows some evidence of wheel-thrown manufacture. This has been dated to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period.

2.2 *Roman*

2.2.1 The late Iron Age settlements at the extreme north and east of the Maidstone Hospital site were succeeded by Roman settlements which appear to have lasted until c.150 AD when they were abandoned (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW167; TQ 73266 56027; HER Ref: TQ 75 NW 142; TQ 7328 5610).

2.2.2 A small Romano British cemetery, perhaps clustered nearby an earlier Iron Age cemetery is recorded north of 'The Old Hermitage' in the area of the now demolished late Medieval St Lawrence's Chapel (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW15; TQ 7346 5600). Although found in 1862, one of the finds is still retained in Maidstone Museum and this and the description of the other finds suggests a date of c.AD43-AD100.

2.2.3 A Roman cremation burial of c.AD150-250 was recorded during an archaeological evaluation on the site of the new Renal Unit at Maidstone Hospital. Two Roman boundary ditches were also recorded (TQ 75 NW350; TQ 7346 5596).

2.2.4 A possible Roman cremation burial is recorded at Hermitage Farm in 1944 (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW11; TQ 7294 5622).

2.3 *Anglo-Saxon and Medieval*

2.3.1 No proximate sites or finds of Anglo Saxon or early medieval date are recorded.

2.4 *Late Medieval and Post-Medieval*

2.4.1 During the late medieval period, the study site lay in an area of relatively remote agricultural land. North of the site lay in chapel dedicated to St Lawrence which is believed to have had a cell for a hermit (a hermitage). There are records of priests being presented to the chapel from 1330 to 1462 but none thereafter. The chapel appears to have been suppressed in 1545-47 (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW12; TQ 7312 5613).

2.4.2 To the west of the study site is 'Fullingspits Woods' and it has been suggested that this area was mined for 'Fullers Earth'. However, geologically this seems unlikely as 'Fullers Earth' is usually obtained from

Greensand deposits and there is no documentation for the quarrying of 'Fullers Earth' here in Edward Hasted's survey or the Victoria County History. Possibly there was quarrying here targeted at the outcrop of terrace gravels recorded in the British Geological Survey (HER Ref: TQ 75 NW391; TQ 7289 5572).

2.4.3 From the 18th Century onwards, the Tithe maps show the site as being part of Barming Common, then as an orchard with parts of it wooded and others being arable land. By 2012, the whole site was used for agricultural purposes.

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 A research framework for the South-East of England was proposed in 2007 South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF). This consists of a series of research questions to be considered by archaeological excavations in South-East England and therefore is an appropriate starting place for developing the research aims and objectives for this project.

3.2 Taking the SERF research framework as a starting point, a series of site specific research aims have been developed for the project:

OR1: Is there further evidence for the evolution of settlement in the Bronze Age and Iron Age period in the Maidstone area?

OR2: What evidence is there for a transition between the Iron Age and the Roman period and the study of its agricultural economy?

OR3: Could we further the study of Iron Age / Roman agricultural economy in the area?

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 In order to aid interpretation of the stratigraphic data, individual contexts (cuts, fills and deposits) have been assigned to subgroups; at this stage only linear features have been assigned group numbers. These stratigraphic units are referred to using following conventions: individual contexts are expressed as [***], subgroups as SG** and groups as GP**. Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <**>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>. References to sections within this report are referred to thus (3.7).

4.1.2 Based on initial interpretations of stratigraphic and spatial relationships and spot-dating of finds assemblages, a provisional structure of dated periods and undated stratigraphic phases has been devised.

- Period 1 Pre-Middle Bronze Age *c. before 1500* BC

- Period 2 Middle Iron Age *c*.BC400 to Late Iron Age/early Roman *c.*AD10-80/100
  - *Phase 2a*
  - *Phase 2b*
  - *Phase 2c*

- Period 3 Post-medieval c.AD 1700-1950

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 There is evidence for prehistoric residual finds of pre-Middle Bronze Age to Late Bronze Age date. The earliest activity is represented by one possible enclosure and two pits which are uncertainly dated but possibly attributable to the pre-Middle Bronze Age period. Finds of this period being scarce, this interpretation is mostly based on stratigraphic relationships with other features.

4.2.2 During the Mid/Late Iron Age to Early Roman period there is some interesting evidence for the occupation of the site, including farming and possible animal husbandry, as well as settlement. The most significant aspect of the archaeology is the activity represented by field systems as well as a second enclosure dated to the 1st century AD. This enclosure yielded a fairly large assemblage of pottery, and also contained the fragmented base of a briquetage pedestal, suggesting the proximity of a settlement as well as possible on-site salt-processing. Occupation possibly occurred to the north of the excavation, although damage caused by modern tree throws and ploughing makes it difficult to verify this hypothesis. The occupation of the site was relatively short lived: it occurred mostly between the 1st century BC and 1st century AD.

4.2.3 From the 2nd century onwards, there is no evidence for this site being occupied.

4.2.4 Only one post-medieval feature was investigated: a boundary ditch located in the north-western part of site. Several modern tree-throws, probably reminiscent of the earlier orchard, as documented on 19th Century maps, were also identified.

Type	Description	Quantity
Context sheets	Individual context sheets Exc. Eval.	206 250
Section sheets	Permatrace sheets 1:10 Exc. Eval.	3 2
Photos	Digital images Exc. Eval.	156 267
Environmental sample sheets	Individual sample sheets Exc. Eval.	18 1
Context register	Context register sheets Exc. Eval.	6 4
Environmental sample register	Environmental sample register Exc. Eval.	2 1
Photographic register	Photograph register sheets Exc. Eval.	4 6
Drawing register	Section register sheets Exc. Eval.	2 1

Table 1: Site archive quantification table

4.3 Natural Deposits

4.3.1 Excavations in all parts of the site revealed a typical stratigraphic sequence of 0.40m - 0.60m of top and subsoil overlying a bedrock of Hythe Formation (Sandstone and Limestone). This is a highly variable deposit ranging from an orangey-grey to a mid-red colour, and consists of areas of almost pure clay, to areas of sandy-clay.

4.3.2 The northern end of the site displayed obvious signs of truncation and there was very little or no subsoil in this area (see below 4.4.1).

4.3.3 No archaeological features were visible in the top or subsoils.

4.4 Truncation

4.4.1 Although there was little visible disturbance in the southern part of the site, the decrease in thickness of the topsoil and subsoil in the northern part of the site suggest that there has been a significant degree of horizontal truncation (probably as a result of 19th and 20th century ploughing), as well as damage caused by the planting of a modern orchard. Most of the features excavated on this site were fairly shallow (and especially the ditches which had a depth varying between 0.10 and 0.30m), which is probably the result of truncation caused by ploughing. Part of the site remained wooded for a considerable number of years too.

4.5 Residual Earlier Prehistoric Material

4.5.1 *Pre-Middle Bronze Age*

4.5.1.1 Several residual flint flakes, one side-scraper and a bladelet have been found in features dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Because these flints were found alongside consistent pottery assemblages and in already confidently dated features, they are interpreted as residual.

4.6 Period 1: Pre-Middle Bronze Age – Before BC1500

(Figure 4)

4.6.1 Enclosure 1 (ENC1) appears to be one of the earliest features on site. It was stratigraphically earlier than ditches (GP8) and (GP3), which are both dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period and form the later field system. It produced a single find: a pre-Middle Bronze Age composite flint.

4.6.2 Enclosure 1 (ENC1) is about 50 metres long in total and contained a single fill throughout. It is running from the southern end of the excavation in a south-north direction before turning west and terminating. Since this ditch only yielded one find, a composite flint tool made from a flake, it seems to suggest that it was part of a field system rather than associated with a nearby settlement. No structures or features related to this period were visible within it. The limit of excavation lies approximately 15m west of this enclosure ditch.

4.6.3 Two pits containing prehistoric pottery and flint flakes, [1092] and [1187] were identified in Open Area 1 (OA1) in the north-eastern part of the site and could be related to Early Prehistoric activity, although their function could not be determined. Another pit, [1030], located within Enclosure 1 (ENC1) also contained a flint flake in its upper fill while its primary fill contained a fair quantity of charcoal but no identifiable seeds. A further two pieces of residual flint were found in Roman ditch (GP3; FS1 see below).

Discussion

4.6.4 There is evidence for Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age activity around the site: two Bronze Age beakers and a possible Bronze Age cremation were found on sites at Hermitage Farm and the Old Hermitage, less than one kilometre away. Some Late Bronze Age occupation was also located at Maidstone Hospital (just across the road from this site), consisting of a posthole and a small pottery assemblage (Figure 1).

4.6.5 Although no traces of a Bronze Age settlement have been identified, the presence of a possible enclosure (ENC1), a few scattered pits of unknown functions and several residual flint flakes found in later features suggest that Bronze Age activity was also occurring on the site.

4.7 Period 2: Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age/Early Roman – *c.*BC400 to AD100

4.7.1 *Period 2, Phase 1*

(Figure 5)

4.7.1.1 The Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age/Early Roman period is represented by the creation of a field system (FS1), consisting of 2 ditches, (GP3) and (GP5). Ditch (GP5) was 30 metres long and yielded no datable material during the excavation but did produce a partially complete necked jar dated from the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age. Its south-north alignment suggests it may be associated with east-west field boundary ditch (GP3), which is stratigraphically later than (ENC1) but earlier than ditches (GP7), (GP8) and (GP9). This ditch (GP3) produced one small assemblage of 1st century AD pottery and two pieces of flint, most likely residual.

Discussion

4.7.1.2 Ditch (GP5) yielded a partially complete necked jar of possible Middle to Late Iron Age date. It is difficult to differentiate the pottery found in ditch (GP3) from the pottery belonging to phases 2.2 and 2.3 but this ditch is stratigraphically earlier than (GP8) and (GP9), although the relationship with (GP7) was tenuous. This stratigraphic evidence put together with the pottery recovered from both ditches would suggest a Late Iron Age date.

4.7.1.3 This first evidence for a field system of Iron Age/Early Roman date belongs to this phase and seems to show how the site was gradually occupied from the Middle Iron Age, with the land being divided for agricultural purposes and the occupation intensifying as we progress towards the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

4.7.2 *Period 2, Phase 2*

(Figure 6)

4.7.2.1 A new field system (FS2) seems to come into use, represented by one northwest-southeast oriented ditch, (GP4), and two north-south ditches, (GP7) and (GP8). These last two ditches run parallel to each other and are about 5 metres apart, probably forming a droveway. Towards the northern end of this the two ditches are broader and shallower (for c 6 metres), indicating possible entrance ways into the fields on either side. Ditch (GP7) peters out after about 40 metres and is not visible in the southernmost part of the site.

4.7.2.2 In the south-western area of the site, a group of postholes (GP1) and a pit (GP2) have been identified as a possible structure (ST1). The structure would have been rectangular in shape and about 5 x 2.5 metres. The pit (GP2), immediately south-east of this structure produced a fair amount of pottery dated to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period; It also contained a significant burnt layer containing charcoal (and evidence of *in-situ* burning), animal bone and fired clay, as well as a copper strap union

(see Registered Find section 5.7) in its primary fill. The copper strap union is part of a horse harness and may have been deliberately deposited at the bottom of the pit. It is not certain whether the pit is directly associated with some kind of activity taking place within the structure. The structure may have been some kind of animal pen.

4.7.2.3 In the north-eastern area of the site, enclosure (ENC2), consisting of one curving ditch (GP11) approximately 50 metres long came into use. It is oriented north-south and turns west before terminating. A fairly significant pottery assemblage was recovered from the ditch which is mostly dated to the 1st Century AD. It is possible the enclosure lies close to a settlement since there was more pottery in it than in any other feature on the site and it also contained a fragmented briquetage pedestal base. Salt-processing is quite uncommon, though not unheard of, on inland located sites.

4.7.2.4 No features or structures were identified within the enclosure which might be due to the whole northern part of the site having been badly damaged by ploughing and the location of an orchard; tree throws containing modern finds were present and would have destroyed any evidence of archaeology where present.

4.7.2.5 (ENC2) is one of the most significant features on site, with a depth varying between 0.32 and 0.67m. Considering the degree of truncation in this part of the site, the ditch must originally have formed a fairly substantial barrier. The lack of features within the enclosure might also be explained by the typically ephemeral character of IA structures, such as roundhouses or other dwellings that do not have deep foundations. It has been proven that ploughing, especially, causes horizontal truncation and can obliterate shallower features such as postholes and stakeholes very easily. The other ditches excavated on site were fairly shallow (between 0.10 and 0.30m deep), as a result of probable horizontal truncation.

4.7.2.6 Several pit clusters to the south of the enclosure, (GP19), (GP14), (GP13) and (GP16) offer very little dating evidence and are only tentatively included to this phase. Their function remains unclear: they could be refuse pits associated with the field system (FS2) or the enclosure (ENC2) as most pits are situated outside the enclosure.

4.7.2.7 A few pits [1023], [1040], [1048], [1068], [1084] and [1154] contained evidence of burning, possibly *in situ*. Pit [1154] contained a significant amount of charcoal and human cremated bone belonging to the skull and lower limbs of an unsexed adult. An excavation that took place in 2011 at the Aylesford Reservoir (Figure 1) also revealed two pits dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age with evidence of burning, although their function was not identified. The presence of cremated human bone in one pit for certain and possibly in another two is also quite interesting. The nearby presence of a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery at Aylesford (c 4km to the north) and the presence of cremation burials at the Old Hermitage suggest that there might be a link between the pits and these two sites, although this remains a hypothesis.

Discussion

4.7.2.8 There is a lot of evidence for Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity around the site: 18 features (consisting of pits, postholes and one gully) were found under the site of the hospital; several Iron Age and Early Roman cremations have been identified at the site of the Old Hermitage and at Maidstone Hospital; some occupation was recorded at the site of the Old Hermitage where around 200 sherds of pottery were found in various ditches, pits and postholes. The Enclosure (ENC2) excavated in the present project seems to show that a settlement was located close-by although it is possible it was damaged or even destroyed by later ploughing and the planting of a post-medieval orchard on the site.

4.7.2.9 The evidence from the site is fragmented and does not reflect deliberate deposits but rather the disposal of waste. However, the quantity of pottery found belonging to this period suggests a settlement existed nearby. On the other side of Hermitage Lane, immediately north of the hospital, a small farmstead which was discovered in 1998 shows evidence of activity dating between the Late Bronze Age and carrying on into the Roman period. The present site represents a much more short-lived occupation: most finds for this period are dated from the 1st Century BC to the 1st Century AD. There is one possible exception: ditch (GP5) contains slightly earlier material, a partially complete necked jar, which could possibly belong to the Middle Iron Age (*c*. 300BC) to Late Iron Age period.

4.7.2.10 It is worth noting that the local economy in this period seems to have been based on agriculture as shown by the creation of a field system, and also on pasture land for animal husbandry. The creation of the possible droveway could indicate the need to manage and move cattle or other domestic animals. Among the crops identified, emmer and spelt were found and were usually grown as a mixed crop during this period (Williams 2007). Grass caryopses, suggesting pasture land, were the most common however and wild seeds were also present.

4.7.2.11 The most widely occurring wood taxon was oak, identified from charcoal-rich pit fills. Oak was the preferred fuel in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period for iron working and slag was identified in several features, albeit in small quantities suggesting nothing more than small scale iron working, probably on a domestic level. Oak was also the preferred fuel for cremation pyres (Champion 2011) and was found in the charcoal rich layer of the pit that also contained human bone (pit [1154]). Other pits (pits [1020], [1023] and [1040]) contained cremated bone although the fragments were so small it was not possible to determine whether it was human or animal. It could therefore be possible that these pits were used as part of the funerary process for the deposition of cremated remains.

4.7.2.12 It is difficult to interpret the different pit clusters that were found at Hermitage Lane, firstly because most of them contained no datable material and secondly because even the pits that contained datable material have no obvious function. Several pits, [1020], [1023], [1040] and [1154] contained a mixture of charcoal, fired clay and cremated human and animal bone. No in-depth study for this type of pits has been conducted (Moody 2008) and more research is needed to understand their purpose.

4.7.2.13 Another activity represented at the Hermitage Lane site is salt-processing: One fragmented briquetage pedestal was unearthed in Enclosure 2 (ENC2), suggesting Hermitage Lane was involved in the last stages of salt production. Considering this site is situated quite far inland (about 19 kilometres from the coast and 85 metres above sea level), the discovery of briquetage is of particular interest. Another site in Kent that produced briquetage evidence even though it is not on the coast is Cobham, which is four kilometres from the coastline and 50 metres above sea level (Champion 2011). On the continent, other examples include Vignacourt in the north of France and Actiparc near Arras in Belgium which were located more than 50 kilometres inland (although variations in the coastline might have had a role to play in the location of the latter examples) (Allen *et al*. 2012).

4.7.3 *Period 2, Phase 3*

(Figure 7)

4.7.3.1 A roughly oriented north-south ditch (GP9) perhaps representing a new field system (FS3) marks phase 3. It is slightly curved and is stratigraphically later than (FS1) and (FS2). Very few finds were recovered. There is no further evidence for occupation of the site after the 1st Century AD and until the post-medieval period.

Discussion

4.7.3.2 Although this phase is very difficult to separate from the previous one, the stratigraphic relationship between ditch (GP9) and the ditches from (FS1) and (FS2) was quite obvious. This new field system (FS3) may be linked to the abandonment of the settlement and to the area going back to being used solely as arable land or pasture.

4.8 Period 3: Post-Medieval

(Figure 8)

4.8.1 A post-medieval field boundary ditch (GP10) was located in the north-western part of the site. It ran along the same alignment as an earlier ditch, (GP4) dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period for c 20m before turning north and terminating. A copper bullet, some iron slag, a post-medieval CBM fragment as well as post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered.

Discussion

4.8.2 The post-medieval period is represented by a ditch (GP10), probably used as a boundary possibly relating to an orchard that occupied the site from the 19th Century onwards.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 **Geoarchaeology** by Ed Blinkhorn

5.1.1 Fifteen geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated in each end of evaluation trenches 7, 8, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 26. A single test-pit was excavated at the western end of Trench 16, the eastern end being too close to an adjacent trench to access safely. The typical sequence of deposits encountered across the test-pits was:

Depth BGL (m)	Lithology	Interpretation
0.00 – 0.35	Friable brownish-grey silt; c. 10% <50mm angular to rounded flints and sandstone inclusions; CBM, vegetable matter etc.	Ploughsoil
0.35 – 0.60	Light yellowish-brown medium-fine sand; 5-15% <50mm subangular to subrounded flint and sandstone lenses; roots.	River Terrace Gravels
0.60 – 1.20+	Mottled greenish-grey / yellowish brown / brownish red silty clay with very infrequent sandstone clasts. Some rooting. Increasing clay at depth.	Sandgate Formation

Table 2: geoarchaeological sequence

5.1.2 Some slight variation in the extent and survival of the river terrace gravels was noticeable; units to the south west alongside the site boundary to the northwest tended to be marginally deeper. The contribution of the river terrace unit is clearly identifiable in the ploughsoil, where it has been disturbed. Informal fieldwalking was incorporated into the field methods to recover any Palaeolithic artefacts though none were identified. 100 litre samples of river terrace gravel units from each test pit was sieved for lithics and faunal remains though none were identified.

5.1.3 The site sits at between 91 and 80m OD. Correlation with other work (viz. Bridgland 2003; Wenban-Smith et al 2007) indicated that the river terrace gravels identified are part of the Wenban-Smith et al (2007) Terrace I / British Geological Survey Terrace 5, the oldest of the Medway terraces. Wenban-Smith et al identified the presence of artefacts in this river terrace gravel unit in the vicinity of site to be a key research question and area (2007, 30), presumably on the questionable provenance of at least two handaxes found by Harrison (1888) in the area. Unfortunately, work at the Hermitage Lane site could not develop this understanding.

5.2 **Worked Flint** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation and subsequent excavation produced just 15 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck weighing 167g (Table 3). The artefacts were retrieved through hand-collection and from two sample residues. The material was thinly distributed with no context producing more than one piece. No chronologically diagnostic implement were present, but based on technological and morphological grounds some pieces suggest activity focussing on the early prehistoric period (Mesolithic or Early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age). The material is likely to be residual, contained within the fills of later archaeological features, or within soil horizons.

Category	Flake	Bladelet	Core	Retouched forms	Total
No	7	3	1	4	15

Table 3: the flintwork

5.2.2 Methodology

The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge damage) were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

5.2.3 Raw material and condition

The raw material selected for the manufacture of the struck flints is mostly light to dark grey or mid brown. The outer surface is principally stained and abraded. The material would have been available from superficial deposits. Bullhead flint was also used, although it was represented by a single piece – a core from context [11/002]. Bullhead flint, characterised by a dark olive green surface with an underlying orange band can be procured from the base of the Thanet formation. The pieces exhibit light to heavy post depositional edge damage, suggesting that the artefacts have undergone varying degrees of post depositional disturbance. Seven artefacts are recorded as broken.

5.2.4 The flint assemblage

The assemblage consists of seven flakes, three bladelets, a core and four retouched tools. The bladelets display parallel lateral edges that reflect a blade-based industry. This suggests presence during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. This is supported by the presence of a blade core (context [11/002]). The small core (81g) was made on fine grained bullhead flint. It provides the only evidence for the use of bullhead flint. The core was used to produce small blades and bladelets. It is difficult to date with confidence the remaining pieces of flint débitage. The modified components consisted of two composite tools, a side scraper and an end-and-side scraper. The composite

tools could have been used to scrape and pierce. None of the tools are chronologically diagnostic, but based on technological traits the implements together with remaining pieces of flint débitage are likely to pre-date the mid Bronze Age.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A moderate-sized pottery assemblage was recovered during evaluation and excavation work at the site, amounting to 544 sherds, weighing 3731g, (303 ENV; 1.76 EVE). With the exception of two possible Early/Middle Neolithic sherds, the assemblage is of Late Iron Age/early Roman date. It was concentrated in features in the northern part of the site, particularly in the ditches forming Enclosure ENC2 and pits just to the south of it.

5.3.2 The pottery was examined using a x 20 binocular microscope. It was quantified by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Number (ENV) and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) on pro-forma records and in an Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics have been defined according to a site-specific fabric type-series in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). Forms were recorded with reference to Thompson's (1982) typology of Late Iron Age/early Roman 'Belgic' pottery in south-east England.

5.3.3 Site specific fabric definitions

FLIN1 Sparse/moderate, moderately-sorted flint of 0.5-2.5mm in a dense matrix which appears quartz free at x 20 magnification

FLIN2 Sparse ill-sorted flint of 1-5mm in a dense matrix which appears quartz free at x 20 magnification

GLAU1 Common well-sorted glauconite of c.0.4mm and rare large quartz grains up to 1mm

GROG1 Common moderately-sorted grog of 0.5-2mm. Some of the grog-like inclusions can appear leached on surfaces and probably represent calcareous clay or other fine sedimentary inclusions.
GROG2 As GROG1 but with no leached inclusions

QUAR1 Common well-sorted fine quartz 0.1-0.2 with rare larger grains of up to 1mm; rare fine black iron rich inclusions also occur

QUAR2 Sparse/moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm; very rare fine grog or leached grog-like inclusions may occur

QUGG1 Moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm, rare/sparse glauconite of 0.3-0.4mm and rare/sparse grog of 0.5-1mm

QUGL1 Moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm with rare/sparse glauconite of 0.3-0.4mm

SHEL1 Sparse/moderate plate like voids of 1-3mm, probably indication the presence of leeched shell

5.3.4 Period 1

Although three small sherds of pottery were recovered from features assigned to Period 1 (the early prehistoric period), it is unclear whether any of these are contemporary. Certainly a one gram sherd in a glauconitic sandy fabric (QUGL1), from pit [1187], is considered unlikely to pre-date the Iron Age and is therefore probably intrusive. It possible that two small conjoining sherds, from pit [1092], in an ill-sorted coarse flint-tempered ware (FLIN2), are of Early/Middle Neolithic date. Fabrics of this type are fairly atypical of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age but similar wares can be encountered in Middle and Late Bronze Age assemblages. Flint-tempered wares are also common in the Iron Age but tend to have finer and better sorted inclusions.

5.3.5 Period 2

Period 2 features and deposits have been split into three stratigraphic phases; however the vast majority of the pottery came from contexts assigned to Phase 2.2. The very small and undiagnostic groups from Phase 2.1 and 2.3 do not show any clear differentiation in date from the rest of the assemblage so the Period 2 pottery is therefore treated as a single assemblage.

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
FLIN1	6	39	4
GLAU1	52	373	30
GROG1	15	147	9
GROG2	179	1056	117
QUAR1	30	411	7
QUAR2	9	31	6
QUGG1	144	997	72
QUGL1	99	642	53
SHEL1	7	25	3
Total	541	3721	301

Table 4: Quantification of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery

5.3.6 Full quantification of fabrics is provided in Table 4. In summary the assemblage can be broken down into six main ware groupings. Fabrics with common grog-tempering (GROG1; GROG2) make up over a third of the assemblage, a small minority of these fabrics contain some leached calcareous inclusions. Just over a quarter of the total is made up by non-grog-tempered glauconitic wares (QUGL1, GLAU1); of these, sandy wares with fairly rare glauconite are more common than very densely glauconitic fabrics. A further quarter of the assemblage is made up by sparsely grog-tempered wares also containing quartz and glauconite (QUGG1). The remainder is made up by non-glauconitic quartz-rich fabrics (QUAR1, QUAR2) with a few sherds each in flint-tempered and shelly wares (FLIN1; SHEL1).

Form	ENV	ENV %	EVE	EVE %
Jar: unassigned	2	6.9%	0.09	5.1%
Jar: pedestal	1	3.4%		0.0%
Jar: necked cordoned	1	3.4%	0.06	3.4%
Jar: bead rim	10	34.5%	0.8	45.5%
Jar: short necked/everted	4	13.8%	0.16	9.1%
Jar: plain rim	7	24.1%	0.5	28.4%
Jar: storage	3	10.3%	0.07	4.0%
Lid	1	3.4%	0.08	4.5%
Total	29	100.0%	1.76	100.0%

Table 5: Quantification of Late Iron Age and Roman forms

5.3.7 In terms of form, the assemblage is almost entirely made up by jars and there is a distinct emphasis on handmade forms lacking well-developed necks or shoulder cordons (Table 5). These are mostly bead-rim, short necked/everted rim and plain rim forms analogous to Thompson's (1982) types C1, C2 and C3. There is occasional use of combed/furrowed decoration on the body of such forms but decoration is generally rare. Only one example of a necked cordoned jar was recorded (type B3-1) although several other shoulder sherds with cordons were noted. A few partial rims from storage jars were also present and part of a pedestal base from Thompson type A jar. The only non-jar form represented is a single lid with a slightly corrugated profile.

5.3.8 As already noted, the assemblages from stratigraphic phases 2.1 and 2.3 are too small to determine whether there was any change in the relative importance of different fabrics or forms over the course of Period 2; similarly, no particular landuse element or feature group stands out as different from the others. The fact that the pottery from Phase 2.1 includes two sherds with Aylesford Swarling style shoulder cordons, probably suggests that this phase belongs to the mid-1st century BC or later. It seems likely therefore that most of the Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage represents a fairly brief period of occupation. Having said this, one jar deposited in fragmented but partially-complete state was unearthed in context [72/005] (which corresponds to ditch (GP5) and to Phase 2.1) and could potentially be somewhat earlier. This is associated with a non-glauconitic sandy fabric (QUAR1) which is relatively uncommon in the assemblage and represents a necked jar which is possibly of Middle to Late Iron Age character.

5.3.9 It should be noted that local assemblages from the Highspeed 1 project seem to show a trend for glauconitic wares to become less common over time. For example, they made up over half of the ceramics from Hockers Lane, where Late Iron Age activity begins in the early 1st century BC (Lyne 2006a). At Snarkhurst Wood, these fabrics drop in frequency dramatically from over 95% of the assemblage in Phase 1 (c.150-1BC) to between 17-25% in Phases 2 and 3 (c.AD30-70) (Lyne 2006b). Overall, the fabric composition at Hermitage Lane is quite similar to that in the assemblage from the West Malling and Leybourne bypass which was thought to be predominantly of 1st century BC date, with some continuity into the mid-1st century AD (Jones 2009, 18-19). However, the total absence of Roman sandy wares from Hermitage Lane

suggests that the site's lifespan did not extend much more than a decade into the Roman period. Overall then, most of the pottery seems likely to belong to the mid/late 1st century BC to early/mid-1st century AD.

5.3.10 Although no domestic structures were recorded, the distinct emphasis on deposition in features in the northern part of the site, especially in the ditches of enclosure ENC2 may suggest that this area was a focus for settlement activity. Having said this, the assemblage is generally relatively fragmented and, with the exception of the more complete and possibly earlier vessel from context (GP5) there is little evidence for direct deposition of pottery, suggesting most of the assemblage represents mixed midden waste.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 A single tile fragment weighing 22g was recovered from Ditch (GP 10) belonging to Phase 3. It was formed from a dense red-orange fabric with common calcareous speckle and round pale deposits up to 1mm. It was a corner fragment with a thickness of 11mm and a slightly creased base. It is most likely of post-medieval date and is small enough to be either residual or intrusive.

5.5 Fired Clay by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 A total of 37 pieces of fired clay weighing 574g were hand collected from five contexts at Hermitage Lane. All the fired clay has been recorded on standard recording forms and quantified by fabric, form, weight and quantity. Examination of fabrics was primarily conducted macroscopically although a x20 binocular microscope was utilised when necessary. Fabric descriptions were defined using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). The information on the recording sheets has been entered into an Excel database and all fired clay has been retained as per standard procedure. Two fabrics were determined and are described in Table 6.

Fabric code	Description
F1	Mottled red fabric with sparse dark and black iron-rich inclusions and paler deposits.
F2	Very oxidised/bright red-orange fabric. Occasional much paler areas and bands of very burnt clay; reduced interior. Only visible inclusion is occasional medium quartz.

Table 6: Fired clay fabric descriptions

5.5.2 The clay was nearly all abraded to the extent of being entirely undiagnostic, and much of it lacked any indication of direct human utilisation. One exception to this was four conjoining fragments that make up a briquetage pedestal base, an artefact relating to salt-processing activities. This came from context [1200] of (ENC2) and the other fragments recovered from [1200] also showed signs of being exposed to heat. Cumulatively this evidence could suggest that salt was being refined somewhere in the vicinity of Hermitage Lane, despite its inland location of approximately 12 miles from the sea. There is evidence from elsewhere in Britain – e.g. the 'Red Hills' of Essex – where briquetage

has been found significant distances from the sea, which could indicate that the final stages of salt production took place separately from the initial collection and reduction of salt water.

5.5.3 Fired clay was also collected from contexts [1005], [1026], [1201] and [1206], but the function of this material could not be determined.

5.6 Registered Finds by Elena Baldi

5.6.1 Only one single copper alloy object was recovered during the excavation at the site of Land of Hermitage Lane. This was assigned a unique Registered Finds Number. The object was air dried as appropriate, subsequently quantified by count and weight, it was recorded on separate pro-forma sheet, bagged and it was individually labelled (Table 7). The object is stored in an air-tight Stewart box with silica gel, following CIfA guidelines (2014). X-radiography was not deemed necessary at this stage, in order evaluate further intervention.

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1	1027	STPR	COPP	IRON AGE	28

Table 7: Registered find

5.6.2 One strap union RF <1> was recovered from the flotation of context [1027] (the primary fill of pit [1020] that belongs to (ST1) of Phase 2.2), from the >8 sieve. The object is quadrangular overall and measures 32 mm in width and 32 mm in height. It dates to the late Iron Age, c. 100 BC - AD 100, but no other finds were recovered within this specific context. The strap union is formed of two co-joining solid roundels that form a figure of eight, flanked at either sides by a vertical strap bar, circular in section, attached to round lugs on either side. The round lugs have some have an incised line around them which ends in a V shaped decorative pattern. On the reverse, the roundels are flat.

5.6.3 The piece is in quite good conditions and shows an overall light green smooth patina with some soiling and corrosion products particularly visible on the upper side of the roundels A little damage to the surface is visible on one side, on the length of the bar and on both lugs. The strap union can be referenced to type 1 in Taylor & Brailsford's classification (1985) and it is similar to nos 14 of the same catalogue.

5.6.4 This type of object is distributed throughout England, but it is particularly concentrated along the southern coasts of England and East Anglia (Taylor and Brailsford 1985).

5.7 Cremated Bone by Paola Ponce and Gemma Ayton

5.7.1 A small quantity of burnt bone was recovered from nine individual contexts (1022), (1025), (1026), (1027), (1033), (1042), (1156), (1190), and (1200). These consisted of a series of pits that were dated from the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman Period with the exception of (1156) which is undated.

Both animal and human cremated bones were recovered from this assemblage along with material that was very small and fragmented and consequently was impossible to identify.

5.7.2 Methods

The excavated fills of the cremation deposits underwent flotation and were processed as environmental samples. Bone fragments were collected and subjected to careful recording and separated in sieve fractions of 2-4mm, 4-8mm and >8mm.

The assessment of the human cremated bone was undertaken according to standard guidelines (McKinley 2004). The total weight of the cremation deposit was established and the assemblage then examined to record the degree of fragmentation and fragment colour. All recognisable finds were removed during the processing stage but the material was scanned for the presence of possible staining on bone. The presence and weight of fragments from all skeletal areas (skull, axial skeleton, upper limb, and lower limb) was noted. The potential of the assemblage to yield demographic or other information was then considered.

The non-human bone was analysed to see if it was possible to identify the taxa and element, unfortunately the bone was too small and fragmented to provide any definite identification and has been classed as probable non-human.

5.7.3 Results

5.7.4 Bone fragmentation and weight of cremated materials

Context	**WEIGHT (grams)**				**TYPE**	**IDENTIFIABLE**					
	2-4mm	**4-8mm**	**>8mm**	**Total**		**AGE**	**SEX**	**S**	**A**	**U**	**L**
1022	2.2	11.5	-	13.7	Animal	?	?	-	-	-	-
1025	<2	-	-	<2	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1026	<2	-	-	<2	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1027	<2	-	-	<2	Animal?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1033	1.1	-	-	1.1	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1042	<2	-	-	<2	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1156	28.3	25.2	27.8	81.3	Human	Adult	?	√	-	-	√
1190	<2	-	-	<2	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
1200	-	2.2	-	2.2	Animal	?	?	-	-	-	-
Table x: showing the summary of results on cremated human bone analysis. Note: (S= skull, A = axial, U= upper limb, L = lower limb)											

Table 8: Results of cremated bone analysis

The total weight of all cremated human bone was 98.5 grams. The division of fragments according to size revealed that the 2-4mm corresponded to the most representative material within the assemblage.

The largest fragment of cremated human bone found in the assemblage measured 27.1mm and it was found within the >8mm size fraction from context (1156). The smallest fragment from the >8mm size fraction was also obtained from the context (1156) and measured 07.3mm.

5.7.5 Age assessment

The results obtained suggested that as seen in Table 8, age at death was only possible to be established in one context (1156). This was based on the presence of skull fragments. Due to the high degree of fragmentation, the remaining eight contexts did not produce bone fragments to enable age at death to be confidently established.

5.7.6 Sex assessment

There were no diagnostic fragment/s present in the human cremated bone to confidently allow a possible sex assessment to be carried out.

5.7.7 Pathological data

No evident pathology was observed in the whole assemblage of cremated bone.

5.7.8 Bone colour

With regards to the degree of oxidation of the organic component of bone, it was noted that 95% of the assemblage was fully oxidised white (>c. 600˚ C) which suggests a cremation process highly efficient. A combination of grey and blue hues were identified in 4% of the total fragments present, thus suggesting an incomplete oxidised process (up to c. 600˚ C). The remainder 1% of the bone present was colour brown/orange (or unburnt) and observed in one context (1042).

5.8 **Environmental Samples** by Mariangela Vitolo

5.8.1 Introduction

During excavation work at the site, 18 environmental samples were taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. Most of the sampled features consist of pits, but three ditches and four postholes are also represented. Sampled deposits range in date from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. The following report assesses the contents of the excavation samples and the potential of the environmental remains to provide information regarding the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection and the agricultural economy or other plant use.

5.8.2 Methodology

Samples were processed by flotation in their entirety. The flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 5). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The entire flots (or 100 ml subsamples for the largest ones) were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 5). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Identification work was also undertaken for samples containing moderate to large charcoal assemblages. Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000, Hather 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however general, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 5, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

5.8.3 Results

5.8.4 Period 1

Sample <13> [1132]

One sample was taken from an early Prehistoric deposit, the fill of ditch [1133]. The flot matrix was dominated by uncharred vegetative material, such as rootlets and seeds of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.). One seed of the cabbages genus (*Brassica* sp.) was recorded. Charcoal was recorded in very low amounts and no identification work was carried out. Finds from the residue included fire cracked flint, pottery and coal.

5.8.5 Period 2.2

Samples <1> [1009], <2> [1011], <3> [1013], <4> [1017], <5> [1021], <6> [1022], <7> [1025], <8> [1026], <9> [1027], <10> [1033], <14> [1156], <15> [1172], <16> [1178], <17> [1181] and <18> [1190].

The majority of the samples taken from Hermitage Lane came from deposits dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Most of them produced charcoal rich flots, although a certain degree of contamination with uncharred/modern material was present in all of them. Charred crop remains occurred sporadically, consisting mainly of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses, some of which were identified as emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and barley grains, some of which were hulled. Ditch [1189] from (ENC2) contained more crop remains. Around ten glume bases of emmer/spelt, spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and one of possible emmer (*Triticum* cf *dicoccum*) from this feature gave a more reliable indication of the possible wheat species present. Grass caryopses were the most common type of wild seeds, including a possible oat (*Avena* sp.). Oats cannot be identified as belonging to a wild or cultivated species on the basis of the caryopsis. Other wild taxa included stitchworts (*Stellaria* sp.), goosefoots/oraches (*Chenopodium/Atriplex* sp.) and possible pale persicaria (*Persicaria* cf *lapathifolia).* Remnants of nuts and fruits were recovered from the residues and included hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) fruit stones.

5.8.6 Charcoal was present in all the features, but only from four of them it was recorded in high enough an amount to warrant identification work, namely pits [1020], [1023], [1030] and [1154].The most widely occurring wood taxon was oak *(Quercus* sp.), with Maloideae also occurring frequently. The Maloideae sub-family includes apple, pear, hawthorn and rowan, among others. These taxa cannot be identified on grounds of anatomic characteristics. In addition, willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus* sp.), cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) were also present.

5.8.7 Other environmental remains from the residues included mostly bone fragments, mostly burnt. Finds included slag, coal, magnetic material, industrial debris, fire cracked flint, pottery, stone and flint.

5.8.8 Period 2.3

Samples <11> [1042] and <12> [1049]

These two samples were taken from pit deposits. The flots they produced were fairly charcoal rich but contained almost no charred plant remains, apart from a possible member of the grass family, found in [1048], which could be a poorly preserved cereal grain.

5.8.9 Large charcoal fragments were present in large amounts in feature [1040]. Sediment encrustation and percolation were noticeable on these fragments. The only identified taxon was oak. Finds from the residues of both samples included coal, fire cracked flint, pottery and stone.

6.0 POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

6.1 Realisation of the original research aims

OR1: Is there further evidence for the evolution of settlement in the Bronze Age and Iron Age period in the Maidstone area?

The findings from the site at Hermitage Lane show a hiatus between the Early Prehistoric (Pre-Middle Bronze Age) period and the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, the latter being predominant. Unfortunately, there is no evidence of evolution since there are no traces of activity between the two periods. However, Enclosure 1 seems to suggest that there was some Bronze Age activity in the area, and several residual flints of the same period corroborate this hypothesis.

OR2: What evidence is there for a transition between the Iron Age and the Roman period and the study of its agricultural economy?

The transition between Late Iron Age and Early Roman is tenuous and the findings from Hermitage Lane are not extensive enough to explore it in great details. However, there seems to be an evolution in the field system that is set up in the Late Iron Age. The first field system consists of two ditches, one (GP3) that is east-west oriented and another to the south (GP5) that is south-north oriented but terminates before reaching the first (GP3). During the next phase, an additional east-west ditch is added north of the first one while two parallel ditches representing a possible droveway are dug on a north-south axis. Enclosure 2, located in the north-eastern part of site is indicative of settlement although the damage caused to this part of the site makes it difficult to gain a better understanding. To conclude, the findings of Hermitage Lane seem to indicate the presence of field systems, associated with crops (two types of wheat were identified) and possibly animal husbandry (the droveway could have been set up in order to manage and move cattle/animals). The presence among the finds of a briquetage pedestal base suggests however that the economy did not rely solely on these two components but that salt working and processing may also have been of importance.

OR3: Could we further the study of Iron Age/Roman agricultural economy in the area?

The site of Hermitage Lane and other sites around (the Late Iron Age/Early Roman Farmstead north of the hospital, the cremation cemetery of Aylesford and the features dotted around Hermitage Farm and the Old Hermitage) have established the presence of both settlement and field systems in the area. The presence of pits containing burnt deposits and the consistent sampling of such deposits however provided us with limited information concerning agricultural use: most samples were contaminated with uncharred or modern material and contained very few identifiable crop remains. The site of Hermitage Lane also introduced a new element to the economy of the Maidstone area since a fragment of briquetage was discovered in the ditch of Enclosure 2, suggesting the economy might also have encompassed salt working and processing. The truncation by a modern orchard of the site at Hermitage Lane seems to have obliterated any archaeology within Enclosure

2, although we also need to keep in mind that some features, such as roundhouses, had very little impact on the ground and that they might not have survived in the archaeological record.

6.2 Significance and potential of the individual datasets

6.2.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Period 1

6.2.1.1 Significance

Prior to the excavation on the land off Hermitage Lane, material evidence for Bronze Age activity in Maidstone had been unearthed during other archaeological investigations in the vicinity and included some Bronze Age cremations found at the Old Hermitage as well as two Bronze Age beakers found at Hermitage Farm. Unfortunately, this period is not well represented on Hermitage Lane: one enclosure was identified but it yielded very little material. A few scattered pits of unknown function were also recorded but there were no traces of extensive occupation. The significance of the Pre-Bronze Age and Bronze Age remains unearthed at Hermitage Lane are thus of low significance.

6.2.1.2 Potential

Only scarce remains belonging to this period have been recorded at Hermitage Lane. They demonstrate the presence of pre-Bronze Age and Bronze Age activity in the area but there is little potential for further detailed analysis.

Period 2

6.2.1.3 Significance

The Late Iron Age to Early Roman period encompasses most of the features on this site and offers locally significant insight into occupation and industry. The spatial organisation of the site is reflected in the development of field systems, the creation of a possible droveway (that may be involved in the management of cattle/domestic animals, although the poor preservation of animal bone on this site is a hindrance) and a new enclosure that seems to suggest the proximity of a settlement. A small farmstead, dated from the Late Bronze Age and which seems to have been occupied through to the Roman period, was identified just north of the hospital (east of this site) and a cremation cemetery of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period was discovered on the site of the Aylesford reservoir. The site of Hermitage Lane therefore seems to fit into this archaeological landscape and adds to our understanding of this period.

Of particular significance is the economy of the site which seems to have been reliant upon agriculture, pasture and salt processing. At a local scale, the salt processing element is interesting as the site is located quite far inland. Salt water was collected from coastal sites and usually processed close-by but sometimes the last stages of production did take place on in-land site. It is

not however very common and is thus of local significance. Salt was an important resource, not only for the preservation of foodstuff but also for the curing of skins (de Brisay 1978). Brine water was usually collected in tanks dug in the coastal marshes and once the salt water was collected, it was then evaporated and refined to produce the salt. The site at Hermitage Lane is some 19 kilometres away from the sea and almost two kilometres away from the river Medway, which may have been used to transport salty water to site where it was dried, crystallised and finally moulded into salt cakes ready to be distributed. Only one fragmented briquetage pedestal was found on site but it suggests Hermitage Lane was a production site rather than simply a distribution site.

Four pits dated to this period and the ditch terminus of Enclosure 2 (ENC2) seem to have contained cremated bone (one pit [1154] contained human bone, another, [1020] contained animal bone and the other two, [1023] and [1040] contained small fragments of bone that could not be identified with certainty). The pits also contained evidence of burning with charcoal rich layers and the presence of fired clay. Even though the exact function of these pits is not known, it appears they could be of some significance, especially since others were found in the area (on the site of the Aylesford Reservoir). The most widely occurring wood taxon was oak, identified from charcoal-rich pit fills: oak was the preferred fuel for cremation pyres (Champion 2011). Since one of these pits contained cremated human bones, and two other pits contained unidentifiable cremated bone, would it be possible that they played a role in the funerary process and could they somehow be linked to the nearby cremation cemetery at Aylesford (4 kilometres north of this site) or to the cremation burials found on the site of the Old Hermitage (about 600 metres north-east of this site)?

6.2.1.4 Potential

More research is necessary to establish the exact function of this site. Although there is little potential in conducting further analysis on the finds themselves, they have nevertheless given us several leads concerning the organisation and economy of the area and entice us to further our research. An in-depth study in relation with other sites in the vicinity might help us understand why this particular site was so short-lived.

The site's potential lies mostly in the study of the pits that contained evidence of burning (charcoal and fired clay) as well as animal or human cremated bone. It would be interesting to see if any more information could be gained from the samples and from the study of the finds' assemblages so as to determine their function. It is also possible their location is of significance, in relation to cremation burials and other similar pits that were excavated in the area on previous excavations.

Pit [1020] is of particular significance as it contained evidence of burning, cremated animal bone and a piece from a horse harness (a strap union) was discovered in its primary fill. More research into its stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental content might allow us to establish its function, whether ritual or linked to the possible structure (ST1) and to some kind of industry.

Period 3

6.2.1.5 This period did not produce any stratigraphic material of anything other than local significance and the potential for further research is low.

6.2.2 Worked Flint

6.2.2.1 Significance

The flint assemblage from the Land of Hermitage Lane provides limited evidence for prehistoric presence at the site. No diagnostic artefacts were recovered, and based on technological and morphological grounds only a broad date spanning the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze could be attributed to the assemblage. Later artefacts may also be present. The flintwork provides evidence for tool using activity, including four artefacts that could have been used for scraping. However, no well-stratified groups were identified. The assemblage is small (15 pieces), and the material was thinly spread over the site, with no context producing more than one piece.

6.2.2.2 Potential

The small assemblage is not considered to have any potential for further analysis.

6.2.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

6.2.3.1 Significance

Overall the assemblage is of moderate size and contains some moderate to large individual well-stratified and diagnostic groups from enclosure ENC2 and nearby pits. It therefore provides some useful comparative data with local significance and would be worthy of publication. However, several similar but much larger assemblages have already been published from sites within a few kilometres, including White Horse Stone, Hockers Lane, Thurnham Villa, Snarkhurst Wood and Eynhorne Street on the Highspeed 1 route (Barclay et al 2006; Booth 2009) and sites on the West Malling and Leybourne Bypass (Jones 2009). This means that the assemblage is unlikely to add much to the regional picture.

6.2.3.2 Potential

There is limited potential for further analysis but is it recommended the above report should be adapted into a standalone specialist publication text involving some brief further comparison with local assemblages.

6.2.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.2.4.1 Significance

The fragmentary nature of the CBM makes it of no archaeological significance at a local, national or international level.

6.2.4.2 Potential

The CBM from Hermitage Lane has no potential for future research.

6.2.5 Fired Clay

6.2.5.1 Significance

The discovery of briquetage relating to inland salt processing could be of local significance, especially if further evidence is found that could provide further information about salt processing in the area and related food preserving activities.

The small and fragmentary nature of the fired clay assemblage as a whole renders it of no significance at either a national or international level.

6.2.5.2 Potential

As an isolated group the fired clay from Hermitage Lane has no potential for future research.

6.2.6 Cremated Bone

6.2.6.1 Significance

The archaeological evidence regarding the funerary practices carried out during the Late Iron Age-Early Roman transition at the Land off Hermitage Lane is limited. This is due to degree of fragmentation and preservation of the cremated material recovered from the site which posed a difficulty in providing information about the demography and pathology of the human and animal cremated bone. Despite this, little is known about the purpose and meaning of the pits from which the cremated material was recovered and this can be extended to other studied cremation cemeteries of the area such as that reported by Evans (1890) at Aylesford. For this reason, the assemblage is of local significance and represents evidence of funerary rituals being practiced in the area.

6.2.6.2 Potential

With regards to potential for future analysis, it is not thought that further examination of the human material will result in more accurate age or sex estimates. However, further study can potentially provide valuable information regarding the identified skeletal elements according to (where possible) anatomical part and side, whether as a whole, or part. Furthermore, the oxidation process such as variation in white colour, noting the skeletal element affected, the side, which part or parts of the bone are affected

(exo/endocranial, cortical, medullary) could be included as part of further research.

6.2.7 Environmental Samples

6.2.7.1 Significance

Given the small amount of plant macro fossils recovered, the assemblage is of low significance. The charcoal assemblage does not include any exotic species and it has therefore a local significance.

6.2.7.2 Potential

The samples from Land off Hermitage Lane provide limited information in regards to diet and agrarian economy at the site. Caryopses of glume wheats and hulled barley appeared sporadically and represented just background noise. Ditch [1189] contained a slightly larger amount of caryopses and glume bases of spelt and possibly emmer, suggesting that probably both wheat species were in use at the site. However, a number of sites have been excavated and reported on in Kent and extensive information is available for this area. Further work on these samples is unlikely to yield more information that assessment has provided.

Charcoal assessment has shown that various woody taxa were present near the site and exploited for fuel. These taxa would have grown in deciduous woodland, hedgerows and scrubs. Possibly wet environments were present as well. Oak is present in all the samples. If on one hand, this suggests that this taxon was probably widely available nearby, on the other it is also possible that it was specifically selected for its burning properties, which make it an excellent fuel wood (Taylor 1981). Further work on the charcoal from these deposits has the potential to provide us with more information on vegetation information and fuel selection at the site.

7.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

7.1 Revised research agenda: Aims and Objectives

7.1.1 This section combines those original research aims that the site archive has the potential to address with any new research aims identified in the assessment process by stratigraphic, finds and environmental specialists to produce a set of revised research aims that will form the basis of any future research agenda. Original research aims (OR's) are referred to where there is any synthesis of subject matter to form a new set of revised research aims (RRA's) posed as questions below.

7.1.2 RRA 1 (OR 2, 3): Can the data from the site help to define the nature of the Late Iron Age/early Roman transition period in the Medway Valley and the processes by which settlement and landuse patterns developed and declined?

7.1.3 RRA 2: Can an understanding of the local Iron Age and Roman economy, and its development and/or decline through the 1st century AD, be gained from further analysis of the finds?

7.1.4 RRA 3 (OR 3): Have any other traces of salt processing activities been identified in the vicinity of the site and can we gain a better understanding of this activity in relation to inland locations?

7.1.5 RRA 4: Five pits containing charcoal rich layers and cremated human bone ([1154]), animal bone ([1020]), or unidentifiable bone ([1023], [1030] and [1040]) were identified on the site, another two were found nearby at Aylesford Reservoir. Can we gain a better understanding of these deposits by analysing the other finds present and their similarities and differences? Could they be related to cremations and/or the funerary process (See Aylesford cemetery close-by and the cremations found at the Old Hermitage and Hermitage Farm)?

7.1.6 RRA 5: Can radiocarbon dating clarify the date of the pits containing charcoal and could we learn anything more about their function?

7.1.7 RRA 6: Can further investigation of the spatial relationship of the site to other sites in the area help us to understand what the specific function of this settlement was?

7.1.8 RRA 7: Can the abandonment of the site be explained, why was occupation so short-lived and can any of the other sites in the vicinity help us gain information about this?

7.1.9 RRA 8: Can a review all finds deriving from the environmental samples refine the dating/phasing of the site?

7.2 Preliminary Publication Synopsis

7.2.1 It is proposed that the results of the work should be published. The most suitable medium for publication would be an illustrated article of *c.* 5000 words in *Archaeologia Cantiana*. This would bring together all significant stratigraphic, finds and environmental evidence. It will present a detailed chronological narrative of land-use. Where finds/environmental evidence is relatively limited, pertinent information from the assessment reports above will be incorporated into the stratigraphic narrative but where assemblages are deemed to be of inherent significance, standalone specialist reports will be included. A discussion will bring together the different strands of evidence and attempt to address the questions posed in the revised research agenda.

7.2.2 The following structure is provisionally suggested:

- Introduction (c.500 words)

  Circumstances of fieldwork
  Site location, geology and topography
  Archaeological and historical background

- Excavation results (c.2000 words)

  Period 1 Pre-Middle Bronze Age *c. before 1500* BC
  Period 2 Middle Iron age *c.*BC400 to Late Iron Age/early Roman *c.*AD10-80/100

- Specialist summaries/reports (c.1000 words)

  Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery
  Fired Clay
  Cremated Bone

- Discussion (c.1500 words)

- Bibliography

7.3 Publication project

7.3.1 Stratigraphic Method Statement

Linear features have been assigned to provisional groups at the assessment stage. This process has also been carried out for discrete features but might need to be altered. These groups have been temporarily assigned to broader land-use elements such as open areas, field-systems and enclosures**.** This process will provide a land-use led chronological framework for the full analysis and reporting of the site.

After completion of the specialist analysis and reporting, an integrated period driven narrative of the site sequence will be prepared. This will draw on specialist information and on further background research in order to fully address the revised research aims. The narrative will include a relevant selection of period/phase plans, sections, photographs and finds illustrations.

7.3.2 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

A standalone publication report will be prepared to be accompanied by c. 10 illustrations. The following tasks have been identified:

Review all dateable material derived from environmental samples in order to attempt to refine dating for publication analysis	0.5 days
Detailed comparison with local assemblages	0.5 days
Prepare publication text	0.5 days
Illustration related tasks	0.5 days
Total	**2 days**

7.3.3 Human Bone

Future work will aim at comparing the results obtained in this initial assessment with other regional assemblages for which contemporary cases of cremations have been reported such as that of Biddulph (2006).

In depth study of skeletal elements	0.5 day
Analysis of oxidation process	0.5 day
Comparison with other assemblages	0.5 day
Total	**1.5 day**

7.3.4 Environmental Samples

It is recommended that further identification (up to 100 fragments per sample where available) and analysis work is undertaken on those dated deposits that have yielded a large amount of moderately preserved charcoal. These include samples <6> [1022], <7> [1025], <10> [1033], <11> [1042] and <15> [1172].

Assess whether any material is suitable/helpful to date by radiocarbon dating	0.5 days
Production of a summary macroplant statement:	0.5 days
Analysis of charred wood fragments from 5 samples:	2.5 days
Identifications, literature consultation & report production	1 day
Total	**4 days**

7.3.5 Illustration

Stratigraphic: Approximately 5 stratigraphic figures will be required, including 1 location plan, 2 period plans and 2 detailed plans/sections	1 day
Pottery: Provision should be made for *c.* 10 illustrations	0.5 day
Registered Find: Illustration of the copper strap union	0.5 day
Total	**2 days**

Stratigraphic Tasks	
Finalise subgrouping, draw as many as yet unphased or undated features as possible into the phases	1 day
Define groups. The 106 subgroups created at assessment level are likely to form some 15 groups (dated feature types etc). The groups will be defined using stratigraphic, spatial and chronological analysis, using the subgroup matrix and dating evidence. @ 10 groups per day	1 day
Define landuse. The c. 15 groups are likely to form some 3 - 6 landuses (buildings, open areas, boundaries etc.). They will be defined using stratigraphic, spatial and chronological analysis, using the group matrix and dating evidence. @ 5 landuses per day	1 day
Describe landuse. Interpretative text will be written about each landuse element including a definition of the buildings, open areas and boundaries etc., their form and function on a site-wide basis. @ 2 landuses daily	1 day
Define periods. The general chronological phases of activity across the site will be identified from the group matrix and defined landuses. These phases will form a chronological framework of the site. There are likely to be 3 periods. The groups and phases forming each period will be mapped. It is estimated that 2 periods can be defined per day	1 day
Describe periods. A textual summary, built from the landuse and group texts where appropriate, will be formed for each period. Plots of each period will be produced using Auto-Cad, GIS and/or hand-annotated plans, these will include feature conjecture. It is estimated that 1 period can be summarised per day.	2 days
Documentary research will be conducted prior to commencement of the authorship of the period-driven narrative by the principal author. This should include relevant study of archaeological features, sites and published themes of the surrounding area, region, and the southeast.	1 day
Prepare period-driven narrative of the site sequence. This task comprises the combination of the stratigraphic period descriptions and the relevant portions of completed finds, environmental, documentary and integrated analytical reports. Suitable photographic and drawn images such as sections and plans will also be selected from the archive at this point.	2 day
Total	**10 days**
Specialist Analysis	
Prehistoric and Roman pottery	2 days
Human bone	1.5 days
Environmental Material	4 days
Specialist Dating	
If suitable/useful material for radiocarbon dating can be identified	Fee
Illustration	
Pottery and finds illustration	1 day
Stratigraphic figures and photographs	1 day
Production	
Editing of the period-driven narrative	2 days
Project Management	1 day

Table 9: Resource for completion of the period-driven narrative of the site sequence

7.4 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

7.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Following completion of all post-excavation work, including any publication work, the site archive will be deposited with a suitable museum or depository.

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Appendix 1: Context Register

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1001	l	1001		topsoil	1	topsoil		
1002	l	1002		subsoil	2	subsoil		
1003	l	1003		natural	3	natural		
1004	c	1004	1005	posthole	4	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1005	f	1004		posthole fill	4	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1006	c	1006	1007	ditch, field boundary	5	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1007	f	1006		fill of boundary ditch	5	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1008	c	1008	1009	posthole	6	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1009	f	1008		posthole fill	6	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1010	c	1010	1011	posthole	7	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1011	f	1010		posthole fill	7	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1012	c	1012	1013	posthole	8	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1013	f	1012		posthole fill	8	posthole	1	LIA - Early Roman Structure
1014	c	1014	1015	ditch, field boundary	9	ditch	10	Modern Boundary Ditch
1015	f	1014		fill of boundary ditch	9	ditch	10	Modern Boundary Ditch
1016	c	1016	1017	posthole	10	posthole	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1017	f	1016		posthole fill	10	posthole	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1018	c	1018	1019	ditchNUMBER USED SEVERAL TIMES	11	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1019	f	1018		ditch fill	11	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1020	c	1020	1021, 1022, 1026, 1027	pit	12	pit	2	LIA - Roman Pit
1021	f	1020		final silting of pit	13	final silting of pit	2	LIA - Roman Pit
1022	f	1020		pit fill	14	pit fill	2	LIA - Roman Pit
1023	c	1023	1024, 1025	pit	15	pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1024	f	1023		final silting of pit	16	final silting of pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1025	f	1023		pit fill	15	pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1026	f	1020		pit fill	14	pit fill	2	LIA - Roman Pit
1027	f	1020		initial silting of pit	12	pit	2	LIA - Roman Pit
1028	c	1028	1029	pit	17	pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1029	f	1028		pit fill	17	pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1030	c	1030	1031, 1032, 1033	pit	18	pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1031	f	1030		final silting of pit	19	final silting of pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1032	f	1030		pit fill	18	pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1033	f	1030		pit fill	18	pit	12	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1034	c	1034	1035	ditch	20	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1035	f	1034		ditch fill	20	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1036	c	1036	1037	ditch	21	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1037	f	1036		ditch fill	21	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1038	c	1038	1039	enclosure ditch	22		6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1039	f	1038		fill of enclosure ditch	22		6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1040	c	1040	1041, 1042	pit	23	pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1041	f	1040		final silting of pit	24	final silting of pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1042	f	1040		pit fill	23	pit	16	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1043	c	1043	1044	pit	25	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1044	f	1043		pit fill	25	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1045	c	1045	1046, 1061	posthole	26	posthole	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1046	f	1045		posthole fill	26	posthole	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1047	l	1047		tree throw	28	tree throw		
1048	c	1048	1049	pit	29	pit	18	Undated Pits
1049	f	1048		pit fill	29	pit	18	Undated Pits
1050	c	1050	1051, 1052	ditch	30	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1051	f	1050		ditch fill	30	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1052	f	1050		ditch fill	30	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1053	c	1053	1054	ditch	31	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1054	f	1053		ditch fill	31	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1055	c	1055	1056	ditch	32	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1056	f	1055		ditch fill	32	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1057	c	1057	1058	gully	33	gully	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1058	f	1057		gully fill	33	gully	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1059	c	1059	1060	gully	34	gully	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1060	f	1059		gully fill	34	gully	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1061	f	1045		postpipe	27	postpipe	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1062	c	1062	1063	ditch	35	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1063	f	1062		ditch fill	35	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1064	c	1064	1065	ditch fill	36	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1065	f	1064		ditch fill	36	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1066	c	1066	1067	pit	37	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1067	f	1066		pit fill	37	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1068	c	1068	1069	pit	38	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1069	f	1068		pit fill	38	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1070	c	1070	1071	ditch	39	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1071	f	1070		ditch fill	39	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1072	f	1073		ditch fill	40	ditch	10	Modern Boundary Ditch
1073	c	1073	1072	ditch	40	ditch	10	Modern Boundary Ditch
1074	f	1075		fill of boundary ditch	41	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1075	c	1075	1074	field boundary ditch	41	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1076	f	1077		fill of boundary ditch	42	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1077	c	1077	1076	field boundary ditch	42	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1078	f	1079		fill of boundary ditch	43	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1079	c	1079	1078	field boundary ditch	43	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1080	f	1081		fill of boundary ditch	44	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1081	c	1081	1080	field boundary ditch	44	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1082	f	1083		fill of boundary ditch	45	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1083	c	1083	1082	field boundary ditch	45	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1084	c	1084	1085	pit	46	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1085	f	1084		pit fill	46	pit	14	Undated Postholes
1086	c	1086	1087	ditch	47	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1087	f	1086		ditch fill	47	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1088	f	1089		fill of boundary ditch	48	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1089	c	1089	1088	field boundary ditch	48	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1090	f	1091		fill of boundary ditch	49	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1091	c	1091	1090	field boundary ditch	49	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1092	c	1092	1093	pit	50	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1093	f	1092		pit fill	50	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1094	c	1094	1095	pit	51	pit	18	Undated Pits
1095	f	1094		pit fill	51	pit	18	Undated Pits
1096	c	1096	1097	ditch	52	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1097	f	1096		ditch fill	52	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1098	f	1099		fill of boundary ditch	53	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1099	c	1099	1098	field boundary ditch	53	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1100	f	1101		fill of boundary ditch	54	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1101	c	1101	1100	field boundary ditch	54	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1102	c	1102	1103	ditch	55	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1103	f	1102		ditch fill	55	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1104	c	1104	1105	ditch	56	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1105	f	1104		ditch fill	56	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1106	c	1106	1107	ditch terminus	57	ditch terminus	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1107	f	1106		fill of ditch terminus	57	ditch terminus	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1108	f	1109		fill of boundary ditch	58	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1109	c	1109	1108	field boundary ditch	58	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1110	f	1111		fill of boundary ditch	59	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1111	c	1111	1110	field boundary ditch	59	ditch	7	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1112	f	1113		fill of boundary ditch	60	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1113	c	1113	1112	field boundary ditch	60	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1114	f	1115		fill of boundary ditch	61	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1115	c	1115	1114	field boundary ditch	61	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1116	c	1116	1117	pit	62	pit	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1117	f	1116		pit fill	62	pit	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1118	c	1118	1119	ditch	63	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1119	f	1118		ditch fill	63	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1120	c	1120	1121	pit	64	pit	17	Undated Pits
1121	f	1120		pit fill	64	pit	17	Undated Pits
1122	f	1123		fill of boundary ditch	65	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1123	c	1123	1122	field boundary ditch	65	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1124	f	1125		fill of boundary ditch	66	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1125	c	1125	1124	field boundary ditch	66	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1126	f	1127		fill of boundary ditch	67	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1127	c	1127	1126	field boundary ditch	67	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1128	f	1129		fill of enclosure ditch	68	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1129	c	1129	1128	enclosure ditch	68	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1130	f	1131		fill of enclosure ditch	69	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1131	c	1131	1130	enclosure ditch	69	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1132	f	1133		fill of ditch terminus	70	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1133	c	1133	1132	ditch terminus	70	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1134	c	1134	1135	ditch	71	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1135	f	1134		ditch fill	71	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1136	c	1136	1137	ditch	72	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1137	f	1136		fill of ditch	72	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1138	c	1138	1139	ditch	73	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1139	f	1138		ditch fill	73	ditch	5	undated - LIA Field Boundary Ditch
1140	c	1140	1141	pit	74	pit	17	Undated Pits
1141	f	1140		pit fill	74	pit	17	Undated Pits
1142	f	1143		fill of boundary ditch	75	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1143	c	1143	1142	field boundary ditch	75	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1144	c	1144	1145	pit	76	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1145	f	1144		pit fill	76	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1146	f	1147		fill of boundary ditch	77	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1147	c	1147	1146	field boundary ditch	77	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1148	f	1149		fill of enclosure ditch	78	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1149	c	1149	1148	enclosure ditch	78	ditch	6	Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch
1150	f	1151		fill of boundary ditch	79	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1151	c	1151	1150	field boundary ditch	79	ditch	8	LIA - Early Roman Droveway
1152	c	1152	1153	ditch	80	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1153	f	1152		ditch fill	80	ditch	9	1st C AD Field Boundary Ditch
1154	c	1154	1155, 1156	pit	81	pit	15	Undated Pit

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1155	f	1154		final silting of pit	82	final silting of pit	15	Undated Pit
1156	f	1154		pit fill	81	pit	15	Undated Pit
1157	c	1157	1158	pit	83	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1158	f	1157		pit fill	83	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1159	c	1159	1160	pit	84	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1160	f	1159		pit fill	84	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1161	f	1162		fill of boundary ditch	85	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1162	c	1162	1161	field boundary ditch	85	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1163	f	1164		fill of boundary ditch	86	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1164	c	1164	1163	field boundary ditch	86	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1165	c	1165	1166	pit	87	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1166	f	1165		pit fill	87	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1167	c	1167	1168	pit	88	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1168	f	1167		pit fill	88	pit	13	LIA - Early Roman Pits
1169	v							
1170	v							
1171	c	1171	1172	enclosure ditch	89	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1172	f	1171		fill of enclosure ditch	89	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1173	v				0			
1174	f	1175		fill of enclosure ditch	90	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1175	c	1175	1174	enclosure ditch	90	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1176	l	1176		colluvium	91	colluvium		
1177	c	1177	1178	pit	92	pit		
1178	f	1177		pit fill	92	pit		
1179	c	1179	1180	pit	93	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1180	f	1179		pit fill	93	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster

Ctxt	Type	Parent	Children	Comments	SubGrp	SGDesc	Grp	Group Desc
1181	f	1182		fill of refuse pit	94	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1182	c	1182	1181	refuse pit	94	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1183	c	1183	1184	enclosure ditch	95	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1184	f	1183		fill of enclosure ditch	95	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1185	c	1185	1186	pit	96	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1186	f	1185		pit fill	96	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1187	c	1187	1188	pit	97	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1188	f	1187		pit fill	97	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1189	c	1189	1190	ditch terminus	98	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1190	f	1189		fill of ditch terminus	98	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1191	c	1191	1192	ditch	99	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1192	f	1191		ditch fill	99	ditch	3	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1193	c	1193	1194	ditch	100	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1194	f	1193		ditch fill	100	ditch	4	LIA - Early Roman Field Boundary Ditch
1195	c	1195	1196	pit	101	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1196	f	1195		pit fill	101	pit	19	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster
1197	c	1197	1198	enclosure ditch	102	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1198	f	1197		fill of enclosure ditch	102	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1199	c	1199	1200, 1201, 1202	enclosure ditch	103	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1200	f	1199		upper fill of ditch or pit?	104	ditch/pit fill?	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1201	f	1199		ditch fill	103	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1202	f	1199		initial silting of ditch	103	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1203	c	1203	1204	enclosure ditch	105	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1204	f	1203		fill of enclosure ditch	105	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1205	c	1205	1206	enclosure ditch	106	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch
1206	f	1205		fill of enclosure ditch	106	ditch	11	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch

Appendix 2: Fired Clay Descriptions

Context	Fabric	Count	Wt (g)	Form	Condition	Comments
1005	F1	2	6	UNDIAG	A	Crumbs. Amorph.
1026	F1	4	88	UNDIAG	A	1x wih flattish surface. All abraded lumps.
1200	F1	4	144	BRIQUE/PEDESTAL	A	4x cojoining fragmnets of pedestal base. No salt colour and al;though burnt not particularly vitrified.
1200	F2	25	326	UNDIAG	A; Ox; Rd	All very abraded and burnt clay pieces.
1201	?F1	1	4	UNDIAG	A	Crumb.
1206	F2	1	6	UNDIAG	A	Abraded crumb.

Appendix 3: Pottery Fabric Descriptions

FLIN1 Sparse/moderate, moderately-sorted flint of 0.5-2.5mm in a dense matrix which appears quartz free at x 20 magnification

FLIN2 Sparse ill-sorted flint of 1-5mm in a dense matrix which appears quartz free at x 20 magnification

GLAU1 Common well-sorted glauconite of c.0.4mm and rare large quartz grains up to 1mm

GROG1 Common moderately-sorted grog of 0.5-2mm. Some of the grog-like inclusions can appear leached on surfaces and probably represent calcareous clay or other fine sedimentary inclusions.

GROG2 As GROG1 but with no leached inclusions

QUAR1 Common well-sorted fine quartz 0.1-0.2 with rare larger grains of up to 1mm; rare fine black iron rich inclusions also occur

QUAR2 Sparse/moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm; very rare fine grog or leached grog-like inclusions may occur

QUGG1 Moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm, rare/sparse glauconite of 0.3-0.4mm and rare/sparse grog of 0.5-1mm

QUGL1 Moderate coarse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm with rare/sparse glauconite of 0.3-0.4mm

SHEL1 Sparse/moderate plate like voids of 1-3mm, probably indication the presence of leeched shell

Appendix 4: Flint Descriptions

Context	Sample No	Category_ty	Category_No	Total no	Burnt no	Broken No	Recorticated	Iron mould	Weight (g)	Table Flint.Comments	Illustration?	Utilised?	Post depositional damage	FlintDate	Date Range
11/02		Blade core		1					81	made on fine grained bullhead flint, use to remove blades and bladelets	Yes?	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Mesolithic
29/005		Flake		1			1		5	narrrow plain platform, light grey flint	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
82/005		Bladelet		1		1	1		<1	medial part	No	No	Slight post depositional edge damage		Mesolithic - Eneo
U/S		Bladelet		1		1	1		<1	light grey	No	No	Slight post depositional edge damage		Mesolithic - Eneo
U/S		Composite tool		1					5	made on a small thick fragmented flake, thumbnail scraper and piercer	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Pre mid BA
1031		Flake		1		1			16	heavy edge damage, plus iron marks	No	No	Heavy post depositional edge damage, pp narrow platform		Pre mid BA
1108		Side scraper		1					12	direct retouch along rs; ls damaged; wide platform	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
1132		Composite tool		1					14	made on a flake; end-and-side scraper and piercer; direct retouch	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Pre mid BA

1178	<16>>8mm residue	Flake		1					24	cortical platform, several cones of percussion (mis-hits)	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
1188		Flake		1		1			2	platform slightly damaged	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Pre mid BA
1190	<18>4-8mm residue	Bladelet		1		1			<1		No	No	Slight post depositional edge damage		Pre mid BA
1192		Flake		1					5	no pp, plain platform	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
1200		Flake		1		1			4		No	No	Slight post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
1206		Flake		1		1			<1		No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Prehistoric
U/S		End-and-side scraper		1			1		23	made on a flake; plain platform; direct retouch along ls and distal end forming a convex curve; outer surface smooth and partially recorticated white	No	No	Moderate post depositional edge damage		Pre mid BA

Appendix 5: Bulk Samples

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)
1	1009		Posthole	1010	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20	20	**	<1	**	1			
2	1011		Posthole	1010	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20	20	**	<1	***	2		* *Hordeum* sp. (1)	<1
3	1013		Posthole	1012	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20	20	**	<1	**	<1		* *Bromus* sp. (1)	<1
4	1017		Posthole	1016	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits	20	20	**	1	**	1		* *Corylus avellana* nutshell	<1
5	1021		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	40	**	4	***	2		* *Hordeum* sp. (1)	<1
6	1022		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	40	***	28	****	35	*Quercus* sp. 7, *Salix/Populus* sp. 1, *Corylus avellana* 1, Indet (distorted) 2.		
7	1025		Pit	1023	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	40	**	8	****	20	*Quercus* sp. 8, Maloideae 1, Indet (distorted) 2	* *Crataegus monogyna*	<1

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)
8	1026		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	40	**	1	***	2			
9	1027		Initial silting of pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	40	**	3	**	2			
10	1033		Pit	1030	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits	40	40	***	19	****	30	*Quercus* sp. 5, *Prunus* sp. 1, cf *Prunus* sp. (distorted) 1, *Corylus avellana* 3	* *Corylus avellana* nutshell	<1
11	1042		Pit	1040	2.3	LIA - Early Roman Pits	40	40	****	159	****	220	*Quercus* sp. 12, Indet (distorted) 2 Noticeable sediment encrustation		
12	1049		Pit	1048	2.3	Undated pits	40	40	**	3	***	15		* cf Poaceae	<1
13	1132		Ditch	1133	1	Early Prehistoric. Group:Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch	40	40	*	<1	**	<1			

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)
14	1156		Pit	1154	2.2	Roman Phase 2. Group: Undated pit	80	80	****	123	****	120	Maloideae 7, *Quercus* sp. 3		
15	1172		Ditch	1171	2.2	Roman Phase 2. Group: 1st C AD Enclosure Ditch	40	40	*	<1	**	<1			
16	1178		Pit	1177	2.2	Roman Phase 2	40	40	**	2	***	4		** *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., Poaceae	<1
17	1181		Pit	1182	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster	40	40	*	<1	**	<1			
18	1190		Ditch	1189	2.2	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch	40	40	**	1	***	8			

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1009		Posthole	1010	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20											mag. Mat. ***/ 4g
2	1011		Posthole	1010	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20											coal */ <1g - pottery */ 1g
3	1013		Posthole	1012	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Structure	20											coal */ <1g - mag. Mat. ***/ 8g
4	1017		Posthole	1016	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits	20											slag */ <1g - coal */ <1g - mag. Mat. ** /3g
5	1021		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40											FCF */ 8g - stone */ 55g - pottery */ 7g - coal */ <1g - slag */ 4g - Mag. Mat. ***/ 9g
6	1022		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40							***	3			FCF */ 7g - stone **/ 131g - slag */ 16g - pottery **/ 48g - coal */ <1g - mag. Mat. ***/ 9g
7	1025		Pit	1023	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40							*	<1			FCF **/ 99g - burnt clay */ 588g - coal */ <1g - stone **/ 129g - wood */ <1g -

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
																		pottery */ 10g
8	1026		Pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40	*	<1					*	<1			burnt clay **/ 606g - FCF */ 8g - industrial debris **/ <1g - bead? */ 1g
9	1027		Initial silting of pit	1020	2.2	LIA - Roman Pit	40							*	<1			stone */ 374g - pottery */ 9g - alloy strap fitting */ 28g - burnt clay ****/ 7367g - FCF */ 4g - coal */ <1g - burnt stone **/ 15g - slag */ <1g - mag. Mat. ***/ 4g
10	1033		Pit	1030	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits	40							*	<1			coal * /<1g - FCF */ 14g - pottery */ 2g - stone */ 1931g
11	1042		Pit	1040	2.3	LIA - Early Roman Pits	40							*	<1			FCF */ <1g

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
12	1049		Pit	1048	2.3	Undated pits	40											Stone */ 1028 - pottery */ 1g - mag. Mat. ****/ 13g - FCF **/ 74g - coal */ <1g
13	1132		Ditch	1133	1	Early Prehistoric. Group:Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch	40											FCF */ 5g - coal */ <1g - pottery */ 2g
14	1156		Pit	1154	2.2	Roman Phase 2. Group: Undated pit	80			*	4	***	23	****	27			FCF **/ 127g - stone */ 34g - coal */ <1g
15	1172		Ditch	1171	2.2	Roman Phase 2. Group: 1st C AD Enclosure Ditch	40											industrial debris */ <1g - mag. Mat. ***/ 3g
16	1178		Pit	1177	2.2	Roman Phase 2	40									*	<1	industrial debris */ <1g - pottery **/ 62g - burnt clay */ 18g - flint */ 22g - stone */ 284g
17	1181		Pit	1182	2.2	LIA - Early Roman Pits Cluster	40											pottery */ 1g - coal */ <1g

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Context / deposit type	Parent context	Date	Description	Sample Volume litres	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
18	1190		Ditch	1189	2.2	1st C AD Enclosure Ditch	40											flint */ <1g - burnt bone */ <1g - coal */ <1g

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	notes
1	1009		6	20	20	60	10	* *Chenopodium* sp.	*	**	***										root dominated
2	1011		1.5	25	25	40	10		**	**	***	*	*Hordeum* sp., hulled (1)	+							charcoal dominated, lots of roots
3	1013		3	50	50	40	10	* *Rubus* sp.	*	**	***										charcoal dominated, lots of roots
4	1017		6	50	50	30	10	** *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp.	**	***	****										charcoal dominated, lots of roots
5	1021		4.5	50	50	40	10	* *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp.	**	***	****	*	Hordeum sp. (2)	+	*	cf *Avena* sp.(1)	+				root and charcoal dominated
6	1022		15	60	60	20	10	** *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp.	**	***	****	*	*Triticum dicoccum/spelta, Hordeum* sp., hulled, *Triticum/Hordeum* sp.	+/++							charcoal dominated, roughly 10 cereal grains

7	1025		13	75	75	60	10	* *Rubus* sp., *Chenopodium* sp.	**	***	****									root and charcoal dominated
8	1026		13	50	50	30	10	* *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp.	*	**	****	*	*Hordeum* sp. (1)	+	*	Large Poaceae, cf *Stellaria* sp.	+				charcoal dominated
9	1027		25	95	95	20	10		**	***	****	*	cf *Triticum* sp., *Triticum/Hordeum* sp.								charcoal dominated
10	1033		24	80	80	10	10		**	***	****										charcoal dominated
11	1042		170	700	100	10	10		***	****	****										
12	1049		9	30	30	30	20	* *Chenopodium* sp.	**	***	****										charcoal dominated
13	1132		4	50	50	60	10	** *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp.		**	***				*	*Brassica* sp. (1)	++				root dominated
14	1156		1000	2500	100	10	10		****	****	****										large, charcoal dominated flot
15	1172		2.5	30	30	45	10			*	****										dominated by tiny charcoal fragments and roots
16	1178		27.5	75	75	40	20	* *Rubus* sp., *Chenopodium* sp.	**	***	****	*	Triticum sp., *Triticum/Hordeum* sp.	+	*	Poaceae	+	*	cf *Triticum spelta* glume bases (2)	++	root and charcoal dominated

17	1181		2	10	10	60	20				**										ROOT DOMINATED
18	1190		8	35	35	30	10	* *Rubus* sp., *Chenopodium* sp.				**	Triticum sp., Triticum/Hordeum sp.		*	Poaceae, *Chenopodium/Atriplex* sp., *Persicaria* cf *lapathifolia*	+	**	*Triticum dicoccum/spelta, Triticum spelta, Triticum* cf *dicoccum* glume bases, Poaceae stem fragment		small flot, charcoal dominated. Between 10-20 caryopses and about 10 glume bases

Appendix 6: HER Summary

Site code	MLH15					
Project code	7638					
Planning reference	MA/13/1702					
Site address	Land west of Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9NP					
District/Borough	Barming					
NGR (12 figures)	573125 155612					
Geology	Hythe Formation / Sandgate Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav √	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	Start: 22-06-2015 End: 28-07-2015					
Sponsor/client	Bovis Homes					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Odile Rouard					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age √	Iron Age √	
	Roman √	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval √	Other	
Project summary **(100 word max)**	An excavation took place on land west of Hermitage Lane, following an evaluation. The earliest remains on site are a possible Bronze Age enclosure and pits. The main occupation of the site took place during the Late Iron Age / Early Roman period and consisted of a field system, enclosure and possible droveway. Evidence of briquetage was found on the site, as well as a fairly substantial assemblage of pottery and a strap iron (from a horse harness). There is no evidence for occupation of the site between the early Roman period and the post-medieval period.					

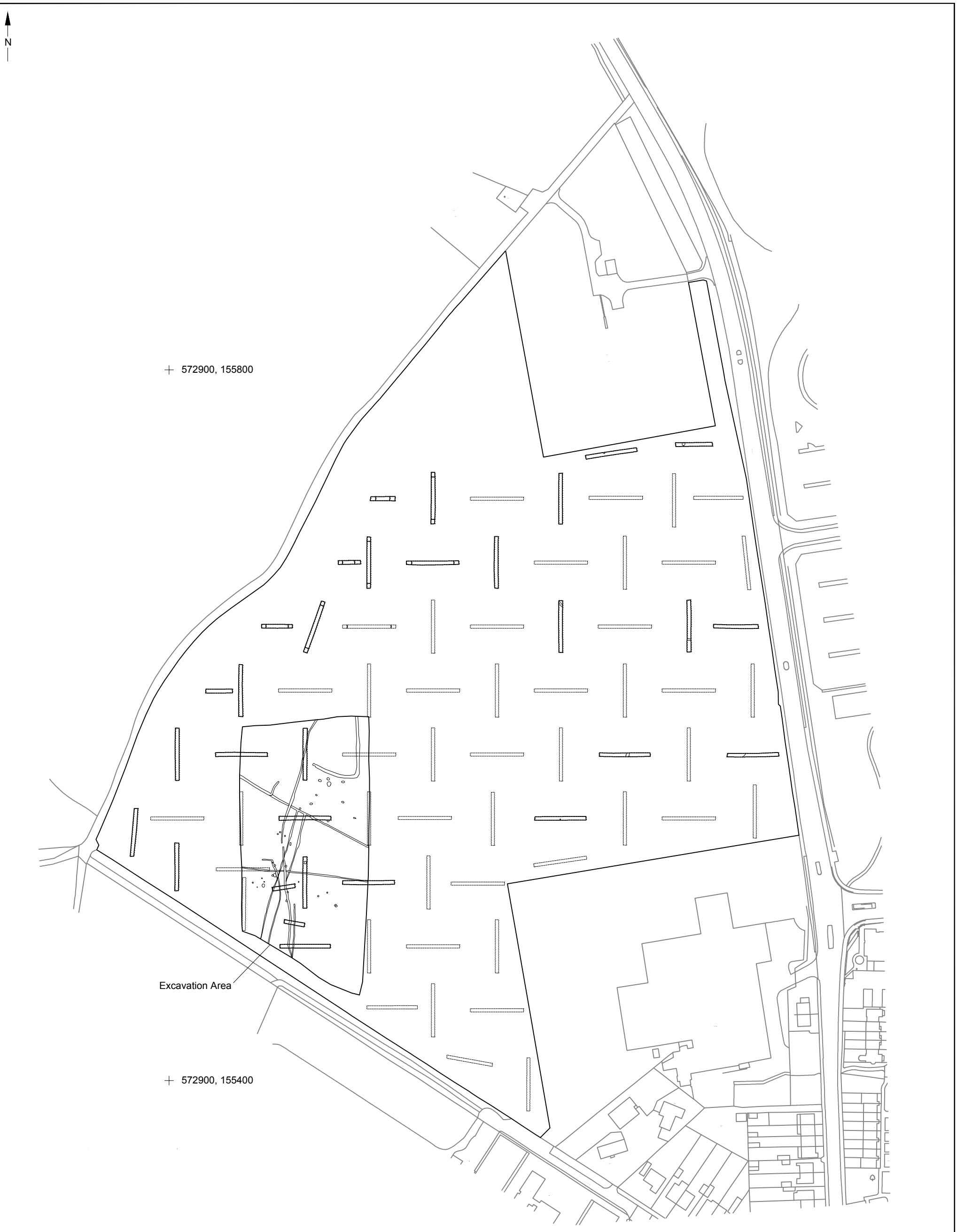
Appendix 7: OASIS Summary

OASIS ID: archaeol6-245918

Project details	
Project name	Excavation on land west of Hermitage Lane
Short description of the project	An excavation took place on land west of Hermitage Lane, following an evaluation. The earliest remains on site are a possible Bronze Age enclosure and pits. The main occupation of the site took place during the Late Iron Age / Early Roman period and consisted of a field system, enclosure and possible droveway. Evidence of briquetage was found on the site, as well as a fairly substantial assemblage of pottery and a strap iron (from a horse harness). There is no evidence for occupation of the site between the early Roman period and the post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2015 End: 28-07-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	MLH15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Bronze Age
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Late Iron Age
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE PEDESTAL Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	STRAP UNION Late Iron Age
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Recorded Observation","Salvage Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE BARMING Land west of Hermitage Lane
Postcode	ME16 9NP
Study area	0.95 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 573125 155612 50.917460655417 0.238254635499 50 55 02 N 000 14 17 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 83m Max: 87m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief	Bovis Homes Ltd

originator	
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Odile Rouard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Bovis Homes Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Physical Contents	"Environmental","Human Bones","Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Manuscript","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text","Unspecified Archive"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	PXA and UPD: Land off Hermitage Lane
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Rouard, O.
Other bibliographic details	2016041
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	grey literature PXA and UPD
Entered by	Odile Rouard (o.rouard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	17 March 2016

© Archaeology South-East		Land off Hermitage Lane, Maidstone	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		



© **Archaeology South-East**		Maidstone, Land off Hermitage Lane	Fig.2
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Plan showing area of excavation and evaluation trenches	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

N

572925, 155595

573025, 155460

Period 1

Period 2

Period 2.1

Period 2.2

Period 3

0 20m

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Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Plan showing all recorded features	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

N

OA 1

572945, 155545

572985, 155530

Section 1

ENC 1

0 5m

Section 1

N S

85.22mOD

1132

1133

0 0.5m

Ditch 1133, looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Maidstone, Land off Hermitage Lane	Fig.4
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Period 1 : plan, selected sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

N

Section 2

FS 1

572945, 155500

572985, 155490

0 5m

Section 2

S N

85.29mOD

1058

1057

0 0.5m

Ditch 1057, looking west

© Archaeology South-East		Maidstone, Land off Hermitage Lane	Fig.5
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Period 2.1 : plan, selected sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

N

572925, 155595

ENC 2

Section 3

FS 2

FS 2

FS 2

ST 1

FS 2

0 20m

Group ST 1, looking north

Ditch 1189, looking south west

573025, 155460

Section 3

NE SW

85.16mOD

1190

1189

0 0.5m

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Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Period 2.2 : plan, selected sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

Ditch 1147, looking south

N

572925, 155595

FS 3

Section 4

573025, 155460

0 20m

Section 4

E W

85.11mOD

1146

1147

0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		Maidstone, Land off Hermitage Lane	Fig.7
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Period 2.3 : plan, selected sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

N

572960, 155580

Section 5

572945, 155550

Ditch 1014, looking west

Section 5

SW NE 85.65mOD

1015

1014

0 0.5m

0 5m

© Archaeology South-East		Maidstone, Land off Hermitage Lane	Fig.8
Project Ref: 7638	01 - 2016	Period 3 : plan, selected sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016041	Drawn by: NG		

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