

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land North of Howland Road
Marden, Kent**

NGR: 575190 144656

Planning Ref: MA/13/1291

ASE Project No: 160759

Site Code: HOW16

ASE Report No: 2016451

OASIS id: archaeol6-269722



By Steve Price

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land North of Howland Road
Marden, Kent**

NGR: 575190 144656

Planning Ref: MA/13/1291

**ASE Project No: 160759
Site Code: HOW16**

**ASE Report No: 2016451
OASIS id: archaeol6-269722**

Prepared by:	Steve Price	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	November 2016		
Revision:			

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land north of Howland Road, Marden, Kent between 31st October and 9th November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Jones Homes South East; 22 trenches were excavated. Due to the presence of trees on site, trenches 8, 11, 14, 17 and 18 had to be cut short. Deeper geoarchaeological test pits were excavated at the ends of all trenches apart from trenches 4, 11, 14 and 18. River terrace deposits were identified but no artefacts, ecofacts, or deposits with geoarchaeological potential were revealed.

In the westernmost part of the site, the evaluation uncovered evidence of medieval field systems dating to between c.1050 and 1350/75. The rest of the site is apparently archaeologically sterile. Although a certain amount of modern truncation was identified on site, this does not appear to have had a significant effect on archaeological deposits in the westernmost area.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

Appendix 1: Geoarchaeological test pit logs

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts
Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts
Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts
Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts
Table 7: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts
Table 8: Trenches 5, 11, 12 and 13 list of recorded contexts
Table 9: Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 list of recorded contexts
Table 10: Trenches 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22 list of recorded contexts
Table 11: Finds quantification
Table 12: Summary of the pottery assemblage
Table 13: Residue quantification and weights
Table 14: Flot quantification

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Trench location highlighting archaeology and geoarchaeological test pits
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan, section and photograph
Figure 4: Trench 2 plan, section and photograph
Figure 5: Trench 3 plan, section and photograph
Figure 6: Trench 4 plan, sections and photographs
Figure 7: Trench 21 plan, section and photograph
Figure 8: Selected photographs of geoarchaeological test pits

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Jones Homes South East to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north of Howland Road, Marden, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR 575190 144656; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located immediately north of Howland Road and south of the railway track. It is bounded by residential development and open areas to the west and by an attenuation pond to the east.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey website, the underlying geology of the site is Weald Clay Formation – mudstone with superficial deposits of river terrace – sand and gravel (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission for residential development has been granted by Maidstone Borough Council subject to conditions (MA/13/1291). Condition 13 states:

13. The development shall not commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2016) for the archaeological evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Heritage Conservation Group, KCC prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this and with the Kent County Council *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2007), which outlines the methodology to be used in the field, and in reporting and archiving of the results.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between the 31st October and the 9th November 2016. The fieldwork was directed by Steve Price with the assistance of Tom Simms. Dr Ed Blinkhorn undertook the geoarchaeological test-pitting exercise. The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason, the post excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Prehistoric material within the Weald tends to be sparse. The region was covered in dense forest throughout this period, and much of the known settlement pattern concentrates around the rim of the Weald, exploiting the better soils of the Chalk and Greensand. The small amount of prehistoric material that is known from the area tends to be of Mesolithic date and reflects activities associated with resource exploitation, often on a seasonal basis, and mainly comprises evidence for hunter gathering activity.

2.2.2 The early farming communities of the Neolithic saw a major phase of woodland clearance take place, opening up land for crops and the domestication of animals. Much of the evidence for this period is found in the north of the county, with high status 'monuments' such as the causewayed enclosures at Burham and Kingsborough Farm and complex burial monuments such as Kits Coty House and Julliberrie's Grave. Neolithic finds in the Low Weald tend to be axes and flint scatters, indicative perhaps of a reliance on hunting in these less favourable locales.

2.2.3 The Bronze Age is characterised by the introduction of metals and, initially, the construction of a distinctive burial tradition under round earthen barrows. The later Bronze Age period saw a change in emphasis away from the ritual landscape towards a more utilitarian landscape of agricultural settlement, albeit with spirituality as an integral part of the fabric. Recent studies of Late Bronze Age settlement have identified a bias towards the better soils and improved trading links of the coastal plain and estuaries, but settlement elsewhere in Kent is becoming clearer. Settlement foci are known along the Greensand ridge, although evidence from the Weald is scarcer.

2.2.4 The Iron Age saw a general continuation of trends from the preceding period, with increasing numbers of open settlements and defended enclosures evident. The known Early Iron Age settlement pattern is largely concentrated in the north-east of the county, although several small settlements are known along the Greensand, probably associated with the ancient trackway running along the North Downs. Later Iron Age settlement is much more evident across the county, with many sites along the Greensand, and a concentration of activity on the Weald Clay itself around Ashford.

2.2.5 The KCC archaeological advisor has highlighted the following areas of potential:

River Terrace Gravels, a spring and a pond on site – potential for Palaeolithic and palaeoenvironmental remains. There are some Bronze Age and Iron Age remains currently being found to the south of the Marden and similar remains may extend up here too, especially in view of the existence of the spring.

2.3 Romano/British

- 2.3.1 As the nearest part of Britain to the Continent, Kent experienced contact with Rome from an early date. Following the Roman invasion of AD43, the region became heavily settled, particularly along the principal route, Watling Street, which linked Richborough with the major urban centres of Canterbury, Rochester and London. Stone Street was subsequently constructed southwards from Rochester, to access the iron resources of the Weald. Much of Kent was characterised by pre-Roman native type farmsteads, although the distribution of other Roman sites and finds are widespread, with all the main river valleys being well populated.
- 2.3.2 The iron industry took advantage of the favourable Wealden landscape during the Romano-British period, although the evidence is sparse and often destroyed or obscured by later working. Ironworking sites were located close to roads or tracks to allow the movement of heavy raw materials and products.

2.4 Early Medieval

- 2.4.1 The demise of Roman authority in Britain saw a return to older ways of life, with a gradual decline in both the economy and administration of the colony, and an influx of settlers from Germanic lands across the North Sea. This migration of Germanic peoples introduced a new language and material culture into southern and eastern Britain. However, knowledge of the period following the departure of the Romans is fragmentary, in part due to issues with dating evidence, as a result of the lack of official coinage and the decline of the big pottery industries. Although Kent was one of the first areas to be heavily settled by Germanic peoples, they tended to prefer the more tractable soils of the coastal plain and the river valleys.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 By Domesday, the Wealden landscape had incorporated settlements and agriculture mainly of a pastoral nature but also included some early 'irregular' open-field systems that were later enclosed. Medieval settlement in the Weald is typified by a dispersed pattern of farmsteads with associated open field systems (often enclosed at an early stage producing irregular field patterns), hamlets and moated sites. Isolated churches served these settlements. Much of the medieval settlement still exists as modern farmsteads. Higher status features of medieval settlement are less evident.
- 2.5.2 Although there is no mention of the village of Marden in the Domesday Book, by 1085, there is a reference to a church. During the 13th century Edward I gave the village to his mother, Queen Eleanor, who was granted the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. The prosperity which resulted from this was short-lived owing to the onset of the Black Death in 1349 and the Peasants Revolt in 1389, with ten ringleaders from the area of the Weald.

2.6 Post-Medieval

- 2.6.1 The Marden History Group note that in 1640 three clothiers from Marden and Goudhurst invented a new process of dyeing. The production of one piece of cloth involved as many as 20 to 30 men, women and children, suggesting that the industry would have brought employment and comparative wealth to the village, despite the up and downs of trade.
- 2.6.2 By 1800, the cloth trade began to diminish in the area moving northwards, but Marden consisted of approximately 300 houses, which were largely self-sufficient; local craftsmen supplied most of the villagers' needs and the economy was rooted in agriculture. The local rich clay soil (surrounding the Study Area beyond the route of the rivers) supported the rearing of cattle and the growing of crops.
- 2.6.3 The arrival of the railway and station in Marden by 1842, was a very popular proposition in the village because the local road network was muddy and was hindering the transport of produce, stock and supplies.
- 2.6.4 The KCC archaeological advisor has highlighted the following areas of potential:

The 1st Ed OS map places two buildings no longer upstanding within the proposed site; remains of these buildings may survive on site; Vine Cottage is considered to be a 16th century or earlier building and has direct access to the spring; there may be post-medieval or earlier remains associated with this cottage; Vine Cottage is Listed Grade II; The site may contain remnants of ancient field boundaries.

2.7 Research aims and objectives

- 2.7.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects, are:

To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits.

To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site.

To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site.

To assess what options should be considered for mitigation.

- 2.7.2 The project will seek to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

The use of the Weald in later prehistory.

Better our understanding of medieval and post-medieval Marden.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1.1 Trench locations are depicted on Figure 2. Trenches could not be located exactly as per the WSI (ASE2016), which stated that the evaluation would comprise the excavation of 25 trenches each measuring 20m x 1.8m. The number of trenches was reduced to 22 due to on site constraints (trees and general overgrowth).
- 3.1.2 Due to the presence of trees on site, Trenches 8, 11, 14, 17 and 18 also had to be cut short.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were accurately located by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.4 An electric cable is aligned across the eastern part of the site, and trenches were positioned to avoid known services. The locations of all the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of excavation.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological features and deposits were investigated by hand and recorded using standard ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made by digital means. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.1.7 Backfilling was undertaken by the machine in reverse order in layers of no more than 0.25m, each compacted by machine bucket. The geological test pits were backfilled sequentially on recording so that they would not be left open overnight.

3.2 Geoarchaeological Methodology

- 3.2.1 Deeper geoarchaeological test pits were machine excavated at the ends of all trenches with the exception of Trenches 4, 11, 14 and 18 (Figure 2).
- 3.2.2 The 17 geoarchaeological test-pits (GTP) each measuring approximately 2.0m x 2.2m, were excavated at the ends of each trench (or in one case positioned centrally) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Each GTP was excavated under close geoarchaeological supervision in spits not exceeding 50mm and, where encountered, following the interface between sedimentary units. The spoil from each bucket was visually scanned for artefacts. Samples of each sedimentary unit were sifted for artefact recovery.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	120
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	139
Context register	4
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	22

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	8 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	2
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[1/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.22-0.28	29.69-30.28
[1/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.18-0.23	
[1/003]	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.04-0.06	
[1/004]	Cut	Ditch	>1.80	0.80	0.36	
[1/005]	Fill	Fill, single	>1.80	0.80	0.36	

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The natural geology [1/003] comprised mottled light grey/ mid orange firmly compacted clay with frequent iron stone inclusions. This was overlain by a light yellowish-grey silty clay subsoil [1/002] with occasional iron stone inclusions. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil [1/001], which consisted of friable dark greyish-brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional-moderate small angular stones measuring 10-40mm and moderate iron stone.

4.1.2 Around the middle of Trench 1, a narrow ditch [1/004] was encountered cut into the natural geology [1/003]. It was visible running E-W through Trench 1, and measured 0.80m wide x 0.36m deep. The ditch contained a single fill [1/005], consisting of firmly compacted light greyish-yellow silty sandy clay with occasional iron stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. The ditch was sealed by the subsoil [1/002].

4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[2/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.23-0.38	29.87-30.28
[2/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31-0.35	
[2/003]	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.08	
[2/004]	Cut	Ditch	>2.50	0.46	0.24	
[2/005]	Fill	Fill, single	>2.50	0.46	0.24	

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The natural geology [2/003], subsoil [2/002] and topsoil [2/001] were the same as those described above in 4.1.1, following the same stratigraphical sequence.

4.2.2 At the south end of Trench 2, a narrow, shallow ditch was recorded cut into the natural geology [2/003]. It was oriented NW-SE, and was visible for a length of 2.50m. It measured 0.46m wide x 0.24m deep. It contained a single fill [2/005], consisting of firmly compacted mid yellow silty sandy clay with occasional iron stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. The ditch was sealed by the subsoil [2/002]. Although shallower and narrower than the ditch recorded in Trench 1, [2/004] was found to be on the same alignment as [1/004].

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[3/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.26-0.30	29.47-29.93
[3/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.23-0.31	
[3/003]	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.10	
[3/004]	Cut	Ditch	>2.50	0.65	0.30	
[3/005]	Fill	Fill, single	>2.50	0.65	0.30	

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The natural geology [3/003], subsoil [3/002] and topsoil [3/001] were the same as those described above in 4.1.1, following the same stratigraphical sequence.

4.3.2 At the SW end of Trench 3, a shallow ditch [3/004] was recorded cut into the natural geology [3/003]. It was oriented E-W, and visible for a length of 2.50m. It measured 0.65m wide x 0.30m deep. It contained a single fill [3/005], consisting of firmly compacted mid yellow silty sandy clay, with occasional iron stone and charcoal inclusions. A single sherd of pottery rim was recovered dated c.1050-1200/25.

4.4 Trench 4

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[4/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.22-0.28	29.02-29.31
[4/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.21-0.29	
[4/003]	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.05	
[4/004]	Void					
[4/005]	Cut	Pit	0.53	0.43	0.15	
[4/006]	Fill	Fill, single	0.53	0.43	0.15	
[4/007]	Cut	Ditch	>4.00	0.61	0.29	
[4/008]	Fill	Fill, single	>4.00	0.61	0.29	
[4/009]	Fill	Fill, upper	>1.80	1.57	0.24	
[4/010]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	1.35	0.28	
[4/011]	Cut	Ditch	>1.80	0.75	0.22	
[4/012]	Fill	Fill, single	>1.80	0.75	0.22	
[4/013]	Cut	Pit	0.61	0.29	0.21	
[4/014]	Fill	Fill, single	0.61	0.29	0.21	
[4/015]	Cut	Ditch	>1.80	2.16	0.46	
[4/016]	Cut	Pit	>1.67	1.67		
[4/017]	Fill	Fill, primary	Unknown	0.61	0.28	
[4/018]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	0.90	0.29	
[4/019]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	0.79	0.15	
[4/020]	Fill	Fill, primary	>1.67	0.94	0.18	
[4/021]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	0.91	0.14	
[4/022]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	1.27	0.20	
[4/023]	Cut	Ditch	>4.00	0.61	0.29	
[4/024]	Fill	Fill, primary	>4.00	0.47	0.13	
[4/025]	Fill	Fill, secondary	>4.00	0.32	0.32	
[4/026]	Cut	Ditch	>1.80	0.84	0.31	
[4/027]	Fill	Fill, primary	>1.80	0.42	0.09	
[4/028]	Fill	Fill, secondary	>1.80	0.71	0.19	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[4/029]	Fill	Fill, secondary	>1.80	0.71	0.13	
[4/030]	Cut	Ditch	>1.80	0.84	0.22	
[4/031]	Fill	Fill, primary	>1.80	0.27	0.11	
[4/032]	Fill	Fill, secondary	>1.80	0.37	0.10	
[4/033]	Cut	Pit	0.48	0.32	0.15	
[4/034]	Fill	Fill, primary	0.48	0.19	0.08	
[4/035]	Fill	Fill, secondary	0.48	0.32	0.08	
[4/036]	Fill	Fill, basal	Unknown	1.07	0.06	
[4/037]	Fill	Fill, primary	Unknown	0.96	0.4	
[4/038]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	1.54	0.23	
[4/039]	Fill	Fill, secondary	Unknown	1.68	0.14	
[4/040]	Fill	Fill, secondary	>1.80	0.27	0.06	

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The natural geology [4/003] consisted of firmly compacted dark orange silty clay with occasional iron stone inclusions. It was overlain by subsoil [4/002] and topsoil [4/001] layers which were the same as those described above in 4.1.1.
- 4.4.2 A small pit [4/005] was encountered mid trench cut into the natural [4/003]. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.53m long, 0.43m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill [4/006], which consisted of firmly compacted light grey silty clay, mottled with light orange streaks. The inclusions consisted of occasional charcoal flecks and occasional iron stones. No finds were recovered.
- 4.4.3 Towards the east end of Trench 4, two ditches [4/007]/ [4023] and [4/026]/ [4/030] were located running perpendicular to each other. A relationship slot was excavated, but proved inconclusive. Both ditches in fact appeared to contain the same fills, suggesting contemporaneity.
- 4.4.4 Ditch [4/007]/ [4023] was oriented NE-SW, and was visible for a length of 4m. It measured 0.61m wide x 0.21m deep, and contained two fills, [4/024] and [4/008]/ [4/025].
- 4.4.5 Fill [4/024] consisted of firmly compacted mottled mid brown/ mid orange-yellow sandy silty clay, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and occasional iron stones. Several sherds of pottery were recovered dated c.1050-1225.
- 4.4.6 Fill [4/024] was overlain by fill [4/008]/ [4025]. This consisted of firmly compacted mid yellowish-brown sandy silty clay, with inclusions of moderate iron stones and occasional charcoal. A single sherd of pottery dated c.1200/25-1350/75 was recovered.
- 4.4.7 Ditch [4/026]/ [4/030] was oriented NW-SE, and was visible for a length of 1.8m. It measured 0.84m wide x 0.31m deep, and contained three fills, [4/027]/ [4/031], [4/028]/ [4/032] and [4/029]/ [4/040].

- 4.4.8 Primary fill [4/027]/ [4/031] consisted of firmly compacted mid grey clayey silt, with occasional iron stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. This fill was overlain by a secondary fill [4/028]/ [4/032], which was found to be the same as [4/024]. Two sherds of pottery were recovered, dated c.1050-1200/25 and c.1200/25-1350/75 respectively. Fill [4/028]/ [4/032] was overlain by [4/029]/ [4/040], which was found to be the same as [4/008]/ [4/025]. Three pottery sherds were recovered from [4/029]/ [4/040], dated c.1050-1200/25, c.1050-1350/75 and c.1200/25-1350/75 respectively.
- 4.4.9 A small oval shaped pit/ post-hole [4/033] was found cut into the NW edge of ditch [4/026]/ [4/030]. It measured 0.48m long, 0.32m wide, 0.15m deep and contained two fills. The primary fill [4/034] consisted of moderately compacted mid grey with frequent orange streaks, sandy silty clay. This fill contained inclusions of occasional iron stones and charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a secondary fill [4/035] consisting of moderately compacted mottled light grey/ light orange-yellow sandy silty clay, with occasional iron stone and charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered from either fill.
- 4.4.10 At the far eastern end of Trench 4, a ditch [4/011] was located running N-S across the width of the trench. It was visible for a length of 1.8m, and measured 0.75m wide x 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill [4/012], consisting of firmly compacted mid yellowish-brown sandy silty clay, with occasional iron stone and charcoal inclusions. The ditch was truncated by a modern land drain running NW-SE across the eastern end of Trench 4.
- 4.4.11 Ditch [4/011] was found to be cutting a pit [4/013], visible in the south facing section for a length of 0.29m, and measuring 0.61m wide x 0.21m deep. The pit contained a single fill [4/014], consisting of firmly compacted mottled mid brownish-grey/ mid orange yellow silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 4.4.12 At the west end of trench 4, a ditch [4/015] was encountered oriented N-S, cut into the natural [4/003]. It was visible for a length of 1.8m, and measured 2.16m wide x 0.46m deep. It contained 7 fills, [4/009], [4/017], [4/018], [4/019], [4/036], [4/037] and [4/038], although not all fills were visible in both N and S facing sections.
- 4.4.13 In the N facing section of ditch [4/015], primary fill [4/017] was visible, consisting of firmly compacted light brownish-yellow silty clay, with inclusions of frequent iron stones and occasional very small angular stones c.10mm or less. This was presumably a result of slumping/ erosion from the western edge of the ditch.
- 4.4.14 Fill [4/017] was overlain by [4/018], consisting of mottled light orange-yellow/ light bluish-grey/ white silty clay, with inclusions of occasional iron stones and small angular stones measuring c.10-30mm. This fill appeared to be re-deposited natural.
- 4.4.15 Fill [4/018] was overlain by [4/019], which consisted of mottled mid reddish brown/ mid yellowish-brown/ light greenish-grey silty clay, with inclusions of frequent iron stones and occasional angular stones measuring c.10-20mm.

- 4.4.16 Fill [4/018] was overlain by [4/009], consisting of firmly compacted mid greenish-grey silty clay, with inclusions of frequent charcoal, moderate iron stones, occasional burnt clay and small angular stones measuring c.20-40mm. A 40 litre sample was taken from this context due to the concentration of charcoal. Five pottery sherds were recovered dating broadly c.1050-1375, as well as one heavily abraded residual Late Iron Age/ Roman sherd.
- 4.4.17 The S facing section of ditch [4/015] revealed a primary trample layer [4/036], consisting of mid greenish-grey silty clay, with inclusions of frequent iron stones and occasional angular stones measuring c.30-40mm. This fill presumably occurred as the feature was being cut.
- 4.4.18 Fill [4/037] consisted of moderately compacted light greyish-brown silty clay, with occasional iron stone inclusions. This fill appeared to have been a result of slumping/ erosion. Two pottery sherds dated c.1050-1200/25 were recovered.
- 4.4.19 [4/037] was overlain by [4/038], consisting of firmly compacted mottled mid greyish-brown/ mid orange silty clay, with inclusions of frequent iron stones and occasional angular stones c.10-20mm. [4/038] was overlain by fill [4/009] already described above.
- 4.4.20 Ditch [4/015] was cut by a substantial pit [4/016], visible for 1.67m in length, and measuring 1.67m wide x 0.47m deep. It contained five fills, [4/010], [4/020], [4/021], [4/022] and [4/039], although as with ditch [4/015] not all fills were visible in both N and S facing sections.
- 4.4.21 The N facing section revealed a basal fill [4/020] consisting of mid quite firmly compacted mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional iron stone inclusions.
- 4.4.22 [4/020] was overlain by fill [4/021], which consisted of moderately mid reddish-brown silty clay with moderate iron stone inclusions.
- 4.4.23 Fill [4/021] was overlain by [4/022], consisting of mottled light brownish yellow/ dark grey clayey silt with inclusions of frequent iron stones and occasional small angular stones c.10-20mm.
- 4.4.24 The S facing section revealed the basal fill [4/020] was overlain by [4/010]. This fill consisted of moderately compacted mid bluish-grey silty clay, with inclusions of frequent charcoal, moderate iron stones and occasional burnt clay fragments. A 40 litre sample was taken from this context due to the high concentration of charcoal present.
- 4.4.25 Fill [4/010] was overlain by [4/039], which consisted of dark brownish grey silty clay, with inclusions of moderate iron stones and occasional chalk flecks.

4.5 Trench 21

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[21/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.39	
[21/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.26	
[21/003]	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.06-0.07	
[21/004]	Cut	Ditch	1.80	0.93	0.27	
[21/005]	Fill	Fill, primary	1.80	0.45	0.02-0.19	
[21/006]	Fill	Fill, secondary	1.80	0.93	0.10-0.25	

Table 7: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 The natural geology [21/003], subsoil [21/002] and topsoil [21/001] were the same as those described above in 4.1.1.
- 4.5.2 A shallow ditch [21/004] was encountered 11m from the north end of the trench cut into the natural geology [21/003]. It was oriented E-W, and visible for a length of 1.80m. It measured 0.92m wide x 0.28m deep. It contained a basal fill [21/005], consisting of moderately compacted mottled mid yellowish-brown/ light greyish-white silty sandy clay, with very occasional small angular stone inclusions measuring 10-20mm. This was overlain by a secondary fill [21/006] which consisted of firmly compacted mottled mid brown/ mid reddish-orange/ light yellow clayey sand, with inclusions of moderate iron stone, occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional small angular stones measuring 10-20mm.

Archaeologically Negative Trenches

4.6 Trenches 5, 11, 12 and 13

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.38	29.57-29.88
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.31	
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	>0.15-0.31	
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.35	29.18-29.51
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.41-0.59	
11	11/003	Layer	Natural	>0.18-0.26	
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.31	
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.29-0.44	28.67-28.82
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	>0.09-0.16	
12	12/004	Deposit	Made ground	1.01	
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.34	28.44-28.52
13	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26-0.53	
13	13/003	Layer	Natural	>0.07-0.17	

Table 8: Trenches 5, 11, 12 and 13 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 11 had to be cut short to 10m due to the presence of a large oak tree towards the north end of the trench.
- 4.6.2 The natural generally consisted of firmly compacted mottled light yellowish-orange/ light grey sandy silty clay, with inclusions of frequent iron stones and moderate angular mud stones c.10-20mm. There were some small variations between trenches: in Trench 12, there were occasional patches of light bluish-green clay within the natural; in Trench 13, the natural contained occasional patches of mottled light bluish-green/ light orange brown clay, with moderate manganese striations, angular and sub-rounded stones measuring c.10-50mm.
- 4.6.3 In Trench 12, a made ground deposit was encountered 8.94m from the east end of the trench. It consisted of re-deposited top and subsoil, concrete slabs, pieces of metal, polythene, bricks, brick fragments and chalk flecks. It measured a maximum width of 2.56m although it did become much narrower towards the bottom of the deposit, measuring 0.61m. It was 1.01m deep. No similar deposits were encountered in any other trench.
- 4.6.4 The subsoil encountered in Trenches 5, 11, 12 and 13 consisted of moderately compacted light yellowish-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional iron stones. It varied in thickness from 0.16m to 0.59m.
- 4.6.5 The topsoil was found to be the same across the entire site, as described in 4.1.1. For the above trenches, the topsoil varied in thickness from 0.19m to 0.43m.

4.7 Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.34	28.74-29.46
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.27-0.31	
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	>0.19-0.35	
6	6/004	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	>0.19-0.20	
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.28	28.96-29.07
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.29	
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	>0.05-0.28	
7	7/004	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	>0.12	
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.29	28.72-28.81
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18-0.25	
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	>0.12-0.22	
8	8/004	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	>0.19-0.21	
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.27	29.40-29.51
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21-0.33	
9	9/003	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	>0.38	
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.28	28.33-28.81
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.06-0.30	
10	10/003	Deposit	Redeposited natural	0.15	
10	10/004	Deposit	Redeposited natural alluvial deposit	0.49-0.62	
10	10/005	Deposit	Natural alluvial deposit	>0.03-0.19	

Table 9: Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 8 had to be cut short to 15m, due to the presence of bushes to the south.
- 4.7.2 The natural consisted of firmly compacted mid orange clay with frequent iron stone inclusions. Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 also contained natural alluvial depositions which were apparently overlying the natural ground. This alluvium consisted of firmly compacted light to mid bluish-grey clay which was sticky to the touch.
- 4.7.3 In Trench 10, it was apparent that layers [10/003] and [10/004] had been previously excavated and re-deposited. This was clear in that [10/003] consisted of the orange clay natural geology, which was overlying the redeposited alluvium [10/004] in this case, in reverse stratigraphical order to the rest of the site. The subsoil and topsoil had been replaced in the correct sequence. The reason for this disturbance was not clear, and it was not apparent in any other trench.
- 4.7.4 The subsoil encountered in these trenches was the same as that described in 4.6.2. It varied in thickness from 0.06m to 0.33m.
- 4.7.5 The topsoil measured between 0.12m and 0.34m thick in trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

4.8 Trenches 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.28	28.63-28.80
14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21-0.25	
14	14/003	Layer	Natural	>0.04-0.15	
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.28	28.46
15	15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.23-0.26	
15	15/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.06-0.14	
15	15/004	Layer	Natural	>0.10-0.12	
15	15/005	Void			
16	16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.28	27.86-28.36
16	16/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.25-0.29	
16	16/003	Layer	Natural	>0.05-0.06	
17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.29	28.02
17	17/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.25-0.29	
17	17/003	Layer	Natural	>0.07-0.19	
17	17/004	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.14	
18	18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.43	27.51-27.86
18	18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.44	
18	18/003	Layer	Natural	>0.09	
19	19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32-0.42	27.33-27.35
19	19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.32	
19	19/003	Layer	Natural	>0.05-0.15	
20	20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.33	27.09-27.63
20	20/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26-0.34	
20	20/003	Layer	Natural	>0.04-0.09	
22	22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.28	
22	22/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.23	
22	22/003	Layer	Natural	>0.05	

Table 10: Trenches 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 Trench 14 had to be cut short to 9m due to the presence of a large oak tree towards the south end of the trench. Trench 17 was excavated in two sections due to an overhanging tree 6.8m from the south end of the trench. The total excavated length of this trench amounted to 16.05m. It was only possible to excavate 6.5m of trench 18, due to a group of trees towards the west end of the trench.
- 4.8.1 The natural geology consisted of firmly compacted light greenish-grey sandy clay, mottled with patches of mid orange-brown sandy clay, with frequent iron stone inclusions.
- 4.8.2 Trenches 15 and 17 contained a layer overlying the natural not present in the other trenches, [15/003] and [17/004] respectively. This consisted of firmly compacted light orange-yellow silty sandy clay with occasional iron stone inclusions.
- 4.8.3 Trenches 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 22 all contained the same subsoil, which consisted of firmly compacted mottled mid yellowish-brown/ light grey sandy silty clay, with moderate iron stone inclusions. It measured between 0.15m

and 0.44m thick across these trenches. In trench 15, this subsoil [15/002] was overlying [15/003], and in trench 17 [17/002] was overlying [17/004].

4.8.4 The subsoil in trenches 19 and 20 consisted of firmly compacted light brownish-grey silty coarse sand with moderate orange streaks, and inclusions of moderate iron stone. It measured between 0.22m and 0.34m thick.

4.8.5 The topsoil measured between 0.22m and 0.43m thick.

Geoarchaeological Test-Pits

4.9 Summary of Results

- 4.9.1 Logs for the GTPs are provided in Appendix 1, locations are shown on Figure 2 and sample photographs on Figure 8.
- 4.9.2 Four main units were identified during the test-pitting exercise, comprising Weald Clay, sandstone rich river terrace deposits, a transitional deposit which appears as a subsoil or shallow brickearth and topsoil. River terrace deposits were typically encountered between 0.45 – 0.75 m below ground level and Weald Clay was typically encountered between 1.00 – 1.50 m below ground level. To the north-west, the river terrace unit had truncated Weald Clay at c. 2.50 m below ground level.
- 4.9.3 The river terrace unit had a sharp irregular contact with the Weald Clay, the latter occasionally being found to be reworked at the base of the river terrace unit. Degraded sandstone dominated the composition of the terrace, with the finer matrix comprising varying proportions of clay, silt and sand across the site.
- 4.9.4 No artefacts, ecofacts, or deposits with geoarchaeological potential were identified.
- 4.9.5 While generally consistent, increasingly to the north and west across the site the river terrace unit exhibited evidence for cryoturbation at the surface and liquefaction of a sand unit which appears to have been deposited intrusively (best exemplified in GTP15, Figure 8). The historical spring close to the site is likely to be the manifestation of the process by which these sands were deposited.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery was collected and were washed and air dried. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 11). Finds were also recovered from the residues of environmental samples (quantified in Table 11). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)
3/005	1	10
4/008	1	1
4/009	7	56
4/012	1	6
4/024	10	36
4/028	2	14
4/029	4	10
4/037	2	1
Total	28	134

Table 11: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered 24 sherds of pottery, weighing 130g, from eight contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 12 as part of the archive.
- 5.2.2 With the exception of the heavily abraded residual Late Iron Age/Roman sherd from [4/009] all of the pottery is of medieval date. On the whole the assemblage is characterised by quite small sherds in mixed condition. Both abraded sherds and fresher ones are apparent, the latter usually being adversely affected by the acidic subsoil. Shelly ware is the dominant type suggesting a significant presence in the 12th century. However, more developed sandy wares of the High Medieval period are also present to show activity continued well into the 13th century. Taken together the assemblage could be placed within a c. 1150 to 1250 date range. There is nothing to suggest anything then than a low social status – all the wares being of local Kentish origin though a larger assemblage may alter this.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments
3/005	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	1	10g	Cooking pot x1 (rolled over rim)
4/008	Fine sandy oxidised ware	1200/25-1350/75	1	2g	Uncertain form x1. Very worn
4/012	North/West Kent grey sandy ware	1200/25-1350/75	1	4g	Uncertain form x1 (horizontal incised line decoration)
4/024	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	10	36g	Cooking pot x1 (rolled over rim)
4/009	Grog tempered	LIA/RB	1	14g	Uncertain form x1. Very worn
4/009	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	2	8g	Cooking pot x1 (rolled over

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments
					rim)
4/009	Medium oxidised quartz	1050-1350/75	1	34g	Cooking pot x1 (rectangular club rim)
4/028	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	1	10g	Cooking pot/bowl? x1. (rectangular club rim)
4/028	North/West Kent grey sandy ware	1200/25-1350/75	1	2g	Uncertain form x1 (horizontal incised line decoration) ?same vessel as [4/012]
4/029	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	1	2g	Cooking pot x1
4/029	Sandy-shelly ware	1050-1350/75	1	4g	Uncertain form x1
4/029	Fine sandy oxidised ware	1200/25-1350/75	1	2g	Uncertain form x1
4/037	Shelly ware	1050-1200/25	2	2g	Uncertain form x1

Table 12: Summary of the pottery assemblage

5.3 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 The environmental residue from [4/009] contained three tiny granules of intrusive late post-medieval coal.
- 5.3.2 The environmental residues from contexts [4/009] and [4/010] produced 20 and 38g of magnetic material respectively. A close examination of this material showed it to consist of well-rounded granules of ferruginous siltstone and sandstone with a little clay. It is likely these have had their magnetic properties enhanced by heating but the source of the heat cannot be proven. No slag was noted.

5.4 Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.4.1 A small quantity of animal bone weighing <1g was recovered from one context [4/009]. The assemblage is in a moderate state of preservation, recovered from whole-earth sample <1>.
- 5.4.2 Sample <1> contained five medium mammal long bone fragments and a single calcined unidentifiable fragment of bone.
- 5.4.3 No evidence of butchery, gnawing or pathology was noted.

5.5 The Fired Clay by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.5.1 The fired clay retrieved from environmental samples <1> and <2> constitute the only fired clay recovered from site. Nineteen fragments weighing 21g were collected from sample <1>, from [4/009] and a further twenty-four weighing 24g from <2>, from context [4/010]. All the clay pieces were very small and abraded as a consequence of the environmental processing, but the degree of oxidisation and reduction apparent on several fragments indicate that at least some of it had been subject to heat/fired, although whether intentionally or incidentally is less apparent.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken during excavation at Howland Road, Marden from the fills of ditch [4/009] and pit [4/010] for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca. The following reports on the recovery and preservation of charred plant material and wood charcoal and its potential to inform on the diet, agrarian economy and local environment of the site.

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 The 40L flotation samples were processed by flotation tank with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 13). 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 flots were scanned, in their entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 14). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains were made with reference to modern comparative material and published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) where necessary. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild species.
- 6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues and flots were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 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). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Ten fragments were submitted for identification from samples with >3g of wood charcoal from the residues. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 13.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 *Samples <1> [4/009] and <2> [4/010].*

The heavy residues contained a mixture of burnt clay, pottery, coal and magnetic material. Bone and teeth were recorded from ditch [4/009] in small numbers. The flots largely consisted of uncharred material, mainly of modern roots and recent seeds of elder (*Sambucus* sp.), blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), goosefoots (Chenopodiaceae) and buttercups (*Ranunculus acris*-type). Several worm capsules were noted from ditch [4/009]. Wood charcoal

fragments were present in all samples and in sufficient numbers (>3g from the residues) to submit for identification.

6.3.2 *Charred Plant Macrofossils*

Charred plant remains were rare in the flots from Howland Road, with a single indeterminate cereal grain identified in ditch [4/009] and a possible chess (cf. *Bromus* sp.) caryopsis in pit [4/010]. The charred plant remains were poorly preserved and were not present in sufficient numbers to inform on the diet or arable economy of the site.

6.3.3 *Wood Charcoal*

The wood charcoal from Howland Road was well-preserved with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fragments identifiable to genus level. The indeterminate fragments were distorted by vitrification and post-depositional sediment, whilst a number derived from knotwood and displayed no diagnostic features. All of the identifiable wood charcoal belonged to that of oak (*Quercus* sp.), an important economic species that makes both excellent fuel and structural timber (Taylor, 1981).

6.4 Discussion

The cereal grain and weeds identified at Howland Road indicate the likely presence of crop processing activities at the site that would be able to inform on the diet and the arable economy of the inhabitants. The presence of the charred plant macrofossils and the well-preserved wood charcoal demonstrate the potential for the recovery of more such remains if secure primary deposits are sampled during future work.

Table 13: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm) (presence/ weight)
1	4/009	Ditch	40	**	4	***	5	<i>Quercus</i> (8) [PDS:1, V:1] cf. <i>Quercus</i> (1) Indet. (2) [KW: 2]	*	<1	Burnt Clay (**/20g) Pottery (*/5g) Mag.Mat. (****/20g) Coal (*/<1g)
2	4/010	Pit	40	**	4	***	8	<i>Quercus</i> (8) [PDS:1] Indet. (2) [PDS:1, V:1]			Pottery (*/18g) Burnt clay (**/24g) Mag.Mat. (****/39g) Coal (*/<1g)

Table 14: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)		Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Fly Pupae etc.	Notes
1	4/009	11	110	90	<i>Sambucus</i> *						Cereal indet.	+				*	Worm capsules
2	4/010	10	70	80	<i>Rubus</i> *												
					<i>Ranunculus acris</i> -type *	**	**	***	*								
					<i>Sambucus</i> **												
					<i>Rubus</i> *												
					Chenopodiaceae *	**	***	****					*	cf. <i>Bromus</i>	+		

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The natural geology on site generally comprised clay, silty clay and sandy clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits, except in Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, where alluvial deposits were found to be overlying the natural clay. These alluvial deposits were overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The redeposited alluvial and natural deposits in Trench 10, and the modern made ground deposit noted in Trench 12 indicated that some level of truncation had occurred on site but did not appear to have made a hugely significant impact on the survival of archaeological deposits.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains

- 7.3.1 Shallow undated ditches cut into the natural geology and sealed by subsoil were recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 21. These were found to be on broadly similar alignments. The ditch recorded in Trenches 2 and 21 is probably the same feature. The ditches in Trenches 1, 2 and 21 contained no dating evidence.
- 7.3.2 The ditch in Trench 3 was also on a similar alignment and contained a single pottery sherd dated to c.1050-1200/25.
- 7.3.3 Trench 4 contained a number of archaeological features: four ditches, a substantial pit and three smaller pits. Each ditch produced pottery all dated within c.1050-1350/75, aside from a residual Late Iron Age/ Roman sherd. Two distinct alignments are apparent.
- 7.3.4 Two environmental samples were taken, from [4/009] which was the uppermost fill of ditch [4/015], and from 4/010] which was the middle fill of the substantial pit [4/016], due to the amount of charcoal present in these deposits.
- 7.3.5 Some seeds were recovered from the samples, as well as some cereal grains, but not enough to conclude anything regarding the diet or arable economy of the site. However, there was enough to indicate that crop processing activities had taken place on site.
- 7.3.6 The wood charcoal was well preserved in the samples, and found to belong to oak, an important source of both fuel and timber.
- 7.3.7 Taking this evidence into account, it would appear that the remains of two medieval field systems were encountered.

7.4 Discussion of geoarchaeological remains

- 7.4.1 The site is situated at between 27 and 30m AOD although correlation with the well-studied terraces of the River Thames, or even the lower Medway is recognised as difficult (Bridgland 2003). The right bank tributaries of the

Medway (the Beult and the Teise) are noted by Bridgland (ibid) to have little in the way of terrace preservation and those that do survive comprise only Wealden rocks.

- 7.4.2 Despite previous studies suggesting low potential, within 5km of the site three separate records on the Kent HER point to Palaeolithic activity, all centred on Marden itself (TQ 74 NE 7; TQ 74 NW 9; TQ 74 SW 2), and including ovate handaxe(s). However, these are poorly provenanced and presumed not to have been retrieved from a primary context.
- 7.4.3 River terrace gravels are presumed to conform to the BGS-mapped River Terrace, although the assignation to Terrace 2 should be regarded with caution. The clay deposits underlying the river terrace gravels can in some places be clearly assumed to comprise part of the primary aggradation of Quaternary deposits at the site. In other places some degree of *in situ* weathering seems more likely. Diffuse horizons are noted in all contacts from the upper horizon of the river terrace gravels upwards, and sharp horizons noted within and at the base of the terrace gravels, suggest high energy deposition in the Pleistocene with Holocene soil development at the surface.
- 7.4.4 The successive gravel and fine sands and clays in GTPs 15 and 16 are exceptional to the otherwise monotonous sequence exposed at the site. While there is a slim possibility that the clayey fine sand units within the river terrace gravels represent a lower energy depositional regime, the structure of these suggests that they are more likely an intrusive deposit resulting from thixotropic sediments, causing upward deposition in weaknesses in the gravels. This is further compounded by probable periglacial disturbance at the surface, also evidenced by flame structures in the fine-grained units at the surface of the river terrace formation.
- 7.4.5 The Pleistocene sediments at the site can be considered to be of low potential.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

- 7.5.1 The research aims and objectives were met with respect to assessing character, extent, preservation and date of archaeological deposits. Medieval field systems appear to survive in the westernmost part of the site in proximity to Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 21. These remains are in danger of impact from development of the site. The rest of the site appears to be archaeologically sterile.
- 7.5.2 Although a certain amount of modern truncation was identified on site, this does not appear to have had a significant effect on archaeological deposits in the westernmost area.
- 7.5.3 Further work in the westernmost part of the site would help to clarify the character, extent, preservation and date of archaeological deposits in that part of the site.
- 7.5.4 With respect to improving the understanding of medieval Marden, the evaluation has proven the existence of medieval agricultural activity in the in the westernmost part of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South East, 2016. Land North of Howland Road, Marden, Kent Written Scheme of Investigation. ASE unpublished document

Bridgland, D.R. 2003. The evolution of the River Medway, S.E. England, in the context of Quaternary palaeoclimate and the Palaeolithic occupation of NW Europe. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* 114, 23-48

British Geological Survey, 2016 British Geological Survey GeoIndex
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/>

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker, R.M. & Jans, J.E.A. 2006. *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen Archaeological Series 4. Netherlands: Barkhuis

ClfA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000. *Plants in Archaeology*. Otley: Westbury Publishing and Kew

Hather, J.G. 2000. *The Identification of Northern European Woods: A Guide for Archaeologists and Conservators*. London: Archetype Publications Ltd

Jacomet, S. 2006. *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd ed). Unpublished manuscript: Archaeobotany Laboratory, IPAS, Basel University

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F.H. and Kienast, F. 2004. *Wood Anatomy of Central European Species*. Online version: www.woodanatomy.ch

Schweingruber, F.H. 1990. *Macroscopic Wood Anatomy* (3rd ed). Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Taylor, M. 1981. *Wood in Archaeology*. Aylesbury: Shire Publications

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Jones Homes South East for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rodgers, County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Steve Price. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Lauren Gibson who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	HOW16					
Project code	160759					
Planning reference	MA/13/1291					
Site address	Howland Road, Marden, Kent					
District/Borough	Kent					
NGR (12 figures)	575190 144656					
Geology	Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone with superficial deposits of River Terrace – Sand and Gravel					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	31 st October – 9 th November 2016					
Sponsor/client	Jones Homes South East					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Steve Price					
Period summary						
			Medieval			
Project summary	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at land north of Howland Road, Marden, Kent between 31st October and 9th November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Jones Homes South East; 22 trenches were excavated. Due to the presence of trees on site, trenches 8, 11, 14, 17 and 18 had to be cut short. Deeper geological test pits were excavated at the ends of all trenches apart from trenches 4, 11, 14 and 18.</p> <p>In the westernmost part of the site, the evaluation uncovered evidence of medieval field systems dating to between c.1050 and 1350/75. The rest of the site is apparently archaeologically sterile. Although a certain amount of modern truncation was identified on site, this does not appear to have had a significant effect on archaeological deposits in the westernmost area.</p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-269722

Project details

Project name	Land North of Howland Road, Marden, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at land north of Howland Road, Marden, Kent between 31st October and 9th November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Jones Homes South East; 22 trenches were excavated. Due to the presence of trees on site, trenches 8, 11, 14, 17 and 18 had to be cut short. Deeper geological test pits were excavated at the ends of all trenches apart from trenches 4, 11, 14 and 18. In the westernmost part of the site, the evaluation uncovered evidence of medieval field systems dating to between c.1050 and 1350/75. The rest of the site is apparently archaeologically sterile. Although a certain amount of modern truncation was identified on site, this does not appear to have had a significant effect on archaeological deposits in the westernmost area.
Project dates	Start: 31-10-2016 End: 09-11-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MARDEN Land North of Howland Road, Marden, Kent
Postcode	TN12 9EP
Site coordinates	TQ 575190 144656 50.907558554593 0.240717299079 50 54 27 N 000 14 26 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Jones Homes South East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Steve Price
Project archives	
Physical Archive	Local Museum

recipient

Physical
Contents

"Ceramics","Environmental"

Digital Archive
recipient

Local Museum

Digital Media
available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive
recipient

Local Museum

Paper Media
available

"Context
sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey
"

Entered by

Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on

29 November 2016

Appendix 1: Gearchaeological test pit logs

GTP1: Trench 19, south end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Stiff, blocky, light brownish/yellowish grey fine sandy silty clay loam. Rooted and organics concentrated at surface. Infrequent subangular sandstone fragments, some rotted and with dark purple mineral crusts.	0.00-0.50	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine (<30mm) subangular rotted sandstone gravel concentrations in very stiff yellowish-grey/brown silty clay matrix. Very clayey in places.	0.50-1.00	River Terrace Gravel
Sharp			
3	Coarsely bedded and striated grey-blue clay with orangey-brown mottles. Rotted sandstone fragments and smears of yellowish white coarse sand. Rooted.	1.00-1.50	Reworked Weald Clay
Diffuse			
4	Grey-blue clay. Stiff.	1.50+	Weald Clay.

GTP2: Trench 20, South end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.40	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Diffuse			
2	As GTP1 Unit 2. Gravels dip to 1.35m bgl at east end. Very occasional subrounded ironstone <30mm. Blue-grey fine sands and clays indicating possible periglacial reworking.	0.40-1.00	River Terrace Gravel
Sharp, undulating			
3	Grey-blue clay. Stiff	1.00+	Weald Clay

GTP3: Trench 16, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.45	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Sharp			
2	As GTP1 Unit 2. Very stiff, subangular-subrounded sandstone gravels; dessicated clay seams; very high orange-red iron mineralisation. Test-pit abandoned – could not penetrate deposit with machine.	0.45-1.30+	River Terrace Gravels

GTP4 : Trench 17, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.45	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Diffuse			
2	Light orange-brown silty clay with subangular to subrounded <30mm sandstone gravels	0.45-0.70	Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	Involuted light grey-blue clays and orange-brown subangular sandstone gravels. One surviving <100mm sandstone slab.	0.70-1.75	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp / undulating			
4	Dark grey-blue clay. Very stiff. Very occasional ironstone	1.75+	Weald Clay

GTP5: Trench 15, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1 but darker grey and increased organic content.	0.00-0.40	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Light orange-brown sandy silt	0.40-0.65	Transitional deposit
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Cryoturbated clays, gravels, and brown sands; clays in flame structures.	0.65-1.50	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
4	Duck egg blue and light orange-brown clay with very occasional degraded sandstone smears. Reworked Hastings Beds and Weald Clay?	1.50-1.95	Possible liquefaction
Diffuse			
5	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.50-1.75	Weald Clay

GTP6: Trench 12, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	As Unit 1 including an orange-yellow fine sand component.	0.30-0.70	Subsoil
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Some patterning/possible thixotropic sands	0.70-1.30	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay with possible flame structures.	1.30-1.50	Reworked Weald Clay
Diffuse			
5	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.50+	Weald Clay

GTP7: Trench 13, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1.	0.00-0.40	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.40-0.75	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As other river terrace units: matrix is fine light yellow-grey/orange-brown sandy-clay	0.75-1.20	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Coarsely bedded and striated grey-blue clay with orangey-brown mottles. Rotted sandstone fragments and smears of yellowish white coarse sand. Rooted.	1.20-1.55	Reworked Weald Clay
Sharp/undulating			
5	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.55+	Weald Clay

GTP8: Trench 9, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.30-0.45	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Mostly gravel, little fine matrix. Dark brown and purple mineralisation.	0.45-1.20	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff. Dark purple mineralisation and occasional rooting.	1.20+	Weald Clay

GTP9: Trench 5, southwest end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0-0.35	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.35-0.65	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Coarsening to basal horizon. Dark purple band @ 1.30m 100mm thick.	0.65-1.50	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff. Rooted	1.50+	Weald Clay

GTP10: Trench 6, south end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.30-0.50	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Involuted.	0.50-0.80	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Light grey-blue stiff, massive clay. Orange-brown flecks throughout. Some blocky structure in places.	0.80-1.40	Reworked Weald Clay
Diffuse			
5	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.40+	Weald Clay

GTP11: Trench 7, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.30-0.60	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2	0.60-1.05	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.05+	Weald Clay

GTP12: Trench 8, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.35	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.35-0.50	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2	0.50-0.65	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Light grey-blue stiff, massive clay. Orange-brown flecks throughout. Some blocky structure in places.	0.65-0.80	Reworked Weald Clay
Diffuse			
5	Grey blue clay. V stiff. Some precipitated gypsum.	0.80+	Weald Clay

GTP13: Trench 1, south end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.35	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.35-0.55	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2. Very coarse bedded sandy-clay and fine gravel. Flame structures, reworked Weald Clay. Probable thixotropic deposition.	0.55-1.90	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff. Some precipitated gypsum.	1.90+	Weald Clay

GTP14: Trench 3, central southwest end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.25	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.25-0.50	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2.	0.50-1.20	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	1.20+	Weald Clay

GTP15: Trench 21, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1	0.00-0.40	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.40-0.60	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2.	0.60-0.90	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Light 'duck egg' blue reworked Weald Clay. Very fine sands clays and silts + light orange staining.	0.90-1.30	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
5	As GTP1 Unit 2.	1.30-1.85	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp			
6	As Unit 4 with flame structures?	1.85-2.25	River Terrace Gravels

Sharp			
7	As GTP1 Unit 2.	2.25-2.50	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
8	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	2.50+	Weald Clay

GTP16: Trench 2, north end

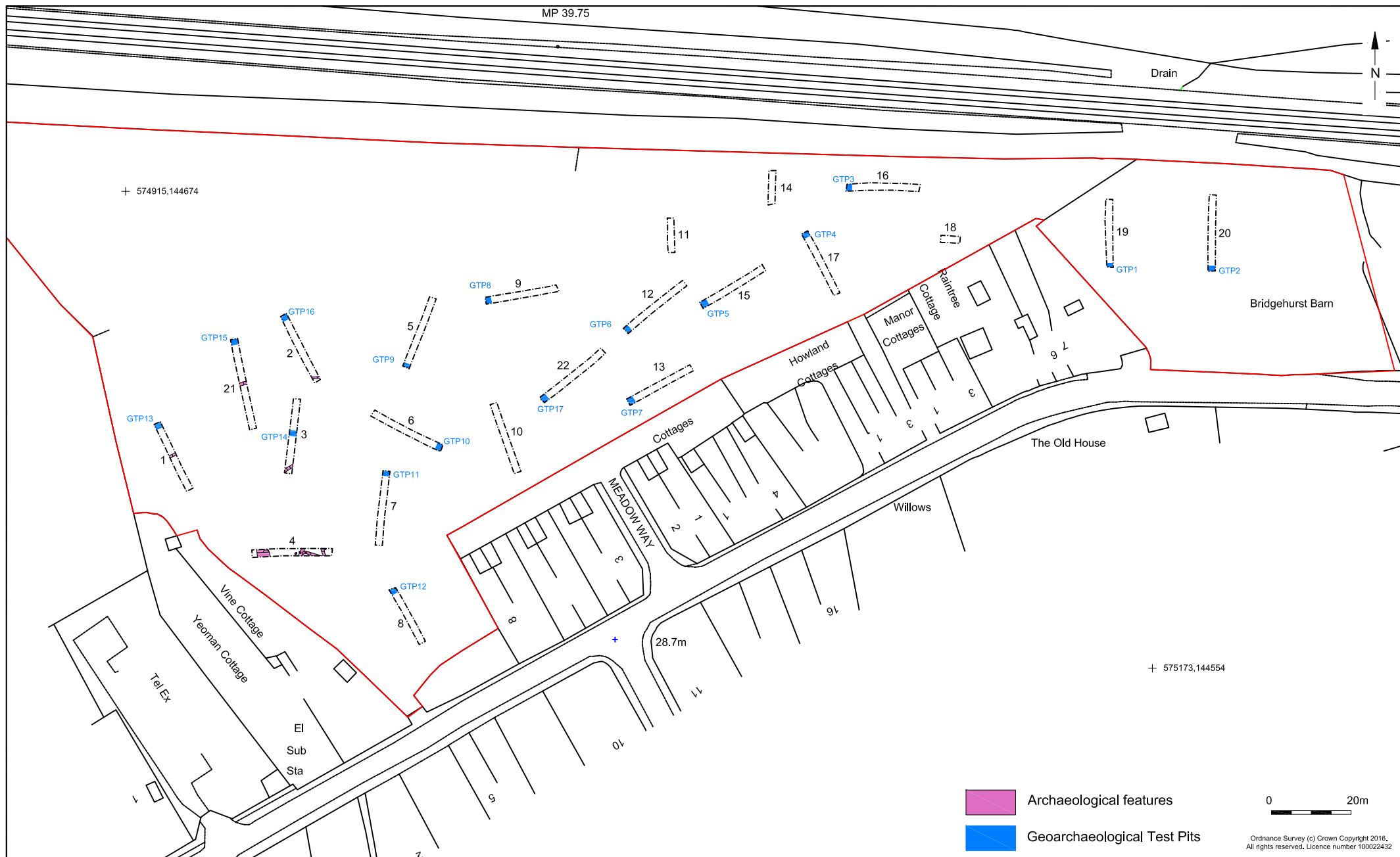
Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1.	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil
Diffuse			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.30-0.55	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2, increased sand component.	0.55-1.05	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
4	Light 'duck egg' blue reworked Weald Clay. Very fine sands clays and silts + light orange staining.	1.05-1.60	River Terrace Gravels
Diffuse			
5	As GTP1 Unit 2, gravel dominant.	1.60-2.20	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
6	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	2.20+	Weald Clay

GTP17: Trench 22, west end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	As GTP1 Unit 1.	0.00-0.25	Modern topsoil
Sharp			
2	Fine light yellow-grey sandy clay.	0.25-0.40	Subsoil / Brickearth
Diffuse			
3	As GTP1 Unit 2.	0.40-0.85	River Terrace Gravels
Sharp/undulating			
4	Grey blue clay. V stiff.	0.85+	Weald Clay



© Archaeology South-East		Howland Road, Marden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160759	November 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016451	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 160759

Report Ref:

November 2016

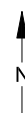
Drawn by: LG

Howland Road, Marden

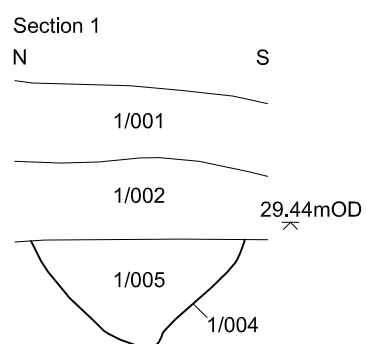
Trench location highlighting Archaeology and Geoarchaeological Test Pits

Fig. 2

+ 574917, 144617



1/004
Section 1

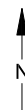


1/004 looking north-east

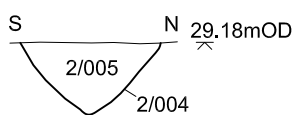
+ 574926, 144596

0 2m

+ 574950, 144644



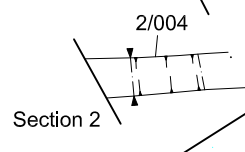
Section 2



0 0.5m

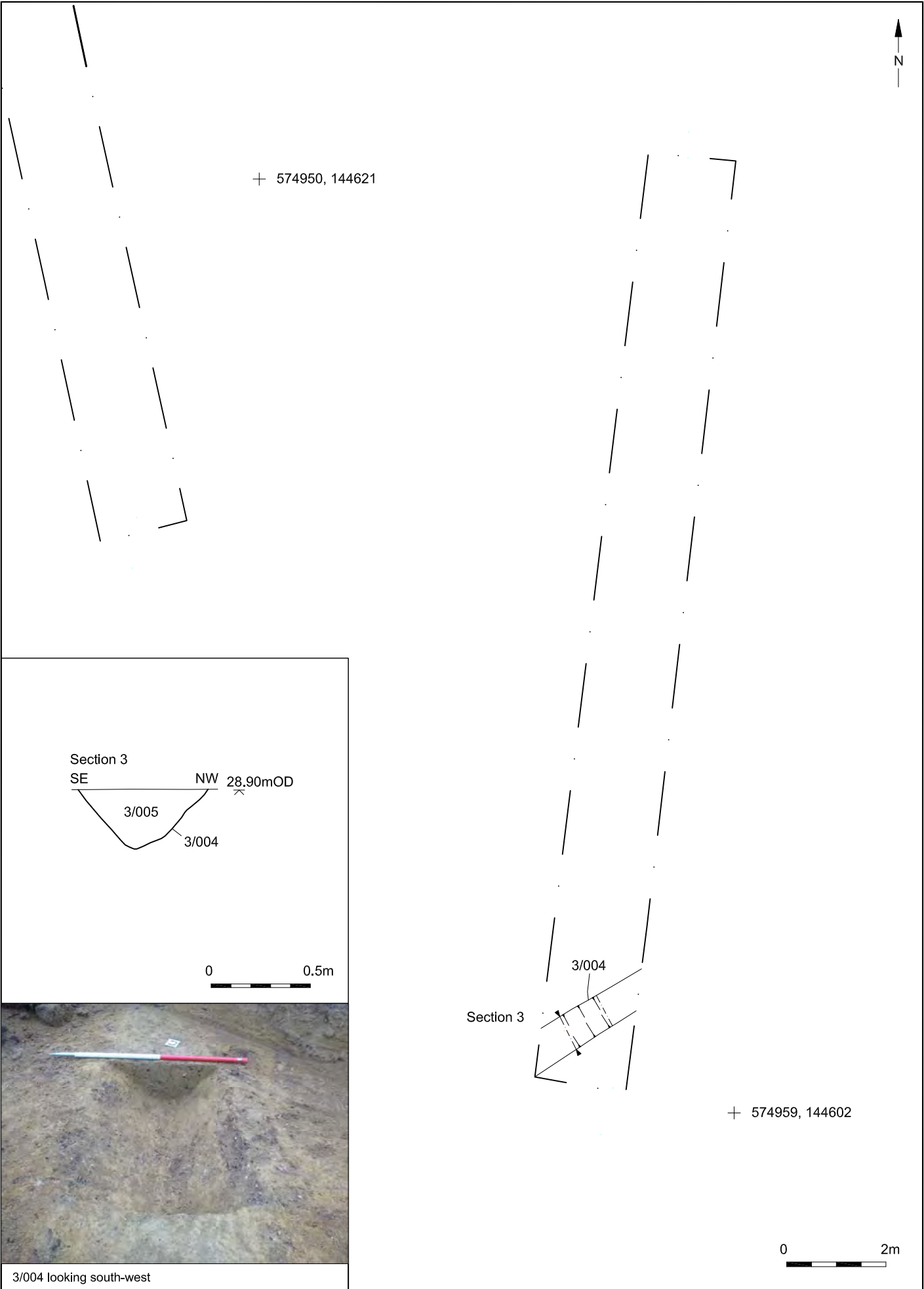


2/004 looking west



+ 574961, 144623

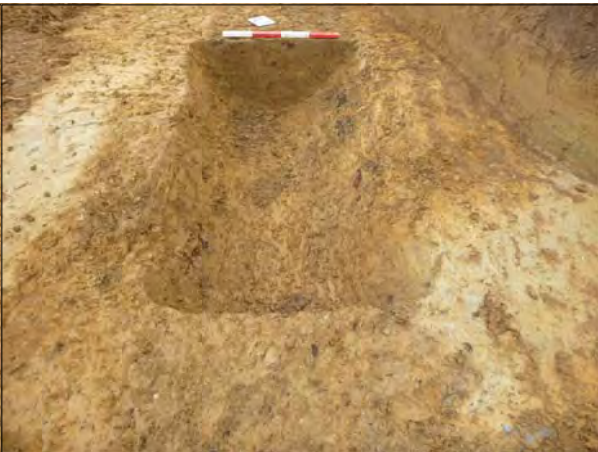
0 2m



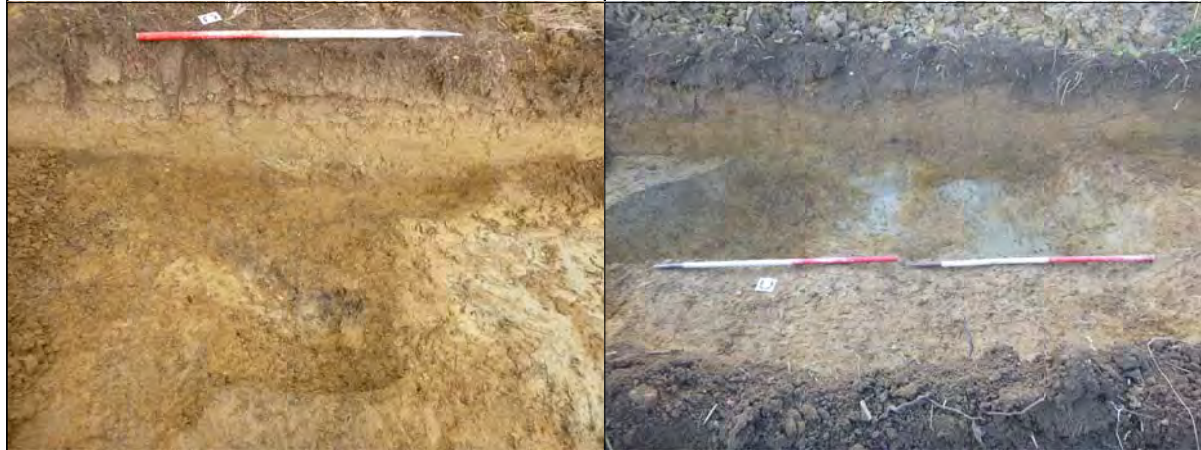
© Archaeology South-East		Howland Road, Marden	Fig.5
Project Ref: 160759	November 2016	Trench 3 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016451	Drawn by: LG		



4/005 looking south-east



4/007 looking south-east



4/011 and 4/013 looking north



4/015 and 4/016 looking south



4/015 and 4/016 looking north



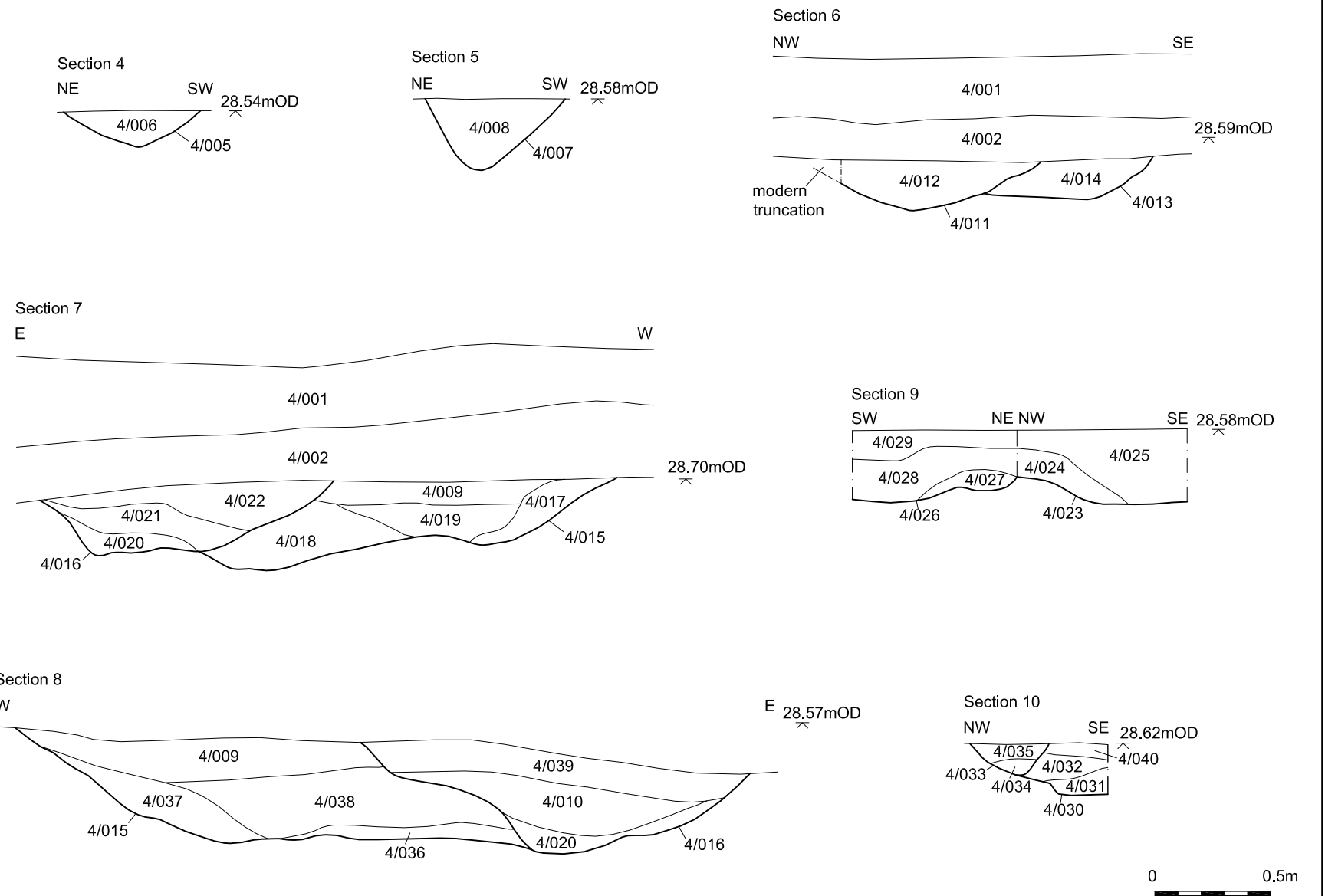
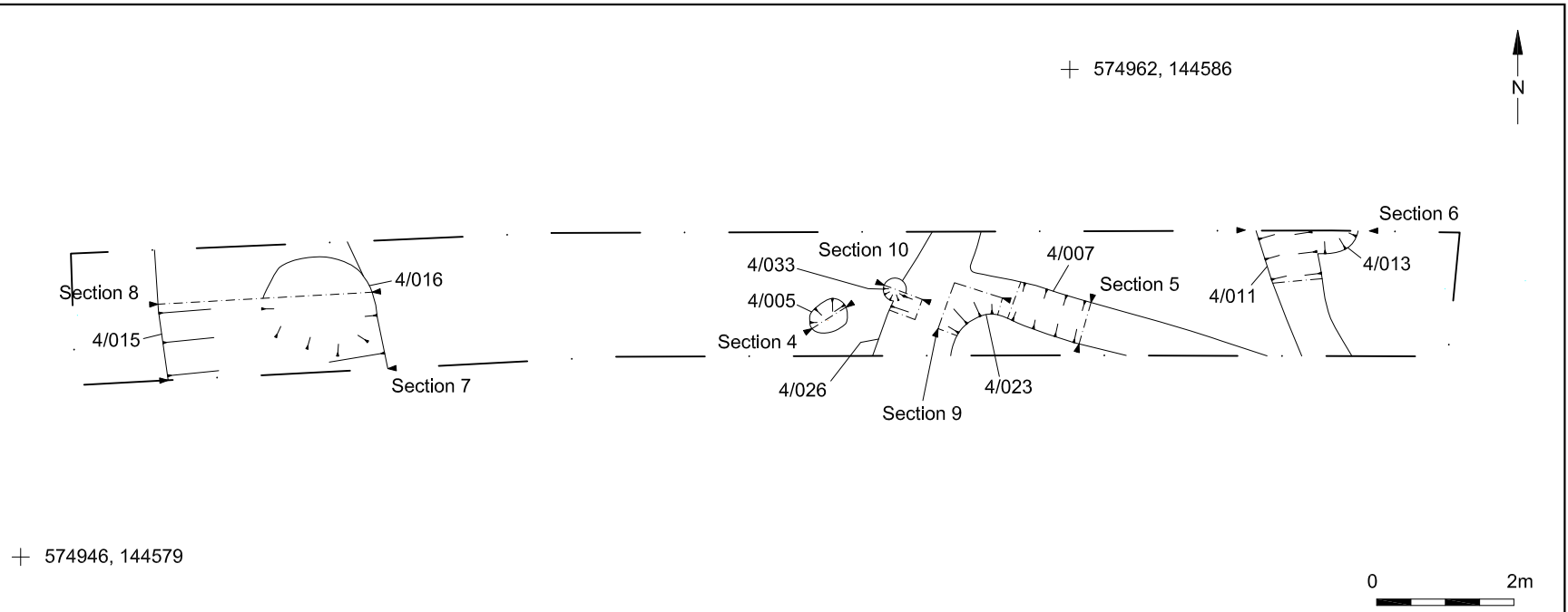
4/023 looking north-east

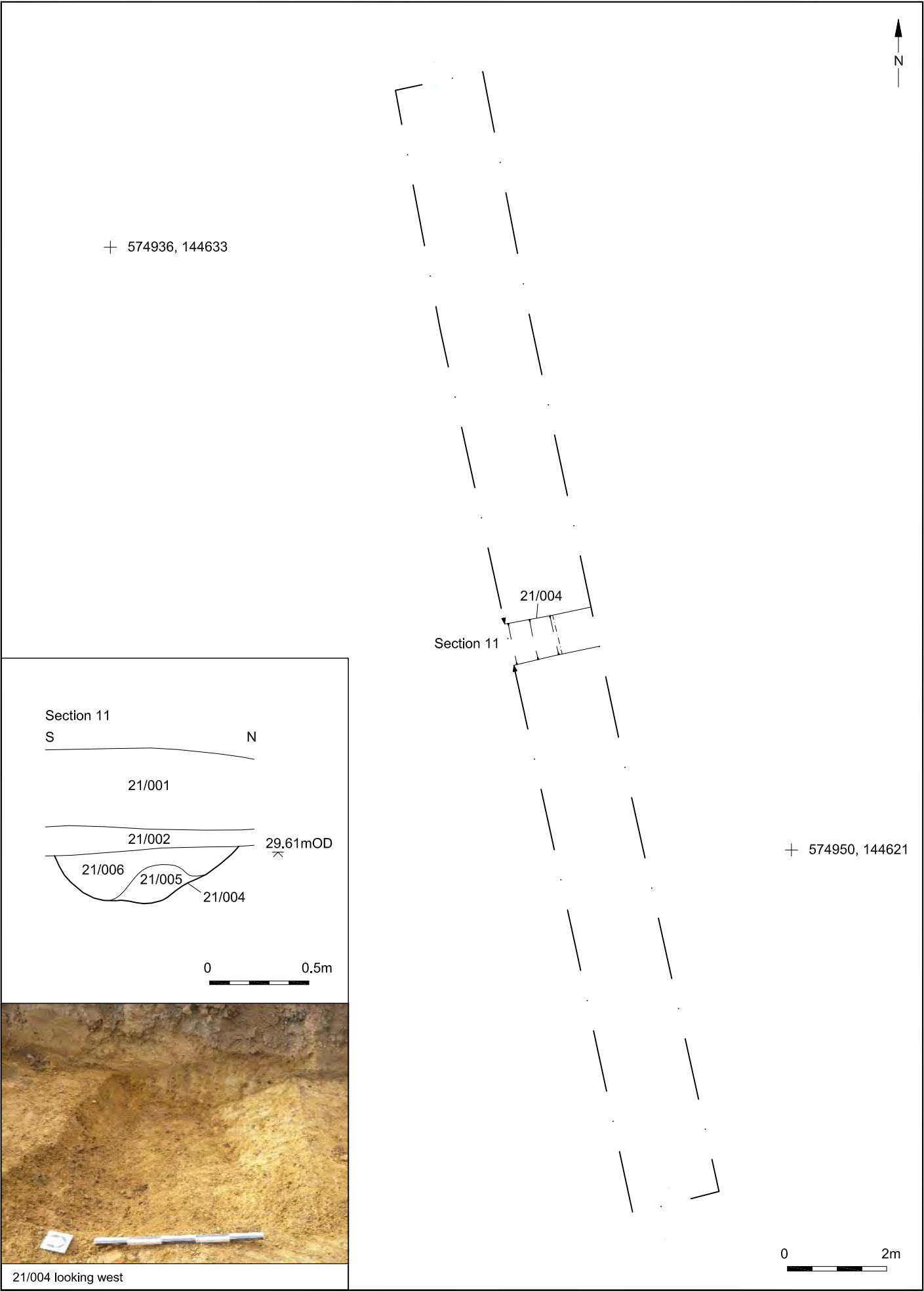


4/026 looking north-west



4/030 and 4/033 looking north-east







GTP 7 looking south-east



GTP8 looking south-west



GTP15 looking west



GTP15 looking south

Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

