Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road
Hythe, Kent

NGR: 616231 134685

Planning Ref: Y15/0467/SH
ASE Project No: 161113
Site Code: PRH16
ASE Report No: 2017034
OASIS id: archaeol6-274681

By Lucy May

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe, Kent. Between the 19th & 20th December 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Guy Holloway Architects prior to the redevelopment of the site for residential use.

The evaluation revealed a 15th century, or later, ditch as well as alluvial deposits which could represent the original coastline, or mudflats, associated with the Hythe inlet.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Guy Holloway Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe (Figure 1: NGR 616231 134685) prior to the redevelopment of the site for residential use. (Planning reference:Y15/0467/SH)

1.1.2 The site lies within the town of Hythe and is located at the western intersection between Prospect Road (A259) and the crescent- shaped road with the same name. It falls within the conservation area of Hythe high street as well as being in an area of archaeological potential regarding the early medieval to post-medieval port.

1.1.3 The site forms an irregularly-shaped tapering plot that originally had two standing buildings, with the remaining area used as a garden. It covers an area of approximately 560 square metres. Prior to the demolition of these buildings, Archaeology South-East produced an Historic Buildings Assessment (2016)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (2015) the natural geology of the area consists of Weald Clay. This is a bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

1.3 Planning Background.

1.3.1 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Shepway District Council attached the following condition to the planning consent:

Condition 6:

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

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

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ASE (2016b) and approved prior to the commencement of archaeological works on site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the Archaeological Evaluation carried out between the 19th and the 20th December 2016 and is in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2016) The archaeological work was carried out by Lucy May (Archaeologist) and Naomi Humphreys (Archaeological Surveyor) The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Fieldwork Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following background information is provided in the WSI, using the Hythe Conservation Area Appraisal (Shepway District Council 2006), with due acknowledgement.

2.1.2 In the medieval period Hythe served as one of the five original Cinque Ports and formed a key port and trading centre in the region. Its history through the medieval period is inextricably linked to the port. However, the gradual silting of the harbour and reduction in its navigability coupled with the increasing size of ships lessened its importance as a naval port, reducing it to serve primarily as a small fishing port. The beach now lies approximately 1.5km south of the High Street upon which the medieval town was focused. The site lies just to the south of the medieval core of the town.

2.1.3 The later history of the town is dominated by the construction of the Royal Military Canal between 1803 and 1809 in response to the threat of Napoleonic invasion. In addition to the canal, other notable remains from this period include a series of Martello towers which were built to defend it. The site lies approximately 15m north of the canal. Hythe's military connections were maintained through the 19th century and into the early 20th century, with the town housing The School of Musketry and three forts at the western fringes.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The main aims of the archaeological investigation provided in the WSI were as follows:

- *To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.*

- *To enable the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.*

2.2 2 Specific research aims of the archaeological work included the following:

- *The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the post-medieval/modern and industrial period in the region (Barber, 2013). Are there any features of this date on site? Do they relate to the use of the adjacent Royal Military Canal?*

- *Is there any evidence of Roman buildings or other pre-medieval activity?*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Five trenches, all measuring 10m x 1.8m were surveyed in by an ASE Surveyor according to the WSI (ASE 2016) and then scanned for services using a Cable Avoidance Tool. A machine was provided by the contractor on site and was fitted with a toothless bucket as requested. All works were monitored under archaeological supervision (Figure 2).

3.1.2 All trenches were excavated in small spits, keeping any topsoil, subsoil and subsequent deposits separated. Trenches one and two had to be backfilled to a safe level immediately after recording due to their depth and the unstable nature of the deposits. The remaining trenches were all backfilled once the Kent County Council Archaeologist, Wendy Rogers, had signed off the area and work had finished.

3.1.3 All archaeological finds, deposits and features were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by ASE and were surveyed by GPS. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently being held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at an appropriate museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 2).

Context sheets	32
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	43
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	5

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	21 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	1
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	1

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1/001	Deposit	Destruction debris	0.47-0.80
1/002	Deposit	Made ground	0.40-0.70
1/003	Deposit	Redeposited natural	0.10-0.10
1/004	Deposit	Alluvial deposit	0.15-0.30
1/005	Deposit	Sand deposit	0.15-0.15
1/006	Deposit	Alluvial deposit	0.35-0.35
1/007	Deposit	Alluvial deposit	0.20-0.20

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Excavation in this trench stopped at the level of archaeological deposits. A sondage was dug towards the north-western end with a maximum depth of 2.20m. This revealed several layers of alluvial deposits also seen in Trench 2.

4.1.2 Natural geology was not reached within the sondage: the oldest deposit revealed was an alluvial pale greyish blue silty clay [1/007]. This was overlain by a brownish grey silty clay with lenses of reddish orange sand [1/006], covered by a layer of brownish grey silty sand [1/005]. Above this deposit, seen across the majority of the trench, was a mid-bluish grey silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and moderate rooting [1/004], covered by a layer of redeposited natural [1/003], only visible in the southeast of the trench.

4.1.3 Above all these, were deposits of modern made ground [1/002] and modern destruction debris [1/001] from the demolition of the previous building.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)
2/001	Deposit	Demolition Debris	0.37
2/002	Deposit	Made ground	0.16-0.16
2/003	Deposit	Redeposited natural	0.12-0.12
2/004	Masonry or other construction	Foundation	0.90-0.90
2/005	Deposit	Destruction debris	0.35-0.36
2/006	Deposit	Made ground	0.35-0.40
2/007	Deposit	Sand deposit	0.44-0.44
2/008	Deposit	Alluvial deposit	0.27-0.30
2/009	Deposit	Sand deposit	0.20-0.20
2/010	Deposit	Alluvial deposit	1.30-1.30
2/011	Deposit	Natural foreshore deposit	0.30-0.30
2/012	Deposit	Modern gravels	0.40-0.40

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Similar to Trench 1, excavation stopped at the level of archaeological deposits. A sondage was dug towards the northern end of the trench with a maximum depth of 3.20m and this revealed several layers of alluvial deposits as recorded in Trench 1.

4.2.2 Within the sondage, natural foreshore gravels [2/011] were reached at approximately 2.90m BGL. Above this was an alluvial deposit of pale greyish blue silty clay [2/010]. This deposit produced a single fragment of cattle skull and horn-core. This deposit is similar to [1/007] found in Trench 1. Overlaying this was another alluvial deposit [2/008] containing 15th to 16th century pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and shell.

4.2.3 Deposits above [2/008] had been truncated by concrete foundations for the previous building [2/004]. Two similar deposits of red sand [2/007] and [2/009] sealed the alluvial deposits and are possibly related to the construction of the previous building. Above this deposit at the northern end of the trench was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of gravel and CBM [2/006].

4.2.4 The remaining stratigraphy consisted of a series of demolition deposits: modern gravel deposit [2/012] possible associated with an old drainage channel was beneath destruction debris [2/005], relating to the previous standing building. These deposits were only located within the foundations of the previous building [2/004].

4.2.5 At the southern end of the trench redeposited natural [2/003] was recorded. This deposit probably sealed the alluvial deposits but the foundations to the north have truncated this. This deposit can also be seen in trench 1 where it was recorded as [1/003]. Overlaying [2/003] is another made ground deposit [2/002] (similar to [1/002]) beneath demolition deposit [2/001].

4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth
3/001	Deposit	Destruction debris	0.27-0.45
3/002	Deposit	Made ground	0.45-0.50
3/003	Deposit	Redeposited natural	0.40-0.40
3/004	Cut	Ditch	-
3/005	Fill	Ditch fill	-

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 This trench was excavated to the top of archaeological deposits.

4.3.2 The earliest deposit recorded was redeposited natural [3/003], also recorded in the previous two trenches. This was overlain by modern made ground [3/002] and destruction debris [3/001] from the demolition of the previous building covering the trench.

4.3.3 Linear feature [3/004] ran along the length of the trench from northeast to south west but was left unexcavated. This feature continued into Trench 4, where it has been excavated as a full section was visible. Ditch [3/004] contained a soft dark greyish brown silt/sandy [3/005] with evidence of CBM and oyster shell inclusions.

4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth
4/001	Deposit	Made ground			0.30-0.40
4/002	Masonry or other construction	Foundation			0.20-0.22
4/003	Deposit	Made ground			0.20-0.20
4/004	Deposit	Redeposited natural			0.78-0.80
4/005	Deposit	Levelling deposit			0.25-0.25
4/006	Deposit	Levelling deposit			0.25-0.25
4/007	Deposit	Alluvial deposit			0.25-0.25
4/008	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.63	0.9
4/009	Fill	Fill	1.8	0.46	0.19
4/010	Fill	Fill	1.8	0.17	0.71

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Excavation of this trench was stopped when archaeological features were revealed. A sondage was also dug towards the western end of the trench with a maximum depth of 1.93m, this revealed a similar stratigraphy to those seen in Trench 1 and 2.

4.4.2 The oldest deposit uncovered was an alluvial pale greyish blue silty clay [4/007]. This was overlain by greyish brown silty clay [4/006] followed by a pale brownish grey silty clay [4/005].

4.4.3 These deposits were all beneath redeposited natural [4/004], as recorded in

previous trenches. Above this was a substantial amount of modern truncation from the concrete and brick foundations [4/002] from the previous buildings. IN the east of the trench, a mid-reddish brown clayish silty subsoil [4/003] was recorded, overlain by modern made-ground [4/001].

4.4.4 One ditch [4/008], a continuation of ditch [3/004] in Trench 3, ran northeast-southwest across the trench, cutting into redeposited natural [4/004]. It contained two fills. Primary fill [4/010] consisted of a firm, mid brownish grey clay that produced 16th to 17th century pottery, CBM, animal bone, shell, coal and slag. The secondary fill [4/009] was a softer, dark greyish brown, silty sand containing CBM, bone, shell and coal.

4.5 Trench 5

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30-0.50
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.15-0.20
5/003	Deposit	Clay deposit	0.25-0.30
5/004	Deposit	Redeposited natural	-

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The stratigraphy for this trench was much simpler than the others and consisted of redeposited natural [5/004] below a mid-orangey grey silty clay [5/003]. This was overlain by a mid-brownish grey sandy subsoil [5/002] with a topsoil [5/001] sealing the trench.

4.5.2 No archaeological find or features were present.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Prospect Road, Hythe. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 8). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Coal	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
2/008	1	18	7	1010					20	1669	9	220
2/010									1	195		
4/009			14	493	2	476			15	252	2	24
4/010	13	176	38	3170	4	36	1	150	42	2845	14	196
Total	**15**	**197**	**59**	**4673**	**6**	**512**	**1**	**150**	**77**	**4961**	**25**	**440**

Table 8: Finds quantification

5.2 **The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Just two contexts produced post-Roman pottery. Alluvial deposit [2/008] contained an 18g un-abraded sherd from an oxidised dish or shallow bowl with simple out-turned rim in a slightly sandy hard-fired earthenware. The piece, which has a single spot of clear glaze on its rim, is likely to be of mid-15th- to mid-16th- century date.

5.2.2 The other material was recovered from context [4/010] and consists of 13 fresh sherds (176g) of well-fired early glazed red earthenware. Vessels consist of a dish with internal clear glaze and rounded club rim and five hollow ware vessels of uncertain form. The latter include examples with internal or all over clear or green glazing and external horizontal ribbing (two examples). The type can only be generally placed in a 16th- to early 17th- century date range in the absence of more diagnostic wares.

5.3 **The Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Fifty-nine pieces of CBM weighing 4673g were hand-collected from three contexts, alluvial deposit [2/008] and ditch fills [4/009] and [4/010], with the greatest bulk of material coming from [4/010]. An additional five pieces of CBM were extracted from environmental sample <1>, taken from [2/008]. Present within the assemblage were fragments of brick, roof tile and floor tile as well as some more ambiguous fragments or 'spall'. Comparative quantities and weights of the various CBM forms are presented in Table 9.

5.3.2 The vast majority of the assemblage was made up of pieces of broken peg tile, all in the same fabric type named for the purposes of this report as T1

(see Table 10), although based on the site location is most likely to be Canterbury fabric 32 (CAT32). This is a very common fabric type with a very broad usage period from the mid-15th to early 19th century. Some pieces also had remnants of sandy lime mortar on the upper and base surfaces and edges, although not on any broken surfaces indicating that in all likelihood these tiles did originate from a roof.

Form	Quantity	% of total	Weight (g)	% of total
Roof tile	49	76.6	2659	0.6
Brick	9	14.1	1667	0.4
Floor tile	4	6.3	314	0.1
Spall	2	3.1	36	0.0
Total:	64	100	4676	100

Table 9: Comparative quantities and weight of CBM

Fabric	Description
T1	Medium pink-orange fabric with varying quantities of calcareous speckle and larger deposits. Fine moulding sand. (CAT32?)
B1	Pink or yellow toned Flemish type fabric with abundant calcareous material.
B2	Very finely sandy brown and red fabric (MOLA 3033?); sparse very large burnt flint pieces.
FT1	Sandy red fabric with sparse ref ferrous inclusions and calcareous scatter.

Table 10: CBM fabric descriptions for Prospect Road (PRH16)

5.3.3 Two brick types were identified, several much-abraded fragments of medieval brick (14th or 15th century) in an abundantly calcareous fabric that is likely to be Flemish in origin and two fragments of later brick in a finely sandy reddish-orange fabric similar to Museum of London fabric 3033. This latter fabric type has a long period of use, although later examples are apparent by the extent of firing formal characteristics. The examples from Prospect Road are well formed although not overly fired, with creased faces and fairly modest dimensions of 100mm wide and 54-56mm thick, cumulatively indicating an early-mid 16th century date.

5.3.4 The floor tile is also fairly typical of monochromatic glazed tile dating to the late 15th or 16th century. The largest fragment of tile had a heavily abraded upper surface but traces of green glaze and sandy lime mortar along the edges, whilst another smaller piece had creamy yellow glaze on the upper surface. All the floor tile was formed from a very similar slightly calcareous sandy fabric (FT1) of a type that could originate either in Britain or the Low Countries. The sandy lime mortar traces on the floor tile were very similar in texture and inclusions as that on the roof tile, suggesting that this material is likely to be contemporaneous in terms of building phase. No mortar survived on the bricks but those of B2 are most likely to also correspond to the same date range.

5.4 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Six pieces of stone were recovered from the site. Ditch fill [4/009] produced a notably large and fresh piece of coal (448g), either intended for industrial use or not yet broken finer for the domestic market. The same deposit also contained a 28g fragment of notably water-worn Welsh roofing slate. The slate would be more in keeping with a 19th- century date.

5.4.2 The other stone was recovered from ditch fill [4/010] and consists of four pieces (36g) of coal with slight signs of wear.

5.5 The 'Slag' by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [4/010] contained a 150g lump of fine iron concretion, probably formed from a completely mineralised and crushed sheet iron object. The concretion includes sand particles as well as some linear hollows from rotted out twigs.

5.6 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.6.1 A total of 149 fragments of faunal remains weighing 5,059g was recovered from the excavation. The bones were hand-collected from four contexts and retrieved from one whole earth sample. The fragments are in a poor-moderate state of preservation with signs of surface erosion evident, no complete long bones are present. The assemblage is dominated by mammal bone, comprising the main domesticate species as well as horse. Wild taxa are represented by common marine fish species.

Method

5.6.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and categorised as large, medium or small mammal.

5.6.3 In order to distinguish between the bones and teeth of sheep and goats a number of identification criteria were used including those outlined by Boessneck (1969), Boessneck *et al* (1964), Halstead et al (2002), Hillson (1995), Kratochvil (1969), Payne (1969; 1985) Prummel and Frisch (1986) and Schmid (1972). The bulk of the fish bones have been identified to family at this stage, with the occasional specimens identified to species where possible.

5.6.4 Age at death data has been collected for each specimen where observable. The state of epiphyseal bone fusion has been recorded as fused, unfused and fusing. The assemblage does not contain any measurable long-bones, only one ageable mandible and one measurable horn-core have been recorded. Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology.

Assemblage

5.6.5 A limited range of taxa have been identified including domestic and wild fauna (Table 11). The assemblage is dominated by two of the three main domesticate species, with cattle present in the greatest quantity and sheep/goat remains in much smaller numbers. There is an absence of pig bones within the assemblage with horse being the only other domesticate present. High quantities of large and medium mammal bone fragments were also present due to the levels of preservation and taphonomic processes. A small collection of fish remains, including smelt as well as bones from the *Clupidea*, *Pleuronectidea* and *Gadidea* families, was retrieved from the whole earth sample.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	27
Sheep/goat	4
Sheep	2
Horse	1
Large Mammal	25
Medium Mammal	10
Smelt	2
Clupidea	2
Pleuronectidae	2
Gadid	1
Fish	14
Total	90

Table 11: The NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count.

5.6.6 The faunal remains were retrieved from four contexts; [2/008], [2/010], [4/009] and [4/010], of which 77 fragments were hand-collected, with 62 fragments identifiable to taxa. A further 72 fragments weighing 98g was retrieved from the single whole earth sample <1>, of which 28 fragments were identifiable to taxa and 1g was calcined.

5.6.7 Cattle dominated alluvial deposit [2/008] primarily with meat-bearing bones. Large and medium mammals were represented by meat and non-meat bearing bones and sheep/goat produced only non-meat bearing elements. A single horse cranium was also present within this context, no evidence of decapitation was observed. All of the fish remains were recovered from this context, retrieved from whole earth sample <1>. The fishes present comprise common marine species and include cranial and post-cranial elements. Evidence of butchery was observed in three cattle tibias and a femur with chop marks on and across bone shafts. A large mammal rib exhibited chop marks and a medium mammal cervical vertebra had been split axially. These butchery marks are suggestive of carcass dismemberment and portioning.

5.6.8 The environmental residue from whole earth sample <1> produced a small quantity of identifiable faunal remains including a cattle radius fragment, sheep/goat dentition, large and medium mammal dentition and long bone fragments. Cranial and post-cranial fish bones were also recovered, as well as a small amount of unidentifiable burnt faunal bone.

Taxa	Element	Base Diam. (Min)	Base Diam. (Max)	Outer Curve	Base Circum.
Cattle	Horn-core	40.52mm	47.82mm	170mm	145mm

Table 12: Cattle horn-core measurements (Sykes & Symmons, 2007)

5.6.9 Alluvial deposit [2/010] produced a single fragment of cattle skull and horn-core which could be measured (Table 12). Analysis of the horn-core suggests the cattle breed is that of a short-horn variety (Sykes and Symmons, 2007). Butchery marks were observed with cut marks evident on the anterior and posterior surface of the skull near to the base of the horn-core, suggestive of skinning.

5.6.10 A small quantity of faunal remains were recovered from ditch fill [4/009] and include a cattle tarsal fragment, medium mammal tibia, rib and thoracic vertebrae fragments as well as a large mammal long bone fragment.

5.6.11 Large quantities of cattle bones were recovered from ditch fill [4/010] and include meat and non-meat bearing bones from at least three individuals based on MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) counts. The remainder of the assemblage comprises predominantly meat bearing bones of sheep/goat, large and medium mammal bone fragments. A single sheep mandible produced an estimated MWS (Mandible Wear Stage) of 49, indicative of a mature animal. Evidence of butchery was observed in two cattle tibias, radius and scapula with chop marks. Large mammal ribs, thoracic vertebrae and a femur fragment also exhibited chop marks, with cut marks to the ribs and vertebrae. These butchery marks are suggestive of carcass portioning and dismemberment.

5.6.12 Age-at-death data using bone fusion rates was limited due to fragmentation levels. Although, where fusion could be observed adult and juvenile remains were present but consisted mainly of cattle, with sheep/goat represented by adult specimens. No evidence of gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology was noted.

5.7 The Shell by Susan Chandler

5.7.1 A total of 25 shells were recovered, weighing a total of 440g. They are all Ostrea edulis (common Oyster) shells and most likely represent waste from consumption. Nine shells were collected from context [2/008], two from [4/009] and fourteen from [4/010].

5.8 The Leather by Susan Chandler

5.8.1 Alluvial deposit [2/008] contained six pieces of shoe leather, including the sole or patten of a child's shoe. The shoe patten is 130mm long, 45mm wide at the widest point and 5mm thick and it does not show difference between the left or right foot, suggesting an early post medieval date. Other fragments include a second patten and parts of the uppers of boots or shoes, including a strap. All the fragments show both flesh and grain sides, and have holes for stitching. Environmental sample <1> also taken from [2/008] also contained leather fragments.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk 40L sample was taken from a waterlogged alluvium deposit during excavations at Prospect Road, Hythe for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, insects, fauna and Mollusca. The following report details the preservation of the plant material and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 A 20L subsample was 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 (Appendix 1). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this report 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 (Appendix 2). A 2L subsample was processed by wet sieving through graded sieves of 4mm, 2mm, 1mm, 500µm and 250µm and kept wet. 30ml of each fraction was scanned under the microscope, equating to a total of 150ml, and the contents recorded in (Appendix 3). Provisional identification of the plant macrofossils was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild species and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

6.3 Results

Sample <1> [2/008].

6.3.1 Artefactual material from the heavy residues included small amounts of ceramic building material and glass and frequent coal. Bone and teeth were recovered from both mammals and fish and a small amount of burnt bone was present. Other environmental remains included charred botanicals, marine and land molluscs, insects, leather and uncharred wood fragments. Charcoal fragments were present but not in sufficient to be submitted for identification numbers (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue).

Plant Macrofossils from the Flot

6.3.2 The contents of the flot were mostly uncharred and consisted of degraded organic material, uncharred seeds and wood fragments. Considering the waterlogged nature of the deposit the uncharred plant remains are likely archaeological and not modern. Charred material, of charcoal and plant macrofossils, were present within the flot, albeit rare. Insect remains, small mammal bones and land snail shells were also present.

Uncharred

6.3.3 Preservation of the uncharred plant macrofossils was good with many identifiable to species level. The fruits of mallow (*Malva* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.) were recovered encased in the outer layer, the perianth, which rarely survives from archaeological contexts. Seeds of goosefoots (Chenopodiaceae), including oraches (*Atriplex* sp.) were the most common uncharred seed, unfortunately, without further identification, they can little inform on the local environment of the site. Sedges (*Carex* sp.) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*-type) are taxa of damp or wet soils and would have been attracted to the area by the waterlogged nature of the site. Sedges have often been associated with wet pasture ground (Robinson & Griffiths, 2008: 67) on which livestock would have grazed. Considering the coastal location of Prospect Road it is unsurprising that a number of maritime species, including sea aster (*Aster tripoleum*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) have been identified within the flot. Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) is also frequent along the coast. It is a neophyte and was introduced to Britain from southern Europe in the 16th century AD (Mabey, 1972) and, if the deposit is secure it could date it to after this period. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosas*) and fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) indicate the local presence of scrub/ wasteland.

Charred

6.3.4 Charred cereal caryopses of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and indeterminate grain were identified within the flot indicating the possible presence of crop processing activities at Prospect Road. Charred seeds of elder, creeping buttercup and common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) possibly represent arable weeds of damp soil cultivation. Plum (*Prunus domestica*) is a known archaeophyte and was introduced to Britain before 1500 AD (Preston *et al*, 2004). It is likely that plums were collected from the wild by the inhabitants of the site and the stones subsequently became charred once exposed to fire after consumption.

Waterlogged Plant Macrofossils

6.3.5 The waterlogged subsample contained both charred and uncharred plant macrofossils, including charcoal fragments and waterlogged wood. Several land mollusc shells and a single small mammal bone were recorded. Small fragments of ceramic building material as well as leather fragments were present within the waterlogged sample.

Uncharred

6.3.6 The uncharred archaeological material was preserved as the lack of oxygen and the high water level prevented the normal decay processes from taking place (Hall & Huntley, 2007: 10). Plants that are generally preserved through waterlogging, such as fruits, herbs and vegetables, are often absent from the archaeobotanical record, which is largely formed of charred assemblages, as they do not require exposure to heat for processing. Overall preservation of the waterlogged plant macrofossils was good and the rare preservation of the mallow perianth was also noted.

6.3.7 Single uncharred seeds of blackberry, mallow and turnip (*Brassica rapa*) were recorded from the waterlogged subsample. *Brassica rapa* is a plant that consists of multiple subspecies, including turnip (Ssp. *rapa*), wild turnip (Ssp. *campestris*) and black mustard (Ssp. *nigra*), many of which have been subject to cultivation at one point or another in the past. A plum-type stone and a number of goosefoots and various sedge species were also noted.

Charred

6.3.8 Charred plant macrofossils from the waterlogged subsample were rare and consisted of several ruderal species including docks, oraches, campions (*Silene* sp.) and creeping buttercup. These plants may have been growing nearby and subsequently became burnt along with the charcoal, alternatively, they may represent arable weeds burnt alongside the cereal remains noted within the flot.

Discussion

6.3.9 The uncharred plant macrofossils recorded at Prospect Road are indicative of the wet coastal environment of the site with the majority occurring naturally in the deposit. It is possible that turnip, blackberry and mallow were deliberately cultivated or collected for consumption to support the cereal diet. The recovery of charred cereal grains and arable weeds indicates that crop processing activities were likely occurring within the vicinity. The presence of both a neophyte, red valerian, and an archaeophyte, wild plum, have the potential to provide dating for the deposit or information regarding intrusive and residual contamination in waterlogged deposits. Overall the preservation of the plant material is good and the deposit has the potential to inform on the local environment, crop processing activities and the exploitation of wild resources.

6.4 Geoarchaeology by Kristina Krawiec

6.4.1 The alluvial deposits recorded at Prospect road form part of the eastern edge of the wider Dungeness and Romney Marsh depositional complex.

6.4.2 The upper oxidised alluvial deposits likely derive from the process of reclamation of Romney marsh, of which Hythe lies to the extreme east. This is thought to have occurred in the 14-15th centuries and would have led to widespread oxidation of previously waterlogged sediment (Long, Waller and Plater 2007). The lower blue-grey deposits likely represent sediment that is still waterlogged and as such have the potential to preserve palaeoenvironmental remains.

6.4.3 The bulk sample recovered from the sediment demonstrated the survival of waterlogged plant macrofossil remains including both freshwater (sedges) and saline-tolerant (sea aster) species. The presence of Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) suggests the deposit formed from the 16th century and likely represents a mixed deposit with freshwater elements introduced to the area via freshwater runoff from the higher ground. The deposits most likely represent the edge of mudflats associated with the Hythe inlet, the exact character of which and the way it evolved over time is still a matter of some debate.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The stratigraphy revealed in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 comprised a series of alluvial deposits beneath a layer of redeposited natural. This layer has been disturbed by significant modern truncation associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of the previous building on the site.

7.1.2 A ditch had been cut through the redeposited natural in Trench 4, continuing into the redeposited natural in trench 3. It ran north-east to south-west and was dated to the 16th century or later.

7.1.3 Trench 5 was located within the garden area of the previous building and revealed a sequence of redeposited natural overlain by clay, beneath subsoil and topsoil. The trench did not contain any archaeological features.

7.2 Deposit survival

7.2.1 The alluvial deposits seen in the trenches survive in good condition. They have not been truncated or disturbed by any of the foundations or construction work associated with the recently demolished building as they are sealed beneath a layer of redeposited natural.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Medieval and Post-Medieval

7.3.1 The finds recovered from alluvial layer [2/008] in trench 2 date to the 15th to 16th century but the presence of Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) in the environmental sample indicates that the 16th century date is more likely. These alluvial deposits are thought to result from the land reclamation that began in the 14th to 15th centuries and the artefactual and environmental evidence is consistent with the occupation and activities of a medieval/early post-medieval town.

7.3.2 The only archaeological feature identified during the work was a ditch, cut into a layer of redeposited natural that sealed the alluvial deposits beneath. The pottery and CBM from the fills indicate a late-medieval/early post-medieval date and a nearby early post-medieval building is indicated by roofing and floor tiles recovered from the lower fill [4/010]. A single fragment of Welsh roofing slate recovered from upper fill [4/009] suggests that the ditch may not have been in-filled finally until the 19th century.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was successful in establishing the nature of archaeological deposits on site, identifying late-medieval/early post-medieval activity. However, there was no evidence of any earlier activity, or anything directly linked to the Royal Military Canal located to the south of site.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches has proved effective in uncovering a range of archaeological deposits and allowing them to be excavated and recorded. It was successful in providing evidence of one 16th century or later ditch as well as alluvial deposits, which are likely to relate to medieval land reclamation.

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HER Summary

Site code	PRH16				
Project code	161113				
Planning reference	Y15/0467/SH				
Site address	The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe				
District/Borough	,Kent				
NGR (12 figures)	616231 134685				
Geology	Weald Clay				
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey
Date of fieldwork	19-20th December 2016				
Sponsor/client	Guy Holloway Arcitects				
Project manager	Jo Sygrave				
Project supervisor	Lucy May				
Period summary					
				Post-Medieval	
Project summary	*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe, Kent. Between the 19th & 20th December 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Guy Holloway Architects prior to the redevelopment of the site for residential use.* *The evaluation revealed a 15th century, or later, ditch as well as alluvial deposits which could represent the original coastline, or mudflats, associated with the Hythe inlet.*				

OASIS ID: archaeol6-274681

Project details	
Project name	An archaeological Evaluation at The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe, Kent
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe, Kent. Between the 19th and 20th December 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Guy Holloway Architects prior to the redevelopment of the site for residential use The evaluation revealed a 15th century, or later, ditch as well as alluvial deposits which could represent the original coastline, or mudflats, associated with the Hythe inlet.
Project dates	Start: 19-12-2016 End: 20-12-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PRH16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	161113 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY HYTHE The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road
Postcode	CT21 5NN
Site coordinates	TR 16231 34685 51.07005603828 1.086816747381 51 04 12 N 001 05 12 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	ASE

Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Lucy May
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Guy Holloway Architects
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	''Animal Bones'',''Ceramics'',''Leather''
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	''Survey'',''Images raster / digital photography''
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Drawing'',''Photograph'',''Report'',''Unpublished Text''
Entered by	Lucy May (l.may@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 January 2017

Appendix 1

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

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail Shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, flint etc.) (presence/ weight)
1	2/008	Alluvium coastal deposit	40	20	**	2	**	1	**	<1	**	92	*	<1	**	<1	**	3	**	<1	CBM (*/68g) Coal (***/4g) Glass (*/<1g) Leather (*/<1g) Wood frags (***/9g) Insects |(*/<1g)

Appendix 2

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250). Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

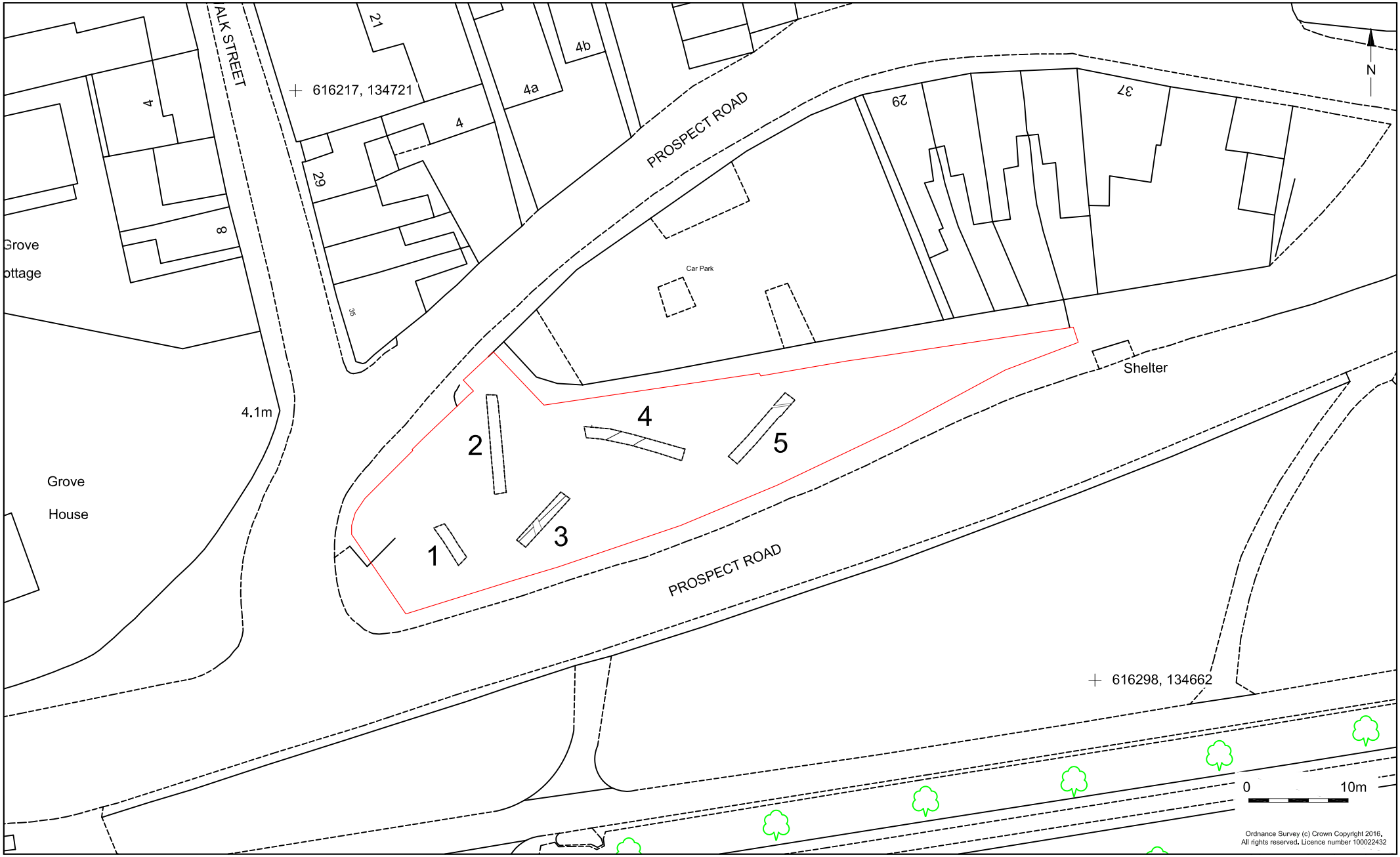
Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other Botanical Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Fly Pupae etc.	Small Mammal Bone	Land Snail Shells	Notes
1	2/008	34	160	100	95	Chenopodiaceae *** Apiaceae * *Carex* sp. * *Ranunculus repens*-type ** *Centranthus ruber* * *Aethusa cynapium* * *Aster tripolium* * *Hyoscyamus niger* * *Corylus avellana* shell frags ** *Cirsium* sp. * *Malva* sp. fruit * *Rumex* sp. fruit w/perianth* *Rubus fruiticosus* **	**	*	*Hordeum vulgare* (hulled) *Cerealia* indet. *Triticum* sp.	++	*	*Sambucus nigra* *Atriplex* sp. *Ranunculus repens*-type *Galeopsis tetrahit*	+++	*	*Prunus domestica*	++	***	*	**	Wood frags **

Appendix 3

Waterlogged subsample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250). Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

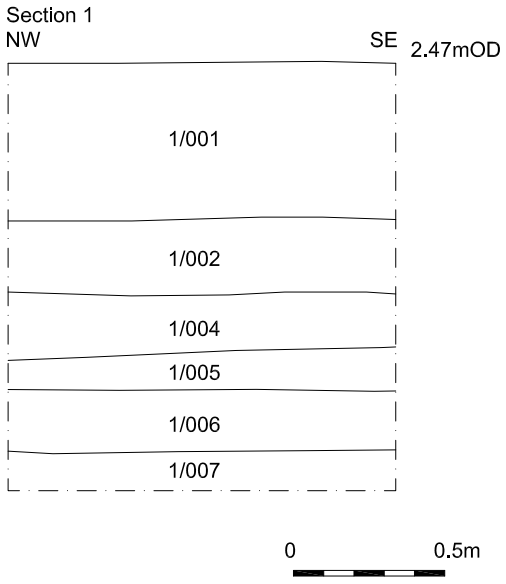
Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Scanned (ml)	Uncharred Botanicals	Identification	Preservation	Charred Botanicals	Identifications	Preservation	Wood	Notes on Wood	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Land Molluscs	Faunal Remains	Other Finds
1	2/008	40	2	150	**	*Carex* sp(p).* *Prunus* sp.(1) *Brassica rapa*(1) *Malva* fruit(1) *Rubus fruticosas*(1) Apiaceae(1) Chenopodiaceae **	+++	*	*Ranunculus repens*-type(1) *Rumex* sp.(1) *Atriplex* sp. * *Silene* sp.*	++	**	Round wood present.	++	*	**	***	**	1	CBM frags * Leather frags *

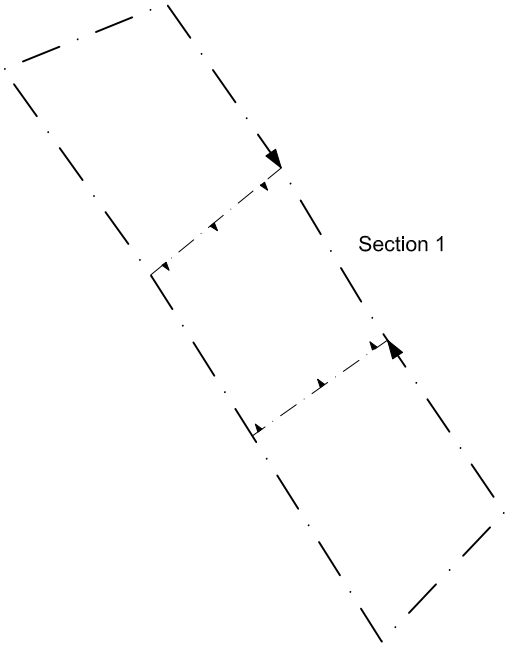
© Archaeology South-East		The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 161113	January 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 161113	January 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: LG		

Section 1 looking north-east





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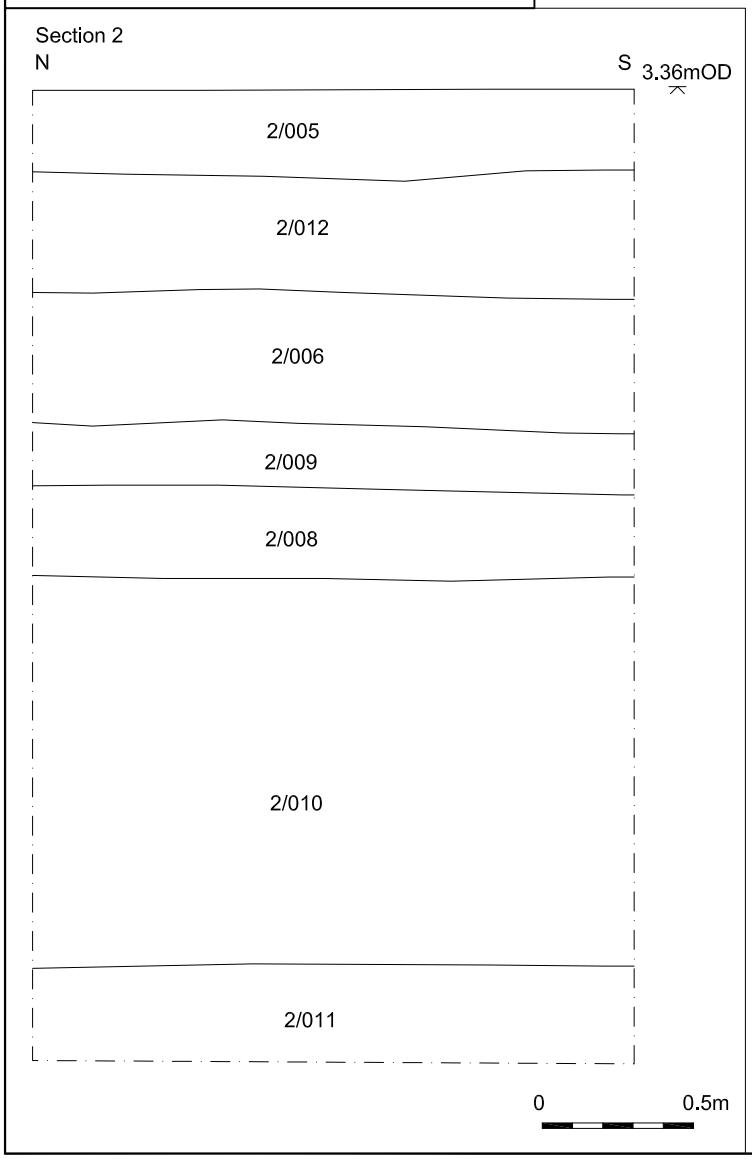
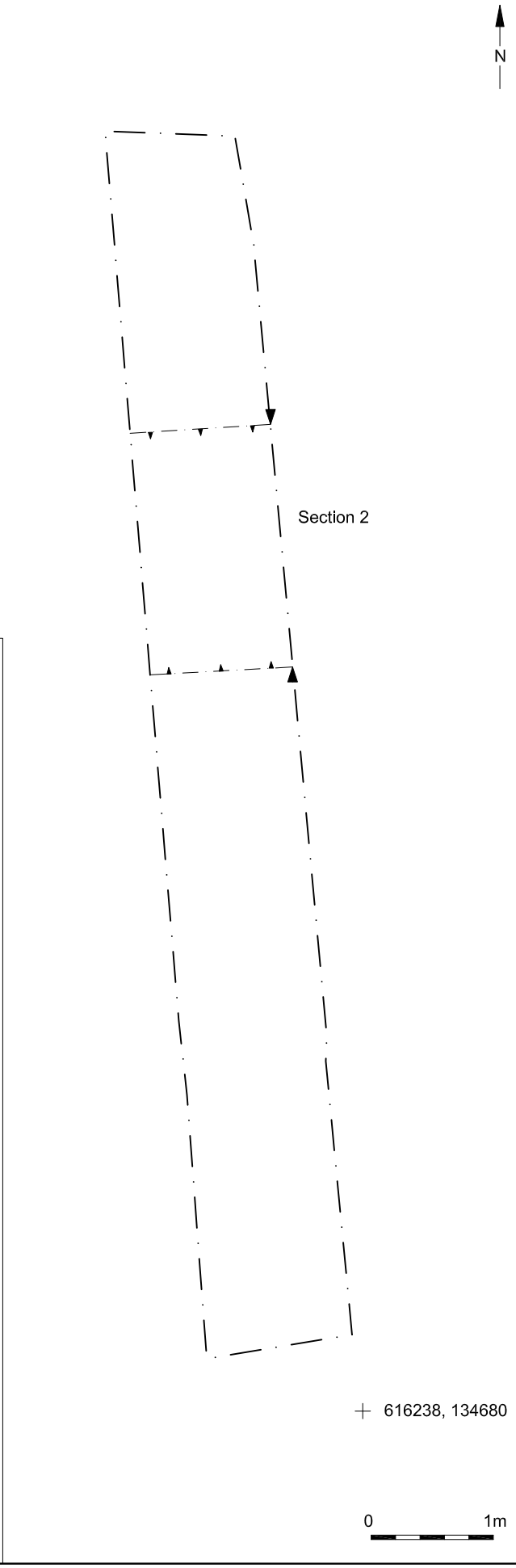
Project Ref: 161113	Jan 2017	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: LG		

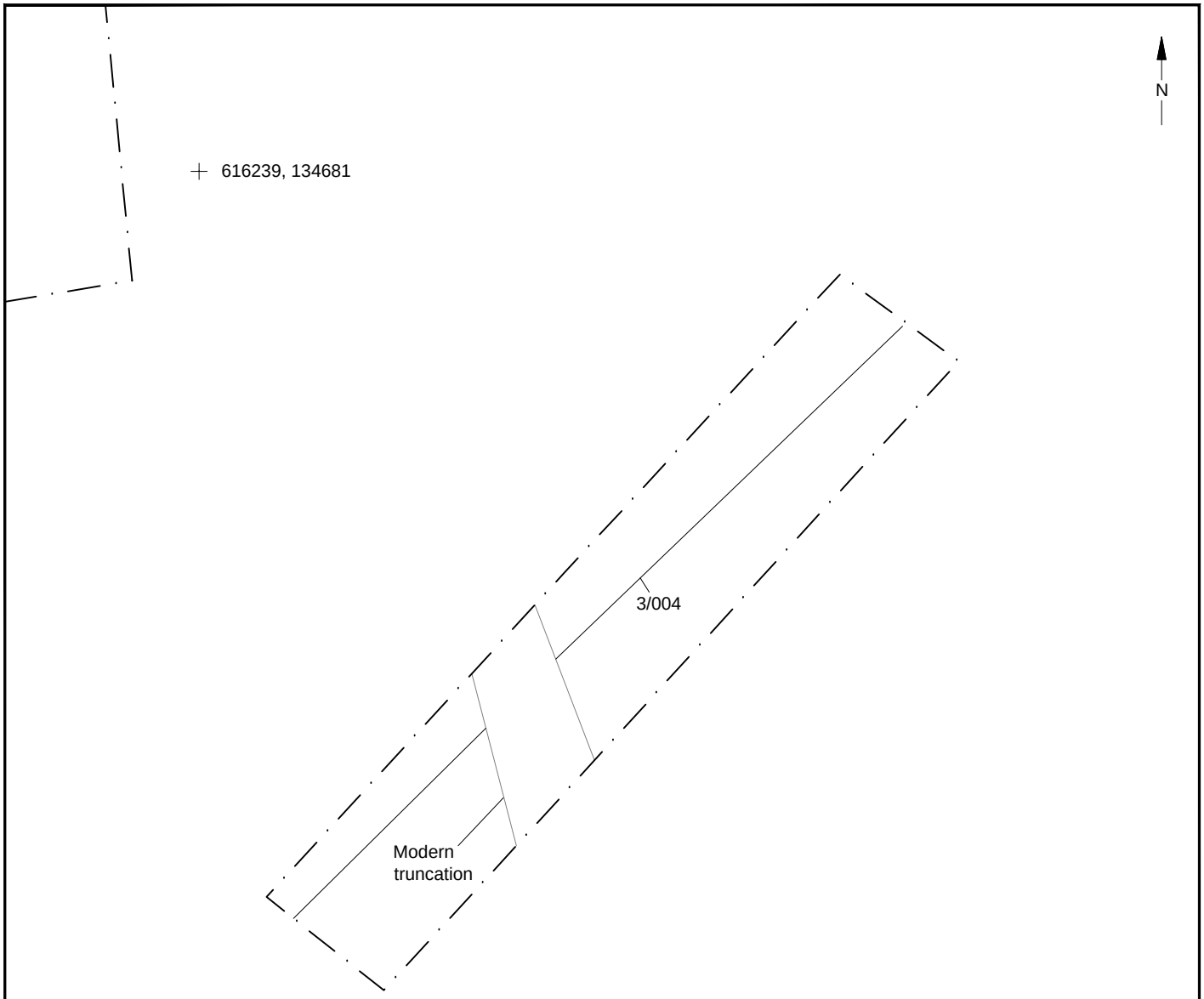
Trench 2 looking south

Section 2 looking east





© Archaeology South-East		The Paddocks, 13 Prospect Road, Hythe	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 161113	January 2017	Trench 2 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: LG		



Trench 3 looking south-west

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Project Ref: 161113	January 2017	Trench 3 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: LG		

Trench 4 looking west

616246, 134688

N

Section 3

Section 4

4/008

616254, 134683

0 1m

Section 3
SW

3.26mOD

4/001

4/002

4/004

4/005

4/006

4/007

Section 4
SE NW

2.48mOD

4/009

4/010

4/008

4/004

0 0.5m

4/008 looking south west

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Project Ref: 161113	January 2017	Trench 4 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017034	Drawn by: LG		

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