

An Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent

NGR: 606010 136796

Planning Ref: 16/01412/AS

ASE Project No: 170373

Site Code: ALN17

ASE Report No: 2017232

OASIS ID: archaeol6-285323



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to carry out an archaeological trial-trench evaluation at land south of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent, in May 2017.

The evaluation revealed a low density of post-medieval remains and a large modern pit of unknown function. Residual archaeological finds dating to the medieval period were recovered as well as occasional fragments of prehistoric flintwork. The evidence suggests that the recorded archaeological activity is indicative of prehistoric transient activity, medieval settlement and agricultural activity (in the vicinity of, but probably not on the site), post-medieval quarrying and modern activity in the form of a large Rag-stone capped pit or levelling deposit. The results are of limited local significance. The quarrying is in keeping with evidence gathered from historic maps which provide evidence for frequent quarrying from as early as 1872 on both a large and a small, localised scale. Such quarrying is probably for the Rag-stone uncovered during excavations which is a common building material.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Paul Browne Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the land south of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent, in May 2017 in order to assess its archaeological potential ahead of residential development.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the south of Roman Road, just north-west of the centre of the village of Aldington, Kent, on land currently in pastoral use (NGR 606010 136796, Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area comprises a 0.6ha parcel of flat land that drops abruptly immediately south-west of the site. It is bounded by residential developments to its north-west and south-east.
- 1.2.3 The overlying topsoil on the site consists of 0.14-0.32m dark brown sandy silt. This topsoil intermittently overlies a subsoil of a mid-grey-brown sandy silt varying in depth from 0.11-0.57m. In some areas, natural Rag-stone was present immediately beneath topsoil.
- 1.2.4 The site lies at the interface of Lower Greensand Sandstone and Mudstone and Wealden Group Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone (BGS 2017). During excavations, natural deposits of both Rag-stone and silty sand were encountered.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application was submitted to Kent District Council for residential development of 10 dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping (Planning Ref: 16/01412/AS). The permission was granted by Ashford Borough Council subject to conditions (16/01412/AS). The archaeological condition is as follows:

3 No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured and implemented:

- (a) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and
- (b) further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a 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 examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was requested by the Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council (HCGKCC). This evaluation comprised five 30m x 1.8m trenches on an arrangement agreed with the Local Planning Authority Advisory Archaeologist (Wendy Rogers HCGKCC). An additional trench measuring 20m x 1.8m was excavated in consultation with the monitoring archaeologist.

- 1.3.3 A Site Specific Specification for archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared (ASE 2017).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out at the Land South of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent, in May 2017. All work was undertaken in accordance with the site specific specification (ASE 2017), the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is a summary of the most pertinent sites and findspots within a 500m radius of the site gathered from the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER).

2.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 2.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic material are recorded within the 500m search radius.

2.3 Bronze Age and Iron Age

- 2.3.1 No finds of Bronze Age and Iron Age material are recorded within the 500m search radius.

2.4 Roman

- 2.4.1 As the name suggests, Roman Road, immediately to the north of the site, has been in use since the Roman period. It connected Canterbury and the smaller iron-working areas of the eastern Weald (Margary 1965).
- 2.4.2 Roman flue tiles and bricks were found in April 1935 and 1936 during construction of a tennis court at New Haytors, c.300m to the south of the site (HER ref: TR03NE5, NGR TR 0605 3639). Two Roman sites were encountered. The first yielded sherds of mid-1st century pottery and the foundations of a building. Post holes in the second of the two sites were interpreted as the remains of a hypocaust.
- 2.4.3 Late 3rd/early 4th century Roman coins dating from 250 to 317 AD were found c.100m to the north of the site (HER ref: TR03NE25, NGR TR 062 368).

2.5 Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval

- 2.5.1 No finds of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval origin are recorded within the 500m search radius.

2.6 Medieval

- 2.6.1 A medieval seal, dated to between 1250 and 1350 AD was found during groundworks in 1983 c.150m to the north-west (HER ref: TR03NE30, NGR TR 058 369).
- 2.6.2 No other finds or features of medieval date are recorded within the 500m search radius.

2.7 Post-medieval/Early Modern

- 2.7.1 Historic mapping dating to 1872 (Kent County Series historic OS map 1:2500) provides evidence of a high occurrence of quarrying in the vicinity of the site with a large quarry being present in the location of 'Quarry Wood' until at least 1972 (National Grid 1972 1:2500). There are also several instances of small scale and localised quarrying as early as 1872.
- 2.7.2 An archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East on a residential development immediately to the south-east of the site recorded 3 post-

medieval garden post-holes dated to 1540 – 1900 AD, containing clay pipe, nails and CBM (HER ref: TR03NE245, NGR TR 0602 3668).

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered
- To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition

2.6.2 With reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF 2007), the archaeological works have the potential to:

- Contribute towards the study of the transition from late Iron Age to Roman period
- Contribute towards the study of Roman communication (and roadside settlement)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The methodology specified for the archaeological work can be found in full in the Site Specific Specification (ASE 2017). What follows is a brief summary of this and a discussion of any changes made during the evaluation.
- 3.1.2 Some changes were made to the trench layout trench layout specified in the Site Specific Specification. Six, rather than five, 30m x 1.8m trenches were opened in the locations shown on Figure 2. A decision was made following discussion with the County Archaeologist that Trench 6 was necessary following the uncovering of potential archaeological surfaces in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. This sixth trench measured 20m x 1.8m. Additionally, Trench 4 was shifted approximately 5m to the north-east and 5m to the north-west in order to avoid below-ground services.
- 3.1.3 Machining of the trenches was undertaken using a tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision, with topsoil and subsoil being removed stratigraphically until archaeological remains and/or underlying natural geology was encountered.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features were investigated by hand.
- 3.1.5 50% of discreet contexts and 1m-long segments of linear features were excavated.
- 3.1.6 All trench and feature locations were located and planned using GPS. Post-excavation photographs were taken of each trench and soil stratigraphy was recorded, regardless of the presence/absence of archaeological features. Handwritten trench record sheets were maintained throughout the site. Photographic and drawing records were maintained of all features excavated. Deposits were recorded by context using ASE pro-forma context sheets.
- 3.1.7 All finds from excavated deposits were retrieved and retained for specialist identification and study. All such material is identified by association with context numbers and site code.
- 3.1.8 A metal-detector was used throughout, both prior to and during the excavation of trenches and were used on trench bases and spoil heaps. Feature fills were also scanned.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 Finds from the fieldwork will be kept with the archival material and permission will be sought from the landowner to deposit the finds and paper archive with Ashford Museum. The museum is currently not accepting archaeological archives and the material will be housed at the ASE offices until a suitable local repository can be found.

3.2.2 The contents of the site archive are tabulated below.

Item	Quantity
Context sheets	2
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	35
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	6

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
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 General

- 4.1.1 A simple deposit sequence comprising a 0.14-0.32m thickness of topsoil, in some instances overlying 0.11-0.57m of subsoil, was recorded. Topsoil directly overlay natural Rag-stone deposits. Where the Rag-stone was not present the topsoil overlay subsoil deposits which in turn overlay the yellow silty Lower Greensand. No disturbance through ploughing was observed which is in keeping with the pastoral utility of the site in recent years.
- 4.1.2 Of the 6 trenches excavated, 2 contained archaeological remains. There was a single post-medieval quarry pit in Trench 4 and a large, modern pit or levelling deposit in Trench 5.
- 4.1.3 Rag-stone natural present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, initially thought to be some form of archaeological surface was, upon further investigation through hand digging and subsequent machining determined to be natural geology. This was due to a dearth of archaeological material within the deposits and areas where the Rag-stone was observed to underlay the natural Lower Greensand. Where Rag-stone occurred, the overlying topsoil was richer in finds than that observed across the rest of site, containing medieval sherds of pottery and pottery shards and ceramic building material (CBM). This was probably as a result of the underlying solid geology preventing such material from penetrating any deeper. These layers were recorded within unstratified topsoil deposits.
- 4.1.4 Trenches 4 and 5 are described individually in sections 4.2 and 4.3. The archaeologically negative trenches are given summary descriptions in section 4.4 with details presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.5 Recorded features contained fill types of sandy silt.

4.2 Trench 4 (Figure 3)

Heights at NW end of trench = 76.70 AOD (top)
Heights at SE end of trench = 77.70 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[4/001]	Layer	Topsoil	30m+	1.8m+	0.19-0.27m
[4/002]	Layer	Subsoil	30m+	1.8m+	0.57m
[4/003]	Cut	Quarry Pit	2m+	1.7m+	0.88m
[4/004]	Fill	Of [4/003]	2m+	1.7m+	0.88m
[4/005]	Layer	Natural	30m+	1.8m+	N/A

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in Trench 4

- 4.2.1 Trench 4, located south of the centre of the site, was on a north-west – south-east alignment. It contained a single quarry pit.
- 4.2.2 [4/003] was a quarry pit in the south-eastern end of the trench cut into the subsoil. Single fill [4/004] was a soft mid yellow-brown sandy silt containing a small fragment from a Dutch Redware vessel, several fractured roof tile and brick spall fragments and a single pipe stem broadly dated to c. 1750-1910.

4.3 Trench 5

Heights at NNE end of trench = 77.34 AOD (top)
 Heights at SSW end of trench = 77.82 AOD (top)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[5/001]	Layer	Topsoil	30m+	1.8m+	0.15-0.18m
[5/002]	Layer	Subsoil	30m+	1.8m+	0.35m
[5/003]	Layer	Natural	30m+	1.8m+	N/A
[5/004]	Layer	In [5/007]	25m	1.8m+	0.22m
[5/005]	Fill	Of [5/007]	25m	1.8m+	0.14m
[5/006]	Fill	Of [5/007]	25m	1.8m+	0.45m
[5/007]	Cut	Modern pit	25m	1.8m+	1m

Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Trench 5

- 4.3.1 Trench 5 was located in the south of the site on a north/north-east – south/south-west alignment. A modern pit or made ground/levelling deposit covered all but 5m of the trench. A machine excavated sondage was excavated in its southern end. Natural geology was reached at 1m. Because the depth of natural across the remainder of the site was not more than 0.60m, it is likely that if any archaeological features previously occupied the area they would have been fully truncated by this modern feature. An alternative explanation is that it comprised a levelling deposit.
- 4.3.2 [5/007] was a large pit containing modern material. It extended beyond the southernmost limits of the trench and terminated 5 metres from its northern end with a depth of 1m. The pit contained lower fill [5/006], mid green-grey clay-silt with occasional plastic inclusions. Overlying this was [5/005]. It was a soft dark brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of plastic and metal. The feature was capped by [5/004], a layer of compacted Rag-stone probably constituted of material removed from the pit before lower fills were deposited.

4.4 Archaeologically negative trenches

- 4.4.1 Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 6 revealed a sequence of topsoil and subsoil over natural geology. Though no features were encountered at these sampled locations archaeological finds were occasionally recovered from deposits of overburden. The thickness of topsoil in the trenches varied from 0.14-0.32m and subsoil from 0.07-0.33m. Where natural geology consisted of Rag-stone, no subsoil was present and a higher density of finds was observed in the topsoil.
- 4.4.2 Further details of the deposit sequences noted in these trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land between Aldington Fresh Foods and Brockenhurst, Roman Road, Aldington. 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. Bulk finds are quantified Table 5 and single registered find is described in section 5.11. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
1/002	1	2	36	317	10	159	2	12							3	48	3	25
4/002			4	15	2	2			1	15								
4/004			1	4	6	34			1	19			1	2				
6/002	2	12	5	15	2	28			1	3	1	5					1	11
Total	3	14	46	351	20	223	2	12	3	37	1	5	1	2	3	48	4	36

Table 5: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 Three pieces of struck flint weighing 14g were recovered from the subsoil in trenches 1 and 6. A single retouched flake weighing 2g was recovered from context [1/002]. The piece is in a poor condition. It was broken in antiquity and was also broken more recently. The artefact is re-corticated to a milky blue colour, but the more recent break shows that the original colour of the flint was dark grey. The extensive edge damage suggests that it has been subject to repetitive re-depositions. It also exhibits some rust marks; these are often associated with ploughing activities. Nonetheless given the presence of occasional low retouch, a Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date is not impossible. Context [6/002] produced a blade fragment and a miscellaneous retouched piece. They are in a better condition than the piece from [1/002]. The proximal end of the blade is absent, but the parallel ridges on the dorsal surface indicate that the artefact is the product of a blade-orientated industry. It is likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.

5.3 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered a moderate-sized assemblage of pottery from the site, the vast majority deriving from context [1/002]. The assemblage is fully listed in Table 6 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Fabric/ware	Period	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of vessels by form)
1/002	Ashford sandy ware, rare shell	HM	1	2g	Uncertain form x1 (oxidised)
1/002	Ashford sandy ware, rare flint	HM	2	14g	Uncertain form x2.(oxidised & reduced) Worn
1/002	Ashford sandy ware	HM	1	4g	Bowl x1 (rectangular rim, oxidised)
1/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (reduced)	LM	9	88g	Uncertain form x5 (x1 with green internal glaze); pitcher x1 (unstabbed strap handle, everted rim)
1/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (bitone)	LM	3	54g	Uncertain form x2
1/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (oxidised)	LM	18	144g	Uncertain form x7 (x1 with green glazed interior)
1/002	Tin-glazed ware	LM/ EPM	1	8g	Uncertain form x1. Either a 16 th - century import or intrusive C17 th . Ambiguos.
4/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (oxidised)	LM	4	14g	Uncertain form x3
4/004	Dutch redware	LM /EPM	1	2g	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze all over, external incised horizontal lines)
6/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (reduced)	LM	2	6g	Uncertain form x2
6/002	Hard-fired fine earthenware (oxidised)	LM	2	6g	Uncertain form x1

Table 6: Post-Roman pottery (HM – High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350; LM – Late Medieval c. 1350-1550; EPM – Early Post-medieval c. 1550-1750)

- 5.3.2 The earliest pottery from the site can be placed in a 13th- to early 14th- century chronological range. All these sherds are small and notably abraded suggesting they relate to a background scatter from manuring. All appear to be from the local Ashford area, essentially equating to Canterbury Archaeological Trust's fabrics M40A (with rare shell) and M40B (sand only). None of this material is likely to post-date the mid-14th century suggesting activity came to an end at this time, probably as a result of the Black Death.
- 5.3.3 By far the majority of the assemblage is of the Late Medieval period. Once again local wares totally dominate. These relatively high-fired utilitarian earthenwares were made at numerous workshops in the south-east, including Rye to the south-west, Hareplain, Biddenden to the west and close to the current site at Bonnington. Jars, pipkins, bowls and pitchers were the most common types but the current assemblage unfortunately does not contain many diagnostic sherds. The full range of firing is present – reduced (grey), bitone (oxidised inner/reduced outer faces) and oxidised (pale/mid orange). Typically for the period there is little decoration and only sparse, poorly applied glazing. On the whole the sherds are quite small with a notable amount of abrasion on many suggesting a degree of reworking. However, the quantities involved, particularly from context [1/002] suggests occupation on or near the site at this time. The assemblage suggests this activity to have occurred between c. 1450 and 1550. The only two non-local sherds consist of a fragment from a Dutch Redware vessel and the tin-glazed sherd. The latter is not diagnostic and could either be a contemporary 16th- century import or, perhaps less likely, a later, 17th- century piece. The site produced no definite

pottery of the post-medieval period.

- 5.3.4 The pottery assemblage predominantly is composed of a mid-15th- to mid-16th- century assemblage that contains few feature sherds. Much better assemblages of this period have been excavated from nearby sites on Romney Marsh and Ashford such as Brisley Farm), however, relatively little pottery has to date been recovered from Aldington. As such the full potential of the current assemblage and its suitability for long-term curation will need to be assessed in the light of any subsequent assemblage that may be derived from any Stage 2 excavation works at the site. Until then at least, the entire assemblage should be retained.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.4.1 Eighteen pieces of ceramic building material weighing a total of 190g were collected from three evaluation contexts, [1/002], [4/002] and [4/004], although the bulk came from [4/004]. The assemblage was made up of fractured roof tile and brick spall, the latter of which were too small to even enable fabric identification.
- 5.4.2 Two tile fabrics were distinguished, one dense pink-orange clay with sparse-common calcareous inclusions that is very common across Sussex and Kent, the other a slightly sandy fabric with a laminated quality and red, iron-rich inclusions. Neither of these fabric types can be dated, although a post-medieval date is most likely for both tile varieties. All of the brick fragments were too broken and abraded to be even broadly dated.

5.5 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Context [1/002] contained a single fragment of fired clay (weight 22g). The fragment is in an orange clay with common fine to medium sand temper. The piece displays a single flat surface and is likely to represent a fragment of daub.

5.6 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 A single stem fragment (weight <2g) was recovered from [4/004]. The fragment is unmarked and undecorated and can only be dated broadly to c. 1750-1910.

5.7 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A small assemblage of glass comprising four fragments weighing a total of 36g was recovered from two different contexts. Three bottle fragments are of 19th-century date. Context [1/002] contained colourless fragments from a panelled, hexagonal or octagonal bottle, as well as from a cylindrical bottle. A neck fragment e.g. from a mineral water bottle was recovered from [6/002]. Of interest is a bright blue, flat rim fragment with thick moulded ribbing. Dateable finds from the same contexts are largely Tudor, although medieval and late post-medieval material was also included. The rim is likely to derive from a flat dish or plate. Its unusual colour and form/decoration may suggest an imported vessel. Further research is required to establish a date and origin.

5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 Context [1/002] produced a 2g scrap of medieval West Country roofing slate (2g) and a very worn 12g lump of Kentish Rag-stone. The stone is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this assessment and has been discarded.

5.9 The Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 Three fragments of ironwork (32g) were recovered from the site. An amorphous lump of iron was recovered from [4/002]. The piece will require X-radiography to aid identification. An iron strip fragment ([4/004]) and a hand wrought nail with flat rectangular head ([6/002]; Goodall 2011, 164, Fig 9.1 type 3) were also found. Neither is intrinsically dateable.

5.10 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.10.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing just one fragment weighing 5g was recovered from the excavation. The animal bone was recovered by hand from context [6/002] and is in a poor state of preservation with signs of surface erosion evident. The animal bone has been identified as a large mammal long bone fragment. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology was observed.

5.11 The Registered Find by Elke Raemen

- 5.11.1 A small copper-alloy trapezoidal plate with rounded cut-outs near the top and double-line punched triangle decoration (RF <1>; weight <2g) was recovered from [1/002]. It represents one of two plates from a book-marker or book clip, which would have been soldered onto the end of a pair of tweezers. Complete examples have rings which would slide over the tweezers to clip the plates onto the page. They appear both in ecclesiastical and secular 13th- to 14th-century contexts (e.g. Rees et. al 2008, 287, Fig 161 no 1991, Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2937, Fig 1503, no 14477). A near identical example was found at Bayham Abbey (Goodall 1983, 110, Fig 48 no 14).

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 A deposit sequence of topsoil overlying either subsoil or natural deposits was recorded across the site. The topsoil was between 0.14 and 0.32m thick. Subsoil was present intermittently across site and ranged in thickness between 0.11m and 0.57m. The underlying natural geological deposits were silty-sand of the Lower Greensand Formation and Rag-stone.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation revealed archaeological features in 2 of the 6 trenches. These features were cut into the natural geology and were overlain by topsoil and, both were cut into subsoil
- 6.1.3 The recorded archaeological remains comprised a modern pit and a quarry pit. Feature density across the site is highest in the south, with a complete dearth of finds in the north. Finds produced dated to prehistoric (flintwork), medieval and post-medieval periods.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 Deposit survival was good. Features were cut into subsoil and sealed by a reasonable depth of topsoil. No horizontal truncation of features was observed; however, it is unclear what impact modern pit [5/007] and the post medieval quarry pit [4/003] had on any archaeological features (had they been present). Given the low density of finds in the vicinity of the site, the likelihood of truncation is low.

6.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 6.4.1 No features dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods were encountered within the sampled areas. The lack of Roman period finds and features is perhaps most surprising given the proximity of the site to Roman Road and several Roman sites and findspots nearby. As discussed above (section 2.7.2), nearby archaeological works similarly observed no Roman remains. The absence of Prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval features is also reflected in nearby archaeological works.
- 6.4.2 Despite the lack of features, archaeological finds encountered at the site indicate prehistoric and late medieval activity in the vicinity. The flintwork probably indicates transient activity of possible Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age date, however, the pottery assemblage and plate from a book-marker or book clip point to later medieval activity in this part of Aldington. Much of the pottery relates to 13th- to early 14th- century agricultural activity and is probably the result of manuring, however, the quantities of later (c. 1450 – 1550) wares may indicate habitation on or near the site (see section 5.3.3). This would not be unexpected given the site's roadside location. The 13th–14th century plate from a book-marker or book clip as well as the possibly imported pottery may indicate activity of some status. Nevertheless, these finds were recovered from unstratified deposits and may have been subject to some movement from their original context of deposition.

Post-medieval and early modern

- 6.4.2 One post-medieval feature was uncovered. Pit [4/003] contained a small fragment from a Dutch Redware vessel, several fractured roof tile and brick spall fragments and a single pipe stem. The pit is probably related to 18th century quarrying of the Rag-stone observed in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Post-medieval post-holes were recorded during an archaeological watching brief immediately adjacent to the site which may relate to the activity observed here (ASE 2014).

6.5 Consideration of research aims

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has been successful in generally determining the presence/absence, location, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the site.
- 6.5.2 The evaluation at the land south of Roman Road, Aldington, has provided no further information pertinent the study of the transition from the late Iron Age to Roman period or Roman communication and roadside settlement. It has, however, contributed data to future regional studies of the form and nature of developing rural landscapes through the discovery of medieval finds and a post-medieval quarry pit not recorded on historic maps.

6.6 Updated Research Agenda

- 6.6.1 The medieval finds indicate later medieval agricultural and settlement activity in the vicinity of (but probably not on) the site. This is not surprising given the areas roadside location and location within the medieval village of Aldington. Relatively little pottery has to date been recovered from Aldington and along with the plate from a book-marker or book clip these represent finds of local significance.
- 6.6.2 The medieval finds and later quarrying encountered at the site have the potential to help contribute to questions posed by the South East Research Framework (SERF 2007). Specifically:
- Consideration of space within settlements generally in terms of their various functions and also as representations and expressions of social differentiation, vertical and horizontal.
 - Systematic recording of quarries through historical and archaeological research. The majority of these need to be classified by form, establish the material extracted, their date and distribution.

6.7 Conclusions

- 6.7.1 The evaluation revealed a single quarry pit of post-medieval origin. The dearth of finds or features of Roman date is surprising given the proximity of several Roman findspots and to Roman Road but is perhaps not so when a similar trend at nearby archaeological investigations is realised (section 2.0). The evidence suggests that the recorded archaeological activity is indicative of prehistoric transient activity, medieval settlement and agricultural activity (in the vicinity of the site), post-medieval quarrying and modern activity in the form of a large Rag-stone capped pit. Given the extent of the sampled areas it is likely that the medieval occupation was taking place beyond the limits of the site. The results are of limited local significance.

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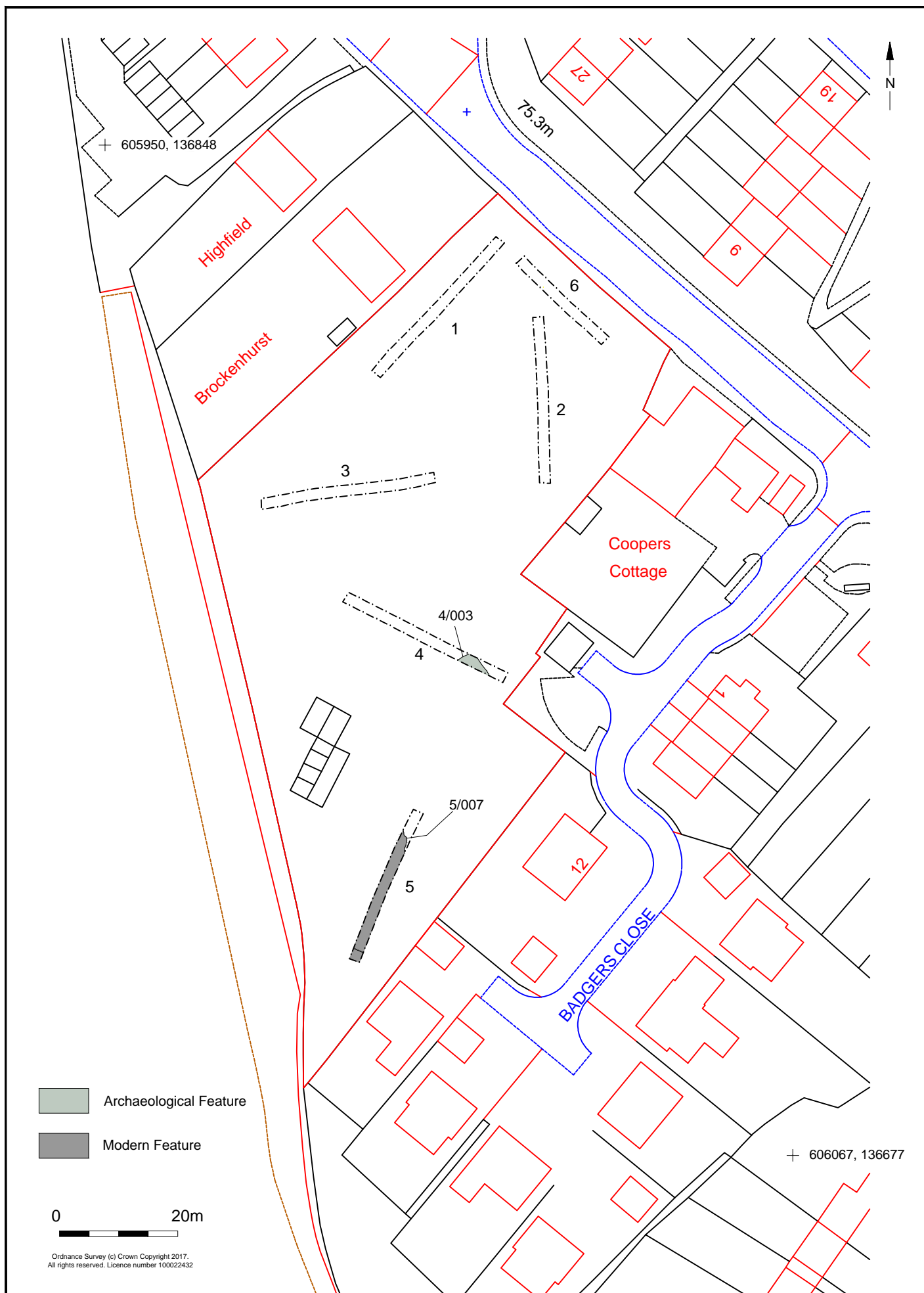
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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© Archaeology South-East		Land between Aldington Fresh Foods and Brockenhurst, Aldington	
Project Ref: 170373	May 2017	Site location with HER references	
Report Ref: 2017232	Drawn by: AR		

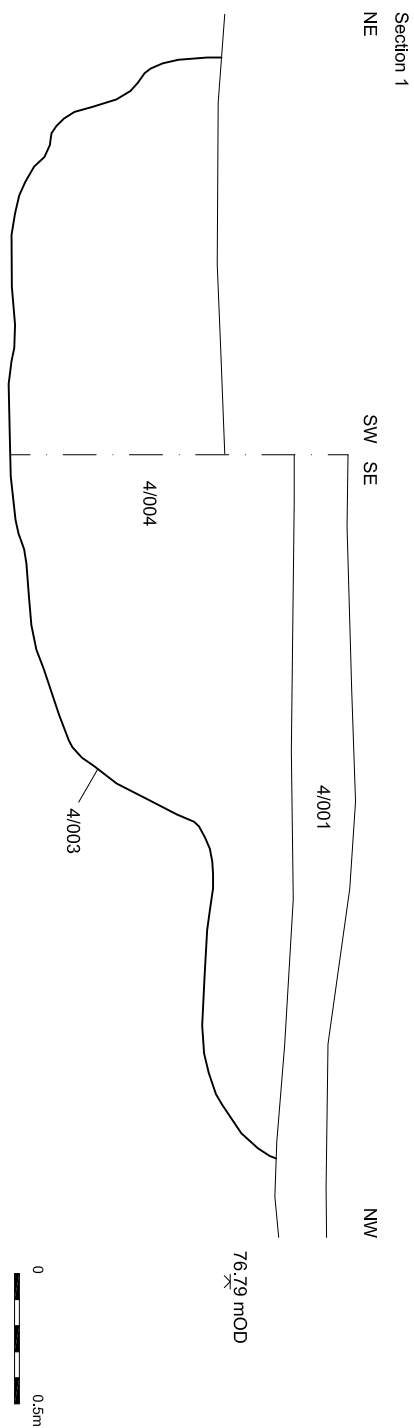
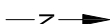
Fig. 1



© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Roman Road, Aldington	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170373	May 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017232	Drawn by: LG		

+ 605996, 136757

+ 606018, 136766



4/003 looking south-east

© Archaeology South-East			Land South of Roman Road, Aldington	Fig.3
Project Ref: 170373	May 2017			
Report Ref: 2017232	Drawn by: LG	Trench 4 plan, section and photograph		

HER Summary

Site name and address: Land South of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent	
District/Unitary: Ashford	Parish: Aldington
Period(s): Post-Medieval Modern	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 606010 136796	
Type of work: trial trench evaluation	
Date of recording: 18/05/2017	
Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology South-East	
Geology: silty-sand and Rag-stone	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Roman Road, Aldington Kent by Rob Cullum	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to carry out an archaeological trial-trench evaluation at land south of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent, in May 2017.</i> <i>The evaluation revealed a low density of post-medieval remains and a large modern pit of unknown function. Residual archaeological finds dating to the medieval period were recovered as well as occasional fragments of prehistoric flintwork. The evidence suggests that the recorded archaeological activity is indicative of prehistoric transient activity, medieval settlement and agricultural activity (in the vicinity of the sampled areas), post-medieval quarrying and modern activity in the form of a large Rag-stone capped pit. The results are of local significance. The quarrying is in keeping with evidence gathered from historic maps which provide evidence for frequent quarrying from as early as 1872 on both a large and a small, localised scale. Such quarrying is probably for the Rag-stone uncovered during excavations which is a common building material.</i>	
Author of summary: Rob Cullum	Date of summary: 18/05/2017

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-285323

Project details

Project name Land South of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent

Short description of the project

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to carry out an archaeological trial-trench evaluation at land south of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent, in May 2017. The evaluation revealed a low density of post-medieval remains and a large modern pit of unknown function. Residual archaeological finds dating to the medieval period were recovered as well as occasional fragments of prehistoric flintwork. The evidence suggests that the recorded archaeological activity is indicative of prehistoric transient activity, medieval settlement and agricultural activity (in the vicinity of the sampled areas), post-medieval quarrying and modern activity in the form of a large Rag-stone capped pit. The results are of local significance. The quarrying is in keeping with evidence gathered from historic maps which provide evidence for frequent quarrying from as early as 1872 on both a large and a small, localised scale. Such quarrying is probably for the Rag-stone uncovered during excavations which is a common building material.

Project dates Start: 08-05-2017 End: 11-05-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type QUARRY PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT ASHFORD ALDINGTON Land South of Roman Road, Aldington, Kent

Postcode TN25 7DH

Study area 0.6 Hectares

Site coordinates 606010 136796 606010 00 00 N 136796 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design
originator Archaeology South-East

Project
director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Rob Cullum

Entered by andy margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 31 May 2017

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	[1/001]	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.17m	76.62 – 77.10
1	[1/002]	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.21m	
1	[1/003]	Layer	Natural	N/A	76.41 – 76.63
1	[1/004]	Layer	Natural	N/A	76.41 – 76.63
2	[2/001]	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.32m	77.62 – 77.91
2	[2/002]	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.18m	
2	[2/003]	Layer	Natural	N/A	77.22 – 77.43
3	[3/001]	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.31m	77.20 – 77.35
3	[3/002]	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.30m	
3	[3/003]	Layer	Natural	0.04-0.24m	75.25 – 77.06
6	[6/001]	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.24m	77.27 – 77.80
6	[6/002]	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.33m	
6	[6/003]	Layer	Natural	N/A	77.09 – 77.36

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