

# 2021

## REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT MARSHALLS PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, KENT ME17 7SE



DARNLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Marshalls Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report reference: # DAS 0015-21

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30 April 2021



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**Planning Reference: 19/502408**

**NGR: TQ 7939 5034**

**DAS Site Code: MP21-WB**



**Report prepared for Matthew Carter (Client)**

**By Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Company, No 12320658**

**Report Number DAS 0015-21**



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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. An archaeological watching brief reporting on several linear trenches incorporating a new build property's groundworks was carried out at Marshalls Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 7SE.
- 1.2. No archaeological features mentioned in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were identified during the archaeological work. However, a possible small pond was identified, thought to be Post-medieval and probably associated with the land's past use as an orchard.

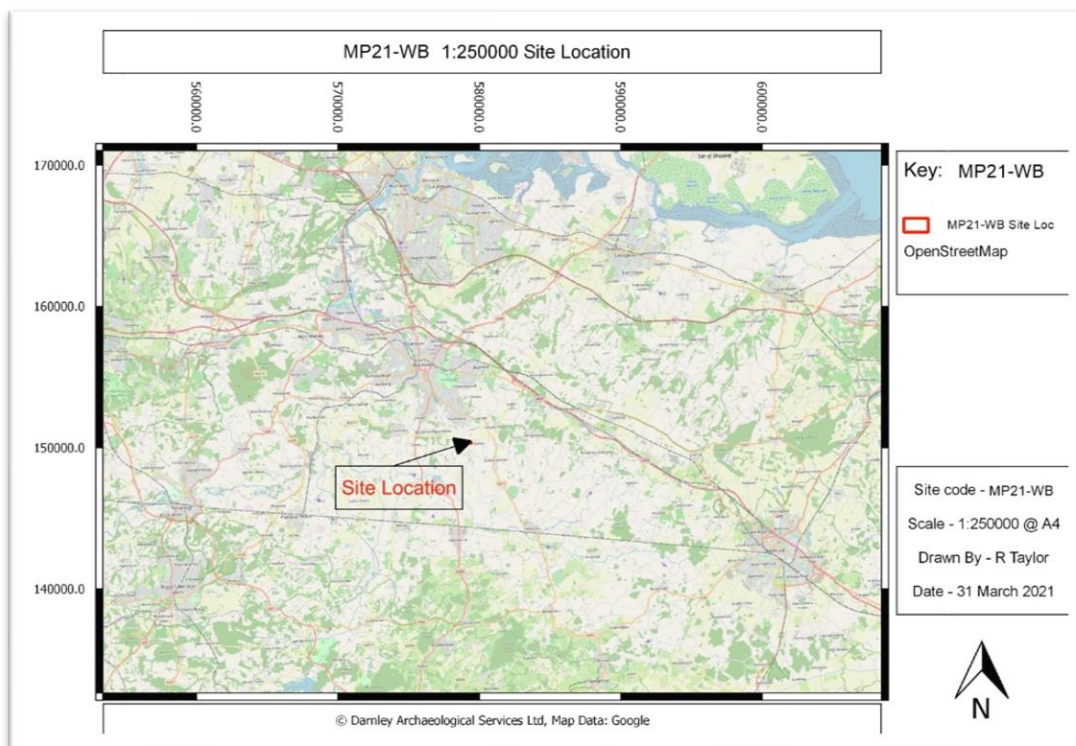
## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. An archaeological watching brief has been carried out on behalf of Matthew Carter (client) on land to the north of Amber Lane, Chart Sutton. The watching brief aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. The site has planning permission for the erection of two two-storey new build chalet-style houses (see Maidstone Borough Council 19/502408), though, at present, only one dwelling is currently under construction.
- 2.2. The groundworks site is approximately 250 metres squared and centred on TQ 7939 5034 and lies to the north of Amber Lane, Chart Sutton.
- 2.3. No archaeology is considered at risk by the proposed development, and it is the view of this report that the Loose Oppidum does not extend as far east as the site.
- 2.4. The archaeological watching brief consisted of several linear trenches excavated as part of the groundworks for the new build, which were observed to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains. This work followed the Kent County Council's methodologies and the guidelines laid down in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16), *Planning Policy Guidance on Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG 15). It was carried out following the *Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2014).
- 2.5. This report represents the results of this watching brief. The work was commissioned by Matthew Carter and carried out by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd over two days in April 2021.



### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The site is located north of Amber Lane, 2.5km east of Boughton Monchelsea village, 2.0km northwest of Sutton Valence village, 1.7km south of Park Wood Trading Estate and 6.0km north of the South Eastern main train line (Figs 1 & 2).



(Fig 1 – MP21-WB 1:250000 Site Location)



(Fig 2 – MP21-WB 1:25000 Site Location)

- 3.2. The site is on top of the superficial geology of Head Deposits, clay, sand, silt and gravel. Below this is the bedrock geology of the Hythe Formation – Sandstone and Limestone; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 113 to 126 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.3. The site is relatively level at a consistent 104m (+/- 1m) aOD with the site boundary.
- 3.4. There are no known archaeological disturbances on the site.
- 3.5. The archaeological watching brief aimed to undertake observation work to determine the presence of potential archaeological remains that may survive on the site.
- 3.6. Under guidance from the Local Authority, the aim for the watching brief was:
- 3.6.1. Determine the nature and character of any archaeological remains.
- 3.7. The site lies within an area of Later Prehistoric activity. A sizeable linear feature (TQ 75 SE 125) was excavated in 1996 by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and identified as part of the linear earthwork defences of the Loose Oppidum. A detailed study of the Kent Historic Environment Record database was undertaken to assist the WSI (Fig 3). The following

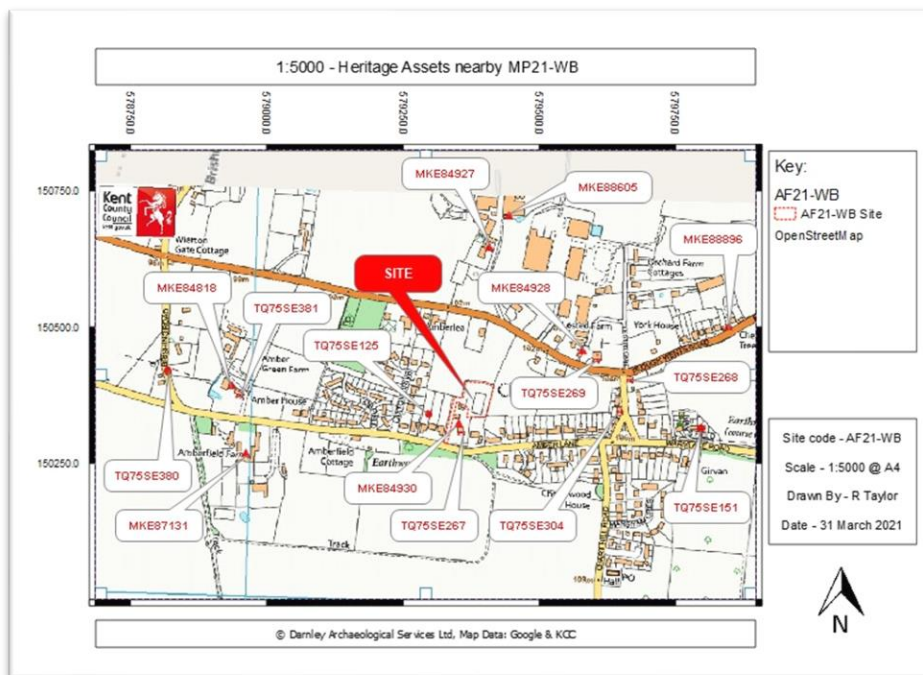
<sup>1</sup> [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)





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provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description within a 500m radius assessment area:<sup>2</sup>



(Fig 3 – 1:5000 MP21-WB Nearby Heritage Assets)

**Post Medieval** - the assessment area demonstrates several heritage assets associated with farming and agricultural activity.

TQ 75 SE 267	Listed Building (II) 1060944: MARSHALLS PLACE. House. Possibly C17, with later C18 addition and mid-to-late C19 facade. Red brick in Flemish bond. Left gable end of front range tile-hung on the first floor. Plain tile roof. 2 parallel ranges; front possibly with C17 core, rear later C18. Front range two storeys and garret on stone plinth, rear two storeys and attic. The roof of the front range half-hipped to the left. Rear range gabled, with a slightly higher ridge. Slightly projecting brick stack to right gable end of the front range. The rear range has a projecting stack to the left and a gable end stack to the right. Regular 3-window front of two recessed 16-pane and central 8-pane sash. Rectangular bays to ground floor under continuous pentice. Central panelled door with segmental head and 4 top lights. Interior not inspected.
MKE84930	A dispersed plan farmstead- less than 50 percent remaining.
TQ 75 SE 304	Listed Building (II) 1347900: HOUSE ATTACHED TO NORTH OF POST OFFICE STORES. House, now shop and house. Late C18. Timber framed, weather- boarded, with plain tile roof. 2 storeys

<sup>2</sup> <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>



	and garret on brick plinth. Moulded wooden eaves cornice. Half-hipped roof. Central rear stack. Regular 2-window front of 16-pane sashes. Central panelled door with 2 top lights, with moulded triangular pediment protruding above small canopied and trellised porch. Interior not inspected. 2-storey addition to left not included.
TQ 75 SE 268	Listed Building (II) 1060916: THE MOORINGS. House. Early C18, with some C19 and early C20 alterations. Red brick in Flemish bond on sandstone plinth with galletting but with some tile-hanging to rear. Plain tile roof with two tall C19 gable end brick chimney stacks with three gabled dormers. 2 storeys, attic and basement; three windows. Plat band. Eaves project at gable ends. Regular 3-window front of recessed 16-pane sashes that to centre narrower. Two 16-pane ground-floor sashes, formerly broader. Brickwork shows there were originally five windows on the first floor and four on the ground floor altered to the existing windows in two stages. The central door has four vertical panels (early C20) up to three steps under the flat bracketed hood with pilasters and rectangular fanlight. Curbing stone to the northeast corner. The East side has a 12-pane sash to the first floor and a C20 window and French window to the ground floor.
TQ 75 SE 269	Listed Building (II) 1060913: LESTED LODGE. Farmhouse. C18 front to an earlier building, with late C19 or early C20 alterations. Front range red brick in Flemish bond, rear wing to left tile hung. Plain tile roofs. C18 main range, with an earlier rear wing, set back to the left and parallel rear range to the right. Front range: 2 storeys and attics on brick plinth. Plat band. Modillioned wooden eaves cornice. Half-hipped roof. Rear stacks to left and right. Three hipped dormers. Regular 5-window front of 12-pane sashes in open boxes. 2 early C20 rectangular bays to ground floor. Central door of 4 fielded panels, top light, and rectangular fanlight with radiating glazing bars. Short bay added to left in the same style. Interior not inspected.
MKE84928	Loose courtyard with working agricultural buildings on three sides and with additional detached elements to the main plan.
MKE84927	Regular courtyard L-plan with a detached house and other detached elements.
MKE88605	A field barn with no associated yard.
TQ 75 SE 381	Listed Building (II) 1100333: OLD AMBER GREEN FARMHOUSE. Farmhouse. C16 or early C17. Timber framed, weatherboarded, with plain tile roof. Lobby entry plan with short rear wing to right. 2 storeys on rendered plinth. Hipped roof, right hip returning with a higher ridge. Central multiple brick ridge stack in front slope of a roof. Irregular fenestration of 2 windows; one 3-light casement and one 2-light horizontally-sliding sash. Central door under the flat bracketed hood. 2-storey addition to left not included. Interior: only partly inspected. Ovolo-moulded ground-floor beam.





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MKE84818	A dispersed plan farmstead.
MKE87131	A regular multiyard farmstead.

**Iron Age** - the assessment area demonstrates the presence of earthworks associated with an oppidum or large fortified Iron Age settlement.

TQ 75 SE 151	Archaeological evaluation and excavation in 2005 recorded three probable Iron Age boundary ditches with another two Late Iron Age ditches and pottery sherds. Ditches are dated by abraded pottery sherd finds. The excavation work recorded other possible prehistoric features, which may have been reused in the Saxon period (?)
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**Later Prehistoric** - the assessment area demonstrates the presence of earthworks, which may be associated with an oppidum, or large Iron Age settlement.

TQ 75 SE 381	During trench excavation of a large linear ditch, approximately 3.6m wide, was found running east-west. Although the fill was archaeologically sterile, it has been identified as forming part of the linear earthwork extending east from the Loose oppidum area (TQ 75 SE 4). It was likely part of the oppidum's defensive outworks.
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Unknown – a ditch of unknown date was discovered in 1994 and may be associated with TQ 75 SE 151.

TQ 75 SE 380	Removal of sub-soil to a depth of 1.4m located a concentration of cherty ragstone, possibly a filled ditch. The alignment matches up with 1 of the ditches in the Boughton IA Camp linear earthwork.
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3.8. There are no previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site.

3.9. There were no constraints on the archaeological monitoring.



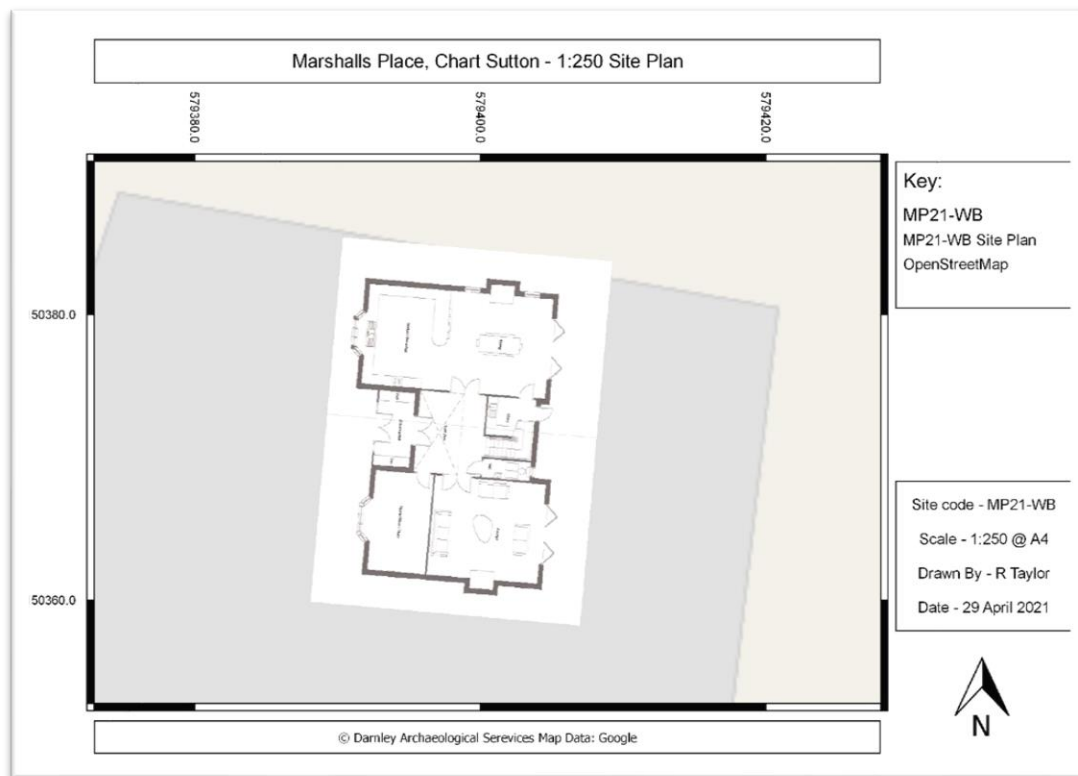
#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. All work will be undertaken following the methods set out within this WSI, according to best practice as set out by ClfA. Any significant variation on these methods will be agreed upon with the Client, Maidstone Borough Council and KCC before excavation.
- 4.2. The archaeological watching brief work comprised several linear trenches excavated as part of the groundworks for the new build, which were observed to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains.
- 4.3. Given the site's location within a recognized area of Later Prehistoric activity, the probability of locating buried archaeology or associated artefacts was considered **medium-high** in the WSI.
- 4.4. The Watching Brief aimed to:
  - **Ensure that the planned excavations at the site are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded, as per planning application 19/502408**
- 4.5. The objectives of this development project are to:
  - **View & record excavation of groundworks for the new building(s) & drains and assess any building demolition results.**

##### **Setting out the excavation areas**

- 4.6. Excavation areas were set out according to the plans (Figs 4 & 5). Locations were recorded using GNSS.





(Fig 4 – MP21-WB 1:250 Site Plan)

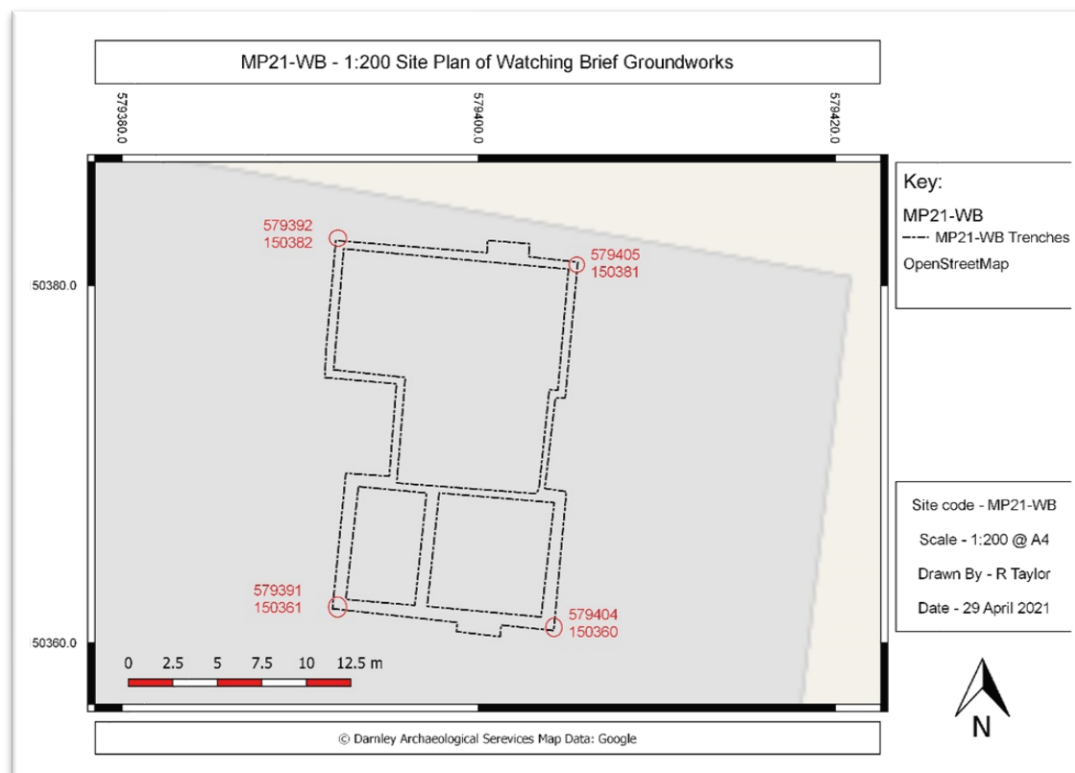
## Excavation

- 4.7. All groundworks were excavated using a machine and bucket. However, any contexts or features of archaeological interest were further excavated by hand by the archaeologist present.



## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. The observations comprised a series of groundwork trenches for new building footings and drainage. The site area is approximately 250m<sup>2</sup> and presented no significant archaeology, minimal artefacts and stratigraphy compatible with the site's use (domestic/agricultural) past. No iron Age or Later Prehistoric archaeology was discovered.



(Fig 5 – MP21-WB 1:200 Trench Plan)

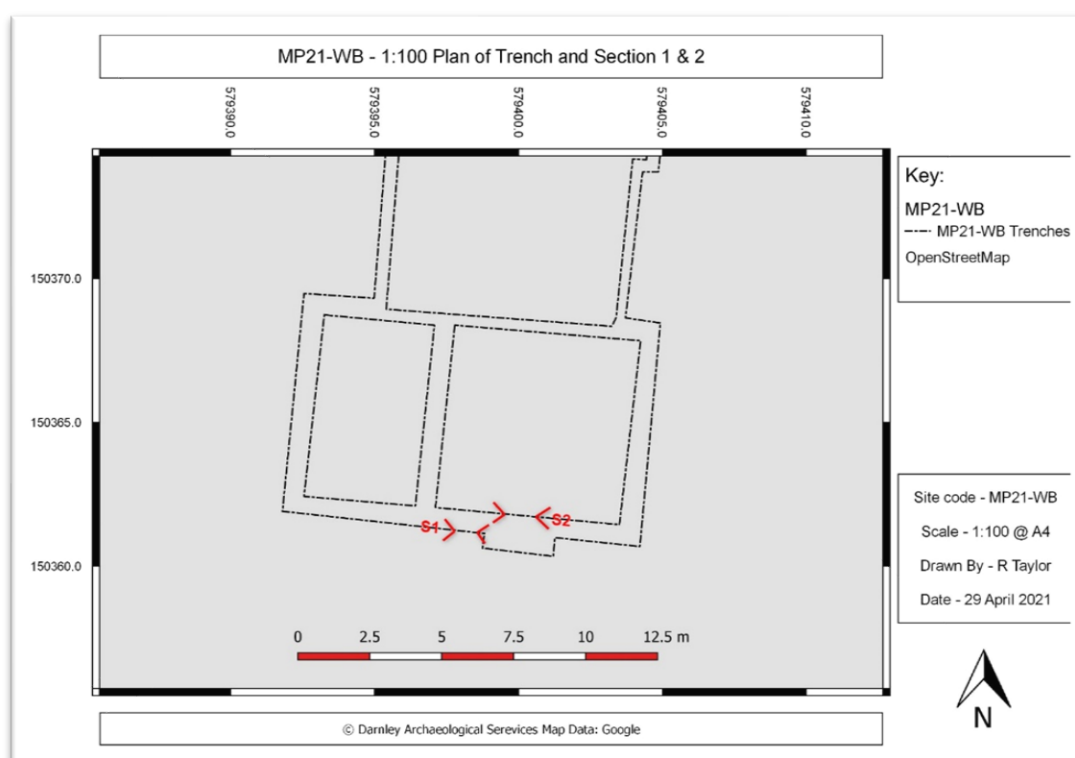
- 5.2. The only archaeological feature encountered was a possible pond feature that was likely present when the surrounding area was used as an orchard.
- 5.3. A total of three phases associated with the site were established during the excavation:
- Phase 1 = Geological
  - Phase 2 = Medieval/Post-medieval (c. 1500 to 1980 AD) – associated with orchard(s)
  - Phase 3 = Modern (after c.1980 AD) – associated with tennis court
- 5.4. No significant archaeological remains were discovered. The final plan of the completed groundworks is shown above (Fig 5).
- 5.5. During the excavation, a total of eight contexts over three phases were investigated and recorded (Table 1):



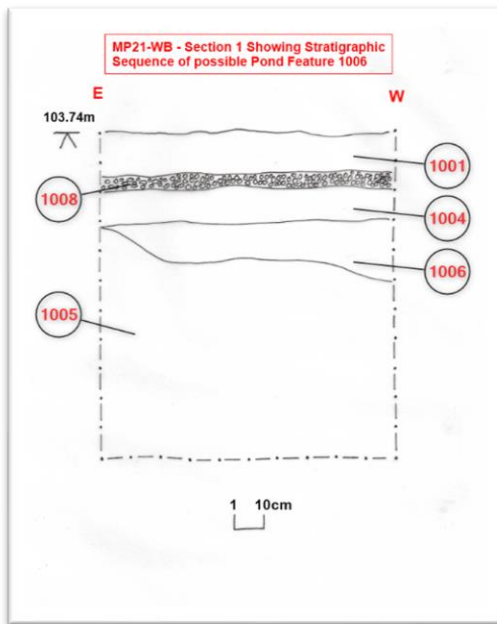
Context List (MP21-WB)				
Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Phase
1001	1	Layer	Topsoil - dirty brown sandy clay soil with numerous inclusions – pebble, brick, tile, glass, etc.	3
1002	1	Layer	Mottled orange/brown/black silty clay – numerous inclusions (brick & tile pieces). Below 1001	2
1003	1	Layer	Rubble layer – demolition material (brick and stone pieces; tile fragments) in an orange/brown clay matrix.	2
1004	1	Layer	Mottled grey/brown silty clay	2
1005	1	Layer	Natural brown silty clay	1
1006	1	Layer	Blue/grey clay	2
1007	1	Structure	Tarmac tennis court	3
1008	1	Layer	Pebble bedding for tennis court tarmac	3

(Table 1 – MP21-WB Context List)

5.6. The trenches comprised rectangular groundworks measuring approximately 13m x 22m. The trenches revealed eight contexts in total. No Iron Age or Late Prehistoric features were observed. The only archaeological feature on-site was a possible pond toward the southern aspect of the groundworks, the associated context (1006) of which containing a single sherd of Post-medieval pottery.



(Fig 6 – MP21-WB 1:100 Section 1 & 2)

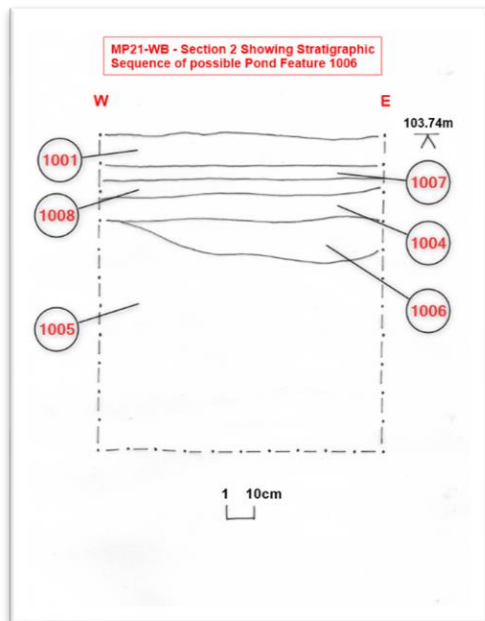


(Fig 7 – 1:10 Section 1)

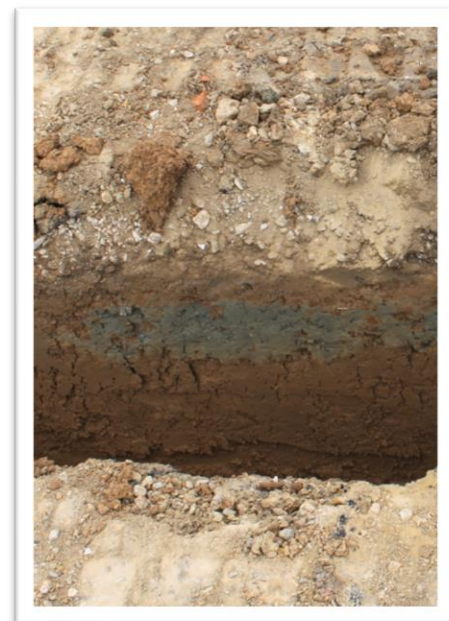


(Fig 8 – Image of Section 1)

5.7. Section 1 (Figs 7 & 8) illustrates 0.1m of 1001, a dirty brown sandy clay soil with numerous inclusions, sits above 0.05 of 1008, a pebble bedding for tennis court tarmac. 1008 sits above 0.1 of 1004, a mottled grey/brown silty clay. Below 1004 is 1006, a blue/grey clay ranging from 0m to 0.2m in depth. The profile and colour of the clay suggests 1006 is likely a pond. One sherd of Post Medieval pottery (see **12.1**) was removed from 1006, providing an approximate date of c.1700 to 1900 AD. Below 1006 is 1005, a natural brown silty clay of undetermined depth and likely the upper aspect of the Head Deposits.



(Fig 9 – 1:10 Section 2)

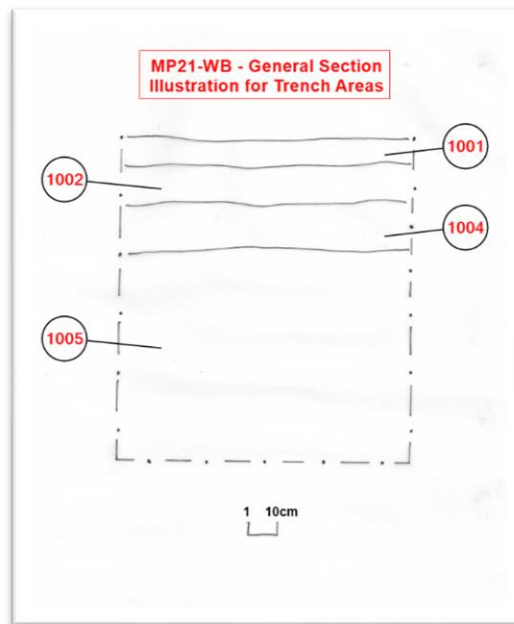


(Fig 10 Image of Section 2)

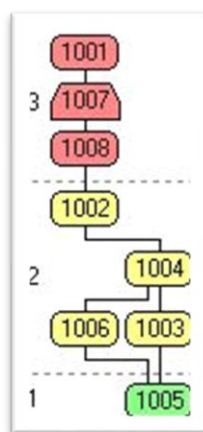




- 5.8. Section 2 (Figs 9 & 10) illustrates 0.1m of 1001, a dirty brown sandy clay soil with numerous inclusions, sits above 0.5m of 1007, a tarmac tennis court layer. 1007 sits above 0.5 to 0.1m of 1008, a pebble bedding for 1007. 1008 sits above 0.1m of 1004, a mottled grey/brown silty clay. Below 1004 is 1006, a blue/grey clay ranging from 0m to 0.2m in depth. Below 1006 is 1005, a natural brown silty clay of undetermined depth and likely the upper aspect of the Head Deposits (11.1 & 11.2).
- 5.9. The remainder of the trenching areas exhibited similar stratigraphy as per the general section illustration in Fig 11 and site stratigraphy in Fig 12. No other archaeology or artefacts were observed.



(Fig 11 – General Section Illustrating Stratigraphy for Trench Areas)



(Fig 12 – MP21-WB Site Stratigraphy)



## 6. FINDS

- 6.1. A small number of finds were recovered during the watching brief with a probable date range of c.1700 AD to the present day, all of which are characteristic of the site's use (domestic/agricultural) past; likely eighteenth century to modern day.
- 6.2. Pottery provided the only accurate diagnostic dating evidence and is subject to additional photographic analysis in Appendix B.

Find Type	Quantity	Trench No.	Context No.
Pottery	2	1	Unstratified
Pottery	1	1	1006

(Table 2 – Finds according to type, quantity, Trench No & Context No)

## 7. INTERPRETATION

- 7.1. The results of the watching brief revealed phasing and a stratigraphic sequence for the site's past from c.1700 AD to the present day, confirming use in a domestic/agricultural context. No other archaeology was present, and the watching brief further demonstrates that the Loose Oppidum (and its associated archaeology) is unlikely to continue east towards the site.

## 8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The watching brief has fulfilled the KCC Watching Brief Specification aims and objectives and the Written Scheme of Investigation. The groundworks demonstrated a stratigraphic sequence (Fig 12), confirming the site in a purely domestic/agricultural context. No archaeological features were observed, and the site's archaeological significance is considered low and recorded accordingly.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1. Sincere thanks are extended to the client and groundworks crew for permissions to access the site and their patience while the archaeological process took place.



## 10. REFERENCES

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[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>



## 11. APPENDIX A – SITE IMAGES

Image	Number & Description
	<p><b>11.1</b></p> <p>East trench looking down on to 1005, the natural brown silty clay.</p>
	<p><b>11.2</b></p> <p>Southwest corner trench showing 1004 (mottled grey/brown silty clay) sitting on top of 1005, the natural brown silty clay.</p>
	<p><b>11.3</b></p> <p>Looking southeast across at the southern chimney stack trench at Section 1 – blue clay visible in the background.</p>





## 12. APPENDIX B - FINDS IMAGES

Image	Number & Description
	<p><b>12.1</b></p> <p>1006 – Post-Medieval sandy ware c.1700 - 1900 AD.</p>
	<p><b>12.2</b></p> <p>Unstratified – Staffordshire Yellow Ware c.1800-1850 AD</p>
	<p><b>12.3</b></p> <p>Unstratified – modern flowerpot after c.1945 AD</p>