

# 2021

## **REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT PLOT 1, MARSHALL'S PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, KENT ME17 3SD**



**DARNLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Plot 1, Marshall's Place, Amber Lane, Chart  
Sutton, Kent ME17 3SD

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report reference: # DAS 0020-21

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**Planning Reference: 19/502408**

**NGR: TQ 7939 5034**

**DAS Site Code: MPAL21-WB**



**Report prepared for David Rice (Client)**

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

**Report Number DAS 0020-21**



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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. An archaeological Watching Brief reporting on groundworks' excavation includes several linear trenches for a new build property at Plot 1, Marshall's Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3SD.
- 1.2. No significant archaeological features mentioned in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)<sup>1</sup> were identified during the archaeological work. However, some drainage features were located, thought to be late post-medieval and probably associated with the land's past use as part of the wider farmstead associated with Marshall's Place (TQ75SE267), a Grade II Listed Building, believed to have seventeenth-century origins.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. An archaeological Watching Brief has been carried out on behalf of David Rice (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 a two-storey new build chalet-style houses (see Maidstone Borough Council 19/502408).
- 2.2. The site is approximately 900 metres squared and centred on TQ 7939 5034 and lies to the north of Amber Lane.
- 2.3. No archaeology is considered at risk by the proposed development. As with the Watching Brief for Plot 2 on behalf of Matthew Carter, this report views that the Loose Oppidum does not extend as far east the site.
- 2.4. The Watching Brief consisted of several linear features excavated as part of the groundworks for the proposed new build, and the Watching Brief aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. This work followed the Kent County Council's methodologies and guidelines 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).

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<sup>1</sup> Birkbeck, F. & Taylor, R., 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 1, Marshall's Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3SD* (Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd)

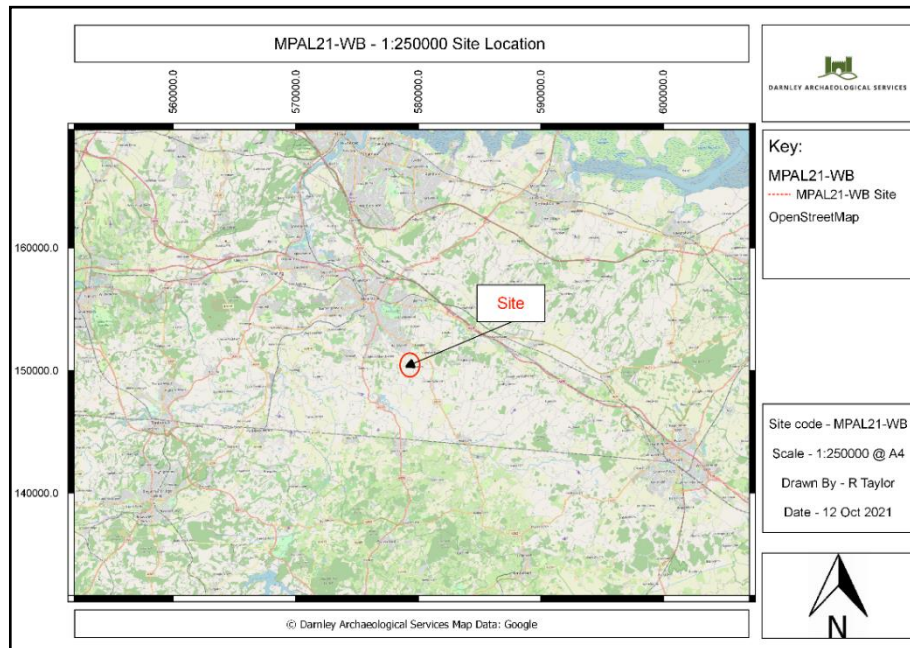






### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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



(Fig 1 – 1:250000 MPAL21-WB Site Location)



(Fig 2 – 1:25000 MPAL21-WB 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.
- 3.3. The site is relatively level at a consistent 104 (+/-1m) AOD within 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 watching brief aimed to:
  - Determine the nature and character of any archaeological remains.
- 3.7. An archaeological investigation (MP21-WB) was carried out in April 2021 at the adjacent Plot 2: See Taylor, R., 2021, *Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Marshalls Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3SD*, (Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd).
- 3.8. There were no constraints on the archaeological monitoring.
- 3.9. 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 also undertaken to assist the written scheme of investigation (Fig 3). The following provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description within a 500m radius assessment area:<sup>2</sup>

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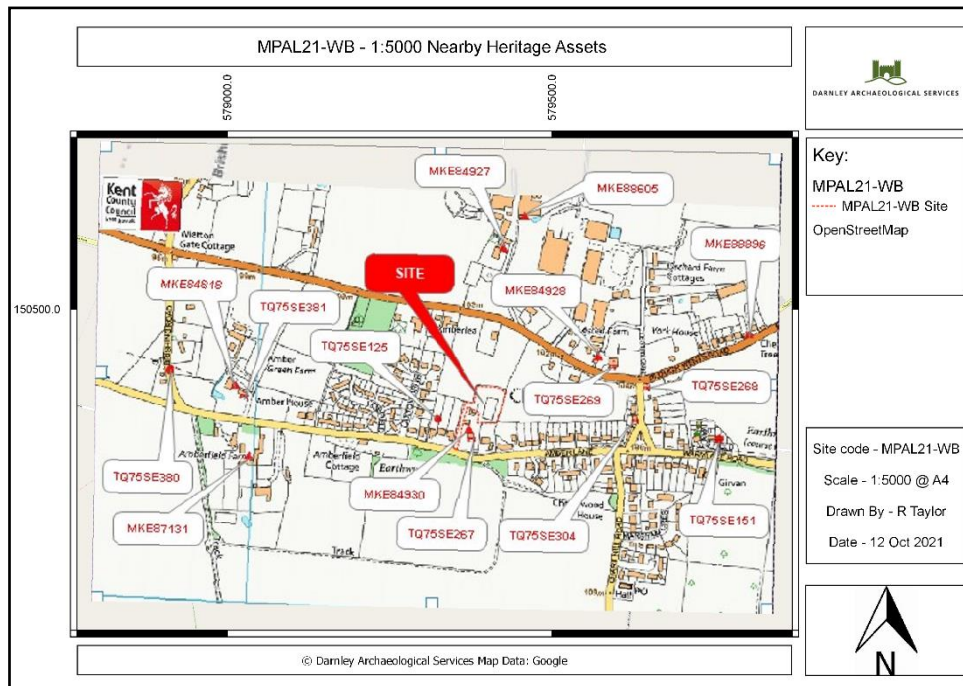
<sup>2</sup> <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>







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(Fig 3 – 1:5000 MPAL21-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 first floor. Plain tile roof. 2 parallel ranges; front possibly with C17 core, rear later C18. Front range 2 storeys and garret on stone plinth, rear 2 storeys and attic. Roof of front range half-hipped to left. Rear range gabled, with slightly higher ridge. Slightly projecting brick stack to right gable end of front range. Rear range has projecting stack to left and gable end stack to 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 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 galleting 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 which were altered to the existing windows in two stages. Central door with four vertical panels (early C20) up 3 steps under flat bracketed hood with pilasters and rectangular fanlight. Curbing stone to north east corner. East side has 12-pane sash to first floor, and C20 window and french window to ground floor. Rear elevation originally had a catslide roof but western gable added in 1920s and tile-hung eastern gable added in 1930s. Ground floor windows have cambered heads and include bricked-in opening, First floor windows are C20. One storey brick extension to south east added in 1920s.
TQ 75 SE 269	Listed Building (II) 1060913: LESTED LODGE. Farmhouse. C18 front to 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 earlier rear wing set back to left, and parallel rear range to 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. 3 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 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 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 higher ridge. Central multiple brick ridge stack in front slope of roof. Irregular fenestration of 2 windows; one 3-light casement and one 2-light horizontally- sliding sash. Central door under flat



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	bracketted hood. 2- storey addition to left not included. Interior: only partly inspected. Ovolo-moulded ground-floor beam.
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 further 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 area of the Loose oppidum (TQ 75 SE 4) and is likely that it was 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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#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. All work was undertaken following the methods set out within the WSI<sup>3</sup>, according to best practice as set out by ClfA.
- 4.2. The archaeological Watching Brief work comprised several linear trenches as part of the groundworks for the Plot 1 new build, which were observed to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains.
- 4.3. Given the site's location within a recognised area of Later Prehistoric activity and considered alongside the results of MP21-WB of 2021, the probability of locating buried archaeology or associated artefacts was considered **low-medium** 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 applications 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.**
- 4.6. Excavation areas were set out according to the plans (Fig 4). Locations were recorded using GNSS.

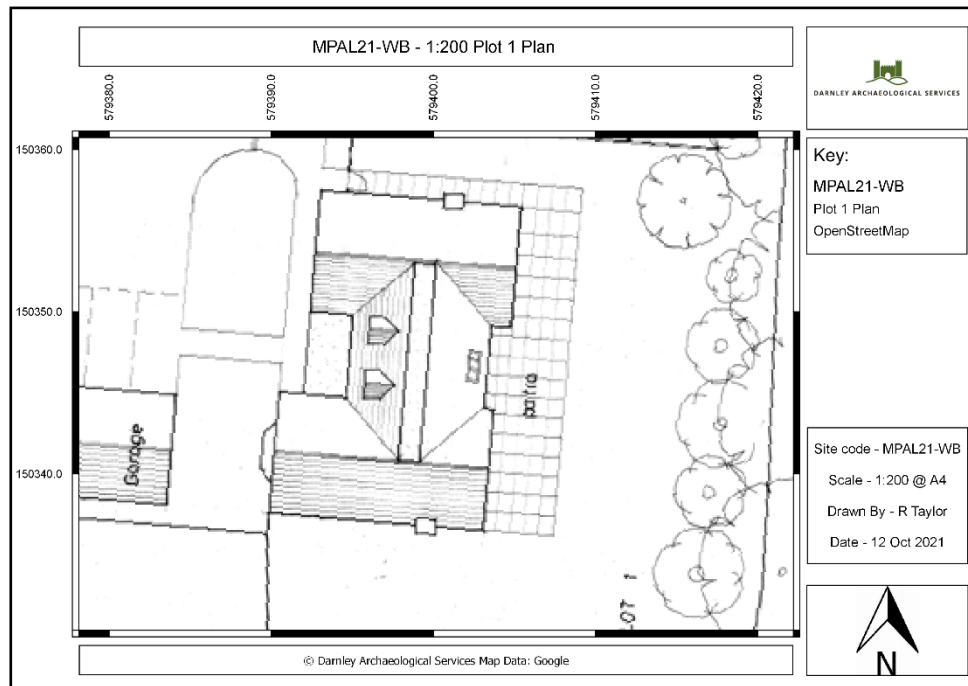
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<sup>3</sup> Birkbeck, F. & Taylor, R., 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 1, Marshall's Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3SD* (Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd)





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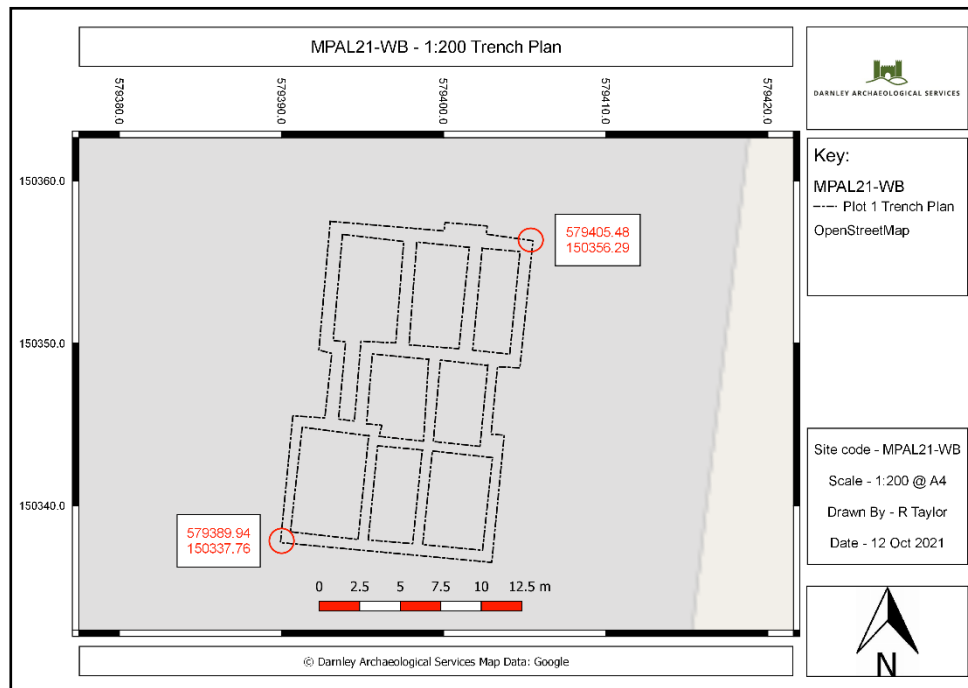
(Fig 4 – 1:200 MPAL21-WB Plot 1 Plan)

### 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 900m<sup>2</sup> and presented no significant archaeology, minimal artefacts and stratigraphy compatible with the site's use as a tennis court in recent times and domestic/agricultural activity associated with the earlier Marshall's Place farmstead. No Iron Age or Later Prehistoric archaeology was discovered.



(Fig 5 – 1:200 MPAL21-WB Final Trench Plan)

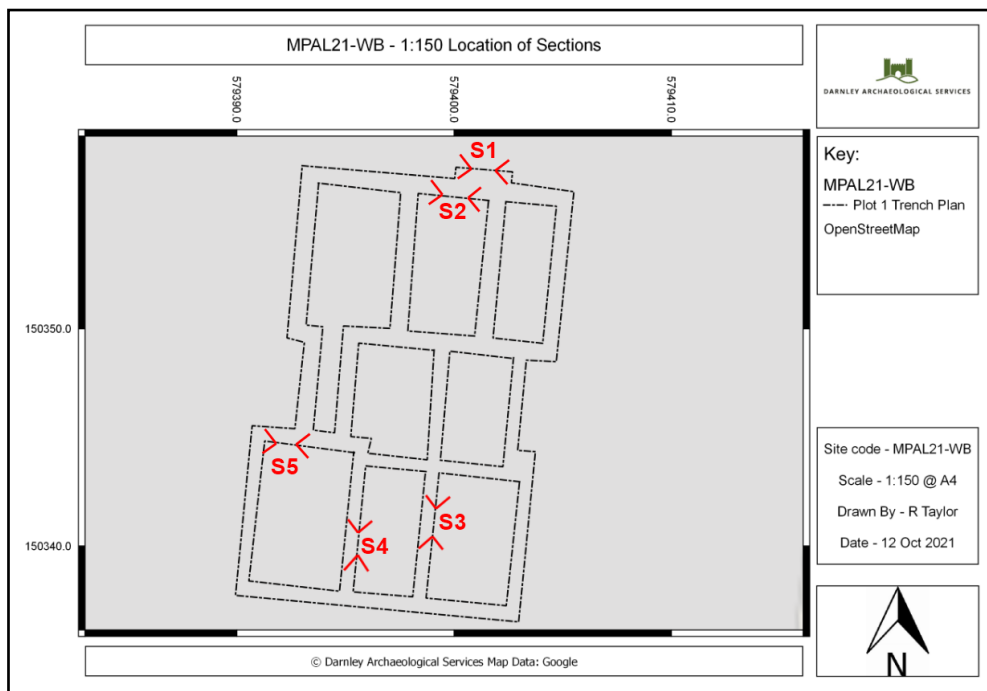
- 5.2. The only archaeological features encountered were a land drain and a drainage ditch, likely when the surrounding area was used as an orchard.
- 5.3. A total of three phases associated with the site were established during the excavation:
- Phase 1 = Geological
  - Phase 2 = Post-medieval/Modern (c.1800 to 1989 AD)
  - Phase 3 = Modern (after c.1989 AD)
- 5.4. No significant archaeological remains were discovered. The final plan of the completed groundworks is shown in Fig 5.
- 5.5. During the excavation, a total of eight contexts over three phases were investigated and recorded (Table 1):



Context List (MPAL21-WB)				
Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Phase
1001	All	Layer	Topsoil – Loose mid-brown sandy clay (recent deposit?)	1
1002	All	Layer	Subsoil – Loose mottled orange/brown silty clay (recent deposit?)	1
1003	All	Layer	Loose rubble (stone pieces) in dark grey sandy matrix	1
1004	All	Layer	Firm light brown sandy, silty clay (natural)	3
1005		Cut	Sub rounded ditch cut	2
1006		Fill	Loose grey silty clay (fill of [1005])	2
1007		Cut	Cut for field drain (unclear?)	2
1008		Structure	Ceramic field drain	2

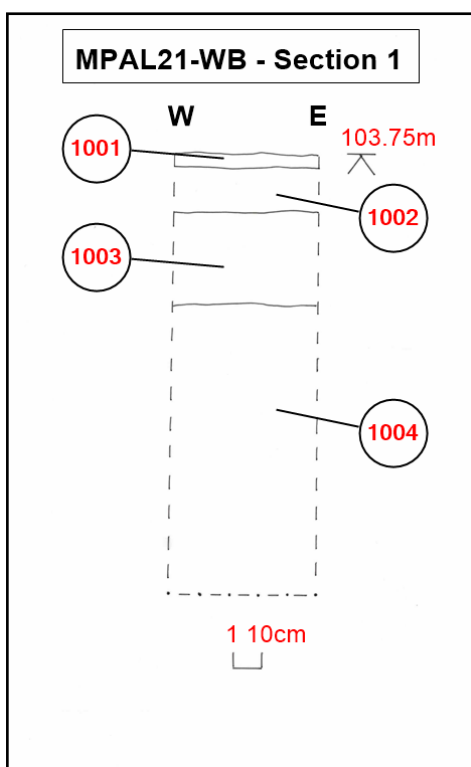
(Table 1 – MPAL21-WB Context List)

5.6. The groundworks comprised a series of rectangular groundworks measuring approximately 20m x 14m. The trenches revealed eight contexts in total. No Iron Age or Late Prehistoric features were observed. The only archaeological features on-site were a possible drainage ditch and a ceramic field drain, likely dating from the Later Post-Medieval period when the land was used for agriculture/orchard.



(Fig 6 – 1:150 MPAL21-WB Final Section Plan)



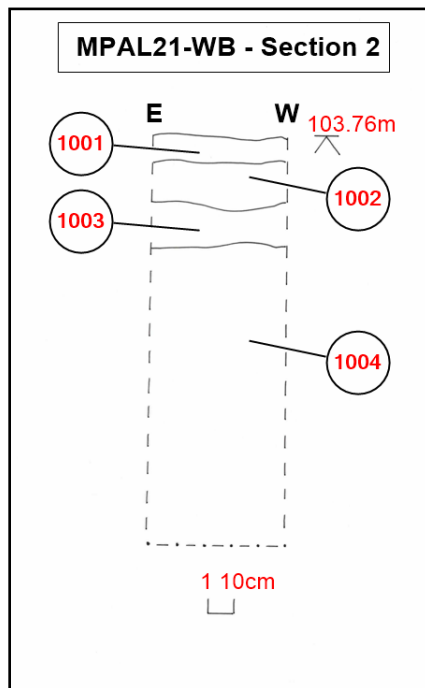


(Fig 7 – 1:10 Section 1 Looking North)



(Fig 8 – Looking North at Section 1)

- 5.7. Section 1 illustrates (Figs 7 & 8) illustrates 0.1m of 1001, a dirty mid-brown sandy clay soil containing numerous inclusions including pebbles, brick and tiles pieces. 1001 is likely a recent deposit given the landscaping that has taken place over circa one year in preparation for the development work. 1001 sits above 1002, 0.15m of loose mottled orange/brown silty clay containing brick and tile pieces. Like 1001, 1002 may be a more recent deposit given the landscaping that has taken place over circa one year in preparation for the development work. Below 1002 lies 1003, 0.25m of compacted, small stone pieces in a dark sandy soil matrix. 1003 contained numerous inclusions, including brick and tile pieces, glass and metal fragments, and a Coca-Cola can (see **12.3**) with a Use-By date of 1989. 1003 is thought to be a bedding layer, used as a base for a tennis court constructed c.1990. 1003 sits above 1004, a firm light brown sandy, silty clay, believed to be colluvium and classified as superficial natural.

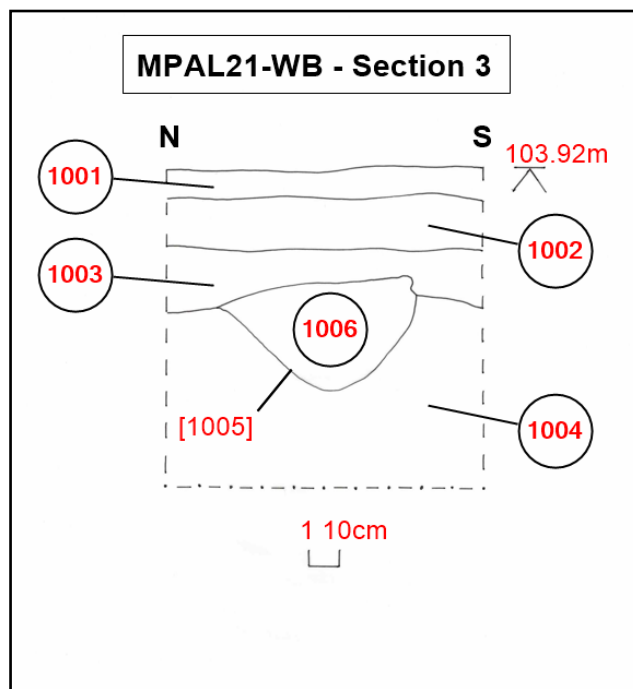


(Fig 9 – 1:10 Section 2 Looking South)



(Fig 10 – Looking South at Section 2)

5.8. Section 2 illustrates a stratigraphic sequence similar to Section 1; the minor differences are minor variables in the depth of each context.



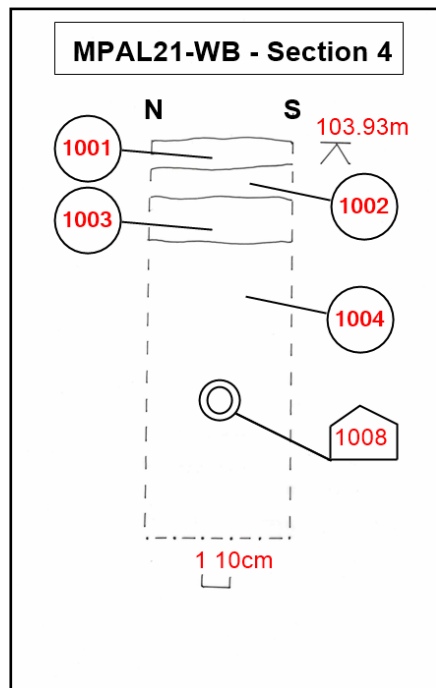
(Fig 11 – 1:10 Section 3 Looking East)



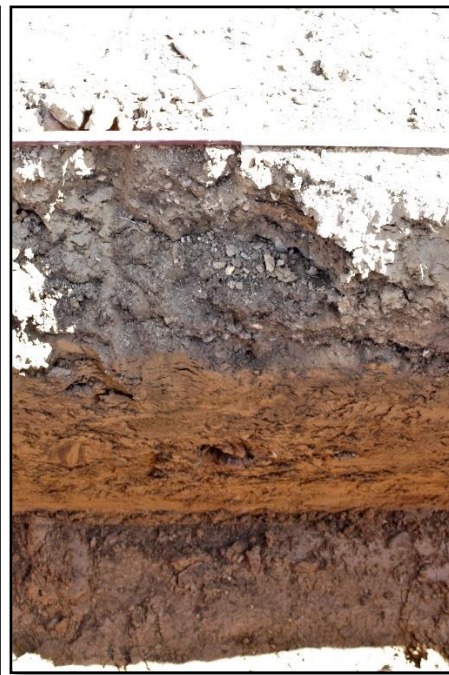
(Fig 12 – Looking East at Section 3)

5.9. Section 3 illustrates 0.1m of 1001 above 0.15m of 1002. Below this is 0.2m of 1003, thought to be a bedding layer, used as a base for a tennis court constructed c.1990. Below 1003 is an undetermined depth of 1004, the light-brown colluvium. However, [1005], a small drainage sub-rounded ditch approximately 0.6m wide and 0.4m in depth, is cut into 1004. [1005] is filled by 1006, a loose grey silty clay. [1005] is earlier than the tennis court, so earlier than c.1990 AD, and more likely associated with the site's past use as part of broader farmstead related to Marshall's Place.



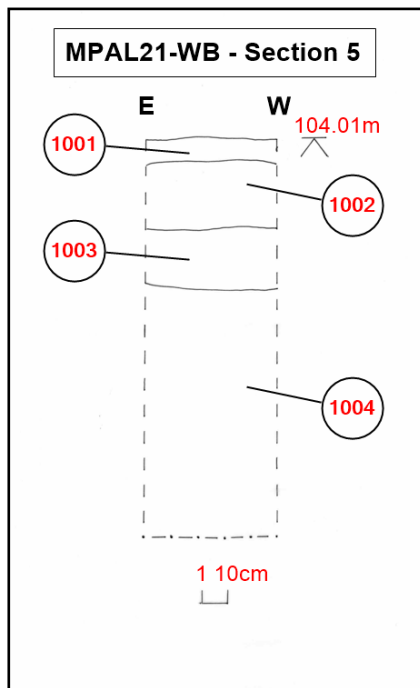


(Fig 13 – 1:10 Section 4 Looking East)

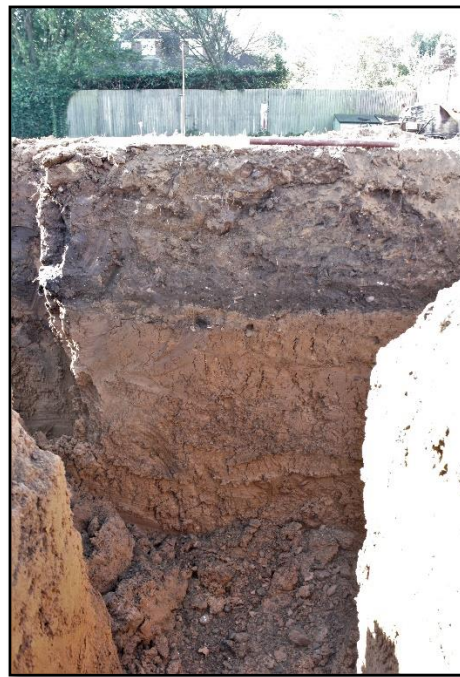


(Fig 14 – Looking North at Section 4)

- 5.10. Section 4 illustrates 0.1m of 1001 atop 0.15m of 1002. Below this is 0.2m of 1003, thought to be a bedding layer, used as a base for a tennis court constructed c.1990. Below 1003 is an undetermined depth of 1004, the light-brown colluvium. However, approximately 1.0m below the ground surface is [1007], an unclear cut for [1008], a late nineteenth or early twentieth-century ceramic field drain, likely associated with the site's past use as part of a wider farmstead related to Marshall's Place.



(Fig 15 – 1:10 Section 5 Looking South)



(Fig 16 – Looking South at Section 5)

5.11. Section 5 illustrates the regular stratigraphic sequence encountered throughout much of the groundworks and clarifies the absence of any Iron Age or Late Prehistoric archaeological features in the vicinity. 0.1m of 1001 sits above 0.25m of 1002. Below this 0.25m of 1005 sits above an undetermined depth of natural colluvium 1004. No other archaeology or artefacts were observed.



## 6. FINDS

6.1. A small number of finds were recovered during the watching brief with a probable date range of c.1850 AD to the present day, all of which are characteristic of the site's use (domestic/agricultural/orchard) in the past; likely eighteenth-century to present day.

6.2. An assemblage of pottery comprising four pieces was recovered from 2 contexts on the site.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1001	2	Modern	Rims from modern terracotta plant pots <b>(12.5)</b>
1003	1	1850-1900 AD	Partial clay pipe stem – likely residual <b>(12.4)</b>
1003	1	1800-1900 AD	Kentish red earthenware with red glaze – likely residual but located at the interface between 1003 and 1004 <b>(12.1)</b>

6.3. A single piece of CBM was recovered from context 1001.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1001	1	c.1900 AD	Fragment of Kentish peg roof tile – likely residual <b>(12.2)</b>

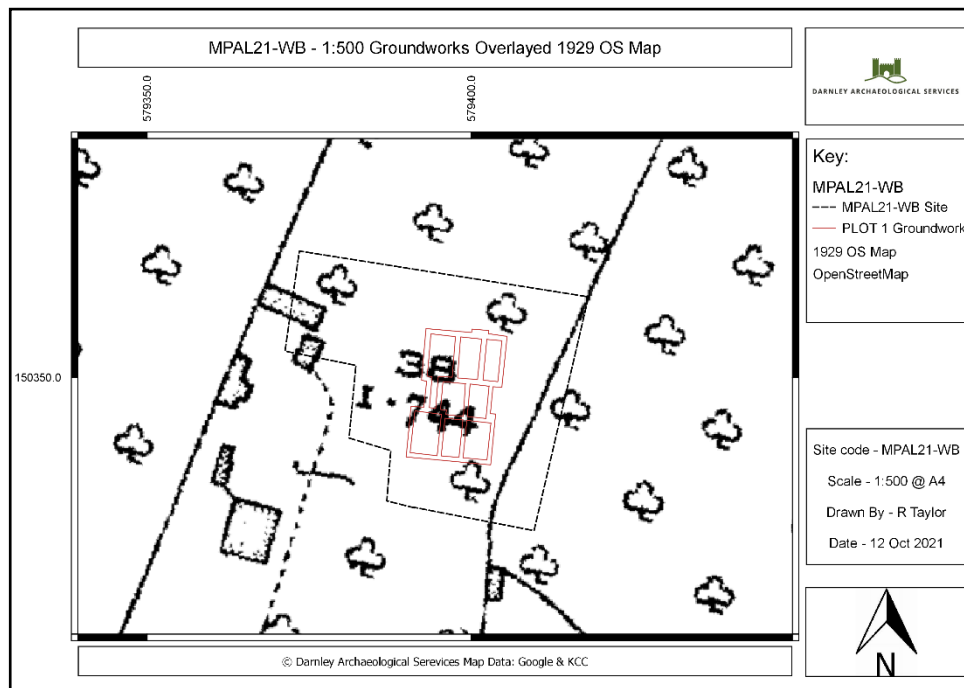
6.4. A single Coca-Cola can was recovered from context 1003 and likely a secure indication of 1003's date – a Use-By date of Jan 1989 indicates 1003 was constructed c.1985-1988 AD.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1003	1	c.1985-89 AD	Coca-Cola can – dates context securely <b>(12.3)</b>
1002	1	Undetermined	Iron nail <b>(12.6)</b>



## 7. INTERPRETATION

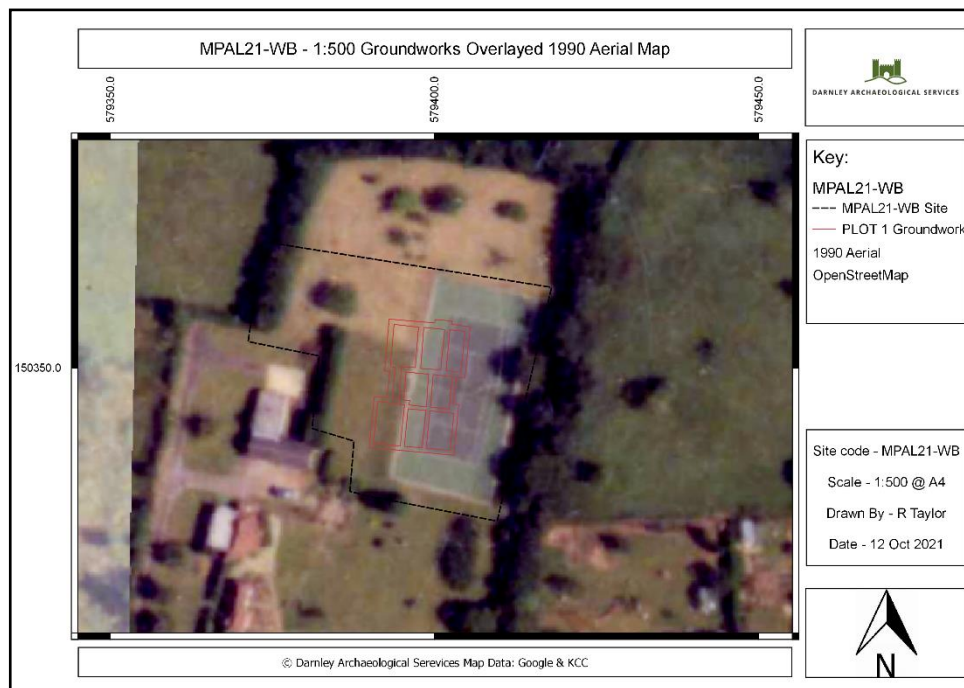
- 7.1. The results of the watching brief revealed phasing and a stratigraphic sequence for the site's past from c.1800 AD to the present day, confirming use is a domestic/agricultural/orchard context.
- 7.2. No archaeological evidence for the Loose oppidum is evident. However, the groundworks did confirm the site's past use in the agricultural/orchard context. 1004, the relatively undisturbed superficial natural (colluvium), appears to correspond with garden orchard interpretation shown in the groundworks overlaying the 1929 OS map (Fig 17).



(Fig 17 – 1:500 MPAL21-WB Groundworks overlayed 1929 OS Map)

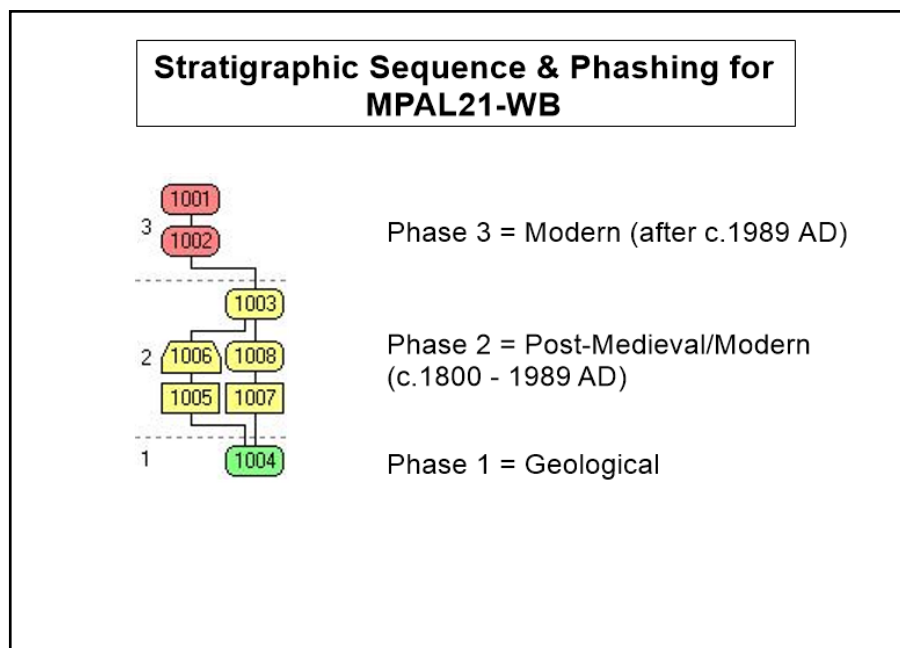
- 7.3. 1001 is a recent deposition, and much of 1002, a turbated subsoil. 1003 is a bedding layer for a tennis court. The presence of (12.3) implies a construction date of c.1987 (+/- 2 years), shown in the groundworks overlaying the 1990 aerial photograph (Fig 18).





(Fig 18 – 1:500 MPAL21-WB Groundworks overlaid 1990 Aerial Map)

7.4. The following stratigraphic sequence summarises the phasing of the site:



(Fig 19 – MPAL21-WB Stratigraphic Sequence)



## 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 19), confirming the site is situated in a domestic/agricultural setting. No significant 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 permission to access the site and their patience during the archaeological process.

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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	Description
	<p><b>11.1</b></p> <p>Looking west through the northern aspect of groundworks, illustrating the depth of 1004 throughout trenches.</p>
	<p><b>11.2</b></p> <p>Looking west across the northern aspect of the site, Plot 2 (partially built) is visible to the north.</p>
	<p><b>11.3</b></p> <p>Looking Southeast across groundworks at the end of Day 1.</p>






## 12. APPENDIX B - FINDS IMAGES

Image	Description
	<p><b>12.1</b></p> <p>Kentish red earthenware with red glaze – located at the interface between 1003 and 1004. c.1800 – 1860 AD and therefore probably residual.</p>
	<p><b>12.2</b></p> <p>Fragment of Kentish peg roof tile c.1900 AD from 1001 – likely residual.</p>
	<p><b>12.3</b></p> <p>Coca-Cola can from 1003 – Sell By date showing Jan 1989 AD. Dates context securely to c.1987 (+/- 2 years).</p>





Image	Description
	<p><b>12.4</b></p> <p>Partial clay pipe stem c.1850-1900 AD from 1003 – likely residual.</p>
	<p><b>12.5</b></p> <p>Rims from modern terracotta plant pots &gt;1945 AD from 1001 – likely residual.</p>
	<p><b>12.6</b></p> <p>Iron nail of undetermined date from 1002 – likely residual.</p>