

Archaeological Excavation of Land adjacent to the Water Tower, Herne Bay, CT6 6BQ



TR 18722 67933
Site Code: DPHB-EX-12
(Planning Application CA/10/00889/FUL)

Report for
Chartway Group Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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SUMMARY

A planning application (CA/10/00889/FUL) for the construction of twenty dwellings with associated parking and access was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. After the initial archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the Water Tower at the corner of Mickleburgh Hill and Dence Park in Herne Bay revealed features containing dating material from the Late Bronze Age to Roman periods at the northern end of the site, the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council deemed further work was required, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted and approved by the Archaeological Officer. A Zone of Archaeological Interest was identified from the results of the evaluation which would be impacted upon by the development. This zone encompassed the areas surrounding and including, in part, Trenches 1-3. In accordance with the WSI, the Zone of Archaeological Interest was stripped of topsoil and other modern deposits to the top of the archaeological horizon, and archaeological features identified. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within a Written Scheme of Investigation (CCC 2012) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. A number of truncated pits and small sub-linear features, similar to those found during the evaluation were revealed during the machine strip, and a sampling strategy of half-sectioning of all features was implemented.

A further strip of land at the extreme northeast corner of the site which bordered the neighbouring panel fencing of two properties was excavated at a later date, and the results were combined with that of the larger excavation.

Two Watching Briefs were carried out, one on the demolition of the reservoir built in c.1899 and the other an area of paving attached to new housing in the north area of the site.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Chartway Group Ltd to carry out an archaeological excavation at the above site following the results of an archaeological evaluation by SWAT (Martin 2012). The excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury Council from the 6th to 25th June and the 17th to 19th of July 2012.

The archaeological excavation forms the third phase of mitigation associated with the site at Dence Park, the first being the evaluation, the second being a watching brief on the demolition of the covered Victorian reservoir with the report included within this report, and the third, the excavation itself. The follow on Watching Brief was negative.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development is situated on the site of a disused covered reservoir and land owned by Mid Kent Water. The site itself, some 0.431 ha in area sits on the corner of Mickleburgh Hill to the south and Dence Park Road and St. Bartholomew's Church to the east, with gardens to the north and a health centre to the west. Google Earth images from 2003 shows the site partially planted with trees, while the 2007 image shows the trees removed and the area used for tipping imported soil. Just outside the development site, but within the Mid Kent Water Company service area lies the iconic concrete water tower, a well known landmark.

According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on London Clay with cappings of Head Deposits in the vicinity. The site averages 35-36m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (CA/10/00889/FUL) for the erection of twenty dwellings with associated access and parking was approved by Canterbury City Council. The Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (CCC) placed the following condition on the planning consent:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer has secured firstly the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits, and to assess the importance of the same; and secondly, any mitigation measures including further archaeological work that has been required as a result of the evaluation to safeguard the preservation of the archaeological remains. All archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

The archaeological evaluation carried out by SWAT Archaeology revealed the presence of possibly prehistoric and early Romano-British features at the northern end of the site. As a result of the discovery of these archaeological remains, further mitigation in the form of an Archaeological Excavation was required in the area of archaeological activity before development could commence.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Set on a hill referred to as The Downs overlooking the coast to the north and the eastern edge of ancient woodland called The Blean to the south, the development site had the potential to uncover prehistoric, Roman and later periods of occupation and usage that would have exploited the topographic advantage of high ground.

According to the Kent Historic Environment Record (Kent HER) there are few areas with archaeological activity found within a 500m radius of the site.

Prehistoric sites near the Water Tower site include HER Number TR 16 NE 7 located at the northern end of The Downs, approximately 210m northeast of the development site, where in 1923 during development of the area two sewer trenches cut through a Bronze Age to Saxon midden (a dump of domestic waste) up to 1m in thickness and oval in plan. This feature was found roughly 0.30m to 0.60m below the present ground surface. Late Bronze Age, Belgic, Roman and Jutish pottery was found indicating a very long period of occupation. Very close to the midden site was the location of a 16th c beacon (TR 16 NE 20) recorded in William Lambarde's 'Carde' c 1570 which shows a beacon at 'Hearne' along with 52 other beacons in Kent. The beacon warning system fell out of use in 1640 and the site no longer exists. North of these two sites, at 88 Beltinge Road, a gold coin of Constantine was found in 1961 when the owner was digging a rubbish pit (TR 16 NE 17). Another gold Constantine coin was found at 70 Beltinge Road in 1959 when the owner was gardening (TR16 NE 16). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was found in the garden of 'The Hut' on Hillborough Road approximately 135m northeast of the midden site and may indicate the further extent of prehistoric activity on The Downs (TR 16 NE 21). Approximately 230m northwest of the water tower site Roman and possibly Bronze Age pottery was found at Hadleigh Gardens in 1969 during the construction of the road (TR16 NE 22). Samian ware pottery, remains of a large olla (funerary or cooking pot) and human bone fragments were found along with remains of a beaker, but the HER entry is unclear as to the dating of the beaker. The entry is titled 'Beaker and Roman pottery' which assumes that Beaker refers to the (Bronze Age) culture and not the style/usage of the specific pot. In 1960 on what was wasteground behind 59 Mickleburgh Hill a Roman coin reused as a Saxon loom weight was found by schoolchildren (TR 16 NE 19). This findspot was approximately 180m west of the water tower. Another gold Constantine coin was found in 1958 at Herne Avenue roughly 400m southwest of the development site (TR 16 NE 18). Although scanty,

the discovery of gold coins from Constantine's reign (306-337 AD) and pottery from the Bronze Age to Saxon (Jutish) periods within a 500m radius of the development site situated on a pronounced high point suggests that the area known as The Downs of which Dence Park is part, was a long occupied site. It is the lack of archaeological mitigation during the construction of the post war suburban sprawl on the top of the hill and not a lack of archaeology itself that is the reason so little evidence survives. On the lower ground on either side of the A299 Thanet Way, vast prehistoric field systems and occupation horizons were excavated by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Wessex Archaeology and SWAT over a number of years, though these sites have yet to be entered into the HER.

Later features entered in the HER near the water tower site include WWII defensive emplacements such as air raid shelters, battery emplacements, and military occupation sites for troops once again highlighting the importance of high ground for defensive purposes.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the excavation, set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation was to ensure the preservation by record of all buried archaeological remains located within the impact areas of the proposed development and any other proposed excavations (including schemes of drainage and other services) arising from the proposed development. In accordance with PPS 5 (2010) which replaces PPG 16 it should be noted that, "...the Government's objectives for planning for the historic environment are:

- to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the historic environment:
 - recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource
 - take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation; and
 - recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained in the long term.
- to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost."

METHODOLOGY

The archaeological investigation of the site was undertaken in two phases. Phase One consisted of the mechanical removal of topsoil and other recent deposits across the Area of Archaeological Interest to the top of the archaeological horizon revealed in the evaluation, followed by the cleaning and planning of all exposed archaeological features. The results of

this clearance were assessed in relation to the development proposals, and a strategy was devised for the archaeological excavation of the exposed archaeological remains.

Phase Two was comprised of the implementation of the excavation strategy, with respect to the aims and objectives mentioned above. Included in this strategy was the implementation of a programme of environmental soil sampling of suitable deposits especially where human remains and/or occupation or industrial deposits were encountered. In addition, if significant structural archaeological features and/or cremation groups of limited size were identified which extended beyond the impact areas of the proposed development, sufficient additional areas would be subject to archaeological excavation to ensure that a satisfactory archaeological record was compiled. Alternatively, proposals for preservation *in situ* were suggested for significant buried archaeological remains if encountered.

The methodologies adopted and implemented in Phase Two included as a minimum, the following:

- a) Structural remains and other areas of specific activity such as domestic and industrial buildings and structures, hearths, kilns and ovens would be comprehensively excavated to record sufficient contexts to establish the relative and absolute chronology of the remains.
- b) Sufficient soil sampling would be undertaken to acquire artefactual, economic and palaeo-environmental data should suitable deposits be encountered.
- c) All features, deposits and structures would be excavated stratigraphically and by phase in accordance with normal practice.
- d) Inhumations and cremations would be totally excavated. The objectives would be to obtain data on the full extent, character and status of the burial context, both in terms of individual graves and burial groups. Excavation would be undertaken to recognized standards to maximise the recovery of data of social significance which may include the bulk sampling of grave fills. A detailed brief for the excavation and recording of burials would be prepared as part of the assessment for the sampling excavation strategy by a qualified specialist.
- e) Notwithstanding previous requirements a comprehensive soil sampling programme for bulk screening, environmental archaeological analysis, and soil micromorphology would be undertaken where suitable deposits were identified and from which the maximum level of data could be retrieved.
- f) If required, a detailed brief for the excavation and recording of soil samples would be prepared as part of the assessment for the sampling excavation strategy by qualified environmental archaeologist and soil-science specialists. This would include methods statements detailing the objectives and procedures implemented.
- g) Generally, bulk soil samples and sub-samples would be taken from the unexcavated fills of all features for bulk screening, environmental archaeological analysis and soil micromorphology. In addition, further soil samples would be taken where required in the form of monolith samples. The stratigraphic position of such samples would be fully recorded.
- h) In particular bulk soil samples would be taken if significant quantities of animal bone, iron slag, daub or carbon were present in deposits. The animal bone will act as an indicator for the presence of smaller animal, fish and bird bones; the slag, daub and carbon will act as an

indicator for hammer scale. Soil samples would also be taken for general biological analysis if a deposit appeared to contain snails or mineralized material such as cress. In all instances soil samples would be taken in accordance with the guidelines supplied and following advice taken from either a qualified environmental archaeologist or a soil-science specialist.

i) Samples taken for general biological analysis would be sufficient to enable sub-samples to be processed during the course of the excavations. Information thus obtained would be communicated to field staff at the earliest possible time to assist in the successful completion of the excavation objectives. If the initial sample produces high quality results further portions of the associated deposit would be excavated and more samples taken.

j) Excavation in all cases would be undertaken by hand. Hand recovery of cultural material would be augmented by wet or dry screening of 100-200 litre control samples through 10mm mesh. On site screening would not preclude the taking of other bulk soil samples for off-site screening.

k) If necessary, water within excavation areas would be pumped to a settlement tank to remove solids and then to a suitable disposal point following consultations with the appropriate Statutory Authority.

l) Artefacts recovered during the course of the excavations would be immediately cleaned and marked with relevant site and context references, provisionally identified and dated. Finds processing would thus be undertaken concurrently with the excavations to ensure that the rapid identification and spot dating of artefacts was achieved. This information would be communicated to field staff at the earliest possible time to assist in the successful completion of the excavation objectives. If required, finds would be conserved during the course of the excavations. This processing, conservation, identification and dating of artefacts would be fully recorded and form part of the site archive.

m) If required, a site grid would be established across the areas subject to machine clearance. Nevertheless, the areas subject to archaeological investigation would be accurately surveyed and tied into up to date Ordnance Survey plans. All field surveying would be preceded by a study to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate up to date survey points.

n) All investigation areas would be set-out in advance within the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference (NGR) system, using GPS. Area co-ordinates would be digitally uploaded to minimise re-keying errors. The archaeological investigations would be digitally surveyed using either GPS or TST, and will include heights above OS datum. The electronic survey record would be periodically downloaded and retained within the site archive, with co-ordinate and/or datum information transposed onto the appropriate paper archives.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the excavation by the Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council at which time methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Stratigraphical Deposit Model (SDM)

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil **(001)** which covered modern deposits **(002)** that overlay subsoil **(003)**. The subsoil covered Head Deposits **(899)** of mixed gravels over the solid geology of London Clay **(900)**. Topsoil consisted of a friable mid grey brown sandy silty clay which covered modern deposits related to recent groundworks on the site, including the removal of trees as visible on the 2007 Google Earth image and the importation of soils, brick rubble and chalk. The subsoil was comprised of friable, marled mid brown grey sandy silty clay which may have possibly been the by product of the deep construction of the 19th century underground reservoir southeast of the Area of Archaeological Interest. The archaeological horizon was reached at a depth of approximately 0.65m below the existing ground level (approximately 35.m AOD), and the natural geology consisted of drift deposits of Head Gravels over London Clay, as suggested and confirmed during the evaluation stage of the project.

Archaeological Summary

The archaeological excavation carried out in June and July 2012 confirmed the presence of prehistoric to mid Roman features, as revealed during the evaluation stage of the archaeological mitigation. The majority of these features were sub-circular pits and short ditch segments which were grouped in two areas. One 'group' was located in the centre of the site (Central Area), with an archaeologically sterile gap of roughly 5 metres between these features and the other concentration of pits and gullies found at the eastern end of the site (Eastern Area). Some of the pits at the centre of the site contained pottery of early to mid Iron Age dates, although there were a number of features that contained pottery that were not diagnostic, and therefore an accurate date could not be attributed to these features. This was also the case with many of the pits and ditch segments in the eastern end of the site. At least half of the archaeological features contained pottery which produced inconclusive results as to dating or did not contain any diagnostic artefacts whatsoever.

The dating of the archaeological features suggests continuous usage of the site from the late Bronze Age/Earliest Iron Age (c 1500-600BC) to the mid-Roman period (c 3rd century AD). The features themselves were a mixture of truncated sub-circular pits and short, oblong curving ditch-like features. In plan there seems to be no consistent theme as to the use of these features, but 'linear' features **[819]**, **[644]**, **[633]** and **[802]** which ran northwest-southeast at the north-eastern corner of the site suggests a boundary earthwork dating from

the 2nd to 3rd century AD which may have superseded an earlier Iron Age feature [636] of similar use.

Central Area

The central area of the site contained 24 truncated features located in a roughly north-south alignment which consisted of eight discrete features and six pit complexes.

Discrete Features

The most northern of the discrete features was an oblong pit [656] that extended beyond the limit of excavation. This irregular feature measured 0.90m wide, 1.20m long and up to 0.30m deep with a moderate top break of slope of 35° that came down to a concave base. This pit was filled with two deposits; the artefactually sterile basal fill (655) was comprised of firm mid grey yellow clay silt with frequent sub angular flint pebbles and rare sub angular flint cobbles. The secondary fill (654) appeared to be water lain, and was a firm dark brown grey silty clay with occasional sub rounded flint pebbles and burnt flint. Seven sherds of pottery were found in this context, six were flint-tempered ware (c.900-600BC), and two or three sherds were possibly from the same vessel. The seventh sherd was grog-tempered ware from the same period of time.

East of this pit was a heavily truncated discrete pit/post hole [601] that measured 0.86m long, 0.55m wide and up to 0.12m deep with sloping sides of 30-40° and flat base. Its 'fill' (600) was more a layer or spread that covered an area 3.20m in length and 1.78m in width and was composed of friable light to mid brown grey sandy silty clay with frequent small to medium sub rounded and angular flints and manganese. No pottery was found in this context, but two worked flints were found including a thin blade like flake of possibly Mesolithic date, but most likely Early Bronze Age. The second larger struck flint of possibly Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date appears to have been reworked from a much older, probably Paleolithic era fracture.

Near the southern end of this area was a shallow ovoid pit [648] measuring 1.38m long, 0.76m wide and up to 0.13m deep with a moderate break of slope of 25° to a concave base. The pit was filled by (647), firm light brown grey silty clay with occasional small to large sub rounded flints, pebbles, manganese, and three fragments of iron impregnated soil described as, "filtration deposited into a mixed-grain layer with a lens of hard-pan at base." (Macpherson-Grant, 2012)

A small discrete feature [701] extended into the limit of excavation northwest of pit [665], and appeared in plan to be possibly a ditch terminus or an extended oblong pit. It was aligned northwest-southeast and measured at least 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and up to 0.21m deep with a sharp break of slope of 55° dropping to the northeast to a slightly pointed base. Its fill (701) was composed of a firm mid brown grey silty clay with fired clay flecks and rare large sub rounded flint pebbles. This context produced one sherd of Mid Roman sandy Native Coarse ware (c 175-250/300AD).

Two other discrete features and a small post hole were located south and west of [701]. Oblong pit [692] measured 1.56m long, 0.75m wide and up to 0.19m deep with a v-shaped profile. The fill of this pit (693) contained no artefacts and was composed of firm dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate sub angular and sub rounded flints.

Another oblong pit [704] southwest of [692] was slightly larger at 2.65m long, 0.55m wide and up to 0.16m deep with a very regular profile of sharp breaks of slope at 45° and a flat base. The fill of this pit contained no cultural material, and was made up of firm mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate flints.

West of these features was a solitary, discrete post hole [696], sub square in profile with near vertical sides and a flat base, 0.26m in diameter and 0.14m deep. Its fill (697) was artefactually sterile and was composed of friable very dark grey with occasional brownish mottled silty clay with occasional carbon flecks.

Further to the west of the site was one post hole [699] with no associated features that was oval in plan and measured 0.60m long, 0.48m wide and up to 0.18m deep with a sharp 45° break of slope to a slightly pointed base. The fill (698) was composed of firm mid brown grey silty clay with occasional sub rounded flints, rare manganese staining and one fragment of undated daub. It appears this feature was impacted upon by the modern dumping episodes that were revealed during the evaluation, and a fragment of stock brick was found *in situ* next to this feature.

Pit Complexes

The two most northern features were a linear with a terminus at its eastern edge which was aligned west-northwest/east-southeast [819] which was cut by a pit [821] at its southern edge. Linear [819] was exposed to a length of 7m and was up to 1m wide and 0.33m deep with a v-shaped profile. It was filled by a very compact and stiff mid grey brown silty clay (820) with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints. One sherd of grog-tempered Native Course ware pottery dating from c200/275-350AD was found, and six sherds of pottery dating from c150-200 AD including two sherds of Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c125/150-175AD) and one sherd each of North Kent fine grey ware and Canterbury grey sandy ware of the same date. Two residual sherds of flint-tempered ware dating from c1550-900/600BC were also found. A lead alloy object (SF 2) was found near the top of the ditch fill and was interpreted as a length of circular sectioned cast wire with a possible 3rd century date. The fill of the linear was cut by a small shallow pit or post hole [821] with a diameter of 0.60m and a surviving depth of 0.19m. One sherd of Medieval Tyler Hill sandy ware (c1200-1225/1250AD) was found in the fill (822). This sherd was the only Medieval artefact found during the excavation.

South of these two features were two intercutting pits. Pit [680] was sub rectangular in plan and measured 1.45m long, 0.90m wide and up to 0.20m deep with moderately sloping sides of 35° and a flat base. It contained two fills, (679) which appeared to be water lain primary siltings of firm light grey yellow sandy clay, and (678) the secondary fill consisting of firm mid grey brown clay silt which contained four sherds of Early Iron Age flint-tempered ware dating

from c 900-600BC. Cutting this upper fill was a sub circular, possibly oval pit [682] measuring 1.9m long, 0.9m wide and up to 0.29m deep which was filled by (681), a firm dark grey brown silty clay which contained 3 sherds of Late Prehistoric flint-tempered ware dating from c900-600BC.

South of this feature was a group of pits and post holes that were artefactually sterile, but a stratigraphic sequence was evident from their excavation. Oval shaped pit [676] measured 1.81m long, 1.06m wide and up to 0.23m deep and was filled by (677) which was composed of firm dark brown grey sandy clay with moderate flints. This context was cut by pit [674], an oval feature approximately 1.20m long, 0.51m wide and up to 0.19m deep. Its fill (675) was similar to the fill of [676]. Cutting the later oval feature [674] were two post holes [672] and [683], with similar fills to the other two features in this group. All four features were severely truncated with just the bases of each surviving, but there was enough material remaining to ascertain a stratigraphic relationship between the four pits and post holes.

A group of three intercutting pits was located southwest of the aforementioned group. The earliest of the three stratigraphically was pit [661]; kidney shaped in plan, it measured 1.50m in length, 1m wide and up to 0.37m deep with a flat base. Most of the edges of this feature were cut by the two later pits. [661] was filled by (662), an artefactually sterile slightly compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional sub angular flints, manganese and carbon flecks. In plan it appears that this pit was cut by larger kidney shaped pit [665] with fills that were cut by a small pit or posthole [663]. Pit [665] contained three deposits, all which produced pottery from the Early Iron Age. This feature was 2.48m long, 1.3m wide and up to 0.25m deep with sharp 45° edges that ran into a flat base. The basal fill (668) was made of firm light greyish brown silty clay with moderate flints and five sherds of pottery, four flint-tempered and one flint and organic-tempered fragments dating from c 900-600 AD. The secondary fill (667) was not as compact as the basal fill and was of a similar composition but contained occasional carbon flecks, fired clay and manganese. Artefacts from this context were two Late Prehistoric flint-tempered ware sherds dating from no later than c600BC. The upper fill (666) was a darker greyish brown silty clay similar to (667) and may possibly be equivalent. The finds from this context include three Late Prehistoric flint-tempered sherds, two from the same vessel, and also appear to date to no later than c600BC. A sub circular small pit or post hole [663] appeared to cut the fills of both [661] and [665] and was filled by (664) an artefactually sterile friable dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub angular flints and manganese. The feature measured roughly 0.80m in diameter and was up to 0.30m deep with a sharp break of slope of approximately 50° breaking to a slightly rounded base.

South of the pit were two intercutting small pits or post holes that contained no artefacts. The stratigraphically earliest feature [652] was oval and measured 1.8m long, 1.3m wide and up to 0.26m deep with a sharp break of slope and steep sides of up to 70° - 85° and a flat base. The fill of this feature (660) was composed of firm mid brown sandy silt with moderate small to medium sub rounded and sub angular flints. Cutting this feature was a pit of similar form [653] that measured 1.52m long, 0.65m wide and up to 0.25m deep. It contained three fills, the

basal fill **(658)** tipped along the southern edge of the cut and was composed of firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small to medium flints. The secondary fill **(659)** was a firm mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate manganese and frequent small to medium flints. This context filled the northern half of the pit. Above it was upper deposit **(657)**, similar to **(659)**, but with occasional as opposed to frequent flints.

At the southern end of the Central Area an oblong pit and two post holes with no stratigraphic relationship were exposed. The pit **[706]** was curving in plan with a terminal like end at the north and extended into the southern boundary of the site. This feature measured at least 1.70m long, up to 1.20 m wide at the terminal end and up to 0.24m deep. The sides broke relatively sharply at 45° - 50°, but the base was quite irregular. It was filled by **(707)** a firmly compacted mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate flints and no artefacts.

Two post holes were located close to the aforementioned pit. Post hole **[708]** was sub circular in plan with a rounded base and measured 0.25m long, 0.23m wide and up to 0.15m deep and was filled by **(709)**, an artefact sterile firm mid brown grey silty clay with very occasional small rounded flints. Post hole **[710]** was directly south of **[708]** and measured 0.46m long, 0.30m wide and 0.12m deep. It was sub circular in plan with a moderate break of slope to a concave base. The fill of this feature **(711)** contained no artefacts and was made of firm light to mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub angular flints. Both post holes were heavily truncated with only the bases surviving.

Eastern Area

The eastern end of the site revealed 31 archaeological features including a number of discrete sub circular pits, oblong, curving linear segments and post holes. A series of northwest-southeast aligned sub linears contained pottery from the 2nd and 3rd century, and two of these ditch-like features appear to have cut an earlier linear of Iron Age date. In plan, this area, like the central zone suggests a random collection of heavily truncated features producing little evidence of usage.

Discrete Features

At the northern end of the site, extending beyond the limit of excavation was a sub circular pit or post hole **[806]** that measured at least 0.8m long, 0.7m wide and up to 0.11m deep with a very shallow, truncated profile and rounded base. Its fill **(807)** was made up of mid brown grey silty clay with occasional angular flints and pebbles and one sherd of Early Prehistoric or Late Prehistoric flint-tempered ware (c.4000-2800BC or 1550-600BC).

To the east of this feature, and also extending beyond the excavated area was another sub circular, truncated shallow pit **[812]** that was cut by a modern ceramic drain at its western side. This pit was at least 1.2m long, 1.18m wide and 0.2m deep with a fill **(813)** composed of fairly compacted dark brown grey sandy silty clay with occasional manganese and small to medium sub angular stones but no artefacts.

An amorphous feature that extended into the archaeological extension that ran along the fence line of the neighbouring properties produced Early to Mid Iron Age pottery from the area

excavated during the extension phase. Pit **[703]/[816]** was interpreted as a natural feature due to its irregular shape. It measured roughly 2.08m long, 1.70m wide and up to 0.33m deep with poorly defined edges of 35° and an undulating base. One fill **(702)** was assigned to **[703]**, an artefactually sterile firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional sub angular flint pebbles. The other half of the feature indentified during the extension contained two deposits. The lower fill **(817)** contained no cultural material and was made up of firm light grey brown silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles. The upper fill **(818)** was composed of slightly compact mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles and produced six sherds of Middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pottery including five sherds of flint-tempered ware, two from the same vessel, with a date range of c.1550/900-600BC and one sherd of silty ware from the same date range. Other finds in this context were two flint flakes and one fragment of burnt flint.

Southwest of the amorphous feature was a sub circular pit **[604]** that measured 2.04m long, 1.62m wide and up to 0.36m deep with a sharp 40° break of slope to a slightly concave base. The primary fill **(603)** of this pit was made up of firm mid brown silty clay with manganese staining and frequent sub angular flints, pea grit and pebbles. It contained no artefacts, but the upper fill **(602)** which was composed of firm mid brown grey silty clay with common sub rounded flint pebbles and occasional sub rounded flint cobbles produced an extensive assemblage of twenty two sherds of pottery with an accepted date range of 150-200AD for this feature. The Mid Roman pottery assemblage included a selection of Canterbury produced wares such as red and grey sandy wares and also Romanising and native grog-tempered wares. Ten residual Iron Age fragments were also found within this context along with two worked flint flakes, daub fragments, and two nodules of ironstone.

Four roughly north-south aligned discrete sub linear/pit like features were located south of the aforementioned pit. Two produced worked flint flakes and two contained pottery from the Earliest Iron Age.

Directly south of pit **[604]** was oblong pit **[606]**, which measured 2.70m long, 0.93m wide and 0.42m deep with a sharp break of slope of 45-50° to a slightly pointed base. It was filled by **(605)**, a firm mid grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional poorly sorted sub rounded flint pebbles and manganese staining concentrated towards the base of the feature. Eleven sherds of Late Prehistoric flint-tempered ware (c.900-600BC) were found within this context.

South of **[606]** was curving sub linear **[614]** which measured roughly 3.9m long, 0.65m wide and up to 0.20m deep with sharp breaks of slope of 80° at its southwest edge and 45° at its northeast edge and a slightly rounded base. It contained two fills, the lower, **(612)**, which tipped down the northeast edge of the feature was devoid of cultural material. It was comprised of plastic pale to mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints and gravels. It appears this context may have been slumping of the original excavated material from this feature. The secondary fill, comprised of friable mid brown grey silty clay with frequent manganese and occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints, produced one residual flint flake but no other artefacts.

East of features **[606]** and **[614]** was a narrow slightly curving sub linear **[621]** which contained two deposits. This heavily truncated feature measured 2.75m long, 0.78m wide and up to 0.15m deep with rather sharp breaks of slope between 30-45° which dropped steeply to a relatively flat base. Lower fill **(622)** appeared to be an initial silting or slumping deposit and was comprised of stiff pale yellow brown silty clay with rare manganese and small flints. The secondary fill **(620)** was made up of friable mid brown grey sandy silty clay with rare small to mid angular and rounded flints and frequent manganese. This deposit contained two worked flint flakes, one suggesting a possible Upper Palaeolithic origin and the other a 'fresh' example of a possible Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

East of feature **[621]** was another oblong pit **[625]** which measured 2.20m long, up to 0.95m wide and up to 0.30m deep with sharp breaks of slope of roughly 50-60° leading to a rounded base. Its primary fill **(624)** appeared to tip down the south-eastern edge of the feature and was composed of stiff pale to mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent small to large angular and rounded flints, occasional manganese and one burnt flint blade-like flake may have possibly been used as a side scrapper. Upper fill **(623)** was made up of moderately compact mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sub angular and sub rounded flints, frequent manganese and what appeared to be a concentration of possibly slag or hammer scale located on the surface of the feature. This material was taken for soil sampling (Sample #1). In addition, one sherd of a flint tempered coarse ware jar (c.900-600BC) and two struck flint fragments from the same time period were found in this context.

A small teardrop shaped pit **[651]** was located east of **[625]** and measured 1.40m long, 0.50m wide and up to 0.18m deep with steep breaks of slope of 65° and a flat base. This feature was filled by two deposits. Basal fill **(650)** was composed of firm pale to mid yellow brown silty clay with rare small angular flints and manganese, but no artefacts. The upper main deposit **(649)** consisted of friable mid brown grey sandy silty clay with occasional small to medium angular flints and manganese, rare chalk flecks and four pottery sherds, two flint-tempered (c.900-600BC), and two Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c. 125-150/175AD). As this feature is discrete and located in an area with a mixture of Earliest Iron Age and Mid Roman features, it is difficult to give a definitive date due to lack of a stratigraphic relationship with other features, and therefore either the Roman pottery fragments are intrusive or the Iron Age sherds are residual.

Two discrete features, a small pit and a post hole, were located at the southern end of the eastern area. Pit **[695]** was a shallow ovoid measuring 1.1m long, 0.70m wide and up to 0.09m deep with a sharp break of slope of 45° and a flat base and was filled by **(694)** an artefactually sterile firm light grey brown clay silt with rare sub angular flint pebbles. South east of this pit was post hole **[627]** that was dug into the head deposits of gravel. This post hole had a diameter of 0.6m and depth of 0.10m with a moderate break of slope of 20° that broke to a flat base. The fill of this feature **(626)** was made up of firm mid brown grey sandy silty clay with frequent sub angular flint pebbles, rare burnt flint and two sherds of possibly residual heavily worn flint tempered ware (c. 1500-600 BC).

One discrete post hole **[804]** was found in the excavation extension in the northeast corner and had a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.16m with a sharp break of slope of 50° and a rounded base. The fill **(805)** was composed of friable very dark brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and carbon fragments but contained no cultural material.

Pit Complexes

A heavily truncated pair of intercutting pits was located at the southern end of the eastern area. It appeared, during excavation, that pit **[686]** cut the fill **(669)** of pit **[671]**, but the artefactual evidence was not conclusive. Pit **[686]** had an oval cut 1.10m long, 0.80m wide and up to 0.16m deep with moderate breaks of slope of 40° at the north edge and 70° at the southern edge breaking to a relatively flat base. The fill **(670)** was composed of firm mid brown grey sandy silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub rounded flints and frequent manganese. Four sherds of pottery were found high up in the context near the surface, three of flint-tempered ware (c. 900-600BC) and one of Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c. 125-150-175 AD). A residual flint flake of possible Paleolithic date was also found. The feature that appeared to be cut by the aforementioned pit, **[671]** was an oval pit that may not be archaeological as it had the characteristics of a tree throw. It could also possibly be a much older feature as the fill of the later pit contained a residual flake of Paleolithic date. Pit **[671]** was oval in shape and measured 0.77m long, 0.70m wide and up to 0.19m deep with a stepped south west edge of 60° that came down to a slightly rounded base. It appeared to be cut at its north east side by pit **[686]**. The fill of this feature was composed of firm light to mid brown grey sandy silty clay with occasional small to mid angular and sub rounded flints and frequent manganese. One pot sherd of grog-tempered native course ware (c. 200-300AD) was retrieved from the surface during the initial cleaning of the surface and therefore is not a reliable artefact for assigning a date to this feature.

A group of northwest-southeast aligned short linears and two post holes appear, from their location, to be part of a larger Roman boundary complex than ran along the north east corner of the site, and which cut Iron Age curvilinear and linear features. The earliest feature, a sub circular pit **[688]**, measured 1.20m long, 1.1m wide and up to 0.30m deep with a sharp break of slope of 45° to a concave base, and was cut by a modern land drain, sub linear **[644]** and post hole **[646]**. The pit was filled by **(687)**, a firm light grey brown silty clay with rare sub angular flint pebbles and one sherd of relatively fresh flint-tempered ware pottery (c. 1500-600BC). Two intercutting linears of similar date Iron Age date were located southeast of the aforementioned pit, but did not have a physical relationship with the Bronze Age/Iron Age feature. Curving sub linear **[639] = [800]** had rounded terminals at each end and measured 4.2m long, up to 1.3m wide at its widest point at the western terminal and was up to 0.33m deep with a varying but moderate break of slope of approximately 45° and a concave base. One half of this feature was excavated in the initial phase, and the remaining length was dug during the later extension phase of the mitigation, hence the two cut numbers. Feature **[639]** contained two fills. Basal fill **(638)** was composed of firm mid yellow brown sandy clay (redeposited Head geology) with abundant sub angular flints but no artefacts. The main

deposit **(637)** was a firm dark brown grey silty clay with occasional sub angular flints and manganese staining. The pottery retrieved from this context were four sherds of flint-tempered ware, two from the same vessel dated to c. 900-600BC. The equivalent context from the excavation extension (**(637) = (801)**) did not contain any cultural material, and a basal fill was not recorded, but it was seen to be cut by the terminal end of feature **[802]**, mentioned later. The fill of **[639]** was cut by post hole **[641]** at the southern edge of the western terminus. The post hole measured 0.26 in diameter and up to 0.27m deep with a sharp break of slope of 85° and a sharply rounded base. The fill **(640)** was composed of firm mid grey black silty clay with occasional sub rounded flints, daub fragments and burnt flint but no definitive dating evidence. It appears that this context may have been burnt *in situ*. Cutting the fills of curving sub linear **[639]/[800]**, was the surviving remnant of another linear containing pottery of a similar type and date. This feature, **[636]**, was aligned east-west and survived to a length of 1.6m, width of 0.66m and depth of 0.33m, with a sharp break of slope of 75° to a concave base. The basal fill of this feature, **(635)** was composed of firm mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional sub angular flints, burnt flints and manganese staining, but no diagnostic artefacts. The main deposit of the linear was a firm mid brown silty clay with rare sub angular flints. Finds included burnt flints and four sherds of pottery; three of the sherds were flint-tempered (c. 900-600BC), two of which came from the same vessel, and the fourth was a flint and grog-tempered ware (1150/900-600BC) fragment. Cutting this prehistoric ditch were two linear-like or oblong features, both containing 2nd century pottery. Linear **[633]** truncated the ditch at its western end, and feature **[802]** truncated it at its eastern end, suggesting that the two later features were re-cutting the earlier ditch. Sub linear **[802]** was aligned roughly northwest/southeast and measured 1.9m long, 0.8m wide and up to 0.43m deep with a terminus located at the southeast end. It had a sharp break of slope at its northwest edge of 85° and 45° at its southwest edge with a shoulder breaking to a slightly pointed base. It was filled by **(803)**, a medium compacted dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small flints and three sherds of 2nd to 3rd century pottery including two sherds of Native grog-tempered ware and one sherd of un-sourced sandy ware. This feature was also seen to cut the deposit of **[800]**. Cut **[633]** was an oblong east-west aligned feature 2.15m long, 0.90m wide and up to 0.21m deep with a moderate break of slope and a flat base. The basal fill was a firm light yellow brown sandy clay with rare sub angular flints and contained four sherds of pottery with a date range of c.100-175BC, including one sherd of Romanising native grog-tempered ware, one sherd of grey fairly fine sandy ware and two sherds of Canterbury grey sandy ware which came from the same vessel. The upper deposit **(631)** consisted of firm light brown grey silty clay with rare sub rounded flint pebbles, daub fragments and burnt flint. Feature **[633]** cut the fills of another oblong sub-linear like feature located to the northwest. This linear segment **[644]** was 3.4m long, 1.1m wide and up to 0.44m deep with a terminus at the northwest end. The profile of this cut was a sharp 45° break of slope breaking to a concave base, and the feature was filled by two deposits. The lower fill **(643)** which appeared geological but conformed to the limits of the cut was composed of firm grey orange sandy silt with occasional sub angular flints and flint 'grit'. Two

sherds of lightly scorched grog-tempered, sandy Native coarse ware pottery retrieved from this context were dated to c.150/175-225AD. The upper deposit **(642)** of this feature was cut by a modern field drain and possibly post hole **[646]**. The context consisted of firm dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flint cobble and burnt flint and two sherds of Early Roman pottery including one sherd from a pink-buff sandy ware flagon (c.75/100-150AD) and one sherd from a North Kent fine grey ware poppy head beaker (c.100/125-150AD). One undated, isolated post hole **[646]** cut the northern edge of the aforementioned linear segment. This post hole had a 0.42m diameter and a depth of 0.11m with a sharp break of slope of 70° and a sharp, concave base. The fill **(645)** was a firm mid grey black silty clay with carbon and manganese flecks, and appeared contain *in situ* degraded, organic material, possibly the remains of the post, and therefore is most likely relatively modern, as a number of *in situ* wooden posts were observed on the site.

A complex including four pits and one oblong feature containing dating material from possibly the Bronze Age to the 1st century AD was located south of the aforementioned feature group. The feature containing the earliest artefacts was a sub circular pit **[608]** that measured 1.8m long, 1.7m wide and up to 0.26m deep with a moderate break of slope of 35° and a relatively flat base. The feature was filled by **(607)**, a firm dark brown grey slightly clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint pebbles and manganese staining. Artefacts from this context included three sherds of flint-tempered ware dating from c.1500-600BC. This feature, during excavation, was seen to cut the deposits of pit **[611]**, and therefore the prehistoric artefacts may be residual. The feature cut by pit **[608]** was a sub circular pit **[611]** which measured 1.56m long, up to 1.20m wide and 0.36m deep with a sharp top break of slope of 50° and concave base and contained two deposits. The basal fill of this pit **(610)** was a firm mid brown silty clay with frequent sub angular flints and rare burnt flints, but no other artefacts. Upper deposit **(609)** was composed of firm dark brown grey silty sandy clay with occasional sub angular flint pebbles and rare burnt flint. Artefacts included nine sherds of pottery including six sherds of flint-tempered ware (c.900-600BC), one sherd of Canterbury red sandy ware (c.75-125/150AD), one sherd of Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.75/100-150AD), one sherd of Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125-150/175AD), and one fragment of Roman brick or tile, daub and fired clay. A roughly east-west aligned sub linear **[630]** was cut at its western end by **[611]** and its north eastern end by pit **[619]**. The surviving extent of linear **[630]** measured 2.1m long, 0.9m wide and up to 0.29m deep with a sharp break of slope of 45° and a concave base. Neither of the fills of this feature contained dating material, but the linear can be placed in the stratigraphic matrix due to the relationships with other features that did contain diagnostic pottery. The primary fill **(629)** of this feature was composed of firm light yellow brown sandy silty clay with frequent sub rounded small flint cobbles in a well sorted lens. The upper fill **(628)** was a firm light brown grey sandy clay silt with rare sub rounded flint pebbles and manganese staining. Cutting these deposits was oblong pit **[619]** which measured 1.90m long, 1.38m wide and up to 0.30m deep with a sharp top break of slope of 60° and an undulating, concave base. The basal deposit **(618)** was composed of firm mid brown silty clay with frequently poorly sorted sub angular flint pebbles

and manganese staining. The upper fill **(617)** was comprised of firm mid brown grey clayey sandy silt with rare sub angular flint 'grit' and pebbles. Artefacts in this deposit included nine sherds of pottery. Seven sherds were Late Prehistoric flint-tempered ware (c.900-600BC); one was Romanising native grog-tempered sandy ware (c.125/150-175AD), and one sherd was a fragment of Canterbury grey sandy ware (c.150-175AD). Other finds included oyster shell, daub, burnt flints and an ironstone nodule. Cutting this deposit was a post hole **[616]**, which measured 0.51m in diameter and up to 0.09m deep with a moderate break of slope of 45° and a flat base. The post hole was filled by **(615)**, a firm light brown grey sandy clay with very frequent sub angular moderately sorted flint pebbles and occasional large sub angular flints, but no dating material.

In the south eastern corner of the excavation a curving feature with rounded terminals **[808]** was found which cut a pit **[810]** at the northern end of the curvilinear. Only the north western half of the feature survived. Oval pit **[810]** measured up to 0.6m long, 0.75m wide and up to 0.09m deep with a shallow, gradual break of slope of 15°. The base was truncated by feature **[808]**. The fill **(811)** of this pit was composed of slightly compact mid grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent medium sized flint pebbles but no cultural material. Feature **[808]** had the appearance of a curved barbell in plan, and measured approximately 3.6m long, 0.5m wide and up to 0.13m deep, with a sharp break of slope of 45° that broke to a sloping, relatively flat base. The fill **(809)** was composed of firm dark brownish grey sandy silty clay with occasional medium sub angular flints and no cultural material.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

The purpose of this archaeological narrative is to join together the evidential material into a chronological sequence that illustrates the specific activity from each phase of activity.

Overview

Archaeological investigations at Dence Park in June and July of 2012 confirmed the presence of buried archaeology from the Bronze Age (c.1550-900BC) to the Early-Mid Roman (c.50-250AD) in a relatively small area on a hill overlooking the north coast of Kent. The features consisted of sub circular and oblong pits, short linear segments and scattered, unrelated post holes that were concentrated in two areas. The west end of the site was heavily impacted upon by recent ground works including the removal of semi mature trees, as evident on the 2007 Google Earth image. The archaeological evaluation that preceded the excavation revealed modern machine cuts into the natural London Clay geology and a series of modern deposits overlying this geology.

Twenty three features contained no diagnostic artefacts. Some of these were part of pit complexes and therefore could be placed in a stratigraphic framework, but the discrete features were lacking in information that would allow interpretation beyond form and content.

Due to the relatively small area encompassed in this excavation, the severe truncation of all features and their random placement across the site, interpretation of the individual features and the site as a whole is limited. A northwest-southeast boundary is evident from the

Prehistoric to the Mid Roman period, but the remaining pits and post holes are elusive as to their usage and placement.

Archaeological Phasing at Dence Park

Analysis of the pottery assemblage (Appendix 2) from the features has identified four periods of archaeological activity at Dence Park.

Period I - Earlier Prehistoric (c. 4000-1550BC)

Five contexts produced flint work of possible Mesolithic-Neolithic date, including three **(600)**, **(620)** and **(670)** which contained possibly reworked Paleolithic flakes. Very worn, un-diagnostic flint-tempered body sherds were retrieved, but they were most likely from later Bronze Age contexts, and therefore it seems likely that any Early Prehistoric material found in the features was merely residual.

Period II - Later Prehistoric (c.1550-50BC)

Twenty two contexts produced flint-tempered pottery sherds, of which three were definitely residual **(602)**, **(654)** and **(820)**, and two **(609)** and **(649)** were possibly residual. Contexts with sealed Bronze Age dating material were few: **[806]**, **[688]** **[621]**, **?[608]** and **[627]**, and these five features that contained pottery from this phase were concentrated in a north-south band in the eastern area, but due to the truncated nature of the features and the lack of a coherent 'theme' it is difficult to ascertain a function for these rather random pits and single post hole.

The features containing pottery from Later Prehistoric/Earliest Iron Age were located in both the central and eastern areas. In the central area, pits **[680]**, **[682]**, **[656]** and **[661]** were aligned roughly north-south, but this may not indicate a pit alignment, as the shape in plan of these features lacked any uniformity. The seven features in the eastern area **[816]**, **[606]**, **[625]**, **[686]**, **[619]**, **[636]** and **[639]** were scattered across the area and were composed of sub circular and long oval pits and what appears to be two linear segments **[636]** and **[639]**, that were superseded by northwest-southeast aligned linear segments containing 2nd and 3rd century potter, suggesting the Iron Age features may have formed part of a land boundary that continued into the later Roman periods.

Period III - Early-Mid Roman (c.50-250AD)

The main area of Roman activity as assessed from the pottery assemblage appears to be a northwest-southeast alignment of linear segments **[819]**, **[644]**, **[633]** and **[802]**, of which **[633]** and **[802]** cut a linear segment **[636]** containing pottery dating from c.900-600BC. This would suggest that a boundary of some type had been established well before the Roman period, and had been adopted as a land division into the 3rd century. Pit **[604]** was located between linear segments **[819]** and **[644]**, but like most of the features on this site, its very truncated condition left little evidence of its usage.

Period IV - Medieval (c.1200-1250AD)

One sherd of Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware pottery (c. 1200/1225-1250AD) was found in what appeared to be the terminus of a linear segment [821] in the northwest corner of the site where it cut the fills of another linear segment [819] that contained mid 2nd to early 3rd century pottery. This discrete sherd may be an intrusive object brought during activity such as manuring during the first half of the 13th century, but its placement in what appears to be a linear terminus that cuts another ditch of Roman date, may indicate the continued usage of boundary earthworks up to and including the Medieval period.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Ceramic Assemblage

A total of 129 pottery sherds weighing 687 grams were recovered from the excavation at Dence park. A full assessment of the ceramic assemblage is provided in Appendix 2.

Lithic Assemblage

Thirteen stuck flints were recovered from seven contexts, but most appear to be residual with only two features, [601] and [621] containing no later cultural material. An assessment of the lithic assemblage can be found in Appendix 2.

Environmental Evidence

Four soil samples taken from contexts (602), (605), (609) and (623) produced very limited results, with only one charred seed from the vetch/pea species (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum sp*) retrieved from context (605). This context also contained spheroidal hammerscale. A full assessment of the environmental results can be found in Appendix 3.

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation at Dence Park identified a moderate amount of buried archaeological features in Trenches 1-3 at the north end of the development site. A Written Scheme of Investigation was implemented for a further archaeological excavation in what was deemed an Area of Archaeological Interest in the area surrounding and including the three trenches. The removal of the modern soil horizon exposed a landscape of heavily truncated pits, post holes and ditch segments, including linear segment alignments running northwest-southeast containing both Iron Age and mid Roman pottery. Although the majority of the archaeological features lacked enough evidence to imply usage of the pits and post holes, especially due to their random placement and the truncation of those features, the existence of the ditch cuts containing dating material from c. 900BC -250AD is positive evidence of at least a partial field system. Although only one sherd of Medieval pottery was retrieved from the site, the fact that it came from a sealed context within a linear segment which cut a mid Roman ditch offers the possibility of continued use of the field system into the 13th century.

CONCLUSION

This archaeological excavation has been carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by SWAT Archaeology in agreement with the Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. Archaeological remains present in the development area have been assessed and reported, enabling preservation of archaeological deposits by record, and therefore, the aims and objectives laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation have been successfully met.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Chartway Group Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council for his advice and assistance.

Julie Martin supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Marcus Headifen., Pawel Cichy and Marcin Grabowski. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Julie Martin

October 2012

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Maps

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Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

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Kent Landscape Information System <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>

Exploring Kent's Past <http://www.extranet7.krnt.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>

APPENDIX 1. HER Summary Form

Site Name Dence Park Water Tower, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6BQ	
SWAT Site Code: DPHB-EV-12	
Site Address: As above	
Summary: Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological excavation at the Dence Park Water Tower site on the corner of Mickleburgh Hill and Dence Park in Herne Bay. A planning application for the construction of twenty new dwellings along with associated car parking and access at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage (CCCH) requested that an Archaeological Excavation be undertaken after the initial evaluation in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within a Written Scheme of Investigation (CCC 2012) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council. The Archaeological Excavation took place in an area identified during the evaluation as having significant archaeological remains, specifically in the areas in and around Trenches 1-3at the northern end of the site..	
District/Unitary: Canterbury	Parish: Herne Bay
Period(s): Tentative: Prehistoric to Medieval	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): TR 18722 67933	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Excavation	
Date of Recording: July-April 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)	
Geology: London Clay with cappings of Head-Gravel, Sand, Silt and Clay	
Title and author of accompanying report: Martin, J. An Archaeological Excavation of Land adjacent to the Water Tower, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6BQ	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) The excavation at the northern end of the development site uncovered a number of oblong and oval pits, post holes and linear segments, many containing LBA/EIA pottery. Many of the features appeared to be placed in a random fashion, but a series of northwest/southeast aligned linear segments containing EIA pottery and recuts containing Mid Roman pottery suggest the area had boundary ditches. All the features were heavily truncated making interpretation of use difficult. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT	
Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson	Date: 5 October 2012

**APPENDIX 2 – Dating and Assessment of Ceramic Assemblage from:
Dence Park, Herne Bay Excavation 2012 (DPHB-EX-12) by N.Macpherson-Grant**

ASSESSMENT

A total of 129 sherds weighing 687gms were recovered during this excavation. Practically all the material is abraded to varying degrees – the only major difference being that the overall Prehistoric element is more worn than the Roman. The latter is frequently only slightly abraded. Whilst some of this may be due to exposure before final burial, the impression given by the relatively large sherd sizes of some of this material – with only slight overall wear and no chipping or major surface erosion, is that the wear received is derived from being in acidic soil conditions. With the earlier, prehistoric, material this combination of normal abrasion mechanisms, producing frequently small bodysherds, together with acidic erosion has seriously reduced the condition of the lower-fired flint-tempered material. This has inevitably resulted in placement difficulties, and on an individual context basis with only rare formal or decorative elements, the recovered material can frequently only be allocated simplistically with broad preferential bases being provided by the available manufacturing characteristics. Overall the recovered material indicates the following apparent sequence –

Earlier Prehistoric

A few contexts – 600, 602, 620, 670 and 818 produced a thin scatter of 8 worked flint flakes. Two of these, from Contexts 600 and 602, are blade-like with pale mottled blue-white patination. The first is thin and narrow and *may* be of Mesolithic date, the second perhaps Mesolithic-Neolithic. Three others, from Contexts 600, 620 and 670 are re-worked from earlier probably Palaeolithic flakes – two in particular have traces of a yellowy iron-stained patina and worn burred flake scars. This re-worked material is un-patinated, like the remainder of the flakes from 602, 620 and 818. None of these exhibit very diagnostic flaking characteristics and their lack of patination could imply a broad Bronze-Earliest Iron Age date.

Although it is *just* possible that a few of the very worn more un-diagnostic and scrappy flint-tempered bodysherds recovered could be of Earlier-Mid Neolithic date, none have surviving manufacturing traits typical of these periods. As a result, no claim for activity during this period is made, other than that represented by the recorded flintwork,

Later Prehistoric – Earliest Iron Age, c.900-600 BC

Twenty-two contexts – 602, 605, 607, 609, 617, 623, 626, 634, 637, 649, 654, 666-668, 670, 678, 681, 688, 807, 814, 818 and 820 produced varying quantities of flint-tempered pottery. Of these, the material from Contexts 602, 654 and 820 is definitely residual, that from 609 and 649 may be residual and that from 617 and 670 are likely to have intrusive Roman elements. In some cases, Contexts 607, 626, 634, 666-667, 688, 807 and 818, the available range of manufacturing characteristics was small with just enough to indicate a broad Mid Bronze-Earliest Iron Age date - between c.1500-600 BC. However, Context 623 produced a moderate-sized rim-shoulder sherd from a coarseware jar decorated with a single row of spaced finger-tip impressions on the shoulder. The form and decoration are typical of regional Earliest Iron Age assemblages. Further, Context 678 produced 2 small near-fresh conjoining sherds from a fineware bowl with a sharply-defined angled, or carinated, shoulder. This is not a particularly common formal type during this region's EIA and, is more normally associated with pottery of definite Early-Mid Iron Age date. However, there is no trace of obvious EIA-MIA material from the present site. In addition, some of the relatively larger assemblages from Contexts 602, 609, 617, 654 and 668 produced a combination of fine and coarseware sherds – the former frequently with fairly profuse fine flint-temper and again more typical of EIA assemblages than material of either earlier or later date. Further, several of these assemblages contained sherds exhibiting variable wear-patterns – heavily worn overall, heavy unifacial wear and almost fresh. This range of condition, particularly those sherds with unifacial wear, is a typical indicator of material derived from a context which has remained open and accumulated material over some time, some getting buried immediately, some not. This factor, together with the relatively large and not severely worn rim-shoulder part-profile

from 623 and the carinated shoulder fragment from 678 suggests that at least some of the prehistoric material has been recovered from undisturbed contemporary deposits. This particularly applies to *Contexts* 605, 607, 623, 654, 668, 678, 681 and possibly 617, 634, 637 and 814. Because of this general trend, coupled with the datable rim from 623 and the range of EIA-type characteristics from the other contexts, it is suggested that most, if not all, the flint-tempered material is derived from a single phase of Earliest Iron Age occupation datable to between c.900-600 BC. One other element, almost certainly of this same date, deserves mention. This is a small worn bodysherd from *Context* 602 in a sparsely sandy fabric, totally oxidized pink-red and carrying traces of a saline deposit. Its firing and general appearance are totally in keeping with fragments from known salt-evaporation vessels and briquetage from regional EIA and EIA-MIA settlement sites such as at Swalecliffe near Herne Bay, Minnis Bay and St.Mildred's Bay in Thanet. Although all these are at coastal locations, there is at least one broadly contemporary example from Chislet, an inland settlement – as here - and also from a slightly later Early-Mid Iron Age one at Highstead, near Chislet.

Early-Mid Roman – c.50-250 AD

For this site-phase – twelve contexts, 602, 609, 617, 632, 642, 643, 649, 669-670, 700, 802, 820 (both slots) and 822 produced pottery of this date. Five of these – 632, 642-3, 669 and 802 - appear to be purely Roman and not adulterated by residual or intrusive material. The sherds from 602, 617, 649 and 820 are a little difficult to interpret – they probably stem from Roman features that have cut earlier EIA features or layers, although the condition of the few highly worn elements from 609, 617 and 670 does strongly suggest accidental intrusion from a Roman horizon. Overall, there is no material of obvious pre-Conquest date, despite the single small scrap of 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware. Instead, the recovered evidence suggests activity commencing from around 75 or 100 AD – and the grogged element referred to could equally well be of later first century date. Of the thirteen indicated contexts, 642 and the residual Early Roman elements from the western slot of 820 appear to be the earliest which, on the basis of their firing trends, indicate manufacture and possibly even discard during the period c.75-150 AD. The majority, however, including the Canterbury grey sandy ware sherds from 602 and 643, are of mid second century AD manufacture. Their condition and appearance is so similar that discard into both contexts is almost certainly contemporary – and probably within the second half of that century. This may also apply to the material from *Contexts* 609, possibly 649, the western slot of 820 and the two fairly larger same-vessel Native Coarse Ware bodysherds from 643. However the lightly scorched surfaces of the latter's sherds could indicate that they are an earlier or first half third century loss. This, or a broader third century loss date, almost certainly applies to the hard-fired or scorched material from *Contexts* 669, 802 and the eastern slot of 820.

Summarising, the bulk of the Roman material suggests a modest, probably settlement-fringe, scale of activity, commencing towards the end of the first century AD and continuing through into the third. Although the manufacturing trait for producing hard-fired scorched pottery lasted until the mid-fourth century AD – no definite evidence for Late Roman activity of post-c.275/300 AD date has been recovered to date – so that an earlier or mid third century AD end-date for Roman activity is likely to be applicable for the time being.

Medieval – c.1200-1250 AD

A single worn bodysherd from *Context* 822, like the single 2011 sherd from the same excavation zone, confirms a limited degree of activity within this topographic zone during the first half of the thirteenth century AD – almost certainly arriving on-site in farmyard manure.

Recommendations

1. None are proposed except to note that the single EIA rim-shoulder part-profile has been isolated within the assemblage's ceramic collection for potential drawing in any future regional research and publication programme.
2. If there is no doubt that *Context* 820 was not contaminated by later Post-Medieval activity, the lead object *SF* 2 should be shown to a metal specialist to confirm dating and function.

Bibliography

Monaghan 1987:

Monaghan, J., *Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery*, BAR British Series 197 1987

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT-BASED CERAMIC ANALYSIS AND DATING

Period codes employed :

EBA	= Early Bronze Age
LP	= Later Prehistoric
MBA	= Middle Bronze Age
LBA	= Late Bronze Age
EIA	= Earliest Iron Age
ER	= Early Roman
MR	= Mid Roman
M	= Medieval

Context dating :

Context: 600

2 worked flints (weight : 16gms) – 1 thin blade-like flake, mottled pale blue patination, tip blunted on side, used as a blade – general size suggests **Mesolithic** but could be Neo-EBA, 1 larger flake, semi-cortical, un-patinated dark maroon-tinged flint, re-worked from a much older, probably Palaeolithic era fracture, that period's patination-skin nearly flaked away, some secondary trimming – use uncertain – **possibly Bronze Age-EIA**.

1 flake flint (weight : 1gm), thin, linear, pale yellow patination, probably a Paleolithic era natural fracture

1 fragment natural ironstone (weight : 28gms)

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 602 - 22 sherds (weight : 141gms)

7 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

2 LP flint and grog-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

1 LP sandy ware – oxidized with saline deposits (possible EIA emphasis – c.900-600 BC)

1 ER 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.25-75/100 AD probably)

1 ER Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.100/125-150 AD emphasis)

3 ER Canterbury grey sandy ware (S-profiled bowl, cf.Monaghan 1987 Type 4A2, c.125-150/175 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

1 ER Canterbury red sandy ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis)

3 MR Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125/150-175 AD emphasis probably; **2 same vessel**)

3 MR Canterbury grey sandy ware (everted-rim jar, cf.Monaghan 1987 Type 3H1, c.125/150-175 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

and :

2 worked flint flakes (weight : 18gms) – 1 blade-like flake, mottled pale blue patination, one edge blunted, other with utilization scars – **probably Mesolithic-Neolithic**, 1 thick rounded flake in brown-black un-patinated flint, flaking a little crude, one edge trimmed and used as a scraper - ? **Bronze Age-Earliest Iron Age**

1 fragment daub (weight : 1gm) – small, sub-round, worn

1 nodule burnt flint (weight : 77gms)

1 fragment iron-impregnated sandstone (weight : 4gms) – small, sub-rounded

2 nodules natural ironstone (weight 24gms) – small, rounded irregular lumps

Comment : The Later Prehistoric sherds are all fairly small except for one mixed-temper element which is moderate-sized. They exhibit a mixed wear-pattern but there are sufficient elements with a lower degree of wear or only heavy unifacial wear to suggest that, although definitely residual in a Roman context – are not seriously re-distributed from their parent

context. The oxidised element with saline deposits is definitely not Roman and the general rather rough fabric type and appearance is in keeping with known salt-evaporation vessels and briquetage from regional EIA and EIA-MIA settlement sites. The majority of the ER sherds are mostly small-fairly small and mostly fairly heavily worn – with the exception of the S-profiled bowl rim sherds. These, and the inverted-rim jar elements, include fairly large or large-sized fragments in a fairly but not severely worn condition. The presence of these same-vessel sherds, in similar condition and size, confirms contemporary discard – and recovery from a subsequently undisturbed context.

Likely date : c.150-200 AD

Context: 605 - 11 sherds (weight : 59gms)

11 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)

and :

4 fragments burnt flint (weight : 10gms) – small

1 nodule natural ironstone (weight : 42gms) – moderate-sized, sea/water-rolled

Comment : All bodysherds, small-fairly small with 3 moderate-sized. From fineware and coarseware vessels – the former represented by sherds with profuse fine flint-tempering. Six sherds are fairly heavily worn overall and may be residual in-context. The remainder have fairly marked heavy unifacial wear with one side noticeably less worn. These imply, although from different vessels, a degree of medium-term exposure in static undisturbed ground conditions.

Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC

Context: 607 - 3 sherds (weight : 17gms)

3 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA preference range, c.1500-600 BC)

Comment : Small bodysherds, all worn and all 3 with fairly heavy unifacial wear – acquired during fairly long-term exposure in open-ground conditions prior to final seal..

Likely date : Uncertain – if not residual Later Prehistoric

***Context: 609** - 9 sherds (weight : 36gms)

6 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

1 ER Canterbury red sandy ware (c.75-125/150 AD emphasis)

1 ER Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.75/100-150 AD emphasis)

1 ER Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis probably)

and :

1 fragment probably Roman tile/brick (weight : 27gms) – thin fairly large but worn sliver

20 fragments daub (weight : 68gms) - small, fairly small, most rounded heavily worn variably sized, some larger sub-rounded less worn, 1 worn but fresher flat flake

1 fragment re-fired clay (weight : 1gm) – small, light and corky, rounded and weathered

5 fragments burnt flint (weight : 51gms) – mostly small, 1 medium-sized, rounded but not battered

Comment : Prehistoric component consists entirely of small bodysherds but with variable wear-patterns. One is very heavily abraded with total loss of both surface skins, two others are less so but with partial bifacial loss and three are only slightly worn and – *technically* – need not be residual. However, the Roman pottery component is also variably worn. Two are small bodysherds – and the second entry is a moderate-sized rim sherd but with fairly heavy overall abrasion, the latest bodysherd, like the associated tile fragment, is only moderately worn.

Likely date : Uncertain – if not intrusive, possibly c.150-200 AD or slightly later.

Context: 610

3 fragments natural ironstone (weight : 34gms) – from same mother-node, fairly small, un-weathered and angular

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 613

1 flake flint (weight : 4gms) – small, re-worked from an old fractured nodule, latest flaking pale blue-white mottled patination, waste

Likely date : Residual

Context: 615

1 fragment stone (weight : 2gms) – light, rounded, burnt pink

2 fragments burnt flint (weight : 18gms) – natural flint, 1 reddened

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 617 - 9 sherds (weight : 39gms)

7 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

1 sherd MR Romanising native grog-tempered sandy ware (c.125/150-175 AD probable emphasis)

1 sherd MR Canterbury grey sandy ware (c.150-175 AD emphasis)

and :

1 fragment oyster shell (weight : 2gms) – outer edge valve, worn, flakey

2 fragments daub (weight : 9gms) – fairly small, sub-rounded

3 fragments burnt flint (weight : 41gms) – one small, 2 moderate-sized

1 fragment natural ironstone nodule (weight : 4gms) – small, sub-flat

Comment : All bodysherds, the prehistoric element consisting of small sherds with mixed wear-patterns – some fairly heavily worn overall, a few with fairly moderate unifacial wear and 1 near-fresh. The latter is from a fineware vessel with profuse fine flint-tempering. The MR Canterbury sherd is hard-fired – and can be no later than c.150-175 AD in production date. It is small and fairly heavily worn overall – as is the broadly contemporary larger native coarseware element. The condition of these 2 later sherds, compared with the general visual trend for the prehistoric pieces – suggests that they are probably intrusive.

Likely date : Slightly uncertain – possibly c.900-600 BC with intrusive MR elements.

Context: 620

2 flakes worked flint (weight : 25gms) – both un-patinated, both non-cortical – one (glaucopit flint nodule) has genuine but burred flake scars with traces of a yellowy patina suggesting a much older, possibly Upper Palaeolithic flake, other is a fairly large blade-like flake, in fairly pale mud-brown flint, rough hinge fracture at one end due to flaking from a flawed flint nodule, snapped at narrow end, slight signs of utilization along blade edges – totally fresh, **possibly** Neolithic-EBA

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 623 - 1 sherd (weight : 9gms)

1 EIA flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC)

and :

2 fragments flint (weight : 57gms) – medium-sized chunks, from sea-rolled nodules, un-patinated, flawed, near-black and brown-grey flint, **if** deliberately worked, flaking crude and Later Prehistoric

Comment : EIA sherd is medium-sized, from a medium-diameter coarseware jar, chipped and moderately but not severely worn. Could be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

Likely date : If not residual – c.900-600 BC

Context: 624

2 burnt flints (weight : 52gms), 1 medium-sized un-weathered nodule, 1 small semi-cortical blade-like flake possibly used as a side-scraper

4 natural flint lumps (weight : 220) – most **not** debitage, most naturally fractured (one has frost-fractured 'pot-lid' scar), 1 **may** be deliberately fractured from a flawed parent nodule.

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 626 - 2 sherds (weight : 4gms)

2 EP-LP flint-tempered ware (slight LP (MBA-EIA) preference, c.1500-600 BC)

Comment : Small heavily worn bodysherds

Likely date : Uncertain – probably residual

Context: 631

3 fragments daub/soft brick (weight : 21gms) – small, moderate-sized, sub-rounded

1 fragment burnt flint (weight : 10gms) – fairly small

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 632 - 4 sherds (weight : 30gms)

1 ER Romanising native grog-tempered sandy ware (c.100/125-150 AD emphasis probably)

1 ER grey fairly fine sandy ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis)

2 ER Canterbury grey sandy ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

Comment : All bodysherds, the first 2 entries small sherds, the earliest fresh, the second with moderate unifacial wear. The 2 same-vessel elements are moderate-fairly large sized and from a kitchenware jar, and are fairly but not severely worn overall. The basic low degree of wear of these two, coupled with their size range, confirms that they are from an undisturbed contemporary deposit. All 3 elements are fairly hard-fired although, re the Canterbury sherds, not quite as hard as many c.150-175 AD Canterbury products. As a result a mid second, rather than later second, century AD date is preferred for these.

Likely date : c.150-200 AD probably

Context: 634 - 4 sherds (weight : 14gms)

3 LP flint-tempered ware (LBA>EIA preference range, c.1150/900-600 BC emphasis probably; **2 same vessel**)

1 LP flint and grog-tempered ware (LBA>EIA preference range, c.1150/900-600 BC emphasis probably)

Comment : Mostly small fairly worn bodysherds but including one slightly larger. The latter, the mixed-temper sherd, is only moderately worn and *could* come from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

Likely date : If not residual – possibly c.900-600 BC

Context: 637 - 4 sherds (weight : 25gms)

4 EIA flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)

and :

3 fragments burnt flint (weight : 42gms) – fairly small

Comment : All bodysherds, including three small sherds and 1 moderate-sized. The 2 same-vessel elements are fairly heavily worn bifacially – and should be residual in-context. The other small sherd and the larger element are only slightly worn – and could be from an undisturbed contemporary context. The fairly large diameter of the larger sherd, together with its fairly profuse fairly fine flint-tempering tends to confirm the dating applied.

Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC

Context: 640

2 fragments daub (weight : 14gms) – small, sub-rounded

5 fragments burnt flint (weight : 41gms) – small-fairly small

Likely date : Uncertain

Context: 642 - 2 sherds (weight : 16gms)

1 ER pink-buff fine sandy ware (flagon, c.75/100-150 AD emphasis)

1 ER North Kent fine grey ware (poppyhead beaker, cf. Monaghan 1987 Type 2A3, c.100-125/150 AD emphasis)

and :

1 **possible** iron nail (weight : 28gms) – heavily corroded, vague trace of head

1 fragment iron-impregnated sandstone (weight : 18gms) – small

2 fragments burnt flint (weight : 41gms) – 1 small, 1 moderate-sized

Comment : Moderate-sized body and rim sherds. Both have an overall but moderate and not severe degree of surface loss. This may be due to soil type as much as exposure to weathering. Despite their condition – neither need be severely residual and both were probably discarded at the same time.

Likely date : Slightly uncertain – if not earlier C2 AD discards may be slightly residual in a c.150-200 AD context.

Context: 643 - 2 sherds (weight : 75gms)

2 MR grog-tempered sandy Native Coarse Ware (lightly scorched, probable c.150/175-225 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

Comment : Large bodysherds, not conjoining, one with fairly marked external knife-trimming. Moderate overall acid-soil wear, but only slightly chipped and almost certainly from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

Likely date : c.200-250 AD or slightly earlier

Context: 647

3 fragments iron-impregnated soil (weight : 46gms) – filtration deposited into a mixed-grain layer with a lens of hard-pan at base

Likely date : Uncertain

***Context: 649** - 4 sherds (weight : 23gms)

2 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

2 ER Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis)

Comment : Prehistoric component consists of 2 small bodysherds and one fairly small fineware base sherd, the Roman component two small bodysherds. Both period groups share similar wear-patterns, moderately worn or less so – so it is not automatically obvious whether the earliest is residual or the Roman intrusive. With this context – final dating will depend on stratigraphic associations.

Likely date : Uncertain – probably c.900-600 BC or c.150-200 AD or slightly later

Context: 654 - 7 sherds (weight : 30gms)

6 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **2-3 same vessel**)

1 LP flint and grog-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

Comment : The 3 same-vessel sherds are small fairly heavily worn scraps and may be residual in-context. The other elements are small-fairly small, most bodysherds from fine and coarseware vessels but including one simple bowl/small jar rim in a mixed-temper fabric. These latter pieces are chipped but less worn and could be from an undisturbed contemporary context. The fairly profuse fine- or medium-grade temper emphasizes the likelihood of an EIA date.

Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC

***Context: 666** - 3 sherds (weight : 6gms)

3 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA preference, c.1550-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)

Comment : Two small scraps and 1 fairly small bodysherd, moderately fresh – need not be residual.

Likely date : Later Prehistoric – probably no later than c.600 BC

***Context: 667** - 2 sherds (weight : 11gms)

2 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA preference, c.1550-600 BC)

Comment : Two fairly small coarseware bodysherds, only slightly worn – *probably* from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

Likely date : Later Prehistoric – probably no later than c.600 BC

***Context: 668** - 5 sherds (weight : 25gms)

4 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

1 LP flint and organic-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

Comment : All small>fairly small bodysherds, 3 with fairly heavy unifacial wear, one small near-fresh and one small fragmentary. Wear-pattern trends suggest some sherds discarded and remaining in open unsealed conditions for a moderate period of time – and therefore from an undisturbed broadly contemporary context.

Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC

***Context: 669** - 1 sherd (weight : 9gms)

1 MR grog-tempered Native Coarse Ware with sparse sand and flint inclusions (lightly scorched, c.175/200-300 AD emphasis)

Comment : Moderate-sized bodysherd with fairly heavily overall abrasion. Despite condition – size suggests need not be residual in context

Likely date : Broadly c.200-300 AD or slightly later

***Context: 670** - 4 sherds (weight : 12gms)

3 LP flint-tempered ware (slight EIA preference, c.900-600 BC)

1 MR Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis)

and :

1 worked flint flake (7gms) – fairly dark grey flint, drab-brown patination, original flaking scars markedly burred and worn, secondary re-working flaking scars also but less heavily burred. Possibly Palaeolithic.

Comment : Prehistoric component consists of 2 small bodysherds and one slightly larger – all moderately worn but not to the same degree as the Roman sherd – which is small and highly abraded overall. The latter should be intrusive

Likely date : Later Prehistoric, possibly c.900-600 BC – with a mid C2 AD intrusion

- *Context: 678** - 4 sherds (weight : 11gms)
 4 EIA flint-tempered ware (c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)
 Comment : Two small bodysherds, 2 conjoining shoulder sherds. The former include one fairly heavily sherd and one moderately worn, the latter are near-fresh. All are probably from an undisturbed contemporary context.
Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC
- *Context: 681** - 3 sherds (weight : 6gms)
 3 LP flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)
 Comment : Small bodysherds, the fairly profuse fine flint-tempering of one fineware bodysherd suggesting the likely date. Near-fresh and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.
Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC
- *Context: 687** - 1 sherd (weight : 3gms)
 1 LP flint-tempered ware (no preference, c.1550-600 BC range)
 Comment : Small fairly fresh bodysherd – almost certainly from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.
Likely date : Broadly, probably c.1500-600 BC
- *Context: 698** – 1 fragment daub (weight : 6gms) – fairly small, oxidized, sub-rounded, fairly worn
Likely date : Uncertain
- *Context: 700** - 1 sherd (weight : 3gms)
 1 MR sandy Native Coarse Ware (c.175-250/300 AD emphasis probably)
 Comment : Small highly worn bodysherd flake, with bifacially severe surface abrasion, possibly re-fired.
Likely date : Probably residual/intrusive
- *Context: 803** - 3 sherds (weight : 17gms)
 1 ER unsourced sandy ware (c.75-125/150 AD emphasis probably)
 1 MR grog-tempered Native Coarse Ware (c.150-175/200 AD emphasis)
 1 MR grog-tempered sandy Native Coarse Ware (lightly scorched, c.175-200/250 AD emphasis)
 Comment : Small>fairly small bodysherds, all moderately worn. Need not be severely residual.
Likely date : If not residual - c.200-250 AD or slightly later
- *Context: 807** - 1 sherd (weight : 2gms)
 1 EP or LP flint-tempered ware (no preference, c.4000-2800 or 1550-600 BC)
 Comment : Small worn bodysherd
Likely date : Uncertain – but if not residual unlikely to be much later than c.600 BC
- *Context: 809** - 1 lump re-fired clay (weight: 6gms) – moderate-sized, worn and rounded, lightly re-fired dark brown-black
Likely date : Uncertain
- *Context: 814** - 2 sherds (weight : 5gms)
 3 LP flint-tempered ware (slight EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)
 Comment : Two fairly small bodysherds, moderately fresh – need not be residual.
Likely date : Later Prehistoric – possibly c.900-.600 BC
- *Context: 818** - 6 sherds (weight : 16gms)
 5 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA preference range, slight c.1550/900-600 BC emphasis; **2 same vessel**)
 1 LP silty ware (probable MBA>EIA preference range, c1550/900-600 emphasis BC)
 and :
 2 worked flint flakes (weight : 1 chip waste lightly burnt, 1 fairly small, black flint, un-patinated, waste
 1 fragment burnt flint (weight : 1gm) – small, angular
 Comment : Small>fairly small bodysherds including 2 scrappy flakes. Larger elements only

slightly worn – *need* not be residual.

Likely date : Uncertain – unlikely to be much later than c.600 BC

***Context: 820 SF 2** - 1 lead-alloy object (weight : 4gms) – length of circular-sectioned cast wire – broken at one end and with a two-tier circular flange towards the other end. The wire's shank is thinner beyond the flanged portion, is short and conjoins with, as surviving, two laterally-arranged lengths of similarly thinner round-sectioned wire that may form part of a broken circular hooped wire head. There is no trace of characteristic lead patina.

Likely date : Uncertain – if not intrusive, possibly C3 AD

***Context: 820, East slot** - 1 sherd (weight : 20gms)

1 MR grog-tempered Native Coarse Ware with sparse-moderate sand (scorched, c.200-275/350 AD emphasis)

Comment : Moderate-sized bodysherd, moderately worn but unlikely to be residual.

Likely date : Broadly C3 AD

***Context: 820, West slot** - 6 sherds (weight : 21gms)

2 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA range, c.1550/900-600 BC preference emphasis)

1 ER North Kent fine grey ware (c.75-125/150 AD emphasis)

1 ER Canterbury grey sandy ware (75-125/150 AD emphasis)

2 ER Romanising native grog-tempered ware (c.125-150/175 AD emphasis)

Comment : All bodysherds, mostly fairly small, all moderately worn but the prehistoric elements more so. Latter are definitely residual in-context. Dating based on combination of likely use-span of latest sherds and their condition – including accounting for acidic soil conditions for softer grog-tempered fabric types.

Likely date : c.150-200 AD or slightly later

***Context: 822** - 1 sherd (weight : 2gms)

1 M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis)

Comment : Small abraded bodysherd.

Likely date : Probably residual/intrusive

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 0.7.2012

APPENDIX 3 - ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES TAKEN DURING AN EXCAVATION AT DENCE PARK (DPHB-EX-12) by Lisa Grey, MSc MA AlfA

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Four samples, taken during excavations at Dence Park by SWAT Archaeology, were presented for assessment. This report will assess the type and quality of preservation of organic remains in these samples and consider their potential and significance for further analysis.

Table 1: Sample Descriptions

Sample	Fill	Cut	Size	Feature Description and any specific Reasons for Sampling
1	623	625	2	Upper fill of curvilinear, possible slag
2	609	611	14	Top fill of Romano-British Pit
3	602	-	14	Upper fill of feature, for artefact retrieval
4	605	-	14	Upper fill of feature, for artefact retrieval

Sampling was carried out by the client and processing was carried out by the author using a recycling flotation tank with a 1 mm mesh sieve for the residue and 300 micron mesh sieve for the flot. Each sample was completely processed and dried proper to scanning. The flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. A magnet was passed across each residue and flot to record the presence or absence of magnetic material.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 2 : Sample contents

Sample number	Uncharred root/rhizome fragments	Charred Seeds	Charcoal flecks (<4mm)	Identifiable Charcoal (>4mm)	Potsherds	Terrestrial Mollusca	Tile	Magnetic material	Burnt flint	Unburnt and unworked flint and pebbles
1(623)	A	-	C	D	E	-	-	E	C	A
2(609)	A	-	-	-	E	E	E	C	E	A
3(602)	A	-	-	E	-	-	E	C	C	A
4(605)	A	E	-	-	E	-	-	C	C	A

Key (Quantity) = A >200, B 100-200, C 50-100, D 10-50, E 1-10

The only charred seed was a single poorly preserved cotyledon resembling a vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.) seed. Charcoal fragments were sparse and the only samples containing fragments large enough to identify were found in samples 1 and 3. Uncharred root rhizome fragments were frequent in each sample suggesting the likelihood of aerated soil, stratigraphic movement and poor preservation conditions for organic material. The only faunal remains were one terrestrial snail shell in sample 2.

Fragments of pottery were found in samples 1, 2, and 4 and tile in samples 3 and 4. Magnetic fragments were present in each sample. Sample 4 contained a fragment of spheroidal hammerstone. Burnt flints were also present in each sample.

These samples were archaeobotanically poor and the only item possible to identify has already been named in this report. No further work on these samples is recommended. It may be possible to identify the charcoal if radiocarbon dating is required but the rootlets indicate the stratigraphic movement may have occurred and it is unlikely that these fragments came from contexts stratigraphically secure enough to give useful dates.

Plates



Plate 1-Central Area, looking north west



Plate 2-Eastern Area, looking north



Plate 3-Pits [661] and [665], looking east. 1m scale



Plate 4-Pit [802] looking north-northeast. 1m scale



Plate 5-Pit [800] cut by [802], looking southwest. 1m scale



Plate 6-Pit [816], looking west. 1m scale



Plate 7-Linear [819], looking east. 1m scale



Plate 8-Pit [619], linear [630] and pit [611], looking south. 1m scale



Plate 9-Pit [633], looking west. 0.5m scale



Plate 10-Post hole [641] and pit [639], looking southwest. 1m scale



Plate 11-Linear segments [636] and [639], looking east. 1m scale



Plate12-Western area, flooded, looking northwest

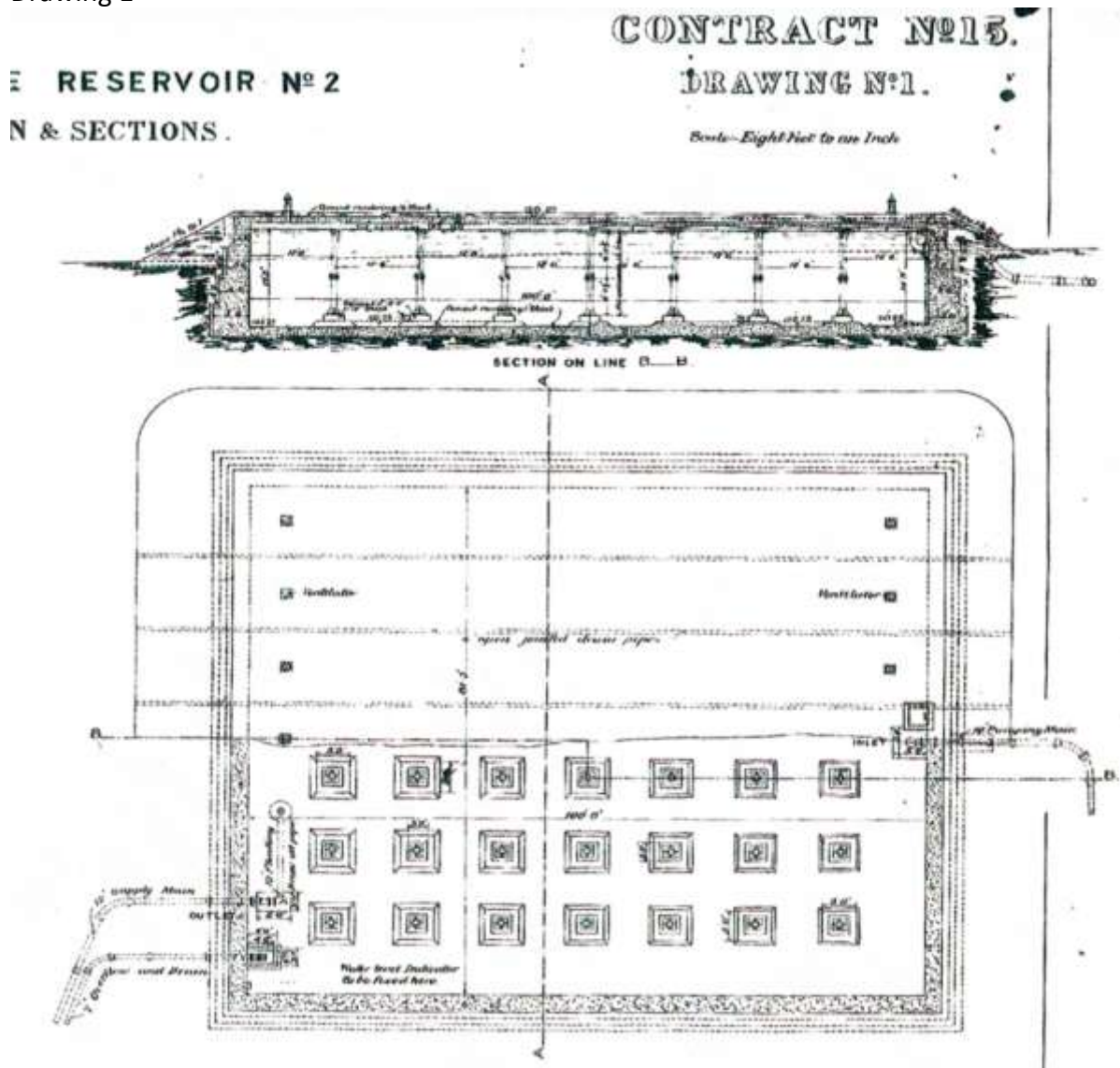
Appendix 4

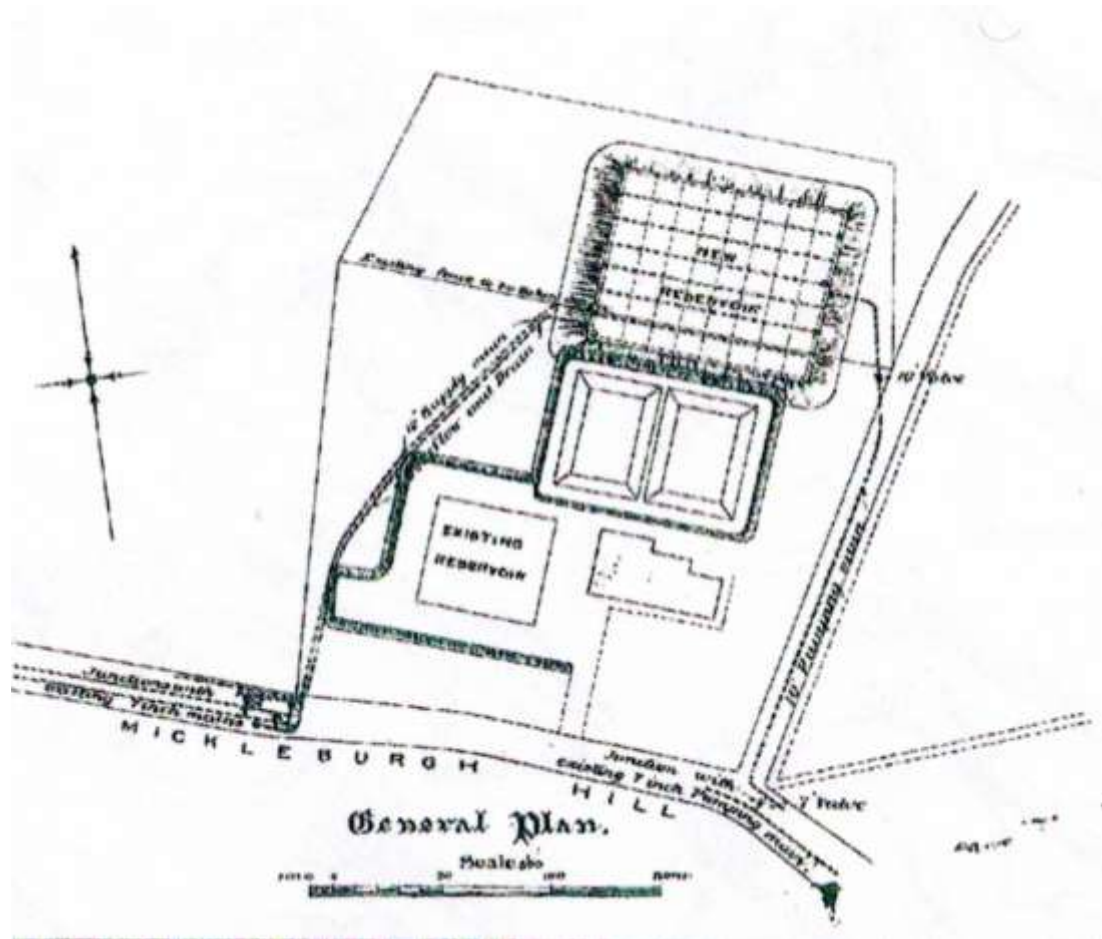
Archaeological Watching Brief/1

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during the demolition of the reservoir at Dence Park from 12th April 2012 to 4th May 2012.

The reservoir is thought to date from 1899 and there exists in the archive of Mid Kent Water an excellent set of engineer's plans and sections (Drg. 1-2). Throughout the demolition operation measurements were taken of the semi-buried structure, which are in line with the Imperial measurements on the 1899 plans.

Drawing 1





Drawing 2

The semi-buried structure is square measuring on all sides 37m. The roof was constructed of cast shuttered concrete consisting of eight barrel vaults sitting on 42 undecorated cast iron columns 5m tall, and comprising two sections bolted together. The columns sat on square concrete pads raised 728mm from the concrete floor. The side walls, again built of shuttered concrete without any steel reinforcing were stepped in four stages from 1.78m to 560mm. The concrete roof overlaid the side walls, the floor about 1m thick butted to the side walls with a bitumen joint. The 42 cast iron columns were about 3.66m apart and held a steel strip above them on which sat the cast concrete roof which was pierced in barrel vault 1 & 8 by eight ventilators. Two modern entry hatches had been constructed in barrel vault 4. Mains water was pumped into the reservoir on the east side through a 14 inch ceramic pipe and water flowed out on the west side through a 12 inch ceramic pipe which was adjacent to a 7 inch ceramic overflow pipe. The ground area of the reservoir is about 1,369sqm and was designed to hold 150,5690 UK gallons of water (684,5000 L).



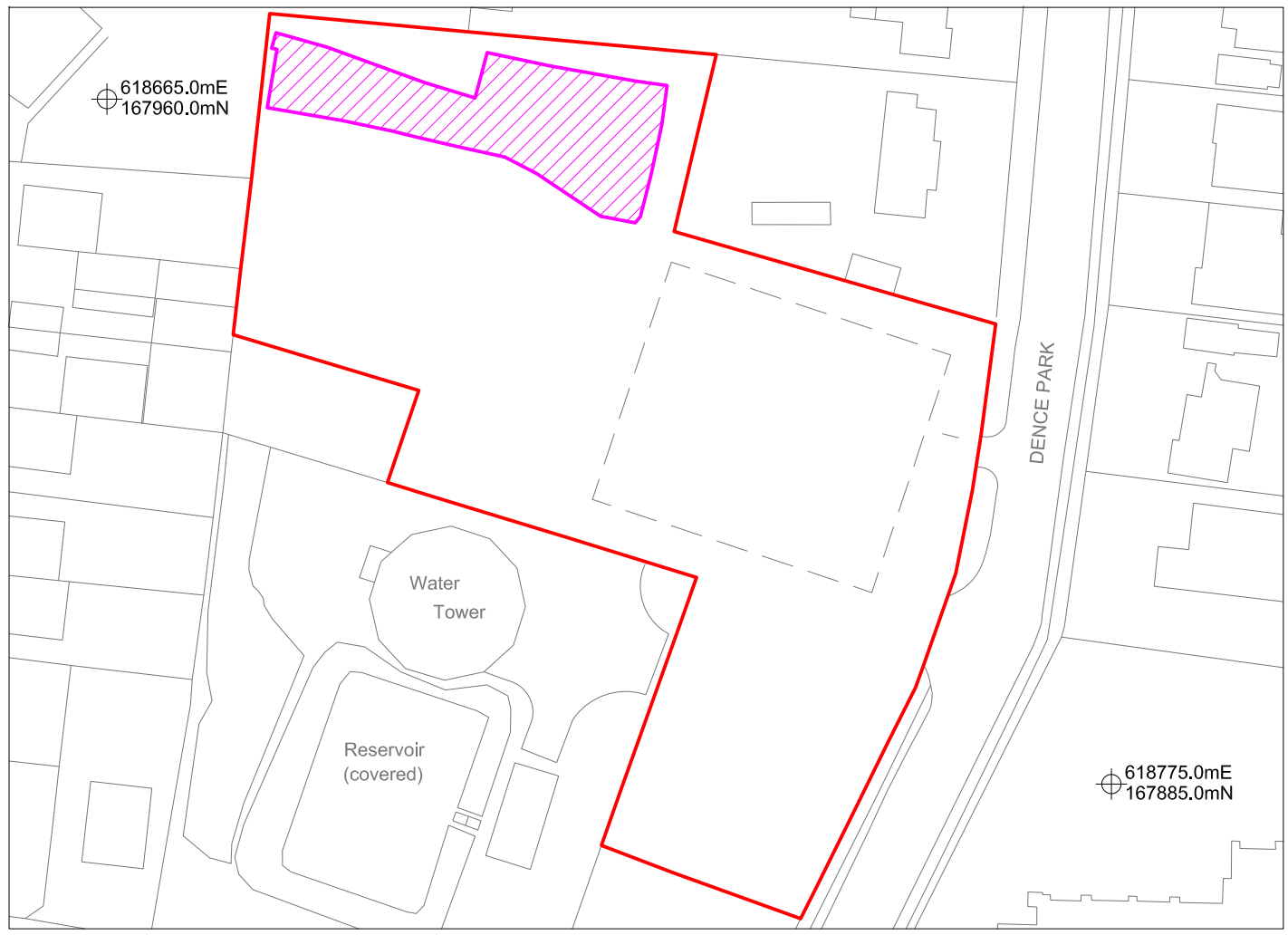
Plate 13. Demolition phase of reservoir (facing west)

Archaeological Watching Brief/2

In addition an Archaeological Watching was requested on an area (Drg, 3-blue area) of paving to the north of houses. It transpired that there was to be no reduction of soil. In fact the ground is to be built up by the addition of 225mm of make-up comprising about 150mm of recycled Type 1, screed of 50mm and concrete slabs of 25mm. In other areas where there is no paving the ground will be built up with about 200mm of topsoil.



Drawing 3



1:750@A4



Figure 1: Location of archaeological excavation area (shown in purple)

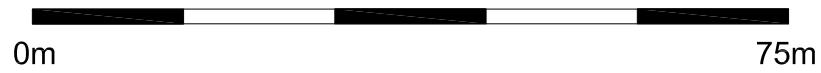
0m

75m



1:750@A4

Figure 2: Location of archaeological excavation area with proposed development overlain



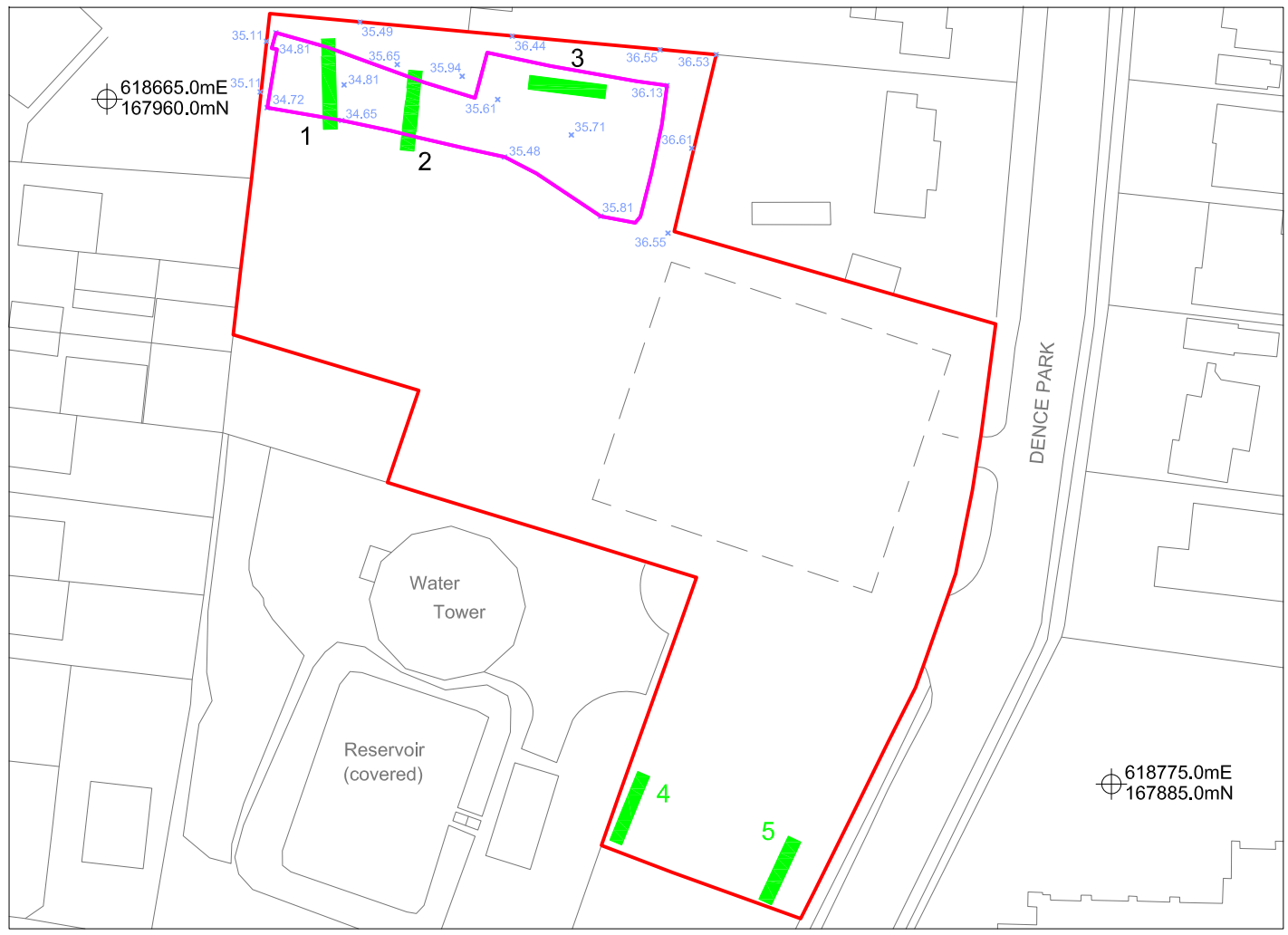


Figure 3: Location of archaeological excavation area with location of evaluation trenches and levels - (shown in blue)

1:750@A4

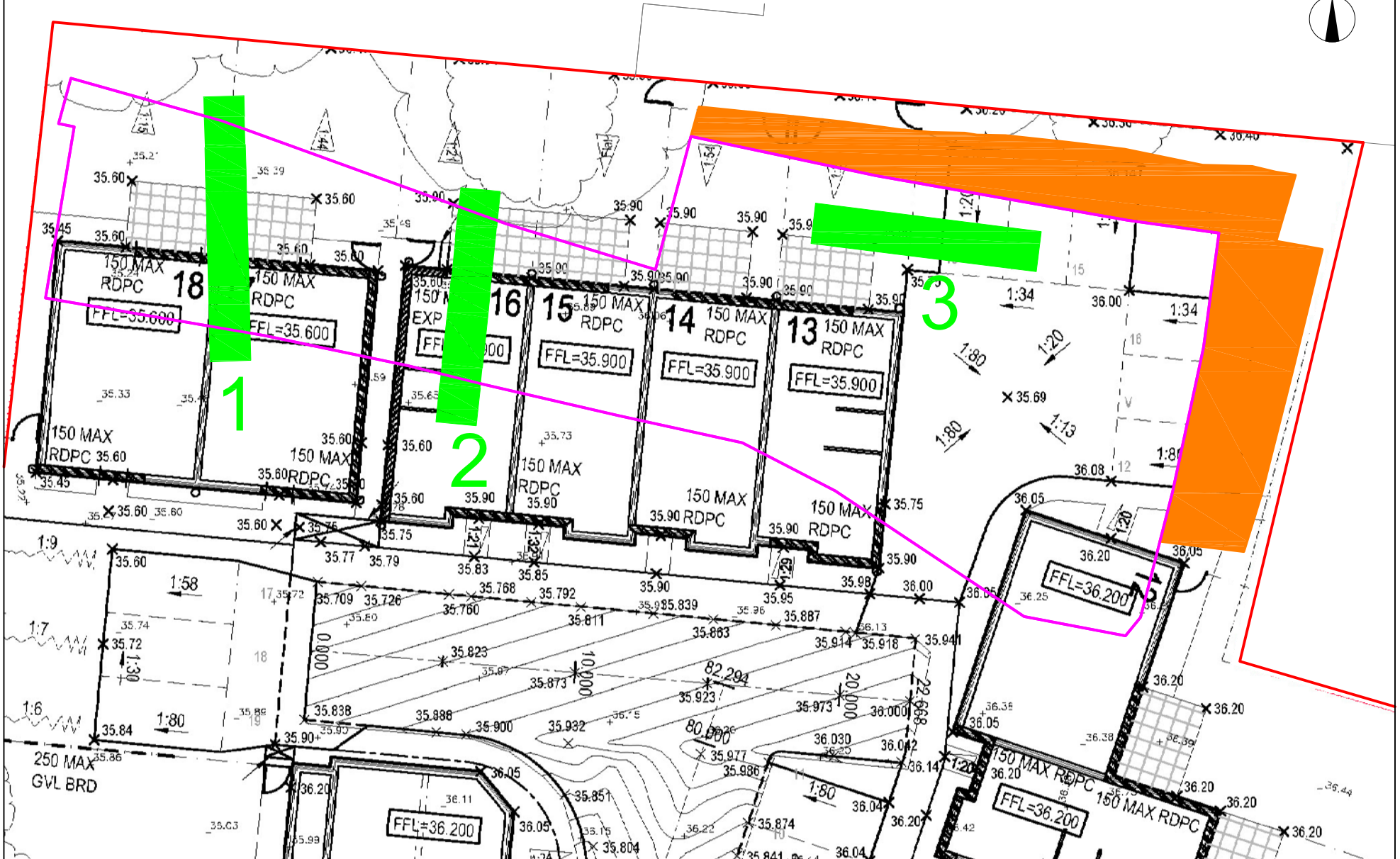


Figure 4: Location of archaeological excavation area with additional area of excavation (shown in orange) with proposed development overlain

1:200@A4

0m

20m



618685.0mE
167975.0mN



0m

1:200@A4

20m

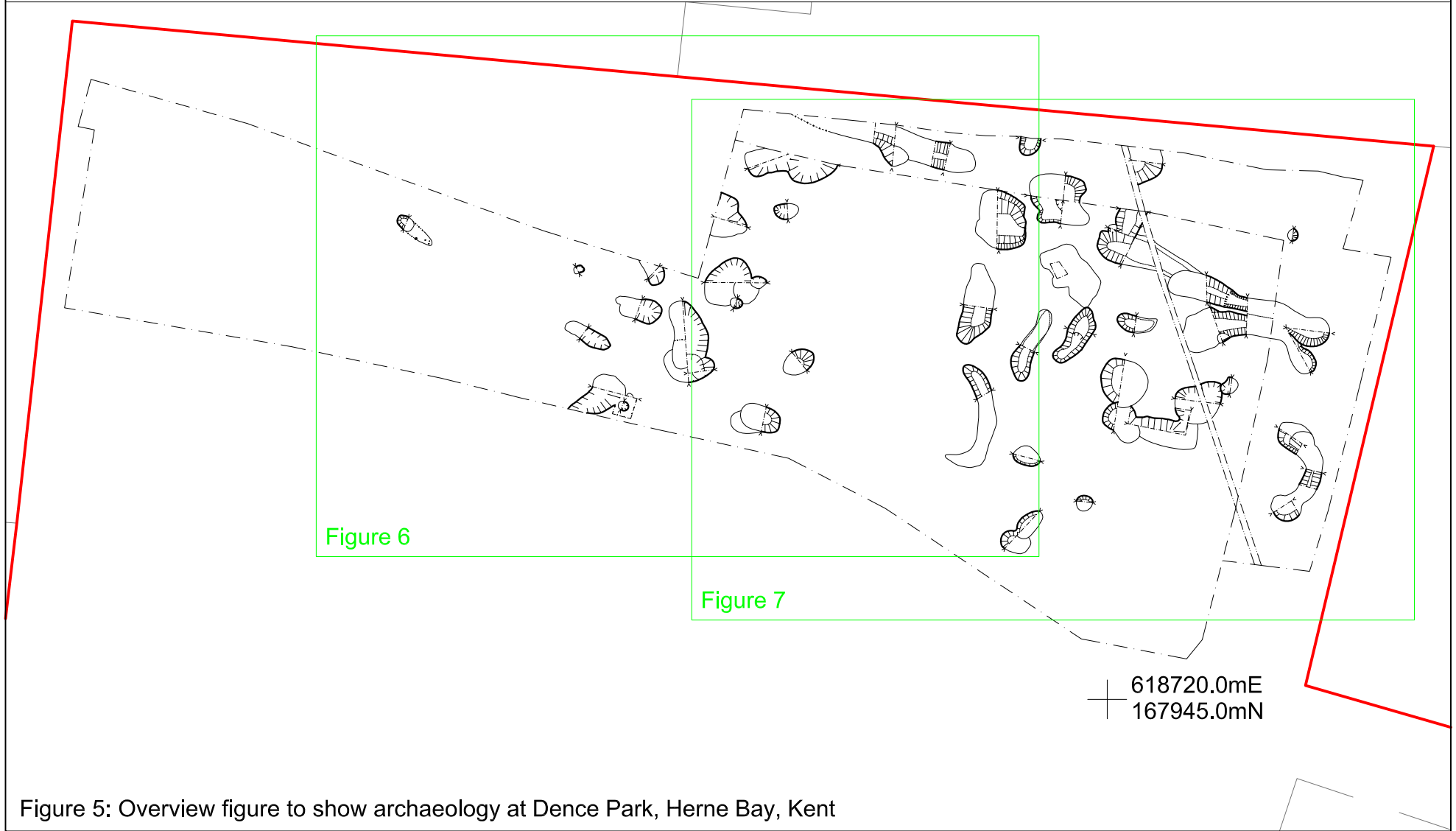
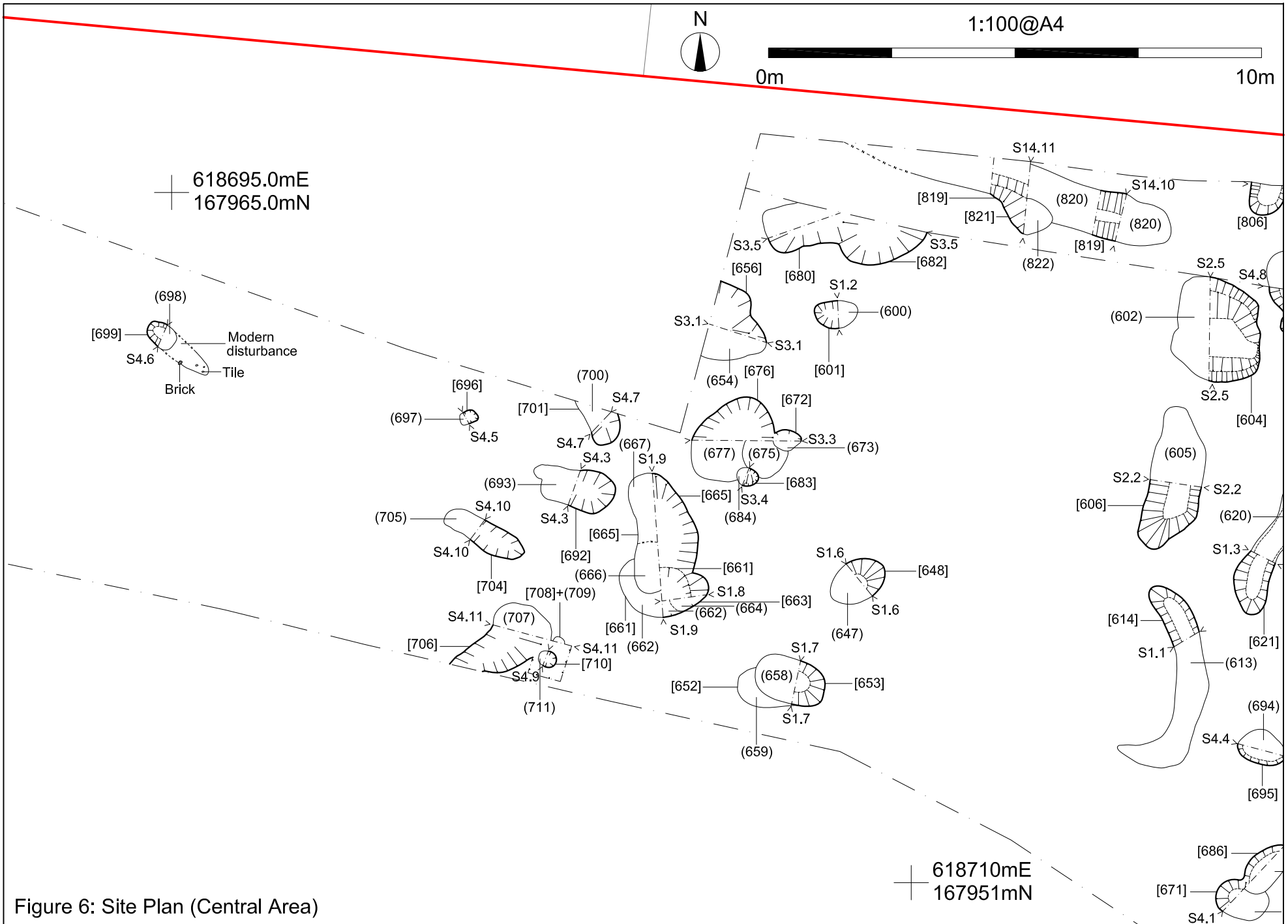


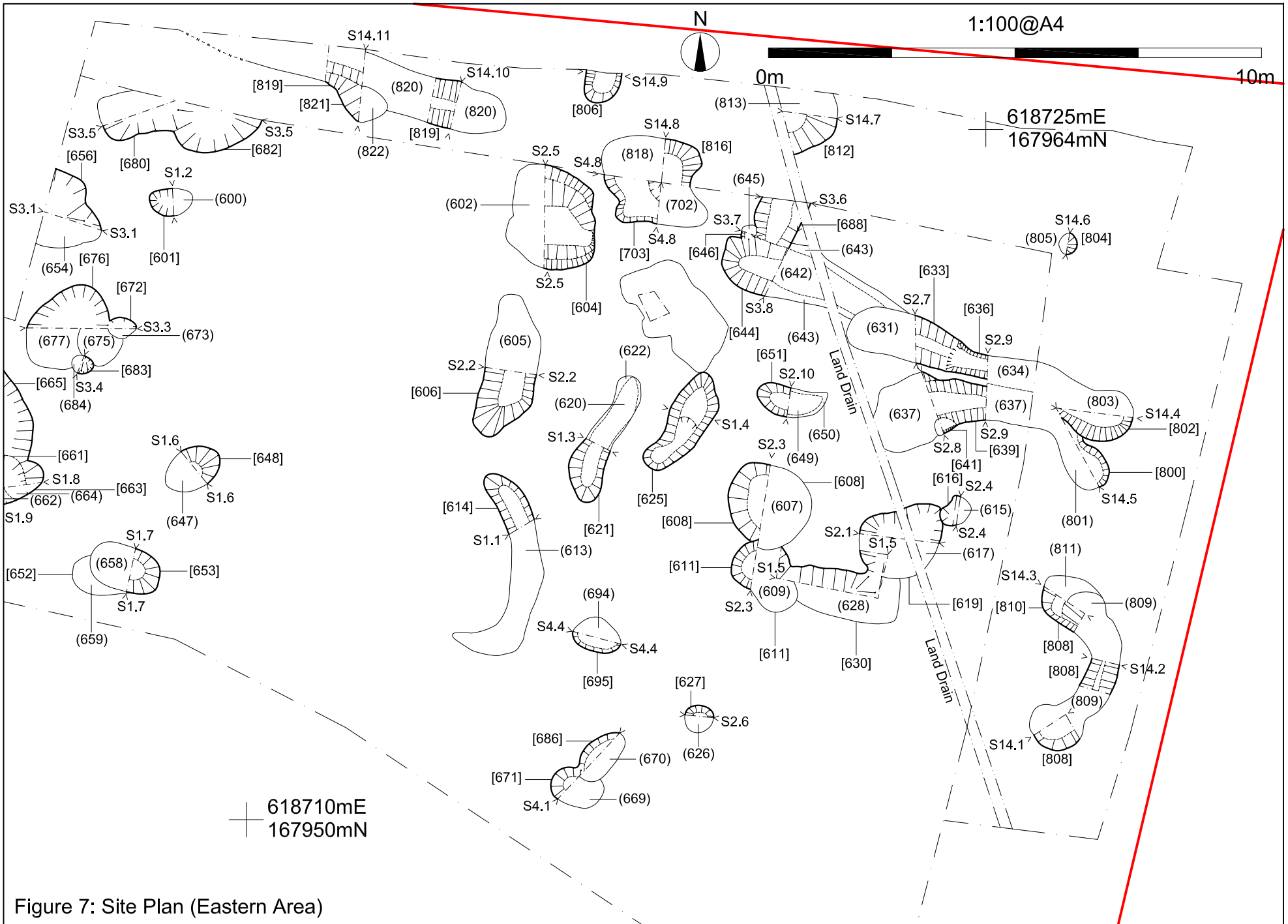
Figure 6

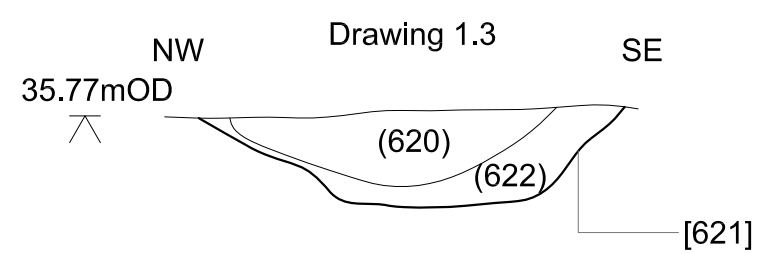
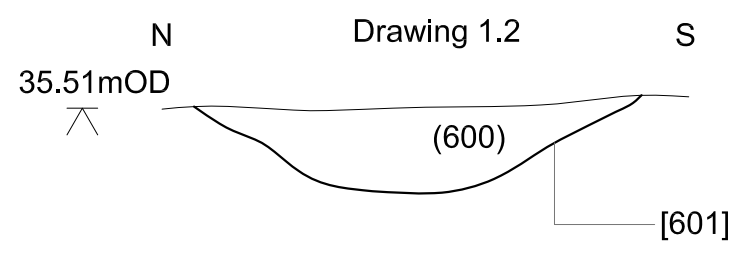
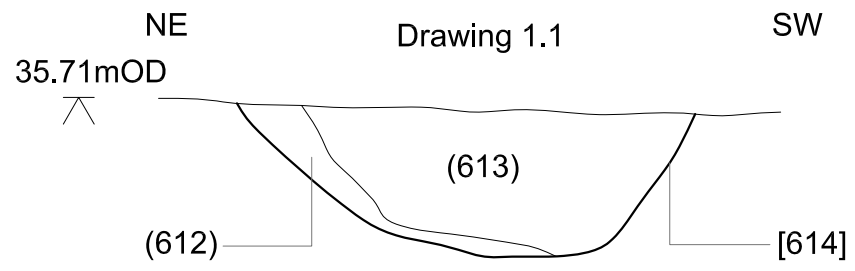
Figure 7

618720.0mE
167945.0mN

Figure 5: Overview figure to show archaeology at Dence Park, Herne Bay, Kent



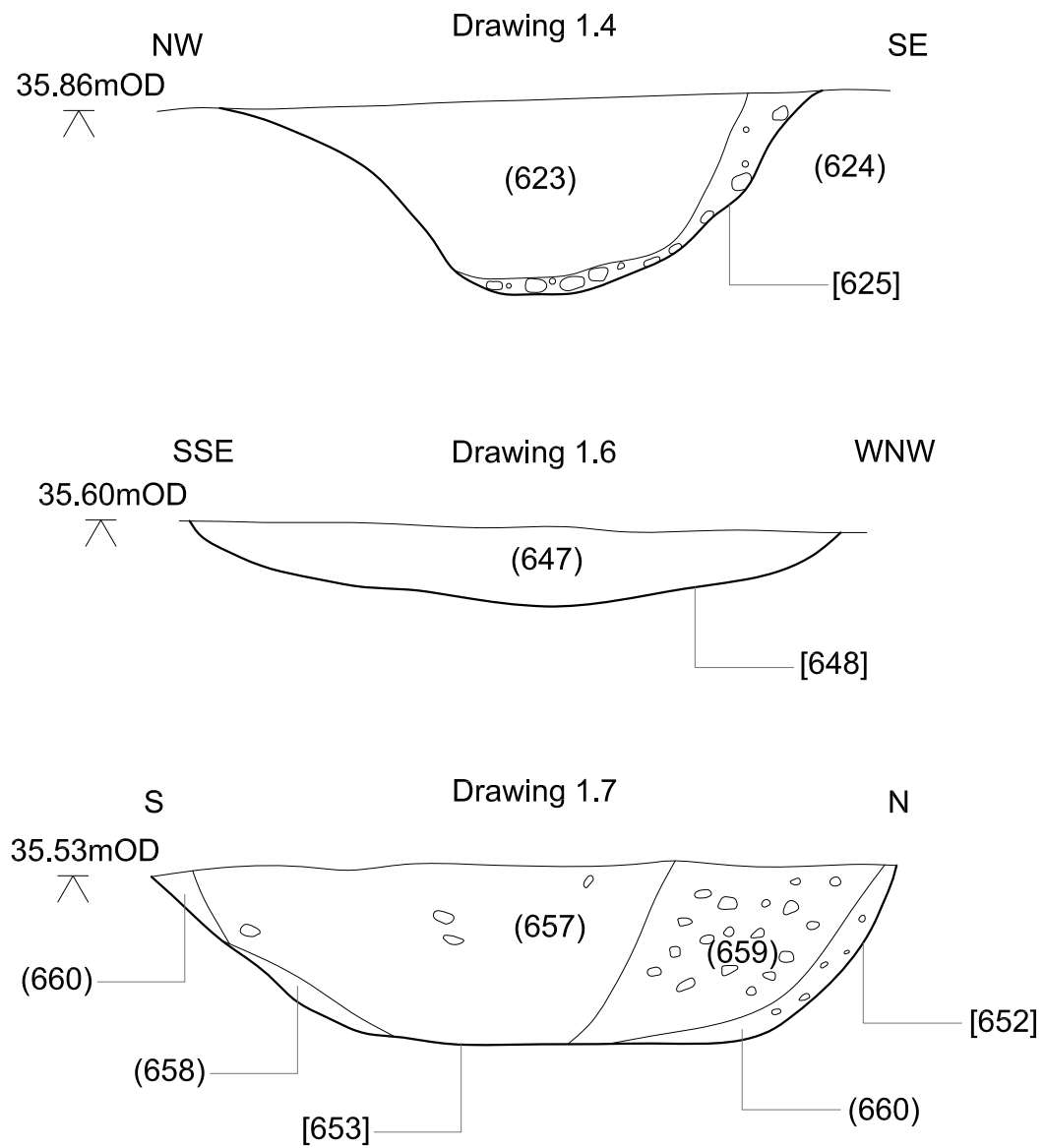




1:10@A4



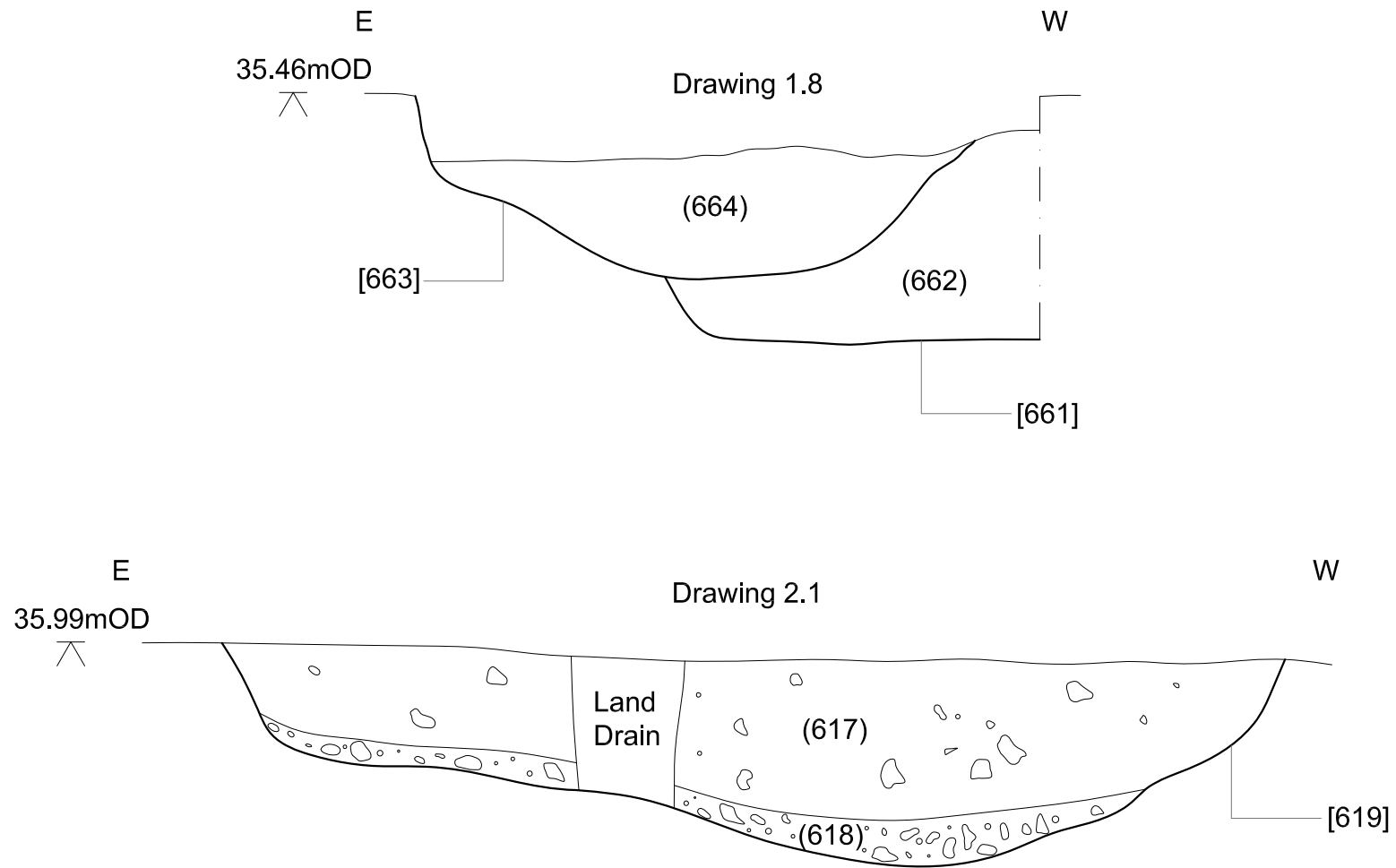
Figure 8: Sections



1:10@A4



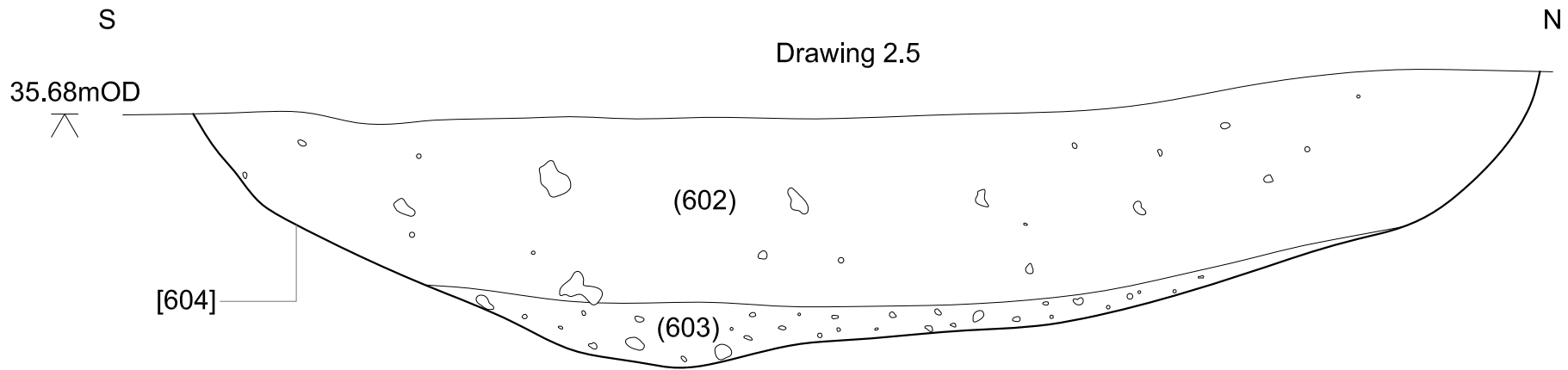
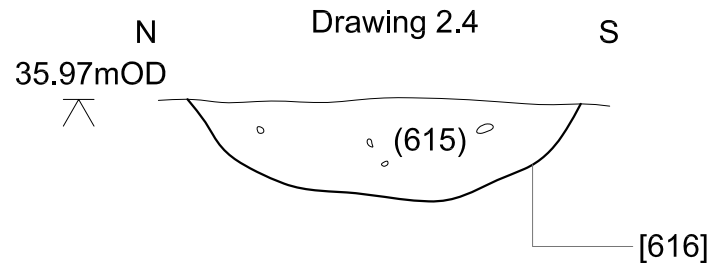
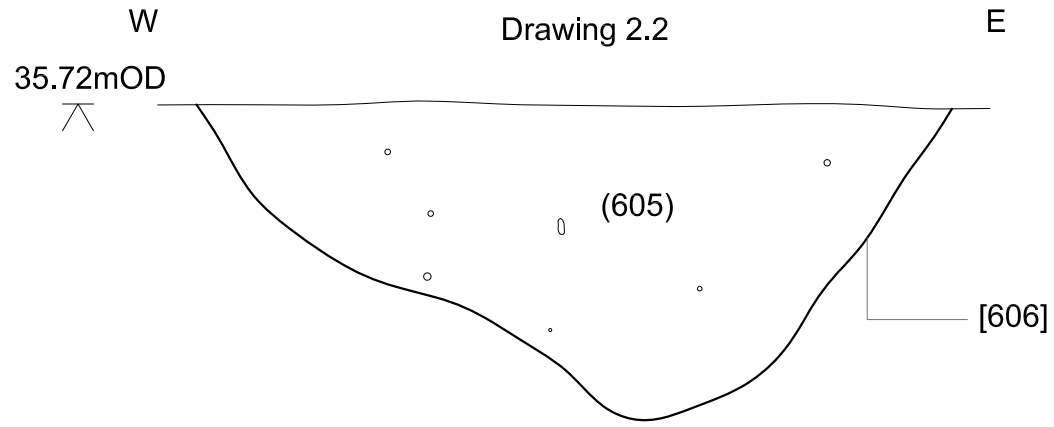
Figure 9: Sections



1:10@A4



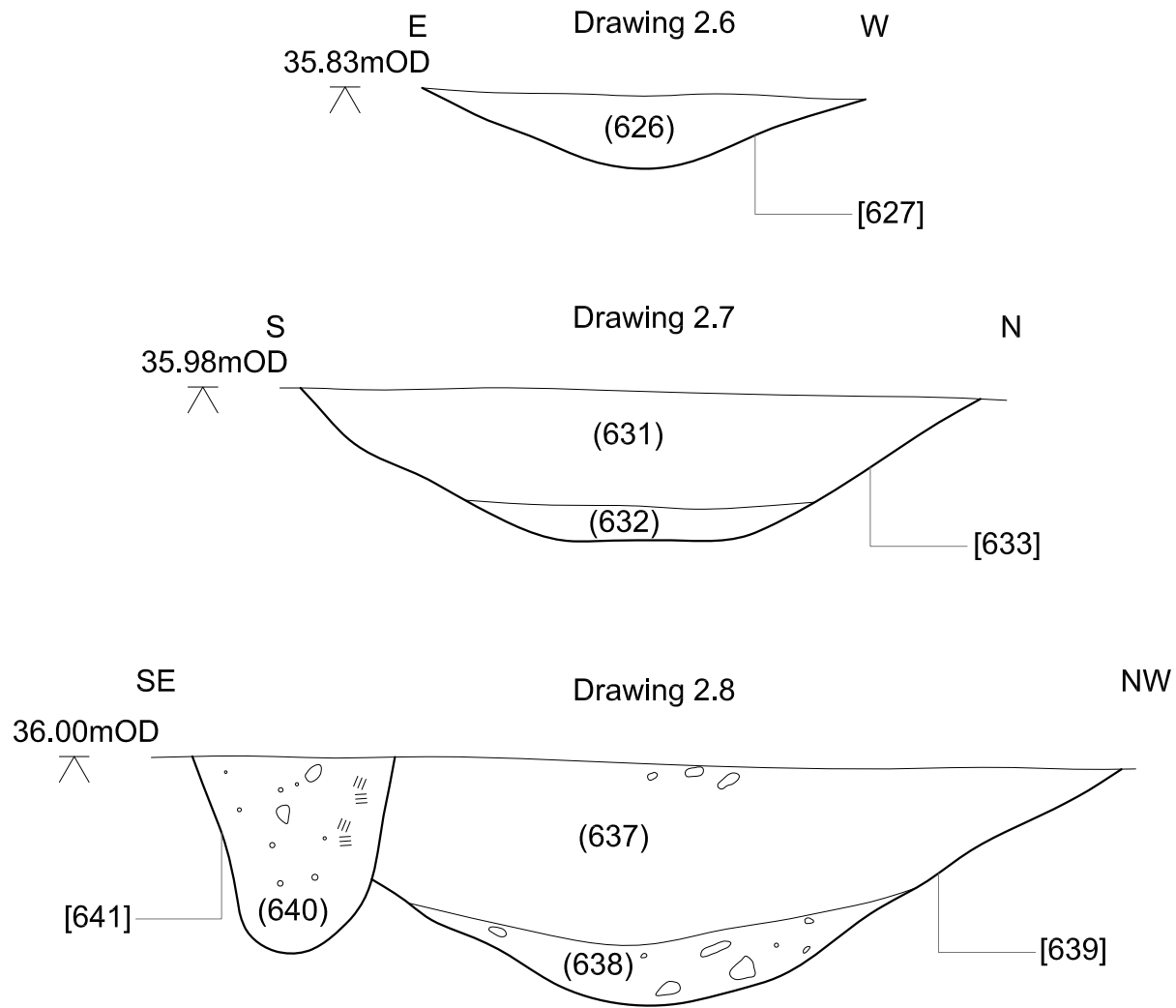
Figure 10: Sections



1:10@A4



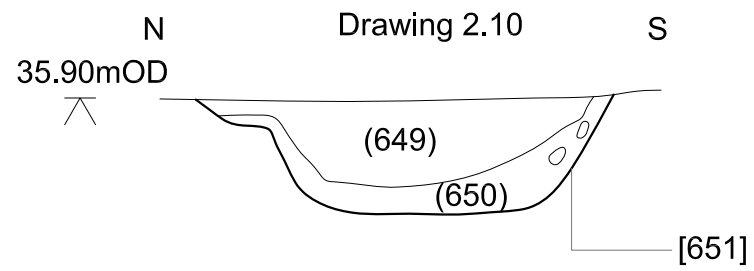
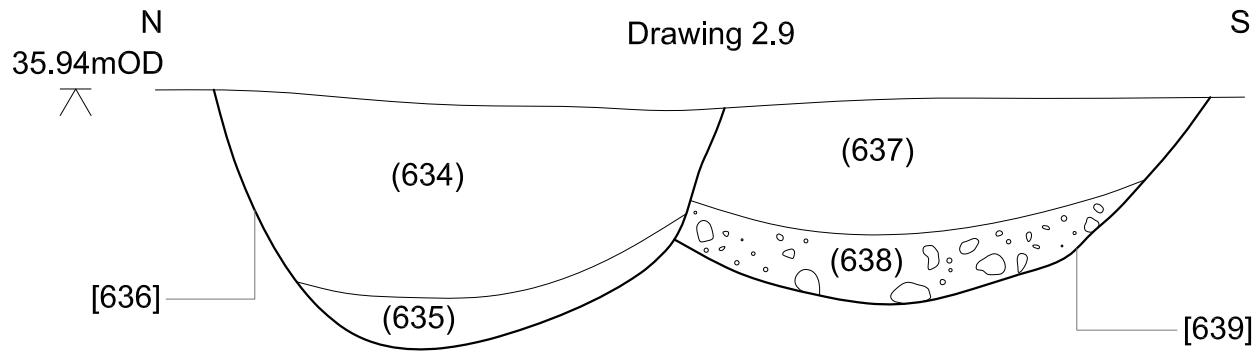
Figure 11: Sections



1:10@A4



Figure 12: Sections

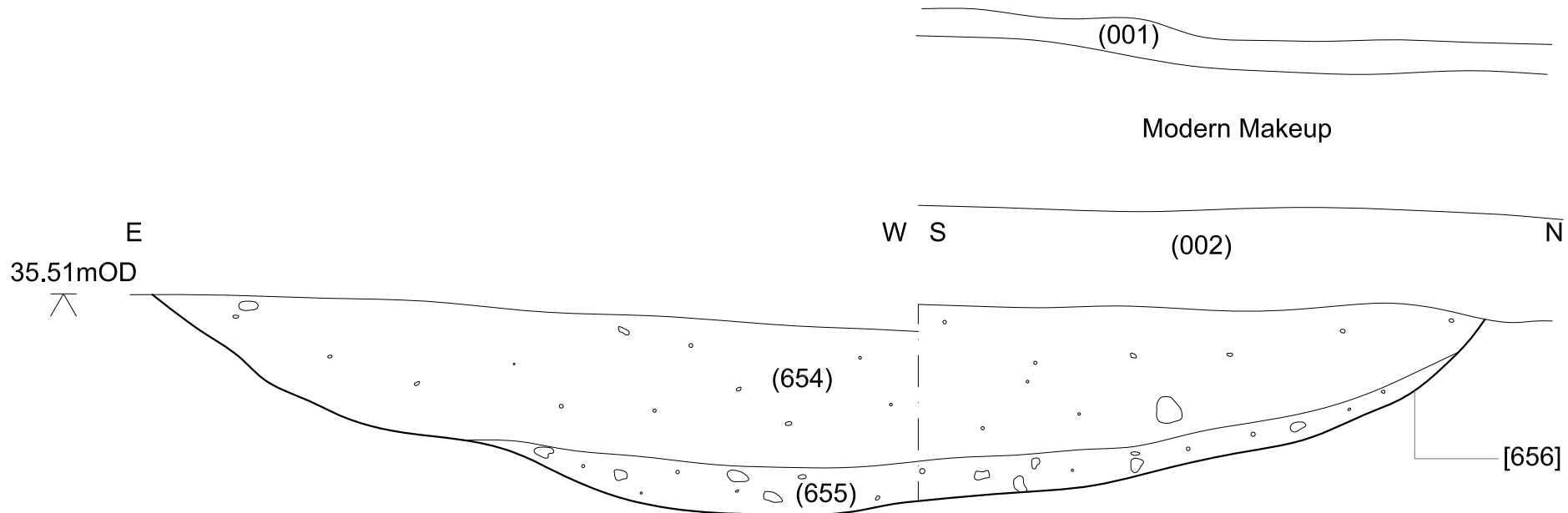


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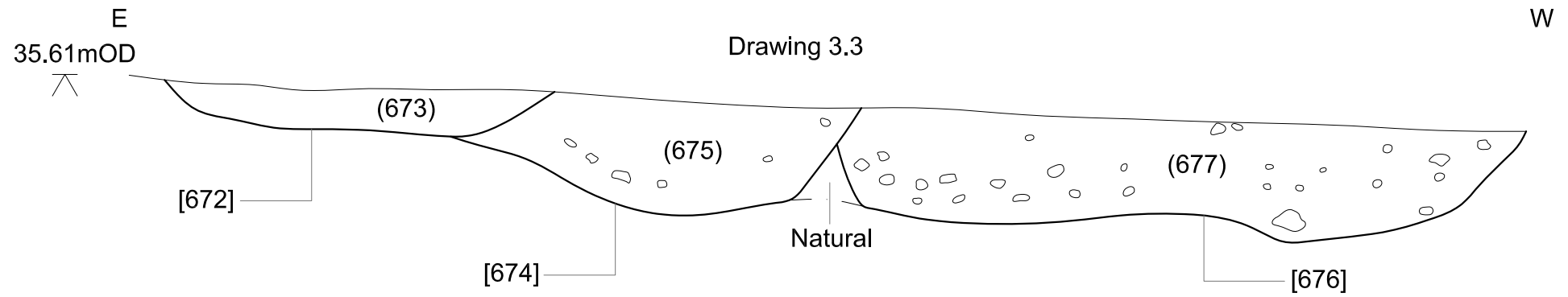


Figure 13: Sections

Drawing 3.1



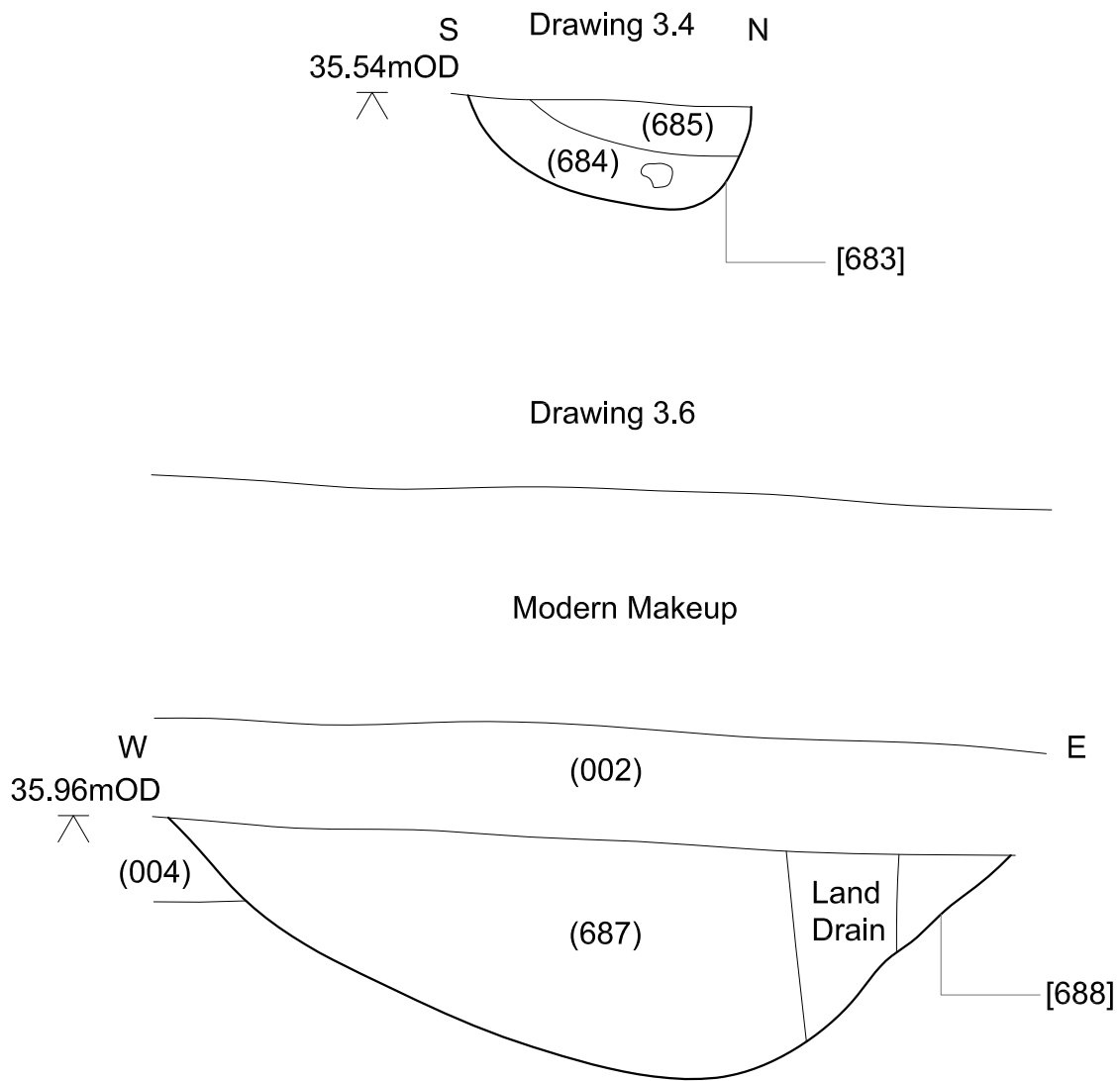
Drawing 3.3



1:10@A4



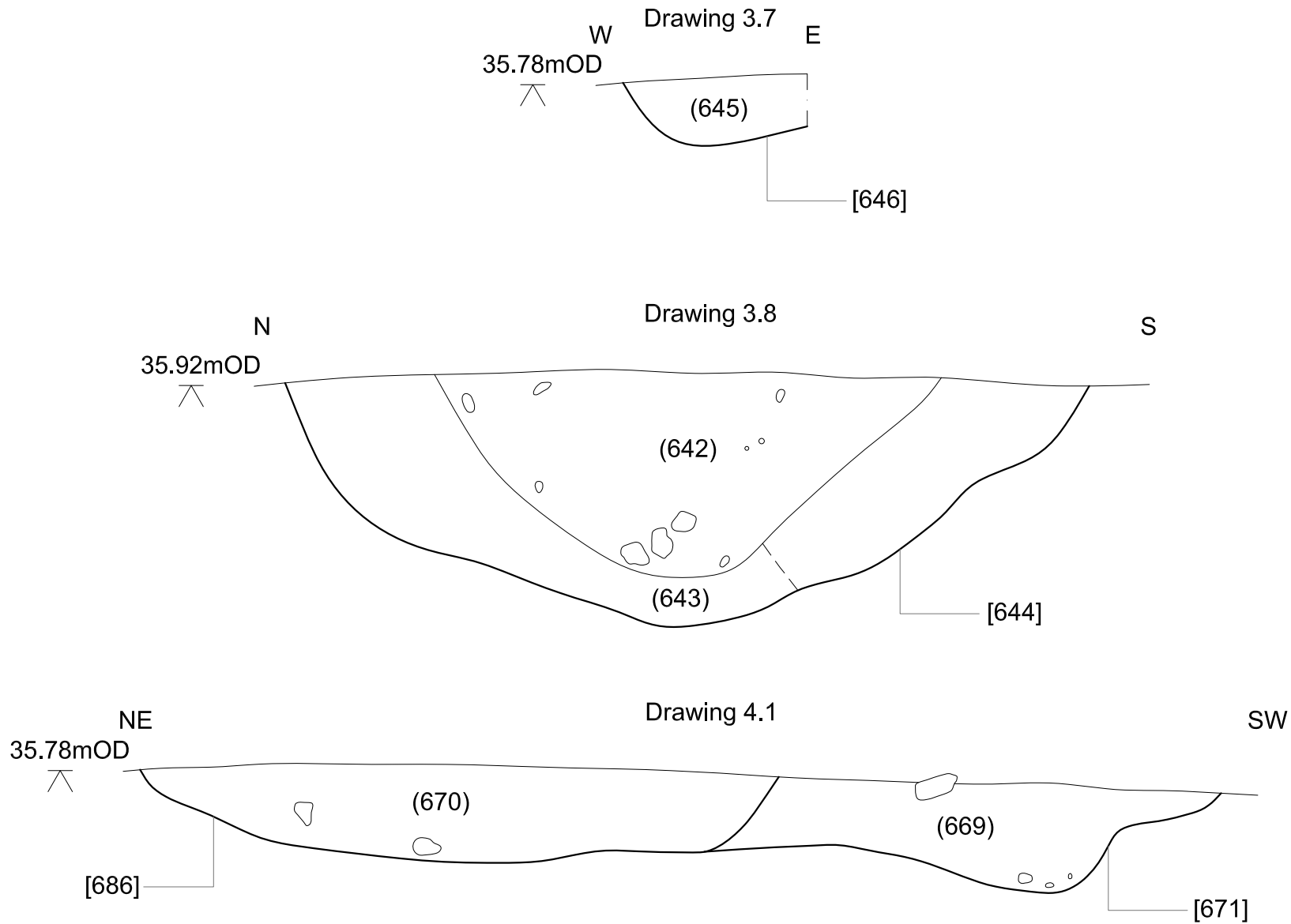
Figure 14: Sections



1:10@A4



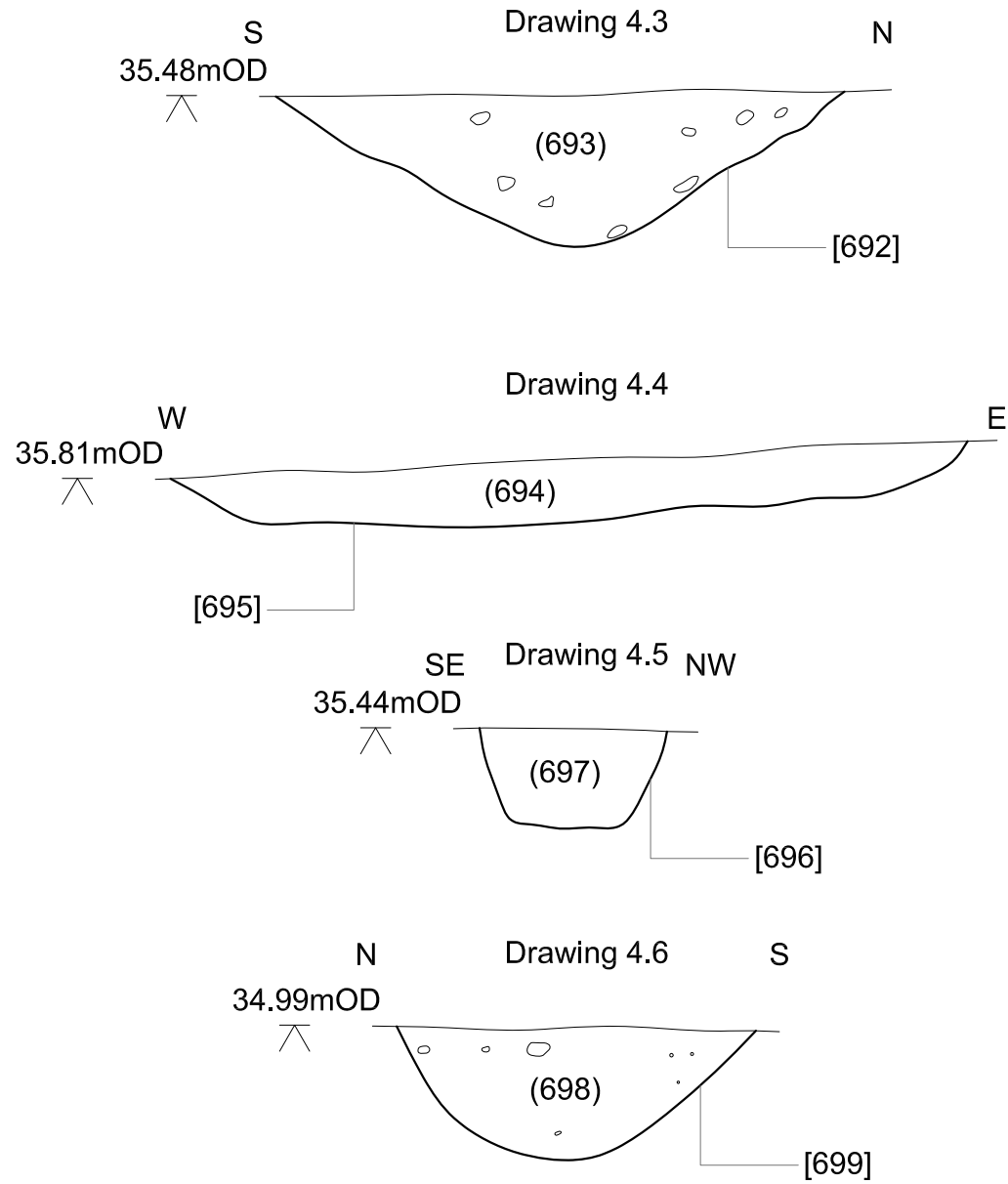
Figure 15: Sections



1:10@A4



Figure 16: Sections



1:10@A4



Figure 17: Sections

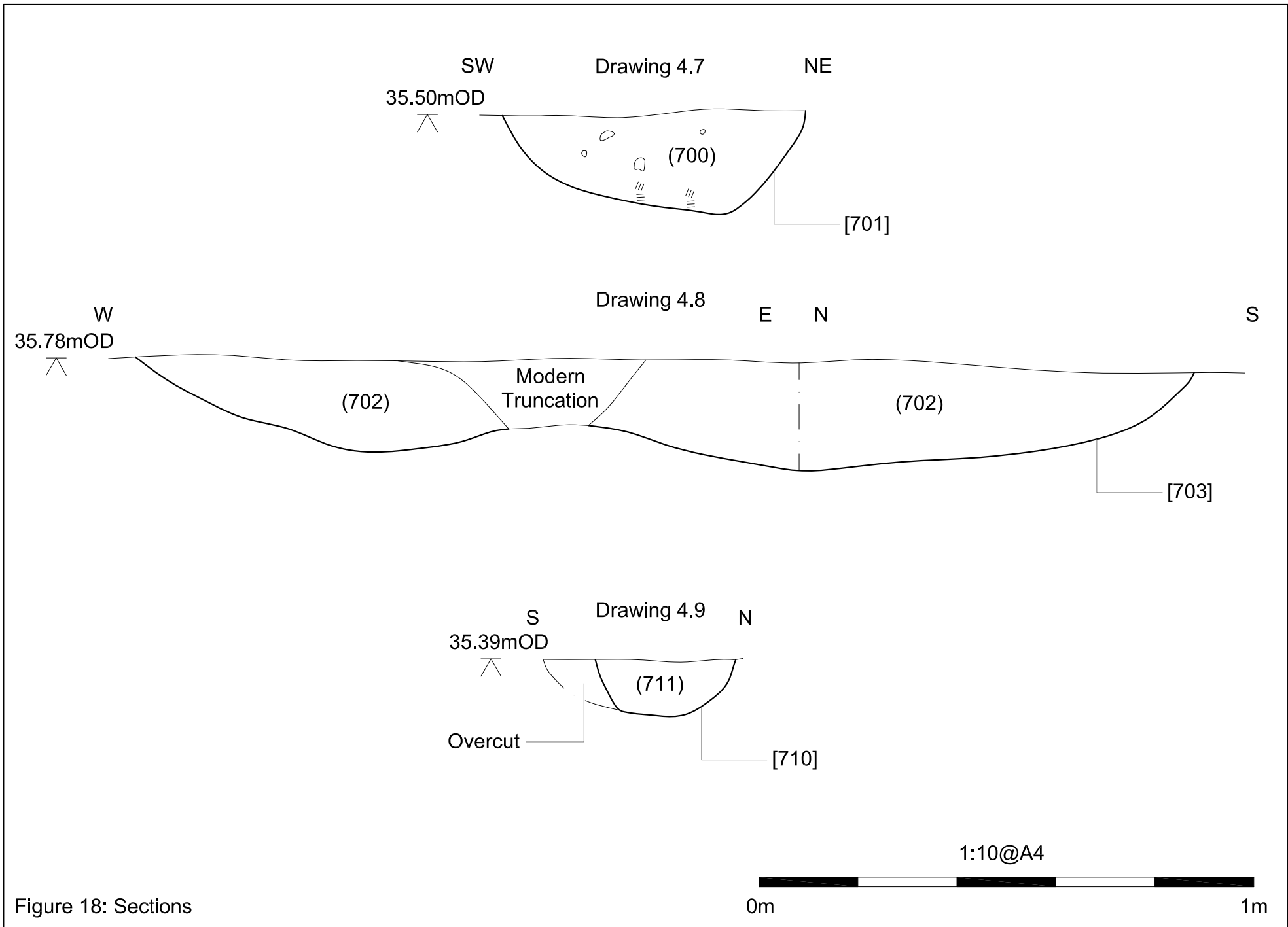
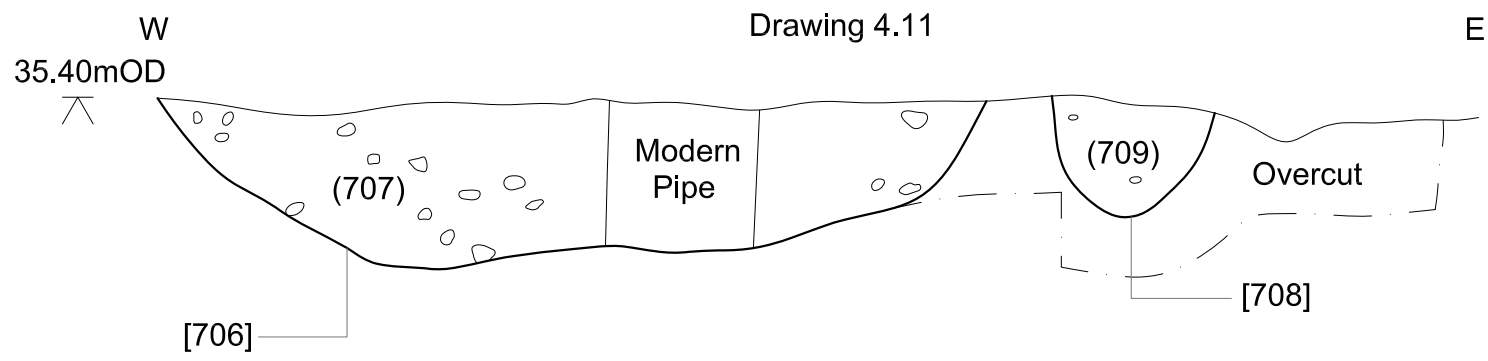
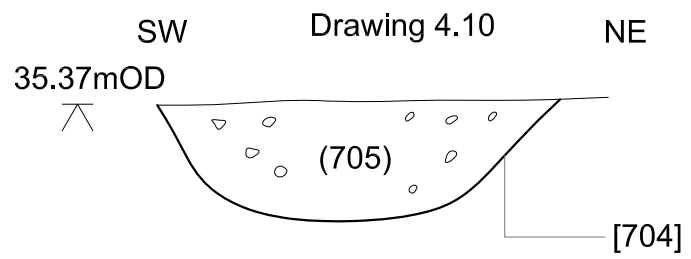


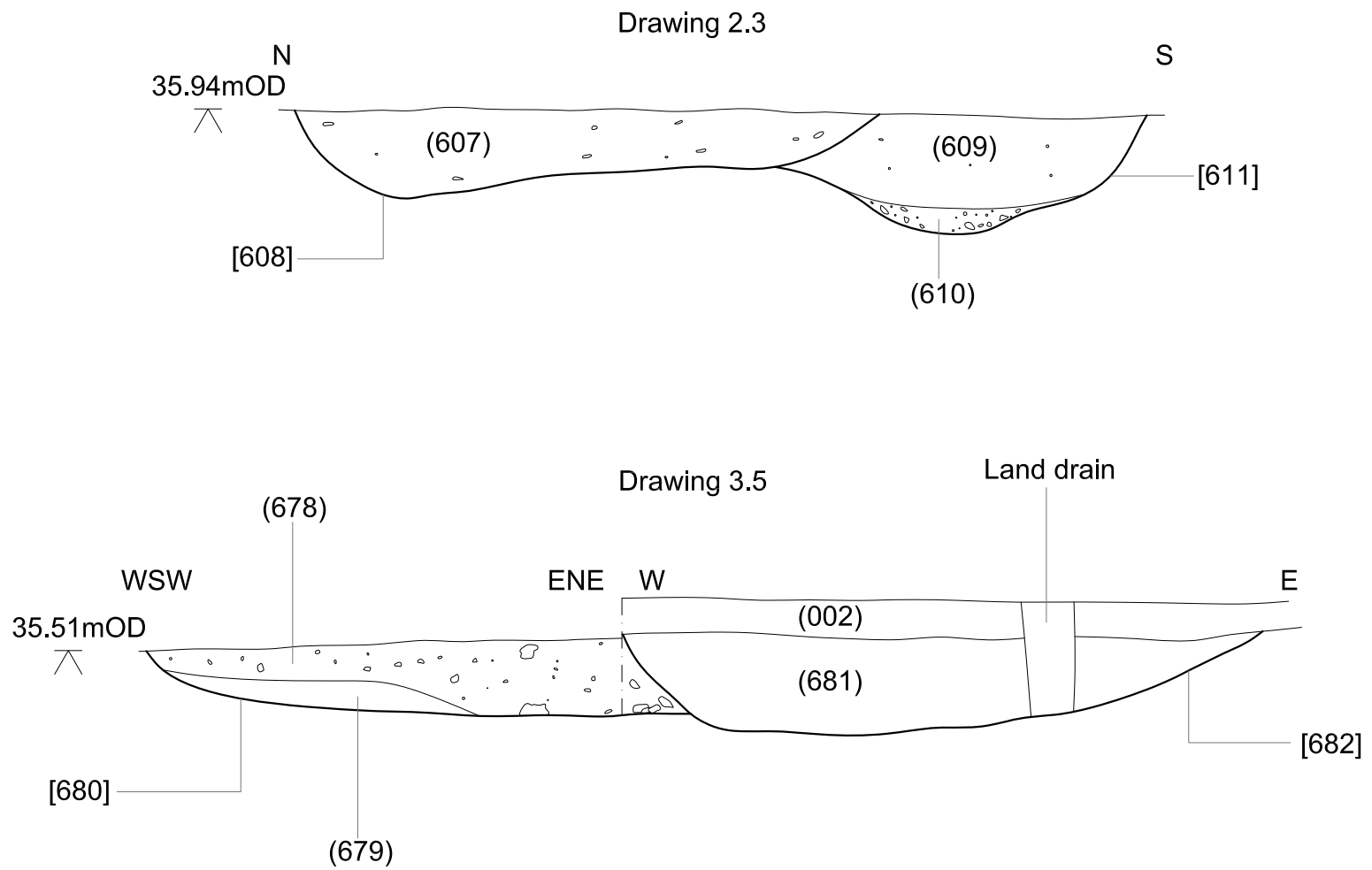
Figure 18: Sections



1:10@A4



Figure 19: Sections



1:20@A4



Figure 20: Sections

