

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Proposed Sustainable Urban Extension

HILLBOROUGH, HERNE BAY, KENT

NGR: 620215 167564

Report for
Kitewood Estates



SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed development at Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent.

The site is located within an area of high archaeological potential associated with the prehistoric periods, in particular potential Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements with strong domestic, industrial economic, political and religious functions. This evidence is reviewed and it is recommended in this case that further archaeological assessment will be required and that an archaeological field evaluation comprising trial trenching should be carried out. This will provide an additional assessment of the nature, depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents of the site and used to inform further mitigation as necessary.

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of Development at Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent

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1 Introduction and Project Background

1.1 Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) have been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed urban extension at Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent. The development proposals for the site are laid out in a development framework document produced by Barton Wilmore (March 2009) and involve;

- 80,00sqm of employment floor space
- 1000 – 1200 residential units
- 10ha of open space
- New railway station and car park
- New 2 form entry primary school
- Community building
- Retail units (including surgery, dentist, restaurant, public house, place of worship)

1.2 At the time of the preparation of this report no formal planning application had been submitted. In fact, Canterbury City Council 'is presently in the process of preparing its Local Development Framework including its Core Strategy' (2009:4). This document will therefore provide support to the existing Development Framework Document, serving to inform of archaeological matters associated with any future development proposals.

1.3 This document has been prepared in accordance with generic recommendations and guidelines set out by both Canterbury City Council(CCC) and Kent County Council(KCC). The report was commissioned by Kitewood Estates Ltd. to make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The results obtained through desk-based research will therefore seek to provide a contextual archaeological record in order to assist the developer and the local planning authority in formulating a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of any archaeological remains present.

2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1 Site location

2.1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TR 620215 167564 and is situated north of the Thanet Way approximately 1.5km east of Herne Bay (see **Fig. 1**).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The sites measures 77 hectares in extent, relatively flat, with a slight decline to the east, at a height of approximately 35-37m A.O.D, (Above Ordnance Datum) and is divided by angular hedgerows and drainage ditches. The site was previously used for arable farming.

2.3 Geology

2.3.1 The geology of the site and its surrounds consists of Tertiary London Clay overlain by Pleistocene gravels, which are in turn overlain by Brickearth. The Brickearth also frequently contains gravel spreads (Holmes 1981, 49, 72 and 73) and is therefore probably also Pleistocene in origin for the most part.

2.3.2 Both the London Clay and Brickearth in the Hillborough area were exposed at various depths during the cutting of the nearby railway cutting during the nineteenth century. The deposits are described in the following terms:

'The railway west of Herne Bay Station cuts through Brickearth into the London Clay, which is further seen in the cuttings south of Beltinge and Hillborough ... Ocherous mottled and blue-grey clay and clayey sand mark the London Clay base along the hillside from Hillborough to near Highstead' (Holmes 1981, 49).

2.3.3 Holmes (1981, 69-70), quoting Smith (1918, 112) suggests that the gravel 'may have originally formed part of a vast sheet spread over watershed and valley alike', at a time when river development was 'relatively little advanced'. The gravels in the near vicinity of the site are described thus:

'The gravels, near Broomfield, Highstead and Beltinge, form an extensive tract largely overlain or overlapped by brickearth ... (ibid 72).

2.3.4 It has also been observed that 'eastward, the gravel wedged out between the clay and the overlying brickearth' and that 'pebbly gravel was discernible in the railway cutting near May-street, towards Hillborough [about 1.9km north-east of the present site]' (Dowker 1864, 339). The gravels in the area reflect the surface topology in their gentle eastward inclination from 36m OD down to 30m OD (Holmes 1981, 72).

3 Aims and Objectives

Overall Objectives

3.1.1 The overall objectives of the archaeological desk based assessment is to identify and assess the archaeological potential of the site by collating and analysing known information along with recording archaeological remains and historic landscape features in the field. Importance is to

be placed on producing an account of the historic development of the site and in assessing the archaeological impact of future development.

- 3.1.2 The desk-based assessment itself will comprise a collection and analysis of known historical and archaeological information regarding the site and its environs.
- 3.1.3 The comprehensive site walkover has the objective of mapping, photographing and describing visible archaeological and heritage features encountered across the site as well as informing the assessment of past and possible future development impacts.
- 3.1.4 This information will be used to produce a gazetteer of archaeological and heritage features on site and to augment and inform the desk based study and later management decisions.
- 3.1.5 The project is then to assess the results of the desktop study and the site inspection to provide information on the nature of archaeology and heritage on site. This assessment would also aim to identify any buried archaeological potential.
- 3.1.6 The study will also provide an assessment of the likely impacts on heritage remains that would be caused by any future intensive development.

3.2 *Archaeological Standards and Guidance (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999)*

- 3.2.1 This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

'...a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (1999:2)

- 3.2.2 The purpose of the desk-based assessment is, therefore, an assessment that provides a contextual archaeological record, in order to determine:
 - the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
 - the formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised

- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological work within a programme of research.

IFA (1999:2)

4 Archaeological and Historical Legislation

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides archaeological and historical legislation associated with classification of site within the proposed development area. Particular attention is given to the Town & County Planning Act 1990 and Planning Policy Guidance 16, as well as Listed Buildings, Historic Parks & Gardens, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites, Historic Battlefields and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

4.2 Listed Building

4.2.1 The site contains no listed building designations. However, 18 Grade II Listed Buildings and 7 Locally Listed Buildings fall within the study area.

4.3 The Register of Parks & Garden

4.3.1 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area.

4.4 Conservation Areas

4.4.1 The site contains no Conservation Areas designations. However, the Broomfield Conservation Area is located within the southern extent of the proposed development area, the boundaries of which are shown on Figure 2.

4.5 World Heritage Sites

4.5.1 There are no World Heritage Sites within the study area.

4.6 Historic Battlefields

4.6.4 There are no Historic Battlefields within the study area.

4.7 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

4.7.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area.

4.8 Planning Policy Guideline 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)

4.8.1 In November 1990, the Department of the Environment published the Planning Policy and Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (Revised 2001) states:

'Positive planning and management can help to bring about sensible solutions to the treatment of sites with archaeological remains and reduce the areas of potential conflict between development and preservation. Both central government and English Heritage have important roles to play (see Annex 1). But the key to the future of the great majority of archaeological

sites and historic landscapes lies with local authorities, acting within the framework set by central government, in their various capacities as planning, education and recreational authorities, as well as with the owners of sites themselves. Appropriate planning policies in development plans and their implementation through development control will be especially important'

(2001:14)

'The needs of archaeology and development can be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, if developers discuss their preliminary plans for development with the planning authority at an early stage. Once detailed designs have been prepared and finance lined up, flexibility becomes much more difficult and expensive to achieve. In their own interests therefore, prospective developers should, in all cases, include as part of their research into the development potential of a site, which they undertake before making a planning application, an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains. The first step will be to contact the County Archaeological Officer or equivalent who holds the SMR, or English Heritage in London. The SMR provides information about the locations where archaeological remains are known or thought likely to exist. Where important remains are known to exist or where the indications are that the remains are likely to prove important, English Heritage are also ready to join in early discussions and provide expert advice.

(2001:19)

'These consultations will help to provide prospective developers with advance warning of the archaeological sensitivity of a site. As a result they may wish to commission their own archaeological assessment by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or consultant. This need not involve fieldwork. Assessment normally involves desk-based evaluation of existing information: it can make effective use of records of previous discoveries, including any historic maps held by the County archive and local museums and record offices, or of geophysical survey techniques'

(2001:20)

4.8..2 The Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist and decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for proposed development and associated planning applications.

5 Methodology

5.1 Sources

5.1.1 The following sources were consulted:

- Archaeological databases;
Although it is recognised that national databases are an appropriate resource for this particular type of assessment, the local Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at Kent County Council contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within

both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape. The search was carried out within a 1km radius of the proposed development site (20th April 2009). A full listing of the relevant SMR data is included in Appendix 1.

- Historical documents;

A historical document, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc .were not relevant to this specific study.

- Cartographic and pictorial documents;

A full map regression exercise has been incorporated within this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by the Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, Kent (28th April 2009). A full listing of cartographic and pictorial documents used in this study is provided in Section 8.

- Aerial photographs;

Assessment of the collection of aerial photographs held by Heritage & Conservation, Kent County Council was made and compared to the cropmarks plotted during the National Mapping Programme of the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments. A full listing of aerial photographs used for this study is provided in Section 9.

- Geotechnical information;

To date, no geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

- Secondary and statutory resources;

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies, dissertations and research frameworks are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment.

6 Archaeological and Historical Development of Hillborough

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area of the town, placing it within its local and regional context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Timescales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed in the adjacent table (as listed by Kent County Council) and locations of monuments and spot finds are presented in Figure 2.

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	c. 4.300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
	Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 42
	Romano-British	c. AD 43 – c. AD 409
	Anglo-Saxon	AD 410 – AD 1065
	Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1539
	Post-medieval	AD 1540 – AD 1900
	Modern	AD 1901 – present day

6.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Periods

6.2.1 The gravels lying between the Brickearth and the London Clay on the Levels north of the Blean are thought to be the source of 'a series of palaeoliths' (Bowes 1928, 517), several of which have been found in the locality of the present site. Bowes is of the opinion that a heavily rolled implement of the so-called 'Chellian' type (also known as 'Abbevillian') was incorporated in the main gravel from an older land surface, and that two other implements relate to later stages and deposits. Holmes (1981, 87) expresses a similar view:

'Human artefacts found in the brickearth or closely associated with it are numerous and come from localities on the Whitstable-Herne Bay-Reculver coast, where a good many have been washed out of brickearth on to the beach, and from inland places such as Hoath and Sturry. They are mainly of the later Palaeolithic types but some are Mesolithic and Neolithic. Probably the earliest are Acheulian implements from Hoath, which seemingly long predated actual deposition of the brickearth series; some other Acheulian types, including very 'advanced' ones, are derived from the brickearth or associated gravels in the Reculver area [the present site lies in the Reculver Parish, some 1.75km west of Reculver itself]. The latter also may date from an earlier period than the deposits themselves ...'

6.2.2 Although many of the typological assumptions relating to flint implements made in the above are now open to question (see, for example, Coulson 1986; White 1998, 15-4), it is certainly

true that the Brickearth incorporates earlier materials.

- 6.2.3 Important in respect of the above, is the stratigraphic position of the Mesolithic flintwork from the Hillborough Caravan site (NGR TR 2064 6800), south of Reculver Road and some 40m south of the present site (see below). The flintwork, in the form of 1083 pieces of struck flint and 3654g of otherwise unmodified burnt flint fragments, has been provisionally dated to the Early to Middle Mesolithic (c. 9000 BC to c. 6800 BC) and represents rare evidence for intensive Mesolithic occupation on the site. The flintwork is described as occurring immediately beneath topsoil within a 'mixed grey and orange brown humic clay-silt' (Bishop undated 2) and to immediately overlay London Clay.
- 6.2.4 The relationship of humic clay occurring immediately over London Clay suggests that the Brickearth, which is generally ubiquitous in the area, had been completely removed by erosion on the caravan site. A plausible inference would therefore be that the Brickearth was in part a Holocene deposit, which formed over discontinuously gravel-covered London Clay as a result of forest clearance and subsequent agricultural activity. Bishop's view that the humic clay-silt 'may have represented part of a 'relict' soil horizon, which may have been formed by the early post-glacial', (*ibid*) is consistent with this interpretation.
- 6.2.5 It is anomalous, however, that there is no Brickearth present on the Hillborough Caravan site, given that Brickearth forms an extensive spread in and around the immediate area (see Part 3i above) and is present in the very near vicinity of the site to depths of more than one metre, for example, on a recently evaluated site to the north (Allen 2005). Why it should not be present on the Hillborough Caravan site poses an interesting question, which hinges on whether the 'relict soil' immediately overlies *in situ* London Clay or whether it overlies colluvially re-deposited London Clay (the latter being a Brickearth-type Head deposit in this context).
- 6.2.6 It cannot be assumed that the exposure of a naturally deposited Brickearth on the site precludes the presence of archaeological remains of Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date lying beneath that deposit. Indeed, Upper Palaeolithic material has previously been exposed beneath colluvial Brickearth on Cheeseman's Farm, Thanet, on the eastern side of the Wantsum Channel (Allen and Green 2003).

6.3 Later Prehistory

- 6.3.1 The cutting of an eight kilometre-long swathe of land along the western margin of the Wantsum Channel in advance of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline (Parfitt and Hutcheson 1995; Parfitt 1996, 16-18) provided an opportunity to examine the later prehistoric archaeology of the eastern part of the Bogshole Levels, on which the present site is situated.

Significant archaeological remains in the vicinity of the present site were discovered during this process, along with other sites investigated prior to other developments. The position and a brief description of each are provided below, although a more detailed description is provided of the large, multi-phase Highstead A site, which lies some two kilometres east of the present site, because the excavation results of this very important site are not yet in the public domain.

6.3.2 A synthetic analysis of the evidence from the sites described below would be too complex to be reproduced here but, taken as a whole, the evidence suggests that settlement activity was small-scale during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age and increased considerably in the Mid-Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, during which time some settlements, seemingly larger than mere farmsteads, were established. Settlement appears to have been particularly concentrated during this period in the eastern part of the Levels, in the near vicinity of the present evaluation

6.3.4 The number of settlements on the Levels, in general, appears to have decreased during the Mid Iron Age, perhaps being replaced by fewer but larger examples, but the numbers appear to have increased considerably during the Late Iron Age, with re-occupation of previously used sites being the norm rather than the exception. However, only a small number of settlements appear to have survived into the third century AD, occasionally into the mid fourth century, with most seemingly having been abandoned some 50 years or so after the Claudian invasion of AD 43.

6.3.5 *Eddington (NGR TR 1725 6665)*

6.3.5.1 Here, on a very extensive site, of which three large areas were excavated, two Late Neolithic polished axe heads, one unfinished and probably imported, formed part of a small assemblage of flintwork recovered from a group of badly preserved features. The site lies some two kilometres south-west of the present site. The archaeological features exposed at Eddington included two linear and six curvilinear gullies (all only partly exposed), providing rare evidence for Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity on the Bogshole Levels. If projected, two of the curvilinear gullies described rough circles, both of approximately 30m diameter and probably representing the remains of round barrows slighted by erosion and plough damage.

6.3.5.2 Some 800m to the south-west, a group of amorphous and often indistinct features with similar fills were tentatively identified as of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date but contained no datable materials. These features lay 70m east of another ring ditch, probably the remains of another barrow, the ditch of which contained Late Bronze Age pottery. The absence of cultural materials in any quantity (apart from the flintwork) within these remains suggests that activity during these periods was small-scale and possibly not related to settlement. Indeed,

the presence of at least three circular structures and, in a severely truncated pit, the highly prestigious polished axe head, thought to have been used for ceremonial rather than practical purposes (Shand 2002, 19), suggests a ritual, probably sepulchral, function for this extensive group of structures. If so, their very poor state of preservation, which is typical of archaeological remains in London Clay, may suggest why so few other prehistoric earthworks have been discovered in the London Clay-dominated terrain of the Thames Basin and its margins (Oswald, Dyer and Barber 2001, 84-85).

6.3.5.3 Occupation of the site, this time on a large scale and clearly associated with intensive settlement activity, appears to have resumed in the Late Bronze Age, as attested to by the presence of a large oval enclosure ditch measuring at least 220m north-south by 100m east-west, with an entrance to the north. It is stated that, within the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age enclosure 'a number of smaller, roughly circular causewayed ditches were discovered, together with a series of related post-holes and pits which may indicate the position of a rectangular structure' (Shand 2002, 19). However, these features are not shown on plan, unless those marked 'Neolithic/Bronze Age enclosures (Shand 2002, 20) are the ones referred to.

6.3.5.4 A conical ceramic loom weight of Late Bronze Age type was recovered from one of the enclosure ditches, as were copper alloy slag fragments, indicating that industrial and domestic activity took place on the site.

6.3.6 *The Texas Superstore Site (NGR TR 1721 6718)*

6.3.6.1 The above-described remains were almost certainly related to a probable ditched enclosure, parts of which were exposed on the site of the Texas superstore, immediately to the west, and which may have formed part of the same large oval enclosure. The enclosure ditch on the Texas superstore site produced much pottery dated to c. 800 BC – c. 600 BC, as did many adjacent pits, one of which also produced large amounts of burnt daub (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 24 and 1992, 40-41). Subsequent investigation of the Texas superstore site proved it to be multi-phase, with evidence being present for occupation/settlement activity during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, the Mid to Late Iron Age and the Roman period up to the third century AD (Macpherson-Grant 1992, 40-41).

6.3.6.2 The remains on the Texas superstore site in turn lay just to the east of a set of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age remains exposed on the site of Herne Bay High School (see below), and just to the north of a large number of Early-Mid Iron Age remains exposed immediately south of the Old Thanet Way, on land adjacent to Underdown Lane (see below).

6.3.7 *Highstead A (NGR TR 2140 6680)*

6.3.7.1 Excavations at Highstead, an upland area on the eastern margin of the coastal levels and overlooking the Wantsum Channel to the east, revealed large-scale prehistoric settlement, along with residual Mesolithic lithics (Macpherson-Grant, forthcoming). Four settlements, three enclosed and one open, were excavated or partly excavated at a distance of some 2.75km south-east of the present evaluation site. The settlements were dated variously by their associated ceramics to the Late Bronze, the transitional Late Bronze/Early Iron Age period and the Early/Mid Iron Age. Aerial photography showed these remains to be part of an extensive complex of structural remains, suggesting that Highstead was the focus of intensive and protracted prehistoric settlement activity. However, in conformity with the general settlement pattern in the area, occupation activity at Highstead appears to have been discontinuous, with evidence for Later Mid Iron Age settlement (c. 350 – c. 200/150 BC) being absent.

6.3.7.2 The Late Bronze Age settlement enclosure at Highstead was only partly excavated but was seen from aerial photographs to extend northward and westward as part of a wider, rectilinear structure, part of which was apparently segmented. The settlement enclosure occupied a vantage point on a gravel-capped spur overlooking a deep coombe to the north and an inlet from the Wantsum Channel to the south. Its original structure was interpreted as consisting of a deep defensive ditch (two metres deep), an internal palisaded rampart, in which at least 160 vertical timbers appear to have been used, and a gateway, probably fortified. The settlement's dimensions were approximately 50m north-south by 50m east-west, covering an area of 2,500m² (0.25 hectares). The structure, identified as that of a 'fortified farmstead', was dated by associated potsherds to c. 950 - c. 850/750 BC.

6.3.7.3 The settlement's size and structure were consistent with many others in the south and east of Britain dated to the late-second or early-first millennium, BC, examples being Shearplace Hill in Dorset, Boscombe Down East in Wiltshire and New Barn Down, Sussex (Cunliffe 1975, 153 - 156) and Egham in Surrey (Longley and Needham 1979, 262-267). In contrast, large Mid - Late Bronze Age settlement sites are rare, both in Britain and on the Continent, with important and exceptional examples being known at Etaples, northern France (Desfosses 2000) and at Wasserburgh, Buchau, southern Germany (Collis 1997, 37). A possible British example is known at Kemsley, Kent (Allen 2003).

6.3.7.4 Two Late Bronze/Early Iron Age enclosures dated by their associated ceramics to c. 850 - c. 550 BC superseded the defended structure. The smaller of the two was completely excavated and the larger was partly excavated. No stratigraphical relationship existed between them and therefore no absolute chronological relationship could be established. However, it was

postulated on the basis of their similarity in alignment (east-west), entrance position, general structure and associated ceramics that they were broadly contemporary and may have co-existed. Both were roughly sub-rectangular in plan with ditch-defined perimeters that were too narrow and shallow to constitute effective defences.

6.3.7.5 The replacement of a single and apparently well-defended settlement by two or more undefended, ditch-enclosed settlements during the early first millennium, BC, is unusual in that, in many other parts of Britain, the palisade defences of early first-millennium, BC settlements were generally strengthened during the period c. 600 BC - c. 300 BC by the addition of ditch-and-bank defences, as at Swallowcliffe and Little Woodbury in Wiltshire, or by hillfort-type ditch-and-ramparts, as at Hembury in Devon (Cunliffe 1975, 155-156, 227-229).

6.3.7.6 The larger Late Bronze/Early Iron Age settlement at Highstead was partly excavated some 250m north-east of the fully-excavated Late Bronze/Early Iron Age enclosure. It was ditch-enclosed and was similar in shape and alignment to the latter, although its area was estimated to be approximately twice as large. The ceramic materials associated with both settlements were similar in type and date-range. A small number of sherds with rusticated surfaces recovered from the larger settlement again suggested occupation into the Early Iron Age (c. 550 BC). As discussed above, the coinciding date-range of the ceramics from both settlements suggest that they might have co-existed as neighbouring farmsteads for a considerable period.

6.3.7.7 The two undefended Late Bronze/Early Iron Age settlements at Highstead appear to have been superseded in the Early/Mid Iron Age, perhaps between 600 BC and 500 BC, by a group of apparently unenclosed circular huts with diameters of between 12m and 17m, as judged by surviving curvilinear ditches interpreted as the remains of eaves gullies. Five such structures were exposed, along with the remains of a rectilinear, multi-posted structure measuring 10m east-west and 7.5m north-south. The latter paralleled the remains of rectilinear structures exposed at Cadbury Castle (Alcock, 1970, 14-25), at Heathrow (Grimes, 1948, 74) and at Stanstead Airport (Brooks and Bedwin 1989, 9).

6.3.7.8 Associated with both the rectilinear and circular Early/Mid Iron Age structures were four substantial clay-lined pits, interpreted tentatively as water reservoirs or grain-storage pits, along with the remains of small posted structures, similar to those exposed near the hut remains at Bogshole Lane, Beltinge (see 'Bogshole Lane A' below). In both cases the posted structures were interpreted as the remains of grain bin supports. The additional presence of two rectangular huts within the settlement was suggested by the exposure of two sets of rectilinearly-arranged post holes, one measuring 8m east-west by 5m north-south, the other, similarly aligned, measuring 6m by 4m.

6.3.8 *Chitty Lane, Chislet (NGR TR 2250 6465)*

6.3.8.1 This site lies on a plateau north of Chislet parish church, 160m north of Chitty Lane and about five kilometres south-east of the present site. Only two archaeological features were exposed, one being a gully (possibly part of a small enclosure ditch or an eaves gully attached to a hut) containing 28 potsherds of Peterborough Ware (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Peterborough Ware is now dated to the Mid to Late Neolithic (c. 3300 - c. 2500 BC - see Gibson and Kinnes 1997, Table 2, 68-9), a period in which occupation/settlement activity on the Levels appears to have been uncommon. The other feature was a pit containing 35 sherds dated to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition (c. 850 - c. 550 BC). These ceramics were comparable in form and fabric with pottery recovered from Highstead B (see below).

6.3.9 *Hillborough (NGR TR 2064 6800)*

6.3.9.1 Archaeological features in the form of two ditches with different alignments (north-west/south-east and east/west) and two pits were exposed approximately 1km north-east of the present site. Large quantities of pottery (approximately 337 sherds) of Mid - Late Bronze Age type were recovered from these features, along with residual Mesolithic flintwork and some Bronze Age flintwork. The ceramic wares represented, included three Mid Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury style urns, two of bucket type, a biconical bowl or cup of post Deverel-Rimbury type, a large Late Bronze Age finger-impressed biconical urn and a Bronze Age closed vessel. One of the ditches was segmented, having the form of intercutting elongated oval ditches, and all the features were steep sided, suggesting that they had escaped severe damage by erosion. The pottery, which consisted for the most part of complete or substantial portions of the above-described vessels, is thought to date from c. 1100 - c. 700 BC, and was of a sufficiently unusual nature and occurred in sufficient quantities to suggest a ritual/ceremonial, rather than a practical, function for the features as a whole (Bishop undated 4-6).

6.3.9.2 Late Iron Age features were also exposed on the site in the form of four narrow parallel gullies on an approximate north-east/south-west alignment. The northernmost gully had eighteen post or stake holes cut along its flat base and its neighbour had eight post or stake holes cut along its length. In the latter case, the post or stakes appeared to cut the gully's fill, which contained much burnt daub, charcoal flecks and twelve sherds of calcined flint-tempered pottery (it is also possible that the fill accumulated around the upstanding posts within the ditch which, following the degradation of the posts, would result in the same stratigraphic arrangement). The associated presence of only two grog-tempered sherds (of 'Belgic' type) within the 48 sherds from the Iron Age features overall suggests that the features date predominantly to the Mid/Late Iron Age (c. 300 - c. 150 BC), with activity extending for a short

period into the Late Iron Age (c. 150 BC - c. AD 50).

6.3.9.3 The original function of the Late Iron Age features is something of a mystery, as a structural role is strongly suggested by the post/stake settings along the gullies, with intensive or prolonged occupation being suggested and by the pottery, charcoal and burn daub (the latter also occurring in a spread around the cut features). However, dwellings during and before the Late Iron Age usually take the form of round houses, although rectilinear huts were commonplace on the Continent. In Britain, the remains of a relatively few rectilinear structures, usually small, during the Late Iron Age are conventionally identified with shrines. Despite the lack of a clearly attributable function for the Hillborough remains, a relatively high degree of settlement activity during the later Iron Age may be assumed.

6.3.10 *Bogshole Lane A, Beltinge (NGR TR 1975 6720)*

6.3.10.1 During archaeological monitoring of trenching in advance of pipe laying, part of a Mid Iron Age settlement site was discovered on either side of Bogshole Lane, within the present site (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995, 5). Here, gullies, ditches, post-holes, pit complexes, a four-poster structure (possibly the remains of a raised grain store) and part of the remains of a round house were exposed and over 2000 potsherds recovered, most being dated to c. 500 - c. 300 BC. The remains of the Iron Age round house were particularly well preserved, consisting of a penannular gully (presumably an eaves gully) with an internal diameter of 14m, and containing a cluster of post-holes and post-pits. Amongst the latter was a sequence of door-post pits clustered around two entrances, suggesting that the structure had been modified or re-built up to six times. Seventy potsherds were retrieved from the hut's interior and were dated as above. However, the residual presence on the site of sherds dated to c. 1000 - c. 800 BC suggested that deforestation had occurred during the Late Bronze Age and that, when compared with the other evidence presented here, it seems clear that clearance in advance of settlement was probably already well advanced during this period on the Bogshole Levels.

6.3.10.2 The Mid Iron Age hut and its associated structures discussed above appear to have been abandoned around 300 BC. As is evident from many of the archaeological sites described below, following their abandonment, many Late Bronze/Early or Mid Iron Age settlement sites were re-occupied during the Late Iron Age, probably c. 150 - c. 100 BC, with the re-occupation usually continuing for 50 to 100 years into the Roman period. In the present instance, re-occupation took the form of establishment of a rectilinear ditched field system with a north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignment. The date for the ditches was provided by the ceramic contents of their fills, which comprised mainly coarse, grog-tempered 'Belgic' potsherds and Early Roman material. In common with other sites on the Levels, Roman period ceramics post-dating the second century AD were lacking, suggesting that settlement activity

on the site probably ceased by c. AD 150 (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995, 5).

6.3.11 *Bogshole Lane B, Beltinge (NGR TR 2045 6770)*

6.3.11.1 This site lies on a gentle, east-facing slope between May Street and Bogshole Lane, some 50m east of the Bogshole Lane A site. The Bogshole Lane A and B remains may, in part, supply evidence for the same phase of occupation activity. If so, an extensive area for this activity is indicated. On the Bogshole Lane B site; eleven pits, a gully, a post hole and parts of four ditches were exposed, one of which produced about 50 sherds of Neolithic pottery (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Other than the ditches, the features were, on the basis of limited ceramic evidence, of probable Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. However, the north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignment of the ditches suggested that they may have represented an eastern extension of the ditched Late Iron Age/Early Roman- period field system exposed on the Bogshole Lane A site. If so, the small amount of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery in the Bogshole Lane B ditches was residual.

6.3.12 *Bogshole Lane C, Broomfield (NGR TR 1985 6695)*

6.3.12.1 Here, at a distance of some 2.5km east of Eddington, 450m south-east of the Willow Farm settlement site (see below) and about 1250m south-east of the present evaluation site, copious evidence of prehistoric activity was uncovered in the form of pits, field/boundary ditches and an expansive north-east/south-west aligned metalled trackway (maximum depth 0.12m, maximum width 10.48m), the latter dated on the basis of an overlying bronze hoard to earlier than c. 850 - c. 700 BC (see below). Occupation activity predating and including the Mid to Late Bronze Age is therefore indicated (Allen 2001, 12; Helm undated, Helm 2003, 23).

6.3.12.2 Perhaps of more interest, in archaeological terms, was the presence of a very large roughly circular pit (average diameter 14.5m). It was excavated to a depth of 2.3m, at which point excavation was abandoned in the interests of safety, but the pit was clearly of considerably greater depth. It had been subject to at least two major re-cuts during prehistory, presumably because its location within London Clay-dominated terrain meant that it was subject to continual infilling through collapse and colluvial down-flow. In addition, several large pits of unknown function had been cut at intervals into the fills of the feature, as had a large number of roughly circular pits. These surrounded the large circular pit and, in a small number of cases, were cut (again at intervals) into its internal fills. A distinctive common feature of the smaller pits, which had depths of between 0.12 - 0.3m and diameters of between 0.3 - 1.47m, was their fills, which, in all cases consisted of compacted burnt daub and charcoal.

6.3.12.3 The features as a whole provide good circumstantial evidence for ritual activity, as it is difficult to account for the size, form and complexity of the overall structure otherwise. If the

original structure did indeed have a ritual function, it represents a rare example of a prehistoric ritual monument in the London-Clay dominated parts of north Kent.

6.3.12.4 The complexity of the stratigraphic sequence represented by the many intercutting features was indicative of protracted use accompanied by intermittent phases of reconstruction and renewal. The presence of 58 pieces of associated flintwork provided an indication of the date of the structure, as did the associated pottery. Apart from a small quantity of heavily-patinated Mesolithic material, presumably residual, the flintwork appeared to be of earlier Bronze Age manufacture (Scott undated, no page number), whilst some of the pottery within sealed contemporary contexts was of probable Mid Bronze to Early Iron Age date (Peter Couldrey, pers. comm.). The dating evidence of the cultural materials therefore supported the stratigraphic evidence for the longevity of the structure.

6.3.12.5 A Late Bronze Age hoard was discovered in a small pit, 40m south of the probable ritual monument (Allen 2001, 12). The hoard, which consisted of 27 copper alloy (bronze) fragments, was retrieved from a pit which also contained five flint-tempered potsherds of Late Bronze/Early Iron type Age representing the remains of at least three vessels. This suggested that the hoard was buried in or near a settlement, probably the Willow Farm settlement (see above) some 450m to the north west, in what was an already deforested area. A more precise date than that derivable from the potsherds was indicated by the bronze hoard, which was of Ewart Park type, dated to the last part of the Bronze Age (c. 850 - c. 700 BC).

6.3.12.6 Represented amongst the bronze hoard were eleven axe or palstave heads/blades (one of which was double-socketed), two spear heads, two shaft fragments of uncertain identity and twelve amorphous lumps. This material was probably broadly contemporary with the first-phase defended settlement exposed at Highstead and was similar in date and type to artefacts within the Swalecliffe Hoard and a hoard discovered in c. 1870 at a coastal site on the Isle of Harty, which forms part of the Isle of Sheppey (Hawkes, ed. 1955, GB. 18, 3, 1-3).

6.3.12.6 Settlement and/or ritual activity on the Bogshole Lane site at Broomfield appears to have ceased some time during the Early Iron Age, probably in the sixth century BC and, as in the case of the nearby Willow Farm site, occupation activity appears not to have resumed until the Late Iron Age, when a drainage ditch containing grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery was cut across the site. However, the presence across the site of a low-intensity scatter of ceramic material of the same type pointed to small-scale Late Iron Age settlement activity, and a single rectangular posted structure dated by its associated ceramics to the Early-Mid Roman period suggested that settlement activity continued up to the mid third century AD or thereabouts, as was also the case for the nearby Willow Farm site.

6.3.13 *Beacon Hill, Beltinge (NGR TR 1685 8105 to TR 1880 8105)*

6.3.13.1 Part of an extensive Late Bronze/Early-Mid Iron Age settlement was exposed during the monitoring of the pipe trenching on a cliff-top site at Beacon Hill, Beltinge, near Herne Bay, about a kilometre north of the present site (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Archaeological features in the form of gullies, ditches, pits and post-holes provided clear proof of settlement activity, as did over 500 associated potsherds dated to c. 950 - c. 550 BC. Smaller quantities of sherds dated to c. 550 - c. 350 BC showed the settlement to have been long-lived. As in the case of the other sites, here discussed, deforestation and subsequent settlement in this area appears to have occurred in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (c. 1200 - c. 900 BC), with occupation activity continuing into the Mid Iron Age (c. 350 BC). Negligible quantities of Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British wares pointed to low-level re-occupation of the area 200 - 300 years after the original settlement was abandoned. Evidence for occupation beyond the Early Roman period was again lacking.

6.3.14 *Hawthorn Corner, May Street (NGR TR 2134 6720)*

6.3.14.1 Here, a single pit containing 20 potsherds broadly dated to the Iron Age (c. 600 - c. 200 BC) was exposed approximately 0.4km east of the present site and just north of the Thanet Way and south of the North Kent Coast railway line (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Most of the material is thought to date to the Early Iron Age (c. 600 – c. 500 BC).

6.3.15 *Church Lane A, Chislet (NGR TR 2455 4830)*

6.3.15.1 Evidence for an extensive Late Bronze/Early Iron Age settlement was discovered at Chislet to the north of the parish church, about 1.2km south of the present site (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Here, an extensive group of prehistoric remains in the form of fifteen ditches or gullies, ten post-holes and 41 pits were exposed for a length of 93m within the narrow confines of the pipe trench and its margins. Approximately 1500 potsherds dated to c. 950 - c. 550 BC were recovered from the excavated parts of the remains, indicating that occupation activity was intense and/or protracted within the settlement. The settlement appears to be comparable in date-range to the first two phases of the Highstead A settlement, 1.5km to the north-west (see above).

6.3.16 *Church Lane B, Chislet (NGR 2240 6485)*

6.3.16.1 Here, on flat land adjacent to and south-east of Church Lane and north of Chislet parish church, four straight ditches, six gullies and a pit were exposed (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). The settlement of which these features were part, clearly extended beyond the twelve-metre width of the pipe-trench easement and appeared to be multi-phase, with at least four phases or sub-phases being ascertainable on stratigraphic grounds. Over 200 potsherds were

recovered, including many diagnostic pieces, allowing a relatively detailed chronology to be proposed for the remains as a whole. Iron Age activity dating to no earlier than c. 450 BC was indicated by the presence of flint-tempered wares such as globular jars and vessels with faceted rims. However, the associated presence of mixed grog and flint-tempered, grog-tempered and sandy wares, all dating to the Late Iron Age, perhaps c. 150 - c. 50 BC, suggest that activity endured into the Late pre-Roman Iron Age, while a small number of Romanised wares suggest that the settlement was only abandoned in the early post-conquest period, probably about AD 75/100.

6.3.17 Hoath Road (Old Tree Road), Boyden Gate (NGR TR 2205 6530)

6.3.17.1 Here, some 2km south-east of the present site, a hearth or fire pit, two irregular pits, possibly clay quarries, and part of a ditch produced a total of 40 potsherds dating to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, indicating that limited settlement activity, probably domestic in nature, took place on and around the site sometime during the period c. 850 - c. 550 BC (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995).

6.3.18 Sarre Penn, Chislet (NGR TR 2315 6434)

6.3.18.1 Archaeological work on this site, located on a gentle, south-east facing slope some 180m north-west of the Sarre Penn stream and east of Chislet parish church, revealed parts of four straight ditches, almost certainly boundary ditches doubling as drainage ditches, and dated by their associated ceramic finds (six sherds from the ditch fills, ten from the adjacent surface) to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (c. 850 - c. 550 BC). Also recovered from the surface were a single Romanised 'Belgic' (grog-tempered) sherd, dated c. AD 75 - c. 150 and a fragment of Upchurch-type ware with the same date-range (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995).

6.3.19 Highstead B, Chislet (NGR TR 2151 6626)

6.3.19.1 Here, immediately adjacent to the multi-period prehistoric site of Highstead A (see above), three pits and five post holes produced about 35 potsherds dated to c. 900/850 - c. 600 BC, probably indicating that the Highstead A settlement extended to the east, at least in its second major structural phase (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). However, the overall paucity of archaeological features suggests that the area was on the periphery of the settlement.

6.3.20 Underdown Lane East, Herne Bay (NGR TR 1800 6690)

6.3.20.1 Two archaeological evaluations took place on an extensive tract of land lying south of Underdown Lane, from which it is separated by the Old Thanet Way. At the eastern end of the site, which lies just over a kilometre west of the present site, an evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeological Unit (2000) exposed extremely limited (and therefore inconclusive) evidence for Late Bronze Age activity in the form of a pit containing one potsherd and two

worked flints. Most of the archaeological evidence, however, took the form of shallow ditches and pits containing small amounts of pottery and burnt flint, the pottery dating from c. 100 BC - c. AD 200. The establishment during the Late Iron Age of a field system, along with nearby small-scale settlement activity is again indicated.

6.3.20.2 Subsequently, a full-scale evaluation within an area of the site measuring approximately 22m by 50m was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2001) and exposed a mass of intercutting archaeological features, along with isolated pits and two ditches, one of which described a right-angle and probably represented the corner of a rectilinear enclosure. The feature-specific pottery recovered from this site has yet to be analysed in terms of periodicity but the prehistoric material was consistent in fabric with that recovered during the evaluation by Oxford Archaeological Unit.

6.3.20.3 In fact, at least four phases of archaeological investigation have taken place on land south of Underdown Lane and north of the Old Thanet Way. An excavation on a site roughly centred on NGR TR 1777 6696 exposed the remains of a multiphase and extensive settlement consisting of intercutting ditches, pits, post-holes and a cremation burial (Gollop 1999; Shand 2004; Willson 2002, 23). Most of the pottery from these features dates from c. 550 - c. 350 BC, although the presence of a cremation burial may point to activity in the Late Iron Age (as previously mentioned, remains of this period were exposed immediately to the east at NGR TR 1800 6690 by the Oxford Archaeological Unit).

6.3.21 *Underdown Lane West, Herne Bay (NGR TR 1777 6696)*

6.3.21.1 An evaluation undertaken at the western end of the tract of land described above exposed a small pit, along with parts of a ditch and a gully. These remains, indicative of agricultural activity and nearby small-scale settlement activity, produced ceramic evidence dating from c. 550 - c. 350 BC.

6.3.22 *Herne Bay High School (NGR TR 1700 6695)*

6.3.22.1 Here, an evaluation and subsequent archaeological monitoring of ground works took place on a site lying west of the large Eddington site described above, from which it is separated by the Bullockstone Road. The work was undertaken by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust and exposed parts of three ditches, two pits and a probable prehistoric trackway (Crank 2000a, Crank 2000b). The adjacent part of the Eddington site had previously been evaluated by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, during which, a concentrated group of pits, ditches and post holes/pit were exposed and dated by their associated ceramics to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, although Late Iron Age and Early - Mid Roman-period remains were also present (Houliston 1998). The trackway exposed on the Herne Bay High School site was also dated by

its associated ceramics to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, with the other features being dated to the Early/Mid Iron Age (c. 500 - c. 300 BC) and the Late Iron Age (c. 150 BC - c. AD 50).

6.3.23 Willow Farm (NGR TR 1955 6710)

6.3.23.1 Here, at a distance of approximately 350m south-east of the present site, the remains of an apparently small settlement, almost certainly a farmstead, were discovered. The remains took the form of a continuous ring ditch (diameter 7m), which was probably the eaves gully or circular post setting for a round house (Helm 2000). The structure was situated in the south-east corner of a rectilinear enclosure situated some 140 west of a substantial gravelled surface, either a crude courtyard-like area or a trackway, along with the remains of other rectilinear enclosure ditches of different alignment to those to the west. Both sets of remains included groups of pits. The only dating evidence came from associated pottery, which was of a flint-tempered fabric ubiquitous in later prehistoric north-east Kent, but more period-specific rim, base and body sherds, along with decorative motifs, enabled the settlement to be dated broadly to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (c. 900 - c. 600 BC). However, an earlier Mid - Late date Bronze Age for at least some of the settlement activity (and pottery) is suggested by the presence of flintwork in which non-optimum raw material had been used, a practice commonly associated with the later Bronze Age (Edmonds 1995).

6.3.23.2 Remains of a later date on the same site, and similar in form and alignment to those of the earlier period, included a sunken-floored structure (probably a hut), a small, open-ended enclosure and, external to the enclosure, a cluster of rubbish pits, the whole indicative of a small agricultural settlement not unlike its Late Bronze/Early Iron Age predecessor. Small numbers of grog-tempered wares along with a predominance of Romanised material associated with these remains dated them to the Late pre-Roman Iron Age and Early Roman period (c. 50 BC - c. AD 100). However, wares within later features, which included a substantial enclosure, indicated that settlement activity continued into the later Roman period, probably up to c. AD 250.

6.4 Late Iron Age & Romano-British Period (date)

6.4.1 Highstead A (NGR TR 2140 6680)

6.4.1.1 Again in common with many other sites on the levels to the west, settlement on the previously discussed Highstead A site was re-established in the Late Iron Age, probably c. 150/100 BC. The first of a complex sequence of ditched enclosures and field-boundary ditches was constructed during this period, which, like those that followed, suggested the proximity of a settlement related to stock keeping. Thus, it appeared that the 'ranching economy' first established during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age was re-established during the Late Iron Age, following a period when the coastal levels were either largely abandoned or were subject to a

very different settlement pattern. The dramatic decrease in the amount of evidence for settlement/occupation activity on the levels for the period c. 550 BC - c. 150 BC (see table below) argues either for a commensurate decrease in the population or for an equally dramatic demographic shift away from the coastal area.

6.4.1.2 The first-phase Late Iron Age re-occupation of the Highstead A site took the form of a small, undefended rectangular ditch-and-bank enclosure, along with three conjoined ditches, interpreted as boundary ditches. The enclosure, which was only partly excavated, measured about 50m north-north-west by 50m west-south-west and was probably used to confine livestock or define a field, as very little evidence of occupation/settlement activity was present (the small numbers of Late Iron Age and 'Belgic' potsherds found within the enclosure probably derived from a nearby settlement).

6.4.1.3 It has been suggested that the combined presence of sherds of stylistically earlier hand-built flint-tempered pots and wheel-thrown grog-tempered sherds of 'Belgic' type indicates that the re-occupation of the site was not as a result of invasion/immigration (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 38-48). Such a view is consistent with subsequent late pre-Roman Iron Age activity on the Highstead site, which is again characterised by the common occurrence of the two types, suggesting that hand-building and the wheel-throwing techniques were used at the same time.

6.4.1.4 While the first-phase Late Iron Age enclosure was still in use; a round house/hut, a four-post building, a smaller enclosure and a ditch were constructed, and a quarry pit appears to have been opened, subsequently being used as a rubbish dump. However, the enclosure was eventually superseded by another large single-ditched enclosure (again interpreted as an animal compound), which shared the same alignment as its predecessor and measured about 92m by 70m. The round house/hut was thought to have remained in use during this period, suggesting that this structural change was accompanied by social continuity. Such continuity may also be indicated by the pottery evidence associated with the new enclosure, which again suggests that both indigenous hand-building techniques and newly adopted wheel-throwing techniques were used concurrently during this phase of settlement.

6.4.1.4 During the following 125 years or so, between c. 75 BC - c. AD 50, the large single-ditched enclosure appears to have undergone two phases of modification, the end result being a double-ditched enclosure which also incorporated a third ditch on its north-north-west side. These measures were presumably taken in order to discourage cattle raiding; a practice conventionally associated with Late Iron Age tribal societies. At the same time, a series of out-ditches were built, seemingly as the surrounding field system was progressively extended, the overall impression being that the enclosure and the associated fields were part of an

increasingly wealthy farmstead.

6.4.1.5 The pottery types used were principally large wheel-thrown and often comb-decorated storage vessels and similarly-decorated jars and cooking pots, along with finer wares in the form of jars, beakers, cups, platters and jugs with reddened surfaces in imitation of imported finewares. Although most of the pottery was of typically grog-tempered 'Belgic' type, small quantities of Gallo-Belgic fineware imports were also used and sherds from Dressel 1B amphorae suggested that the settlement's inhabitants imbibed imported Italian wine. However, the settlement's prehistoric origins continued to leave its mark on the ceramic assemblage because the fabric of a minority of 'Belgicised' forms remained either flint tempered or flint-and-grog tempered, with a small number still being hand built. The use of flint-and-grog tempered wares is paralleled by, amongst others, the Whitstable and Bigberry sites during the Late Iron Age.

6.4.2 *Eddington (NGR TR 1725 6665)*

6.4.2.1 The Neolithic/Bronze site at Eddington described above was abandoned during the Early or Mid Iron Age, as attested to by a substantial layer of colluvium overlying the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age remains. Occupation resumed during the Late pre-Roman Iron Age and continued into Early Roman period up to the mid-fourth century. During the period of re-occupation, a ditched field system was established next to a group of rectangular enclosures, one of which contained a large pit into which a massive flat-sided block of worked sandstone had been set on its edge. An adjacent pit containing two small complete pottery vessels, suggesting that the block had served a ritual purpose (perhaps associated with the nearby spring) and, indeed, other interpretations do not readily suggest themselves.

6.4.2.2 The sandstone block was set within a ditched rectilinear field system dated by the ceramic contents of the ditch fills to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Some 40m south of the block, a Roman-period cemetery consisting of five cremations was exposed, one of which contained the remains of a pair of hob-nailed boots lying next to the cremation vessel. To the west and proximal to the cemetery was an extensive concentration of pits, post holes and curvilinear ditches, along with much pottery, almost certainly representing evidence for domestic activity dating to the mid third and to the mid fourth centuries AD. A period of abandonment, probably of some 150 - 200 years duration, was followed by re-occupation in the Early-Mid Anglo-Saxon period (John Cotter, pers. comm.; Shand 2002, 23).

6.4.3 *Owl's Hatch Road (NGR TR 165 662)*

6.4.3.1 A site excavated near to Owl's Hatch Road, south of Herne Bay and approximately 3.3km west of the present site, represents one of the few exceptions to the general pattern of

settlement on the Bogshole Levels (Parfitt and Allen 1990). Here, evidence for part of an Early Romano-British settlement was exposed in the form of 65 archaeological features, including 38 rubbish pits, two sunken hearths, a large pit (possibly the result of clay extraction), six post holes, two ditches and a gully. Associated with these remains were eight flint-tempered Late Bronze/Iron Age sherds (almost certainly residual) and approximately 1850 Early Romano-British ceramic sherds dated to c. AD 50/100 - c. AD 250/300. Assuming, in the absence of any grog-tempered 'Belgic' wares, that the flint-tempered sherds derived from earlier, unrelated Late Bronze/Iron Age activity, the evidence overall suggests that a small Early Roman-period settlement occupied the site for about 200 years (c. AD 75 - c. AD 275), in an area where low-level occupation activity had occurred during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age.

6.4.3.2 Several fragments of a Mayen lava-stone quern were recovered on the site from a small ditch or gully, suggesting that cereals were probably grown on the surrounding land, despite its ill-drained nature. Many of the rubbish pits contained oyster shell, showing that the foreshore, two kilometresto the north, had also been exploited as a food source. Although a small quantity of tile was present, flint cobbling and building debris in the form of brick or mortar fragments were notable by their absence, suggesting that this was the site of a small unenclosed timber-built farmstead. The increased concentration of features in the north of the site probably indicates that the main body of the settlement was situated north of Owl's Hatch Road. The abandonment of the settlement in c. AD 275 appears to have occurred at approximately the same time as the abandonment of the settlements on the present foreshore areas of Seasalter, Tankerton and Swalecliffe as discussed above.

6.5 Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

6.5.1 The name 'Blacksole' is thought to be of Anglo-Saxon origin. Glover (1976, 21) provides the following developmental sequence for the name:

'Blacksole Farm (Herne). Black muddy pool (OE blæc sol → Blaksole 1529).'

6.5.2 'Beltinge' is similarly considered to be of Anglo-Saxon origin, with Glover (*ibid* 16) supplying the following developmental sequence:

'Beltinge (pronounced Beltinje), Belt's people (OE Beltingas → Beltinge 1189 → Beltyng 1327 → Beltinge 1468). This tribe appears to have settled at several places in Kent, including BELTRING and BILTING.'

6.5.3 No origin for 'Hillborough' was located during the course of the searches associated with this project. It is, however assumed that the name is derived from the Old English 'hyll' or 'hill' with the affix from 'burh' or 'manor, borough'.

6.5.4 Beltinge was one of five boroughs in the parish of Herne, also spelt Hearne, in the hundred of Bleangate (Hasted 1800, 84). The other boroughs were Stroud, Hawe, Hampton and Thornden. A hundred is an Anglo-Saxon subdivision of an administrative unit called a 'lest' or 'lathe'. East Kent was divided into four lests, with Bleangate being in 'Borowarlest' or 'Borough Lathe', of which Canterbury (*Cantwarabyrig* in Anglo-Saxon) was the administrative centre. Bleangate took its name from the north-eastern entrance into the Blean. The 'gates' into the Blean, which was probably a royal common in the Early Anglo-Saxon period, seem to have originated as officially designated entrances giving controllable access to what was an important resource for fuel and pannage (Allen 2004, 117-136).

6.5.6 The name 'Bogshole Levels' is seldom used nowadays but survives in the names of two roads, both called Bogshole Lane, one extending eastward from the main Canterbury/Whitstable Road between Clapham Hill and Pean Hill, the other extending south from Beltinge to Broomfield, i.e. directly through the proposed development area. The name 'Bogshole' is of probable Anglo-Saxon origin and may not have referred in the first instance to the boggy nature of this part of the North Kent coast. In AD 791, King Offa granted a tract of land called 'Bocholt' to Christ Church Priory (Hasted 1800, IX, 4). The most likely derivation of the name 'Bogshole' is therefore via *Bocholt*, meaning 'Book-held woodland' or 'wooded land held by royal charter' (see Gelling 1993, 196, 267).

6.5.6 Hasted (1800, 84) observes that the parish of Herne lies in:

'a wild and dreary country; there is a great deal of poor land in it, covered with broom, and several wastes or little commons, with cottages interspaced among them. The soil of it is in general stiff clay [presumably Brickearth and London Clay], and in some parts mixed with gravel, the water throughout is brackish [the latter point is consistent with Glover's postulated origin of the name 'Blacksole'].

6.5.7 There is very little Anglo-Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval documentary evidence for Hillborough, Blacksole or Beltinge. Indicatively, Hasted makes only brief mention to Beltinge, and Blacksole only appears as a place name on his map. The lack of such evidence for Hillborough, Blacksole and Beltinge undoubtedly results from them having been small, poor, isolated and sparsely populated settlements of little interest to early chroniclers. In this respect they share much in common with most of the farmsteads, hamlets and small villages on the Bogshole Levels. It is probably this fact that led to the assumption that the Levels were of generally low archaeological potential for earlier periods. However, as the many nearby prehistoric sites, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Levels were well populated during the Mid-Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, with settlement taking the form of numerous small

farmsteads set in field systems, that settlements decreased in number but increased in size in the Mid Iron Age, that the number of settlements increased markedly again during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period before dwindling dramatically in the first and second centuries AD.

7 Kent Historic Environmental Registers and Previous Archaeological Investigations

7.1 Kent County Council Historic Environment Register (KHER)

7.1.1 A search of the KHER was commissioned on 2nd April 2009. The study area encompassed the proposed development site as well as an area within approximately 0.5km of the site extents. A total of 46 records were returned, none of which were located within the proposed development area. A gazetteer of these records is included within Appendix A.

7.2 Previous Archaeological Excavations within the Study Area

7.2.1 In addition to the archaeological investigations detailed above, ongoing works associated with the adjacent Altira Business Park to the west has revealed the presence of a significant archaeological landscape. The archaeological evaluation carried out by SWAT in April 2007 (Phase I) indicated the presence of extensive, multiphase remains associated with prehistoric and Roman-period occupation/settlement activity in addition to large-scale prehistoric industrial activity and probably pottery production. The results of the evaluation appeared to confirm that the Levels were relatively well populated during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age but, in common with a minority of the other sites in the area, the site also produced evidence of earlier occupation activity. Evidence for significant activity during the Mid Iron Age was lacking but renewed activity during the Late Iron Age and probably into the Early Roman period was indicated, again reflecting a general theme. Allen (2007:30) suggests that evidence pointed to the remains of a possibly high-status Mid Roman-period settlement being present in the northern part of the Phase I evaluation area.

7.2.2 Ongoing archaeological excavations within the Altira Business Park have confirmed the presence of multi-phased occupation dating from the Bronze Age through the post-medieval period. Early results suggest nucleated prehistoric settlement, including individual roundhouses with associated domestic, agricultural and possible industrial land use, set out within a managed agricultural landscape (Britchfield, forthcoming).

8 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

8.1 A rapid map regression exercise carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site has remained undeveloped from at least the early 19th century.

9 Aerial Photographic Assessment

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 A search was made of aerial photographs held by Kent County Council (28th April 2009). Results are presented below.

9.2 Aerial Photograph dated 1946, F/20 4028/4029

9.2.1 Careful examination of two aerial photographs was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised for this sequence.

9.3 Aerial Photograph dated 1961, Run 9 1655

9.3.1 Careful examination of one aerial photograph was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised.

9.4 Aerial Photograph dated 1967, Run 9 1655

9.4.1 Careful examination of one aerial photograph was carried out. Faint traces of potential linear and sub circular features are present, along with ridge and furrow (Fig. 1). To the south of the existing railway line, northeast-southwest aligned linear cropmarks can be seen, possibly representing a series of droveways. To the immediate northwest and adjacent to the southern extent of the railway line, circular cropmarks are clearly visible (round houses, domestic enclosures etc). Such patterns form close parallels with archaeological remains recorded to the west at the Altira Business Park (Britchfield, forthcoming) which comprise a managed prehistoric landscape with field systems, droveways and round houses.



Figure 1 1967 Aerial Photograph

9.5 Aerial Photograph dated 1985, Line 47 51-53

9.5.1 Careful examination of three aerial photographs was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised.

9.6 Aerial Photograph dated 1990, Line 10 132-134

9.6.1 Careful examination of three aerial photographs was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised.

9.7 Aerial Photograph dated 1995, Run 13 8903-8904

9.7.1 Careful examination of two aerial photographs was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised.

9.8 Aerial Photograph dated 1999, Line 7 6541

9.8.1 Careful examination of one aerial photograph was carried out. No visible cropmarks were recognised.

9 Summary of Archaeological Potential

9.1 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

9.1.1 The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods is considered **low**. Recorded activity within the area immediately surrounding the proposed development site is limited to two spot finds, a Palaeolithic Acheulian hand-axe and Mesolithic Thames picks (see Appendix A).

9.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age

9.2.1 The potential for finding remains that date to the Neolithic period is considered **low-moderate**. Recorded activity within the area immediately surrounding the proposed development site shows a good degree of preservation coupled with the presence of a potential Neolithic structure recorded during the investigation of adjacent archaeological sites. That said, Neolithic settlement of this level is incredibly rare within Kent.

9.2.2 Extensive Bronze Age settlement directly adjacent to the assessment site and within the surrounding area would tend to suggest that further archaeological remains associated with this period would be extant within undeveloped parcels of the landscape. The presence of complex field systems along with established domestic settlement both within the extents of the site (Bogshole Lane A) and within the immediate vicinity, suggests that the potential for finding remains dating to the Bronze Age period is considered as **high**.

9.3 Iron Age

9.3.1 The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age is considered as **moderate**. As with the predating evidence the surrounding landscape offers the potential for surviving archaeological

deposits dating to this period as is evident for investigations and finds within the surrounding area. The potential for associated field systems and/or further settlement sites within the vicinity should be expected.

9.3 Roman

9.3.1 Roman remains within the assessment area comprise a Roman road, and cremation sites within proximity to the proposed development area. The potential for finding remains dating to the Roman period is therefore considered as **low-moderate**.

9.4 Anglo-Saxon Period

9.4.1 Anglo-Saxon remains within the assessment area are limited to isolated spot finds. Furthermore the preservation of earlier archaeological deposits on adjacent sites would suggest that the surrounding area was not extensively settled within the Anglo-Saxon period. The potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period is considered as **low-moderate**.

9.5 Medieval Period

9.5.1 Medieval settlement within the assessment area is limited. That said, the presence of agricultural activity and woodland management, including track ways, field boundaries etc should not be ruled out. The potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is therefore considered as **low-moderate**.

9.6 Post-Medieval Period

9.6.1 Evidence for post-medieval occupation in the area is likely to be similar to the medieval evidence noted above, with the possible increase in activity. The potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval period is therefore considered as **low-moderate**

10 Archaeological Impact Assessment

10.1 Existing Impacts

10.1.1 The search area has been largely arable fields, orchards and small woodlands up until present day suggesting that the impact on buried archaeological deposits would have been due to agricultural activities such as ploughing, the cutting of drainage ditches and planting of hedgerows. That said, archaeological deposits on adjacent sites are known to survive at depths greater than 0.5m, and thus beyond the impact of deep ploughing techniques. The impact of arable farming is therefore considered as **low**.

10.2 Proposed Impacts

10.2.1 At present time, development proposed comprise the extensive development of residential and commercial premises, along with public buildings, retail units and developments to the

existing railway line. Areas of open green space are also considered, although the location of these has not been confirmed.

11 Mitigation

- 11.1 The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.
- 11.2 The assessment site has generally been shown to be within an area of **high** archaeological potential with **low-moderate** truncation (previous impact).
- 11.3 Full development proposals are at present time unknown. In the event, however, that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of foundations trenches, services, access and car parking are likely to require the excavation of material exceeding 0.50m in depth. In the absence of ground raising, proposed impacts to archaeological deposits throughout the entire site is therefore deemed as **high**. The potential indirect impact caused during the construction process should also be taken into consideration.
- 11.4 It is therefore recommended, in this case, that further archaeological assessment will be required and that an archaeological field evaluation comprising trial trenching should be carried out. This will provide an additional assessment of the nature, depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents of the site and used to further inform further mitigation if necessary.

12 Other Considerations

12.1 Archive

- 12.1.1 Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Kent County Council within 6 months of completion.

12.2 Reliability/limitations of sources

- 12.2.1 The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being extremely reliable.

12.3 Copyright

- 12.3.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights

reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to Senacre School (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

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Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

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

Here's History Kent <http://www.hereshistorykent.org.uk/>

Archaeological Data Service <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

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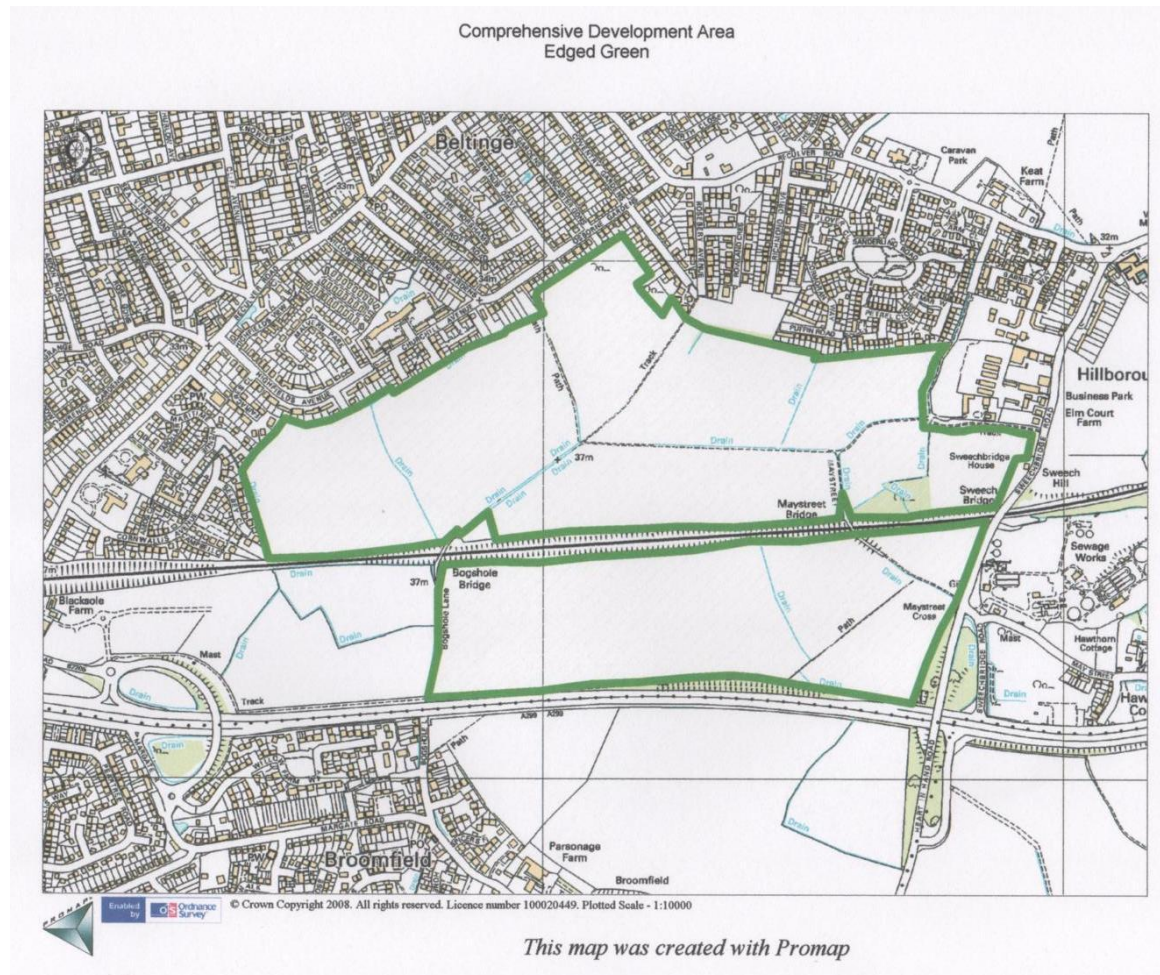
Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Period	SMR Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description
Anglo-Saxon	TR 16 NE 10	Find Spot	TR 197 667	An Anglo-Saxon claw-beaker, six and three quarter inches in height, found at Broomfield, Reculver, was acquired by Canterbury Museum 1904. On exhibition, Acc. No. RM 955. The beaker was found in the 18th century in a sandpit. The only identifiable sandpit in the Broomfield area, centred at TR 19906613, has not been worked for over 50 years and is now being filled in.
Middle Bronze Age	TR 16 NE 13	Find Spot	TR 1944 6793	On exhibition in Herne Bay Museum is a palstave found about 40 years ago while a gate post was being erected at the junction of Reculver Road and Sea View Road, Beltinge, Herne Bay, at TR 19446793. It is heavily corroded and five and a half inches long and two and a half inches across the cutting edge. (In the Dr. A. Bowes Collection) No further details are known about the findspot.
Roman	TR 16 NE 15	Cremation	TR 1895 6725	Romano-British cremation burial The finds comprise fragments of a burial urn, some burnt bones, a Samian saucer, fragments of a grey saucer, fragments of an olla, and a vase, 7 inches high, with two bands of brushed decoration.
Mesolithic	TR 26 NW 21	Find Spot	TR 20 68	On exhibition in the Royal Museum, Canterbury, Acc. Nos. RM190 and 194, are two Thames picks found at Bishopstone. They were acquired in 1897 but no details of the find are known.
Saxon	TR 26 NW 27	Find Spot	TR 2120 6806	On exhibition in Herne Bay Museum are sherds of three Saxon pots, of coarse gritty ware, oyster, mussel and whelk shells,

Period	SMR Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description
				and the tooth of a pig from Hillborough churchyard, found in 1930 whilst a grave was being dug at `A' TR 21186805. In September 1962, further sherds of ? Saxon pottery together with mussel shells were found at 3 feet depth, during the construction of a cesspit beneath the church car park at `B' TR 21226807. These finds are in Mr. Gough's possession. The vicar of St. Mary's, Hillborough, confirmed the above facts and indicated the exact findspots.
Medieval	TR 26 NW 69	Find Spot	TR 20 68	Six lead seals from Bishopstone
Bronze Age/Iron Age	TR 26 NW 81	Settlement	TR 210 668	Five phases of evaluation work in 1989-90 revealed the ditches of an undated enclosure and several pits with charcoal in the fill; a group of prob medieval pits at the eastern edge of the site and several other pits of late BA or early IA date. Remains also found of a RB settlement of 1st-4th century date inc areas of cobbled trackway with flanking ditches and groups of ditches and pits. In the NW corner of the site was a group of late IA/early Ro pits and ditches. In the southern and central part of the site a mid-late IA settlement was located

Thirty eight additional records are referenced within the KHER, all of which date from the Post-Medieval periods onwards. These include 18 Grade II Listed Buildings, thirteen Second World War monuments and 7 Locally Listed buildings. Full details of each of these records can be viewed at: <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>

Appendix 2 – Figures



Figure

1

-Site

Plan

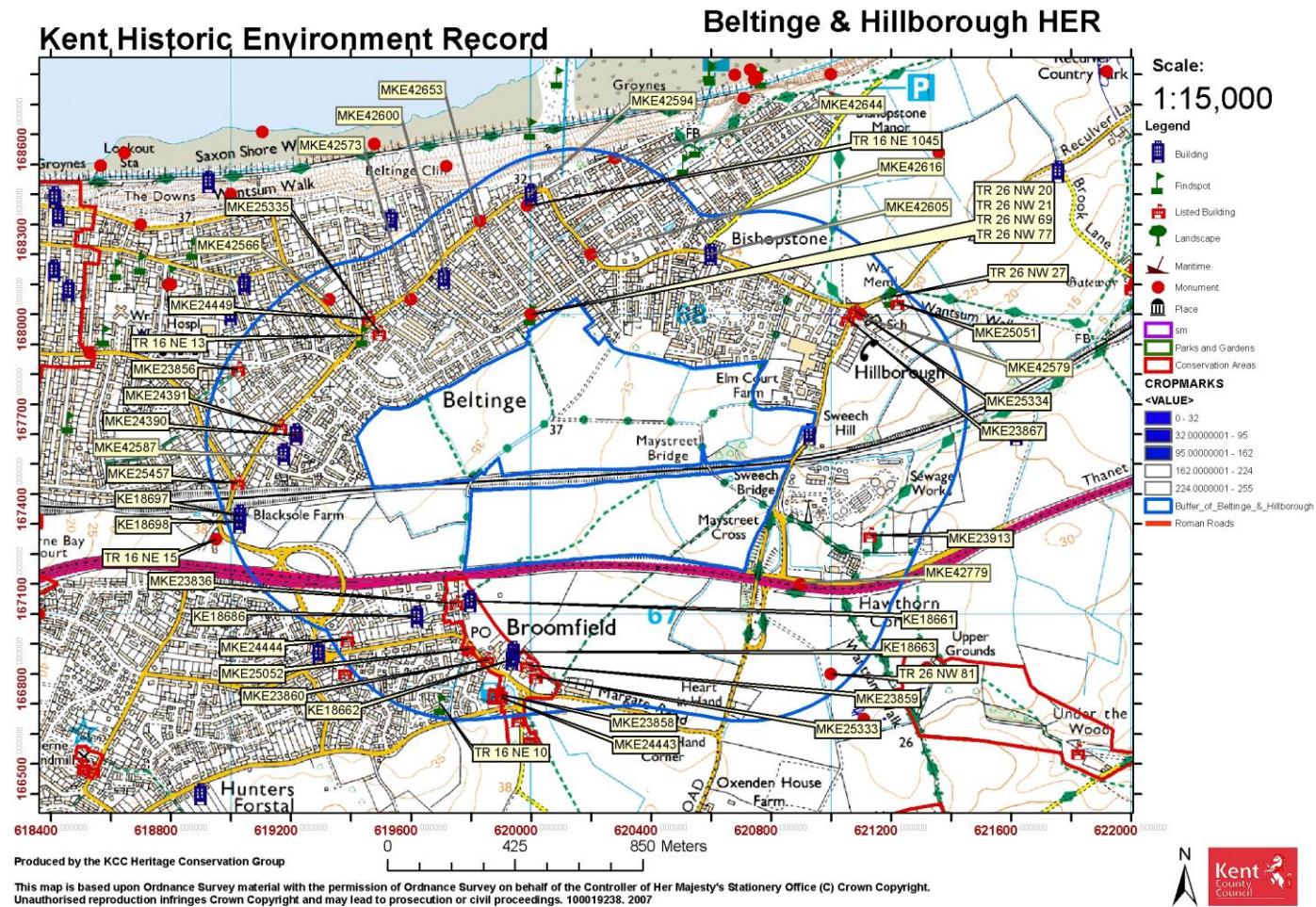


Figure 2 – SMR Data (KCC KHER)