

**The Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation at the Lakesview Business  
Park, Hersden, Kent.**

**Post-Excavation Report**

NGR Site Centre: TR 21193 62286

Planning Application Number: CA//18/00963/FUL



Report for.

**Smedley Homes Limited**

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## Post-Excavation Report

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## **Abstract**

*The excavation at Hersden comprised an extensive, series of linear features, relating to the previously known archaeological landscape revealed by CAT between 1998 and 2005 on a plateau on the north side of the Stour Valley. The subsequent excavation carried out by SWAT Archaeology revealed a continuation of the afore-mentioned landscape that also spanned the later Prehistoric to Roman periods. The excavation also exposed another section of metalled Roman road, complete with wheel ruts. Situated next to the road was a small votive pit that contained two base-silver coins and four rolled lead curse tablets.*

*The centre of the excavation was dominated by a series of Roman linear features, relating to the enclosure landscape that dominates the plateau at this location. Also present was a single Early-Mid Iron Age feature and a background 'noise' of Late Iron Age activity, represented in the ceramic assemblage. Establishment of the Late Iron Age foundation was difficult to establish. Therefore, a transitional period was added to the site chronology to better define the sequence of activity on the site. The phasing and intercutting nature of the linear features demonstrated that the enclosures were altered and expanded during the course of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Activity on the site during the Roman period may also have included a small iron industry located nearby, represented by an iron ingot and iron smith's chisel. The excavations by CAT provided evidence of iron working taking place during the Iron Age.*

*Activity after the later Roman period is unclear. Activity on the site ceased until the Post-Medieval period and that phase was represented by a single linear feature within the centre of the excavation. The Post-Medieval period represented the latest activity on the site.*

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Contributors**

Simon Holmes MA and Daniel Worsley MA supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of Digitise This. This report was written and prepared by and Simon Holmes MA and edited by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCiFA.

The pottery analysis was undertaken by Nigel MacPherson-Grant, and the small finds analysis by Simon Holmes.

# **The Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavations at the Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Kent.**

## **Post-Excavation Report**

NGR Site Centre: TR 21193 62286

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) were contracted by Smedley Homes Ltd. to conduct an archaeological excavation on Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Kent, (NGR TR 21193 62286) (Figure 1). The excavation was conducted under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT) between July and August 2019 in accordance with requirements set out within The Canterbury City Council (CCC) Generic Specification for Archaeological Excavations (Part B), and approved Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2019) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeology and Heritage Officer at Canterbury City Council.

#### **1.2 Scope of the Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

1.2.1 In accordance with the CCC Specification, this report comprises a summary of the project background (Section 1), the geological and archaeological background (Section 2) and the project aims (Section 3). Generic and specific methodologies are detailed in Section 4 with variations associated with each area of the site being described within the corresponding 'Results' sections (Sections 5-7) of the report in order to provide a more coherent format.

1.2.2 Detailed descriptions of the excavation Areas, including all stratigraphic sequences, are included below in Section 5.

1.2.3 For this report a phased site plan has been provided. Figure 1 provides the Site Location; Figure 2 places the site in relation to the areas of archaeological excavation carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT). Figure 3 illustrates the phasing of the archaeological features and Figure 4 details a selection of plans and sections. Figure 5 provides a detailed plan of the Roman Road.

#### **1.3 Planning background**

1.3.1 A planning application (PAN: CA//18/00963/FUL) for industrial development and all associated works and infrastructure, together with alterations to landscaping, temporary works access and compounds was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby the Principal Archaeology and Heritage

Officer requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

1.3.2 The following conditions were attached to the planning consent:

*No development other than demolition shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a specification and written timetable, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and improved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policies HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury Local Plan 2017 and the national Planning Policy Framework.*

(Condition 8)

1.3.3 The archaeological investigation detailed within this assessment forms part of an extensive programme of archaeological works associated with the planning application planning condition mentioned above. The programme has included a specification for an evaluation and various stages of archaeological fieldwork, as set out in Table 1 below.

Item	Event	Date	Contractor	Doc Ref.
1	<b>Specification</b> – Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation	2019	SWAT Archaeology	
2	<b>Fieldwork</b> – Archaeological Evaluation	2019	SWAT Archaeology	
3	<b>Report</b> - Archaeological Evaluation at the Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Kent	2019	SWAT Archaeology	
4	<b>Specification</b> – Strip, Map & Sample Requirements. Manual of Specifications Part B.	Undated	Canterbury City Council	
5	<b>Specification</b> – Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample	2019	SWAT Archaeology	

6	<b>Fieldwork</b> - Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample – see Table 2	2019	SWAT Archaeology	
7	<b>Report</b> - The Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavations at the Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Kent ( <b>this report</b> )	2019	SWAT Archaeology	Report Ref: 01

Table 1 Archaeological Documentation and Events

1.3.4 In response to Condition 8 (above) and following the first three phases of archaeological mitigation (Table 1, Items 1-3 incl.), it was agreed with CCC that a programme of archaeological excavation (i.e. a Strip, Map & Sample) would be an appropriate strategy to record any archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development (Table 1, Items 4 and 5).

1.3.5 A controlled Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) excavation was subsequently agreed, which aimed to preserve, by record, archaeological features present within the extent of the proposed development site, in areas where archaeological impact was considered high. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2019, Table 1 Item 6) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeology and Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council.

1.3.6 This report details the finding of the Strip, map and Sample excavation. The results from the initial Evaluation are detailed in a separate report (SWAT Archaeology 2019, Table 1 Item 3) and are briefly outlined in section 2.

#### 1.4 Site Description, Topography and Geology

1.4.1 The site is situated c. 3.5 miles north-east of Canterbury, on a plateau on the north side of the Stour Valley and lies immediately south of, and bound by the A28, Island Road (a former Roman road, that connected the Roman town of Canterbury (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*) with the Roman port and forts at Richborough (*Rutupiae*). The development site is located within the Lakesview Business Park and is situated between Unit 44/45 and Unit 95 and is bound to the south by Thomas Way. The site is centred on NGR TR 21193 62286.

1.4.2 The development site was originally on arable farmland and the surviving parcel between Units 44/45 and 95 measured approximately 3976sqm (0.40ha). The area investigated under Strip, Map and Sample conditions measured approximately 586sqm (0.05ha.). The site covered an area with ground levels varying between 28m and 29m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The geology comprises of Head Brickearth with Head Gravels.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>	<b>Date Started</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Supervisor (see Section 4.42)</b>
1	1	0.05	July 2019	August 2019	SH & DW

*Table 2 Areas of Archaeological Investigation*

1.4.3 The Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) of Phase 1 comprised of one area, as shown on Figures 1-3, and listed on Table 2 above. The area investigated fronted on to Thomas Way.

1.4.4 This report deals with the archaeological results from this area of excavation.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 There is a rich and complex archaeology and history surrounding Canterbury and its hinterland, therefore only recent archaeological work in the parish of Hersden and a selection of entries in the Historical Environment Record (HER) are included here.

### **2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)**

2.2.1 Substantial archaeological remains and discoveries have been recorded in the parish of Hersden. According to the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Canterbury City Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), features of archaeological and historical significance in the vicinity of the site include:

North of the development site:

- TR 26 SW 55 Enclosure (Thought to be Prehistoric or Roman)
- TR 26 SW 56 Trackway and Linear Feature (Both undated)
- TR 26 SW 69 Linear Earthwork (undated)

East of the development site:

- TR 26 SW 188 Trackway and Enclosures (undated)

South of the development site:

- TR 26 SW 193 Double-ditched rectilinear Enclosure and Trackway (undated)

West of the development site:

- TR 16 SE 12 Saxon cemetery located in the workings of a gravel quarry, about 50m south-west of 'Haseden Lane' (Jessup 1946).
- TR 26 SW 205 Iron Age Enclosures

2.2.2 This listing is a small example of a larger list of archaeological and historical records.

### **2.3 Recent investigations in the area**

2.3.1 Prior to the development of the Lakesview Business Park, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook three investigations (comprising of two phases of evaluation and a watching brief) between June 1998 and August 2000. The resulting evaluations revealed activity and potential settlement dating from the early Iron Age with a considerable late Iron Age resurgence and an extensive Roman roadside settlement complete with earlier cremations and a later inhumation burial. Of particular note were two metalled Roman roads, one of which had flanking drainage ditches, that accessed a divided landscape containing evidence of mixed land use, within which potential timber structures were also evident.

2.3.2 Between 2002 and 2005 CAT continued to investigate the area through a series of Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) excavations. Their results confirmed a large Iron Age presence, comprising of an enclosure, linear features, pits and a mix of timber constructs, ranging from round houses to four-post (granary) structures. Of note was a cluster of iron working furnaces, hearths and associated features. The SMS also confirmed that the succeeding Roman roadside settlement extended in an east-west direction along the course of the A28 for a length of c.390m. Further examples of cremation and inhumation burials were recovered as well as a Bronze flagon (perhaps a votive offering) and a timber-lined well. However, the continuation of the metalled Roman road, exposed during the evaluation was not apparent. Intermittent patches of metalling, forming the remains of another road suggests a standard patchwork surface treatment of the roads on site.

2.3.3 The most recent archaeological work in the area undertaken by SWAT Archaeology in 2018 comprised of a Strip, Map and Sample excavation at Hoplands Farm, Hersden (NGR: TR 62015 16135) approximately 1.25km (0.7 miles) west of the site. The excavation (report forthcoming) has established that the Iron Age and Roman activity continues along the line of the A28 for at least 1.25km. Again, the archaeological features comprised enclosures, fields systems, additional Roman cremation burials and another timber-lined well. Hoplands Farm also had an Anglo-Saxon presence, perhaps relating to the Saxon cemetery 500m to the south-east, discovered in 1931. Pottery from the upper-most fill of the timber-lined well, and a cruciform brooch from Hoplands give an Anglo-Saxon date range of c. 450-600 AD.

2.3.4 The final investigation prior to the Strip, Map and Sample of the proposed development site was the evaluation carried out there by SWAT Archaeology (2019, Table 1 Items 4 and 5). The evaluation suggested that the northern and central part of the site was absent of archaeology. Trench 1, within the southern part, fronting on to Thomas Way, however, demonstrated a concentrated presence of archaeological features dating from the Roman period.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Primary Aims**

3.1.1 The primary objectives of the excavation were to identify, excavate and record any significant archaeological remains present, which were under threat by the development as a contribution to knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Canterbury and its hinterland.

3.1.2 The aims of this archaeological investigation were therefore (not exclusively):

- to understand the character, form, function and date of any other archaeological remains on the site. The investigation should include analysis of the spatial organisation of activities on the site during this period through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages.
- to assist in the understanding of the prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman occupation of the area through examination of the date, form and character of the site in the context of its topographical position and that of other similarly dated findings within the area and beyond.

#### **3.2 Project Specific Objectives**

3.2.1 As well as general objectives, several project specific questions have been raised, as detailed within the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2019, Table 1 Item 7):

- *Establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed following the stripping of the site.*
- *Provide a refined chronology of the archaeological phasing.*
- *Investigate the function of remains and the activities taking place within and close to the site.*
- *to understand the character, form, function and date of any archaeological activities present on the site.*
- *to include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages.*
- *to consider the site's geology and topography in terms of the activity encountered.*
- *to understand the nature of any Prehistoric activity at the site and to relate this to existing findings from the area.*
- *to understand the nature of any Romano-British activity at the site and to relate this to existing findings from the area.*

- *to understand the nature of any Anglo-Saxon activity and relate this to past findings in the area*
- *to place any remains exposed in their wider setting and contribute to our understanding of the history of Canterbury and its hinterland.*
- *to contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area; and*
- *to contribute to the objectives of the South East Regional Research Framework.*

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 An 8 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in layers of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

4.1.2 A site grid was established using an EDM by the SWAT Archaeology Surveyor and tied to the National Grid. On completion of targeted hand-cleaning, a site plan was produced at a scale of 1:100. Spray paint line marker was used to mark the edges of unexcavated features prior to mapping. Levels were taken across the site prior to excavation of archaeological features and added to the site plan.

4.1.3 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site, in agreement with CCC Archaeology and Heritage Officer can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.
- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals (between 2m and 4m as appropriate) measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriately sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.

4.1.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM. Finds were treated in accordance with Section 9 of the Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) Manual of Specifications and current National Guidelines.

4.1.5 An environmental sampling strategy was implemented across the site, in consultation with Lisa Gray, environmental consultant for SWAT Archaeology. Soil samples were collected from all contexts in which faunal or botanical remains were clearly identifiable and from contexts with significant stratigraphic relationships, as well as representative samples taken from across the excavated features. Samples were collected in clean sample buckets and labelled with context numbers, dates, method of retrieval and sample numbers for processing off-site.

## **4.2 Monitoring**

4.2.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to Rosanne Cummings, (Principal Archaeology and Heritage Officer) at Canterbury City Council throughout the archaeological investigation. Site visits were undertaken, and weekly update reports were maintained.

## **4.3 Recording**

4.3.1 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards and in line with the KCCHC Manual of Specifications Part B. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

- All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on SWAT Archaeology context record sheets.
- All excavated sections were drawn on polyester drawing film at a scale of 1:10 and fully labelled with context numbers and other appropriate recording numbers and levelled with respect to m. OD.
- Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, labelled and levelled with respect to m. OD. All archaeological interventions including linear slots, intercutting relationship slots and half-sections were also marked on the overall site plan.
- Registers of contexts, small finds, environmental samples, site drawings and photographs were maintained and monitored by the site supervisor.
- A full photographic record including digital photographs was maintained; all excavated sections and features were photographed pre- and post-excavation, and a selection of working and site photos were also taken.
- Single-context recording was adopted across the site.

4.3.2 The current site archive consists of the site records and digital photographs and associated records, and all artefacts and flots/residues obtained from environment sampling. Following approval of this report by the Principal Archaeology Officer, Canterbury City Council, the archive will be ordered in line with current National Standards and deposited with a suitable local museum, in agreement with

CCC and the receiving body. The archive is currently held in SWAT Archaeology Offices, School Farm Oast, Faversham.

#### **4.4 Project timetable, project management and staff structure**

##### *TEAM COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION*

4.4.1 As the archaeological contractor for this project, SWAT Archaeology appointed field archaeologists (see below). As a minimum, the Project Supervisors maintained a constant presence on site during the course of the archaeological fieldwork. Additional staff were called upon as and when required, dependent on timescales/deadlines and the frequency of archaeological deposits encountered.

4.4.2 The core SWAT archaeological team were:

- Project Director – Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT Archaeology)
- Site Supervisor – Simon Holmes (Archaeologist)
- Site Supervisor – Daniel Worsley (Archaeologist)
- GIS/TST Surveyor/CAD draughtsman – Jonny Madden (Digitise This)

4.4.3 All staff were fully qualified, inducted in health & safety protocols/procedures and fully briefed on the archaeological background and potential of the site, as well as SWAT procedures. All archaeological teams worked to a standardised system, were consistently managed and were fully briefed on their responsibilities and duties before commencing work.

4.4.4 The Project Director was Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT Archaeology). He was responsible for the implementation of the Archaeological Project Design, assisted by the site-based Project Supervisors, and had overall responsibility for the archaeological project. He liaised directly with the Principal Contractor and was responsible for the submission of weekly progress reports, interim reports and Post-Excavation programmes. He was primarily office-based and attended progress and monitoring meetings; made site visits and provided support in the field as and when required.

4.4.5 The Project Supervisors (see above) were site-based and responsible for the day-to-day supervision of field archaeologists, under the direct supervision of the Project Manager. They had particular responsibility for supervising the landscape recording element of the Archaeological Design, including the work of the survey team and maintenance of the Project GIS.

4.4.6 During the course of the archaeological excavations within the area (Table 2), five chronological periods were recognised ranging from the Early-Mid Iron Age (Period 1) to the Post-Medieval period (Period 5). Table 3, below, summarises the assigned periods and the date ranges offered by the ceramic and numismatic data.

<b>Phase No.</b>	<b>Chronological Period</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	Early-Mid Iron Age	c. 1000-200 BC
2	Late Iron Age	c. 200 BC-50 BC
3	Transitional	c. 50 BC-50/75 AD
4	Romano-British	c. 43-410 AD
5	Post-Medieval	c. 1550-1800 AD

*Table 3 Chronological Periods used for this Assessment*

#### **4.5 Stratigraphic Sequence**

4.5.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/overburden (G1000) overlying a compact reworked mottled subsoil (G1001) consisting moderately dense light-mid brown silty clayey brickearth. The subsoil was distinguishable from with the underlying brickearth, clays and gravels within which the majority of archaeological features recorded on site were situated.

### **5 REVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

5.1.1 The following narrative was based on the preliminary excavation archive. The ceramic spot dating for this site has been completed, therefore the phasing of individual features and feature groups have been finalised. The Roman coinage recovered from the excavation, was also used to aid the spot dating. A phased plan of the site has been included (Figure 3) showing feature location and their relationship with other features.

5.1.2 Based on the completed excavation archive and ceramic spot dating, the features can be grouped into five periods: Early-Mid Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Transitional, Romano-British, and Post-Medieval. Several features remain undated. The majority of the features on site were of Romano-British date.

5.1.3 The Early-Mid Iron Age was represented by a single feature, whereas the Late Iron Age period was represented by a large spread of disturbed natural within a depression, perhaps a wallow. The Transitional period has been included to aid the interpretation of the complex and interwoven nature of the features, and is represented by several linear features and a number of pits, that contained a greater percentage of earlier Iron Age material than Roman, therefore suggesting, but not confirming, their existence prior to and immediately after the invasion in AD43. Features belonging to the Romano-British period comprise almost entirely of linear features relating to the series of enclosures revealed by CAT between 1998 and 2005. There were also a small number of pits

(including a votive pit containing lead curses and coins of c. 253-260 AD) and part of a metalled road surface. The road sealed a mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century linear feature, thus providing a late Romano-British, and perhaps, a provisional pre-Anglo-Saxon transitional date. One linear feature was dated to the Post-Medieval period.

## **5.2 EARLY-MID IRON AGE (Figure 3)**

5.2.1 Evidence of the earliest activity on the development site was represented by a single feature (G1002) situated in the extreme northeast corner of the site. The feature had an irregular linear shape, that had a northeast-southwest alignment. It had a length of c. 8m, a width that varied between 0.77m and 2m, and a depth of 0.41m. The fill comprised mottled light brown clayey silt that produced pottery dated c. 1000-350 BC.

## **5.3 LATE IRON AGE (Figure 3)**

5.3.1 The Late Iron age was represented by a single depression (G1003) perhaps a Wallow, situated within the centre of the site. The feature had an irregular shape, but seemed to have a northwest-southeast alignment, and measured c. 32m x c. 25m. It had a maximum depth of 0.47m and the fill comprised light-mid brown silty clay that contained pottery dated c. 125-0 BC. This feature was ultimately severely truncated by transitional and Romano-British features. The presence of an 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century cast bronze bell-shaped stud (SF:1) is intrusive.

## **5.4 TRANSITIONAL (Figure 3)**

5.4.1 It is more than likely that several of the Late Iron Age and early Roman features may have had origins in a transitional Late Iron Age/early Roman Period. The following eleven features are those that contained a greater percentage of earlier Iron Age material than Roman, therefore suggesting, but not confirming, their existence prior to and/or immediately after the invasion in AD43. Most were subsequently truncated by later Roman features.

5.4.2 Pit (G1004) had an ovate shape and a northeast-southwest alignment. It had a length of c. 2m, a width of 1.90m and a depth of 0.16m. The pit contained light-mid brown silty clay that produced pottery with a date range of c. 0/25BC-75 AD.

5.4.3 Ditch (G1005) formed the main linear feature with an east-west alignment. It had a length of c. +10m, a width of 1.40m, a depth of 0.48m and had a V-shaped profile with a flat base. The fill comprised mottled light brown, grey and orange-brown silty clay that produced pottery with a date range of c. 125BC-150 AD.

- 5.4.4 Pit (G1006) had an ovate shape and a northwest-southeast alignment. It had a length of c. 0.93m, a width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.06m. The pit contained dark grey silty clay that produced pottery with a date range of c. 600 BC-150/175 AD.
- 5.4.5 Linear (G1007) had a northeast-southwest alignment, a length of c. 7m, a width of 1.11m, a depth of 0.50m and had a U-shaped profile. The fill comprised mottled light grey-brown and orange-brown clayey silt that contained pottery dated c. 25-75 AD.
- 5.4.6 Linear (G1008) also had a northeast-southwest alignment. It had a length of c. 10m, a surviving width of 1.32m, a depth of 0.23m and had a U-shaped profile. The fill comprised mid grey-brown silty clay that produced pottery with a date range of c. 200 BC-75 AD.
- 5.4.7 Linear (G1009) had a northeast-southwest alignment and had a length of c. +3m, a width of 1m, a depth of 0.27m and had a U-shaped profile. The fill comprised light grey-brown clayey silt that contained pottery dated c. 50 BC-50 AD.
- 5.4.8 Linear (G1010) also had a northeast-southwest alignment and also had a length of c. +3m. It had a width of 1.20m, a depth of 0.42m and had a wide U-shaped profile. The fill comprised mid orange-brown silty clay that produced pottery dated c. 0-50 BC-75 AD.
- 5.4.9 Pit (G1011) had an ovate shape and a north-south alignment. It had a length of c. 2.20m, a width of 1.80m and a depth of 0.21m. The pit contained mottled light-mid grey and orange-brown silty clay that produced pottery with a date range of c. 1000 BC-150/125 AD.

## **5.5 ROMANO-BRITISH (Figure 3)**

- 5.5.1 The Romano-British period was represented by a widespread series of ditches, gullies and other linear features that truncated the earlier Iron Age and transitional features and formed a complex network of interwoven features adhering to the northeast-southwest alignment established by the earlier phases. The features would seem to be a continuation of the enclosed and partially enclosed landscape, revealed by CAT between 2002-2005. The remaining features on the site comprised pits and a metalled road surface.
- 5.5.2 The fill within the majority of the Roman features comprised light-mid brown silts and clays, however, the latest of the features were backfilled with very dark grey-black clays, perhaps indicative of a resurgence of small-scale iron working taking place on site.

### *THE ENCLOSURES AND ROAD*

- 5.5.3 The complex network of ditches, gullies and other linear features most likely formed part of the series of rectangular, square and trapezoidal shaped enclosures encountered by CAT. The pattern

observed on the proposed development was focused on two principal linear features: Transitional ditch (G1005) and 'ditch' (G1012). 'Ditch' (G1012) had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of +18m and truncated the transitional ditch. It had a branch that extended northeast-wards for a length of +16m. This arrangement effectively divided the area of investigation into four quadrants. The majority of the features on the site, were situated within the northeast and southeast quadrants.

- 5.5.4 'Ditch' (G1012) had a width of 1.36m, a depth of 0.20m and contained dark grey-brown and orange-brown silty clays that produced pottery dated c. 43-150 AD. The feature had a width of 1.05m, a depth of 0.30m and also contained dark grey-brown clayey silt. The pottery produced a date range of c. 50-200 AD. It also contained a silver *cochlear* spoon (SF:2).
- 5.5.5 The features within the northeast quadrant comprised a group (G1013) of overlapping linear features, aligned northeast-southwest, that migrated, slightly, into the southeast quadrant. The group had an average length of +12m. The width of the features varied between 1.40m and 0.70m and the depths varied between 0.52m and 0.26m. Their fill comprised mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown clayey silts that produced a pottery date range of c. 50-250 AD.
- 5.5.6 Within the southeast quadrant were two parallel linear features (G1014) also aligned northwest-southeast. Both pre-dated, and were truncated by, a series (G1015) of parallel and intercutting linear features, aligned northeast-southwest.
- 5.5.7 The two linear features (G1014) had an average length of 6m, an average width of 0.50m and had an average depth of 0.19m. They were filled with mid grey-brown clayey silt that contained a ceramic date range of c. 50 BC-150 AD. A cast iron ingot, retrieved from one of the features is similar to examples recovered from a shipwreck in the River Rhone (Pagès 2011) dated c. 27BC-96 AD.
- 5.5.8 Linear group (G1015) comprised of four features that had a length of +10m. Their width varied between 1.05m and 0.43m, and their depth varied between 0.32m and 0.07m. The fill within each comprised mid-dark grey silty clay that produced pottery dated c. 25-250 AD.
- 5.5.9 The latest linear feature, a segmented linear (G1016), was also situated within the southeast quadrant. Aligned northwest-southeast, it had a combined length of +16m, an average width of 1.55m, and a maximum depth of 0.33m. The fill comprised very dark grey-black silty clay that sealed light grey-brown silty clay. Pottery recovered from the darker fill produced a date range of c. 250-300+ AD. This context also produced an iron smith's chisel, similar to a 4th century example from Dragonby, N. Lincolnshire (May 1996). The presence of a coin (SF:8) of Magnentius (c. 350-353 AD) suggests that the feature fell out of use during the mid-fourth century.

- 5.5.10 There were two dated pits within the southeast quadrant. The largest (G1017) was severely truncated by a segment of road. Probably ovate in shape, and aligned northeast-southwest, the pit had a length of 2.45m, and a surviving width of 0.80m. It contained dark grey-black silty clay and pottery producing a date range of c. 50-175 AD.
- 5.5.11 The second pit (G1018) was situated 1m to the north, had an ovate shape and a northwest-southeast alignment. It had a length of 0.72m, a width of 0.72m and a depth of 0.22m. The fill also comprised very dark grey-black silty clay. The pottery recovered produced a date range of c. 100-200 AD. The pit also produced a group of small finds: 2 base silver coins, 1 copper alloy coin and 4 rolled lead curse tablets (*Defixiones*). The assemblage is most likely a votive deposit. The coins were contemporary and were issued c. 253-260 AD during the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus. The presence of the four curse tablets is of great significance. The feature provides tangible dating evidence for this type of object, as most (if not all) of the recognised specimens found in the UK are residual. The presence of the votive deposit may be explained by the pit's close proximity to a group of cremation burials within a small mortuary enclosure (excavated by CAT), situated immediately to the northeast of the pit (Barrett 2004. Fig 1. No. 12).
- 5.5.12 The latest feature on the development site was a segment of a road (G1019) comprising of a beaten metalled surface, situated in the extreme southeast corner of the site. The road sealed the back fill within Linear (G1016) that contained the coin of Magnentius dated c. 350-353 AD, giving the surface a post c. AD 353 date for its deposition. The presence of several wheel ruts sealed by a layer of dark grey silty clayey material, containing a contemporary copied coin (SF:13) indicates that road was still in use after c. 350-60 AD and possibly up to the end of the Roman period. Of note, the 2002-2003 excavation by CAT revealed pockets of a metalled road surface on the same alignment (Barrett 2004. Fig 1. Nos. 10 & 11).
- 5.5.13 There was a single Roman feature, a linear (G1020) situated within the southwest quadrant. Also aligned northeast-southwest, it had a length of 8m, a width of 0.53m and a depth of 0.09m. The fill comprised light grey-brown silty clay that produced pottery dated c. 75-125 AD.

## **5.6 POST-MEDIEVAL (Figure 3)**

- 5.6.1 The Post-Medieval phase was represented by a single linear feature (G1021) located within the centre of the site and it too, had a northeast-southwest alignment. The linear had a length of 8m, a width of 0.46m and a depth of 0.15m. It contained mid-grey-brown silty clay that produced pottery dated c. 1550-1650 AD.

## **5.7 UNDATED (Figure 3)**

5.7.1 A total of twelve features comprising six linear features and six pits could not be dated. Their proximity to dateable features would suggest however, that their origins lie within the Transitional and or Roman periods.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

6.1.1 The excavation at Hersden comprised an extensive, series of linear features, relating to the previously known archaeological landscape revealed by CAT between 1998 and 2005. The subsequent excavation carried out by SWAT Archaeology revealed a continuation of the afore-mentioned landscape that also spanned the Prehistoric to Roman periods. The excavation also exposed the section of another metalled Roman road, complete with wheel ruts and a solitary Post-Medieval feature.

6.1.2 Situated next to the road (and close to several cremations excavated by CAT) was a votive pit that contained two base-silver coins of the mid-late 3<sup>rd</sup> century and four rolled lead curse tablets.

6.1.3 The centre of the excavation was however, dominated by a series of Roman linear features, relating to the enclosure landscape that dominates the plateau at this location. Present was a background 'noise' of Late Iron Age activity represented in the ceramic assemblage. Some of the features no doubt had an Iron Age foundation though this was difficult to establish. Therefore, a transitional period was added to the site chronology to better define the sequence of phasing on the site. It is evident from the phasing and intercutting nature of the linear features, that the enclosures were altered and expanded during the course of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

6.1.4 Activity on the site during the Roman period may also have included a small iron industry located nearby and is represented by the iron ingot and iron smith's chisel. The excavations by CAT provided evidence of iron working taking place during the Iron Age, therefore it stands to reason that such activity would continue as part of the site's economic dynamics during the Roman period. The presence of artefacts of high status (such as the silver spoon) is indicative of a healthy economy.

6.1.5 Activity after the later Roman period is unclear. The Anglo-Saxon period within the wider landscape is suggested by a presence at Hoplands farm and the cemetery 1.75km west of the site. Further study of the results of the various phases of excavation along the A28 may improve our understanding of this later transitional period at Hersden.

6.1.6 The excavation implies that activity on the site ceased until the Post-Medieval period. The Post-Medieval phase on site was represented by a single linear feature within the centre of the excavation.

6.1.7 In sum, the archaeological investigation at Hersden, prior to the development of the Lakesview Business Park, revealed a landscape that contained evidence of human activity that originated during the Early-Mid Iron Age and that activity peaked during the Roman period. With continued development taking place along a c. 2km length of the A28 from the Lakesview Business Park to Hoplands Farm, there is great potential for revealing an entire archaeological landscape based on the plateau overlooking the north side of the Stour Valley.

## **7 FINDS**

### **7.1 SMALL FINDS ASSESSMENT**

#### *SUMMARY*

7.1.1 The excavation at Hersden produced a total of 24 small finds. The artefacts within this report are from the Roman period and they comprise of 1 silver spoon, 2 base silver coins, 5 copper alloy artefacts, including: 3 coins and a furniture fitting; 9 iron objects, including: an ingot and a chisel; 2 glass fragments, 4 lead curse tablets and 1 possible worked bone object. Twenty-two of the artefacts were recovered during the excavation of interventions within the archaeological landscape. Two (the silver spoon and one copper alloy object) were recovered through controlled metal detecting.

7.1.2 It has been noted that metal detecting has taken place in close proximity to the Lakesview Business Park and it was hoped that a comparison between the artefacts found during the excavation and those metal detected within the proximity of the site would enhance the socio-economic demographic of the area throughout its history. However, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database only holds 1 record pertaining to the parish of Hersden that of a partial late Iron Age silver coin (KENT-6755B6) dated c. 80-60 BC. Though a useful record, the information cannot be used during the next phase of post-excavation work to provide spatial data concerning the Hersden area. However, the small finds recovered by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 1998 and 2005 will be of particular interest. This group is, therefore in need of further study.

#### *METHODOLOGY*

7.1.3 The artefacts were assigned a unique Small Find number (SF:) during the excavation and registered within the site archive. They were air dried and have been packaged in preparation for transit to a conservation lab, where further analysis and re-packaging will take place. The state of preservation of the artefacts is variable; some objects are intact whereas others are not. Several of the copper alloy (non-ferrous) and iron (ferrous) objects also exhibit differing stages of corrosion. The following report describes the status of each artefact and includes recommendations that address the preservation of each artefact, as well as further work required.

7.1.4 The artefacts have been divided into their traditional object types and each section is divided in chronological order. The artefacts within each section are listed in Small Find numerical order and have been dated using associated ceramic data, unless stated otherwise. In addition to published and 'grey' literature, references also include online sources, especially the PAS database.

#### *THE CATALOGUES*

#### *THE COINS*

7.1.5 There was a total of 5 coins recovered from the excavation at Hersden. Four were found within features next to the Roman road and one was found on the road itself. The coins have, therefore, originated from archaeological features and were thereby given context numbers.

7.1.6 The coins fall into two distinct periods: late 3<sup>rd</sup> century (x3), and mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century (x2). The following catalogue is divided into periodic phases represented by the coins.

#### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Coins**

1. SF:17. Context (1133) Pit [1134].  
Valerian I. c. 253-260 AD.  
Riate (Antoninianus).  
Base Silver.  
Obv: IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG.  
Rev: FELICITAS AVGG.  
Mint: Rome. RIC 87. c. 254-256 AD.  
Dia: 20mm.  
Comments: Conserve.
2. SF:18. Context (1133) Pit [1134].  
Gallienus? (Joint Reign) c. 253-260 AD.  
Riate (Antoninianus).  
Base Silver.  
Obv: Illegible.  
Rev: Illegible.  
Mint: Uncertain.  
Comments: Fragment.
3. SF:19. Context (1133) Pit [1134].  
Copper alloy.

Obv: Illegible.

Rev: Illegible.

Comments: Fragment.

### **The mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> Century Coins**

1. SF:8. Context (1125) Linear [1127].  
Magnentius. c. 350-353 AD  
AE 3.  
Copper alloy.  
Obv: Illegible.  
Rev: FELICITAS REIPUBLICAE.  
Mint: Uncertain  
Dia: 18mm.  
Comments: Corroded but stable.
  
2. SF:3. Context (1132) Road [1131].  
Contemporary Copy.  
AE 4 (*Minim*).  
Copper alloy.  
Obv: Illegible.  
Rev: Illegible.  
Dia: 7mm.  
Comments: Corroded but stable.

### Discussion

- 7.1.7 The late 3<sup>rd</sup> century coins from feature [1134] represent the earliest issues found during the excavation of the site. With perhaps, the exception of the fragmented copper specimen, the coins from this feature are of some interest. Though not scarce, the presence of two base silver coins of the imperial partnership of Valerian and Gallienus within a feature that also produced four rolled lead sheet curse tablets suggests a deliberate deposition, rather than accidental or deliberate loss. Most likely, a votive placement.
- 7.1.8 The later, mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century coins are also of interest. Though common finds their location on the site has provided a useful stratigraphic sequence in relation to the Roman road. The coin of Magnentius was recovered from a linear feature sealed by road's metallised surface, whereas the smaller AE 4, which may be a later contemporary copy (perhaps a copy of issues dating to c. 361 AD),

was recovered from the surface of the road. The coins suggest that the metalled surface was laid after c. 350 AD and that the road may have continued in use up to the end of the Roman period.

#### Recommendations and Further Work

- 7.1.9 Conserve coin SF: 17 (1133) [1134].
- 7.1.10 Additional study of the Lakesview Business Park coinage recovered CAT during 1998-2005 (if any) will enhance the numismatic data and create a more accurate pattern of coin loss for the site, if not the parish. Access to the coins from other excavations within Hersden (such as Hoplands Farm) may also produce a wider coin loss pattern for the Hersden landscape.

#### *THE NON-FERROUS METAL OBJECTS*

- 7.1.11 The excavation at Hersden produced a total of 7 non-ferrous objects. All were recovered from archaeological features. The artefacts also fall into the Roman period and they comprise: 1 silver spoon, 1 copper alloy stud, 1 copper alloy object and four lead curse tablets (*Defixiones*). The catalogue is divided into material type categories and the artefacts within each category are listed in small find numerical order.

#### *SILVER*

- 7.1.12 SF:2 Context (1061) Linear [1062]. Complete silver example of a cochlear spoon but has a slightly damaged and bent handle. The bowl is round, shallow, and measures 20 mm in diameter. It has a decorative ridge around the upper part of the inner surface. The base of the bowl has a small circular indentation which forms the centre of an incised floral motif. The handle has been joined to the underside of the bowl and has a circular section, tapering to a point at the end. Length: 130mm. Pottery recovered from the same feature provides a date range c. 50-200 AD. Another silver specimen formed part of the Backworth Hoard (Potter, 1997, p. 70, fig. 58. British Museum Acc No. 1850,0601.14) and similar copper alloy examples have been found at South shields; (Allason-Jones & Miket, 1984, p. 139, no. 321), Wenhaston, Suffolk (PAS, SF-A33AE7) and Buntingford, Hertfordshire (PAS, BH-096792). All are dated AD 43-200. An example from Catterick; Wilson (2002, Vol 2, p. 111, fig. 283, no. 30) has been dated c. 250-350 AD, though this is likely to be residual. A remnant of another specimen from Canterbury (Blockley et al, 1995, Vol 2, p. 1034-35, fig. 441, no. 451) was recovered from Post-Roman 'dark earth' soils. Recommendation: Clean. Conservation and Illustration.

#### *COPPER ALLOY*

- 7.1.13 SF:1 (1004) Wallow [1058]. Incomplete cast bronze bell-shaped stud with the neck and skirt being of equal depth and width. The face is countersunk with a central raised boss. Integrally cast with a flat shank that is rectangular in section and has a circular hole at the end. The stud is most likely to have a 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Allason-Jones (1985, p. 30, nos. 79-85) describes two distinct types. Type 1 has an iron shaft caulked into the head with lead. Type 2 (this example) has a longer bronze shank integrally cast with the head. There are many examples of both types of this class of object from Roman Britain and they are found on military sites in the north (Allason-Jones, *ibid*) to urban sites, such as Canterbury (Blockley *et al*, 1995, p. 1030-1032, fig. 438, nos. 423 & 425) in the south. They are not confined to sites with larger populations, as they also appear on rural sites. Goodnestone, Dover has produced five examples of type 1 (Holmes, forthcoming). They are thought to be a component to boxes (both wooden and bronze). Allason-Jones (*ibid*) refers to a bronze box-plate from Walheim in Germany that is decorated with eight examples of type 1. Though their function may not wholly be decorative. Length: 50mm. Width (Shank): 10mm. Diameter: 19mm. Recommendation: Cleaning, Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.14 SF:16 (1125) Linear [1127]. Incomplete object. Probably rectangular in shape when intact. Object comprises of a thin frame, which is flat and rectangular in section. The metal has been rolled and stamped, not cast, but is stylistically similar to cast rectangular and sub-rectangular shoe buckle frames of the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Context (1125) forms the upper-most layer within a ditch. Therefore, this object may well be intrusive. Length: 33mm. Width (of object): 40.5mm. Width (of frame): 3mm. Recommendation: Illustration.

#### *LEAD*

- 7.1.15 SF:21 (1133) Pit [1134]. Complete (though slightly damaged) curse tablet (*defixio*) comprising of a small lead sheet, rolled to form a scroll. Length: 37mm. Diameter: 12mm. Recommendation: Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.16 SF:22 (1133) Pit [1134]. Complete (though slightly damaged) curse tablet (*defixio*) comprising of a small lead sheet, rolled to form a scroll. Length: 47.5mm. Diameter: 10.5mm. Recommendation: Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.17 SF:23 (1133) Pit [1134]. Complete curse tablet (*defixio*) comprising of a small lead sheet, rolled to form a scroll. Length: 39.5mm. Diameter: 11mm. Recommendation: Illustration.
- 7.1.18 SF:24 (1133) Pit [1134]. Complete curse tablet (*defixio*) comprising of a small lead sheet, rolled to form a scroll. Length: 40mm. Diameter: 11mm. Recommendation: Illustration.

#### Discussion

7.1.19 With the exception of Small Find SF:16, the assemblage of the non-ferrous objects from the site at Hersden correlates with the Roman period present on site. The assemblage is slightly unusual as the types of artefact recovered do not represent the 'typical' objects one would expect to be found on a Roman site. For example, there are no brooches, perhaps the most common Roman artefact (after the coinage). Instead the assemblage, though relatively small, comprises of good quality, high status objects – the silver spoon and the bell-shaped stud. The presence of four curse tablets from the same pit and context as two base silver coins, suggests a votive deposit that if not a single episode, then could represent a small scale religious practice, perhaps associated with a group of Roman cremations discovered in very close proximity by CAT. Examples of curse tablets recorded on the Portable Antiquities database include Alphamstone, Essex (PAS. ESS-E1DF7C) and Oswestry, Shropshire (PAS. LVPL-DEA234) now in the National Museum Liverpool (Find ID: 253577) are thought to be Roman. Others, Cotmanhay, Derbyshire (PAS. DENO-21A306), Eastwood, Nottinghamshire (PAS. DENO-21A306) and Thrintoft, North Yorkshire (PAS. YORYM-5F09A9) are thought not to be *Defixiones*: "Rolled and/or folded lead alloy strips are commonly believed to be Roman curse tablets. However, comparing this object to examples of verified curse tablets/rolls (<http://curses.csad.ox.ac.uk>), suggests the present example is of a more modern date and a weight, or lead ingot". There can be no doubt however, that the four specimens from Hersden are Roman, as they were recovered from an undisturbed Roman context, and their association with the coins from the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus give them a mid-third century date.

#### Recommendations and Further Work

7.1.20 As stated in most of the entries in the catalogue, the non-ferrous objects require illustration. Others require cleaning and or conservation. Although the excavation at Hersden is complete, examination of the small finds assemblage recovered by CAT between 1998 and 2005 would allow for a spatial, socio-economic and topographic analysis to explain the presence of this small but interesting assemblage.

7.1.21 The silver spoon is to be declared to the local Coroner or PAS Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Kent, as the definition of the Treasure Act 1996 states:

*(1) Treasure is —*

***(a) any object at least 300 years old when found which —***

***(i) is not a coin but has metallic content of which at least 10 per cent by weight is precious metal;...***

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/section/1>

The Spoon therefore qualifies as potential Treasure.

### *THE FERROUS METAL OBJECTS*

- 7.1.22 The excavation at Hersden also produced a total of 9 ferrous objects. All were recovered from archaeological features. The artefacts also fall into the Roman period. Certain artefacts have been described minimally as they require X-ray to aid identification.
- 7.1.23 SF:3 (1117) Linear [1120]. Complete Cast ingot. Rectangular-shaped bar with a semi-circular section. Similar to examples recovered from the Rhone shipwreck (Pagès, 2011. p. 1234 – 1252) and dated c. 27BC-96 AD. Weight 840g. Length: 448mm. Width: 40mm. Thickness: 11mm. Recommendation: X-ray, metallurgical analysis and Conservation.
- 7.1.24 SF:4 (1125) Linear [1127] Incomplete rectangular-shaped mending plate/bracket. Flat, with two circular-shaped pierced nail holes for attachment. Mending plates are any intermediate component for fixing one part to another part. A bracket is the intermediate component between two materials, usually of the same material (for this example: wood) and fixes the one to the other and they can vary in shape. Length: 61mm. Width: 30.5mm. Recommendation: X-ray. Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.25 SF:5 (1125) Linear [1127] Incomplete? Uncertain object. Possibly a Type 4 nail (Manning 1985). The head is entirely to one side of the shank, forming an L-shaped profile. The head is ovate. Length: 49mm. Width (head): 18mm. Width (shank): 4mm. Recommendation: X-ray. Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.26 SF:6 (1125) Linear [1127] Complete Smith's chisel. The upper section of the body has a square section and the remainder has a rectangular section that tapers to form an angled blade. The head has been flattened through use, forming a flat oval-shaped burr. Similar to a 4<sup>th</sup> century example from Dragonby, N. Lincolnshire (May 1996). Manning (1985) suggests that this type of chisel may have been used for cutting hot iron, or, less probably, for working soft stone. Length: 295mm. Width: 33mm. Thickness: 20mm. Recommendation: X-ray. Conservation and Illustration.
- 7.1.27 SF:11 (1125) Linear [1127] Uncertain object. Too encrusted for identification. Length: 60mm. Width: 40mm. Thickness: 17mm. Recommendation: X-ray to attempt a more definitive identification.
- 7.1.28 SF:12 (1125) Linear [1127] Uncertain object. Too encrusted for identification. Length: 71.5mm. Width: 66mm. Thickness: 3.5mm. Recommendation: X-ray to attempt a more definitive identification.
- 7.1.29 SF:14 (1125) Linear [1127] Uncertain object. Too encrusted for identification. Ovate-shaped and flat. Length: 69mm. Width: 40mm. Thickness: 5mm. Recommendation: X-ray to attempt a more definitive identification.

- 7.1.30 SF:15 (1125) Linear [1127] Intrusive modern thin strip used to hold construction materials on to wooden pallets. Recommendation: Dismiss and Discard.
- 7.1.31 SF:20 (1133) Pit [1134] Complete ring/hoop with ovate section. Dia: 40.5mm. Width: 14mm. Thickness: 10mm. Recommendation: X-ray and examine for organic material, Conservation and Illustration.

#### Discussion, Recommendations and Further Work

- 7.1.32 A small but interesting assemblage of iron objects. Of special interest are the ingot and chisel, as both suggest that there was an iron industry on or near the site during the Roman period, which could be a resurgence of the mid Iron Age industry revealed by CAT. It is difficult, at this stage to discuss the data provided by the ingot until it has had metallurgical analysis. The ring/hoop was recovered from the votive pit and may also be significant, it is suggested that the object be examined for organic material.

#### *THE GLASS*

- 7.1.33 There are two shards of glass from the excavation. One shard forms part of the base of a vessel, the other, part of a windowpane (now very fragmentary). Both were recovered from the same undisturbed Roman context.
- 7.1.34 SF:9 (1125) Linear [1127] 4<sup>th</sup> century. Fragment of blue-green glass from the base, and partial side of a square or hexagonal-shaped bottle. Length: 58.5mm. Width (max): 42.5mm. Thickness (max): 4mm.
- 7.1.35 SF:10 (1125) Linear [1127] 4<sup>th</sup> century. Multiple fragments from a pane of light blue-green window glass. Both faces show signs of being laid on fine sand during the cooling process. Thickness: 7mm.

#### Discussion

- 7.1.36 The presence of the glass shards, though small in number, illustrates that glass vessels were available to the population in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The fragment of windowpane may suggest a 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century building of some status, close by.

#### Recommendations and Further Work

- 7.1.37 Further analysis to be carried out by John Shepherd or Rose Broadley, to identify the type and form, place of manufacture and date of each piece.

#### *THE BONE*

- 7.1.38 The excavation at Hersden produced one bone object.

- 7.1.39 SF:7 (1004) [1005] Incomplete object (in several pieces) that shows signs of tools marks along its length and on every surface. Length (approx): 80mm Width: 11mm. Thickness: 8.5mm. Recommendation: Taxological identification and Illustration.

### CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.40 The assemblage of small finds discussed above represents a group of objects that closely mirror the phases of activity observed on site at Hersden. The combination of this assemblage with that retrieved by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 1998 and 2005 would provide enough information concerning the evolution of the site that is the Lakesview Business Park, from its earliest phase through to the end of the Roman period, if not beyond.
- 7.1.41 The presence of good quality and high-status artefacts, together with a small assemblage of votive objects has provided evidence of the variety of objects in the possession of, and the trade of materiel accessible to the local population during the Roman period. It also suggests, if not a single episode, a small-scale religious practice, perhaps associated with a group of Roman cremations discovered in very close proximity by CAT.

## **7.2 CERAMIC ASSESSMENT**

- 7.2.1 A relatively small quantity of 405 sherds weighing 6kgs.152grms was recovered during this excavation. The assemblage is multi-period, with both Prehistoric and Historic Period material represented. It is principally dominated by a rather mundane but not un-interesting Roman component. Overall, the as-recovered material indicates that:

- 1 – No ceramic earlier than c.1500 BC – if as early – was recovered
- 2 – A small but more than probable Mid-Late Iron Age phase of activity between c.150-50 BC
- 3 – A similarly small Late Iron Age presence, from as early as c.125/100 BC, is a distinct likelihood
- 4 – Continuous settlement-fringe activity from the Late Iron Age BC through into the Latest Iron Age AD
- 5 – Settlement continuity throughout the Early and Mid-Roman period, with its main surge arguably between c.75-175 AD or slightly later
- 6 – Settlement decline between c.200-250 AD
- 7 - Immediate-area probable site-clearance deposits at some point between c.275-300 AD or slightly earlier
- 8 – Settlement-shift or sporadic Late Roman activity between c.300-400-plus AD
- 9 – No tangible activity in immediate area between c.400-1550 AD – a span of approximately 1100 years
- 10 - No ceramic later than c.1550-1650 AD recovered

- 7.2.2 Relative academic value

Other than the obvious benefit of additional information regarding topographic and chronological presences – the range of material, for all periods recorded, is fairly unexceptional. Other than the Early-Mid Roman phases of activity, all other periods are rather minimally represented. For the main, Roman, phase, the predominance of kitchenwares including amphorae and mortaria together with the relatively sparse presence of imported fine tablewares could suggest the disposal of pottery acquired by a reasonably well-off but not radically wealthy settlement or farmstead that had evolved, gradually Romanising, from its native pre-Conquest AD roots. Whilst this is certainly so to some degree so, it is equally possible, that the apparent relative lack of wealth represented by the low quantity of imported finewares, is a bi-product of contemporary discard policies rather than a true reflection of either the settlement's wealth – a point underpinned by the recovery of an essentially first-second century silver spoon - or where all its broken material was disposed of.

7.2.3 Oddly, it is the more ephemeral, least well-represented periods that are the most interesting – the Mid-Late Iron Age and Late Roman. Although the evidence is slim, there is a strong likelihood of a definite pre-Belgic phase of indigenous settlement in the immediate area and, as at Hoplands Farm, a few miles north-east along the 'Island Road spine', one that appears to have continued alongside the initial currency of Belgic-style ceramic, arguably between c.125-75 BC or slightly later. The implication is that the long 'Island Road' ridge, with its ridgeway and warm sunny side south-east facing slopes overlooking the Stour waterway, was a favoured location for settlement. For the Late Roman phase, the very slight presence at the present location is mirrored, again at Hoplands Farm, by an apparent shift in the location of activity/settlement focii during the Mid Roman and Late Roman periods.

7.2.4 Condition- and allocation-based summaries

7.2.5 Condition

Many individual assemblages contain residual material and could not be dated with confidence. Or have had to have the caveat 'if not residual' applied to them, mostly on the basis of their condition. Only 6 contexts could, with any degree of certainty, be classified as short-term undisturbed contemporary discard deposits on the basis of near-fresh material. Several contexts, but particularly the ditch Context 1125, appears to have received a series of one-off single-event discard deposits – but within a usage-frame spanning a fairly considerable period of time. Much of the overall recovered assemblage is rather worn and reduced – and with some contexts fairly often in a chronologically sequential manner eg, heavily abraded later first century Early Roman, moderately worn mid second century material and less worn still, or near-fresh third century AD sherds. An interesting exception to this is a cluster of North Kent fine grey tableware sherds – often large and only slightly worn or near-fresh from Ditch 1125 – and markedly different visually compared with the reduced size and condition of the later-dated ceramic from

the same context. The other visually noteworthy exception is the difference between the mostly rather bland spread of frequently fairly small-moderate sized Roman kitchenware elements compared with the frequently large-sized sherds of mortaria or amphora – a difference in this instance due to the more robustly potted and thicker-walled character of the latter vessels. Finally, there are only two inter-context same-vessel equations – between 425 and 1123 and 425 with 1125.

#### 7.2.6 Allocation

Inevitably, the degraded nature of much of the flint-tempered prehistoric material mostly could only allow allocation under the general heading 'Later Prehistoric'. Equally, the ubiquitous difficulty in confidently identifying first century BC Belgic grogged material from that of first century AD date, necessitated application of the broad 50 BC-50 AD 'Late Iron Age-Latest Iron Age' label – though with this site the quantity involved is fairly low (Table 1). Other than the need for greater specialist confirmation of the amphora and samian identifications, there were few allocation problems with this assemblage.

#### 7.2.7 Period-based summaries

#### 7.2.8 Later Prehistoric – general: c.1500-50 BC

A total of 10 small, frequently heavily worn flint-tempered sherds were recovered. With the exception of 3 sherds, all were residual in Roman contexts. The exceptions are a few elements from two contexts, 1071 and 1092, which produced solely prehistoric pottery. However, their condition suggests that they, too, are residual in later contexts. Overall, the range of surviving manufacturing characteristics is limited. Some sherds are fairly profusely tempered but there are none that are convincingly as early as the Middle Bronze Age. Only Context 1071 produced a formal element - a small fragment from an angle-shouldered fineware bowl – which could be of either Late Bronze Age, Earliest Iron Age or rather more likely, in view of previous finds made in the area by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Early-Mid Iron Age date, ie between approximately 600-350 BC. Overall, it is felt that the majority are of first millennium BC date – and some may be reduced Mid-Late Iron Age material.

#### 7.2.9 Later Prehistoric – specific: Mid-Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age, c.200-0 BC

Eight contexts collectively produced a small number of Mid-Late Iron Age-type flint-tempered bodysherds – 425, 1021, 1023, 1026, 1032, 046, 1055 and 1069 – of which all are residual in later-dated contexts, except those from Contexts 1023 and 1026. Although there are no formal or diagnostic body elements to provide conclusive proof of second century BC activity, sherd fabrics are typical of MLIA manufacturing trends. As-recovered, the sherds suggest settlement-fringe activity at some point between c.200-50 BC. Interestingly, but again marginally difficult to prove conclusively, the flint-tempered material from Contexts 1023 and 1026 is accompanied by Belgic-style grog-tempered pottery. The latter are again

mostly bodysherds but there is one large rather primitive-looking storage-jar rim fragment. All the grogged material is low-fired and a little fragmentary but generally occurring as only slightly worn material alongside fresh unworn MLIA sherds. The slight difference in condition need not imply intrusion – rather the bi-product of different fabric types. Admitted, a greater body of on-site evidence would be beneficial – but it is strongly suggested here that, as represented by these two contexts, both traditions were occurring alongside each other at some point arguably between c.125-50 BC.

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Later Prehistoric:

10 = Later Prehistoric (LP), between c.1500-50 BC

8 = Mid-late Iron Age (MLIA)

Historic Period:

10 = Late Iron Age (LIA)

13 = Late Iron Age>Latest Iron Age

36 = Latest Iron Age (LIA-ER)

198 = Early Roman (ER)

102 = Mid Roman (MR)

5 = Late Roman (LR; 1 definite, 4 debatable)

2 = Post-Medieval (PM)

405 sherd total

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Table 1: Lakeside View, Hersden. Sherd quantities per period

#### 7.2.10 Late Iron Age>Latest Iron Age: c.50 BC-50 AD

As Table 1 indicates, only a small quantity of sherds has been allocated to this general period – principally on the basis of their more worn condition in contexts containing either fresher Belgic and/or later, Roman, material. The likelihood that some may be later first century BC products is reasonable in view of the near-definite possibility of early first century BC activity. Conversely, some of early first century AD date. All are residual.

#### 7.2.11 Latest Iron Age: c.0-50 AD

Only one context, 1049, is likely to represent an undisturbed contemporary discard deposit datable to the mid first century AD (between c.25-75 AD). Two other contexts, 1090 and 1100, could be datable to between c.0-50 AD but are accompanied by the caveats ‘if not residual/intrusive.’ For this period, the

majority of its assemblage is dominated by bodysherds – there are few formal elements, one or two standard bead-rim jars and large-diameter storage-jar rims. There is a noticeable lack of Gallo-Belgic imports.

#### 7.2.12 Early and Mid Roman: c.50-275 AD

For the Early Roman – one context, 1014, appears to represent an undisturbed contemporary discard deposit – and has been placed to between c.50-100 AD. One context, 1055, may be similarly dated and two others, 1046 and 1110, were given seal dates of between c.100-150 AD. All three are accompanied by the caveats ‘if not residual/intrusive’

7.2.13 For the Mid Roman period – one context, 1053 represents a contemporary discard deposit – probably between c.125-175 AD. It is potentially accompanied by a further 4 contexts with the same mid second century date, 1021, 1028, 1095 and 1117 but which carry the usual residuality or intrusive provisos. A further 5, with the same caveats, have been placed between c.150-200 AD – 1030, 1061, 1073, 1102, possibly 1106 and 1123. One context, 1133, appears to represent a contemporary discard deposit and has been placed between c.200-250 AD. A further 2 contexts, if not residual or intrusive, have been similarly placed – 1059, and possibly 1069. Finally, Contexts 425, 1043 and 1125 have been placed to between c.250-300 AD. It should be noted that 1123 could be placed with this final cluster on the basis of its sharing a same-vessel equation with 425 – but this is with sherds from an earlier second century globular beaker that is likely to have been a later second century discard, rather than a third century one.

7.2.14 For both periods the relevant assemblages are dominated by kitchenwares – cooking-pots and a cheese-press, bowls, dishes and storage-jars – the first 3 by principally Canterbury sandy and North Kent fine sandy products, the storage-jars by locally-produced Romanising grog-tempered wares and, after c.150 AD, fully Romanised grog-tempered products (with an increasing presence of grog-tempered sandy wares). The range of kitchen products is accompanied by imported amphorae – mostly Southern Spanish Dressel 20 (but not all) and a few Canterbury or Kent/Colchester-produced mortaria. Other than a rather minimal quantity of 4-5 samian vessels spread throughout the approximate overall period 50-250 AD, no other imported tableware vessels are present. Unexpectedly, sherds of Canterbury pink-buff or white-cream flagons are apparently totally absent – and the need for quality-type tableware beakers, bowls appears to have been met solely by North Kent fine ware vessels, as epitomised by the large fragments of globular-bodied and carinated beakers from Ditch 1125. On the basis of these latter vessels - which in their basically near-fresh condition compared with the bulk of the later and contemporary material from 1125 must have been covered over almost immediately after discard - this ditch together possibly with Context 425 appears to have remained in use throughout most of the second and third century. Overall, apart from these vessels, the impression given is that, mostly, the size- and condition-range of much of

the earlier material suggests the bi-product of settlement breakages and sweepings that were either discarded into the ditch and left exposed to weather or more likely - because there is a general lack of sherds with unifacial wear (which the latter scenario would imply) and because many elements have degrees of wear suggesting fairly frequent disturbance – they mostly represent fairly long-term rubbish heap accumulations that were then deposited into the ditch as a possibly single site-clearance event, at some point in the later third century.

#### 7.2.15 Late Roman: c.275-400 AD

A presence during this period is definite but ephemeral – and represented principally by a single highly worn base sherd from an Oxfordshire red-colour coated bowl from Context 1125. Although the same context produced 4 more potential Late Roman coarseware elements, all relatively fresh – one a jar part-profile in a grey grogged fabric and 3 bodysherds in black fabrics – they have to be treated with caution. The jar does have a general parallel amongst Malcolm Lyne’s Industry 7B (Richborough/Canterbury products) material (Lyne 2016, Fig.00), but the fabric is too pale to be confidently included. Equally the other coarseware sherds are too scrappy to be positively identified – they could be earlier grogged elements. In addition, despite the Oxford sherd, no other contemporary finewares were recovered and the likely seal date for 1125 is earlier than the main currency of Late Roman grogged wares which is from c.350 AD onwards.

#### 7.2.16 Post-Medieval: c.1500-1750 AD

Only two post-Roman sherds were recovered, both of Post-Medieval date. One was the sole ceramic element recorded from Context 1034 – a small only slightly worn internally-glazed dish or jar sherd in Kentish earthenware and broadly datable to between c.1550 or 1575-1650 AD. The other, a worn and battered formerly glazed Wealden-type dish or bowl element, was intrusive into the Roman context 1059.

#### 7.2.17 RECOMMENDATIONS

1 - As-recovered, there are no unusual or newsworthy ceramic items or context groups that warrant publication in their own right. It is seriously recommended that publication of this assemblage, or period-based sub-sections of it, be held over until a suitable future sub-regional- (e.g. the ‘Island Road’ strip) or region-based research synthesis is undertaken.

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Plate 1. Linears (G1002) and (G1009) Looking SE and Scale 1m



Plate 2. South West facing section of Linear (G1005) scale 1m



Plate 3. Linear (G1007) looking SW



Plate 4. Linears (G1007), (G1007) and (G1013) looking SE



Plate 5. Linears (G1014) and (G1015) looking E



Plate 6. Linears (G1002), (G1009) and (G1010) looking NW



Plate 7. North West facing section of linear (G1010)



Plate 8. Cattle Jaw bone with butchery marks in linear (G1016) Scale 30cm



Plate 9. Roman road surface (G1019) looking NE. Scale 1m



Plate 10. Roman road surface (G1019) looking SW. Scale 1m



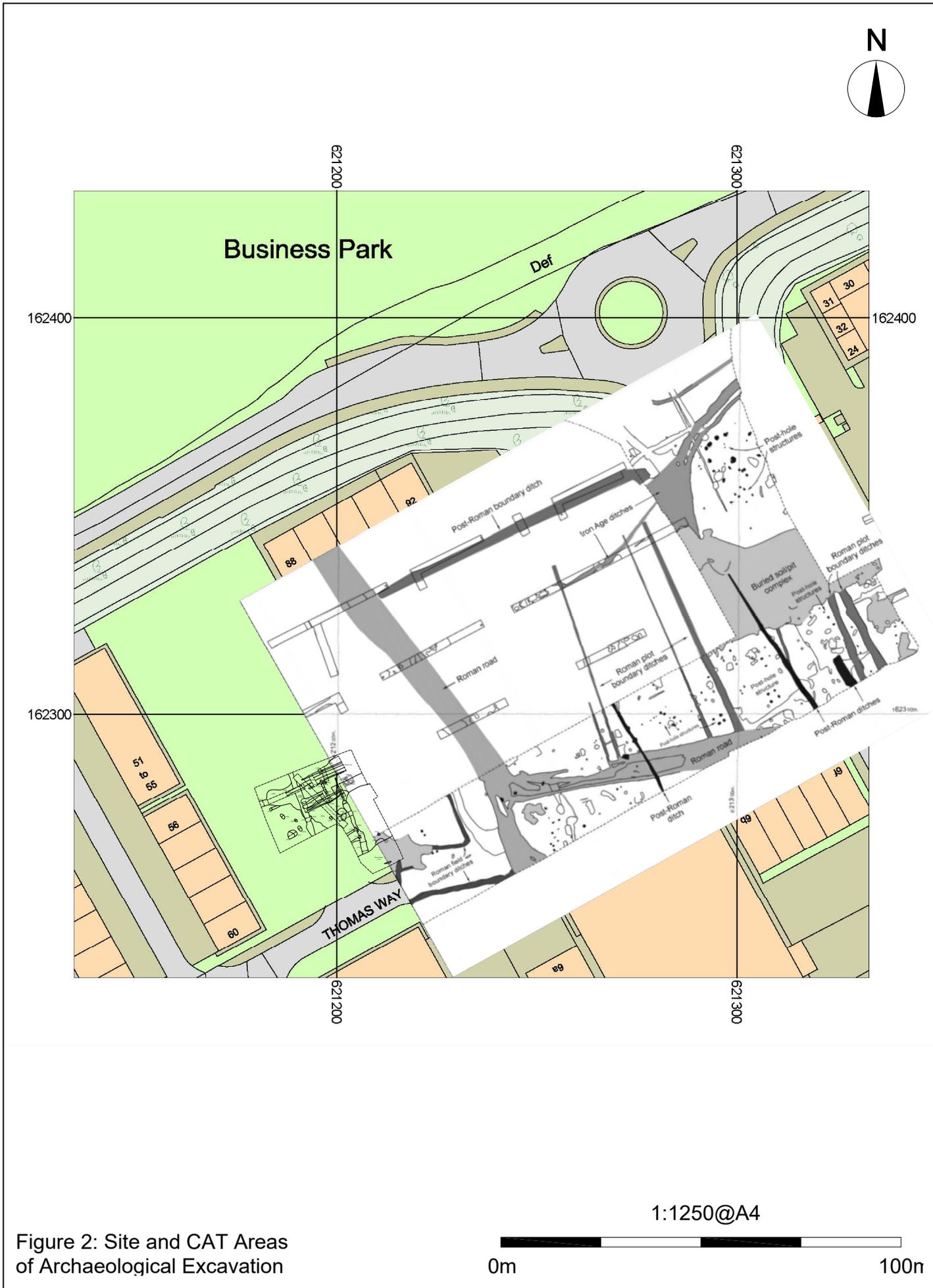


Figure 2: Site and CAT Areas of Archaeological Excavation

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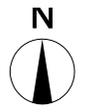
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Legend:

- Period 1: Early-Mid Iron Age
- Period 2: Late Iron Age
- Period 3: Transitional
- Period 4: Romano-British
- Period 5: Medieval
- Undated

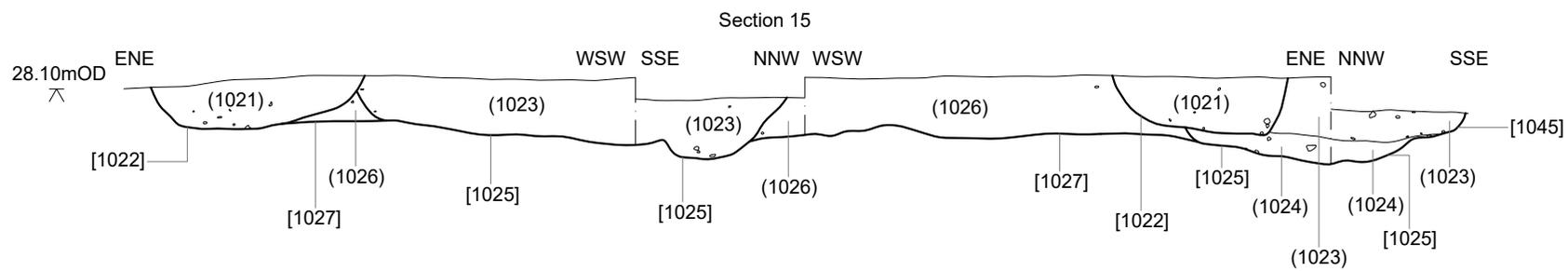
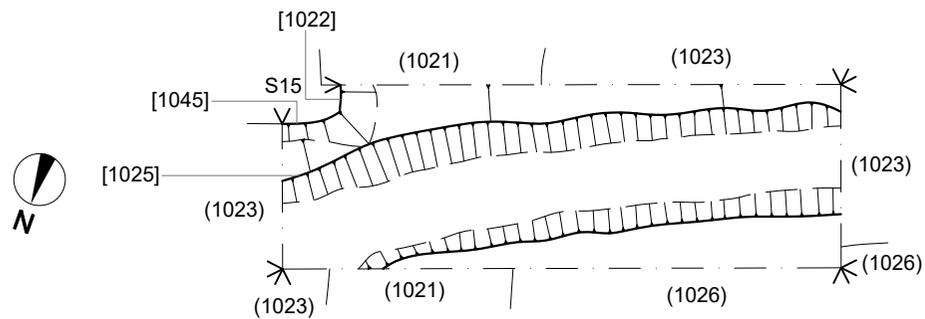
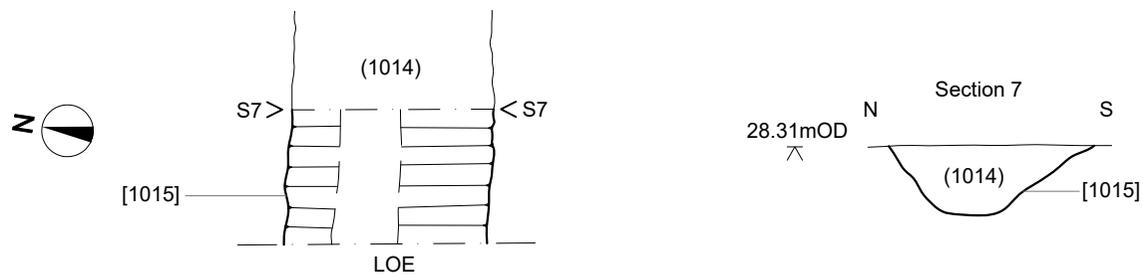


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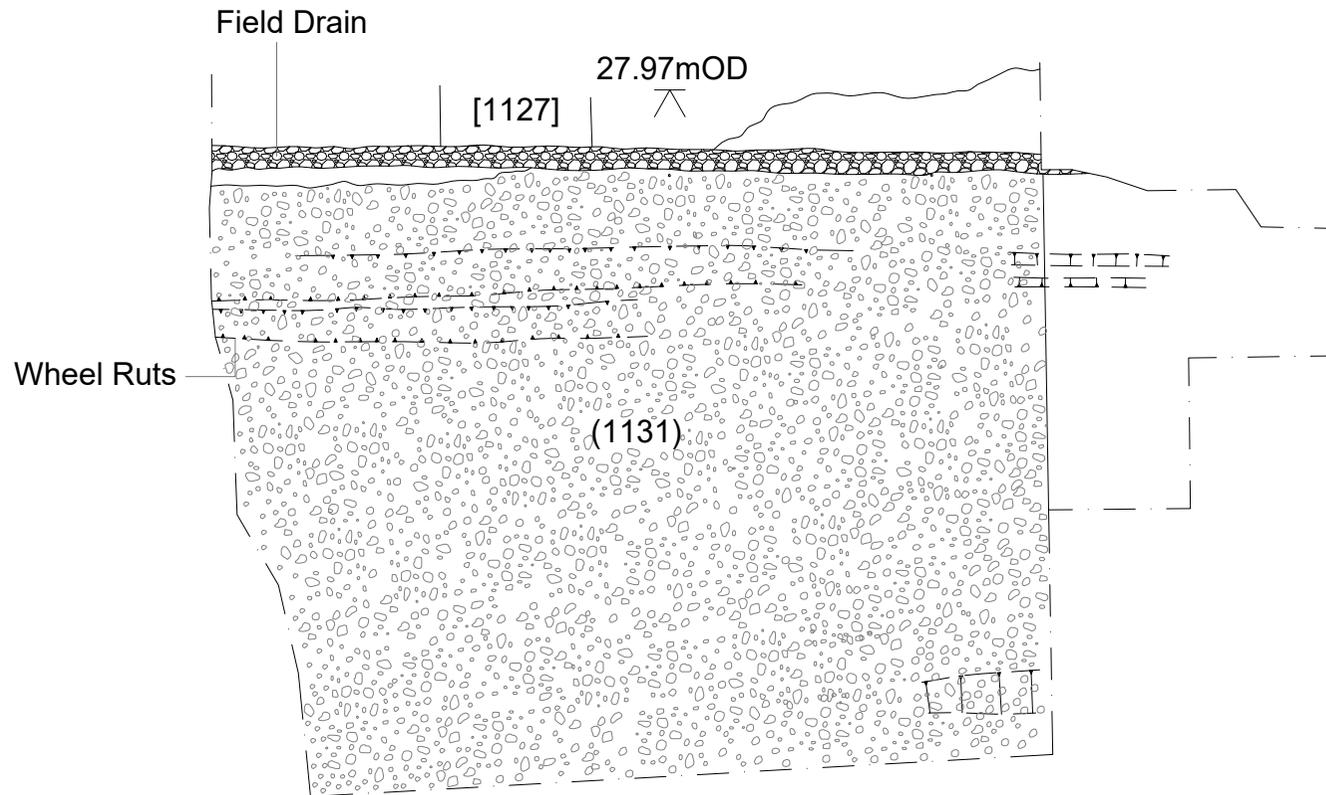
Figure 3: Phase Plan



1:50@A4



Figure 4: Selected Plans and Sections



1:50@A4

0m

5m

Figure 5: Plan of Roman Road

