

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Jonah's Gate, 135 Monkton Road, Kent, CT12 4EF

Site Code: JGM-EV-20

NGR Site Centre: 630203 164891

Planning Application Number: F/TH/18/1098



Report for Mr Peter Smith

31/10/2019

V02

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr Peter Smith to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Jonah's Gate, 135 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of seven (7 No.) trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the presence of ditches, pits and postholes associated with the Iron Age and Roman-British periods. Archaeological features were recorded in all seven trenches and would appear to represent agrarian settlement rather than domestic or industrial, with linear ditches representing former field boundaries and possible agricultural enclosures. No evidence for any associated substantial structures and/or domestic activity was found within the site.

This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer and Planning Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Peter Smith to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Jonah's Gate, 135 Monkton Road, Minster, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (F/TH/18/1098) was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC) for the development of the site to accommodate four (4 No.) dwellings, together with associated access road, car parking and landscaping (Figure 3). The Heritage & Conservation Department at Kent County Council (KCC), who provide an archaeological advisory service to the TDC Planning Department, recommended that an archaeological investigation took place in advance of any development work. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological work in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

GROUND; to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

(F/TH/18/1098, Condition 18, 13/12/2018)

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the proposed archaeological evaluation was prepared and submitted to KCC in May 2020.

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of seven (7 No.) trenches measuring between 10m and 20m in length and 1.8m in width, was carried out between July and August 2020 (see Table 1 below) in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2020), prior to commencement of works. Variations in the length and number of trenches stipulated within the WSI was necessary due to on site obstructions (existing barn, trees, etc).

1.2 Timetable

1.2.1 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

Task	Date	Personnel/Company
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Specification)	4 th May 2020	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Excavation of trenches	2 nd -3 rd July 2020	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Investigation and recording of archaeological features	August 2020	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 *Timetable for the archaeological programme of works*

1.3 Site Description and Topography

1.3.1 The site is centred on NGR 630203 164891 and is situated on agricultural ground of approximately 2.4ha in area, located to the east of Honey Tree Cottage, north of Monkton Road (Figures 1-2).

1.3.2 The proposed development site is situated within the grounds of a former market garden and farmyard at Jonah's Gate with all but one of the buildings within the evaluation area being demolished prior to the evaluation. The site is located at the base of the lower slope of a chalk down land escarpment that slightly undulates from east to west for a length of at least 2 miles from Mount Pleasant to Monkton. The escarpment, lower slope and the site overlook the low-lying farmland, which, until medieval times, would have been open water of the Wantsum Channel.

1.3.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the proposed development area (PDA) is situated on bedrock geology of sands, silts, and clay of the Thanet Formation. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head 1 Clay and Silts formed by solifluction and or hill wash and soil creep. The site has an average height of 14.48m aOD at the north end and height of 13.27m aOD at the south end.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the WSI produced by SWAT Archaeology (2020).

2.2 Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER)

2.2.1 Records include a Bronze Age/Early Iron Age crouched burial (TR 36 SW 73). 150m adjacent and to the south of the existing property, along with an undated burial and iron artefacts were found (TR 36 SW 102) to the east. Approximately 200m to the north a possible Saxon cemetery which is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (TR 36 NW 436).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation as stated below;

The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the ClfA Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and KCC Manual of specifications Part B: Trial trenching requirements, are:

- *To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and*
- *To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.*

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation as stated below;

- *The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may have been impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation were to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular, the earlier history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric, Roman, and later archaeological activity.*

The programme of archaeological work is to be carried out in a phased approach and it has commenced with the evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase will determine whether any significant archaeological remains are to be affected by the development and if so, what mitigation measures should be appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

(SWAT Archaeology 2020: Section 6)

3.2.2 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation are therefore:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (SWAT Archaeology 2020) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of seven (7 No.) evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site, three (3 No.) less than originally stipulated within the WSI (SWAT Archaeology 2020; Section 7). The presence of an existing barn and mature trees meant that space was limited. The reduction in trench numbers was agreed with the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer during a site monitoring visit.

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned by metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.2.4 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of seven evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible, whilst taking into consideration the presence of an existing barn and mature trees along the western extent of the site (Figure 2).

5.1.2 Figures 4-10 illustrate the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. In addition to the plans provided, this report also contains representative sections for selected excavated features (Figure 11 – Figure 17).

5.1.3 Plates 1-19 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.1.4 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark brown clay silt, moderate roots and moderate modern demolition debris inclusions, topped with scrub, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown silt clay. Natural geology comprised mid orange brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning (Thanet Formation).

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 5.3.1 Within the southern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 1 was excavated on a slight NE-SW alignment, measured 20m in length with a maximum depth of 0.55m (12.95m aOD). The stratigraphic sequence recorded consisted of demolition debris (100) overlying subsoil (1010) which sealed the natural Brickearth (126). This trench contained seven linear features and one pit cutting in the natural geology at a level between 12.8m aOD and 13.5m aOD (Plate 1).
- 5.3.2 Within the northern extent of the trench ditch [107=111] was aligned E-W and measured and contained a single undated fill (106=110). This feature truncated (see Figure 11, Section 1 & 4) an earlier ditch on a NW-SE alignment [114=117] which contained an upper fill (112=115) consisting of orange grey mottled silty clay and a lower fill (113=116) to a depth of approximately 0.29m (Plate 2). Fill (116) contained residual pottery dating to the 'Belgic' Late Iron Age (Figure 11, Sections 6 & 7).
- 5.3.3 Directly to the south ditch [123], which was aligned E-W, measured approximately 1.52m in width with a depth of approximately 0.3m. The undulated base gave way to a single fill (122) which contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age (c.125BC-AD25). The ditch showed evidence of a later re-cut [121] filled by an undated (120), as represented on Figure 12, Section 68 (Plate 3).
- 5.3.4 Two parallel ditches, [109] and [105=125] were both on an E-W alignment within the central and southern extent of the trench, and both contained undated fills (108 and 104=124 respectively). Ditch [105] crossed an earlier NW-SE oriented ditch [103], although no stratigraphic relationship could be established (Figure 13, Section 71). Truncating the upper fill of ditch [103] the only pit in this trench had an exposed width of approximately 0.9m and depth of 0.19m (Figure 12, Section 9)

- 5.3.5 The upper archaeological horizon within this trench was at a level between 12.5m aOD and 12.9m aOD.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 5.3.6 Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, Trench 2 was excavated on an E-W alignment, measured 20m in length, 0.55m in depth (13.14m aOD) and contained two undated linear features (Plate 4).
- 5.3.7 Orientated E-W along the centre of the trench, linear 203/208/210/212 measured between 0.11m and 0.18m in depth and contained a single fill (202/204=207/209/211) comprising mid grey silty clay. No dateable finds were retrieved from this feature.
- 5.3.8 Within the eastern extent of the trench, a N-S orientated linear feature [206] cut across the trench and measured approximately 0.70m in width. The single fill (205) comprised mid grey brown silty clay with frequent manganese. Although this feature did not produce any dateable finds, examination of the feature did suggest that it was stratigraphically earlier than the overlying ditch [208] (Section 18, Figure 13, Plate 6).
- 5.3.9 The upper archaeological horizon within this trench was at a level of 13.30m aOD.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

- 5.3.10 Trench 3 was located towards the north-eastern extent of the site (Figure 2) and was excavated on a N-S alignment. This trench measured 20m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.67m (Figure 6, Plate 7). The stratigraphic sequence recorded at the northern extent of the trench consisted of turf (300) and topsoil (301) sealing a light orange brown colluvial subsoil (302) which overlay the natural geology (306). Residual Early Iron Age pottery (c. 1000-600 BC) and Late Prehistoric (c. 1550-350+ BC) worked flint (302) was retrieved from the subsoil during mechanical excavation.
- 5.3.11 A single E-W orientated ditch, [305], was recorded within the northern extent of this trench. The ditch measured approximately 0.5m in width, with a depth of 0.29m (Section 24, Figure 14). The single within this feature consisted of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk (304). No dateable finds were present.
- 5.3.12 The upper archaeological horizon within this trench was at a level of 13.80m aOD.

Trench 4 (Figure 7)

- 5.3.13 Located within the far northern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 4 measured 10m in length, had a maximum depth of 0.65m (13.73m aOD) and was excavated on a N-S alignment,

containing a single, slightly curving ditch [404] (Figure 7). The stratigraphic sequence in the trench comprised an upper layer of turf mixed with hardcore (400) overlying a former topsoil (401). Below that, the subsoil (402) sealed the natural geology (405), present at a level of 17.73m aOD at the north-western extent of the trench and at 13.85m aOD at the south-eastern extent of the trench (Plate 8).

5.3.14 The single ditch, [404], measured between 0.64m-0.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.16m and contained a single fill consisting of mid orange brown silty clay (403). No archaeological finds were present within the excavated intervention (Plate 9). The archaeological horizon within this trench was at a level of 13.78m aOD.

Trench 5 (Figure 8)

5.3.15 Located within the central northern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 5 was excavated on E-W alignment, measured 20m by 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.67m (13.18m aOD at the W end and 0.47m 13.38m aOD at the E end). Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as orange-brown clayey brickearth (538).

5.3.16 Within the northern extent of the trench, three ditches were all aligned broadly on an E-W alignment. These ditches, [504, 506 and 508] each possessed a single fill (503, 505 and 507 respectively); none of which contained dateable finds (Plate 10 and Plate 11).

5.3.17 Within the southern extent of the trench a large amorphous spread of dark brown silty clay was initially thought to represent multiple features (Plate 12 and Plate 13). This was confirmed on further investigation when the presence of four ditches, a pit and a post hole were recorded. The earliest ditch [525] was relatively shallow with a single fill (525). This had been cut by ditch [531], as represented in Section 34, Figure 15. Pit [533] was also recorded within this intervention, with both pit and ditch being truncated by ditch [520=529=537] This ditch represented the latest feature within the sequence. A basic suggested stratigraphic matrix for this area is provided below;

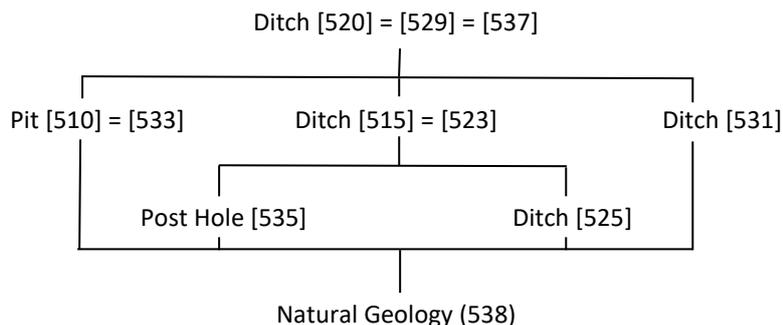


Table 2 Trench 5, Pit/Ditch/Post Hole sequence

- 5.3.18 With regards to dateable finds pit [510=533] contained 2 sherds of pottery dated to the Belgic Late Iron Age (Phase 2) and eight sherds dated to the Middle-Late Iron Age (Phase 1) while ditch [520=529=537] contained 1 sherd of pottery dated to the Belgic Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (Phase 3).
- 5.3.19 The upper archaeological horizon within the southern extent of the trench was recorded at a level between 12.99m aOD and 13.17m aOD, approximately 0.6m below the existing ground level.

Trench 6 (Figure 9)

- 5.3.20 Within the central area of the site, Trench 6 was excavated on an E-W alignment, measuring 20m in length, with a maximum depth of 0.68m (13.26m aOD) at the NE end and 0.85m (13.09m aOD) at the SW end (Plate 14). The stratigraphic sequence recorded consisted of topsoil (600) overlying a layer of colluvium (601) which sealed the subsoil (602) and natural geology (629). Five linear features, three pits and two post holes were recorded within this trench.
- 5.3.21 Within the southern extent of the trench ditch [607] measured 0.68m in width with a depth of 0.25m (Plate 18). The concave base and rounded sides gave way to a primary fill (606) and secondary fill (605) (Figure 16, Section 38), both of which were undated.
- 5.3.22 To the immediate north pit [611] was truncated by linear feature [609] which contained a fill (608) containing pottery dated to the Middle-Late Iron Age (Figure 17, Sections 41 and 43). The terminus of ditch [609] had been truncated by the terminus of a N-S aligned ditch [628] which also contained Mid-Late Iron Age ceramics within two fills (626 and 627) as illustrated on Figure 17, Section 44 and Plate 17.
- 5.3.23 To the north, and cutting ditch [628], ditch [615], which was on a NE-SW alignment, measured approximately 1.52m in width and was truncated by pit [613]. This pit removed any relationship (Figure 17, Section 46) with a possible split of ditch [615]. To the north an additional intervention changed the extent of ditch [615] (recorded as [620] Figure 9, Sections 55 7 59) which was once again truncated by a parallel ditch [623] (as recorded in Figure 18, Section 59). It is possible, due to the similarities in profile and orientation that ditch [623] represents a later phased of the recutting of ditch [615/620] (Plate 15 and Plate 16). With regards to the dating of this cluster of features, Late Iron Age/Early Roman 'Belgic' (Phase 3) pottery was recorded within ditch [628], along with residual 'Belgic' late Iron Age (Phase 2) material. The dating of ditch [615/620] is

considered to be of a similar/close date range due to Phase 3 pottery being retrieved from a truncating pit [604] within the northern extent of the trench.

- 5.3.24 Archaeological features recorded within this trench have been characterised as much as possible within the narrow confines of an evaluation trench. The upper archaeological horizon was recorded at a level of approximately 13.0m aOD.

Trench 7 (Figure 10)

- 5.3.25 Located adjacent to the south-western extent of the site, this trench measured 10m in length, excavated on a NW-SE alignment. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.65m (13.03m aOD) at the NW end and 0.61m (13.07m aOD) at the SE end. Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as orange-brown clayey silty brickearth (713).
- 5.3.26 This trench contained three linear features and a single post hole.
- 5.3.27 The first linear feature, [707], was the northern-most of the three linear features and was aligned E-W (Figure 10). Investigation of the ditch revealed a steep concave profile, with a width of 0.54m, a depth of 0.45m and a lower fill (706) that comprised compact mid grey brown clay silt with occasional iron panning (Figure 19, Section 53). No finds were present within this feature.
- 5.3.28 To the south of ditch [707] a small discrete post hole [712] measured 0.26m in diameter with a depth of approximately 0.18m. The single fill (Figure 19, Section 54) consisted of mid grey brown clay silt with no dateable finds (711).
- 5.3.29 Within the southern extent of the trench, ditch [704] measured 0.51m in width with a depth of approximately 0.32m (Figure 19, Section 50). South of this, and at the far southern end of the trench ditch [710] was slightly curved in plan (Plate 19), disappearing beneath the eastern baulk of the trench. No finds were associated with either of these features.
- 5.3.30 Archaeological features and the natural geology were sealed by a layer of light orange-brown silty clayey brickearth (702) which was sealed by light brown silty clayey brickearth colluvium (701), which in turn was sealed by mid grey silty, clayey brickearth (700). The upper archaeological horizon was recorded at a level ranging between 12.85m aOD and 13.01m aOD.

6 FINDS

6.1 Quantification of Archaeological Material

6.1.1 Finds comprised 58 sherds of pottery (weighing 3,006g), which included Mid-Late Iron Age and Early Roman fabrics.

6.2 Pottery Identification and Spot Dating

PHASE 1 - Middle-to-Late Iron Age

MLIA 1. Handmade polished black fabric with profuse <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

MLIA 2. Handmade silty black fabric with sparse to moderate 0.50 mm.<2.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

MLIA 3. Handmade silty black fabric with sparse to moderate <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler

MLIA 4. Handmade silty fabric with profuse <0.10 mm quartz-sand and <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler

MLIA 5. Handmade silty black fabric with <0.20 mm. quartz-sand and sparse <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler

MLIA 6. Handmade storage-jar fabric with profuse <0.20 mm. quartz-sand and moderate ill-sorted 1.00<5.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

PHASE 2 - 'Belgic' Late Iron Age

B1. Very-fine grog-tempered ware

B2. Coarse grog-tempered ware

B6. Shell-tempered polished black fabric with surface slip rendering shell invisible

B8. Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.20 mm. multi-coloured and iron-stained quartz-sand filler.

B9. Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

PHASE 3 - 'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman

BER 16. Handmade silty black fabric. Thanet Dry.

6.3 Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Phase	Weight in gm	Comments
[103] 102	MLIA2		c.125-25BC	3		26G	Fresh 1 pot
[114] 112	MLIA4	Jar base	c.175-0BC but residual	1		5G	Very abraded
[117] 116	B8		c.0-80 but residual	2		4G	Very abraded
[123] 122	MLIA3		c.125BC-AD25	2		8	Fresh 1 pot
	MLIA5		c.125BC-AD25	1		2	fresh
			c.125BC-AD25	3		10G	
[510] 509	MLIA6	Storage jar	c.50BC-AD25	1		38	Abraded
	B1		c.50BC-AD70	1		4	abraded
			c.50BC-AD25 but ?residual	2		42G	Pit fill
[520] 516	BER16	Jar	c.0-100	1		5G	Fresh
[533] 532	MLIA1	Necked jar	c.120-25BC	3		25	Fresh and sl abr
	MLIA3		c.125-0BC	2			
	MLIA4		c.125-0BC	1		5	Sl abraded
	B1		c.50BC-AD70	1		7	sl abraded
	B2		c.25BC-AD70	1		2	sl abraded
		Combed jar				3	Abraded
			c.50-0BC	8		42G	
[604] 603	BER16	Jar	c.0-100	1		4G	Sl abraded. Posthole fill
[609] 608	MLIA3		c.125-25BC	2		5	Sl abraded
	MLIA6	Storage jar	c.0-50	2		43	fresh

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Phase	Weight in gm	Comments
			c.0-50	4		48G	
[628] 625	B9		c.30-80 but residual	2		2G	Very abraded. Shell tier 2
[628] 626	MLIA3 B8 BER16	Jars	c.50BC-AD25 c.0-80 a.0-100	1 1 1		11 6 23	Fresh fresh Fresh
			c.0-25	3		40G	Middle tier
[628] 627	MLIA1 lumpy B6	Jar jar	c.300BC-AD25 c.0-50	1 2		8 15	SI abraded fresh 1 pot
			c.0-25/50	3		23G	Shell tier 1
[704] 703	BER16		c.0-100 but residual	2		5G	Very abraded

Table 3 Quantification of Ceramic Material

6.3.1 In order to facilitate the urgency of the submission of this report, archaeological features have been spot dated by a specialist so that chronological phasing of archaeological features can be presented.

6.3.2 In the event that there is further fieldwork, it is recommended that the archive created from this evaluation be added to future archives so that a more complete assessment can be made.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Jonah's Gate, Minster, Thanet has demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity within the extents of the proposed development area. The natural geology was encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.5-0.8m below the existing

ground surface, directly underlying a subsoil sealed by the existing topsoil, within an undulating rural landscape. Modern truncation within the trenches was limited to low impact rooting.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the presence of ditches, pits and postholes associated with the Late Iron Age and early Roman-British periods. At least three phases of archaeological activity have been identified, as follows;

PHASE 1 - Middle-to-Late Iron Age

PHASE 2 - 'Belgic' Late Iron Age

PHASE 3 - 'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman

7.2.2 Features within the trenches appear to represent agrarian settlement rather than domestic or industrial, with linear ditches representing former field boundaries and possible agricultural enclosures. Post holes within such a landscape are commonly expected and indicate that temporary fencing, hurdling, corralling and other activities associated with the control and management of livestock may be present. Small structures, such as raised grain stores would also be expected within this environment.

7.2.3 No evidence for any associated substantial structures and/or domestic activity was found within the site.

7.3 Impact Assessment

7.3.1 It should be stated, that at this time, finished levels for the proposed development, i.e. road levels, drainage levels, foundation levels, etc., have not be finalised. Therefore, in the event that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of impact associated with future development is assumed to require the excavation of material exceeding 0.60m in depth.

7.3.2 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of an Iron Age-Roman agrarian site within the proposed development area. Archaeological features recorded include ditches, pits and postholes dating to the Iron Age/Romano-British periods, with upper surviving archaeological horizons recoded at levels shown in Table 4 below.

7.3.3 Taking into consideration initial site clearance and levelling, plus the impact of plant movement, and the construction of compound/storage areas and in the absence of ground raising, proposed impacts to archaeological horizons throughout the site are therefore expected.

Trench No	Archaeological Horizon (Mean)	Existing Ground Level (Mean)	Current Overburden Depth (m)
1	12.85m aOD	13.27m aOD	0.42
2	12.98m aOD	13.43m aOD	0.45
3	13.78 aOD	14.35m aOD	0.57
4	13.76m aOD	14.40m aOD	0.64
5	13.08m aOD	14.06m aOD	0.98
6	13.00m aOD	13.65m aOD	0.65
7	12.96m aOD	13.57 aOD	0.61

Table 4 Archaeological Impact Levels

7.3.4 Development proposals are therefore considered likely to impact on archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that further archaeological mitigation is focussed on targeted areas of excavation which can be carried out as part of a planning condition. The nature and scope of any further archaeological mitigation will need to be determined in consultation with the Principal Archaeological Advisor at Kent County Council.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer and Planning Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics.

The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Mr Peter Smith for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Elissia Burrows supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Digitise This and David Britchfield BA MCIfA produced the draft text for this report. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA.

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11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1 Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Orientation: Slightly NE-SW			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
100	Demolition Debris.	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
101	Orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.25-0.55
102	Medium Orange/Grey silty clay, Manganese flecking, medium soft.	Fill of Ditch [103]	
103	Rectangular with rounded SE end. Steep sides to flat base.	Cut of Ditch	0.41-0.55
104	N/K Oval likely. Steep sloping sides to slight concave base.	Fill of Pit	0.40
105	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft, occ. manganese.	Cut of Pit [104]	0.40
106	Medium/Dark brown/grey silty clay. Frequent manganese flecks, occ. Nat. Flint nodule.	Fill of Ditch [107]	0.18
107	Slightly curved rectangular linear. Gradual side to South, steeper to North. Slight concave base. E-W.	Cut of Ditch	0.18
108	Not recorded	Fill of Ditch [109]	
109	Not recorded	Fill of [108]	
110	Medium orange/brown silty clay. Occ. Manganese flecks.	Fill of Ditch [111]	0.90
111	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to relatively flat base.	Cut of Ditch	0.90
112	Medium orange/grey silty clay. Frequent manganese flecking.	Upper Fill [114]	0.17
113	Medium orange/brown silty clay. Occ. Manganese flecking.	Primary Fill [114]	0.18
114	Rectangular linear. Steep sloping sides to relatively flat base. NE-SW.	Cut of Ditch	0.29
115	Medium orange/grey mottled silty clay. Frequent manganese flecking.	Upper Fill of [117]	0.90
116	Firm but friable dark grey mottled medium orange silty clay.	Primary Fill of [117]	0.19
117	Rectangular linear. Steep sloping sides to slight concave base. SE-NW	Cut of Ditch	0.62 1.01
118	Medium orange/brown silty clay. Frequent manganese flecks. Odd fleck of charcoal.	Fill of Pit [119]	0.29
119	Likely elongated oval, steep sides to relatively flat base	Cut of Pit [118]	0.40-0.68
120	Medium grey mottled medium orange silty clay. Frequent manganese flecking.	Fill of Ditch [121]	0.55-0.82
121	Rectangular linear. Steep ESE, more gradual then steep WNE, wide concave base. ESE-WNW	Re-cut Ditch	0.55-0.82
122	Mottled medium beige/grey/medium orange. Firm but pliable silty clay. Frequent manganese flecking.	Fill of [123]	0.60-0.84
123	Rectangular linear. Steep sloping edge	Cut of Ditch	0.60-0.84
124	Medium orange/grey silty clay (mottled). Frequent manganese flecking.	Fill of [125]	0.70-0.81
125	Rectangular linear.	Cut of Ditch	0.70-0.81
126	Brickearth	Natural geology	

Trench 2 Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Orientation: Slightly NW-SE			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
200	Mid grey silty clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
201	Light orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.25-0.55
202	Light orange/silty brown, high manganese.	Fill of Ditch	0.11
203	Dark orange very silty clay. Frequent manganese.	Cut of Ditch	0.11
204	Dark grey/brown silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft.	Upper Fill of [206]	0.54-0.70
205	Light brown silt.	Primary Fill of [206]	0.70-0.90
206	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to relatively flat base. N-S.	Cut of Ditch	0.54-0.90
207	Medium grey/orange silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of Ditch [208]	0.13
208	Narrow rectangular linear. Steep sloping sides to concave base. E-W.	Cut of Ditch	0.13
209	Medium grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. manganese	Fill of Ditch [210]	0.18
210	Rectangular linear, gradual sloping to flat base.	Cut of Ditch filled by [209]	0.18
211	Medium brown/orange mottled silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft.	Fill of Ditch [212]	0.31-0.41
212	Rectangular linear. Steep sides to N/K base (section in trench LOE)	Cut of Ditch filled by [211]	0.31-0.41
213	Brickearth	Natural geology	

Trench 3 Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Orientation: Slightly NE-SW			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
300	Mid grey silty, clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
301	Light brown silty clayey brickearth.	Colluvium	0.29-0.53
302	Light orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.53-0.67
303	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft, occ. Nat. flint.	Fill of Ditch [304]	0.20
304	Rectangular linear, steep sloping sides to concave base.	Cut of Ditch	0.70
305	Brickearth	Natural geology	

Trench 4 Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m Orientation: Slightly NW-SE			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
400	Mid grey silty, clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
401	Light brown silty clayey brickearth.	Colluvium	0.25-0.50
402	Light orange/brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.50-0.65
403		Fill of Ditch	0.64-0.80
404	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to wide concave base. NNE-SSW.	Cut of Ditch	0.64-0.80
405	Brickearth	Natural geology	

Trench 5 Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m Orientation: Slightly NW-SE			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
500	Mid grey silty, clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
501	Light brown silty clayey brickearth.	Colluvium	0.18-0.52
502	Light orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.52-0.67

503	Dark brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese, occ. Nat. flint nodule.	Fill of Ditch	0.51-0.79
504	Rectangular linear. Steep sloping sides to slight concave base. N-S.	Cut of Ditch	0.51-0.79
505	Medium grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese.	Fill of Pit [506]	0.54-0.70
506	Slightly irregular square.	Cut of Pit	0.54-0.70
507	Dark brown/grey silty clay medium soft. Frequent manganese, occ. Nat. flint nodule.	Fill of Ditch [508]	0.79-1.02
508	Rectangular linear, steep sloping sides to slightly concave base. N-S (Slightly off).	Cut of Ditch	0..79-1.02
509	Medium brown/orange silty clay. Occ. Manganese, medium soft. Occ. Nat. flint nodule.	Fill of Pit [510]	0.97-1.45
510	Unknown – one edge steep sloping to flat base.	Cut of Pit. Same as [533]	0.97-1.45
511	Void		
512	Medium brown/grey silty clay. Occ. Manganese flecks, medium soft.	Cut of Ditch	0.40
513	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to flat base. NNE-SSW.	Fill of [512]	0.40
514	Medium brown/grey silty clay. Frequent manganese flecks, medium soft.	Fill of [515]	0.18
515	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to relatively flat base. NNE-SSW.	Cut of Ditch. Same as [523]	0.18
516	Medium grey/brown silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft.	Fill of [520]	0.5-0.15
517	Mottled medium grey + white/l. beige silty clay, medium soft/loose but pliable.	Fill of [520]	0.18
518	Medium brown/grey silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft. Occ. Nat. flint.	Fill of [520]	0.50
519	Mottled white/l. grey + l. brown silty clay, medium soft/loose but pliable.	Fill of [520]	0.16
520	Linear. Gradual sloping sides to N/K base (likely concave). ESE-WNW (ish).	Cut of Ditch. Same as [529] and [537]	0.37
521	Dark grey/brown silty clay. Occ. Manganese, medium soft.	Fill of [523]	0.11
522	Medium brown/grey silty clay. Occ. Manganese, medium soft.	Fill of [523]	0.18
523	Rectangular linear. Steep sloping sides to relatively flat base. NNE-SSW.	Cut of Ditch. Same as [515]	0.29
524	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese.	Fill of [525]	0.19
525	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to unknown base (likely concave). NW-SE.	Cut of Ditch	0.19
526	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese. Occ. Nat. flint nodule.	Fill of [529]	0.32
527	Mottled white/l. grey + med. Brown silty clay, medium soft/friable.	Fill of [529]	0.6
528	Medium brown/grey mottled white/l. beige silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese.	Fill of [529]	0.13
529	Rectangular linear with rounded end. Gradual sides to relatively flat base. Slightly off W-E.	Cut of Ditch terminus. Cut of Ditch. Same as [520] and [537]	0.44
530	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese.	Fill of [531]	0.23
531	Likely linear. Steep side to relatively flat base. ENE-SSW?	Cut of Ditch	0.23
532	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [533]	0.32
533	Oval, very steep sides to flat base. NNW-SSE.	Cut of Pit. Same as [533]	0.32

534	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [535]	0.14
535	Oval, steep sides to flat base.	Cut of posthole?	0.14
536	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [537]	0.36
537	Rectangular linear, gradual sloping to relatively flat base – slight concave. NNW-SSE.	Cut of Ditch. Same as [520] and [537]	0.36
538		Natural geology	

Trench 6			
Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m			
Orientation: Slightly NE-SW			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
600	Mid grey silty, clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.27
601	Light brown silty clayey brickearth.	Colluvium	0.27-0.48
602	Light orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.48-0.68
603	Medium orange/brown silty clay. Occ. Manganese, medium soft.	Fill of Post Hole [604]	0.70
604	Oval, steep NE side, more gradual NW, flat base.	Cut of Post Hole	0.70
605	Medium brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. manganese.	Upper Fill of [607]	0.14
606	Mottled med. Brown/l. grey silty clay. Firm but friable. Frequent manganese.	Primary of [607]	0.10
607	Rectangular linear. Steep ENE side, more gradual W side, relatively flat base. NNE-SSW.	Cut of Ditch	0.24
608	Dark brown/grey silty clay. Frequent manganese, medium soft. Occ. Nat. flint nodule.	Fill of Ditch [609]	0.63-1.08
609	Rectangular linear, steep sloping sides to flat base. NW-SE.	Cut of Ditch	0.63-1.08
610	Medium dark brown/grey silty clay. Occ. Manganese, medium soft.	Fill of Pit? [611]	0.61-1.02
611	Probably oval (only one edge), steep sloping sides to flat, sloping base.	Cut of Pit	0.61-1.02
612	Dark grey/brown silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese. Occ. Nat. flint.	Fill of [613]	0.70
613	Slightly rectangular oval, very steep (vertical) sides to flat base.	Cut of Pit	0.70
614	Dark grey/brown silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese.	Fill of [615]	0.34
615	Rectangular linear. Gradual sloping sides to relatively flat base. N-S.	Cut of Ditch	0.34
616	Dark grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [617]	0.20
617	Oval, steep sides to flat base. NNE-SSW	Cut of Posthole	0.20
618	Dark brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. manganese	Fill of [620]	0.34
619	Dark grey silty clay, firm but friable. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [620]	0.18
620	One edge – oval. Steep sides to unknown base (too narrow to excavate at LOE).	Cut of Ditch	0.88-1.40
621	Dark brown grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese	Fill of [623]	0.43
622	Mottled dark grey/brown + l. grey firm but friable silty clay. Frequent manganese.	Fill of [623]	0.40
623	Rectangular linear. Gradual slope then ups to steep side, slight concave base. Slightly off N-S.	Cut of Ditch	0.72-1.17
624	Medium grey silty clay, medium soft. Very frequent oyster/mussel shells + animal bone.	Fill of Pit	0.70
625	Dark grey silty clay, medium soft. Very frequent manganese flecking.	Fill of Pit	0.10
626	Medium grey/brown silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Chalk lump + oyster/mussel shell, medium soft.	Fill of Pit	0.40

627	Dark brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese, frequent chalk lumps.	Fill of Pit	0.36
628	Elongated oblong, steep sloping sides to concave base. Slightly off N-S.	Cut of Pit	0.50
629	Brickearth	Natural geology	

Trench 7			
Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m			
Orientation: NW-SE			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
700	Mid grey silty, clayey brickearth.	Topsoil	0.00-0.27
701	Light brown silty clayey brickearth.	Colluvium	0.27-0.48
702	Light orange/brown silty clayey brickearth.	Subsoil	0.48-0.68
703	Mid brown/grey silty clay, medium soft. Frequent manganese.	Fill of Ditch [704]	0.60-0.91
704	Rectangular linear. Steep, slightly convex sides to relatively flat base. ENE-SWS.	Cut of Ditch	0.60-0.91
705	-	Fill of [707]	
706	-	Fill of [707]	
707	Ditch filled by 705 and 706	Cut of ditch	
708	Dark grey/brown mottled medium orange silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese flecking.	Fill of [710]	0.68-0.83
709	Mottled dark orange/grey silty clay, medium soft. Occ. Manganese flecking.	Fill of [710]	0.68-0.83
710	Oblong. Gradual sloping then steeper to flat base.	Cut of Pit	0.68-0.83
711	Medium grey silty clay, medium soft.	Fill of Posthole	0.16
712	Oval. Steep sides to concave base.	Cut of posthole	0.16
713	Brickearth	Natural geology	

PLATES



Plate 1 Trench 1 Looking S. Showing linear features [107=111], [114=117] & [121]. Scale 0.5m



Plate 2 Ditch [117], viewed from the northwest



Plate 3 Ditch [123] and recut [121], viewed from the east



Plate 4 Trench 2 Linear Feature [203=206=208] looking E. Scale 0.5m



Plate 5 Features [206] and [208], viewed from the south



Plate 6 Linear [210], viewed from the northwest



Plate 7 Northern half of Trench 3 showing raised EIA Layer (302). Scale 0.5m



Plate 8 Trench 4 showing frequency of root action. Scale 0.5m



Plate 9 Linear [404], viewed from the north



Plate 10 Linear [504], viewed from the north

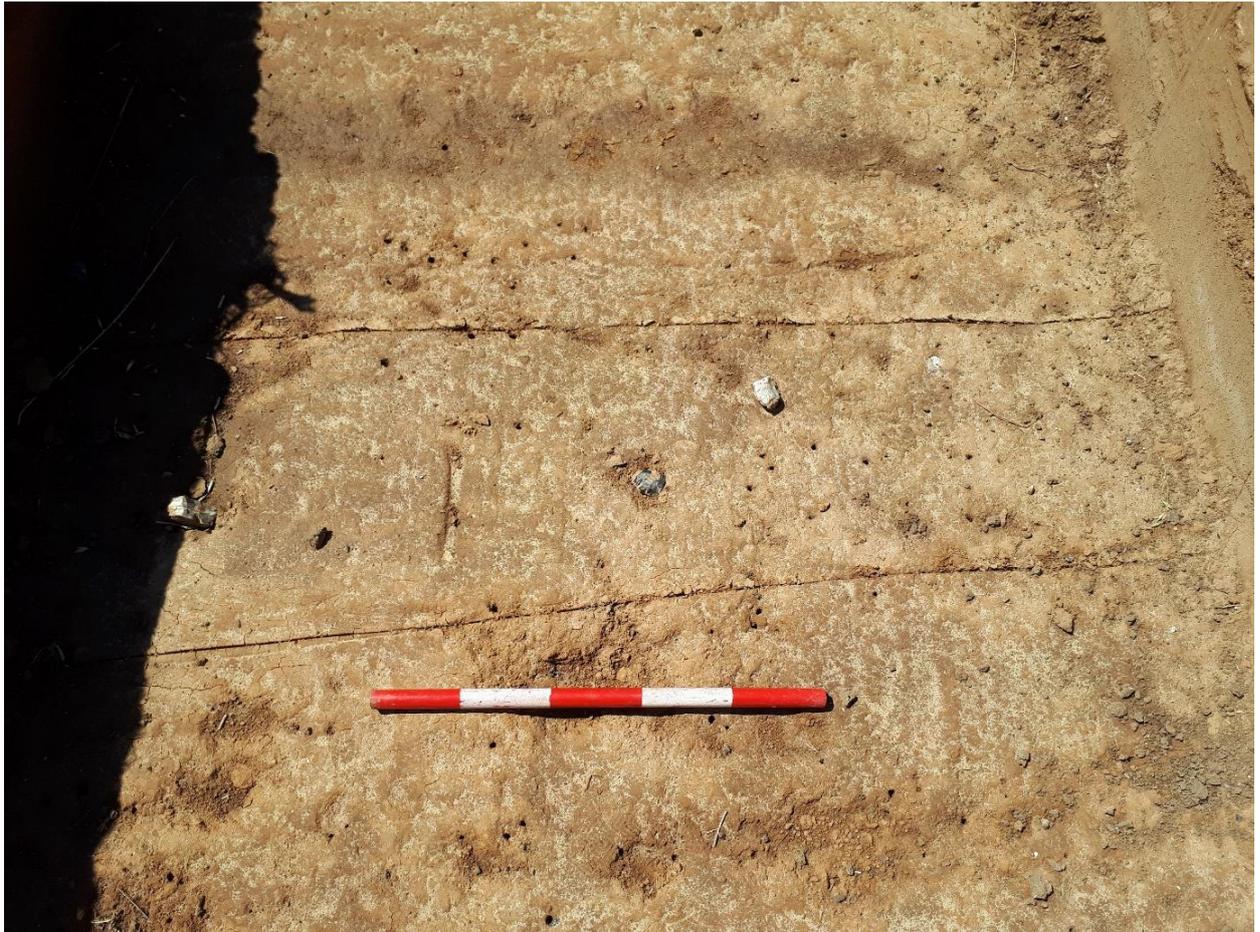


Plate 11 Trench 5 Detail of Linear [506]. Scale 0.5m



Plate 12 Features [533], [535] and [537], viewed from the south



Plate 13 Features [525] and [531], viewed from the northwest



Plate 14 Trench 6 Looking N. Showing linear [607] and features [609], [611] & [628]. Scale 0.5m



Plate 15 Linear features [620] and [623], viewed from the north



Plate 16 Linear features [620] and [623], viewed from the east



Plate 17 Linear [609] and pit [611] viewed from the north



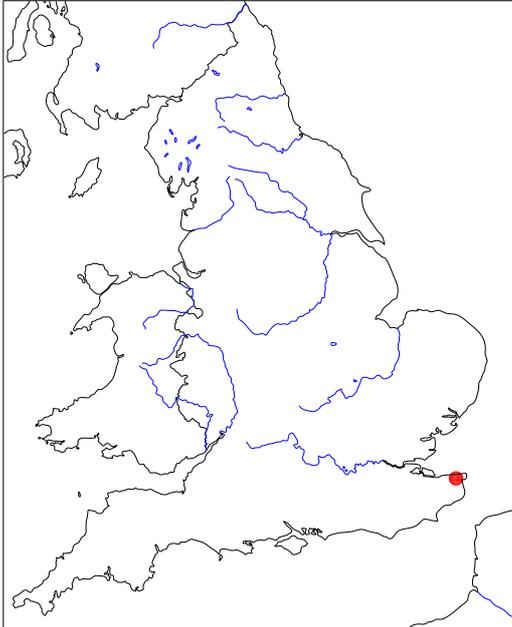
Plate 18 Linear [607], viewed from the southeast



Plate 19 Linear [710] in plan.



NOT TO SCALE



NOT TO SCALE

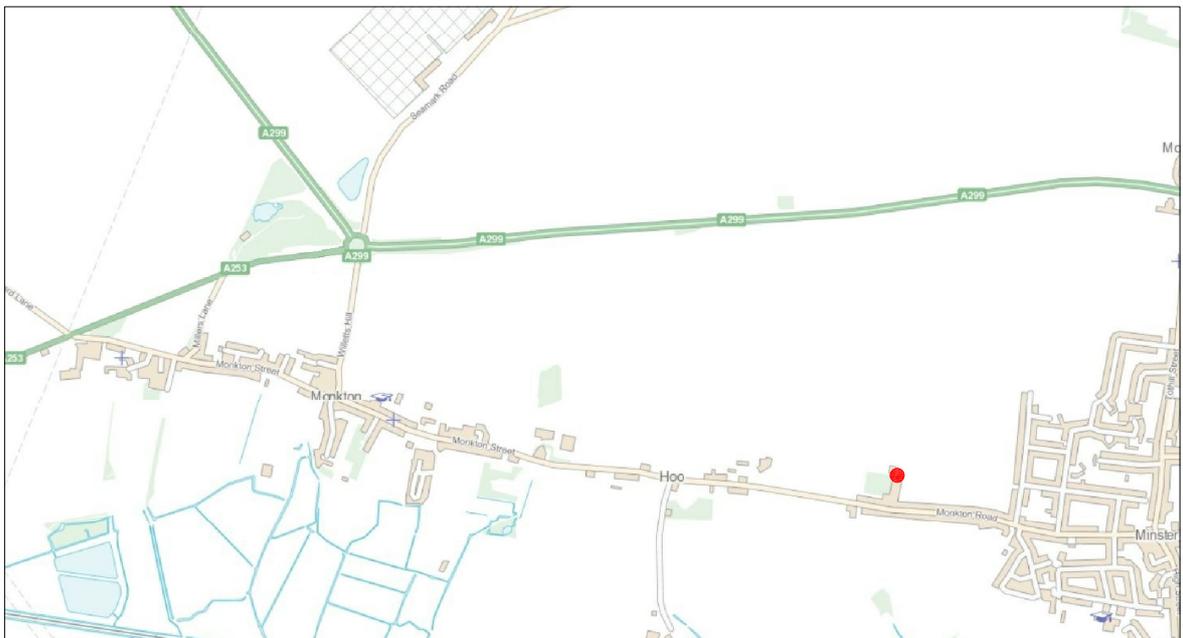
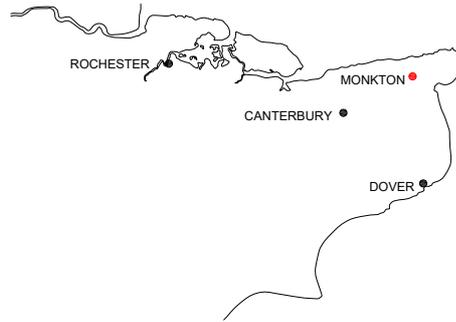


Figure 1: Location of Site

0m 500m 1km



630159.462
164932.326



630227.582
164855.042

Figure 2: Site Plan

0m

1:500@A4

50m

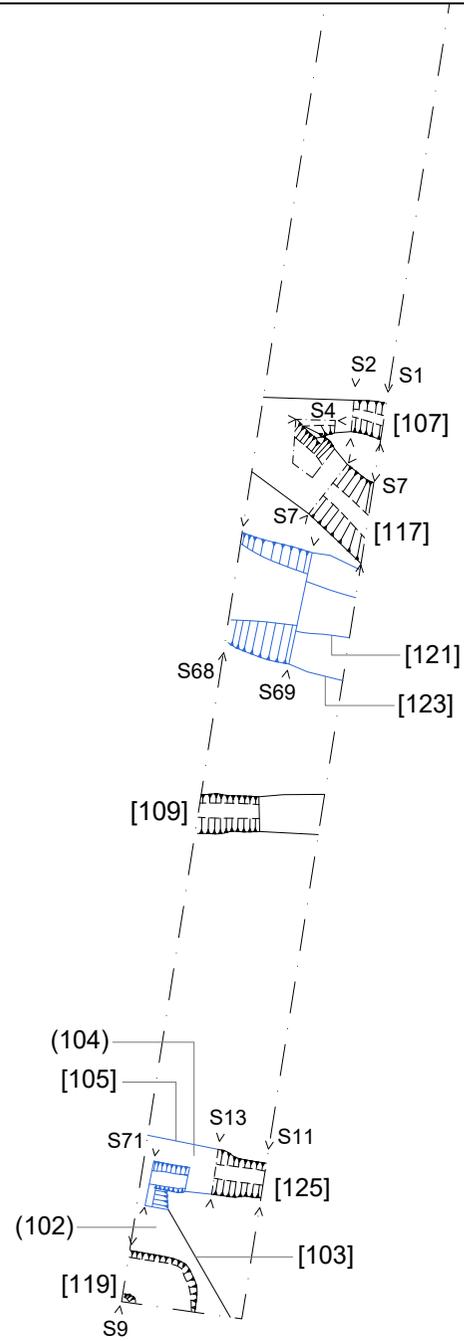


Figure 3: Site Plan with Proposed Development Overlain

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0m

50m



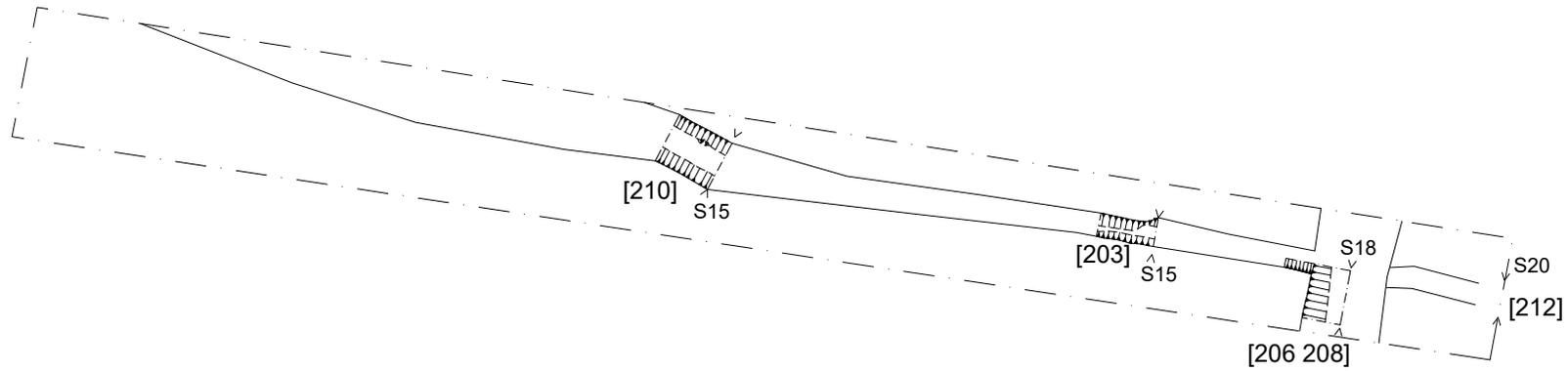
Legend:

-  Middle to Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
-  Undated

1:100@A4



Figure 4: Trench 1



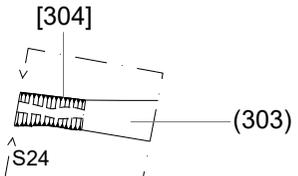
Legend:

-  Middle to Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
-  Undated

1:100@A4



Figure 5: Trench 2



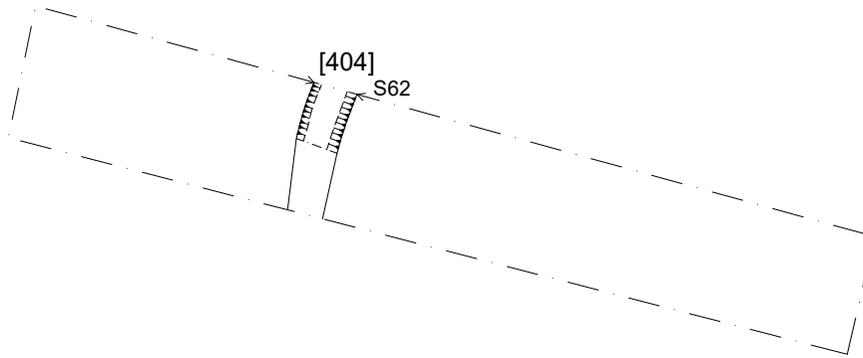
Legend:

-  Middle to Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
-  Undated

1:100@A4



Figure 6: Trench 3



Legend:

-  Middle to Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
-  Undated

1:100@A4

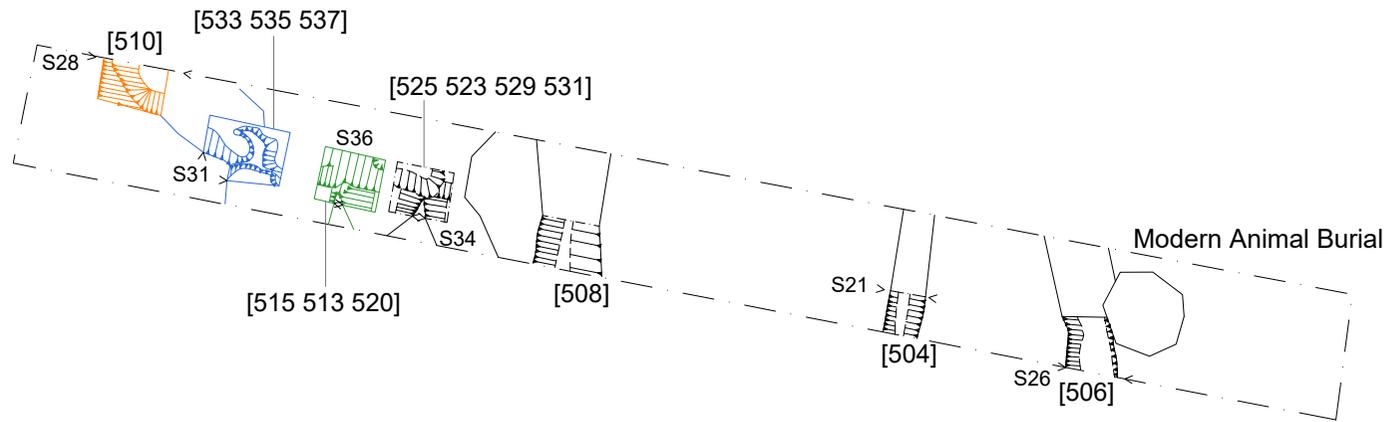


Figure 7: Trench 4



Legend:

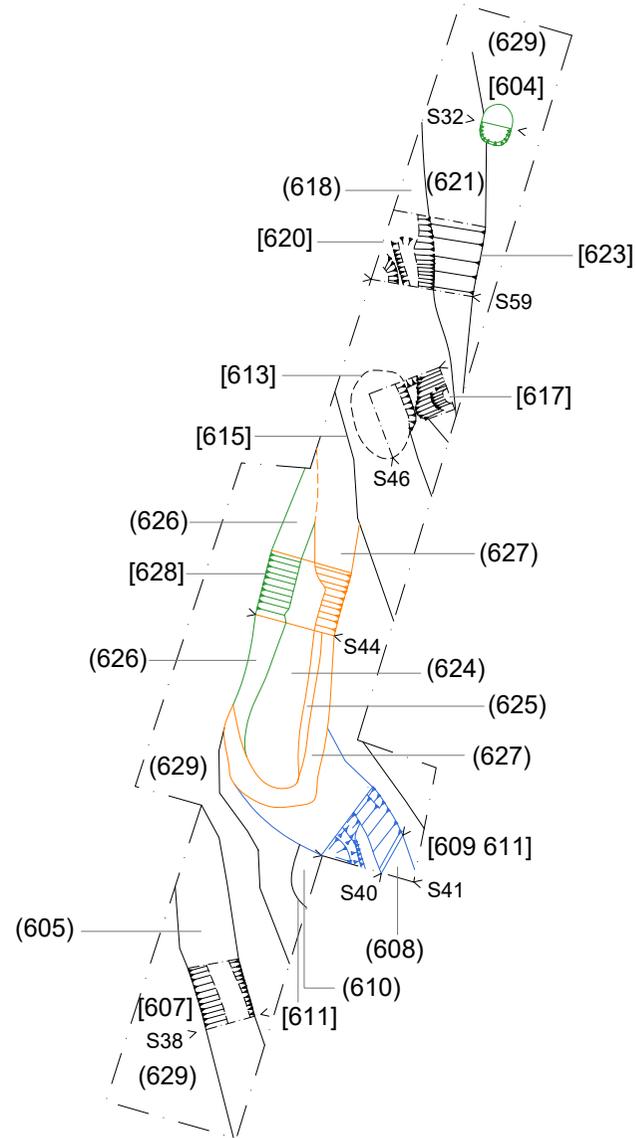
- Middle to Late Iron Age
- 'Belgic' Late Iron Age
- 'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
- Undated



1:100@A4



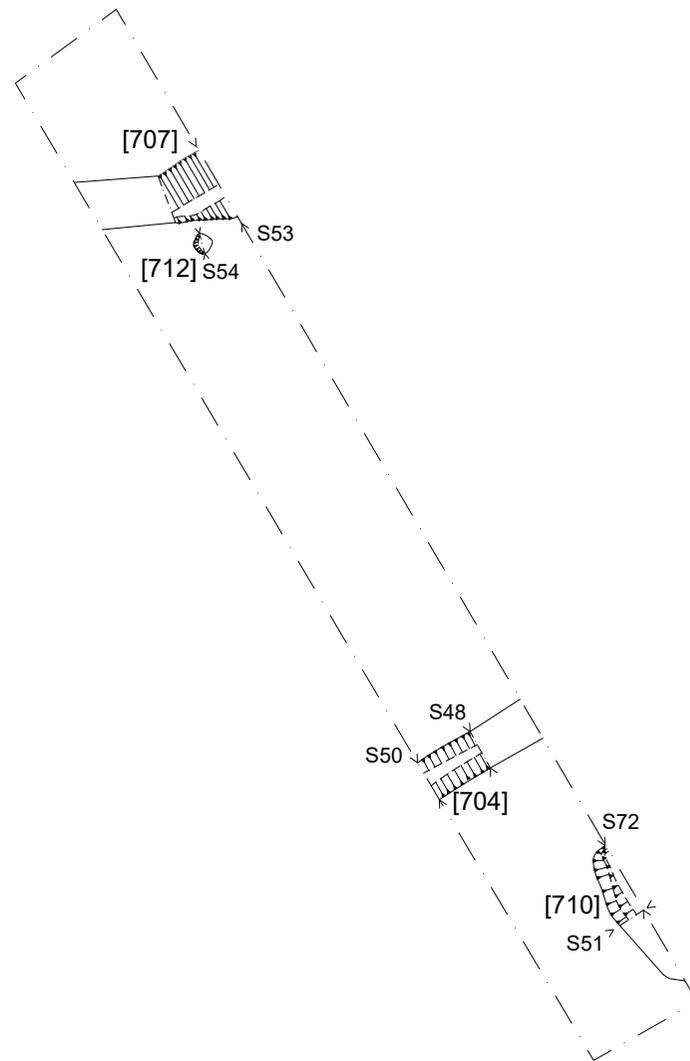
Figure 8: Trench 5



1:100@A4



Figure 9: Trench 6



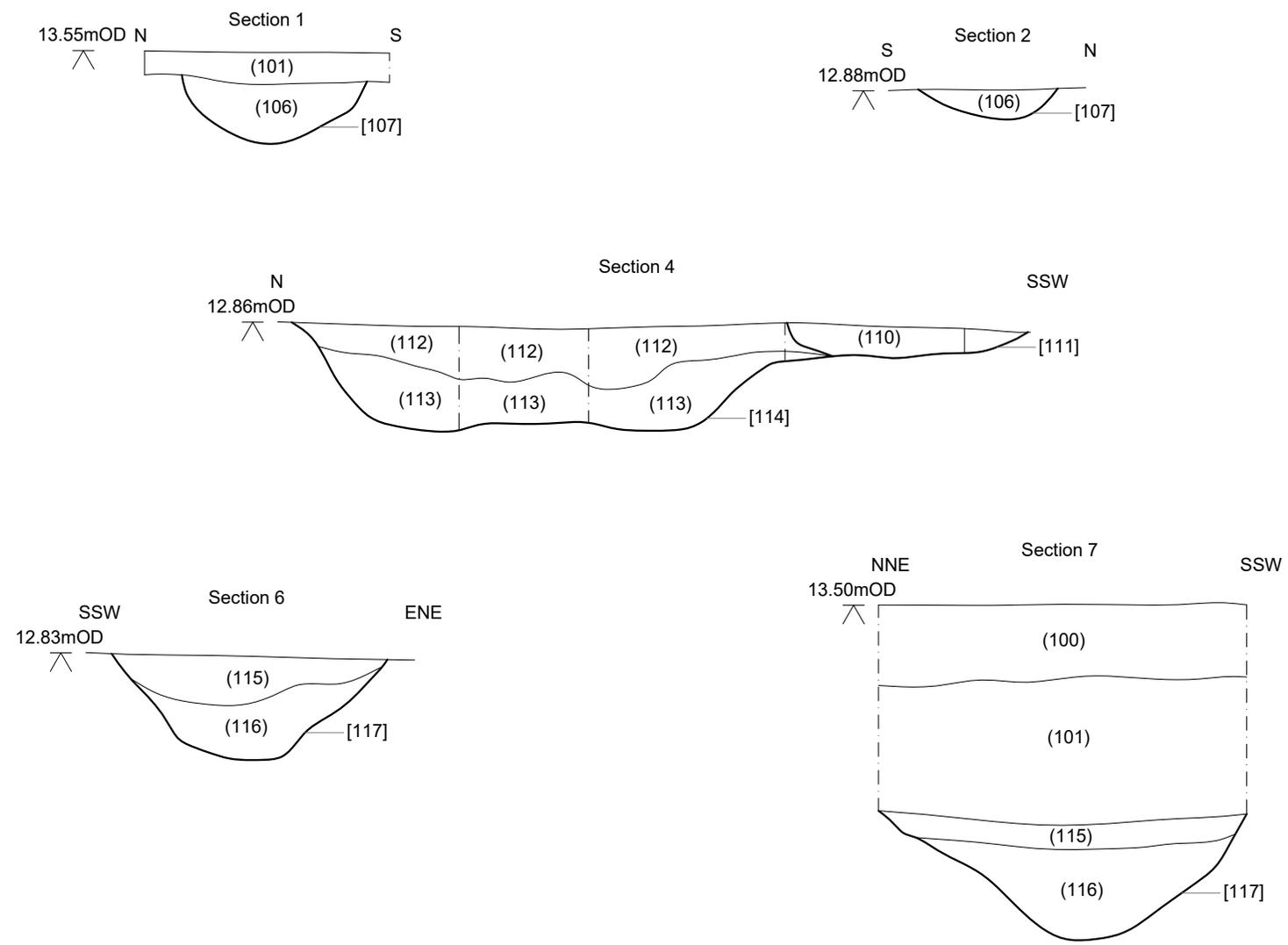
Legend:

-  Middle to Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age
-  'Belgic' Late Iron Age/Early Roman
-  Undated

1:100@A4



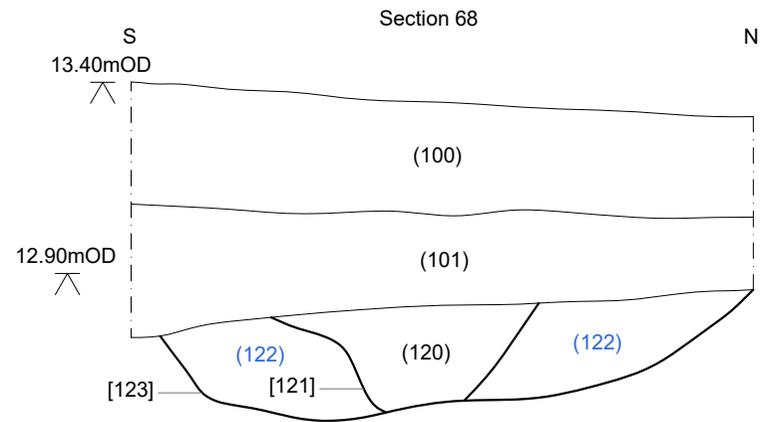
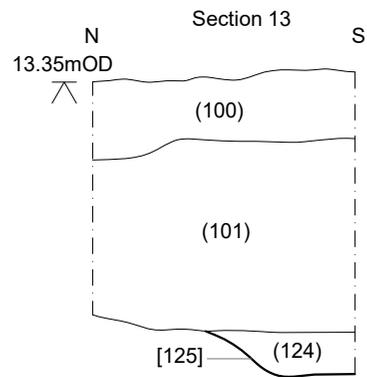
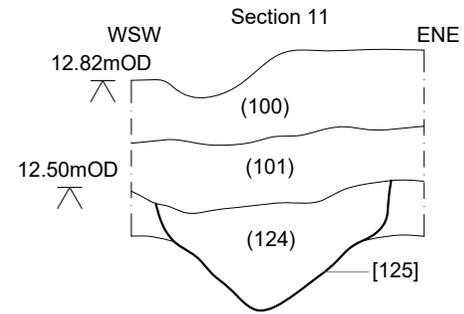
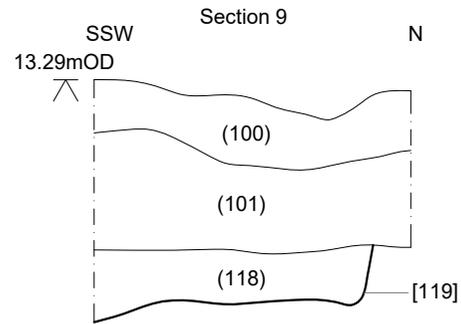
Figure 10: Trench 7



1:20@A4



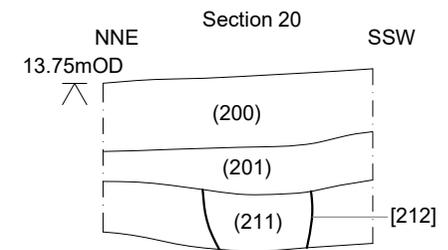
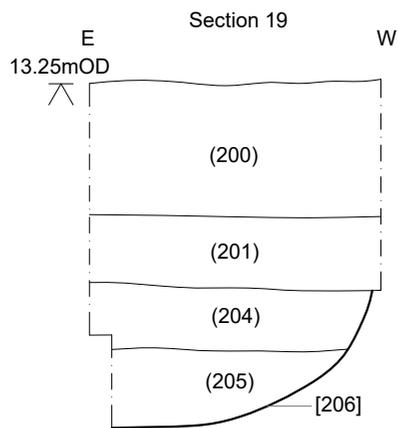
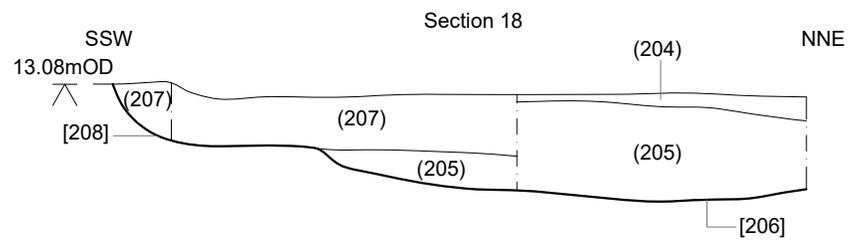
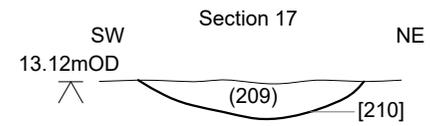
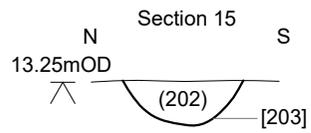
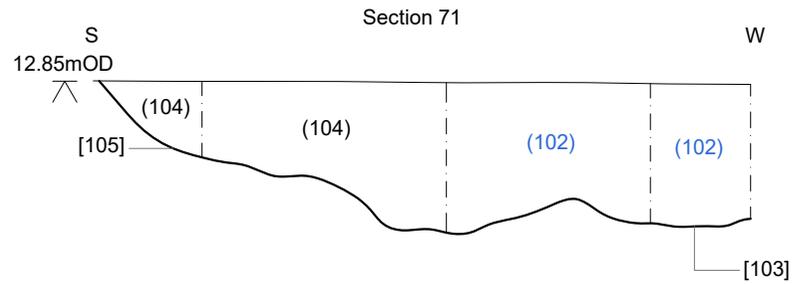
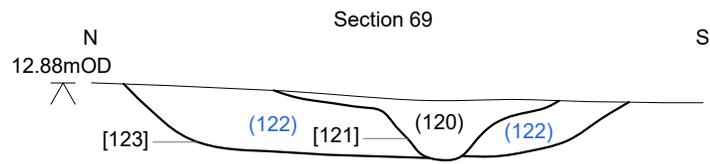
Figure 11: Sections



1:20@A4



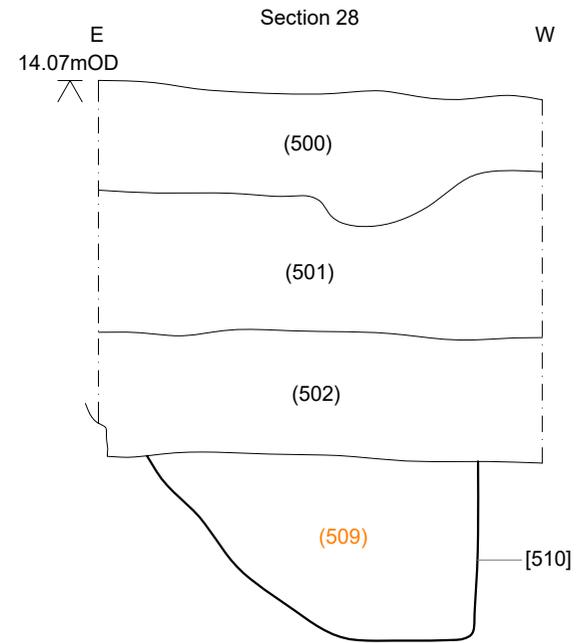
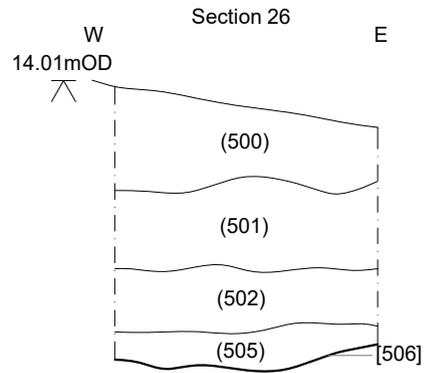
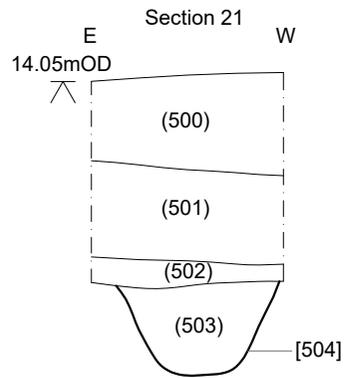
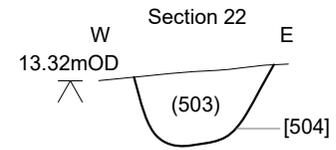
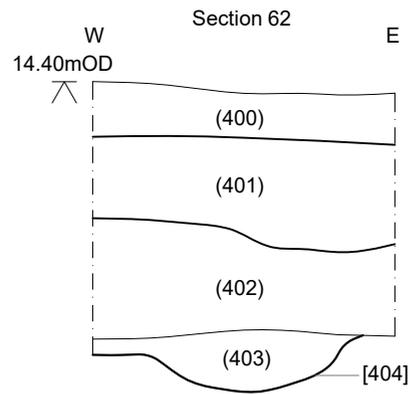
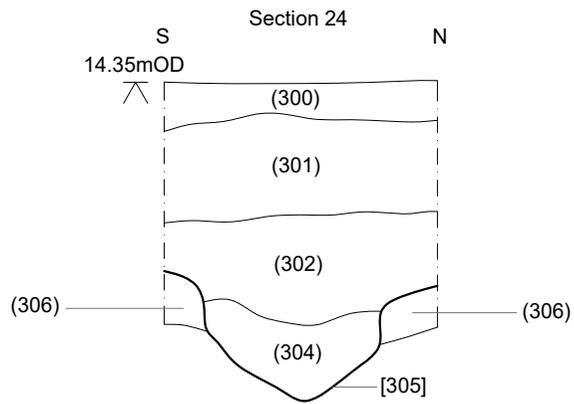
Figure 12: Sections



1:20@A4



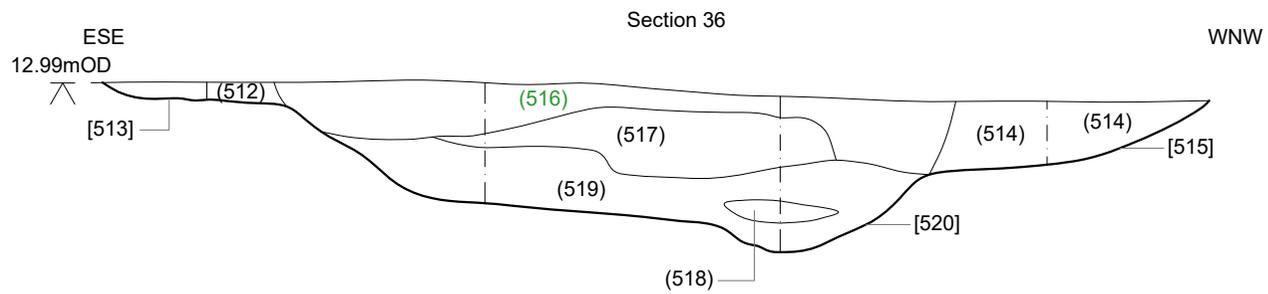
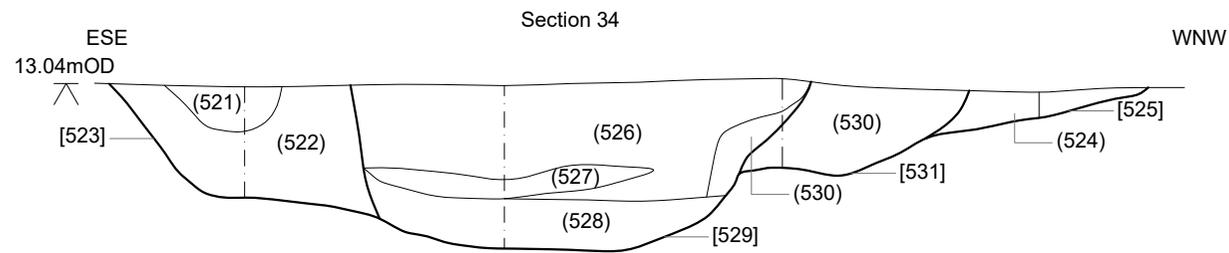
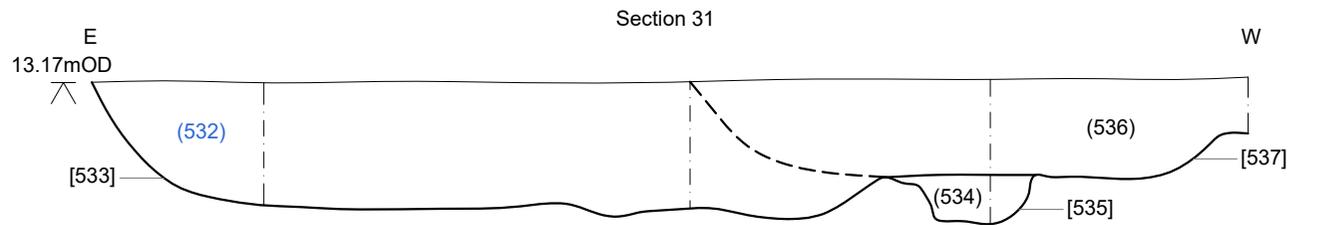
Figure 13: Sections



1:20@A4



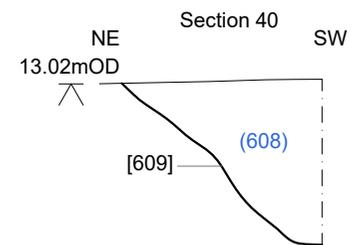
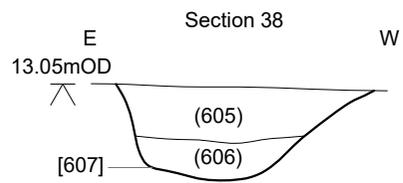
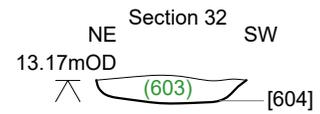
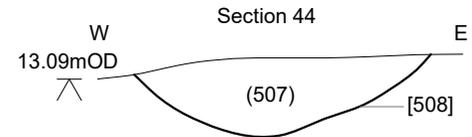
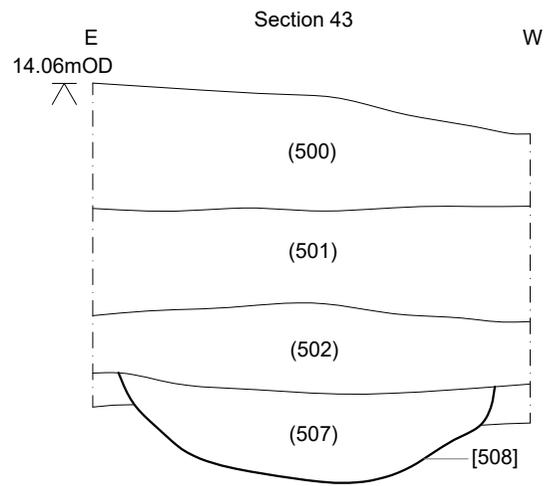
Figure 14: Sections



1:20@A4



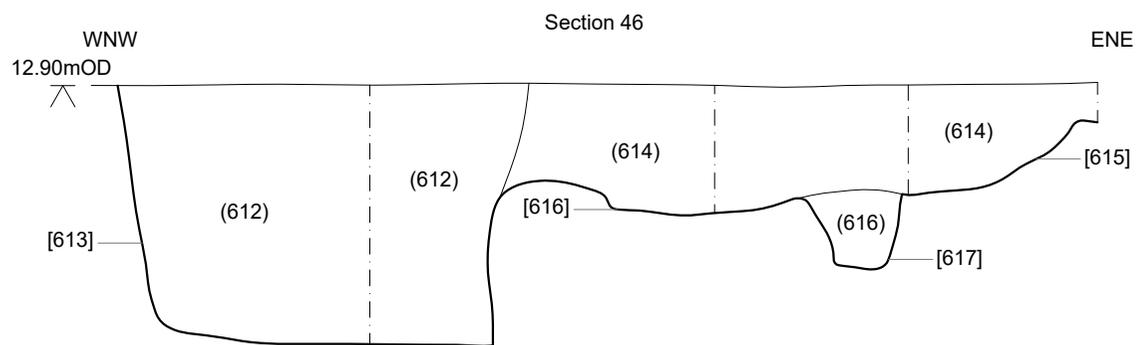
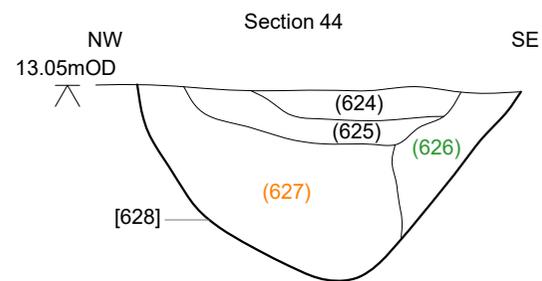
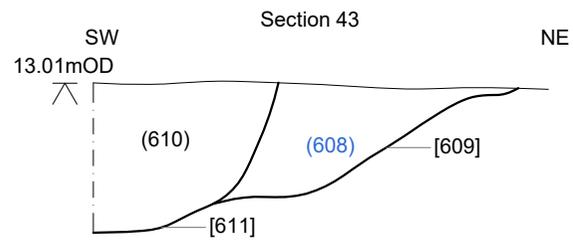
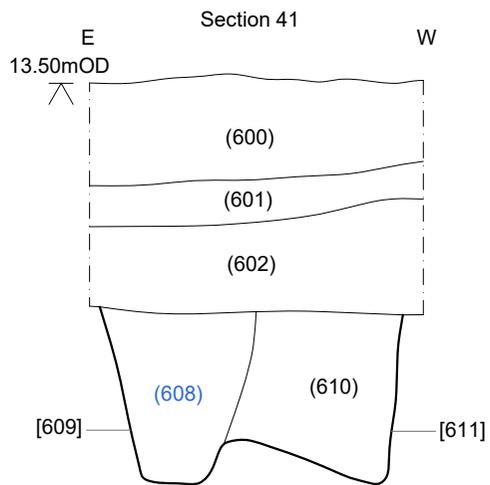
Figure 15: Sections



1:20@A4



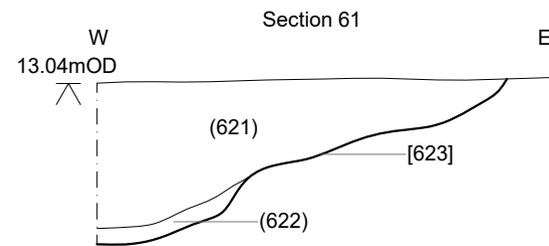
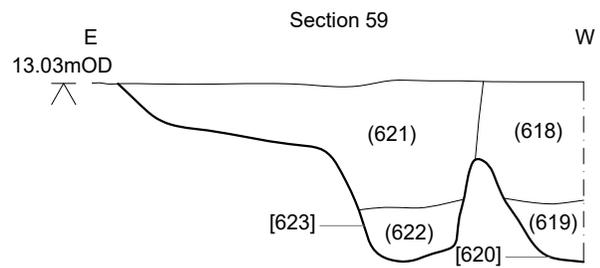
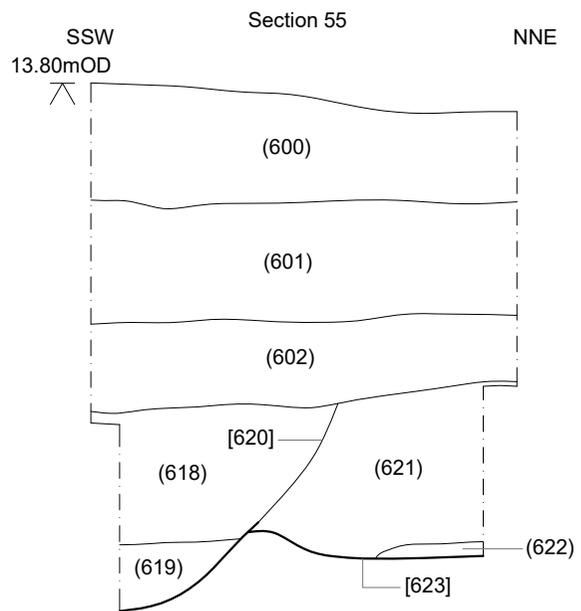
Figure 16: Sections



1:20@A4



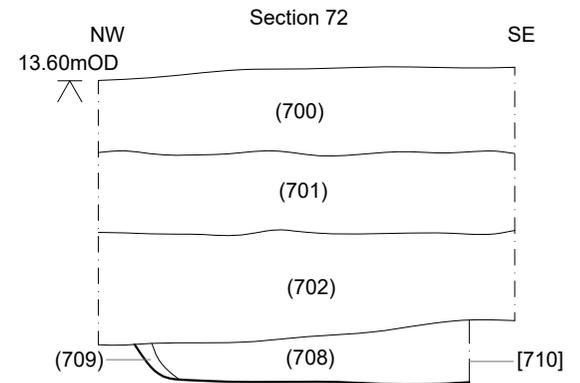
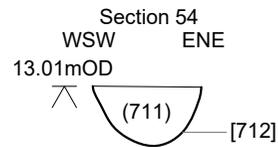
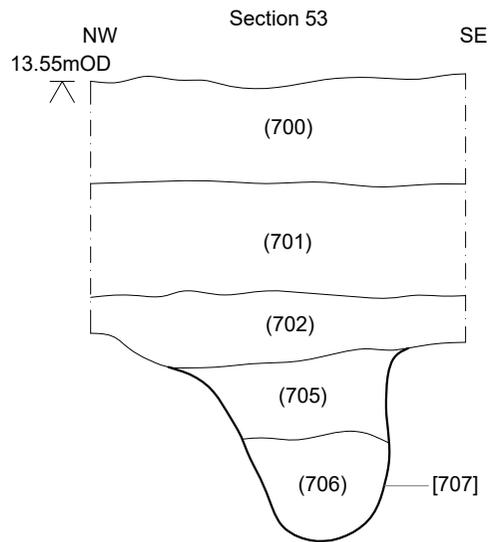
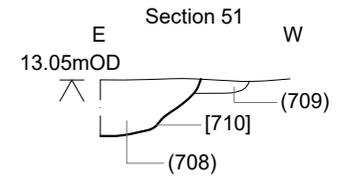
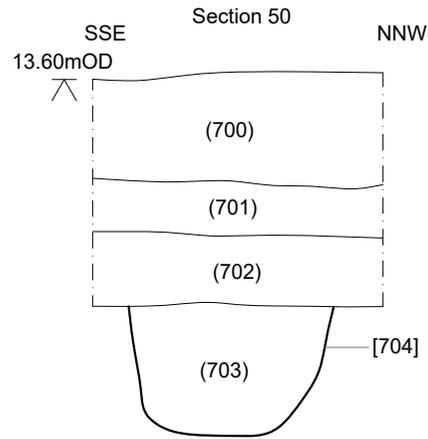
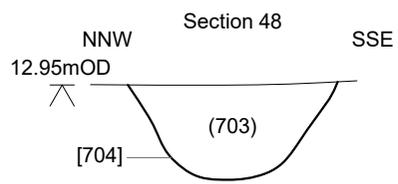
Figure 17: Sections



1:20@A4



Figure 18: Sections



1:20@A4



Figure 19: Sections