

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Hoo Farm, 147 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent CT12 4JB.



NGR: 629755 164915

Site Code: HFM-EV-22

Planning Application: (F/TH/19/0173)

21/12/2022

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

© SWAT Archaeology 2022 all rights reserved

Contents

1. Summary
2. Introduction
3. Site Description, Topography and Geology
4. Planning Background
5. Archaeological and Historical Background
6. Aims and Objectives
7. Methodology
8. Monitoring
9. Results
10. Discussion
11. Finds
12. Conclusion
14. Acknowledgements
15. References

Appendix One: Trench Description Tables

List of Figures:

Figure 1 - Site Location

Figure 2 - Site Plan showing location of the Trenches

Figure 3 – Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 2

Figure 4 – Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 3

Figure 5 – Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 4

Figure 6 – Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 7

List of Plates:

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 3. Trench 2, Linear feature [204]. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 4. Trench 2. Ditch [208]. Scale 0.5m

Plate 5. Trench 3, looking east. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 6. Trench 3. Segmented linear feature terminus [308]. Scale 0.5m

Plate 7. Trench 3. Linear features [312] (r.) and [314] (l.). Scale 0.5m

Plate 8. Trench 4, looking east. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 9. Trench 4, Ditch [403]. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 10. Trench 4, Pit [405]. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 11. Trench 4, Chalk and tread layers. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 12. Trench 5, looking southwest. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 13. Trench 6, looking southeast Scale: 0.5m

Plate 14. Trench 7, looking southeast. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 15. Trench 7, Linear feature terminus [706]. Scale: 0.5m

Plate 16. Trench 7, Feature [708]. Scale: 0.5m

Plate. 17. Trench 7, Linear feature terminus [710]. Scale: 0.5m

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Hoo Farm,
147 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent CT12 4JB.

NGR: 629755 164915

Site Code: HFM-EV-22

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hoo Farm, 147 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent CT12 4JB (Figures 1 and 2). A Planning Application (F/TH/19/0173) was approved by Thanet District Council for the erection of twenty-three (23no.) dwellings, and all associated works and landscaping following the demolition of existing buildings. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation advised Thanet District Council that a programme of archaeological investigations take place prior to development, therefore Thanet District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (Wilkinson, 2022). The results of the excavation of 7 evaluation trenches (Figures 2 - 6) revealed that archaeological features were present within four of the trenches. The natural geology of Superficial Head 1 Deposits comprising fine Silt, and clay was also revealed in all of the trenches. The Archaeological investigation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. This document is the requested initial draft report.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the client to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (Wilkinson, *ibid*). The evaluation was carried out between the 9th and 16th of December 2022.

This report summarises the results of the evaluation and considers the potential impact to the archaeological resource resulting from the proposed groundworks, to determine whether any further archaeological mitigation, will be required. Any proposals, including additional

archaeological investigations will be subject to the decision of, and liaison with, the Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation.

3. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on the north side of Monkton Road and 670m to the east of the village of Monkton Village and 310m west of the village of Minster in Thanet. The A299 Thanet Way is situated 750m to the north. The centre of the site is NGR 629755 164915.

Prior to the demolition of the farm buildings, the Proposed Development Area comprised a multi-yard farmstead, comprising ancillary buildings and open yards, 40m north of Monkton Road.

The Proposed Development Area is situated at the base of the south Thanet scarp slope, measures approximately 4380sqm and is bounded to the north and east by arable farmland, to the south by Monkton Road and by rear gardens belonging to a row of terraced housing. Hoo Farm is situated immediately to the west.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is situated on bedrock geology of Thanet Formation Sand, Silts and Clays. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head 1 Deposits comprising fine Silt, and clay. The Superficial Head 1 Deposits were encountered within all of the evaluation trenches.

The centre of the Proposed Development Area has an Ordnance Datum height of 15.50m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).

4. Planning Background

The Proposed Development Area has planning permission (F/TH/19/0173) for the erection of twenty-three (23no.) dwellings, and all associated works and landscaping following the demolition of existing buildings, and has been obtained with the following comments from the Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), advising Thanet District Council:

The site lies on the south Thanet scarp slope which is rich in archaeology. Crop mark evidence seen on aerial photographs of the land to the north and north west shows numerous cropmarks of multiperiod dates including enclosures, defensive trenches and trackways. Although there are none recorded from the immediate vicinity of the development site, this may be due to the brickearth deposits which feature close to the site which mark the limit of cropmark visibility in this area.

The site itself has been a farm complex since at least the early 19th century with buildings now demolished shown on the Tithe Map. Of the present buildings only building 1 outside the site and building 2 within the site date to the 19th century. Building 2 certainly features on the 2nd Edition OS map of the late 19th century but may have been extended from a smaller building that dates back to the mid-19th century.

Given the archaeological potential of the site which proposes new development and demolition of the buildings within the site, I would advise that provision should be made in any forthcoming consent for a programme of archaeological works.

Based on the above and the present archaeological information, the Principal Archaeological Officer for KCCHC, recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation, an evaluation, in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

The methodology of the archaeological evaluation phase of investigation is identified within the specification (Wilkinson, *ibid*) and is based on the KCCHC site specific specification, Archaeological Evaluation Manual Part B (KCCHC, 2015).

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Proposed Development Area is located close to a number of archaeological sites and the Kent County Council Historical Environment Record (KCCHER) contains information that records Hoo Farm as Grade II listed with a build date of 1800-1832 (TR 26 SE 69) and is described as a regular multi-yard farmstead (MKE 86834).

Approximately 300m to the north and c. 500m to the north west are cropmark features, including a square-shaped feature (TR 26 NE 272), a rectangular-shaped enclosure (TR 26 NE 270) and linear features (TR 26 NE 271). A defensive trench (TR 26 NE 1197) also appears as a cropmark amongst this group of features.

Recent work within the area includes an archaeological evaluation at Jonah's Gate, Minster in Thanet, 355m east of the PDA. Archaeological features present were identified as Middle to Late Iron Age and early Roman (Britchfield and Wilkinson, 2019). Another archaeological evaluation at 47-71 Monkton Street, Monkton, 730m to the west of the PDA revealed Middle Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age features (Holmes and Wilkinson, 2019).

6. Aims and Objectives

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological remains which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation were to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular, the Prehistoric, Roman, Early Medieval and later periods within the Proposed Development Area.

Another objective of the evaluation was to also determine the depth at which any potential archaeological remains below the modern surface occurred, and the thickness of the overburden sealing the potential archaeological horizon.

In addition, the evaluation was to determine the date, quantity and frequency (low, moderate or high) of any archaeological remains present. Examination of any archaeological remains present were to be achieved through sample excavation.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification (Wilkinson, *ibid*) called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising eight trenches. However, due to on site obstacles (including a new electricity transformer and new service trenches) in the proposed position of some of the trenches, only seven trenches (Figure 2) could be excavated. Six of the trenches were located within the main area of the Proposed Development Area, whereas the seventh trench was located west of the drive way leading in to the PDA from Monkton Road.

A 5t 360° tracked mechanical excavator with 1.80m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the overlying layer comprising areas of topsoil and areas of crushed concrete, to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological recording was carried out in accordance with the specification using a single context recording system, of the deposits and archaeological features encountered.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCCHC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Communication with the Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation comprised emails.

9. Results

The results of the excavation of each evaluation trench are described below:

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (Plate 1). The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 1.20m (14.62m aOD) at the east end and 0.50m (15.25m aOD) at the west end.

A concrete footing at 15.56m aOD divided the trench in two equal halves. Undisturbed natural geology was identified at the base along the west half of the trench as orange-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 15.25m aOD. Undisturbed natural geology was not present within the east half of the trench and archaeological features were NOT encountered truncating the natural geology.

Layer **(100)** comprised a layer of light grey crushed concrete, which had a thickness of 0.50m and lay on Terram, demonstrating recent ground reduction in the area around Trench 1.

This sealed the natural geology at the west end of the trench. Context **(100)** also sealed the concrete footing **(101)** located in the centre of the trench. Aligned north-south, the footing had depth of +0.20m and a width of 0.50m. East of the footing, the trench comprised four layers **(102, 103, 104 and 105)** of modern deposits sealing a dump of mixed building debris (inc. concrete, curb blocks, tarmac) mixed with plastic **(106)** within a large pit **[107]**, at least

+0.70m deep. Layer **(102)** comprised a 0.20m thick deposit of dark grey clayey gravel. Layer **(103)** comprised a 0.14m thick deposit of light grey crushed concrete. Layer **(104)** comprised a 0.09m thick deposit of dark brown clayey gravel and layer **(105)** comprised another deposit, 0.21m thick, of light grey crushed concrete.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figures 2 and 3 (Plate 2). The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.24m (16.04m aOD) at the east end and 0.46m (15.61m aOD) at the west end.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified along the base of the trench as orange-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 16.04m aOD. Archaeological features were encountered within the centre of the trench.

Layer **(200)** comprised a 0.08m thick deposit of dark grey clayey gravel, which sealed the natural geology along the east half of the trench, and a thin layer (0.11m) of light grey crushed concrete **(201)** along the west half. Context **(201)** along the west half of the trench also sealed a layer **(202)** of dark grey-brown silty clayey gravel, which had a thickness of 0.11m.

Trench 2 contained two archaeological features (Figure 3) truncating the natural geology. The features comprised a narrow linear-shaped feature and a ditch. The narrow linear feature truncated the ditch. Both were sealed by context **(200)**.

Linear feature **[204]** (Plate 3) had a north-south alignment, a length of +1.20m, a width of 0.50m and a depth of 0.16m. The backfill **(203)** comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing worked flint. This feature truncated ditch **[208]**.

Ditch **[208]** (Plate 4) had a slight northeast-southwest alignment and was slightly curvilinear in plan. It had a length of +5m, a width of +1.20m and a depth of 0.88m. The ditch contained three layers of backfill. The upper-most layer **(205)** had a thickness of 0.32m and also comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing occasional animal bone and worked flint. The secondary layer **(206)** had a thickness of 0.35m and comprised orange-brown silty clayey brickearth and contained worked flint. The primary layer **(207)** had a

thickness of 0.28m and comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing flint tempered pot and worked flint.

Trench 3

The plan is recorded in Figures 2 and 4 (Plate 5). The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 25m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.20m (15.56m aOD) at the east end and 0.06m (15.50m aOD) at the west end.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified along the base of the trench as orange-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 15.56m aOD. Archaeological features were encountered within the centre of the trench.

Layer **(300)** comprised dark grey-brown silty clayey Topsoil, which had a thickness of 0.20m at the east end and 0.06m at the west end.

Trench 3 contained three archaeological features (Figure 4) truncating the natural geology. The features comprised a possible segmented linear feature (the end of a possible second segment could just be seen projecting from the north side of the trench) and two linear-shaped features. All three features were sealed by context **(300)**.

Segmented linear feature **[308]** (Plate 6) comprised a terminus, had a northeast-southwest alignment, a length of +3m, a width of 0.38m and a depth of 0.70m. This feature contained seven layers of backfill. The upper-most layer **(301)** had a thickness of 0.08m and comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing degraded flint tempered pottery that did not survive and worked flint. This layer sealed **(302)** which had a thickness of 0.23m and comprised mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown silty clayey brickearth and contained a large quantity (342g) of flint tempered pot and worked flint. This context sealed a 0.12m thick layer **(303)** comprising dark grey-brown silty clayey brickearth with very occasional charcoal and containing flint tempered pottery, worked flint and animal bone. This in turn sealed a layer **(304)** comprising mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown silty clayey brickearth and contained flint tempered pottery, worked flint and animal bone. This context had a thickness of 0.18m. The tertiary layer **(305)** had a thickness of 0.10m and comprised very light brown silt. The secondary layer **(306)** comprised dark grey-brown silty clayey

brickearth containing a small deposit of mussel shell. This context had a thickness of 0.10m. The primary layer **(307)** also comprised very light brown silt and had a thickness of 0.09m.

Linear feature **[312]** (Plate 7) had a northeast-southwest alignment, a length of +3m, a width of 0.56m and a depth of 0.63m. This feature contained three layers of backfill. The upper-most layer **(309)** had a thickness of 0.23m and comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing a large quantity (660g) of flint tempered pot and worked flint, including a Transverse arrowhead. The secondary layer **(310)** had a thickness of 0.15m and comprised orange-brown silty clayey brickearth containing worked flint. The primary layer **(311)** comprised dark grey-brown silty clayey brickearth containing worked flint. This context had a thickness of 0.44m.

Linear feature **[314]** (Plate 7) also had a northeast-southwest alignment, and had a length of +1.80m, a width of 0.78m and a depth of 0.40m. The backfill **(313)** comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth with occasional charcoal and containing worked flint and animal bone.

Trench 4

The plan is recorded in Figures 2 and 5 (Plate 8). The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 25m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.32m (15.21m aOD) at the east end and 0.40m (14.83m aOD) at the west end.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified along the base of the trench as orange-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 15.21m aOD. A ditch and a pit were encountered at the east end of the trench (Figure 5).

Layer **(400)** comprised dark grey-brown silty clayey Topsoil, which had a thickness of 0.20m at the east end of the trench. This sealed the ditch, and the ditch truncated the Pit.

The ditch **[403]** (Plate 9) had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of +1.80m, a width of 1.50m, a depth of 0.84m and contained two layers of backfill. The upper-most layer **(401)** had a thickness of 0.46m and comprised dark brown silty clayey brickearth containing animal bone, worked flint, a fragment of Roman Tegula roof tile and very occasional

charcoal. The primary layer **(402)** had a thickness of 0.46m and comprised orange-brown silty clayey brickearth.

The pit **[405]** (Plate 10) also had a northwest-southeast alignment, had a length of 0.95m, a width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.41m. The backfill **(404)** comprised dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth and contained animal bone.

The sequence of layers at the west end of the trench (Plate 11) comprised a layer **(406)** of demolition debris – a mix of broken slightly frogged red bricks and light brown coarse mortar, which had a thickness of 0.15m. This sealed a 0.05m thin layer **(407)** of black silt, forming a layer of tread on top of crushed chalk **(408)**. The chalk had a thickness 0.09m and sealed another 0.02m thin layer **(409)** of black silty tread which in turn lay up on another crushed chalk layer **(410)**, which had a thickness of 0.04m. This second chalk layer sealed a 0.05m thick layer of dark grey-black silty clayey gravel **(411)** which sealed the undisturbed natural geology at 14.83m aOD.

Trench 5

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (Plate 12). The trench had a northeast-southwest alignment, a length of 15m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m (15.38m aOD) at the northeast end and 0.60m (14.96m aOD) at the southwest end.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified at the northeast end only, as mid-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 15.38m aOD. Archaeological features were NOT encountered within this trench.

Layer **(500)** comprised dark grey-brown silty clayey Topsoil at the northeast end of the trench, which had a thickness of 0.30m. This sealed the undisturbed natural geology encountered at 15.38m aOD.

The remainder of the trench was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer **(501)** of light grey crushed concrete. Beneath the crushed concrete, at the southwest end of the trench, lay a 0.04m thin layer of black silt **(502)** sealing a layer **(503)** comprising a mix of crushed chalk and crushed red brick rubble. This layer had a thickness of 0.04m. A second layer **(504)** of black silt with a thickness of 0.02m occurred beneath. Underneath the silt lay a sequence of

crushed chalk and black silts identical to the layers of tread lying upon the chalk layers encountered at the west end of Trench 4. The first chalk layer **(505)** had a thickness of 0.12m and sealed a black silt layer **(506)** of tread with a thickness of 0.03m. This in turn lay on another chalk layer **(507)** which had a thickness of 0.12m. This sequence of deposits sealed the natural geology at 14.96m aOD.

Within the centre of the trench lay a large rubbish pit **[508]** measuring 6m x +1.80m backfilled with modern materials, including plastic to a depth of +0.30m.

Trench 6

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (Plate 13). The trench had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.30m (14.55m aOD) at the northwest end and 0.80m (14.13m aOD) at the southeast end.

Trench 6 contained a series of modern service trenches which affected the excavation of the trench however, undisturbed natural geology was identified in the centre of the trench as mid-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 13.86m aOD. Archaeological features were NOT encountered within this trench.

Layer **(600)** comprised very dark grey-black loamy Topsoil, which had an average thickness of 0.58m. The sequence of layers at the northwest end of the trench comprised the topsoil (with a thickness of 0.25m). This sealed a 0.05m thin layer **(601)** of black silt, forming a layer of tread on top of crushed chalk and brick rubble **(602)**. The chalk and rubble mix had a thickness 0.15m and sealed another layer **(603)** of crushed chalk, which had a thickness of 0.15m. This second chalk layer sealed the undisturbed natural geology at 14.55m aOD.

The sequence of layers at the southeast end of the trench comprised the topsoil (with a thickness of 0.28m). This sealed a 0.10m thick layer **(604)** of orange-brown silty clayey brickearth (redeposited natural geology) which in turn, sealed a second 0.11m thick layer **(605)** of topsoil. This second topsoil layer sealed a layer **(606)** of crushed chalk and brick rubble, which had a thickness of +0.11m. The undisturbed natural geology was not encountered at this end of the trench.

Trench 7

The plan is recorded in Figures 2 and 6 (Plate 14). The trench had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.21m (15.33m aOD) at the northwest end and 0.54m (14.69m aOD) at the southeast end.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified along the base of the trench as orange-brown silty clayey brickearth. The undisturbed natural geology was encountered at a depth of 15.33m aOD. Two linear features and another feature were encountered at the northwest end of the trench.

Layer **(700)** comprised black clayey gravel, which had a thickness of 0.06m and sealed a 0.12m thick layer **(701)** of crushed chalk. The chalk sealed a second layer **(702)** of black clayey gravel, 0.11m thick, that sealed a second layer **(703)** of crushed chalk. The second layer of chalk had a thickness of 0.08m and sealed a mix of chalk and brick rubble **(704)**. The chalk and rubble mix had a thickness of 0.07m and contained fragments of porcelain plates and complete glass vessels, including a Bovril bottle (c. 1870). This layer sealed the natural geology at 14.69m aOD.

Trench 7 contained three archaeological features truncating the natural geology. The features comprised two linear termini and an irregular-shaped feature (Figure 6). All three features were sealed by context **(700)**.

Linear feature **[706]** (Plate 15) comprised a terminus, had a northeast-southwest alignment and had a length of +0.80m, a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.08m. The backfill **(705)** comprised mid brown silty clayey brickearth. This feature truncated feature **[708]**.

Feature **[708]** (Plate 16) had an irregular shape, a northwest-southeast alignment and had a length of +2m, a width of +1m and a depth of 0.17m. The backfill **(707)** comprised slightly lighter mid brown silty clayey brickearth.

Linear feature **[710]** (Plate 17) comprised a terminus, had a north-south alignment and had a length of +1.90m, a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.15m. The backfill **(709)** comprised mid brown silty clayey brickearth and contained animal bone.

10. Discussion

The archaeological evaluation at Hoo Farm, 147 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent comprised the excavation of seven trenches and revealed that there was an archaeological presence comprising identifiable archaeological features within four of the trenches inside the Proposed Development Area.

A common stratigraphic sequence across the Proposed Development Area comprised a series of layers (predominantly topsoil and crushed concrete) and a small number of isolated layers of chalk, sealing the natural geology. The natural geology, Superficial Head 1 Deposits, comprised silty clayey brickearth.

The Chalk Deposits

During the archaeological evaluation it was noted that exploratory trenches excavated in front of the walls of Buildings 1 and 2 (Wilkinson, *ibid*) during the demolition of Buildings 3-7, revealed that the chalk layers may extend, in pockets, from Trench 5 to as far as the exterior face of the walls of Buildings 1 and 2. Retrieval of glass vessels, including a Bovril bottle (c. 1870) from underneath the earliest chalk deposit within Trench 7, and frogged brick fragments mixed with chalk deposits within trenches 5, 6 and 7 suggests that the deposition of the chalk across the Proposed Development Area took place during the late 19th century or later.

The Archaeological Features

A total of ten identifiable archaeological features were present and appeared within trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7.

Trench 2

The archaeological features comprise a narrow linear feature [204] and a ditch [208] within the centre of Trench 2 (207) [208] dated by three small fragments, flint tempered, likely Later Prehistoric pottery sherds (1550-50 BC/50 AD). Also retrieved were (205) [208]. 13 small flakes to large angular chunks, latter simple cores. Nothing obviously very decent, apart from 1 thin flake fragment which would be more common in the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (4000-1550 BC) than significantly later. Whether any of these pieces could be

related is unclear at present and is likely to remain uncertain, due to the underlying geology. For now, the collection as a whole is perhaps more likely to date broadly within the Beaker Period to Earliest Iron Age or later (2450-600+ BC). Majority perhaps more likely Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age or later (1550-600+ BC), but needs a clean and a ponder. There is a reasonable quantity and a feeling that this might not date too late, if broadly related, but much depends upon how many, if any, are related. Consider the nature of the context and their distribution.

(206) [208]. 10 pieces. 1 medium sized long secondary flake with a thick distal end truncated to a reasonable broad convex edge by direct steep to shallower somewhat semi-invasive retouch (convex end scraper), broadly Neolithic to Beaker Period (4000-1750 BC), but preferably Late Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period (2900-2000 BC) and just possibly Late Neolithic (2900-2300 BC). 2/?3 thick poor looking flawed core chunks (1 completely natural? Review). 1 other small shattered chunk. 3 small to medium short/ish tertiary flakes in similar raw material, nothing very specific, but potentially related and likely/typically not very late, less likely to significantly post-date the Middle Bronze Age (1550-1350 BC) and preferable no later than the Early Bronze Age (pre 1550 BC). Might these be related to the scraper? Might most/all be related? Intriguing possibility worth a ponder. Several instances of buff cortex in collection.

(207) [208]. 18. Small to medium sized. Some angular/shattered chunks (very muddy). Interestingly, most of the flakes seem to show little or no cortex and 5/6 look potentially reasonably decent, including 1 small blade and 1 Bullhead flake, none of these obviously formally retouched, however. Overall, little specific data, but a notable element of this collection could well date no later than the Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (pre 1350/1150 BC) and more typically no later than the Early Bronze Age (prior to 1550 BC; thus broadly Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, 4000-1550 BC), but the question is how many of the other more average/poorer looking pieces could be related? The geology will hinder any certain associations being made.

Trench 3

A segmented linear feature [308] and two linear features [312] and [314] within the centre of Trench 3 dated by pottery to and a ditch [403] truncating a pit [405] occurred at the east end of Trench 4. Archaeological features within Trench 7 comprised two linear features [706], [710] and another feature [708] at the northwest end. (302) [308]. Pottery sherds retrieved include small to medium sized, all flint tempered, all reduced. 1 medium sized simple upright rim of same type and potentially same vessel as in (303) [308]. 2 small body sherds with a single row of fingertip impressions. Other body sherds thick-walled. 1 small fragment of thick base. Little specific data; the simple rim could occur widely and the fingertip deco could occur in several periods, most typically (in this case) from the Middle Bronze Age to the Early to Mid Iron Age (1550-350 BC), but slight preference for Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550-1150 BC). The rim has some grog present, some of which is flint tempered. Potentially context-contemporary. NB. This bag was examined after (303) and (304) also from [308] and it is likely that all are related and preferably Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age.

(303) [308]. 2 small to medium sized, flint tempered, reduced, likely broadly Later Prehistoric (1550-50 BC/50 AD), but could date widely within. 1 small simple upright rim. 1 more medium sized thick-walled plain body sherd. Ponder, with any associations.

(304) [308]. 1 large plain body sherd, flint tempered, thick-walled, broadly Later Prehistoric (1550-50 BC/25 AD), potentially context-contemporary given size.

(309) [312]. 9 sherds, mostly small to medium sized, 2 noted conjoining to 1 large base sherd, all thick-walled, all flint tempered, most have some patchy oxidation. Little specific data, likely Later Prehistoric (1550-50 BC/25 AD), with slight preference for Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550-1150 BC), considering the similarly thick-walled and similarly tempered sherds seen in (302), but noting that similar fabrics can occur later. Potentially context-contemporary. Ponder and review.

Contexts (309) [312]. 9 small to large sized sherds, all flint tempered (some probably with some grog, but needs drying), all thick-walled. 2 large sherds conjoin to a large panel from the rim and upper body of a coarse ware (possibly barrel shaped), with a simple upright rim and shallow cordon a short distance below (undecorated). 3 other small to medium rims

may be from the same vessel. These all fairly fresh and likely context-contemporary. 2 medium to large body sherds, very thick-walled, with prominent oxidisation, appear a little more worn, 1 showing a single deep fingertip impression. This vessel may contain a minor element of grog. Overall, all are probably broadly related and most likely Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550-1150 BC).

Also retrieved were lithics (301) [308]. 6 pieces, + 1 fragment of red+black water-rolled cobble. 1 large core, minimal cortex and many flake removals, but flawed, somewhat average/poor looking, ?Beaker Period to Earliest Iron Age (2450-600 BC). 1 large thin tertiary flake with large dorsal flake scar removals, several edges broken, some intact edges showing direct marginal steep semi-abrupt retouch (blunting?), Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (4000-1550 BC), ?Late Neolithic to Beaker Period/??Beaker Period (2900/?2450-1750 BC). Most of the other flakes are a bit scrappier looking, with nothing very special/particularly decent.

(302) [308]. 7. 2 small to medium sized ?core fragments. Rest small to medium flakes, 1 notable, this a narrow bladelet sized flake, but form potentially incidental. Little specific data.

(303) [308]. 6 pieces. 1 large hammerstone/anvil, a large nodule with areas of flaked facets, areas of hammered facets on convex surfaces (hammer) and 1 flat area of hammered facets (anvil?), could date widely. 2 medium sized angular core shatter. 3 flakes nothing special. Overall, nothing very specific or special/ie. certainly early looking. The flakes and the shatter could well be broadly Bronze Age to Early to Mid Iron Age or later (2100-350+ BC). Is the hammerstone/anvil related however, or residual? It's not like the typical form of hammerstones seen in the Later Prehistoric (1550-50 BC), while anvils are known from the Iron Age in East Kent. The underlying geology an issue re contemporaneity. Interesting. Review and consider all from [308], particularly in light of the nature of the context and the distribution.

(309) [312] Deep 1. 1 small fragment potentially from a triangular shaped arrowhead. Broadly Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (2900-1550 BC), ?Beaker Period to Early Bronze Age (2450-1550 BC).

(309) [312] Deep 1. 6 pieces. 1 large shattered flawed ?core fragment. 1 large squat flake. 3 small flakes (2 short/squat). 1 medium sized angular piece of shatter/?natural; review. Little specific data, but nothing spectacular and nothing of quality that would more likely/certainly be related to the arrowhead also in (309) [312]; all these could easily be later and Bronze Age/Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age (2100/1550-600+ BC). Combine the bags.

(310) [312]. Deep 2. 15 pieces. Nothing specific. 2 smashed looking/poor cores, ?Bronze Age to Early to Mid Iron Age or later (2100-350+ BC). Rest mostly average looking and could well relate. 1 slightly more decent looking small flake fragment might pre-date, but need not be significantly earlier.

(311) [312]. 6 small. Nothing specific.

(313) [314]. 8 small flakes. Nothing very specific. Cortex a minimal presence on most. 1 thick short bullhead with a short straight edge of inverse marginal retouch 1 lateral (simple side scraper), ?Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age (1550-600 BC), ??Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550-1150 BC). Might rest relate?

The finds assemblage (predominantly flint tempered pottery, worked flint and animal bone) from the archaeological features suggests that there is a prehistoric presence within north-eastern area of the Proposed Development Area.

11. Finds

The archaeological features produced a considerable finds assemblage and comprised:

Flint tempered pottery from features [208], [308], [312], a combined weight of 1.562g.

Worked flint from features [204], [208], [308], [312], [314], [403], a combined weight of 3.202g.

Animal bone from features [208], [403], [405], [308], [314], [710], a combined weight of 981g.

CBM (Tegula) from feature [403].

In addition, feature [208] produced a flint Scraper, feature [308] produced a possible hammerstone, and feature [312] produced a Transverse flint arrowhead.

The complete glass Bovril bottle from layer (704) within Trench 7 has been retained.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches within the Proposed Development Area at Hoo Farm, 147 Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent CT12 4JB, revealed a common stratigraphic sequence across the area that comprised a series of layers (predominantly the topsoil and crushed concrete) and a small number of isolated layers of chalk, sealing the natural geology across the Proposed Development Area at a depth between 16.04m aOD and 13.86m aOD.

The presence of identifiable archaeological features within evaluation trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7 suggests that the archaeological resource is present within the north-eastern portion of the Proposed Development Area and occurs between 0.08m (16.04m aOD) and 0.20m (15.21m aOD) below to the present surface.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, for commissioning the project. Thanks, are also extended to the Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of DigitiseThis. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Holmes MA, Ali McKeever, and Dan Worsley MA, and the report written by Simon Holmes. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIfA.

14. References

Britchfield, D. and Wilkinson, P. 2019. Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Jonah's Gate, 135 Monkton Road, Kent, CT12 4EF. SWAT Archaeology.

Holmes, S. P. and Wilkinson, P. 2019. Archaeological Evaluation of Land Between 47-and 71 Monkton Street, Monkton, Kent. SWAT Archaeology.

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Kent County Council (Heritage and Conservation), 2015. Archaeological Evaluation. Specification Manual Part B.

Whitehead, R. 2016. Buckles 1250-1800. Greenlight Publishing.

Wilkinson, P. 2022. Site Specific Requirements: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Hoo Farm, 147 Monkton Road, Minster, Kent, CT12 4JB. SWAT Archaeology.

15. Websites

Kent County Council HER

Webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west. Scale:0.5m



Plate 3. Trench 2, Linear feature [204]. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 4. Trench 2. Ditch [208]. Scale 0.5m



Plate 5. Trench 3, looking east. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 6. Trench 3. Segmented linear feature terminus [308]. Scale 0.5m



Plate 7. Trench 3. Linear features [312] (r.) and [314] (l.). Scale 0.5m



Plate 8. Trench 4, looking east. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 9. Trench 4, Ditch [403]. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 10. Trench 4, Pit [405]. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 11. Trench 4, Chalk and tread layers. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 12. Trench 5, looking southwest. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 13. Trench 6, looking southeast. Scale:0.5m



Plate 14. Trench7, looking southeast. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 15. Trench 7, Linear feature terminus [706]. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 16. Trench 7, Feature [708]. Scale: 0.5m



Plate 17. Trench7, linear feature terminus [710]. Scale: 0.5m

APPENDIX ONE

Trench Description Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 20m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 15.25m aOD Orientation: E-W		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
100	Light grey crushed concrete	Surface Layer	0.00-0.50
101	Concrete footing	Wall	0.40-0.60+
102	Dark grey clayey gravel	Layer	0.50-0.70
103	Light grey crushed concrete	Layer	0.70-0.84
104	Dark brown clayey gravel	Layer	0.84-0.93
105	Light grey crushed concrete	Layer	0.93-1.14

Trench 2	Dimensions: 20m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 16.04m aOD Orientation: E-W		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
200	Dark grey clayey gravel	Surface Layer	0.00-0.08
201	Light grey crushed concrete	Layer	0.08-0.19
202	Dark grey-brown silty clayey gravel	Layer	0.19-0.30
203	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [204]	0.08
204	Linear Feature. L: +1.20m. W: 0.50m. D: 0.16m.	Cut of Feature	0.08-0.24
205	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Upper Fill of Feature [208]	0.08
206	Orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Secondary Fill of Feature [208]	-
207	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Primary Fill of Feature [208]	-
208	Ditch. L: +5m. W: +1.20m. D: 0.88m.	Cut of Feature	0.08-0.88

Trench 3	Dimensions: 25m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 15.56m aOD Orientation: Slightly E-W		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
300	Dark grey-brown silty clayey soil	Topsoil	0.00-0.06
301	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Upper Fill of Feature [308]	0.06
302	Mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [308]	-
303	Dark grey-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [308]	-
304	Mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [308]	-
305	Very light brown silt	Tertiary Fill of Feature [308]	-
306	Dark grey-brown silty clayey brickearth	Secondary Fill of Feature [308]	-
307	Very light brown silt	Primary Fill of Feature [308]	-
308	Segmented Linear Feature Terminus. : +3m. W: 0.38m. D: 0.70m.	Cut of Feature	0.06-0.70
309	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Upper Fill of Feature [312]	-
310	Orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Secondary Fill of Feature [312]	-
311	Dark grey-brown silty clayey brickearth	Primary Fill of Feature [312]	-
312	Linear Feature. L: +3m. W: 0.56m. D: 0.63m.	Cut of Feature	0.06-0.63
313	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [314]	0.06
314	Linear Feature. L: +1820m. W: 0.78m. D: 0.40m.	Cut of Feature	0.06-0.40

Trench 4	Dimensions: 20m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 15.21m aOD Orientation: E-W		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
400	Dark grey-brown silty clayey soil	Topsoil	0.00-0.20

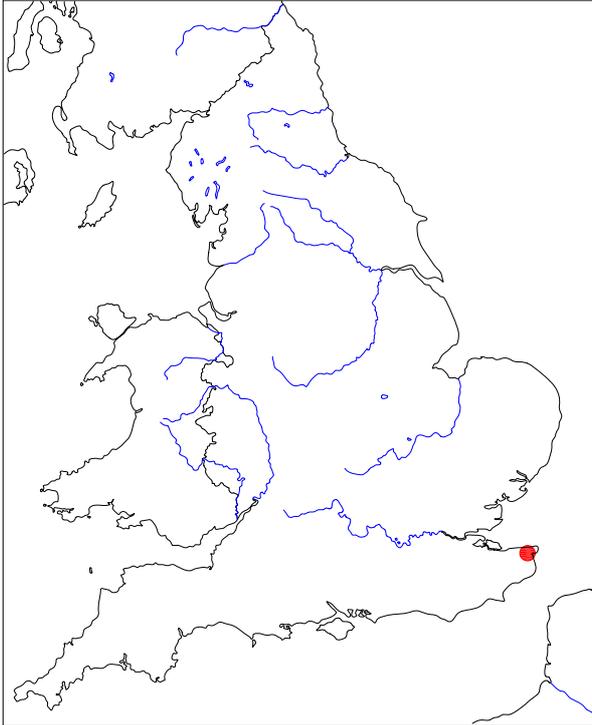
401	Dark brown silty clayey brickearth	Upper Fill of Feature [403]	-
402	Orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Primary Fill of Feature [403]	-
403	Ditch. L: +1.80. W: 1.50m. D: 0.84m.	Cut of Feature	0.20-0.84
404	Dark orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Pit [405]	0.84
405	Pit. L: 0.95m. W: 0.70m. D: 0.41m.	Cut of Feature	0.84-1.25
406	Broken red bricks and light brown coarse mortar	Layer	0.00-0.15
407	Black silt	Layer	0.15-0.20
408	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.20-0.29
409	Black silt	Layer	0.29-0.31
410	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.31-0.35
411	Dark grey-black silty clayey gravel	Layer	0.35-0.40

Trench 5	Dimensions: 8m x 1.20m Mean Basal Level: 17.81m aOD Orientation: Slightly NE-SW		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
500	Dark grey-brown silty clayey soil	Topsoil	0.00-0.30
501	Light grey crushed concrete	Layer	0.30-0.60
502	Black silt	Layer	0.30-0.34
503	Broken brick and crushed chalk mix	Layer	0.34-0.38
504	Black silt	Layer	0.38-0.40
505	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.40-0.52
506	Black silt	Layer	0.52-0.55
507	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.55-0.60
508	Pit. L: 6m. W: +1.80. D: +0.30.	Cut of Feature	0.30-0.60+

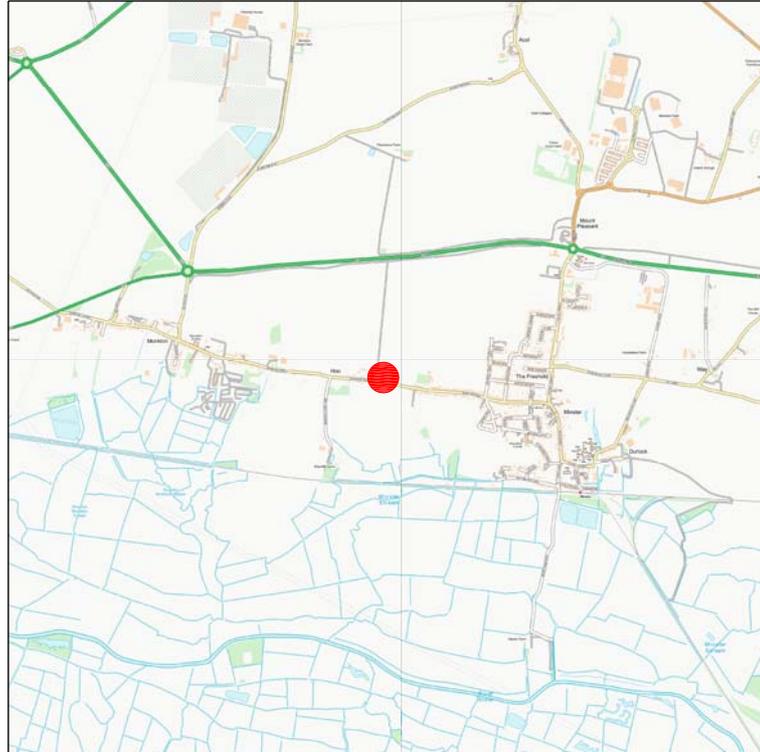
Trench 6	Dimensions: 20m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 13.86m aOD Orientation: Slightly NW-SE		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
600	Dark grey-brown silty clayey soil	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
601	Black silt	Layer	0.25-0.30
602	Broken brick and crushed chalk mix	Layer	0.30-0.45
603	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.45-0.60
604	Orange-brown silty clayey brickearth	Layer	0.28-0.38
605	Dark grey-brown silty clayey soil (Topsoil)	Layer	0.38-0.49
606	Broken brick and crushed chalk mix	Layer	0.49-0.60+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 20m x 1.80m Mean Basal Level: 15.33m aOD Orientation: Slightly NW-SE		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
700	Black clayey gravel	Layer	0.00-0.06
701	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.06-0.18
702	Black clayey gravel	Layer	0.18-0.29
703	Crushed chalk	Layer	0.29-0.37
704	Broken brick and crushed chalk mix	Layer	0.37-0.44
705	Mid brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [706]	0.21
706	Linear Feature Terminus. : +0.80m. W: 0.40m. D: 0.08m.	Cut of Feature	0.21-0.29
707	Light-mid brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [708]	0.21
708	Feature. L: +2m. W: +1m. D: 0.17m.		0.21-0.38
709	Mid brown silty clayey brickearth	Fill of Feature [710]	0.21
710	Linear Feature Terminus. : +1.90m. W: 0.40m. D: 0.15m.	Cut of Feature	0.21-0.36

NOT TO SCALE



NOT TO SCALE



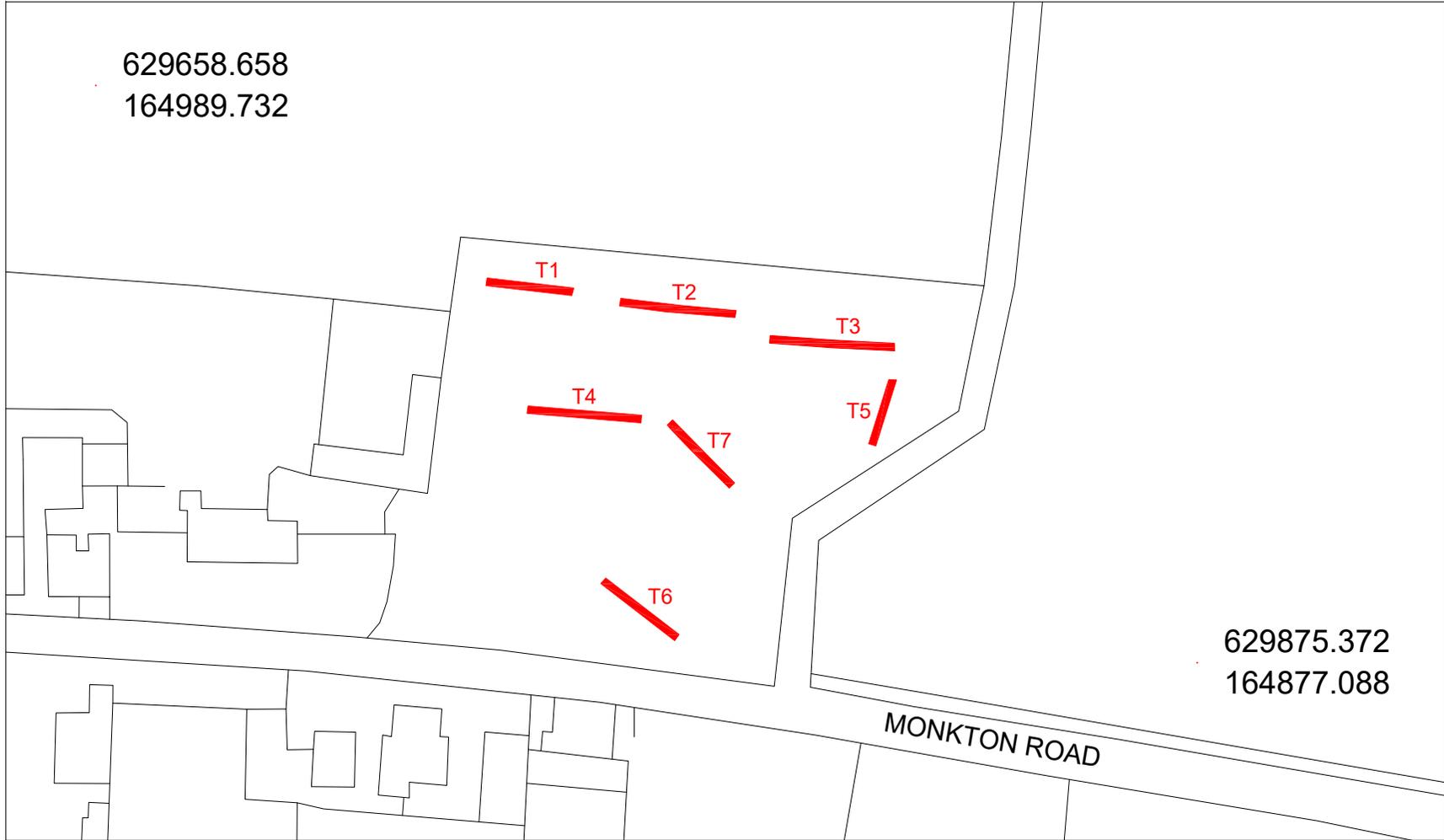
1:50000@A4



Figure 1: Site Location

0m

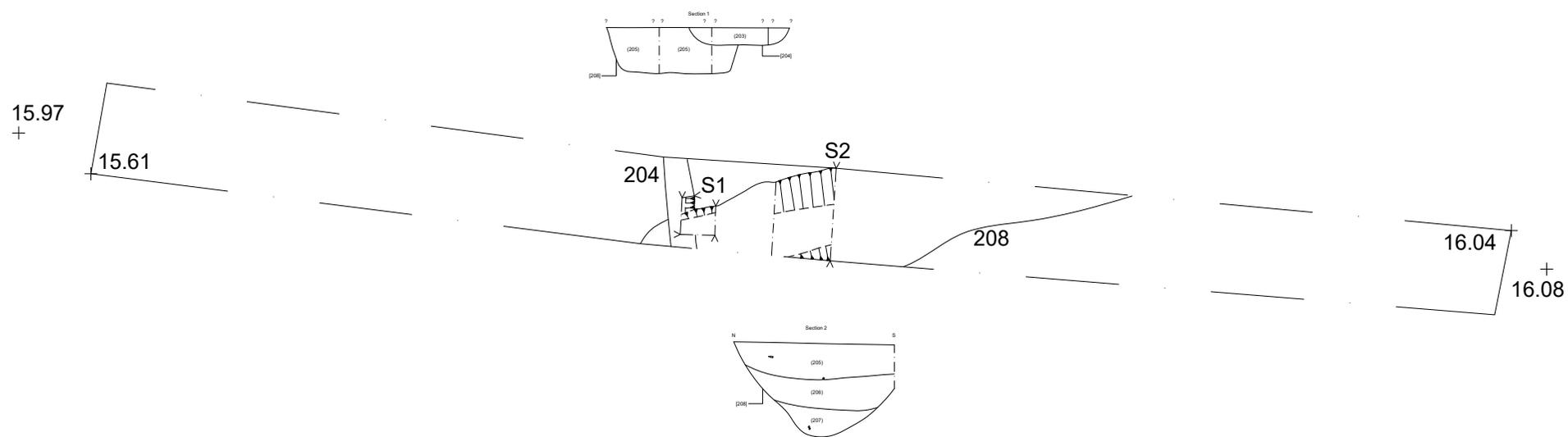
5km



1:1250@A4



Figure 2 - Site Plan showing location of the Trenches

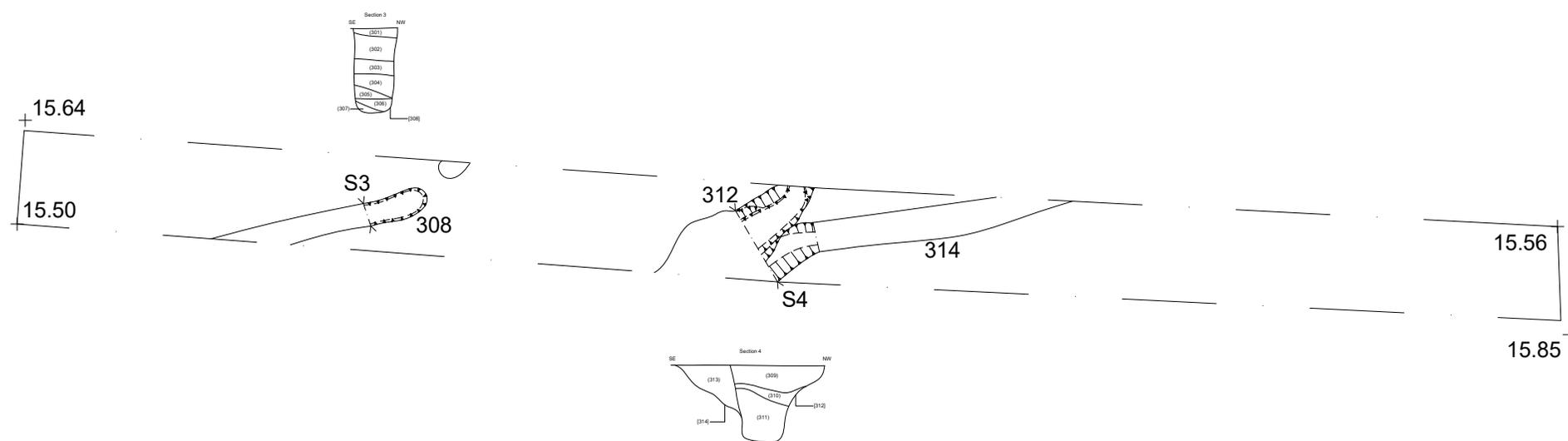


(Sections@1:50@A4)
1:100@A4



Figure 3 - Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 2 0m

10m



(Sections@1:50@A4)
1:100@A4

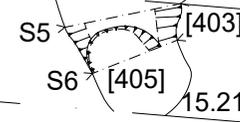
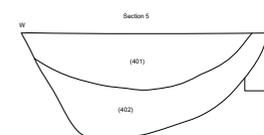
Figure 4 - Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 3 0m

10m



15.19
+

14.83



+ 15.57



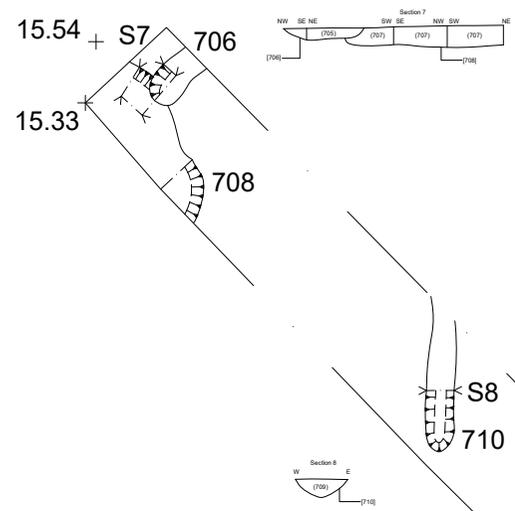
(Sections@1:50@A4)

1:100@A4



Figure 5 - Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 4 0m

10m



(Sections@1:50@A4)
1:100@A4



Figure 6 - Detail of the archaeological features, with sections, within Trench 7 0m

10m