

# Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation of the Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent

## Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Site Code: BSF-EX-22

NGR Site Centre: **619202E 169272N**

Planning Application Number: CA/98/0296/HBA



Report for;

**Altira Park JV LLP**

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at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent  
Post-Excavation Assessment**

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## *Abstract*

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) of land at the Phase 3 trade park units at Altira Park, near Beltinge Kent during 2022. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Canterbury City Council following a series of previous archaeological works in the immediate surrounding area dating from 2007.*

*Archaeological excavations revealed an ephemeral and almost certainly transient Mesolithic- Early Neolithic presence, evidence for agricultural activity during the Middle to Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age, and to a lesser extent during the High Medieval period. The results discussed in this report should be taken in conjunction with previous, more extensive, works carried out in the immediate vicinity.*

# **Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation of the Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent Post-Excavation Assessment**

NGR Site Centre: 619202E 169272N

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project background**

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Altira Park JV LLP to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation of the Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent centred on National Grid reference 619202E 169272N (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological excavation formed part of a staged programme of archaeological works associated with planning application CA/98/0296/HBA, submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) for the redevelopment of the site.
- 1.1.3 In early 2007, the Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP) was commissioned by the Terrace Hill Group (Herne Bay) Ltd, 1 Portland Place, London W1B 1PN to undertake a programme of archaeological assessment, evaluation and, where required, mitigation works prior to large, composite development on former agricultural land lying just north of the Thanet Way (A 299), in Belting, near Herne Bay in Kent. The initial archaeological work took place as a requirement of an archaeological specification (Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer 29th June 2000) and comprised an evaluation to ascertain the overall archaeological potential of the site. This work was followed by further, more focused, investigation, including further evaluation.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, assessment and proposed measures of appropriate mitigation preceding the excavation work discussed below took place in five phases, two of which comprised the excavation of a total of 187 evaluation trenches, the result of which raised clear implications for further work. The ensuing archaeological work was undertaken according to a requirement for mitigation forming part of a condition of planning consent granted by Canterbury County Council (CA/98/0296/HBA). This work took place prior to and during the multiphase development of the site in those areas shown to be of high archaeological potential and to be at risk from the proposed groundworks. These area included plots designated to accommodate a retail outlet,

industrial units, car parks and associated access and service roads. The results of these earlier works are discussed below in section 2.

- 1.1.5 The strip map and sample excavation discussed in this report was evaluated in 2007 and considered to have archaeological potential, although the actual excavation work did not take place until 2022. A *Specification for a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample of Phase 3 trade units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent* (SWAT 2022) was prepared in advance of this work.

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

- 1.2.1 In accordance with the Specification (SWAT 2022), this report comprises a summary of the project background (Section 1), the geological and archaeological background (Section 2) and the project aims (Section 3). Generic and specific methodologies are detailed in Section 4. Section 5 provides a Stratigraphic Assessment of archaeological features recorded within each area and is followed by an assessment of all archaeological finds in Section 6. A period- specific Archaeological Narrative, Statement of Potential, and recommendations for further analysis, reporting, publication and archiving constitute Sections 7-10.

- 1.2.2 For this report phased site plans have been provided. Figure 1 provides the overall site location, Figures 2a and b the location of this phase of works in relation to previous work on the wider site, Figure 3 an overall site plan of this phase of works, Figures 4- 6 illustrate specific site areas and the phasing of archaeological features, while Figures 7 and 8 show the features recorded in this phase of works in relation to the palimpsest of features previously recorded in the immediate vicinity.

## **1.3 Planning background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application (CA/98/0296/HBA) was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) for the development of the site to accommodate a retail outlet, industrial units, car parks and associated access and service roads. The Heritage & Conservation Department at Kent County Council (KCC), who provide an archaeological advisory service to the CCC 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 the developer, or their successor(s) in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: In order that the details of the programme of works for the archaeological mitigation are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the nature and extent of archaeological remains on site.*

#### **1.4 Site Description and Topography (SWAT 2016)**

- 1.4.1 The overall development site is centred on National Grid Reference 619202E 169272N and is located on London Clay-dominated, slightly undulating levels known as the Bogshole Levels, which lie north of the largely wooded upland of the Blean and south of the North Kent coast. The site is located on flat land west of Bogshole Lane and immediately north of the junction of the Old Thanet Way (A2990) and the New Thanet Way (A299). London Clay is a Mid Tertiary Eocene deposit, laid down some 54 million years ago as marine/estuarine sediment. Little or nothing is known about the London Clay during the period of transition between the Tertiary (the last geological age) and the Quaternary (the present geological age), when it is assumed to have first become an exposed land surface.
- 1.4.2 The great disparity in the height of the Blean (maximum height 128m OD) to the south and the adjacent Bogshole Levels to the north (average height approximately 15m OD) probably results from the intensive re-working of the surface of the London Clay and the overlying gravels when, during the later Quaternary, alternating glacial and interglacial climatic regimes prevailed to the north. During these periods, periglacial (tundra-like) conditions prevailed in south-east England and protracted fluvial and solifluctional (melt-water) erosion resulting from alternating freeze and thaw impacted on the London Clay. The unsorted gravels and other deposits (termed 'Head' in the Geological Survey), which occur commonly on the Blean and the 13 Bogshole Levels, are thought to represent the remnants of earlier, high-energy Quaternary fluvial deposits subsequently re-worked in this way (Holmes 1981, 65- 67). The site is set on relatively level ground at a height of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4.3 The Bogshole Levels refer to the levels lying to the north of Canterbury and south of Whitstable and Herne Bay, between the wooded uplands of the Blean and the densely-populated coastal margins of North-East Kent. Although seldom used nowadays, the name survives in the names of two roads, both called Bogshole Lane, one extending eastward from the main

Canterbury/Whitstable Road between Clapham Hill and Pean Hill, the other extending south from Beltinge to Broomfield, running immediately east of the present development. The levels are for the most part now only thinly occupied, supporting a few scattered villages and hamlets such as Broomfield, West End, Hoath, Bullockstone, Herne and Chestfield. In recent years, however, Chestfield has grown to become in effect a suburb of Whitstable and the northern parts of the levels are increasingly subject to overspill development as Whitstable and Herne Bay grow in size.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (SWAT 2016)**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. This report details the latest in a series of investigations on the overall site. The archaeological background and results of previous work are summarised below,

### **2.2 Archaeological Background**

2.2.1 The London Clay-dominated land of the Bogshole Levels is low grade in agricultural terms and, as their name coincidentally implies, the levels are often illdrained and boggy. Little medieval or earlier documentary evidence exists for the levels themselves, probably because they were largely deserted during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Despite the boggy nature of the levels, the origin of the name 'Bogshole' almost certainly derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Bocholt' ('book-held'), the first use of which for the area appears in an Anglo-Saxon charter dated 791 referring to 'wood held by royal charter' (Gelling 1993, 196, 267).

2.2.2 The archaeological potential of the area was considered low until recently, probably because of its desolate and thinly settled nature during recent and historical times. Indeed, archaeological and documentary evidence indicate that settlement on the levels was negligible and primitive even by medieval standards (Allen 2004, 117- 135). These conditions continued into the post-medieval period, as this description of the parish of Herne, in the eastern part of the levels, makes clear: 'This parish is situated about six miles north-eastwards from Canterbury, in a wild and dreary 14 country; there is a great deal of poor land in it, covered with broom...' (Hasted, Vol. VIII, 1800, 84).

2.2.3 The poor state of preservation of many archaeological features in London Clay provides another reason why so few prehistoric remains were recognized in the area (Oswald et al 2001, 84-85). However, in more recent years, much archaeological investigation has taken place prior to road building, pipeline installation, house building and other developments. For example, in 1995 an eight kilometre-long and twelve-metre wide swathe of land was stripped along the eastern margin of the Bogshole Levels in advance of the installation of a new wastewater pipe (Parfitt and Hutcheson 1995; Parfitt 1996, 16-18). This provided an opportunity to examine in a detailed and non-predictive way the prehistoric archaeology of the eastern part of the coastal levels in the study area.

2.2.4 The results of much of the archaeological work previously undertaken in the area have been analysed in a synthetic study, the result of which indicated that the area is of high archaeological

potential, probably because so little development related disturbance has taken place. The area is now recognized as being characterized by a complex process of settlement development and to have supported many later prehistoric settlements and/or occupation sites for more than a thousand years (Allen 2009, 189-207).

2.2.5 Three such settlements, Bogshole Lane A, Bogshole Lane C and Willow Farm, lie either nearly adjacent to or within 500m of the present site, and a further six, Beacon Hill, Underdown Lane, Bogshole Lane B, Hillborough Caravan Park, Hawthorn Corner (May Street) and Eddington, lie at distances of less than two kilometres away (see Sites 3, 5 and 31, and Sites 1, 4, 13, 11, 17 and 29 in Allen 2009, 190-198).

2.2.6 It is proposed that a major factor influencing the changes in settlement pattern in the area was the viability of trade routes with mainland Europe (Allen 2012, 1-19), although environmental factors such as large-scale land lost to the sea undoubtedly played a part. The changes in settlement and occupation activity on the Bogshole Levels can be summarized in general terms as follows: sporadic and transient activity on the levels prevailed from the Neolithic to the Early Mid Bronze Age, with extensive woodland clearance and more sustained settlement activity occurring during the Middle Bronze Age. This culminated during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age with a dramatic increase in settlement, and associated occupation activity, eventually followed by a marked and sustained decline in activity during the Middle Iron Age (c 500 BC). The Late Iron Age in turn saw what appears to have been a relatively sudden return to settlement levels, almost on a par with those of the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, these being maintained into the first century or so of the Roman period, after which another sudden, dramatic and long-maintained reduction is evident.

2.2.7 Of particular interest and relevance to the present site in terms of the Bronze Age archaeological background of the levels were the results of an investigation undertaken on the Altira Business Park site, on land lying immediately to the south, east and south-east of the present site. The investigation there revealed a widespread distribution of archaeological features, mostly in the form of pits, ditches, gullies, post-holes, all much truncated by mechanical ploughing, and the great majority (90 percent) datable by their associated ceramic inclusions to the broad period c.1550-c.1150 BC (the Middle Bronze Age).

2.2.8 More importantly, combined date-based pottery and context-based analysis of the 741 potsherds recovered and 247 archaeological contexts identified indicated that settlement and associated occupation activity took place principally during the period c.1550-c.1350 BC, with 50 percent of potsherd-bearing contexts containing diagnostic pottery with that specific date-range and 40

percent of the less diagnostic material having the broader date-range of c. 1550-c.1150 BC. However, as in the present site as discussed below, in the absence of material specifically identifiable to the period c. 1350 – c. 1150 BC, most if not all of the ceramics was attributable to the earlier date-range. The main focus of settlement activity therefore took place between about 650 and 450 years earlier than similarly large-scale settlement and occupation activity so far identified elsewhere on the levels.

### **2.3 Archaeological Potential**

- 2.3.1 The results of the earlier evaluations undertaken on the development site were consistent with the results of investigations undertaken elsewhere on the levels. The present site is located on the unattractively but accurately named Bogshole Levels, which lie between the wooded upland of the Blean to the north, and the North Kent coast to the south. The London Clay dominated levels were considered to be of minimal or low archaeological potential until relatively recently, largely because they are at present thinly settled, settlement taking the form of widely scattered villages and hamlets surrounded by generally poor, ill-drained agricultural land. Archaeological and documentary evidence indicated that the levels had been even more thinly settled during the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods, which, along with a general paucity of Roman-period remains, led to a long-held assumption that the same conditions or a state of virtual depopulation prevailed during prehistory.
- 2.3.2 Advance of the construction of a new pipeline in the eastern part of the levels (Parfitt and Hutcheson 1995; Parfitt 1996, 16-18), in advance of the New Thanet Way (A299), which runs approximately east-west across the levels (Parfitt and Allen 1990), and in advance of many overspill developments adjacent to Herne Bay, Swalecliffe and Whitstable (see Allen 2009 for details). These investigations exposed the remains of over thirty prehistoric settlements distributed widely across the levels. A small number dated to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, when settlement/occupation activity was negligible and probably often transient, with greater numbers dated to the Middle Bronze Age, when scattered settlements were established on the levels.
- 2.3.3 However, the great majority of settlement sites exposed during that period (before 2009) dated to the Mid-Late Bronze and Early Iron Age, by which time the levels were largely transformed from boggy woodland to farmland divided into ditch-enclosed fields and had become relatively densely populated, supporting many settlements, some extensive in size, with ever-increasing trade with continental Europe clearly acting as a major stimulus to their economy (Allen 2012).
- 2.3.4 More recent large-scale investigation on a 30-hectare site centred on TR 614979 166485, some four kilometres east of the present site and between Molehill 17 Road and the Old Thanet Way

again provided evidence for small-scale Early Bronze Age colonisation of the area in terms of permanent occupation and settlement, probably commencing about 1700 BC (Allen and Cichy 2015). More surprising was the evidence for a progressive and apparently steady increase in settlement activity and associated occupation and agricultural activity over the next 1200 years or so, from c.1550 BC until about 500 BC (throughout the Mid and Late Bronze Age and the Early and Mid-Iron Age), after which no evidence for prehistoric occupation and settlement activity was present. Interpreted alongside the evidence from other sites discussed above, this phenomenon points to a drastic reduction in settlement activity on the levels following the widespread adoption of iron-based technology. In the broader context of similar evidence discovered on many sites in South East England, the dramatic reduction of settlement/occupation activity on the Bogshole Levels points to the major social, economic and demographic effects that major technological innovations almost always create.

- 2.3.5 The evidence from the Molehill Road site reinforced, refined and added to the archaeological evidence previously gathered on the levels, which showed that, out of twenty-two Late Bronze/Early Iron Age settlements investigated before 2012, only six survived into the Middle Iron Age (after about 500 BC), the approximate date of abandonment of the other sixteen being the same (Allen 2009). It can now be proposed that a major socially disruptive event or series of events occurred at that time, which also saw a collapse in trade with mainland Europe (Allen 2012). Dramatic changes of another kind in the settlement pattern on the levels occurred during the Late Iron Age (about 150 BC to AD 50), when a sudden return to intensive occupation and settlement began that endured into the Roman period until about AD 100/150, often on sites previously occupied during the Mid-Late Bronze Age. Probably not coincidentally, the resumed activity was accompanied by a reestablishment of trade links with mainland Europe.
- 2.3.6 As previously discussed, the large-scale archaeological investigation recently undertaken as part of the current archaeological work on land immediately to the south, east and south-east of the present site was the subject of an assessment report (Allen 2016), in which it was proposed that the great majority of archaeological features investigated there formed part of the same settlement and associated field 18 system as that exposed on the present site. If so, it can be further proposed that those remains are indicative of an extremely large-scale settlement established and occupied during the period c.1550 – c.1350 BC, the archaeological importance of which has been emphasised above.
- 2.3.7 Nearly all the prehistoric archaeological features previously exposed on the present site dated to the same approximate period, which clearly saw a drastic increase in the intensity, extent and type of settlement activity. Apart from the presence on the present site of structural remains

associated with roundhouses, palisades and ancillary structures of unknown function, the most impressive set of remains was undoubtedly a complex, predominantly rectilinear arrangement of interconnected ditches, most of which were segmented in construction (that is, constructed in the form of very elongated intercutting oval pits of varying widths and depths). The great majority of the ditches were either northeast/south-west aligned or south-west/north-east aligned, and formed a northern and north-western extension of the same expansive rectilinear field system exposed during the investigations undertaken to the south, east and southeast in 2015 (Allen 2015).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General Aims**

3.1.1 The Strip, map and sample excavation aimed to ascertain the range of past activities, and specifically whether the evidence suggests transient human activity, domestic/settled occupation, burial, industry, agriculture and/or combinations of these. Linked to this, the excavations also sought to recover stratified assemblages of artefacts and ecofacts which are capable of analysis and research to assist in determining the date and function of the site during different periods.

3.1.2 In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance (ClfA 2014a), the general aims of the programme of archaeological works were to:

- *to examine the archaeological resource within the site;*
- *within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource;*
- *to analyse and interpret the results; and disseminate them.*

3.1.3 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance Archaeological Excavation* (2014a).

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

3.2.1 A Specification of proposed works (SWAT 2022) was prepared and contained the following objectives:

- The principle objective of the archaeological strip, map and sample is to reveal the presence or absence of additional elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.
- To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the strip, map and sample to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent

archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

### 4.2 Fieldwork

#### ***Archaeological Strip, map and Sample Excavation***

4.2.1 The site was divided into three areas; Area 1 to the east; Area 2 to the west and Area 3 to the northeast (Figure 3). The designation of each of the areas was maintained throughout the duration of the fieldwork and for the 'signing off' procedure.

4.2.2 A 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in spits of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

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

4.2.4 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site, in agreement with Principal Archaeological Officer can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.
- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriate sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.
- Charred and cremated deposits or potential 'placed deposits' were 100% excavated.

4.2.5 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM.

4.2.6 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

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

### **4.3 Monitoring**

4.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council throughout the archaeological investigation. Site visits were undertaken, and weekly updates reports were maintained. Any variations to the methodology set out in the Specifications were agreed between parties during monitoring meetings.

## 5 RESULTS/STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the report will include a descriptive stratigraphic assessment of the archaeological records, detailing physical relationships between all contexts recorded during the excavation. For ease of reference the descriptive text has been divided into the site areas (see Section 4.2 above) as shown on Figure 3. All features with multiple interventions (excavated slots) have been grouped to form a single Group Number (i.e. G101), as have groups of features with specific form, i.e. post holes representing a structure(s) etc. The descriptive text and plans are supplemented by selected photographs provided within the Appendices.

### 5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 The assessment of artefacts retrieved from archaeological features has enhanced the results by providing data so these features can be chronologically phased. Six phases of activity have been identified and are listed in Table 1 below:

<b>Phase No.</b>	<b>Chronological Period</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic (M-EN)	c.9200-3350BC
2	Middle Bronze Age (MBA)	c.1550-1250 BC
3	Mid-Late Bronze Age (MBA-LBA)	c.1550-1150 BC
4	Late Iron Age/Early Romano- British (LIA/ERB)	c.50 BC – AD 75/100
5	High Medieval	c.AD 1075-1250
6	Modern	c. AD 1900 plus

**Table 1** Chronological Periods used for this Assessment

### 5.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.3.1 A relatively consistent soil sequence was recorded across the Site. The underlying natural geology comprised mid orangish brown silt clay, the surface of which generally formed the level of machining. The majority of archaeological features were cut into this natural and sealed by light-greyish yellow clay silt subsoil (where present) (0.2–0.25m deep). This deposit was overlain by topsoil comprising a dark brown clay silt (0.2–0.25 m deep), itself overlain by a made ground deposit up to 0.50m thick.

5.3.2 The site was heavily bioturbated, many possible features having been subjected to animal burrowing and root action, therefore now forming irregular shapes and apparently being natural. Nonetheless, some of these either natural or possible features appear to form alignments beyond the design of rabbits. These, if not structural, may quite easily have been deliberately planted

trees. As a result, beyond the ditches and other features not described as disturbed discussed below, the following is a very tentative interpretation. In particular shapes and sizes of features, *if real*, should not be considered those of the original possible feature or features.

#### **5.4 Area 1**

##### ***Linear Features***

- 5.4.1 Broadly northwest- southeast running ditch [10] was more than 27.20m long, continuing into the southern LOE, up to 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by (11) a soft mid- greyish brown clay silt with infrequent charcoal, angular to rounded flints and one Middle Bronze Age- Early Iron Age flint piercer.
- 5.4.2 Ditch [12] ran on slightly more north northwesterly- south southeasterly axis, was more than 26.90m long, continuing into the southern LOE, up to 1.60m wide and 0.36m deep. It was filled by (13) a soft mid- greyish brown clay silt with infrequent charcoal, rounded to angular flints, occasional manganese and one sherd of High Medieval pottery. This feature truncated stakehole [14].

##### ***Grouped Possible Features***

- 5.4.3 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible post- pits or tree bowls/ animal burrows [64], [62], [52], [58], [66], [63] and [60] might have formed a north northeast- south southwest running posted avenue or fragmented ditched driveway G1, which was some 17m long and 2.80m wide. [64] was an oval, 1.60m long, 0.43m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately concave sides and concave base, which was filled by (65) a soft light grey to yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese and iron panning. [62] was an elongated oval, 0.55m long, 0.25m wide and 0.07m deep, with irregular sides and base, which was filled by (63) a deposit of light grey- mottled light yellowish brown clay silt. [52] was a sub- oval, 0.80m long, 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep, which was filled by (53) a soft light yellowish grey clay silt with occasional manganese and iron panning. [58] was an irregular linear, 2.00m long, 0.80m wide and 0.35m deep with irregular sides and uneven base, which was filled by (59) a light yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese. [66] was a triangular sub- oval, 0.60m long, 0.14m wide and 0.09m deep with irregular sides, filled by (65) a light yellowish grey clay silt with occasional manganese and iron pan. [63] was an irregular shape, 3.60m long, 0.53m wide and 0.10m, which was filled by (64) a light grey- mottled light yellowish brown clay silt. [60] was amorphous, 1.90m long, 1.00m wide and 0.13m deep, which was filled by (61) a soft yellowish light grey clay silt with occasional iron pan and manganese. This extremely

tentative feature group was at right angles to ditch [80] and may have been, *if real*, associated with it.

- 5.4.4 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible post- pits or tree bowls/ animal burrows [50], [48], [42], [40] [20A], [20B], [20C], [22], [24], [26] and [32] may have formed a possible horseshoe shaped enclosure or bower G2, which may have been 12.50m and up to 11.30m wide, with a possible opening to the northwest. [50] was an oval 0.80m long, 0.47m wide and 0.26m deep, with steeply convex sides and a flat base, which was filled by (51) a soft mid- grey clay silt with occasional iron panning and manganese. [48] was a possible oval, 0.60m long, 0.30m wide and 0.19m deep, with steeply to undercut sides and uneven base, which was filled by (49) a light greyish clay silt with occasional manganese. [42] was an irregular curved oval, 1.25m long, 0.29m wide and 0.08m deep, with steeply sloping sides and flat base, which was filled by (43) a light yellowish grey clay silt with manganese and iron panning. [40] was an irregular oval with steeply sloping sides, concave base, maximum length of 0.54m, width of 0.35m and depth of 0.18m, which was filled by (41) a soft light yellowish grey silt with two probably residual Mesolithic- Early Neolithic flint bladelets. [20A], [20B] and [20C] were interventions into an irregular, 2.30m long, 0.70m wide and 0.46m deep, with irregular sides and sloping base, which was filled by (21) a light grey silt with 48 sherds of Mid to Late Bronze Age pottery. [22] was an irregular with steeply sloping to undercut sides and sloping base, which was filled by (23) a soft whitish light yellowish grey clay silt with occasional manganese and iron panning. [24] was an irregular, 1.00m long, 0.74m wide and 0.16m deep, with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base, which was filled by (25) a soft orange- mottled light grey clay silt. [26] was a sub- oval, 1.45m long, 0.67m wide and 0.23m deep, which was filled by (27) a soft light yellowish grey silt with frequent manganese and iron panning. [32] was an irregular, 0.92m long, 0.45m wide and 0.20m wide, with irregular sides and uneven base, which was filled by (33) a light yellowish grey clay silt.

#### ***Discrete Possible Features***

- 5.4.5 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [38], possibly within tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was an irregular, 2.10m long, 0.75m wide and 0.28m, with irregularly sloping sides and base, which was filled by (39) a soft whitish light yellowish grey clay silt with two Mesolithic- Early Neolithic flint blades and two bladelets of similar date.
- 5.4.6 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [44], possibly within tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was a sub- oval, 0.55m long, 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep, with irregularly sloping sides and concave base, which was filled by (45) a light yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese.

- 5.4.7 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [46], possibly within tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was an irregular, 2.00m long, 0.60m wide and 0.24m deep, with irregularly sloping sides and uneven base, which was filled by (47) a soft light yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese.
- 5.4.8 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [36], possibly within tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was an irregular, 1.60m long, 0.34m wide and 0.26m deep with irregularly sloping sides and base, which was filled by (37) a soft light yellowish grey clay silt with manganese and iron panning.
- 5.4.9 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [34], possibly within tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was an oval, 0.28m long, 0.26m wide and 0.20m, with steeply to undercut sides and undercut sides, which was filled by (35) a soft light yellowish grey clay silt with occasional manganese.
- 5.4.10 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [28], possibly just northeast of tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was a sub- oval, 1.27m long, 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep, which was filled by (29) a soft light yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese.
- 5.4.11 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [30] possibly just northeast of tentative enclosure/ bower G2, was a sub- oval 1.00m long, 0.50m wide and 0.12m deep, which was filled by (31) a light yellowish grey silt with frequent manganese.
- 5.4.12 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree bowl/ animal burrow [54], 0.54m long, 0.35m wide and 0.18m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, was filled by (55) a soft light grey clay silt with occasional manganese.
- 5.4.13 Oval possible kiln [5] was 0.96m long, 0.80m wide, 0.08m deep with steeply sloping sides, and a flat base. It was primarily filled by (6) a soft very dark grey charcoal silt matrix with occasional daub, which was overlain by (7) a firm light yellowish brown silt with frequent charcoal. This feature truncated stakehole [8].
- 5.4.14 Circular stakehole [8] with vertical sides, pointed base, maximum diameter of 0.07m and depth of 0.09m, was filled by (9) a soft dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal. This feature was truncated by kiln [5].
- 5.4.15 Circular stakehole [14], with a maximum diameter of 0.10m and depth of 0.21m, had vertical sides, a concave base, and was filled by (15) a soft dark brownish grey clay silt. This feature was truncated by ditch [12].

- 5.4.16 Oval posthole [16], 0.19m long, 0.16m wide and 0.09m deep had vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by (17) a soft dark brownish grey clay silt with frequent charcoal, moderate daub, occasional manganese and sub- angular flints.
- 5.4.17 Circular posthole [18], with vertical sides, a flat base, maximum diameter of 0.19m and depth of 0.06m, was filled by (19) a moderately compact dark brownish grey clay silt with occasional manganese and small sub- angular flints.

## 5.5 Area 2

### *Linear Features*

- 5.5.1 North- south running ditch [67], investigated in slots A- F, was more than 24.70m long, continuing into both LOEs, up to 1.05m wide and 0.65m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow concave base. It was primarily filled by (68)/(72)/(90)/(94)/(95)/(96) a firm orange- mottled brownish dark grey sand silt clay with frequent iron panning and manganese, moderate sub- angular to rounded flints and animal bone, which was overlain by (69)/(73)/(91)/(97)/(98) a firm mottled mid-orange/ grey/ brown silt clay with moderate manganese and ironstone, occasional small to medium flints, one probably residual flint flake and 22 sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery, in turn overlain by (71)/(74)/(92)/(99) a firm orange- mottled mid- dark greyish brown silt clay with moderate iron panning and manganese, infrequent charcoal, along with occasional flints, burnt flint and three sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery, itself overlain by (70)/(75)/(93)/(100) a firm mottled yellowish orangish mid- brownish grey silt clay with frequent manganese and ironstone, along with occasional sub- angular flint, burnt flint and seven sherds of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery.
- 5.5.2 Ditch [124] entered the area from the north and run for over 20metres in north-east; south-west alignment. It measured 1.38metres in width and 0.6metres in depth and its southern terminus was diverging to the south. The profile had steep, mostly convex sides leading down to flat base. The ditch appeared to have similar profile and story with BA ditch 67 although its alignment fits the LIA field system pattern.

### *Discrete Possible Features*

- 5.5.3 Pit/ Water-hole [132] was located to the south from terminus [124] and had oval shape in plan with sides varied from moderate to near vertical leading to narrow concave base. It measured 2.1metres in length, 1.2metres in width and 0.65metres in depth and was filled-in by context (133) comprising firmly compacted dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional subangular flint

and frequent manganese and iron spots forming fans. Manganese nodules of size less than 10mm occur frequently in natural 4.

- 5.5.4 Pit [109] had elongated oval shape in plan in NE-SW alignment with steep, near vertical sides and concave base. Poorly defined edges, at the top disturbed by modern roots. Its NE side was cut away by MBA-LIA ditch 67. It measured 2.7metres in length by 1.05metres in width and 0.74metres in depth and was filled in by a sequence comprising deposits 110, 111, 112, 113 and 114.

## **5.6 Area 3**

### ***Linear Features***

- 5.6.1 Broadly northwest- southeast running ditch [80], investigated in slots A, B and C, was more than 12.06m long, continuing into the northern and eastern LOEs, up to 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately sloping to undercut sides and a concave to flat base. Slot A was primarily filled by (81) a firm mid- orange brown silt clay with moderate manganese, occasional sub- rounded and sub- angular stones and lenses of light grey silt, which was overlain by (83) a firm dark brownish grey clay silt with frequent iron panning and manganese, occasional flints, burnt flint and four fragments of pottery which may have ranged in date from the Middle Bronze Age to Early Romano- British period, although most likely late prehistoric, itself overlain by (82) a firm grey- mottled mid- orange brown silt clay with moderate iron panning and manganese and occasional small stones. Slot B was primarily filled by (84) a firm grey- mottled mid- orange brown clay loam with frequent manganese and occasional small stones, which was overlain by (85) a firm mid- brownish grey silt clay with moderate manganese and iron panning, itself overlain by (86) a firm grey- mottled mid- orange brown silt clay with moderate iron panning and manganese, in turn overlain by (87) a firm brown- mottled dark grey clay loam with frequent manganese and iron panning, occasional sub- angular and sub- rounded flints, and burnt flint. Slot C was primarily filled by (88) a firm grey- mottled mid- orange brown clay silt with moderate manganese, which was overlain by (89) a firm dark brownish grey clay silt with moderate manganese.

### ***Discrete Possible Features***

- 5.6.2 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree throw [76] was irregular with irregular sides and base, maximum length of 2.00m, width of 0.61m and depth of 0.18m, which was filled by (77) a soft light whitish grey silt/ light yellowish grey clay silt with moderate manganese and a possibly residual Early Neolithic to Beaker Period flint blade.

5.6.3 Heavily burrowed and rooted possible feature or tree throw hole [78] formed an irregular oval with irregular sides, a sloping base, maximum length of 0.36m, width of 0.31m and depth of 0.19m, which was filled by (79) a soft dark to light grey slightly clay silt with moderate manganese.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A relatively small ceramic and lithic assemblage was recovered from the site. Assessment of these assemblages is provided below.

### 6.2 Ceramic Assessment Paul Hart

#### 6.2.1 Period codes employed

<i>Period</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date (circa)</i>		
Late Neolithic	LN	2900	- 2300	BC
Later Prehistoric	LP	1550	- 50	BC Middle
Bronze Age	MBA	1550	- 1350	BC Mid to
Late Bronze Age	MBA-LBA	1350	- 1150	BC
Late Iron Age	LIA	50	- 0	BC Latest
Iron Age	LIA-ER	0	- 50	AD
Early Medieval	EM	1050	- 1200	AD
Medieval	M	1200	- 1375	AD

#### *Dating*

- > : To/or later.  
/ : Or/or indicating a preference within a broader range.

#### 6.2.2 Quantification and spot dating of the pottery assemblage

##### **Methodology**

The sherds were examined in good light using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, total quantity, bulk weight (calculated to the nearest gram), period, ware type, estimate of the number of vessels per ware, condition and date preference basis. They are listed in date order from the earliest to the latest. No information about the contexts or their stratigraphic relationships was known unless stated. In the notes, the pieces are typically plain or less diagnostic body sherds unless stated otherwise.

All dates used throughout are *circa*.

It should also be noted that:

- All form and decorative pieces are noted and described in the catalogue and their presence is highlighted by the inclusion of the word 'DRAW' (which does not mean that such pieces necessarily need to be drawn for archive level reporting or for publication).
- The material has been bagged by period and separated into DRAW-ables (which do not necessarily need to be drawn for archive level or final site reports or publication) and body sherds.

#### 6.2.3 Abbreviations used in 2.3

##### *Wear*

- F : Fresh/fairly fresh  
L : Light  
M : Moderate

H : Heavy  
S : Splintered/Shattered (1 or both original surfaces missing)

*Dating*

> : To/or later  
/ : Or/or indicating a preference within a broader range

## 6.2.4 Catalogue: Quantification and spot- dating of the pottery

<i>Context:</i>	Information on the nature of the context if known.				
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>Likely commencement date of the context based on the pottery evidence.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Likely end date of the context based on the pottery evidence.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>General implications.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Highlighting elements, wares and issues of particular note.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
	Notes.				
<b>(03)A</b>			<b>4 sherds</b>		<b>32 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>	Presumably a subsoil or surface strip layer.				
<i>Start date:</i>	-				
<i>End date:</i>	-				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Residual elements of the preferred ranges given, the earliest notably being the least worn, but also the smallest. This sherd apart, the rest show wear that is relative to their places in the period sequence present.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Small and variously worn, the least worn being the smallest sherd, broadly LP, the EM>M moderately worn and the most worn being the LIA>ER material. DRAW: 1 LIA>ER body with a single groove (not worth drawing).				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	L	1550-50 BC
	Small.				
1	LIA>ER	'Belgic' style grog tempered	1	H	50 BC - 75 AD
	Small, single deep broad horizontal incised linear groove. DRAW (not worth drawing).				
1	LIA-ER>ER/?ER	'Belgic' style grog temp. sandy	1	H	50-75/100 AD
	Small, slightly sandy with fine grog, bright orange exterior with black core and patchy orange interior.				
1	EM>M	Shell tempered sandy	1	M	1075-1225 AD
	Small, dark brownish surfaces.				
<b>(13D) [12D]</b>			<b>1 sherd</b>		<b>4 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>After 1175 AD.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Unclear, residual.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Little specific data; fabric within the range given.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Small, worn.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	EM>M	Shell tempered sandy	1	H	1150-1250 AD
	Small body, oxidised surfaces.				
<b>(21) [20]</b>			<b>38 sherds</b>		<b>210 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Probably by 1150 BC.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Likely MBA&gt;MBA-LBA, the coarsely tempered fabric and firing akin to other material of this date in the assemblage, but only 1 very partial fragment of a fingertip impressed cordon present. Mostly relatively fresh.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Mostly small sized and fragmentary coarsely tempered sherds with oxidised exteriors. 1 very partial remnant of fingertip impressed cordon. The edges of a couple of sherds appear slightly more abraded, but not certainly from a different vessel. DRAW: 1 fingertip impressed cordon (not worth drawing).				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>

38	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	?2/3	F>L	1550-1150 BC
	Mostly small fresh looking sherds and fragments and most with oxidised exteriors. 1 medium sized with finger presses. 1 small reduced fragmented sherd with fingertip impressed cordon. Coarse, thin, medium and thickish walled. DRAW 1 (not worth drawing).				
<b>(21) [20]c</b>			<b>10 sherds</b>		<b>11 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data, but *likely related to the sherds in (21) [20].</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small body sherds.					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
10	*MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	*	F	*MBA>MBA-LBA
Small sherds and fragments.					
<b>(69) [67]</b>			<b>19 sherds</b>		<b>124 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Broadly MBA&gt;MBA-LBA and possibly same vessel as in (93) [67b]. Consider the relationship of the contexts as to whether this is possible or likely.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small sherds and fragments, 2 showing fingertip impressed cordons, 1 of these a fragment only. *The character of the larger cordoned sherd and the gritting and various firing colours are akin to that seen in (93) [67b]; most/all same vessel?  DRAW: 1 fingertip impressed cordon (not worth drawing).					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
19	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	*?	F	1550-1150 BC
Small body sherds and fragments, medium to mostly thick-walled, 1 with a fingertip impressed cordon not dissimilar to that in (93) [67b]; 1 other small shallow fragment possibly from same. Coarsely tempered sherds of varying colours, also as seen in [67b]. DRAW (not worth drawing).					
<b>(69) [67c]</b>			<b>3 sherds</b>		<b>10 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Likely MBA&gt;MBA-LBA, given others from feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small fragmentary sherds, but appearing fairly consistently oxidised and with a greater degree of finer flint amongst the coarser tempering, unlike the sherds seen in (69) [67] and (93) [67b] seen so far, *akin to a rim in (129) [67E].					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
3	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	*	S	1550-1150 BC
Small splintered sherds, only 1 surface intact, orange, coarse but with a concentration of finer flint tempering in places.					
<b>(71) [67A]</b>			<b>3 sherds</b>		<b>5 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>After 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Likely by 1150 BC, considering others in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data, but likely associated with other MBA&gt;MBA-LBA in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Scraps, *possibly related to a vessel represented by other sherds in feature [67] in general.					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
3	*MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	*?	F	*1550-1150 BC
Small scraps, likely same vessel.					

<b>(83) [80A]</b>		<b>4 sherds</b>		<b>4 g</b>	
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Unclear, potentially residual.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Little specific data. Likely LP.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Scraps only.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	MBA>LIA-ER/?LP	Flint tempered	1	-	1550-50 BC/50 AD
	Small scraps, reduced.				
<b>(93) [67A] Sample 8</b>		<b>37 sherds</b>		<b>11 g</b>	
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>See (93) [67b].</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>See (93) [67b].</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Presumably associated with (93) [67b].</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Small splinters only, none with both surfaces intact. *Presumed associated with sherds in (93) [67b].				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
37	*MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	*	-	*1550-1150 BC
	Small splintered fragments.				
<b>(93) [67b]</b>		<b>42 sherds</b>		<b>497 g</b>	
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>After 1550 BC.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Likely by 1150 BC.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Majority/potentially all from a single straight sided bucket shaped coarseware, with a couple of sherds showing a simple upright rim with small hole piercings below (to tie-fasten a cover) and, somewhere below that, a cordon, both the rim top and cordon decorated with impressed fingertips. Appears fairly fresh, but mostly fragmentary and the vessel is minimally represented. No lengthy search for conjoins and it is unclear whether it will be possible to discern the depth of the cordon below the rim. The form and decoration could occur throughout the MBA&gt;MBA-LBA.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	The majority appear relatively fresh, with some medium and large sized sherds, most if not all likely from a single vessel, in a coarse fabric. A couple of rim and cordoned body elements, both decorated with fingertip impressions, probably from a fairly straight sided vessel. Some sherds may conjoin, but likely that little significant profile depth will be easily reconstructable. DRAW: 1 rim profile with piercing, 1 body cordon, both decorated with fingertip impressions.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
41	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	?1	F S	1550-1150 BC
	1 large and 1 medium straight sided rim, plus 1 small fragment likely from rim, simple upright with fingertip impressions on rim top (spreading the medium thickness wall and creating untreated lumpy exterior and interior edges), the 2 larger sherds show a single slightly uneven 5mm diameter hole, whose upper outside edge is set between 16-17 mm below the rim top. 1 medium sized and 2 small fragmentary body sherds showing a horizontal fingertip impressed cordon. Rest medium to small sized sherds and smaller fragments. Mostly little surface treatment beyond basic hand-forming smoothing, with common small to large ill-sorted white burnt flint grits sitting proud; 1 body sherd has a smother area. Some minor reddish grog-like elements and burnt-out organics. DRAW.				
1	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	?	S ?L	1550-1150 BC
	1 medium sized sherd appearing a little more worn/abraded at the edges, thick-walled and thickening to a lumpy irregular portion where broken, possibly base? DRAW (not worth drawing).				

<b>(100) [67c]</b>		<b>1 sherd</b>		<b>7 g</b>	
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC, given others in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data. Coarse fabric leads to slight preference for MBA&gt;MBA-LBA on own merits and likely associated with others of this date within feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small. *Potentially related to others within feature [67] nearby.					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered.	*?	L	1550-1150 BC
Small, medium walled, black with white flint, coarse flint.					
<b>(119) [67F]</b>					
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>After 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC, given others in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data, but *likely associated with other MBA&gt;MBA-LBA in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small.					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	1	L	1550-1150 BC
Small, medium walled, black with white flint, possibly part of a base.					
<b>(121) [67F]</b>					
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>After 1550 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Probably by 1150 BC, also considering others in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data and could date widely, though likely MBA&gt;MBA-LBA, particularly given others in feature [67] in general.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Small. The fingertip impressed body is fairly thick and fairly heavily but not very coarsely tempered (in this small sample). DRAW: fingertip impressed body (not worth drawing).					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	1	L	1550-1150 BC
Small thick body with remnant of 2 small fingertip impressions, frequent small to medium grits. DRAW.					
<b>(128) [124]</b>					
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i> <b>After 2900 BC.</b>					
<i>End date:</i> <b>Unclear, residual.</b>					
<i>Dating:</i> <b>Little specific data beyond the fabric, of which there is an absolutely minimal view only and it could occur in various periods within the range noted. It is worth noting that there is a precedence for the occurrence of LN Grooved Ware nearby, but a later date for these fragments is also possible (see Macpherson-Grant 2016, 134). Consider the nature of the context and any associations.</b>					
<i>Comments:</i> Very small splintered fragments in a dark reduced fabric, the larger sherd showing what is probably rounded grog.					
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
11	LN>ER	Grog tempered	1	S H	2900 BC - 75 AD
Small splintered fragments, dark, largest sherd has a very worn surface.					

<b>(129) [67E]</b>		<b>4 sherds</b>			<b>73 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	<b>Likely after 1550 BC.</b>				
<i>End date:</i>	<b>Probably by 1150 BC, also considering others in feature [67] in general.</b>				
<i>Dating:</i>	<b>Little specific data and all somewhat worn. 1 straight sided simple plain rim could date widely on own merits, likewise 1 small fragment of base, but all likely MBA&gt;MBA-LBA, considering others in feature [67] in general.</b>				
<i>Comments:</i>	1 medium sized simple plain rim, could date widely, the fabric akin to an example in (69) [67c], possibly same vessel. 3 small thick pieces, 1 at least part of a base, though interior surface is worn and missing. Both *likely associated with other MBA>MBA-LBA in feature [67] in general. DRAW: 1 rim and 1 base (latter not worth drawing).				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	*MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	1	M	*1550-1150 BC
	Medium sized thick-walled rim, simple plain upright with slight interior lip, straight sided, both surfaces oxidised. Profuse fine to medium grits, minor reddish grog-like elements; fabric akin to sherd/s in (69) [67c]. DRAW.				
3	*MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	1	M	*1550-1150 BC
	Small irregular thick pieces, 1/?all part of a base, minimal profile and angle. DRAW (not worth drawing).				
<b>Totals</b>			<b>179 sherds</b>		<b>1023 g</b>

#### 6.2.5 Bibliography

Macpherson-Grant N. 2016. The pottery, in *An archaeological assessment report following an archaeological evaluation and subsequent topsoil strip, map and sample excavation on the former site of Blacksole Farm, Thanet Way & Margate Road, Herne Bay, in Kent*. Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company, 39-150.

#### 6.2.6 Period- based review: listings and notes

Below is the basic data that was compiled during the cataloguing process, which is to be included or inform the summaries and the assessment that will be produced for the subsequent assessment report. It is included here to aid the site analysis process prior to the production of said report.

##### Late Neolithic to Early Roman, 2900BC- AD75

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Vessels</i>
<b>Residual</b>	(128) [124].	11	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

(128) [124]. Small grog tempered fragments from a single vessel. Little specific data beyond the fabric, of which there is an absolutely minimal view only and it could occur in various periods within this range. It is worth noting that there is a precedence for the occurrence of LN Grooved Ware nearby, but a later date for these fragments is also possible (see Macpherson-Grant 2016, 134). Consider the nature of the context and any associations.

##### Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age, 1550 to 1150BC

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Vessels</i>
<b>Contemporary</b>	(21) [20] [20]c, (69) [67] [67c], (71) [67A], (93) [67b], (100) [67c], (119) [67F], (121) [67F], (129) [67E].	122	6/7
<b>Total</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>6/7</b>

All of this material comprised sherds in flint tempered fabrics, variously fired, often with patches or greater areas of orangey oxidisation. Only 2 rim forms, from 2 straight sided bucket type

vessels, were present. One of the rims and a couple of sherds from other contexts exhibited impressed fingertip decoration, which was the only type of decoration present, apart from the presence of cordons. The fingertip impressions were either on the rim top (1 example), directly on the body (1 example) or on a cordon (6 examples from perhaps 2 vessels). The character of most of the fabrics was very similar in general. All were strongly tempered, mostly with small to medium sized grits accompanied by a more occasional but prominent larger coarser element. 1 rim seemed to lack the coarser element, but no finewares were present and the surfaces were often only basically smoothed/hand-formed at best. The majority of the material of this date appeared relatively fresh, with only a couple of sherd edges more worn.

The fabrics, form and decorative elements could date to either of the Middle or Mid to Late Bronze Age periods. Given the reasonable quantity recovered from feature [67] and the absence of any notably mixed grog and flint tempered fabrics amongst this group, a date within the Middle Bronze Age may be more likely, but, on the material's own merits, a later date is equally possible as stated. Consider any associated contexts and the character of the material within, particularly the forms and the presence or absence of any mixed tempered fabrics.

(21) [20]. Mostly small body, 1 fragment of fingertip impressed cordon.

(21) [20]c. Small sherds and fragments likely related to others in (21) [20].

(69) [67]. 19 small sherds, 2 fingertip impressed cordons, ?same vessel as in (93) [67b].

(69) [67c]. 3 small sherd fragments, from a different vessel to others in [67]/[67b]?

(93) [67b]. Elements potentially from a single straight sided bucket shaped coarseware, with a simple upright rim with small hole piercings below (to tie-fasten a cover) and, somewhere below, a cordon, both the rim top and cordon decorated with impressed fingertips. Could date throughout the MBA>MBA-LBA, so consider the character of the material from any associated contexts.

(100) [67c]. 1 sherd, small.

(119) [67F]. 1 sherd, small.

(121) [67F]. 1 sherd, with 2 small fingertip impressions on a thick walled profusely but not coarsely tempered body.

(129) [67E]. 4 sherds, all somewhat moderately worn. 1 medium sized simple upright plain straight sided rim, fabric akin to small sherd/s in (69) [67c]. 3 small sherds likely from a different vessel, 1/?all from a base, minimal extent.

#### Later Prehistoric, 1550 to 50BC

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Vessels</i>
<b>Residual</b>	(03)A, (83) [80A].	5	2
<b>Total</b>		5	2

Small sized scraps in flint tempered fabrics, likely broadly Later Prehistoric. The 4 scraps from (83) were not significantly worn but potentially residual.

#### Late Iron Age to Early Roman, 50BC to 75/100AD

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Vessels</i>
<b>Residual</b>	(03)A.	2	2
<b>Total</b>		2	2

2 sherds, both very worn 'Belgic' style grog tempered. 1 reduced body sherd with a single deep broad incised horizontal groove, 50 BC - 75 AD. 1 slightly sandy with a strongly oxidised exterior, not very hard, 50-75/100 AD.

### 6.2.7 Early Medieval to Medieval, 1075 to 1250AD

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Vessels</i>
<b>Residual</b>	(03)A, (13D) <b>[12D]</b> .	2	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

Both in shell tempered sandy fabrics.

(03)A. 1 sherd, reduced, 1075-1225 AD.

(13D) [12D]. 1 sherd, oxidised, 1150-1250 AD.

## 6.3 Lithic Assessment Paul Hart

### 6.3.1 Period codes employed

<i>Period</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date (circa)</i>	
Mesolithic	M	9200 - 4000	BC
Earlier Neolithic ( <i>First, Early and early Middle Neolithic</i> )	EN	4000 - 3350/3000	BC
Late Neolithic	LN	2900 - 2300	BC
Beaker Period	BK	2450 - 1750	BC
Early Bronze Age	EBA	2100 - 1550	BC
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550 - 1350	BC
Mid to Late Bronze Age	MBA-LBA	1350 - 1150	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900 - 600	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600 - 350	BC
Early Roman	ER	50 - 150	AD

#### *Dating*

> : To/or later.

/ : Or/or indicating a preference within a broader range.

### 6.3.2 Quantification and spot dating of the worked lithics

#### Methodology

A prime aim was to provide a useful catalogue that combined a record of key characteristics (permitting a degree of preservation and some re-analysis by record), with individual spot-dating information and an overall comment on the worked lithic content of the context and its implications. Each piece was dated on its individual merits. Where some pieces had the potential to be part of related groups which may have been able to be dated with a narrower, more specific range than many of their individual components, such dates were sometimes applied to less diagnostic material and, if so, the possibilities were commented upon in the context notes. Details about the nature of the context and any pottery recovered, which informed the interpretation, were noted where known.

The artefacts were examined using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, type, character, weight (calculated to the nearest gram, with a minimum of 1g), condition, period and potential relationship to context basis. Their suitability for illustration on their own merits was also noted. Within each context the artefacts have been listed first in order of type (waste, retouched, utilised) and then date (earliest to latest). The bulk weight of the lithics from each context was also recorded.

All dates given throughout are *circa*.

#### Key to catalogue

- Class** - Class of artefact, listed individually under its context. Ordered as Waste, Retouched and Utilised, then by date.
- Italics* : Additional notes of interest in italics; including:
- RU* : Denotes tools which have re-used old, patinated struck flakes.
- PP* : Denotes the presence of platform preparation (abrasion).
- FS** - Flake shape.
- S : Short or squat: width same as or greater than length.
- L : Long: length greater than width.
- B : Blade: length twice or more width, with parallel sides and dorsal ridge/s.
- BL : Bladelet: blade less than 12mm wide.
- / : Near, ie. '/BL': nearly/effectively a bladelet.
- FT** - Flake type.
- P : Primary: complete/nearly complete cover of cortex on the dorsal surface.
- S : Secondary: lesser amount of cortex.
- T : Tertiary: no cortex.
- / : Near, ie. '/T': nearly/effectively a tertiary flake.
- RM** - Raw material type.
- Natural* N : Naturally shattered, unpatinated surface.
- Buff* BG : Buff-washed pitted surface of the black flint matrix.
- Dark* G : Glauconitic Bullhead Bed flint.
- White* RW : White to off-white/creamy coloured rough cortex.
- PW : White to off-white/creamy coloured pitted smooth cortex.
- SW : White to off-white/creamy coloured smooth thin cortex.
- Black+* 1 : Patchy thick to thin translucent black flint.
- 2 : Mixed patchy black and grey flint.
- 3 : Mixed patchy black and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
- 4 : Mixed patchy black, grey and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
- 5 : Mixed patchy grey and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
- 7 : Graduating black to brown/translucent yellowy-brown flint.
- 8 : Graduating black, grey and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.

- Brown* 13 : Translucent yellow-brown flint with minor black flint spots/streaks.
- Quality* b : Generally small cherty inclusions, whether occasional or frequent, which likely do not significantly affect knapping; good quality raw material.
- c : A moderate content of small to medium-sized cherty inclusions and/or flaws which likely will affect the knapping quality to some degree; moderate quality.
- H** - Hammer type.
- H : Hard stone (eg. a cobble of rolled flint or quartzite).
- SS : Soft stone (combined hard and soft characteristics, typically mostly hard hammer characters with a platform lip; a cortexed flint nodule perhaps).
- S : Soft organic (eg. antler, bone, wood).
- W** - Weight in grams (minimum 1g).
- Patina** - Patina present? If differential described by ventral/dorsal surface on flakes, or on cores described by platform/flake scars. NB. Note ( ) code below.
- N : None.
- E : Early (light dusting, but a more obvious speckled discolouration than VE).
- M : Moderate (well established colours but coverage is patchy).
- A : Advanced (at the later end of a stage).
- B : Blue.
- G : Grey.
- W : White.
- Y : A glossy yellowy sheen.
- D : A darkish, glossy, brownish or yellowy-brownish sheen.
- ( ) : Patina codes in brackets describe an earlier patina type truncated by re-use.
- D** - Potential/certain post-discard chipping/breakage damage present?
- F : Some slight chipping but overall fairly fresh.
- Y : Yes, likely chipped or broken post discard.
- PO : Chipped or broken post-patination.
- ? : Denotes damage present but not certainly post-discard; might be from use.
- I** - Worthy of future illustration? Initial estimate of pieces of prime interest.
- Y : Yes.
- ? : Possibly, dependent upon context and associations.
- 1 etc. : Number assigned to an illustration or photograph provided with this report.
- Period** - Potential date range, defined by Period Codes.
- > : To.
- < : No later than.
- / : Or.
- : No firm or usefully compact date range.
- Preference** - Date preferred at this time. Sometimes a tighter but more intuitive opinion.
- A** - Association with the context.
- R : Residual.

*Key to abbreviations for notes*

- |       |                                   |       |                                    |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| A     | : Advanced (patina).              | nat   | : Natural.                         |
| abr   | : Abrupt (retouch).               | nr    | : Near.                            |
| adj   | : Adjacent.                       | obv   | : Obviously.                       |
| adv   | : Advanced (patina).              | oppos | : Opposite.                        |
| ang   | : Angular.                        | P     | ; Primary (flake).                 |
| B     | : Blade (flake) or Blue (patina). | PP    | : Platform preparation (abrasion). |
| back  | : Backed.                         | pat   | : Patina.                          |
| bifac | : Bifacial (retouch).             | plat  | : Platform.                        |
| BL    | : Bladelet (flake).               | poss  | : Possible.                        |
| brk   | : Break.                          | prob  | : Probably.                        |
| BW    | : Blue-white (patina).            | prx   | : Proximal (flake).                |
| convx | : Convex.                         | resid | : Residual.                        |

cortx	:	Cortex.	ret	:	Retouch.
dentic	:	Denticulate (retouch).	RM	:	Raw material.
dir	:	Direct (retouch).	RU	:	Re-use.
dist	:	Distal (flake).	S	:	Sort, Secondary (flake) or Strong (patina).
dors	:	Dorsal (flake).	sec	:	Section.
E	:	Early (patina).	SH	:	Short (flake).
eg	:	Example.	signif	:	Significant/ly.
exp	:	Expedient.	sm	:	Small.
fl	:	Flake.	SQ	:	Squat (flake).
frag	:	Fragment.	subseq	:	Subsequent.
G	:	Grey (patina).	term	:	Termination (flake).
incip	:	Incipient (cones of percussion).	T	:	Tertiary (flake).
inc	:	Including.	triang	:	Triangular.
inv	:	Inverse (retouch).	trunc	:	Truncating/truncated.
irreg	:	Irregular.	u-w	:	Use-wear.
L	:	Long (flake).	util	:	Utilised.
lat	:	Lateral (flake).	Unpat	:	Unpatinated.
lrg	:	Large.	V/v	:	Very.
M	:	Moderate (patina).	vent	:	Ventral (flake).
marg	:	Marginal (retouch).	W	:	White (patina).
med	:	Medium (size).	Y	:	Yellowish (patina).
mod	:	Moderate.			

6.3.3 Catalogue: Quantification and spot- dating of the worked lithics

Context		Total lithics								Total weight (g)	
<i>Context:</i>	Information on the nature of the context, if known.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	Date of any pottery present or the ceramic date of the context, if known.										
<i>Notes:</i>	Elements and trends of initial interest.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Dates and relationships to context.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
							1 lithic		2 g		
<i>Context:</i>	Ditch.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	0.										
<i>Notes:</i>	A neat piercer edge re-worked onto a potential small blade.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric (MBA&gt;EMIA+), but can occur earlier. This piece is neatly worked and less likely post EIA, noting that there is evidence for activity in the MBA&gt;MBA-LBA in the site assemblage and this piece could well relate to that phase of activity. It's relationship to the context is unclear, though may more likely be residual, given this is the sole recovery from this context. Feature [10] is currently undated, but runs parallel to another linear ditch that is considered Medieval, with other features of MBA&gt;MBA-LBA date nearby (draft plans provided by Bartosz Cichy).</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Retouched</i>											
<i>Piercer (RU)</i>	?B	/T	BG4c	-	2	N (Y)	?		-	?MBA>EIA	
	Sm, narrow thin, 1 lat a steep ?nat facet/brk, other dist corner a sm hollow and adj sm convx area of dir abr ret. The prx end has been truncated to a sharp point on the steep lat side, formed by some dir abr ret on the lat and neat dir semi-abr marg ret trimming an obliq transverse brk. The fl shows a Y pat and the ret might be unpat.										
							4 lithics		12 g		
<i>Context:</i>	Irregular feature.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	0.										
<i>Notes:</i>	All decent small narrow blades and bladelets (effectively 2 of each), most likely M>EN, with some similarities in raw material and patination in evidence.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>All likely M&gt;EN. There is a very slight preference for a couple at least to be EN, considering also that material of this date usually occurs more often than flintwork of M date in East Kent, in general. It should be noted however that here is a precedence for the recovery of M flintwork in the vicinity (Hart 2016), so both options may have more equal potential in this circumstance. 3 pieces show a darkish brown patina, which on 1 is chipped (excavation damage, or residual?), while 3 show the early stages of a chalk-soil type patina. Given their association, similarities and lack of any obviously later material, there is reasonable potential for them to be associated with each other and thus perhaps also their context, despite the relatively low quantity. The subtle early stage chalk-soil type patinas that are present on most of these pieces, while not certainly suggesting they are likely to be residual, might, under the geological conditions that are thought to occur on this site, have resulted from a degree of exposure prior to deep burial. Consider the nature of the context and also (41) [40], which occurs close-by. As noted for the latter, could this be an early ?natural feature incidentally accruing residual flintwork? The initial phasing of [38] has suggested that it might be MBA, however (draft plans provided by B. Cichy).</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Retouched</i>											
<i>Knife (PP, ?hafted)</i>	B	T	4b	S	1	AEGW+D	PO		M>EN	??EN	
	Sm, narrow, thin ,dist tip brk, abras at least 1 lat, with sm area dir semi-abr fine on upper part of same lat (hafting?).										
<i>Knife (?hafted)</i>	B	S	BG2b	S	5	EGW+D	?		M>EN	??EN	
	Narrow, cortex at dist tip only, chips, scars and abras on thin lats, 1 upper lat a sm shallow hollow of dir abr ret (for hafting?).										

<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife (PP)	B	?S	N2b	S	2	AEGW	?		M>EN	-	
Sm, narrow, nr BL, dist tip brks, abras both thin lats.											
Flake – knife (PP, nat bk)	B	S	G1b	S	3	?D	F		M>BK	M>EN	
Sm, thin, 1 lat and dist end cortxd, other lat abras along length.											
<b>(41) [40]</b>									<b>2 lithics</b>		<b>1 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>	Irregular feature.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	0.										
<i>Notes:</i>	2 small broken bladelets, most common M>EN, but could be later if accidental, probably residual. 1 a distal fragment, utilised. 1 proximal fragment, neatly backed by retouch on 1 lateral edge, with small hollows opposite, possibly a broken haft (for a knife, point, piercer/awl or drill perhaps), more commonly M>EN, with a slight preference for M.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Reasonable potential for 1, perhaps both, to be M&gt;EN, with a slight preference for M for the former. Both broken and probably residual, with no associations guaranteed. If both are of this date however, it is potentially notable that there is no material that is certainly significantly later in the context. Could this be an early ?natural feature incidentally accruing residual flintwork? Consider if there is any precedence for such in the vicinity (and see (39) [38]).</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Retouched</i>											
Misc. ret. flake ( <i>haft?</i> )	BL	T	13b	-	1	?	?		M>EN	?M	
Shallow triang sec, prx and dist brks, 1 lat shows dir abr fine ret blunting edge, other lay 2 sm hollows of inv abr and semi-abr ret, for hafting? The broken hafted part of a tool?											
<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife	BL	S	?G13b	-	1	?	?		-	*??M>EN	
BL sized dist frag, *not a classic, cortx on dist tip, abras 1 lat, other lat a snap brk											
<b>(69) [67]</b>									<b>1 lithic</b>		<b>29 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>	Ditch.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	MBA>MBA-LBA.										
<i>Notes:</i>	Utilised flake with post-discard damage, residual.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Little specific data, other than residual in a MBA&gt;MBA-LBA context.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife ( <i>nat backed</i> )	L	S	RW3c	?H	29	MGW	PO		-	-	R
Medium sized irreg looking, dist chips and prx brks, 1 thin convx lat some abras and scars, other lat mostly cortx.											
<b>(77) [76]</b>									<b>1 lithic</b>		<b>18 g</b>
<i>Context:</i>	Irregular feature.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	0.										
<i>Notes:</i>	Decent blade, possibly a core rejuvenation flake.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Broadly M&gt;BK and more common in the M&gt;EN, presumably residual as sole recovery.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife (PP)	B	?S	N3b	SS	18	Y	?		M>BK	M>EN	
Long narrow triang sec B with very thick overshoot dist end showing sm fl scars removals, poss core rej fl, PP, the narrower thin upper lats shows chips and abras, some of these chips could be RU but this is unclear because the very edge of the flint appears pale against the dark coloured flint.											

<b>(118) [67F]</b>		<b>3 lithics</b>			<b>15 g</b>						
<i>Context:</i>	Ditch.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	MBA>MBA-LBA.										
<i>Notes:</i>	Similarly small sized flakes or broken fragments of, 2 in similar raw material, 1 of these a thick utilised piece.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>1 preferably Later Prehistoric, the others could easily relate and all could potentially be contemporary with the MBA&gt;MBA-LBA pottery also present.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Waste</i>											
Flake ( <i>fragment</i> )	-	S	PW8c	-	3	EBW ?+Y	?		-	-	
	Dist frag, chips.										
Flake	L	S	SW5b	H	3	Y	?		-	-	
	Sm short L, both lats steep, chips.										
<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife	S	S	N5c	H	9	Y	?		-	MBA>EMIA+	
	Sm, thick triang sec, incip cones on broad plat, 1 thinner lats abras.										
<b>(126) [124]</b>		<b>1 lithic</b>			<b>10 g</b>						
<i>Context:</i>	Ditch.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	LN>ER (grog tempered).										
<i>Notes:</i>	Decent tertiary blade, but not struck from a blade core, likely residual given sole recovery.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Could date widely, M&gt;EBA, but it is notable that feature [124] is currently considered to be of MBA or MBA-LBA date (draft plans provided by B. Cichy). If so, then unless the pottery is a ploughed-in later intrusion (check to see if any other evidence of such occurs), the sherd could be of LN&gt;EBA date and there is a chance that the flintwork could be associated. A LN&gt;BK date is a possibility for the flint, considering that this blade, though a quality product, was not struck from a regular blade core. Given that both are likely to be residual (or intrusive) however, no associations are guaranteed.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Retouched</i>											
Knife	B	T	4b	?	10	?Y	?		M>EBA	??LN>BK	R
	Decent, various fl scar removals on dors, thick prx with repeated chipping on plat, thin lats, 1 straight with dir abr and semi-abr marg ret and scars, other lower lat convex with chips and scars, slight brk to pointed dist tip.										
<b>(130) [67E]</b>		<b>1 lithic</b>			<b>6 g</b>						
<i>Context:</i>	Ditch.										
<i>Pottery:</i>	MBA>MBA-LBA.										
<i>Notes:</i>	?Naturally backed/laterally broken blade shaped flake utilised as a knife, chipped.										
<i>Summary:</i>	<b>Not reliably dateable on its own merits, but potentially residual in a context of MBA&gt;MBA-LBA date.</b>										
<i>Class</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>FT</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Patina</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Utilised</i>											
Flake – knife	B	?S	N7b	?	6	EMYBW	Y		-	-	
	Narrow B like, 1 lat a steep ?nat facet/brk, other lat thin with abras scars, many pre and some post pat chips and scars.										
<b>Totals</b>							<b>14 lithics</b>			<b>93 g</b>	

#### 6.3.4 Bibliography

Hart P.C. 2016. Assessment of the worked lithics and burnt flint, in *An archaeological assessment report following an archaeological evaluation and subsequent topsoil strip, map and sample excavation on the former site of Blacksole Farm, Thanet Way & Margate Road, Herne Bay, in Kent.* Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company, 150-190.

### 6.3.5 Period- based review: listings and notes

Below is the basic data that was compiled during the cataloguing process, which is to be included or inform the summaries and the assessment that will be produced for the subsequent assessment report. It is included here to aid the site analysis process prior to the production of said report.

The contexts which contain evidence of period-diagnostic lithics are listed below, along with an estimate of the number of lithics present. The material that is listed as contemporary or residual typically had an important *potential* to be so, though this should always be considered in light of the nature of the context, the vertical distribution of the material and any other associated finds. This is important because the nature of the underlying geology can make the certain identification of residual flintwork a significant issue for this site.

#### Mesolithic to Earlier Neolithic

<i>Potential relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
<b>Residual elements</b>	(41) [40], (77) [76].	2/3
<b>Group's relationship unclear</b>	(39) [38].	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>6/7</b>

(39) [38]. 4 small blades and bladelets. All likely M>EN. There is a very slight preference for a couple at least to be EN, considering also that material of this date usually occurs more often than flintwork of M date in East Kent, in general. It should be noted however that here is a precedence for the recovery of M flintwork in the vicinity (Hart 2016), so both options may have more equal potential in this circumstance. 3 pieces show a darkish brown patina, which on 1 is chipped (excavation damage, or residual?), while 3 show the early stages of a chalk-soil type patina. Given their association, similarities and lack of any obviously later material, there is reasonable potential for them to be associated with each other and thus perhaps also their context, despite the relatively low quantity. The subtle early stage chalk-soil type patinas that are present on most of these pieces, while not certainly suggesting they are likely to be residual, might, under the geological conditions that are thought to occur on this site, have resulted from a degree of exposure prior to deep burial. Consider the nature of the context and also (41) [40], which occurs close-by. As noted for the latter, could this be an early ?natural feature incidentally accruing residual flintwork? The initial phasing of [38] has suggested that it might be MBA, however (draft plans provided by B. Cichy).

(41) [40]. 2 broken bladelets, with reasonable potential for 1, perhaps both, to be M>EN. The one certain example is a proximal fragment neatly backed by retouch on 1 lateral edge, with small hollows opposite, possibly a broken haft (for a knife, point, piercer/awl or drill perhaps). There is a slight preference for a M date for this piece, noting there is a precedence for the recovery of such nearby (Hart 2016). Both are probably residual, with no associations guaranteed, but it may be notable that there is no material that is certainly significantly later in the context. Could this be an early ?natural feature incidentally accruing residual flintwork? Consider if there is any precedence for such in the vicinity.

(77) [76]. 1 utilised blade, possibly a core rejuvenation flake, preferably M>EN, presumably residual as sole recovery.

#### Late Neolithic to Beaker Period 2900-1750BC

<i>Potential relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
<b>Residual elements</b>	(126) [124].	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

(126) [124]. 1 blade, could date widely, M>EBA, but it is notable that feature [124] is currently considered to be of MBA or MBA-LBA date (draft plans provided by B. Cichy). If so, then unless the unspecific scraps of reduced grog tempered pottery that were also present are a ploughed-in later intrusion, the sherd could be of LN>EBA date and there is a chance that the flintwork could be associated. A LN>BK date is a possibility for the flint, considering that the blade, though a quality product, was not struck from a regular blade core. Given that both are likely to be residual (or intrusive) however, no associations are guaranteed.

#### Unspecific lithics residual in Middle or Mid to Late Bronze Age contexts

<i>Potential relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
<b>Residual elements</b>	(69) [67], (130) [67E].	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

(69) [67]. 1 medium sized irregular looking flake utilised as knife, moderate chalk-soil type patina.

(130) [67E]. 1 utilised blade shaped flake potentially residual (not certainly re-used), early moderate chalk-soil type and yellowy sheen patinas.

#### Later Prehistoric/?Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age, 1550 to 1150/350+ BC

<i>Potential relationship</i>	<i>In contexts</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
<b>Contemporary groups</b>	(118) [67F].	3
<b>Residual elements</b>	(11) [10B].	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

(11) [10B]. 1, a neat piercer re-worked onto a potential small blade. Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric (MBA>EMIA+), but can occur earlier. This piece is neatly worked and less likely post EIA, noting that there is evidence for activity in the MBA>MBA-LBA in the site assemblage and this piece could well relate to that phase of activity. It's relationship to the context is unclear, though may more likely be residual, given this is the sole recovery from this context. Feature [10] is currently undated, but runs parallel to another linear ditch that is considered Medieval, with other features of MBA>MBA-LBA date nearby (draft plans provided by B. Cichy).

(118) [67F]. 3 flints, all similarly small sized flakes or broken fragments of, 2 in similar raw material, 1 of these a thick utilised piece preferably Later Prehistoric (MBA>EMIA+), the others could easily relate and all could potentially be contemporary with the MBA>MBA-LBA pottery also present in this feature.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This report summarises the findings arising from macrobotanical and charcoal assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent (site code: BSF-EX-22). A 31 bulk samples have been extracted, their processing is ongoing and specialist report will be produced within next 4 weeks.

7.1.2 Partial plot data for samples 2, 6, 7 and 8 is provided in table below.

#### 7.1.3 Sample register

Sample no	Fill	Cut	Description	Sample type	Provisional date	No. Tubs/Bags	Section	Plan
<a href="#">1</a>	7	5	Secondary fill of fire pit, mid greyish brown silt with freq. Charcoal	BULK		2	<a href="#">1</a>	
<a href="#">2</a>	6	5	Primary fill of fire pit, abundant charcoal scraped from the base. Sample 2 [5], (6) Volume 2l 6.49g flot abundant charcoal and moderate rhizomes 22.89g residue contains abundant small charcoal 0.87g magnetic particles (natural–heated ironstone)	BULK		1	<a href="#">1</a>	
<a href="#">3</a>	17	16	Fill of post hole, containing abundance of burnt clay fragments and charcoal	BULK	LIA-EM	1		<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">4</a>	21	20	Tree throw, light grey white silt	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">57</a>
							<a href="#">14</a>	
							<a href="#">31</a>	
<a href="#">5</a>	39	38	Ancient tree throw or roots. White light grey silt	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">46</a>	<a href="#">48</a>
							<a href="#">47</a>	

<a href="#">6</a>	68	67a	Sample 6 [67a], (68), Spit1 Volume 5l Flot: 0g, rhizomes Residue: 330g Bone: 13g Rare rhizomes	BULK		1	<a href="#">66</a>	<a href="#">68</a>
							<a href="#">67</a>	<a href="#">81</a>
							<a href="#">79</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
							<a href="#">80</a>	<a href="#">88</a>
							<a href="#">85</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
							<a href="#">87</a>	<a href="#">94</a>
							<a href="#">91</a>	
							<a href="#">92</a>	
<a href="#">7</a>	68	67a	Sample 7 [67a], (68), Spit 2 Volume 10l Flot: 0.55g, rare small #, abundant rhizomes Residue: 460g fine angular gravel Bone: 5.459g	BULK		1	<a href="#">66</a>	<a href="#">68</a>
							<a href="#">67</a>	<a href="#">81</a>
							<a href="#">79</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
							<a href="#">80</a>	<a href="#">88</a>
							<a href="#">85</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
							<a href="#">87</a>	<a href="#">94</a>
							<a href="#">91</a>	
							<a href="#">92</a>	
<a href="#">8</a>	93	67b	Sample 8 [67b], (93) Volume 10l Flo: 0.06g, seed pod, occ. small charcoal, moderate rhizomes Residue: 230g fine angular gravel Pottery: 10.7g Burnt flint: 0.77g Worm fossils: 1.756g	BULK		1	<a href="#">79</a>	<a href="#">81</a>
<a href="#">9</a>	77	76	root hole filled with pale silt produced worked flint	BULK		1	<a href="#">77</a>	<a href="#">78</a>
<a href="#">10</a>	74, 91, 72	67b	Primary fill of BA ditch from deepest section	MONOLITH	BA	1		
<a href="#">11</a>	69, 70	67a	The interface of 69 and 70. Sampled 12l.	BULK	BA	1		

<a href="#">12</a>	69	67a	The base of fill 69. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">66</a>	<a href="#">68</a>
							<a href="#">67</a>	
<a href="#">13</a>	69	67b	The base of fill 69. Sampled 12I.	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">66</a>	<a href="#">68</a>
							<a href="#">67</a>	
<a href="#">14</a>	73, 91	67b	The interface of 73 and 69. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1		
<a href="#">15</a>	99	67c	The base of 99. Sampled 12I.	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">91</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
							<a href="#">92</a>	
<a href="#">16</a>	94	67c	The base of 94. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">91</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
							<a href="#">92</a>	
<a href="#">17</a>	103	67c	The base of 103. Sampled 12I.	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">91</a>	<a href="#">93</a>
							<a href="#">92</a>	
<a href="#">18</a>	131	67e	The base of 131. Sampled 12I.	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">87</a>	<a href="#">88</a>
<a href="#">19</a>	129, 130	67e	The interface of 129 and 130. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1		
<a href="#">20</a>	129	67e	The base of 129. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">87</a>	<a href="#">88</a>
<a href="#">21</a>	111, 110	109b	The primary fill of the prehistoric pit contains slump deposits and bright silt. Sampled 12I.	BULK	Prehistory	1		
<a href="#">22</a>	123	67f	The base of 123. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">85</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
<a href="#">23</a>	121, 119	67f	The interface of 121 and 119. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1		
<a href="#">24</a>	118	67f	The top part of 118. Sampled 12I.	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">85</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
<a href="#">25</a>	118	67f	The base of 118. Sampled 12I	BULK	BA	1	<a href="#">85</a>	<a href="#">86</a>
<a href="#">26</a>	126, 127	124c	The interface of 126 and 127. Sampled 12I	BULK	Prehistory	1		
<a href="#">27</a>	126	124c	The base of 126. Sampled 12I	BULK	Prehistory	1	<a href="#">96</a>	
							<a href="#">97</a>	
							<a href="#">98</a>	

<a href="#">28</a>	125	124c	The base of 125. Sampled 12I.	BULK	Prehistory	1	<a href="#">96</a>	
							<a href="#">97</a>	
							<a href="#">98</a>	
<a href="#">29</a>	126, 127	124d	The interface of 126 and 127. Sampled 12I	BULK	Prehistory	1		
<a href="#">30</a>	126	124d	The base of 126. Sampled 12I.	BULK	Prehistory	1	<a href="#">96</a>	
							<a href="#">97</a>	
							<a href="#">98</a>	
<a href="#">31</a>	125	124d	the base of context 125 sampled 12L.	BULK	Prehistory	1	<a href="#">96</a>	
							<a href="#">97</a>	
							<a href="#">98</a>	

## 8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil with relatively high/severe modern truncation having occurred. Land drains were present on the site and on occasion modern ploughing has impacted on the natural and archaeological horizons.

8.1.2 On the whole, the archaeological features identified during the course of the excavations have identified the presence of field boundaries, pits, postholes, stakeholes and a kiln. Two very tentative heavily truncated groups of features have been suggested, a possible horseshoe enclosure and a possible posted or fragmentarily ditched avenue or driveway. A further extremely tentative truncated feature has been suggested, possibly bringing the date range represented to encompass the Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic periods through to the High Medieval.

8.1.3 The following phases of pre- modern activity have been identified:

- Phase 1 Mesolithic- Early Neolithic (c.9200-3350BC) – Transient peripatetic activity.
- Phase 2 Middle Bronze Age (c.1550-1250 BC) – Possible marginal agricultural activity.
- Phase 3 Mid to Late Bronze Age(c.1550-1150) – Possible marginal agricultural activity, just possibly animal husbandry.

- Phase 4 Late Iron Age/ Early Romano- British (c.50BC- AD50) Possible marginal agricultural activity, just possibly animal husbandry.
- Phase 4 High Medieval (c.AD1075-1250) – Possible marginal agricultural activity. marginal agricultural activity

## **8.2 Phase 1 Mesolithic- Early Neolithic c.9200-3350BC**

8.2.1 One extremely tentative, heavily truncated, possible 'feature' [38] contained two flint blades and bladelets dating to this period, while two, possibly three flint fragments dating to this period were recovered residually elsewhere on the site.

## **8.3 Phase 2 Middle Bronze Age c.1550-1250BC**

8.3.1 One pit [109] has been ascribed to this phase.

## **8.4 Phase 3 Mid to Late Bronze Age c.1550-1150BC**

8.4.1 Three ditches [10], [67] and [124] probably date to this phase. One very tentative possible heavily truncated 'horseshoe enclosure' G2 has been suggested, *if real*, to belong to this phase.

## **8.5 Phase 4 Late Iron Age c.50BC- AD50**

8.5.1 One definite feature, field boundary ditch [80] dated to this period.

8.5.2 Heavily truncated tentative 'fragmented ditch or posted droveway G1 has been suggested, *if real*, to belong to this phase.

## **8.6 Phase 4 High Medieval c.AD1075-1250**

8.6.1 Only one feature dated to this period, probable field boundary ditch [12].

## **8.7 Unphased Features**

8.7.1 Unphased features comprise kiln [5], stakeholes [8] and [14], postholes [16] and [18], pit [132] along with probable natural features [44], [46], [36], [34], [28], [30], [54], [76] and [78].

## 9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Stratigraphic*

#### 9.1 Statement of Potential

9.1.1 The excavation has revealed multiple phases of activity on the site, dated by finds (pottery and lithics) to the Mesolithic- Early Neolithic, Middle to Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, and High Medieval periods. The provisional phasing will be checked and refined at the analysis stage. analysis stage.

##### Mesolithic- Early Neolithic period

9.1.2 The evidence for this period c. 9200-3350BC, comprises only one debatable feature along with a number of lithics, suggesting extremely transient activity rather than any form of settlement. No further emphasis is placed on this period.

##### Middle/ Mid to Late Bronze Age Bronze Age

9.1.3 The evidence of Middle/ Mid to Late Bronze Age activity c. 1550-1150 BC comprised agricultural activity represented by a pit, three possible ditches and a debatable horseshoe enclosure.

9.1.4 Further examination of the stratigraphic relationships between some of the features and the associated finds assemblages, may clarify more precisely the development of this period of the site.

9.1.5 The features discussed in this report should be taken in context with those previously recorded in the immediate vicinity, while research into local sites of a similar period may inform us further as to the function of this phase.

9.1.6 Further work on the ceramic and lithic assemblages will further inform us as to the function of the site during this period.

9.1.7 Evidence for the Middle/ Mid to Late Bronze Age is of regional interest.

##### Late Iron Age

9.1.8 The evidence of Late Iron Age activity c. 50BC-AD50 comprised agricultural activity represented by one field boundary ditch and one debatable posted or ditched possible driveway.

9.1.9 Further examination of the relationships between some of the features and the associated finds assemblages, may clarify more precisely the development of this period of the site.

- 9.1.10 The features discussed in this report should be taken in context with those previously recorded in the immediate vicinity, while research into local sites of a similar period may inform us further as to the function of this phase.
- 9.1.11 Further work on the ceramic assemblages will further inform us as to the function of the site during this period.
- 9.1.12 Evidence for the Late Iron Age is of regional interest.

#### High Medieval

- 9.1.13 The evidence for this period c. AD1075-1250 was relatively isolated, consisting of a single probable field boundary ditch. Evidence from the wider site for this period was also sparse, one further field boundary ditch and a small number of pits, suggesting marginal agricultural usage. No further emphasis is placed on this period.

#### Overview

- 9.1.14 Research will be undertaken to better understand the Middle/ Mid to Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age activity on site, with particular emphasis on possible associations with those features recorded in the immediate vicinity, along with neighbouring sites. Results from additional research will be placed within the local and regional context.
- 9.1.15 Unphased features will be reviewed in an attempt to assign them to a broad period.

## **10 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANALYSIS**

### **10.1 Introduction**

10.1.1 The archaeological excavations at Altira Park have revealed phases of agricultural usage during the Middle to Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age and High Medieval periods, with evidence of transient activity during the Mesolithic- Early Neolithic period. Ongoing assessment should allow for more detailed interpretation of the various elements of the site.

### **10.2 Updated Project Design**

10.2.1 In light of the potential of the results of the fieldwork to answer not only the original research aims but other questions raised during the excavation, this section provides revised research aims, and details of the further analyses recommended to achieve them.

10.2.2 Original research aims were to establish the character, condition, date and significance of archaeological features and deposits;

- The majority of features recorded on the Site appeared to date to the Middle to Late Bronze Age, comprising field boundary ditches, a pit and a possible enclosure suggesting agricultural activity possibly involving animal husbandry.
- One field boundary ditch and a possible droveway suggest similar, though probably lower intensive activity during the Late Iron Age.
- Somewhat ephemeral evidence indicates limited and transient use of the Site during the Mesolithic- Early Neolithic period, while one field boundary ditch suggests marginal agricultural use of the site during the High Medieval period.

10.2.3 Revised research aims will be to;

- Determine the nature and extent of activity within the Site during the Middle to Late Bronze Age with regard to the results of the earlier works in the immediate vicinity, and neighbouring sites.
- Determine the nature and extent of activity within the Site during the Late Iron Age with regard to the results of the earlier works in the immediate vicinity, and neighbouring sites.

10.2.4 Limited further work is proposed for the stratigraphic analysis of the Site; it is felt that the current report has dealt in detail with this element, but it is also recognised that additional analysis may

clarify more precisely the development of Middle to Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age activity on the site.

10.2.5 Further work is required for the ceramic and lithic assemblages.

10.2.6 Time and resources to produce a final analysis report has been incorporated into Table 3 below. The final report will aim to place the Site within its local and regional context.

### 10.3 Proposed Publication

10.3.1 The Full Report outlined above will be published in PDF A format for publication with OASIS.

10.3.2 The results of the fieldwork are of local and regional significance. Given that the results of the preceding works in the immediate vicinity will be published as a monograph, the results of the fieldwork on this Site should be incorporated into that publication.

### 10.4 Timetable and Task List

10.4.1 The following timetable has been prepared outlined the required time to bring the Full Report and publication to completion. This following includes the estimated time required for specialist assessment, and work Staff Structures and Specialists

10.4.2 The post excavation team consists primarily of self-employed specialist staff. The post-excavation project will be directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology. Table 2 provides details ...

Name	Position
Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA	Publication Manager
Bartek Cichy, Dan Worsley	Project Manager
Elliott Wragg	Project Officer
Kent Osteological Research Analysis	Human Remains Specialist
Archaeological Research Services	Cremation Specialist
Carol White	Animal bone specialist
Chris Butler/ Paul Hart	Flint Specialist
Lisa Gray/ QUEST	Environmental Specialist
Mike Allen	Archaeobotany
Paul Hart	Ceramic Specialist
Bartek Cichy	Archaeological illustrator

Table 2: *Post Excavation project Staff*

10.4.3 It is hoped that with the majority of material already distributed a draft Final Analysis Report will be ready within six months of the publication of this Assessment Report by SWAT Archaeology to collate the resulting data and prepare the final documents.

Task No.	Description	Days	Staff
<b>Management</b>			
1	Project management	6	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Analysis</b>			
2	Phasing and stratigraphy	4	SWAT Archaeology
3	Background research	2	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Ceramic Analysis</b>			
5	Analysis of final site data	2	SWAT Archaeology
6	Selection of material or illustration and catalogue	2	SWAT Archaeology
7	Report writing and comparison to other sites	3	SWAT Archaeology
8	Illustration (up to 6 sherds)	3	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Environmental Analysis</b>			
9	Ongoing to be included in final version of this report	14	QUEST
<b>Report</b>			
10	Introduction and background	2	SWAT Archaeology
11	Collation and integration of report	5	SWAT Archaeology
12	Discussion	2	SWAT Archaeology
13	Illustrations	2	SWAT Archaeology
14	Bibliography/ footnotes	1	SWAT Archaeology
15	Edit draft report	3	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Publication</b>			
16	Submission/liaison with journal editor	2	SWAT Archaeology
17	Journal charges	£75 per page	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Archive</b>			
18	Archive preparation	2	SWAT Archaeology
19	Archive deposition	1+museum dep cost	SWAT Archaeology

Table 3: Project timetable

10.4.5 It is therefore proposed that following final approval of this post-excavation assessment report, a final Full Report and publication draft will be submitted to KCC Heritage and Conservation within six months. Following approval of the final Full Report and publication draft, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until suitable provision is made by Kent County Council for deposition in a suitable archive facility.

**10.5 Client's statement**

10.5.5 Hereby, Altira Park JV LLP is guaranteeing to secure necessary funding to cover all expenses associated with post-excavation tasks listed above and with publication of the site in monograph.

## **11 ARCHIVE**

### **11.1 General**

- 11.1.1 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).
- 11.1.2 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.

## **12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 12.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Altira Park JV LLP for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 12.1.2 Bartek Cichy and Dan Worsley supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The pottery and worked lithics analysis was undertaken by Paul Hart, and the environmental analysis by ..... of Quest. The Assessment report was prepared by Elliott Wragg and edited for submission by Peter Cichy.
- 12.1.3 On behalf of the client the project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

<b>Site Name: BSF-EX-22 Altira Park (Blacksole Farm)</b>																			
<b>Site Address:</b> Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent																			
<p><b>Summary:</b> <i>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) of land at the Phase 3 trade park units at Altira Park, near Beltinge Kent during 2022. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Canterbury City Council following a series of previous archaeological works in the immediate surrounding area dating from 2007.</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological excavations revealed an ephemeral and almost certainly transient Mesolithic-Early Neolithic presence, evidence for agricultural activity during the Middle to Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age, and to a lesser extent during the High Medieval period. The results discussed in this report should be taken in conjunction with previous, more extensive, works carried out in the immediate vicinity.</i></p>																			
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Canterbury City Council	<b>Parish:</b> Beltinge																		
<p><b>Period(s):</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Mesolithic- Early Neolithic (M-EN)</td> <td>c.9200-3350BC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Middle Bronze Age (MBA)</td> <td>c.1550-1250 BC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Mid-Late Bronze Age (MBA-LBA)</td> <td>c.1550-1150 BC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Late Iron Age/Early Romano- British (LIA/ERB)</td> <td>c.50 BC – AD 75/100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>High Medieval</td> <td>c.AD 1075-1250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Modern</td> <td>c. AD 1900 plus</td> </tr> </table>		1	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic (M-EN)	c.9200-3350BC	2	Middle Bronze Age (MBA)	c.1550-1250 BC	3	Mid-Late Bronze Age (MBA-LBA)	c.1550-1150 BC	4	Late Iron Age/Early Romano- British (LIA/ERB)	c.50 BC – AD 75/100	5	High Medieval	c.AD 1075-1250	6	Modern	c. AD 1900 plus
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5	High Medieval	c.AD 1075-1250																	
6	Modern	c. AD 1900 plus																	
<p><b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 619202E 169272N</b></p> <p>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</p>																			
<p><b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b></p> <p><del>Evaluation: Watching Brief</del> <del>Field Walking</del></p> <p><del>Documentary study</del> <del>Building recording</del> <del>Earthwork survey</del></p> <p>Excavation: <del>Geophysical Survey</del> <del>Field Survey</del></p> <p><del>Geoarchaeological investigation</del></p>																			

<b>Date of Recording:</b> September-October 2022	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> London Clay, Bogshole Levels	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY Archaeological Excavations at Phase 3 Trade Park Units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent (E. Wragg)	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Dr Paul Wilkinson	<b>Date:</b> 23 <sup>th</sup> April 2023

#### 14 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)*

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*SWAT 2022 Specification for a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample of Phase 3 Trade Park units at Altira Park, near Beltinge, Kent. Unpublished Report: Swale and Thames Survey Company*

Figures

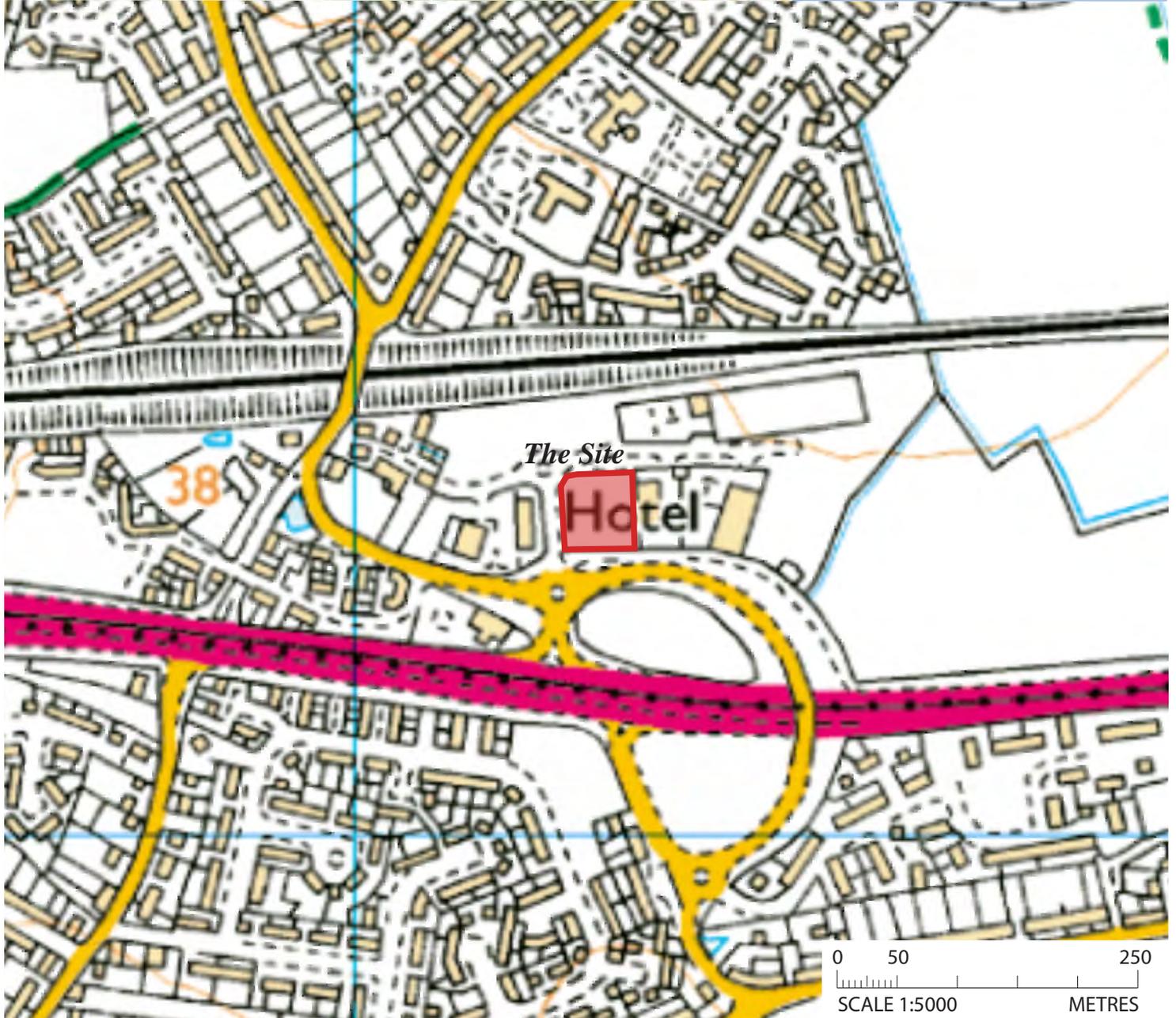
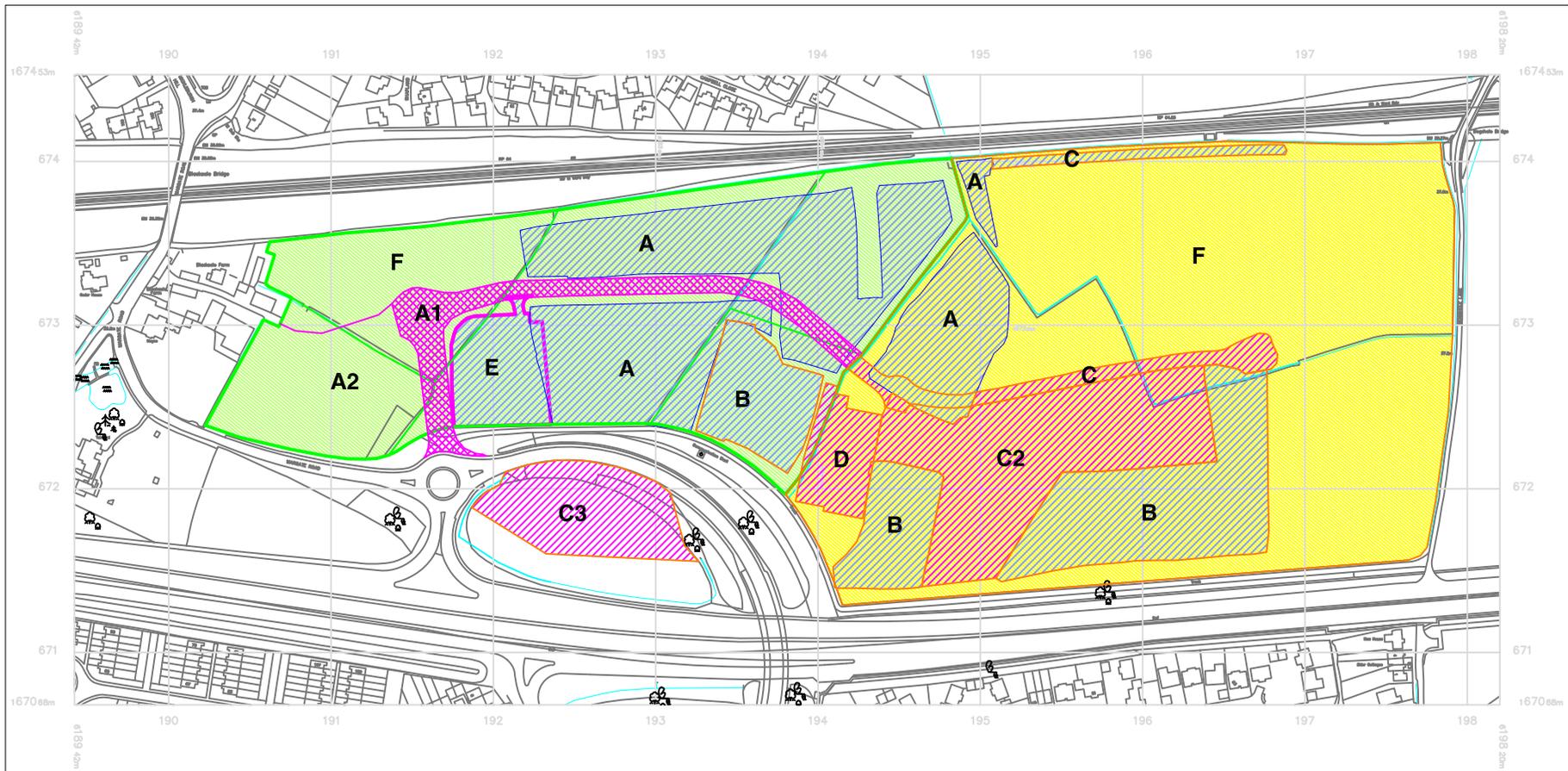


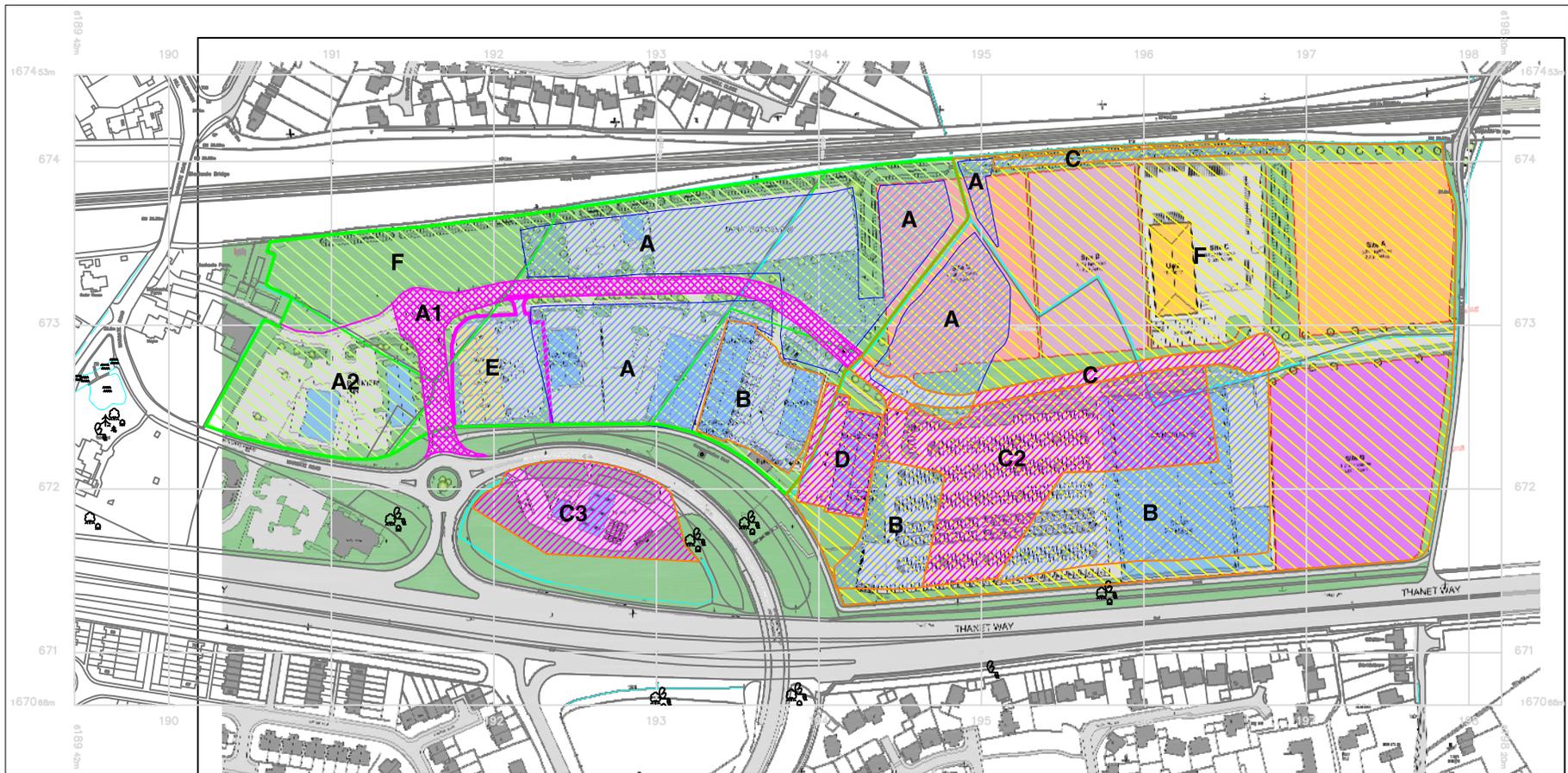
Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000



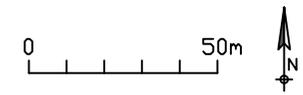
- Evaluation 2005 (Phase 1); BSF-EV-05
- A**  SMS 2007 (Phase 2); BSF-SMS-07; **A1** road strip above archaeological horizon; **A2** no archaeology - developed
- Evaluation 2007 (Phase 3) and 2008 (Phase 4); BSF-EV-07, BSF-EV-08
- B**  SMS 2015 (Phase 5); BF-SMS-15, BSMS(S)-15East and West, BSF-EX-15
- C**  WB 2015 (Phase 5); BSF-WB-15; **C2** (No site code, above horizon); **C3** No archaeology
- D**  WB 2019 (Phase 5); 10/WB/19
- E**  SMS 2022 (Phase 6); BSF-EX-22
- F** Archaeological mitigation required



Figure 2a: Site location in relation to phases of archaeological investigation in the surrounding area

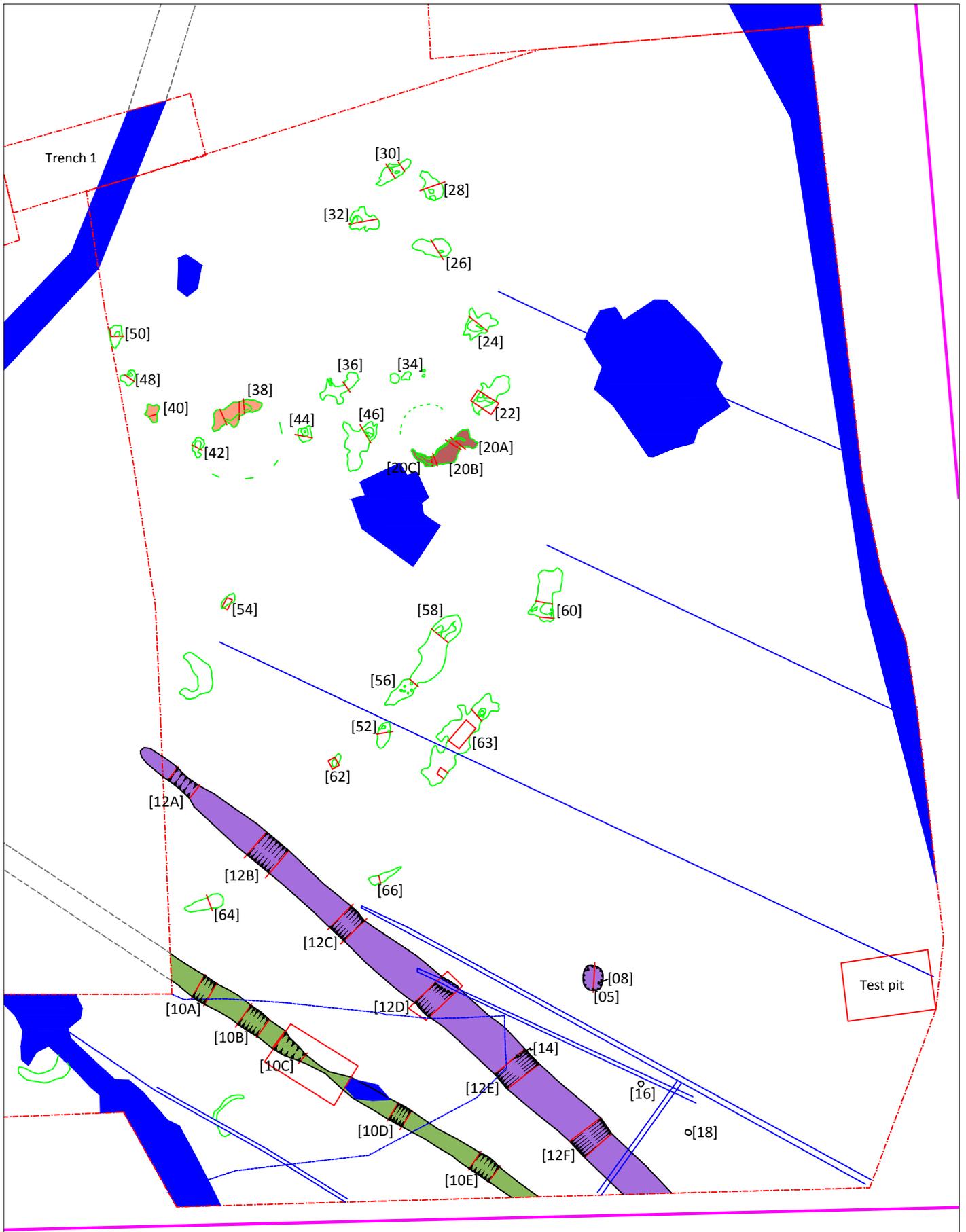


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- D**  WB 2019 (Phase 5); 10/WB/19
- E**  SMS 2022 (Phase 6); BSF-EX-22
- F** Archaeological mitigation required



*Figure 2b: Site location in relation to phases of archaeological investigation in the surrounding area superimposed on plan of development and proposed development.*

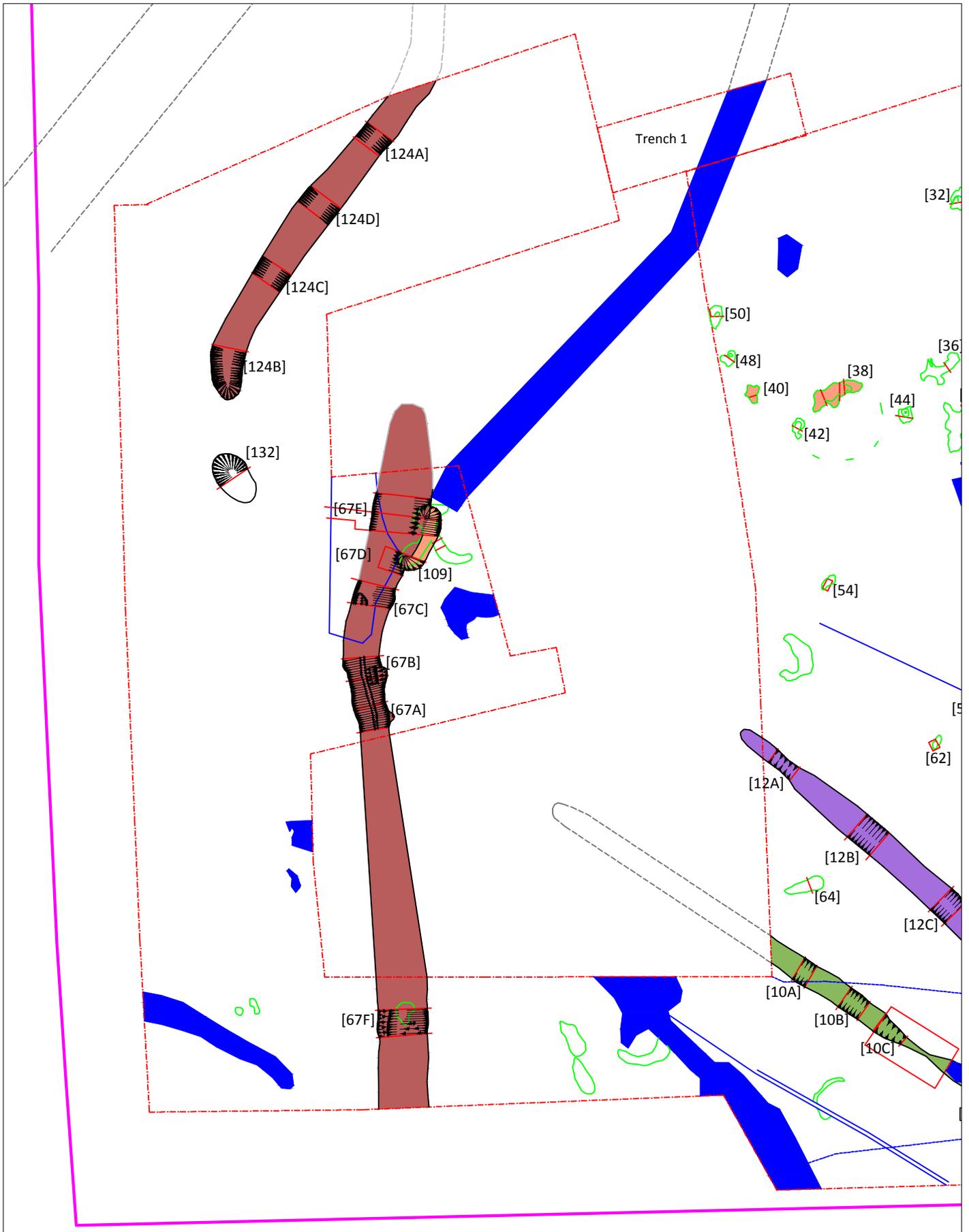




**KEY:**

Site boundary	Phase 1 - Pre MBA
Limit of excavation	Phase 2 - MBA-LBA
Feature	Phase 3 - LIA
Tree throw hole	Phase 4 - HM
	Phase 5 - Modern

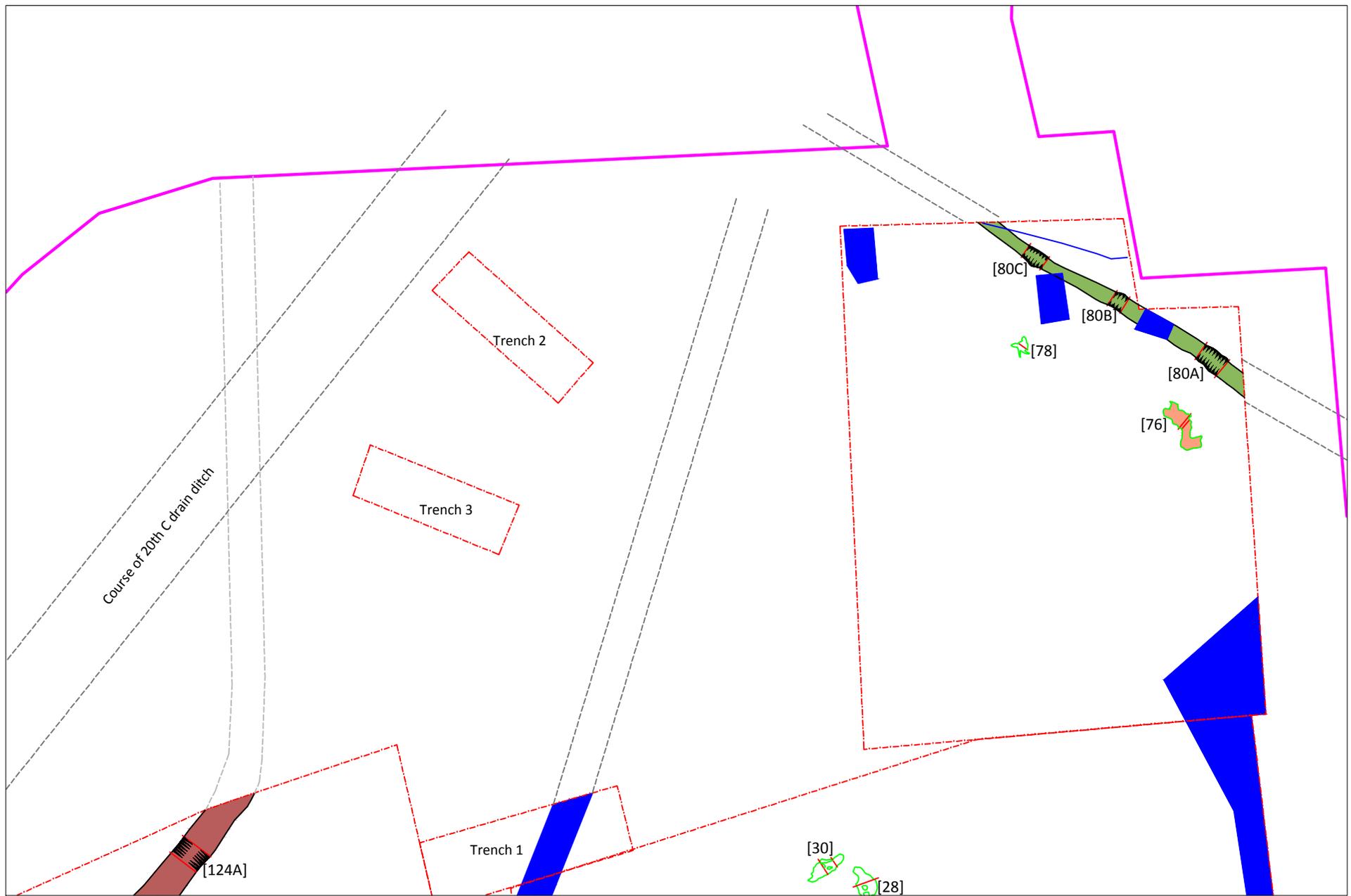
Figure 4: Features exposed in Area 1



**KEY:**

- Site boundary
- Limit of excavation
- Feature
- Tree throw hole
- Phase 1 - Pre MBA
- Phase 2 - MBA-LBA
- Phase 3 - LIA
- Phase 4 - HM
- Phase 5 - Modern

Figure 5: Features exposed in Area 2



**KEY:**

- Site boundary
- - - Limit of excavation
- Feature
- Tree throw hole
- Phase 1 - Pre MBA
- Phase 2 - MBA-LBA
- Phase 3 - LIA
- Phase 4 - HM
- Phase 5 - Modern

*Figure 6: Features exposed in Area 3*





*Figure 7a: The site in relation to the features exposed in surrounding area*

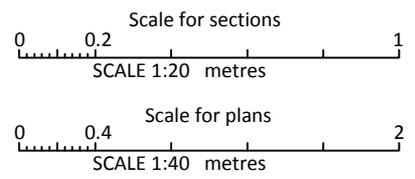
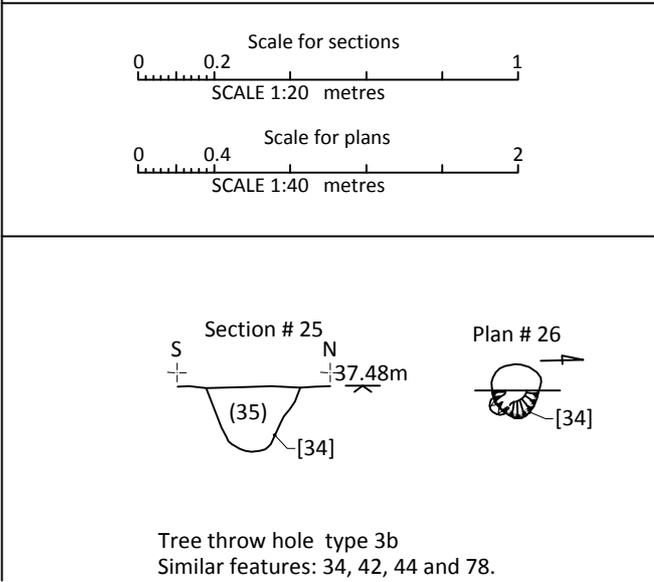
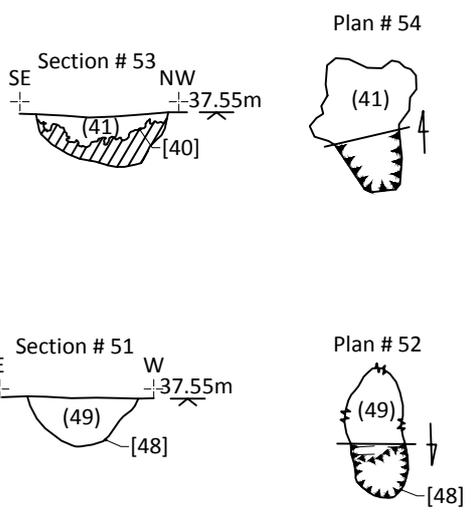
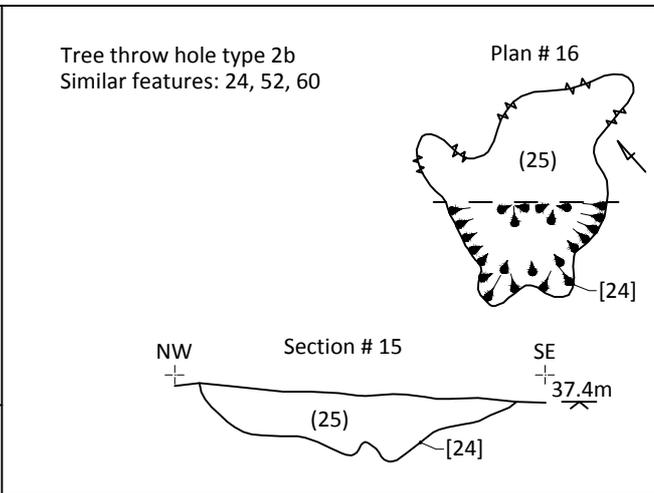
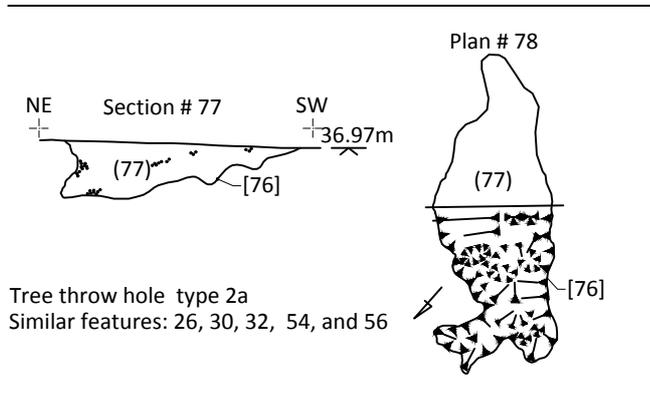
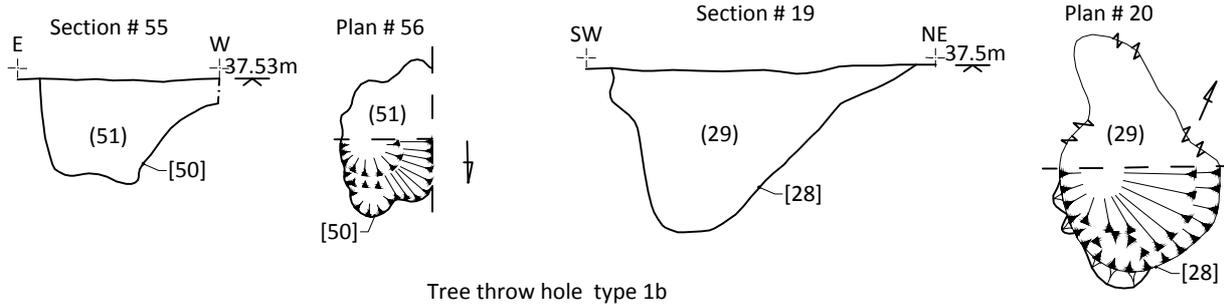
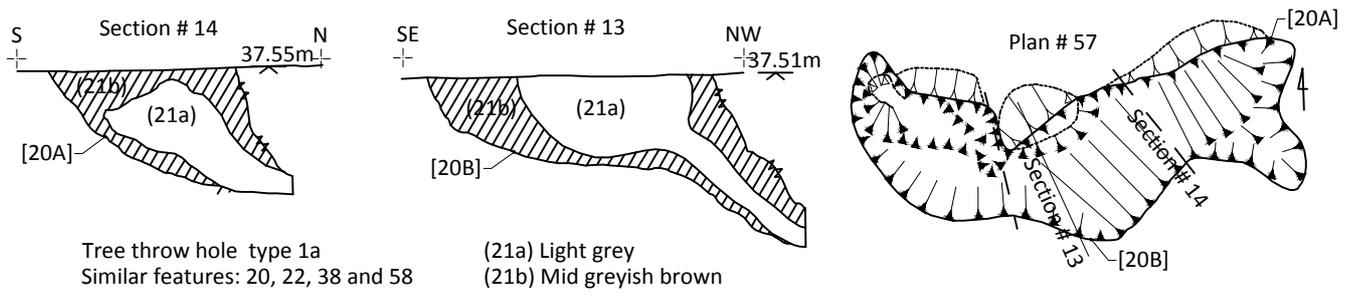


Figure 8: Sections and plans - examples of different types of tree throw holes

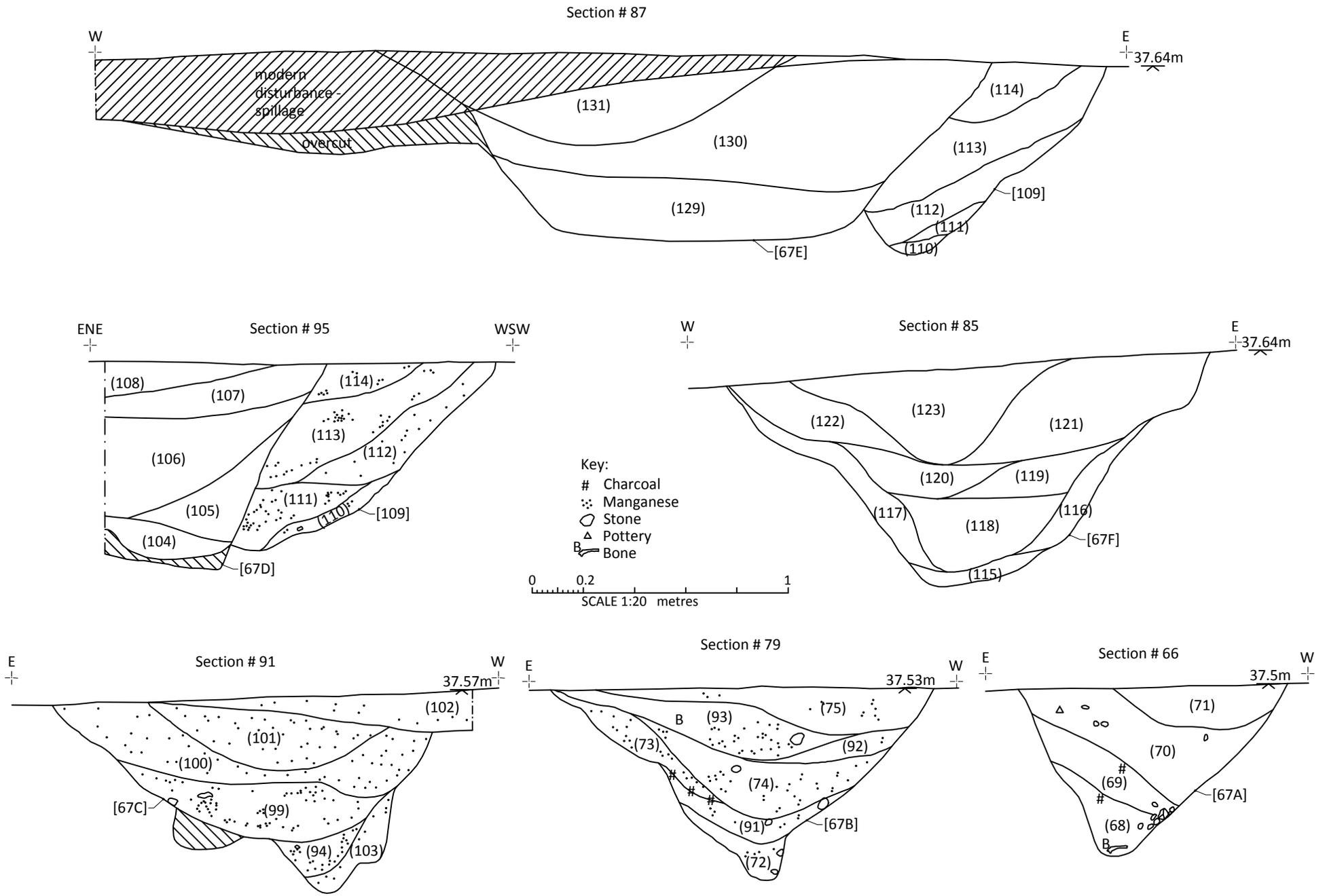


Figure 9: Sections of MBA ditch 67

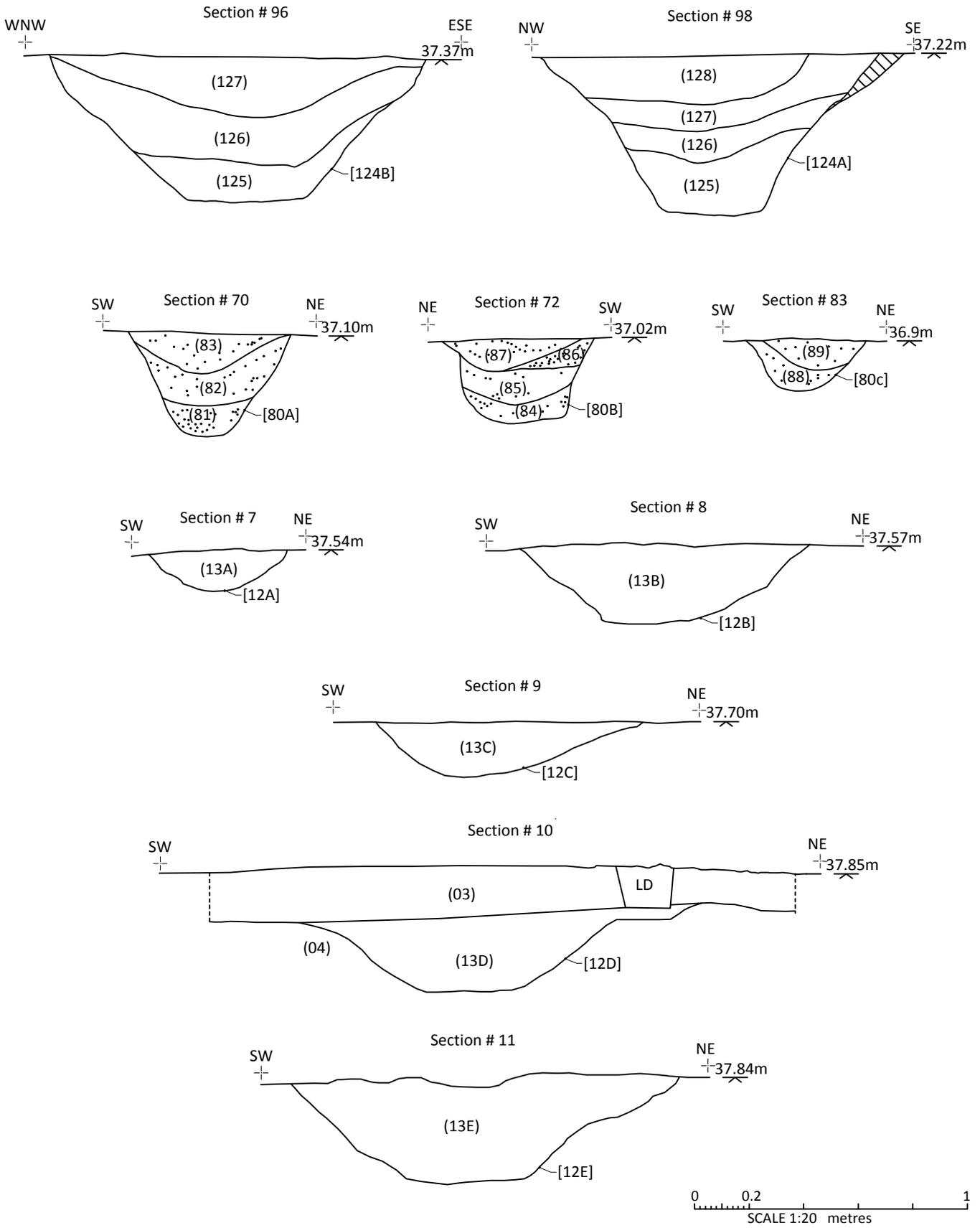


Figure 10: Sections of MBA ditch 124, LIA ditch 80 and HM ditch 12.

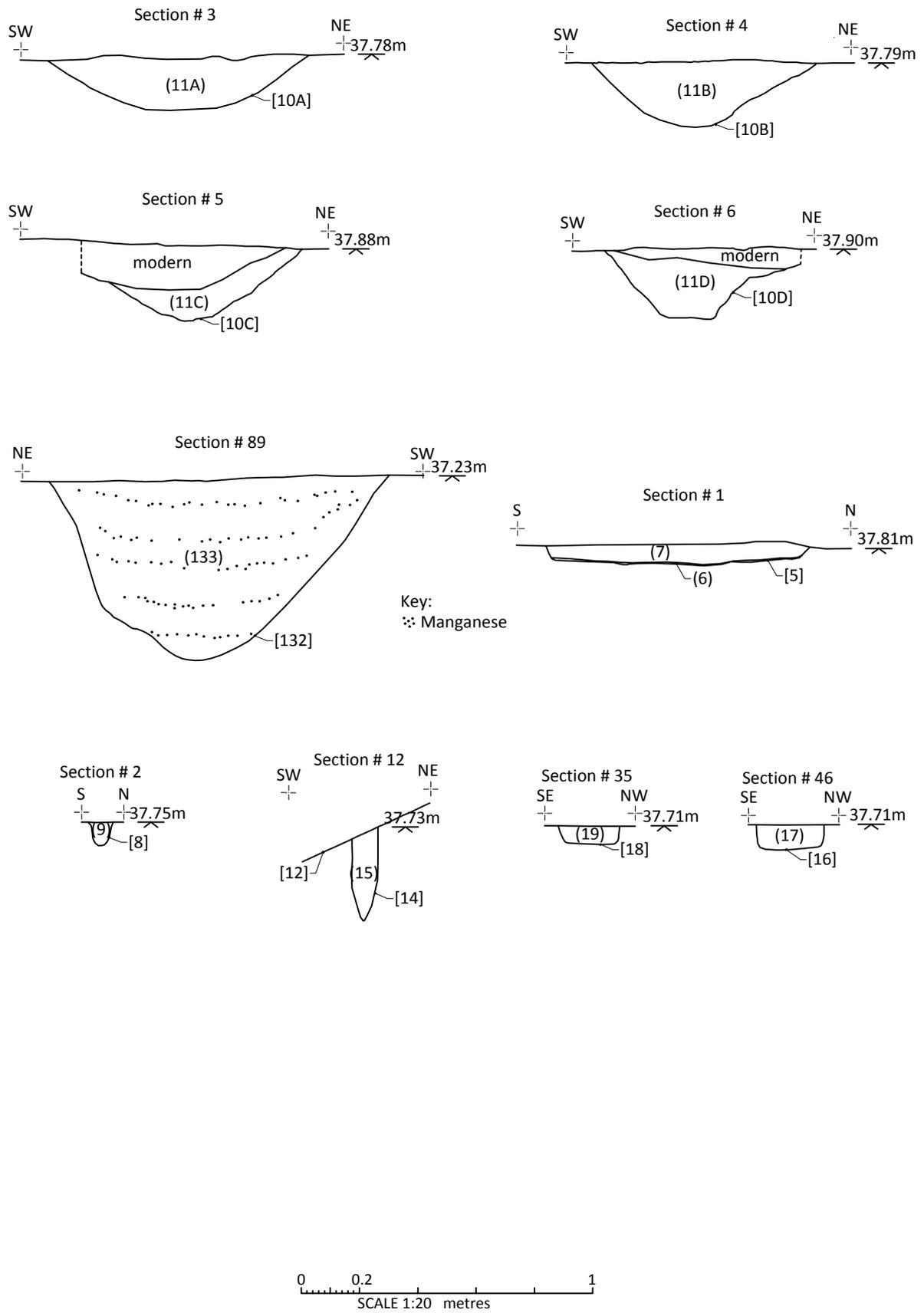


Figure 11: Sections of IA ditch 10, pit 132, fire pit 5, stake holes 8 and 14, postholes 16 and 18.

Plates

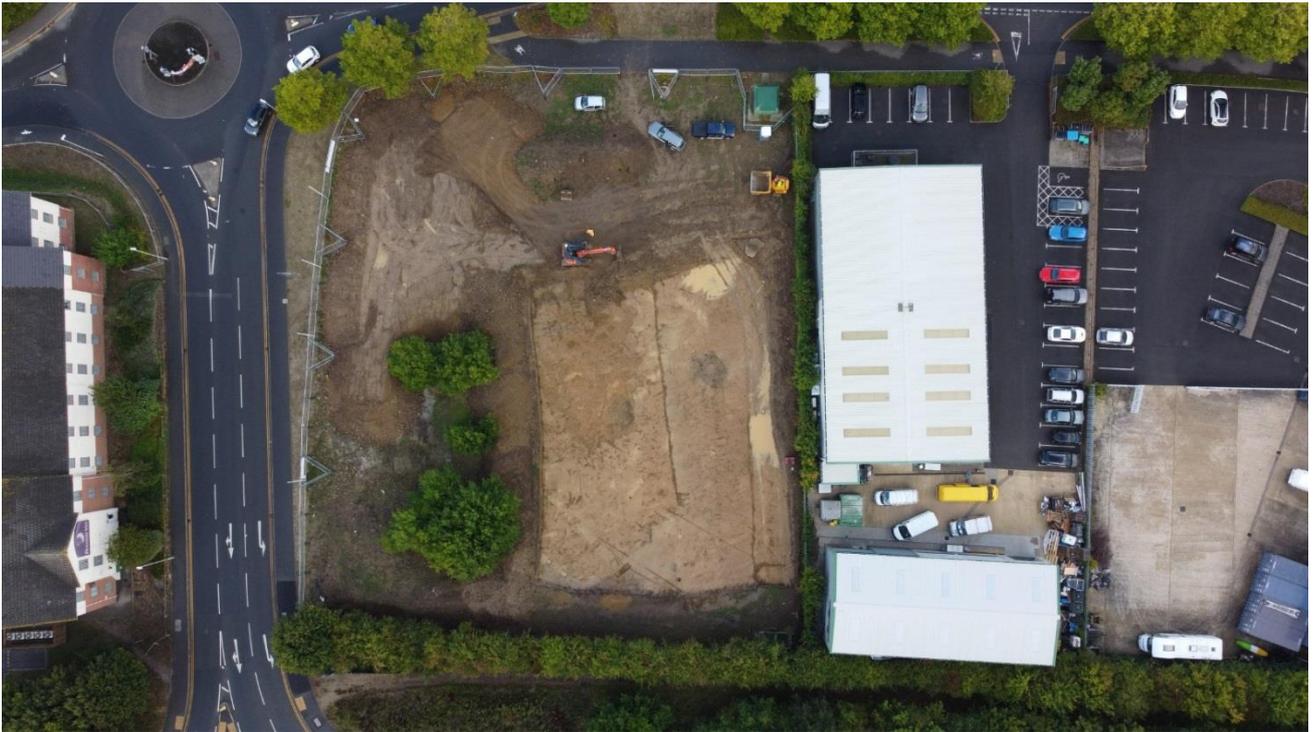


Plate 1: Aerial view of the site during stripping of top soil.



Plate 2: Aerial view of Area 1



Plate 3: Aerial view of Area 2



Plate 4: Tree throw hole/ tentative bioturbated 'features' [20] 1m scale



Plate 5: Section of three throw hole [38] 1m scale



Plate 6: Tree throw hole [38] 1m scale



Plate 7: Tree throw hole/ tentative bioturbated 'feature' [22] 0.40m scale



Plate 8: Tree throw hole [76] 0.40m scale



Plate 9: Looking north at ditch [67] 1m scale



Plate 10: Looking north at section of ditch [67]B 1m scale



Plate 11: Pit [109] cut by ditch [67]D 1m scale



Plate 12 Looking north east at section of MBA-LBA ditch [124] A; 1 m scale



Plate 13 Looking south east at section of Pit [85]; 1 m scale



Plate 14: Looking south east at section of Late Iron Age ditch [80] A; 1 m scale



Plate 15: Looking north west at Medieval ditch [12] on the right and Mid to Late Bronze Age ditch [10] on the left; 1 m scale



Plate 16: Looking west at fire pit/ kiln [5] 1m scale