Wessex Archaeology

Boyes Lane
Goodnestone
Canterbury, Kent

Ref: 66740.02

September 2007

Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Canterbury, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of

CgMs Consulting
Morley House
26 Holborn Viaduct
London
ECIA 2AT

By

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wilts
SP4 6EB

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land immediately north west of Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference 625658 154878.

The evaluation was required by the Archaeology Section of Kent County Council's Environment & Waste Directorate in response to a proposal by Hill Reid Homes to construct twelve residential dwellings and associated infrastructure within the Site.

Four evaluation trenches, each measuring 20m by 1.60m, revealed evidence for a post-medieval ditch and for post-medieval domestic artefacts within a soil horizon which had accumulated above a small natural chalk coombe.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hill Reid Homes, and Wessex Archaeology gratefully acknowledges the roles of Suzanne Gailey and Kevin Guiver respectively. The project was monitored by Ben Found (Archaeological Officer, Environment & Waste, Kent County Council)

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Trevarthen and Stella DeVilliers. The report was prepared by Mike Trevarthen, with illustrations prepared by Will Foster and finds analysis by Lorraine Mepham. The Project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Canterbury, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land immediately north west of Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference 625658 154878 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The evaluation was required by the Archaeology Section of Kent County Council's (hereafter KCC) Environment & Waste Directorate in response to a proposal by Hill Reid Homes to construct twelve residential dwellings and associated infrastructure, within the Site. At the time of writing, no information regarding the proposed depth of construction impacts, or of the need for/extent of topographic modification to the site was available.

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (Gailey 2007b), detailing the methodology and aims of the fieldwork, and approved by Kent County Council in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Dover District Council (the local planning authority) prior to commencement of fieldwork. The stated objectives (Gailey 2007, 4) were:

"…*to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the Site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains in site*" and:

"…*to establish the extent to which previous development on the Site has affected archaeological deposits*".

Additionally, issues of particular importance were:

- "*Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development Site*".
- "*Establishing the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes*."
- "*To assess the potential impact of future development on any archaeology*."

1.1.4 No additional objectives were identified as a result of the evaluation.

1.1.5 Fieldwork took place between the 6th and 8th August 2007

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) comprises some 1650m^2 of rough grass pasture, bounded to the south west by Saddlers Hill and to the south east by Goodnestone Post Office and Boyes Lane. The north-western and northern limits of the Site are defined by Saddler's Cottage and adjoining fields.

1.2.2 Topographically, the Site slopes from west (*c*38m above Ordnance Datum) to east (*c*36m aOD). The northern part of the Site also falls imperceptibly from south to north, whilst at its southern end; a small, shallow, dry and partially infilled coombe was noted adjacent to the Site access, immediately north-west of the Post Office.

1.2.3 Solid Geology beneath the Site comprises Upper Chalk (BGS), the uppermost exposure of which was affected by periglacial striping. In parts of the Site, the Chalk is capped with a superficial deposit head deposit of orange-brown clay-loam (Brickearth). Geotechnical investigation of the Site (Ground Solutions Group 2006, appended to Gailey 2007a) indicates that this deposit is up to *c*1.00m thick.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 No previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within the Site.

2.1.2 In relation to the current development proposals, the Site and a surrounding 1km radius Study Area was the subject of an archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Gailey 2007a). This synthesised readily available archaeological, documentary and map data (including information from the Kent Sites and Monuments Record – hereafter KSMR). In summary:

Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic - Neolithic)

2.1.3 The Desk-based Assessment indicated that Early Prehistoric remains are restricted to a single unstratified spot-find of a Mesolithic flint adze south west of the site (KSMR TR25NE33 TR254551)

Late Prehistoric

2.1.4 A number of undated but potentially Bronze Age sites as well as Iron Age remains have been found locally. These include two undated ring ditches approximately 1km to the south (KSMR TR25SE45 TR26215414, KSMR TR25SE106 TR263543), an undated ring ditch with linear features and a possible inhumation cemetery *c*0.4km to the north east on Cotsole Hill (KSMR TR25SE).

2.1.5 Possible Iron Age settlement evidence (a pit containing a large pottery vessel) was found some 0.5 km from the site (KSMRTR25NE27 TR25295523) and Iron Age ditches and pottery lay 1km to the north (KSMR TR25NE32 TR255558). Another pit lay at Love Lane, 1km to the south west (KSMR TR25SW40 TR248574).

Roman

2.1.6 Roman pottery sherds were found during construction of a gas pipeline *c*1km north of the Site (KSMRTR25NE18 TR255558).

2.1.7 Anglo-Saxon - Medieval

2.1.8 The settlement of Goodnestone was established by medieval times, and the village church is of thirteenth century date (KSMR TR25SE12 TR25475457).

2.1.9 Post-medieval and modern

2.1.10 No previous land-use or construction impacts have been identified, other than those arising from agricultural use. Historic mapping (Andrews and Drury's map of 1765) indicates that the Site has been open ground since at least the mid-late eighteenth century (Gailey 2007a, 8).

2.1.11 Local anecdotal evidence suggests the Site is traversed from north-west to south-east by at least one (possibly more) sewer-trench/trenches, potentially serving Saddler's Cottage and Ivy Cottages. No sewer pipes were found during the evaluation; although a c2m wide unexcavated modern feature seen on this alignment (Trench 4) might indicate the position of such a service.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 In accordance with the Specification (CgMs 2007b), the evaluation comprised excavation of four trenches, each measuring *c*20m by 1.60m.

3.2 Excavation and recording

3.2.1 Trench positions were established on-site using Leica 1200 Series GPS equipment. This was also used to map and locate trenches, archaeological features and hand-drawn sections after excavation and recording were completed. The Site survey is fully referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, and to datum height above sea level (Newlyn).

3.2.2 There were no significant constraints on the evaluation. Two trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) were excavated in their proposed locations, although the alignments of Trenches 2 and 4 were altered slightly to avoid awkward ground-obstacles. Trench positions were then swept with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation to verify the presence/absence of services.

3.2.3 Trenches were opened under constant archaeological supervision using an 8 tonne 360˚ tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were separately stockpiled adjacent to the trenches from which they derived. Machining continued in controlled spits down to the top of archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural strata. Further manual cleaning and excavation was undertaken as necessary.

3.2.4 A sufficient sample of each layer/feature was excavated in order to ascertain the date, nature, extent, condition and significance of the archaeological remains.

3.2.5 All trenches were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-formae* record sheets. A unique context number sequence was maintained across the Evaluation.

3.2.6 A photographic record of the evaluation was maintained in 35mm black and white print and colour transparency format, supplemented by digital photography. The record includes detailed images of archaeological features and deposits, as well as of the wider setting and conduct of the fieldwork. Selected images are presented as **Figure 2**.

3.2.7 Once opened and cleaned, trenches were allowed to weather in order for any previously intangible features or deposits to become evident. Trenches were then inspected by KCC's Archaeological Officer, who approved the level of archaeological recording.

3.2.8 After completion of recording and inspection, trenches were backfilled, with soils replaced in appropriate sequence, also using an 8 tonne tracked mechanical excavator. No re-seeding or other specialist re-instatement was required or undertaken.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Full tabulated results of the evaluation are presented as **Appendix 1** and trench locations in conjunction with the archaeological features recorded during the evaluation are illustrated on **Figure 1**.

4.2 Site-wide deposits

Topsoil

4.2.1 Agricultural topsoil resulting from ploughing and use as pasture was observed to a depth of between 0.25m (Trench 3) and 0.40m (Trenches 1 and 2). This was universally a mid-dark greyish brown clay-loam, with occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel, occasional nodular flint and sparse post-medieval – modern pottery, glass, animal bone *etc*.

Subsoil

4.2.2 Subsoil was identified in all four trenches, although in places it had been truncated or denuded by later agriculture (notably the eastern end of Trench 4) (**Figure 2**). Insofar as could be determined, the subsoil deposits in Trenches 1 and 2 sealed infilled ditch segments **103** and **205** respectively.

4.2.3 The subsoil seen in Trench 2 was atypically deep (up to 0.40m), and rather greyer and more chalk-flecked than was seen elsewhere: It may be that soils in this area have been thickened by downslope movement due to ploughing, or potentially even artificially augmented, forming a low lynchet terrace against the north west edge of Boyes Lane.

4.2.4 The subsoil in Trench 4 may result, at least in part, from colluvial infilling of the localised coombe/hollow **404** (discussed below).

4.3 Archaeological remains

Trenches 1 and 2

4.3.1 North-west to south-east aligned ditch segments **103** (**Trench 1**) (**Figure 2**) and **205** (**Trench 2**) (**Figure 2**) are probably aspects of a single, relatively shallow (0.20m depth) downslope boundary ditch. Finds recovered from the single fill of ditch **103** attest deposition of small amounts of domestic waste, including medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone and oyster shell. The absence of closely adjacent occupation evidence suggests this may have resulted from manuring of the land around Goodnestone with midden waste. Dating of the small ceramic assemblage suggests a post-medieval date for this ditch.

Trench 3

4.3.2 No archaeological features were recorded within Trench 3 a representative section of the soil profile observed in the trench is illustrated on **Figure 2**. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil within the trench.

Trench 4

4.3.3 Within Trench 4 was seen a small naturally eroded coombe, somewhat in excess of 12m in width, and of unknown depth (in excess of 1.30m Below Ground Level). A sample section was manually excavated against the north western edge of the feature (**Figure 2**).

4.3.4 The basal deposit **403** comprised up to 0.25m of mid-yellowish stony clay-loam, with much fragmented chalk. This survived only within the hollow of **404**, and probably represents an initial post-glacial developed soil, now considerably de-mineralised. No artefacts were recovered, and no ecofacts were noted.

4.3.5 Above **403**, deposit **402** comprises a mid-dark orange-brown clay-loam, observed as relatively stoneless where it dipped into the coombe. This is interpreted as of largely (or entirely) natural colluvial origin. No Artefacts were recovered.

4.3.6 Sealing **403** was mid dark greyish-brown clay-loam **402**, up to 0.60m thick, and within which were found numerous sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, as well as other domestic finds including brick, tile, animal bone and oyster shell. It is likely that this deposit represents accelerated deposition associated with more intensive farming and occupation in the post-medieval period.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from three of the four trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trench 2). All finds have been quantified by material type within each trench, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. The finds range in date from prehistoric to post-medieval.

5.1.2 The earliest find recovered comprises a single worked flint flake, a residual find in ditch 103.

5.1.3 Medieval pottery and ceramic building material (roof tile) was recovered from ditch 103, and from a subsoil context in Trench 4. All sherds of pottery are in local sandy fabrics of Canterbury/Tyler Hill type (Canterbury fabric codes M1, LM1), and include a glazed mug or cup from trench 4.

5.1.4 The remaining finds are either undatable (animal bone, burnt unworked flint, ironworking slag, oyster shell), or are of post-medieval date. The latter include one piece of unfrogged brick (subsoil in trench 4), and pottery sherds from topsoil contexts in Trenches 3 and 4 (Staffordshire-type slipware, coarse redwares, tinglazed earthenware, and modern refined redwares, whitewares and stoneware).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
104	1/1		1/14	1/1	1/24	1 slag; 1 flint
300				1/1		
400				9/109		4 glass
401	13/121	1/115	4/807	11/84	5/84	
TOTALS	**14/122**	**1/115**	**5/821**	**22/195**	**6/108**	

CBM = ceramic building material

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within the evaluation trenches.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The evaluation results have identified a limited suite of archaeological remains and artefacts deriving from agricultural activity and nearby settlement in the post-medieval period.

7.1.2 The evaluation results have otherwise corroborated the assertion of the Desk-based Assessment, that there is a low, or low-moderate potential for archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period (Gailey 2007a, 6-8, 10).

8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The Evaluation archive, comprising a single A4 folder of written and drawn records, assessment reports and a copy of the evaluation report, photographs (indexed and mounted transparencies, Black and white contact prints and negatives, and digital images on CD) and retained artefacts which are presently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project reference number **66740**. In due course, assuming legal transfer of the title from the present landowner, the archive will be deposited with Dover Museum.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gailey, S. 2007a *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Canterbury, Kent*. Unpublished report, CgMs Consulting.

Gailey, S. 2007b *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, Canterbury, Kent*. Unpublished report, CgMs Consulting.

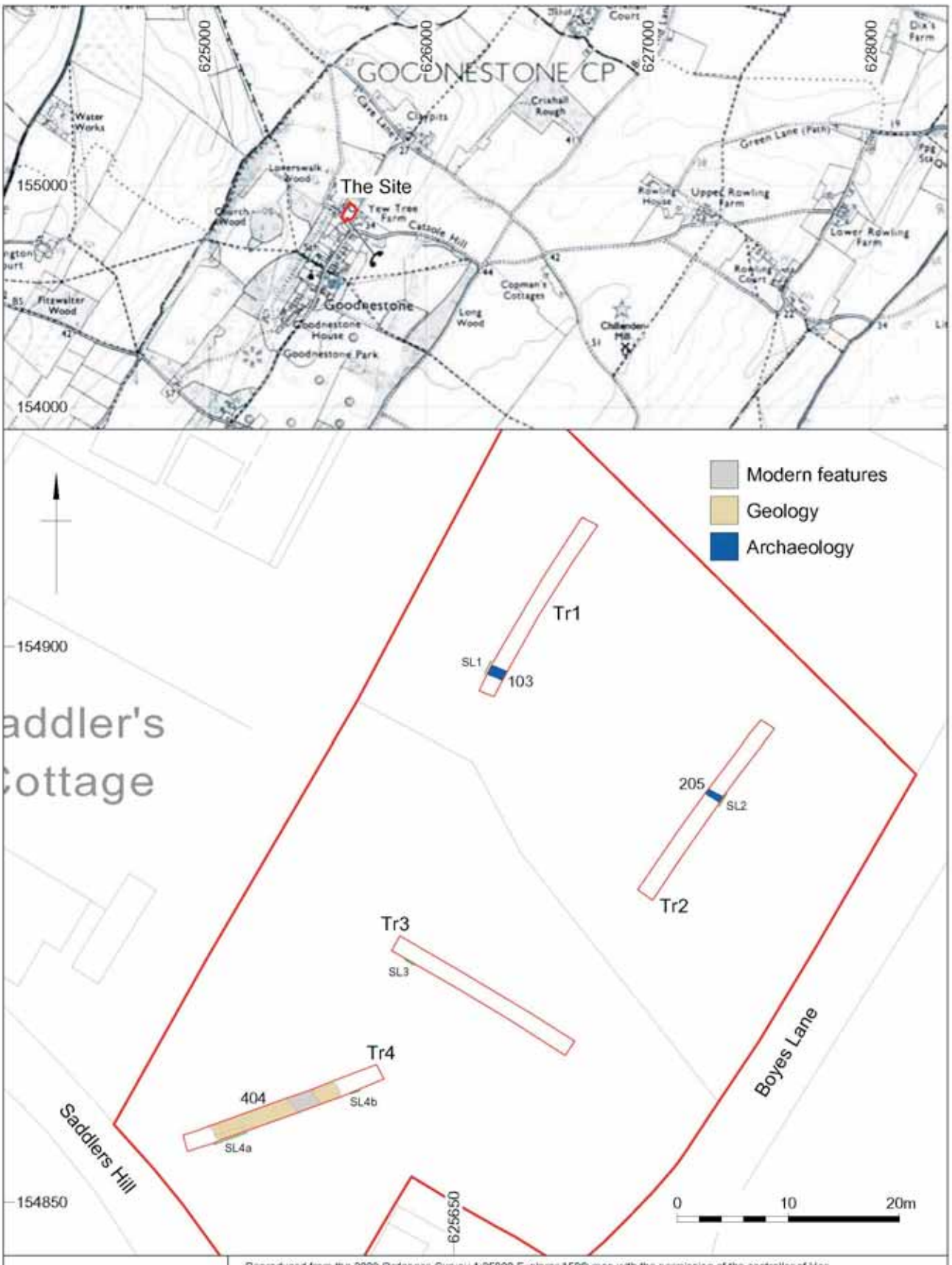
APPENDIX 1
Trench summary tables (see Figure 1 for trench locations)

TRENCH 1				
Max. Dimensions	**Length:19.03 m**	**Width: 1.60 m**	**Max. Depth:0.65 m**	**MaOD 38.67**
Context	**Description**			**Depth (in metres) BGL**
100	**Topsoil**: Under coarse turf, mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, occasional small flint gravel and sparse post-medieval-modern cultural materials.			0.00 – 0.40m
101	**Subsoil**: Mid-orange brown clay-loam, occasional small chalk flecks and flint gravel.			0.40 – 0.60
103	**Cut of ditch:** .Aligned north west – south east. Straight-sided with moderately sloping edges giving way to a rounded concave base. Width, 1.15m, depth 0.30m. Probably same as ditch 205 (Trench 2)			0.60 – 0.90m
104	**Single fill of ditch 103**: Mid orange-brown clay-loam, with occasional chalk flecks and small flint gravel clkasts. Finds include pottery, animal bone, tile and oyster shell.			0.60 – 0.90m
102	**Natrural deposits**: Mid yellow-brown clay loam, occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel, occasional drifts of 'pellety' degraded chalk and scarce larger nodular flint.			0.60m+

TRENCH 2				
Max. Dimensions	**Length: 20.11 m**	**Width: 1.60 m**	**Max. Depth:0.90 m**	**MaOD 37.52**
Context	**Description**			**Depth (in metres) BGL**
200	**Topsoil**: Under coarse turf, mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, occasional small flint gravel and sparse post-medieval-modern cultural materials.			0.00 – 0.40m
203	**Cut of recent/modern pit**: Localised, steep-sided, flat-based pit, full plan dimensions unknown, depth *c*0.25m.			0.40 – 0.65m
204	**Single fill of pit 203**: Loose, friable dark greyish brown ashy loam, much small-medium charcoal. No finds. Bonfire debris>			0.40 – 0.65m
201	**Subsoil**: Mid-greyish brown clay-loam, moderate chalk flecks and occasional flint gravel. No finds			0.40 – 0.80m
205	**Cut of ditch**: Aligned north west – south east. Straight-sided with moderately sloping edged to a n irregular broad 'v' shaped base. Width 0.50m, depth 0.20m. Probably same as ditch 103 (Trench 1)			0.80 – 1.00m
206	**Single fill of ditch 205**: Mid orange-brown clay loam, occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel. No finds.			0.80 – 1.00m
202	**Natural deposits**: Mid yellow-brown clay loam, occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel, occasional drifts of 'pellety' degraded chalk and scarce larger nodular flint.			0.80m+

TRENCH 3				
Max. Dimensions	**Length:19.80 m**	**Width: 1.60 m**	**Max. Depth: 0.70 m**	**MaOD 37.41**
Context	**Description**			**Depth (in metres) BGL**
301	**Topsoil**: Under coarse turf, mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, occasional small flint gravel and sparse post-medieval-modern cultural materials.			0.00 – 0.25m
302	**Subsoil**: Mid-orange brown clay-loam, occasional small chalk flecks and flint gravel. No finds.			0.25 – 0.50m
303	**Natural deposits**: To south east end of trench this comprises mid orange-brown clay-loam over periglacially-striped chalk, which dominates the north west end of the trench.			0.50m+

TRENCH 4 (WEST)				
Max. Dimensions	**Length:19.50 m**	**Width: 1.60 m**	**Max. Depth: 0.75 m**	**MaOD 37.89**
Context	**Description**			**Depth (in metres) BGL**
400	**Topsoil**: Under coarse turf, mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, occasional small flint gravel and sparse post-medieval-modern cultural materials.			0.00 – 0.35m
401	**? Anthropogenic subsoil**: Mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, slightly less humic than **400**. Occasional small flint gravel and chalk flecks. Finds include post-medieval pottery, brick, animal bone and oyster shall.			0.35 – *c*0.95m
402	**? Colluvial subsoil**: Mid-dark orange-brown clay-loam. Deposit is relatively sterile and stoneless where it infills coombe **404**, but is more chalk and flint-flecked to the north west. No finds.			*c*0.95 – *c*1.10m
403	**Subsoil**: Mid-yellowish clay-loam matrix with common chalk flecks and lumps, moderate flinbt gravel and small nodules. Probably de-mineralised. Seen only within hollow of coombe **404**. No findsd			*c*1.10 – *c*1.35m (+)
404	**Small natural coombe**: small, localised coombe (in excess of 12.00m wide) eroded into side of chalk hillslope to the north west. Where exposed, the edges/base of the coombe were weathered or soliflucted, with a thin veneer of chalky clay-paste (coombe rock) giving way rapidly to clean, bedded chalk **405**.			0.75 – in excess of 1.35m (full depth unknown)
405	Natural deposits: Clean, bedded chalk			(minimum depth) 0.70m+
TRENCH 4 (EAST)				
400	**Topsoil**: Under coarse turf, mid-dark grey-brown clay-loam, occasional small flint gravel and sparse post-medieval-modern cultural materials.			0.00 – 0.35m
405	**Natural deposits**: Clean, bedded chalk.			0.35m+



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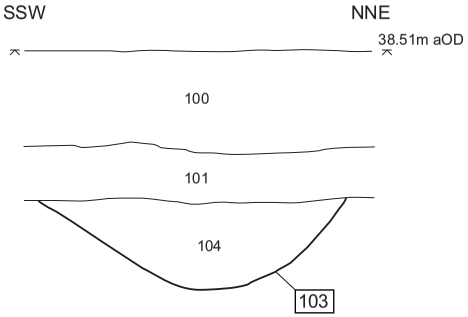
Wessex Archaeology

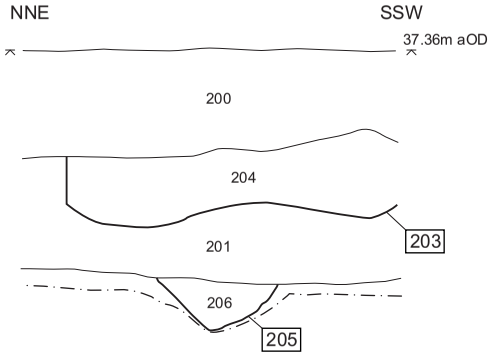
Site location plan showing trench layout and archaeological features

Figure 1

SE facing section of Ditch 103

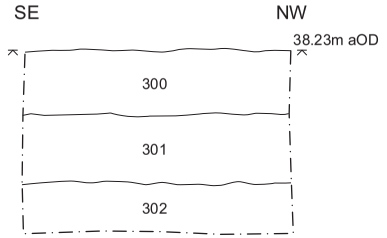


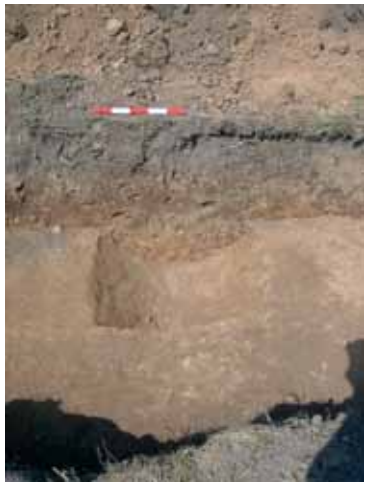
NW facing section of Ditch 205



NW facing view of Ditch 205

Representative section of Trench 3

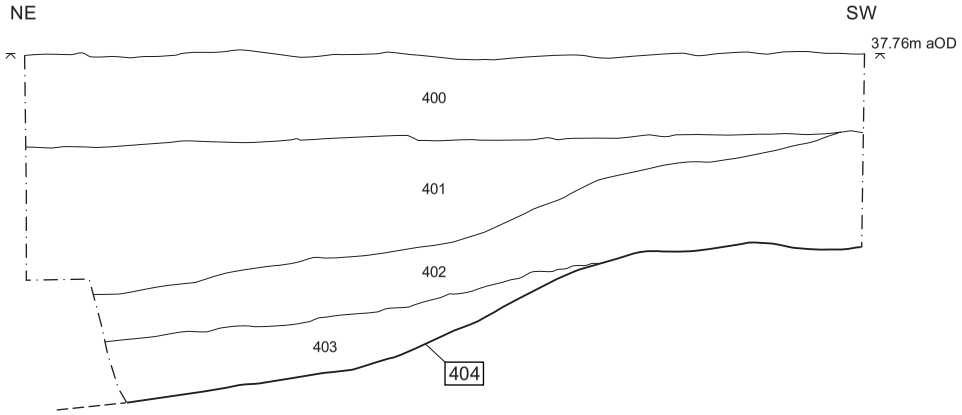




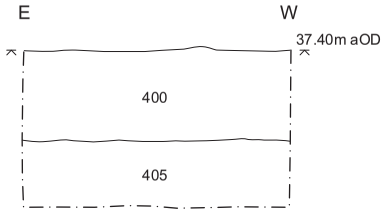
SE facing view of Ditch 103

0 100cm

NW facing section of Coombe feature 404



Representative section of Trench 4



NW facing view of Coombe feature 404

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Sections 1-4 with corresponding plates

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.
Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk
London Office: Unit 701, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.
Tel:020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk