Wessex Archaeology

Land at Monkton Road, Minster Thanet, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment and
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

Ref: 70960.02

August 2009

Land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment
And
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

Prepared for
CgMs Consulting
Morley House,
26 Holborn Viaduct,
London
EC1A 2AT

On behalf of

Persimmon Plc.

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Report reference: **70960.02**

August 2009

Land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment
And
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

Contents

List of Tables - Appendix

List of Figures

Land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment
And
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Persimmon Plc. to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief in advance of a residential development on land at Monkton Road, Minster, Kent (NGR 630580 164627), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site was situated on the western edge of Minster to the south of Monkton Road and to the north of Watchester Farm. The land was under cultivation prior to the excavation taking place. The Site comprised two areas of archaeological excavation, Area 1 (0.5ha) and Area 2 (0.03ha). The excavation and subsequent watching brief were carried out between February and April 2009.

The archaeological remains recorded in Area 1 consisted of two distinct phases; a prehistoric field system and an isolated Saxon Sunken Featured Building (SFB). A small number of undated features and tree throw hollows were also excavated.

The prehistoric field system comprised a series of parallel and intersecting ditches aligned on a north-west to south-east and a north-east to south-west axis. The remnants of up to six fields were recorded. The ditches were narrow, shallow features that typically contained small quantities of struck flint and prehistoric pottery. Accurate dating of the pottery proved problematic as some of the types identified were in use from the Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age periods. Five further prehistoric ditches were identified which were not associated with the field system. Environmental sampling provided evidence of arable farming and general settlement activities in the vicinity. The remains of the SFB comprised a sub-rectangular shallow pit with four internal post-holes. The feature was dated to the early Saxon period and the backfill contained fragments of loomweight, a small knife, a latchlifter and pieces of a bone comb in addition to pottery, animal bone, oyster shells, charcoal and fired clay.

Within Area 2 one feature was partially revealed, a large palaeo-channel which extended beyond the limits of the excavated Area, with only one edge of the feature revealed. Finds from the channel included un-diagnostic pottery, animal bone and struck flint. It is thought to represent a tributary of the Wantsum Channel.

The excavation identified a reasonably substantial prehistoric field system, although further interpretation of these remains in terms of their local context was hampered by the small, poorly preserved and un-diagnostic finds assemblage. The SFB represents early Saxon settlement activity on the banks of the Wantsum and is therefore significant in a local context. The remains are potentially linked to Saxon burial and settlement remains in the near vicinity.

A short article will be submitted to *Archaeologia Cantiana* detailing the results of the excavation. It is proposed that a limited programme of radiocarbon dating be carried out on the charred plant remains from ditches within the prehistoric field system in order to refine the dating of these features.

Land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent

Post-Excavation Assessment
And
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

Acknowledgements

The archaeological excavation and watching brief were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Persimmon Plc. and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Lorraine Darton in particular for her assistance in this regard. Thanks are also due to Adam Single of Kent County Council (KCC) for his advice.

The fieldwork was directed by Jon Martin with the assistance of Matthew Astill, Katharine Barber, Cornelius Barton, Nicolas Bigourdan, Darryl Freer, Chloe Hunnisett, Kenneth Lymer, John Powell and Tom Wells. This report was written by Jon Martin and Chloe Hunnisett, with contributions from Nick Cooke, Jessica Grimm, Phil Harding, Lorraine Mepham, Chris Stevens and Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

Land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent

Post-Excavation Assessment
And
Proposals for Analysis and Publication

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Persimmon Plc. to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief in advance of a residential development on land at Monkton Road, Minster, Kent (NGR 630580 164627), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The proposed development comprises 100 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and infrastructure.

1.1.2 The Site is situated on the western edge of Minster to the south of Monkton Road and to the north of Watchester Farm.

1.1.3 The excavation and watching brief proceeded in accordance with the archaeological specification compiled by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2008) and followed a programme of pre determination archaeological evaluation carried out in September and October of 2007 by Archaeology South-East (Archaeology South East 2007). The subsequent archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a condition attached to the planning consent (ref TH/07/1400). The scope of the excavation was agreed in consultation with Thanet District Council acting on advice provided by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group.

1.1.4 The excavation and subsequent watching brief were undertaken between February and April 2009.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is bounded to the north by houses and gardens fronting onto Monkton Road, to the east by Thorne Road and a public footpath and to the west and south by farmland. Watchester Farm Cottages lie at the south-east limit of the Site. The Site is bounded to the north-west by three residential properties, the northernmost of which was demolished during the initial enabling stages of the development of the Site (**Figure 1**). The Site slopes to the west from the eastern boundary and levels out towards the western boundary. The land that comprises the Site was under cultivation prior to undertaking the excavation and development enabling works.

1.2.2 The Site lies on Head Brickearth capping Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey, Sheet 271, Dartford) at 11.17maOD. It is located close to the northern extent of the former Wantsum Channel and south of the ridge of higher ground that traverses Thanet from east to west.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The Site lies within an area noted for the density and quality of archaeological evidence. Further archaeological potential has been detailed in a Desk Based Assessment and a Specification for an Archaeological Excavation compiled by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2006, 2008). A summary of the archaeological background to the Site is presented below.

1.3.2 Thanet is generally rich in archaeological remains, and the application site lies in an area of potential. The scheduled monument of Minster Abbey stands 500m to the south-east; the first English monastery was founded on the Abbey site in 670AD. The original building was destroyed in the 9th century by Viking raiders and rebuilt by 1027AD; elements of this late Saxon building still survive.

1.3.3 The application site lies within an area of crop-marks of Bronze Age burial mounds and Anglo Saxon barrows and a number of excavated features are known nearby. These include an undated burial 250m to the north-west (Kent SMR no TR36 SW 102), a Bronze Age burial 350m west (SMR no. TR 36 SW 73) and a Bronze Age ditch and enclosure 130m east (TR 36 SW 119 and 118).

1.3.4 Recent investigations at the neighbouring King George's Field site by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology encountered evidence of Saxon settlement immediately south-east of the application site (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2003; see **Figure 1**). This was probably focused on the banks of the Wantsum Channel, which probably ran 320m to the south of the Site. The evidence consisted of a small number of ditches and a pit dated to the mid to late Saxon period. Fragments of medieval and Roman ceramics were also recovered, and remains at nearby Watchester Farm suggested the possibility of Roman and early medieval remains on Site.

1.3.5 Trench evaluation of the Site in 2007 (ASE 2007) encountered Late Bronze Age and Iron Age features apparently focused on the higher part of the Site in the east. A large silted feature in the west was thought to represent a former channel emptying into the Wantsum. Similar features nearby are suggested to have attracted settlement as natural berths for shipping.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Objectives

2.1.1 The objectives of the fieldwork as outlined in the specification (CgMs 2008) were;

- To investigate and establish the full extent, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the Site.

- To preserve by record any archaeological remains and to enable a programme of assessment and further analysis to seek a better understanding of the activity within the Site and the wider area.

2.1.2 In addition to these general objectives, further specific aims for the fieldwork were;

- To understand the character, form, function and date of any significant archaeological activities present on the Site including but not limited to the remains found in evaluation; this includes understanding the apparent channel feature.
- To consider the Site's geology and topography in terms of the activity encountered.
- To improve our understanding of the numerous nearby finds of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and Post-medieval material in the context of this Site.
- To include analysis of the spatial organisation of activities on the Site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- To contribute to an understanding of the environmental history of the Minster area

3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation Strategy

3.1.1 The Site strip comprised two irregularly shaped plots, Areas 1 and 2 (**Figure 1**). Area 1 (**Figure 2**) was a lozenge shape parcel of land extending from the north-east and eastern hedge line boundaries. It measured 155.30m x 67.90m with a 45.10m x 35.70m irregular rectangular indent on the eastern boundary which was necessary to avoid an existing house and garden (The Orchards). Area 2 (**Figure 3**) was a narrow sub-rectangular plot that extended from the southern boundary and measured 62.10m x 6.00m.

3.2 Excavation and recording

3.2.1 Before excavation began each area was scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool to verify the absence of any underground services.

3.2.2 All works were conducted in compliance with the specification (CgMs 2008) and the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (as amended 2008), except where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.2.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

Mechanical strip

3.2.4 The excavation areas were stripped mechanically by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide, toothless bucket. Spoil was divided into topsoil and subsoil.

3.2.5 All Site stripping was carried out under constant archaeological supervision and continued down to the top of the undisturbed natural soils or archaeological deposits. Once archaeological deposits were exposed all further excavation proceeded by hand.

3.2.6 During the mechanical strip the areas and up-cast spoil were scanned both visually and using a metal detector to recover any artefacts.

Pre-excavation mapping

3.2.7 Following completion of mechanical excavation, all archaeological features and deposits were identified and defined. Features were mapped using a GPS device and a pre-excavation plan of each area was created.

Excavation of archaeological remains

3.2.8 Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, excavation was carried out by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. Pits and post-holes were subject to a minimum of a 50% sample. Sufficient lengths of all ditches were excavated in order to establish the stratigraphic relationships and function of the features. All ditch/enclosure terminals were investigated.

3.2.9 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number.

3.2.10 A full graphic record was maintained. Sections and plans were produced at 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. All archaeological features were surveyed by GPS and the Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all features was calculated. The extent of all excavation areas was surveyed using GPS.

3.2.11 A photographic record was maintained, consisting of black and white and colour slides and digital images. The record included detailed images of archaeological deposits and features and other images to illustrate their location and context. The record also included digital photographs taken during the watching brief.

3.2.12 All interventions were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and all archaeological features were related to Ordnance Survey Datum.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The archaeological works were monitored on behalf of the KCC Heritage Conservation Group by Mr Adam Single, the KCC Archaeological Officer. Monitoring included visits to observe the stripped areas and provide advice on the excavation strategy in consultation with Wessex Archaeology and CgMs Consulting. It also included the ‘signing off’ of areas where archaeological excavation of an area, or parts thereof, had been completed.

4 STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The excavation of the two areas produced widely differing results. The machine strip of Area 1 (**Figure 2)** revealed the remains of a prehistoric field system and a scattering of pits, post-holes and tree throw hollows. A Saxon Sunken Featured Building (SFB) was recorded towards the south-western extent of the area.

4.1.2 The machine strip of Area 2 (**Figure 3**) revealed a silted up palaeo-channel. This is possibly a tributary of the Wantsum channel, but potentially represents the course of the Wantsum itself, at its maximum extent.

4.2 Area 1

4.2.1 The machine strip of Area 1 (**Figure 2**) revealed greyish-brown silty loam topsoil to a depth of *c*. 0.30m overlying pale reddish-brown silty clay subsoil which varied from 0.15m to 0.40m in depth. This in turn overlay the natural brickearth. It was necessary to cut some way into the brickearth in order to fully define the archaeological features which were encountered *c*. 0.60m-0.80m below the ground surface.

4.2.2 A total of 18 ditches, three pits, an SFB, a probable oven/hearth, two possible stake holes, a post-hole and a number of natural features were recorded on Area 1 (**Figure 2**). Several natural features were also investigated but were not recorded. The majority of the ditches appeared to have been components of a prehistoric field system (**Figure 2**).

4.2.3 The pottery dating evidence for many of the features in Area 1 was sparse and consequently the phasing should be treated with caution, for example possible Early Neolithic features **1056** and **1034**.

Prehistoric Field System

4.2.4 The field system covered a significant proportion of Area 1 (**Figure 2**), and lay on a north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west alignment. It was composed of Ditches **1181**, **1182**, **1183**, **1184**, **1185**, **1186**, **1187**, **1191** and probably Ditch **1188**.

4.2.5 Ditch **1181** (**Figure 2**) was a short, narrow feature that was aligned from south-west to north-east. The ditch measured 0.45m wide with a depth of 0.40m. It was 6.38m long with one fill which contained struck flint but no dating evidence. Ditch **1181** was aligned at approximately 90˚ to Ditch **1182** forming an entrance way 2.70m wide. Feature **1021** may represent the truncated terminus of Ditch **1182** or a sub-oval pit. It was 1.54m long, 0.70m wide and 0.27m deep. There were two fills, the lower of which contained struck flint and flecks of charcoal but no direct dating evidence. It was assigned a prehistoric date on the basis of its similarity to and association with Ditch **1182**.

4.2.6 Ditch **1182** (**Figure 2**) was situated in the north of Area 1 and was generally aligned north-west to south-east. It ran for 35.20m prior to turning to run north to south for 4.50m up to the western Site boundary. It was 1.04m wide

by 0.47m deep and contained small quantities of prehistoric pottery including two sherds of Beaker ware; these earlier sherds are however most likely residual, being very small and heavily abraded.

4.2.7 Ditch **1068** (**Figure 2**) was a short length of ditch which extended from the northern edge of **1182** on an east to west alignment, and terminated after 5.9m. It had one fill which contained struck flint.

4.2.8 Ditch **1191** (**Figure 2**) ran parallel to and was cut by Ditch **1182**. The ditches were briefly identifiable as separate features close to the western excavation boundary. Ditch **1182** was observed to completely obscure/replace Ditch **1191** by its south-eastern limit. It is probable that both ditches formed different phases of the evolving prehistoric field system, as they ran on the same alignment. Ditch **1191** contained no pottery dating evidence.

4.2.9 Ditch **1192** (**Figure 2**) was aligned from north-west to south-east, on an identical alignment to Ditches **1182** and **1191**. Ditch **1192** was the deepest ditch recorded in Area 1, with the depth increasing to the west. The ditch yielded one sherd of prehistoric grog-tempered pottery and the feature extended from the western boundary of the area for a distance of approximately 5m, where the ditch terminated. A slot cut 4.5m from the western boundary showed that Ditch **1192** cut both Ditches **1191** and **1182**.

4.2.10 The increased width and depth of Ditch **1192** compared to the other field system ditches suggests that **1192** possibly had a different function. The pottery from **1192** is consistent with finds from the rest of the field system, in that it cannot be dated with any accuracy beyond being generally prehistoric, and cannot shed further light upon the function and usage of the ditch. As **1192** is stratigraphically later than field system Ditches **1191** and **1182,** it could potentially represent later prehistoric, perhaps Iron Age, agricultural activity. However, the lack of finds retrieved from the features means that further interpretations cannot be confidently made.

4.2.11 Ditch **1183** (**Figure 2**) comprised an L-shaped ditch that was aligned north-east to south-west for a distance of 8.50m then turned 90˚ to run on a north-west to south-east alignment for a further 19.10m. A typical section through the ditch measured 0.83m wide by 0.30m deep. The north-eastern terminus formed a possible entrance way with Ditch **1182** while the south-eastern terminus formed an entrance way with Ditch **1185** (**Figure 2; Plate 1**). Ditch **1183** contained small quantities of non diagnostic, flint-tempered prehistoric pottery. It was cut on the north-east to south-west axis by Ditch **1184,** a short curving gully that terminated immediately to the south-west of the corner of Ditch **1183.** Ditch **1184** was undated, but was stratigraphically later than Ditch **1183** and therefore must be of prehistoric or later date. Environmental samples from Ditch **1183** contained hulled wheat fragments, barley grain fragments, emmer and spelt wheat fragments which are consistent with general settlement waste.

4.2.12 On the same line as **1183**, Ditch **1185** (**Figure 2**) was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 8.60m long. It intersected with Ditch **1186** to the south-east to make up the corners of the two enclosed areas. The north-western terminus of **1185** formed a 1.68m wide entrance way with Ditch **1183**. Ditch **1186** appeared to cut Ditch **1185**, although this relationship was not entirely clear and it seems likely that the two are broadly contemporary. Ditch **1185** measured 0.30 wide by 0.25m deep. It contained struck and burnt flint but no pottery.

4.2.13 Ditch **1186** (**Figure 2**) extended from the western boundary on a south-west to north-east alignment, terminating after a distance of 43.40m. Combined with Ditches **1182**, **1183** and **1185** it formed a narrow, rectangular field. The distance between the northern terminus of Ditch **1186** and the south-eastern terminus of Ditch **1182** was 6.90m, suggesting that some part of either or both ditches was missing or the entrance to this field was intentionally large. Ditch **1186** and the shorter segment of Ditch **1183** were not quite parallel; **1186** bent slightly near its midpoint to veer more towards the east, and met Ditch **1185** at an obtuse angle. To the south-west, **1186** appeared to cut Ditch **1187**, although the relationship was unclear. The two ditches formed what appeared to be a second, much wider field, and may have formed a third field with Ditch **1188,** located to the south-east. A typical section through Ditch **1186** measured 0.52m wide by 0.15m deep. None of the sections excavated through Ditch **1186** contained pottery; four sections contained struck and/or burnt flint, therefore this ditch is dated as prehistoric by association and alignment.

4.2.14 Extending from the western boundary of Area 1 on a north-west to south-east alignment, Ditch **1187** was cut at right angles by Ditch **1186**. At the intersection the ditch curved slightly and continued up to and beyond the eastern boundary of the Area. It intersected with a small east to west orientated Ditch, **1137,** near the western boundary of the area; the relationship between the two ditches is unclear. On average Ditch **1187** was 0.50m wide by 0.24m deep. One sherd of un-diagnostic prehistoric pottery was recovered from the ditch.

4.2.15 Ditch **1188** (**Figure 2**), in the south of Area 1, comprised a short segment of ditch extending from the excavation boundary on a south-west to north-east orientation for a distance of 13.90m. It measured 0.68m wide by 0.29m deep. The ditch was situated to the south-east of Ditch **1186** and ran roughly parallel to it. It is likely that they form part of the same prehistoric field system, despite Ditch **1188** containing no dating evidence. SFB **1189** was located *c*. 2m to the south, however there is no evidence to link the two features.

4.2.16 Ditch **1190** (**Figure 2**) extended from the eastern boundary of Area 1 on an east to west alignment, differing slightly from the alignment of the prehistoric field system. The feature was 19.80m long and a section excavated close to the boundary demonstrated a profile measuring 0.90m wide by 0.47m deep (**Figure 2; Plate 2**). The ditch appeared to peter out to the west and may have been heavily truncated rather than terminating. The fill contained two sherds of flint-tempered pottery that may date to the Early Neolithic period (4000-3000 BC). However given the paucity of dating evidence this ditch has been included as part of the prehistoric field system.

4.2.17 Parallel Ditches **1165** and **1168** were recorded 1.60m to the north of Ditch **1190** on a similar east to west alignment**.** Ditch **1165** measured 1.05m wide by 0.55m deep and contained one sherd of pottery dated to the Early Neolithic. Ditch **1168** was 0.74m wide by 0.47m deep and produced two sherds of prehistoric pottery that are tentatively dated to the Early Neolithic but may fall into the later prehistoric period. These ditches were recorded during the previous evaluation (Archaeology South East, 2007) as separate ditches which were both observed to terminate within the evaluation trench (**Figure 2**). Ditches **1165** and **1168** ran for 10.3m between the limit of the 2007 trench and the eastern edge of Site. Within this space the two ditches joined and were visible only as a single ditch on the surface. In section it could be seen that Ditch **1165** cut Ditch **1168**. It is possible that these two ditches may form the earliest phase of the prehistoric field system, however the small quantities of pottery recovered do not allow any firm conclusions to be drawn.

4.2.18 Located on the western boundary of Area 1, Ditches **1120, 1143** and **1156** (**Figure 2**) were positioned approximately 2m south of Ditch **1182** and 1.60m west of Ditch **1184**. Relatively little of the features were visible and the relationships between the three ditches were unclear due to the nature of the brickearth-derived deposits. Ditch **1120** extended from the western boundary on a north-east to south-west orientation for a distance of 13.50m before terminating. It measured 1.30m wide by 0.31m deep and the fill contained seven sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery. Ditch **1120** cut away most of earlier Ditch **1143** which was on a similar alignment and of similar dimensions.

4.2.19 Ditch **1156** extended from the western boundary of Area 1 on a south-west to north-east alignment and terminated 2.70m from the boundary. It measured 0.70m wide by 0.49m deep and the single fill produced struck flint, burnt flint and 10 sherds of prehistoric grog-tempered pottery. It cut through undated Ditch **1120**.

Saxon Sunken Featured Building

4.2.20 A Saxon Sunken Featured Building (SFB) was recorded in the southern half of Area 1, at a distance of 2.50m from the western boundary and *c*. 2.0m south of Ditch **1188.** SFB **1189** (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) was sub-rectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 3.50m long, 2.80m wide, with a depth of 0.25m. The feature was aligned with the longest side orientated from west-north-west to east-south-east. It had one fill which contained charcoal, fired clay, animal bone, daub, shell and pottery dated to the early Saxon period. Iron objects retrieved from the fill included two nails, a small knife and a hooked object, possibly a latch lifter. Pieces of bone comb, a fragment of glass and fragments of loomweight were also recovered. Environmental samples from the SFB contained fragments of free threshing wheat.

4.2.21 There were four post-holes within the building, (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) located at the western (**1062**), eastern (**1065**), northern (**1078**) and southern (**1080**) edges at approximately the midway point. An undated, shallow, sub-circular Oven/Hearth **1145** was recorded immediately to the west of the SFB.

4.2.22 Post-hole **1062** (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) was circular in plan with near vertical sides and measured 0.60m in diameter with a depth of 0.75m. Its two fills contained charcoal flecks, fragments of fired clay, animal bone and oyster shell. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved from the lower fill. Post-hole **1065** (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) was sub-oval in plan; the eastern edge was almost vertical while the western edge of the post-hole had a more moderate slope. There were two fills which similarly contained charcoal flecks, very small fragments of fired clay, animal bone fragments and shell. The profile may suggest a re-use of the post-hole, with a slot being dug to facilitate the insertion of a fresh post. Post-hole **1078** (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) was 0.18m in diameter with a depth of 0.42m, there was one fill which included small quantities of fired clay and daub. Post-hole **1080** (**Figure 2; Plate 3**) measured 0.15m in diameter with a depth of 0.38m; like Post-hole **1078,** the fill contained fired clay and daub.

4.2.23 Oven/Hearth **1145** (**Figure 2**) was a shallow, oval feature located 0.25m to the west of the SFB. It appeared to have a pronounced lip on the southern edge which has been tentatively identified as a rudimentary flue for a hearth/oven. It measured 1.50m long by 0.96m wide with a depth of 0.25m. There were three fills, of which the two lower contained flecks and fragments of charcoal. An environmental sample taken from the basal fill contained hulled wheat, barley grain fragments and glume fragments. No dating evidence was retrieved from the feature.

Undated Linear Features

4.2.24 Ditch **1115** was a short, sinuous, north to south aligned linear located *c*. 2.00m south of Ditch **1183.** It measured 8.30m long, 0.44m wide and 0.28m deep. No finds were recovered from the feature and the irregular shape in plan and alignment suggests that it may be unconnected to the surrounding field system.

4.2.25 Ditch **1052** was a short, shallow feature located *c*. 1.60m to the north of, and parallel with, Ditch **1182**. The fill produced struck flint but no dating evidence, and it has been interpreted as prehistoric. Although the ditch shares an alignment with Ditch **1182**, there is no conclusive evidence to include it in the prehistoric field system.

Other Features

4.2.26 Pit **1122** was located immediately to the south of Ditch **1182**. It was circular in plan with steep sides and measured 1.70m in diameter with a depth of 1.00m. The single fill contained burnt and struck flint, including a diagnostically Mesolithic backed bladelet, but no pottery. An environmental sample contained unidentified grain fragments. Pit **1163** was a shallow irregularly shaped feature located 4.10m west of the terminus of Ditch **1190**. It measured 1.0m long by 0.30m wide with a depth of 0.10m. The fill contained struck and burnt flint but no pottery. Environmental samples of the fill contained hulled wheat, barley grain fragments, emmer and spelt glume fragments.

4.2.27 An irregular arc of mostly small features was located towards the north-eastern boundary of Area 1. Pit **1032** measured 1.24m long by 0.52m with a depth of 0.37m. It contained struck flint and one sherd of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, which were probably residual, as three fragments of medieval or Post-medieval tile were also recovered. Tree throw hollow **1034** also produced one sherd of Early Neolithic pottery. Possible stake holes **1043** and **1046** were not dated. On the eastern boundary of Area 1 post-hole **1036** contained one sherd of Post-medieval earthenware pottery. To the west of these features, large, irregularly shaped Tree Throw Hollow **1056** produced five sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, one of which was dated to the Early Neolithic. Other natural features had no archaeological components.

4.2.28 At the northern extremity of Area 1 the natural brickearth had been quarried away to a depth of *c*. 1.20-1.30m forming a large sub-rectangular pit (**Figure 2**) that measured approximately 28.50m by 9.70m and continued under the northern boundary of the Site. The pit had been backfilled with 19th-20th century debris. This included Victorian and later bricks, tile, glass and rubble.

4.3 Area 2

4.3.1 The machine excavation in Area 2 revealed greyish-brown silty clay topsoil which overlay the fill of silted up palaeo-channel **1050** (**Figure 3**). This feature had previously been recorded during evaluation as a large ditch (Archaeology South East, 2007). After machining to a depth to 1 – 1.2m the edge of the paleo-channel was visible for a distance of 20.20m extending from the southern edge of the trench and continuing beyond the eastern edge. A hand dug slot and three machine dug sondages were cut into the feature. The hand dug slot reached a depth of 0.38m before the feature flooded. It revealed moderately sloping sides and a single fill which contained struck flint, animal bone and two sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery. The bulk environmental samples taken from the palaeo-channel deposits contained no artefacts and revealed no evidence for peat or waterlogged remains. A very low level of charred plant remains was recovered from the samples which may indicate a later-prehistoric date for the channel however; there is a high probability that they are intrusive.

4.3.2 Sondage 1, located at the southern end of Area 1, was machined to a depth of 0.41m at which point it began to flood. It was then hand augered and the paleochannel bottomed at a further 0.36m. Sondage 2 was located in the centre of the trench and was machined to a depth of 0.59m before flooding. It was then augered and bottomed at a further 0.40m. Sondage 3 was located at the northern end of the trench and was machined to a depth of 0.65m before flooding. It was then augered to a depth of 1.22m; the feature was not bottomed. Given that 0.70m-1.00m of fill had already been machined off this gives a minimum depth of *c*. 1.50m for the feature in Sondage 1, the shallowest of the three.

4.3.3 No other archaeological deposits or features were recorded in Area 2.

4.4 Watching Brief

4.4.1 The watching brief comprised observation of the excavation of a drainage pipe trench and associated works located between Area 1 and Area 2 (**Figure 1**). The work ran concurrently with the excavation and continued intermittently until 8th April 2009. The pipe trench was generally dug to a depth of approximately 3m and was 4m wide. The excavation methodology comprised the mechanical excavation of each section of the trench, followed immediately by the insertion of box shoring to prevent the collapse of the excavation sides. Due to this methodology, and the ephemeral nature of the archaeological features within the brickearth, no archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered during the works. Within the areas to the south of the Site which were available for archaeological monitoring, no evidence to suggest the continuation of the palaeo-channel was observed.

4.5 Unobserved excavation area

4.5.1 Following completion of the archaeological works by Wessex Archaeology on the Site, a further area measuring 40m by 45m was mechanically excavated to a depth of approximately 4.5m without archaeological supervision by the Site Contractors (**Figure 1**). Following completion of the excavation, cursory recording of the area was undertaken. Examination of the upcast material from the excavation identified two types of deposit comprising a friable mid brown/yellow sand containing occasional natural flint, gravel and shell fragments, and a moderately compact mid – dark reddish brown clayey sand containing occasional gravel and Ceramic Building Material (CBM) fragments. Both of these deposits are likely to derive from the underlying natural brickearth deposit which was identified during the excavation and watching brief stages of the works. Other than the small fragments of CBM no further indications of human activity were identified during the examination of the spoil heaps or within the excavated area.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from the excavation, ranging in date from prehistoric to Post-medieval. Of interest amongst this assemblage is a small number of sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, and a group of Saxon artefacts (ceramic, glass, metalwork) from SFB **1189**.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context (**Table 2; Appendix**); overall totals are presented in **Table 1** (**Appendix**). Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to ascertain their nature, potential date range and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable finds (pottery, metalwork).

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery has been quantified by broad ware type (e.g. flint-tempered, sandy), and the presence of diagnostic forms noted. Spot dates have been

assigned where possible, subject to the limitations discussed below. **Table 2** (**Appendix**) gives a breakdown of the pottery by context.

Prehistoric

5.2.2 The prehistoric assemblage amounts to 59 sherds. This part of the pottery assemblage is in markedly poor condition; sherds are small, friable and generally heavily abraded. Mean sherd weight is 2.4g, implying that much if not all of this material is re-deposited.

5.2.3 Fabric types are mainly flint-tempered, and this includes a wide range of density and size of flint inclusions. Some grog-tempered and calcareous wares are also present.

5.2.4 The dating of this small group has proved very problematic, due to the small size and poor condition of the sherds, combined with the known lengthy currency of all the ware types during the prehistoric period in Kent. Flint-tempered wares, for example, were used from the Neolithic period through to the Late Iron Age. For these reasons, it has not been possible to assign a closer date range to a number of the prehistoric sherds.

5.2.5 Some more diagnostic sherds, however, are present, and these indicate the presence of pottery of at least three ceramic traditions. Two rim sherds, one from natural feature **1056** and one from Ditch **1165**, have been identified as belonging to the Early Neolithic plain bowl tradition. The rim from feature **1056** is in a fabric tempered with relatively fine, well-sorted flint; the surface is heavily abraded. In contrast, the rim from Ditch **1165** has sparse, poorly sorted, coarse inclusions; the sherd is abraded, but there are traces of a surface slip or slurry, in which there are surviving traces of impressed decoration over the rim.

5.2.6 Two very small, joining sherds from Ditch **1182** are in a soft, heavily abraded, grog-tempered fabric, and can be identified as Beaker.

5.2.7 The remaining sherds, however, remain uncertainly dated. On the grounds of fabric similarity, other coarsely flint-tempered sherds from Tree Throw Hollow **1034**, Ditch **1183**, Ditch **1190** and Ditch **1168** could also be Early Neolithic, as could four other flint-tempered sherds from natural feature **1056**, but the fabrics themselves are not chronologically distinctive, and could equally well be accommodated within the later prehistoric period, i.e. Middle/Late Bronze Age or Iron Age. Grog-tempered and calcareous fabrics are similarly wide-ranging in their possible dating.

5.2.8 Four small, sandy sherds from palaeo-channel **1050** have even wider possibilities. One sherd also contains organic material, which could indicate a Saxon date (see below), although this is not certain; these sherds remain undated.

Romano-British

5.2.9 Two Romano-British sherds were recovered, both from Post-hole **1062** within SFB **1189**. Both are in fine sandy fabrics, and one is from the rim of a cordoned jar of 1st or early 2nd century AD date.

Saxon

5.2.10 A small group of Saxon pottery came from SFB **1189**; this comprised 54 sherds, all but one in sandy fabrics of a varying degree of coarseness (the remaining sherd is in a calcareous fabric). There are several diagnostic pieces amongst this small group – the profile of a straight-sided, slightly flared bowl with a slightly everted rim; the everted rim from a jar with horizontal tooled decoration on the shoulder; and three sherds, probably all from the same vessel (two sherds join), with a rounded profile, carrying tooled linear decoration around the girth. Three further small rims are from vessels of unknown form. The bowl and jar are both burnished, as are several other body sherds.

5.2.11 The vessel forms and decoration seen here are not particularly chronologically distinctive within a broad early to middle Saxon date range, but some indication of date is given by the absence of organic-tempered fabrics. Sandy and calcareous (chalk-tempered) fabrics are paralleled amongst the early/mid Saxon assemblage from Canterbury, and are characteristic of the earlier part of that date range, organic-tempered fabrics not constituting a significant proportion until the later 6th century (Macpherson-Grant 1995). This small group, then, is likely to fall within the early Saxon period, within the range of 5th to early 6th century.

Post-Medieval

5.2.12 A single sherd of Post-medieval pottery was recovered, from Post-hole **1036**; this is a coarse red earthenware, not closely datable.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 CBM was recovered from two contexts; three fragments from Pit **1032** are from roof tiles of medieval or early Post-medieval date, while one fragment from Post-hole **1036** is from a modern brick.

5.4 Fired Clay

5.4.1 Most of the fired clay comprises abraded, featureless fragments; these could be of structural origin, from hearth/pit linings, or from upstanding structures. The largest group came from SFB **1189**, and this group includes a few pieces with flat surfaces. Also from **1189** came two joining fragments from an annular loom-weight, a characteristic Saxon form.

5.5 Worked flint

5.5.1 Six hundred and sixty nine pieces of worked flint were recovered from 58 recorded contexts. The assemblage has been catalogued and the results tabulated by feature type (**Table 3; Appendix**). This shows that the density of worked flint is relatively low and that most comprised derived material from ditches of probable prehistoric date.

5.5.2 The flint used is consistently of poor quality nodular material with many thermal fractures, which limits the control with which it can be worked. The quantity of undiagnostic, broken 'debitage' confirms this. Limited use was made of 'Bull head' and 'marbled' flint types, which are both found locally in the area and which are generally of better flaking quality.

5.5.3 The flint assemblage does include a Mesolithic backed bladelet from Pit **1122**, which indicates the earliest activity on the Site. There are also a number of bladelets, from Ditches **1182, 1187** and **1183**, and bladelet cores from Ditches **1186** and **1187**, which may be contemporary. This activity may be related to postulated Early Neolithic activity suggested by the pottery. However given the uncertainty of the date of this pottery this remains speculative.

5.5.4 A limited number of flakes and well made scrapers seem likely to confirm activity, indicated by the pottery, during the broad Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period; however the quantities are again too restricted to be more specific.

5.5.5 The majority of the assemblage shows a generally poor level of technology and includes a number of cores characterised by clusters of incipient cones of percussion on the flaking platform. Most of this material is in a relatively sharp condition, suggesting that it has not been reworked extensively in the soil profile for long periods of time.

5.5.6 Some of the limitations in the technology may be attributed to the poor quality of the raw material; however it is also possible that it reflects a Late Bronze Age date for this material, related to the ditch systems on the Site.

5.5.7 In conclusion the worked flint assemblage indicates activity on the Site from the Mesolithic period. It substantiates, but does little to enhance, the record of the pottery which indicates limited activity continuing throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with possibly most material related to Later Bronze Age occupation.

5.6 Stone

5.6.1 Three pieces of stone were recovered: one igneous rock from Tree Throw Hollow **1034**, and one fragment of tufa and one of sandstone from SFB **1189**. None of these pieces are obviously worked. Tree Throw Hollow **1034** also contained a sherd of possible Early Neolithic pottery, but this is likely to be residual and the igneous fragment could represent modern road make-up.

5.7 Glass

5.7.1 The single piece of glass, which came from SFB **1189**, is from a vessel in clear glass, of uncertain form, possibly a palm cup.

5.8 Metalwork

5.8.1 The metalwork includes coins, as well as objects of copper alloy, lead and iron.

5.8.2 There are three coins and one jeton. The three coins are all modern issues.

5.8.3 The copper alloy jeton was recovered unstratified from the excavations (**Table 4; Appendix**). This is both badly damaged and heavily corroded. However, it is recognisable as one of the stock 'rose and orb' jetons struck in Nuremburg, almost certainly in the 16th century.

5.8.4 Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or cloths in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens for this purpose were produced from the late 13th century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14th century until the late 17th century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over from Tournai as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16th century. Prior to this, designs on jetons usually reflected those on contemporary coins, and jetons were often minted under government authority. The only controls on the minting at Nuremburg were those imposed by the Guild organisation, and new designs flourished.

5.8.5 All of the copper alloy came from topsoil, and all datable objects are modern; these comprise buttons, a stamped plaque, a (?belt) clasp and a small decorative mount, possibly a jewellery item. A small, domed stud and a short section of square-sectioned rod are of uncertain date, although probably also Post-medieval or modern.

5.8.6 The lead, all of which came from topsoil, includes a small weight, two shot (with diameters of 12mm and 9mm), and part of a small figurine, possibly a model soldier. Other objects are waste fragments.

5.8.7 All four iron objects came from SFB **1189**, and have a presumed Saxon date. These comprise two nails, a small knife, and a hooked object, possibly a latch-lifter.

5.9 Worked Bone

5.9.1 Three fragments from an antler comb came from SFB **1189**. This is a double-sided, composite comb, a typical Saxon type. Two joining fragments are from the side-plate, which carries notched and linear incised decoration, and the traces of two iron rivets. The third fragment is a detached tooth.

5.10 Animal Bone

5.10.1 383 bones were mainly hand-recovered at the Site and came mainly from SFB **1189**. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, so numbers will not correspond to the raw fragment counts in **Table 5** (**Appendix**). All bones derive from mammals and birds. No bones from fish or amphibians were present. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

Condition and preservation

5.10.2 Almost all animal bone fragments were in fair or good condition, but showed root etching on their surfaces (close proximity to the surface). Six bones showed signs of butchery indicating that the remains contain food waste (**Table 5; Appendix**). The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. Together with a fair proportion of loose teeth, this might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

Animal husbandry

5.10.3 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from cattle (n=121), sheep/goat (63), pig (2), dog (2), roe deer (3) and bird (5). Among the bird bones were the remains of young chicken. Although most cattle bones derived from adult cattle, some clearly derived from calves. All sheep/goat bones represented (sub)adult animals. The roe deer remains consisted of a piece of shed antler, a mandible of an adult animal and a piece of tibia shaft.

Consumption and deposition

5.10.4 The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby. All butchery marks were made with knives and were frequently found on the many rib fragments.

5.10.5 The intentional backfill of SFB **1189** contained food waste, mainly consisting of cattle and sheep/goat bones. The roe deer bones showed that venison was occasionally eaten, as was young chicken.

5.11 Marine Shell and fish bone

5.11.1 Several species are represented within the small marine shell assemblage; oyster, periwinkle, mussel and cockle. The oyster includes both left and right valves, representing both preparation and consumption waste. The shell came from three features: SFB **1189**, undated Post-hole **1065**, and prehistoric Ditch **1182**.

5.11.2 Within the environmental samples from SFB **1189** there were also fragments of marine shell, including those of mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) and rissoides (Rissoidae), also small quantities of fish vertebrae and scales (**Table 7; Appendix 1**). Such finds of marine shell have been previous recorded from sites of Saxon date to the east at Manston Road (Wyles in prep.).

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 16 bulk samples were taken from various features (**Table 6; Appendix**) and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. The majority of these came from ditch fills of probable Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age dates or prehistoric/undated pit/heath fills that may date from the Neolithic to Iron Age. Two samples were also taken from a prehistoric palaeo-channel **1050**, while four came from post-holes and layers associated with SFB **1189**.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 7; Appendix**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were generally small. There were high to low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 There were very few charred plant remains observed within the samples from palaeo-channel **1050**. These included seeds of wild pea/vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and seeds and awns of wild oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus*). No waterlogged material, ostracods or shell snails were present in either sample. While such remains might be taken to indicate a later-prehistoric date for the channel, there is a high probability that they may be intrusive.

6.2.4 Large quantities of cereal remains were recorded in five of the eight samples from Prehistoric features, in particular Pit **1163** and Ditches **1183**, **1185** and **1182.** These remains included grains and glume fragments of the hulled wheats, emmer and spelt (*Triticum dicoccum* and *T. spelta*) and grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The samples from these features also contained high numbers of weed seeds including seeds of knotgrass (Polygonaceae), wild oat/brome grass, wild pea/vetches, celtic beans (*Vicia faba*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*), spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.) and bedstraws (*Galium* sp.).

6.2.5 Pit **1163** as well as containing remains of emmer and spelt wheat also contained quite a number of hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments.

6.2.6 These assemblages are indicative of general settlement waste and are comparable with assemblages observed from other prehistoric sites in this area of Kent. The presence of spelt and emmer is a common feature within features of Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age date on Thanet (Stevens in press; Wessex Archaeology 2005; 2006), as well as Kent in general (Pelling 2003; Stevens 2009). Beans have also been recovered at Saltwood Tunnel in large quantities from Bronze Age contexts (Stevens 2006). Whist Roman samples from Thanet also can contain remains of emmer it might be noted that spelt tends to dominate assemblages from Roman sites on Thanet at this period (Stevens in press). As such the presence of emmer and spelt glumes along with prehistoric pottery would indicate a probable Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age date for this assemblage.

6.2.7 The assemblage from Pit **1163** is of some interest in that the presence of both emmer and possible spelt would suggest a Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age date, yet samples of this date from Thanet, as from Kent in general, have consistently produced little to no hazelnut shell within them. Given that hazelnut is more common in earlier features there is a possibility that the feature may be of an earlier date.

6.2.8 The four samples from the SFB **1189** contained moderate quantities of charred remains. The cereal remains were those of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) and barley. The weed seeds included seeds of those recorded within the prehistoric samples as well as seeds of Poa type grass (Poaceae).

6.2.9 Undated Oven/Hearth **1145** was possibly associated with the SFB. In that it contained hulled wheat and a single glume fragment might suggest that it predates the Saxon structure, although it is possible some of the remains in this feature given the high number of roots might be intrusive.

6.2.10 Previous cereal remains from SFBs have been recovered from Cottingdon Road, on Thanet just to the east, although at this Site only barley and no free-threshing wheat were recovered. Further to the east samples from Saxon pits at Cliffs End were dominated by grains of free-threshing wheat, barley and rye (Wessex Archaeology 2005). The range of weed seeds is also similar to that seen at these sites being dominated mainly by seeds of veches/tare/wild pea and oats/brome grass.

6.2.11 The final sample from an undated ditch resembles those recovered from the prehistoric features on the Site and is very unlikely to date from the Saxon period.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 7; Appendix 1**. Wood charcoal fragments of greater than 4 mm were only recovered in small quantities in the samples from features of ?Prehistoric and Prehistoric date. In part the low amounts may be due to the shallow nature of the features and rooting activity which generally negates the survival of charcoal within archaeological deposits. Larger amounts of wood charcoal, mainly mature wood fragments, were recorded within the Saxon SFB samples, but not in exceptional quantities.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Area 1

7.1.1 The features excavated in Area 1 can be divided into two distinct phases. The majority of the features recorded fall within the first phase which can be defined as broadly prehistoric. The second, early Saxon, phase relates only to the SFB.

Earlier Prehistoric

7.1.2 The earliest activity on Site was represented by a single diagnostically Mesolithic backed bladelet from Pit **1122**. In addition a number of bladelets and bladelet cores were typologically similar and may have a comparable date. These were found within fills of prehistoric field system ditches, and were almost certainly reworked from other contexts. These finds can therefore be said to represent a background level of human activity in the area during the Mesolithic period

7.1.3 Two sherds of pottery identified as definitely belonging to the Early Neolithic plain bowl ceramic tradition were retrieved from natural feature **1056** and from field system Ditch **1165.** Additional sherds which are of a possible Early Neolithic date were recovered from natural feature **1034,** and from field system Ditches, **1168**, **1190** and **1183**. The sherds are all well abraded, suggesting they were residual within these later features. The remaining pottery from the field system could be Neolithic through to Iron Age in date.

7.1.4 Whilst additional pottery from Ditch **1165** was not diagnostic, slots excavated through Ditches **1165** and **1168** during the 2007 evaluation produced pottery sherds spot dated to the late Bronze Age, and the mid to late Iron Age respectively (Archaeology South-East 2007). This supports the residuality of the Early Neolithic sherds recovered during the present excavation. However there is some ambiguity as to the degree of confidence with which the 2007 spot dates were made.

7.1.5 The large quantities of grain and absence of hazelnut shells within the field system environmental samples also suggests that an Early Neolithic date for the field system is unlikely.

7.1.6 The level and type of early Neolithic activity within the Site is therefore uncertain. At a minimum, some settlement and agricultural activity within the area can be postulated. Alternatively, given the absence of diagnostically post-Neolithic pottery from any of the ditches, the entire field system could potentially date to the Neolithic. However given the balance of evidence the field system is more likely to belong to a later prehistoric date; a fully-developed field system dating to the Early Neolithic is highly unlikely. The two natural features from which Early Neolithic pot was recovered could well originate from this date.

7.1.7 With the exception of rare causewayed enclosures such as that at Chalk Hill, Ramsgate, Neolithic sites on Thanet tend to consist of little more than pottery and flint scatters (Moody 2008). Early Neolithic activity was identified at Laundry Road, 1.4km to the north-east (Boast and Gibson 2000). The finds from the current field system ditches could be interpreted as similar residual traces of ephemeral Neolithic settlement, reworked into later features.

7.1.8 It is worth noting that Pit **1163** was undated, but the environmental assemblage is suggestive of a very early prehistoric date on the basis of the hazelnut shell fragments. Therefore Pit **1163** is possibly Neolithic.

7.1.9 Beaker period (2600-1800BC) activity on the Site is represented by two small sherds of Beaker pottery from field system Ditch **1182**. Again however their abraded condition means they are highly likely to be residual. No other finds or features of Beaker date were identified. A probable Beaker-period settlement enclosure was identified at Laundry Road (Boast and Gibson 2000). As such, it is possible that the Beaker sherds from field system Ditch **1182** are derived from this nearby settlement.

Prehistoric

7.1.10 The majority of the features on Site cannot be dated with greater accuracy that as belonging to the prehistoric period. In the main these features comprise the prehistoric field system.

7.1.11 Ditches **1181-1188** and **1191** were integrated to form the remains of a north-west to south-east, south-west to north-east orientated prehistoric field system, with one field fully surviving and the remnants of possibly five more fields visible. The ditches were shallow and two were slightly irregular and meandering in plan which is consistent with this type of feature.

7.1.12 Although Ditch **1192** is on the same alignment as, and cuts, field system Ditches **1182** and **1191**, the greater depth and size of **1192** suggests a different function for this ditch, perhaps a stock enclosure or defensive function during a later phase of activity on the Site. The location of Ditches **1120**, **1143** and **1156** suggests that they were also part of unconnected features. The three ditches extending from the eastern boundary of the area, **1190**, **1165** and **1168**, were aligned east to west and may form part of a separate field system. All the above features are dated to the prehistoric period.

7.1.13 Assigning a more accurate date to these features has proved problematic; the pottery recovered comprised a small assemblage of small, heavily abraded sherds with very few diagnostic sherds. In addition flint-tempered wares were used in Kent from the Neolithic through to the late Iron Age.

7.1.14 Environmental sampling has produced an assemblage which is likely to date between the mid Bronze Age and the Iron Age, with the presence of hulled wheat, emmer, spelt and barley being typical of assemblages from this date range.

7.1.15 Based on the character of the features and scarcity and condition of the pottery recovered (L. Mepham pers comm.) it seems that there is no direct evidence of domestic activity within the Site, and that the remains represent agricultural activity on the periphery of an area of domestic settlement. However the environmental results suggest that domestic settlement likely existed in the very near vicinity (see 6.2.6).

7.1.16 Therefore overall the field system could be assigned a mid Bronze Age to Iron Age date, based on the field system layout, pottery assemblage and environmental data. However it can only be assigned to the general prehistoric period with any certainty, and could potentially be Neolithic. This therefore limits the inferences which can be drawn from these remains.

Saxon

7.1.17 SFB **1189** was the only feature recorded on the Site that was dated to the Saxon period. The description 'sunken featured building' (SFB) is a generalized term used to describe a variety of features that are thought to have comprised a wooden structure constructed over a shallow pit. The pottery recovered from the backfill of the SFB has been assigned a 5th to early 6th century date. The two sherds of Romano-British pottery retrieved from a post-hole within the feature can be viewed as definitely residual.

7.1.18 The remains of SFBs vary considerably in size, shape and construction and there is continuing debate concerning their possible functions. The dimensions of the SFB place this feature at the smaller end of the size range for SFBs (Tipper 2004). The presence of four post-holes within the building is somewhat unusual as most SFBs excavated on Thanet contained no more than two post-holes (Moody, 2008; Tipper, 2004).

7.1.19 The environmental assemblage from SFB **1189** is highly consistent with Anglo-Saxon SFBs found elsewhere on Thanet (see 6.2.8 – 6.2.10). Analysis of the animal bone assemblage shows that the deliberate backfill of the SFB contained food waste, including evidence for both the preparation and consumption of shellfish (see 6.4.1). This does not however necessarily mean that the SFB itself was used for domestic occupation purposes. In the majority of SFBs the fills are the result of later refuse dumping and not an accumulation of usage/occupation debris.

7.1.20 As this is currently an isolated feature, with no evidence of structures which can be more reliably interpreted as dwellings, the function of the SFB cannot be reliably identified. Weaving, dwelling, food preparation, storage or other small scale industrial or agricultural activities are all possible activities which may have been carried out within or around the SFB. Tipper suggests that trying to assign a rigid function to buildings of Saxon date is not necessarily a accurate representation of the flexible nature of domestic and agricultural activities at this time (Tipper, 2004).

7.1.21 Oven/Hearth **1145** was situated 0.3m from the SFB, suggesting a possible association between the two features. However no dating evidence was recovered from **1145**. Environmental analysis in fact suggested some significant discrepancies between the two features. In addition, the location of the oven/hearth in relation to SFB **1189** is incongruous; hearths and pits are fairly common within SFBs (Tipper, 2004, 89) but do not generally occur outside the hut (Jörn Schuster pers. Comm.). Therefore is seems most likely that Oven/Hearth **1145** is unrelated to the SFB, and likely of prehistoric date.

7.1.22 No other features on Site yielded finds compatible with this date. Two undated features were deemed very unlikely to be Saxon on the basis of their charred plant assemblage.

7.1.23 The 1995 Laundry Road evaluation located 1.4km to the north-east of the Site (Boast and Gibson 2000) yielded a single Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial, identified as pre-Christian, and dated to the 5th or 6th century AD. The burial lay on the periphery of a cemetery, having been linked to the many undated/unrecorded inhumation burials removed from the south of this Site during the 1970s. This has been interpreted as "*a cemetery serving a pre-Christian community at Minster*" (Boast and Gibson 2000: pp 368). As such it is plausible to infer a link between the 5th or 6th century SFB **1189** discovered on Site and the probable 5th or 6th century Saxon cemetery just over a kilometer to the north-east.

7.1.24 In 2003 archaeological trial trenching revealed Anglo-Saxon features located some 200m to the south of SFB 1189, within St George's Field recreation ground (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2003). Although no further SFBs were identified, the finds were considered to indicate settlement activity. The remains were dated to the mid to late Saxon period, contemporary with the founding of a nunnery in Minster in 670 AD (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2003). The SFB on Site therefore potentially represents the outskirts of an earlier phase of Anglo-Saxon settlement on the banks of the Wantsum, prior to the settlement moving further south around the time of commencement of ecclesiastical activity in Minster in the later 7th century.

7.2 Area 2

7.2.1 One feature was recorded in Area 2, a large natural feature or palaeo-channel **1050**. Full recording of this feature was hampered by flooding. The size of the feature suggested a silted up watercourse of some considerable size, although the fact that only one edge was revealed limits the conclusions which can be drawn in respect to its dimensions. The feature seems very likely to be related to the Wantsum channel, the watercourse which served to isolate the Isle of Thanet to greater or lesser degrees throughout prehistory and into historic times.

7.2.2 The exact course and extent of the Wantsum at various times has been a matter of debate, and there is a paucity of historic sources which refer in any detail to the Watsum's course, extent and size, especially during pre-Roman periods. Within the area of Minster, the historic extent of the Wantsum is indicated to a certain extent by alluvial deposits, which are mapped by the British Geological Survey as reaching their northern limit 360m south of the Site (**Figure 3**).

7.2.3 It is possibe that the palaeo-channel revealed within Area 2 is a tributary of the main Wantsum Channel, as the edge revealed appears to run on a north-east to south-west course, consistent with a channel joining the main channel. However, it is equally possible that this feature is the edge of the Wantsum itself, since the mapping of the alluvial deposits is not necessarily exact. The edge of the Wantsum Channel is likely to have been rather diffuse, variable and shallow (Perkins 2007). Perkins' map of the channel's maximum extent reaches beyond the feature in Area 2 (**Figure 3**).

7.2.4 The lack of dating evidence however, along with an absence of any additional archaeological features along the channel edge, limits further interpretation of this feature. The exact nature of this large natural watercourse feature or palaeo-channel remains uncertain.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphy

8.1.1 It has been demonstrated that the Site contains remains from two main phases, a broader prehistoric phase of activity, and an early Saxon phase, consisting of a single feature.

8.1.2 The finds assemblage contains Mesolithic flint and pottery sherds attributed to the Early Neolithic and Beaker periods, but no archaeological features can confidently be attributed to these periods.

8.1.3 In addition the palaeo-channel revealed within Area 2 possibly represents the edge of the Wantsum Channel at or near its maximum historic extent, or alternatively a tributary of this main channel.

Earlier Prehistoric

8.1.4 Given the clearly residual nature of the typologically Mesolithic flint-work recovered on Site, there is little potential for increasing understanding of this period within the Site. There is no potential for further analysis.

8.1.5 Archaeological evidence from the Early Neolithic in Thanet, and Kent as a whole, is rare. Whilst substantial camps and causewayed enclosures have been identified (Moody 2008), settlement evidence for this period tends to consist of very small finds assemblages, with no proven settlement sites yet identified in Thanet (Boast and Gibson 2000). As such, new finds of Early Neolithic archaeology would have the potential to contribute significantly to knowledge of this period on a local and regional level.

8.1.6 Some field system ditches and natural features have been identified as potentially dating to the early Neolithic on the basis of pottery spot dating. However no archaeological features can confidently be asserted to originate during this period, and the pottery is likely on balance to be residual within later prehistoric features. Therefore the potential to increase understanding of settlement and agricultural practices is in fact low.

8.1.7 Dating of the charred plant remains (see 8.3.4 – 8.3.5) has the potential to clarify the situation regarding the presence or absence of Early Neolithic remains on Site.

8.1.8 Sites dated reliably to the Beaker period are also rare on Thanet, and settlement evidence is very sparse (Moody 2008). The Beaker period pottery is very likely however to be residual and as such there are no features which can be attributed to this date. One of the few Beaker period sites does however lie only 1.4km away at Laundry Hill, and the Beaker enclosure there can be viewed as a possible source of the pottery retrieved from Monkton Road. There is little to no potential for adding to the knowledge of Beaker period activity, and the finds should be viewed as isolated residual fragments.

Prehistoric

8.1.9 The prehistoric remains on the Site mainly consist of the field system, which on the balance of evidence is likely to be Mid Bronze Age to Iron Age in date. These remains are reasonably extensive and clearly represent agricultural and potentially domestic activity. There were no internal features directly attributable to settlement or domestic use but the environmental assemblage suggests such activity was in close proximity.

8.1.10 The remains would therefore contribute to local knowledge of prehistoric subsistence strategies. However, the lack of direct dating is a serious barrier, and the finds assemblage is very small, poorly preserved and un-diagnostic. This severely limits the potential of the prehistoric remains for further analysis.

8.1.11 Potentially dating could be obtained from charred plant remains from the field system ditches. If the field system could be dated with more accuracy, comparisons with other sites in Thanet of this period could perhaps allow further analysis of the Site in its context.

Saxon

8.1.12 Anglo-Saxon archaeology in Thanet is well represented by a number of cemeteries, and historical records of Saxon ecclesiastical activities are informative. However settlement evidence is once again rather sparse. Thirteen SFBs are know on Thanet, with no other known forms of dwelling, such as post-built dwellings, identified for this period (Moody 2008).

8.1.13 The Saxon period is represented on Site by SFB **1189**, which directly represents settlement activity. The SFB is an isolated feature, and therefore there is the potential for further settlement features beyond the Site boundaries. However it is worth noting that, whilst a cluster of five SFBs was found at Manston (Moody 2008), all other such structures on Thanet were isolated. Whether this is an artificial pattern created by excavation limitations is unknown.

8.1.14 As discussed above (7.3.10) a probable 5th to 6th century Saxon cemetery lies only 1.4km to the northeast at Laundry Hill, and there is a high possibility that the cemetery served the settlement, or broader settlement area, represented by this feature. The Site therefore contributes to the local understanding of links between Saxon settlements and cemetery sites. The probable periphery of a later, mid to late Saxon settlement site lies only 200m to the south of feature **1189** (Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2003). It is tempting to suggest that SFB **1189** represents an earlier phase of settlement on the banks of the Wantsum, which later moved south. However the size and nature of both settlement localities remains uncertain so this theory cannot be confirmed.

8.1.15 Therefore the Saxon archaeology on Site, although consisting of a single feature, has the greatest potential for further analysis in terms of settlement patterns within the local area and Thanet as a whole.

Palaeo-channel

8.1.16 The natural watercourse or palaeo-channel within Area 2 has been identified as likely relating to the ancient course of the Wantsum Channel, and therefore has the potential to contribute to knowledge of the course of this channel in the past.

8.1.17 However, it is not known whether the palaeo-channel represents the edge of the Wantsum itself or merely a tributary leading to the main channel. There is also no definite indication, given the abraded nature and paucity of the prehistoric pottery recovered from the feature, as to the earliest date during which this channel was in use. No associated features were identified to suggest human activity on the shore of the Wantsum in this locality.

8.1.18 Given the above uncertainties, the potential for further analysis of the palaeo-channel in Area 2 is very limited.

8.2 Finds

8.2.1 This small artefactual assemblage is not without interest, marked primarily by the presence of early prehistoric flint-work and pottery, and artefacts (ceramic, glass, metal, bone) from an SFB.

8.2.2 The potential of the assemblage is, however, restricted by its small size, the high probability of residuality of much of the material and the ambiguity surrounding the dating of the prehistoric pottery. Given this level of uncertainty it is not surprising that the flint assemblage is of limited value.

8.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

8.3.1 There is good potential for the analysis of a selection of the charred plant remains within the prehistoric samples to provide information on crop processing and the management of the local landscape, although such potential is presently limited by the dating of these features.

8.3.2 Of particular interest is the assemblage within Pit **1163**, which is dominated by remains of hulled wheat and hazelnut shell fragments and maybe of a relatively early date. The analysis of an assemblage from the Saxon SFB **1189** will provide information on both crop processing within the Saxon period and comparison of the plant remains recovered between the Prehistoric and Saxon periods.

Wood charcoal

8.3.3 The wood charcoal assemblages have the potential to provide information on the exploitation and management of the local woodland resource. However, given the small amount of charcoal from the prehistoric features such potential is extremely limited. The samples from the Saxon SFB also have relatively little wood charcoal, and combined with the fact that they are not associated with specific activities and only a single feature also means that the potential for further analysis is very restricted.

Scientific Dating

8.3.4 The nature of prehistoric pottery from the Site, but also for the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age for Kent in general means that such chronologies are not easily established without C14 radiocarbon dating. Despite the poor pottery assemblage however, the potential for dating from cereal remains is very good from Ditches **1182**, **1183** and **1185** and could therefore potentially date the field system.

8.3.5 There is also the potential to date the rich cereal deposit and hazelnut remains from Pit **1163** and to provide evidence for potentially earlier cereal use, perhaps predating the enclosure/field system.

8.3.6 There is also the potential to date the SFB **1189**, although given the nature of the calibration curve for the 5th to 6th century this is unlikely to provide a more accurate date than the potential 5th to early 6th century date provided by the pottery.

9 METHOD STATEMENTS

9.1 Stratigraphy

9.1.1 The known archaeological background in the immediate vicinity of the Site will be examined. This will include reviewing published reports and available ‘grey literature’. This will contribute towards the discussion of the Site as part of its wider context within the landscape, and its relationship to other known sites, in particular those discussed above.

9.1.2 A limited programme of radio-carbon dating will be carried out on the environmental assemblage. Charred plant remains from the field system ditches will be dated in the hope that the field system can be then assigned a more accurate date. Pit **1163**, which contained no dateable finds but was considered early prehistoric on the basis of its environmental assemblage, will also be radio-carbon dated.

9.1.3 An Access database and AutoCAD drawings have been constructed to facilitate rapid cross-examination and updating of the archive during the post-excavation analysis.

9.1.4 Once the post-excavation analysis is completed, revisions will be made as required. Advised by a post-excavation manager, the detailed outline of the publication text will be written and specialists will make their contributions. Illustrations will be prepared to accompany the report.

9.2 Finds

9.2.1 The assemblage has already been recorded to minimum archive level, and identifications made of pottery ware type, worked flint type, ceramic/glass/metal/bone object type, and animal bone species. No further enhancement of the archive records is considered necessary.

9.2.2 The information gathered as part of this assessment phase could be utilised within any proposed publication, preferably incorporated within the structural text rather than as a stand-alone report, and focusing on the early prehistoric and Saxon artefacts. The three diagnostic rim sherds recovered from the Saxon SFB could be illustrated to support the text.

9.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

9.3.1 It is proposed to analyse selected charred remains from the prehistoric field system, in addition to samples from Pit **1163** and from SFB **1189**. Such proposal is dependent in part on the dating of such features.

9.3.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2mm and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscope at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.

Wood charcoal

9.3.3 No further work is proposed.

Dating

9.3.4 It is proposed to date cereal grains from up to two samples from the field system which will provide conclusive evidence for the date of the occupation. It is also proposed to date cereal remains from Pit **1163** as it would provide clarification of the date of this potentially unusual deposit.

10 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL

10.1 Place of publication and synopsis

10.1.1 It is proposed that the results of the analysis be published as a note in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, approximately five pages in length, with 400-500 words per page, one page of illustrations and a single plan.

11 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

11.1 Management Structure

11.1.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Project Manager who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Specification and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.

11.1.2 The Project Manager will delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the completion of the report. The Project Manager will have a major input into the writing of the publication report and will define and control the form and scope of the post-excavation programme.

11.2 Programme

11.2.1 Following acceptance of this report and agreement of the costs, a detailed programme timetable will be drawn up and implemented. The post-excavation programme will be achievable within one year of an agreed start date, to be followed by submission of the draft publication report to the *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

12 STORAGE AND CURATION

12.1 Museum

12.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the relevant museum however, as no museums in the Kent region are currently accepting archives the assemblage will remain at Wessex Archaeology offices until such time as suitable alternative arrangements can be made. Deposition of the finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

12.2 Preparation of archive

12.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

12.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the Site code (70960), and a full index will be prepared. The archive comprises the following:

12.2.3 The contents of the stratigraphic archive from the excavation are summarised in **Table 8 (Appendix).** There are also three cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type. The excavation records, artefacts and ecofacts are held under the project Site code: 70960.

12.3 Conservation

12.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.

12.3.2 Metal objects will be X-radiographed (see above), but on the basis of the range of objects present, further conservation treatment is not considered appropriate. Following selective discard, remaining objects will be packaged in suitably stable conditions for long-term curation (in airtight boxes with a drying agent).

12.4 Discard policy

12.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

12.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

12.5 Copyright

12.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

12.5.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

12.6 Security copy

12.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

13 REFERENCES

Andrews, P., Egging Dinwiddy, K., Ellis, C. Hutcheson, A., Philpotts, C., Powell, A. B. and Schuster, J. (eds), In Press for 2009, *Kentish sites and sites of Kent: A miscellany of four archaeological excavations*, Wessex Archaeology Monograph 24.

Archaeology South East 2007, An archaeological evaluation on land at Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent. Unpublished ASE Report, Ref. 3134

Boast, E.J., and Gibson, A., 2000, "Neolithic, Beaker and Anglo-Saxon remains, Minster in Thanet". *Archaeologia Cantiana* 120, 359-372

Brown, D.H., 2007, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum

Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Trust for Thanet Archaeology 1996, "Interim report on excavations in advance of the dualling of the A253 between Monkton and Mount Pleasant", Thanet. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 116, 305–10

CgMs Consulting 2008, Specification for archaeological excavation and monitoring, Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent. Unpublished CgMs document.

CgMs Consulting 2006, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Monkton Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent. Unpublished CgMs document.

Egging Dinwiddy, K. and Schuster, J, In Press, Thanet's Longest Excavation, Archaeological investigations along the route of the Weatherlees – Margate – Broadstairs wastewater pipeline, in Andrews, P. et al , In Press.

English Heritage, 2002, Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

Macpherson-Grant, N., 1995, 'Post-Roman pottery' in Blockley, K., Blockley, M., Blockley, P., Frere, S.S. and Stow, S., *Excavations in the Marlowe Car Park and Surrounding Areas*. Part II: The Finds, The Archaeology of Canterbury Vol. V, 815-920

Moody, G. 2008, The Isle of Thanet, from prehistory to the Norman Conquest, Tempus Publishing.

Pelling, R., 2003, Charred plant remains, 73–76, in Hutchings, P., "Ritual and riverside settlement: a multi-period site at Princes Road, Dartford", *Archaeologia Cantiana* 123, 41–79.

Perkins, D. 2007, "The Long Demise of the Wantsum Sea Channel: A Recapitulation Based on the Data", *Archaeologia Cantiana* 127, 249 – 260.

Richards, J. and Robinson, D. (eds), 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice. Second Edition. AHDS.

SMA 1993, Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Stevens, C.J., 2006a, Charred plant remains from North of Saltwood Tunnel, in Giorgi, J. and Stafford, E (eds), *Palaeoenvironmental Evidence from Section 1 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Kent,* CTRL Scheme-wide Specialist Report Series, in ADS

Stevens, C.J. 2009, Cereal Agriculture and cremation activities, 296-299, in Allen, M. J., Leivers, M., and Ellis, C. "Neolithic Causewayed Enclosures and Later Prehistoric Farming: Duality, Imposition and the Role of Predecessors at Kingsborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, UK". *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society,* 235-322

Stevens, C. J. In press, "Charred Plant Remains", In Egging Dinwiddy, K. and Schuster, J, Thanet's Longest Excavation, Archaeological investigations along the route of the Weatherlees – Margate – Broadstairs wastewater pipeline, in Andrews, P. et al (eds), In Press.

Tipper, J. 2004 The Grubenhaus in Anglo-Saxon England, English Heritage

Trust for Thanet Archaeology 2003, Minster Wheels Park, Minster Recreation Ground, King George's Park, Molineaux Road, Minster, Thanet, Kent, Archaeological Evaluation. Unpublished Report, Permission of Gerald Moody.

Walker, K., 1990, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage, UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology 2005, *Cliffs End Farm, Ramsgate, Kent. Archaeological assessment report*. Unpublished client report ref. 56950.04

Wessex Archaeology 2006, Reports on 1) radiocarbon results and 2) charred plant remains, from the excavations at Westwood Cross, Broadstairs, Thanet. Unpublished client report ref. 64040.1

Wyles, S.F., In Press, "Marine shell" in Andrews, P., et al. (eds), 'Excavations on a Late Bronze Age, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Settlement Site at Manston Road, Ramsgate 1995-7'. Andrews et. Al., In Press.

14 APPENDIX

Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	120	704
Prehistoric	*59*	*141*
Romano-British	*2*	*14*
Saxon	*54*	*539*
Post-Med	*1*	*1*
Uncertain	*4*	*9*
Ceramic Building Material	4	60
Fired Clay	53	756
Stone	3	280
Flint	669	9892
Burnt Flint	250	2668
Glass	1	7
Metalwork	34	-
Coins	*5*	-
Copper alloy	*15*	-
Lead	*10*	-
Iron	*4*	-
Worked Bone	1	-
Animal Bone	427	2399
Marine Shell	1135	1058

Table 2: Pottery by context (number / weight in grammes)

		Prehistoric			RB	Saxon	P-med	Unknown	TOTAL
Context	Feature	Flint-tempered	Grog-tempered	Calc.				Sandy	
1005	ditch 1003	4/10							**4/10**
1011	ditch 1010	6/18	2/3						**8/21**
1012	ditch 1010	3/3							**3/3**
1016	ditch 1015	1/1							**1/1**
1024	SFB 1189					54/539			**54/539**
1029	tree throw 1019	2/3							**2/3**
1033	pit 1032	1/9							**1/9**
1035	tree throw 1034	1/7*							**1/7**
1037	Post-hole 1036						1/1		**1/1**
1051	creek 1050	2/1						4/9	**6/10**
1057	nat. feature 1056	5/9*							**5/9**
1064	Post-hole 1062				2/14				**2/14**
1071	ditch 1070		1/6						**1/6**
1083	ditch 1082	2/2							**2/2**
1107	colluvium	3/4		1/2					**4/6**
1113	ditch 1105	1/3*							**1/3**
1121	?ditch 1020	7/15							**7/15**
1144	ditch 1143	2/1							**2/1**
1157	ditch 1156		10/16						**10/16**
1162	ditch 1160	2/11*							**2/11**
1167	ditch 1165	1/10*							**1/10**
1169	ditch 1168	2/7*							**2/7**
	TOTAL	**45/114**	**13/25**	**1/2**	**2/14**	**54/539**	**1/1**	**4/9**	**120/704**

* flint-tempered sherds definitely or possibly of Early Neolithic date

Table 3: Worked flint totals by feature type

Number of Features	Feature Type	Bladelet Cores	Flake Cores	Broken Cores/Core Fragments	Blades	Broken Blades	Bladelets	Broken Bladelets	Flakes	Broken Flakes	Microliths	Chips/micro debitage	Scrapers	Other Tools	Debitage	Miscellaneous Retouched	TOTAL
17	Ditch	2	26	12	9	4	2	2	144	128		10	10	1	49	4	**403**
3	Gully								7	6				1	1		**15**
3	Natural hollow								7	4					1		**12**
5	Pit								6	13	1	5	2				**27**
1	River terrace		1	1		1			23	38		1	1		10		**76**
1	SFB and associated post-holes		1						4	1					1		**7**
2	Unstratified		3	3	3				67	38		1	6		6	2	**129**
	TOTAL	**2**	**31**	**16**	**12**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**258**	**228**	**1**	**17**	**19**	**2**	**68**	**6**	**669**

Table 4: Jeton properties

Context	1001	**Object**	1
Metal	Cu Alloy	**Denomination**	Jeton
Diameter	24	**Weight**	0,8
Issuer	Unknown	**Issue date**	C16
Obverse condition	Corroded	**Reverse condition**	Corroded
Obverse	Badly corroded, but lys visible. Text illegible	**Reverse**	Imperial orb within a tressure.
Mint	Nuremberg	**Officina**	-
Notes	Badly damaged. Only a little over half of the flan survives		

Table 5: Animal bone condition and potential (no. bones)

Context	Unid.	Burnt	Loose teeth	Gnawed	Measureable	Ageable	Butchered	Total no. frags
all	187	5	14	27	10	12	6	383

Table 6: Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
?Prehistoric	2	2	Palaeo-channel
Prehistoric	8	86	Ditches, pits
Saxon	4	59	SFB
Undated	2	19	Ditch, Oven/hearth
Totals	**16**	**166**	

Table 7: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

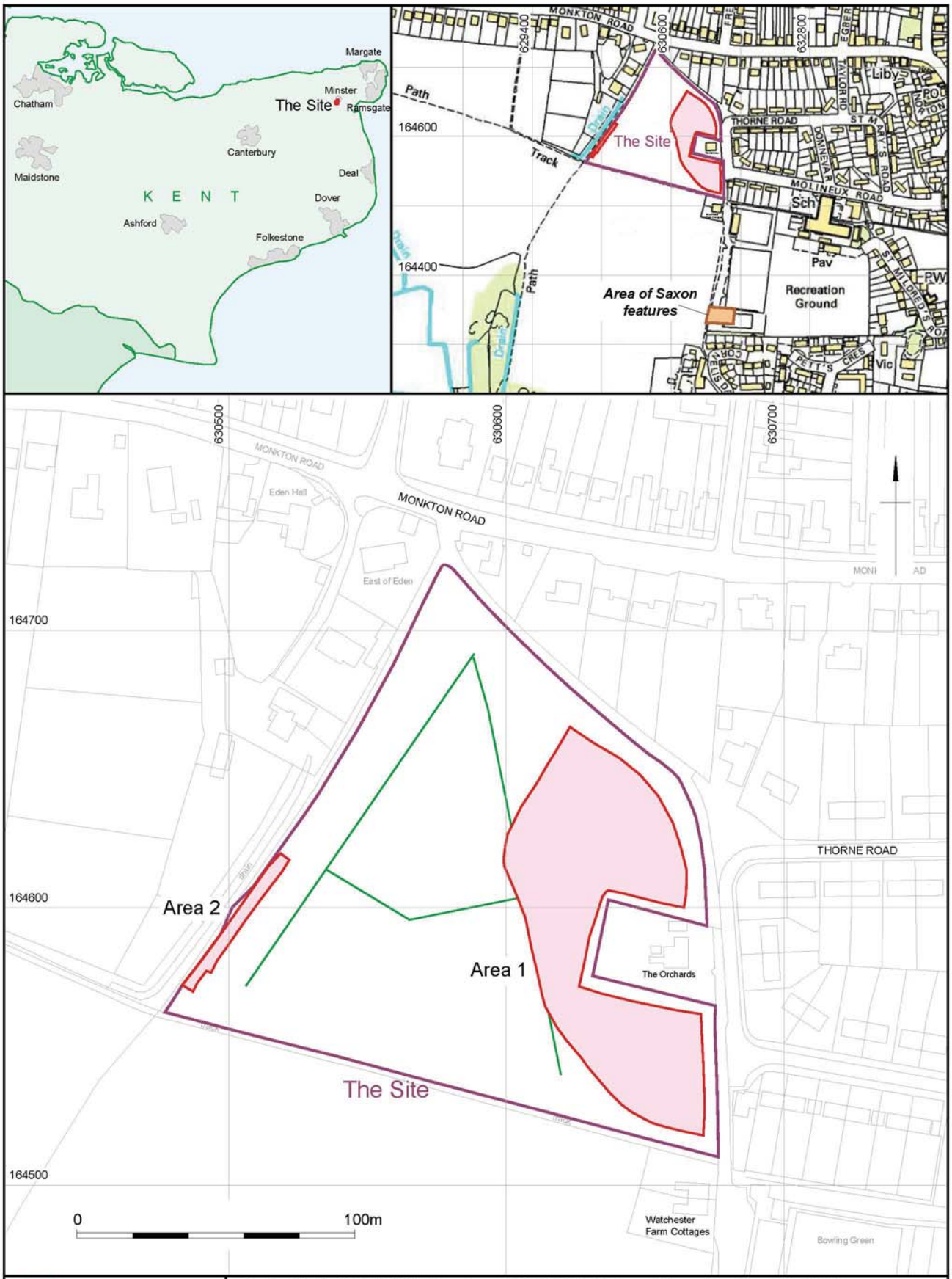
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcl > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
?Prehistoric													
Palaeo-channel													
1050	1051 upper	3a	1	5	30	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	*Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus*	0/<1 ml	-	
	1051 lower	3b	1	5	20	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	*Avena/Bromus* awns	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (C)	
Prehistoric													
Ditch 1182													
1070	1117	11	20	5	50	B	C	Wheat and barley grain frags, glume frags	A*	Polygonaceae, *Avena/Bromus, Plantago, Euphorbia*	1/<1 ml	Moll-t (C)	P
1154	1155	12	10	10	10	A	B	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, emmer and spelt glume frags	B	*Vicia faba, Avena/Bromus*, Polygonaceae	2/3 ml	Smb (B), Moll-t (C), min. nodules	P
Ditch 1183													
1105	1106	7	9	5	30	A	A	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, emmer and spelt glume frags, inc glumes, bases and spikelet fork	C	*Avena/Bromus*	1/<1 ml	-	P
	1110	8	9	5	50	A	B	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume frags and bases	B	*Avena/Bromus*, Polygonaceae, *Galium, Euphorbia*	<1/<1 ml	Moll-t (C)	P
Ditch 1184													
1082	1083	14	10	10	65	C	-	?Hulled wheat grain frags	C	*Corylus avellana* frags	<1/1 ml	-	
Ditch 1185													
1103	1104	6	9	15	35	A*	B	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, emmer and spelt glume frags	A*	*Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Corylus avellana* frags, Polygonaceae, *Galium, Torilis*	1/1ml	-	P
Pits													
1122	1123	9	9	4	75	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	*Euphorbia*	-	-	

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcl > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
1163	1164	13	10	25	50	A*	B	Hulled wheat (?emmer) and barley grain frags, emmer and spelt glume frags	A*	*Corylus avellana* frags (A*), *Avena/Bromus, Euphorbia*	1/2 ml	-	P
Saxon													
SFB 1189													
1045	1024	1	20	50	40	B	-	Free-threshing wheat frags	C	*Vicia/Lathyrus, Galium*	8/8 ml	Smb/f (B), Moll-t (C), Marine shell (A)	
1045	1024	2	20	60	20	C	-	Free-threshing wheat frags	-	-	10/8 ml	Min. nodules, Mussel frags, Smb/f (C)	
1062	1063	4	9	30	40	A	-	Free-threshing wheat and barley frags	B	*Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Euphorbia,* Poaceae	10/5 ml	Moll-t (C), Smb/f (C)	P
1065	1066	5	10	30	50	B	-	Free-threshing wheat and barley frags	C	Avena/Bromus, Euphorbia	5/5 ml	Smb (C), Marine shell (C), mussel frags min. nodules	
Undated													
Ditch													
1180	1179	15	10	10	60	A	-	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags	-	-	1/1 ml	Moll-t (C)	
Oven/Hearth possibly associated with 1189													
1145	1147	10	9	20	65	A	C	Hulled wheat and ?barley grain frags, glume frag	B	*Avena/Bromus*, Polygonaceae, *Urtica, Euphorbia*	3/2 ml	-	

Key:
A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5, Smb/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs
Analysis: P = plant, C14 = radiocarbon

Table 8: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

Details	Format	No. Sheets
Project Specification	A4	33
Day Book	A4	19
Context Index	A4	7
Context Records	A4	193
Graphics Register	A4	4
Survey Data Register	A5	15
Photographic Register	A4	20
Environmental Sample Register	A4	1
Environmental Records	A4	15
Objects Register	A4	2
Object Records	A4	30
Site Graphics	A4	41
Site Graphics	A3	10
B+W Negatives	35mm	7 (approx. 245 frames)
Colour Slides	35mm	7 (approx.245 frames)
Digital Images recorded	.jpg	6 (approx. 202 images)



Excavation area

Watching brief area

2003 Evaluation - Trust for Thanet Archaeology

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	24/07/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:8000 & 1:2000	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\70960\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_06\70960_eval_f1		

Site location plan

Figure 1

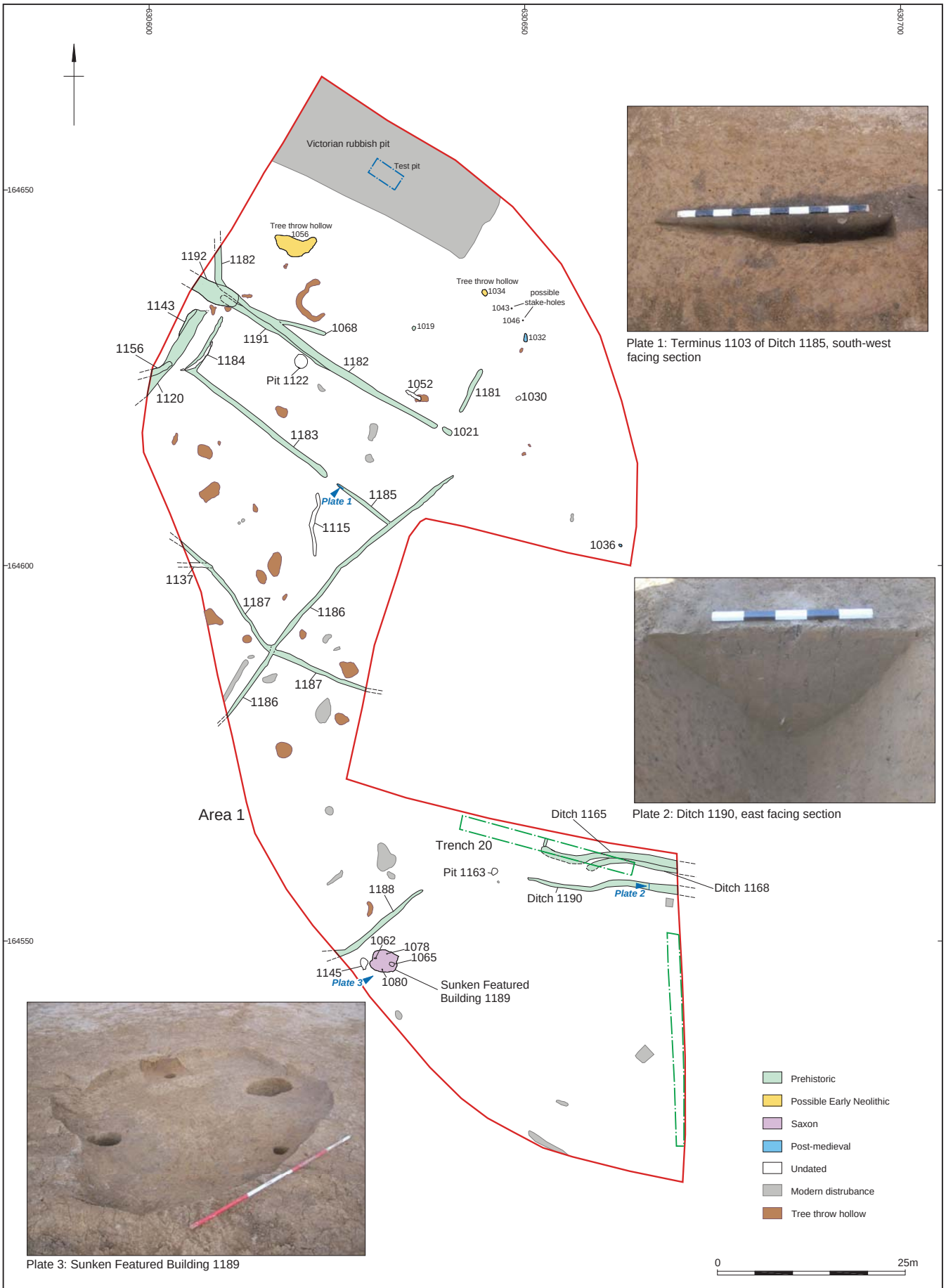


Plate 1: Terminus 1103 of Ditch 1185, south-west facing section

Plate 2: Ditch 1190, east facing section

Plate 3: Sunken Featured Building 1189

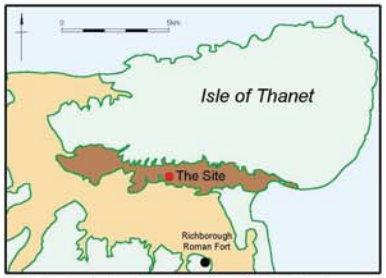
Area 1
ASE 2007 evaluation trench
Test pit
Plate direction

Wessex Archaeology

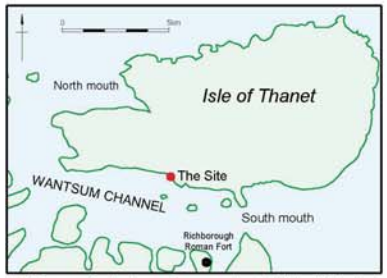
Date:	24/07/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:500	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:PROJECTS\70960\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval\09_06\70960_eval_f2.dwg		

Excavation Area 1: all features phase plan with selected plates

Figure 2



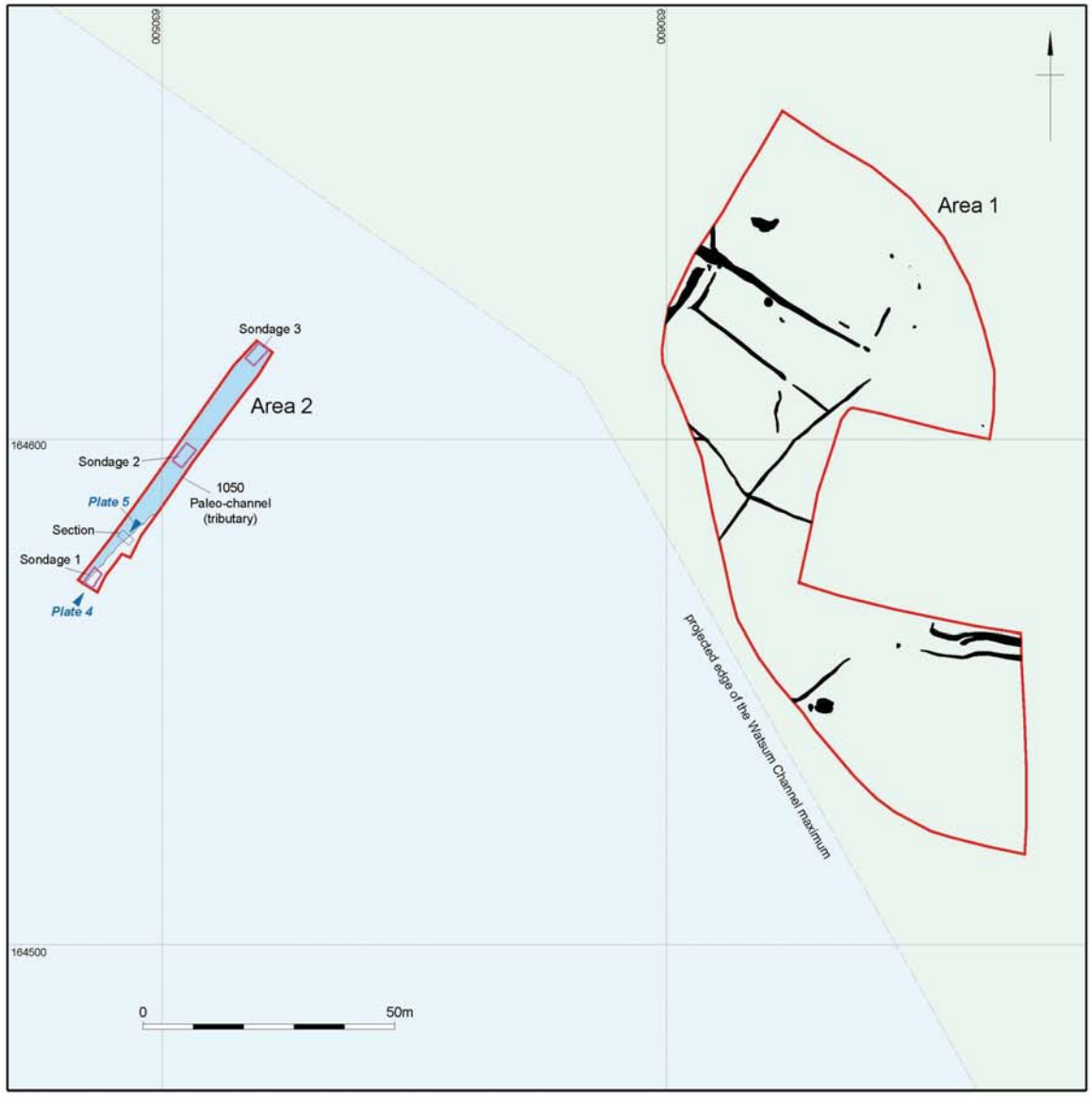
A. Extent of alluvium based on Geological Survey data



B. The projected maximum extent of the Wantsum Channel *c.* 2000 years ago (after Perkins 2007)

Plate 4: Palaeo-channel 1050, view from south

Plate 5: North-east facing section of Palaeo-channel 1050



C. The Site and projected maximum extent of the Wantsum Channel c. 2000 years ago

Wessex Archaeology

Excavation area | Sondage | Alluvium
Archaeology | Plate direction | Brickearth

Date:	24/07/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:250000 & 1:1000	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\70960\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_06\70960_eval_f3		

The Site in relation to known extent of alluvium and the Wantsum Channel showing excavation Area 2

Figure 3

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.
Registered 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
Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weavering Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.
Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk