Wessex Archaeology

Kingsborough Manor Development, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent

Watching Briefs, Evaluation,
and Phase 1, Stage 2 Excavation

Assessment Report and Proposals for
Post-Excavation Analyses and Publication

Ref: 46792.2

August 2002

KINGSBOROUGH MANOR DEVELOPMENT, EASTCHURCH ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT

Watching Briefs, Evaluation and Phase 1, Stage 2 Archaeological Excavation

Assessment Report on the Results of the Excavation including proposals for Post-Excavation Analyses and Publication

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology has carried out a programme of archaeological work on land north-east of Kingsborough Farm, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, commissioned by Jones Homes (Southern) Ltd, in advance of the Kingsborough Manor development. This assessment report presents the results of the work, which comprised evaluation, excavation and watching brief monitoring, and includes proposals for post-excavation analyses and publication of the results.

The site (NGR 5978 1722) comprised a total area of *c*. 8 hectares north-east of Kingsborough Farm, which lies 2km south-east of Minster and *c*. 1.25km north-west of Eastchurch. The site was a sub-rectangular block of land approximately 415m long and 180m wide and occupied an elevated position on the Isle of Sheppey, close to the southern edge of a ridge extending east-west along the island. The site has commanding views to the north and east and to the south over the River Swale and the north Kent coast.

The archaeological work extended discoveries made on the site by Archaeology South-East in an initial evaluation and an excavation (Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation). This identified a large Early Neolithic (4000 – 3000 BC) Causewayed Enclosure in the southern part of the site. Only the second to be recorded in Kent (the other is in Ramsgate), this discovery is of regional and national archaeological importance. The excavation also revealed part of the circuit of a Late Bronze Age (1100 – 700 BC) enclosure north of the Causewayed enclosure, containing cremation or pyre refuse pits and post-holes, and Roman period features including a rectilinear enclosure, post-holes and two cremations. Medieval ditches and undated features were also recorded.

Subsequent evaluation, watching brief monitoring and excavation (Phase 1 Stage 2 excavation) by Wessex Archaeology revisited a part of the Causewayed Enclosure, for detailed environmental samples, and revealed more of the Late Bronze Age enclosure revealed by Archaeology South East. Three other Late Bronze Age enclosures were found. The sub-square and northern-most of these appeared to be associated with a small cemetery comprising un-urned cremation pits or pyre debris pits. A limited range structural features appeared to be associated with the enclosures. These included four-post 'granary' structures and at least three fence lines. Pits associated with the enclosures contained finds possibly indicative of 'structured deposition', perhaps of ritual significance.

Later features include Middle-Late Iron Age (400 BC – AD 43) and Late Iron Age/Roman (100 BC – AD 410) ditches possibly representing drove-ways or boundaries. These suggest the site underwent change in the later prehistoric period, from predominantly settlement and ritual use to agricultural use. Later Saxon (AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (1066 – 1499) features, interpreted as field boundaries point to the agricultural use of this part of the Isle of Sheppey in those periods.

The archaeological work has brought to light regionally and nationally important evidence for Neolithic and Late Bronze Age monuments on the site, as well as locally significant evidence of later use of the site, altogether previously absent from the archaeological record of the island. It is proposed that the results of the work form the

subject of a joint programme of post-excavation analysis and publication by Archaeology South-East and Wessex Archaeology.

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The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Ellis (Project Officer) with the assistance of Nick Wells (Project Supervisor). The excavation team worked through some atrocious weather to finish the work within the allotted time and Susan Clelland, Fiona Edwards, Chris Penney, Mark Peters, Dan Bashford, Chris Richardson and Phil Chevasse are thanked for all their effort.

This report was compiled by Chris Ellis with contributions from Lorraine Mepham (finds), Michael J. Allen and Sarah Wyles (environmental analyses), Pippa Smith (animal bone), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone), Phil Harding (worked flint). The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman.

KINGSBOROUGH MANOR DEVELOPMENT, EASTCHURCH ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT

Watching Briefs, Evaluation and Phase 1, Stage 2 Archaeological Excavation

Assessment Report on the Results of the Excavation including proposals for Post-Excavation Analyses and Publication jointly by Wessex Archaeology and Archaeology South-East

PART A: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND RESULTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological work on land north-east of Kingsborough Farm, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, in July1999, Jan-April 2000, and June 2001 (**Figure 1**). The work was commissioned by Jones Homes (Southern) Ltd, in advance of the Kingsborough Manor housing development (Phase 1). This report presents an assessment of the results of the work (Part A), which comprised evaluation, excavation and watching brief monitoring, and includes proposals for a programme of post-excavation analyses leading to a full publication of the results, as well as a description of the resources required to complete the programme (Part B).

1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission for the development granted by Swale District Council and pursuant to a specification issued by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

1.1.3 Archaeological work was initially carried out on the proposed development area (hereafter referred to as the Site- **Figure 2**) by Archaeology South-East (ASE). The work included an evaluation (ASE 1999) of the Site achieving a 2% sample in 40 trenches (numbered 1-40) and an area excavation of the southern extent of the Site, the 'Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation' (ASE 2000).

1.1.4 Wessex Archaeology subsequently undertook additional evaluation, comprising four trenches (numbered 41-44), and watching brief monitoring. This was followed by a second area excavation, the 'Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation', in the northern extent of the Site, and additional trenching (numbered 45-49).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located to the immediate north-east of Kingsborough Farm, 2km south-east of Minster and *c*. 1.25km to the north-west of the village of Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey (NGR 5978 1722). The Site area, was an irregular block of land, measured approximately 415m north-south and 180m east-west. It occupied an elevated position on the Isle of Sheppey, close to the southern edge of a ridge extending east-west along the island, with commanding views to the north and east, and to the south over the River Swale and the north Kent coast.

1.2.2 The Site lay generally at *c*. 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and sloped down gradually to the south and east toward the B2008 Eastchurch Road. The underlying natural geology is complex and is comprised of Bagshot Sands, Claygate Beds and Head Gravel (British Geological Survey *1:50,000 Series*, Sheet 273).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Before 1999, there had been no systematic survey of the archaeology of the Isle of Sheppey. A small number of surface scatters of prehistoric and Roman pottery have been recorded in the vicinity of the Site (ASE 2000,1) and an unpublished excavation, c. 500m to the south of the Site at Norwood Manor, revealed Bronze Age/Iron Age and early Medieval features. Metal detector finds in the area include a Bronze Age axe fragment and coins of Late Iron Age and Medieval date.

1.3.2 The archaeological evaluation of the Site by ASE in March 1999 consisted of 40 evaluation trenches, comprising a 2% sample (by area) of the Site (**Figure 2**). Ten of the trenches contained archaeological features provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age (1100 – 700 BC) and Roman (AD 43 – 410) periods.

1.3.3 Due to time constraints a second stage of evaluation was not undertaken and site investigations moved to the 'Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation'. The excavation by ASE comprised a *c*. 1.8 ha area of land in the southern extent of the Site. A number of important archaeological features were recorded dating from the Neolithic to Medieval periods and are summarised below.

1.3.4 The earliest dated feature was an enclosure formed by three circuits of discontinuous ditches recognised as forming in plan *c*. 25% of an Early Neolithic (4000 – 3000 BC) Causewayed Enclosure. This represents only the second Causewayed Enclosure to be recorded in Kent, the other being at Ramsgate (Dyson, Shand and Stevens 2000).

1.3.5 North of the Causewayed Enclosure part of large enclosure was identified. The enclosure ditch contained Late Bronze Age (1100 – 700 BC) pottery and residual sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery (1500 – 1100 BC). A small number of features were recorded within the enclosure including pits and postholes. At least five un-urned cremation pits and five possible pyre refuse

pits were recorded (ASE 2000, 8). One of the cremation pits contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (1000 – 400 BC) and this may tentatively be taken to date the others.

1.3.6 The heavily truncated remains of a Roman period sub-square enclosure with an internal division was recorded overlying the north-eastern extent of the Causewayed Enclosure. The Roman enclosure was *c*. 43m square and comprised an 'internal' enclosed area of *c*. 28m by *c*. 14m. Pottery of 2nd Century AD date predominated the Roman pottery assemblage from the excavation.

1.3.7 Two Roman urned cremation burials were recorded cutting the upper fills of the Causewayed Enclosure outer ditch circuit. The finds assemblages from both cremation burials consisted of pottery and glass vessels of 2nd Century AD date.

1.3.8 Two short sections of linear features were recorded in the southern and northern extents of the excavation area, which were dated to the Roman period.

1.3.9 Medieval (1066 – 1499 AD) features included a probable droveway and field boundary ditches which overlaid the Causewayed Enclosure and Late Bronze Age enclosure in the north-western extent of the excavation area. A small number of pits were also recorded within the Late Bronze Age enclosure, containing pottery dated to the 13th – 14th Centuries. A large 'cess-pit' was recorded which contained Medieval pottery and animal bone as well as residual Late Bronze Age pottery.

1.3.10 A number of 'undated' features were recorded, which included a putative roundhouse structure and four-post structure in the south-west of the excavation area. These are probably Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age in date although dating remains problematic. In addition a number of small pits and postholes were found for which no dating evidence was recovered.

1.4 Aims of the Archaeological Work (Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation)

1.4.1 Following the Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation by ASE, and watching brief monitoring and additional evaluation work carried out by Wessex Archaeology, an excavation of the Phase 1, Stage 2 development area was agreed, aimed at the remaining archaeological potential. For this, a Project Specification was issued by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council in December 1999. This set out the requirements of the excavation within the agreed area (**Figure 2**). The broad objectives of the Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation were to advance the knowledge of:

- prehistoric settlement structure and practice
- prehistoric ritual and funerary practice
- prehistoric environment and landscape
- prehistoric exchange and economic strategies

1.4.2 In particular, the objectives of the excavation were to:

- Clarify the character, nature, date, and extent of the Late Bronze Age enclosure (partially investigated in the Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation), including analysis of the spatial organisation of activities inside and outside the enclosure through examination of the distribution of features and artefactual and environmental assemblages

- Determine the spatial organisation, character, nature, date, and extent of the un-urned cremation cemetery (found in evaluation trenches in the northern part of the Phase 1 development area)

- Determine the character and nature of the cultural landscape to the north of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure

- Advance knowledge of the nature of the environment preceding, contemporary with, and post-dating the Neolithic causewayed enclosure and the later Bronze Age enclosure.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The methodology of the work was set out in detail within the Project Specification prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council and is not repeated here in full.

2.2 Watching Brief and Trenches 41-44

2.2.1 In July 1999 Wessex Archaeology began a watching brief and evaluation programme of the Phase 1, Stage 2 area of the Site, immediately north of the Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation (**Figure 2**). This was intended to provide more detailed information concerning the remaining potential of the Site. The work included a watching brief during groundwork for new roads, landscaped ponds and the cutting of a gas main to the west of the Site. The roads were machine stripped under archaeological supervision and provided an indication of the remaining potential within the Phase 1, Stage 2 area. Four evaluation trenches (Trenches 41-44) were also targeted on specific areas of interest during these works, in consultation with the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

2.3 Phase 1 Stage 2 Excavation and Trenches 45-49

2.3.1 The Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation was initially divided into two areas, Area A and B, separated by a tree line, and was completed between January and April 2000 (**Figure 2**). Concurrently, an additional five trenches were excavated. Trench 45 was targeted to provide a hand-excavated section of

one of the Causewayed Enclosure ditches and to enable a suite of palaeo-environmental samples to be taken from it. Trenches 46-49 were positioned to assess the archaeological potential of the area of so-called 'community woodland' planting area north of the Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation. A third area of excavation, Area B1, was completed in July 2001 and recorded the full extent of a sub-rectangular enclosure largely revealed in the northern extent of Area A.

2.3.2 The excavation areas (and concurrent additional trenching) were stripped, using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under continual archaeological supervision. Machining was stopped at the natural geology or archaeological features (whichever was encountered sooner). All features were marked with spray paint and their extents surveyed in using electronic surveying instruments utilising 'real world' Ordnance Survey grid co-ordinates. Continual monitoring of the machine-stripped surface was undertaken to observe 'weathering out' of additional features. Additional features observed in this way were surveyed and added to the plan of the excavation area.

2.3.3 All cremation-related features, whether un-urned cremation burials or pyre dump pits were 100% excavated and sampled.

2.3.4 Feature intersections were investigated to determine stratigraphic relationships. However, it was agreed with the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council that, due to resource constraints, stratigraphic relationships would not be further investigated where these were clearly visible in plan. All linear feature terminals were excavated as well as isolated feature sections. In addition, after all hand-excavated sections had been completed, artefact samples were rapidly taken at *c*. 5m intervals along linear features to obtain dating evidence.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 The artefacts and accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code 46792. The content of the archive is listed in **Appendix 1** of this document.

3 THE STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The text below summarises the significant evidence obtained from all work carried out by Wessex Archaeology, including information on the natural deposits encountered (**Figures 3**). The artefactual assemblage from the

excavation, including human bone, is assessed in **Section 4**, and the environmental evidence assessment in **Section 5** of this report.

3.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

3.2.1 The 'natural' drift geological deposits, typically Bagshot Beds, Claygate Beds, clay and Head gravel (British Geological Survey Sheet 273), were sealed below subsoil, or otherwise lay directly under the topsoil. The deposits were characterised by a mid orange/brown clay with sparse to moderate natural gravel patches and contained abundant pale grey clay mottles and sparse mineral staining. The deposits also contained numerous irregular, east-west aligned patches of natural gravel in a slightly darker orange/brown clay matrix, which probably represent periglacial features naturally silted. All archaeological features cut these deposits. A large number of natural anomalies (**Figure 3**) also penetrated the natural deposits at least some of which were tree-throws and animal burrows. There were also discrete patches of fine silts probably derived from the natural clay.

3.2.2 In Area A and B a discontinuous subsoil deposit was recorded, which was stratigraphically below the topsoil and sealed archaeological features where it was present, except for two small pits in Area B, which cut into it. This deposit was *c*. 0.20m thick and comprised pale greyish-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel. The deposit had some iron and other mineral staining and was recorded in large shallow depressions in the underlying natural geology. These depressions, or coombes, occurred in the north-west of Area B and the west and north-east of Area A and were aligned with the general slope of the prevailing topography of the Site.

3.2.3 The topsoil was characterised by a c. 0.30m thick deposit of greyish-brown silty clay with common, small to medium sub-angular gravel inclusions. This deposit was homogenous and of uniform thickness over all three areas of the excavation.

3.3 Watching brief and Evaluation Trenches 41-44

3.3.1 A number of features were recorded during the watching brief on the new road lines and in the evaluation trenches, including ditches, gullies, pits and postholes (**Figure 2**). More of Late Bronze Age enclosure found by ASE was recorded in Trenches 41 and 44, and within Road 1. An undated cremation-related deposit was recorded in a small pit in the east end of Trench 42, which may be Late Bronze Age in date. A cremation-related cluster of Late Bronze Age features was recorded in the northern extent of the Road 4. Two ditches and two pits all undated were recorded along the route of the gas main. Of these, ditch 109 (**Figure 2**) was closest to the Phase 1 Stage 2 development area.

3.4 Archaeological Sequence

Neolithic (4000 – 2400 BC)

3.4.1 Trench 45 was positioned within the area of the previous ASE excavation and targeted to intersect with the Causewayed Enclosure (**Figure 2**). A 1.0m long section (**457**) was hand-excavated across one of the inner ditch segments. The ditch was 2.76m wide and 1.14m deep with steep, slightly convex sides and a flat base, as previously recorded (ASE 2001, Figure 6). The filling sequence suggests the deposits were slightly more against the inner, south-west side of the ditch. The deposits comprised re-deposited natural clay or dark grey clay with relatively common artefacts. The fills contained predominantly Early Neolithic pottery, quernstone fragments, worked flint (including retouched tools), fired clay and sparse to moderate charcoal in places. A number of Late Bronze Age pottery sherds from a cordoned vessel were recovered from fills **2258** and **2259** (Object Nos 1531, 1536). Their presence appears to suggest that the ditch remained at least partially open for a considerable period of time, or that it was re-cut in the Late Bronze Age, evidence for which was not otherwise recorded.

3.4.2 In Area A, a small pit containing Early Neolithic pottery (4000 – 3000 BC) was found within the later Late Bronze Age enclosure **2245** (**Figure 3**). This was the only feature datable to the Neolithic period found in the Stage 2 excavation

Late Bronze Age (1100 – 700 BC)

3.4.3 Four settlement enclosures (**2242**, **2278**, **2245** and **2268**) of Late Bronze Age date were recorded on the Site. These are described below, from the largest and southern-most to the northern-most (**Figure 3**).

*Enclosure **2242***

3.4.4 This was identified in the Phase 1, Stage 1 excavation (ASE 2000) as well as within the Road 1 watching brief and in evaluation Trenches 41 and 44. It was examined further in the Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation and it is estimated that approximately half of the enclosure has been investigated in all. Based on the recorded and postulated extent of the enclosure, its diameter was *c*. 130m. No entrance opening was revealed, but this may lie in the portion of the enclosure unseen to the north and west of the Site. The other Late Bronze Age enclosures on the Site had entrances on their north-west sides.

3.4.5 The enclosure ditch varied from was 2.85 to 5.05m wide (generally 4-5m) and was 0.80m to 1.60m deep (generally 1.20m to 1.60m). It had a 'U-shaped' profile with steep, concave sides and a shallow, concave base. The southern-most section investigated was markedly different, having a flat-bottomed profile and was only 0.80m deep. This compared well with the sections recorded by ASE (ASE 2000, Figure 7).

3.4.6 The filling sequence recorded in excavated sections of the ditch was fairly consistent, containing primary and secondary fills. Finds included worked flint and pottery. The primary fills were characterised by pale grey or pale to mid orange/brown silts and clayey silts with rare gravel inclusions. This material probably derived from erosion of topsoil/subsoil horizons at, or soon after, the time the ditch was formed, and from weathering of the natural clay sides of the ditch. The total depth of these deposits was generally 0.20m to 0.30m.

3.4.7 The secondary fills were characterised by pale to mid orange/brown clays and silty clays with sparse to moderate gravel inclusions. These deposits filled the remaining profile of the large enclosure ditch and were slightly more prevalent on the 'inside' edge of the ditch, but were not consistent enough between excavated sections to suggest they represented the remnants of an inner bank to the enclosure. It is likely these were derived from the weathering of the ditch sides and also from activity within the enclosure during its use.

3.4.8 A re-cut was recorded, running along the outer edge of the primary enclosure ditch, in the three northern-most recorded sections. This was far less substantial, 'U-shaped' with moderate, concave sides and a shallow to moderate, concave base. It measured 1.78m to 2.40m wide and 0.50m to 0.56m deep. Its outer edge was coincident with the outer edge of the earlier enclosure ditch. The fills were characterised by light to mid grey silty clay and mid orange/brown clayey silts and silty clays with sparse to moderate gravel inclusions. Finds included burnt flint, charcoal and pottery. A second possible re-cut was recorded in the southernmost of the three sections that showed any re-cut. This second re-cut was insubstantial, and was only 1.25m wide and 0.28m deep, with a flat-bottomed 'U-shaped' profile.

3.4.9 A few small pits and natural features were recorded within the west side of the enclosure, which could as easily be associated with the later, smaller enclosure in the same area (**2278**, below). The finds from these features included Late Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and stone, and fragments of fired clay tablet(s) (Obj. No. 1502) usually assigned to the Late Bronze Age.

*Enclosure **2278***

3.4.10 This postulated enclosure was represented by two portions of curving ditch, suggesting an ovate shape discernible in plan. The eastern portion was recorded in section, cut into, thereby post-dating, enclosure ditch **2242**. The western portion had a terminal, possibly representing an opening to the north-west side of this enclosure. The extent of this enclosure measured *c*. 60m long (north-south) and *c*. 51m wide (east-west).

3.4.11 The ditch measured 0.98m to 2.10m wide (generally 1.50m to 2.0m), 0.28 to 0.70m deep (generally 0.40 to 0.70m), and had a 'U-shaped' profile and a concave base. The possible opening to the north-west was at least *c*. 5m wide. However, this could not be verified as this area lay beneath an extant hedge. Finds from the enclosure ditch included Late Bronze Age pottery and

burnt flint as well as a small number of intrusive Roman, Saxon and Medieval potsherds on the western side.

3.4.12 This enclosure may have had a second phase. Ditch **2624** appears to have closed the possible opening and otherwise appeared to follow its course. Ditch **2624** cut into the inner edge of the ditch **2278** and was 'U-shaped', 1.20m to 1.30m wide and 0.25m to 0.44m deep, with moderate, concave sides and a shallow to moderate, concave base. Finds included Late Bronze Age pottery.

*Enclosure **2245***

3.4.13 Eastward of enclosure **2242**, the northern and western extents of a possibly ovate enclosure were identified. It was represented by two ditches, which possibly enclosed an area 50m north-south by 40m wide east-west. Their opposed terminals indicated an opening to the west. The northern ditch curved and also terminated at its southern end, indicating possibly a second opening.

3.4.14 The ditches were between 1.30m and 2.02m wide (generally 1.85m to 2.02m), and were 0.38m to 1.05m deep, and had moderate to steep, concave profiles and shallow to moderate, concave bases. The terminals tended to be shallower, being only 0.38m to 0.55m deep. The filling sequence was fairly consistently pale yellowish-brown silty clays with rare inclusions, rarely containing pottery and charcoal flecks. Rarely, the filling sequences included pale grey clays, which may be indicative of originally slightly organic deposits. The deposits overall were generally symmetrical deposited, giving no indications of a bank, either internal or external.

3.4.15 A group of three large pits (**2443**) were recorded on the north side of the entrance, which would have constricted the width of the enclosure entrance to only *c*.3.5m. The pits were all oval, aligned on their long axes and were unevenly spaced, but very similar in size and profile. The pits were consistently 1.0m to 1.30m long, 0.84m to 1.05m wide and 0.40 to 0.50m deep. Each had a moderate to steep, concave upper element and a smaller diameter, steep-sided lower element *c*. 0.20m deep and *c*. 0.25m diameter at the base, which may be interpreted as a post setting. The sections did not illustrate a 'post-pipe' or packing material still *in situ* but their common alignment and location directly in the entrance would suggest that they were an integral part of the enclosure entrance and were probably post-pits.

3.4.16 The pits contained relatively common finds of worked and burnt flint, Late Bronze Age pottery, bone, charcoal, quernstone fragments and clay lumps. Quernstone fragments were particularly common in the middle pit (**2434**) and two near-complete pottery vessels were recovered from the northernmost pit (**2439**), some of which dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. These finds appear to derive from domestic activity and may have been selected and deposited deliberately.

3.4.17 Two postholes of similar dimensions were recorded within the southern terminal of the enclosure entrance, which had been cut when the terminal was fully-silted up. They may be related to the possible 'post-pits' **2443** and could represent a later phase of adjustment to the enclosure entrance. A single, possible four-post structure (**2248**) was recorded just inside the western entrance area of the enclosure, although it was very small in size (only *c*. 1.30m by *c*. 1.20m). The postholes were fairly similar in size and depth, being sub-circular, 0.37m to 0.60m in diameter and 0.18m to 0.21m deep, with moderate to steep concave sides and moderate concave bases. The excavated sections showed no evidence of post-pipes or packing. The fills contained Late Bronze Age pottery, worked and burnt flint, and charcoal.

3.4.18 A line of at least 10 postholes (**2372**) was recorded to the south-east of enclosure **2245**. This possible fence was aligned east-west and was *c*. 12m long. The postholes were similar in size and depth being generally 0.35m to 0.45m in diameter and 0.15 to 0.30m deep, with varying concave sides and bases. The single fills of each posthole, predominantly derived from the natural clay, contained rare sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. The spatial proximity to enclosure **2245** might suggest the features were related.

*Enclosure **2268***

3.4.19 This northernmost enclosure was sub-square in plan, aligned north-west/south-east and had fairly regular, straight sides and regular rounded corners. Only the west side was slightly curvilinear in plan. A *c*. 7m wide strip of ground across the enclosure interior and ditch circuit could not be investigated due to an extant tree line. A number of natural anomalies and postholes were recorded within the enclosure which, included at least three four-post structures (**2263**, **2264**, **2265**) and two possible fence lines (**2706**, **3425**).

3.4.20 The enclosure was *c*. 49m long and 45m wide with an opening *c*.4.50m wide in the centre of its north-west side. It was cut by Late Iron Age/Roman period ditches **2256** and **2257** and the possibly Middle/Late Iron Age ditch **3641**. The enclosure ditch had a 'U-shaped' profile with steep, concave sides and a shallow to moderate, concave base. It ranged in size, being 0.70m to 1.60m wide (generally 1.0m to 1.40m) and 0.30m to 0.68m deep (generally 0.40m to 0.50m). The filling sequence comprised primary fills of pale to mid grey clays, silty clays and silts with lighter secondary fills tending to be comprised of pale to mid orange/brown clays and clay silts. The darker primary fills may have contained higher organic content, perhaps representing waste from the enclosure interior, hence their darker colour and the relative predominance of artefacts, including Late Bronze Age pottery, worked and burnt flint, fired clay and charcoal. Pottery of the Late Iron Age/Roman period was found in the upper fills of the enclosure ditch, precisely where it was cut by ditches **2256** and **2257**, indicating a possible date for these features.

3.4.21 Three four-post structures (**2263**, **2264**, **2265**) were recorded in the south-eastern part of the enclosure. These were very similar in size, being 2.20m to

2.40m square, with postholes generally sub-circular/oval, *c*. 0.25m to 0.50m in diameter and 0.15m to 0.30m deep. The postholes of **2264** had a slightly larger diameter (0.60m to 0.80m) but were as heavily truncated as the rest of the postholes making up the four-post structures. None of the postholes of these structures illustrated post-pipes or contained in-situ packing. They all contained Late Bronze Age pottery, burnt stones and flint and charcoal.

3.4.22 The two possible fence lines (**2706**, **3425**) were recorded within the south-eastern part of enclosure **2268**. Group **2706** consisted of a *c*. 5m long line of five postholes aligned east-west, to the immediate south-west of four-post structure Group **2264**. The postholes were regularly spaced, at least every 0.60m to 0.80m apart, and formed a very straight line. They were generally circular or sub-circular in shape, with shallow to moderate concave sides and shallow concave/flat bases, and measured 0.27m to 0.40m in diameter and 0.07m to 0.25m deep. There was no indication of any packing or of post-pipes. The fills contained only one piece of burnt flint and rare sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery.

3.4.23 Group **3425** consisted of an irregular, north-south line of seven postholes, which were irregularly spaced at intervals of between 0.40m and 0.80m over a distance of *c*. 8.25m. The postholes were sub-circular/circular in plan with moderate to near-vertical concave/flat sides and flat bases. They were between 0.27m and 0.41m in diameter (generally *c*. 0.40m) and 0.08m to 0.20m in diameter. No evidence of packing material or post-pipes was recorded within the cuts. The predominantly single fills of the postholes contained a single piece of burnt flint and rare Late Bronze Age pottery.

3.4.24 A line of three large pits (**3433**) was recorded to the immediate south-east of enclosure Group **2268** and aligned with the south-eastern side of the enclosure. The enclosure's long axis ran exactly through the central pit of this group and the centre of the north-west enclosure entrance. The pits were sub-circular/oval in shape with steep, flat sides and a flat base, and were between 0.92m and 1.30m in diameter, and between 0.35m and 0.48m deep. The fills contained Late Bronze Age pottery, worked flint and charcoal. None of the pit sections contained post-pipes or in-situ packing remnants to suggest that they held upright posts at some time. The alignment and location of these pits appears to suggest they are integral to the enclosure lay-out.

Cremation related features and pits

3.4.25 To the north-east of enclosure **2268** a cluster of at least 29 'cremation-related' features were recorded consisting of a discrete concentration of 26 un-urned cremation burials and/or pits containing pyre debris (together **2269**) and three related outlying features to the south-east. The features were badly preserved, plough damaged and affected by bioturbation. A number of natural hollows were recorded in the area of the cemetery, which contained material identical to that filling the cremation-related features. Plough marks were recorded across the main part of the concentration leading to a spreading of material and fragmentation of the discrete pit cuts in places. A

few sherds of stratified Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from a few of the features suggesting the whole group were probably of this date.

3.4.26 The small pits were generally sub-circular in plan, being generally 0.25m to 0.40m in extent and 0.15m to 0.20m deep and had moderate to steep, flat and concave sides and flat or slightly concave bases. The fills were characterised by black or greyish-black coarse silts or clayey silts with abundant charcoal and burnt bone fragments (dimensionally between 10mm and 30mm). The charcoal and the burnt bone fragments were generally evenly distributed throughout the fills. In a few features a primary fill of re-deposited natural clay was recorded, which may derive from the partial collapse of the sides before use or weathering of the sides of the pits.

3.4.27 A number of discrete, charcoal-rich, small pits (**2038**, **2040**, **2042**, **2046**, 3000) were recorded in Area B, some of which contained Late Bronze Age pottery. These were located in the eastern part of the area, where a cremation-related feature was recorded in the east end of evaluation Tr.42. They were generally circular, between 0.20m and 0.50m in diameter and only 0.04m to 0.15m in depth, with dark to very dark greyish-brown fills. Two small possible hearth features (**2002**, **2611**) in the west of Area B contained fired clay and were charcoal-rich. Most of these discrete features are probably Late Bronze Age in date and either represent settlement activity within the large enclosure **2242**, or possible cremation-related activities immediately outside the enclosure. This latter possibility would be consistent with enclosure **2268**, which appeared to have its own discrete area of cremation related deposits **2269**. Another possible cremation-related feature (**2111**) was recorded in the south-east of the Site, to the south-east of enclosure **2245**.

3.4.28 A large pit (**2489**) was recorded *c*. 35m north-east of enclosure **2245**. The pit was an elongated, irregular oval feature (partially within the base of a natural depression in the natural topography of the Site. It measured 4.50m by 1.0m in extent and was 1.21m deep, with steep/near-vertical, irregular, concave sides and a shallow, concave base. The fills were characterised by redeposited natural orange/brown clays and pale grey/greyish-brown silty clays and sands (which contained the most artefacts). Finds included pottery, including at least two partial vessels, and rare charcoal. The feature may be interpreted as a quarry, possibly for clay.

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)

3.4.29 Ditch **3641** (in Area B1) was *c*. 35m long, and parallel with ditches **2256** and **2257** recorded 16m to the east (see below). It may be dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age, on ceramic evidence, and appears to represent a significant change in the Site's development in transgressing the enclosure group **2268**. It may represent land division, or may relate to the postulated drove-ways represented by **2256** and **2257**.

Roman (AD 43 – 410)

3.4.30 A number of linear ditches of Roman date were recorded during the excavations, which possibly represent tracks, drove-ways or field boundaries. These ran north-south or northwest-southeast, between higher ground to the north and lower ground to the south.

3.4.31 The largest ditches, **2256** and **2257**, were in the north part of the Site and were *c*.18m apart. Indirect evidence for their broadly Roman date may be suggested by the presence of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery in the upper fills of enclosure ditch **2268**, which they were cut through. They were parallel for most of their recorded *c*. 115m length, but appeared to converge at their southernmost recorded extent. The ditches had moderate to steep, concave sides with shallow concave or flat bases and were between 0.44m and 1.73m wide (generally 0.60 to 0.80m) and were between 0.13m to 0.45m deep (generally 0.20 to 0.40m). The fills were predominantly re-deposited natural silty clay or clay material, rarely with greyish mottling and contained Roman pottery (as well as residual pottery of Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age date), worked and burnt flint, non-local stone, fired clay and charcoal.

3.4.32 A *c*. 52m length of parallel ditches (**2266** and **2267**) was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the Site. They were recorded *c*.7m apart and aligned north-west/south-east and bisected the cremation-related feature cluster (**2269**). The ditches were 0.70m to 1.60m wide (generally greater than 1.0m) and were 0.06 to 0.44m deep (generally greater than *c*. 0.30m), with shallow to moderate concave sides and a shallow concave or flat base. The fills generally comprised re-deposited natural clay and contained possibly residual pottery of Late Bronze Age date and burnt flint. Another *c*. 8m long section of a east-west running ditch (**3643**), recorded in the south-east corner of Area B1, may be dated to this period. Its alignment, almost perpendicular to drove-way ditches **2256** and **2257**, may represent further evidence of the imposition of land divisions at this time, possibly in a rectilinear pattern.

Saxon (410 – 1066)

3.4.33 A north-south and east-west aligned group of small ditches (**2246**, **2247**, **2255**, **2259**) was recorded in the middle of the Site. It appeared to form a rectilinear pattern. The ditches were characterised by shallow, concave sides and bases, ranging in width from 0.30m to 1.50m (generally 0.40 to 1.0m) and in depth from 0.15m to 0.40m (generally 0.30 to 0.40m). The fills were predominantly pale to mid orange/brown silty clays and contained Saxon pottery, burnt flint and rarely fired clay, bone, shell and charcoal).

3.4.34 Two small pits, **2848** and **2293**, in Area A contained very small amounts of Saxon pottery and may date to this period.

Medieval (1066 – 1499)

3.4.35 The alignment of the Saxon ditches appears to have been continued in later ditches **2251** and **2252** to the north. These were east-west aligned and had moderate concave sides and a concave base. They measured 0.90m to 1.91m

wide (generally wider than 1.0m) and 0.23m to 0.35m deep. The fills comprised re-deposited natural and contained Medieval pottery and rarely, burnt flint, ceramic building material and charcoal. Ditch **2251** was recut.

3.4.36 A large pit (**3006**) was recorded in the south-west of the Site. It was 5.0m long by 4.40m wide (aligned north-east/south-west) and 0.36m deep, with very shallow sides and base. The fills were characterised by mid-grey silty clays containing pottery, oyster shell, ceramic building material, an iron object and charcoal.

Post-Medieval/Modern (1500 – present)

3.4.37 A series of shallow linear ditches (**2609**, **2276**, **2277**) east-northeast/west-south-west aligned, was recorded in the south of Area B. These had shallow, 'U-shaped' profiles 0.84m to 1.60m wide (generally wider than 1.0m) and 0.25m to 0.34m deep. The fills comprised re-deposited natural orange/brown silty clays with rare pottery of prehistoric and Post-medieval (after 1500 AD) date. These features probably represent a precursor to the existing tree-line boundary that divided Areas A and B.

3.4.38 Regular rectilinear gullies (**2254**, **2260**, **2340**) running either north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east in Area A probably represent field drains.

Ditches of uncertain date

3.4.39 A pair of north-west/south-east aligned, parallel ditches (**2243** and **2244**) *c*.8.50m apart were recorded in the southern part of the Site, which cut enclosure ditch **2242**. They were recorded over a length of *c*. 84m. The ditches generally had moderate to steep, concave sides and a slightly concave or flat base and were 0.30m to 0.85m wide and 0.12 to 0.25m deep. The predominantly re-deposited natural clayey fills contained rare finds and the date of the features remains uncertain. However, pottery of Late Bronze Age and possibly Saxon date, along with worked and burnt flint, and charcoal, was recovered.

3.4.40 Two undated linear gully/ditch features (**2055** and **2056**) were recorded in the west of Area B cut into enclosure ditch **2242**. They were aligned north-south and characterised by moderate to steep 'U-shaped' profiles filled with redeposited natural deposits. The gullies were generally 0.50m to 1.0m wide and 0.10m to 0.30m deep.

4 FINDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section considers the finds from both evaluation and excavation carried out by Wessex Archaeology on the Site, and also considers artefacts retrieved from soil samples. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception

of metalwork) and quantified by material type within each context. Totals by material type are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Finds totals by material type		
Material type	**Number**	**Weight (g)**
Animal Bone	194+	2306
Burnt Flint	-	23,918
Ceramic Building Material	23	1137
Clay Pipe	2	2
Fired Clay	118	791
Worked Flint	152	1226
Glass	10	211
Human Bone	40	36
Pottery	**3222**	**23,710**
Early prehistoric	*224*	*1785*
Later prehistoric	*2642*	*19,014*
LIA/Romano-British	*166*	*937*
Saxon	*85*	*526*
Medieval	*81*	*385*
Post-medieval	*14*	*1041*
Undated	*10*	*22*
Marine Shell	67+	964
Slag	38	241
Stone	8	2735
Worked	*4*	*2042*
Burnt	*4*	*693*
Metal	31	-
Iron	*29*	-
Copper alloy	*2*	-
Human Bone		
Cremated	-	1567
Inhumed (unstratified)	40	36

4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site, but its potential value in this respect is somewhat limited by the predominance within the assemblage of long-lived ware types, and by the relative scarcity of diagnostic material. It is apparent, however, that the majority of the assemblage is of later prehistoric date (Late Bronze Age and later), with smaller quantities of earlier prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval material. Ten sherds (all small body sherds in heavily leached calcareous fabrics) remain undated, although the likelihood is that they are medieval. The breakdown of the pottery assemblage by chronological period and ware group is given in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware group		
DATE RANGE	**Number**	**Weight (g)**
Early Neolithic	223	1773
Flint-tempered	*181*	*1619*
Sandy	*42*	*154*
Early Bronze Age	1	12
Late Bronze Age/Iron Age	2642	19,014
Flint-tempered	*2562*	*18,423*
Grog-tempered	*39*	*220*
Sandy	*41*	*371*
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	166	937
Glauconitic sandy	*82*	*393*
Sandy	*62*	*287*
Calcareous	*15*	*199*
Grog-tempered	*6*	*53*
Flint-tempered	*1*	*5*
Saxon	85	526
Medieval	81	385
Calcareous	*4*	*34*
Sandy	*77*	*351*
Post-medieval	14	1041
Undated	10	22
TOTAL	**3222**	**23,710**

Early prehistoric

4.2.2 A small number of sherds, mostly in flint-tempered fabrics but with some sandy wares, have been identified as Early Neolithic, with varying degrees of confidence. Clearly identifiable vessel forms and decorated sherds are present within the group(s) of sherds from the Causewayed Enclosure ditch **457** and ditch **2863**. These groups include sherds in markedly coarse flint-tempered fabrics, which are relatively distinctive, but also in finer flint-tempered fabrics, which are indistinguishable by eye from the later prehistoric wares. Sherds from layer **2842** and pit **3024** have been more tentatively identified as Early Neolithic on the basis of the similarity of fabric types (all very coarsely flint-tempered) and provenance and there is a possibility that further Neolithic sherds remain unidentified within the later prehistoric assemblage.

4.2.3 One grog-tempered sherd from ditch **2627** (enclosure **2242**) has been provisionally dated as Early Bronze Age on fabric grounds alone – this sherd is otherwise completely undiagnostic, and cannot be attributed to a ceramic tradition.

Later Prehistoric

4.2.4 A large proportion of the assemblage has at this stage been broadly dated as later prehistoric. The majority of this material is in flint-tempered fabrics in a varying range of coarseness, and including better sorted fabrics which could

be defined as 'finewares'; some of these fabrics also contain some grog/clay pellet inclusions, and there are a few grog-tempered sherds, mostly containing sparse flint inclusions as well. There are also a few sandy sherds. Diagnostic material is relatively scarce, despite the occurrence of several deposits containing partial vessels with reconstructable profiles (e.g. postholes **2434** and **2439**, ditches **2480**, **2642** and **3615**: some of these are from the lower parts of vessels only), but recognisable vessel forms include coarseware jars with hooked or everted rims (e.g. ditch **2404**, scoop **3022**), one vessel with a lug handle (cremation-related deposit **2239**) and two jars in fineware fabrics with applied neck cordons (posthole **2439**, causewayed enclosure ditch **457**). One particularly large group of 518 sherds, including rims from several different vessels, came from feature **3022**.

4.2.5 The vessel forms present here suggest a date range of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, but it must be pointed out that such flint-tempered, grog-tempered and sandy fabrics have a long currency in east Kent, virtually throughout the 1st millennium BC, and it is possible that some of this assemblage is later in date (see Macpherson-Grant 1991). Equally, some sherds from the coarser end of the spectrum (e.g. from postholes **2371, 2290**) could fall within the range of the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Middle Bronze Age. No identifiable vessel forms, however, have been recognised either pre-dating the Late Bronze Age or post-dating the Early Iron Age, and a hiatus in the ceramic sequence is suggested during the Middle Iron Age.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

4.2.6 A small group of sherds in a distinctive glauconitic sandy fabric derive from handmade vessels in a native Late Iron Age tradition. These occur almost exclusively associated with flint-tempered fabrics as described above, suggesting that the latter wares were still in use at this period. Calcareous and grog-tempered fabrics are also characteristic of the Late Iron Age, and there are diagnostic bead-rimmed vessel forms (surface finds) although there is no sign here of the distinctive grog-tempered 'Belgic' wheelthrown forms of the immediate pre-conquest period.

4.2.7 More 'Romanised' wheelthrown wares are present in small quantities; these include sandy greywares and oxidised wares, none of which are closely datable within the Roman period.

Saxon

4.2.8 A total of 84 sherds, all in organic-tempered fabrics, has been dated as Early/Middle Saxon, although there is some uncertainty over some sandy wares containing sparse organic inclusions, here considered to be more characteristic of the later prehistoric period (specifically, the Early Iron Age). Diagnostic material is limited to one or two rims, but this is insufficient to date the assemblage more closely. The largest group (39 sherds) came from ditch fill **2309**, part of **2247**

Medieval

4.2.9 Medieval wares consist mainly of sandy fabrics (with a potential source at Tyler Hill, Canterbury), and a few calcareous, probably shelly wares. There are two bowl rims and one jar rim; the date range is likely to be later 12th to early 14th century.

Post-medieval

4.2.10 Fourteen sherds are post-medieval in date, including coarse redwares, stoneware and industrial wares.

4.3 Fired Clay and Ceramic Objects

4.3.1 Fragments of perforated clay tablet have been identified from two contexts. In both bases the tablets are in a heavily organic-tempered fabric. Such tablets are relatively common finds on sites of Late Bronze Age date in the lower Thames Valley.

4.3.2 The remainder of the assemblage comprises small, featureless ceramic fragments, probably structural in origin, from hearth linings or from upstanding structures. The date of this material is unknown, but on the grounds of associated pottery the majority at least is likely to be of later prehistoric date.

4.3.3 This includes fragments of bricks and tiles. Several fragments of Romano-British date can be identified (ditches **2252**, **2808, 2843**); the remainder consists of fragments of medieval or post-medieval roof tile, one of which is glazed.

4.4 Stone

4.4.1 Worked stone comprises two lava quern fragments (pit **2848** and ditch group **2252** respectively), one greensand quern fragment (posthole **2434**) and a (possibly worked) rounded chalk lump (layer **2241**).

4.5 Worked and Burnt Flint

4.5.1 The small lithic assemblage is chronologically mixed. Potentially the earliest piece is a heavily rolled, possible Palaeolithic flake, found unstratified in Area B. A crude attempt at a bifacially worked piece, also unstratified, could in fact be a modern artefact. From the subsoil (context **2213**) came a relatively long blade; this could potentially be a Late Glacial or Upper Holocene artefact, but is not sufficiently diagnostic, and could equally be of later (perhaps early Neolithic) date.

4.5.2 Groups of Neolithic flint can be identified from the fills of the causewayed enclosure ditch (**457**) – these include a broken arrowhead (probably a leaf form), a serrate, at least two retouched pieces, and a multi-platform core. Bullhead flint occurs in these contexts, and other pieces of Bullhead flint

from other contexts, including at least one retouched piece (ditch **3032**), may be of similar date.

4.5.3 The majority of the lithic assemblage, however, is likely to be largely of Bronze Age date – this consists of flake and core material, with no identifiable tools or utilised pieces and therefore little which is chronologically distinctive. Raw material consists of locally available gravel flint. Condition varies from relatively fresh to edge damaged; a few pieces are patinated and two pieces are burnt.

4.5.4 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered in some quantity. This material type is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity. In this instance most of the burnt flint appears to derive from contexts of later prehistoric date, but with no noticeable concentrations.

4.6 Metalwork and metalworking debris

4.6.1 Nails make up the majority of the iron assemblage; there is also one patten base from a post-medieval ditch (boundary ditch group **2609**), and a possible ploughshare from a ditch containing medieval pottery (**2846**). Other objects are unidentifiable, as are all of the copper alloy objects.

4.6.2 A few pieces of metalworking slag were also recovered, from seven contexts, of which six appear, on the basis of associated pottery, to be of later prehistoric date (Late Bronze Age or later).

4.7 Human bone

4.7.1 Cremated human bone was recovered from 26 features, which were identified on site as being cremation-related. The majority of these (23) formed a cluster in the north-eastern corner of the site (group **2269**). These features are essentially undated, although are assumed to be later prehistoric – a few contained sherds of pottery of Late Bronze Age or later date, although there is no evidence that any of the features represent urned cremations. All of the bone is in very poor condition, and has been heavily fragmented, probably due to post-depositional processes; much disturbance by ploughing and animal burrowing was noted. Most features contained only small quantities of bone – weights per feature range from 1 – 309 grammes, with only three features producing more than 100 grammes. Again this may be largely due to post-depositional truncation.

4.7.2 There is no suggestion at this stage that any of the cremation-related deposits contained the remains of more than one individual. The bone from 18 of these deposits was identifiable as ?immature (2), ?young adult (1), subadult/adult (4) or adult (11) – quantities from the remaining deposits were too small, and the bone too fragmentary for age to be assessed.

4.7.3 In addition, fragments of a human femur, in very poor condition, were recovered as surface finds.

4.8 Other finds

4.8.1 Other finds comprise a few clay pipe fragments, and a few pieces of bottle glass, all of post-medieval date.

4.9 Animal Bone

4.9.1 A small collection of animal and fish bones was recovered from 13 contexts, ranging in date from later prehistoric to post-medieval (no bone was recovered from the Neolithic causewayed enclosure). The majority of the bone is in poor condition with a high degree of fragmentation and weathering. The exceptions to this are two post-medieval contexts (ditches **2805** and **2846**) which yielded well-preserved bones. The absence of small species, with the exception of the fish bones, may be a product of poor survival rather than a true picture of the animals exploited at the time. The fish bones that were retrieved (pits **113** and **115**) came from species with robust skeletons (cod and ray) and their survival is not surprising in this context.

4.9.2 The majority of the bones came from later prehistoric contexts (Late Bronze Age or later). However, because of the small number of bones, which could be identified very little, can be said about the exploitation of animals and fish at the site.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Aims

5.1.1 Sampling was undertaken to determine the preservation and diversity of charred and land snail remains. From this data their potential for analysis to contribute to the understanding of the site, the nature of the landscape and farming economy, and the nature of defined activities and is assessed.

5.2 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence

5.2.1 A series of 145 bulk samples of between 0.75 and 30 litres was processed from a range of feature types for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. Four further samples were processed for charcoal and artefacts.

5.2.2 A monolith was taken from the Neolithic ditch **457** along with 21 mollusc samples. Another two mollusc samples were taken from two Late Bronze Age ditches.

Table 3: Bulk samples by phase					
Phase	**no of bulk samples**		**Artefact samples**		**total vol**
	no	**vol (L)**	**No**	**vol (L)**	**vol (L)**
Neolithic	8	240	0	0	240
Late Bronze Age	113	1292.25	4	30	1322.25
Late Iron Age / Romano-British	5	119	0	0	119
Saxon	4	117	0	0	117
Medieval	2	57	0	0	57
Undated	13	250	0	0	250
Total	145	2075.25	4	30	2105.25

5.3 Sample Processing Methods

5.3.1 The bulk samples for charred and charcoal remains were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot was retained on a 0.5mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6mm/4mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm/4mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

5.3.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential.

5.3.3 The snail samples, of between 1000g and 2000g, were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails.

5.4 Assessment Results: the data

Charred plant remains

5.4.1 The flots varied in size (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) with between five and 90% rooty material and low to high numbers of uncharred weed seeds, which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement.

5.4.2 The eight samples from the Neolithic Causewayed enclosure all contained charred grain fragments, in large quantities in four samples and low numbers of charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments, were observed in seven samples. Small amounts of charred chaff fragments were retrieved from two samples. Molluscs were present in two samples.

5.4.3 The 70 samples from Late Bronze Age cremations produced charred grain fragments in 47 samples, in high numbers in two samples, a few charred chaff fragments in three samples and charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments in 56 samples. Molluscs were present in two samples.

5.4.4 The 10 samples from Late Bronze Age pits all contained charred grain fragments, in large quantities in four of them. A few charred chaff fragments

were recorded in four samples and low numbers of charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments, in eight samples.

5.4.5 The 17 samples from Late Bronze Age postholes all produced charred grain fragments, in high numbers in 11 of them. Charred chaff fragments were recorded in 13 samples, in large amounts in six of them and charred weed seeds were observed in 16 samples, in large quantities in two samples. Charred pea/bean fragments were retrieved in high numbers from four samples. Molluscs were present in two samples.

5.4.6 The 16 samples from Late Bronze Age Enclosures and other ditches all contained charred grain fragments, in large quantities from nine of them. Charred chaff fragments were recorded in 10 samples, in a high number in one of them, and a few charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments, were observed in eight of them.

5.4.7 The five samples from Late Iron Age / Romano-British ditches produced large amounts of charred grain fragments. A large quantity of charred chaff fragments was recorded from a single sample. Low numbers of charred weed seeds were observed in four samples.

5.4.8 The four samples from Saxon ditches all contained high numbers of charred grain fragments and small quantities of charred weed seeds.

5.4.9 The two samples from medieval ditches produced large amounts of charred grain fragments and low numbers of charred weed seeds. A few charred chaff fragments were observed in a single sample.

5.4.10 The 13 samples from undated features contained charred grain fragments in 11 samples, in high numbers in six of them. Charred chaff fragments were recorded in five samples, in large amounts in two of them and small quantities of charred weed seeds were observed in eight samples.

Charcoal

5.4.11 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. Charcoal fragments of greater than 5.6 mm were retrieved in large quantities from 26 of the Late Bronze Age cremation samples, from four of the Late Bronze Age pit samples, from two of the Late Bronze Age posthole samples, from one of the Late Iron Age/ Romano-British samples, from all four Saxon samples, from one of the medieval samples and from seven of the undated samples. The charcoal was mainly large wood fragments.

Pollen

5.4.12 Two monoliths were taken for pollen assessment. The first (monolith 1006) *c*. 0.6m long from was from shallow inter-cut ditches **2616** and **2613**. The lower fills contained many voids and significant sediment displacement was noticed in the monolith. Major vertical voids (root holes and earthworm burrows) up to 0.7mm diameter penetrated the entire sequence and were

filled with dark brown humic top soil material. It was considered that pollen preservation in the mixed, loose deposits would be poor (Scaife pers. comm.), and that there was a high risk of significant contamination from modern soil mixed throughout the soil. No sub-samples were examined for pollen.

5.4.13 The second monolith (monolith 1116) was taken through the Neolithic causewayed ditch fills adjacent to the column of contiguous samples for land snails. No snails were present excepting relatively high levels of modern intrusive burrowing species (**Table 5**), and similarly relatively high levels of modern intrusive uncharred weed seeds were also seen (**Table 4**).

Land snails

5.4.14 The flots were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10 - x 30 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quasi quantified (**Table 5**).

5.4.15 A column of 21 contiguous samples through the fills of the Neolithic Causewayed enclosure ditch produced no shells (**Table 5**), excepting *Ceciloides acicula,* which is a modern burrowing species and thus palaeo-ecologically insignificant.

5.4.16 Spot samples were taken from two inter-cutting Bronze Age ditches. Only *Ceciloides acicula* was present (**Table 5**).

5.4.17 Land snails were present in low numbers in a few of the flots from bulk samples (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal												
				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
Neolithic												
Causewayed Enclosure												
457	458	1104	30	60 [80]	B	-	a	-	C	-	-	P
457	459	1105	30	20 [30]	B	-	a	C h	C	moll-t (C)	-	P C
457	2526	1106	30	30 [60]	A	C	c	C	C	moll-t (C)	-	P
457	2527	1107	30	50 [85]	B	-	a	C	-	-	-	P
457	2528	1108	30	30 [15]	A	-	A	C	C	-	-	P
457	2530	1109	30	25 [25]	A	-	B	C h	C	-	-	P C
457	2531	1110	30	5 [20]	B	-	A	C h	C	-	-	P C
457	2532	1112	30	30 [15]	A	C	C	C	C	-	-	P C
Late Bronze Age												
Cremation group 2269												
2119	2690	1102	10	250 [10]	-	-	A	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	
2121	2688	1100	3	30 [60]	B	-	A	C	C	-	-	P
2121	2689	1101	1.5	15 [60]	-	-	C	C	C	-	-	
2122	2686	1095	3	200 [10]	-	-	A	C	A*	-	-	C
2122	2687	1096	3	125 [15]	C	-	C	C	A	-	-	
2123	2682	1091	1	40 [25]	C	-	B	-	C	-	-	
2123	2683	1092	1	30 [50]	C	-	A	C	-	-	-	
2125	2684	1093	7	150 [40]	C	-	A	C	A*	-	-	
2125	2685	1094	8	250 [10]	C	-	A	C	A*	-	-	C
2126	2679	1089	5	140 [30]	C	-	A	C	A	Burnt bone	-	
2126	2680	1090	6	125 [30]	-	-	A	C	A	Burnt bone	-	
2127	2677	1087	5	125 [40]	-	-	A	C	A	Burnt bone	-	
2127	2678	1088	5	100 [25]	-	-	A	C	C	Burnt bone	-	
2128	2675	1084	1	10 [60]	C	-	B	C	C	Burnt bone	-	
2128	2676	1085	1	30 [25]	-	-	C	C	-	Burnt bone	-	
2129	2197	1083	15	350 [7]	C	-	A	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	
2129	2198	1086	20	500 [5]	C	-	A	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	C
2131	2192	1077	8	150 [15]	C	-	A	C	C	Burnt bone	-	
2131	2193	1078	7	100 [40]	C	-	A	C	A	Burnt bone	-	
2132	2194	1079	3	40 [35]	C	-	B	C	C	-	-	
2132	2195	1080	5	60 [30]	-	-	A	B	C	-	-	
2133	2187	1071	5	250 [5]	C	-	A	B	A	Burnt bone	-	
2133	2189	1073	6	250 [10]	C	-	A	B	A	Burnt bone	-	P
2134	2190	1074	4	125 [10]	C	-	A	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	C
2134	2191	1075	6	250 [5]	C	-	A	B	A	Burnt bone	-	
2136	2185	1068	1	15 [20]	-	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2136	2186	1069	5	25 [60]	C	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2136	2188	1072	1	10 [60]	C	C	B	C	-	-	-	P
2137	2184	1062	1	10 [40]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	

				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds Uncharred	Weed seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
Late Bronze Age (cont.)												
Cremation group 2269 (cont.)												
2138	2171	1049	1	15 [50]	C	-	B	C	C	-	-	
2138	2173	1051	3	40 [75]	C	-	A	C	-	-	-	
2139	2182	1060	3	30 [25]	-	-	B	C	-	-	-	
2139	2183	1061	4	90 [10]	-	-	A	C	A	-	-	
2140	2172	1050	2	60 [15]	C	-	C	C	A	-	-	
2140	2174	1052	4	110 [20]	-	-	A	C	A	-	-	
2141	2175	1053	1.5	10 [60]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	
2141	2176	1054	2	15 [33]	C	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2142	2177	1055	6	175 [20]	-	-	A	C	A	Burnt bone	-	
2142	2178	1056	8	60 [75]	C	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2142	2179	1057	1	10 [65]	C	-	B	-	-	-	-	
2142	2180	1058	3	125 [10]	C	-	A	-	A	Burnt bone	-	
2142	2181	1059	10	30 [80]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	
2143	2162	1040	5	60 [30]	-	-	A	C	B	Burnt bone	-	
2143	2169	1047	5	40 [50]	C	-	A	-	C	Burnt bone	-	
2143	2170	1048	10	40 [80]	C	-	A	C	-	-	-	
2144	2160	1038	1	15 [40]	-	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2144	2161	1039	6	20 [80]	-	-	a*	C	-	-	-	
2144	2165	1043	0.75	15 [35]	-	-	B	C	C	-	-	
2144	2166	1044	7	30 [75]	-	-	A	C	-	-	-	
2145	2163	1041	4	40 [80]	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	
2145	2167	1045	4	30 [90]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	
2146	2164	1042	3	40 [40]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	
2146	2168	1046	5	50 [50]	C	-	A	-	A	-	-	
	2130	1076	2	40 [15]	C	-	A	C	B	Burnt bone	-	
	2135	1070	4	20 [75]	C	-	A	C h	-	-	-	P
	2196	1082	4	40 [30]	C	-	A	C	C	Burnt bone	-	
	2199	1081	1	10 [50]	-	-	A	C	-	-	-	
Cremations												
423	424	15	10	500 [20]	C	-	A	C	A*	-	-	C
2111	2112	1032	6	50 [80]	B	-	A	-	C	moll-t (C)	-	P
2111	2112	1033	10	80 [90]	A	C	A	-	-	-	-	P
2111	2113	1030	3	60 [50]	C	-	A	-	B	-	-	
2111	2113	1031	1.5	30 [50]	C	-	C	C	C	-	-	
2285	2284	1011	30	40 [50]	A	-	A	C	C	Burnt bone	40	P C
2285	2284	1011	10	Artefact sieved							-	
3204	3205	1113	1	30 [35]	-	-	A	C	C	-	-	
3204	3206	1114	3	200 [20]	C	-	A	C	A*	-	-	
3220	3221	1139	4	175 [20]	-	-	C	C	A*	-	-	C
3220	3222	1140	3	120 [30]	-	-	C	C	A*	Moll-t (C)	-	

				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds Uncharred	Weed seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	Analysis
Late Bronze Age (cont.)												
Cremations (cont.)												
3225	3226	1141	7	60 90	C	C	A	C	C	-	-	P
3225	3229	1152	6	100 75	C	-	A	C	B	Burnt bone	-	
3225	3230	1153	7	120 85	C	-	A	-	-	Burnt bone	-	
Pits												
2230	2229	1003	20	100 80	A	C	A	B h	-	-	-	P
2239	2238	1004	9	100 25	C	-	A	-	A*	-	-	C
2871	2872	1168	25	120 30	B	-	A	C	A	-	-	
2871	2873	1167	30	150 50	A	-	A	C	A	-	-	P C
2871	2874	1166	25	200 35	B	-	A	C	A*	-	-	
3223	3224	1142	30	250 80	A	C	A	B	C	-	-	P
3233	3234	1156	20	120 60	B	C	A	C	-	-	-	
3427, gp3437	3426	1155	30	120 80	C	-	A	C	-	-	-	
3432, gp3437	3430	1164	30	175 80	A	B	A	B	-	-	-	P
3432, gp3437	3431	1165	15	100 60	C	-	A	-	C	-	-	
Post holes												
Gp 2263	2391	1115	6	50 60	A	C	A	C	C	-	-	
2534, gp2264	2535	1143	20	30 80	A	C	A	C	-	-	-	
2536, gp2264	2538	1144	30	60 85	B	C	A	C	-	-	-	
2536, gp2264	2538	1144	10	Artefact sieved							-	
2539, gp2264	2540	1157	6	40 50	B	C	A	C	-	-	-	
2541, gp2264	2542	1158	10	60 75	A	A	A	C	-	-	-	
2543gp 2264	2544	1159	18	60 80	A	A	A	C	C	-	-	
3209, gp2265	3210	1148	20	50 80	B	-	A	C	-	P/bean (B)	-	
3209, gp2265	3211	1149	30	30 90	B	B	A	C	-	Moll-t (C)	-	
3212, gp2265	3213	1150	17	100 70	A	C	A	C	C	Moll-t (C) P/bean (A)	-	
3215, gp2265	3216	1151	30	130 80	A	B	A	C		P/bean (B)	-	P
3215, gp2265	3216	1151	5	Artefact sieved							-	
3217, gp2265	3214	1145	30	100 70	A	A	A	B	C	P/bean (A)	-	P C
3217, gp2265	3214	1145	5	Artefact sieved							-	
3218, gp2265	3219	1146	1	10 60	C	-	A	C	C	-	-	
2431, gp2443	2433	1019	30	125 90	A	A	A	C	A	-	-	C
2434, gp2443	2435	1035	6	25 90	A	A	A	C	-	-	-	
2434, gp2443	2436	1034	17	40 50	A	A	A	A	-	-	-	
2042	2041	1005	2	100 15	C	-	A	-	A*	-	-	C
3000	3001	1009	10	30 75	A	-	A	A	B	-	-	

				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds Uncharred	seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	Analysis
Late Bronze Age (cont.)												
Enclosure Ditches												
3019, gp2242	2297	1016	30	90 [80]	C	-	B	-	C	-	-	
2381, gp2268	2375	1065	18	60 [80]	A	B	A	-	-	-	-	P
2381, gp2268	2377	1066	18	20 [50]	B	C	A	-	-	-	-	
2381, gp2268	2378	1067	18	15 [35]	B	C	B	-	-	-	-	
2853, gp2268	2855	1063	30	60 [80]	A	A	A	C	-	-	-	P
2853, gp2268	2856	1064	30	40 [90]	C	C	A	-	-	-	-	
3032, gp2268	3037	1097	30	140 [80]	A	B	A	C h	C	-	-	P C
2060, gp2400	2061	1012	25	60 [80]	B	-	A	C	-	-	-	
2060, gp2400	2070	1015	20	25 [90]	C	-	B	-	-	-	-	
2066, gp2400	2063	1014	22	10 [50]	C	-	A	-	-	-	-	
Ditches												
2451, gp2245	2456	1036	30	90 [80]	A	C	A	C	-	-	-	P
2451, gp2245	2457	1037	27	40 [75]	A	-	A	C	C	-	-	
3044, gp2266	3045	1111	30	130 [85]	A	-	A	C	-	-	-	
3200, gp2267	3201	1103	30	100 [90]	A	C	A	-	C	-	-	
2613, gp2615	2614	1008	29	125 [90]	A	C	a*	C	C	-	-	
2616, gp2624	2618	1007	29	150 [90]	A	C	a*	C	C	-	-	
Late Iron Age / Romano-British												
Ditches												
2464, gp2253	2466	1022	30	40 [25]	A	-	B	C	C	-	-	
2464, gp2253	2467	1023	26	60 [70]	B	-	A	-	B	-	-	
2480, gp2253	2478	1027	10	80 [60]	A*	A*	B	C	C	Burnt bone	-	P
2105, gp2256	2106	1028	23	250 [90]	A	-	A	C	A	-	-	P C
2866, gp2256	2868	1147	30	225 [80]	B	-	A	C	-	-	-	
Saxon												
Ditches												
3020, gp2246	3021	1025	30	125 [90]	B	-	a	C	A	-	-	
2309, gp2247	2306	1018	30	400 [75]	A	-	a	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	P C
2089, gp2255	2088	1020	30	225 [50]	A	-	a	C	A*	-	-	P C
2093, gp2255	2094	1024	27	80 [50]	A	-	a	C	A	-	-	
Medieval												
Ditches												
2658, gp2251	2660	1026	27	250 [80]	A*	-	a	C	A	Burnt bone	-	C
2843, gp2252	2845	1029	30	100 [90]	A	C	a	C	-	-	-	P
Undated												
Pits												
2000	2001	1000	5	60 [20]	-	-	b	-	A*	-	-	
2002	2003	1001	9	100 [40]	C	-	a	-	A	-	-	
2293	2291	1013	30	350 [20]	A	-	a	C	A*	Burnt bone	-	
2302	2300	1017	30	900 [20]	B	-	a	C	A*	-	-	
2611	2612	1002	6	40 [60]	B	-	a	-	C	-	-	

				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
Undated (cont.)												
2707	2708	1154	15	750 [8]	C	-	a	C	A*	-	-	
2713	2714	1160	5	160 [20]	-	-	a	C	A*	-	-	
2715	2716	1161	20	250 [40]	A	A	a	C	A*	-	-	
3235	3236	1163	30	150 [70]	A	C	a	C	-	-	-	
3429	3428	1162	10	100 [80]	C	-	a	-	C	-	-	
Ditch												
2404	2407	1010	30	25 [20]	A	A*	a	C	C	-	-	
2857	2860	1098	30	15 [50]	A	B	b	C	C	-	-	
2857	2861	1099	30	40 [75]	A	C	b	-	-	-	-	

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones

NOTE: [1]flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. [2]Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains.

Table 5: Land snail assessment from Causewayed Enclosure Ditch 457																								
SAMPLE	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1007	1008
CONTEXT	2533	2533	2533	2531	2531	2531	2531	2528	2528	2528	459	459	459	459	459	458	458	458	458	458	458	2618	2614
HEIGHT FROM BASE	0-0.05	0.05 0.10	0.10 0.12	0.12 0.17	0.17 0.22	0.22 0.27	0.27 0.34	0.34 0.39	0.39 0.44	0.44 0.52	0.52 0.57	0.57 0.62	0.62 0.67	0.67 0.72	0.72 0.77	0.77 0.82	0.82 0.87	0.87 0.92	0.92 0.97	0.97 1.02	1.02 1.07	spot	spot
WEIGHT (g)	1000	1500	1400	2000	2000	1500	2000	1800	2000	1800	1750	2000	1750	1900	1900	2000	1650	1900	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
FEATURE	457- Neolithic Cause-way Enclosure ditch Column 1117																					2616	2613
Burrowing species																								
Cecilioides acicula	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	C	C	C	C	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	-
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

KEY: A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (+) = present

PART B: PROPOSALS FOR POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSES AND DISSEMINATION

6 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.1 Overview of Structural Evidence

6.1.1 The archaeological work in advance of the Kingsborough Manor development, carried out by Archaeology South-East and Wessex archaeology, established the presence of an Early Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure, only the second to be recorded in Kent, which is of regional and national importance. This monument was only partially revealed by the work and is likely to extend beneath land to the south. In the Late Bronze Age, north of the Causewayed Enclosure, at least four settlement enclosures were constructed on the higher ground of the Site. These contained few structural features beyond four-post structures and fence lines. Traditionally, four-post structures are interpreted as aboveground grain storage buildings. All the enclosures may not represent permanent settlement but may be points in the landscape where people gathered for short periods within seasonal patterns of movement and activity. This is reflected in the relative lack of internal features traditionally recorded within enclosures of this date in southern England. A small number of scattered, cremation-related pits as well as a significant cluster in the north-east of the Site, point to long-term ritual use and significance of the Site within the wider landscape.

6.1.2 In the Middle to Late Iron Age and thereafter the Site is transformed, falling into agricultural rather than settlement or ritual use. Linear ditches running across the Site appear to indicate tracks, possibly drove-ways, and boundaries indicative of field systems of Late Iron Age/Roman date. The man-made landscape orientation and use continued to develop through the Saxon and Medieval periods, pointing to the long-lived importance of this land for agricultural use.

6.1.3 This sequence of monuments and features, combined with the related artefactual and environmental assemblage, has the potential to describe the man-made landscape of the Isle of Sheppey, from the Neolithic period onwards, for the first time. As such, the original objectives of the work would appear to have been successfully addressed and may be advanced.

6.2 Finds

6.2.1 Within the artefactual assemblage, arguably of greatest significance are the groups of Neolithic pottery and flintwork, associated with the Causewayed Enclosure. Although their archaeological potential is perhaps limited by the small size of the assemblages, they may be added to the related assemblages recovered by ASE. Pottery of this date in particular is relatively uncommon

within Kent, and this constitutes one of very few stratified assemblages from Causewayed Enclosures in southern England.

6.2.2 The majority of the finds recovered are of later prehistoric date (pottery, flintwork, clay tablets, cremated human bone), associated with the settlement enclosures. Primary dating evidence is provided by the pottery, but its potential value in this respect is limited by the predominance within the assemblage of long-lived ware types, and by the paucity of diagnostic material. Functional evidence is likewise restricted by the scarcity of other artefact types – no grain-processing or textile working equipment, for example, was identified. The human bone, however, can provide some insight into the local population and their burial rituals.

6.2.3 Material of later dates (Romano-British and later) is of very minor importance, although the presence of a small quantity of Saxon pottery on the site is interesting.

6.3 Environmental remains

Charred plant remains

Neolithic

6.3.1 The high levels of charred grain in samples from the Neolithic Causewayed enclosure are unprecedented. Although there is some concern that the high levels of un-charred remains indicates the possibility of intrusive charred remains, later phases of activity are rarely as rich. This provides the potential to define aspects of the Neolithic cereal economy in Kent and must be seen as of high regional importance. Nearly all samples are accompanied by weed seeds and chaff is present. However only the three basal sampled contexts are Neolithic in date, and above context **2528**, Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered.

6.3.2 The overall potential to define the crops cultivated, the type of soil tilled, whether autumn sowing was practised is high. The preservation of chaff may enable some indication of crop processing activities conducted on, or prior to disposal on site. The dated Late Bronze Age pottery indicated that the upper five sampled contexts are post Neolithic, but the filling sequence provides some time dimension which can be quantified.

Late Bronze Age

6.3.3 The charred plant remains in the cremation-related features are likely to be incidental to the cremation events. Features from cremation group **2269** were 100% sampled. Other outlying more isolated cremations were also 100% sampled. These samples provide some general indication of the cereals and plant remains on the site during firing of the cremation pyres. Some remains, may, however, be evidence of tinder specifically selected to fire the cremations.

6.3.4 Similarly samples from the ditches contain material blown in, thus provide a good, but general, background of the activities on site. Dumped deposits have the potential to provide information about the disposal after burning of the waste from specific activities. The charred remains from the ditches contain grain, chaff and weed seeds. There is potential to examine the nature of the Bronze Age cereal crops, cultivation regimes and soils tilled, while the presence of preserved chaff enables the stage of processing of crops and the processing activities conducted on site.

6.3.5 A series of pits were sampled across the site, the majority of which contain both grain and weed seeds, and some have chaff. These are largely dumped debris relating to the specific disposal of burnt waste and can be readily related to specific activities. These assemblages have the potential to define more precisely the nature of activities on site (crop processing, drying etc.) and have a higher potential to contribute to the interpretation of the role and function of the Site as a whole. This will aid in determining the nature of the Site and its role in the wider Kent Bronze Age landscape; i.e. was it a producer or consumer Site?; was the grain processed for consumption, storage or market? Examination of pits across the site might enable some differentiation in the use of space to be determined.

6.3.6 Postholes are usually poor contexts in taphonomic terms, especially in multi-period sites. The age of the incorporated grain may be in question. Its origin is uncertain as during its use the timber post occupied most of the fill. Material may have originated from soil through which the post was cut, or relate to the activity after the post had been removed. However the samples are very rich and the presence of peas/beans is particularly noteworthy. Although incidental inclusions, they are important evidence of Late Bronze Age cultivation of legumes.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British – Saxon – Medieval

6.3.7 The presence of grain, weed seeds and chaff in ditches of all three phases enables some data to help compare the changing role of the Site and of the agricultural economy. These latter phases are not seen as priority, but do provide important evidence of the developmental history. The Saxon material, in particular, is of importance in view of the relative scarcity of charred remains from rural Saxon sites in south eastern England.

Charcoal

Neolithic

6.3.8 Charcoal is present in small quantities in all samples. As this is likely to originate from domestic fires this is probably selected from the surrounding local woodland. As such this charcoal has the potential to provide some information about the nature of the local woodland and its species composition. There may also be the potential to examine evidence for woodland management or selection from the nature (roundwood vs

heartwood) and size of the material represented. Only the basal three sampled contexts from the Causewayed Enclosure are securely Neolithic.

Late Bronze Age

6.3.9 Charcoal from cremations has the potential to determine specific selection of timber for the firing of the pyres. Examination of the material may enable the isolation of woodland management practices, and together aids in determining pyre technology. Samples from different areas across the site may enable the detection of varying practices or pyre technology.

6.3.10 Charcoal from the pits and from the ditches represent specific events such as fire waste disposal and material blown into ditches, and have the potential of providing information on wood used for more general domestic purposes such as fires, artefacts and construction. The former of these is more likely to have been selected from local available woodland, thus providing the potential to establish the nature, and management of, the local woodland.

6.3.11 Charcoal in most of the postholes includes both roundwood and heartwood and does not generally represent former timber posts. However, two samples may represent former timber posts.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British – Saxon – Medieval

6.3.12 Charcoal is relatively sparse in both the Late Iron Age/Romano-British and Medieval phases and there is relatively little structural or functional archaeological evidence to which it may relate. In contrast all samples from the Saxon ditches are very rich in charcoal, indicating some specific burning activities were employed during this phase. The charcoal evidence has the potential to isolate activities not otherwise represented in the archaeological record. Charcoal from the remaining phases provides the potential to examine and contrast their development with the development of the Site in the Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods.

Land snails

6.3.13 No shells survive in the processed samples, excepting (probably modern) burrowing species.

6.3.14 A few flots of bulk samples contained low numbers of snails. In the later Bronze Age phases the levels of preservation are not great enough to enable the detailed environmental interpretation required to be of any value at this time. Two samples from the Neolithic causewayed enclosure contained snails. Despite the low level of preservation, the information they provide, even if only general, may be of value in attempting to build some general picture of the local landscape at this time.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 Aims

- To provide an integrated narrative of landscape development based on the results of all archaeological work undertaken for dissemination via an appropriate academic source
- To prepare and deposit an accessible archive of the results of all the archaeological work undertaken with an appropriate but as yet unidentified depository

7.2 Objectives

- To establish a computerised and fully-relational database of all the information recovered from the excavation to facilitate a detailed spatial analysis of the Site.
- To consider further any known archaeological sites and findspots within the local area, including the incorporation of earlier material derived from the Site, where known, thereby contributing to a comprehensive study of the Site context.
- To build up as detailed a chronology as possible for the inception, development and use of the Site in the Neolithic and Late Bronze Age, through further detailed analyses of the pottery assemblage and other dateable material and environmental evidence
- To support this more detailed chronological study of the Site material with a programme of radiocarbon samples
- To study the beginnings and development of the later prehistoric/early historic agricultural land-use of the Site, combining structural, artefactual and environmental evidence
- To examine and assess the nature, date and range of ritual/ceremonial, settlement and agricultural activities that took place on the Site
- To consider the position of the evidence from the Site within the local, regional and national archaeological contexts

8 METHOD STATEMENT

8.1 Strategy

8.1.1 The results of all work on the Site by the teams from Archaeology South-East and Wessex Archaeology will be the concern of the programme of post-excavation and dissemination. It is proposed that the analysis and publication of the results is undertaken jointly and that to achieve this the results are divided broadly by chronological period in the following manner:

- Neolithic- Archaeology South east
- Bronze Age- Wessex Archaeology
- Iron Age and Roman- Archaeology South-East
- All later periods- Archaeology South-East

8.1.2 A prerequisite of this will be the joint ordering of the Site archives and identification of those parts of the Site archive which are currently shared that will need to be re-assigned for the purpose of post-excavation analyses. This will be undertaken with the agreement of the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council and Jones Homes (Southern) Ltd and managed by Wessex Archaeology.

8.2 Archaeological Background

8.2.1 The known, if limited, archaeological background in the immediate vicinity of the Site will be assessed and described by Wessex Archaeology. This will include investigation of all available aerial photographs in order to assess the visibilty of monuments and different patterns of landscape utilisation extending from those recorded within the boundaries of the Site.

8.3 Site records and archive stabilisation

8.3.1 All appropriate recorded information will be checked and entered onto a fully relational computer database at Wessex Archaeology. This will facilitate rapid cross-examination and updating of the archive during the post-excavation programme.

8.4 Finds

8.4.1 All Neolithic finds recovered by Wessex Archaeology will be regarded as part of the analysis and publication programme to be carried out by Archaeology South-East

8.4.2 Later prehistoric pottery (Bronze Age) will be subjected to fabric and form analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system (Morris 1994), which is based on nationally recommended guidelines (PCRG 1997). Local (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) fabric series will be consulted where appropriate, to place the assemblage within the regional context. The assemblage will be discussed within the immediate Site context, and local and regional context, considering aspects of manufacture and potential sources, and any functional implications suggested by the range of vessel forms.

8.4.3 Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval pottery recovered by Wessex Archaeology will be regarded as part of the analysis and publication programme to be carried out by Archaeology South-East. An initial assessment of the Roman, medieval and Post-medieval pottery recovered by Wessex Archaeology indicates little scope for further analysis, although this should be reviewed against comparative material held by Archaeology South-East.

8.4.4 Further analysis of human bone from Bronze Age cremations or cremation related deposits recovered by Wessex Archaeology and Archaeology South-East is proposed, where quantities will allow. Certain contexts contain too small an amount of material to be considered further, but will be included in

overall quantification. Analysis will aim to determine the nature of the cremation-related contexts (whether *in situ* burials, pyre debris dumps, etc); to examine aspects of demography (age; sex; number of individuals) and pathology; and to discuss evidence for pyre technology and ritual.

8.4.5 Brief text statements and descriptions will be prepared (based on information collected as part of the assessment) for the fired clay tablets and quernstone fragments recovered from Bronze Age contexts:

8.4.6 No further work is recommended on the following material recovered by Wessex Archaeology: ceramic building material, metalwork, slag, glass and animal bone.

8.5 Proposals for Palaeo-environmental remains

8.5.1 The following proposals include Neolithic material that will form part of the Archaeology South-east programme. It will be necessary to confirm these proposal with them.

Charred plant remains

8.5.2 A series of samples are suggested for analysis (**Table 4**). Wessex archaeology employs a double flotation process to facilitate relatively high recovery of charred remains. Nevertheless, Wessex Archaeology consistently employs a routine strategy of total sorting and extraction of all the residue fractions (5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm) from all samples highlighted for analysis.

Neolithic

8.5.3 Because of the rarity and significance of the charred remains it is suggested that all eight samples are fully extracted and analysed as part of the Archaeology South-East programme.

Bronze Age

8.5.4 A selection of samples from cremations, ensuring both the main group (**2269**) and other isolated groups are included, are recommended for analysis. Similarly a selection of pits across the site are also listed (**Table 4**). A selection of ditch samples are to be made to provide some general background (**Table 4**).

Charcoal

8.5.5 A selection of the samples are proposed for extraction and analysis (**Table 4**)

	Charred plant	charcoal
Neolithic	8	4
Late Bronze Age	18	13
Late Iron Age /R-B	3	2
Saxon	2	2
Medieval	1	1
Undated	0	0

Land snails

8.5.6 No analysis is possible from samples processed specifically for snails. The two bulk samples (1105 and 1106) from the Neolithic causewayed enclosure should be fully extracted for snails and analysed.

9 TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

9.1 Task List

9.1.1 **Table 6** below presents a provisional list of tasks, and estimate of the time requirements these warrant, to be confirmed with Archaeology South-East, and to be carried out by Wessex Archaeology within the proposed programme of post-excavation. Once finalised, this will take the project through to the production of a report typescript. The publication costs are not included in the resources presented in Table 6, and will be dependent to some extent on the chosen publication vehicle(s) and resources available to the joint programme.

Table 6: Provisional task list and resources

Task item	Personnel	Time (days)
Stage 1 tasks		
Structural		
Site records and archive stabilisation	PO	2
Finds		
Prepare brief for analysis	FM	0.5
Environmental		
Extraction of charred plants and charcoal (41samples)	ES	10
Preparation of file for specialists (charcoal, charred plants and snails)	ES	1
Extraction of land snails (2 samples)	ES	0 (with charred)
Commissioning analyses and contracts (charcoal, charred seeds)	EM	0.5
Radiocarbon **Not finalised**		
Stage 2 tasks		
Structural		
Main site report (Bronze Age)	PO	5
Illustration	DO	5
Finds		
Illustration	DO	5
Bronze Age pottery report	PS	15
Other finds	PS	1
Human bone (All assemblages, all periods)	SPO	5
Environmental		
Charred Plant Remains, 32 samples	Ext. Spec	Fee
Charcoals, 22 samples (Rowena Gale)	Ext. Spec	Fee
Land snail analysis and reporting	EM	1
Checking and report writing	EM & EM/ES	
Overview and Palaeo-environmental Summary	EM	1

General management	PM	.5
Stage 3 tasks		
Editing /revisions- all reports	Authors	10
Stage 4 tasks		
Publication		
Set DTP	Pub. Man	Est. 4
Correction of proofs	Authors	Est. 4
Index and printers		Fee
Other tasks	Pub. Man	3
Stage 5 tasks		
Archive prep.		
Ordering	PO	1
Microfilm prep.	FM	.25
Microfilm costs		Fee
Deposition	PS	1
Storage grant		Fee

9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff and external specialists will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses:

Project manager	Paul McCulloch, BA, MIFA
Project Officer (CJE)	Chris Ellis, BA, AIFA
Finds Manager	Lorraine Mepham, BA
Environmental Manager	Michael J. Allen, BA, PhD, MIFA, MAEA
Computer technician	Paul Cripps
Project Officer (PH)	Phil Harding, MIFA
Project Officer (JIM)	Jacqueline McKinley, BTech, MIFA
Environmental Supervisor	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIFA, MAEA
External specialists	As identified

9.3 Programme

9.3.1 It is necessary to agree and finalise the proposed programme between Archaeology South-East and Wessex Archaeology, and thereafter agree the programme with The Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council. Following acceptance of the programme and agreement as to the dispersal of remaining costs, a programme timetable will be drawn up and implemented. The duration of the programme may be estimated at this stage as twelve months.

10 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

10.1 Monograph

10.1.1 It is currently proposed that the report on the results of the excavations at Kingsborough Manor, Isle of Sheppey, by both Archaeology South-East and Wessex Archaeology be published in an academic monograph, possibly as part of a series on the archaeology of Kent. Alternative appropriate forms of publication will also be discussed with the project sponsors and Kent County Council. It is important that the information should reach as wide an audience as possible.

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

11.1.1 There is as yet no agreement in place covering the eventual deposition of the project archive.

11.1.2 Deposition of the finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

11.2 Conservation

11.2.1 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.

11.2.2 The metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the site (medieval or later features), no further conservation treatment is proposed on any objects.

11.3 Storage

11.3.1 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in 9 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

11.4 Discard Policy

11.4.1 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 categories, which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been subject to discard following quantification. Other categories, which might be targeted for eventual discard, include unidentifiable metal objects.

11.5 Archive preparation

11.5.1 The project archive produced by Wessex Archaeology (WA: site code **W6792**) during the course of evaluation and excavation of the site forms part of a larger archive which also includes the records produced by Archaeology South East (ASE: site code **KFE99**) during earlier evaluation and excavation. It is strongly recommended that archive records from both contractors is deposited as a single archive, and it is essential that within this overall archive the two blocks of records are fully cross-referenced and indexed.

11.5.2 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995).

11.6 Copyright

11.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by the Trust for 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-profitmaking.

11.7 Security Copy

11.7.1 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 deposited with the National Monuments Record centre at Swindon, a second copy will accompany the paper records to the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

12 REFERENCES

Archaeology South-East, 2000 Archaeological Investigations at Kingsborough Farm, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent: Post-excavation assessment and draft proposals for future work. Unpublished Client Report No.1067.

Bond, D., 1988, Excavation at the North Ring, Mucking, Essex, East Anglian Archaeol. 43

Dyson, L., Shand, G., Stevens, S., 2000 'Causewayed Enclosures'. *Current* Archaeology No.168, 470 – 472.

Evans, J.G. 1972. *Land Snails in Archaeology.* London, Seminar Press.

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1991, 'A reappraisal of prehistoric pottery from Canterbury', Canterbury's Archaeology 1990-1991, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 38-48

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

Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section

Appendix 1: Site archive

Archive Index

Site Name: Kingsborough Manor, Sheppey
Site Code: 46792

File No.	NAR Cat.	Details	Format	No. Sheets
Gas pipeline watching Brief				
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
1	B	Day Book (Photocopy)	A4	6
1	-	Project Brief	A4	8
1	B	Context Index	A4	1
1	B	Context Records	A4	23
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	B	All Site Graphics	A4	8
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	4
1	C	Context Finds Records	A4	11
2	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	80
2	-	Colour slides	35mm	80
Finds	See below			
Roads Watching Brief & Evaluation Trenches 41-44				
3	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
3	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	18
3	B	Trial trench records	A4	4
3	B	Context Records	A4	2
3	B	Levels (photocopy)	A4	1
3	B	Site Graphics (Tr 41-44)	A4	5
3	B	Site Graphics (Roads)	A4	4
3	B	Site Graphics (Roads)	A3	1
3	D	Photographic Register	A4	4
3	B	Various Site Plans	-	8
4	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	65
4	-	Colour slides	35mm	65
Finds	See below			
Phase I, Stage 2 - Excavation & Trenches 45-49				
5	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
5	B	Number Record	A4	1
5	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	47(+)
5	B	Context Index	A4	36
5	B	Trial trench records	A4	6
5	B	Graphics Register	A4	35
5	B	Evaluation Trench Graphics	A4	7

5	B	Evaluation Trench Graphics	A3	1
5	B	Excavation Graphics	A4	154
5	B	Excavation Graphics	A3	24
5	D	Photographic Register	A4	80
5		Artefact Sample Index	A4	3
6	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
6	B	Survey Data Index	A4	27
7	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
7	B	Evaluation Trench Context Records	A4	24
7	B	Excavation Context Records (2000 – 2399)	A4	402
8	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
8	B	Excavation Context Records (2400 – 2999)	A4	330
9	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
9	B	Excavation Context Records (3000 – 3799)	A4	171
10	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
10	C	Object Register	A4	3
10	C	Object Records	A4	39
11	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
11	C	Sieved Finds Records	A4	133
12	-	Index to Archive	A4	2
12	E	Environmental Sample Register	A4	11
12	E	Environmental Sample Records	A4	175
13	B	Site Graphics	A1	1
14	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	1590
14	-	Colour slides	35mm	1590
Finds	Nine boxes in all			

Appendix 2: Publication Synopsis

Outline Publication Synopsis for Wessex Archaeology and Archaeology South East

Section	Printed pages	Figs/Plates	Tables
Contents	2 (WA)		
List of Figures	1 (WA)		
List of Tables	1 (WA)		
List of Plates	1 (WA/ASE)		
Acknowledgements	1 (WA/ASE)		
Summary	1 (WA/ASE)		
Bibliography	8 (WA/ASE)		
Appendices	(WA/ASE)		
Index	12 (WA)		
SECTION 1: SITE INVESTIGATIONS			
Introduction			
Project Background	3 (WA)	2 (WA)	
Site location, topography and geology (3 Figs, 2 Plates)	3 (WA)	5 (WA)	
Archaeological and Historical Background (2 Figs)	5 (WA)	2 (WA)	
Excavation Methodologies	1 (WA 0.5) (ASE 0.5)		
Environmental Sampling Strategies	1 (WA 0.5) (ASE 0.5)		

Excavation Results

Natural deposits and soil sequence	1 (WA)		
Period Summary (overall for Site)	3 (WA)	2 (WA/ASE)	
Neolithic Period	10 (ASE)	5 (ASE)	
Late Bronze Age	25 (WA)	16 (WA)	
Roman Period	8 (ASE)	6 (ASE)	
Medieval or later	2 (ASE)	1 (ASE)	

SECTION 2: ARTEFACTUAL ANALYSES
Finds

General Finds summary	2 (WA)		4 (WA/ASE)
Neo Pottery	6 (ASE)	5 (ASE)	3 (ASE)
Other Pottery	10 (WA/ASE)	4 (WA/ASE)	4 (WA/ASE)
Fired clay	1 (WA/ASE)	2 (WA/ASE)	1 (WA/ASE)
Worked and burnt flint	5 (WA 2.5) (ASE 2.5)	1 (WA/ASE)	3 (WA/ASE)
Objects	10 (WA/ASE)	6 (WA/ASE)	3 (WA/ASE)

SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES
All samples processed and assessed. Mollusc assessed. No words written yet.
Environmental

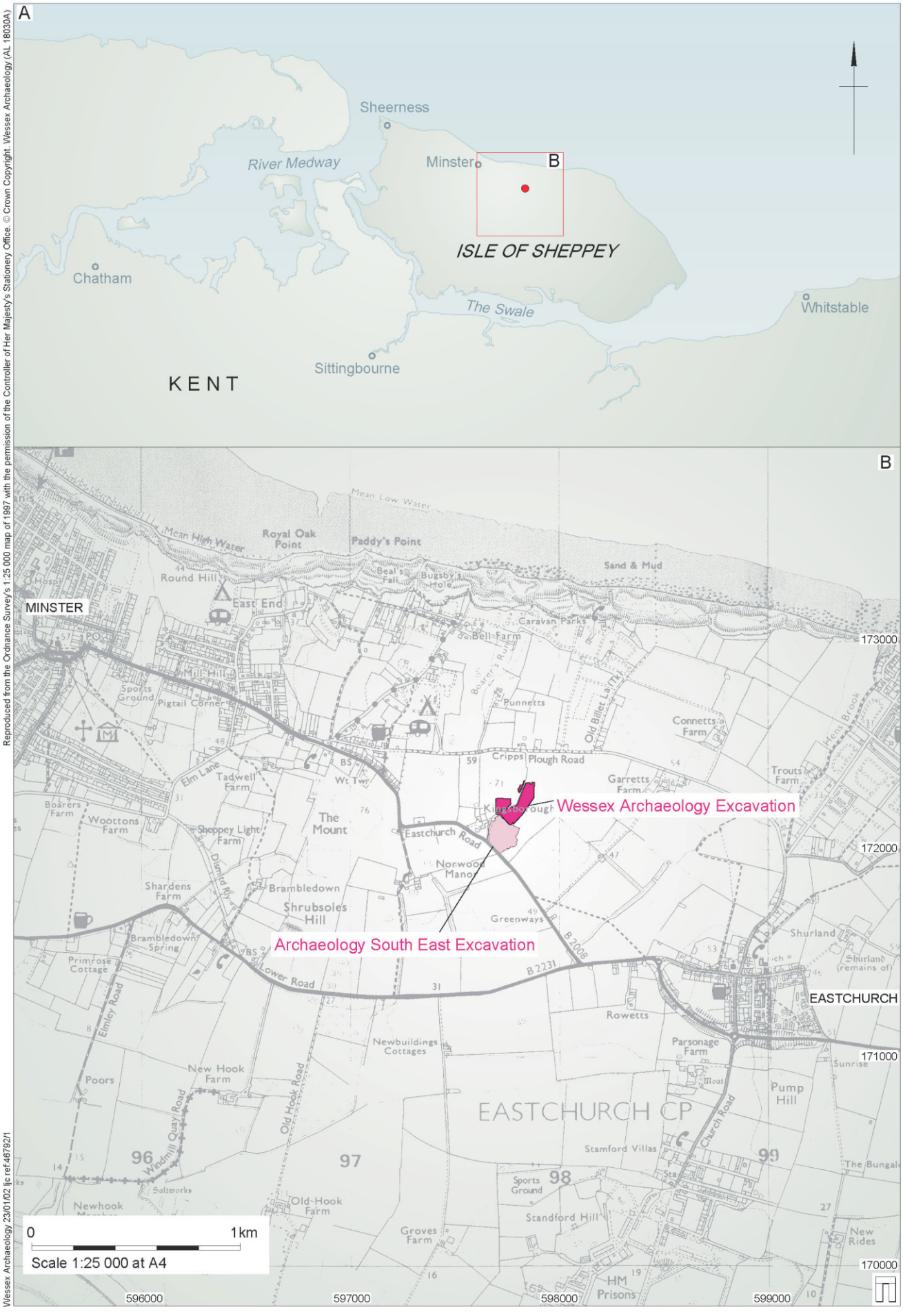
Animal bone	2 (ASE)		3 (ASE)
Human Bone	6 (WA)		4 (WA)
Charred plant remains	10 (WA/ASE)	4 (WA/ASE)	4 (WA/ASE)
Molluscs	N/a?	N/a?	N/a?
Pollen	5 (WA/ASE)	3 (WA/ASE)	4 (WA/ASE)
Soil Micromorphology (for Neo encl.)	5 (ASE?)	1 (ASE?)	4 (ASE?)
Radiocarbon Dating	2 (WA/ASE)	2 (WA/ASE)	3 (WA/ASE)

All W/Brief and Eval. Samples in ( )
Total samples 169 (176)

Causewayed Enclosure – 10 (inc. 1 monolith and 1 column sample)
Large LBA Enclosure – 4
'Inner' LBA Enclosure - 2
Small LBA Enclosure – 3
Rectilinear LBA Enclosure – 8
Unurned Cremation Burials – 71
Rectilinear Ditches – 9
Droveway ditches – 7
Pits – 16 (18)
4-posters – 13
Postholes – 7
Others – (5)

SECTION 4: DISCUSSION

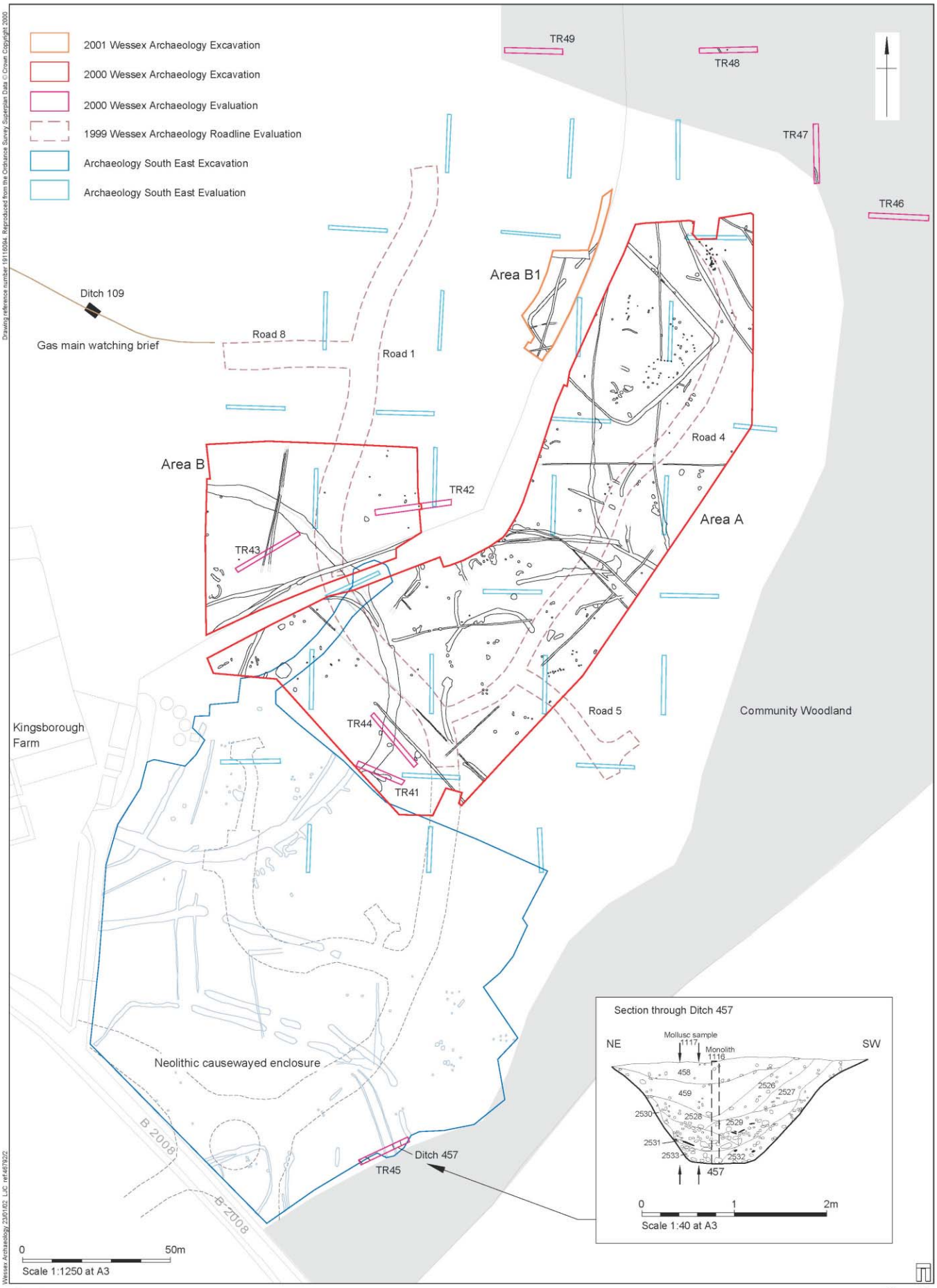
The Neolithic Landscape	3 (ASE)	1 (ASE)	
Late Bronze Age settlements and their landscape setting(comparable LBA enclosures)	5 (WA)	2 (WA)	
Roman	3 (ASE)	1 (ASE)	
Synthesis/Discussion/Review	2 (WA)		
Total	*c*. 165	*c*. 71	*c*. 40



Wessex Archaeology 23/01/02 ljc ref:46782/1

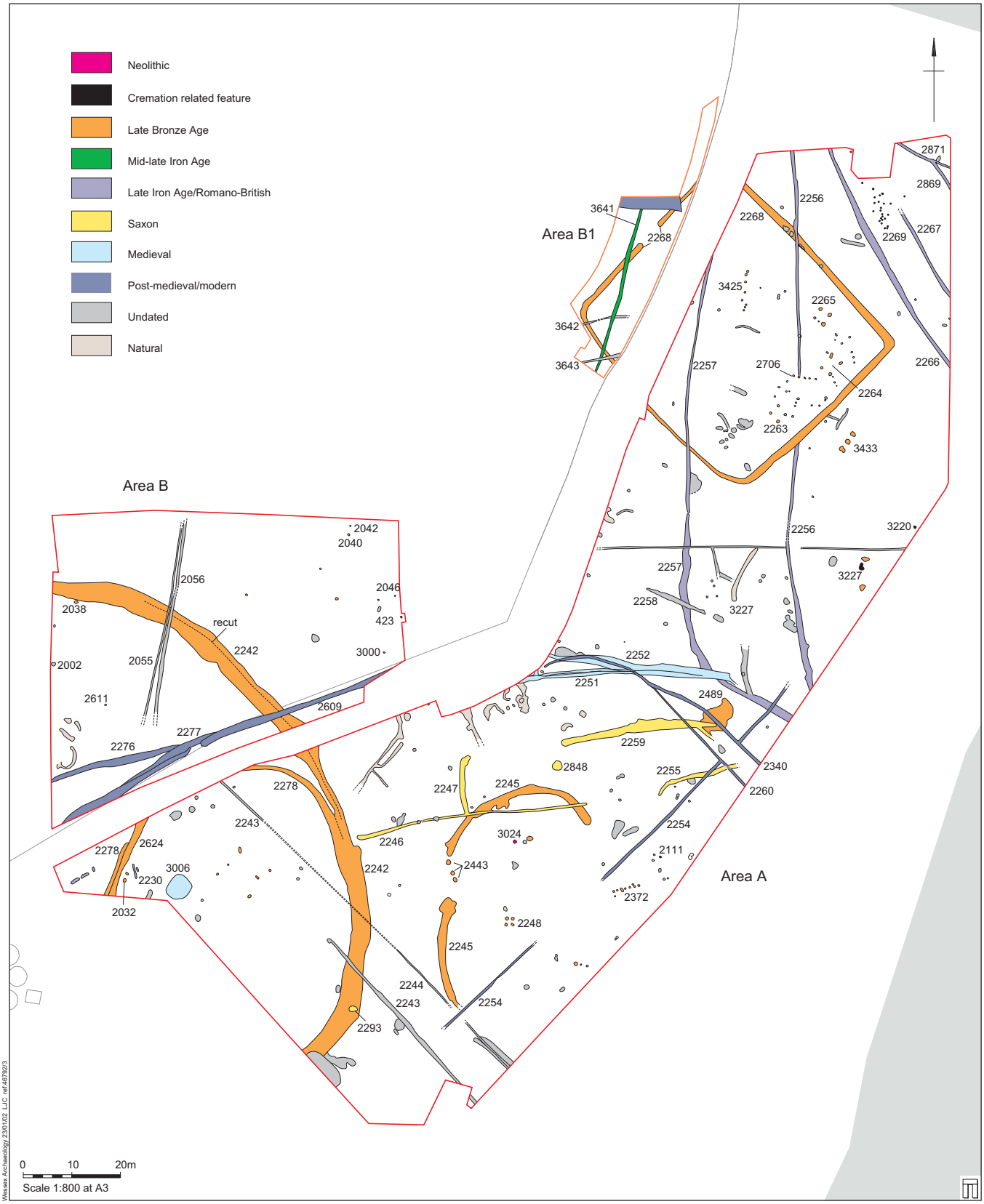
Site location

Figure 1



Site plan

Figure 2



Phase 1, Stage 2 excavation; all features phase plan

Figure 3

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