



An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report The Loop, Manston, Thanet, Kent *May 2008*

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Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report

The Loop, Manston, Thanet, Kent

Planning Application Number: TH/06/1241

Submitted to;

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Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report

The Loop, Manston, Thanet,

Kent

i SUMMARY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) carried out a Programme of Assessment and Archaeological Excavation of land at The Loop, Manston, Kent, between February and April 2007. A planning application (PAN: TH/06/1241) for the erection of a new helicopter maintenance facility, along with associated access, car parking, utilities and landscaping at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council TDC whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District Council, requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. Initial mitigation proposals required the excavation of trial trenches in order to determine the presence and condition of archaeological deposits

The evaluation, carried out by SWAT revealed the presence of pits and a ditch dating to the Middle Bronze Age associated with a possible farmstead/settlement, confirming the presence of archaeological activity that would be threatened by development proposals. As a result, further investigation, comprising an area excavation of the entire site, was considered necessary in order to mitigate against archaeological impact caused during any proposed development. Subsequent archaeological excavations carried out within the proposed development area confirmed the presence of pits and ditches associated with the division of the landscape for arable, pastoral and domestic purposes. Two enclosures, along with associated droeways, field boundaries and smaller internal divisions (possibly representing corrals or pens) formed a network of herding features essential to the successful management and control of livestock.

This document forms the initial phase of post excavation assessment, which will be followed by the production of a Final Report and publication, as considered necessary.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) was contracted by Duncan & Graham Partnership to conduct an archaeological excavation of land at The Loop, near Manston, Thanet in Kent (NGR. 631792 166155). The excavation was conducted under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT) between July and September 2007 in accordance with requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (Kent County Council 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

1.2 *Planning Background*

A planning application (PAN: TH/06/1241) for the erection of a new helicopter maintenance facility, along with associated access, car parking, utilities and landscaping at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council TDC whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District Council, requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. Initial mitigation proposals required the excavation of trial trenches in order to determine the presence and condition of archaeological deposits. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

[Reason: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest]

The archaeological evaluation, carried out by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT), revealed the presence of Middle Bronze Age agrarian settlement within the extent of the site (see below). As a result of the discovery of significant archaeological remains, further mitigation comprising an **Archaeological Excavation** of the entire site was required in advance of any future development. The programme of work aimed to preserve, by record, archaeological features present

within the extent of the proposed development site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within the Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

1.3 Project Timescales

Archaeological investigation commenced 27th September 2006, with the cutting of 22 trial trenches within the proposed development area. The duration of the evaluation was approximately 1 week, with the subsequent excavation commencing in July 2007. All archaeological fieldwork was completed by 18th September 2007.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In undertaking this archaeological work the principles set out in PPG 16 regarding the need to safeguard archaeological remains have been adhered to;

'Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed.' (Para A6)

Following on from the initial stage of evaluation work, suitable mitigation measures were proposed and agreed. The preferable option for important archaeological remains was "preservation by record" (i.e. archaeological excavation).

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) defines an excavation as being;

'...a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and that results of that study be published in detail appropriate to that design' (IFA 1999b:2)

The primary objectives of the excavation were to identify, excavate and record any significant archaeological remains present, which were under threat by the development as a contribution to

knowledge of the archaeological and historical development of Thanet.

The aims of this archaeological investigation were therefore (not exclusively):

- to understand the character, form, function and date of any other archaeological remains on the site. The investigation should include analysis of the spatial organisation of activities on the site during this period through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- to assist in the understanding of the prehistoric occupation of Manston in Thanet through examination of the date, form and character of the site in the context of its topographical position and that of other similarly dated findings within the area and beyond.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Excavation

Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Exposed surfaces were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes and detailed on pro-forma SWAT context sheets; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Plans of all features were made using a scale of 1:20, with sections recorded at 1:10. A full photographic record of all stages of the excavation was kept, which included working shots showing constraints and conditions.

Upon completion of mechanical excavation, a 10m grid was established and a pre-excavation plan generated using global positioning satellite (GPS) technology recording three dimensional points every 0.10m. For ease of reference the site was subsequently divided into 2 distinct areas, Area 1 encompassing the western extent of the site, Area 2, the eastern extent (see Fig. 1)

3.2 Project Constraints

No significant constraints were associated with this project. Live services within the extents of the site prevented the investigation of specific areas, although this was minimal.

3.3 Project Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the excavation by the Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, at which time methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Archaeological Evaluation

The proposed development site has been the subject of an archaeological evaluation (Site Code LOOP 06), undertaken by SWAT Archaeology in October 2006. Twenty-two evaluation trenches were excavated encapsulating 880 square meters representing a 5.2% sample of the 1.6ha site, according to a written scheme of investigation (Kent County Council 2007) submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Eight archaeological features were encountered, distributed between four trenches, including pits and a shallow linear ditch. Pottery recovered was of Middle Bronze Age (47 sherds, 1500-1100 BC) and medieval dates (2 sherds, AD 1225-1250). Other general bulk finds included prehistoric worked flint and animal bone fragments. The character, date and extent of the archaeological features indicated the presence of a Middle Bronze Age farmstead/settlement site. The buried archaeology can be classed as of local/regional importance, but has been severely truncated by modern ploughing.

4.2 Previous Archaeological Assessments within the Area

An extensive archaeological narrative for the surrounding area is provided within the archaeological evaluation report prepared by SWAT (Allen & Wilkinson 2007) which, for the site for the sake of consistency, is repeated (in edited and amended form where necessary) below.

4.2.1 Earlier pre-history

Little Lower or Middle Palaeolithic cultural material is known from the Minster/Manston area, apart from chance finds of conical and bifacial handaxe-type implements, an example of the former having been found at Telegraph Hill, about 1.75k south of the present site (Osborne-White 1928, 66). Two Acheulian bifaces have been found in higher-lying areas of Thanet (exact locations unknown) and many implements of the Lower Palaeolithic and later periods have been found about eight kilometres (five miles) east of the development site beneath the cliffs at North Foreland, from which it is presumed had fallen (pers. comm. Emma Boast). More recently, a bout coupé-type scraper-like tool with unifacial working and of probable Middle Palaeolithic manufacture was found during archaeological work adjacent to Hangar 3 of Manston Airfield, some 755m to the south of the development site (Allen and Green, forthcoming). This artefact lay on the surface of the Upper Chalk and was covered by Brickearth. The upper face of this artefact was heavily patinated but the lower was unpatinated, suggesting that it had remained undisturbed for a very long time. At Cheeseman's Farm, south-west of the present site, Upper Palaeolithic flintwork was recovered that probably derived from an archaeological horizon in the form of a palaeosol sealed beneath a 0.4m thick band of Loess, and which also produced the debitage of flintworking (Allen and Green 2003). As previously discussed, this flintwork may represent rare evidence for the re-occupation of Britain by man about 12,000 – 13,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, when Britain was still joined to the Continent. If so, it is comparable with similarly dated evidence for the re-colonisation of the near Continent (Houseley et al 1997, 25-54).

Only three Mesolithic sites/find spots appear to be known on Thanet, and all are of uncertain character (Stuckey forthcoming). In contrast, the archaeological record for Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age Thanet in the vicinity of the site is extremely rich.

4.2.2 Later prehistory

Apart from the earlier Neolithic causewayed camp at Chalk Hill, near Ramsgate, mentioned in Part 3i above, other Neolithic evidence occurs in Thanet in the upper part of the Loess at Pegwell Bay in the form of 'Fresh-looking Neolithic cores, flakes and implements of homogeneous black flint' (Osborne-White 1928, 66). These materials are often found in association with bone and pottery fragments, calcined flint, charcoal and occasional oyster shells. In closer proximity to the present

development site (3.85km to the east), part of a probable ditched enclosure with adjacent pits and gullies, all dated to the earlier Neolithic (c. 3600 – c. 3000 BC) on the basis of their associated flintwork and pottery, have been discovered during test trenching at Spratling Street, just north of Manston village (Moody 2004, 12, 13, 21, 22). The presence of a collared urn fragment on the site also suggests activity on the site during the Early-Mid Bronze Age (c. 2000/1700 – c. 1500 BC).

Additional and extensive evidence for Neolithic and/or Bronze Age occupation occurs in upland Thanet in the form of the many round barrows lying in and beyond the immediate locality of the development site, with aerial photography revealing at least ten such structures to be present within a radius of one kilometre or so of the site, and at least another nine being present within a two kilometre radius¹. A study of other aerial photographs of the site and its surrounds (a fine collection is held by Mr Struan Robertson, a local farmer) suggests that mortuary monuments dominated the entire area from the A253 Monkton Roundabout to the development site and beyond, creating a 'ritual landscape' of considerable magnitude during the Neolithic/Bronze Age. This view is supported by the results of extensive archaeological works completed prior to the construction of the A253 between the Monkton and Minster Roundabouts (Bennett et al 1996, 20-27), between two and four kilometres west-south-west of the present development site. Here, three Neolithic crouched burials, at least six Early Bronze Age crouched burials and a long row of large pits, possibly a form of cursus or similar, were exposed within an area containing ten Neolithic/Bronze Age round barrows. A round barrow with a crouched Beaker burial was also discovered some four kilometres to the east of the site (Perkins and Gibson 1990, 11-27). Further, much closer-lying evidence is represented by the discovery during an archaeological evaluation of at least six round barrows and a large circular enclosure on the site of Kent International Business Park (Perkins et al 1998, 217-255), of which the present site forms part (also identified were three sub-rectangular enclosures, one of Late Iron Age date, the others medieval, see below). The remains mentioned above lay in a dispersed group between 120m and 700m to the north and north-east of the present development site.

¹ At the time of publication, these images were available on the 'Get Mapping Viewer' of Getmapping PLC, www.Getmapping.com and/or GoogleEarth

Other groups of remains have been exposed on Manston Airfield, south-east of the development site. Here, at a distance of approximately one kilometre, a curved section of ditch interpreted as part of a rare Mid-Late Bronze Age domestic enclosure, either a farmstead or village, was excavated in 'Area 1' by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, the enclosure's date being established by the presence of pottery in the local Deverel-Rimbury tradition (Boast and Perkins 2001, 16-17). Parts of known crop marks or associated features may have been exposed during previous archaeological work on the site of Kent International Business Park. A ditch (Feature 29) and a hearth-like pit (Feature 28) were partly excavated within a medieval enclosure (Site 14, a.k.a. Site 4/5) lying some 350m north of the present development site. The ditch is described as: 'a ditch or palisade ... of V section, between 0.40 and 0.90m wide, with a depth of 0.40 and 0.60m' which 'yielded no finds, but was a sandy loam quite unlike any other horizon encountered on the site' (Perkins et al 1998, 219, 228). Although any interpretation of the function of this impressive earthwork must be conjectural in the absence of more detailed investigation, it may be the remains of a prehistoric cattle enclosure, possibly a large-scale variant of a Mid-Late Iron Age 'banjo'-type enclosure (Cunliffe 2001, 220-223), but an earlier or later date can be precluded. Areas 2 and 3 of the previously discussed Trust for Thanet Archaeology's excavations were located between 100m and 140m west of the airport terminal and about 2.5km east of the development site (Boast and Perkins 2001, 15, 16). Although no identifiable archaeological features were uncovered, a possible archaeological horizon was identified in the form of 'colluvial deposits that produced a surface scatter of pottery dating to the Early Iron Age'. These deposits also produced 'worked flint or debitage of prehistoric date' and 'pottery dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age'.

4.2.4 Late Iron Age

A sub-rectangular ditched enclosure with an internal partition, the whole measuring approximately 240m north-west-north by 165m east-south-east, was exposed in 1994 and 1996 (Perkins et al 1998, 225) and is described as 'Belgic' (Late pre-Roman Iron Age) but has yet to be the subject of a detailed report. A plan (Perkins et al 1998, Fig. 1, 219) suggests that the southernmost part of this enclosure may lie within the present development site, although most must now lie beneath an unnamed service road and the Cummings building, immediately to the north.

The possible archaeological horizon and some of the archaeological materials discovered in the Trust for Thanet Archaeology's Areas 1 and 2 as discussed above may have been associated with important archaeological remains exposed nearby, some 100m east of Kent International (Manston) Airport terminal and 2.3km (1.4 miles) east of the present site, during the construction of a new car park (Allen 2004a). Here, on what was clearly an extensive multiphase Late Iron Age/early Roman-period settlement site, a sunken-floored circular hut of 5.55m diameter, a large sunken-floored rectangular building measuring 13.1m east-west and 4.3m north-south, four sub-rectangular storage pits (two with depths of almost a metre), four urned cremation burials and a large quarry pit containing the largely intact remains of a 'key-hole' kiln were exposed, along with other features such as post holes, enclosure ditches and a variety of pits. Remains of the same broad date in the form of Late Iron Age/'Belgic' graves were exposed and recorded by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology during the cutting of a gas pipeline at 'Point Y' (Perkins 1985, Fig 1, 44), in the vicinity of Thorne Farm, just south of the A253 and 2.5km south of the present development site. These graves, along with other features of the same or similar date, occurred in sufficient size and number for the excavator to observe that 'the Late Iron Age/Belgic remains ... are surprising in terms of area and density, suggesting heavy and continuous settlement' (Perkins 1985, 59). Perkin's observation is consistent with the presence of Romano-British remains exposed during the construction of the new car park as described above. In closer proximity to the present site, two small groups of post holes were exposed on Cheeseman's Farm, approximately 240m to the north-east. A small quantity of associated grog-tempered comb-ware suggests these were the much-truncated remains of two 'Belgic' Late Iron Age structures (Allen and Green 2003, 6).

4.2.5 Romano-British

A sub-rectangular enclosure, the ditches and banks of which were levelled to make a paddock in 1988, is recorded at Cheeseman's Farm, south-west of the present development site. The enclosure was identified as Romano-British on the basis of much associated pottery of that period (see Thanet Sites and Monuments Record 132, also Perkins et al 1998, 219, 220). The Trust for Thanet Archaeology Area 1 excavation discussed above revealed a single Roman-period feature in the form of a pit containing pottery dated to c. AD 50 – c. 150. As it is thought to be part of an extensive Late Iron Age/Romano-British industrial complex, part of which was excavated in the 1940s, it may have formed part of a very dispersed settlement to which the early Roman-period remains exposed east

of the airport terminal also belonged. The results of the 1940s excavation were never published and the whereabouts of the records are unknown, but one of the round barrows exposed as part of the same programme of works in the eastern part of the airfield is described as lying 'some distance east of the concentration of Iron Age pits and other features to be described in Volume II of these reports' (Grimes 1960). Volume II was apparently not forthcoming. The Late Iron Age/'Belgic' graves exposed at 'Point Y' during the cutting of the gas line described above, occurred in proximity to other graves containing Romano-British grave goods, probably indicating continuity of use for the cemetery from the Late Iron Age into the Roman period (Perkins 1985, 44). Similar continuity of use from the Late Iron Age, the 'Belgic' Iron Age and the early Roman period is indicated by the dates of the pottery recovered (some from urned cremation burials) from the previously discussed remains on the car-park site east of the airport terminal.

4.2.6 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

A small group of Anglo-Saxon burials was discovered some 2.5km west of the present site during the dualling of the A253 between the Monkton and Minster Roundabouts (Bennett et al 1996, 20-27). The present writer knows of no other remains of this period in the immediate vicinity of the site, although the large and much excavated Anglo-Saxon/Jutish cemetery at Sarre lies some 7km to the west (see, for example, Breat 1863, 305-322), and the Anglo-Saxon abbey of St. Mildred's (Minster Abbey) lies 2.5km (1.5 miles) to the south.

In 1996, two substantial medieval ditched enclosures were exposed in proximity to the present site. One (Site 18) lies some 150m north-east of the southern edge of the present development site, the other (Site 14, also called Site 4/5) lies approximately 500m to the north-east (see Perkins et al 1998, 226-239). Site 18 comprised a large ditch (average depth 0.8m, average width 2.75m) describing an elongated subrectangle measuring approximately 55m north-south and 25m east-west. It was discovered by use of magnetic survey, being for the most part covered by up to 1.5m of colluvium. Amongst a complex arrangement of archaeological features within the Site 18 enclosure were the remains of two structures, one being a substantial foundation trench in the form of an open-ended rectangle. The foundation appears to have supported a building measuring roughly eight metres north-south and five metres east-west, the walls of which were made of flint nodules and local Thanet Bed 'dogger' boulders bonded with a sandy calcareous mortar. The second structure was a sunken-floored building with a corner partition containing a hearth- or kiln-like

feature. Datable pottery recovered from both sets of remains suggests a period of use from c. 1075 or a little earlier to c. 1250. The enclosure was interpreted conjecturally as a 'farming compound with barns, byres and huts for labourers' (Perkins et al 1998, 235), with the sunken-floored building and its heath-/kiln-like feature being associated with 'secondary agricultural processes such as baking, drying or brewing' (ibid, 239). The Site 4/5 enclosure measured approximately 53m by 38m, the long axis being north-east-north/south-west-south. The enclosing ditch was characteristically 1.5m wide and 0.70m deep. However, the land surface into which the ditch was originally cut has long disappeared, having been subject to massive truncation from intensive sub-soiling and erosion (Perkins et al 1998, 227). This has led to the total disappearance of Loessic Brickearth on this part of the site (in contrast to Site 18, 220m to the south – see above). Therefore, the original Site 4/5 enclosure ditch was certainly both deeper and wider than when excavated, and was probably defensive in function. Few features were exposed within the enclosure ditch, presumably because of the severity of the truncation, which left only the basal parts of the most deeply cut features intact. Amongst the surviving features were two post-hole complexes, fifteen pits, sill-beam slots and rammed chalk floors (from sunken floored building?). The remains overall were interpreted as a large farming compound (Perkins et al 1998, 230) and, more conjecturally, as 'a small manor, with Site 4/5 as its farming compound ... occupancy, at least in terms of ceramic dating, seems to have ended for both enclosures in the mid fourteenth century, coincidental with the arrival of the Black Death' (ibid, 235).

4.2.7 Post-Medieval

Hasted (1800, 221-224) supplies a detailed description of the state of agriculture on Thanet before the introduction of the mechanical plough, laying great stress on the fertility of the soil: Hasted points out that the chalk ridges of the Thanet upland are covered with 'dry, loose chalky mould, from four to six inches deep, it has a mixture of small flints, and is without manure a very poor soil'. He goes on to say: 'the vales between the ridges, and the flat lands on the hills [such as the present development site] have a depth of dry, loamy soil, from one to three feet, left mixed with chalk, and of much better quality'. Hasted's 'dry, loamy soil' is almost certainly for the most part the Loessic Brickearth previously discussed, albeit much reworked by long-term cultivation, including intensive manuring, usually using seaweed (Hasted 1800, 223, 224). The thin, dry and highly friable nature of this soil, which is a direct consequence of its aeolian origin, means that it is still easily

moved by the wind and by other colluvial processes. Indeed, the wind is, and has always been a significant factor on Thanet in this and other respects, and this applies particularly to the uplands: '... the general aspect of the island being exposed towards the north and east, and there being so very few hedges and enclosures to shelter it, causes the situation to be very bleak towards the sea, and those few trees, which are growing hereabouts, are for the most part scrubby and unthriving, from being too much subject to the sea winds, which often blow very strong, and at times blast almost everything in their way. This island too is less pleasant, from there being scarce any medium here, between a stalk calm and an outrageous storm, owing to its being so much exposed to the sea, without any kind of shelter.' (Hasted 1800, 221-222).

4.3 Archaeological Sites & Monuments Record

In addition to the assessment of previous archaeological investigations in the area, it is recognized that the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at Kent County Council contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape. As a result, a search was carried out within a 1km diameter of the proposed development site (28 March 2008).

Extensive cropmarks are recorded within the surrounding landscape. Already covered above, these include linear field systems, enclosures, ring ditches and 'macula', or blotches. Monuments TR36NW210, TR36NW243 and TR36NW378 are recorded within the search area, with additional twenty-two potential sites within the surrounding landscape.

In addition to Palaeolithic implements (TR36NW55) recorded to the southwest at Telegraph Hill, early settlement within the immediate vicinity is evident from the Late Iron Age pottery scatter revealed approximately 400m to the west during construction of a pipeline near Cleve Court in 1987 (TR36NW225). The SMR also records WWII caves sites at Cheeseman's Farm to the northeast (TR36NW15), along with a Roman occupation and industrial site during the construction of the extension to Manston Airport during World War II.

4.4 Geology and Topography

The Loop is located, approximately 2km south-east of Birchington and 6 km west of Ramsgate directly north of the western extent of the runway at Manston International Airport , centred on NGR 631792 166155 (Fig. 1). The site measures approximately 1.6 hectares (16,188 sq metres) in area and is situated on a north facing slope with ground levels varying between 25m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) to the south and 20m AOD to the north. Immediately prior to the excavation, the site was used for arable purposes.

The British Geological Society shows that the local geology consists of Head Brickearth overlying solid chalk. An extensive geological assessment is provided within the evaluation report (SWAT 2007), which includes local and regional Loessic and colluvial deposits present on the site (see 5.1 below).

5 REVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

5.1 Stratigraphical Deposit Model (SDM)

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/overburden (**001**) overlying a loose reworked mottled ploughsoil (**002**) which in turn was above a layer of Loessic/colluvial silt (**004**) atop the natural brickearth (**005**) and chalk (**006**). The topsoil/overburden consisted of relatively loose dark brown silty clay with frequent to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. The ploughsoil comprised moderately dense mid orange brown silty clay that blended well with the underlying Loessic/colluvial brickearth that not only sealed the majority of archaeological deposits recorded on site, but also contained fragments of friable abraded pottery and charcoal. This is a reworked drift deposit for the most part comprising relatively coarse-grained Thanet Bed sands of the Tertiary mixed with very fine-grained Loess of the Quaternary.

A clear line of horizon gave way to variable natural deposits (chalk/brickearth) where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overburden varied, averaging between 0.6m (east) and 0.7m (west) below the existing ground level. Archaeological deposits were recorded between c.45.3m and c.47.5m AOD. Each feature will be looked at separately, in conjunction with the full context list set out in Appendix 1. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. Layers and fills are

recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report, where necessary (in **bold**).

5.2 Area 1

Area 1 measured approximately 105m x 55m and was located within the western extent of the proposed development area. Fourteen linear features, five pits and a single post hole were present within this area, all of which are detailed below. A description of each feature is provided, with a phased site narrative included within section 6 of this report.

Linear Features

Distinctive patterns, characteristics and relationships between the fourteen linear features were evident from the offset. **Linear A** measured approximately 80m in length, continuing beyond the northern and southern extents of the proposed development area. Slightly curving in plan and orientated NNE-SSW, a total of 16 sections excavated through this ditch [**010**], [**014**], [**016**], [**018**], [**020**], [**030**], [**032**], [**034**], [**042**], [**044**], [**046**], [**048**], [**050**], [**064**], [**066**] & [**075**] revealed an average width of 1.21m and depth of 0.22m, with a single fill comprising mid/pale brown colluvial silts with rare chalk flecks and small/medium tabulated flint inclusions (**009**, **013**, **015**, **019**, **029**, **031**, **033**, **041**, **043**, **045**, **047**, **049**, **063**, **065** & **074**). Fragments of Middle Bronze Age pottery were present within these fills, albeit only a few robust enough for removal and assessment. Intrusive later ceramic elements were also present. Although dateable finds associated with this feature were rather vague, a relationship was determined with earlier **Linear C**, which had truncated the northern extent of Linear A.

Linear B [**022**], [**024**] & [**026**] ran parallel to southern extent of **Linear A**, being located approximately 19m to the east. Also orientated on a NNE-SSW alignment, this feature measured approximately 0.55m in width with an average depth of 0.11m. The single fill (**021**, **023** & **025**) comprised mid orange brown silty sandy clay with occasional tabulated flint inclusions. Once again, friable pottery provisionally dating this feature to the Middle Bronze Age was present, along with intrusive Roman and medieval wares.

Orientated NW-SE **Linear C** was present within both Area 1 and Area 2. Initially this feature was thought to measure in excess of 80m, however, following closer examination it has become evident

that it did, in fact split, with the north-western segment measuring approximately 22m in length and the south-eastern segment up to 36m in length. Five sections [052], [054], [068] [073] and [085] were excavated through the north-western segment of the ditch, one of which was placed to confirm the truncating relationship with **Linear A**, mentioned above. Possessing a much more distinct profile than the previous two linear features on site, this ditch had an average width of 0.56m and depth of 0.24m with a fill comprising mid-dark brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of chalk and tabular flint, and finds provisionally dating to the Middle Bronze Age. Three additional slots were located within Area 1 (additional Area 2 slots discussed below) to further characterise the south-eastern segment of this ditch [008], [069] & [112], which was further shown to possess a distinct (average depth of approximately 0.29m) bowl-shaped profile filled by mid orange brown silty clay, with rare flint (007, 070 & 111), containing ceramic finds dating between 1300-1100 BC (recorded as 071).

Directly adjacent to **Linear C**, running parallel to the south, **Linear D** possessed similar characteristics. Within Area 1 three slots [040], [077] [094] & [110] were positioned so as to gain as much information as possibly, revealing shallow undulating profiles becoming more distinct and bowl-shaped to the south-east, filled by mid orange brown and pale mid brown silty clays with occasional chalk flecks (039, 076, 083 & 093). Finds retrieved from the fill of this feature dated between 1300-1100 BC.

The southern extent **Linear E** was present within the southernmost extent of Area 1, continuing largely into Area 2 to the north (see below). Three slots [154], [156] & [158] were excavated through **Linear E** revealing a shallow undulating profile, with an average width of 0.58m and depth of 0.17m. The fill associated with the southern extent of this feature comprised mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk and flint inclusions (153, 155 & 157). No dateable finds were present within these excavated slots. **Linear HH**, which ran adjacent to the east, was far too ephemeral to excavate, although possible to locate and plan.

Within the far north-western extent of the site, a small group of linear features formed what appeared to represent an enclosure comprising two/three parallel north-south ditches, coupled with a single east-west orientated ditch. **Linear F**, one of the smaller north-south orientated linear features measured approximately 0.75m in width with an average depth of 0.11m. Two excavated

slots [082] & [084] revealed a shallow bowl-shaped profile that underlay pale to mid brown silty clay with occasional fragments of tabulated flint as flecks of charcoal. Adjacent and parallel to this, two linear features bore distinctly similar characteristics. **Linear G** measured approximately 4m in length, with an average depth of approximately 0.15m and width of 0.50m [088] & [090], with a fill comprising mid-dark grey brown silty clay with tabulated flint fragments and fleck of charcoal (087 & 089). Similarly, **Linear J** [098] possessed the same fill (097), containing pottery dated between 1300-1100BC, suggesting the possibility that **Linear G** and **Linear J** may have formed part of the same feature, possessing an undulated and eroded base. To the south, **Linear L** was orientated at a tangent to the above, curving at each extremity. Measuring approximately 39m in total length, five slots [102], [104], [114], [136] & [138] revealed a variable profile, with a flat and undulated base and concave sides, underlying a mid to dark orange brown silty clay (101), (103), (113), (135) & (137). Fill (101) contained pottery dating between 1300BC and 1100 BC confirming a contemporary date with the three tangential linear features to the immediate north.

Three remaining linear features were present within Area 1. Truncating the afore mentioned **Linear C**. **Linear K** measured approximately 7m in length. Two excavated slots [106] & [108] revealed an average width of 0.66m and depth of 0.16m, possessing a fill comprising mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk flecks (105 & 107). Whilst no dateable evidence was recovered from this linear, alignments with **Linear A** (parallel) and **Linear B** (linear) suggested a contemporary date. To the immediate north, **Linear I** ran parallel to **Linear C**, although was distinctly different in nature. Measuring approximately 22m in length, the irregular shape in plan, specifically within the central area, suggested extensive erosion. The western terminus of this feature [096] measured 0.73m in width with a depth of 0.10m, whilst the eastern extent [231] measured 1.25m in width by 0.24m in depth. The fills of each termini also varied, with the western extent possessing a single mid orange grey silty clay (095) and the eastern extent having a primary fill comprising a more mottled light orange brown/pale light brown silty clay (230) underlying a similar fill (229) to that recorded in the west. The two central segments [428] & [430] both possessed similar fills comprising light orange brown silty clay (427) & (429), although varied greatly in width, the former being nearly twice as wide as the latter. Pottery retrieved from the fills of **Linear I** confirmed a date between 1300 BC and 1100BC, providing a contemporary date with the parallel linear feature to

the immediate south. **Linear TT** was present adjacent to the eastern extent of Area 1 and is discussed further below.

Pit Complexes and Discrete Features

Five individual pits were recorded within Area 1, with at least a further six forming two 'pit groups, complexes and/or hollows'. Within the northern extent of the site, directly north of **Linear L**, the first of these groups comprised a shallow pit [146] measuring 2.40m in width with a maximum depth of 0.20m. Containing a single fill comprising dark grey brown sandy silt (recorded as both 145 & 147), this feature underlay mottled light grey brown sandy silt spread (143), most likely associated with continued trample [146]. Finds associated with the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1100BC) were retrieved from each of these fills. The second pit complex, located to the north of **Linear C** and northwest of **Linear I** comprised four individual pits [118], [120], [122] and [127]. The earliest of these pits [122] had been truncated by the latter three. Four fills comprised mottled pale yellow/mid orange brown silty clay (121) underlying redeposited (or slumped) mid orange brown silty clay (134) and redeposited (slumped) mottled chalk (435), all of which appeared to be sealed by a later mid orange brown silty clay (117). This latter fill had been truncated on the eastern and western extents by two further pits [120] & [118], both filled by mid orange brown silty clay (119 & 117 respectively). The final pit associated with this group consisted of at least four fills (123-126 incl) comprising mottled silts and clays. A final fill (115) loosely associated with this feature and consisting of mottled orange brown silty clay, may in fact be associated with a fifth pit associated with this group [116]. That said, similarities and heavily mottled characteristics of all fills make this uncertain.

To the immediate southeast, an isolated pit [100] measured approximately 0.70m in diameter, with a depth of 0.31m. A single fill comprising dark brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and charcoal (099) contained fragmented flecks of pottery that were far too friable to be retrieved or dated. This fill had been cut by a small post hole [129] measuring 0.40m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The fill (128) was indistinguishable to that of the earlier pit. A second similar post hole [079] was recorded directly south, truncating **Linear K**, containing Middle Bronze Age pottery (1300-1100BC) within the mottled silty clay fill (078) provisionally placing both post holes within the same phase.

Located directly northwest of the pit complex, a second isolated feature measured 0.90m in width and 0.14m in depth. With a length of this feature measuring almost twice the width, this elongated pit may in fact be associated with **Linear I** to the southeast. The single undated fill comprised mottled yellow, orange and brown silts and clays, with rare charcoal flecks (**139**).

The earliest feature recorded on site was an elongated pit located directly south of **Linear D**, aligned east-west. Two slots [**150**] & [**432**] revealed a shallow bowl-shaped profile measuring 0.30m in width, 0.06m in depth with a total length of c.3.80m. The single fill (**149** & **431**) consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and tabulated flint. Pottery retrieved from this fill has placed this feature within the Early Bronze Age (2000-1700BC). The latest feature recorded within Area 1 consisted of a pit/post hole [**028**] measuring 0.92m in diameter, with a depth of c.0.35m. A pale to mid brown colluvial fill (**027**) contained pottery dating to the 12th century, along with post-medieval CBM and nails.

Natural Features

Two excavated natural features were recorded within area 1; **Linear H** which represented a former animal burrow [**092**] and a natural hollow [**142**] investigated due to its similarity to the pits mentioned above. No further recording was carried out on these features.

Stratigraphic Relationships within Area 1

Two clear stratigraphic relationships were present within Area 1. **Linear C** and **Linear D**, both of which were on a similar alignment and most likely contemporary, were truncated by **Linear A** and **Linear K** respectively.

5.3 Area 2

In contrast to a rather simplified layout with Area 1, the eastern Area 2 proved to be far more complex. Area 2 measured approximately 110m x 75m and was located within the eastern extent of the proposed development area.

Linear Features

Six linear features within Area 2 were present and recorded within Area 1 (see above). **Linear C** continued on a northwest-southeast alignment. Six additional slots [**170**], [**180**], [**182**], [**184**], [**192**]

and [228] were excavated within Area 2, each providing a rather contrasting profile to those recorded within Area 1. With an average depth of 0.32m and width of 0.69m, the central area of this feature possessed a secondary fill comprising dark grey black silty clay (185 & 186) along with a spread of fragmented shell (227). Dateable finds were limited throughout **Linear C** with fills (183) & (227) providing confirmation of a Middle Bronze Age date (1300-1100BC).

Similarly, **Linear D** produced significant amounts of dateable evidence in the form of pottery dating between 1300-1100BC. In addition to this, investigation at the junction with tangential linear features (see below), coupled with a parallel alignment and similar profiles would also suggest a date contemporary with **Linear C**. **Linear D** continued on a northwest-southeast alignment, with five additional slots [168], [172], [174], [176], & [194] reflecting characteristics determined during investigations within Area 1. Four slots [190] [196], [198] & [238] were excavated through **Linear M** and **Linear TT** (which were proved to be the same feature) revealing a shallow bowl-shaped profile, with an average width of 0.48m and depth of 0.10m. No dateable finds were retrieved from these features, having therefore been provisionally dated from alignments and stratigraphic relationships (see *Archaeological Narrative* below).

Five additional slots [160], [162], [164], [166] & [200] were excavated through **Linear E**, although no additional dating evidence was obtained, as with Area 1 **Linear HH** was far too ephemeral to record with any accuracy.

Once again, distinctive patterns, characteristics and relationships were recognised within Area 2. Within the northern extent of the site two linear ditches and one curvilinear ditch formed, what appeared to represent, the far extent of an enclosure. **Linear II** measured approximately 12m in length with an average width of 0.60m, tapering to the southeast. Slightly irregular in plan and orientated NNE-SSW, a total of three sections excavated through this ditch [402], [404] & [406] revealed an average depth of 0.12m, with a single fill comprising mid grey brown colluvial silts with rare chalk flecks and small/medium tabulated flint inclusions (401, 403 & 075). Middle Bronze Age pottery (1300-1100BC) was present at the base of (401), possibly suggesting a placed deposit. Orientated on a parallel alignment, five slots [356], [360], [370], [372] & [378] excavated through **Linear JJ** revealed an undulated bowl-shaped profile to a depth of c.0.14m. The fill of this linear (355, 359, 369, 371 & 377) comprised mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions,

charcoal flecks and tabulated flint, along with ceramic evidence (369) providing a Middle Bronze Age date (1300-1100BC). A gap of approximately 1m was observed before **Linear KK**, situated adjacent and to the southeast, continued for approximately 4.5m before turning 90° towards the northeast. Four slots were excavated through this feature [384], [386] [388] & [390], each with a fill consisting of mid orange brown silty clay (383, 385, 387, 389) which disappeared beneath the northern baulk. No finds were associated with this feature.

Within the southern extent of Area 2, **Linear DD**, **Linear FF** and **Linear GG** formed a single albeit continued alignment, with two slots [266] & [302] being afforded to **Linear DD**, two [268] & [270] to **Linear FF** and one slot to **Linear GG** [264], which disappeared beneath the southern boundary of the site. All slots revealed a shallow undulating profile, approximately 0.21m in depth, filled by mid orange brown silty clay (265, 301,? 267, 269 & 263 respectively), which contained rare/occasional chalk flecks and tabulated flint. To the west an additional parallel feature, **Linear EE**, was recorded [272] & [426], with comparable profiles and fill (271) & (425). No archaeological finds were associated with these features.

From this point, remaining linear features within Area 2, which form a parallel and tangential pattern set out on a segmented NW-SE and NE-SW alignment, will be discussed initially according to these parameters rather than by alpha designation.

Within the far south-eastern corner of Area 2 and on a NW-SE alignment, **Linear Z** measured approximately 16m in length, continuing beneath the eastern baulk. Two slots [260] & [418] investigated through this feature revealed a concave and undulated profile with a width of approximately 0.61m and average depth of 0.13m. No dateable finds were retrieved from the mid orange brown silty clay fills (259 & 417). Continuing in a north-westerly direction, **Linear Y** was examined by three slots [258], [274] & [348] for a distance of approximately 25m, revealing a shallow flat based profile underlying mid orange brown clayey silt (257, 274 & 347) with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks, as well as pottery provisionally dating the linear to the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1100BC). Continuing on this alignment **Linear R** measured approximately 4.50m before turning through 90° to continue southwest for approximately 29m. Four excavated sections [242], [382], [392] & [434] along with an additional and most likely associated elongated pit [380], revealed an average width of 0.59m and depth of 0.12m, tapering towards the southwest. The fill

of this feature comprised mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint (**241, 381, 391 & 433**). While no dateable finds were present, the similarity in alignment and orientation suggested a date contemporary with **Linear DD** and **Linear Y**, as well as **Linear M/TT** to the west. With this in mind and continuing northwest, one notices **Linear N**. Measuring approximately 21m in length, with a width of c.0.55m and depth of c.0.16m, this linear had an undulated bowl-shaped profile that narrowed and tapered towards the northwest [**202**], [**204**], [**233**] & [**376**]. The mottled mid orange brown silty clay fill (**201, 203, 232 & 375**) yielded no archaeological finds, possessing only occasional fragments of tabulated flint.

Linear U to the south was orientated northwest-southeast, parallel to **Linear C** and at 90° tangent to **Linear E**. Two slots were excavated to further characterise this ditch [**206**] & [**226**], which was shown to possess a shallow (average of approximately 0.15m deep) bowl-shaped profile filled by mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, occasional rounded pebbles and tabulated flint (**205 & 225**). On a similar alignment, to the southeast, **Linear O** measured approximately 12m in length with two excavated sections [**220**] & [**290**] revealing a very distinct bowl-shaped profile measuring approximately 0.21m deep at the south-eastern extent and up to 0.56m at the north-western extent. The fills of this feature comprised a constant pale grey silty clay (**289**) that overlay a lens of dark grey black organic silt (**291**) and mid orange brown redeposited (or slumped) brickearth (**292**) within the north-western extent. At this point **Linear O** had cut through an underlying earlier pit [**294**] & [**338**] (see below) that had also been truncated by an additional smaller NE-SW orientated **Linear UU** [**212**] & [**316**]. Measuring approximately 4m in length, with a width of c.0.60m and depth of 0.05m, this feature possessed a fill (**211 & 335**) indistinguishable from **Linear E** (**199**). That said, the stratigraphic relationship of this group of features was clear. The terminus of **Linear E** was not present, suggesting truncation by pit [**338**], which was in turn truncated by **Linear UU** [**336**]. The latest phase of activity within this group was therefore the cutting of **Linear O** and **Linear UU**, which post-dated the adjacent pit that had cut through the earlier **Linear E** (see Stratigraphic Matrix – Appendix 2).

Continuing with NW-SE orientated linear features, an additional nine ditches were present within the eastern extent of Area 2, all of which ran parallel and to the immediate north of **Linear Z** and

Linear Y, mentioned above. All of these features possessed similar fills, comprising naturally formed silts and colluvial drift, as well as similar physical characteristics. **Linear AA** [256] and **Linear X** [262], [332] & [414] were the narrowest, being more undulated in profile, with an average width of 0.25m and depth of 0.14, while directly adjacent to and north of **Linear BB** [254], **Linear CC** [250], [252] & [416], **Linear WW** [288] & [412] and **Linear VV** [286] were nearly twice the width and depth.

The final group of NW-SE orientated linear features were located centrally within Area 2, forming a junction with an additional cluster of linear features heading off in a north-easterly direction (see below). **Linear V** [240] & [346] continued on an NW-SE orientation for a distance of approximately 7m before being truncated by an E-W aligned elongated pit [218] & [341] (see below). **Linear S** was investigated with two slots [244] & [246] revealing bowl-shaped profile with an average width of 0.42m and depth of 0.13m, while **Linear W** [282] measured approximately 7m in length with a width of 0.46m and depth of 0.08m. Both features were filled by redeposited or slumped colluvial silts (243, 245 & 281 respectively) and truncated by pits described below.

Orientated NE-SW a group of five 'primary' ditches were laid out on a tangential alignment with those mentioned above, forming what appeared to represent a larger peripheral enclosure within Area 2. **Linear P** measured approximately 18m in length, with a visible terminus at each end. Three sections excavated through this ditch [214], [224] & [334] revealed an average width of 1.15m and depth of 0.27m, with a single fill comprising mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks (213, 223 & 333), along with pottery dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1100).

Linear Q [216] & [222] and **Linear OO** [208] were located parallel and to the south of **Linear P**, orientated on a northeast-southwest alignment. Similar in profile, the fills of these features (215, 221 & 209 respectively) comprised mid brown silty sandy clay with brighter mottled orange clay sporadically appearing at the base and rare charcoal flecks. Dateable finds were not present within either of these ditches.

Linear T and **Linear SS** appeared contemporary and may illustrate a phase of re-cutting. **Linear T** [328], [318], [316], [350], [364] & [322] was by far the more dominant of the two features with an average width of 1.05m and depth of 0.47m, whilst **Linear SS** [304], [354], [314], [320], [330] & [210] averaged 0.46m in width with a maximum depth of 0.24m [320]. That said, both features

reduced in size as they proceeded north, most likely as a result of erosion. Fills of each of the excavated slots through the two ditches were indistinguishable, comprising mottled orange brown silty clay colluvium, with Middle Bronze Age pottery (**327** & **349**) dating the features between 1300-1100BC.

Secondary 'feeder' ditches were present along the alignments of both **Linear T** and **Linear SS**. A total of five (**Linear MM**, **Linear NN**, **Linear PP**, **Linear QQ** & **Linear RR**) were present, each ephemeral in nature comprising shallow cut concave slots filled by mottled red and orange brown silty clays with shell spreads (**365** & **366**) present atop the upper fill at the junction between **Linear T** and **Linear MM**.

Pits and Discrete Features

Fourteen individual pits were recorded within Area 2, the majority of which were located within the enclosed northern area of the site. Six such features [**296**], [**394**], [**410**], [**343**], [**396**] & [**324**], were isolated and possessed no significant archaeological remains. It is possible that these were actually natural features, although the distinct and clear profiles would suggest otherwise.

One particularly interesting feature within the larger enclosure comprises a post pipe [**420**] that appeared to have been removed prior to two phases of deliberate backfilling [**422**] & [**424**]. The initial cut for the post hole [**420**] measured approximately 0.26m in diameter, with an overall depth of 0.75m below the upper surface of natural geology. The single fill comprised very dark brown silty clay with rare chalk fragments and occasional rounded stone (**423**). Above this was deposited a very dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and rounded stone, possible packing material (**421**), within a wider (c.0.95m diameter) post pit [**422**]. The final action was the deposition of very compact dark grey brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk and moderate tabulated flint inclusions (**419**). The interface between each layer was obvious with clear lines of extent, either suggesting the removal of a post and deliberate backfilling, or the degrading of the post *in situ*. Two adjacent 'pits' [**394**] & [**399**] were similar in plan, but differed in profile as no obvious post pit or post hole was present. The fills also differed, comprising naturally formed silts (**393**, **397** & **398**) rather than via deliberate processes.

Located within the northern extent of Area 2 a shallow circular pit [**358**] appeared to underlie **Linear JJ**, although the exact relationship between these two features was not entirely clear.

Measuring approximately 2.2m in diameter with a depth of c. 0.06m, the single fill of this feature comprised loose mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional inclusion of tabulated flint (357). No dateable material was present.

All remaining pits possessed physical relationships with afore mentioned linear features. Pit [308] was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.57m in diameter with a depth of 0.26m. This feature was originally thought to represent the terminus of **Linear SS**, although during excavation it became evident that this was not the case. The fill of the pit (307) was identical to that of the linear (303) suggesting a contemporary relationship. In contrast to this, pit [248] clearly truncated the upper fill of **Linear S** as the extent of the dark grey brown silty clay fill (247) was clear in plan. Directly to the south, **Linear W** had been clearly cut by pit [280] the fill of which (279) had been subsequently truncated by a later pit [278]. Pottery dating between 1300-1100BC is assigned with pit [280], although it is possible that this is residual, and most likely from the underlying **Linear W**. As far as pits go, these two were among the deepest recorded on site. With this in mind, and coupled with their location it may be probable to suggest that these features represent former watering holes within the corner of the surrounding corralled field systems.

To the immediate northwest, an elongated pit [218] & [341] measured approximately 3.50m in length, with a depth of approximately 0.51m. A single fill comprising relatively firm slightly brown orange silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and charcoal (340) contained pottery provisionally dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1100BC) and had been truncated on the eastern extent by **Linear V**. A second similar pit [294] & [338] was recorded directly northwest truncating **Linear E** and in turn truncated by **Linear O** and **Linear UU** containing an upper fill comprising mid orange brown colluvial silts (337), overlying a primary dark red brown clay (339), providing lining for another potential watering hole.

Natural Features

Four excavated natural features were recorded within Area 2; a tree throw [368] adjacent to the eastern extent of the site, a possible animal burrow [326] and two natural root boles [178] & [408] investigated due to the similarity in fills with the pits mentioned above. No further recording was carried out on these features.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

The purpose of this archaeological narrative is to draw the various strands of evidence together into a coherent picture. The presence of archaeological features, their characteristics and contents enable us to propose a provisional chronological matrix for the site (Appendix 2), although it should be mentioned at this point that this may be subject to revision following further specialist assessment, as required. A general overview is offered below (in addition to specialist comments within the Appendices), followed by a phase by phase breakdown of archaeological features on site.

Archaeological excavations carried out over the summer of 2007 have confirmed the presence of a Middle Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) farmstead. Features include interrupted parallel ditches or droveways set out at right-angles, coupled with enclosure ditches and features that can be attributed with elements of animal husbandry. Such features would typically comprise collection pens and a funnel (or 'crush') giving way to a herding 'race', used for the droving, batching and sorting of the livestock. Evidence for drafting gates, such as the 'three way drafting gate system' as suggested by Pryor (1998) also appeared to be represented on site.

The site presents good evidence for early management of the landscape along with internal occupation activity for the Middle Bronze Age. It is suggested that the primary focus of the site would have been associated with land divisions and demarcation (placed deposits?), comprising the management and control of domesticated livestock within a co-axial system of land division. Mudd (1984), when discussing a site in West Kent, suggests that this 'land division and demarcation' may be based around the connections between highland and lowland areas within the landscape forming a system involving 'transhumant pastoralism' (1984:407). If this is indeed the situation during the Middle Bronze Age at The Loop, it is plausible to suggest that the development site is situated within the heart of this evolving landscape, between the higher grounds to the south and the lower towards the north. It is also essential of course to place this within a landscape reflecting social and economic pressures that would have required intensive land management and boundary definition (hence the possible placed deposits within **Linear II**). In fact, the absence of an occupation site (or sites) is in stark contrast to the frequency of domestic pottery retrieved, indicating that evidence for 'living areas' has either been destroyed (ploughing?) or is located beyond the proposed development area. The presence of two possible enclosure ditches would

suggest that domestic occupation may have occurred (and may still survive) within areas to the immediate north of the site, while the presence of barrows around Manston Airfield suggest that the areas for the dead, or ancestors, would have been to the south on the higher (more visible) areas of the landscape. Issues of social identity and complexity would have been visible within the contemporary landscape, domestic structures, agrarian field management, funerary and possibly even monumental semblances are all indicative of the Middle Bronze Age as some of the first complex field systems are seen in Britain, indicating a growing pressure on the land as the numbers of people and animals increased.

Occupation on this scale is rare within this area of Thanet, with limited results obtained from Netherhale Farm, South Dumpton Downs, Ramsgate and during excavation at the Kent International Business Park during the early 1990's. Close parallels for feature patterns can also be recognised across Kent, particularly with the later Bronze Age site excavated by Oxford Archaeological Unit at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend (Mudd 1994), although care should be exercised when comparing sites at opposite ends of the county.

An interesting comparison would be a landscape located within the eastern industrial area of Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, known as Fengate. Fengate is positioned on First Gravel Terrace, which was extensively occupied throughout prehistory (Pryor, 1974; 1978; 1980; 1984; 1991; 1992; 1996; 1997a.; 1997b and 1998), with occupation primarily based on the management of intensive animal husbandry of cattle, especially sheep, using an elaborate system of droveways, paddocks, enclosures and byres. Farmers utilised that natural resources of the seasonally flooded lowland within an adjacent fenland basin, bringing livestock onto the higher and drier ground for the duration of the winter. This elaborate system is reflected within the contemporary landscape at The Loop.

4.1 *Archaeological Phasing at The Loop*

The main elements of the excavation will now be approached period-by-period. Analysis of the ceramic assemblage (Appendix 3) has identified 5 phases of archaeological activity on site, three of which have been attributed to the Middle Bronze Age. This is further supported by the alignments of particular linear features, which form coherent ditch networks. As a result, it has been possible to separate the Middle Bronze Age into three subdivisions thus:

4.2 Phase I – Early Bronze Age (2000-1700BC)

The Early Bronze Age is represented by a single elongated pit [150] containing dateable pottery. The isolated nature of this feature may be attributed to poor survival of earlier deposits, due to later occupation. It is also possible that dateable finds within this context have been washed down from the higher ground to the south, and therefore residual, although the unabraded condition would appear to suggest otherwise. Interestingly, this feature is on a completely different alignment to everything else on site, suggesting that this may in fact be all that remains of an Early Bronze Age landscape within this area of The Loop.

4.3 Phase II – Middle Bronze Age I (1500-1300BC)

The earliest preserved landscape during the Middle Bronze Age is associated with Phase II and consists of a NNE-SSW aligned driveway with at least three accompanying paddocks and corals to the immediate southwest. The segmented nature of the driveway may be representative of entranceways into these paddocks or simply the differential depth of the original cut of the features coupled with sporadic erosion patterns. The latter is considered most probable, as it is unlikely that gates would have been located along the sides of fields as it is far easier to drive livestock into the corner of a field and through a gate, rather than along the edge where confusion will undoubtedly occur. An additional point of interest associated with this phase would be the close parallel relationship of **Linear X** and **Linear AA** with the segmented ditches to the north. It is possible to suggest that two sub phases of ditch cutting (or re-cutting) is actually present here, or alternatively that the outer alignment actually represents a hedge line. It may also be probable that the shallow depth and undulated alignment may point to a more indirect impact such as animal runs. Such patterns are readily visible within modern pastoral landscapes.

The lack of domestic features associated with this phase (the only Middle Bronze Age phase without domestic settlement) would imply that contemporary human occupation occurred beyond the boundary of the proposed development area. The orientation of the driveway may suggest that should transhumant factors have been an issue then settlement would be located northeast of the site. That said, it should be noted there is also a distinct lack of contemporary features directly northeast of the driveway.

4.4 Phase III – Middle Bronze Age II (1300-1100BC)

Phase III was by far the most intensive phase of occupation recorded on site. Settlement patterns focus around a small potentially double-ditched enclosure adjacent to the northern extent of the site, disappearing beneath the baulk edge. The alignment of **Linear KK** is paramount here as it would seem to dictate the pattern and layout of all contemporary features within the immediate vicinity. Aligned NNE-SSW this feature turns through 90° and heads WNW-ESE to form the southern tip of a potential domestic enclosure. A parallel **Linear II** provides the possibility that this may have been a double-ditched enclosure. From here and extending southeast **Linear SS** and **Linear TT** form a parallel alignment before, once again, turning through 90°, echoing the smaller enclosure. In fact all linear features associated with this phase conform to this pattern providing a text book example of a Middle Bronze Age corralled farmstead. **Linear P** provided a possible herding funnel to a network of ditches and possible drafting gates, while **Linear E** and **Linear HH** combined with **Linear O** formed a near perfect 90° bend allowing access to southern and western paddocks gained via additional droveways (**Linear C** & **Linear D**). Feeder ditches associated with **Linear T** and **Linear SS** suggest the necessity for dry areas of the landscape, thus domestic settlement. **Linear I** and **Linear U** appeared to represent the continuation of the outer enclosure ditch, while it could be argued that later pits [218] & [294] within the linear network represent the ongoing changes within the landscape, blocking old gateways and access points. Pits (and pit complexes) interpreted as watering holes located within the corners of paddocks were among the deepest cut features on site, with one example providing evidence for a clay lining. The presence of an isolated deeply cut post hole [420] and post pipe between the inner and outer enclosures may represent that marking out of significant farm or territorial boundaries, dug and deliberately backfilled suggesting ceremonial practices, which are further supported by placed deposits within the terminus of **Linear II**. In short, Phase III provides an excellent example of peripheral Middle Bronze Age agrarian settlement. Domestic occupation is close, most likely adjacent and to the north, while areas for the dead are focussed upon the higher (more visible) ground to the south.

4.5 Phase IV – Middle Bronze Age III (1100-Late 1st Millennium BC)

This phase is represented by three ditches (**Linear A**, **Linear B** and **Linear K**) forming two parallel curving ditches, orientated on an ENE-WSW alignment, possibly forming a large droveway. These are accompanied by four ditches within the north-western extent of the site (**Linear F**, **Linear G**,

Linear J & Linear L), forming what appears to represent a small enclosure. It is evident that much of the contemporary landscape has been lost, but from what survives it is plausible to suggest that Phase IV comprises part of the latter domestic and agrarian settlement on site. That said, the alignment of **Linear A**, supported by **Linear B** and **Linear K**, may suggest that the slight curve to the west may have been necessary in order to avoid additional enclosures to the north, beyond the extent of the site.

4.6 Phase V – Medieval to Modern

A single post hole [028] assigned to either the medieval or post medieval period was located within the western extent of the site. Given the isolated nature of this feature, it is not possible to assign it any specific significance. It is possible that medieval structures existed beyond the western extent of the site, although it was considered more likely associated with the later 20th century development of the airfield and for that matter, the Loop itself.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

5.1 Lithic Assemblage

A full assessment of the lithic assemblage is provided in Appendix 3.

5.2 Ceramic Assemblage

A full assessment of the ceramic assemblage is provided in Appendix 4.

5.3 Environmental Evidence

Analysis and assessment of environmental evidence was carried out by MoLSS, during the course of the archaeological fieldwork, at which time the potential of deposits was considered low (Dr P Wilkinson *pers comm*). As a result further environmental samples were taken only from deposits with organic potential.

5.4 Faunal Assemblage

Analysis of the faunal assemblage is, at present, ongoing. Faunal remains were incredibly scarce on site, so it is anticipated that little statistical data will be gained from such a small sample. That said, finds are still being processed with the observation that good C-14 dates may be obtained with the aim to enhance the typological ceramic sequence (Dr P Wilkinson *pers comm*). A full assessment of all findings will be compiled to form part of the final report associated with this project, and will be included within any future publications.

6 SUMMARY OF SITE ARCHIVE

6.1 Quantity of Archaeological Material and Records

In addition to artefact assemblages mentioned above, the site archive comprises the following elements;

- Correspondence
- Photographs: 241 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 07/075. 120 35mm slide photographs, colour & b/w. SWAT film nos. 07/342.
- Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps: NA
- Drawings: 31 A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.
- Context Register including: Context Register Sheets (17), Drawings Register Sheets (15), Photographic Register Sheets (16), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register Sheets (2) and Context Sheets (432)

A full archival catalogue will be prepared following receipt of final specialist assessments, which will be incorporated within a final report.

6.2 Storage of Archaeological Material

The complete archaeological archive will be temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until provision is made by Kent County Council for an adequate storage facility. The archive will be prepared in

accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*.

7 RECOMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 *Statement of Potential*

The archaeological excavations at The Loop have confirmed the presence of continued prehistoric settlement within the area immediately surrounding Manston International Airport. In light of this, it is recommended that further archaeological assessment focus on the recommendations of artefact specialists, in order to supplement Thanet assemblages recorded within the surrounding area. To date, the ceramic and lithic assemblages have been assessed and recommendations made (Appendices 3 & 4), which will be adhered to in order to attain publication standards.

7.2 *Preparation of Full Report & Publication*

A Full Report will be produced and submitted within 24 months of the submission of this post-excavation assessment. Within this time SWAT Archaeology and Graham & Duncan Partnership will discuss and agree with the County Archaeologist the scope of the Full Report and the format and destination of subsequent publication(s) arising from excavation and post-excavation work on the site.

As a minimum at this stage, it is recommended that a short summary be compiled and provided to the Kent Archaeological Society for publication within *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

7.3 *Format*

The Final Report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist in a bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied for preference in .pdf format or alternatively in .rtf format accompanied by digital copies of images, plans and maps in .bmp, .tif or .jpg format. The medium will be a PC CD-ROM (CD-R format only), unless otherwise requested. Digital files will be supplied in a PC readable format.

7.4 Dissemination

Subject to confidentiality arrangements, copies of the Final Report will be provided to the client, Kent County Council and the Kent Archaeological Society. Copies to additional organisations, such as local or regional archaeological organisations or groups will also be produced on request.

8 CONCLUSIONS

This archaeological excavation has been carried out in accordance with a written Specification produced by Kent County Council. Archaeological remains present within the development area have been assessed and reported, enabling preservation of archaeological deposits by record. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in order to satisfy Condition 9 of Planning Application TH/06/1241.

9 ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

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David Britchfield

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Appendix 1 – Context Register

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
001	L	Topsoil								
002	L	Subsoil	Reworked, marled brickearth							
003	L	Med/Post Med horizon	Isolated area of Grey/brown compact silty clay							
004	L	Colluvium	Colluvial drift and windblown deposit comprising relatively coarse-grained Thanet Bed sands of the Tertiary mixed with very fine-grained Loess of the Quaternary							
005	L	Brickearth	Mid red brown silty clay							
006	L	Chalk								
007	F	Fill of ditch	Pale mid brown silty clay with rare tabular flint	[008]		Linear C	26	23	1300-1100BC	MBA II
008	C	Ditch cut			(007)		26	23		
009	F	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid brown colluvium (broken earth) with rare chalk flecks, small to medium angular/rounded and tabular flint.	[010]		Modern	2	9	Modern pipe	Modern
010	C	Ditch cut			(009)		2	9		
011	F	Fill of cable trench		[012]		Modern	1	9		MBA III
012	C	Cable trench			(011)		1	9		
013	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[014]		Linear A	6	4	13th century	
014	C	Ditch cut			(013)		6	4		
015	F	Fill of ditch	Brickearth covering prehistoric horizon	[016]			5	6		
016	C	Ditch cut			(015)		5	6		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
017	F	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid brown colluvium (broken earth) with rare chalk flecks, small to medium angular/rounded and tabular flint.	[018]			4	6		
018	C	Ditch cut			(017)		4	6		
019	F	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid brown colluvium (broken earth) with rare chalk flecks, small to medium angular/rounded and tabular flint.	[020]			3	8		
020	C	Ditch cut			(019)		3	8		
021	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay (redeposited brickearth) with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabular flint, rare worked flint	[022]			8	17		
022	C	Ditch cut			(021)		8	17		
023	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay (redeposited brickearth) with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabular flint, rare worked flint	[024]		Linear B	9	23		MBA III
024	C	Ditch cut			(023)		9	23		
025	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay (redeposited brickearth) with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabular flint, rare worked flint	[026]			10	18	1500/1300-1100 BC AD1150-1200 100-50/25AD	
026	C	Ditch cut			(025)		10	18		
027	F	Fill of Pit/Posthole	Pale to mid brown colluvium (broken earth) with occasional chalk flecks and small to medium rounded, angular and tabular flint. Flint flake, Fe nail & abraded CBM recovered	[028]			7	1	AD1150-1175	12th Century
028	C	Pit/Posthole			(027)		7	1		
029	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk flecks	[030]		Linear A	15	10		MBA III
030	C	Ditch cut			(029)		15	10		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
031	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay, rare flint and rare chalk flecks	[032]			22	11		
032	C	Ditch cut			(031)		22	11		
033	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (029)	[034]			16	12		
034	C	Ditch cut			(033)		16	12		
035	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown, silty clay with occasional flints of varying sizes	[036]			17	13		
036	C	Ditch cut			(035)		17	13		
037	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown, silty clay with rare chalk flecks and flint	[038]			23	20		
038	C	Ditch cut	Mid orange grey brown, silty clay with rare chalk flecks and flint		(037)		23	20		
039	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flint plus rare chalk flecks	[040]			40	28		
040	C	Ditch cut			(039)	Linear D	40	28		MBA II
041	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[042]			12	5		
042	C	Ditch cut			(041)		12	5		
043	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[044]			13	3		
044	C	Ditch cut			(043)		13	3		
045	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[046]			14	2		
046	C	Ditch cut			(045)	Linear A	14	2		MBA III
047	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay rare flint	[048]			11 & 19	14		
048	C	Ditch cut			(047)		11 & 19	14		
049	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[050]			20	19		
050	C	Ditch cut			(049)		20	19		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
051	F	Fill of ditch	Mid dark orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments plus tabular flint	[052]		Linear C	41	19		MBA II
052	C	Ditch cut			(051)		41	19		
053	F	Fill of ditch	Pale mid brown silty clay with rare angular, rounded and tabular flint. Pot base (071), worked flint	[054]			21	31	?MBA	
054	C	Ditch cut			(053)		21	31		
055	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown, silty clay with frequent chalk fragments (<0.01m diameter) Rare flint	[056]		Linear A	18	15		MBA III
056	C	Ditch cut			(055)		18	15		
057	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[058]				6		
058	C	Recut [016]			(057)			6		
059	F	Fill of Recut	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[060]				6		
060	C	Recut [018]			(059)			6		
061	F	Fill of Recut	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[062]				8		
062	C	Recut [020]			(061)			8		
063	F	Fill of Recut	Indistinguishable from (035)	[064]				17	13	
064	C	Recut [036]			(063)			17	13	
065	F	Fill of Recut	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and rare angular gravel	[066]			18	15		
066	C	Recut [056]			(065)		18	15		
067	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[068]		Linear C	35	21 & 32		MBA II
068	C	Ditch cut			(067)		35	21 & 32		
069	C	Ditch cut			(070) (071)		25			

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
070	F	Fill	Pale mid brown silty clay with rare angular, rounded and tabular flint. Pot base (071), worked flint	[069]	(071)		25		1300-1100BC	
071	F	Vessel within fill		[069]			25		1300-1100BC	
072	F	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid brown silty clay with rare rounded, angular and tabular flint, chalk flecks and flint flecks		(071)		24	22	1300-1100BC	
073	C	Ditch cut			(072)		24	22		
074	F	Ditch cut	Mid-dark grey brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and flint	[073]		Linear A	23	20		MBA III
075	C	Recut by [038]			(074)		23	20		
076	F	Fill of ditch	Pale mid brown silty clay with occasional flint	[077]		Linear D	27	24 & 30	1300-1100BC	MBA II
077	C	Ditch cut			(076)		27	24 & 30		
078	F	Fill of post hole	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare small pebbles (<0.01m) plus rare chalk flecks	[079]			34	33	1300-1100BC	MBA II
079	C	Posthole	Truncates Linear K				34	33		
080	x	x	NOT USED	x	x	X	x	x	x	x
081	F	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and flecks of charcoal	[082]			31	25		
082	C	Ditch cut			(081)	Linear F	31	25		MBA III
083	F	Fill of ditch	Pale mid brown silty clay with occasional flint, charcoal flecks and shell. Moderate natural chalk inclusions	[084]			29	26		
084	C	Ditch cut			(083)		29	26		
085	C	Ditch cut		[086]		Linear C	30	27		MBA II
086	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (072)		(085)		30	27		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
087	F	Fill of ditch	Mid dark grey brown silty clay with rare flint plus rare charcoal fragments	[088]			38	34	1300-1100BC	
088	C	Ditch cut			(087)	Linear G	38	34		MBA III
089	F	Fill of ditch	Mid dark grey brown silty clay with rare flints plus rare charcoal fragments	[090]			37	35		
090	C	Ditch cut			(089)		37	35		
091	F	Fill of ditch		[092]			43	37		
092	C	Ditch cut	Natural feature		(091)	Linear H	43	37		No date
093	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments plus occasional flint	[094]			33	29		
094	C	Ditch cut			(093)	Linear D	33	29		MBA II
095	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with occasional flint and occasional chalk flecks	[096]			32	38		
096	C	Ditch cut			(095)	Linear I	32	38		MBA II
097	F	Fill of ditch	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint (Tabular, angular and rounded), rare charcoal fragments, pottery, animal bone and burnt flint	[098]			39	36	1300-1100BC	
098	C	Ditch cut			(097)	Linear J	39	36		MBA II
099	F	Fill of pit	Dark brown silty clay with tabular and angulated flint plus considerable burnt matter including charcoal, one worked flint and small pieces of pottery	[100]			28	39		
100	C	Pit			(099)		28	39		MBA III
101	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flints	[102]		Linear L	36	48	1300-1100BC	MBA II
102	C	Ditch cut			(101)		36	48		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
103	F	Fill of ditch	Mid dark orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments plus tabular flint	[104]			42	44		
104	C	Ditch cut			(103)		42	44		
105	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and chalk flecks	[106]			44	40 & 43		
106	C	Ditch cut			(105)		44	40 & 43		
107	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with very occasional tabulated flint plus occasional chalk flecks	[108]		Linear K	45	41		MBA III
108	C	Ditch cut			(107)		45	41		
109	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flints	[110]			46	42	1300-1100BC	
110	C	Ditch cut			(109)	Linear D	46	42		MBA II
111	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate occasional flint and occasional chalk flecks truncated by linear K	[112]			47	43	1300-1100BC	
112	C	Ditch cut			(111)	Linear C	47	43		MBA II
113	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and charcoal	[114]			48	45		
114	C	Ditch cut			(113)	Linear L	48	45		MBA III
115	F	Fill of pit	Mottled orange brown silty clay and light white yellow sandy silt with rare flint	[116]			64	49		
116	C	Pit complex			(115)	Pit complex	64	49		MBA II
117	F	Fill of pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk flecks	[118]			64	49		
118	C	Pit complex			(117)		64	49		
119	F	Fill of pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare tabulated flint and charcoal flecks	[120]			64	49		
120	C	Pit complex			(119)		64	49		
121	F	Fill of pit	Mottled yellow and orange brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk	[122]			64 & 65	49		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
122	C	Pit complex			(121)		64 & 65	49		
123	F	Fill of pit	Slumped natural deposit – mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions	[127]			64	49		
124	F	Fill of pit	Mottled yellow and orange brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of chalk	[127]			64	49		
125	F	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown fine silty clay with rare flint and friable fragments of fired clay (pottery)	[127]			64	49	1500/1300-1100BC	
126	F	Fill of pit	Pale yellow chalky paste, rare fragments of tabulated flint	[127]			64	49		
127	C	Pit complex			(115) (123) (124) (125) (126)		64	49		
128	F	Fill of Posthole	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flints and charcoal flecks	[129]			52	39		
129	C	Posthole (cuts (099))			(128)		52	39		
130	F	Fill of Pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional fragments of tabulated flint	[118]			65			No Date
131										
132										
133										
134	F	Pit	Redeposited (slumped) natural silty clay brickearth	[122]			64 & 65			
135	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and rounded pebbles plus occasional fragments of charcoal and chalk	[136]			49	46		
136	C	Ditch cut			(135)		49	46		
137	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint and rounded pebbles plus occasional fragments of charcoal and chalk	[138]		Linear L	50	47		MBA III
138	C	Ditch cut			(137)		50	47		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
139	F	Fill of Pit	Mid yellow orange brown silty clay, occasional chalk and charcoal fragments	[140]			66	90		MBA II
140	C	Pit			(139)		66	90		
141	F	Fill of natural hollow	Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate tabulated flint	[142]			51			No date
142	C	Natural hollow			(141)		51			
143	F	Fill of natural hollow	Light grey brown sandy silt with occasional tabulated flint and charcoal flecks	[144]			67 & 68	50	1300-1100BC	
144	C	Natural hollow			(143)		67 & 68	50		
145	F	Fill of Pit	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks – Same as (147)	[146]			68	50	1300-1100BC	MBA II
146	C	Pit			(145)		68	50		
147	F	Fill of Pit	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks – Same as (145)	[146]			68	50	1300-1100BC	
148	x	x	NOT USED	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
149	F	Fill of pit	Same as (431)	[150]		Linear M	69	51 & 52	2000-1700BC	EBA
150	C	Elongated Pit	Same as [432]		(149)		69	51 & 52		
151	F	Fill of ditch		[152]		Linear T	70	51 & 53	AD1475-1500	MBA I
152	C	Ditch cut			(151)		70	51 & 53		
153	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[154]		Linear E	55	56		MBA II
154	C	Ditch cut			(153)		55	56		
155	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[156]			53	54		
156	C	Ditch cut			(155)		53	54		
157	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[158]			54	55		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
158	C	Ditch cut			(157)		54	55		
159	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[160]			56	57		
160	C	Ditch cut			(159)		56	57		
161	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[162]			59	59		
162	C	Ditch cut			(161)		59	59		
163	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[164]			57	58		
164	C	Ditch cut			(163)		57	58		
165	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[166]			60	60		
166	C	Ditch cut			(165)		60	6		
167	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[168]		Linear D	61	69	1300-1100BC	MBA II
168	C	Ditch cut			(167)		61	69		
169	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint plus rare flecks of charcoal	[170]		Linear C	71	62	1300-1100BC	MBA II
170	C	Ditch cut			(169)		71	62		
171	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[172]		Linear D	58	70		MBA II
172	C	Ditch cut			(171)		58	70		
173	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[174]			62	71	1300-1100BC	
174	C	Ditch cut			(173)		62	71		
175	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with rare flint and rare chalk fleck	[176]			63	73		
176	C	Ditch cut			(175)		63	73		
177	F	Fill of pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks, carbon flecks and flints	[178]			59			MBA II
178	C	Pit	Cuts (161) – Natural rooting		(177)		59			

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
179	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[180]		Linear C	73	63		MBA II
180	C	Ditch cut			(179)		73	63		
181	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[182]			74	64		
182	C	Ditch cut			(181)		74	64		
183	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional flint, rare chalk flecks, 3 sherds of pot and several possible worked flints	[184]			72	66	1300-1100BC	
184	C	Ditch cut			(183)		72	66		
185	F	Upper Fill	Dark grey with frequent grey black burnt material; silty clay, rare flint, occasional charcoal and rare burnt flint	[180]			73			
186	F	Upper Fill	Same as (185)	[182]			74			
187	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[188]		Linear TT	76			
188	C	Ditch cut			(187)		76			
189	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown clay with rare flint (Not on survey)	[190]		Linear TT	75	67, 74 & 91		
190	C	Ditch cut	Not on survey		(189)		75	67, 74 & 91		
191	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with occasional flint	[192]		Linear C	77	65 & 102	1300-1100BC	MBA II
192	C	Ditch cut			(191)		77	65 & 102		
193	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with occasional flint	[194]		Linear D	78 & 79	72		MBA II
194	C	Ditch cut			(193)		78 & 79	72		
195	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[196]		Linear TT	79	72		MBA II
196	C	Ditch cut			(195)		79	72		
197	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[198]		Linear M	91	76 & 102		MBA II
198	C	Ditch cut			(197)		91	76 & 102		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
199	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[200]		Linear E	80	61		MBA II
200	C	Ditch cut			(199)		80	61		
201	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[202]		Linear N	83	78		MBA I
202	C	Ditch cut			(201)		83	78		
203	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[204]			82	77		
204	C	Ditch cut			(203)	82	77			
205	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[206]		Linear U	81	68		MBA II
206	C	Ditch cut			(205)		81	68		
207	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk	[208]		Linear OO	88	79		MBA II
208	C	Ditch cut			(207)		88	79		
209	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown sandy silty clay with rare flint	[210]		Linear SS	87	80		MBA II
210	C	Ditch cut			(209)		87	80		
211	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks plus rare flint	[212]		Linear UU	80	61		MBA II
212	C	Ditch cut			(211)		80	61		
213	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[214]		Linear P	86	86		MBA II
214	C	Ditch cut			(213)		86	86		
215	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk	[216]		Linear Q	89	88		MBA II
216	C	Ditch cut			(215)		89	88		
217	F	Fill of Pit	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with occasional flint, rare chalk fragments. Deep short 'sausage shaped' ditch	[218]			85	85	1300-1100BC	MBA II
218	C	Elongated Pit			(217)		85	85		
219	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[220]		Linear O	84	84		MBA II

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
220	C	Ditch cut			(219)		84	84		
221	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[222]		Linear Q	100	87		MBA II
222	C	Ditch cut			(221)		100	87		
223	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with carbon lens, occasional small to large angular and tabulated flint	[224]		Linear P	92	89	1300-1100BC	MBA II
224	C	Ditch cut			(223)		92	89		
225	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[226]		Linear U	90	75		MBA II
226	C	Ditch cut			(225)		90	75		
227	F	Fill of ditch	Abundant mussel shell with occasional oyster shell (80%) in a mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint tools, occasional small - medium angular, tabulated and rounded flint plus rare carbon flecks and one pot sherd	[228]		Linear C	93	81 & 102	1300-1100BC	MBA II
228	C	Ditch cut			(227)		93	81 & 102		
229	F	Upper Fill	Light orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, tabulated flint plus rare chalk	[231]		Linear I	95			MBA II
230	F	Lower Fill	Light orange brown with pale beige mottled silty clay. Inclusions as (229)	[231]			95	144		
231	C	Ditch cut			(229) (230)		95	144		
232	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clay with occasional small - medium angular and tabular flint plus rare chalk flecks. Same as (203)	[233]		Linear N	97	141		MBA I
233	C	Ditch cut			(232)		97	141		
234										
235										

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
236	F	Fill of ditch	Below shell fill (227). Mid orange brown sandy silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, tabulated and rounded flint plus rare carbon	[228]		Linear C	93	81		MBA II
237	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabulated flint plus rare chalk flecks	[238]		Linear M	96	93		MBA I
238	C	Ditch cut			(237)		96	93		
239	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[240]		Linear V	98	83		MBA II
240	C	Ditch cut			(239)		98	83		
241	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare with small angular, rounded and tabulated flint plus rare chalk flecks	[242]		Linear R	99	82		MBA I
242	C	Ditch cut			(241)		99	82		
243	F	Fill of ditch	Slightly red orange brown silty clay compacted with occasional chalky flecks	[244]			142	136		
244	C	Ditch cut			(243)		142	136		
245	F	Fill of ditch	Slightly red orange brown silty clay compacted with occasional chalky flecks	[246]		Linear S	143	137		MBA I
246	C	Ditch cut			(245)		143	137		
247	F	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty clay, with rare chalk flecks	[248]			150	138		
248	C	Pit			(247)		150			
249	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[250]		Linear CC	105	97		MBA I
250	C	Ditch cut			(249)		105	97		
251	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[252]			107	99		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
252	C	Ditch cut			(251)		107	99		
253	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks plus occasional small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[254]		Linear BB	102	94		MBA I
254	C	Ditch cut			(253)		102	94		
255	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small flint and chalk flecks	[256]			103	95		MBA I
256	C	Ditch cut			(255)	Linear AA	103	95		
257	F	Fill of ditch	Pale mottled orange brown & beige sandy clay silt with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabulated flint	[258]		Linear Y	101	104		MBA II
258	C	Ditch cut			(257)		101	104		
259	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint	[260]		Linear Z	106	98		MBA II
260	C	Ditch cut			(259)		106	98		
261	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small rounded, angular and tabulated flint plus chalk flecks	[262]		Linear X	104	96		MBA I
262	C	Ditch cut			(261)		104	96		
263	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, tabulated and rounded flint	[264]		Linear GG	115	108		MBA I
264	C	Ditch cut			(263)		115	108		
265	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium rounded, angular and tabulated flint	[266]		Linear DD	108	100		MBA I
266	C	Ditch cut			(265)		108	100		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
267	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint plus rare chalk flecks	[268]			114	109		
268	C	Ditch cut			(267)	Linear FF	114	109		MBA I
269	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint plus rare chalk flecks	[270]			113	111 & 143		
270	C	Ditch cut			(269)		113	111 & 143		
271	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint plus occasional chalk flecks (near base)	[272]		Linear EE	112	110		MBA I
272	C	Ditch cut			(271)		112	110		
273	F	Fill of ditch	Firm mid orange brown clay silt with occasional chalk flecks	[274]		Linear Y	131	105		MBA II
274	C	Ditch cut			(273)		131	105		
275	F	Fill of Pit	Very firm red brown clay (occasional silt) with occasional rounded pebbles	[276]			131	105		
276	C	Pit cut			(275)		131	105		
277	F	Fill of pit	Light grey brown slightly clayey silt with very rare chalk flecks. Unclear but faint suggestion that this overlies (279) - suggesting later date	[278]			136	129		MBA II
278	C	Pit			(277)		136	129		
279	F	Fill of Pit	Mid orange brown silty clay compacted with occasional tabulated flint and chalk flecks	[280]			136 & 145	129	1300-1100BC	MBA II
280	C	Pit			(279)		136 & 145	129		
281	F	Fill of ditch	Mid red brown silty clay compacted with occasional tabulated flint	[282]		Linear W	145	129		MBA I
282	C	Ditch cut			(281)		145	129		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
283	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (273)	[284]		Linear PP	135 & 139	125	1300-1100BC	MBA II
284	C	Ditch cut			(283)		135 & 139	125		
285	F	Fill of ditch	Firm mid orange brown clay silt with occasional tabulated flint	[286]		Linear VV	128	106		MBA I
286	C	Ditch cut			(285)		128	106		
287	F	Fill of ditch	Firm mid orange brown clay silt with occasional tabulated flint	[288]		Linear WW	125	107		MBA II
288	C	Ditch cut			(287)		125	107		
289	F	Fill of ditch	Pale grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments & sub-angular stone, compact	[290]		Linear O	109, 110, 111 & 161	101		MBA II
290	C	Ditch cut			(289)		109, 110, 111 & 161	101		
291	F	Dark Fill of ditch	Dark grey black burnt organic layer; possibly compacted ash/soot. Soil sample <5>. lens of charcoal, feint when excavating but visible in section	[290]			109 & 111			
292	F	Basal Fill of ditch	(Mid yellow orange brown silty clay with rare flint) Mid orange brown silty clay, firm with occasional chalk flecks and angular stone	[290]			109, 111 & 161			
293	F	Fill of Pit	Same as (292) but slightly more compact	[294]			109	101		No date
294	C	Pit			(293)		109	101		
295	F	Fill of Pit	Light grey orange mottled silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles	[296]			127	115		No date
296	C	Pit	With eastern MBA II enclosure, adjacent to northern extent of the site.		(295)		127	115		
297	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (295) (299)	[298]		Linear LL	133	122		MBA II
298	C	Ditch cut			(297)		133	122		
299	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (295)	[300]				129	123	

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
300	C	Ditch cut			(299)		129	123		
301	F	Fill of ditch	Firm mid orange brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and rare rounded stone	[302]		Linear DD	140			MBA II
302	C	Ditch cut			(301)		140			
303	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[304]		Linear SS	117	118		MBA II
304	C	Ditch cut			(303)		117	118		
305	F	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay with rare flint	[306]		Linear NN	118	119		MBA II
306	C	Ditch cut			(305)		118	119		
307	F	Fill of Pit	Same as (303). Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[308]			116	118		
308	C	Pit			(307)		116	118		
309	F	Fill of ditch	Light -Mid yellow orange grey clay silt with rare flint	[310]		Linear QQ	120	116		MBA II
310	C	Ditch cut			(309)		120	116		
311	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[312]		Linear RR	123	117		MBA II
312	C	Ditch cut			(311)		123	117		
313	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[314]		Linear SS	122	114		MBA II
314	C	Ditch cut			(313)		122	114		
315	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint, rare small pebbles and rare chalk flecks. Also contains several animal bones (probably same animal)	[316]		Linear T	122	114		
316	C	Ditch cut			(315)		122	114		
317	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[318]			121	113		
318	C	Ditch cut			(317)		121	113		
319	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[320]		Linear SS	121	113		MBA II

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
320	C	Ditch cut			(319)		121	113		
321	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments (<0.03m diameter) plus rare flint	[322]		Linear T	119			MBA II
322	C	Ditch cut			(321)		119			
323	F	Fill of pit	Same as (237)	[324]			138	127		No date
324	C	Pit			(323)		138	127		
325	F	Fill of natural rooting	Same as (273)	[326]			137	126		No date
326	C	Natural rooting			(325)		137	126		
327	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional oyster shell, rare flint plus two pieces of pot	[328]		Linear T	124	120	1300-1100BC	MBA II
328	C	Ditch cut			(327)		124	120		
329	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[330]		Linear SS	124	120		MBA II
330	C	Ditch cut			(329)		124	120		
331	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (281)	[332]		Linear X	149	121 & 139		MBA II
332	C	Ditch cut			(331)		149	121 & 139		
333	F	Fill of ditch	Firm slightly red mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and moderate tabulated flint and rounded stone	[334]		Linear P	132	124	1300-1100BC	MBA II
334	C	Ditch cut			(333)		132	124		
335	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (289) Mid orange brown silty clay with rare flint	[336]		Linear UU	157 & 167	103		MBA II
336	C	Ditch cut			(335)		157 & 167	103		
337	F	Fill of pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stones and tabulated flint plus moderate chalk flecks, relatively firm	[338]		Pit	157 & 167	103		MBA II
338	C	Pit	Same as [294]		(337)		157 & 167	103		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
339	F	Fill of Pit	Dark red brown clay with rare flint and rare chalk flecks. {NB. (339) possible clay lining of pit - continues up pit sides}	[338]			157 & 167	103		
340	F	Fill of pit	Relatively firm slightly brown orange silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and rounded stone	[341]			126	128		
341	C	Pit cut	Cutting [346]		(340)		126	128		
342	F	Fill of Pit	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk and occasional tabulated flint	[343]			130	131		No date
343	C	Pit			(342)		130	131		
344										
345	F	Fill of ditch	Firm orange brown clay silt with occasional chalk flecks and tabulated flint	(346)		Linear V	126	128		MBA II
346	C	Ditch cut		[341]			126	128		
347	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (273)	[348]		Linear Y	134	130	1300-1100BC	MBA II
348	C	Ditch cut	Same as (283). No clear distinction or break		(347)		134	130		
349	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional oyster shell, rare flint plus two pieces of pot	[350]		Linear T	135		1300-1100BC	MBA II
350	C	Ditch cut			(349)		135			
351	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (305)	[352]		Linear NN	147	125 & 132		MBA II
352	C	Ditch cut			(351)		147	125 & 132		
353	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (303)	[354]		Linear SS	148	132		
354	C	Ditch cut			(353)		148	132		
355	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown loose silty clay with moderate chalk lumps and flecks of occasional tabulated flint	[356]		Linear JJ	146	140		MBA II
356	C	Ditch cut			(355)		146	140		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
357	F	Fill of Pit	Mid grey brown loose silty clay with moderate chalk lumps and flecks of occasional tabulated flint	[358]			154	134		No date
358	C	Pit			(357)		154	134		
359	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (355) (357)	[360]		Linear JJ	153 & 154	134		MBA II
360	C	Ditch cut			(359)		153 & 154	134		
361	F	Fill of ditch	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint	[362]		Linear MM	151	133		MBA II
362	C	Ditch cut			(361)		151	133		
363	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional oyster shell, rare flint plus two pieces of pot	[364]		Linear T	151	133		
364	C	Ditch cut			(363)		151	133		MBA II
365	F	Fill of ditch	Shell	[362]			151	133		
366	F	Fill of ditch	Shell	[364]			151	133		
367	F	Fill of natural	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks	[367]			152	133		No date
368	C	Natural	Tree bole		(368)		152	135		
369	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (355)	[370]		Linear JJ	141	142	1300-1100BC	
370	C	Ditch cut			(369)		141	142		MBA II
371	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (355)	[372]			155	145		
372	C	Ditch cut			(371)		155	145		
373	F	Natural	Dark red brown clay with moderate large rounded flint plus occasional chalk flecks - Natural	[374]			158	147		No date
374	C	Natural			(373)		158	147		
375	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks	[376]		Linear N	158	147		MBA II
376	C	Ditch cut			(375)		158	147		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
377	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (355)	[378]		Linear JJ	156 & 160	146 & 149		MBA II
378	C	Ditch cut			(377)		156 & 160	146 & 149		
379	F	Fill of pit	Pale orange brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and chalk flecks plus occasional rounded stone	[380]			159	148		
380	C	Elongated pit			(379)		159	148		
381	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional tabulated flint	[382]		Linear R	166	153		MBA II
382	C	Ditch cut			(381)		166	153		
383	F	Fill of Slot 1	Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm with occasional chalk and rounded stone (contains fragments of bone)	[384]			162	150		
384	C	Slot 1			(383)		162	150		
385	F	Fill of Slot 2	Same as (383)	[386]			163	151		
386	C	Slot 2			(385)		163	151		
387	F	Fill of Slot 4	Same as (383)	[388]		Linear KK	164	152		MBA II
388	C	Slot 4			(387)		164	152		
389	F	Fill of Slot 3	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stones	[390]			165	153		
390	C	Slot 3			(389)		165	153		
391	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (381)	[392]		Linear R	167	154		MBA II
392	C	Ditch cut			(391)		167	154		
393	F	Fill of Pit	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional chalk and stone - C20th ceramic	[394]			168	155		No date
394	C	Pit			(394)		168	155		
395	F	Fill of Pit	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and rounded stone	[396]			169	156		No date

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
396	C	Pit			(395)		169	156		
397	F	Upper Fill	Dark brown silty clay with moderate flint and occasional charcoal flecks	[399]			173	160	1300-1100BC	MBA II
398	F	Base Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks	[399]			173	160		
399	C	Pit			(397) (398)		173	160		
400										
401	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (405)	[402]		Linear II	172	159	1300-1100BC	MBA II
402	C	Ditch cut			(401)		172	159		
403	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (405)	[404]			171	158		
404	C	Ditch cut			(403)		171	158		
405	F	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk and tabulated flint	[406]			170	157		
406	C	Ditch cut			(405)		170	157		
407	F	Fill of natural rooting		[408]					1300-1100BC	No date
408	C	Natural rooting			(407)					
409	F	Fill of Pit	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone and chalk flecks	[410]			174	161		No date
410	C	Pit			(409)		174	161		
411	F	Fill of ditch	Light grey brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stone and chalk flecks	[412]		Linear WW	175	162		MBA I
412	C	Ditch cut			(411)		175	162		
413	F	Fill of ditch	Light grey brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stone and chalk flecks	[414]		Linear X	176	163		MBA I
414	C	Ditch cut			(413)		176	163		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
415	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional rounded stone plus tabulated flint	[416]		Linear CC	177	164		MBA I
416	C	Ditch cut			(415)		177	164		
417	F	Fill of ditch		[418]		Linear Z	178	165		MBA I
418	C	Ditch cut			(417)		178	165		
419	F	Fill of post pit	Compact dark grey brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk and moderate flint/fill	[422]			179	166		No date
420	C	x	Assigned to represent interface between post packing and fill of post pit.		(419)		179	166		
421	F	Fill of post pit	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and rounded stone - post packing	[420]			179	166		
422	C	Post pit			(421)		179	166		
423	F	Fill of post hole	Very dark brown silty clay with rare chalk and occasional rounded stone - Fill of decomposed post hole?	[422]			179	166		
424	C	Post hole			(423)		179	166		
425	F	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with rare small - medium angular, rounded and tabulated flint plus occasional chalk flecks (near base)	[426]		Linear EE	x	x		MBA I
426	C	Ditch cut			(425)		x	x		
427	F	Fill of ditch	Light orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, tabulated flint plus rare chalk	[428]		Linear I	180	167	1300-1100BC	MBA II
428	C	Ditch cut			(427)		180	167		
429	F	Fill of ditch	Light orange brown silty clay with occasional small - medium angular, tabulated flint plus rare chalk	[430]			181	168		
430	C	Ditch cut			(429)		181	168		

Cont No	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Group	Section No	Plan No	Artefact dating	ASSIGNED DATE
431	F	Pit fill	Firm slightly red mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and moderate tabulated flint and rounded stone	[432]		Linear P			1300-1100BC	EBA
432	C	Elongated pit	Same as [150]		(431)					
433	F	Fill of ditch	Same as (241)	[434]		Linear R				MBA I
434	C	Ditch Cut			(433)					
435	F	Pit Fill	Same as (124)	[122]			64	49		

Appendix 2 – Stratigraphic Matrix

Appendix 3 – Ceramic Assessment (Nigel Macpherson-Grant)

DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MULTI-PERIOD POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE FROM : 'THE LOOP', MANSTON EXCAVATION 2007 (LOOP-EX-07)

A. Primary quantification :

Overall sherd count : 413 sherds + scraps

Overall sherd weight : 3kgs.771gms

B. Period Codes employed :

EBA = Early Bronze Age

MBA = Middle Bronze Age

LIA = Late Iron Age

EM = Early Medieval

M = Medieval

LM = Late Medieval

C. Context dating :

C1. Unstratified :

CONTEXT : Surface finds

Sherds : 17 (weight : 92gms)

15 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

1 sherd EM Canterbury-type sandy ware (c.1075/1080-1125 AD)

1 sherd M Canterbury-type shell-filled sandy ware (c.1200-1225/1250 AD)

and :

2 fragments of non-local ?metamorphic/igneous stone (weight : 5gms)

Likely context date : Material derived from MBA, Early Medieval-Medieval contexts

Comment : Most of the MBA sherds are small and variably worn bodysherds but also include 1 or 2 worn

formal elements. The Early Medieval sherd is fairly large and unworn apart from some heavy edge-wear suggesting partial exposure in a long term static environment. The single medieval sherd is fairly heavily worn and could come from manure scatters.

CONTEXT : Surface of colluvium Context 4

Sherds : 6 (weight : 20gms)

4 sherds ? MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1600-1100 BC)

1 sherd EM Canterbury-type sandy ware (c.1075/1100-1175 AD)

1 sherd M/LM Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1350-1400/1450 AD)

Likely context date : Medieval and later ?

Comment : The MBA sherds are small and **extremely** weathered – into roundish balls. The Early Medieval sherd is fairly worn, the Late Medieval sherd basically unworn.

C2. Ditches and Pits :

CONTEXT : Linear A Context 15

Sherd : 1 (weight : 1gm)

1 sherd LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.100-50/25 BC)

Likely context date : If not intrusive or residual, early-mid C1 BC

Comment : The sherd is small and fairly worn, but not heavily – and is unlikely to have travelled too far from its original use-zone or been frequently disturbed, once lost.

CONTEXT : Linear A Context 33

Sherds : 2 (weight : 1gm)

1 sherd LP flint-tempered ware (c.1500-1100/50 BC)

and :

1 scrap daub (weight ; >1gm)

Likely context date : If not residual, may be MBA

Comment : The flint-tempered sherd is a worn scrap and seriously residual, either in an MBA or later, context

CONTEXT : Linear A Context 41

Sherds : Minute scraps and dust (weight : >1gm)

Indeterminate pottery or daub

Likely context date : Probably prehistoric

Comment : Basically undatable – except by contextual association (or other artefact types)

CONTEXT : Linear A Context 43

Sherd : 1 (weight : 2gms)

1 sherd M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1200/-1225/1250 AD)

Likely context date : If not intrusive – mid-late C13 AD or later

Comment : Small bodysherd, fairly worn - perhaps as a bi-product of agricultural activity. It may be intrusive into a prehistoric context or residual in a later one

CONTEXT : Linear A Context 49

1 fragment natural iron (weight : 3gms)

CONTEXT : Linear B Context 25

Sherds : 3 (weight : 5gms)

1 sherd probable MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

1 sherd probable LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.100-50/25 BC)

1 sherd EM North Kent shell-tempered ware with little/no sand (c.1150-1200/1225 AD)

Likely context date : c.1150-1200 AD or intrusive into an MBA feature

Comment : The probable MBA sherd is small and heavily abraded. The probable 'Belgic' sherd is seriously reduced and abraded. The fabric type suggests an early handmade vessel. Its degree of abrasion is due to reduction through broadly contemporary LIA manure scatters or as a bi-product of Early Medieval and later agricultural activity. The EM sherd is small and fairly fresh.

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 7 – ditch terminal

Sherds : 3 (weight : 103gms)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 coarseware bucket-type coarseware jar and 1 fineware bowl/jar represented. The latter are from the same fineware bowl/jar, one sherd with heavy unifacial wear. The coarseware jar is large and heavily worn overall with some burring of the sherd's edges.

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 70

Sherds : 5 (weight : 18gms)

5 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 3-5 coarseware vessels represented by small-fairly small, fairly fresh, but sometimes fragmentary, sherds

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 72

Sherds : 3 (weight : 15gms)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

and :

2 small lumps daub (weight : 6gms) – 1 fresh, 1 rounded worn

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 3 coarsewares represented by small fairly fresh sherds.

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 111 – junction of W and Linear K

Sherds : 12 (weight : 104gms)

11 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

1 sherd probable LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware

and :

1 rounded scrap duab (weight : 1gm)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 9-10 vessels represented including 3 fineware bowls - 1 with traces of a dot-and-ring stamp; the remainder are coarsewares. Sherds are small-medium-sized and practically all the sherds are worn – some with very heavy unifacial or even bifacial wear. Wear patterns depend on individual post-loss sherd histories – but some should indicate long term exposure and weathering in a relatively static environment. The 'Belgic'-style sherd is small and heavily abraded and, like the sherd from *Linear B Context 25*, is probably an early handmade product and received its abrasion via a similar choice of mechanisms.

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 191/192

Sherds : 3 (weight : 15gm)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 fineware and 2 coarsewares represented by 2 small and 1 medium-sized sherd. All are worn but the larger sherd has heavy overall wear and burring of sherd edges – indicating fairly frequent disturbance and exposure.

CONTEXT : Linear C Context 227

Sherd : 1 (weight : 3gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Coarseware jar sherd, small and worn.

CONTEXT : Linear D Context 76/77

Sherds : 3 (weight : 68gms)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 fineware and 2 coarsewares (including 1 bucket/barrel-type jar) represented by 2 small worn scraps and 1 medium-sized fairly fresh sherd

CONTEXT : Linear D Context 109

Sherd : 1 (weight : 11gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 sub-fineware jar represented by a medium-sized sherd with fairly heavy unifacial wear.

CONTEXT : Linear D Context 167/168

Sherds : 5 (weight : 46gm)

5 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 fineware bowl and 3 coarseware bucket/barrel-type jars represented by mostly medium-sized sherds. Mixed wear-patterns – 2-3 sherds with heavy/fairly heavy unifacial wear.

CONTEXT : Linear D Context 173/174

Sherds : 3 (weight : 10gms)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 fineware vessel and 1 coarseware bucket/barrel-type jar represented by small-medium sized worn sherds

CONTEXT : Linear D Context 183

Sherds : 6 (weight : 24gm)

6 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 conjoining**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 2 sub-fineware jars and 1-2 coarseware jars represented by small, mostly medium-sized sherds with heavy bifacial or unifacial (a base sherd) wear.

CONTEXT : Linear I - Surface

Sherds : 2 (weight : 29gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC – but possibly intrusive

Comment : 1 moderate-sized coarseware barrel/bucket jar sherd, 1 fairly large fineware globular jar rim sherd. The latter has heavy unifacial wear internally – indicating long term exposure in static ground conditions – the former has part-unifacial wear. The fineware rim has a hole bored through, after firing, just above the incipient, off-set, shoulder typical of this type of vessel.

CONTEXT : Linear II Context 401/402

Sherds : 8 (weight : 22gms)

7 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

1 sherd MBA flint-tempered pottery or fired clay slab

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : One coarseware jar represented by one medium-sized sherds and conjoining scraps; all fairly worn. One heavily worn fairly small thick-bodied sherd *may* be from a vessel or from a pottery slab.

CONTEXT : Linear J Context 97/98

Sherd : 1 (weight : 10gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Coarseware jar sherd, medium-sized, fairly fresh.

CONTEXT : Linear JJ Context 369/370

Sherds : 26 (weight : 699gm)

26 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **some same vessels, 2 with conjoining sherds**)

and : 1 fragment daub (weight : 1gm) – rounded, worn

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Four-five vessels represented, including one large rim from a large coarseware barrel-type storage jar with two horizontal rows finger-tip decoration in neck hollow, a base (with conjoining sherds) from the same/similar type of vessel. All sherds from coarseware jars except one fineware jar base – again with conjoining sherds. Large-small sherds, all fairly fresh and from a undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : Linear K Context 107/108

1 small, 2 scraps daub (weight : 3gms)

Likely context date : Possibly MBA

Comment : Daub is worn

CONTEXT : Linear LL Context 299

Sherds : 2 (weight : 11gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Two coarseware jars represented. Both small unworn sherds and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context

CONTEXT : Linear P Context 213 – ditch terminal

Sherd : 1 (weight : >1gm)

1 sherd EP or LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.2000-1500/1100 or 100-50 BC)

Likely context date : Context is MBA – sherd probably residual

Comment : The sherd is small and fairly heavily worn. Even though an early LIA 'Belgic' date is just a possibility – the grog is really too coarse and angular and the fabric too ill-prepared for a 'Belgic' product – so an Early Prehistoric date is preferred. Again, Beaker fabrics are mostly well-prepared whereas there is a recognisable devolution in manufacturing quality during the later phases of the EBA, amongst Urn fabrics particularly. This latter type is, initially, preferred – and the sherd could be a c.1700-1500 BC product residual in its current context.

CONTEXT : Linear P Context 223

Sherds : 127 (weight : 1073gm)

127 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **some same vessels, some conjoins**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Between 7-10 identifiable bucket/barrel-type and smaller coarseware jars, possibly more, represented by some large, mostly medium and a few small sherds with mixed-wear patterns : heavily worn bifacially, unifacially and some basically unworn. Despite condition, the quantity of sherds indicates recovery from an undisturbed (post-settlement abandonment) contemporary context.

CONTEXT : Linear P Context 333/334

Sherds : 24 (weight : 209gms)

12 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-and-grog tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

12 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **some same vessels**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Two-three coarseware jars and one fineware represented. The flint-and-grogged sherds are mostly fairly fresh, though some are weather-split and one has fairly heavy surface abrasion. Apart from the fineware

sherds, all others are mostly heavily worn with some weather-split – indicating long term exposure and weathering.

CONTEXT : Linear P – Additional slot

Sherds : 29 (weight : 387gm)

1 sherd ? EBA or LIA ‘Belgic’-style grog-tempered sandy ware (c.2000-1500 or 100-50 BC)

4 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-and-grog tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

24 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **some same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : The grogged sherd is difficult. It is from a worn base sherd with a flaring curving lower-body wall. In a grogged fabric this would be atypical of MBA styles, but typical of Food Vessel type jars of the EBA. It could also occur on a fineware ‘Belgic-style vessel. However, the fairly fine and profuse grog content and even wall thickness is more typical of the regular competent potting of the ‘Belgic’ period. This vessel is handmade and so a date before c.50 BC is likely.

For the MBA material, one flint-and-grogged coarseware bucket/barrel jar represented by one large, several smaller, fairly worn sherds and 3-4 vessels represented in purely flint-tempered ware, including 19 sherds from the same decorated fineware bowl – with some unifacial wear and some virtually unworn sherds. The wear pattern on these sherds is interesting – it occurs only on the exterior and implies, even though many of the sherds do not join, that all of them arrived in place the same way). Remaining coarseware sherds are fresh or fairly worn. Despite it coming from the same linear, the flint-and-grogged sherds need not be from the same vessel as in *Context 333/334*.

CONTEXT : Linear PP Context 283 – ditch terminal

Sherd : 1 (weight : >1gm)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Small, fairly worn coarseware scrap

CONTEXT : Linear T Context 349/350

Sherd : 1 (weight : 10gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Coarseware jar sherd, medium-sized with some fairly heavy unifacial wear.

CONTEXT : Pit V Context 217/218

Sherds : 6 (weight : 20gms)

1 sherd EBA Beaker fine silty ware with sparse grog and flint temper (c.2300/2000-1700 BC)

5 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : The Beaker sherd is small and abraded, from a thin-walled vessel with traces of comb-impressed decoration. The 5 MBA sherds are small, fragmentary, but fresh and from a coarseware barrel/bucket-type jar decorated with a single row of finger-tip impressions on shoulder.

CONTEXT : Pit Complex 144/146/147 - Context 143/144

Sherds : 5 (weight : 18gms)

5 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 conjoining**)

and :

1 worn lump daub (weight : 6gms)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 2-3 coarseware vessels represented, including 2 bucket/barrel-type jars. Mostly small sherds, all worn except for those from the same vessel.

CONTEXT : Pit Complex 144/146/147 - Context 145/146

Sherds : 6 (weight : 19gms)

6 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **2 conjoining**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1-2 fineware bowls and 2 coarsewares represented by small only fairly worn sherds. 1 bowl sherd has a single horizontal incised line (probably as part of a band of decoration).

CONTEXT : Pit Complex 144/146/147 - Context 147

Sherds : 6 (weight : 13gms)

6 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : All coarseware sherds, 1-2 vessels represented, heavily worn and fragmentary

CONTEXT : 407/408 - Pit

Sherds : 2 (weight : 9gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 sub-fineware sherd and 1 coarseware sherd, the first fairly small and bifacially worn, the other heavily worn and rounded

CONTEXT : 78 - Posthole

Sherd : 1 (weight : 10gms)

1 sherd LM Canterbury-type fine earthenware (c.1475/1500-1525 AD)

And :

1 worn scrap C16 AD brick (weight : >1gm)

1 fragment natural flint - **DISCARDED**

Likely context date : If not intrusive - c.1500-1525 AD

Comment : The LM sherd is a handle fragment from a large cistern-type jar; it is fairly heavily worn – and could be intrusive from an early Post-Medieval context/horizon.

C3. Individual contexts :

CONTEXT : 13 – Surface clean

Sherd : 1 (weight : 2gms)

1 sherd EM Canterbury-type sandy ware (c.1075-1150/1175 AD)

Likely context date : If not intrusive – C13 AD or later

Comment : Sherd is small and fairly heavily abraded, possibly receiving its degree of wear as a bi-product of agricultural activity. It may be intrusive into a prehistoric context, or residual in a later one.

CONTEXT : 27

Sherds : 3 (weight : 17gms)

1 sherd EM North Kent shell-filled ware with little/no sand (c.1125/1150-1175 AD)

1 sherd ? EM N.French/Flanders fine grey sandy ware (c.1150-1175/1200 AD; **CHECK**)

1 sherd Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

and :

2 fragments fired clay tile/slab (weight : 30gms) - ?prehistoric or Early Medieval

2 fragments roof-tile (weight : 12gms) - Post-Medieval

1 bone (weight : 1gm)

Likely context date : ? 1150-1175 AD – with intrusive later elements

Comment : The context has been tentatively dated on the basis of sherd size and wear patterns. The Early Medieval shell-filled pan/dish rim sherd is fresh and moderate-sized and really too large and fresh to arrive via manuring scatters. Two fragments of fine-grained fired clay slab/?kitchen furniture are similarly moderate-sized and fairly fresh - and *may* be contemporary. Conversely, the medieval sherd is a highly worn scrap and should have arrived into context via manuring or ploughing. Similarly the two small fairly worn Post-Medieval tile fragments.

CONTEXT : 53

1 scrap daub (weight : 1gm)

Likely context date : ? MBA

Comment : Fragment is not seriously worn and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 71

Sherds : 30 + scraps (weight : 291gms)

30 sherds + scraps MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Base sherds from a coarseware jar – all sherds fairly fresh but most highly fragmented.

CONTEXT : 87/88

Sherds : 2 (weight : 34gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

and :

1 lump ironstone (weight : 79gms)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 2 coarsewares represented by one large virtually unworn sherd and one small scrap. Sherd size and condition should indicate material from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 89

7 scraps burnt daub (weight : 5gms) – rounded, worn

1 worked flint flake (weight : >1gm) - unpatinated

1 fragment burnt flint (weight : 1gm)

Likely context date : ? MBA

CONTEXT : 101/102

Sherds : 8 (weight : 47gms)

8 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 4-5 coarseware vessels represented, including 1 fairly fresh barrel-type storage jar rim sherd. Most other sherds are small worn scraps; one fairly small sherd is **very** heavily abraded.

CONTEXT : 125

Sherd : 1 (weight : 4gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : If not residual in a later context, c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Coarseware jar sherd, small and worn overall

CONTEXT : 149/150

Sherds : 2 (weight : 2gms)

2 sherds EBA Beaker grog and sparse flint-tempered ware (c.2300/2000-1700 BC; **conjoining**)

Likely context date : c.2000-1700 BC – or residual/intrusive into an MBA feature

Comment : Small slightly worn sherds from a comb-zoned Beaker, ? with horizontal impressed decoration. The

condition of the sherd suggests it comes from a contemporary EBA context or, has been disturbed only a short distance from the same.

CONTEXT : 151/152

Sherds : 2 (weight : 13gms)

1 sherd EBA Beaker grog-and-sparse flint-tempered ware (c.2300/2000-1700 BC)

1 sherd LM Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1475-1500/1525 AD)

Likely context date : 1475-1500 AD - or residual/intrusive in an MBA feature

Comment : Single slightly worn small sherd from a comb-decorated Beaker. The sherd is residual but its condition suggests it derives from a disturbed EBA context or one only a short distance from *Context 151/152*. The Late Medieval sherd is fairly large, totally unworn and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 169/170

Sherd : 1 (weight : 3gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100BC)

and :

1 worn scrap daub (weight : 1gm)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Single coarseware bodysherd, fairly fresh and probably from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 247/248

Sherds : 2 (weight : 3gms)

1 sherd EBA Beaker grog-tempered ware with sparse flint (c.2300/2000-1700 BC)

1 sherd MIA-LIA flint-tempered ware (c.300/150-50 BC)

Likely context date : Suspect EBA or MBA

Comment : Both sherds are small. The Beaker sherd is fairly worn but not heavily, the later MIA-LIA type rim is heavily abraded. Either this is an EBA context and the LP sherd is intrusive, or the Beaker sherd is residual in an MBA context - and the later sherd again intrusive. The LP sherd is from a probable S-profiled jar with thickened curving and inverted rim, it could be MIA but an LIA date is preferred (until greater site/locale evidence for the MIA is forthcoming). This would place its likely date between c.150-50 BC.

CONTEXT : 279 - surface

Sherds : 2 (weight : 4gms)

1 sherd ? EBA Beaker or Romanised grogged sandy ware (c.2300/2000-1700 BC or c.75-125 AD)

1 sherd ? EBA Food Vessel/Urn-type – grog-and-flint-tempered sandy ware (c.2000/1700-1500 BC)

Likely context date : Residual material

Comment : These two sherds are very worn and, since they are from the context's surface may be machined into place. If not, their severely abraded condition inhibits certain dating. The ?EBA sherd is too abraded to be reliably used at all – the alternatives given are reasonable but will **not** be used in this assessment. The ? EBA Food vessel sherd is a distinct possibility, partly because of the obvious, and earlier, Beaker presence, partly because of the probable EBA Urn-type sherd from *Context 427* but also though the fabric could be LIA, its outer surface appears to carry the worn traces of deep, possibly decorative, moulding – not a characteristic of the latter period but certainly among EBA Food Vessels and some urns. However, in view of the sherd's condition, this potential requires confirmation

CONTEXT : 279

Sherds : 4 (weight : 22gms)

4 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

and :

1 lump daub (weight : 5gms)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 1 fineware, 1 sub-fineware and 2 coarsewares represented. The fineware sherd is fairly heavily abraded, the sub-fineware sherd moderate-sized and fairly fresh; one coarseware bodysherd has fairly heavy unifacial wear.

CONTEXT : 327

Sherd : 1 (weight : 4gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : Unworn sub-fineware jar sherd – should be from an undisturbed contemporary context

CONTEXT : 347

Sherds : 2 (weight : 3gm)

1 sherd probable EBA Beaker fine silty ware with sparse grog and flint temper (c.2300/2000-1700 BC)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-and-grog tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : The possible Beaker sherd is small, thin-walled and abraded – and superficially very similar in size, condition and appearance to the definite Beaker sherd from *Context 217/218*; the likelihood that this sherd is genuinely EBA is strong. By comparison, the MBA sherd, though small, is fresh and unabraded and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 397

Sherds : 3 (weight : 10gms)

3 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC; **same vessel**)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : 3 small, fragmentary but fairly fresh coarseware sherds.

CONTEXT : 427

Sherds : 26 (weight : 234gms)

1 sherd probable EBA Urn-type grog-tempered ware with sparse flint temper (c.2000/1700-1500 BC)

24 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1300-1100 BC)

1 sherd ? MBA or EIA-LIA flint-and-grog-tempered ware (c.1500-1100 or 500-50 BC)

Likely context date : c.1300-1100 BC

Comment : It is possible that the ? EBA Urn sherd is an intrusive LIA 'Belgic'-style sherd. However the fabric is less compact than most 'Belgic'-type grogged products, and one or two of the grog inclusions are atypically big. Underfired rather friable fabrics, containing poorly sorted grog, appears to be a relative regional norm for EBA Urn fabrics – and visually and texturally different from well-sorted compact 'Belgic' fabrics. In addition the two-tone firing, pale buff externally, dark grey-black internally, is atypical of 'Belgic' material, does occur among some later EBA assemblages – and is basically a lower-grade follow-on from the more highly oxidised firing trends associated with earlier Beaker fabrics.

Most of the MBA flint-tempered sherds are small and, apart from 2-3 fairly large and intact base sherds, are split and fragmentary, but only moderately worn. They appear to all be from the same thick-based coarseware barrel/bucket jar – and should represent material recovered from an undisturbed contemporary context. The single flint-and-grogged sherd may be MBA – but it is much more worn than the associated MBA material. It could be residual – and as such may be useful as a settlement-longevity indicator. Alternatively, it is later, EIA-LIA, and intrusive. - its thick body wall and relatively fine fairly sparse flint temper could indicate an earlier IA date.

D. Assessment :

This modest-sized multi-period assemblage consists of mostly small-large sherds with mixed wear-patterns, highly abraded and reduced, uniface weathering indicating exposure in undisturbed ground/contexts for relatively long periods of time (ie. unsealed rubbish deposits), and little worn or fresh unworn sherds. Most of the small quantity of Earlier Prehistoric material consists of highly abraded and small sherds, although 2 contexts (*Contexts 149/150 and 151/152*) produced unworn small sherds. For the Later Prehistoric MBA phase undisturbed discard deposits contemporary with the life of the settlement are represented by both fresh and weathered vari-sized sherd assemblages from *Ditch Linears C, D, II, JJ, K, L, LL, P, PP, T and Y, Pit V and Pit Complex 144/146/147 and Contexts 71, 87/88, 101/102, 169/170, 279, 327, 347, 397,427*. For later periods – most of the small quantity of material recovered is small and worn but includes larger fresh/slightly worn sherds from *Linear B and Contexts 27, 151/152*. Overall, the recovered sherds provide the following period frequencies and implications :

PERIODS	SHERD QUANTITY	ASSESSMENT
MODERN	-	-
LPM	-	-
PM	-	-
LM c.1525 AD	3	Continuation manure scatters, settlement-fringe discard upto
M	2	Continuation manure scatters
EM AD	5	Settlement-fringe discard and manure scatters from c.1075/1100
LS	-	-
MS	-	-
ES	-	-
LR	-	-
MR	-	-
ER	-	-
B/ER	-	-
LIA 'Belgic'	3	? Continuation same farmstead, ? upto c.50/25 BC
LIA	1	? Manure scatters implying nearby farmstead from c.150/100 BC
MIA	-	-
EIA	-	-

LBA/EIA	-	-
LBA	-	-
MBA	377	2-3 generation farmstead, between c.1300-1100 BC
EBA	7	? Derived from settlement-fringe activity/burial ring-ditches, c.2000-1700 BC
LN	-	-
MN	-	-
EN	-	-

Indeterminate : ? MBA : 6; ? LP ; 1; ? LIA : 2; ? EM : 1

Four main phases of activity are represented ceramically :

Earlier Prehistoric – Early Bronze Age (c.2000-1700 BC) :

Definitely represented by fairly fresh small decorated Beaker sherds from *Contexts 149/150* and *151/152*, almost certainly by small worn sherds (1 with traces of decoration) from *Contexts 217/218* and *247/248*. In addition there are small worn sherds in grog-tempered fabrics which do not look Late Iron Age and may be from EBA Beaker or Urn. These are from *Linear P* and *Contexts 279, 347* and *427*. Of these a thick-walled rather coarsely grogged and under-fired sherd from *Context 427* may represent a Collared Urn.

The condition of the two definite Beaker sherds suggests derivation from undisturbed contemporary EBA contexts – or they have been shifted only a short distance from their original loss points. The remainder of the probable or potential EBA sherds are sufficiently reduced in size to indicate a considerable degree of post-loss movement in, probably, agriculturally disturbed soils. The only exception to this may be the possible Urn sherd from *Context 427* which, again, suggests only a limited degree of post-loss movement.

The condition of the 2 decorated Beaker sherds (representing 2 separate vessels) suggests that they derive from original on-site EBA activity. If the excavation also produced a fairly high quantity of EBA-type flintwork, then this may be a genuine likelihood. If not, then the condition of these sherds suggests either a limited degree of on-site activity, the evidence of which has been removed by agricultural/occupational disturbance during the MBA or, since the site is on a long sloping gradient, be derived from disturbed EBA contexts up-slope but adjacent to the excavated area. The condition of the other smaller possible Beaker sherds is more compatible with the latter suggestion. The low quantity of genuine, and possible, EBA sherds suggests they are derived from plough-reduced settlement-fringe activity or from ring-ditch (barrow) burials – and the single possible worn EBA Urn sherd tends to support the latter possibility.

Later Prehistoric – Middle Bronze Age (c.1500-1100 BC) :

Both in terms of features and ceramics, this is the dominant period element recorded. All the linear ditches (though there is some uncertainty about *Linears A, B-K*) – excluding any modern features - are of this general date. The excavation recorded a relatively complex sequence of re-cut and modified field-boundary and possible enclosure ditches. Without a close examination of ditch-intersect sections, it is impossible to be

entirely certain about the correct sequence of ditches, and any sub-phases of ditch renewal associated with them. However, and simplistically at this stage, there appear to be **three main phases** represented by differing ditch alignments :

1. An *ENE-WSW alignment* represented by *Linears N, AA and X, BB, CC, WW, W, S* with the small field-boundary *Linears VI, R and DD, FF, GG* at right-angles to it. It is virtually certain that the thin ditches belonging to this alignment come first. Whether any other linears were contemporary with this phase is uncertain (ie. ? *Linear L*).

2. Partially based on the former alignment (*Linears Z and Y*), a fairly major re-organisation generated a more substantial axial *NW-SE alignment* represented by *Linears Z, Y, O, D and C* and including a right-angled off-set at the junction of *Linears E and O*. This probable second phase included a similar set of more substantial NE-SW aligned ditches, *Linears E, HH and G,P,OO and T*, cut at right-angles to the main axial line. At some time during this general phase *Linear C* was cut to join *Linear L* in the north-west corner of the site. However, there is an interpretative complication here, partly represented by :

3 - a *NNE-SSW alignment* including *Linears F, G, J and B, K*.

Of these *Linear K* coincidentally butt-ends with *Linear D* (obviously part of the main probable second-phase NW-SE axial alignment) and the parallel *Linears F and G, J* have an indirect, but probably non-coincidental relationship, with the eastern end of *Linear L*. These two separate instances of ditch terminal conjunctions are on either side of a potential gap, that appears to have been sealed by extending *Linear C* over to *Linear L*. Also, *Linear K* is on the same alignment as *Linear B*. If a line was drawn between both, coincidentally, the western terminal of the primary phase linear, *VI*, stops just short of it. Equally coincidentally, *Linears B and K* are broadly parallel with *Linear A* – which goes through the potential gap in the main NW-SE axial alignment. The curvilinear nature of *Linear A*, coupled with its apparent twin *Linears K*, suggests a driveway. However, the site plan appears to show 'driveway' ditches *A and K post-dating Linear C*. Though this could imply that they are considerable later than the MBA settlement (the ceramic evidence for both 'driveway' ditches is ambiguous) - the above set of coincidences does strongly imply that the 'driveway' was integral with part, at least, of the settlement's history. Irrespective, the extension of *Linear C* across this 'gap', and its conjunction with the potential driveway, is significant. Either the settlement was initially established on either side of a known trackway (possibly pre-dating the settlement's establishment), and was subsequently partially formalised with the addition of ditch-and-hedge boundaries – or - that there was indeed a pre-settlement trackway, which was closed for a period by a linear, but then subsequently re-utilised and formalised.

In addition to the above, a further set of right-angular linears, *II, JJ and KK*, lie close to the north-eastern site-boundary. Whatever their original function, they are seen as being 'within' and close to the main occupation area itself, principally because they are among clusters of pits and post-holes. Also partly because, close to them, *Linear T* appears to have a number of short drainage gullies leading into it - suggesting inconvenient water run-off problems close to the main living area - and partly because most of the other pits recorded are concentrated along the north-eastern 'inner' side of the main NW-SE axial ditch alignment.

For the **pottery** - relatively large sherd-assemblages (between 10-150 sherds each) were recovered from *Linears C, JJ, P, Pit complex 144/146/147 and Contexts 71, 427* – all belonging to the MBA Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition. Comparatively, the overall pottery assemblage is not large but contains useful diagnostic formal and decorated elements from *Linears C, I, II, JJ and P and Contexts 101/102, 145/146 and 217/218* – including several new additions to the regional typological database. The latter include sherds from a large-diameter fineware bowl or globular jar with a horizontal band of decoration consisting of incised chevrons above a broad zone of incised grooves or combing (from *Linear P*) – and a large rim sherd from a large barrel-type coarseware storage jar decorated with two horizontal rows of finger-tip impressions in the neck hollow

(from *Linear JJ*, 369/370). One small insignificant-looking bodysherd from *Linear C Context 111* - from a fineware bowl originally decorated with a horizontal band of dot-and-ring impressions – is a key dating element. In addition, there are several rim sherds from fineware globular jars with off-set shoulders which are also important elements in dating the site.

The largest sherd assemblages are from *Linears JJ* and *P*, and *Pit Complex 144/146/147*. The latter pit sequence is just within the eastern curve of *Linear L*, *Linear P* is within the long NE-SW ?settlement enclosure ditch represented by *Linears G*, *OO* and *T*. Both of these locations are on the inside of the main NW-SE axial ditch alignment, that basically encloses the assumed settlement's main occupation zone, on its north-east side. These two assemblages, particularly that from *Linear P*, mostly consist of medium-sized, highly worn, sherds – suggesting rubbish dumped in ditches around the edge of the settlement. As indicated above *Linear JJ* is among a cluster of pits and ditches indicating concentrations of activity – and here, the large virtually unworn sherds from it, suggest breakage and convenient disposal in ditches adjacent to the main occupation area.

Significance of the feature evidence :

As of 2001, regional, Kent-area, find-spots of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery numbered only 71. This is comparatively low compared with the following periods - 113 for the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition, 140 for the Early-Mid Iron Age and 411 for the 'Belgic' phase of the Late Iron Age. These numbers will have increased since 2001 - but the likely ratios not at all. This difference is partly due to subsequent increases in population – but also, to some extent, to the mostly more lightweight character of MBA farmsteads – simple ditched-and-hedged, or lightly palisaded, enclosures set within large tracts of similarly enclosed farmland – compared with the later generally more substantial farm and settlement enclosures of the earlier first millennium BC. Whilst MBA farmsteads may have been relatively substantial in their own day, the enclosure format employed frequently consisted of thin irregularly dug, frequently interrupted, ditches - which have not only had to survive the increasing agricultural use of the land during the following three millennia, but also the ravages of modern deep ploughing. This frequently results in only ephemeral ditch traces which may be missed altogether due to the frequently limited scope of evaluation archaeology or, if found, may have insufficient ceramic content to adequately define their date.

In Thanet, out of an overall recorded period total of between 15-20 sites, only 8 are settlement sites. Of these, only one, at South Dumpton Downs, produced a complete paddock-style enclosure and traces of associated field-boundary ditches. All the others are represented by tantalising fragments of enclosure or, more frequently, field-boundary ditches. Within Kent as a whole, the only other comparable published area-excavation of an MBA field and enclosure system is from Coldharbour Road, Gravesend. Both the latter and present site-plans are superficially similar, in terms of frequently re-cut and interrupted thin linear ditches and therefore typical of other examples across south-eastern England. However, Gravesend is at the other end of the county and whilst it, and the Loop site, may be broadly typical of other examples of MBA ranch-style farmsteads across southern England – Thanet was confirmably within the sphere of continental influence throughout the Bronze Age – and intra-period similarities found elsewhere cannot always be taken for granted. For instance, it has become very clear from the excavations at Highstead, Chislet (on the other side of the Wantsum seaway from Thanet) - which produced a number of datable and undatable enclosures of broadly first millennium or earlier BC date – that however economic the temptation, it is academically unwise to attempt to date enclosures solely via the study of aerial photographs (Champion 2007, ???). A greater degree of intra-period consistency, at least for defining typical enclosure/settlement plans, is still urgently needed. The relatively extensive nature of the present site, with its firm feature evidence for relatively long-term occupation, is therefore a welcome and useful addition to the regional MBA settlement-plan database.

Significance of the ceramic evidence :

A recent re-appraisal of the dating of English Bronze Age cultures (Needham ???) places the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition's broad-band dating between c.1700-1000 or 900 BC - but its main *floruit* between c.1600-1100 BC – and, superficially, the latter can be applied to the present assemblage. However, a recent review of the dating of Thanet's Bronze Age metalwork hoards placed that contained within the Birchington bowl to between c.1300-1100 BC. This simple globular bowl is decorated with a broad mid-girth band of incised/combed horizontal lines framed by single rows of dot-and-ring stamping. Sherds from other, or almost certainly, similarly decorated fineware bowls occur from a number of mostly unpublished Thanet MBA sites : Netherhale Farm, Margate Football Club, Manston Road, Westwood Cross –and now the Loop. The present sherd is worn and scrappy but there is no doubting the decoration – it usefully links this site with all the others and provides an initial, though purely typological (the bronze palstaves from the Birchington bowl), date of c.1300-1100 BC for the Loop assemblage. Usefully, within this frame of association, the large decorated barrel jar from *Linear JJ* has two fairly close stylistic parallels with similar jars from Netherhale Farm (Macpherson-Grant 1992, 62).

The decoration of this jar can be further paralleled amongst others from an MBA cremation cemetery at Kimpton, Hampshire. All of these are associated with its Phase C and have associated, but difficult, C-14 dating (though one, at 1420-1130 BC, is within the typological date-range given above). Kimpton Phase C precedes Kimpton Phases D and F. These phases produced a series of plain and decorated biconical or sub-biconical globular-style urns (or fineware jars in daily life) typically provided with slight off-set or incipient shoulders. These vessels are associated with C-14 dates of 1590-1250 and 1710-1250 BC. In addition, a shoulder sherd from a vessel of this type was recovered from the recent 2003 Bon Secours site at Ramsgate, and indirectly associated with a C-14 date of 1510-1320 BC. Rim sherds from vessels of this type were recovered from Loop contexts *Linear I* and *Linear JJ Context 369/370*. A rim sherd from another similar vessel, together with 2 further general parallels for the decorated barrel jar rim, came from the Monkton Area 7 ring-ditch cremation cemetery. This site had no associated C-14 dating, but another nearby ring-ditch cremation cemetery, Monkton Area 3, produced two-thirds of a Cornish Trevisker Ware barrel jar, from the primary silt of the ring-ditch. This vessel has been C-14 dated to 1530-1310 BC (94% probability). Trevisker Ware pottery is made using clays that contain gabbroic inclusions, a type of volcanic rock found in the Lizard Peninsula. The jar's presence at Monkton inevitably implies long-distance sea-borne trade. It has to be more than coincidence that another Middle Bronze Age site within the same island of Thanet, the Loop, should produce samples of serpentine rock from the same peninsula. Whatever the reason for this rock's presence in the Loop settlement, it unavoidably strengthens the likelihood of regular long-distance seaway trading contacts between these two regions.

There are further inter-assemblage inter-regional parallels that can be quoted for the pottery – and a further 2-3 Carbon-14 dates. These, together with the sites and typological and scientific dating mentioned above, can be constructively applied to the present assemblage. This will be useful, because despite the relative uniformity of the Deverel-Rimbury culture across southern England, and accepting the inevitability of inter-regional and even intra-settlement manufacturing variations, there are subtle formal and manufacturing differences amongst regional material that are likely to equate with differences in chronological position. To some degree these differences *may* be reflected in the available Kentish C-14 dates for the period, but this is not at all certain. This is a condition that needs to be remedied. As a result, though the Loop assemblage itself is not large, the string of associations that can be tied into it will, with further analysis, help consolidate the relative chronological placement of Kentish assemblages recovered to date. In addition, the direct links to Cornwall, and all their associated implications, are not only of academic value but are the stuff of stories and pre-historical accuracy.

Early Historic – Late (pre-Roman) Iron Age (c.150-25 BC) :

One small and worn, but definite, MIA/LIA-style flint-tempered rim sherd was recovered from *Context 247/248*. Another, possible, Iron Age-type bodysherd was recovered from *Linear A Context 33*. Late Iron Age 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered sherds were recovered from *Linears A-C* and *P*. These latter sherds are highly worn and small - and it is possible some may be of MBA date – however their grog content appears more typical of earlier 'Belgic' first century BC products. The low quantities of both ware types suggests either settlement-fringe activity or arrival on-site via agricultural manuring, at some time between c.150-25 BC. However, once established, LIA farmsteads (as opposed to major settlement types) generally remain occupied through until the first or second centuries AD before terminating and shifting location as a result of changing land-use policies. Since there is a notable virtual absence of later 'Belgic' or Roman pottery from this excavation, it is possible that this part of the landscape was maintained at pasture, fallow-land or woodland level throughout the later first century BC and the whole of the Roman period at least, with some or all of the sherds arriving on-site during later agricultural activity.

Later Historic – Early-Late Medieval (c.1075-1525 AD) :

A total of 10 sherds represent this period, 5 of which are of Early Medieval eleventh-twelfth century AD date. Some of these, and most of the later, Medieval or Late Medieval, sherds are small and abraded. However, 2 Early Medieval sherds (from *Contexts 25 (Linear B)* and *27*) and one Late Medieval sherd (*Context 151/152*) are fairly large and virtually unworn. Whilst their condition could imply on-site activity during these periods, their recovery points are all, almost certainly, of MBA Deverel-Rimbury date – and they are therefore intrusive. Irrespective, their size and condition does imply discard from a hamlet/manor/farm only a short distance away.

E. Recommendations :

1. The definite and probable **Beaker and EBA Urn** sherds require further identification and provision of a report. They have been sent to Dr.Alex Gibson of Bradford University
2. The two decorated Beaker sherds need illustration – their drawing for publication will take **1 day**.
3. The **Middle Bronze Age** pottery needs to be thoroughly examined for fabric type and wear-patterns to help determine the correct sequence of ditches and their phasing. This, together with assessor/excavator liaison, will take **>3 days**.
4. The overall **MBA** pottery element is small and mostly consists of bodysherds with relatively few diagnostic or new items demanding illustration and publication. As a result these can be most economically dealt with via conventional publication – rather than slim line published statements based on a detailed Available Archive report. To achieve this :
5. Six elements require pre-drawing glued restoration. This will take **1 day**
6. Nine elements (mostly bases) require pencil drawing only for Archive purposes. This will take **> 1 day**
7. Thirteen elements require drawing for publication – including 5 plain, 4 simple-decorated and 4 complex-decorated, sherds. This will take **>3 days**
8. Four elements require illustration alongside abstractions of previously published pottery figures for direct visual comparative purposes. The process of abstraction, re-drawing or modification will take **> 2 days**
9. Preparation of publication report pottery artwork figures will take **> 1 day**
10. Comparative research, preparation of pottery fabric-type frequency and inter-assemblage comparative

dating tables, writing of final pottery report > **7 days**

NB : Strictly speaking regional research requirements need as many C-14 dates as can be acquired. However, in view of the number of existing C-14 dates and typological cross-references that can be applied to this site and finds assemblage – it is recommended that no C-14 dating is asked for, **unless** the key pottery elements from *Linear JJ Context 369/370* and *Linear P – Additional slot* were self-evidently associated with contemporary deposits of fresh animal bone.

Analyst: N.Macpherson-Grant (11.11.2007)

Appendix 4 – Lithic Assessment (Barry Bishop)

DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM : ‘THE LOOP’, MANSTON EXCAVATION 2007 (LOOP-EX-07)

Proposals for Assessment

The struck lithic material from Manston Loop comprises a medium sized assemblage of approximately 400 pieces recovered from a wide variety of individual contexts. The site is in an area of considerable archaeological interest, not least that relating to the prehistoric periods. Analysis of the lithic material has the potential to significantly contribute to the stated specific aims of the archaeological work undertaken at Manston Loop. In particular, they will contribute to an understanding of the character, function, significance and date of any lithic-based activities, including the spatial organisation of such activities, as well as to questions relating to matters such as ceremonial or ritual behaviour.

Preliminary examination of the material indicates it is multi-period. It was noted that there was a high proportion of blades and debitage originating from a blade-based reduction strategy, indicating the presence of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries. The presence of an unfinished leaf-shaped arrowhead confirms activity at the site during the latter period. Other contexts contained material originating from a more opportunistic, flake-based, reduction strategy, which would be more typical of Bronze Age or possibly even Iron Age industries.

It is therefore desirable that the assemblage be examined in greater detail in order for its archaeological potential to be assessed.

It is therefore proposed that:

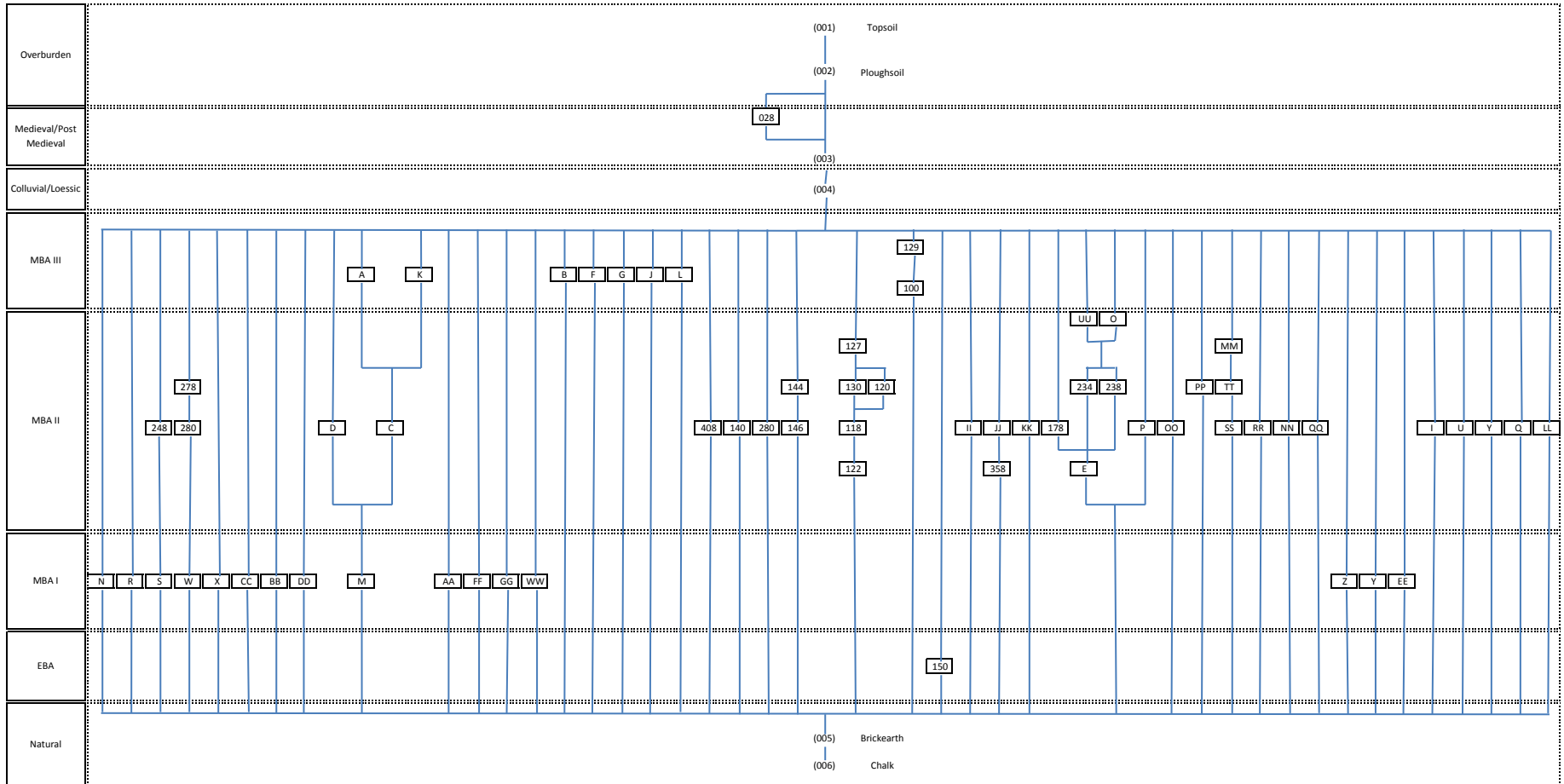
- The assemblage is catalogued and classified by individual context according to a basic technological and typological scheme
- A general overview of the material should be presented, including the chronological periods represented and a brief description of the characteristics of each industry
- A brief consideration of contextual associations should be made, including the spatial distribution of the material, the degree of residuality and a description of key selected sub-assemblages
- The archaeological significance of the material should be highlighted, including a statement of its potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of the activities identified during the project
- A recommendation detailing any further work required should be included

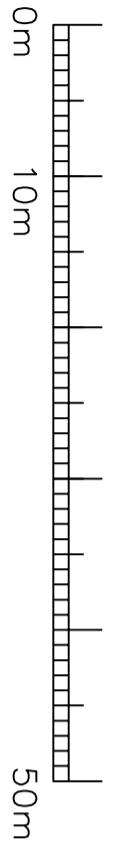
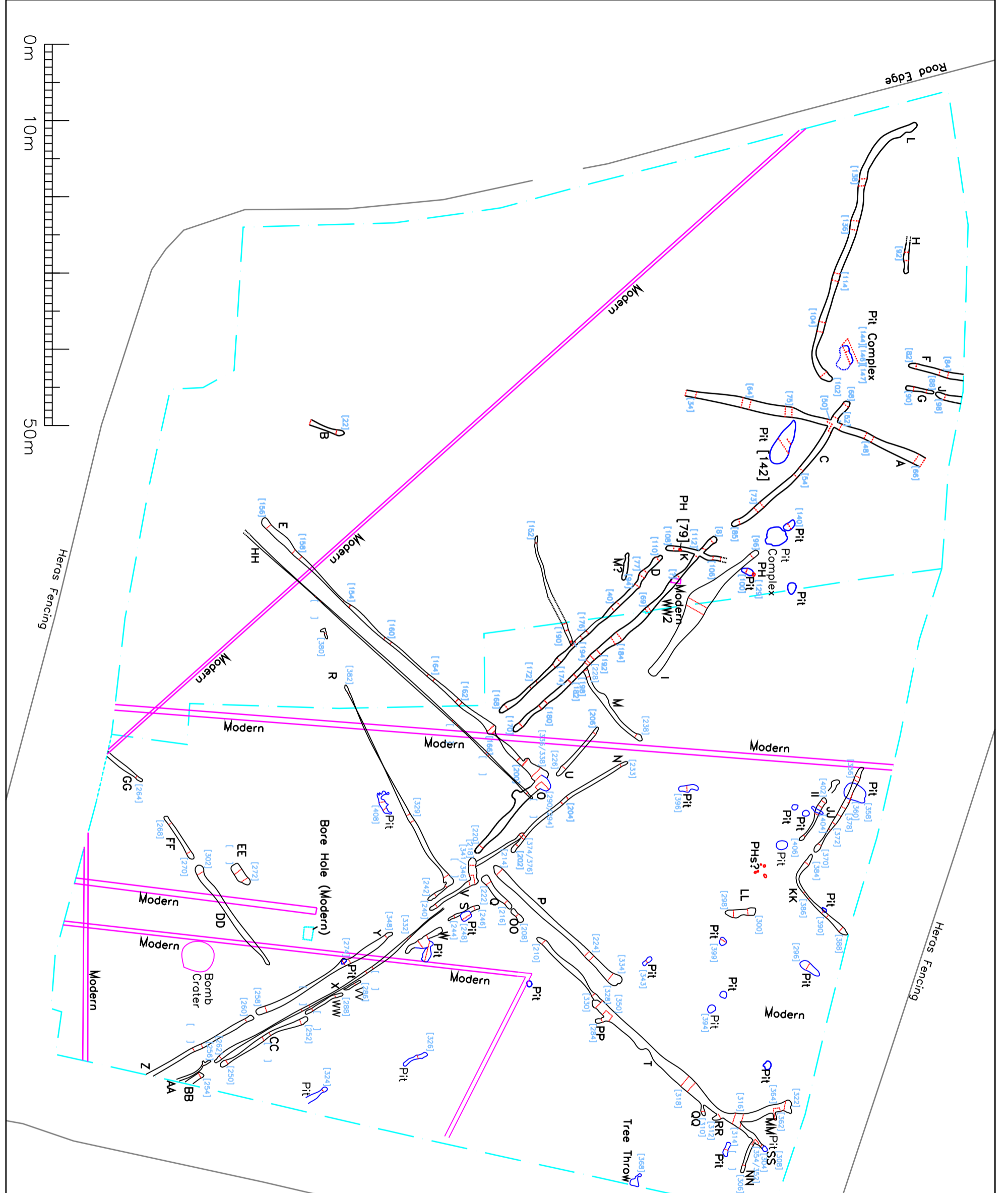
Analyst: Barry Bishop (November 2007)

Appendix 5 – Figures

Appendix 2 - Stratigraphic Matrix

LOOP07





Notes:
All levels are related to Ordnance Datum
Based on OS GPS network

The Loop Manston Kent

RECORD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

JOB No.	DATE	SCALE
1	AUGUST 2007	1:5000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT

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