

# ALTIRA PARK, HERNE BAY

## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment In advance of Development at the Altira Park, Blacksole Farm, Herne Bay, Kent

Prepared by SWAT Archaeology

As part of

Planning Application for a Foodstore, Business Units and Petrol Filling Station  
For Terrace Hill (Herne Bay) Limited

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**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of Development at the Altira Park, Blacksole Farm, Herne Bay, Kent**

**NGR: 619606 167254**

**1 SUMMARY**

*SWAT Archaeology (Swale & Thames Survey Company) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development at the Altira Park as part of the current Planning Application for a foodstore, business units and a petrol filling station.*

*This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council and other sources. This data is reviewed and it is noted that an archaeological evaluation has been carried out on the location of the main part of the development, i.e. the proposed foodstore site, business units and car park. Archaeology was revealed in some areas from the evaluation but as the depth of the exposed archaeology was about 0.50m it is recommended a programme of 'Preservation in Situ' should be implemented for these areas of development. The location of the petrol filling station has been recognised to be in an area of recent major earthmoving in connection with the adjacent motorway, bridge incline and the bridge itself. Here it is recommended an Archaeological Watching Brief would be the preferred method of mitigation. Both recommendations to be undertaken to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) approved by the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.*

*The proposed development at the Altira Park is managed by Terrace Hill Group (Herne Bay) Ltd, 1 Portland Place, London W1B 1PN*

*The site is located to the north of the Thanet Way (centred on National Grid Reference 619606 167254), adjacent to Bogshole Lane to the east (see Fig. 1). The site is c.2.6ha in extent, relatively flat with a slight decline to the south (Plate 1) at a height of about 35-37mAOD (above Ordnance Datum).*

## 1.1 History of the site

In the area of the site now subject to a planning application for business units and a foodstore Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation between May 2007 and February 2008 (Fig. 3).

The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 25th January 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury County Council. 111 evaluation trenches revealed the presence of enclosures, drove ways, pits and post holes representative of extensive settlement dated to the prehistoric periods. Archaeological horizons were shown to survive at a depth approximately 0.5m below the existing ground level. Truncation of archaeological horizons was relatively minimal, evident only by the existence of low impact field drains.

Previous work in the western area of Altira Park has comprised Phase I (Archaeological Evaluation, April 2007) and subsequent Phase II mitigation (Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation).

The evaluation report of 2008 details two further phases (11 & 1V) of archaeological evaluation on parts of the proposed development site (Appendix 1).

Table 1 below summarises phases of archaeological work so far undertaken at Altira Park:

Phase	Description
I	Archaeological Evaluation of the western area of the proposed development area, as detailed by SWAT with an Archaeological Evaluation Report (Allen 2007)
II	Archaeological mitigation in response to Phase I in the form of a Strip, Map and Sample excavation as detailed by SWAT within an archaeological specification (Britchfield 2007).
III	Archaeological Evaluation carried out in April 2007 on the eastern extent of the proposed development area (Appendix 1)
IV	Archaeological Evaluation carried out in February 2008 on the eastern extent of the proposed development area (Appendix 1)
V	Archaeological mitigation in response to Phases III and IV as required by Canterbury City Council

Table 1. Phases of Archaeological Fieldwork at Altira Park

The Archaeological Evaluation of April 2007 indicated the presence of extensive, multi-phase remains associated with Prehistoric and Roman-period occupation/settlement activity, in addition to Prehistoric industrial activity and probable pottery production. The results of the evaluation appeared to confirm that the area was relatively well populated during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age but, in common with a minority of other sites in the area, the site also produced evidence of earlier occupation. Subsequent excavation (Phase 2) within the western extent of the site has confirmed the presence of multi-phased occupation dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age through the post-Medieval period when the farm was established. Early results suggested a nucleated Prehistoric settlement, with associated domestic, agricultural and possible industrial land use, set out within a managed agricultural landscape. Excavations at Blacksole Farm have thus afforded an exciting and rare opportunity to study the landscape on both a macro - and micro scale level.

To date, three roundhouses have been uncovered (two of which have been dated to the Middle Bronze Age with the third associated with the Iron Age) providing the focal point for a multi-phase settlement comprising pits and ditches associated with the division of the landscape for arable, pastoral and domestic purposes. Further rectangular enclosures, along with associated drove ways, field boundaries and smaller internal divisions, reveal a network of herding features essential to the successful management and control of livestock associated with the farmsteads.

Interrupted parallel ditches or drove ways set out at right-angles, are coupled with enclosure ditches and features that can be attributed to elements of animal husbandry. Such features would typically comprise collections of corrals or pens, funnels and herding 'race', used for droving, batching and sorting of livestock. Evidence for drafting gates, such as the 'three way drafting gate system' as suggested by Francis Pryor (1998) also appeared to be represented on site. A possible longhouse was revealed, comprising a series of substantial post holes that contained Neolithic waste flakes distributed in a circular pattern (around a post?) as well as a much earlier tranchet axe of Mesolithic date, possibly kept and ceremoniously discarded?

While it is currently believed that the primary focus of the site would have been associated with agrarian field management and control of domesticated livestock

(within a co-axial system of land division), issues of social identity and complexity would have no doubt been visible within the contemporary landscape. Domestic structures are clearly present and yet sadly, to date, funerary and even monumental semblances (all of which are indicative of the Middle Bronze Age) are surprisingly absent.

Evaluation trenches to the east have revealed the presence of enclosures, drove ways, pits and post holes representative of extensive contemporary settlement, thus confirming the continuation of the landscape over the entirety of the site.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

It is worth quoting from this long awaited planning document, in particular Section 12, pages 30-34.

#### **12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment**

126. Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place (para.126).

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed



using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

130. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of or damage to a heritage asset the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

NPPF paragraphs 131; 134; 135; 139; 140 and 141 are also relevant to consider.

The principles and policies set out in this section apply to the heritage-related consent regimes for which local planning authorities are responsible under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, as well as to plan-making and decision-taking.

*This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.*

## **2.2 The Proposed Development**

The proposed development will comprise three blocks of business units, a foodstore with associated car parking and a petrol filling station.

## **2.3 Project Constraints**

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

## **2.4 Geology and Topography**

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the geology of the site and its surrounds consists of Tertiary London Clay overlain by Pleistocene gravels, which are in turn overlain by Brickearth. The Brickearth also frequently contains

gravel spreads (Holmes 1981, 49, 72 and 73) and is therefore probably also Pleistocene in origin for the most part.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Terrace Hill (Herne Bay) Ltd in order to support a planning application for the development of the site at Altira Park. Canterbury City Council planners have requested an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment Report to clarify the extent of known archaeology on the development site.

#### **3.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)**

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

*“A programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (2011)*

The purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate as required:

- 1. an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study*
- 2. an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests*

- 3. strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined*
- 4. an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings*
- 5. strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings*
- 6. design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping*
- 7. proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.*

IFA (2011)

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Desk-Based Assessment**

#### *4.1.1 Archaeological databases*

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding environs of Blacksole Farm.

The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) and was also used. The search was carried out within a 750m radius of the proposed development site (20/10/12). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also used as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

#### *4.1.2 Historical documents*

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc were not relevant to this specific study as the study is concerned primarily with landscape and its archaeology.

#### 4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents

A full map regression exercise was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping.

#### 4.1.4 Aerial photographs

The study of aerial photograph's were studied but are not applicable to this study as the immediate area around the development site has been subject to intensive archaeological excavation and recording whilst the main area of proposed development has been subject to an archaeological evaluation.

#### 4.1.5 Geotechnical information

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in April 2007 on the main area proposed for development, but not in the area of the proposed filling station (Appendix 1).

#### 4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies; dissertations, research frameworks and websites are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	c. 4.300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
	Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon		AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval		AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern		AD 1901 – present day

**Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods**

## 5.1 Introduction

The Archaeological record within the area around Blacksole Farm is diverse and comprises possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain (the Neolithic) through to the post-medieval period. Blacksole Farm is situated to the west of the main Roman road running from Canterbury to Reculver. The geographic and topographic location of Blacksole Farm is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on the previous page in **Table 1**.

## 5.2 Archaeological investigations carried out within the surrounding area

An extensive archaeological narrative for the surrounding area is provided within the archaeological evaluation report prepared by SWAT (Allen 2007) for the adjacent site and need not be repeated in this document. That said, three sites are of particular relevance due to their proximity to Blacksole Farm. Therefore, for the sake of consistency, extracts from the report prepared by SWAT (2007) are detailed below; **Bogshole Lane A, Beltinge (NGR TR 1975 6720)** - During archaeological monitoring of trenching in advance of pipe laying, part of a Mid Iron Age settlement site was discovered on either side of Bogshole Lane, near Beltinge, some 500m east of the present site (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995, 5). Here, gullies, ditches, post-holes, pit complexes, a four-poster structure (possibly the remains of a raised grain store) and part of the remains of a round house were exposed and over 2000 potsherds recovered, most being dated to c. 500 - c. 300 BC. The remains of the Iron Age round house were particularly well preserved, consisting of a penannular gully (presumably an eaves gully) with an internal diameter of 14m, and containing a cluster of post-holes and post-pits.

**Bogshole Lane B, Beltinge (NGR TR 2045 6770)** - This site lies on a gentle, east-facing slope between May Street and Bogshole Lane, some 50m east of the Bogshole Lane A site and some 500m east of the present site. The Bogshole Lane A and B remains may, in part, supply evidence for the same phase of occupation activity. If so, an extensive area for this activity is indicated. On the Bogshole Lane B site eleven pits, a gully, a post hole and parts of four ditches were exposed, one of which produced

about 50 sherds of Neolithic pottery (Parfitt and Hutchinson 1995). Other than the ditches, the features were, on the basis of limited ceramic evidence, of probable Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. However, the north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignment of the ditches suggested that they may have represented an eastern extension of the ditched Late Iron Age/Early Roman- period field system exposed on the Bogshole Lane A site. If so, the small amount of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery in the Bogshole Lane B ditches was residual.

**Bogshole Lane C, Broomfield (NGR TR 1985 6695)** – Here, copious evidence of prehistoric activity was uncovered in the form of pits, field/boundary ditches and an expansive north-east/south-west aligned metalled trackway, the latter dated on the basis of an overlying bronze hoard to earlier than c. 850 - c. 700 BC . Occupation activity predating and including the Mid to Late Bronze Age is indicated (Allen 2001, 12; Helm undated, Helm 2003, 23).

Perhaps of more interest, in archaeological terms, was the presence of a very large, roughly circular pit (average diameter 14.5m). It was excavated to a depth of 2.3m, at which point excavation was abandoned in the interests of safety, but the pit was clearly of considerably greater depth. It had been subject to at least two major re-cuts during prehistory, presumably because its location within London Clay-dominated terrain meant that it was subject to continual infilling through collapse and colluvial down-flow. In addition, several large pits of unknown function had been cut at intervals into the fills of the feature, as had a large number of roughly circular pits. These surrounded the large circular pit and, in a small number of cases, were cut (again at intervals) into its internal fills. A distinctive common feature of the smaller pits, which had depths of between 0.12 - 0.3m and diameters of between 0.3 - 1.47m, was their fills, which in all cases consisted of compacted burnt daub and charcoal. The features as a whole provide good circumstantial evidence for ritual activity, as it is difficult to account for the size, form and complexity of the overall structure otherwise. If the original structure did indeed have a ritual function, it represents a rare example of a prehistoric ritual monument in the London-Clay dominated parts of north Kent. A Late Bronze Age hoard was discovered in a small pit 40m south of the probable ritual monument (Allen 2001, 12). The hoard, which consisted of 27 copper alloy (bronze) fragments, was retrieved from a pit which also contained five flint-tempered potsherds of Late Bronze/Early Iron type Age representing the remains of at least three vessels. This suggested that the hoard was buried in or near a settlement, probably the Willow Farm settlement some 400m to the north-west, in what was an already deforested area. A more precise date than

that derivable from the potsherds was indicated by the bronze hoard, which was of Ewart Park type, dated to the last part of the Bronze Age (c. 850 - c. 700 BC). Settlement and/or ritual activity on the Bogshole Lane site at Broomfield appears to have ceased some time during the Early Iron Age, probably in the sixth century BC and, as in the case of the nearby Willow Farm site, occupation activity appears not to have resumed until the Late Iron Age, when a drainage ditch containing grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery was cut across the site. However, the presence across the site of a low-intensity scatter of ceramic material of the same type pointed to small-scale Late Iron Age settlement activity, and a single rectangular posted structure dated by its associated ceramics to the Early-Mid Roman period suggested that settlement activity continued up to the mid third century AD or thereabouts, as was also the case for the nearby Willow Farm site.

**5.3 Archaeological investigations carried out to date, within the Proposed Development Area (PDA)** The archaeological evaluation carried out by SWAT Archaeology in April 2007 (Phase I) indicated the presence of extensive, multiphase remains associated with prehistoric and Roman-period occupation/settlement activity in addition to large-scale prehistoric industrial activity and probably pottery production. The results of the evaluation appeared to confirm that the Levels were relatively well populated during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age but, in common with a minority of the other sites in the area, the site also produced evidence of earlier occupation activity. Evidence for significant activity during the Mid Iron Age was lacking but renewed activity during the Late Iron Age and probably into the Early Roman period was indicated, again reflecting a general theme. Allen (2007:30) suggests that evidence pointed to the remains of a possibly high-status Mid Roman-period settlement being present in the northern part of the Phase I evaluation area. Archaeological excavations within the western extent of the PDA (Phase II) has confirmed the presence of multi-phased occupation dating from the Bronze Age through the post-medieval period. Results suggest nucleated prehistoric settlement, including individual roundhouses with associated domestic, agricultural and possibly industrial land use, set out within a managed agricultural landscape. Roman and medieval remains appear to have been focused along the northern extent of the western PDA, as suggested by Allen (2007: 30).

#### **5.4 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas**

No scheduled monuments are recorded within the confines of the proposed development site. However, two buildings in the near vicinity are identified. 100m west of the proposed development site (Kent HER: TR 16 NE 1094) a locally listed building (7166) of Early to Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey weather boarded building is close to a c.17<sup>th</sup> century barn, part of Blacksole Farm, and again locally listed (7167).

#### **5.5 Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age)**

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. Palaeolithic dated material occurs in north and east Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. The Palaeolithic presence within the assessment area has been identified from a number of find spots. In particular at Bishopstone Glen 1km to the north of the development site (Kent HER: TR 26 NW 20).

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no record of archaeological evidence from this period within the assessment area. However, evidence of Mesolithic activity in the form of flint tools and flakes has been retrieved in the archaeological investigations at Altira Park.

The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry is represented within the assessment area by a potential Neolithic building found in the recent archaeological investigations at Altira Business Park.

The Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is also represented at Altira Park by field systems.

#### **5.6 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or *civitas* of the *Cantiaci*, the tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury). The Kent HER records several small finds in the vicinity of the development site including coins. Again recent archaeological investigations at Altira Business Park have revealed Iron Age round houses, rubbish pits, middens, and extensive field systems.



## **5.7 Romano-British**

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years.

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital.

The assessment area includes several records from this period. A Romano-British cremation was found in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century some 115m west of the development site (Kent HER: TR 16 NE 15). Some 850m east of the development site a complex site of Roman ditches and post holes superimposed upon an Early Iron Age enclosure has been recently recorded (Kent HER: TR26 NW 220) whilst on the Altira Park recent archaeological investigations have recovered three Romano-British cremations, field systems and enclosures.

## **5.8 Anglo-Saxon**

The Anglo-Saxon period is represented by a clawed beaker found in 1904 at Broomfield just to the north of the development site (Kent HER: TR 16 NE 10). As yet no Anglo-Saxon features or finds have been identified on from the archaeological investigations at Altira Park.

## **5.9 Medieval**

The medieval period is not well represented within the assessment area and the only HER data is of six Medieval seals found at Bishopstone and dating from 1066-1539AD (Kent HER: TR 26 NW 69). Medieval ditches have been traced on Altira Park from recent archaeological investigations.

## **5.10 Post-Medieval**

The Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by a possible Beacon site at Herne, south of the development site (Kent HER: TR 16 NE20 and a Telegraph Station at Bishopstone (CAT HER 77).

### 5.11 Modern

Modern development within the assessment area has been limited to domestic housing, and farming – the latter being responsible for the present landscape.

### 5.12 Undated

There is no Kent HER undated records that fall within the assessment area.

### 5.13 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

A rapid map regression exercise carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site was undeveloped up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nine detailed maps of the area consulted dating from 1873 up to 2012 show the area to be farmland until the building of the Altira Park.

### 5.14 Aerial Photographs

Research of aerial photographs held by Kent County Council and the National Monuments Record were available and studied during the writing of this report. Google Earth provided a vertical image dated to 2007 (Fig. 2).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is considered **moderate**.

### 6.2 Iron Age

The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age within the confines of the development site is also considered **moderate**.

### 6.3 Romano-British

The presence of Romano-British archaeology in the research area, though small but concentrated suggests that further archaeological remains associated with this period could extend into the proposed development site. The potential is therefore to be considered as **moderate**.

### 6.4 Anglo-Saxon

Anglo-Saxon archaeology within the assessment area has been represented by a single record (Kent HER Ref.: TR 16 NE 10) However, the presence of the earlier

intensive farming activity suggests the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period on the development site is considered as **low**.

### **6.5 Medieval**

The presence of medieval archaeology within the assessment area is poorly represented. The potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is therefore considered as **low**.

### **6.6 Post-Medieval**

Evidence for post-medieval occupation in the area is abundant with a number of farms in the vicinity. The potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval period is therefore considered as **moderate**.

## **7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **7.1 Existing Impacts**

The search area is for the most part, subject to farming and the potential impact on buried archaeological deposits will have been due to agricultural activities. Part of the site of the proposed development (the petrol filling station) will have been affected by the construction and landscaping of the present bridge and road works. Additionally, existing services may also have had a damaging effect. Therefore, the modern impact is considered as **moderate** for the filling station site and **low** for the foodstore and associated buildings and car parks.

### **7.2 Proposed Impacts**

At the time of preparing this archaeological desk-top study, the extent of the proposed development consists of a foodstore with associated car parking, a range of business units and a petrol filling station.

### **7.3 Conclusions**

In keeping with the proposals set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) this desk-based assessment fulfils these requirements and complies with the relevant tests for the historic environment as set out in National Policy.

## **8 MITIGATION**

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that maybe impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **moderate** archaeological potential.

However, the archaeology has shown to be about 0.50m deep and there is a case to be made for the area planned as car parking and access road to allow the archaeology to be preserved in situ and not excavated. For the petrol filling station site it is recommended a limited Archaeological Watching Brief to be carried out on the footprint of the proposed building and underground storage tanks. This will provide an additional assessment of the nature; depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents of the filling station site and used further inform further mitigation if necessary.

## **9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **9.1 Archive**

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

### **9.2 Reliability/limitations of sources**

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

### **9.3 Copyright**

SWAT Archaeology (Swale & Thames Survey Company) and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to Terrace Hill (Herne Bay) Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA., FRSA.**

**19/11/2012**

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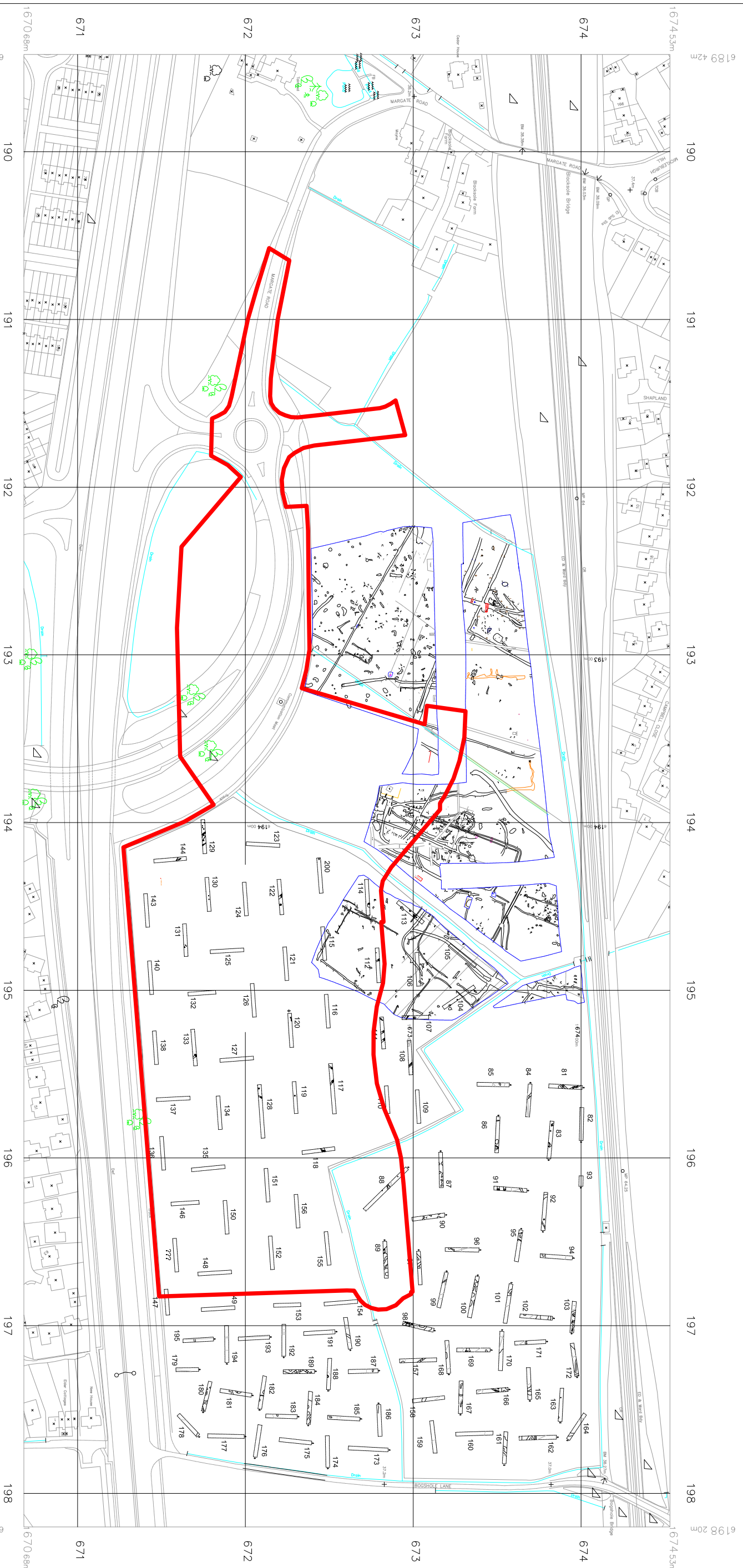
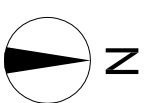


Plate.1 Part of the development site under archaeological investigation in 2008. See "Archaeological evaluation Report Phases III & IV (photo taken facing east)



Plate 2. Site of the proposed service station (facing west)





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Figure 1: Blacksole Farm Archaeology (showing boundary of proposed development)

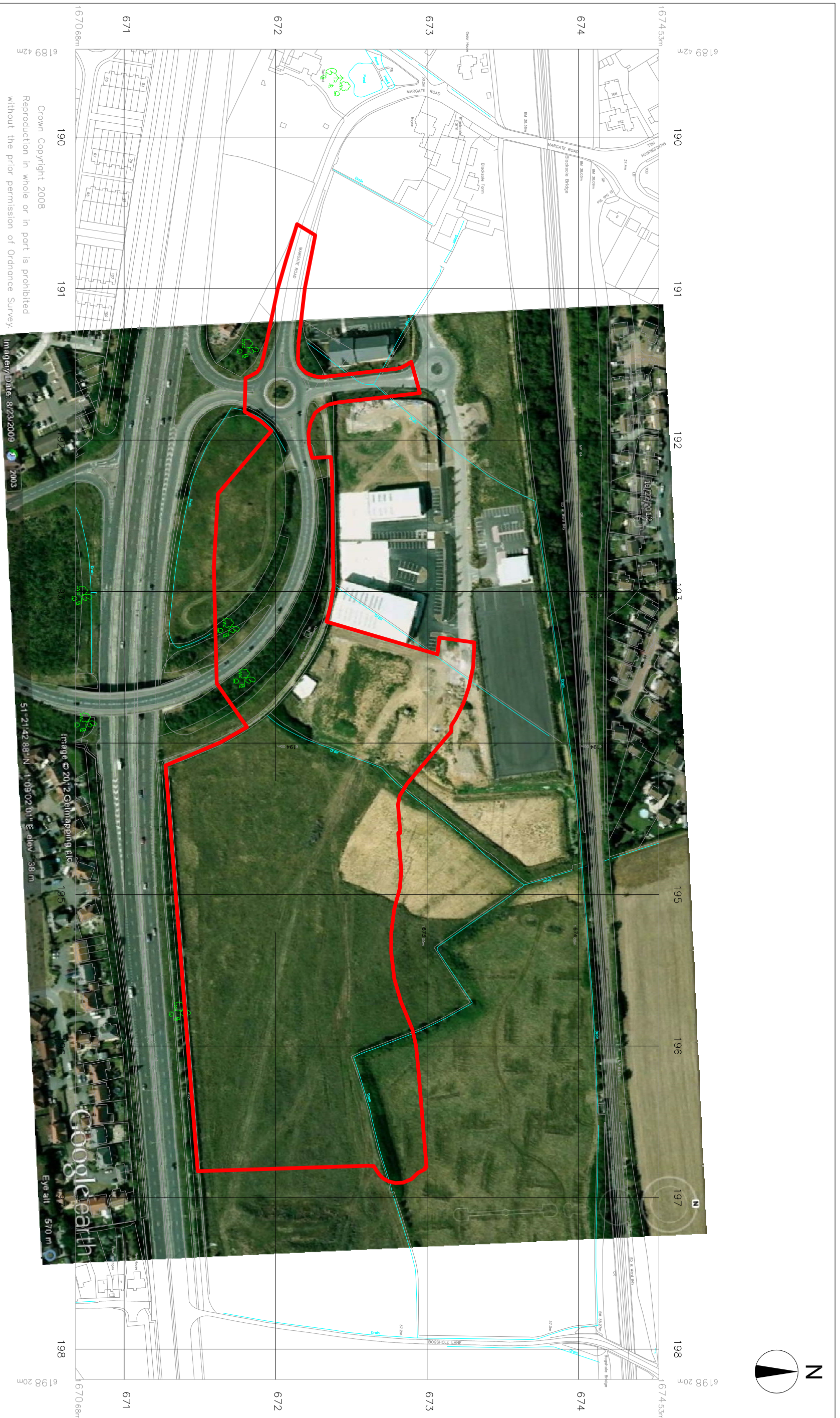


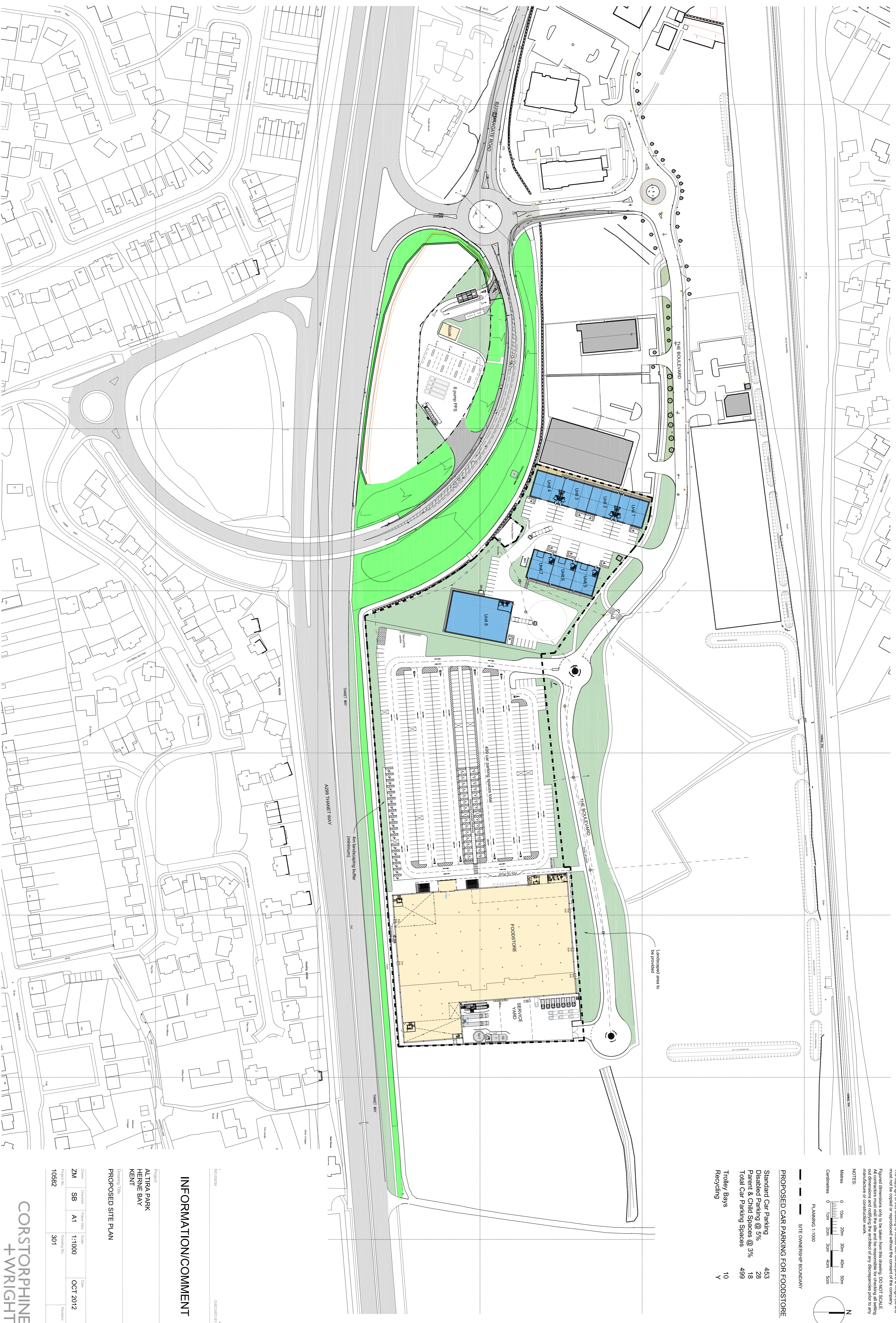
Figure 2: Blacksole Farm Archaeology (showing boundary of proposed development and aerial image)

1:2500@A3

0m 200m

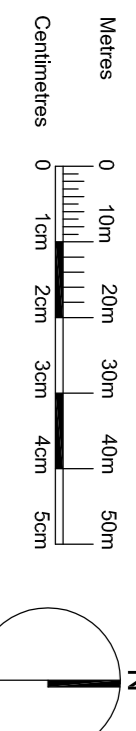


Figure 3: Blacksole Farm Archaeology (showing boundary of proposed development and aerial image)



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NOTES:



PLANNING 1:1000

— — — — — SITE OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY

**PROPOSED CAR PARKING FOR FOODSTORE**

Standard Car Parking	453
Disabled Parking @ 5%	28
Parent & Child Spaces @ 3%	18
Total Car Parking Spaces	499
Trolley Bays	10
Recycling	Y

**INFORMATION/COMMENT**

Project  
**ATTIRA PARK**  
**HERNE BAY**  
**KENT**

Drawn Title  
**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**

Drawn	Checked	Project Size	Scale	Date
ZM	SB	A1	1:1000	OCT 2012
10562		301		