Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation of Land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN

Post-Excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design

Site Code: TTS-EX-22

NGR Site Centre: 626733E 156696N

Planning Application Number: DOV/16/00442

15th August 2022

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Contents

Abstract

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at The Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent, in March 2022. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Kent County Council following archaeological evaluations undertaken in January 2022.

Archaeological excavations have confirmed the presence of agrarian activity on the site from the Middle to Late Bronze Age to the Mid to Late Iron Age. The exposed remains comprised three linear ditches with several discrete features of which one contained potential remains of demolished kiln, however no evidence for in-situ burning was found during the investigation.

The site presents good evidence for early management of the landscape. It is suggested that the primary focus of the site would have been associated with field tillage with potential industrial activity in the immediate surrounding area.

The absence of an occupation site (or sites) is in 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.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Palace Construction Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation on land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) E626733 N156696 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological works were carried out as a staged programme of works comprising an initial targeted trial trenching evaluation (Phase 1). In the event that archaeological remains were encountered during this phase, a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation was required in order to investigate and record archaeological remains present. One area of archaeological interest was identified covering about 30% of the proposed development area.

1.1.3 This report details the results of the SMS excavation only (Phase 2), which was informed by the results of the earlier phase of archaeological evaluation (Phase 1: SWAT Archaeology 2021).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application was granted on the 26th April 2017 (Application DOV/16/00442) for the for the erection of eight dwellings, change of use and conversion of the existing public house into a single residential dwelling, creation of vehicular access, parking area and associated works (Figure 1). A Condition of archaeological works were attached to Planning Decision Notice and it was: *(9) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with*

a specification and written timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The specification shall include: Any safeguarding measures, identified in the evaluation as necessary, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation in accordance with a timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

1.2.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information. KCCHC advising Dover District Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site:

1.2.3 All works were carried out to standards set out in approved specification which was based on the KCC Generic Specification for Archaeological Excavations (Part B).

1.3 **Site Description and Topography**

1.3.1 The application site is located on the western side of Staple village. The site is L shape in plan and is adjacent on the north side of the Street. Western extent of the site was used for a car park with shingle surface. Eastern part of the site was used as small field/paddock. Site area is 3477sq m. The NGR to centre of site is NGR 626733 156696 and the OD height is about 22m aOD.

1.3.2 Area of archaeological excavation had roughly rectangular shape measured 44metres by 24metres and was located within northern part of proposed development area. Stripped area covered 926sq m.

1.3.3 The site is located on relatively flat plain gently descending to the north. Slope height changes 5 metres over a distance of 200 metres

1.3.4 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Thanet Formation - sand, Silt and Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Prior to SMS the Archaeological Evaluation was completed within proposed development area. Works comprised 4 trenches dug in a pattern across the site with aim to cover 5% of evaluated area. The archaeological investigation so far has recorded the presence of Prehistoric activity within northern-central extent of the site (Trench 2) comprising discrete features of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Two pits produced fresh potsherds and potential worked flint flakes.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been highlighted below. The research area consisted of radius buffer of 1000 metres from the site and comprises Historic Environmental Records showing Listed Building dated from High Medieval with majority being of Post Medieval period.

2.1.3 The Three Tuns is recorded as a Grade II Listed Building (TR 25 NE 105) from the C17 and late C18. The KCCHER entry reads- Red brick and plain tiled roof. Two parallel ranges. Two storeys and attic with hipped roof, 1 hipped dormer and stack to end right. Three glazing bar sashes on first floor and 2 wooden casements on ground floor with central projecting C20 porch, with globular traceried window and half-glazed doors in left and right sides. Rear wing, C17, with large offset stack on plinth with string courses, and hipped dormer facing into roof valley. Left return, with 3 hipped dormers, 3 glazing bar sashes on each floor and outshot at end left. There seems to be no archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the PDA but there are any number of Listed Buildings including the barn at Little Twitham (TR 25 NE 99).

2.1.4 700metres to the south record shows metal detecting find (TR 25 NE 4) of Iron Age golden coin

2.1.5 All described above records are irrelevant in context of archaeological remains discovered on site during evaluation phase as they represent completely different periods.

2.1.6 Recent SWAT investigation undertaken in 2022 on Summerfield Nursery located 980metres to the east revealed Neolithic pit and Bronze Age and Earliest Iron Age field systems.

2.1 Historic Maps

2.1.1 1st Edition OS map (1890) shows orchard and barn within PDAs.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 In the event that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of impact associated with future development is likely to require the excavation of material exceeding 0.50m in depth. In the absence of ground raising proposals, impacts to archaeological horizons throughout the site are expected.

3.1.2 The principle objective of the archaeological strip, map and sample is to reveal the presence or absence of additional elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across part of the area of the development.

3.1.3 To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.

3.1.4 To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

3.1.5 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the strip, map and sample to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

3.2 Site Specific Aims

3.2.1 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013).

3.2.2 One of the primary objectives is acquiring pottery and accompanied C14 samples to improve accuracy in pottery dating.

3.2.3 Answering the question; what is the nature of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age occupation or activity within the site? How the occupation on-site relates to discoveries in broader landscape? Understanding the nature and extend of Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age agrarian remains and how they relate to Bronze Age/ Iron Age remains discovered at Summerfield Nurseries.

3.2.4 Establishing presence/absence of Neolithic features that may be present but obscured by later Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.*

4.2 Fieldwork

Archaeological Strip, map and Sample Excavation

4.2.1 A 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in spits not greater than *c.*100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

4.2.2 A site grid was established using an EDM and tied to the National Grid. On completion of hand-cleaning, a site plan was produced at a scale of 1:100. Spray paint line marker was used to mark the edges of unexcavated features prior to mapping. Levels were taken across the site prior to excavation of archaeological features and added to the site plan.

4.2.3 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site, in agreement with KCC Archaeological Officer can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.
- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriate sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.
- Charred and cremated deposits or potential ‘placed deposits’ were 100% excavated.

4.2.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM.

4.2.5 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

- All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on SWAT Archaeology context record sheets.
- All excavated sections were drawn on polyester drawing film at a scale of 1:10 and fully labelled with context numbers and other appropriate recording numbers and levelled with respect to m. OD.
- Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, labelled and levelled with respect to m. OD. All archaeological interventions including linear slots, intercutting relationship slots and half-sections were also marked on the overall site plan.
- Registers of contexts, small finds, environmental samples, site drawings and photographs were maintained and monitored by the site supervisor.
- A full photographic record including digital photographs was maintained; all excavated sections and features were photographed pre and post-excavation, and a selection of working and site photos were also taken.
- In general, multi-context recording was adopted across the site, however single-context recording was completed for deposits/features considered to be possible placed deposits or cremations.

4.2.6 Additionally remains of the demolished 18th Century barn where surveyed in plan together with other later modern features and these are shown in plan in blue colour.

4.3 **Monitoring**

4.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to Simon Mason, Archaeological Officers, Kent County Council throughout the archaeological investigation. Any variations to the methodology set out in the Specifications were agreed between parties during monitoring meetings.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the report will include a descriptive stratigraphic assessment of the archaeological records, detailing physical relationships between all contexts recorded during the excavation. All features with multiple interventions (excavated slots) have been grouped to form a single Group Number (i.e. D2), as have groups of features with specific form, i.e. post holes representing a structure(s) etc. The descriptive text and plans are supplemented by selected photographs provided within the Appendices.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent soil sequence was recorded across the Site. The underlying natural geology comprised mid orangey brown silty-clay, the surface of which generally formed the level of machining. The majority of archaeological features were cut into this natural and sealed by mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil (where present) (0.2–0.25m thick). The overlying topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay deposit (0.2–0.3 m thick). Area has been heavily disturbed by modern features however none of them had impact on archaeological remains.

5.3 Archaeological Features

Linear Features

5.3.1 Couple of E-W aligned linear features D1 and D2 were exposed in north-eastern part of site running parallel to each other. Both features terminated both ways within area limits.

5.3.2 Ditch D1 was 16metres long, width varied between 0.51metre to 1.09metre and depth reached a maximum of 0.34metre. Feature was investigated in five exploratory slots where following numbers were assigned: [11][13][17][27][51]. Its profile comprised moderately to steeply sloped sides and flat to slightly concave base. Ditch was filled by single fill (10)(12)(16)(26)(50) consisted of a medium to dark greyish brown clayey-silt with occasional manganese, natural and worked flint, calcined flint, pot sherds and charcoal.

5.3.3 Ditch D2 was slightly longer with length of 17.5metres, width varied from 0.7metre to 1.2metre and depth reached maximum of 0.42metre. Also five slots were dug within the ditch [7][9][15][21][31] which exposed the profile similar to ditch D1 comprising moderately to steeply sloped sides and mostly concave base. This feature also was filled by single fill (6)(8)(14)(20)(30) comprised medium to dark greyish brown clayey-silt with occasional manganese, charcoal, natural and worked flint, calcined flint and pot sherds.

5.3.4 Possibly associated with D2 short 2.7metres long linear [37] run same alignment after 2.7metres gap from D2 western terminus. Feature was 0.6metre wide and 0.3metre deep. Its profile comprises steep convex sides and flat base. Linear was filled by single fill (36) consisted of a soft medium grey clayey-silt.

5.3.5 Linear feature D3 emerged from northern part of eastern limit of excavation. Feature run north-west for 2.5metres then turned sharply north-east and terminated after a metre. Its width oscillating around 0.76metre in NW-SE and reduced to 0.48metre. Depth varied from 0.13metre to 0.43metre. Three interventions were made into the feature with following numbers; [57] for the terminus, [19] middle section and [23] for slot by LOE (limit of excavation). Feature had steep straight sides and flab base apart from [19] where sides were moderately sloped and base was concave. Linear was filled by single fill (18)(22)(56) consisted of a medium to dark greyish brown clayey-silt with occasional manganese, pebbles, natural and calcined flints.

5.3.6 Total of seven post-holes were recorded within the area. These include [5] [39], [41], [45], [49], [63] and [65].

5.3.7 Post-hole [5] was located in area north-western corner. Feature was oval in plan measuring 0.38metre by 0.5metre and 0.37metre deep. It had very steep slightly uneven sides to pointed base. Feature was filled by (4) consisted of a moderately compacted mottled medium grey and brown clayey-silt with occasional potsherd.

5.3.8 Post-hole [39] was located in south-eastern corner of the site. It was circular in plan with steep sides leading to concave base. Feature was 0.36metre in diameter and 0.07metre deep. It was filled by single fill (38) comprised soft dark grey clayey-silt.

5.3.9 Post-hole [41] was located in north-western part of site by northern LOE. Feature was circular with shallow sides and slightly concave base. It measured 0.18metre in diameter and 0.04metre deep. Feature was filled by (40) moderately compacted mottled dark grey and medium orange clayey-silt.

5.3.10 Post-hole [45] was also located by northern LOE 4.3metre east of the [41]. Feature was circular wit steep concave sides and pointed base. It was 0.42metre in diameter and 0.21metre deep. Post-hole was filled by (44) consisted of a soft medium brown mottled with grey clayey-silt with occasional calcined flint.

5.3.11 Post-hole [49] was located close to the centre of the site slightly to the east. It was circular in plan with steep almost straight sides and concave base. Feature measured 0.4metre in diameter and 0.18metre deep. Post-hole was filled by single fill (48) consisted of a moderately compacted mottled dark grey and medium orange clayey-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and burnt clay, occasional small flint pebble, rooting disturbance and small pot sherds.

5.3.12 Two rectangular in plan post-hole [63] and [65] were discovered during investigation of possible kiln [61]. Although Post-holes were spotted within lower part of kiln fill, their relation to the kiln was not clear but it was concluded that the post holes were cutting the pit. Post-hole [63] measured 0.08metre by 0.06metre and 0.15metre deep. Second post-hole [65] measured 0.08metre by 0.08metre and 0.09metre deep. Both had vertical sides and flat base and were filled by similar fill (62) of [63] and (64) of [65] consisted of a compact mottled dark grey and black clayey-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps. Looking at their profiles and fact that many modern features were present in close vicinity suggest these two post-holes were modern.

5.3.13 Seven other pits were recorded within the site and these include: [25], [33], [35], [43], [47], [55] and [61] which very likely could be a kiln.

5.3.14 Pit [25] was located by feature D3 terminus. It was sub-circular in plan with shallow sides and concave base. Feature measured 0.5metre by 0.58metre and 0.14metre deep. It was filled by single fill (24) comprised very firmly compacted orangey grey silty-clay with occasional calcined flints, charcoal and manganese flecking. Also small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the context.

5.3.15 Pit [33] was located by short linear [37] eastern terminus. Feature diameter was of 0.44metre and depth reached 0.05metre. Pit had shallow concave sides and concave base and was filled by single fill (32) consisted of a moderately compacted dark greyish brown clayey-silt with significant rooting disturbance and occasional charcoal flecks.

5.3.16 Both pits [35] and [43] were located next to each other at central west part of the site.

5.3.17 Pit [35] was oval with shallow sides and concave base. Feature measured 0.53metre by 0.68metre and 0.07metre deep. It was filled by (34) a moderately compacted mottled medium brown/orange and grey clayey-silt with occasional charcoal fleck, natural flint pebble and rooting. Context also produced calcined flint and small assemblage of pottery.

5.3.18 Pit [43] was sub-circular measured 1.5metre by 1metre and 0.08metre deep. Feature had shallow sides and undulating base and was considered to be a tree throw hole, however it did produce pottery and calcined flint. Its fill (42) was a soft mottled medium brown and orange clayey-silt.

5.3.19 Pit [47] was located 1.5metre west of post-hole [49]. It was oval in plan measured 1metre long, 0.55metre wide and 0.37metre deep. Feature had near vertical sides and flat base and was filled by single fill (46) consisted of a soft dark grey clayey-silt with frequent charcoal, occasional calcined flint and pot sherds.

5.3.20 Pit [55] was located by central part of northern LOE. Feature was circular in plan with very steep sides and flat base. Pit measured 0.75metre in diameter and 0.18metre deep. Its backfill sequence comprises three deposits. Primary fill (54) consisted of a soft light brown clayey-silt with moderate amount of charcoal flecks. Deposit was on average 0.04metre thick. This was covered by (53) black mixture of ash, charcoal and clayey-silt possibly dumped as no signs of heated soil around. This context was also about 0.04metre thick. Top was sealed by layer (52) consisted of a soft medium brown clayey-silt with occasional charcoal, calcined flint, worked flint and pot sherds.

5.3.21 Pit [61] was located roughly 3 metres of middle of western LOE. It was recorded as potential kiln based on evidence in form large lumps of burnt clay and calcined flints however no burnt in situ area was detected. Feature was circular in plan, measured 1.28metre in diameter and 0.2metre deep. Its backfill sequence comprised three deposits. Primary fills (59) and (60) covered the base and consisted of a compact mottled dark grey/brown clayey-silt with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps. Fill (60) additionally contained frequent iron flecks. Remained hollow was filled by (58) a compact mottled dark grey/brown clayey-silt with very frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, frequent burnt clay lumps, occasional natural flint and very frequent calcined flint. Context produced also small assemblage of pottery. Most likely it's a storage pit backfilled with remains of crop dryer or bread oven.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A relatively small ceramic assemblage was recovered from the site weighting 791g, as well as small assemblage of worked flints. The full pottery and worked flint assessment are attached as appendix 1 and 2 at the end of this report. Both assessments were produced by Paul Hart. All flintwork pre dating EIA was residual and recovered from features dated to EIA phase.

6.2 Pottery Assessment

Ceramic finds from archaeological work at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent:

A catalogue and summary of the pottery recovered during the excavation

and

an assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation

Site Codes: TTS-EV-21 and TTS-EX-22

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 07.06.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

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   4.1. Methodology
   4.2. Period Codes employed
   4.3. Abbreviations used in 4.4
   4.4. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery, with notes

1. The pottery from the excavation

1.1. Summary

A total of 47 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 8001 g were presented and catalogued. This is in addition to the 38 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 105 g that were recovered during the evaluation phase of work at the same site, which were subject to a previous report (Hart 2022).

Several specific phases of activity are indicated and the periods represented are listed below. The estimate of the numbers of vessels may give an indication of the relative different degrees of activity that produced these assemblages, with regards to the amount or length of human presence and whether this site was nearer the centre of the activity, or perhaps on the periphery of it. It should be noted however that the number of vessels given is a maximum estimate, as at this stage no lengthy search for conjoins or any likely same-vessel associations has been conducted on the material from those contexts which may derive from the same feature.

Ceramic presence	*Main focus*	
Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age	1550 to 1150 BC	1/2 vessels
?Earliest/to Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/900 to 600/50 BC	1 vessel
Earliest Iron Age	1000/900 to 600/500 BC	2 vessels
Earliest/Mid to Late Iron Age	1000 to 600/200 to 50 BC	14/16 vessels
Earliest to/?Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/200 to 50 BC	5 vessels
Medieval	1275 to 1375 AD	1 vessel

In addition, some less diagnostic material was also present:

Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	1550 to 600 BC	1 vessel
Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/900 to 50 BC	8 vessels

Fabrics and sources

The majority of the Prehistoric pottery was in flint tempered fabrics. There was also a small quantity of mixed flint and grog tempered fabrics and, notably, some sandy and glauconitic sandy wares. The

flint tempered vessels are likely to have been made relatively locally, as could the non-glauconitic sandy wares, though whether sandy soils suitable for potting occur in the vicinity is currently unknown. Glauconitic sandy fabrics derive from areas of Greensand geology, the most local sources of which occur in the part of the Holmesdale valley that leads approximately from Folkestone to Maidstone. The 1 very small sherd of this ware nevertheless represents the appearance of a traded vessel, which outside of the Greensand zone is more common in assemblages of Mid to Late Iron Age date after 200/150 BC and would be a notable very rare occurrence if earlier.

The 1 Historic period sherd present was a sandy ware made at Canterbury.

Later Prehistoric, 1550 to 50 BC

The majority of the material lacks specific diagnostic traits, with the dating often having to be based upon the type and characteristics of the fabrics, the vessel sizes and surface finishes. A couple of sherds of potential Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age date, 1550 to 1150 BC, were the earliest wares represented, though these were recovered from a presumed subsoil deposit. The 4 rims present, all but 1 small sized, were of forms that could occur variously between the Late Bronze Age or (mostly) the Earliest Iron Age and the Mid to Late Iron Age, between either 1150 or 1000/900 and 50 BC.

The main focus of the site assemblage, in quantity and with regards to the features present, lays within the Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age, between 1000/900 and likely 75 BC. The majority of the material could date anywhere, or to several periods, within that range. A small quantity of sherds are more likely to result from activity during either the Earliest or the Mid to Late Iron Age. The evidence for the latter is based on the appearance of a small quantity of sandy wares, which could occur earlier but would be more common after 250/200 and particularly 150 BC locally. No forms of specific Mid to Late Iron Age date are present however and the general character of some of the flint tempered material (usually the body sherds), which were dominant, leads towards a slight preference for an Earliest Iron Age date (1000/900 to 600 BC) in some cases.

Only 1 (small) sherd from (14) [15], a rim decorated with a band of horizontal incised lines, offers specific evidence of activity within the Earliest Iron Age. It could date between 1000/900 and 500 BC, to within the early part of the subsequent Early to Mid Iron Age. The assemblage did not, however, contain any certain evidence of activity within the Early to Mid Iron Age, particularly from 550 to 350 BC. Only 1 sherd was more akin to some of the fabrics that occur more specifically during that time, but the lack of any supporting evidence suggests it is less likely to date so.

Unfortunately, most contexts do not contain enough specifically diagnostic pottery to be certain of their particular date, though any stratigraphic relationships or alignments may allow some potential associations to be made with the small quantity of more specifically dateable pieces. The most important information that this assemblage might provide focusses on whether the glauconitic sandy sherd from context (46) [47] is an instance of a traded vessel in this ware type appearing in an Earliest Iron Age context. Though the distances between the potential sources and the findspot are not great, evidence for the occurrence of this ware in East Kent outside of the Greensand zone prior to the Mid to Late Iron Age is very rare. On this basis alone, the sherd is currently considered more likely to date to the Mid to Late Iron Age, as would the other sandy wares recovered from (58) [61].

It is notable, however, that there is a slight preference for the majority of the flint tempered sherds from (58) [61] to be Earliest Iron Age on their own merits and that feature [47] which contained the glauconitic sherd, though isolated, is on a superficial alignment with (14) [15] that produced the Earliest Iron Age rim. That may be a coincidence.

Given that the sandy wares derived from isolated features, they cannot be certainly associated with other context-based groups of pottery on this site and a confirmed specific date may remain illusive. Even if radiocarbon dating was an option for these contexts, it is considered that the information that would be gained could not really justify the expense at this time.

1.2. Period-based review

The material listed as being contemporary or residual within its context typically has the *potential* to be so, based solely upon a consideration of the number, size and condition of sherds present and particularly whether the material is fresh, slightly abraded or significantly worn. The nature of the contexts and their stratigraphic relationships are unknown and unconsidered at this stage. Also, only a brief (and no lengthy) search for conjoins within or between contexts was conducted at this time. The wares described as flint tempered all showed the addition of grits of crushed burnt flint.

1.2.1. Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age, 1550 to 1150 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(02) Strip.	2	1/2
Total		**2**	**1/2**

Context (02) produced 2 medium sized thick-walled body sherds with a fairly heavy coarse flint temper, that is more typical of material from this period.

1.2.2. Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 1550 to 600 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(14) **[15]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This comprised a small sized thick-walled flint tempered sherd that was rounded and heavily worn, recovered from a context that also produced fresher material of potential Earliest Iron Age date (see 1.2.4. further below).

1.2.3. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age/?Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600/50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(02) Strip.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This was a medium sized reasonably thick-walled sherd, who's fairly profuse mostly fine flint temper (with a notable organic element) and partial loss of its exterior buff coloured surface skin leads to a slight preference for an Earliest Iron Age date within a broader range.

1.2.4. Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600/500 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Unclear	(14) **[15]**.	3	2
Total		**3**	**2**

Two small flint tempered sherds conjoined to a presumably flat-topped medium-walled rim from a closed form vessel, that showed a band of 5 horizontal incised (perhaps combed) lines immediately below on the exterior. It would likely date between 1000/900 and 500 BC (into the early part of the Early to Mid Iron Age; see Couldrey 2007) and could be solely Earliest Iron Age, when such decoration is common, though it usually occurs further below the rim top, more typically at or above the shoulder. The rim was fresh, but small and the other potentially related sherd from this context was only a small fragment of a body sherd.

1.2.5. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/900 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(42) **[43]**, (48) **[49]**, (52) **[55]**.	4	4
Unclear	(25) **[26]**, (34) **[35]**, (50) **[51]**.	6	4
Total		**10**	**8**

This material, of limited size and quantity, comprised flint tempered body sherds that could date widely. The temper and oxidised surfaces of 1 medium sized thick-walled body sherd from (52) [55] would be more typical of the Early to Mid Iron Age, though as no other material that is certainly of this date was present in the site assemblage it is considered less likely to date so.

1.2.6. Earliest/Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000 to 600/200 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Contemporary	(58) **[61]**, (62) **[63]**.	23	13/15
Residual	(06) **[07]**.	1	1
Total		**24**	**14/16**

This material was not specifically diagnostic, but was preferably either Earliest Iron Age (1000/900 to 600 BC) or Mid to Late Iron Age (200 to 50 BC) within that broader range.

Notably, context (58) of [61] contained 22 small to large sized sherds from 12/14 vessels, that were mostly flint tempered, including 2 rims. One short upright rim derived from a closed-form vessel that could date from the Late Bronze Age to at least the Middle Iron Age, with a Mid to Late Iron Age date also possible. The fairly heavy coarse temper would be more common at the Earliest and Mid to Late Iron Age ends of the range, while 1 small thin-walled simple upright rim, finely but not profusely tempered, could occur throughout. None of the many thick-walled coarseware body sherds showed neatly smoothed surfaces, characteristics that are more common at the Earliest rather than the Mid to Late end of their potential ranges. One large oxidised thick coarse body sherd from a large diameter vessel showed a subtle finger-fluted wiping, which would be more typical in the Earliest rather than the Early to Mid Iron Age. Notably, 5 small plain body sherds in sandy fabrics were also present. Outside of the areas where sandy soils were naturally available for pottery-making, such fabrics occur most commonly in assemblages after 250/200 BC and they are much rarer before this, though instances in East Kent are known, including an example in an Earliest Iron Age assemblage (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Locally, these non-glauconitic sandy wares would typically occur more commonly in assemblages of Mid to Late Iron Age date after 200/150 BC, though sandy soils might be available for pottery-making in the immediate vicinity (BGS 2022) and an earlier date cannot be discounted on current evidence.

It is worth noting here that a small sherd of glauconitic sandy ware was recovered from (46) [47]. This would be a very rare and notable occurrence in an Earliest Iron Age assemblage outside of its area of manufacture (in the Greensand zone) and, though such a date is possible, a Mid to Late Iron Age date is more likely (see section 1.2.7. below). If (46) [47] and (58) [61] are considered likely to derive from the same phase of activity, then a Mid to Late Iron Age date must also be preferred for the latter.

1.2.7. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age/?Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/200 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Contemporary	(46) **[47]**.	5	5
Total		**5**	**5**

This material was small sized, mostly flint tempered and could date broadly, including 1 simple thin-walled rim (possibly from a closed form vessel), which would more commonly be Earliest to Middle Iron Age and less typically Mid to Late Iron Age. Notable however is 1 small body sherd of glauconitic sandy ware. Outside of the production areas of this ware type in areas of Greensand geology (most locally, in the Folkestone area), this fabric appears most commonly after 250 BC and particularly after 200/150 BC elsewhere in East Kent (Macpherson-Grant *pers*. *comm*.; Macpherson-Grant and Hart forthcoming), though a very rare earlier occurrence of a traded vessel is known from an Earliest Iron Age assemblage at Highstead (Couldrey 2007).

A similar contradiction between the dating preferences for the flint tempered and sandy fabrics occurred in (58) [61] (see section 1.2.6. above). If (46) is not Mid to Late Iron Age, then the presence of the glauconitic sandy ware is a notably important very rare occurrence.

1.2.8. Medieval, 1275 to 1375 AD

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(04) **[05]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This comprised a small base sherd in a Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware fabric.

2. An assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation

2.1. Relative academic value

The evaluation and excavation have produced a total of 85 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 8106 g. The material mostly comprises small to medium sized body sherds, with only 5 rims (4 small, 1 large, described in the catalogues; see the Appendices of the pottery reports) and no full or significant part-profiles present. Very few elements of the assemblage are specifically dateable on their own merits, 1 of the rims being more typically of 1000/900 to 500 BC date on account of its decoration. Given the low quantity, lack of significant profiles or untypical decoration and mostly the unspecifically diagnostic nature of the assemblage, it is considered that this material has little to contribute to the studies of pottery from Kent on its own merits. The only real point of interest would be if it could be proved that the sandy ware sherds from (58) [61] and particularly the glauconitic sandy ware from (46) [47] were appearing in an assemblage of Earliest Iron Age date. As was noted in the section 1.1. Summary, even if radiocarbon dating was an option for these contexts, it is considered that the information that would be gained could not really justify the expense at this time.

2.2. Recommendations

Given the factors noted in section 2.1., it is suggested that no further work or further stage of reporting on the pottery is necessary at this time. All form and decorative elements have been noted in the current catalogues compiled for the evaluation and excavation material, along with notable aspects of manufacturing (see the Appendices of these reports). Any final site report, published summary and HER entry, could note the issues surrounding the sandy and glauconitic sandy ware sherds (see the section 1.1. Summary), as this would allow any researchers to be aware of the presence of this material.

3. Bibliography

BGS 2022. *Geology of Britain viewer*. British Geological Survey. https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Couldrey P. 2007. The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, in Bennett P., Couldrey P. and Macpherson-Grant N. *Highstead Near Chislet, Kent. Excavations 1975-1977*. The Archaeology of Canterbury New Series Volume IV, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd., 101-175.

Hart P.C. 2022. *A catalogue and summary of the pottery and burnt flint 'potboilers' recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent*. Report for the Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company.

Macpherson-Grant N. 1994. The Pottery, in Perkins D.R.J., Macpherson-Grant N. and Healey E. Monkton Court Farm Evaluation, 1992. *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXIV, Kent Archaeological Society, 248-288.

Macpherson-Grant N. and Hart P.C. forthcoming. *Traits and Dates*. Trust for Thanet Archaeology.

6.3 **Lithics Assessment**

Lithic finds from archaeological work at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent:

A catalogue and summary of the worked lithics, plus a catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers', recovered during the excavation

and

an assessment of the worked lithics from the evaluation and excavation

Site Codes: TTS-EV-21 and TTS-EX-22

Analyst: Paul Hart

Last updated: 06.06.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. The lithics from the excavation

1.1. Summary

A total of 17 worked lithics, all flint, weighing a total of 235 g, were presented and catalogued. All dates given throughout are *circa*. Several phases of activity are indicated and the periods represented are listed below, along with an estimate of the numbers of lithics that may reliably be present. No pieces are formal types that are specifically diagnostic of these periods on their own merits; a variety of traits, alongside the likelihood of certain periods being represented locally, have been considered. Some of the blades present could technically pre-date the Neolithic, though no material of certain Mesolithic date was noted.

Lithic presence	*Main focus*	
Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period	4000 to 2000 BC	2 flints
Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	1550 to 600 BC	1 flint
Earliest Iron Age	1000/900 to 600 BC	4/5 flints

In addition, some less specifically diagnostic material was also recovered.

Mesolithic to Beaker Period	9200 to 1750 BC	1 flint
Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	2100 to 600 BC	1 flint

Geology and patination

Maps of the British Geological Survey indicate that the underlying geology in the immediate area comprises deposits of sands/silts/clays and chalk (BGS 2022). The precise nature of the geology that underlay the individual features is unknown and unconsidered at this time. Typically, soils that lay directly above chalk and contain elements of such usually promote the production of blue and white patinas that are frequently helpful in the attempt to identify whether flintwork is more likely to be contemporary or residual within its context. Flintwork that is fresh and contemporary, or effectively so, will in general be unpatinated or only lightly patinated (though some exceptions are known). Flintwork that shows the development of strong patinas are more likely to be residual (to varying degrees, though exceptions are again known). Variations in or the truncation of patinated areas can show that a piece has been subsequently damaged or re-used, while the strength of the original patina can offer a guide to the relative length of time that a piece had been exposed post-discard and prior to any re-use. Deposits of chalk-free sands/silts/clays or 'brickearth' hinder the formation of such patinas however and, importantly, the attempt to ascertain contemporaneity and episodes of re-use.

Most of the flintwork is either unpatinated, or appears so, or shows a subtle yellowy sheen patina. The latter is commonly encountered in various different types of geologies in Kent and its presence can be difficult to detect with certainty, even when a piece has been subsequently chipped. It has been seen to occur on flintwork that is, or is effectively, context-contemporary, so its presence is of little relevance, other than highlighting one or possibly two episodes of re-use. Only one example of a chalk-soil type patina was present, this an early stage type on an Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age piece recovered from (30) [31]. Its relationship to its context is unclear. Only one context has a reasonable potential to contain some flintwork that could be contemporary (see further below),

Raw materials

Dominant was flint with buff coloured cortexes of various types. There was also a small quantity of Bullhead Bed flint. All examples present were akin to the materials and their relative frequencies that are commonly encountered in chalk-soil and brickearth geologies in East Kent and there is no evidence that any has, or needs to have, been imported any significant distance. Amongst the burnt flint 'potboiler' assemblage were a couple of examples of cortexes from water-rolled cobbles, such material being particularly suited for this purpose.

Associations

The majority of the flintwork are residual and only one group of flints from a single context has a reasonable potential to be contemporary. That is, if the pottery which is also present in (58) [61] dates more towards the Earliest Iron Age rather than the Mid to Late Iron Age end of its potential range.

Other notable elements

Aside from the potential context-contemporary flintwork noted above, notable are 2 blades recovered as residual pieces from (25) [26] and (30) [31]. This is of interest because it suggests a presence in the vicinity that likely dates no later than the Earlier Beaker Period, with this material having some potential to be related to an Earlier Neolithic presence that has already been established close by (see Hart 2022).

1.2. Period-based review

The contexts which contain evidence of period-diagnostic lithics are listed below, along with an estimate of the number of lithics present. The material listed as contemporary or residual typically has an important *potential* to be so, though this should always be considered in light of the nature of the context, the vertical distribution of the material and any other associated finds. This is important because the nature of the underlying geology can make the certain identification of residual flintwork a significant issue for this site.

1.2.1. Mesolithic to Beaker Period, 9200 to 1750 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Re-used elements	(52) **[55]**.	1
Total		**1**

This piece was notable but too ambiguous to be specifically useful. It comprised a small flake that could be an intentionally struck blade and which would date within the given range if so. It showed retouch on all margins, some or perhaps all of this potentially being re-use. Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric (in this case, likely between the Middle Bronze Age and the Earliest Iron Age), but does occur earlier and some of the retouch was quite neat. The possibility that some or all of the retouch could be re-use broadens the options on the dating and adds a significant factor of ambiguity.

1.2.2. Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period, 4000 to 2000 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Residual elements	(25) **[26]**, (30) **[31]**.	2
Total		**2**

These are decent looking blades that show evidence of the employment of skilled flintknapping techniques, but are otherwise not specifically diagnostic, other than that they are considered at present less likely to be Mesolithic. Both have the potential to be Earlier Neolithic, particularly noting the precedence for activity of this date nearby (see Hart 2022), though later dates are also possible.

1.2.3. Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 2100 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Element's relationship unclear	(30) **[31]**.	1
Total		**1**

This broadly dated piece comprised a simply/expediently worked scraper which showed an early stage chalk-soil type patina.

1.2.4. Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 1550 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Residual elements	(02) Strip.	1
Total		**1**

Flintwork of this Later Prehistoric phase is typically characterised by expediency and comparatively basic (sometimes poor) knapping techniques, with raw materials gathered locally where easily accessible and with little regard for quality.

It should be recognised that such flintwork could have resulted from any of at least 4 different periods, with the practice of using flint for making tools such as scrapers and knives continuing to at least the end of the Early to Mid Iron Age. On current evidence locally however, it is considered that, hammerstones aside, other more formal retouched or well-worked styles of tools, such as the scraper included here, may be largely absent by that time (see Hart 2021). The dating is necessarily broad, for on a flintwork basis it is difficult to reliably differentiate between the different periods across which the industry evolved. Any attempts at such would be most reliable when focussed on a reasonable sized assemblage that is certainly contemporary.

1.2.5. Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Contemporary groups	(58) **[61]**.	4/5
Total		**4/5**

These small, irregular, squat or broken pieces were all potentially used for tools and are more likely to be Later Prehistoric, the retouched element less likely to date after the Earliest Iron Age on current local trends. Most if not all could potentially comprise a related group. The pottery present is only broadly dateable between the Earliest and the Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/900 to 50 BC, with a few elements possibly indicative of the Earliest Iron Age. If the pottery is Earliest Iron Age then the flintwork would have a reasonable potential to be contemporary with this material and the context. It should be noted however that the nature of the underlying geology means that are significant problems in identifying residual material, which would be expected to be present to a lesser or greater degree.

2. An assessment of the worked lithics from the evaluation and excavation

2.1. Relative academic value

No worked lithics were recovered from the evaluation phase of work at this site, while 17 worked flints were retrieved during the excavation phase (covered in this report). Overall, this is a very low quantity assemblage, in which none of the lithics are of formal diagnostic types or are specifically dateable on their own merits. There was only one context that had a reasonable potential for its flintwork to be contemporary with the pottery also present, but this pottery is not reliably specifically dateable on its own merits. As such, this assemblage has little to contribute to the study of lithic material from Kent.

2.2. Recommendations

Given the factors noted in 2.1., it is suggested that no further work need be conducted on this assemblage at this time. Any final report, published summary and HER entry could include a note of the periods of activity which is evidenced by the flintwork, recording those periods that are associated with contemporary features and those represented solely by residual material, giving the approximate quantities present. This will allow any researchers to follow-up their enquires by investigating the site's grey literature reports, if required.

3. Bibliography

BGS 2022. *Geology of Britain viewer*. British Geological Survey. https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Hart P.C. 2021. *Some Notes About Prehistoric Flintwork*. Trust for Thanet Archaeology.

Hart P.C. 2022. *Lithics from the archaeological work at Summerfield Nurseries, Staple, Kent: A catalogue and summary of the lithics recovered during the excavation and an assessment of the lithics from the evaluation and excavation*. Report for the Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company.

7 Environmental potential

7.1.1 This report summarises the findings arising from macrobotanical and charcoal assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) and York Archaeology in connection with the proposed development of the land at The Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent (site code: TTS-EX-22). A four bulk samples have been extracted and processed. The following report assesses the potential of the charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal to inform on the arable economy, fuel use and selection and the local environment.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 The extraction of charred and plant remains is carried out by flotation. The three bulk samples were volumetrically measured by water displacement prior to processing. Flotation is a rapid and efficient technique that uses a tank, water pressure and sieve mesh to separate the light and heavy material within the sample and remove all sediment below a certain size (generally <1mm). The light material floats to the top of the tank and is captured as the 'flot'; the heavier material sinks to the bottom of the tank and is captured as the 'residue'.

7.2.2 The flots were scanned, in their entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 1). Provisional identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

7.2.3 Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler, 2000; Hather, 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Schoch *et al*, 2004; Hather, 2000; Schweingruber, 1990). Ten fragments were submitted for identification from sample containing sufficient charcoal and the results recorded in Table 1. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

7.3 Results of the assessment

7.3.1 The flots contained frequent charcoal fragments along with small quantities of burnt bone. Land snail shell, including burrowing molluscs (*Ceciloides*), were identified within three flots along with modern roots that were identified in each flot. Pit [61] contained pot, burnt flint and burnt clay while pit [25] and ditch [5] contained burnt flint.

QUEST
Flot / Residue Assessment

Site Name: Three Tuns Staple
Site Code TTS-EX-22

							Charred					Waterlogged		Mollusca		Bone						
Site code	Sample No.	Context No.	Volume processed (l)	Fraction (e.g. flot, residue, >300µm)	Flot weight (gm)	Description of matrix (%)	Charcoal (>4mm)	Charcoal (2-4mm)	Charcoal (<2mm)	Seeds	Chaff	Wood	Seeds	Whole	Fragments	Large	Small	Fragments	Insects	Magnetic particles	Artefacts	
TTS-EX-22	<1>	6, [5]	10	res				1	1												1	
TTS-EX-22	<1>	6, [5]		flot	2g			1	3	1				1	1							
TTS-EX-22	<2>	24, [25]	5	res				1	3												1	calcinied flint
TTS-EX-22	<2>	24, [25]		flot	<1g			1	4					1	1							
TTS-EX-22	<3>	46, [47]	10	res				1	2													
TTS-EX-22	<3>	46, [47]		flot			1	4	5												1	calcinied flint
TTS-EX-22	<3>	54, [55]	10	res				1	2													
TTS-EX-22	<3>	54, [55]		flot	4g			3	5													
TTS-EX-22	<4>	58, [61]	10	res				1	4												3	pottery, burnt clay and flint
TTS-EX-22	<4>	58, [61]		flot	5g		2	5	5	1					1							

Key: 0 = Estimated Minimum Number of Specimens (MNS) = 0; 1 = 1 to 25; 2 = 26 to 50; 3 = 51 to 75; 4 = 76 to 100; 5 = 101+

Table: tabulated results

7.3.2 Charred Plant Macrofossils

Charred plant macrofossils were identified in two flots from the site with preservation ranging from poor to good. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses were identified in two of the sampled deposits along with indeterminate cereal grains. Pit [61] contained a rye (*Secale cereale*) and an oat (*Avena* sp.) caryopsis. Weed seeds were rare within the assemblage consisting of a single dwarf spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*) seed in ditch [5].

7.3.3 Charcoal

Charcoal was present in sufficient quantities to be submitted for assessment from pits [55] and [61]. Preservation was moderate. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) were present in both the fills, hazel was dominant in both. Pit [61] also contained charcoal of the indeterminate knotwood.

7.4 **Significance**

Charred Plant Macrofossils

7.4.1 The small quantity of charred plant macrofossils from the site likely indicate that crop processing was taking place within the vicinity potentially small-scale on a day-to-day basis. Wheat appears to have been the predominant crop with rye appearing as other cultivar or as contaminants of the main wheat crop. Dwarf shrub is a common arable weed associated with light base-rich soils on which the crops were likely cultivated. A contemporary pure wheat assemblage was identified to the west at Ramsgate (Adams 2017) indicating similar cultivation practices in Iron Age Kent.

Charcoal

7.4.2 The small quantity of charcoal extracted from the samples indicates that small-scale burning activities were taking place at the site. The taxa indicate that fuelwood was harvested from shrubby woodland with hazel exploited for both fuel and food purposes. The wood of hazel and oak all make excellent fuelwood and were likely selected for their burning properties (Taylor 1981). Hazel and Oak charcoal was similarly identified at Summerfield Nurseries.

7.5 **Recommendations**

7.5.1 The charred plant macrofossils and charcoal have been fully identified and quantified and have no potential for further work. The cereal caryopses and charcoal have the potential to be submitted for radiocarbon dating if required.

8 Archaeological Narrative

8.1 **Period Specific Review**

8.1.1 Archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil with relatively high modern truncation having occurred. The main periods of activity are mid to late Bronze Age to Mid to Late Iron Age, Hi-Medieval and modern. One single feature was dated to the Late Medieval period. Earliest Bronze Age activity is represented by residual pottery.

8.1.2 Pottery assessment (Appendix 1) distinguished four sub phases of Iron Age phase and two sub phases of Bronze Age phase. All of the Bronze Age pottery was residual. The Iron Age sub-phases covers the whole extent of Iron Age period except for the Earliest Iron Age sub-phase which pottery was retrieved from section of cut [15] in ditch D2. Other sections in this ditch produced pottery that was dated to different sub phases of Iron Age. Considering that all of the Iron Age sub phases have initial date of Earliest Iron Age it was concluded that pottery assemblage represents period of Earliest Iron Age rather than the whole Iron Age period.

8.1.3 The following phases of activity have been identified:

- Mesolithic to Beaker, 9200 to 1750 BC (residual, re-used flintwork)
- Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period, 4000 to 2000 BC (residual flintwork)
- Mid to late Bronze Age, 1550 to 900 (residual pottery)
- Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600 BC (features)
- Late Medieval, 1275 to 1375 AD (feature)
- Post medieval, 18th C and later (features)
- Undated (features)

8.1.4 Features investigated during the evaluation phase are included within phasing. These consist of features exposed in trench two: 203, 214, 205, 211, 207, and 209. Further in text, the numbers relevant to evaluation phase will have prefix of letter E for e.g. [E203].

8.2 **Earliest Iron Age (1000/900-600 BC)**

8.2.1 The Early Iron Age features were located within northern half of the site and consist of two parallel ditches D1 and D2 and ten discrete features comprising pits 25, 35, 43, 47, 49, 55, 61, E209, and post holes 63 and 65. There are no physical relations between the features except for two post holes [63] and [65] that were cut into backfill of pit [61] and pit [E209] that was cut by undated pit [E207].

8.2.2 Four pits [E207], [E209], [61], [47] and post hole [49] contained pot boilers. The latter two features also contained lumps of burnt clay. The pot boilers in this case are burnt flint that occurred in small quantities together with burnt earthen remains and might be accidental rather than deliberate heating up of the stone however the presence of the white (well fired) burnt flint indicate the latter. Material was used for boiling water or used in pottery production process or both.

8.2.3 The current layout of the features indicates that if there were structures these were based on a single vertical post that was supporting other posts. Post pit [49] could be a central post of the simple hut with storage pit [47] located 1.65 metres to the west from pit [49]. Any occupation deposits that are related to hypothetic structures would be destroyed by later agricultural activity including modern ploughing.

8.2.4 Over a half of recovered pottery of this period was retrieved from single pit [61] that also produced worked flint dated to this phase and re deposited remains of an unspecified kiln. Lack of kiln waste material that would be associated with different types of kiln and wheat caryopses retrieved from bulk samples suggests that the remains are derived from crop dryer or bread baking oven.

8.2.5 The gathered evidence suggests that the majority of the features are agrarian in nature and represents a field system, however relatively large amount of pottery comprising fragments of 25 vessels, was retrieved from the excavated features. This is indicating settlement occupancy, most likely limited to single dwelling, but it might also indicate the outskirts of the larger settlement comprising a cluster of small farmsteads that would be located nearby. It’s too early to conclude what type of field system pattern the remains represent and further evidence is expected to be found on the fields surrounding PDA.

8.3 **Late Medieval**

8.3.1 This phase was indicated by single post hole [05] containing single sherd of pottery.

8.4 **18th C barn remains and modern**

8.4.1 This phase consists of remains of demolished 18th century barn and later modern features. The features that are related to the barn are shown in figure 2 as blue features and these overlay the building that is shown on the map. The features outside of the barn extent are 19th and 20th C. and comprise trench, post holes and rubbish pits.

8.4.2 The barn and majority of modern features are located within southern half of the site.

8.5 **Undated**

8.5.1 Although interpretations and discussion has been offered regarding dateable features above, it is acknowledged that undated features also need to be considered. The presence of post holes and small pits within an agricultural environment is not at all unexpected.

8.5.2 This phase comprises features: terminus of potential ditch D3; pits: [19, 57], [39], [33], [37], [45], [E207]; and post holes [41] and [E211]. All features are located within northern half of the site except for the pit [39] that is located within south east corner of the site. Among the undated features there were two recorded stratigraphic relations: feature D3 was cutting pit [16, 57]; pit [E207] was cutting EIA pit [E211].

8.5.3 The undated features are located in close proximity to dated EIA features and very likely they are of the same period. Pit [37] and post hole [33] are aligned with EIA ditch D2 while pit [E205] is aligned with EIA ditch D1. Pits [E205] and [37] are evenly spaced 2metres to the west from terminuses of ditch D1 and D2. Elongated pit [37] has the same alignment as ditch D2 and is located on the west side of pit [33].

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Stratigraphic

9.1.1 The excavation at The Three Tuns, Staple has revealed multiple phases of activity on the site, dated by finds to the Earliest Iron Age, Late Medieval, Post Medieval and modern periods. Further stratigraphic analyses are not needed as there were only four stratigraphic relations recorded between the features.

9.2 Statement of Potential

9.2.1 There is no further potential beyond the already completed work. The recommendations regards pottery and flint assemblage are listed in pottery assessment (appendix 2) and flint assessment (appendix 3). Generally both assemblages are small and won't provide any meaningful contribution to the studies of material from Kent. The only point of interest regards pottery assemblage would be if it could be proved that sandy ware sherds from (58)[61] and particularly glauconitic sandy ware from (46)[47] are of Earliest Iron Age date. This dating can be confirmed by processing obtained C14 subsamples.

10 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANALYSIS

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The main achievable research aim was to acquire C14 samples and to answer the question: what is the nature of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age occupation or activity within the site? How the occupation on-site relates to discoveries in broader landscape? Understanding the nature and extend of Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age agrarian remains and how they relate to Bronze Age/ Iron Age remains discovered at Summerfield Nurseries.

10.2 Updated Project Design

10.2.1 In light of the potential of the results of the fieldwork to answer not only the original research aims but other questions rose during the excavation, this section provides revised research aims, and details of the further analyses recommended achieving them.

10.2.2 Revised research aims will be to;

- The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013).

- One of the primary objectives is acquiring pottery and accompanied C14 samples to improve accuracy in pottery dating.

- Answering the question; what is the nature of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age occupation or activity within the site? How the occupation on-site relates to discoveries in broader landscape? Understanding the nature and extend of Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age agrarian remains and how they relate to Bronze Age/ Iron Age remains discovered at Summerfield Nurseries.

- Establishing presence/absence of Neolithic features that may be present but obscured by later Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age activity.

10.2.3 Obtaining C14 subsamples and sending-off for radiocarbon dating. Especially sandy ware sherds from (58)[61] and particularly glauconitic sandy ware from (46)[47] are of Earliest Iron Age date.

10.2.4 Comparing the dating material (pottery and flintwork) with assemblages from Summerfield Nurseries in an attempt to find parallels and similarities. Also the early prehistoric flintwork to be compared with material retrieved from a Neolithic feature at Summerfield Nurseries.

10.2.5 Time and resources to produce a final analysis report has been incorporated into Table 10 below.

10.2.6 The Final Report will aim to place the Site within its local and regional context.

10.3 **Proposed Publication**

10.3.1 The Full Report outlined above will be published in PDF A format for publication with OASIS.

10.3.2 The results of the fieldwork are of local significance. It is therefore proposed that, following the further analyses outlined above, the results of the fieldwork, incorporating data from all stages up to that covered in this report will be prepared and presented as a Final Report. The publication outlined above will be published in PDF format for publication with OASIS.

10.3.3 In addition, following the further analyses outlined above, the results of the fieldwork, incorporating data from all stages up to that covered in this report (and including a summary of evaluation data), will be reported in the form of a SWAT Archaeology monograph, subject to academic peer review.

10.3.4 In discussions with the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, consideration will be given for the production of a single chapter in monograph. For the works at The Three Tuns, the following preliminary chapter structure is proposed;

10.3.5 Chapter (TBC) Title: Excavations at The Three Tuns, Staple, Kent: the development of mid Bronze Age to Late Iron Age agricultural landscape (6,000 words, 3 figs, 4 pls) by Cichy, P & Wilkinson, P.

10.4 **Timetable and Task List**

10.4.1 The following timetable has been prepared outlined the required time to bring the Full Report and publication to completion. This following includes the estimated time required for specialist assessment, and work Staff Structures and Specialists

10.4.2 The post excavation team consists primarily of self-employed specialist staff. The post-excavation project will be directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology. See Table 2 for details.

Name	Position
Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA	Publication Manager
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Pawel Cichy	Project Officer
Kent Osteological Research Analysis	Human Remains Specialist
Archaeological Research Services	Cremation Specialist
Carol White	Animal bone specialist
Chris Butler	Flint Specialist
Lisa Gray	Environmental Specialist
Mike Allen	Archaeobotany
Dr Malcolm Lyne	Ceramic Specialist
Bartek Cichy, Pawel Cichy, Malgorzata Cichy	Archaeological illustrator
Bartek Cichy	Photography/ Photogrammetry
Simon Holmes	Small Finds
Dana Goodburn-Brown	Conservator
Peter Cichy	Palaeomagnetism
Dr David Dungworth	Archaeometallurgist

Dr Steve Willis	Scientific advisor
Dr Malcolm Lyne	Roman pottery kiln specialist

Table 1: Post Excavation project Staff

10.4.3 At the present time, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to establish a definitive time frame for the additional assessment works to be carried out. This is largely due to the possibility of potential isolation of some staff and the limitation placed on the transporting and exchanging of archives.

10.4.4 That said, it is hoped that with the majority of material already distributed a draft Final Analysis Report will be ready within four months of the publication of this Assessment Report by SWAT Archaeology to collate the resulting data and prepare the final documents.

Task No.	Description	Days	Staff
Managment			
1	Project management	3	SWAT Archaeology
Reporting			
2	Phasing and startigraphy	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
3	Background research	1	SWAT Archaeology
4	Reporting	2	SWAT Archaeology
Ceramic Analysis			
5	Analysis of final site data	1	SWAT Archaeology
6	Selection of material or illustration and catalogue	1	SWAT Archaeology
7	Report writing and comparison to other sites	1	SWAT Archaeology
8	Illustration (up to 5 sherds)	1-2	SWAT Archaeology
Lithic Analysis			
9	Illustration and integration	2	SWAT Archaeology
Environmental Assessment and Analysis			
10	Obtaining radiocarbon dates	TBC	Quest
Analysis Report			
11	Introduction and background	1	SWAT Archaeology
12	Collation and integration of report	1	SWAT Archaeology
13	Integrate specialist contributions	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
14	Discussion	1	SWAT Archaeology
15	Illustrations	2	SWAT Archaeology
16	Bibliography/ footnotes	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
17	Edit draft report	2	SWAT Archaeology
18	Production	1	SWAT Archaeology
19	Report QA	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
20	Corrections	1	SWAT Archaeology
Publication			
21	Preparation of text	2	SWAT Archaeology
22	Preparation of illustrations	1	SWAT Archaeology
23	Submission/liaison with journal editor	1	SWAT Archaeology
24	Journal charges	1-5/ £75 per page	SWAT Archaeology
Archive			

25	Archive preparation	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
26	Archive deposition	0.5	SWAT Archaeology

Table 2: Project timetable

10.4.5 It is therefore proposed that following final approval of this post-excavation assessment report, a final Full Report and publication draft will be submitted to KCC Heritage and Conservation within 12 months following completion of on-site fieldwork. Following approval of the final Report and publication draft, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until suitable provision is made by Kent County Council for deposition in a suitable archive facility.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 General

11.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

11.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics.

12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

12.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Palace Construction Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Senior archaeological officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

12.1.2 Ellisia Burrows supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Malgotrzata Cichy, Pawel Cichy and Bartek Cichy. The pottery analysis was undertaken by Paul Hart. The Assessment report was prepared by Pawel Cichy and Bartek Cichy.

12.1.3 On behalf of the client the project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

13 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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CgMs 2014, *Land west of Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill, Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished report

Department of the Environment, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning (PPS 5) HMSO.

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

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

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

SWAT Archaeology 2022, *Archaeological evaluation of land AT THE THREE TUNS, THE STREET, STAPLE, KENT CT3 1LN*

SWAT Archaeology 2022, *Specification for a programme of archaeological strip map and sample of land AT THE THREE TUNS, THE STREET, STAPLE, KENT CT3 1LN*

Appendix 1 – HER Form

Site Name: TTS-EX-22	
Site Address: the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN	
Summary: The archaeological excavations at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN were undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Kent County Council following archaeological evaluations undertaken in January 2022. Archaeological excavations have confirmed the presence of agrarian activity on the site from the Middle to Late Bronze Age to the Mid to Late Iron Age. The exposed remains comprised three linear ditches with several discrete features of which one contained potential remains of demolished kiln, however no evidence for in-situ burning was found during the investigation. The site presents good evidence for early management of the landscape. It is suggested that the primary focus of the site would have been associated with field tillage with potential industrial activity in the immediate surrounding area. The absence of an occupation site (or sites) is in 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.	
District/Unitary: Dover District Council	**Parish:** Staple
Period(s): Prehistory, Mid to Late Bronze Age to Mid to Late Iron Age, High Medieval, Late Medieval and Modern	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 626733 156696 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) ~~Evaluation:WatchingBriefField Walking~~ ~~Documentary studyBuildingrecordingEarthwork survey~~ Excavation: ~~Geophysical SurveyField Survey~~ ~~Geoarchaeological investigation~~	
Date of Recording: March 2022	
Unit undertaking recording: SWAT Archaeology	
Geology: bedrock geology of Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt and Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded.	
Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY **Archaeological Excavations at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN**	
Summary: Archaeological excavations have confirmed the presence of agrarian activity on the site from the Middle to Late Bronze Age to the Mid to Late Iron Age. The exposed remains comprised three linear ditches with several discrete features of which one contained potential remains of demolished kiln, however no evidence for in-situ burning was found during the investigation. The site presents good evidence for early management of the landscape. It is suggested that the primary focus of the site would have been associated with field tillage with potential industrial activity in the immediate surrounding area.	

The absence of an occupation site (or sites) is in 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.	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr Paul Wilkinson	**Date:**15th August 2022

Plates

Plate 1: Showing the site, viewing from the east with two-metre scale.

Plate 2: Half-sectioned feature [05]. Looking east with point three scale bar.

Plate 3: Showing section through linear [07]. Looking west with one-metre scale.

Plate 4: Showing excavated terminus of linear [09]. Looking west with one-metre scale.

Plate 5: Showing section through linear [13]. Looking east with one-metre scale.

Plate 6: Showing half-sectioned Pit [25]. Looking north-east with point four scale bar.

Plate 7: Showing half-sectioned Feature [49]. Looking west with point four scale bar.

Plate 8: Showing half-sectioned Pit [61]. Looking north with one-metre scale.

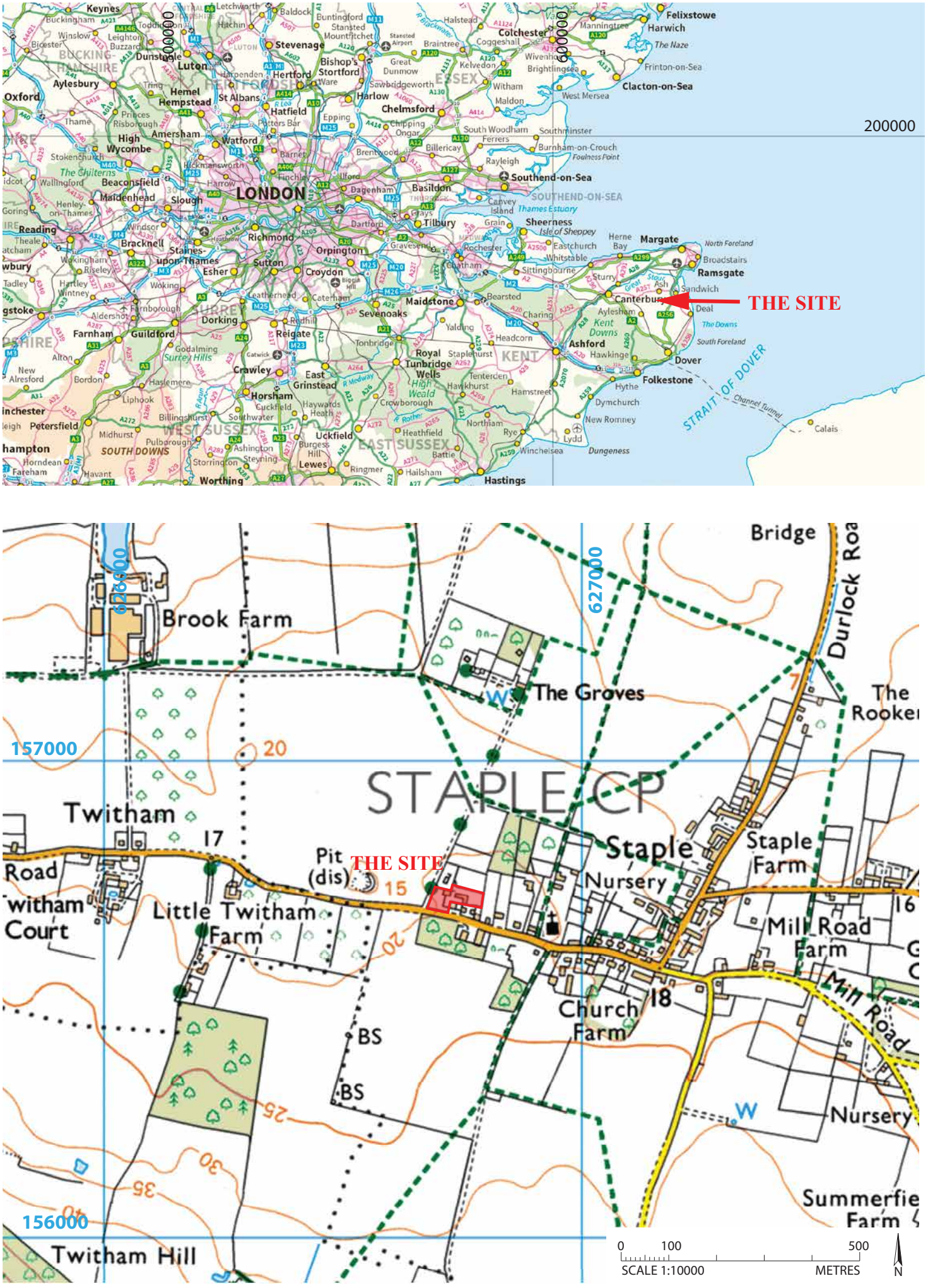
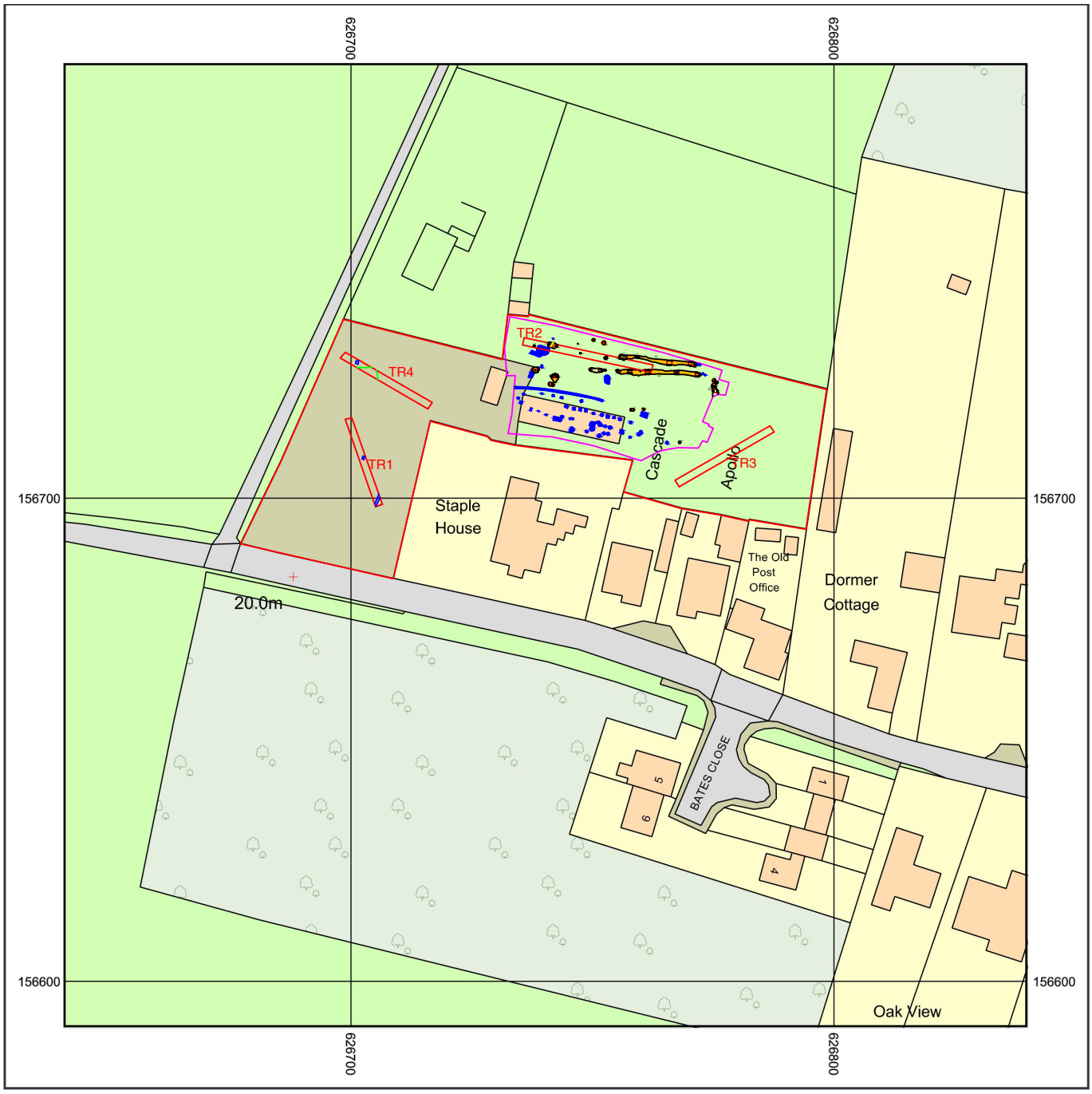


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



Metres
0 5 10 20 30 40 50

Scale: 1: 1250

Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map. Showing evaluation and SMS phases of archaeological investigation

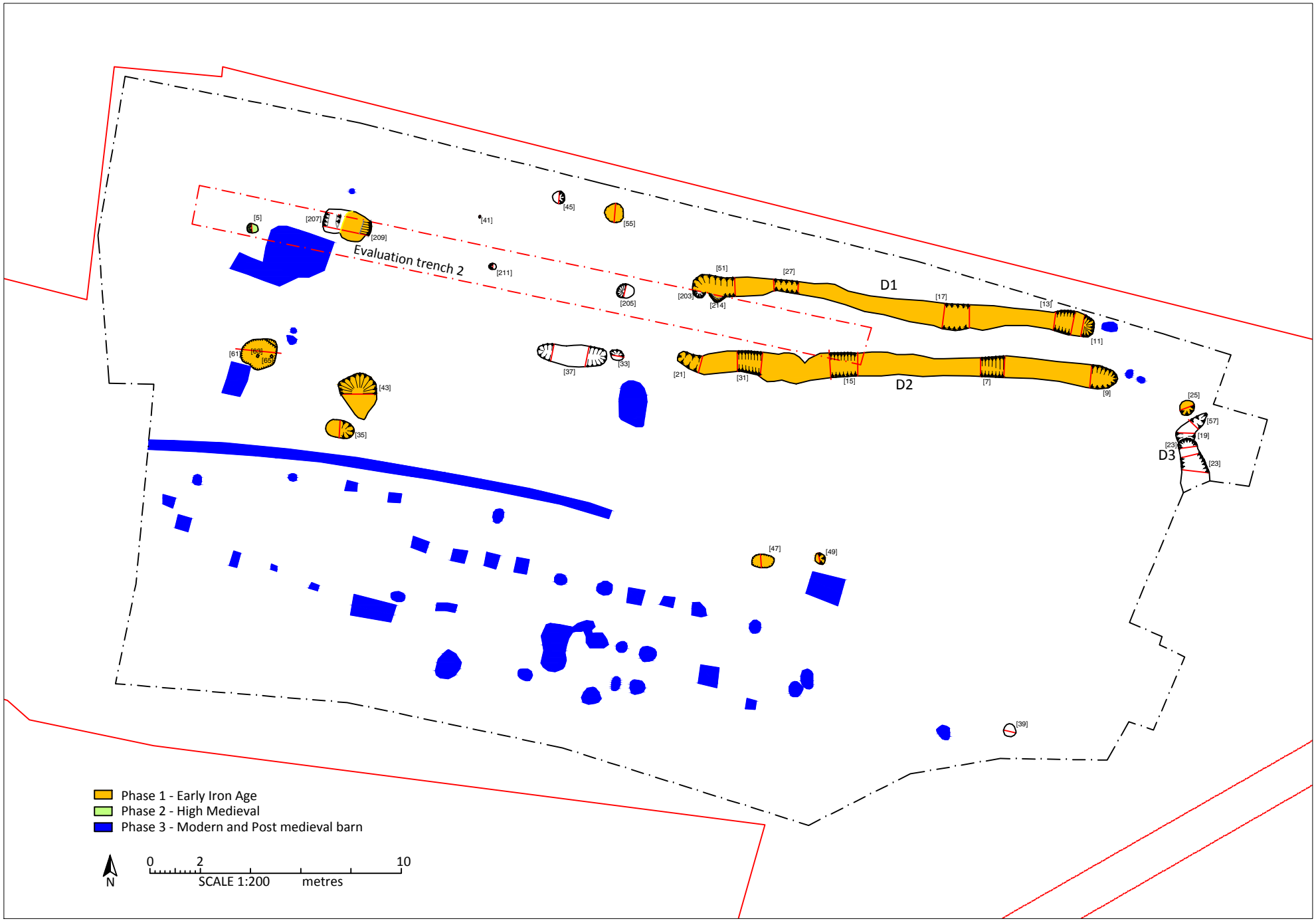


Figure 3: Phased plan

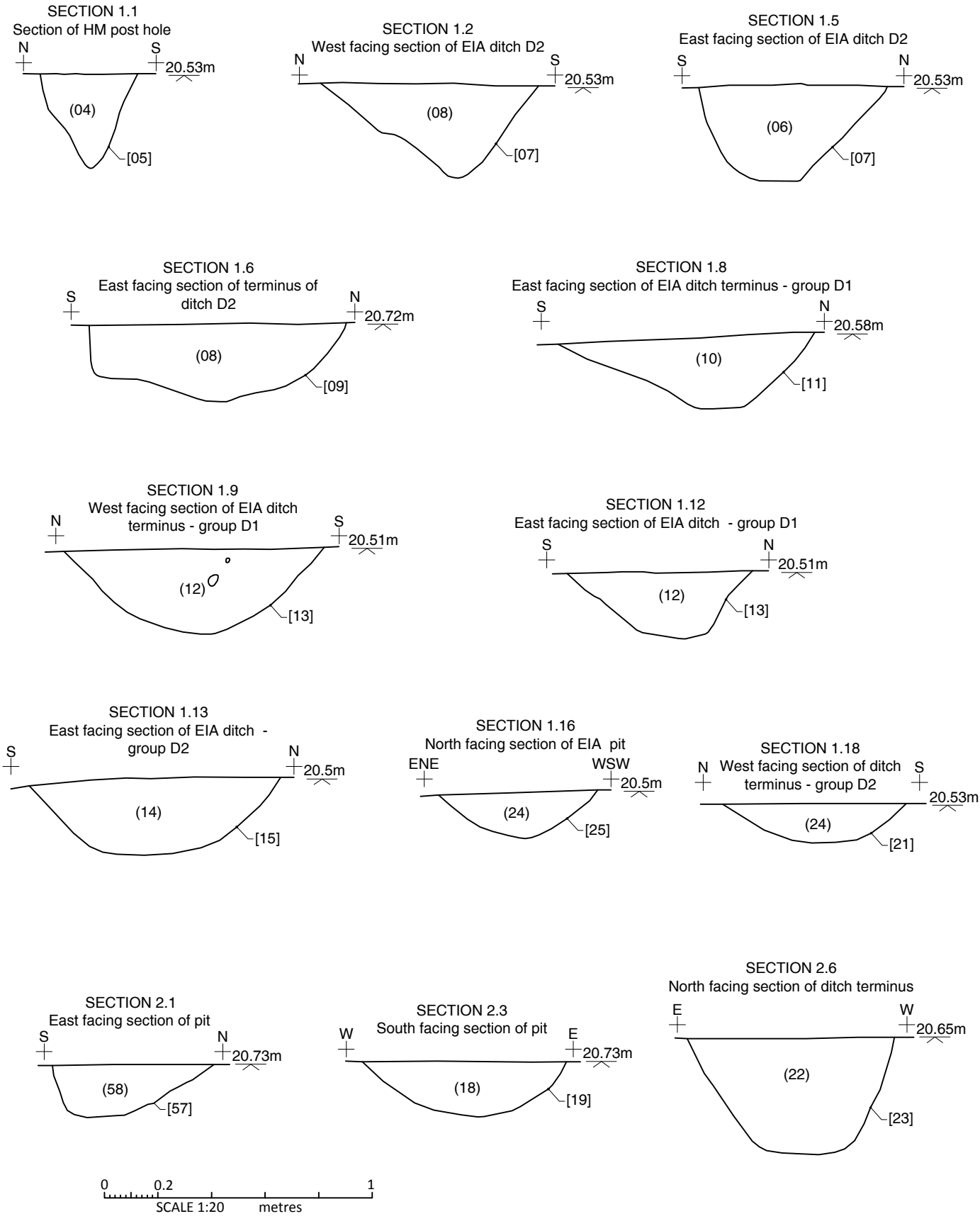


Figure 4: Sections

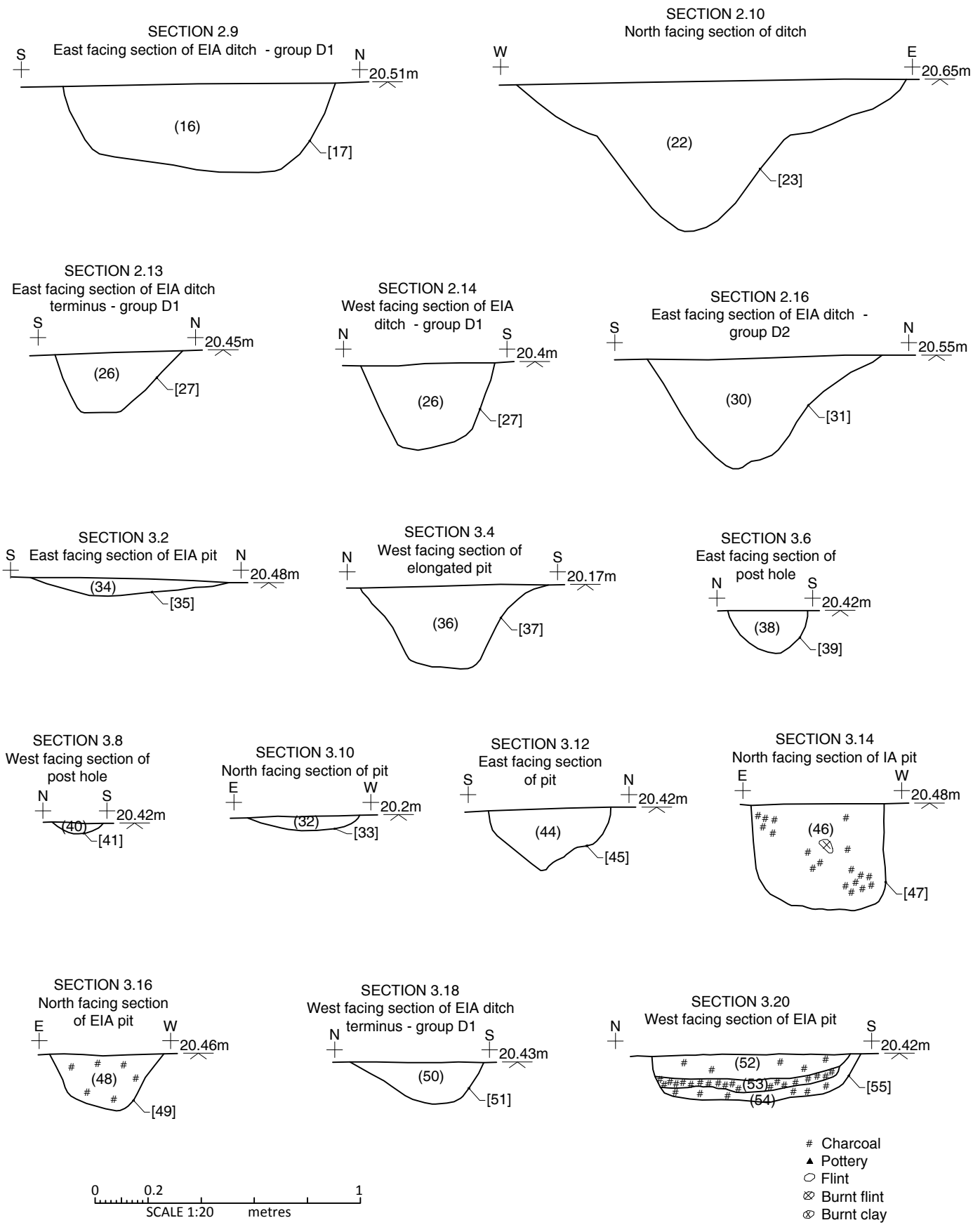


Figure 5: Sections

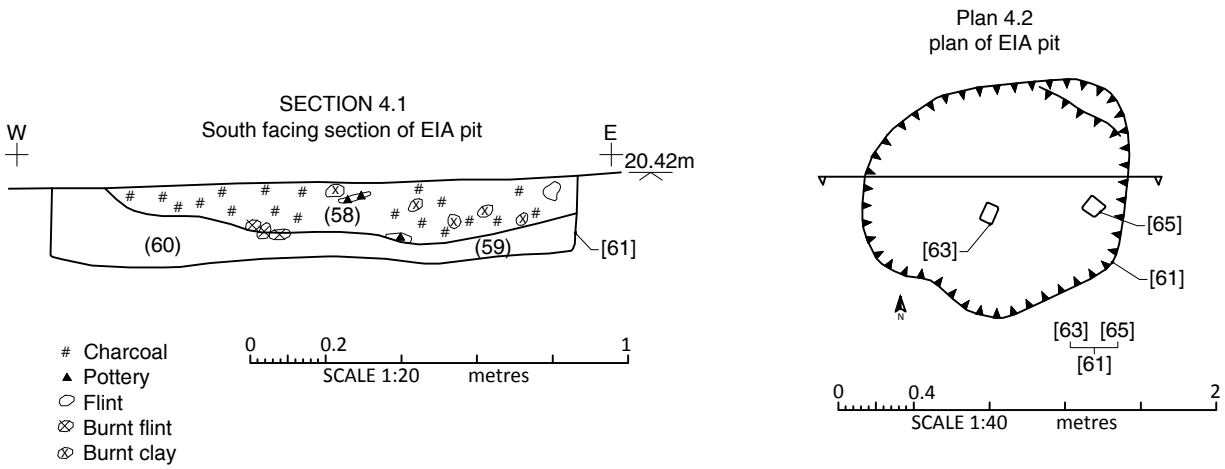


Figure 6: Sections

Ceramic finds from archaeological work at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent:

A catalogue and summary of the pottery recovered during the excavation

and

an assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation

Site Codes: TTS-EV-21 and TTS-EX-22

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 07.06.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. The pottery from the excavation

1.1. Summary

A total of 47 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 8001 g were presented and catalogued. This is in addition to the 38 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 105 g that were recovered during the evaluation phase of work at the same site, which were subject to a previous report (Hart 2022).

Several specific phases of activity are indicated and the periods represented are listed below. The estimate of the numbers of vessels may give an indication of the relative different degrees of activity that produced these assemblages, with regards to the amount or length of human presence and whether this site was nearer the centre of the activity, or perhaps on the periphery of it. It should be noted however that the number of vessels given is a maximum estimate, as at this stage no lengthy search for conjoins or any likely same-vessel associations has been conducted on the material from those contexts which may derive from the same feature.

Ceramic presence	*Main focus*	
Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age	1550 to 1150 BC	1/2 vessels
?Earliest/to Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/900 to 600/50 BC	1 vessel
Earliest Iron Age	1000/900 to 600/500 BC	2 vessels
Earliest/Mid to Late Iron Age	1000 to 600/200 to 50 BC	14/16 vessels
Earliest to/?Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/200 to 50 BC	5 vessels
Medieval	1275 to 1375 AD	1 vessel

In addition, some less diagnostic material was also present:

Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	1550 to 600 BC	1 vessel
Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age	1000/900 to 50 BC	8 vessels

Fabrics and sources

The majority of the Prehistoric pottery was in flint tempered fabrics. There was also a small quantity of mixed flint and grog tempered fabrics and, notably, some sandy and glauconitic sandy wares. The flint tempered vessels are likely to have been made relatively locally, as could the non-glauconitic sandy wares, though whether sandy soils suitable for potting occur in the vicinity is currently unknown. Glauconitic sandy fabrics derive from areas of Greensand geology, the most local sources of which occur in the part of the Holmesdale valley that leads approximately from Folkestone to Maidstone. The 1 very small sherd of this ware nevertheless represents the appearance of a traded vessel, which outside of the Greensand zone is more common in assemblages of Mid to Late Iron Age date after 200/150 BC and would be a notable very rare occurrence if earlier.

The 1 Historic period sherd present was a sandy ware made at Canterbury.

Later Prehistoric, 1550 to 50 BC

The majority of the material lacks specific diagnostic traits, with the dating often having to be based upon the type and characteristics of the fabrics, the vessel sizes and surface finishes. A couple of sherds of potential Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age date, 1550 to 1150 BC, were the earliest wares represented, though these were recovered from a presumed subsoil deposit. The 4 rims present, all but 1 small sized, were of forms that could occur variously between the Late Bronze Age or (mostly) the Earliest Iron Age and the Mid to Late Iron Age, between either 1150 or 1000/900 and 50 BC.

The main focus of the site assemblage, in quantity and with regards to the features present, lays within the Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age, between 1000/900 and likely 75 BC. The majority of the material could date anywhere, or to several periods, within that range. A small quantity of sherds are more likely to result from activity during either the Earliest or the Mid to Late Iron Age. The evidence for the latter is based on the appearance of a small quantity of sandy wares, which could occur earlier but would be more common after 250/200 and particularly 150 BC locally. No forms of specific Mid to Late Iron Age date are present however and the general character of some of the flint tempered material (usually the body sherds), which were dominant, leads towards a slight preference for an Earliest Iron Age date (1000/900 to 600 BC) in some cases.

Only 1 (small) sherd from (14) [15], a rim decorated with a band of horizontal incised lines, offers specific evidence of activity within the Earliest Iron Age. It could date between 1000/900 and 500 BC, to within the early part of the subsequent Early to Mid Iron Age. The assemblage did not, however, contain any certain evidence of activity within the Early to Mid Iron Age, particularly from 550 to 350 BC. Only 1 sherd was more akin to some of the fabrics that occur more specifically during that time, but the lack of any supporting evidence suggests it is less likely to date so.

Unfortunately, most contexts do not contain enough specifically diagnostic pottery to be certain of their particular date, though any stratigraphic relationships or alignments may allow some potential associations to be made with the small quantity of more specifically dateable pieces. The most important information that this assemblage might provide focusses on whether the glauconitic sandy sherd from context (46) [47] is an instance of a traded vessel in this ware type appearing in an Earliest Iron Age context. Though the distances between the potential sources and the findspot are not great, evidence for the occurrence of this ware in East Kent outside of the Greensand zone prior to the Mid to Late Iron Age is very rare. On this basis alone, the sherd is currently considered more likely to date to the Mid to Late Iron Age, as would the other sandy wares recovered from (58) [61].

It is notable, however, that there is a slight preference for the majority of the flint tempered sherds from (58) [61] to be Earliest Iron Age on their own merits and that feature [47] which contained the glauconitic sherd, though isolated, is on a superficial alignment with (14) [15] that produced the Earliest Iron Age rim. That may be a coincidence.

Given that the sandy wares derived from isolated features, they cannot be certainly associated with other context-based groups of pottery on this site and a confirmed specific date may remain illusive. Even if radiocarbon dating was an option for these contexts, it is considered that the information that would be gained could not really justify the expense at this time.

1.2. Period-based review

The material listed as being contemporary or residual within its context typically has the *potential* to be so, based solely upon a consideration of the number, size and condition of sherds present and particularly whether the material is fresh, slightly abraded or significantly worn. The nature of the contexts and their stratigraphic relationships are unknown and unconsidered at this stage. Also, only a brief (and no lengthy) search for conjoins within or between contexts was conducted at this time. The wares described as flint tempered all showed the addition of grits of crushed burnt flint.

1.2.1. Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age, 1550 to 1150 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(02) Strip.	2	1/2
Total		**2**	**1/2**

Context (02) produced 2 medium sized thick-walled body sherds with a fairly heavy coarse flint temper, that is more typical of material from this period.

1.2.2. Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 1550 to 600 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(14) **[15]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This comprised a small sized thick-walled flint tempered sherd that was rounded and heavily worn, recovered from a context that also produced fresher material of potential Earliest Iron Age date (see 1.2.4. further below).

1.2.3. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age/?Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600/50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(02) Strip.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This was a medium sized reasonably thick-walled sherd, who's fairly profuse mostly fine flint temper (with a notable organic element) and partial loss of its exterior buff coloured surface skin leads to a slight preference for an Earliest Iron Age date within a broader range.

1.2.4. Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600/500 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Unclear	(14) **[15]**.	3	2
Total		**3**	**2**

Two small flint tempered sherds conjoined to a presumably flat-topped medium-walled rim from a closed form vessel, that showed a band of 5 horizontal incised (perhaps combed) lines immediately below on the exterior. It would likely date between 1000/900 and 500 BC (into the early part of the Early to Mid Iron Age; see Couldrey 2007) and could be solely Earliest Iron Age, when such decoration is common, though it usually occurs further below the rim top, more typically at or above the shoulder. The rim was fresh, but small and the other potentially related sherd from this context was only a small fragment of a body sherd.

1.2.5. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/900 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(42) **[43]**, (48) **[49]**, (52) **[55]**.	4	4
Unclear	(25) **[26]**, (34) **[35]**, (50) **[51]**.	6	4
Total		**10**	**8**

This material, of limited size and quantity, comprised flint tempered body sherds that could date widely. The temper and oxidised surfaces of 1 medium sized thick-walled body sherd from (52) [55] would be more typical of the Early to Mid Iron Age, though as no other material that is certainly of this date was present in the site assemblage it is considered less likely to date so.

1.2.6. Earliest/Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000 to 600/200 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Contemporary	(58) **[61]**, (62) **[63]**.	23	13/15
Residual	(06) **[07]**.	1	1
Total		**24**	**14/16**

This material was not specifically diagnostic, but was preferably either Earliest Iron Age (1000/900 to 600 BC) or Mid to Late Iron Age (200 to 50 BC) within that broader range.

Notably, context (58) of [61] contained 22 small to large sized sherds from 12/14 vessels, that were mostly flint tempered, including 2 rims. One short upright rim derived from a closed-form vessel that could date from the Late Bronze Age to at least the Middle Iron Age, with a Mid to Late Iron Age date also possible. The fairly heavy coarse temper would be more common at the Earliest and Mid to Late Iron Age ends of the range, while 1 small thin-walled simple upright rim, finely but not profusely tempered, could occur throughout. None of the many thick-walled coarseware body sherds showed neatly smoothed surfaces, characteristics that are more common at the Earliest rather than the Mid to Late end of their potential ranges. One large oxidised thick coarse body sherd from a large diameter vessel showed a subtle finger-fluted wiping, which would be more typical in the Earliest rather than the Early to Mid Iron Age. Notably, 5 small plain body sherds in sandy fabrics were also present. Outside of the areas where sandy soils were naturally available for pottery-making, such fabrics occur most commonly in assemblages after 250/200 BC and they are much rarer before this, though instances in East Kent are known, including an example in an Earliest Iron Age assemblage (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Locally, these non-glauconitic sandy wares would typically occur more commonly in assemblages of Mid to Late Iron Age date after 200/150 BC, though sandy soils might be available for pottery-making in the immediate vicinity (BGS 2022) and an earlier date cannot be discounted on current evidence.

It is worth noting here that a small sherd of glauconitic sandy ware was recovered from (46) [47]. This would be a very rare and notable occurrence in an Earliest Iron Age assemblage outside of its area of manufacture (in the Greensand zone) and, though such a date is possible, a Mid to Late Iron Age date is more likely (see section 1.2.7. below). If (46) [47] and (58) [61] are considered likely to derive from the same phase of activity, then a Mid to Late Iron Age date must also be preferred for the latter.

1.2.7. Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age/?Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/200 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Contemporary	(46) **[47]**.	5	5
Total		**5**	**5**

This material was small sized, mostly flint tempered and could date broadly, including 1 simple thin-walled rim (possibly from a closed form vessel), which would more commonly be Earliest to Middle Iron Age and less typically Mid to Late Iron Age. Notable however is 1 small body sherd of glauconitic sandy ware. Outside of the production areas of this ware type in areas of Greensand geology (most locally, in the Folkestone area), this fabric appears most commonly after 250 BC and particularly after 200/150 BC elsewhere in East Kent (Macpherson-Grant *pers. comm.*; Macpherson-Grant and Hart forthcoming), though a very rare earlier occurrence of a traded vessel is known from an Earliest Iron Age assemblage at Highstead (Couldrey 2007).

A similar contradiction between the dating preferences for the flint tempered and sandy fabrics occurred in (58) [61] (see section 1.2.6. above). If (46) is not Mid to Late Iron Age, then the presence of the glauconitic sandy ware is a notably important very rare occurrence.

1.2.8. Medieval, 1275 to 1375 AD

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(04) **[05]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

This comprised a small base sherd in a Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware fabric.

2. An assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation

2.1. Relative academic value

The evaluation and excavation have produced a total of 85 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 8106 g. The material mostly comprises small to medium sized body sherds, with only 5 rims (4 small, 1 large, described in the catalogues; see the Appendices of the pottery reports) and no full or significant part-profiles present. Very few elements of the assemblage are specifically dateable on their own merits, 1 of the rims being more typically of 1000/900 to 500 BC date on account of its decoration. Given the low quantity, lack of significant profiles or untypical decoration and mostly the unspecifically diagnostic nature of the assemblage, it is considered that this material has little to contribute to the studies of pottery from Kent on its own merits. The only real point of interest would be if it could be proved that the sandy ware sherds from (58) [61] and particularly the glauconitic sandy ware from (46) [47] were appearing in an assemblage of Earliest Iron Age date. As was noted in the section 1.1. Summary, even if radiocarbon dating was an option for these contexts, it is considered that the information that would be gained could not really justify the expense at this time.

2.2. Recommendations

Given the factors noted in section 2.1., it is suggested that no further work or further stage of reporting on the pottery is necessary at this time. All form and decorative elements have been noted in the current catalogues compiled for the evaluation and excavation material, along with notable aspects of manufacturing (see the Appendices of these reports). Any final site report, published summary and HER entry, could note the issues surrounding the sandy and glauconitic sandy ware sherds (see the section 1.1. Summary), as this would allow any researchers to be aware of the presence of this material.

3. Bibliography

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Macpherson-Grant N. 1994. The Pottery, in Perkins D.R.J., Macpherson-Grant N. and Healey E. Monkton Court Farm Evaluation, 1992. *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXIV, Kent Archaeological Society, 248-288.

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Appendix

4. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage from the excavation

4.1. Methodology

The sherds were examined in good light using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, total quantity, bulk weight (calculated to the nearest gram), period, ware type, estimate of the number of vessels per ware, condition and date preference basis. They are listed in date order from the earliest to the latest. No information about the contexts or their stratigraphic relationships was known unless stated. In the notes, the pieces are typically plain or less diagnostic body sherds unless stated otherwise.

All dates given are *circa*.

It should also be noted that:

- All form and decorative pieces are noted and described in the catalogue and their presence is highlighted by the inclusion of the word 'DRAW'.
- The material has been bagged by period and in most cases separated into DRAWables (which do not necessarily need to be drawn for archive level or final site reports or publication) and body sherds.

4.2. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Later Prehistoric period	LP	1550	-	50	BC
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550	-	1350	BC
Mid to Late Bronze Age	MBA-LBA	1350	-	1150	BC
Late Bronze Age	LBA	1150	-	1000/900	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900	-	600	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600	-	350	BC
Middle Iron Age	MIA	400	-	200	BC
Mid to Late Iron Age	MLIA	200	-	50	BC
Medieval	M	1200	-	1375	AD

4.3. Abbreviations used in 4.4

Wear

F : Fresh/fairly fresh
L : Light
M : Moderate
H : Heavy

Dating

> : To/or later

4.4. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery, with notes

Context			**Total sherds**		**Total weight (g)**
Context:	Information on the nature of the context if known.				
Start date:	**Likely commencement date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
End date:	**Likely end date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
Dating:	**General implications.**				
Comments:	Highlighting elements, wares and issues of particular note.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
	Notes.				
(02) Strip			**3 sherds**		**85 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**-**				
End date:	**-**				
Dating:	**All broadly LP, with preferences for the MBA>MBA-LBA and EIA. Residual.**				
Comments:	Medium sized body sherds, dating preferences on temper traits only.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
2	LP/MBA>MBA-LBA	Flint tempered	1/2	M	1550-1150/50 BC
	Medium sized thick-walled body sherds, fairly heavy coarse temper, edges fairly sharp, but fractured, with areas of abrasion.				
1	EIA>MLIA/?EIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-600/50 BC
	Medium sized, fairly thick-walled, fairly profuse mostly fine temper with a notable organic element, partial loss of exterior buff surface skin.				
(04) [05]			**1 sherd**		**6 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1275 AD.**				
End date:	**Unclear, residual.**				
Dating:	**Single worn M sherd, date based on firing.**				
Comments:	DRAW (not worth drawing).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	M	Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy	1	M	1275-1375 AD
	Small base, fairly well fired. DRAW.				
(06) [07]			**1 sherd**		**11 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, though the profuse temper is more typical of the EIA or MLIA.**				
Comments:	Edges somewhat rounded, but need not be significantly residual on its own merits, though is a sole recovery.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EIA/MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	900-600/200-50 BC
	Small body, profusely tempered with small to medium grits.				

(14) [15]			**4 sherds**		**20 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. Nothing certainly after 500 BC and possibly by 600 BC, though the latest freshest sherd offers minimal quantity evidence only.**				
Dating:	**The fresh sherd likely dates 1000/900-500 BC and could be purely EIA (<600 BC). 1 other sherd is residual and pre-dates, though could still be same period overall, as could another fragment.**				
Comments:	All small. 1 heavily worn and residual piece presumably pre-dates the fresher sherd; 1 other fragmented. 1 fairly fresh looking rim with a horizontal band of incised (possibly combed) lines just below, broadly EIA>EMIA but perhaps <500 BC locally (see Couldrey 2007), possibly EIA. This type of decoration is common during this time, though usually occurs further below the rim top, more typically at or above the shoulder. DRAW: 1.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP/MBA>EIA	Flint tempered	1	H	1550-600 BC
	Small rounded thick-walled sherd, buff surfaces.				
1	LP/MBA>EIA	Flint tempered	1	-	1550-600 BC
	Small body sherd fragment.				
2	EIA>EMIA/?EIA	Flint tempered	1	F	1000/900-600/500 BC
	Small reduced sherds conjoin to a small presumably flat-topped medium-walled rim from a closed form vessel, showing a band of 5 horizontal incised (combed?) lines immediately below on the exterior. DRAW: 1.				
(25) [26]			**1 sherd**		**8 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, could be residual to some degree and a single recovery only.**				
Dating:	**No specific data. Likely broadly EIA>MLIA.**				
Comments:					
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-50 BC
	Small thick-walled body, moderate fine to medium temper.				
(34) [35]			**2 sherds**		**35 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. Nothing certainly after 50 BC and not significantly worn, though 2 small sherds only.**				
Dating:	**No specific data, though likely EIA>MLIA.**				
Comments:	Not significantly worn, though very small fragments only.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
2	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	2	L	1000/900-50 BC
	Very small thick-walled plain body sherds.				
(42) [43]			**1 sherd**		**27 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC and nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**No specific data, but preferably EIA>MLIA.**				
Comments:	Could date widely.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-50 BC
	Medium sized thick-walled body sherd, dark orange oxidised exterior, moderate fine to coarse grits.				

(46) [47]			**5 sherds**		**24 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC and possibly after 200/150 BC.**				
End date:	**Probably by 75 BC.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. All could date broadly EIA>MLIA, with 1 rim being less typical of the MLIA, while the presence of a glauconitic sandy ware would be a rare occurrence before this time and more common locally in the MLIA after 200/150 BC. A similar conflict between flint tempered and sandy fabrics occurred in (58) [61]. If (46) is not MLIA, then the presence of the glauconitic sandy ware is a notable rare occurrence.**				
Comments:	All small, some worn but none significantly so. 1 simple thin-walled fairly fresh rim possibly from a closed form vessel could date widely, more likely EIA>MIA, less typically MLIA perhaps. Notable is 1 small body sherd of glauconitic sandy ware. Outside of the production areas of this ware type in areas of Greensand geology (most locally, in the Folkestone area and the Holmesdale valley), this fabric appears most commonly after 250 BC and particularly after 200/150 BC elsewhere in East Kent (Macpherson-Grant *pers. comm.*; Macpherson-Grant and Hart forthcoming), though a very rare earlier occurrence of a traded vessel is known from an EIA assemblage at Highstead (Couldrey 2007). DRAW: 1 (no significant profile).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
3	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	3	L>M	1550/1000-50 BC
	Small thick-walled body sherds, not significantly worn, 2 with oxidised exteriors.				
1	EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	F	1000/900-50 BC
	Very small thin-walled simple rounded-over rim, possibly from a closed form vessel, fairly heavy fine to medium gritting, not burnished. DRAW.				
1	EIA>MLIA/?MLIA	Glauconitic sandy	1	L	1000/200-50 BC
	Very small medium-walled body, dull burnished black exterior.				
(48) [49]			**2 sherds**		**4 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, significantly residual.**				
Dating:	**No specific data, though likely broadly EIA>MLIA.**				
Comments:	Small worn pieces only. *1 apparently temperless element could be reduced daub or sparsely tempered pottery. The thinness of 1 certain sherd suggests this is more likely EIA>MLIA.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP/?EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	H	1550/1000-50 BC
	Very small body sherd, thinnish-walled.				
1	?LP	*Silty	1	H	1550-50 BC
	Very small thick-walled rounded piece, *could be a temperless fabric or from a sparsely tempered ware.				
(50) [51]			**3 sherds**		**6 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. A few small fragments only, though relatively fresh and nothing certainly after 50 BC.**				
Dating:	**No specific data, broadly LP, though considering the site assemblage most likely EIA>MLIA.**				
Comments:	Very small fragments and could date widely, though given the general focus of activity in the site assemblage, it is more likely that the date lays between the EIA and the MLIA.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
3	LP	Flint tempered	1	F	1550-50 BC
	Very small fairly thin-walled body sherds.				

(52) [55]			1 sherd		26 g
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual.**				
Dating:	**Broadly EIA>MLIA, most typical of the EMIA, but if no other material of this date is certainly present in the site assemblage it is less likely to date so.**				
Comments:	Thick-walled and moderately tempered, more akin to EMIA trends, though not significantly different to some of the oxidised sherds in (58), barring the lack of coarser grits.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EIA>MLIA/??EMIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/600-350/50 BC
	Medium sized thick-walled body, oxidised surfaces.				

(58) [61]			22 sherds		422 g
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Likely by 75 BC and just possibly by 600 BC*.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, other than the sherds are likely to be broadly contemporary with each other and their context, given their condition. All probably date to a single period within the EIA>MLIA, with some of the material being more typical of assemblages of EIA or MLIA date. The sandy wares in particular would be most common after 200/150 BC, though they could occur earlier and there is a slight preference for the flint tempered fabrics to be EIA rather than MLIA on current evidence.** ***NB. A small sherd of glauconitic sandy ware occurs in (46) [47]. This would be a very rare and notable occurrence in an EIA assemblage outside of its area of manufacture (in the Greensand zone) and, though such a date is possible, an MLIA date is more likely. If (58) [61] and (46) [47] are considered likely to derive from the same phase of activity, then an MLIA date must be preferred for (58).**				
Comments:	Small to large sized sherds, with 2 rims, both flint tempered. 1 large rim from a coarsely tempered closed-form vessel with a short upright rim and short interior bevel could date LBA> at least the MIA, with MLIA also possible, though the rim is not one of the thickened everted facetted types that are specifically diagnostic of that period. The fairly heavy coarse temper is less typical of the EMIA locally, being more commonly seen at the EIA and MLIA ends of the range. 1 small thin-walled simple upright rim, finely but not profusely tempered, could date EIA>MLIA. The gritting of the flint tempered fabrics is not particularly distinctive in general and could occur in several periods, though likely in this case no later than the MLIA. The surfaces of the thin-walled rim are smoothed but not highly or particularly well burnished and none of the many thick-walled coarseware body sherds show neatly smoothed surfaces, characteristics that are more common at the EIA rather than the MLIA end of their potential ranges. 1 large oxidised thick coarse body sherd from a large diameter vessel shows subtle finger-fluted wiping, which is more typical in the EIA than the EMIA. A few mixed flint and grog tempered body sherds are also present and are a fabric type that can occur as a minority ware in any of the IA periods noted. Notably, 5 small plain body sherds in sandy fabrics are also present. Though an earlier date is possible, these are most likely EIA>MLIA (taking into consideration the flint tempered material). Outside of the areas where sandy soils were naturally available for pottery-making, such fabrics occur most commonly in assemblages after 250/200 BC and they are much rarer before this, though instances in East Kent are known, including an example in an EIA assemblage (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Locally, these non-glauconitic sandy wares would typically occur more commonly in assemblages of MLIA date after 200/150 BC, though sandy soils might be available for pottery-making in the immediate vicinity (BGS 2022) and an earlier date cannot be discounted on current evidence. DRAW: 2 (only 1 moderately useful rim to above shoulder profile; all retained in same bag at present).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
12	EIA>MLIA/??EIA	Flint tempered	?9	L>M	1000/900-600/75 BC
	7 small, 3 medium and 2 large sherds. 9 plain body, medium to mostly thick-walled, with untreated (roughly wiped only) surfaces, 1 a large oxidised sherd (coarsely tempered, large diameter) with subtle vertical close-set finger-fluted wiping, 1 other small sherd oxidised and 1 small and 1 medium with oxidised exteriors (all coarsely tempered), 1 reduced medium sized body sherd with fairly profuse fine temper. 1 small fragment of thick-walled base. 2 rims: 1 small thin-walled simple upright with rounded over top, moderate fine to medium temper, surfaces smoothed but not highly burnished (also worn); 1 large sherd from a coarsely tempered closed-form vessel with short upright rim and short interior bevel. DRAW: 2.				

5	EIA>MLIA	Flint +grog tempered	1/2	L	1000/900-75 BC
	Small plain reduced thick-walled body sherds, occasion sand, untreated surfaces (roughly wiped only). Edges mostly fairly sharp.				
5	EIA>MLIA	Sandy	2/3	L>M	1000/900-75 BC
	Small plain reduced medium-walled body sherds, smoothed but not burnished.				
(62) [63] From base of posthole			**1 sherd**		**117 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. Potentially residual to some degree, though need not significantly pre-date the phase and could be period-contemporary. Likely by 50 BC and possibly by 600 BC.**				
Dating:	**No specific data. Likely EIA or MLIA, with a slight preference for the EIA.**				
Comments:	The large vessel size suggest EIA or MLIA and the loss of an exterior surface skin is a trait commonly seen in the EIA. The edges are somewhat rounded, but not significantly worn, this and the size suggesting it could be broadly context-contemporary.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	?EIA/MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-600/50 BC
	Large medium-walled body sherd from a large diameter vessel, moderate fine to medium temper, the exterior showing a partial loss of an exterior surface skin of vertical shallow finger wiping.				
Totals			**47 sherds**		**8001 g**

Lithic finds from archaeological work at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent:

A catalogue and summary of the worked lithics, plus a catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers', recovered during the excavation

and

an assessment of the worked lithics from the evaluation and excavation

Site Codes: TTS-EV-21 and TTS-EX-22

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 06.06.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. The lithics from the excavation

1.1. Summary

A total of 17 worked lithics, all flint, weighing a total of 235 g, were presented and catalogued. All dates given throughout are *circa*. Several phases of activity are indicated and the periods represented are listed below, along with an estimate of the numbers of lithics that may reliably be present. No pieces are formal types that are specifically diagnostic of these periods on their own merits; a variety of traits, alongside the likelihood of certain periods being represented locally, have been considered. Some of the blades present could technically pre-date the Neolithic, though no material of certain Mesolithic date was noted.

Lithic presence	*Main focus*	
Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period	4000 to 2000 BC	2 flints
Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	1550 to 600 BC	1 flint
Earliest Iron Age	1000/900 to 600 BC	4/5 flints

In addition, some less specifically diagnostic material was also recovered.

Mesolithic to Beaker Period	9200 to 1750 BC	1 flint
Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age	2100 to 600 BC	1 flint

Geology and patination

Maps of the British Geological Survey indicate that the underlying geology in the immediate area comprises deposits of sands/silts/clays and chalk (BGS 2022). The precise nature of the geology that underlay the individual features is unknown and unconsidered at this time. Typically, soils that lay directly above chalk and contain elements of such usually promote the production of blue and white patinas that are frequently helpful in the attempt to identify whether flintwork is more likely to be contemporary or residual within its context. Flintwork that is fresh and contemporary, or effectively so, will in general be unpatinated or only lightly patinated (though some exceptions are known). Flintwork that shows the development of strong patinas are more likely to be residual (to varying degrees, though exceptions are again known). Variations in or the truncation of patinated areas can show that a piece has been subsequently damaged or re-used, while the strength of the original patina can offer a guide to the relative length of time that a piece had been exposed post-discard and prior to any re-use. Deposits of chalk-free sands/silts/clays or 'brickearth' hinder the formation of such patinas however and, importantly, the attempt to ascertain contemporaneity and episodes of re-use.

Most of the flintwork is either unpatinated, or appears so, or shows a subtle yellowy sheen patina. The latter is commonly encountered in various different types of geologies in Kent and its presence can be difficult to detect with certainty, even when a piece has been subsequently chipped. It has been seen to occur on flintwork that is, or is effectively, context-contemporary, so its presence is of little relevance, other than highlighting one or possibly two episodes of re-use. Only one example of a chalk-soil type patina was present, this an early stage type on an Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age piece recovered from (30) [31]. Its relationship to its context is unclear. Only one context has a reasonable potential to contain some flintwork that could be contemporary (see further below),

Raw materials

Dominant was flint with buff coloured cortexes of various types. There was also a small quantity of Bullhead Bed flint. All examples present were akin to the materials and their relative frequencies that are commonly encountered in chalk-soil and brickearth geologies in East Kent and there is no evidence that any has, or needs to have, been imported any significant distance. Amongst the burnt flint 'potboiler' assemblage were a couple of examples of cortexes from water-rolled cobbles, such material being particularly suited for this purpose.

Associations

The majority of the flintwork are residual and only one group of flints from a single context has a reasonable potential to be contemporary. That is, if the pottery which is also present in (58) [61] dates more towards the Earliest Iron Age rather than the Mid to Late Iron Age end of its potential range.

Other notable elements

Aside from the potential context-contemporary flintwork noted above, notable are 2 blades recovered as residual pieces from (25) [26] and (30) [31]. This is of interest because it suggests a presence in the vicinity that likely dates no later than the Earlier Beaker Period, with this material having some potential to be related to an Earlier Neolithic presence that has already been established close by (see Hart 2022).

1.2. Period-based review

The contexts which contain evidence of period-diagnostic lithics are listed below, along with an estimate of the number of lithics present. The material listed as contemporary or residual typically has an important *potential* to be so, though this should always be considered in light of the nature of the context, the vertical distribution of the material and any other associated finds. This is important because the nature of the underlying geology can make the certain identification of residual flintwork a significant issue for this site.

1.2.1. Mesolithic to Beaker Period, 9200 to 1750 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Re-used elements	(52) **[55]**.	1
Total		**1**

This piece was notable but too ambiguous to be specifically useful. It comprised a small flake that could be an intentionally struck blade and which would date within the given range if so. It showed retouch on all margins, some or perhaps all of this potentially being re-use. Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric (in this case, likely between the Middle Bronze Age and the Earliest Iron Age), but does occur earlier and some of the retouch was quite neat. The possibility that some or all of the retouch could be re-use broadens the options on the dating and adds a significant factor of ambiguity.

1.2.2. Neolithic to Earlier Beaker Period, 4000 to 2000 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Residual elements	(25) **[26]**, (30) **[31]**.	2
Total		**2**

These are decent looking blades that show evidence of the employment of skilled flintknapping techniques, but are otherwise not specifically diagnostic, other than that they are considered at present less likely to be Mesolithic. Both have the potential to be Earlier Neolithic, particularly noting the precedence for activity of this date nearby (see Hart 2022), though later dates are also possible.

1.2.3. Early Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 2100 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Element's relationship unclear	(30) **[31]**.	1
Total		**1**

This broadly dated piece comprised a simply/expediently worked scraper which showed an early stage chalk-soil type patina.

1.2.4. Middle Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age, 1550 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Residual elements	(02) Strip.	1
Total		**1**

Flintwork of this Later Prehistoric phase is typically characterised by expediency and comparatively basic (sometimes poor) knapping techniques, with raw materials gathered locally where easily accessible and with little regard for quality.

It should be recognised that such flintwork could have resulted from any of at least 4 different periods, with the practice of using flint for making tools such as scrapers and knives continuing to at least the end of the Early to Mid Iron Age. On current evidence locally however, it is considered that, hammerstones aside, other more formal retouched or well-worked styles of tools, such as the scraper included here, may be largely absent by that time (see Hart 2021). The dating is necessarily broad, for on a flintwork basis it is difficult to reliably differentiate between the different periods across which the industry evolved. Any attempts at such would be most reliable when focussed on a reasonable sized assemblage that is certainly contemporary.

1.2.5. Earliest Iron Age, 1000/900 to 600 BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Contemporary groups	(58) **[61]**.	4/5
Total		**4/5**

These small, irregular, squat or broken pieces were all potentially used for tools and are more likely to be Later Prehistoric, the retouched element less likely to date after the Earliest Iron Age on current local trends. Most if not all could potentially comprise a related group. The pottery present is only broadly dateable between the Earliest and the Mid to Late Iron Age, 1000/900 to 50 BC, with a few elements possibly indicative of the Earliest Iron Age. If the pottery is Earliest Iron Age then the flintwork would have a reasonable potential to be contemporary with this material and the context. It should be noted however that the nature of the underlying geology means that are significant problems in identifying residual material, which would be expected to be present to a lesser or greater degree.

2. An assessment of the worked lithics from the evaluation and excavation

2.1. Relative academic value

No worked lithics were recovered from the evaluation phase of work at this site, while 17 worked flints were retrieved during the excavation phase (covered in this report). Overall, this is a very low quantity assemblage, in which none of the lithics are of formal diagnostic types or are specifically dateable on their own merits. There was only one context that had a reasonable potential for its flintwork to be contemporary with the pottery also present, but this pottery is not reliably specifically dateable on its own merits. As such, this assemblage has little to contribute to the study of lithic material from Kent.

2.2. Recommendations

Given the factors noted in 2.1., it is suggested that no further work need be conducted on this assemblage at this time. Any final report, published summary and HER entry could include a note of the periods of activity which is evidenced by the flintwork, recording those periods that are associated with contemporary features and those represented solely by residual material, giving the approximate quantities present. This will allow any researchers to follow-up their enquires by investigating the site's grey literature reports, if required.

3. Bibliography

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Hart P.C. 2021. *Some Notes About Prehistoric Flintwork*. Trust for Thanet Archaeology.

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Appendix

4. Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics

4.1. Methodology

A prime aim is to provide a useful catalogue that combines a record of key characteristics (permitting a degree of preservation and some re-analysis by record), with individual spot-dating information and an overall comment on the worked lithic content of the context and its implications. Each piece has been dated on its individual merits. Where some pieces have the potential to be part of related groups which may be able to be dated with a narrower, more specific range than many of their individual components, such dates have sometimes been applied to less diagnostic material and the possibilities are commented upon in the context notes. Details about the nature of the context and any pottery recovered, which inform the interpretation, are noted where known.

The artefacts were examined using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, type, character, weight (calculated to the nearest gram, with a minimum of 1g), condition, period and potential relationship to context basis. Their suitability for illustration on their own merits was also noted. Within each context the artefacts have been listed first in order of type (waste, retouched, utilised) and then date (earliest to latest). The bulk weight of the flintwork from each context was also recorded.

All dates given throughout are *circa*.

4.2. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Mesolithic	M	9200	-	4000	BC
Neolithic	N	4000	-	2300	BC
Earlier Neolithic	EN	4000	-	3350/3000	BC
Beaker Period	BK	2450	-	1750	BC
Earlier Beaker Period	EBK	2450	-	2000	BC
Bronze Age	BA	2100	-	1000/900	BC
Early Bronze Age	EBA	2100	-	1550	BC
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550	-	1350	BC
Mid to Late Bronze Age	MBA-LBA	1350	-	1150	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900	-	600	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600	-	350	BC
Mid to Late Iron Age	MLIA	200	-	50	BC

4.3. Key to catalogue 4.4.

Class		-	Class of artefact, listed individually under its context. Ordered as Waste, Retouched and Utilised, then by date, then by the strength of patina if appropriate to the site: strongest (residual?) to lightest/unpatinated (possibly contemporary when occurring in a patinating environment).
	Italics	:	Additional notes of interest in italics; including:
	RU	:	Denotes tools which have re-used old, patinated struck flakes.
FS		-	Flake shape or core type.
Flake shape			
	S	:	Short or squat: width same as or greater than length.
	L	:	Long: length greater than width.
	B	:	Blade: length twice or more width, with parallel sides and dorsal ridge/s.
	/	:	Near, ie. '/BL': nearly/effectively a bladelet.
Core type			
	M	:	Multi-platform.
FT		-	Flake or core type.
	P	:	Primary: complete/nearly complete cover of cortex on the dorsal surface.
	S	:	Secondary: lesser amount of cortex.
	T	:	Tertiary: no cortex.
	/	:	Near, ie. '/T': nearly/effectively a tertiary flake.
RM		-	Raw material type.
Patina	O	:	Old, patinated (often strongly), naturally broken surface of flint.
	OB	:	As O, showing a mottled blue-white patina.
Buff	RB	:	Thin rough buff cortex, directly overlying the flint matrix.
	BD	:	A darkish, dirty looking buff cortex, thick, rough, weathered, over a white sub-cortex.
	TB	:	Thin dirty looking buff cortex over a thick yellowy sub-cortex.
	BG	:	Mixed buff and a buff-washed grey-black cortex, thin, slightly rough.
Dark	G	:	Glauconitic Bullhead Bed flint.
	DR	:	Smoothed uneven thin black cortex over thick red rind.
White	RW	:	Off-white/creamy coloured thick rough cortex.
Black+	2	:	Mixed patchy black and grey flint.
	3	:	Mixed patchy black and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
	4	:	Mixed patchy black, grey and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
Brown	12	:	Thicker to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
	13	:	Translucent pale greyish yellow-brown flint with minor black flint spots/streaks.
Quality	b	:	Generally small cherty inclusions, whether occasional or frequent, which likely do not significantly affect knapping; good quality raw material.
	c	:	A moderate content of small to medium-sized cherty inclusions and/or flaws which likely will affect the knapping quality to some degree; moderate quality.
H		-	Hammer type.
	H	:	Hard stone (eg. a cobble of rolled flint or quartzite).
	SS	:	Soft stone (combined hard and soft characteristics, typically mostly hard hammer characters with a platform lip; a cortexed flint nodule perhaps).
W		-	Weight in grams (minimum 1g).
Patina		-	Patina present? If differential described by ventral/dorsal surface on flakes, or on cores described by platform/flake scars. NB. Note ( ) code below.
	N	:	None.
	E	:	Early (light dusting, but a more obvious speckled discolouration than VE).
	B	:	Blue.
	W	:	White.
	Y	:	A glossy yellowy sheen.
	( )	:	Patina codes in brackets describe an earlier patina type truncated by re-use.
D		-	Potential/certain post-discard chipping/breakage damage present?
	Y	:	Yes, likely chipped or broken post discard.
	?	:	Denotes damage present but not certainly post-discard; might be from use.
I		-	Worthy of future illustration? Initial estimate of pieces of prime interest.
	Y	:	Yes.
	?	:	Possibly, dependent upon context and associations.

Period - Potential date range, defined by Period Codes.
> : To.
< : No later than.
/ : Or.
- : No firm or usefully compact date range.

Preference - Date preferred at this time. Sometimes a tighter but more intuitive opinion.

A - Association with the context.
C : Has a good potential to be contemporary with the context.
R : Residual.
Blank : No preference at this time.

Key to abbreviations for notes

A	:	Advanced (patina).
abr	:	Abrupt (retouch).
adj	:	Adjacent.
B	:	Blade (flake).
back	:	Backed.
bifac	:	Bifacial (retouch).
BL	:	Bladelet (flake).
brk	:	Break.
convx	:	Convex.
cortx	:	Cortex.
dentic	:	Denticulate (retouch).
dir	:	Direct (retouch).
dist	:	Distal (flake).
dors	:	Dorsal (flake).
E	:	Early (patina).
eg	:	Example.
exp	:	Expedient.
fl	:	Flake.
frag	:	Fragment.
incip	:	Incipient (cones of percussion).
inc	:	Including.
inv	:	Inverse (retouch).
irreg	:	Irregular.
L	:	Long (flake).
lat	:	Lateral (flake).
lrg	:	Large.
vent	:	Ventral (flake).
M	:	Moderate (patina).
marg	:	Marginal (retouch).
med	:	Medium (size).
mod	:	Moderate.
nat	:	Natural.
nr	:	Near.
obv	:	Obviously.
oppos	:	Opposite.
PP	:	Platform preparation (abrasion).
pat	:	Patina.
plat	:	Platform.
poss	:	Possible.
prim	:	Primary (flake).
prob	:	Probably.
prx	:	Proximal (flake).
resid	:	Residual.
ret	:	Retouch.
RM	:	Raw material.
RU	:	Re-use.
S	:	Strong (patina).
sec	:	Section.
SH	:	Short (flake).
signif	:	Significant/ly.
sm	:	Small.
SQ	:	Squat (flake).
subseq	:	Subsequent.
term	:	Termination (flake).
tert	:	Tertiary (flake).
triang	:	Triangular.
trunc	:	Truncating/truncated.
u-w	:	Use-wear.
util	:	Utilised.
V/v	:	Very.

4.4. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics, with notes

Context									**Total lithics**	**Total weight (g)**	
Context:	Information on the nature of the context if known.										
Pottery:	Date of any pottery present or the ceramic date of the context if known.										
Notes:	Elements and trends of initial interest										
Summary:	**Dates and relationships to context.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
(02) Strip									**4 lithics**	**72 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	Residual potential MBA>MBA-LBA and EIA.										
Notes:	Nothing very specific and all residual considering context.										
Summary:	**1 likely MBA>EIA and the rest need not significantly pre-date, though these could date (un-usefully) widely on their own merits.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Waste												
Core fragment/shatter		M	S	DR2-	-	35	*Burnt*	Y		-	-	R
		Small nodule, lightly burnt.										
Retouched												
Hollow+end scrpr + knife		L	S	BD3b	?H	6	N	?		-	MBA>EIA	
		Sm, 1 lat cortx, other lat thin with some inv arg scarring and 1 sm hollow of dir abr chippy ret, dir scars on abr overshot thick dist end.										
Knife		S	T	4b	?	2	Y	?		-	-	
		Sm, thin, 1 lower lat short length dir semi-abr marg ret, continuing as dir abras along thicker dist corner.										
Utilised?												
Flake		L	S	RW4b	H	30	?Y	?		-	-	
		Thick, chips all margs, inv flaking truncates prx end.										
(10) [11]									**1 lithic**	**12 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:											
Notes:	Fairly decent looking thin flake with short length of neat retouch that likely truncated a cortexed edge. Simple however and could date widely.										
Summary:	**No specific data, likely broadly N>EIA.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched												
Knife		S	S	RB4b	H	12	?Y	?		N>EIA	-	
		Squat, thin, 1 lat cortx, oppos lower lat cortex with upper lat showing dir semi-abr ret, chips on margs.										
(16) [17]									**3 lithics**	**86 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:											
Notes:	1 burnt core fragment and 2 chipped broken small flakes.										
Summary:	**No specific data, other than all potentially residual.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Waste												
Core shatter		-	S	RB2-	-	79	*Burnt*	Y		-	-	R
		Medium sized nodule, some fl scars and large nat/thermally shattered facets.										
Flake		S	T	13b	?H	1	?	?		-	-	R
		Sm, 1 lat brk, chips other margs.										
Flake		S	/T	G3b	SS	6	N?	?		-	-	R
		Thin, irreg margs formed by many chips and brks.										

(25) [26]									**1 lithic**	**13 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	EIA>MLIA.										
Notes:	Fairly decent long narrow blade, broadly M>BK and more likely N>EBK, unless there is a significant precedence for M activity in the vicinity, noting there is a precedence for EN (Hart 2022).										
Summary:	**Likely N>EBK and just possibly EN, given a precedence for the recovery of EN material nearby. Residual given the pottery and as a sole recovery.**										
Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched											
Misc. ret. flake	B	S	TB2b	?H	13	?N	?		M>BK	N>EBK	
	Long narrowish, trapezoidal sec, 1 lat mostly cortex with 2 uncortxd areas showing abras, other lat shows short length inv marg ret on upper part nr plat, with lower part some dir abr and shallow marg semi-abr ret.										

(30) [31]									**2 lithics**	**24 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:											
Notes:	1 decent small blade, more likely N>BK and if from a single platform blade core then possibly EN, noting the precedence for EN activity nearby (Hart 2022). 1 more simply/expediently worked scraper, more likely EBA>EIA, this showing an early stage chalk-soil type patina which the blade does not, suggesting different post-discard histories.										
Summary:	**Potential N>EBK/?EN and EBA>EIA elements, the former residual if the latter dates as late as its expediency could suggest, the relationship of the latter to the context unclear.**										
Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched											
End scraper + knife	L	S	BG3c	H	19	EBW	?		BK>EIA	EBA>EIA	
	Thick triang sec, 1 lat cortx, chips both lats, 1 uncortxd lower lat shows short length dir abr ret continuing around corner, the steep dist end shows dir shallow marg ret across width.										
Utilised											
Flake – knife	B	/T	RB3b	SS	5	?N	?		M>BK	N>EBK/?EN	
	Smallish narrow thin, OB cortx on plat, most/?all dors scars from same plat, abras both lats, dist tip brk.										

(52) [55]									**1 lithic**	**3 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	EIA>MLIA/??EMIA.										
Notes:	Small flake, possibly an intentional blade, M>EBK if so, retouched all margins, some or perhaps all of this retouch potentially being re-use. Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric (MBA>), but does occur earlier and some of the retouch is quite neat. The possibility that some or all of the retouch could be re-use does broaden the options on the dating and adds a significant factor of ambiguity.										
Summary:	**No specific data, broadly M>EIA only, likely residual if the pottery is later than the EIA and perhaps more likely to be residual anyway given sole recovery.**										
Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched											
Misc. ret. fl – ?scrapr (*?RU*)	?B	T	12b	SS	3	?N (?Y)	?		*Fl ?M>EBK*	M>EIA	
	Sm narrow B-like, poss intent, ret all margs inc plat, the ret appearing slightly different in colour to main body, RU? 1 upper lat inv abr ret switching to dir abr ret on lower, other upper lat a concave shoulder of dir semi-abr ret followed by inv semi-abr neat ret along length. Dist end truncated by inv semi-abr and abr ret. Plat shows inv abr ret along dor edge.										

(58) [61]										**5 lithics**	**25 g**
Context:											
Pottery:	EIA>MLIA/??EIA.										
Notes:	Small, irregular, squat or broken pieces, all potentially used for tools and more likely Later Prehistoric (MBA>), the retouched element less likely to date after the EIA on current local trends.										
Summary:	**Most if not all could be MBA>EIA and potentially comprise a related group. If the pottery is also EIA then the flintwork would have a reasonable potential to be context-contemporary, though noting the problems in identifying residual material (which can be expected to be present to lesser or greater degrees) as a result of the underlying geology.**										
Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched											
Side+end scraper (*RU*)	L	S	G3c	?	3	N (Y)	?		-	MBA>EIA	
	Sm, 1 shallow angld lat shows dir abr ret forming short slightly concave uneven edge, ?unpat, this continuing around dist corner for short distance where the ret is cert unpat. Scars and chips on rest of shallow angld dist end and steeper other lat.										
End scraper	S	S	RB3b	H	6	?N ?Y	?		?BA>	?MBA>EIA	
	Irreg outline, scarring on the shallow angld lats and 1 concave area, ?util as knife + hollow scrp. Cortxd dist corner shows dir abr marg ret forming uneven straight edge.										
?Retouched/utilised											
Shatter – nosed+hollw scr	-	T	2b	-	3	?Y	?		-	?MBA>EIA	
	Sm, thick, narrow, 1 steep dist corner some dir scarring, same lat sm hollow of dir marg ret/scarring.										
Utilised?											
Flake – knife	S	S	G3b	H	8	N	?		-	-	
	Sm, squat, chips and snap brks both thin lats.										
Flake fragment	-	T	13b	-	4	Y	?		-	?MBA>EIA *if so*	
	Hinged dist frag, chips and scars lead to both corners.										
Totals										**17 lithics**	**235 g**

5. Catalogues of other artefacts presented

5.1. Catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers'

Context	*Quantity*	*Weight (g)*	*Notes*
(02)	2	10	Small fragments, 1 with a battered water-rolled type cortex fired white, 1 water-rolled dark reddish cortex fired grey-white. Discarded.
(12) [13]	2	27	Small angular fragments, fired white, 1 with a smoothed brown cortex.
Totals	**4**	**37**	

Recommend: discard.