



Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN

Report date: 10/01/2022

Updated: 10/02/2022

Site Code: TTS-EV-21

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

© SWAT Archaeology 2021 all rights reserved

Conditions of Release

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from SWAT Archaeology.

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY	3
1.1	Project Background	3
1.2	Planning Background	3
1.3	Site description, Geology and Topography	4
1.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
2	METHODOLOGY	5
2.1	Introduction	5
2.2	Fieldwork.....	5
2.3	Recording.....	6
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
4	RESULTS	7
4.1	Introduction and Summary Results.....	7
4.3	Trench Narratives – Positive trench	7
4.5	Negative trenches.....	8
5	FINDS	9
7	CONCLUSIONS	12
8	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE	12
9	IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	14
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
11	ARCHIVE	14

Appendices

Appendix I HER Summary
References and bibliography
Figures and Plates
Appendix II Pottery Assesment

1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the client to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN. Works were monitored by senior archaeological officer at Kent County Council. The monitoring was carried out on 10th December 2021. Fieldwork commenced on 8th December and was completed by 10th December 2021. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted excavation of 4 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil or made ground and subsoil overlying natural geology. Trench 2 revealed five pits and post hole dated to Later Prehistory. Functions of features remain unknown but they seem to be related to a field system.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application was granted on 26th April 2017 (DOV/16/00442) for the erection of eight dwelling, change of use and conversion of the existing public house into a single residential dwelling, creation of vehicular access, parking area and associated works. A Condition of archaeological works was attached to Planning Decision Notice and it was: *(12) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: *To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. 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 The evaluation works were undertaken in accordance with a written specification that was agreed in advance with the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

1.3 **Site description, Geology 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 The site is located on relatively flat plain gently descending to the north. Slope height changes 5 metres over a distance of 200 metres.

1.3.3 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.

1.4 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

1.4.1 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.

1.4.2 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 a number of Listed Buildings including the barn at Little Twitham (TR 25 NE 99).

1.4.3 700metres to the south record shows metal detecting find (TR 25 NE 4) of Iron Age golden coin

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

1.4.5 Recent investigation on Summerfield Nursery located 980metres to the east revealed Neolithic pit and Bronze Age field system.

1.4.6 Historic Maps - 1st Edition OS map (1890) shows orchard and barn within PDA.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2021) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

2.1.1 The evaluation works were undertaken in accordance with a written specification that was agreed in advance with the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 A total of 4 evaluation trenches were excavated within the extents of the site.

2.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned by metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

2.2.4 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with LPA and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included 12 working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

2.2.5 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

2.2.6 Works were monitored by senior archaeological officer at Kent County Council, Ben Found. The monitoring was carried out on single site visit on 10th December 2021.

2.3 **Recording**

- 2.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.
- 2.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 2.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation 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. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological requirements from the Senior Archaeologist at Kent County Council that an archaeological evaluation to take place

as a post-planning requirement, and to publish the results either on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction and Summary Results

4.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN, has exposed archaeological features in one of four excavated trenches.

4.1.2 Evaluation has exposed archaeological remains in Trench 2 comprising cluster of five pits and post hole of later prehistoric period.

4.2 Trench Narratives – Positive trench

4.2.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3, Plates) was placed in central part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 27 metres in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.6metre in depth. It exposed natural geology at its base, context (202) comprising orange-brown silty clay with infrequent flint and frequent grey irregular patches. Pit [209] cut by pit [207] was located at western extent of this trench. Both features were extending into northern side of the trench. Another 2 pits [205] and [211] were located in central part of the trench. Another two pits [203] and [214] were located within eastern extent of the trench by the northern wall of the trench. Excavated material was a sequence of top soil (200) and subsoil (201). Top soil layer was 0.3metres thick comprising of black loam with frequent modern building material. Sub soil was mid brown loam with frequent dark grey patches.

4.2.2 Pit [203] had half oval shape in plan. Feature had steep sides and measured 0.7metre in width and was excavated to the depth of 0.62metre. It was filled with single naturally formed fill (215) comprising grey mottled mid brown silty clay with freq. manganese flecks and occ. flint nodules.

4.2.3 Pit [205] had circular shape in plan. Its profile had moderate sides gently breaking into concave base. It was filled with single naturally formed fill (204). The context was very firm, light grey mottled mid brown, silty clay with freq. manganese flecks and roots and occ. flint pebble.

4.2.4 Pit [207] had half oval shape in plan. Its profile had steep sides gently breaking into flat base. It was filled with single naturally formed fill 206. The context was very firm, light grey

mottled mid brown, silty clay with freq. manganese flecks, roots and occ. flint pebble. Feature was cutting pit 209 located on its east side.

- 4.2.5 Pit [209] had half oval shape in plan. Its profile had steep sides breaking into flat base. It was filled with single naturally formed fill (208) comprising dark orangey brown silty clay with freq. light grey lenses, occ. charcoal flecks and flint pebble. Context (208) produced 35 sherds, in 2 different ware types. There were 18 flint tempered sherds from perhaps 3 vessels, for which an Earliest Iron Age date is slightly preferred, partially considering that activity of this date is known to occur nearby. Western side of the feature was cut away by pit [207].
- 4.2.6 Post hole [211] had circular shape in plan. Its profile had steep sides breaking into concave base. It was filled with single naturally formed fill (210). Material was of soft compaction, mid orangey brown silty clay with freq. roots.
- 4.2.7 Pit [214] had half oval shape in plan. Its profile had steep sides breaking into flat base. It was filled with sequence of two naturally formed fills (212) and (213). Primary fill (213) was of soft compaction, dark greyish brown silty clay with occ. flint and roots. Secondary fill (212) was of firm compaction, grey mottled mid brown silty clay with freq. manganese flecks and occ. flint nodules. Context (212) only produced 3 tiny fractured fragments. Two showed a profuse flint temper, likely Later Prehistoric and just possibly Earliest Iron Age. The other sherd looked like it derived from the same fabric and potentially the same vessel as the grog tempered ware in (208).

4.3 **Negative trenches**

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2) was placed in south-western part of the site in north-south alignment and measured 20metre in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.6metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (102) comprising mid orangey brown clay-sand-silt with infrequent angular stones and frequent small roots. Excavated material was a sequence of made ground (100) and subsoil (101). Made ground layer was 0.3metres thick comprising of gravel and hardcore. Sub soil was mid brown loam with frequent dark grey patches. A modern drain was exposed in this trench, no archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.
- 4.3.2 Trench 3 (Figure 2) was placed in the eastern end of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 23metres in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.6metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (302) comprising mid orangey brown clay-

sand-silt with infrequent angular stones and frequent small roots. Excavated material was a sequence of top soil (300) and subsoil (301). Top soil layer was 0.3metres thick comprising of black loam with frequent modern building material. Sub soil was mid brown loam with frequent dark grey patches. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.

- 4.3.3 Trench 4 (Figure 2) was placed in western part of the site in north-west; south-east alignment and measured 21metres in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.6metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (402) comprising mid orangey brown clay-sand-silt with infrequent angular stones and frequent small roots. Excavated material was a sequence of made ground (400) and subsoil (401). Made ground layer was 0.3metres thick comprising of gravel and hardcore. Sub soil was mid brown loam with frequent dark grey patches. A modern post hole was exposed in this trench, no archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.

5 FINDS

- 5.1 Finds comprise assemblages of flint work and pottery. All flints were discarded as natural. A total of 38 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 105 g were presented and catalogued (see Appendix 2 for full report).
- 5.2 A catalogue and summary of the pottery and burnt flint 'potboilers' recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Three Tuns, Staple, Kent. Site Code: TTS-EV-21. By Paul Hart.

Contents

- 5.3. Summary of the pottery
- 5.4. Summary of the burnt flint 'potboilers'
- 5.5. Bibliography

Appendix (PDF version only)

- Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage
 - Methodology
 - Period Codes employed
 - Abbreviations used in 4.4
 - Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery, with notes
- Catalogues of other finds presented
 - Catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers'

5.3 Summary of the pottery

- 5.3.1 A total of 38 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 105 g were presented and catalogued. No period-based breakdown of this material has been included. This is because the sherds were all small sized or fragmentary plain body sherds that derived from 2 contexts only, they were only broadly dateable on their own merits (mostly Later Prehistoric) and the options surrounding their dating are best discussed as a whole. Given their condition, all of the sherds could be residual to some degree at least.
- 5.3.2 Context (208) produced 35 sherds, in 2 different ware types. There were 18 flint tempered sherds from perhaps 3 vessels, for which an Earliest Iron Age date is slightly preferred, partially considering that activity of this date is known to occur nearby (Hart 2022). The rest were grog tempered sherds from a single vessel and it is possible that these are contemporaries of the flint tempered sherds. Against this however is the rarity of purely grog tempered wares in assemblages of that date locally, though they have occurred on occasion, for example at Monkton (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Alternatively, they could be Early Bronze Age. Three small sherds refit to show part of a deeply curving body profile, which is not the most typical form for vessels of that date and it might better suit the Earliest Iron Age. Similar profiles have, however, occurred in some cases on the collars of Collared Urns and sometimes below the shoulder of a tripartite version of this vessel type. The collars are usually decorated, which this panel is not, so that argues against, though exceptions are known.
- 5.3.3 Early Bronze Age wares are nearly as uncommon locally as purely grog tempered wares in the Later Prehistoric, particularly in the Earliest Iron Age, though this is for reasons of poor survival or lack of settlement evidence, rather than rarity of production. Given the latter and the coarse character of the fabric, there is a very slight preference that the grogged sherds could derive from an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn of 1900 to 1600 BC. Coarsely tempered fabrics, in relation to flint tempers, are a feature of the Earliest Iron Age, however. Ultimately, uncertainty remains, for neither option completely satisfies. One should consider these options in light of the nature of the context and the presence or absence of any features (more likely monuments) of Early Bronze Age date in the immediate vicinity. If any future finds are recovered from this feature, or the site, as part of any follow-on from this evaluation, then all of the sherds from (208) can be reconsidered in light of the contributory data.

5.3.4 Context (212) only produced 3 tiny fractured fragments. Two showed a profuse flint temper, likely Later Prehistoric and just possibly Earliest Iron Age. The other sherd looked like it derived from the same fabric and potentially the same vessel as the grog tempered ware in (208).

5.4 Summary of the burnt flint 'potboilers'

5.4.1 A total of 17 nodules and fragments of burnt flint 'potboilers', weighing a total of 745 g, were presented and catalogued. Remnant cortexes showed the use of nodules with buff or smooth dark grey skins, as well as water-rolled grey-black cobbles. Such material commonly occurs in chalk and brickearth soils in East Kent and they were likely available and obtained nearby.

5.5 Bibliography

Hart P.C. 2022. *Ceramic finds from archaeological work at Summerfield Nurseries, Staple, Kent: A catalogue and summary of the pottery recovered during the excavation and an assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation*. Report prepared 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.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL

6.1 No samples had been taken during the course of evaluation. Infill of the features was heavily bioturbated and well drained. The likelihood of stratigraphic movement of small plant remains due to root action and faunal activity has appeared on examination of the feature's infill. The terrestrial snail *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) can burrow well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149) and earthworms can carry small items such as seeds and small stones up to a metre down into the soil (Canti 2003, 143).

7 Conclusions

7.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and sub-soil concealing natural geology.

7.2 Several archaeological features of Prehistoric dates were exposed in trench 2 located within central part of the site. These consisted of pits and post hole.

7.3 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results of this work show that the proposed development will be having an impact on buried archaeological resource in central part of the site.

8 Archaeological potential and significance

8.1 Evaluation recorded a presence on Later Prehistoric agrarian activity within Northern-central extent of the site.

8.2 Prehistoric remains found during evaluation seem to be akin with field system. The recovered anthropogenic artefacts were much fragmented and in low quantities which won't allow any meaningful analyses at this stage.

8.3 Exposed remains are of local importance as these are the second oldest heritage asset recently exposed in the area.

8.4 Undertaken fieldwork recorded evidence that significant archaeological features and deposits are still present within northern-central extent of the site and that subsequent mitigation measures must take place prior to the commencement of construction works.

8.5 Development proposals are likely to impact on archaeological remains therefore a further strip map and sample programme is recommended to take place within northern-central

part of the site. The ultimate scale and scope of mitigation will be set out in WSI and agreed with Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council separately in due course.

9 IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

9.1 The impact will be significant and would result in loss of any artefacts remaining in the ground. Features are located near top surface of the site at depth of 0.5- 0.6 metres and comprise shallow pits. These will be truncated by foundation trenches, road trenches, drainage and services.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the client for commissioning the project and thanks are extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council for his support and assistance during the fieldwork.

10.2 On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA and fieldwork was carried out by Peter Cichy and E. Burrows. Report and illustrations were prepared by Bartosz Cichy.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 General

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

11.3 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. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN.

SWAT Site Code: TTS-EV-21

Site Address: As above

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by The Client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted excavation of 4 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil or made ground and subsoil overlying natural geology. Trench 2 revealed five pits and post hole dated to Later Prehistory. Function of features remain unknown but they're seems to be related to a field system.*

Further mitigation in form of limited open SMS area is proposed.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): Later Prehistory, Earliest Iron Age

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 626733 156696

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: December 2021

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology)

Geology: Head Deposit

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (B. Cichy 2022) Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

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)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and guidance: for field evaluation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

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

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

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

SWAT Archaeology, 2020, Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Kent CT3 1LN.

Figures

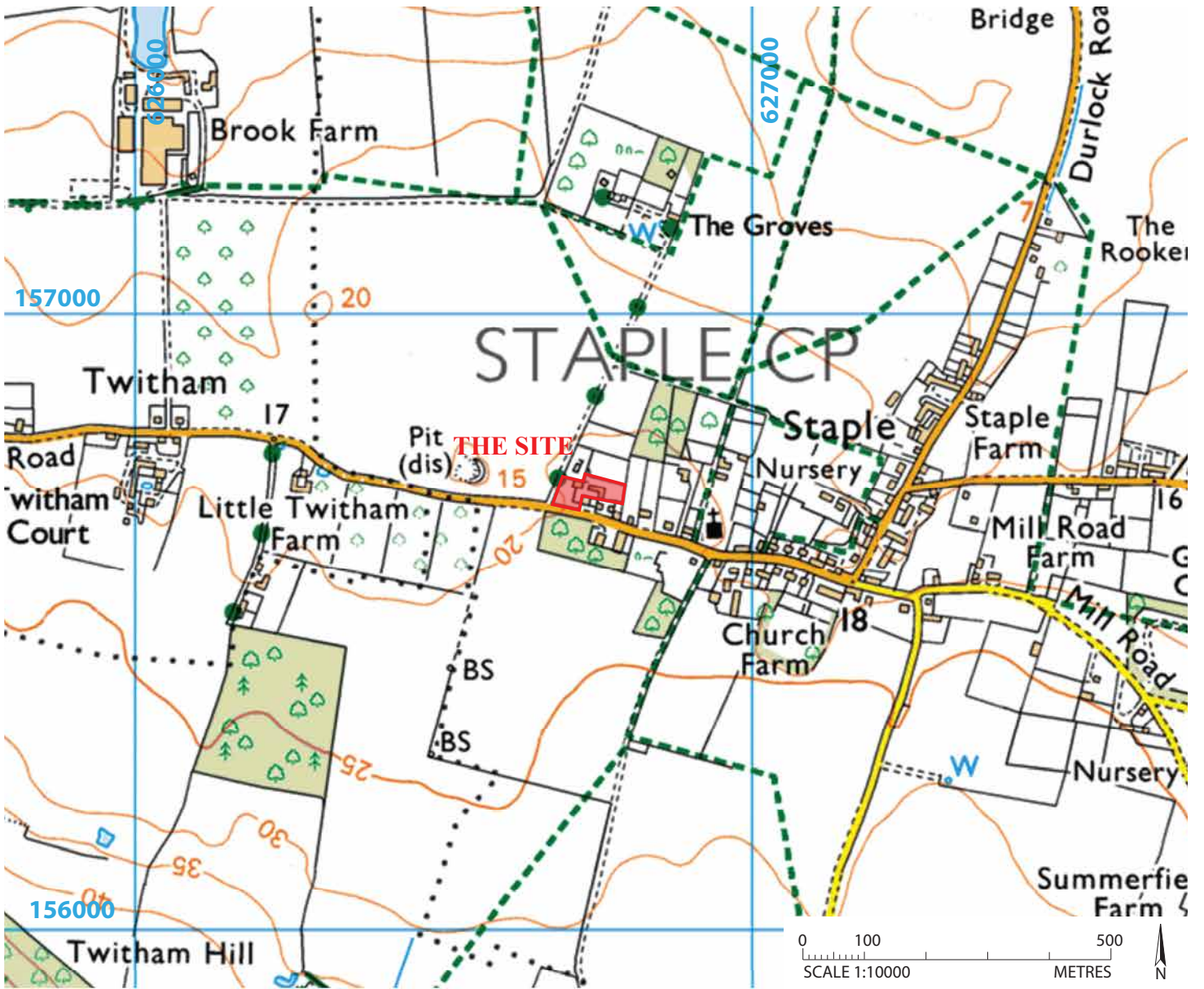
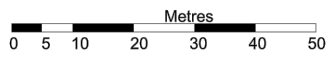


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2021. OS 100031961



Scale: 1:1250

Figure 2: Trench location

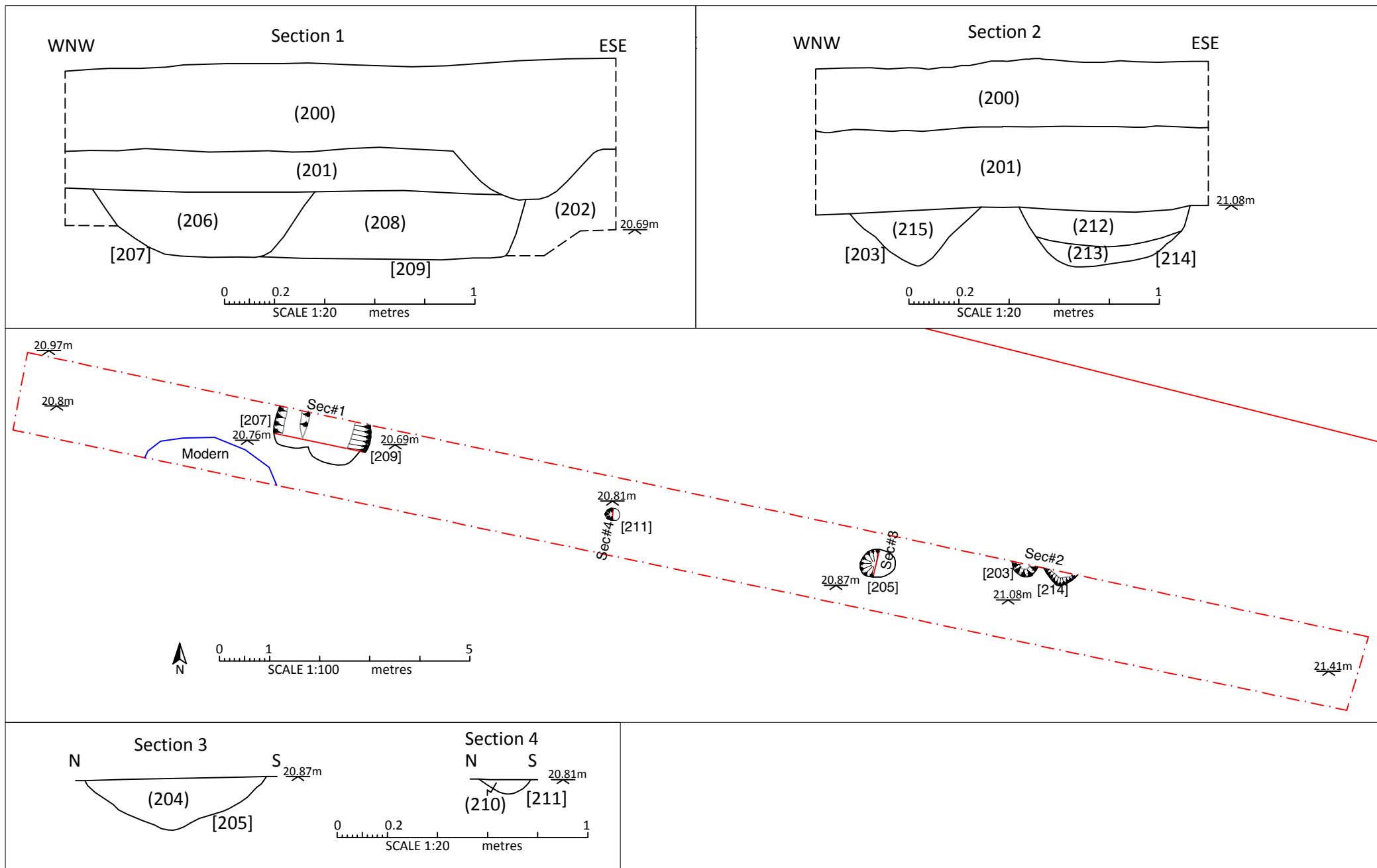


Figure 3: Features exposed in Trench 2

Plates



Plate 1: Looking east at eastern part of PDA. In the centre the site of demolished barn is visible.



Plate 2: Looking north at trench 1; 2metres scale.



Plate 3: Looking north east at trench 2



Plate 4: Looking south west at trench 3



Plate 5: Looking east at trench 4.

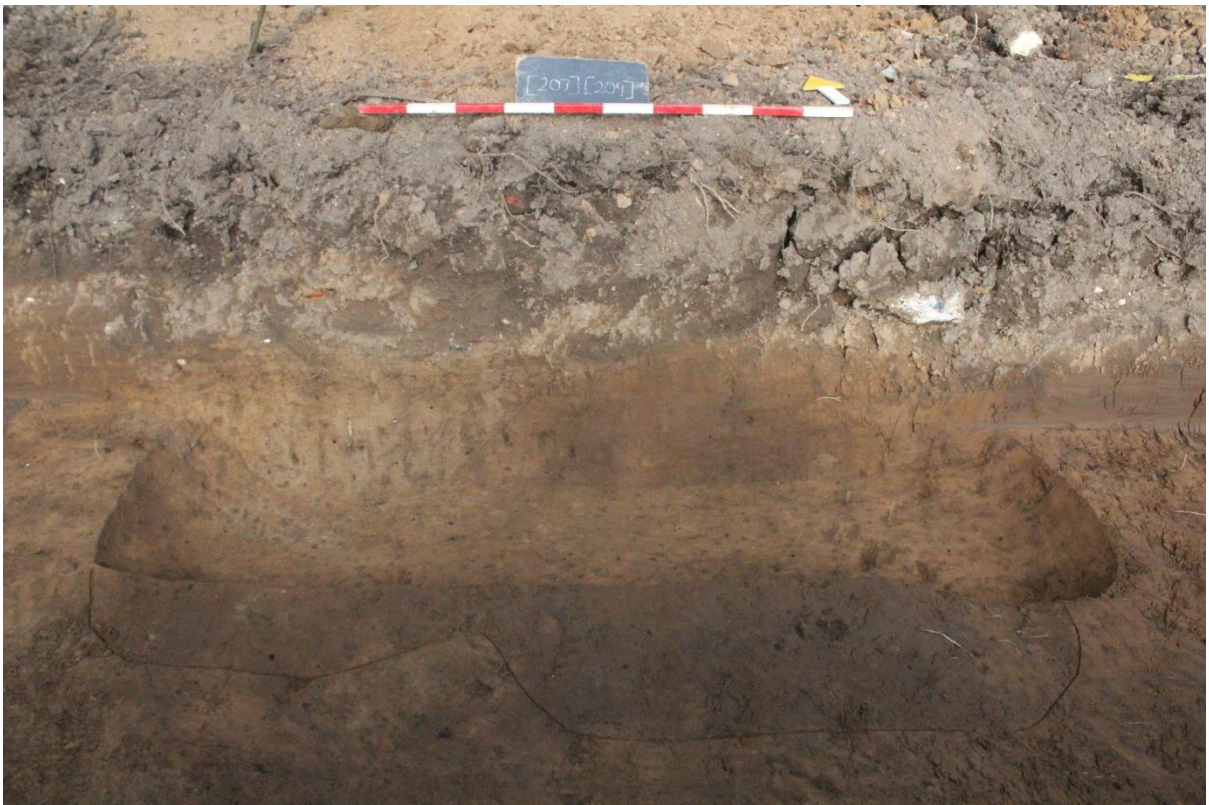


Plate 6: South facing section of pit 207 cutting pit 209; 1metre scale.

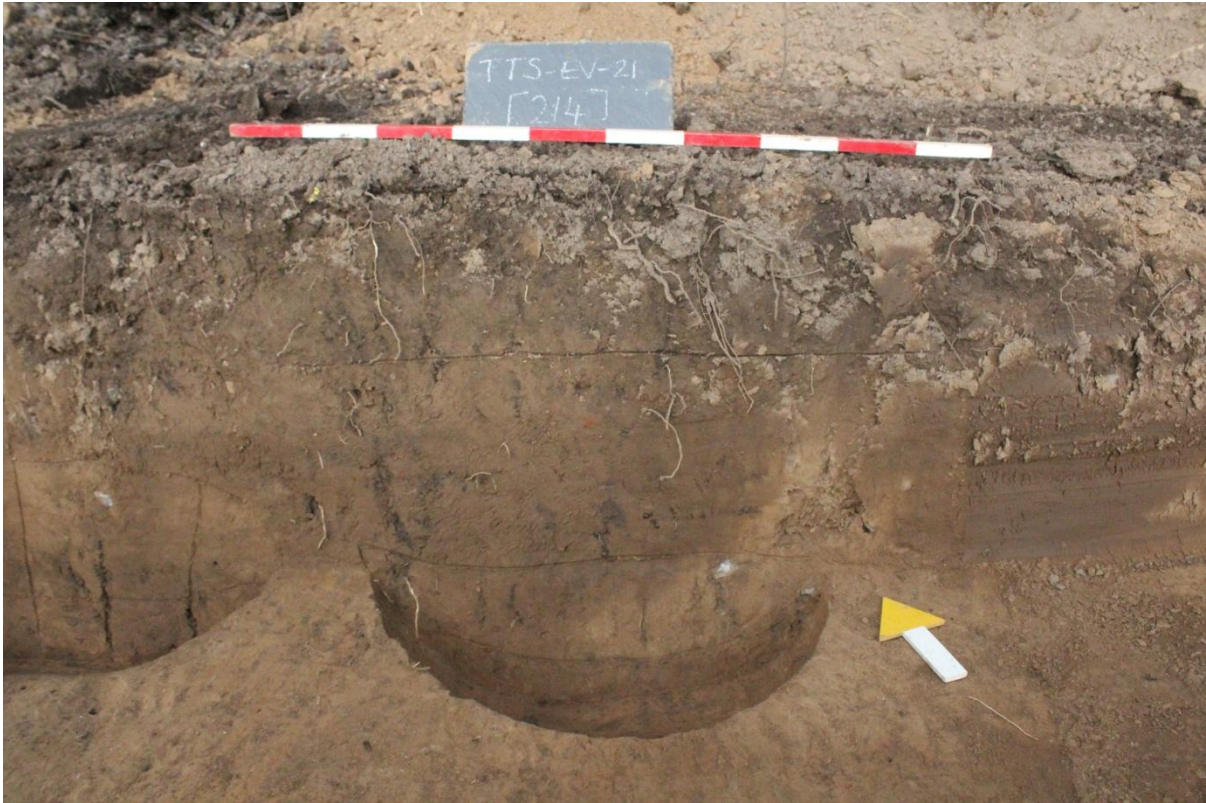


Plate 7: South facing section of pit 214; 1metre scale.



Plate 8: West facing section of pit 205; 0.5metre scale.



Plate 9: West facing section of post hole 211; 0.5metre scale.

APPENDIX II

**A catalogue and summary of the pottery and burnt flint 'potboilers'
recovered during an archaeological evaluation at
Three Tuns,
Staple,
Kent**

Site Code: TTS-EV-21

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 02.02.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. Summary of the pottery
2. Summary of the burnt flint 'potboilers'
3. Bibliography

Appendix (PDF version only)

4. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage
 - 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
5. Catalogues of other finds presented
 - 5.1. Catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers'

NB. All dates used throughout are *circa*.

1. Summary of the pottery

A total of 38 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 105 g were presented and catalogued. No period-based breakdown of this material has been included. This is because the sherds were all small sized or fragmentary plain body sherds that derived from 2 contexts only, they were only broadly dateable on their own merits (mostly Later Prehistoric) and the options surrounding their dating are best discussed as a whole. Given their condition, all of the sherds could be residual to some degree at least.

Context (208) produced 35 sherds, in 2 different ware types. There were 18 flint tempered sherds from perhaps 3 vessels, for which an Earliest Iron Age date is slightly preferred, partially considering that activity of this date is known to occur nearby (Hart 2022). The rest were grog tempered sherds from a single vessel and it is possible that these are contemporaries of the flint tempered sherds. Against this however is the rarity of purely grog tempered wares in assemblages of that date locally, though they have occurred on occasion, for example at Monkton (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Alternatively, they could be Early Bronze Age. Three small sherds refit to show part of a deeply curving body profile, which is not the most typical form for vessels of that date and it might better suit the Earliest Iron Age. Similar profiles have, however, occurred in some cases on the collars of Collared Urns and sometimes below the shoulder of a tripartite version of this vessel type. The collars are usually decorated, which this panel is not, so arguing against, though exceptions are known.

Early Bronze Age wares are nearly as uncommon locally as purely grog tempered wares in the Later Prehistoric, particularly in the Earliest Iron Age, though this is for reasons of poor survival or lack of settlement evidence, rather than rarity of production. Given the latter and the coarse character of the fabric, there is a very slight preference that the grogged sherds could derive from an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn of 1900 to 1600 BC. Coarsely tempered fabrics, in relation to flint tempers, are a feature of the Earliest Iron Age, however. Ultimately, uncertainty remains, for neither option completely satisfies. One should consider these options in light of the nature of the context and the presence or absence of any features (more likely monuments) of Early Bronze Age date in the immediate vicinity. If any future finds are recovered from this feature, or the site, as part of any follow-on from this evaluation, then all of the sherds from (208) can be reconsidered in light of the contributory data.

Context (212) only produced 3 tiny fractured fragments. Two showed a profuse flint temper, likely Later Prehistoric and just possibly Earliest Iron Age. The other sherd looked like it derived from the same fabric and potentially the same vessel as the grog tempered ware in (208).

2. Summary of the burnt flint 'potboilers'

A total of 17 nodules and fragments of burnt flint 'potboilers', weighing a total of 745 g, were presented and catalogued. Remnant cortexes showed the use of nodules with buff or smooth dark grey skins, as well as water-rolled grey-black cobbles. Such material commonly occurs in chalk and brickearth soils in East Kent and they were likely available and obtained nearby.

3. Bibliography

Hart P.C. 2022. *Ceramic finds from archaeological work at Summerfield Nurseries, Staple, Kent: A catalogue and summary of the pottery recovered during the excavation and an assessment of the pottery from the evaluation and excavation*. Report prepared 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.

Appendix

4. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage

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 no material has been separated out by date or re-bagged at this stage, in anticipation of a potential subsequent phase of work and the recovery of further material, which may influence the dating of some of the less diagnostic elements from this evaluation. Before any assessment report on the sum of the finds from this site is written, all of the material from the evaluation can be reconsidered and the overall catalogue updated if needed.

4.2. Period Codes employed

<i>Period</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date (circa)</i>		
Early Bronze Age	EBA	2100	- 1550	BC
Later Prehistoric period	LP	1550	- 50	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900	- 600	BC
Iron Age	IA	1000/900	- 50	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600	- 350	BC

4.3. Abbreviations used in 4.4

Wear

L	:	Light
M	:	Moderate
H	:	Heavy
S	:	Splintered/Shattered (1 or both original surfaces missing)

Dating

>	:	To/or later
<	:	No later than

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

Context		Total sherds	Total weight (g)		
<i>Context:</i>	Information on the nature of the context if known.				
<i>Start date:</i>	Likely commencement date of the context based on the pottery evidence.				
<i>End date:</i>	Likely end date of the context based on the pottery evidence.				
<i>Dating:</i>	General implications.				
<i>Comments:</i>	Highlighting elements, wares and issues of particular note.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
	Notes.				
(208) [209]			35 sherds		103 g
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	Probably after 1550 BC and potentially after 1000/900 BC.				
<i>End date:</i>	Unclear, all could be residual.				
<i>Dating:</i>	<p>These plain body sherds are in a similar fragmented and variously worn condition, with no definitive characteristics present and all could be residual. An EIA date is slightly preferred for the flint tempered wares, partially given that activity of this date is known to occur nearby (Hart 2022). The grog tempered ware might relate, but against this is the rarity of purely grog tempered wares in EIA assemblages locally, though they have occurred on occasion, for example at Monkton (Macpherson-Grant 1994). Alternatively, the grog tempered ware could be EBA. Part of a deeply curving body profile survives and though EBA vessels would not typically show such a profile, it has occurred in some cases on the collars of Collared Urns, which would usually be decorated (though exceptions are known), or sometimes below the shoulder of a tripartite version. It would seem more likely that these 2 wares are related, but, despite the fact that EBA wares are nearly as uncommon as purely grog tempered LP/EIA wares (though for reasons of poor survival or lack of settlement evidence, rather than rarity of production), an EBA date is very slightly preferred at present. This should be reviewed, however, in light of the nature of the context, any future finds that follow-on from the evaluation and a consideration of the presence or absence of any EBA features (more likely monuments) in the immediate vicinity.</p>				
<i>Comments:</i>	Small to medium sized sherds and tiny fragments of, some of both wares have chipped and heavily rounded edges, others appear fresher. The tinier of the flint tempered fragments are perhaps more likely to be IA and with the oxidised coarsely flint tempered sherds an EIA date is possible. There is nothing definitive however. The grogged ware could relate, or be EBA.				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
17	?EBA/LP	Grog tempered	1	S M	?1900-1600 BC
	Reduced, with frequent rounded generally dark red coarse grog, thick-walled, hand-made, with simply smoothed lumpy exterior. 3 small sherds combine to form a medium sized body panel which is deeply curved, rest are small sherds and fragments. No decoration.				
18	LP/?EIA	Flint tempered	2/3	L>H	1000/900-600 BC
	1 small reduced partial fragment of rim, dull burnished exterior and 4 small reduced fragments of body sherds with neatly smoothed (dull) exteriors, possibly tool-burnished, all these more likely IA. Rest orange oxidised small to medium sized body sherds and fragments, some heavily fractured, chipped and or worn, with denuded surfaces, moderate coarse gritting, broadly LP, less likely EMIA and later.				
(212) [214]			3 sherds		2 g
<i>Context:</i>					
<i>Start date:</i>	Probably after 1550 BC and potentially after 1000/900 BC.				
<i>End date:</i>	Unclear, all could be residual.				
<i>Dating:</i>	Slight preference for EIA for the profusely flint tempered ware. The grogged ware could potentially be from the same vessel as seen in (208), if possible.				
<i>Comments:</i>	Tiny fractured fragments. The flint temper is profuse. *The grog tempered looks like that in (208).				
<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Wear</i>	<i>Date preference</i>
1	?EBA/LP	Grog tempered	-*	F	?1900-1600 BC
2	LP/?EIA	Flint tempered	1	F	1000/900-600 BC
Totals			38 sherds		105 g

5. Catalogues of other finds presented

5.1. Catalogue of burnt flint 'potboilers'

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
(206)	6	236	Small to medium sized nodules and fragments, remnant cortexes mostly buff, 1 grey-black water-rolled cobble, fired variously lightly through to white.
(208)	11	509	Small to medium sized nodules and a few fragments, remnant cortexes buff and thin smooth dark grey over a dark red rind, fired mostly mid to dark grey, 1 white.
Totals	17	745	