Archaeological Evaluation of land at Bell Grove, Aylesham, Dover, Kent. (Aylesham Village Expansion Phase 2B Parcel 5 & 6 and access road 2B.7)

NGR: Parcel 5: 623961 152390
Parcel 6: 623897 152330

Site Code: AYL-EV-23 Phase 2B Parcel 5&6

Planning Application: DOV/20/00879

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Contents

Summary

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land either side of Bell Grove, Aylesham, Dover Kent (Aylesham Village Expansion Phase 2B Parcel 5 & 6 and access road 2B.7). A Planning Application (DOV/20/00879) was approved by Dover District Council on the 5th of October 2022 for the erection of 32 residential dwellings and all associated infrastructure, access and landscaping. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) advised Dover District Council (DDC) that a programme of archaeological investigations take place prior to development, therefore Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA).

The work was carried out by SWAT Archaeology in March 2023, in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (Holmes and Worsley, 2022) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

The results of the evaluation identified limited archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Archaeology was present within 1 of the 11 trenches, trench 5.1, consisting of a Early Iron Age to Middle/Late Iron Age hearth/oven [5.108] containing in-situ burning of the geology surrounded by a shallow depression [5.110] interpreted as a potential area of trample around the hearth/oven [5.108]. A superficial geology of unstructured chalk with periglacial striations was observed in trenches 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, with the remaining trenches cut onto Head Deposits of brickearth.

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Barratt Homes to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land either side of Bell Grove, Aylesham, Dover, Kent (Phase 2B Parcel 5&6 and access road 2B.7) as part of the Aylesham Village Expansion Project.

1.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification previously produced by SWAT Archaeology (Holmes and Worsley, 2022). The evaluation was carried out between the 27th and 30th March 2023.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was implemented at the request of KCCHC to clarify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA) and to ascertain the impact the development may have on the potential archaeological horizon.

1.1.4 Trenches 5.3, 5.7 and 5.8 had to be reduced in size to avoid obstructing vehicular access to the residential properties backing to the development area.

1.1.5 This report summarizes the results of the evaluation and considers the potential impact to the archaeological resource resulting from the proposed development to determine whether any further archaeological mitigation will be required.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

2.1.1 The Aylesham Village Expansion Project takes in parts of the existing village of Aylesham and includes extensive areas of new development to the north of the present village. The works in question (Phase 2B Parcel 5&6 and Access Road 2B.7) are located towards the eastern side of the present village on a grassed open space situated near Aylesham train station. The wider area around the present works have been previously landscaped as part of the Phases 2B of the expansion scheme. Parcels 5 and 6 are situated either side of Bell grove, with access road 2B.7 situated to the west of Parcel 6. At the time of the evaluation the parcels were bounded to the north by open grassland. Parcel 5 is centered on NGR: 623961 152390 and is approximately 3,182m sq. in size, while Parcel 6 is centered on NGR 623879 152330 and measures approximately 3,000m sq. in size.

2.1.2 There is a fall of approximately 4m across Parcel 6 from the south side (71aOD) to the north side (67aOD). Historical map regressions show that the PDA has been used for arable farmland from at least 1872 through to the 1920's when the village was built to house the families associated with the Snowdown Colliery. The PDA then remained an open space situated in between Kings Road and Queens Road to the present day.

2.1.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is situated on a superficial geology of Head Deposits, silt and gravel with a bedrock geology of Margate Chalk Member-Chalk (British Geological Survey, accessed 27/4/23). On-going archaeological investigations within Aylesham, by SWAT Archaeology, have demonstrated the chalk is capped by varying superficial/ head deposits including areas of undifferentiated silt, clay and gravels. Ground Levels are approximately 69aOD on Parcel 5 and approximately 71aOD on Parcel 6.

3. Planning Background

3.1.1 The Proposed Development Area was granted planning permission (DOV/20/00879) (Phase 2B Parcel 5&6 and access road 2B.7) by Dover District Council (DDC) for the erection of 32 dwellings and all associated works, landscaping and residential access road 2B.7 on the 5th of October 2022.

3.1.2 The Heritage and Conservation Department at Kent County Council (KCCHC), who provide and advisory service to DDC, have been involved since the start of the Aylesham Village Expansion Project. The overall Aylesham Village Expansion project was the

subject of a hybrid planning application (DOV/07/01081) for residential development and all associated works and infrastructure, together with alterations to existing shops and apartments, refurbishment of public open spaces, provision of new play and sports facilities, parks and gardens, street furniture, landscaping, temporary works access and compounds.

Several subsequent reserved matters applications and other submissions have been made to the Local Planning Application as the scheme has developed. The Local Planning Authority placed conditions (31 & 92) on the planning consent:

(*31) ARCHAEOLOGY* *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 been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on from the evaluation any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation, in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved evaluation works and safeguarding measurements.*

***Reason**: To ensure features of archaeological importance and interest are properly examined and recorded.*

And:

(*92) ARCHAEOLOGY* *No development of a phase or part phase shall take place until a report on a detailed archaeological investigation, which shall include full details of archaeological field evaluation works together with the identification of any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further investigation and recording has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed safeguarding measures and archaeological mitigation works shall be carried out prior to the commencement of development within that phase or part phase of the development, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

***Reason**: To ensure features of archaeological importance and interest are properly examined and recorded*

Subsequently planning application (DOV/20/00879) (Phase 2B Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7) is covered by condition 20 of planning application (DOV/19/00821), which states the same as condition 92 from (DOV/07/01081).

3.1.3 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7, carried out by SWAT Archaeology. The evaluation, which comprised of 11 evaluation trenches, measuring between 14.5m and 27.3m in length and 2m in width (figure 2), was conducted in March 2023 according to the agreed written specification (Holmes and Worsley, 2022).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 Introduction and Wider Archaeological Landscape

4.1.1 SWAT Archaeology has been involved with the Aylesham Village Expansion Project since 2014, the results of the subsequent widespread watching briefs, evaluations and strip, map and sample excavations across the village has enabled SWAT Archaeology to build a detailed narrative of Aylesham's history. Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7 are situated approximately 500m to the south east of previous SWAT Archaeology SMS areas 1, 2, 3 and 9 (Britchfield, Holmes and Wilkinson, 2020). The following excerpt is taken from the written specification for the evaluation of Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7, which details the known narrative of the village:

"The subsequent excavations revealed a prehistoric landscape that originated in the late Neolithic. The appearance of a large rectangular-shaped monumental structure, with an inner bank sat on the highest point of the development site and overlooked the Stour valley from the edge of the North Downs. Having been backfilled, the monument was re-used in the Mid Bronze Age at a time when an extensive Drove Way appeared. It was during this phase that the site experienced a wider use of the landscape, as pits, linear features and cremation burials were scattered across it.

The centre of the landscape was however, dominated by a series of Roman enclosures, some of which had a Late Iron Age foundation and scattered amongst the northern half

of the network of enclosures were four kilns that produced pottery from either side of the Roman invasion in AD 43. The enclosures were altered and expanded during the late Iron Age and Roman periods and mortuary enclosures were added to house richly furnished cremations.

Activity on site during the Roman period also included a mix of industry and animal husbandry. In addition to the manufacture of pottery, Roman Aylesham was also witnessed small scale iron smelting and the milling of flour, suggested by the presence of six millstones. The large percentage of horse bone and the presence of two horse skeletons would indicate that horse rearing/stockading was also part of the site's economic dynamics. The presence of military equipment on site suggests that the Roman Army may have played a significant role with the site's economy.

Activity during the later Roman period, though present is unclear, as is the implied Anglo-Saxon presence. Further study of the results of the watching brief (DANA-WB-14) and the excavation of Phase Three may improve our understanding of this transitional period at Aylesham.

The Medieval phase on site was only present toward the extreme west of the development in the form of two parallel and shallow linear features.

During the Post-Medieval period however, the development site experienced small-scale quarrying. A total of five quarries, probably for flint, were present and they were scattered across the landscape.

The excavation implies that activity on the site ceased until the village of Aylesham was built in the 1920s and became part of the defensive line, based on the railway line between Canterbury and Dover during the early years of World War Two. The development site overlooked this defensive position and to deter enemy gliders from landing behind these defensives, a series of inter-connecting ditches were dug across the site. After the war, the site was returned to arable farming."
(Paragraphs 5.2 – 5.8) (Holmes and Worsley, 2022)

4.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations on Site

4.2.1 The only previous archaeological investigations that have taken place within the bounds of the proposed development area have been conducted by Wessex Archaeology who undertook a detailed Gradiometer Survey of Phase 2-4 of the Aylesham Village Expansion Project. Within the report produced by Wessex Archaeology Parcels 5 is referred to Area 11 and Parcel 6/ access road 2B.7 as Area 10 and did not produce any results that would indicate obvious archaeology present on site.

4.3 Archaeology Within the Immediate Area

4.3.1 There are several recorded sites on the KCCHC HER within a 500km radius of the PDA, this section will detail those sites. Only one historical period (prehistoric) is represented that predates the establishment of the modern village in the 1920's.

4.3.2 Undated cropmarks

The following table displays the undated cropmarks that have been recorded on the HER within a 500m of the PDA. All these features are situated to the south and east of Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7. These cropmarks appear to be indicative of trackways or droveways between farming enclosures.

HER Number	Description
TR 25 SW 91	'T' shaped linear feature and possible three sided enclosure
TR 25 SW 136	Linear features possibly forming a NE-SW aligned double ditched trackway that runs parallel to Holt Road
TR 25 SW 39	An enclosure of unknown date
TR 25 SW 307	A 125m+ x 25m+ enclosure with the longer axis on a NW-SE alignment, later cut by trackway TR SW 308. Aerial photography suggests traces of additional possible rectilinear enclosures situated to the south and east.
TR 25 SW 308	A 230m+ E-W aligned double ditched trackway that appears to truncate on an

	earlier rectilinear field system (TR 25 SW 307)
TR 25 SW 90	A circular enclosure 35m diameter, visible of aerial photographs.
TR 25 SW 51	Fragmentary curvilinear enclosure cut by Spinney Lane (undated aerial photograph)
TR 25 SW 36	Rectangular enclosures, pits and other linear features seen to the south of Spinney Lane

Table 1. Undated cropmarks within 500m radius of the PDA

4.3.3 Prehistoric

In 2010, an Early – Mid Iron Age quarry comprising of a series of intercutting pits (TR 25 SW 338) was identified during the evaluation at Market Place by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 500m west of the development area. Due to the shallow nature of the features, it was interpreted that the quarry was for chalk rather than flint. Additionally, two undated linear features were recorded as well as a second much deeper undated quarry.

426m south of the development area a linear feature (TR 25 SW 318), running 28m, was identified by Canterbury Archaeological Trust during a Watching Brief at Miner's Way, Aylesham. The linear was thought to be late Prehistoric in date.

In 2010 Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an evaluation of the site of the former Aylesham Health Centre, situated approximately 500m southwest of the development area (TR 25 SW 299). Two pits, two postholes and eleven stakeholes were identified with only one of the pits being datable to the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2010).

Additionally, 480m to the south southwest of the site investigations by Archaeology South East and Canterbury Archaeological Trust recorded three linear features (TR 25 SW 273) of assumed prehistoric date as part of works associated with the Aylesham and Snowdown Welfare Scheme (Archaeology South East, 2009. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2012).

4.3.4 Modern

Aylesham Village itself was a purpose-built housing project built in 1926 to accommodate the mining families working the East Kent Coal Fields, located between the Snowdown Colliery that opened in 1908 and the proposed pit at Addisham that was never developed (Dover Museum, accessed 9/2/23, DDC, 2013). The following are recorded building or sites on the HER within a 500m radius of the site, dating to and post the conception of modern village.

TR 25 SW 146 – Second World War air raid shelter located approximately 200m southeast of the site.

TR 25 SW 361 – Baptist Church built in the 1920's

TR 25 SW 360 – St Peter's Church built in the 1920's

5. Aims and Objectives

5.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a written scheme of investigation produced by SWAT Archaeology (Holmes and Worsley, 2022) and approved by KCCHC prior to the work starting (see below):

"The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.

The specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications, which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

The Evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site."
(Holmes and Worsley, 2022. Paragraphs 6.1-6.3)

5.1.2 Additionally, to these specific aims laid out within the written specification the archaeological evaluation aimed to:

- Make available information about the archaeological resource within the PDA by reporting on the results of the evaluation
- Place the results of the evaluation into the wider known archaeological and historical landscape
- Assess the significance of the results.

6. Methodology

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (Holmes and Worsley, 2022) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CifA, 2014). This includes:

"The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in the KCC Part B of this specification (attached). The initial evaluation will comprise eleven (11 No.) machine-excavated trenches (c.25m x 1.8m) spread across both Parcels of land and the residential access road 2B.7. Two trenches with access road 2B.7, four trenches within Parcel 6 and 4 within Parcel 5, giving an approximate sample size of 5-6%. The proposed trench layout will need to be agreed with the County Archaeologist, an indicative plan is attached (Figure 2). Each trench will be machine excavated down to the archaeological or natural horizon. The position of each trench will be scanned with a CAT detector to ensure that unknown services will not be encountered.

There will also be an allowance of c.15m of contingency trenching which could be used if it would help address the aims set out above. Contingency trenching can be activated following agreement with the County Archaeologist. Further requirements are set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching Part B"
(Holmes and Worsley, 2022. Paragraphs 7.1-7.2)

6.2 Fieldwork

6.2.1 As stated above 11 trenches were excavated within the proposed development areas.

6.2.2 An 13t 360 tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden, comprising of an intact topsoil and subsoil as well as areas of occasional modern made-up ground sealing subsoil to reveal the natural geology and the archaeological horizon.

6.2.3 Where appropriate trenches or specific areas/ features were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross sections through the features were excavated to establish the character of the archaeology, relationships between features and to obtain cultural material.

6.3 Recording

6.3.1 A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots, during mechanical excavation and following archaeological investigations. Additionally, the site, trenches and specific features were photographed with a drone to help illustrate location and context.

6.3.2 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches and excavated interventions was maintained, comprising of both plans and sections, drawn to the appropriate scales (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). The site was also surveyed using GPS to record the position of the trenches, features and interventions and to record coordinates and aOD heights.

6.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented 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 2 202+, Trench 3 301+). The trenches and contexts have also been prefaced with the Parcel number (i.e trench 5.1 (5.101) [5.102]) to avoid confusion the other evaluations conducted as part of Phase 2B of the Expansion Project.

7. Monitoring

7.1.1 Communication with the Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation comprised of emails.

8. Results

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 A total of 11 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

8.1.2 Figure 1 is a site location plan; figure 2 is a plan showing trench locations; figure 3 shows the trench locations overlaid with the development plan; figure 4 is an individual trench plan of trench 5.1 showing plans and sections; figure 5 is an individual trench plan of trench 5.9 showing plans and sections; figure 6 is an individual trench plan of figure 5.10 showing plans and sections; figure 7 is a plan showing the trench locations overlaid with the historical 1950 OS map showing the Aylesham railway sidings.

8.1.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information of the trenches.

8.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

8.2.1 A consistent stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site of approximately 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.15m-0.20m of subsoil. An isolated series of three modern made grounds were observed overlying the subsoil across Trenches 5.1 and 5.2. A separate modern made ground was observed overlying the subsoil at the north-northeastern end of Trench 5.7. A separate series of four modern made ground deposits were observed overlying the subsoil at the north-northeastern end of Trench 5.9. A separate modern made ground was observed overlying the subsoil in trenches 5.10 and 5.11. A consistent underlying geology of unstructured chalk with periglacial striations was observed in the trenches and areas of trenches to the southeast of the PDA (Trenches 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11). The remaining Trenches and areas of trenches to the northwest of the PDA were observed to have an underlying geology of head deposit silt and gravel (Trenches 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.11)

8.3 Archaeological Narrative

8.3.1 Archaeology was only identified in 1 of the 11 trenches, trench 5.1**.**

8.3.2 **Trench 5.1**

Trench 5.1 was excavated on an E-W alignment and measured 25m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.69m. The trench was located at the base of the valley incline and a ~2m section in the centre of the trench was left unexcavated due to the presence of a service pipe running NW-SE across the trench. There were three modern overburdens identified sealing the subsoil in the trench: (5.101) sealed the East of the trench, overlaying (5.102) that sealed the entirety of the trench and in turn overlaid (5.103), which sealed the West end of the trench. (5.101) was a 0.03m thick moderate to firm mid grey redeposited clay with occasional chalk, sub angular flint and clinker inclusions; (5.102) was a 0.19-0.30m thick redeposited chalk in a matrix of soft mid brown silty clay; (5.103) was a 0.28m thick moderate to firm mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional tile and other building waste.

2m from the Western end of the trench, hearth/oven [5.108] was identified possibly truncating a shallower pit [5.110] *(Plates 2&3, Figure 4)*. The hearth/oven [5.108] was a sub-circular pit with steep inward sloping sides and a moderate concave base, with some in-situ burning/heat affected natural ground (5.107) remaining against the sides. [5.108] measured 0.94m long x 1.15m wide x 0.31m deep and contained three deposits: upper fill (5.105), a 0.15m thick very soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and sub angular flint inclusions that produced residual pottery dating from 1550/1000-50BC, and worked lithics; fill (5.106) a 0.15m thick moderately compact silty clay with very frequent charcoal pieces, occasional sub angular flint that possibly comprised burning waste from the hearth/oven and had an environmental sample <1> retained; in-situ burning/heat affect natural (5.107), a 0.01-0.02m thick compacted and fired clay, present intermittently around the cut [5.108]. Sample <1> contained moderate quantities of charcoal of identifiable size along with one indeterminate grain fragment and one poorly preserved dock-type (*Rumex* sp.) seed (Appendix 4).

The underlying possible recut pit [5.110] was a shallower ovate pit with moderate inward sloping sides and a gentle concave base, mostly truncated away by recut hearth/oven [5.108](if indeed it was truncated), aligned NE-SW. [5.110] measured

1.74m long x 1.55m wide x 0.13m deep and was filled by (5.109), a very soft slightly greyish mid brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal and Mn flecks, occasional sub-angular flint inclusions that produced a single residual ceramic sherd dating from 1550-50BC.

The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of firm orangey brickearth *(Plate 1, Figure 4)*. Due to the shallow nature, similar fill inclusions and contemporary date, pit [5.110] is likely an area of trample around the feature that has been created while [5.108] was in use, and not earlier truncated feature.

8.3.3 Trench 5.2

Trench 5.2 was excavated on a NE-SW alignment and measured 25m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.43m at the NE end and 0.62m at the SW end. The trench was situated at the base of the valley incline. There were three modern overburdens identified sealing the subsoil at the SW end of the trench, where the topsoil sealed overburden (5.201), which sealed overburden (5.202), which sealed overburden (5.203). (5.201) was a 0.20m thick firm mottled mid orange and dark grey brown silty clay with modern building rubble inclusions; (5.202) was a 0.14m thick moderately compact dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent chalk inclusions; (5.203) was a 0.06m thick friable very dark grey / black slightly clayey wilt with modern inclusions. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of, To NE - unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial scarring in filled with orange clayey brickearth, and To SW - Clayey orange brickearth. Trench 5.2 was absent of archaeology *(Plate 9)*.

8.3.4 Trench 5.3

Trench 5.3 was excavated on a NE-SW alignment and measured 14.5m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.34m. The trench was located at the base of the gradual incline on the South side of the valley and had its length reduced to avoid blocking vehicular access to residential properties at the Eastern end of Parcel 6 at the request of DDC *(Plate 5)*. The trench was excavated onto underlying geology of unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial striations in filled with orange brickearth. Trench 5.3 was absent of archaeology.

8.3.5 Trench 5.4

Trench 5.4 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured 27.0m long x 2.20m wide,

with a maximal depth of 0.32m. The trench was positioned at the base of the shallow Southern incline of the valley and excavated onto an underlying geology of unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brickearth. The northern end of the trench was just brickearth. Trench 5.4 was absent of archaeology *(Plate 4)*.

8.3.6 Trench 5.5

Trench 5.5 was excavated on an ESE-WNW alignment and measured 27.3m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.34m. The trench was located at the base of the Southern side of the valley and excavated onto an underlying geology of firm orange brickearth with a slight yellow hue and patches of gravels. Trench 5.5 was absent of archaeology.

8.3.7 Trench 5.6

Trench 5.6 was excavated on a NW-SE alignment and measured 26.2m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.46m. The trench was located at the base of the Southern side of the valley and excavated onto an underlying geology of firm clayey orange brickearth with gravel patches and occasional patches of unstructured chalk. Trench 5.6 was absent of archaeology.

8.3.8 Trench 5.7

Trench 5.7 was excavated on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured 20.8m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.42m at the SSW end, 0.58m at the NNE end. The trench was located at the base of the valley incline and perpendicular to it, with the NNE end lower. The trench has its length slightly reduced at the SSW end to avoid blocking vehicular access to residential properties at the South Eastern edge of Parcel 5 at the request of DDC. The increased depth of the trench at its NNE end (at the bottom of the valley incline) was entirely due to the presence of modern made-ground overburden (5.700), a 0.26m thick mix of redeposited chalk and brickearth overlaying the topsoil *(Plate 7)*. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of unstructured chalk with NE-SW aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brickearth and larger patches of brickearth towards the NNE. Trench 5.7 was absent of archaeology.

8.3.9 Trench 5.8

Trench 5.8 was excavated on an E-W alignment and measured 20.8m long x 2.0m wide,

with a maximal depth of 0.36m. The trench was located at the base of the Southern valley incline and had its Eastern end shifted northwest and shortened to avoid blocking vehicular access to residential properties at the South Eastern edge of Parcel 5 at the request of DDC *(Plate 6)*. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brickearth, and patches of brickearth. Trench 5.8 was absent of archaeology *(Plate 8)*.

8.3.10 Trench 5.9

Trench 5.9 was excavated on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured 24m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.34m at the SSW end and 0.69m at the NNE end. The trench was situated at the base of the southern valley incline. The increased depth seen at the NNE end of the trench was due to modern excavation into the geological horizon and backfill by four modern made grounds, seen to truncate the subsoil *(Plate 10)*. Topsoil overlaid (5.901) which overlaid (5.902) which overlaid (5.903) which overlaid (5.904), seen to truncate away subsoil. (5.901) was a 0.16m thick soft light brown clay silt with moderate chalk pieces and flecks, sub angular flint and occasional clinker and bio inclusions; (5.902) was a 0.06m thick very soft black humic buried soil with frequent bio inclusions; (5.903) was a 0.13m thick compact light grey mixture of hardcore, sub angular and rounded flint, chalk pieces and clay patches; (5.904) was a 0.22m thick compact slightly orange brown clay silt (redeposited brickearth) with moderate sub angular and rounded flint and chalk inclusions. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striation infilled with soft dark brown & orange brown brickearth. Trench 5.9 was absent of archaeology *(Figure 5)*.

8.3.11 Trench 5.10

Trench 5.10 was excavated on an E-W alignment and measured 25.7m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.38m at the W end and 0.47m at the E end. The trench was located at the base of the very gradual southern incline of the valley. The increased depth at the Eastern end of the trench was due to the presence of a modern made ground (5.1001) sealing the subsoil over the eastern 6.5m of the trench. (5.1001) was a 0.13m thick mixture of redeposited crushed chalk and chalk pieces in a loose mid orange brown silt clay. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brick earth. Trench 5.10

was absent of archaeology *(Plate 11, Figure 6)*.

8.3.12 Trench 5.11

Trench 5.11 was excavated on an ENE-WSW alignment and measured 27m long x 2.0m wide, with a maximal depth of 0.60m at the WSW end and 0.46m at the ENE end. The trench was located at the base of the southern valley incline. The increased depth at the WSW end of the trench was due to the presence of a modern made-ground (5.1101) sealing the subsoil to the WSW. (5.1101) was a 0.33m thick compact very dark grey slightly silty clay with frequent chalk, flint and occasional metal waste inclusions. The trench was excavated onto an underlying geology of 90% orange brick earth with 10% unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with brick earth at the ENE end. Trench 5.11 was absent of archaeology.

9. Finds

9.1 Pottery

Pottery was recovered from upper backfill (5.105) of hearth/oven [5.108] as well as its surrounding deposit (5.109). This comprised a total of 2 sherds weighing 17g. Both sherds were flint tempered wares considered residual to the context, with a suggested date range from 1550-50BC. *(Appendix 2)*

9.2 Worked Lithics

Worked lithics were recovered from upper backfill (5.105) of hearth/oven [5.108] and comprised 2 lithics: a simple awl that could have a broad date range, and a simply retouched flake with a preferred date range from Middle Bronze Age (MBA) – Early/Middle Iron Age (EMIA). *(Appendix 3)*

9.3 Archaeobotanical

Sample <1> (5.106) of hearth/oven [5.108] produced moderate quantities of charcoal of identifiable size, along with one indeterminate grain fragment and one poorly preserved dock-type (*Rumex* sp.) seed. One dewatered sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia* L.) seed was also present within the sample. It is suggested that unless the charcoal needs to be identified that no further work is recommended. (*Appendix 4*)

10. Discussion

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Bell Grove, Phase 2B Parcels 5&6 and access road 2B.7 of the Aylesham Village Expansion Project, Dover, Kent has demonstrated the limited presence of archaeological activity within the extent of the proposed development areas, with the only archaeological feature located during the evaluation situated in access road 2B.7. The natural geology was encountered across the site at an average depth from 0.36m – 0.49m below the existing ground surface.

10.1.2 It should be noted that this evaluation was conducted in conjunction with the evaluation of the surrounding development Parcels (Parcels 7 and 8 for Persimmon Homes), with Parcel 7 forming the southern boundary to access road 2B.7 and Parcel 8 situated on the open grassland opposite Parcel 6 and access road 2B.7. The relationship between the archaeology identified over these Parcels will be discussed in the Archaeological Narrative.

10.2 Archaeological Narrative

10.2.1 Preservation conditions for an archaeological horizon were considered favorable with minimal modern disturbance within the PDA. As discussed previously within this report the PDA has remained arable farmland or open green space within the village for over 200 years, with partial landscaping during construction of railway sidings along the northwestern edge of the PDA in 1928. One additional exception is the route of service which ran at the time of the evaluation north-south across trench 5.1 *(Plate 1)*.

10.2.2 In 1928, Aylesham railway halt was constructed with sidings extending up to roughly the position of the junction of Burgess Road and Station road to aid the initial construction of the village, visible on the 1950 OS map *(Figure 7)*. The associated groundworks included the deposition of “Some 500 tons of chalk” to the sides of the halt sourced from the demolition of Archcliffe Fort, Dover (Kentrail, accessed 19/05/23). This chalk deposit may comprise the redeposited chalk overburdens seen occasionally at the base of the shallow incline across parcels 5&6 (5.700), (5.903), (5.1001), (5.1101) and contribute to the building up of ground level / overburdens seen sealing trenches 5.7, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11. (*Plates 7, 10*). This chalk deposit is consistent with findings from neighbouring Parcels 4, 7-8, with significant overburdens at the base of the valley

incline, surrounding where the temporary rail line was erected, (7.401), (7.1302) (4.303), (4.102). (SWAT Archaeology 2023, ongoing)

10.2.3 A single archaeological feature was recorded during the evaluation, a possible hearth/oven [5.108] at the very western edge of the PDA *(Plates 2&3)*. If the possibly residual pottery and worked lithics recovered from upper backfill (5.105) of the hearth/oven are associated, a date range of 1550/1000-350+BC (MBA-EMIA) would be suggested for the feature *(Appendix 2&3)*. This identified feature could be said to form part of the local, sporadic, surviving prehistoric landscape by tying into the EIA quarry identified during excavations at Market place, only 150m west of trench 5.1 (Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2010). This landscape does not appear to continue eastwards of the isolated hearth/oven [5.108] as no other features were observed in the 10 trenches to the east in Parcels 5&6 and no features were identified dating to the EIA in the surrounding evaluation of parcels 7&8 (13 trenches) (Swat Archaeology 2023, ongoing). It should be noted that a small undated linear was seen continuing into parcel 6 from neighbouring parcel 7 (Trench 7.2) that would have been between trenches 5.1 and 5.2 that could also potential tie into the landscape seen to the west at Market place, with two similarly undated linears recorded.

10.2.4 In parallel with the evaluation of parcels 5&6, separate evaluations were undertaken by SWAT archaeology to investigate parcels 7&8 (13 trenches) and parcel 4 (9 trenches). Across these additional 22 trenches, the same very limited presence of archaeology was observed as seen in parcels 5&6, with only 6 trenches positive for archaeology (SWAT Archaeology 2023, ongoing).

Immediately behind parcel 6, a single undated linear was seen to continue from parcel 7 on the southern boundary of the parcel ([7.203], trench 7.2) to the space between trenches 5.1 and 5.2, as previously mentioned. Additionally to this, an undated linear and small depression were identified in parcel 8, shortly to the northwest boundary of the parcel ([7.407] and [7.904] respectively).

Roughly 50m to the north and northwest of parcel 5 was parcel 4, in which 4 features were identified, 3 undated linear features that did not continue through to parcels 5&6 and an isolated pit dating to the MBA that was interpreted as forming an isolated periphery of the MBA landscape seen across excavations to the north of the village

during phase 1 of the village expansion project.

The 5 undated linears seen across the three combined evaluations could be said to form a sparse continuation of the known unexcavated agrarian landscape of field division and land use, seen between 300-500m south and southeast of the PDA as extensive crop marks (e.g. TR 25 SW 36, TR 25 SW 91). The identified linears within the PDA and its neighbouring parcels (4, 7&8) are significantly less extensive than both the cropmarks listed here and the enclosure systems identified during earlier phases of the village expansion project to the north of the village. The lack of archaeological investigations during the initial construction of Aylesham village in the 1920s is obstructive to determining how far these landscapes extended, except to say they are extremely sparse within the PDA and its neighbouring parcels.

10.3 Conclusions

10.3.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the specification and has established the lack of significant archaeological remains within the PDA that can be placed within a wider archaeological context, with only a single hearth/oven observed at the very western edge of the PDA that can be placed into the sparse EIA landscape seen further west of the PDA, along with a single undated linear seen to enter the very west of the PDA from neighbouring parcel 7. The 22 trenches excavated in the immediately surrounding parcels of land by SWAT archaeology support these findings, with the majority negative for archaeology, and only 5 undated linears, an undated small depression and an isolated MBA pit observed. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

11. Acknowledgements

11.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Barratt David Wilson Homes Kent for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation. Site Survey and illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of Digitise This. The fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair McKeever and Dan Worsley MA. The report was written by Alistair McKeever and editied by Dan Worsley MA. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD MCifA.

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Kent Rail, Aylesham: https://www.kentrail.org.uk/Aylesham (accessed 19/05/23)

Appendix 1 – Trench Tables

AYL-EV-23 Phase 2B Parcels 5&6 Plates

Plate 1. North facing drone plan of Trench 5.1 showing 2m easement for modern services and head deposit brickearth overlaying unstructured chalk geology at the base of the trench.

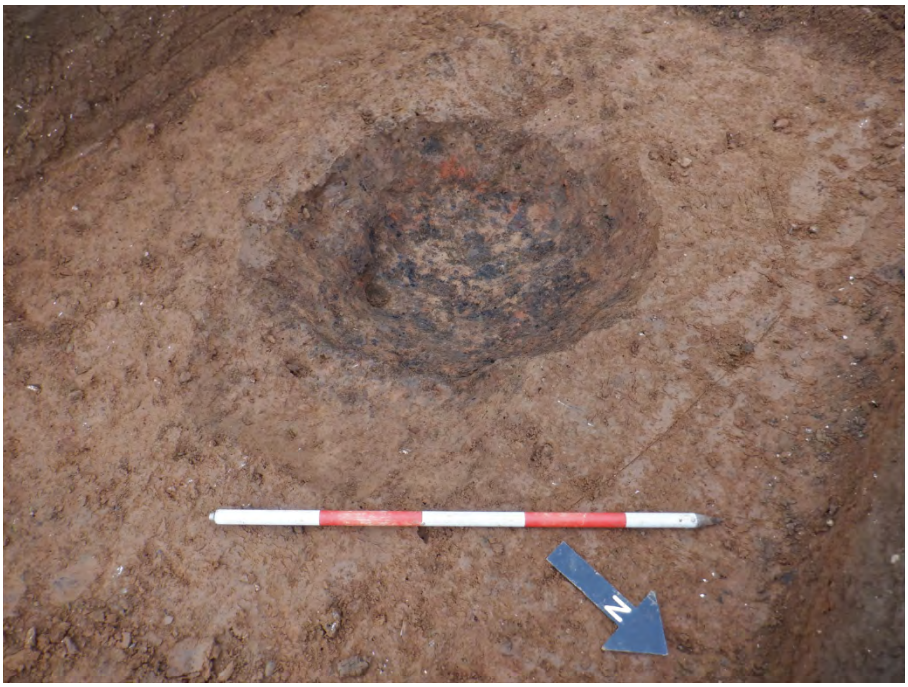


Plate 2. Southwest facing Mid-Ex plan of furnace pit [5.108], showing the remains of wall/lining (5.107) after removal of backfills (5.105), (5.106). Scale 1m.

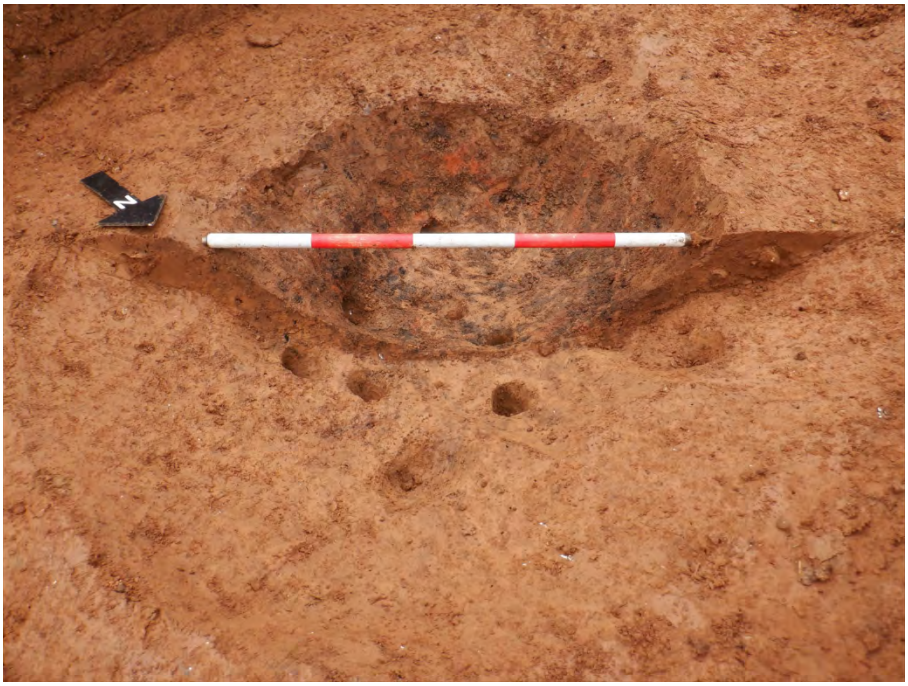


Plate 3. Southwest facing Full-Ex plan of furnace pit [5.108] showing only shallow penetration of heat through into the underlying brickearth natural. Scale 1m.

Plate 4. North facing working shot showing machine excavation of Trench 5.4.

Plate 5. Aerial overview of Parcel 6 showing the shortening of Trench 5.3 to allow vehicular access to the rear of residential properties on Queens Road.

Plate 6. Aerial overview of Parcel 5 showing slight shortening of Trenches 5.7 & 5.8 to allow vehicular access to the rear of residential properties on Bell Grove.

Plate 7. East southeast facing Sample Section 2 of Trench 5.7 showing modern chalk deposit (5.700) overlaying the trench. Scale 1m.

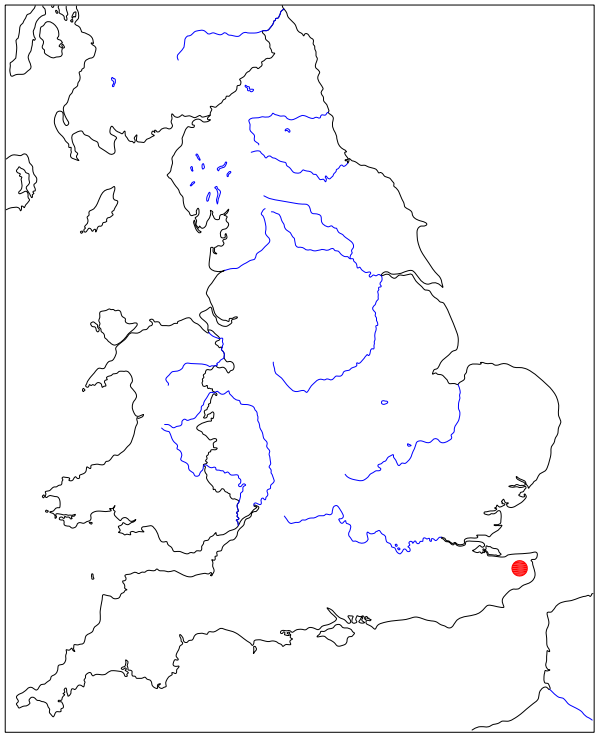
Plate 8. West facing plan of Trench 5.8 showing the underlying unstructured chalk geology. Scale 1m.

Plate 9. Southwest facing plan of Trench 5.2 showing underlying geology of brickearth head deposit overlaying unstructured chalk. Scale 1m.

Plate 10. Southeast facing Sample Section 2 of Trench 5.9 showing a sequence of four made grounds sealing the trench. Scale 1m

Plate 11. Northeast facing Sample Section 1 of Trench 5.10 showing topsoil overlaying subsoil overlaying unstructured chalk geology. Scale 1m

NOT TO SCALE



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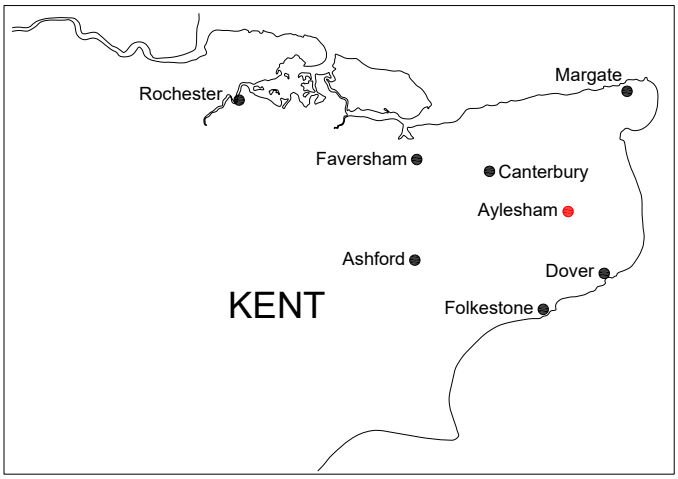

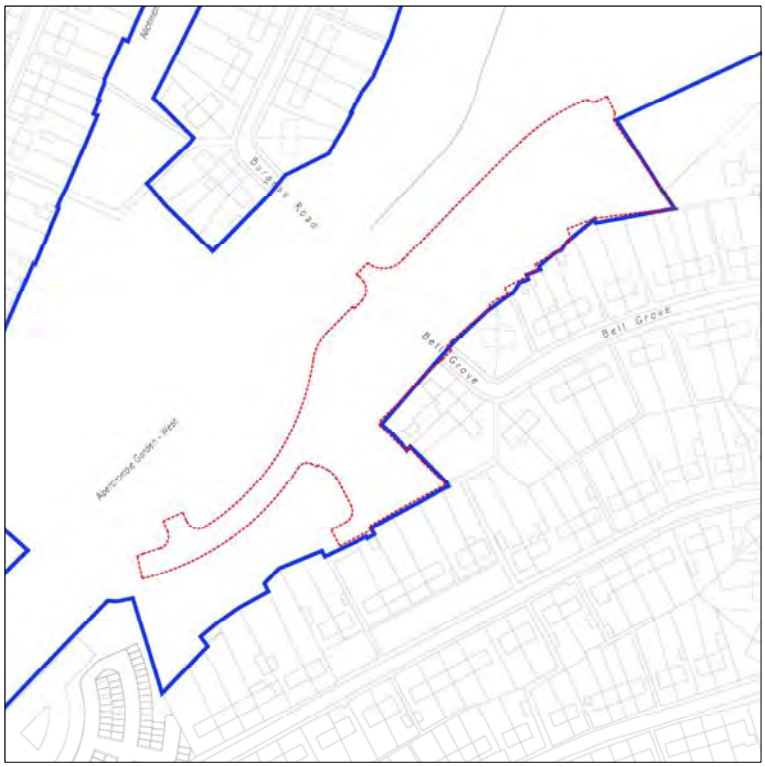

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

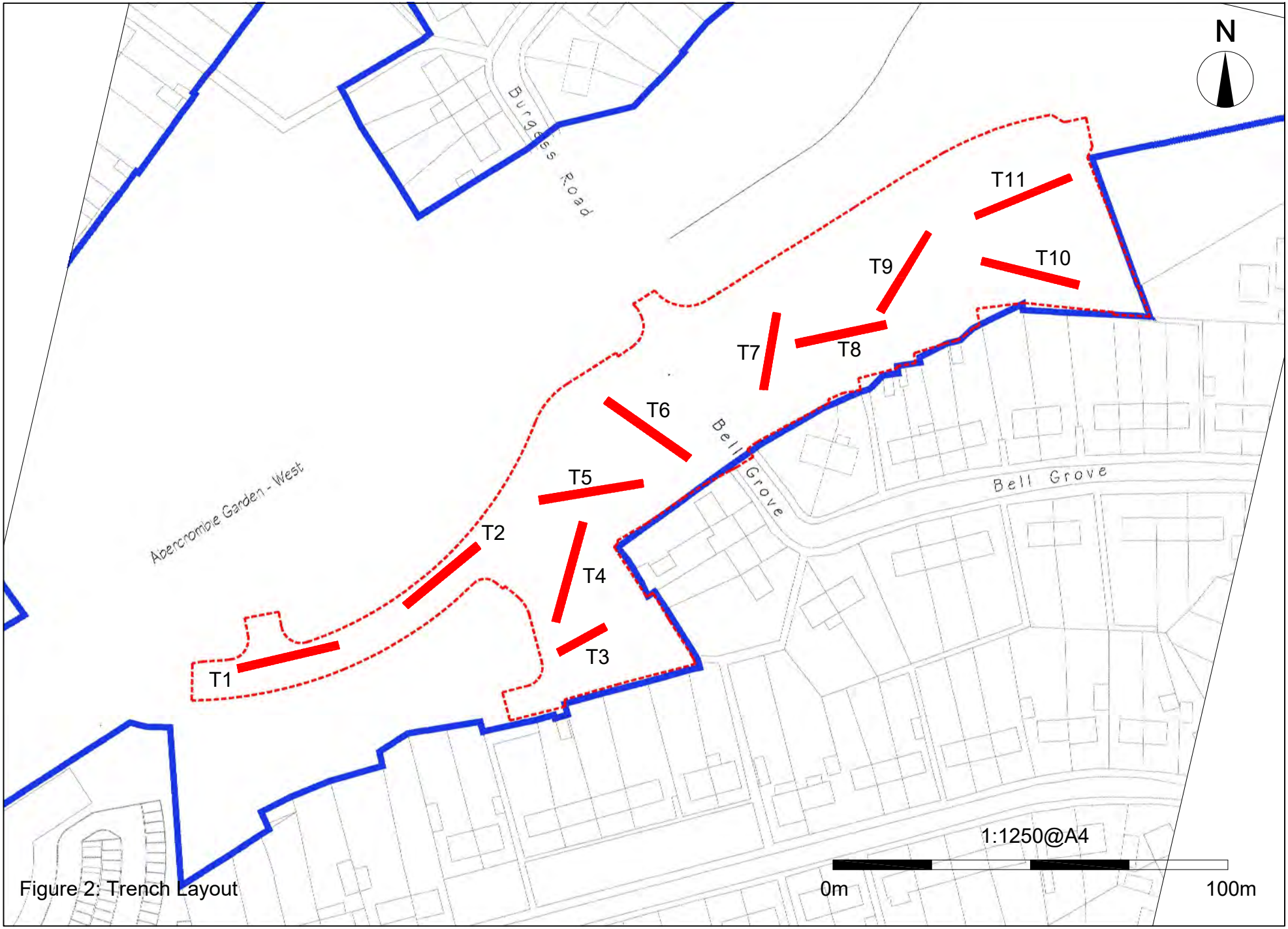

Figure 2: Trench Layout

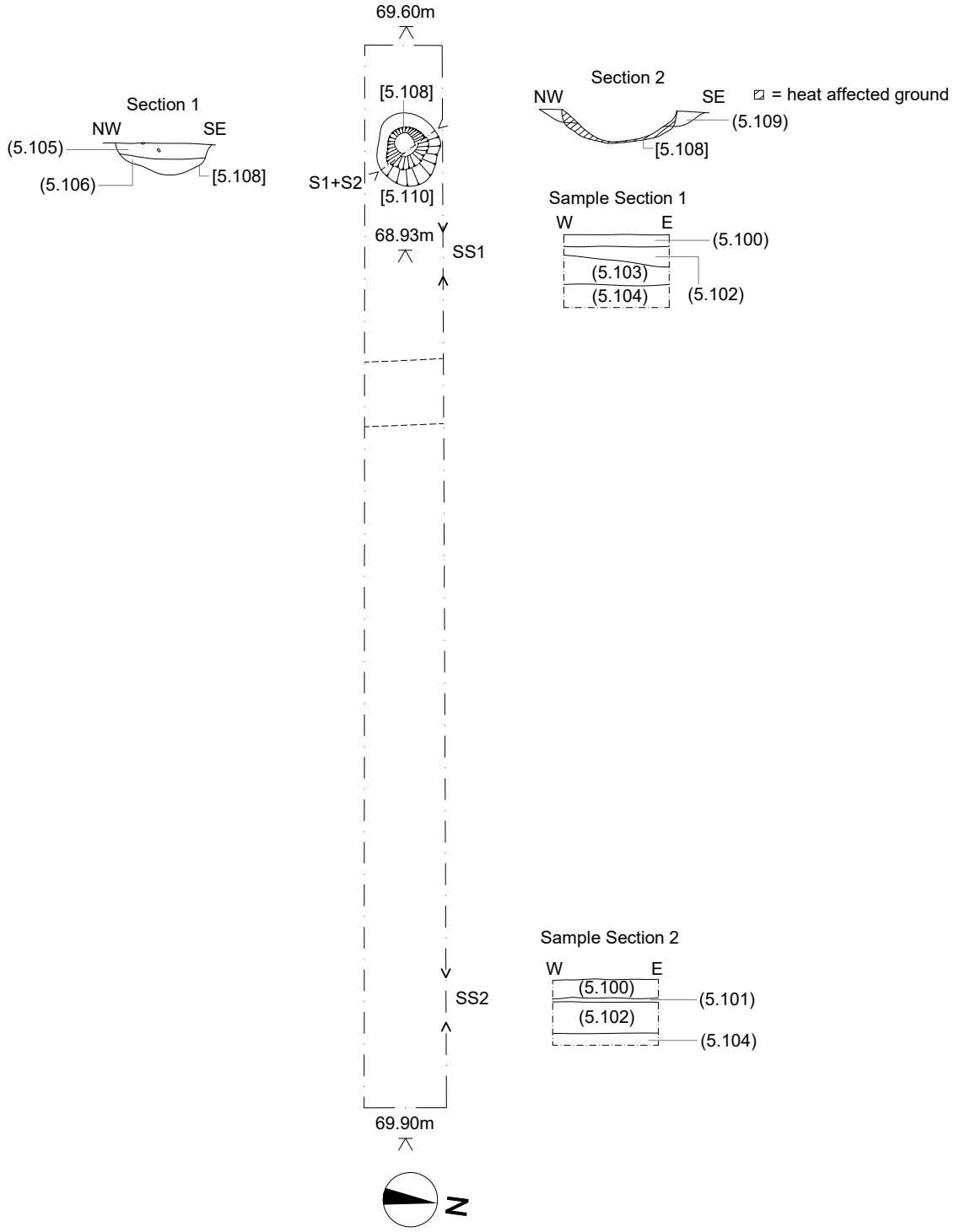

Figure 3: Plan and Section of Trench 1

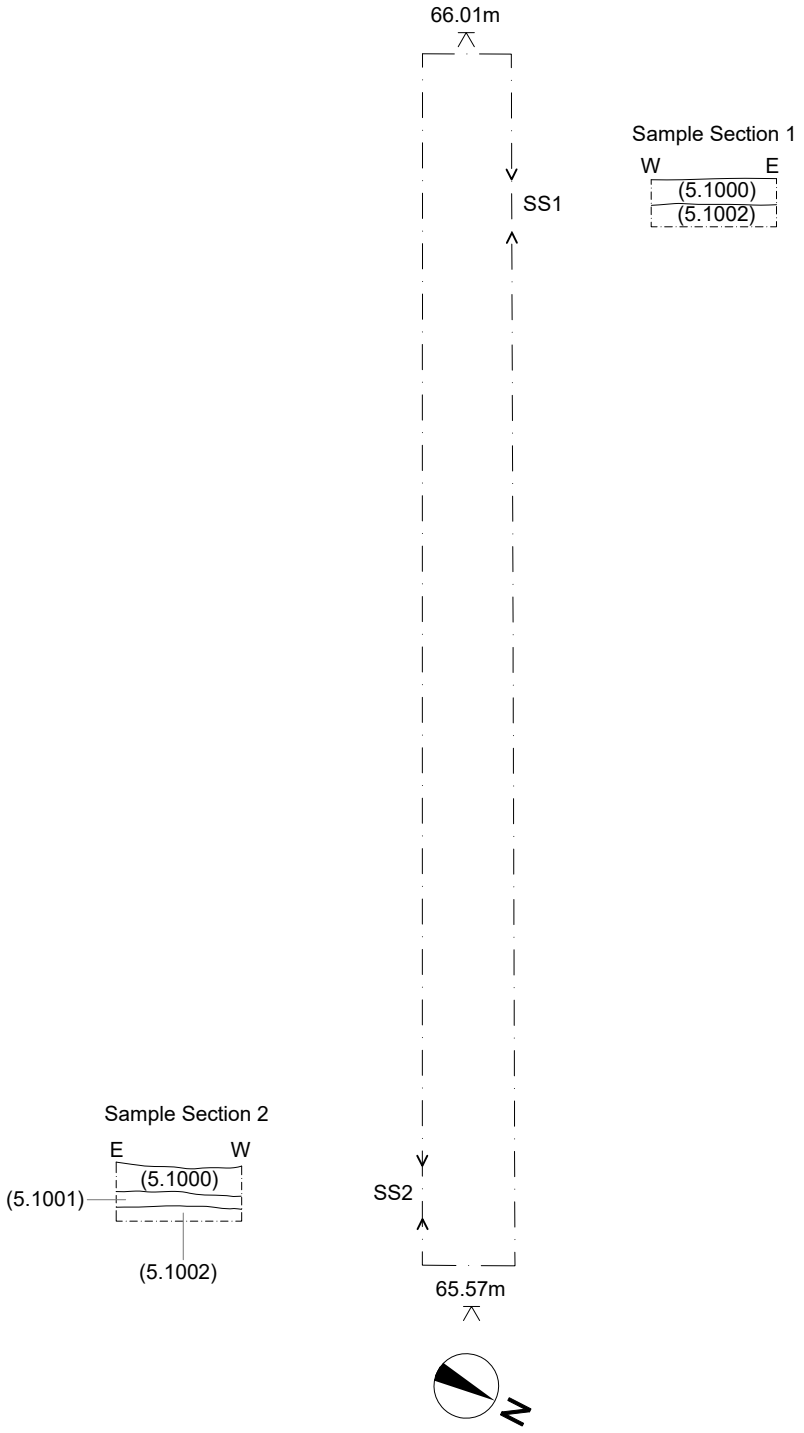

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Figure 4: Plan and Section of Trench 9

0m 10m

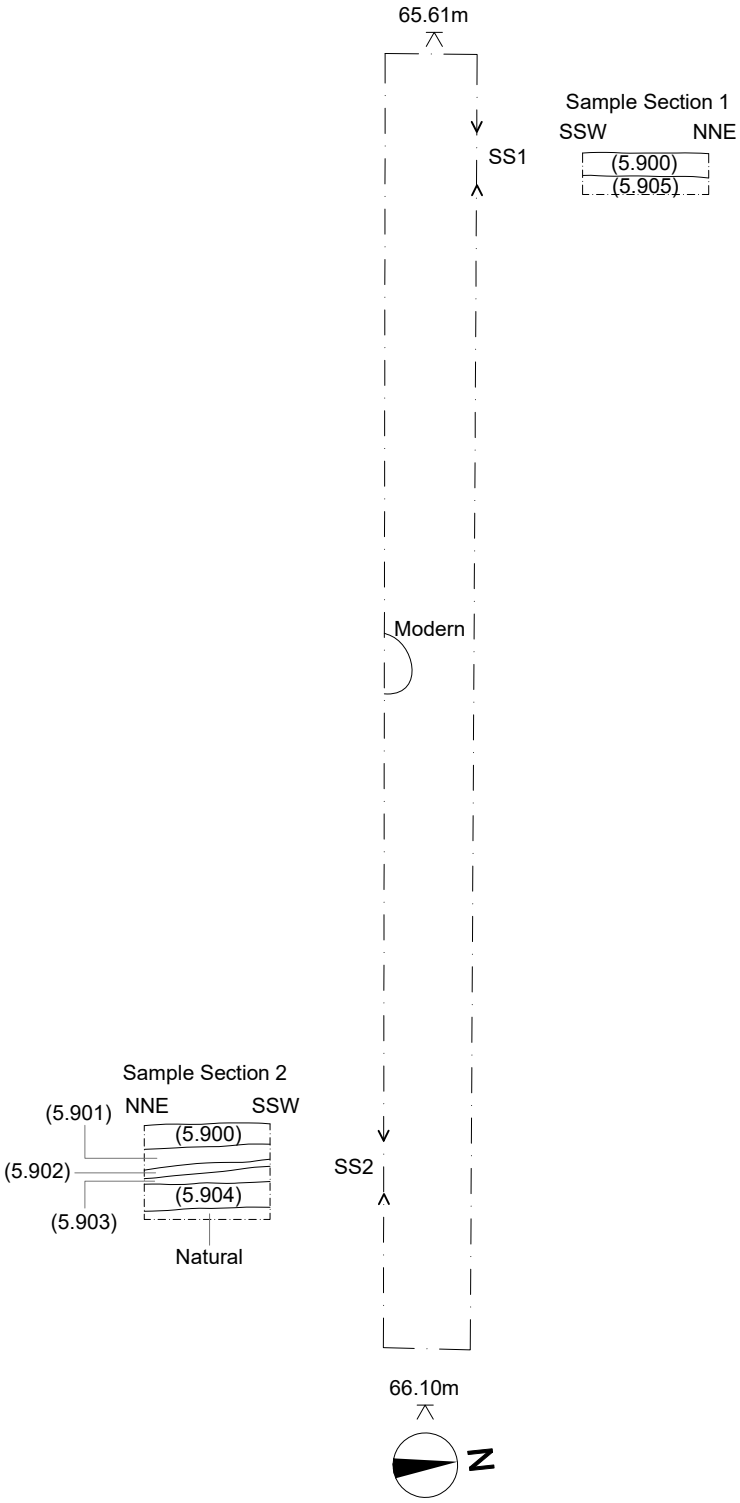

Figure 5: Plan and Section of Trench 10

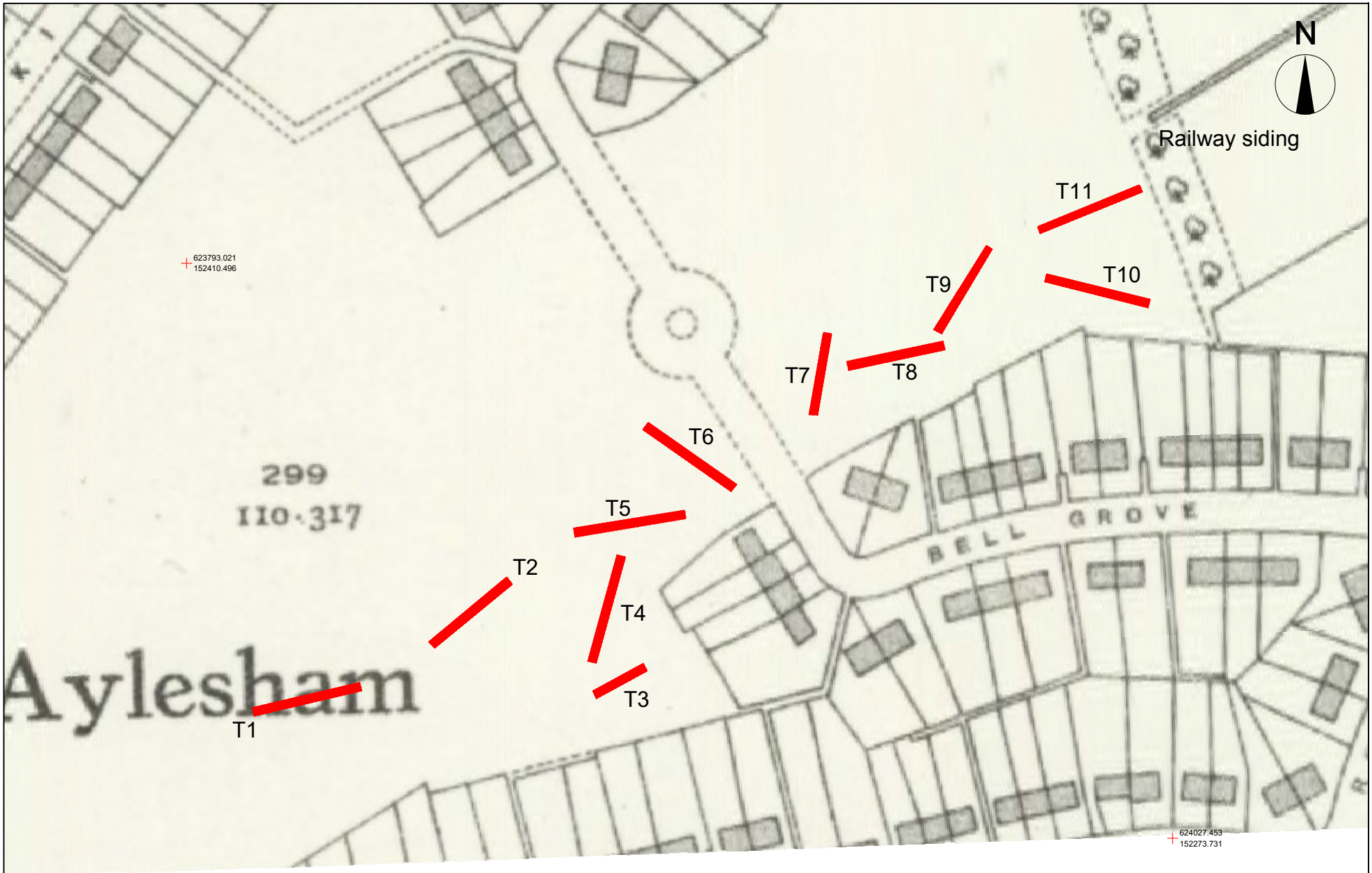

Figure 6: Trench Layout overlain on 1950 OS mapping

Appendix 1 - Trench Tables

Trench 5.1	Dimensions: 25m x 2m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level at W end: 69.85mOD Ground level at E end: 69.9mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.100	Turf & Topsoil	Turf overlaying a thin band of black humic loam	0.00-0.12m/ 0.18m
5.101	Overburden	Moderate to firm mid grey redeposited clay with occasional chalk, sub angular flint and clinker inclusions.	0.19-0.21m
5.102	Overburden	Redeposited chalk in a matrix of soft mid brown silty clay	0.12-0.31m / 0.21-0.51m
5.103	Overburden	Moderate to firm mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional tile and other building waste	0.19-0.47m
5.104	Subsoil	Moderate to soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk fleck inclusions	0.47-0.69m / 0.51-0.61m
(5.105)	Upper Fill of hearth/oven [5.108]	Very soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and sub angular flint inclusions. (Pot, Worked Flint)	0.69-0.84m
(5.106)	Fill of hearth/oven [5.108]	Moderately compact silty clay with very frequent charcoal pieces, occasional sub angular flint. (Enviro Sample 1)	0.84-0.99m
(5.107)	In-situ burning/heat affected natural in hearth/oven [5.108]	Occasional patches of compacted fired clay from in-situ burning of natural brickearth.	0.99-1.00m
[5.108]	Cut of hearth/oven	Cut of hearth/oven. Sub-circular pit with steep inward sloping sides and a moderate concave base, with in-situ burning against the sides. Hearth/oven is a recut of earlier pit [5.110] and has no clear alignment.	L - 0.94m W - 1.15m D - 0.31m
(5.109)	Fill of Pit [5.110]	Very soft slightly greyish mid brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal and Mn flecks, occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (pot)	0.69-0.82m
[5.110]	Cut of Pit	Cut of ovate pit with moderate inward sloping sides and a gentle concave base, mostly truncated away by possibly recut hearth/oven [5.108], aligned NE-SW. This feature may actually be an area of trample surrounding [5.108] created while the feature was in use.	L - 1.74m W - 1.55m D - 0.13m
Nat	Natural	Firm orange brickearth	0.61m+ / 0.69m+

Trench 5.2	Dimensions: 25m x 2m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 69.41mOD Ground level at SW end: 69.79mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.200	Topsoil	Friable black humic clayey silt with some modern building rubble inclusions	0.00-0.12m / 0.20m
5.201	Overburden layer	Firm mottled mid orange and dark grey brown silty clay with modern building rubble inclusions	0.12-0.32m

5.202	Overburden layer	Moderately compact dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent chalk inclusions	0.32-0.46m
5.203	Overburden layer	Friable very dark grey / black slightly clayey wilt with modern inclusions	0.46-0.52m
5.204	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional medium sub-angular flint	0.52-0.60m / 0.20-0.42m
Nat	Natural	To NE - unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial scarring in filled with orange clayey brickearth To SW - Clayey orange brickearth	0.60m+ (SW) / 0.42m+ (NE)

Trench 5.3	**Dimensions: 14.5m x 2m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 70.69mOD Ground level at SW end: 71mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey / black humic clayey wilt with modern building rubble inclusions	0.00-0.20m
5.301	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown clayey wilt with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint inclusions	0.20-0.34m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial striations in filled with orange brickearth	0.34m+

Trench 5.4	**Dimensions: 27m x 2m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at N end:69.3mOD Ground level at S end: 70.54mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey / black humic clayey wilt with modern building rubble inclusions	0.00-0.12m / 0.20m
5.401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown clayey wilt with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint inclusions	0.12/0.20-0.24m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with NNW-SSE aligned periglacial striations in filled with orange brickearth. The northern end of the trench was just brickearth	0.24m+

Trench 5.5	**Dimensions: 27.3m x 2m Trench alignment: ESE-WNW Ground level at WNW end: 68.64mOD Ground level at ESE end: 69.71mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey / black humic clayey wilt with modern building rubble inclusions	0.00-0.17m
5.501	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown clayey wilt with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint inclusions	0.17-0.34m
Nat	Natural	Firm orange brickearth with a slight yellow hue and patches of gravels	0.34m+

Trench 5.6	**Dimensions: 26.2m x 2m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level at NW end: 67.1mOD Ground level at SE end: 68.23mOD**

Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
5.600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey / black humic clayey silt	0.00-0.24m
5.601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid-dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional medium to small sub angular flint inclusions	0.24 - 0.40m / 0.46m
Nat	Natural	Firm clayey orange brickearth with gravel patches and occasional patches of unstructured chalk	0.40m+ / 0.46m+

Trench 5.7	**Dimensions: 20.8m x 2m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW Ground level at NNE end: 66.03mOD Ground level at SSW end: 67.1mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.700	Made ground / overburden	MIx of redeposited chalk and brickearth overlaying the topsoil at the NNE end of the trench	0.00-0.26m
5.701	Topsoil	Friable dark grey / black humic clayey silt	0.00-0.22m / 0.23-0.35m
5.702	Subsoil	Moderate to compact mid to dark grey brown clayey wilt with occasional small sub-angular flint	0.22-0.42m / 0.35-0.58m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with NE-SW aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brickearth and larger patches of brickearth towards the NNE	0.42m+ / 0.58m+

Trench 5.8	**Dimensions: 24m x 2m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level at W end: 66.3mOD Ground level at E end: 66.23mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.800	Topsoil	Friable black humic clayey silt with frequent modern building rubble inclusions	0.00-0.21m
5.801	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium sub angular flint	0.21 - 0.36m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brickearth, and patches of brickearth	0.36m+

Trench 5.9	**Dimensions: 24m x 2m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW Ground level at SSW end: 66.01mOD Ground level at NNE end: 65.57mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.900	Topsoil	Soft black/brown humic silt with frequent bio, occasional sub angular flint and building waste with glass	0.00-0.20m
5.901	Made ground	Soft light brown clay silt with moderate chalk pieces and flecks, sub angular flint and occasional kinker and bio inclusions	0.20-0.36m
5.902	Made ground	Very soft black humic buried soil with frequent bio inclusions	0.36-0.42m / 0.27-0.33m
5.903	Made ground	Compact light grey mixture of hardcore, sub angular and rounded flint, chalk pieces and clay patches	0.33-0.46m

5.904	Made ground	Compact slightly orange brown clay silt (redeposited brickearth) with moderate sub angular and rounded flint and chalk inclusions	0.47-0.69m
5.905	Subsoil	Moderate to compact mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub angular flint inclusions	0.20-0.34m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striation infilled with soft dark brown & orange brown brickearth	0.34m+ / 0.69m+

Trench 5.10	**Dimensions: 25.7m x 2m Trench alignment: E-W Ground level at W end: 65.61mOD Ground level at E end: 66.1mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.1000	Topsoil	Black grey soft humic clayish silt with frequent bio and sub angular flint inclusions	0.00-0.22m
5.1001	Made Ground	Occupying the E 6.5m, mixture of redeposited crushed chalk and chalk pieces in a loose mid orange brown silt clay	0.22-0.35m
5.1002	Subsoil	Soft orangey brown clayish silt with occasional sub-angular flint and bio inclusions	0.20-0.38m / 0.35-0.47m
Nat	Natural	Unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with orange brick earth	0.38m+ / 0.47m+

Trench 5.11	**Dimensions: 27m x 2m Trench alignment: ENE-WSW Ground level at WSW end: 65.31mOD Ground level at ENE end: 64.35mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5.1100	Topsoil	Soft black grey humic clayey silt with occasional chalk pieces and sub angular flint and frequent bio inclusions	0.00- 0.21m / 0.12m
5.1101	Made ground	Compact very dark grey slightly silty clay with frequent chalk, flint and occasional metal waste inclusions	0.12-0.45m
5.1102	Subsoil	Compact orangey dark brown silty clay with occasional Mn fleck and bio inclusions	0.21-0.46m / 0.45-0.60m
Nat	Natural	90% orange brick earth with 10% unstructured chalk with N-S aligned periglacial striations infilled with brick earth at the ENE end	0.46m+ / 0.60m+

Appendix 2 - A catalogue of the pottery recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Bell Grove, Aylesham, Kent

Site Code: AYL-EV-23 (Phase 2B) Parcels 5&6

Analyst: Paul Hart
First completed: 23.05.2023
Updated: 31.05.2023

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Later Prehistoric	LP	1550	-	50	BC
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550	-	1350	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900	-	600	BC
Mid to Late Iron Age	MLIA	200	-	50	BC
Latest Iron Age	LIA-ER	0	-	50	AD
Early Roman	ER	50	-	150	AD

Dating

> : To/or later.
/ : Or/or indicting a preference within a broader range.

2. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage

2.1. 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 were 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' (which does not mean that such pieces necessarily need to be drawn for archive level reporting or for publication).
- The material has been bagged by period and separated into DRAW-ables (which do not necessarily need to be drawn for archive level or final site reports or publication) and body sherds.

2.2. Abbreviations used in 2.3.

Wear

L : Light
M : Moderate
H : Heavy
C : Chipped

Dating

> : To/or later
/ : Or/or indicting a preference within a broader range

2.3. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery

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*
(5.105) [5.108] Parcel 6			**1 sherd**		**15 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC and potentially after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual to some degree at least.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, broadly LP and more likely EIA>MLIA, somewhat worn.**				
Comments:	Dark reddish exterior, possibly slipped?				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	C M	1550/1000-50 BC
	Small body, medium walled, dark reddish exterior (?slip).				
(5.109) [5.110] Parcel 6			**1 sherd**		**2 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, residual.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, other than most likely LP and not obviously earlier.**				
Comments:	Fragment, somewhat similar to sherd in (5.105) [5.108], but with some coarser grits.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	H	1550-50 BC
	Small fragment, dark reddish-brownish exterior.				
Totals			**2 sherds**		**17 g**

Appendix

3. Period-based review: listings and notes

Below is the basic data that was compiled during the cataloguing process, which is to be included or inform the summaries and the assessment that will be produced for the subsequent assessment report. It is included here to aid the site analysis process prior to the production of said report.

Overall there were very few pieces, all small sized or fragmentary, with no forms or decoration present and nothing specifically diagnostic.

3.1. Later Prehistoric, 1550 to 0 BC/50 AD

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(5.109) **[5.110]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

Flint tempered ware

(5.109) [5.110]. 1 small fragment, slightly oxidised exterior, some coarse grits. 1550-50 BC.

3.2. Later Prehistoric/Earliest to Mid to Late Iron Age, 1550/1000 to 50 BC

Relationship	*In contexts*	*Sherds*	*Vessels*
Residual	(5.105) **[5.108]**.	1	1
Total		**1**	**1**

Flint tempered ware

(5.105) [5.108]. 1 small body with dark reddish exterior (?slip).

Appendix 3 - A catalogue of the worked lithics recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Bell Grove, Aylesham, Kent

Site Code: AYL-EV-23 (Phase 2B) Parcels 5&6

Analyst: Paul Hart
First completed: 23.05.2023
Updated: 31.05.2023

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550	-	1350	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600	-	350	BC

Dating

> : To/or later.
/ : Or/or indicting a preference within a broader range.

2. Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics

2.1. Methodology

A prime aim was to provide a useful catalogue that combined 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 was dated on its individual merits. Details about the nature of the context and any pottery recovered, which informed the interpretation, were 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 lithics from each context was also recorded.

All dates given throughout are *circa*.

2.2. Key to catalogue 2.3

Class		-	Class of artefact, listed individually under its context. Ordered as Waste, Retouched and Utilised, then by date.
FS		-	Flake shape.
	S	:	Short: width same as or greater than length.
	SQ	:	Squat: notably wide short flake.
FT		-	Flake or core type.
	S	:	Secondary: lesser amount of cortex.
RM		-	Raw material type.
Natural	N	:	Naturally shattered, unpatinated surface.
Buff	BD	:	A dirty looking thin buff skin, with black spots/grains, over a thick white sub-cortex.
	BG	:	Buff-washed thin pitted uneven grey surface of the underlying flint.
White	SW	:	Smooth white to off-white/creamy coloured cortex, thick.
Black+	1	:	Black flint; thick and dense black or thin translucent black.
	2	:	Mixed patchy black and grey flint.
	4	:	Mixed patchy black, grey and brown to translucent yellowy-brown flint.
Grey	10	:	Dark greyish flint.
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).

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.

- VE : Very Early (the first signs of a speckled discolouration; almost unpatinated).
- E : Early (light dusting, but a more obvious speckled discolouration than VE).
- B : Blue.
- W : White.

D - Potential/certain post-discard chipping/breakage damage present?

- ? : 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.
- 1 etc. : Number assigned to an illustration or photograph provided with this report.

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.

- *Blank* : No preference at this time.

Key to abbreviations for notes

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

2.3. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics

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*
(5.105) [5.108] Parcel 6									**2 lithics**	**23 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	1550/1000-50 BC.										
Notes:	Both small. 1 simple awl, could date widely. 1 simply retouched squat flake with edges used for different functions, could date widely but perhaps more typically/commonly MBA>EMIA+.										
Summary:	**2 only, 1 potentially MBA>EMIA+, relationships to each other and the context unclear at present.** **If the underlying geology is clays/silts/sands then no relationships are guaranteed and all could be residual. If chalk, then there is the potential for the flintwork to be context-contemporary. If the pottery and flint is associated, then this would suggest a date of 1550/1000-350+ BC for both.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched												
Side + hollow scrp + knife		SQ	S	N2b	H	14	VEBW	?		-	MBA>EMIA+	
		1 thin straight lat sm area inv scars, other lat slight concave edge of dir fairly abr chippy ret. Dist end sm hollow of inv semi-abr ret. Inv scarring on plat forms sm hollow.										
Awl		S	S	N4b	H	9	EBW	?		-	-	
		Chips and scars both thin lats and thin dist, dist end sm hollow of inv semi-abr ret, with dir semi-abr marg scars/ret continuing to pointed tip at 1 dist corner, the other edge leading to this tip shows first inv abr then dir semi-abr scars/ret.										
Totals									**2 lithics**	**23 g**	

Appendix

4. Period-based review: listings and notes

Below is the basic data that was compiled during the cataloguing process, which is to be included or inform the summaries and the assessment that will be produced for the subsequent assessment report. It is included here to aid the site analysis process prior to the production of said report.

The contexts which contain evidence of period-diagnostic lithics are listed below, along with an estimate of the number of lithics present. The material that is listed as contemporary or residual typically had 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 for this site is unknown at present.

4.1. Middle Bronze Age to Early to Mid Iron Age or later, 1550 to 350+ BC

Potential relationship	*In contexts*	*Quantity*
Element's relationship unclear	(5.105) **[5.108]**.	1/2
Total		**1/2**

The nature of the underlying geology is unknown at present. If the underlying geology was clays/silts/sands then no relationships between the flintwork and its context and the pottery are guaranteed; all the flintwork could be residual. If the underlying geology was chalk, then there is the potential for all of the flintwork to be context-contemporary and associated with any contemporary pottery or other contemporary finds.

(5.105) [5.108]. 2 only, both flint, both simple/simply worked and utilised pieces with little specific data. 1 multi-tool more likely of this range, while an awl, which could date widely, might but need not be associated. 1 sherd of 1550/1000 to 50 BC date was present and a relationship with 1 or both of the flints is possible, suggesting all could be focussed between 1550/1000 to 350+ BC if so.

Appendix 4

Archaeobotanical Assessment Report: Aylesham, AYL-EV-23, for Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company by Lisa Gray 7th June 2023

Bell Grove, Aylesham, Dover Kent AYL-EV-23 Aylesham Village Expansion Project Phase 2B Parcel 5&6

Archaeobotanical Assessment.

by: Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Date of Submission: 8th June 2023

All comments in this report are provisional and should not be considered as the author's final opinion until stratigraphic analysis is complete, other specialist assessments have been written and any further processing or analysis carried out. The author would like to be consulted before any part of this report is used in any situation other than its place in the assessment archive and updated project design.

1.Introduction

This report is an assessment of archaeobotanical remains in one sample taken during an evaluation. At the time of writing there is no dating or feature information for the sampled context All site and sample information *pers comm.* Natalia Garrett, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company – written here as S.W.A.T. from here on, 2023.

Flot and flora from seven samples were presented for assessment (see Table 1, Appendix).

A great deal of archaeological intervention has taken place at Aylesham as part of the Aylesham village Expansion. The author has carried out several archaeobotanical assessments on samples from this site (Gray 2016a, Gray 2016b, Gray 2017, Gray 2019, Gray 2020a and Gray 2020b).

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the sample and to consider its use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment. Recommendations will be made about any further work necessary on these samples and for future interventions at the site.

2.Sampling and Processing Methods

Samples were taken by S.W.A.T. and processed by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. Samples were completely processed using a Siraf type flotation system with a 500 micron mesh used to collect the flot.

One 30 litre sample was taken. This sample was completely processed.

3. Assessment Methodology

This samples were assessed using the standard methodology outlined in the Historic England Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (Campbell *et al*. 2011). Each flot was fully scanned under a stereo-microscope with magnification of 10-45x.

At assessment level the abundance of plant macro-remains is estimated unless the number of items is few (less than ten). The diversity of plant taxa types are also estimated. Level of preservation of plant macro-remains is given as identifiable to family, genus or species. Faunal remains are noted in general terms with only abundance noted.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once, and the common names used thereafter. Quantities were estimated in the following way:-

Codes for abundance, diversity and level of preservation as used in the tables

Abundance

1 = 'Low' = <10

2='Moderate' = 10-100

3= 'Abundant' =>100

Diversity

1='Low'= <3 taxa types

2='Moderate' = 3 to 10 taxa types

3='High'= >10 taxa types

Preservation

1 = Identifiable to family

2 = Identifiable to genus

3 = Identifiable to species

At assessment level full identifications are only made of significant plant macro-remains. Where given the nomenclature for the plant macro-remains follows Stace (Stace 2010).

The quantity of Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been noted separately from the quantity of charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, ¶ 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

4. Abundance, Diversity and State of Preservation of the Archaeobotanical Remains (see Table 2, Appendix)

This sample produced one 40ml flot dominated by charcoal fragments. Charcoal fragments were observed in the residue but not present for assessment.

Most of the plant macro-remains in this flot were preserved by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). Moderate quantities of charcoal of identifiable size were present along with one indeterminate grain fragment and one poorly preserved dock-type (*Rumex* sp.) seed. One dewatered sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia* L.) seed was present. Due to the presence of modern rootlet fragments and shells of the burrowing snail *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) that have been interpreted as intrusive.

5. Potential of the Archaeobotanical Remans to Contribute to Project Aims and Research Issues of Wider Significance.

This sample follows on from many taken at Aylesham. In those previous assessments charred plant remains were common (seed Gray 2016a, Gray 2016b, Gray 2017, Gray 2019, Gray 2020a and Gray 2020b). This sample follows this trend.

6. Recommendations for Archaeobotanical Remains Suitable for Scientific Dating if Requested

The charcoal fragments in the flot and, if of identifiable size, in the residue may be suitable for radiocarbon dating if they are from short lived trees or round wood.

7. Recommendations for Future Work and Resources Required for Future Work

Unless the charcoal needs to be identified no further work is recommended on this flot.

If excavation is to take place this sample does indicate that charred plant macro remains are present on the site so bulk soil sampling for flotation is recommended to continue.

8. Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Natalia Garrett of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company for providing background information.

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