# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield, Kent

NGR:  TR 12960 66050

Site Code: GRA-EV-20

Planning Application: 17/00469 & Appeal Ref: J2210/W/19/3229319

**SWAT Archaeology**

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# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield, Kent

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***1. Summary***

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) have carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield in Kent. The Planning Application (17/00469 & Appeal Ref: J2210/W/19/3229319) to develop this site for the construction of up to 300 dwellings, employment space, access road, car parks, pumping station, play areas and landscaping was approved 3rd October 2019. Planning Condition No. 11 required an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work (for Phase 1) was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (PCA Specification dated March 2020) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the evaluation revealed a great deal of evidence of root action that was observed across the site and suggests that it may have largely comprised woodland, possibly replaced by agriculture, and marginal to a possible prehistoric settlement located somewhere to the north or west.*

*The natural geology of clay silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.27m and 0.41m below the top layer of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble. The Archaeological Evaluation has, therefore, been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*


## 2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowners to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (PCA 2020) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out between the 19th and 28th of October 2020.

## 3. Site Description and Topography

The Phase 1 proposed development area (PDA) is bounded by housing on most sides facing onto Ridgeway, Richmond Road, Grasmere Road, Willow Way, Ellison Close and Laxton Way The site forms approximately 52,500 sqm of ground within a wider area of open grassland (Figure 1).

## 4. Planning Background

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (11):
*No development other than demolition shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:*
*(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*
*(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The results from this evaluation of the Phase 1 development will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the further phases.

## 5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Archaeological Specification produced by Pre-construct Archaeology (2020).

## 6. Aims and Objectives

According the PCA Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

3.1 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving deposits and features at the site and, if present, to investigate and record them.

3.2 The investigations will also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival.

3.3 The following site-specific research questions are also posed:

• Is there any evidence for earlier prehistoric activity at the site, and if so, what is the nature of this activity?

• Are there Bronze Age remains and do they relate to the known remains of the Mid/Late Bronze Age occupation in the area?

• Is there any evidence for the Iron Age and Romano-British activity at the site, and if so, what is the nature of this activity and could it be linked with the Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement found at Molehill Road?

• Is there any evidence for Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity at the site, and if so, are those remains related to the relevant occupation recorded in vicinity?

• Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity at the site, and if so, what is the nature of this activity?

## 7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising thirty four 30m long trenches within the footprint of the proposed development (Phase 1). Due to the existence of a number of well-frequented dog-walking paths across the site a number of trenches were split into sections (see Appendix 1 Trench Narrative). A 13 ton 360◦ tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the top and subsoil to expose the natural geology. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. All

archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and CIfA standards and guidance.

**8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**9. Results**

Only two evaluation trenches contained possible archaeological significant features (see below), the majority comprising topsoil overlying subsoil, a mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints, encountered at between 0.16 and 0.30m below ground level (BGL), in turn overlying the natural geology, a stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt with occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels, encountered at between 0.27 and 0.41m BGL. Most trenches had evidence of root/animal action and land drains, while Trench 24 contained a modern ditch and Trenches 8 and 31a were largely occupied by modern truncations, possibly WWII bomb craters.

Trench 4 contained a steep sided linear feature [406] with a flattish base running on a broadly east-west alignment which continued into both limits of excavation. Over 3.30m long, it was 0.60m wide, 0.20m deep and filled primarily by (405) a stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt with occasional manganese and a maximum thickness of 0.14m. The upper fill (404) comprised a firm, mid grey clay silt with occasional manganese and a maximum thickness of 0.14m.

No artefacts were recovered from this feature which was interpreted as a probable field boundary/drainage ditch.

Trench 5 contained a steep sided linear feature [508] with a flattish base running on a broadly northeast-southwest alignment. Continuing into both limits of excavation, it was more than 2.10m long, 1.40m wide and 0.14m deep, and was filled (507) by an extremely compact, mid grey with orange streaks, silt clay containing occasional manganese. No artefacts were recovered from this feature which was interpreted as a probable drainage/boundary ditch.

Prehistoric pottery was found residually in Trenches 9, 11, 23, and 33.

## 10. Discussion

While a number of sherds of prehistoric pottery were recorded residually from four trenches to the west of the site, only two possibly archaeological significant features were recorded in two trenches to the northwest of the site; a probable ditch and droveway containing no finds. The great amount of bioturbation recorded across the site suggests that it may have largely comprised woodland, possibly replaced by agriculture. Both the paucity and location of the features and finds suggests that the site may have been largely marginal to a settlement located somewhere to the north or west.

## 11. Finds

A single base and side of a large fresh complete-profile of a redware flower-pot made by Sankey and Son of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. The commencement-date for this firm's activity is c.1855 AD onwards and, in this example, neither the fabric type nor name-stamp font style do not look Modern, ie c.1900 AD-plus – so that this element is almost certainly a later nineteenth century product.

## 12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed two undated archaeological features in the north-west of the site; a ditch and a possible droveway. Prehistoric pottery was recovered from the west of the site. It seems most likely that the site has not been an area of human settlement, or indeed any overly significant usage and lay on the margins of a possible settlement to the north and/or west. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the PCA Specification.

## 13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Eliott Wragg FSA and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and the report written by Eliott Wragg FSA and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 9th December 2020.

## 14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (ClfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. *Grasmere Gardens, land south of the Ridgeway, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent. WSI for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

**HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land at Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield, Kent
**SWAT Site Code:** GRA-EV-20
**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:**
Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the construction of up to 300 dwellings, employment space, access road, car parks, pumping station, play areas and landscaping (Planning Ref: 17/00469 7 APP/J2210/W/19/3229319.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation comprising 34 trenches for the Phase 1 area of development which revealed an undated possible ditch and droveway while a number of sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered residually. Two large modern truncations were observed which may represent WWII bomb craters.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council
**Period(s):** Prehistoric
**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** TR 12960 66050
**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation
**Date of recording:** October 2020
**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)
**Geology:** Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels.
**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wragg E. & Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield, Kent
**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**
Undated ditches were recorded while a number of sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered residually. Two large modern truncations were observed which may represent WWII bomb craters.
**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP
**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

PLATES


Plate 1. Trench 1 looking NNE (1m scale)

Plate 2. Trench 3 looking NNE (1m scale)

Plate 3. Trench 4 looking SW (1m scale)


Plate 4. Ditch [406], Trench 4 looking W (1m scale)

Plate 5. Trench 5 looking W (1m scale)

Plate 6. Ditch [508], Trench 5 looking SW (1m scale)

Plate 7. Trench 7 looking NW (1m scale)

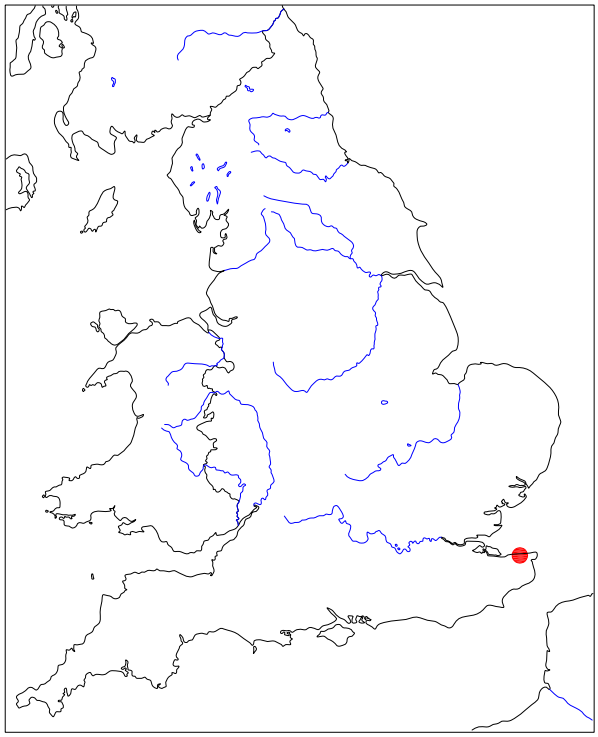

Plate 8. Trench 10a looking NW (1m scale)

Plate 9. Trench 10b looking NW (1m scale)

Plate 10. Trench 22 looking NW (1m scale)

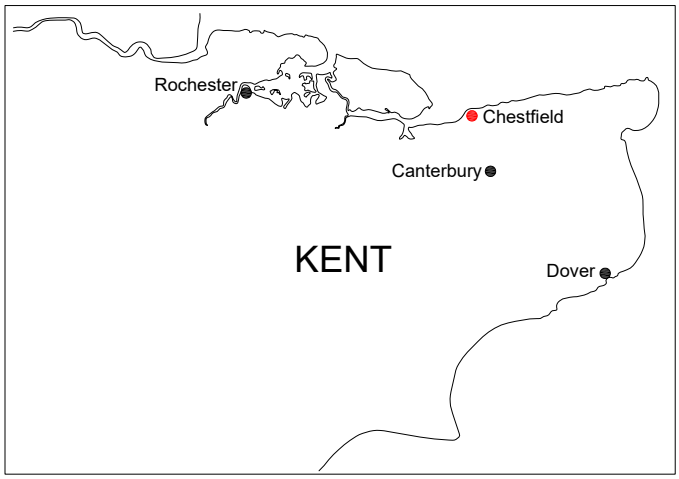
Plate 11. Trench 31a looking W (1m scale)

NOT TO SCALE



N

NOT TO SCALE





1:50000@A4

0m 5km

Figure 1: Location of site


Figure 2: Archaeological trenches overlain on 2007 Google Earth image

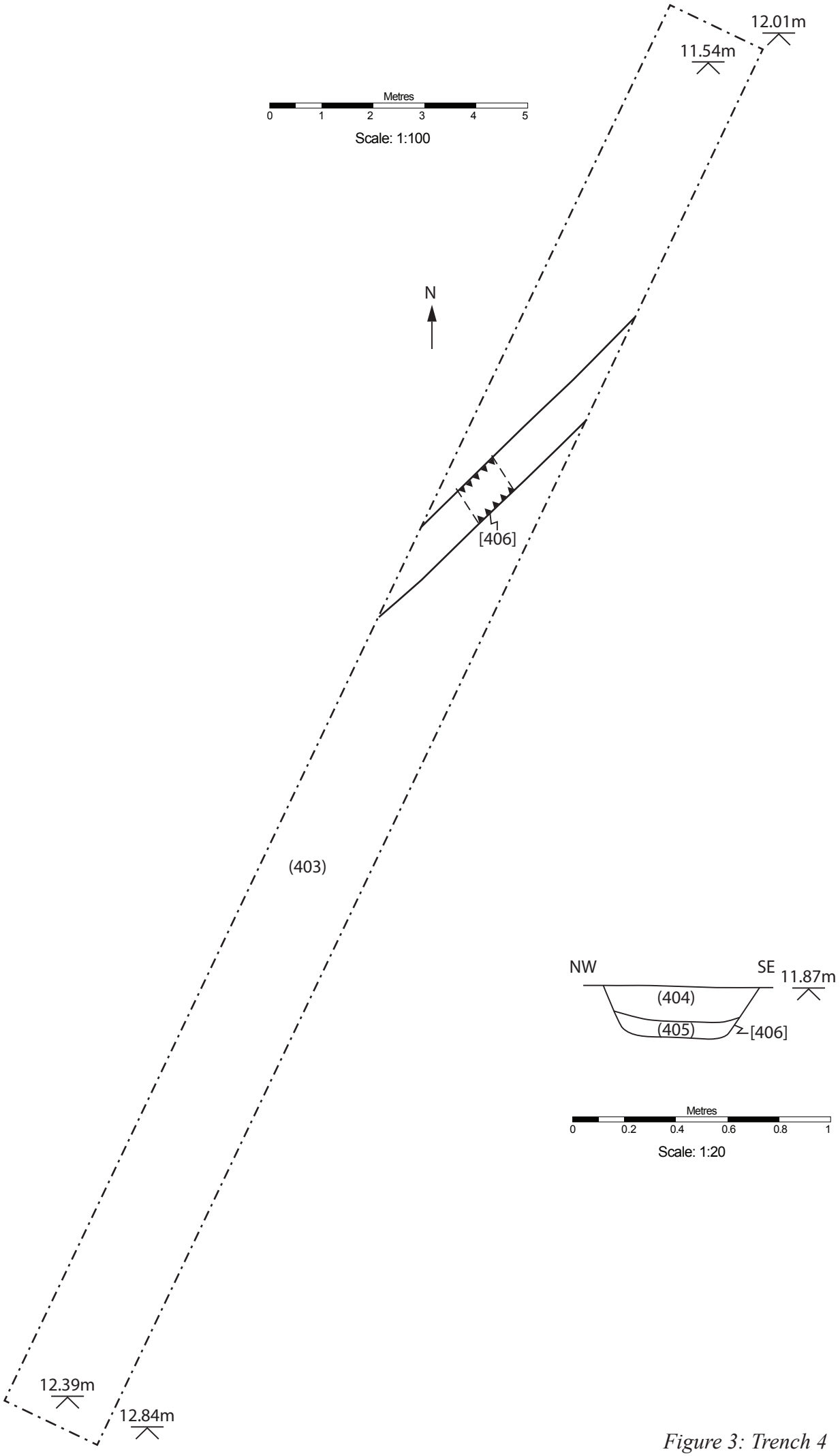



*Figure 3: Trench 4*

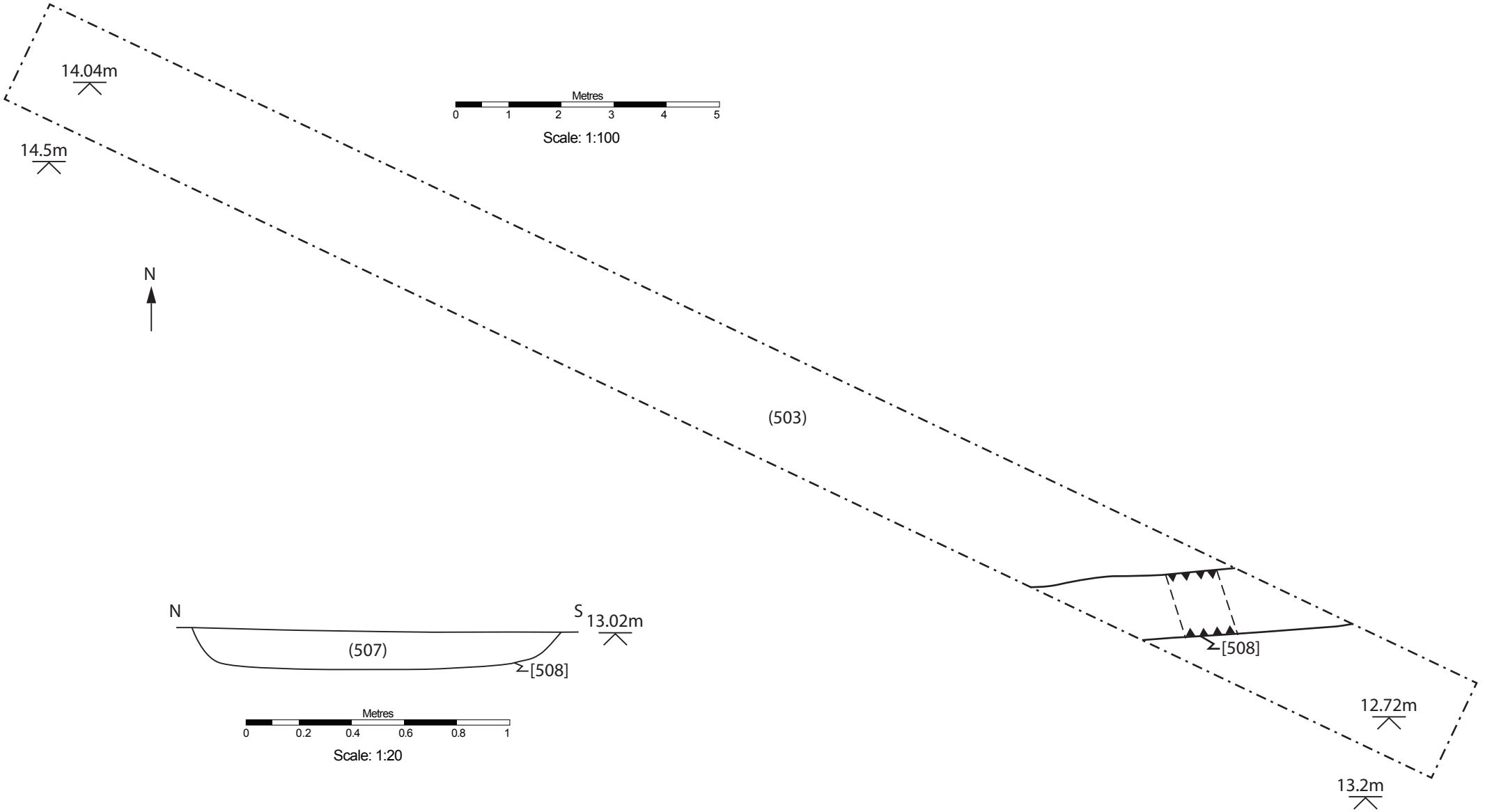



*Figure 4: Trench 5*

## 1 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

| Trench 1 | Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 101 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.19 |
| 102 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.19-0.28 |
| 103 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.28+ |

| Trench 2 (a & b) | Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 201 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.20 |
| 202 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.20-0.31 |
| 203 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.31+ |

| Trench 3 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 301 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.21 |
| 302 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.21-0.33 |
| 303 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.33+ |

| Trench 4 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 401 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.16 |
| 402 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.16-0.27 |
| 403 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.27+ |
| 404 | Firm mid grey clay silt with occasional manganese | Secondary fill of [406] | 0.27-0.35 |
| 405 | Stiff mid brownish yellow clay silt | Primary fill of [406] | 0.35-0.49 |
| [406] | Linear steep-sided feature with a flattish bottom | Ditch | 0.27-0.49 |

| Trench 5 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 501 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 502 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.31 |
| 503 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.31+ |
| 507 | Extremely compact mid grey with dark orange specks silty clay | Fill of [508] | 0.31-0.45 |
| [508] | Linear steep-sided feature with a flattish bottom | Possible droveway | 0.31-0.45 |

| Trench 6 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 601 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 602 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.31 |
| 603 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.31+ |

| Trench 7 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 701 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.28 |
| 702 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.28-0.45 |
| 703 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.45+ |

| Trench 8 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 801 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 802 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.35 |
| 803 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.35+ |

| Trench 9 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 901 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 902 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.31 |
| 903 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.31+ |

| Trench 10 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1001 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.23 |
| 1002 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.23-0.35 |
| 1003 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.35+ |

| Trench 11 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1101 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 1102 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.30 |
| 1103 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.30+ |

| Trench 12 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1201 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.26 |
| 1202 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.26-0.37 |
| 1203 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.37+ |

| Trench 13 (a & b) | Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1301 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.23 |
| 1302 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.23-0.32 |
| 1303 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.32+ |

| Trench 14 | Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1401 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.30 |
| 1402 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.30-0.41 |
| 1403 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.41+ |

| Trench 15 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1501 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.21 |
| 1502 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | subsoil | 0.21-0.32 |
| 1503 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Subsoil | 0.32+ |

| Trench 16 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1601 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.30 |
| 1602 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.30-41 |
| 1603 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.41+ |

| Trench 17 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1701 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.21 |
| 1702 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.21-0.31 |
| 1703 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.31+ |

| Trench 18 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1801 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.24 |
| 1802 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.24-0.35 |
| 1803 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.35+ |

| Trench 19 (a, b & c) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 1901 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.19 |
| 1902 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.19-0.28 |
| 1903 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.28+ |

| Trench 20 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2001 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.26 |
| 2002 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.26-0.37 |
| 2003 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.37+ |

| Trench 21 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2101 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.26 |
| 2102 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.26-0.35 |
| 2103 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.35+ |

| Trench 22 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2201 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.26 |
| 2202 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.26-0.39 |
| 2203 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.39+ |

| Trench 23 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2301 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.20 |
| 2302 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.20-0.29 |
| 2303 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.29+ |

| Trench 24 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2401 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.19 |
| 2402 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.19-0.28 |
| 2403 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.28+ |

| Trench 25 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2501 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.28 |
| 2502 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.28-0.37 |
| 2503 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.37+ |

| Trench 26 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2601 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.21 |
| 2602 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.21-0.37 |
| 2603 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.37+ |

| Trench 27 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2701 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.25 |
| 2702 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.25-0.36 |
| 2703 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.36+ |

| Trench 28 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2801 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.20 |
| 2802 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.20-0.32 |
| 2803 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.32+ |

| Trench 29 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 2901 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.22 |
| 2902 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.22-0.30 |
| 2903 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.30+ |

| Trench 30 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 3001 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.23 |
| 3002 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.23-0.34 |
| 3003 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.34+ |

| Trench 31 (a & b) | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 3101 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.23 |
| 3102 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.23-0.34 |
| 3103 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.34+ |

| Trench 32 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 3201 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.24 |
| 3202 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.24-0.35 |
| 3203 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.35+ |

| Trench 33 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 3301 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.25 |
| 3302 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.25-0.39 |
| 3303 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.39+ |

| Trench 34 | Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Context | Description | Interpretation | Depth (m) |
| 3401 | Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small flints | Topsoil | 0.00-0.28 |
| 3402 | Mid to darkish grey clay silt with occasional small flints | Subsoil | 0.28-0.39 |
| 3403 | Stiff, mid brownish yellow clay silt. Occasional areas of manganese and/or gravels. | Natural | 0.39+ |

# An Assessment of the pottery from Grasmere Gardens, Chestfield, Kent

## Site Code: GRA-EV-20

**Pottery Assessment Report**
**Analyst:** Paul Hart
Last updated: 09.12.2020

### Contents

## 1. Summary

The material likely represents two separate episodes of activity within the Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550 to 1150 BC) and the Latest Iron Age (0 to 75 AD). This comprises 6 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 229 grams, in addition to which are 2 conjoining pieces of ceramic weighing a total of 38 grams which may represent slab 'furniture', perhaps from a hearth, oven or similar, belonging to the earlier phase. Sherd sizes and degrees of wear suggest that pottery which is potentially context-contemporary, or perhaps formerly context-contemporary, as well as other pieces which are more likely to be residual, were present within the trenches for both periods. Material from the two different phases did not occur within the same trench.

## 2. Period-based review

### Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age (1550 to 1150 BC)

| *Potential relationship* | *In contexts* | *Sherds* | *Vessels* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **Unclear** | TR 9, TR 11. | 4/*6 | 2/* |
| | | | |
| **Total** | | **4/*6** | **2/*** |

All of this material was in flint tempered fabrics. Context TR 9 produced 2 small conjoining sherds from the base of a fairly large diameter coarseware; these were fragmented but not significantly worn. Also present were *2 other conjoining pieces of similarly tempered ceramic from a highly fired (to a very low-weight state) slab with a very uneven surface. This seems more likely be the remains of a structural element, perhaps from a hearth, oven or similar. This piece was more significantly worn, though much damage could have derived from use and/or disposal. TR 11 contained 2 worn small plain body sherds, possibly from a single vessel.

### Latest Iron Age (0 to 75 AD)

| *Potential relationship* | *In contexts* | *Sherds* | *Vessels* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **Unclear** | TR 23, TR 33. | 2 | 2 |
| | | | |
| **Total** | | **2** | **2** |

All of this material was in 'Belgic' style grog tempered fabrics which may date more specifically between 0 and 75 AD. TR 23 produced 1 plain body sherd, only lightly worn. TR 33 contained 1 large base sherd, more moderately worn.

## 3. Relative academic value

All of the vessel pottery currently under consideration lacks any decorative or significant form elements, is not rare and has little to contribute to local or regional studies beyond the evidence it offers for activity on this site within its respective date-ranges. The only item of greater potential interest is the 2 conjoining pieces of flint tempered slab, which may represent hearth/oven furniture of Middle to Mid to Late Bronze Age date, though it displays no particular form traits apart from being part of a ceramic 'slab'.

## 4. Recommendations

No further stage of analysis, illustration or publication is considered necessary for the vessel pottery noted here. If a further stage of work is conducted at this site and additional examples of flint tempered slabs are recovered, well-dated by context associations, then a review of the piece noted here can be conducted alongside any work that may be undertaken on such similar material.

# Appendix

## 5. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage

### 5.1. 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. No information about the contexts or their stratigraphic relationships was known unless stated.

All dates given are *circa*.

### 5.2. Period Codes employed

| **Period** | **Code** | **Date (*circa*)** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Later Prehistoric period | LP | 1550 | - | 50 | BC |
| Middle Bronze Age | MBA | 1550 | - | 1350 | BC |
| Mid to Late Bronze Age | MBA-LBA | 1350 | - | 1150 | BC |
| Late Iron Age | LIA | 50 | - | 0 | BC |
| Latest Iron Age | LIA-ER | 0 | - | 50 | AD |

### 5.3. Abbreviations used in 5.4

*Wear*

F : Fresh
FF : Fairly fresh
L : Light
M : Moderate
H : Heavy

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

### 5.4.1. Named and unstratified contexts

| **Context** | | | **Total sherds** | | **Total weight (g)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Context:* | Information on the nature of the context if known | | | | |
| *Dating:* | **General implications** | | | | |
| *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** | | | | |
| *Comments:* | Notes on individual elements and wares | | | | |
| *Quantity* | *Period* | *Ware* | *Vessels* | *Wear* | *Date preference* |
| | | | | | |
| **TR 9** | | | **2 / 4 sherds** | | **50 / 88 g** |
| *Context:* | | | | | |
| *Dating:* | **2 small sherds conjoining from the base of a fairly large diameter coarseware, likely MBA>MBA-LBA, fragmented but not significantly worn. See also comments.** | | | | |
| *Start date:* | **Nothing certainly before 1550 BC.** | | | | |
| *End date:* | **Nothing certainly after 1150 BC.** | | | | |
| *Comments:* | Also *2 other conjoining pieces of similarly tempered ceramic from a highly fired (to a very light state; unusual) slab with a very uneven surface; just possibly from a very large diameter coarseware (overfired/re-fired), but more likely hearth/oven furniture. | | | | |
| *Quantity* | *Period* | *Ware* | *Vessels* | *Wear* | *Date preference* |
| 2 | LP/MBA>MBA-LBA | Flint Tempered | 1 | L | 1550-1150 BC |
| | Small very thick sherds conjoining from base corner, coarse, highly fractured but edges not significantly worn. | | | | |
| *2 | LP/MBA>MBA-LBA | Flint Tempered | 1 | M>H | 1550-1150 BC |
| | Conjoining from a thick uneven flattish slab, similarly coarse but more sparsely tempered than the pottery above, fired to a very light state, the fabric vitrified and full of air holes, generally dark grey with small buff patches. *Possibly hearth/oven/?furnace furniture, but the firing potentially suggesting a restricted airflow. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| **TR 11** | | | **2 sherds** | | **24 g** |
| *Context:* | | | | | |
| *Dating:* | **2 small plain body sherds, likely MBA>MBA-LBA, worn.** | | | | |
| *Start date:* | **Nothing certainly before 1550 BC.** | | | | |
| *End date:* | **Nothing certainly after 1150 BC.** | | | | |
| *Comments:* | | | | | |
| *Quantity* | *Period* | *Ware* | *Vessels* | *Wear* | *Date preference* |
| 2 | LP/MBA>MBA-LBA | Flint Tempered | ?1 | M | 1550-1150 BC |
| | Fairly profuse mostly small sized temper, rough exteriors, thick. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| **TR 23** | | | **1 sherd** | | **42 g** |
| *Context:* | | | | | |
| *Dating:* | **1 plain body sherd, LIA>LIA-ER, possibly more 1st C AD than BC.** | | | | |
| *Start date:* | **Nothing certainly before 50 BC; slight preference for post 0 AD.** | | | | |
| *End date:* | **Nothing certainly after 75 AD.** | | | | |
| *Comments:* | | | | | |
| *Quantity* | *Period* | *Ware* | *Vessels* | *Wear* | *Date preference* |
| 1 | LIA>LIA-ER | 'Belgic' Style Grog Tempered | 1 | L | 50 BC/0-75 AD |
| | Medium plain body sherd, slightly oxidising on the exterior, slight 1st C AD preference. | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| **TR 33** | | | **1 sherd** | | **113 g** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Context:* | | | | | |
| *Dating:* | **1 large base sherd, LIA>LIA-ER, fairly hard and possibly 1st C AD.** | | | | |
| *Start date:* | **Nothing certainly before 50 BC; slight preference for post 0 AD.** | | | | |
| *End date:* | **Nothing certainly after 75 AD.** | | | | |
| *Comments:* | | | | | |
| *Quantity* | *Period* | *Ware* | *Vessels* | *Wear* | *Date preference* |
| 1 | LIA>LIA-ER | 'Belgic' Style Grog Tempered | 1 | M | 50 BC/0-75 AD |
| | Large base sherd, fairly large diameter, fairly hard. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| **Totals** | | | **6/8 sherds** | | **229 / 267 g** |