

# Archaeological Evaluation of land at The Gables, Mock Lane, Ashford, Kent

Site Code: GMA-EV-24

NGR Site Centre: 597474 140671

Planning Application Number: 18/01550/AS



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# Archaeological Evaluation of land at The Gables,

## Mock Lane, Ashford, Kent

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## **Abstract**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Archaeological Evaluation of land at The Gables, Mock Lane, Ashford, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by Wendy Rogers the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

*The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 8 trenches measuring 15-20m in length.*

*Archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on this site. The remains were exposed in single Trench 7 and consist of two ditches of which one produced two sherds of medieval pottery.*

*The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. 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.*

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at The Gables, Mock Lane, Ashford, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application was granted by Ashford Borough Council (v) for the redevelopment of the site to provide 39 apartments, comprising of 21 one-bedroom, and 18 two-bedroom units, with associated provision of new roads, footpaths, car parking spaces, landscaping and private amenity space (amended application to include access from Mock Lane and associated highway improvements).

1.1.3 A Condition of archaeological works in the Schedule of Conditions were attached to the Planning Decision Notice (18/01550/AS) and were:

*(18) Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:*

*I. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*II. further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

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

*(19). No development (except for demolition/ site clearance) shall begin in any phase*

1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2024), which is acceptance and adherence on the KCC site specific specifications and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B (attached)

1.1.5 The evaluation is the first stage of the programme of archaeological works and addresses part I) of the planning condition only. Its main aim is to clarify the presence/absence of archaeology and its significance. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, further archaeological works may be needed and could include excavation and/or watching brief and post excavation and publication.

## 1.2 Timetable

1.2.1 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Personnel/Company</b>
Archaeological Evaluation: Fieldwork	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document, 30 October 2024	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 *Timetable for the archaeological programme of works*

## 1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The PDA (Proposed Development Area) is situated close to Ashford town centre and approximately 0.25 miles from the railway station on the southern side of town. The proposed development area is currently a bungalow with detached garage and garden fronting on to Mock Lane. The Site is accessed from an entrance on the south eastern side of Mock Lane. Within the PDA there was a house and ancillary buildings, all of 20th century date and demolished prior to evaluation. The PDA is primarily surrounded by farmland. The OS location to the centre of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) is NGR 597474 140671. (Figure).

1.3.2 The area surrounding the site comprises a mixture of open fields, residential properties and industrial units, which are within the Area Action Plan (AAP) boundary for the Chilmington Green development (figures). The site, and surrounding buildings, did not form part of the Chilmington Green development. However, the surrounding land adjacent to the site does form part of the Chilmington Green development, where residential development has been approved on the land abutting and surrounding the application site.

1.3.3 2.3 The site is located outside a conservation area, there are no listed buildings on the site or in the immediate area and the site lies outside Flood Risk Zones 2 (medium risk/probability) and 3 (high risk/probability).

- 1.3.4 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA (Proposed Development Area) that the local geology at the Application Site consists of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone and Deposits of Atherfield Clay Formation- Mudstone. The PDA is currently a residential bungalow with garden, garage and outbuildings fronting on to Mock Lane. However, the resolution of the BGS mapping can sometimes means that boundaries between different deposits can vary and are not always completely accurate.

## **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide initial information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been identified on the KCCHER database.
- 2.1.2 There are a number of archaeological sites located in the vicinity of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) and include adjacent and to the NE a Late Iron Age-Roman settlement (TQ 94 SE 241). About 120 to the SSE Roman ditches, pits and post holes have been identified (TQ 94 SE 210) and close by Roman urned cremations have been found (TQ 94 SE 243). About 120m NE Late Iron Age and Roman archaeological features have been identified (TQ 94 SE 162). To the NE and at about 400m scatters of Late Mesolithic worked flint have been retrieved (TQ 94 SE 239).
- 2.1.3 The broader archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: RPS 2021), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1km study area of the proposed development at Chilmington Farm Yard, Ashford, Kent .
- 2.1.4 Historic mapping shows that in 1907 the PDA was an orchard with a small pond in the NE corner. Mock Lane was just a track but almost opposite the PDA was a substantial building used as an OS Bench Mark (MAP 1).

## **2.2 Geophysical Surveys**

- 2.2.1 Geophysical survey (WA 2010) identified a possible small, outlying focus of archaeological activity c. 475m to the south of the main Late Iron Age settlement. This area was subsequently targeted by evaluation trenches (ASE 2012) which identified two gullies, probably of modern date (modern glass was recovered from the fills) and two further, undated gullies which may have ancient origins. There was nothing found in the evaluation to indicate that a dense pattern of archaeological remains exist in this vicinity.
- 2.2.2 A several hundred yards to the east of the Site, a geophysical survey undertaken in 2011 identified features of agricultural cultivation and farmstead occupation dating to the Roman and Medieval periods, with numerous undated features also identified, likely to be of primarily Medieval and post-Medieval origin.

## **2.3 Archaeological Evaluations**

- 2.3.1 Several hundred yards to the southeast of the Site an archaeological evaluation comprising 36 trial trenches was carried out by Wessex Archaeology. These works have identified low to medium level of activity dating to the Medieval period across the site, and several features dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. Two empty Bronze Age placed vessels were also identified within this site.
- 2.3.2 Archaeological Evaluation in the immediate area to the east and north-east by Wessex Archaeology was undertaken between the 18th April and the 24th May 2011. Fifty-one trial trenches (measuring between 50m and 75m in length) were excavated to a cumulative length of 3335 metres, resulting in a 5% sample of the proposed town centre boundary (Figure 1). Archaeological remains were localised in three main areas of the Site, with features identified in ten of the fifty-one trenches excavated (Trenches 2, 3, 6, 15, 21, 28, 35, 42, 47 and 53). The features comprised ditches and linear features, pits and a single isolated possible cremation related deposit/feature.
- 2.3.3 The pottery assemblage recovered during the fieldwork produced good quality dating evidence for the features, relating to the Late Iron Age/ early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. In the main the medieval sherds were of later date and were primarily collected from the topsoil in Trenches 21 and 29 and from features in Trench 21 and from ditch [4206] in Trench 42. However, the features in Trench 21 produced mixed dating evidence and medieval sherds were generally collected along with post-medieval pieces. Trenches 2, 6 and 35 produced Romano-British dating evidence whilst Trenches 28, 47 and 53 produced evidence for Late Iron Age/early Romano-British activity.



## **2.4 Strip map and sample at land south of Mock Lane**

- 2.4.1 Subsequent Strip Map and Sample investigation carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust between November 2019 and January 2020 on land at Chilmington Green School, Ashford has revealed three broad phases of activity that perhaps started in the late Bronze Age, though the dating is yet to be confirmed. This activity was represented by a series of probable drainage ditches aligned to the prevailing slope and a small assemblage of residual worked flint. These lie in the northeastern portion of the site with the ground slightly higher in this area than elsewhere.
- 2.4.2 The most prolific phase of activity began in the late Iron Age/Romano-British period with the formation of a large ditched enclosure in the north-east corner of the PDA and the presence of at least two structures represented by penannular drainage gullies with associated refuse pits and a probable watering hole.
- 2.4.3 Development of the activity saw the cutting three large curvilinear ditches that extend to the north-east. These ditches may have enclosed further settlement activity immediately to the north-east of the present site. The activity identified in the PDA would seem to lie on the fringes of this settlement, with activity dying out to the south, west and south-west in line with a gradual decrease in ground level. Towards the end of the period the site saw a fragmentary agricultural landscape develop, represented by a co-axial field system formed from drainage ditches. A new pit was sunk potentially for the livestock.
- 2.4.4 It is likely that the land within the PDA and the wider region of Chilmington Green was maintained for arable use up until the modern period with the introduction of long-standing boundaries, including Mock Lane, at some point in the medieval or post-medieval period.
- 2.4.5 The identified activity adds to a growing body of evidence for late Iron Age and Roman occupation of the Chilmington Green hinterland. The Romano-British site at Brisley farm (Stevenson 2013b) situated 1.1km to the east, was contemporary with the main phase of activity within the PDA. Situated on the same ridge line at 40–50m OD, the activity within the PDA differs in intensity but displays many of the same attributes as that at Brisley Farm, including a sudden decline in activity after the first century AD.

## **2.5 Previous investigation in the immediate vicinity**

- 2.5.1 The previous archaeological investigations within the immediate vicinity of the Site (ASE 2017) illustrate the agricultural cultivation and occupation of the vicinity in the late Iron Age, Roman

and Medieval periods. The Site is likely to have been under cultivation throughout these periods.

#### 2.5.2 Summary from 2017 ASE evaluation report on land at Chilmington Green Lane:

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent, between the 7th November and the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. The evaluation identified a series of prehistoric phases across the site, encompassing evidence of limited Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic transient activity, and evidence of occupation of an undefined nature in the Middle/ Late Bronze Age and Middle/ Late Iron Age periods, with an apparent hiatus in the Early Iron Age. Evidence for Late Iron Age/ early Roman settlement was identified across the site, with the main focus of this settlement centered on the south-western part of the site, north and west of a Roman road, coterminous with the extant Chilmington Green Road. A possible section of Roman road was also recorded between Chilmington Green Road and a possible enclosure west of Netter's Farm, identified by a previous geophysical survey.*

*In addition, the evaluation identified field systems of medieval date, with evidence that these were maintained into the modern era. A possible late medieval enclosure, perhaps enclosing a farmstead, was also identified alongside the line of the former Roman road.*

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 General Aims

##### 3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2024) as stated below;

- *6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier prehistoric period and also any Roman, medieval and later archaeological activity.*
- *6.2 The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so, what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may*

*include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.*

- *6.3 Any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2024: Section 6)

### **3.2 General Objectives**

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts, or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2024) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014) and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

4.2.1 8 evaluation trenches were excavated (Figures) across the proposed development area (PDA). Each trench was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.



*Plate 1: Looking north at the site from its southern corner*

4.2.2 Where appropriate, trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development, date, and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations, and during back filling.

4.2.3 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. The site was visited on 18<sup>th</sup> October by Wendy Rogers (KCC). Backfilling was carried out once all recording, surveying, and monitoring had been completed.

### **4.3 Recording**

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and OD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate; providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+; Trench 2, 201+; Trench 3, 301+, etc.).

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The Trenches were mechanically excavated under constant archaeological supervision and positioned to cover the entire proposed development area omitting the concrete driveway and area of the former house, now demolished.
- 5.1.2 The Figures are showing: the site location, the trench layout, the site and trenches in relation to previous investigation and the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench along with representative soil sequence sections. Plates consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.
- 5.1.3 Trench results are discussed below.

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil or hardcore crush (...01) that was 0.1 to 0.15 metres thick, which overlay the natural geological deposits. The hardcore crush was present in trench 2 and part of trench 1. This material is a hard standing/driveway associated with demolished garage. The subsoil/colluvium (...02) consisted of mid greyish brown clayey silt with rare small subangular stones. The layer was 0.2 to 0.4 metres thick. The greatest thickness of the subsoil was in trenches 7 and 8 and the least thickness in trench 2. Natural geology (...03) comprised light yellowish brown clayey silt. Throughout the site natural geology (...03) was sealed-off by subsoil/ colluvium (...02).

### **5.3 Archaeological Narrative**

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was placed in western corner of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 16.3 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.4 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (103) comprising firmly compacted yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed. At the SE end a modern cut was partially revealed cutting through subsoil (102). At the NW verge of the



feature water hoes was buried running across the trench. The modern service was broken during trenching which resulted with flooding the trench.



*Plate 2: Looking south at trench 1; 2 metres scale.*

- 5.3.2 Trench 2 was placed in southern corner of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 18 metres in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.6 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (203) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench which exposed modern land drain.



*Plate 3: Looking north east at trench 2; two metre scale.*

- 5.3.3 Trench 3 was placed in north western extent of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 12.5 metres in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.3 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (303) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with



frequent mid and small roots. The trench revealed late post medieval ditch [304] running across the middle of the trench. Feature was cut through subsoil (302) and was filled with dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional white ceramic fragments and peg tile fragments. As the modern finds were prevalent feature was left unexcavated. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench.



*Plate 4: Looking south east at section of late post medieval ditch cutting through subsoil exposed in Trench 3; two metres scale*

- 5.3.4 Trench 4 was placed in north western extent of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 16 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.4 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (403) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench which exposed E-W aligned modern earthenware land drain within south west half of the trench.



*Plate 5: Looking north east at trench 4; two metres scale*

- 5.3.5 Trench 5 was placed near the site centre in north eastern half of the site in E-W alignment and measured 16.5 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.4 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (503) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench.



*Plate 6: Looking south east at trench 5; two metres scale*

- 5.3.6 Trench 6 was placed in the middle of south eastern half of the site in N-S alignment and measured 14.7 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.4 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (603) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench.





*Plate 7: Looking south at trench 6; two metres scale.*

5.3.7 Trench 7 was placed in eastern corner of the site in NNE - SSW alignment and measured 18 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.45 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (703) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with moderate mid and small roots. The latter was cut by two relatively parallel ditches [704] and [706] that were sealed by subsoil (702). The ditch [704] was linear in plan, NE-SW aligned, with moderate sides leading to the concave base. It was filled with single secondary fill (705) comprising soft, light grey clayey silt with frequent manganese concentrations. Two fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from the upper part of the fill.

The ditch [706] was linear in plan, in NE-SW alignment, with moderate northern side, stepped southern side leading to the concave base. It was filled with single secondary fill (707) comprising soft compaction, light brownish grey clayey silt with occasional iron stone and frequent manganese.



Plate 8: Looking east at section of the ditch [704] and overlying subsoil and topsoil; two metres scale



Plate 9: Looking east at section of the ditch [706]; one metre scale

- 5.3.8 Trench 8 was placed in northern corner of the site in NNW - SSE alignment and measured 14.5 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width and 0.5 metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (803) comprising firmly compacted light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mid and small roots.





*Plate 10: Looking north at trench 8; two metres scale.*

## **6 FINDS**

### **6.1 Overview**

6.1.1 Two small sherds of medieval (1175AD-1350AD) pottery were retrieved during the course of archaeological evaluation.

### **6.2 Pottery report by David Applegate**

#### **6.2.1 Introduction**

The proposed development of land located at The Gables, Mock Lane, Ashford in Kent (Site code: GMA-EV-24) necessitated the need for an archaeological evaluation of the site. This report is an assessment of the pottery recovered from that evaluation.

#### **6.2.2 Methodology**

All of the sherds were examined in good light conditions using a Swift S41-20 binocular microscope with x10 magnification, a x8 Flubacher hand lens with built in metric scale and a x12 hand lens for determining the nature, size, form and frequency of added inclusions. A digital calliper was used to measure the thickness of the sherds. The pottery has been quantified using the standard measures of sherd count and weight only (Orton *et al* 2004), and the results have been catalogued giving details of context, ware type and date. The material has been retained in the original finds bag and these give details of site code, context numbers and a brief description of the contents. Fabric codes formulated by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) have been used to describe this pottery assemblage see (Cotter 2006).

#### **6.2.3 Trench details**

The site evaluation comprised of seven 20m x 2m trenches. In the vast majority of these trenches no pottery was encountered. However, in one of the trenches (Trench 7) pottery finds of medieval date were recovered.

#### **6.2.4 Summary of the pottery**

Only two sherds of pottery weighing a total of 10gms were recovered from context (705) [704] in Trench seven. The pottery recovered dated to the medieval period. Details can be found in the catalogue below.

One rim sherd, probably from a cooking pot, in Ashford/Wealden Sandy ware fabric **M40B** (Cotter 2006, 170) which dates to c.1175-1350CE and possibly made at the kiln site discovered at Potter's Corner, Ashford or at other production sites in the Ashford/Wealden area (Streeten 1982, 93). The other fragment was a body sherd probably from a cooking pot, in Tyler Hill ware (Streeten 1982, 92) fabric **M1** (Macpherson-Grant 1981, 2; Cotter 1991, 50; Cotter 2006, 146) and dating to c.1175-1300CE.

## 6.2.5 Medieval Fabrics

**M1.** Tyler Hill Ware (Medieval Canterbury sandy ware). A coarse hard fired sandy ware fabric. For a fuller description see (Cotter 2006, 146).

**M40B.** Ashford/Wealden Sandy ware. Potter's Corner. Sandy to very sandy porous texture and rough feel. Firing colours from grey-brown to orange-brown, some have thin pale grey cores. Abundant, well-sorted translucent, milky, grey, brownish and orange-brown quartz mainly rounded to sub-rounded with rarer sub-angular grains ranging 0.20-0.5mm, with rare grains to 1mm. No shell or chalk inclusions. For a fuller description see (Cotter 2006: 170).

## 6.2.6 Catalogue

TRENCH 7						
Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm.	Comments
<b>[704]</b>						
(705) Fill. [704] Cut.	<b>M1</b> Tyler Hill ware. Abundant orange-brown, milky, translucent, pale brown, dark brown, reddish-brown rounded and sub-rounded quartz ranging 0.2 to 3.3mm. Sparse black sub-rounded stone up to 1.4mm.	1 very small body sherd probably from a cooking pot. Oxidised orange-brown surfaces with a light grey core fringed surface colour to a depth of 0.3mm	c.1175-1300 CE	1	4	Wear: Fairly fresh.  Harsh sandy feel.  Sherd is 4.47mm thick.
(705) Fill. [704] Cut.	<b>M40B</b> Ashford/Wealden Sandy ware. Abundant well-sorted sub-rounded and rounded milky, translucent, grey, brown, pale yellow and orange-brown quartz 0.20 to 0.5mm. Sparse black pellets up to 0.2mm.	1 rim sherd probably from a cooking pot with a flat top beaded rim. Beige/pale brown patchy surfaces and core.	c.1175-1350 CE	1	6	Wear: Fairly fresh.  Possibly wiped surface.  Sherd is 5.12mm thick.  Rim dia: 24cm EVE: 3.2%
Overall totals for (705) Fill [704] Cut			Overall date range: c.1175-1350 CE	Overall total finds: 2	Overall total weight 10gms	

## 6.2.7 Bibliography

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## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

### 7.1 Overview

7.1.1 No bulk soil samples were acquired during the course of evaluation.

## 8 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation on of land at The Gables, Mock Lane in Kent, has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 8 trenches measuring 12.5m to 18m in length.

### 8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The investigation has confirmed the presence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. All the remains in form of two parallel ditches were found in single trench 7 located within east corner of the site. The parallelism of the features and similarity of the infills suggest they might be contemporary. One of the ditches produced two sherd of pottery dated to medieval period (1175AD-1350AD), however as the sole finds that were recovered from the top part of the feature these can be intrusive and the features might be of earlier date.

8.2.2 Previously undertaken archaeological investigation in the surrounding fields revealed multiple periods of activity stretching from prehistory until present day. The phases of the investigation in the fields adjacent to the east of the site were: Prehistoric, late Iron Age/Early Romano British, medieval and post medieval. The nearest material of the medieval phase was found in ditch in trench 42 (Wessex archaeology, 2011) located 32 metres to the east from trench 7, however this ditch also produced post medieval pottery and was dated accordingly. The largest quantity of the medieval pottery was found in trench 21 located 174 meters to the

east-north-east from the current PDA. Another archaeological investigation (CgMs, 2017) exposed medieval to post medieval field system and potential farmstead located circa 300 metres to the north.

### **8.3 Conclusion**

8.3.1 The ditches discovered during this evaluation are part of the broader field system of medieval period or Late Iron Age/early roman period. The former dating is based on small quantities of recovered pottery while the latter dating is based on the spatial relations to the features revealed during previous investigations.

8.3.2 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. 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.

### **8.4 Recommendation**

8.4.1 Further work (SMS phase) is proposed to take place on this site in relation to the proposed development.

## **9 ARCHIVE**

### **9.1 General**

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

9.1.2 All archive elements are marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records and A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

10.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

- 10.1.2 Bartosz Cichy from SWAT Archaeology carried out the archaeological fieldwork, site survey and produced illustrations. The report was written by Bartosz Cichy. On behalf of the client project was managed by Peter Cichy and directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology. Pottery report was written by David Applegate.

## 11 REFERENCES

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*Wessex Archaeology 2011 Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent. Proposed Town Centre (Plots B & C). Unpublished archaeological Evaluation Report, ref no. 75802.01*

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*Stevenson, J 2013a Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent: an overview of the Prehistoric and Roman archaeology. Unpublished Archaeology South-East report no. 2013211*

## 12 APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

**Site Name:** Land at the Gables, Mock Lane in Kent.

**SWAT Site Code:** GMA-EV-24

**Site Address:** The Gables, Mock Lane, Chilmington Green, TN23 3DS, Kent

**Summary.** *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Archaeological Evaluation of land at The Gables, Mock Lane, Ashford, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by Wendy Rogers the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

*The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 8 trenches measuring 15-20m in length.*

*Archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on this site. The remains were exposed in single Trench 7 and consist of two ditches of which one produced two sherds of medieval pottery.*

*The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. 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.*

**Further work is recommended**

**District/Unitary:** Ashford Borough Council

**Period(s):** medieval

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 597474 140671

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

**Geology:** Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone and Deposits of Atherfield Clay Formation- Mudstone.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Bartosz Cichy (2024) Archaeological Evaluation at the Gables, Mock Lane in Kent

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 21/10/2024

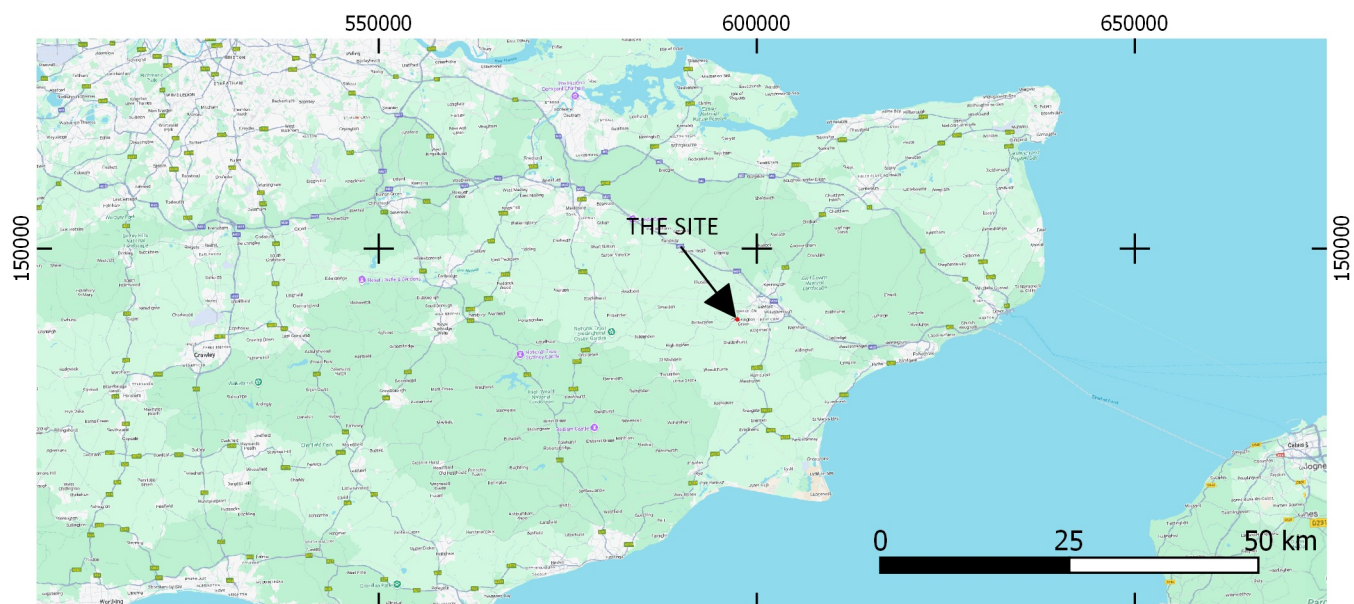


Figure 1: Site location (red)



Figure 2: The site (orange outline) in relation to Wessex archaeology evaluation followed by CAT SMS; scale 1:2500

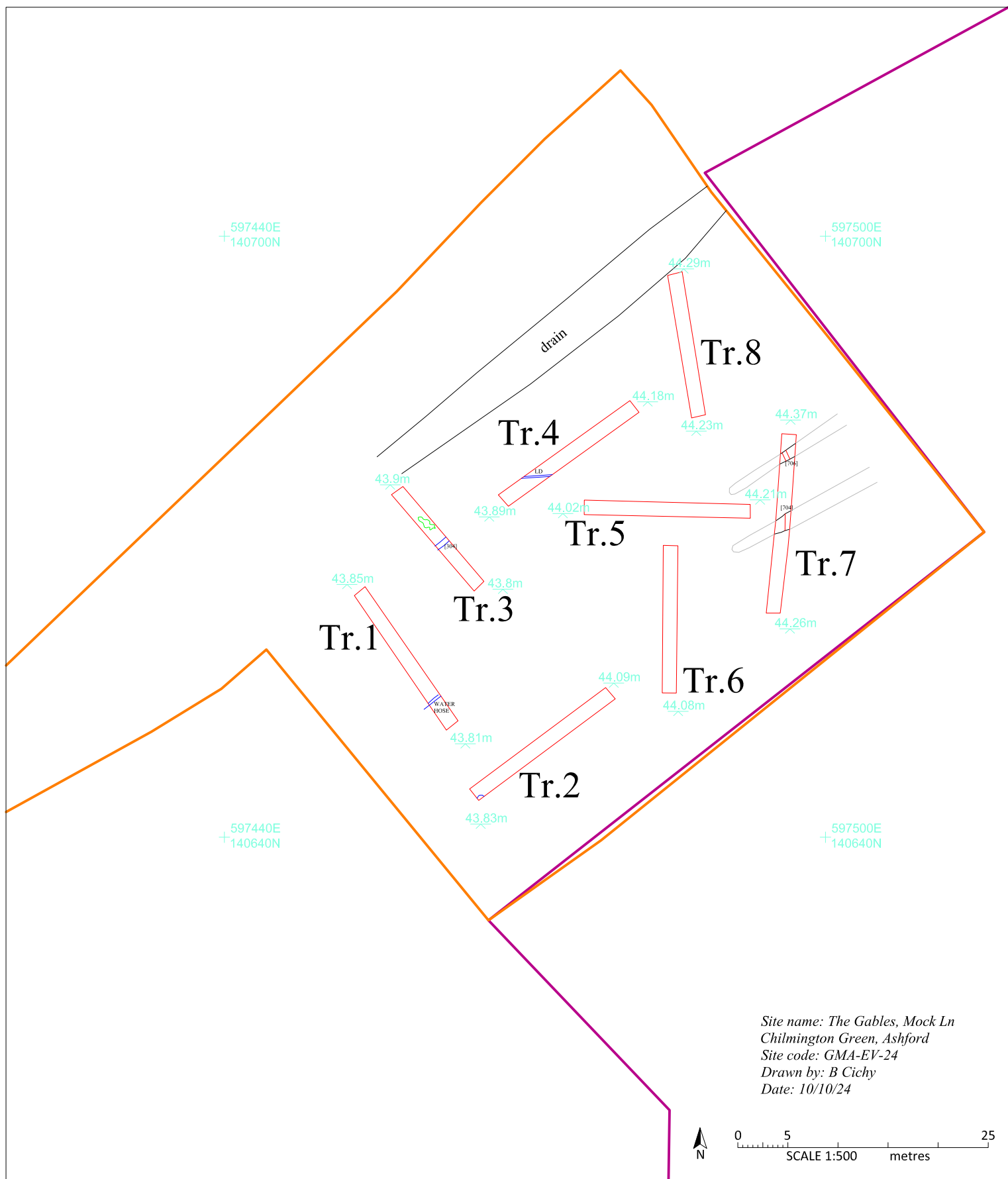


Figure 3: Trench plan

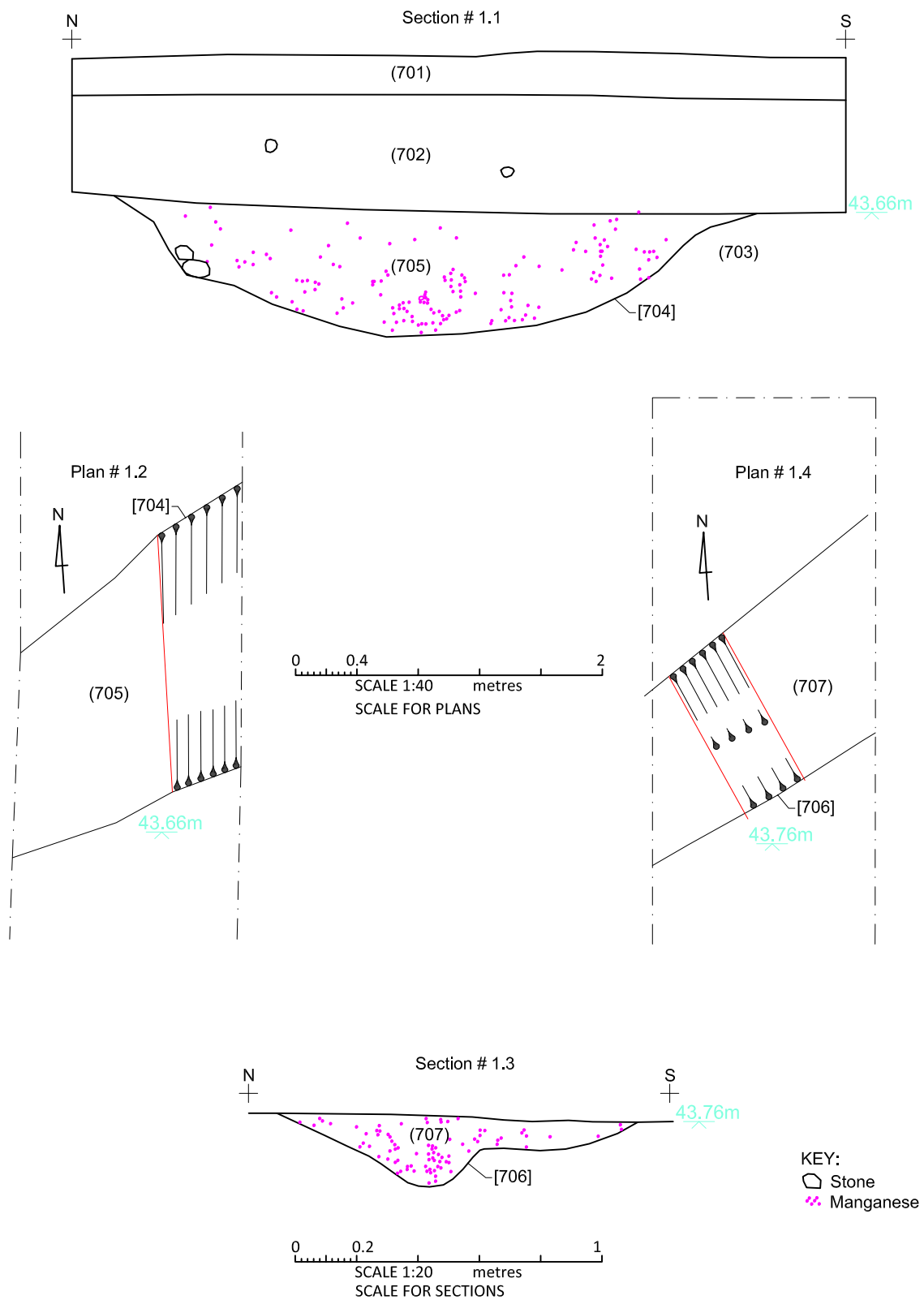


Figure 4: Feature's plan and section