Land west of Ham Lane
Lenham, Kent

Post-excavation Report

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wessexarchaeology

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of a 0.15ha parcel of land located west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent. The excavation area is centred on NGR 588935 152518.

The excavation was carried out to fulfil a planning condition placed on an application submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for the redevelopment of the site. The excavation was required to determine the date, nature and extent of any activity and character of landscape organisation within the site.

This course of archaeological intervention comprised the strip, map and sample of area measured 0.15ha and targeted around evaluation Trenches 4 and 5 in order to assess the potential for further archaeological remains.

A total of 11 distinct archaeological features were recorded, comprising a field boundary ditch, a drainage ditch and a ditch terminus, three ditch segments and five pits including a placed pottery vessel. A number of tree throws dispersed across the site were also identified.

The archaeological investigation revealed a low level of activity provisionally dated to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Evidence of prehistoric activity was focused in the northern section of the excavation area and suggested the peripheral nature of the past activity rather than settlement.

A post-medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the central portion of the site along with a fence line which had been identified during the evaluation phase.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS, for commissioning the archaeological works, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Wendy Rogers, the County Archaeologist for Kent County council (KCC), who monitored the project for Maidstone Borough Council.

The fieldwork was directed by Emilia Seredynska, with the assistance of Alin Fuior, Albert Smith, Aleksandra Bialobrzewska and Ashley Davis. This report was written by Emilia Seredynska and edited by Rob De'Athe. Archaeological finds were assessed by Grace Jones (pottery) and Erica Gittens (flint). The project was managed by Rob De'Athe on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Land west of Ham Lane
Lenham, Kent

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Interim Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of a 0.15ha parcel of land located west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent. The excavation area was centred on NGR 588935 152518 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development is for the for the erection of 70 residential dwellings together with access on to Ham Lane and associated works.

1.1.3 A planning application (14/502973) was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council in 2014 for the proposed development. Outline permission was granted on the 24th June 2016 subject to conditions. Conditions related to Archaeology were addressed in the Reserved Matters Application 17/504450/REM.

'AR5: No development 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 been submitted to and approved 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 and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.'

and

'Prior to occupation, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure the implementation and completion of a programme of archaeological post-excavation and publication work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

1.1.4 This excavation was the final stage of a phased programme of archaeological works following a previous trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019a).

1.1.5 The work comprised the strip, map and sample excavation of an area measuring 0.15ha.

1.2 Scope of report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the archaeological mitigation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the excavation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The excavation area was located to the west of Ham Lane on the south side of the A20 Ashford Road. It was located outside the village boundary of Lenham in the open countryside and remained in use for agricultural purposes.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels were recorded at 12m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology was mapped as West Mulbery Marly Chalk Formation with superficial Head deposits. (British Geological Survey online viewer 2019).

2 ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 No prior desk-based assessment was conducted for the site. Comments received by the Kent County Council (KCC) County Archaeologist on the 1st November 2017 indicate that the excavation area lay within an area of archaeological potential associated with possible cropmarks and prehistoric activity.

2.1.2 In 2010, Early Bronze Age features were found to the east of the site in Shadelands School running across the western part of the excavated area on a northeast southwest axis (TQ 85 SE 321). Over 112m of the ditch was exposed. The ditch was found to be 1.6m and 0.7m deep. Other features found include an Early Bronze Age pit, a gully, possible hearth, undated pits and a second ditch (TQ 85 SE 322) (Archaeological Solutions 2010).

2.1.3 There were no further archaeological remains, findspots or other features of archaeological interest within a 500 m radius of the Site as recorded on Kent Heritage Gateway.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

2.2.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation in January 2019. A total of 14 trenches were due to be excavated however due to an identified buried service, Trench 2 had to be abandoned. An additional trench was excavated at the request of the County Archaeologist, positioned between Trenches 4 and 5. A total of 9 archaeological features and one tree throw were identified within 5 out of the 14 trenches excavated. Trench 5 contained four of the features. The archaeological features comprised of postholes, ditches, pits and gullies, with one pit in Trench 4 containing a prehistoric placed pot. A line of postholes in Trench 5 are the remains of a possible post-medieval fence line, along with a ditch of same date. The majority of the archaeological features identified were undatable.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the excavation, as defined in the CIfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and the KCC *Manual of specifications Part B: mitigation-strip, map and sample requirements*, were:

- To examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- To seek a better understanding of the resource;
- To compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- To analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Site specific objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation were:

- Determine the date, nature and extent of any mortuary and ritual/religious activity and its development in the prehistoric to Romano-British periods;
- Determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation, and its development from the prehistoric period;
- Determine if activity from other periods are present at the site;

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a), with reference to KCC archaeological strip, map and sample requirements. The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The excavation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of area measured 0.15ha and targeted around evaluation Trenches 4 and 5 in order to assess the potential for further archaeological remains.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using GPS, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019b). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features such as treethrow holes were also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used by

Wessex Archaeology trained staff. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Service location and other constrains

4.2.4 The client provided information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services. There were known underground power cables located to the west of the site however, according to the service plan provided, not within the excavated area.

4.2.5 Prior excavation, the area was walked over and visually inspected to identify, where possible, the location of any below/ above-ground services. The area was scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) by trained personnel in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

Recording

4.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

Survey

4.2.9 The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all excavated areas and features was carried out using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018b). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.3.2 All artefacts were retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits undoubtedly of modern date. In these circumstances sufficient artefacts were only retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit. All artefacts from the excavation were washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified.

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Wendy Rogers, County Archaeologist for KCC, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the excavation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the County Archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological mitigation. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.

5.1.2 **Figure 1** presents the overall location along with the archaeological results within the excavated area. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-7**.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was observed within the excavation area and consisted of a dark greyish brown silty sand measuring about 0.25m in thickness, abundant grass rooting throughout overlying buried subsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay. The overburden sealed the natural geology consisting light greyish orange silty clay with patches of flint gravel. Natural geology was recorded approximately 0.45m below ground level (BGL) to the north up to 0.75m BGL to the south.

5.3 Excavation result

5.3.1 The strip, map and sample excavation produced two ditches, a ditch terminus, three possible ditch segments and several pits including a placed pot (small find).

Prehistoric

5.3.2 Two likely prehistoric ditch segments of unknown function were discovered in the north of the excavation area.

5.3.3 A northeast to southwest aligned ditch – Group **2043** (**Plate 1**) measured 4.55m in length, 0.90m wide and 0.36m deep was revealed about 4m west of the site eastern boundary. The feature had a flat base and a steep concave profile.

5.3.4 A similar curvilinear feature – Group **2044** (**Plate 2**) run on the northwest – southeast orientation and turning towards the south was discovered approximately 12m west of the linear **2043**. The ditch **2044** characterised by a concave base and moderately sloping concave sides measured 4.40m long, 0.97m wide with a depth of maximum 0.29m and comprised a single fill with finds of likely prehistoric date.

5.3.5 To the south of these a 6.50m+ long west to east aligned ditch - Group **2046** (**Plate 5**) was revealed. The linear feature having a flat/ U-shaped base and moderately sloping to steep concave sides terminated to the west and ran beyond the excavation limit towards the east where had been recorded within Trench 7 during the evaluation course of work. The ditch **2046** average dimensions: 0.87m wide, 0.37m deep. The feature appeared to be a drainage ditch of probably prehistoric date.

5.3.6 A sub-circular pit **2027** characterised by a flat base and irregular sides was located approximately 3m west of the eastern boundary. The feature measured 0.74m in diameter

and 0.10m in depth and produced a single sherd of probable Late Iron Age pottery and iron bar (Obj. 2).

5.3.7 The most significant feature on site representing prehistoric period was a pit **2022** (**Plate 3**) situated within the north western portion of the excavated area. The pit measuring 0.94m in length, 0.81m in width and 0.15m deep was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and had a concave base. The feature **2020** contained a placed pot deposit **2023** (SF3) of Late Bronze Age origin.

Post-medieval

5.3.8 A ditch - Group **2045** (**Plate 4**) was identified within the central portion of the Area, this also was recorded during evaluation stage of broadly in the middle of Trench 5. The feature was 25m+ long, approximately 1.20m wide and was on a northwest to southeast alignment. The ditch **2045** characterised by a flat base and moderately sloping concave to shallow sides, with an average depth of 0.16m. Although, no dating evidence was recovered from the fill the feature can be dated to post-medieval period based on archaeological finds retrieved during the evaluation stage of mitigation.

Undated

5.3.9 A sub-circular pit **2004** situated nearby the northern boundary of the Area had a concave base with a concave profile. The feature **2004** measured 0.57m in length, 0.50m in width and was 0.12m deep.

5.3.10 Approximately 10m south east of above pit, directly adjacent to the site edge a 1.90m long, 0.37m wide, 0.13m deep ditch terminus **2008** having a concave base and sides was revealed. No artefacts were recovered from the single secondary fill.

5.3.11 5m south of a ditch – Group **2045** a pit **2035** (**Plate 6**) described by a concave base and a moderately sloping concave profile was identified. The feature was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.62m x 0.44m with a depth of 0.10m. Tts deliberately backfill comprised of charcoal flecks and burnt flints however, no datable material was retrieved.

5.3.12 At the southeast corner of the Area a sub-oval feature **2041** having a U-shaped base and stepped steed sides was discovered. The feature measured 0.90m in length, 0.78m in width and 0.43m in depth and contained an amount of large manganese inclusions suggesting a form of geological variation.

5.3.13 An undated linear feature – Group **2047** (**Plate 7**) was located within the south eastern part of the site. A 3.40m long ditch segment running on the north northwest to south southeast alignment was approximately 1m wide and 0.40m deep. The ditch **2047** was characterised by a concave base and steep sloping slightly irregular concave edges.

Tree throws

5.3.14 Several tree throws were identified and investigated across the site however, two of which produced artefact were selected for recording. Worked flints of prehistoric date were recovered from tree throws **2006** and **2020** however, these appeared to be residual.

5.3.15 A sub-circular in plan feature **2006** measuring 0.99m x 0.65m with a depth of 0.12m had an undulating base and shallow concave sides and was located along the north boundary.

5.3.16 A similar feature **2020** but more irregular was revealed within the northern portion of the stripped area. The tree throw measured 0.90m long, 0.74m wide and a large root reached a depth of 0.52m.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered during excavation, of prehistoric to post-medieval date. This supplements material previously recorded from the evaluation at the site (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). The finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metal object) and quantified by material type in each context; this information has been summarised in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 Quantification of finds

Context	Pottery		Flint	Other finds
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	
2002			5	1 x glass (68g); 3 x CBM (74g); 1 x clay pipe (2g)
2007			2	
2011			2	
2013			2	
2015	5	13	5	
2017	4	5	2	
2019	1	3		
2021			1	
2023	404	5843		
2024	16	27	1	68 x burnt flint (223g)
2028	1	5		1 x iron (284g)
2030				1 x slag (71g)
2040			1	
Total	**431**	**5896**	**21**	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Most of the pottery assemblage derives from a single pit (2022), with five sherds or fewer from other features. A Detailed Record has been made of the material from pit 2022 and a Basic Record made of the other pottery, in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay et al 2016).

6.2.2 Fill 2023 of pit 2022 contained 378 sherds (5620 g) from a large tripartite vessel in a flint-tempered fabric (ON 2), as well as 26 sherds (223 g) from a second vessel in a glauconitic sandy fabric. Small fragments from these vessels were also recovered from a bulk soil sample of fill 2024 of the feature (16 sherds, 27 g).

6.2.3 The tripartite vessel has a plain, flared rim – flattened on top, with concave neck and angular shoulder. It had been made a fabric containing a moderate quantity (15%) of calcined flint, up to 4 mm in size, angular in shape and poorly sorted; sparse (5-7%) coarse quartz grains, sub-rounded to sub-angular in shape; sparse (5-7%) voids from the burning out of organic inclusions, and rare (1%) iron oxides, up to 1 mm in size and rounded, in a fine sandy clay

matrix. The flint is likely to derive from the Chalk bedrock of the site. A couple of large inclusions of detrital flint were noted within the body of the vessel, including one of 20 mm x 12 mm at the neck. It is perhaps surprising that such pieces would be left by the potter as they have created weak spots within the vessel and would have made the clay harder to work. It is therefore possible that they were deliberately included. The base is covered in a layer of fine (mostly <1 mm but occasional up to 5 mm) flint grits. These are particularly abundant around the outer 40 mm of the base underside, perhaps because the base is slightly concave and the central area may not have been so firmly pressed into the flints. The upper exterior of the vessel had been roughly wiped with organic material. Most of the external surface is oxidised, but the rim area is unoxidised, as are the core and interior. The vessel is not decorated. There are some feint traces of soot around the rim and neck exterior, perhaps indicative of the use of this vessel for cooking, but too little survives to confirm this. The rim is approximately 260 mm in diameter (85% survives), and the central base area is 160 mm in diameter. The walls vary from 10-11 mm in thickness at the shoulder, to 5 mm at the neck. The rim to shoulder distance is 85 mm – one third of the rim diameter. From the sherds that were re-joined it seems possible that this was a large bowl, however it was not possible to fully reconstruct the profile.

6.2.4 Part of a second vessel occurs in a fabric with a moderate quantity (10%) of calcined flint, angular in shape and up to 4 mm in size, with occasional voids from the burning out of organic inclusions, in a glauconitic sandy matrix. The material includes a rounded, flared rim, probably from a shouldered jar with concave neck. It is decorated with fingertip and finger nail impressions around the shoulder. The glauconite derives from the Gault Formation, located 1 km to the south of the site, and the vessel may therefore have been locally produced.

6.2.5 Other pottery occurs in insignificant quantities, and almost all as abraded and undiagnostic body sherds. These include flint-tempered sherds from ditch 2044; sherds in a glauconitic sandy ware with flint inclusions from ditch 2046; a non-glauconitic sandy ware and a glauconitic sandy ware from ditch 2044. All are of later prehistoric date. Part of a possible low pedestal base, also in a glauconitic sandy fabric, was recovered from pit 2027 and is of probable Late Iron Age date.

6.2.6 The vessels from pit 2022 are similar to other examples from the region, with tripartite forms occurring at Saltwood Tunnel, Folkestone (Jones 2006, illustrated vessels 29 and 75) and Cliffe's End Farm, Ramsgate (Leivers 2014, fig. 5.2, 4 and fig. 5.3, 14). Similar forms are also found in other Late Bronze Age assemblages from south-east England, including Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991, type 9 bowl and type 12a jar). The flint-gritted base is a fairly common type in Kent, first occurring at Cliffe's End Farm during the 10th century BC. The vessels found in pit 2022 would therefore not be out of place in an assemblage of 10th to 9th century BC date.

6.3 Flint

6.3.1 Twenty-one pieces of worked flint were recovered. The condition of the flint is fairly poor with evident post-depositional rolling and crushing. Many of the flakes are broken. The flint is dark to light grey in colour, with cherty inclusions and a light tan thin cortex. The source of this flint is likely to be local river terrace gravels or the nearby clay with flints formation.

6.3.2 The assemblage is comprised primarily of flakes. Taken as a whole these are quite thick and clearly produced by hard hammer. There are no strongly chronologically indicative pieces apart from a possible broken microlith from fill 2040 of ditch 2047. This is clearly redeposited.

6.3.3 An end scraper made on a blade and a reduction flake from fill 2013 of ditch 2043 could be Early Neolithic, but this dating is not secure. The scraper is made on a blade that has blade scar removals. The accompanying flake is clearly from the same core and close to the blade in the reduction sequence.

6.3.4 Damage to the assemblage, in combination with the small size and lack of diagnostic features, results in a paucity of useful dating or technological information. In instances where pieces are found in features with undatable body sherds of prehistoric pottery it is impossible to say whether these have been redeposited or not, but the post-depositional rolling suggests that much of the material has at least moved from its original location.

6.3.5 Burnt flint (68 pieces, 223 g) was recovered from a bulk soil sample of pit 2022. This material type is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.4 Other finds

6.4.1 Part of an iron bar, measuring 250 mm x 25 mm x 10 mm, came from pit 2027. X-radiography has not revealed any diagnostic features, the original function of this object is therefore unknown, but it probably formed part of a fitting or fixture.

6.4.2 A single piece of undiagnostic iron slag was recorded from ditch 2029.

6.4.3 A small amount of post-medieval material was recovered from subsoil 2002. This includes a fragment from a clay pipe stem, part of a wine bottle base in green glass, and three flat roofing tile fragments – one with part of a peg hole surviving.

6.5 Conservation

6.5.1 As a potentially unstable material type, the iron object is stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity. It has been X-radiographed to provide a basic record and as an aid to identification; no further conservation work is deemed necessary.

6.6 Selection and retention of finds

6.6.1 This section applies to material recovered during evaluation and excavation.

6.6.2 The pottery and flint should be retained. The other finds are undiagnostic or of post-medieval/modern date and offer little potential for further analysis. The iron, ceramic building material, fired clay, burnt flint, slag, clay pipe and glass therefore do not warrant selection for long-term curation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A bulk sediment sample was taken from a Late Bronze Age pit and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and Methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell et al. 2011).

7.2.2 The 27-litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residue was added to the flot. The flot were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as molluscs and animal bone, was recorded.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flot from the bulk sediment sample was small (Table 2), with moderate numbers of roots, insects and earthworm eggs, that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement. A small amount of wood charcoal was noted. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 No significative environmental evidence was retrieved from the pit, suggesting no activities involving the use of fire took place in relation with the sampled feature.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation has successfully met the aims and objectives of the mitigation recording sparse archaeological remains well dispersed across the site.

8.1.2 A total of 11 distinct archaeological features were recorded, comprising a field boundary ditch, a drainage ditch and a ditch terminus, three ditch segments and five pits including placed pot. A number of tree throws spread out across the site were also identified.

8.2 Conclusion

8.2.1 The archaeological assessment revealed a low level of activity provisionally dated to prehistoric and post-medieval periods.

8.2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity were focused in the northern section of the excavated area and consisted of a ditch, two ditch segments, pit and two placed pots, one of which was identified during the evaluation phase in Trench 4. This suggests rather a peripheral nature of the past activity rather than settlement.

8.2.3 A northwest to southeast aligned post-medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the central portion of the site (recorded in evaluation Trench 5). To the south three postholes forming a fence line had been identified during the evaluation phase in Trench 5.

8.2.4 The excavation determined presence of a minor occupation without significant changes of landscape organisation over time.

8.2.5 No other archaeological features and no evidence for any other period were identified within the site during the course of the investigation.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. In the absence of any museum in the area actively collecting archaeological archives, no final repository for the project archive has yet been identified. The archive will continue to be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology until such time as the situation is resolved. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the accepting museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **218280**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type

- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A4/A3 graphics

9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of *the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context index

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
2001	**Layer**	**Topsoil**	
2002	**Layer**	**Subsoil**	
2003	**Layer**	**Natural**	
2004	**Cut**	**Pit**	**2005**
Sub-circular pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.50m. Width: 0.57m. Depth: 0.12m.			
2005	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**2004**
Light yellowish brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions. Archaeological components: Charcoal.			
2006	**Cut**	**Tree Throw**	**2007**
Sub-circular tree throw with shallow, concave sides and an irregular/undulating base. Length: 0.99m. Width: 0.65m. Depth: 0.12m.			
2007	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2006**
Mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse subangular flint stones (small-medium) inclusions. Archaeological components: Rare charcoal flecks, possible worked flint and flakes.			
2008	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2009**
Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >1.50m. Width: 0.37m. Depth: 0.13m.			
2009	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2008**
Mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse small sub angular flint stones inclusions.			
2010	**Cut**	**Ditch terminal**	**2011**
Linear ditch terminal with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 4.55m. Width: 0.98m. Depth: 0.34m.			
2011	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2010**
Mid yellowish brown clayish silt with common flints, rare manganese flecks inclusions. Archaeological components: Worked flint.			
2012	**Cut**	**Ditch terminal**	**2013**
Linear ditch terminal with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 4.55m. Width: 0.86m. Depth: 0.38m.			
2013	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2012**
Mid greyish brown silty clay with 15% small and medium sub-angular flints, 2% manganese flecks inclusions. Archaeological components: Flint flakes.			
2014	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2015**
Curvilinear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 4.40m. Width: 0.97m. Depth: 0.19m.			
2015	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2014**
Mid reddish brown clayey silt with sparse small sub angular flints inclusions. Archaeological components: Rare flint flakes, pottery.			
2016	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2015**
Curvilinear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 4.40m. Width: 0.94m. Depth: 0.29m.			
2017	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2016**
Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small angular and sub angular flints inclusions. Archaeological components: Flint clacked, pottery and charcoal.			
2018	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2019**
Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >6.50m. Width: 0.95m. Depth: 0.40m.			
2019	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2018**
Mid greyish brown silty clay with 20% small and medium sub-angular flints inclusions. Archaeological components: Pottery.			
2020	**Cut**	**Tree Throw**	**2022**
Sub-oval tree throw with irregular, irregular sides and an irregular/undulating base. Length: 0.90m. Width: 0.74m. Depth: 0.52m+.			
2021	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2020**
Mid brownish grey silty clay with flint inclusions. Archaeological components: Flint, charcoal flecks.			
2022	**Cut**	**Pit**	**2023, 2024**
Sub-circular pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.94m. Width: 0.81m. Depth: 0.15m.			
2023	**Fill**	**Placed deposit**	**2022**
Archaeological components: Entire/most of a pot – small find 3.			
2024	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**2022**
Mid brownish grey silty clay with sparse small sub angular flint stones inclusions. Archaeological components: Burnt flint, flint, pottery.			
2025	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2026**
Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >25.00m. Width: 1.26m. Depth: 0.20m.			
2026	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2025**
Mid yellowish brown clayish silt with common angular flints inclusions.			
2027	**Cut**	**Pit**	**2028**
Sub-circular pit with irregular, concave sides and a flat base. Diameter: 0.74m. Depth: 0.10m.			

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
2028	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2027**
Mid yellowish brown clayish silt with common angular flints inclusions. Archaeological components: Iron bar – small find 2, pottery.			
2029	**Cut**	**Ditch terminal**	**2030**
Linear ditch terminal with steep, concave sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >6.50m. Width: 0.79m. Depth: 0.35m.			
2030	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2029**
Mid yellowish brown silty clay with common angular medium and small flints, rare manganese flecks inclusions. Archaeological components: Slag.			
2031	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2032**
Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 25.00m. Width: 0.85m. Depth: 0.09m.			
2032	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2031**
Mid greyish brown silty clay with 5% small sub-anguar flints inclusions.			
2033	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2034**
Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >25.00m. Width: 1.15m. Depth: 0.19m.			
2034	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2033**
Mid yellowish brown clayish silt with common medium to small angular flint, 5% manganese flecks inclusions.			
2035	**Cut**	**Pit**	**2036**
Sub-circular pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.62m. Width: 0.44m. Depth: 0.10m.			
2036	**Fill**	**Deliberate backfill**	**2035**
Mid greyish brown clayey silt with sparse sub angular flint stones inclusions. Archaeological components: Rare charcoal flecks, flints.			
2037	**Cut**	**Ditch terminal**	**2038**
Linear ditch terminal with irregular, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 3.40m. Width: 0.96m. Depth: 0.33m.			
2038	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2037**
Mid greyish brown clayish silt with moderate small to medium angular flints, common manganese flecks inclusions.			
2039	**Cut**	**Ditch**	**2040**
Linear ditch with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 3.40m. Width: 1.15m. Depth: 0.44m.			
2040	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2039**
Light greyish brown silty clay with sparse sub angular flint stones inclusions. Archaeological components: Flint.			
2041	**Cut**	**Natural hollow**	**2042**
Sub-oval natural feature with steep, stepped sides and a u-shaped base. Length: 0.90m. Width: 0.78m. Depth: 0.43m.			
2042	**Fill**	**Secondary fill**	**2041**
Light yellowish grey silty clay with very common large sized manganese inclusions - well sorted inclusions.			
2043	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
Linear shaped very short ditch running on SW-NE alignment. The feature has a flat base and a steep concave profile. Use unknown. Flint flakes recovered from the fill. Similar sized ditch segments have been recorded to the S and NW. Group components: 2010, 2012			
2044	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
Curvilinear shaped short ditch running on NW-SE orientation and turning towards the S. Having a concave base and moderately sloping concave sides. Possible prehistoric pottery recovered from the fill. Group components: 2014, 2016			
2045	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
A linear shaped feature running across the excavation area on NW-SE alignment and running beyond excavation area. The ditch has a flat base and moderately sloping concave to shallow sides. Post-medieval pottery/CBM were recovered from the slot recorded during evaluation phase of work (Tr. 5 - [512]). Group components: 2025, 2031, 2033, 510			
2046	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
Linear feature running on E-W alignment at eastern site boundary. The ditch was identified within TR.7 - [704] during evaluation phase of work. The feature has a flat/U-shaped base and moderately/steep sloping concave sides. Possibly drainage function. Possibly post-medieval. Group components: 2018, 2029			
2047	**Group**	**Ditch**	**n/a**
Short linear shaped feature located to the S of excavated area on broadly N-S orientation. The feature has a concave base and steep sloping slightly irregular concave profile. Two similar features were recorded to the N. Undated and function unclear. Group components: 2037, 2039			

Appendix 2 Environmental Data

Table 1. Assessment of the environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other
2022	2024	2	27	20	40%, I, E	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature	-

Key: Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.

Appendix 3 KCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent	
Site Address: Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent	
Summary of discoveries: This course of archaeological intervention comprised the strip, map and sample of area measured 0.15ha and targeted around evaluation Trenches 4 and 5 in order to assess the potential for further archaeological remains. A total of 11 distinct archaeological features were recorded, comprising a field boundary ditch, a drainage ditch and a ditch terminus, three ditch segments and five pits including placed pot. A number of tree throws spread out across the site were also identified.	
District/Unitary: Maidstone	**Parish:** Lenham
Period(s): prehistoric to post-medieval	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 588935 152518 **(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)**	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Strip, map and sample excavation	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 26/03/2019 **To:** 04/04/2019	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: West Mulbery Marly Chalk Formation with superficial Head deposits	
Title and author of accompanying report: Title: Land west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Interim Report Authors: Emilia Seredynska	
Summary of fieldwork results The archaeological assessment revealed a low level of activity provisionally dated to prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Evidence of prehistoric activity were focused in the northern section of the excavated area and suggested rather a peripheral nature of the past activity rather than settlement. A post-medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the central portion of the site along with a fence line which had been identified during the evaluation phase. The excavation determined presence of a minor occupation without significant changes of landscape organisation over time.	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
Contact at Unit: Rob De'Athe	**Date:** 27/06/2019

Appendix 3 Oasis Form

10.3

OASIS ID: wessexar1-365309

Project details

Project name	Ham Lane, Lenham
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of a 0.15ha parcel of land located west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent, centred on NGR 588935 152518. The development comprsed the erection of 70 residential dwellings and associated works on the site. A total of 11 distinct archaeological features were recording during the excavation, comprising a six ditches and five pits, one containing a placed vessel. A number of tree throws were also identified.
Project dates	Start: 26-03-2019 End: 04-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	218280 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	14/502973/FULL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/504450/REM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	VESSEL Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE LENHAM Land west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent
Postcode	ME17 2BW

Study area	0.15 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 88935 52518 51.239930129648 0.707012529367 51 14 23 N 000 42 25 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	RPS
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor	Emilia Seredynska
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPS

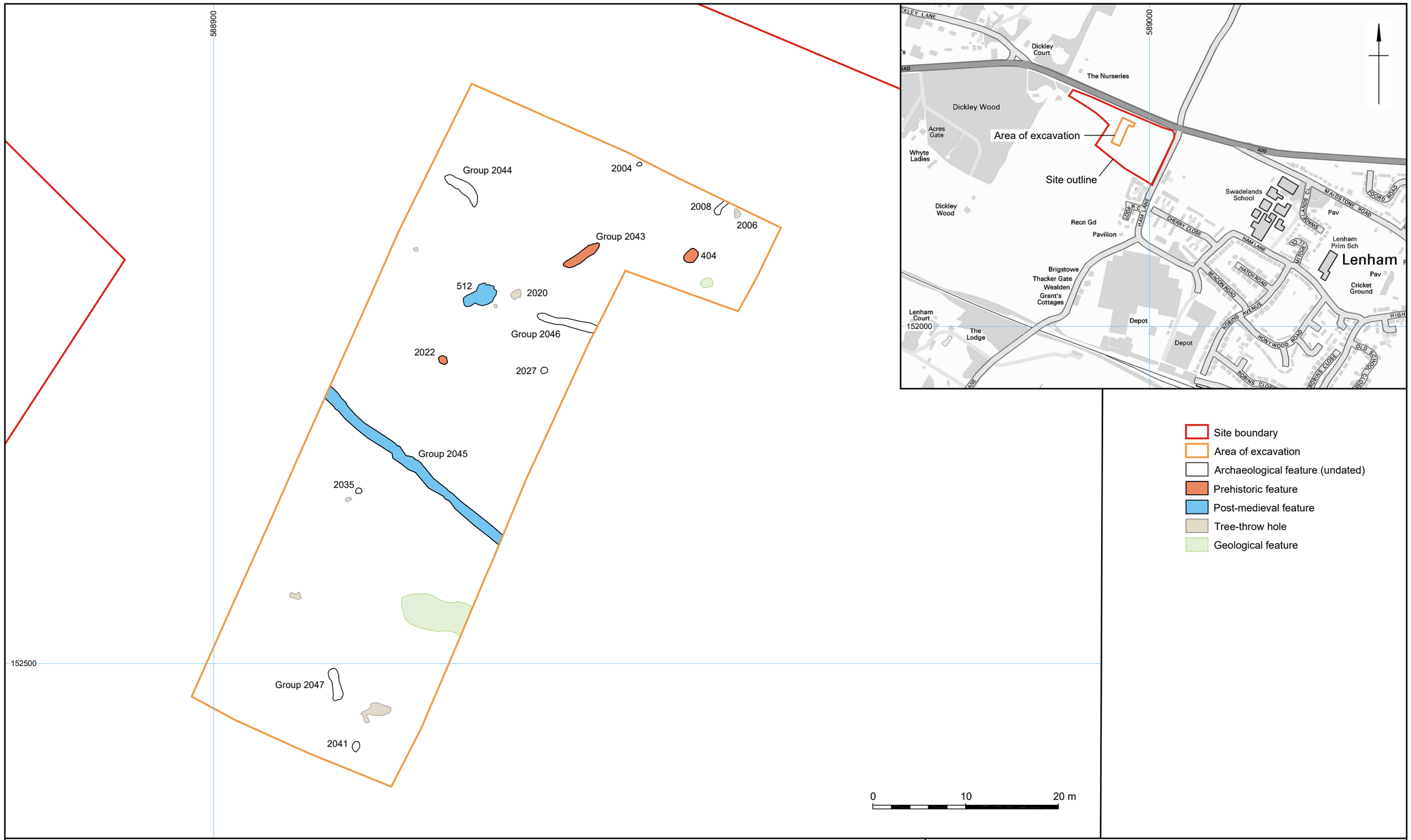
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Physical Archive notes	Only worked flint and pottery to be retained
Digital Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land west of Ham Lane, Lenham, Kent: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seredynska, E
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Souter, A
Other bibliographic details	218280.03
Date	2019

Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Maidstone
Description	Report detailing the results of an archaeological strip map and sample excavation. Grey literature report.
Entered by	Andrew Souter (a.souter@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	30 August 2019



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Site location, excavated area and archaeological results

Figure 1

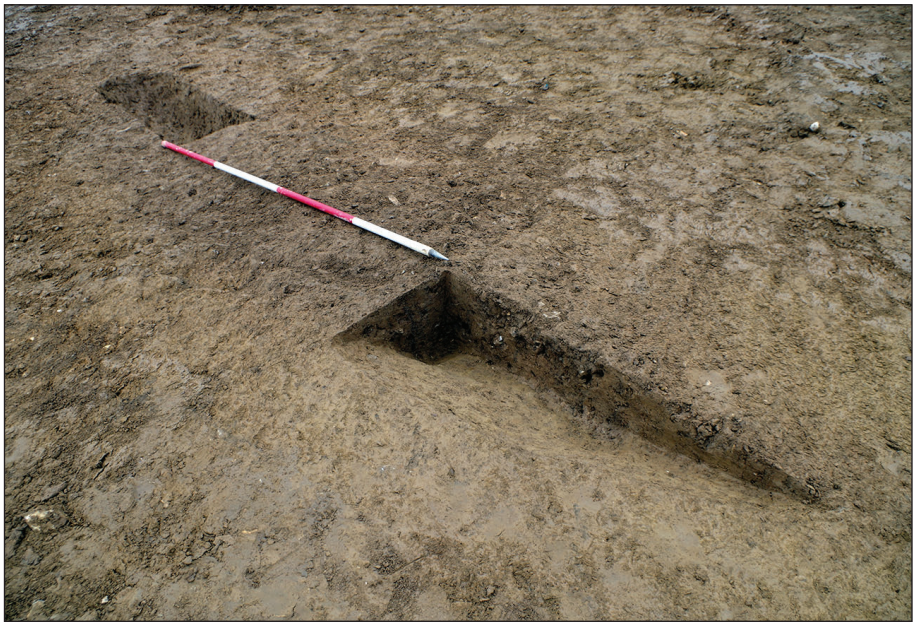

Plate 1: Ditch - group 2043, slot 2010&2012, viewed from the east

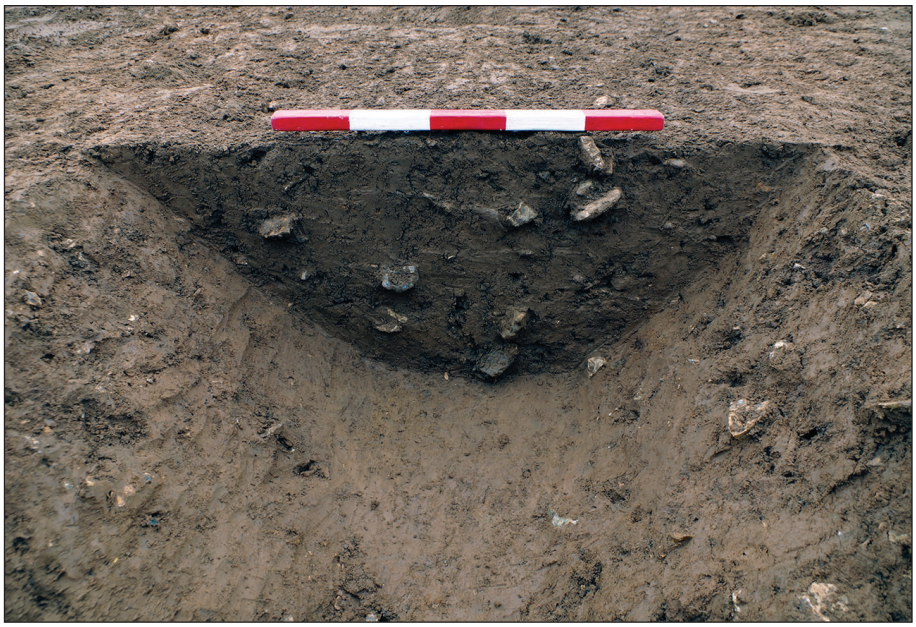

Plate 2: Ditch - group 2044, slot 2018, viewed from the east

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Plate 3: Pit 2022 containing placed pot – small find 3, viewed from the northeast

Plate 4: Ditch - group 2045, slot 2025, viewed from the southeast

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Plate 5: Ditch - group 2046, slot 2029, viewed from the northwest

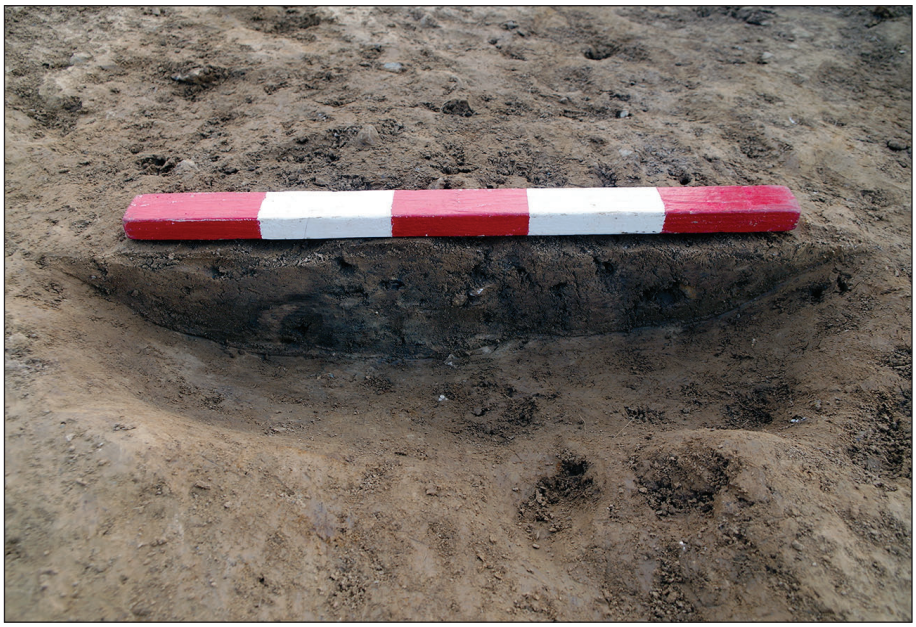

Plate 6: Pit 2035, viewed from the north

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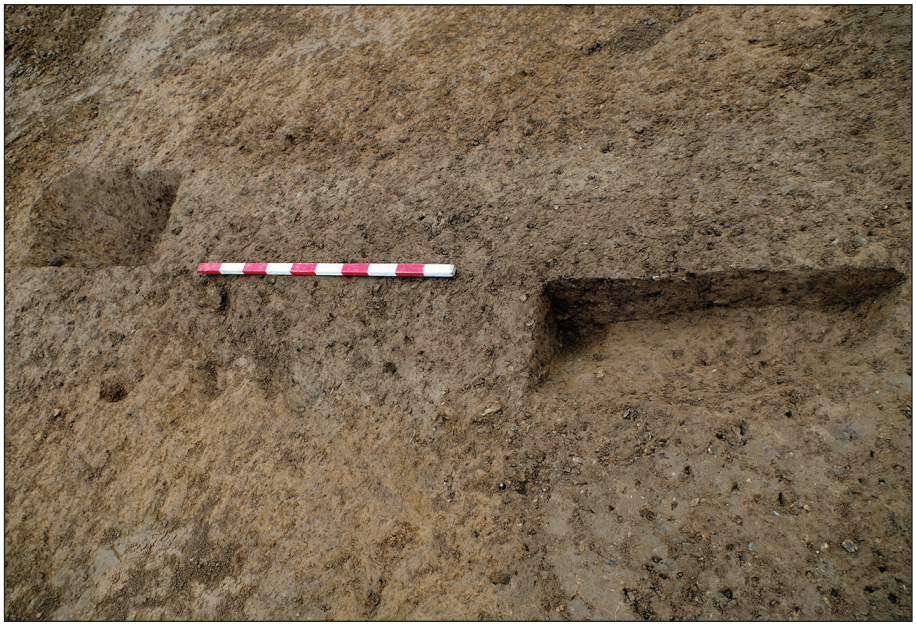

Plate 7: Ditch - group 2047, slots 2037&2039, viewed from the southeast

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