



The Maltings, Bramling Way Rainham, Kent

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample



Planning Ref: MC/19/2532
Ref: 238781.03
December 2020



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Document Information

Document title The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent
Document subtitle Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report
Document reference 238781.03

Commissioned by RPS Consulting Services
Address 20 Farringdon Street
London
EC4A 4AB

Site location The Maltings, Bramley Way, Rainham, ME8 8JL
County Kent
National grid reference (NGR) 582251 165489 (TQ 82251 65489)
Statutory designations None
Planning authority Medway Council
Planning reference MC/19/2532
Museum name Guildhall Museum, Rochester
Museum accession code TBC
OASIS Id wessexar1-425674

WA project name The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent
WA project code 238781
Date of fieldwork 30th November – 1st December 2020
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Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by
1 09/07/2021	Internal	ES	Nina Olofsson
2 28/10/2021	External	ES	Nina Olofsson



Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development.....	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
3.1 General aims	5
3.2 Research objectives	5
4 METHODS.....	6
4.1 Introduction.....	6
4.2 Setting out of the excavation area.....	6
4.3 Service location and other constraints	6
4.4 Fieldwork methods.....	6
4.6 Monitoring.....	7
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULT.....	7
5.1 Introduction.....	7
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	7
5.3 Phase 1 Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Results	8
6 FINDS EVIDENCE.....	8
6.1 Introduction.....	8
6.2 Pottery	9
6.3 Ceramic Building Material	10
6.4 Worked Flint	10
6.5 Other Finds.....	10
6.6 Statement of significance.....	10
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	10
8 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION.....	10
9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....	11
9.1 Museum.....	11
9.2 Preparation of the archive.....	11
9.3 Selection policy.....	11
9.4 Security copy	11
REFERENCES	13
APPENDICES	14
Appendix 1 Context Index	14
Appendix 2 Kent HER form	15
Appendix 3 OASIS record	16



List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location with archaeological result of Phase 1

List of Plates

Cover: General site view, viewed from the east

Plate 1 Section of pit 1004, viewed from the northeast

Plate 2 Section of pit/ tree throw 1006, viewed from the west northwest

Plate 3 Section of posthole 1008, viewed from the northwest

Plate 4 Section of posthole 1012, viewed from the northeast

List of Tables

Table 1 Finds totals by material type

Table 2 All finds by context (Strip, Map and Sample)



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Redrow Homes Limited to undertake a Phase 1 archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of a 0.0269ha parcel on land at The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent, ME8 8JL, centred on NGR 82251 65489.

The excavation was undertaken in response to a condition on a planning application (MC/19/2532) of a new residential development comprising of 29 dwellings alongside associated parking, access, infrastructure and landscaping works.

The archaeological works comprised a square area measuring 15m x 15m, targeted over Late Bronze Age / Middle Iron Age activity which had been identified during an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1).

The archaeological investigation identified five features including postholes and pits, two of which were interpreted as tree throws or heavily truncated pits. The archaeological remains were concentrated within the northern part of the excavated area and represented late prehistoric and post-medieval periods.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Services, for commissioning the archaeological excavation, in particular Rob Masefield. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Ben Found – Senior Archaeological Officer, who monitored the project for Medway Council, and to Morgan Brett-Chaponnel of Redrow Homes Limited for his cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Emilia Seredynska, with the assistance of Megan Smith. This report was written by Emilia Seredynska and edited by Jon Sanigar. The project was managed by Nina Olofsson on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



The Maltings, Bramling Way Rainham, Kent

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, on behalf of Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation (Phase 1) of a 0.0269ha parcel on land at The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent, ME8 8JL, centred on NGR 82251 65489 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises construction of 29 dwellings alongside associated parking, access, infrastructure and landscaping works.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (MC/19/2532) submitted to Medway Council, was granted 10th of November 2020, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 4 No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in full accordance with the agreed programme of work.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded to comply with Policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003.

- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020c). Kent County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The excavation was part of a stage in a programme of archaeological works, which has included an archaeological desk-based assessment (RPS 2020) as well as an archaeological evaluation of Phase 1 (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). As Phase 2 of the archaeological evaluation is not due to commence until early 2021, a programme of mitigation will be decided following the results of the archaeological potential from Phase 1.

1.2 Scope of the 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 British Geological Survey (2019) indicates the bedrock geology on the study site to be Seaford Chalk Formation. Overlying the chalk are superficial Head deposits - clay and silt.
- 1.3.2 The study site is bounded by a residential development to the north and west and by agricultural fields to the south and east.
- 1.3.3 The study site is generally flat at c.39m OD and measures c.1.3ha.
- 1.3.4 The study site is not located within close proximity to any natural water sources, and the estuary of the River Medway and associated creeks are located c.2.5km to the north.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was provided in the desk-based assessment produced by RPS (2020) and is reproduced here.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Archaeological Evaluation and Strip, map and sample (Wessex Archaeology 2019, 2020)

- 2.2.1 An archaeological evaluation c.400m north-east from the study site comprised 27 trenches and archaeological features were recorded in 11 of them. The features ranged from pits of uncertain purpose, a storage pit, quarry pits and scarce postholes to drainage and boundary ditches, two possible sunken featured buildings (SFB) with associated hearths and an isolated urned cremation grave of probable Bronze Age date. The majority of the features produced undiagnostic finds whereas those that were dated ranged from the prehistoric to modern periods with a focus on the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods.
- 2.2.2 The subsequent excavation identified activity dated to the Bronze age in the form of pits, an enclosure ditch, an urned cremation and a ring ditch. The main period of activity at the site was defined by a large sub rectangular medieval enclosure, with at least 2 phases of activity, evidenced by the re-cutting and re-organisation of ditches and associated sunken feature buildings. Sparse evidence suggesting some features at the site dated to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods was also identified.

Archaeological Evaluation – Phase 1 (Wessex Archaeology 2020b)

- 2.2.3 An archaeological evaluation of Phase 1 of the proposed development site was undertaken in October 2020. Out of the two trenches investigated, sherds of pottery from two separate vessels were recovered from a pit dating from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Two tree throws and a post-medieval pit was also revealed. The evaluation established that mapped Head deposit, approximately 0.2-0.3m in thickness, was present at the site overlying chalk bedrock. Head deposits can be a source of residual Palaeolithic material however, no artefacts indicating Palaeolithic activity were discovered.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Early Prehistoric – Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

- 2.3.1 The earliest activity recorded within the study area is a Palaeolithic handaxe and two pieces of debitage (MWX 20830) found c.650m north west of the site dated to between 500000 BC to 125000 BC.



- 2.3.2 A residual Palaeolithic flake was recorded during an archaeological evaluation c.400m north-east of the study site (Wessex Archaeology 2019).
- 2.3.3 The presence of Palaeolithic material can be notoriously difficult to predict and is typically dependent upon the presence of an appropriate underlying geology sequence (such as terrace gravels or brickearth), as well as suitable topography and access to nearby resources and water. Head deposits can be a source of residual Palaeolithic material, but their inclusion is dependent upon such activity at a higher topographic level, due to the nature of their formation.
- 2.3.4 A Mesolithic or Neolithic stone core formed from a nodule of flint is recorded c.400m north east of the site (MKE96226).
- 2.3.5 A Lithic implement of Prehistoric date, probably from the Neolithic period was found c.200m north from the study site (MKE96226). A further flint flake of uncertain age was found at the same location (MKE109834).
- 2.3.6 Given the paucity of the early Prehistoric findspots within the study area on the HER, it is not unreasonable to determine a low archaeological potential for early Prehistoric settlement evidence at the study site itself. The presence of residual, isolated artefacts within the underlying head deposits cannot be ruled out. Any such remains would be residual in nature, having been moved from their point of deposition, and will likely be heavily rolled.
- 2.3.7 A single Middle to Late Bronze Age cremation burial was identified during an archaeological evaluation c.400m north-east from the study site (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The archaeological evaluation recorded two additional pottery sherds of Prehistoric date that could not be closely dated.
- 2.3.8 An Iron Age pit was found c.800m north-east from the study site in 1934 (MKE3062). It contained a large quantity of pre-Belgic Iron Age sherds and one blue glass bead. The pit had steps on one side and the base was filled with red burnt clay, which was either an accumulation of hearths or possibly indicated a fire which destroyed any hut which may have been present.
- 2.3.9 No further later Prehistoric findspots have been recorded in the study area. Accordingly, the DBA suggested a low archaeological potential for the study site for the Prehistoric periods.

Roman period

- 2.3.10 The course of the A2, c.200m north of the study site, is believed to follow the alignment of Watling Street, the Roman road between Canterbury and London, via Rochester. Excavations along the course of the road have shown it to be 8m wide with compacted gravel surfaces and ditches on each side (MKE4004). Typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, roadside ditches and associated land division, together with quarry pits, burials and chance losses.
- 2.3.11 It was considered that there may be an earlier pre-existing trackway but argued on balance the evidence was inconclusive. Part of an earlier road was uncovered in Dartford, along Spital Street (TQ 57 SW 247), preceding the established Watling Street but it is unknown if it extends the whole route. Despite the presence of the Roman road, the HER only contains a few records relating to possible road side activity within the study area.



- 2.3.12 A gold aureus of Claudius and Agrippina was found in 1968 at 66 Herbert Road, c.500m west of the study site (MKE3078). This was dug up in a garden and brought to Maidstone Museum for identification. The coin was later sold to a London dealer by the finder.
- 2.3.13 The archaeological evaluation by Wessex Archaeology c.400 north-east from the study site recorded a storage pit of a Roman date and quarrying activity of a probable Roman date (Wessex Archaeology 2019).
- 2.3.14 Due to the limited number of Roman find spots in the study area and the proximity of the alignment of the Roman road, the archaeological potential of the study site for the Roman period has been identified as low to moderate.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.15 Rainham is an early Anglo-Saxon place name (originally ending as ‘-ingaham’). The earliest documentary evidence for Rainham is a charter of 811 AD when it is recorded as a Royal Estate Centre.
- 2.3.16 The location of the Anglo-Saxon estate centre at Rainham is unknown, but it is likely to have been close to the Roman Road and St Margaret’s Church. By the time of Domesday Book (1086) Rainham had been absorbed into the large Royal Manors of Milton and therefore does not have a separate entry.
- 2.3.17 Recent archaeological investigations c.400m north-east from the study site revealed evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of residual sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a sunken featured building (SFB).
- 2.3.18 St Margaret’s Church is located c.550m north-west of the study site and was originally constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries (MKE3056). Evidence for Medieval activity within the study area is generally limited to the area around the church, indicating that this likely formed the focus of settlement during this period (MKE8894; MKE20323; MKE20432).
- 2.3.19 It is likely that the focus of activity within the study area during the Saxon and Medieval periods would have been within the historic core of Rainham to the north west of the study site.
- 2.3.20 No further evidence associated with the Anglo-Saxon or Medieval periods have been recorded within the study area.
- 2.3.21 As such, whilst the study site may have been located within the wider agricultural hinterland associated with the estate and settlement at Rainham, it is unlikely that the site would have been subject to occupation or settlement activity. Therefore, a low archaeological potential is considered for these periods at the study site. However, due to the proximity of an SFB, the presence of such structures cannot be discounted entirely.

Post Medieval & Modern

- 2.3.22 A number of the HER records within the study area refer to Post Medieval and Modern archaeological remains, which are not discussed in detail here unless relevant to the study site.
- 2.3.23 During the Post Medieval and Modern periods, our understanding of settlement, land use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.



- 2.3.24 Symonson's 1596 Map of Kent depicts the study site within probably open land adjacent to Watling Street, to the south east of 'Raynham'. By 1769, a similar situation is shown, with the study site to the south of Watling Street, and adjacent to Meresborough Road. A number of HER monuments relate to Post Medieval farmsteads throughout the 1km study area, many of which are depicted on early historic mapping.
- 2.3.25 The 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing depicts much of the study site as plantation. The 1838 Rainham Tithe Map records the study site in a similar situation with plot 316 recorded as a nursery and pond on the associated Award. This is further shown on the 1865 Ordnance Survey map.
- 2.3.26 The 1906 Ordnance Survey shows the study site as 'Nursery' with a pathway along the northern site boundary and by 1940, the study site is shown in four different plots occupied with crops.
- 2.3.27 The 1968 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the study site as part of an orchard.
- 2.3.28 The 1990 Aerial Photograph shows a road in the western area of study site with structures / sheds on either site. The road and sheds were removed by 2003 and the study site is shown as open land.
- 2.3.29 The study site has remained open land, nursery or plantation throughout the Post Medieval and Modern periods. Therefore, a low archaeological potential can be identified at the study site for these periods.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020c) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
 - seek a better understanding of the resource;
 - compile a lasting record of the resource; and
 - analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation were to:
- determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation, and its development from the prehistoric to the Romano-British period;
 - determine and identify if the brickearth are further present on site and establish how and when they were deposited with any presence of faunal or artefactual remains;
 - determine and identify any unmapped terrace deposits; and



- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI. Any significant variations to these methods were agreed in writing with the Senior Archaeological Advisor and the client, prior to being implemented.
- 4.1.2 The excavation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of a single area measuring 15m x 15m square (**Figure 1**). This was based on the results of the two trenches in the evaluation and the archaeological potential within the site.

4.2 Setting out of the excavation area

- 4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in the approximate positions shown in **Figure 1**. Minor adjustments to the layout may be required to take account of any on-site constraints such as vegetation or located services, and to allow for machine manoeuvring. The locations of excavated areas was tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15.

4.3 Service location and other constraints

- 4.3.1 The client provided information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services, and any ecological, environmental or other constraints.

4.4 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.4.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Figure 1**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° 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.
- 4.4.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation.
- 4.4.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

- 4.4.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 4.4.5 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was made. This included plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the OS National Grid.



- 4.4.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. This recorded the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs also were taken of the area, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the excavation.

Survey

- 4.4.7 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 OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.5 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.5.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020c). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.6 Monitoring

- 4.6.1 Ben Found – Senior Archaeological Officers for KCC monitored the archaeological excavation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the KCC County Archaeologist.

4.7 Reinstatement

- 4.7.1 Following the completion of the excavation to the satisfaction of the client and the Senior Archaeological Advisor, the excavated area was backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion.

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 of the site, excavation area and displays the phased archaeological results. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-4**.

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 brownish grey organic and heavily rooted topsoil of 0.25m in thickness overlying dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. The overburden sealed the natural geology consisting dark yellowish red with abundant flint inclusions Head deposits. A depth of natural geology was average of 0.55m BGL.



5.3 Phase 1 Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Results

5.3.1 The excavation area measuring 15m x 15m targeted over Late Bronze Age / Middle Iron Age pit recorded during the Phase 1 of evaluation within Trench 1 to further assess the archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation phase.

5.3.2 The excavation produced five features of the archaeological interest, two of which appeared to be more likely tree throws than pits.

Late Prehistoric

5.3.3 A sub-oval pit **1004 (Plate 1)**, having a flat base and moderately sloping concave sides, was identified at the southwest corner of the excavated area. The feature measured 1.2m in length, 0.96 in width with a depth of 0.25m. A small amount of late prehistoric, possibly Late Bronze Age / Iron Age, pottery and fired clay was recovered from the upper level of its deliberate backfill deposit.

5.3.4 A circular posthole **1008 (Plate 3)** with steep, straight sides and a concave base was identified broadly in the centre of the excavated area. The feature measured 0.50m in diameter and 0.17m in depth was filled with a single secondary fill which produced flint strucks and a small sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery. Due to close proximity to the Late Bronze Age / Middle Iron Age pit recorded during the evaluation stage the posthole is likely to be related to each other.

5.3.5 Severely disturbed by roots feature **1012** was recorded within the northwest quadrant of the site. A possible pit or tree throw was characterised by an undulating base and irregular sides and measured 1m in length, 0.7m in width with a depth of 0.11m. The feature was filled with a mixed secondary fill and a sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery, and a single flint stuck were retrieved from it.

Post medieval

5.3.6 Another posthole **1010 (Plate 4)**, sub-circular in plan, having a concave base and moderately sloping straight edges was revealed by the eastern side of the area. The feature was 0.52m long, 0.48m wide and 0.13m deep and brought a piece of post-medieval CBM and a single flint struck which was believed to be residual.

Undated

5.3.7 A feature **1006 (Plate 2)** was located within the northeast portion of the excavation and was characterised by a flat base and a moderately sloping concave profile. It measured 0.96m x 0.78m, 0.14m deep and produced a small piece of slag and a single flint struck. However, due to rooting truncation the artefact could be also considered as residual and the feature itself appeared to be rather tree throw that a pit.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered from the Phase 1 strip, map and sample, augmenting a similarly small quantity found during the earlier evaluation. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context. The breakdown by material type of the combined assemblage from evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation is given in Table 1, while Table 2 presents the finds from the strip, map and sample excavation by context.

Table 1 Finds totals by material type

Material type	EVALUATION		SMS		TOTAL	
	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight
Burnt Flint	1	16	-	-	1	16
Ceramic Building Mat.	2	27	2	12	4	39
Worked Flint	4	-	7	-	11	-
Pottery	9	39	4	9	13	48
Stone	2	5342	-	-	2	5342

Table 2 All finds by context (Strip, Map and Sample Excavation)

Context	Feature	Ceramic Building Material		Flint	Pottery	
		No.	Weight	No.	No.	Weight
1002	Subsoil			2		
1005	Pit 1004	1	2		1	1
1007	Pit/tree throw 1006			1		
1009	Posthole 1008			2	2	4
1011	Posthole 1010	1	10	1		
1013	Pit/tree throw 1012			1	1	4
Total		2	12	7	4	9

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The four sherds of pottery are all prehistoric. All are small, abraded and undiagnostic body sherds, which hampers confident dating, but on fabric grounds they can be identified as later prehistoric. Three sherds (one from pit/tree throw 1012 and two from posthole 1008) are flint-tempered, containing moderately coarse, randomly sorted flint inclusions; a date range in the Late Bronze Age is most likely although it should be pointed out that flint-tempered fabrics have a lengthy currency in the area and these sherds could be later. The fourth sherd, from pit 1004, is in a finer fabric, moderately sandy with rare fine flint inclusions. A Late Bronze Age date is possible, but the fabric is less chronologically distinctive and could equally well fall anywhere within the Iron Age.
- 6.2.2 Given the very small quantity of pottery, and its condition, all four sherds are likely to be redeposited in the features in which they were found (pit 1004 also contained a piece of post-medieval ceramic tile), and so their use as firm dating evidence should be viewed with extreme caution.
- 6.2.3 Eight sherds from the evaluation, also flint-tempered, were broadly dated as Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age.
- 6.2.4 In addition, one 19th-/20th-century sherd (a refined whiteware) was found during the evaluation.



6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 Both pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) recovered are from post-medieval flat roof tiles. One came from pit 1004 and one from posthole 1010. Two pieces of CBM from the evaluation were also post-medieval.

6.4 Worked Flint

6.4.1 Seven pieces of worked flint were recovered; all are waste flakes derived from core preparation activities. None are chronologically diagnostic and a broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date is proposed. The same is true of four waste flakes from the evaluation.

6.4.2 Six of the seven flakes are in relatively fresh condition, suggesting a low level of post-depositional movement. The seventh piece, from posthole 1010, shows some edge damage; this feature also contained a piece of post-medieval ceramic tile, so the flint is clearly a residual find.

6.5 Other Finds

6.5.1 Two pieces of stone (Kentish ragstone) from the evaluation showed no obvious signs of working or utilisation and are unlikely to have any archaeological significance. A piece of burnt, unworked flint, also from the evaluation, is of unknown date although this material type is generally considered characteristic of prehistoric activity.

6.6 Statement of significance

6.6.1 The combined assemblage from evaluation and strip, map and sample is very small, and its archaeological significance is correspondingly limited. The negligible quantities and condition of the finds found in several features mean that their use as firm dating evidence cannot be regarded as reliable, and no further elucidation of site function is possible.

6.6.2 In terms of the project's research objectives, the following is of specific relevance to the finds assemblage:

- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

6.6.3 This objective has not been met; there is nothing here that is sufficiently well dated and diagnostic to help in the construction of any regional type series.

6.6.4 No further analysis of the finds is considered appropriate; information presented in this report could be incorporated in any publication report.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

8 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The mitigation demonstrated sparse archaeological remains concentrated within the northern half of the site.

8.1.2 A total of five distinct archaeological features were recorded, comprising pits and postholes along with tree throws. All identified features contained artefacts dating to the Late Bronze Age although the type of pottery can date into the Iron Age, and post medieval periods. It seems to be that most of these artefacts may have been residual. Late Bronze Age activity

within the area is quite limited, with a single cremation burial being identified approximately 400m to the north (Wessex Archaeology 2019). In comparison, the nearest Iron Age activity comprised of a single pit identified approximately 800m to the north.

- 8.1.3 The archaeological excavation identified a number of tree throws, which can be attributed to the site being utilised as a plantation and an orchard, which was noted in the 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing, up until the present day.
- 8.1.4 The excavation identified that archaeological remains representing late prehistoric and post-medieval occupation survived within the site. No other archaeological deposits or features were recorded in this course of the investigation.

9 ARCHIVE 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 Meopham. 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 nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **238781**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
 - 1 files/document cases of paper records and A4 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.
- 9.3.2 The finds assemblage is very small and although providing some limited chronological evidence is not necessarily well stratified and includes nothing of intrinsic interest. It has little archaeological significance and little or no further research potential. Retention is not recommended.

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 access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 3**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the KCC County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) 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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- Wessex Archaeology 2020a *Land at Otterham Quay Lane, Rainham, Kent: Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*, Unpublished client report Ref: 217441.05
- Wessex Archaeology 2020b *The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 1)*, Unpublished client report Ref: 238780.02
- Wessex Archaeology 2020c, *The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation*, Ref: 238781.0



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context Index

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
1001	Layer	Topsoil	n/a
Dark brownish grey, almost black clayey silt with rare small subangular flints inclusions			
1002	Layer	Subsoil	n/a
Dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate medium sized subangular flints inclusions			
1003	Layer	Natural (Head deposit)	n/a
Dark yellowish red silty clay with very common medium to large sized subangular flints inclusions			
1004	Cut	Pit	1005
Sub-oval pit with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 1.20 m. Width: 0.96 m. Depth: 0.25 m.			
1005	Fill	Deliberate backfill	1004
Mid brownish grey sandy silt with 1% flint inclusions; small amount of pottery and fired clay flecks			
1006	Cut	Pit or Three Throw	1007
Sub-oval pit with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 0.96 m. Width: 0.78 m. Depth: 0.14 m.			
1007	Fill	Secondary fill	1006
Mid brownish grey sandy silt with 1% flint and 1% chalk inclusions; flint, CBM, slag			
1008	Cut	Posthole	1009
Circular posthole with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Diameter: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.17 m.			
1009	Fill	Secondary fill	1008
Dark brownish grey silty clay with very common small to medium sized angular flints, rare small rounded pebbles inclusions; 2x flint struck, 1x small sherd of pottery			
1010	Cut	Posthole	1011
Sub-circular posthole with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. Length: 0.52 m. Width: 0.48 m. Depth: 0.13 m.			
1011	Fill	Secondary fill	1010
Dark brownish grey silty clay with sparse small to medium sized angular ragstones inclusions; 1x flint, CBM			
1012	Cut	Pit or Tree Throw	1013
Sub-oval pit or tree throw with moderate, irregular sides and an irregular/undulating base. Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth: 0.11 m.			
1013	Fill	Secondary fill	1012
Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sized angular flints, rare small rounded pebbles inclusions; 1x pottery, 1x flint struck			



Appendix 2 Kent HER form

Site Name: The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent	
Site Address: The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent, ME8 8JL	
Summary of discoveries: The archaeological works comprised a square area measuring 15m x 15m, targeted over Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age activity which had been identified during an archaeological evaluation. The archaeological investigation identified five features including postholes and pits, two of which were interpreted as tree throws or heavily truncated pits. The archaeological remains were concentrated within the northern part of the excavated area and represented late prehistoric and post-medieval periods.	
District/Unitary: Medway	Parish:
Period(s): Late prehistoric (Late Bronze Age / Iron Age), post-medieval	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 582251 165489 (TQ 82251 65489)	
Type of archaeological work: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 30/11/2020 To: 01/12/2020	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: The bedrock geology is Seaford Chalk Formation. Overlying the chalk are superficial Head deposits - clay and silt.	
Title and author of accompanying report: The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent. Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report by Emilia Seredynska	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation have successfully met the aims and objectives of the mitigation demonstrating sparse archaeological remains concentrated within the northern half of the site. A total of five distinct archaeological features were recorded, comprising pits and postholes along with tree throws. All identified features contained the artefacts, however it seems to be that most of these were intrusive. Although, there has been identified a level of disturbance caused by a previous orchard, the excavation revealed that archaeological remains representing late prehistoric and post-medieval occupation survived within the site. No other archaeological deposits or features were recorded in this course of the investigation	
Location of archive/finds Wessex Archaeology (Meopham)	
Contact at Unit: Nina Olofsson	Date: 04/12/2020



Appendix 3 OASIS record

wessexar1-425674

Project details

Project name	The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, SMS Phase 1
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Redrow Homes Limited to undertake a Phase 1 archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of a 0.0269ha parcel on land at The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, centred on NGR 82251 65489. The archaeological works comprised a square area measuring 15m x 15m, targeted over Late Bronze Age / Middle Iron Age activity which had been identified during an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1). The archaeological investigation identified five features including postholes and pits, two of which were interpreted as tree throws or heavily truncated pits. The archaeological remains were concentrated within the northern part of the excavated area and represented late prehistoric and post-medieval periods. The excavation was undertaken in response to a condition on a planning application of a new residential development comprising of 29 dwellings alongside associated parking, access, infrastructure and landscaping works.
Project dates	Start: 30-11-2020 End: 01-12-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any project codes associated with reference	238781 - Sitecode
Any project codes associated with reference	MC/19/2532 - Planning Application No.
Any project codes associated with reference	238780 - Sitecode
Any project codes associated with reference	wessexar1-407473 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	PIT Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location



Country England
Site location KENT MEDWAY ROCHESTER The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham
Postcode ME8 8JL
Study area 0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates TQ 82251 65489 51.35863684104 0.617979118548 51 21 31 N 000 37 04 E
Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 39m Max: 39m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation
Project brief RPS Consulting Services Ltd
originator
Project design Nina Olofsson
originator
Project director/manager Nina Olofsson
Project supervisor Emilia Seredynska
Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body
Name of Redrow Homes Limited
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Guildhall Museum, Rochester
recipient
Physical Archive ID 238781
Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Wessex Archaeology
recipient
Digital Archive ID 238781
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media "Database", "Images raster / digital
available photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive Wessex Archaeology
recipient
Paper Archive ID 238781
Paper Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research',
available General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1



Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title The Maltings, Bramling Way, Rainham, Kent. Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation (Phase 1) Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Seredynska, E

Other bibliographic 238781.03
details

Date 2021

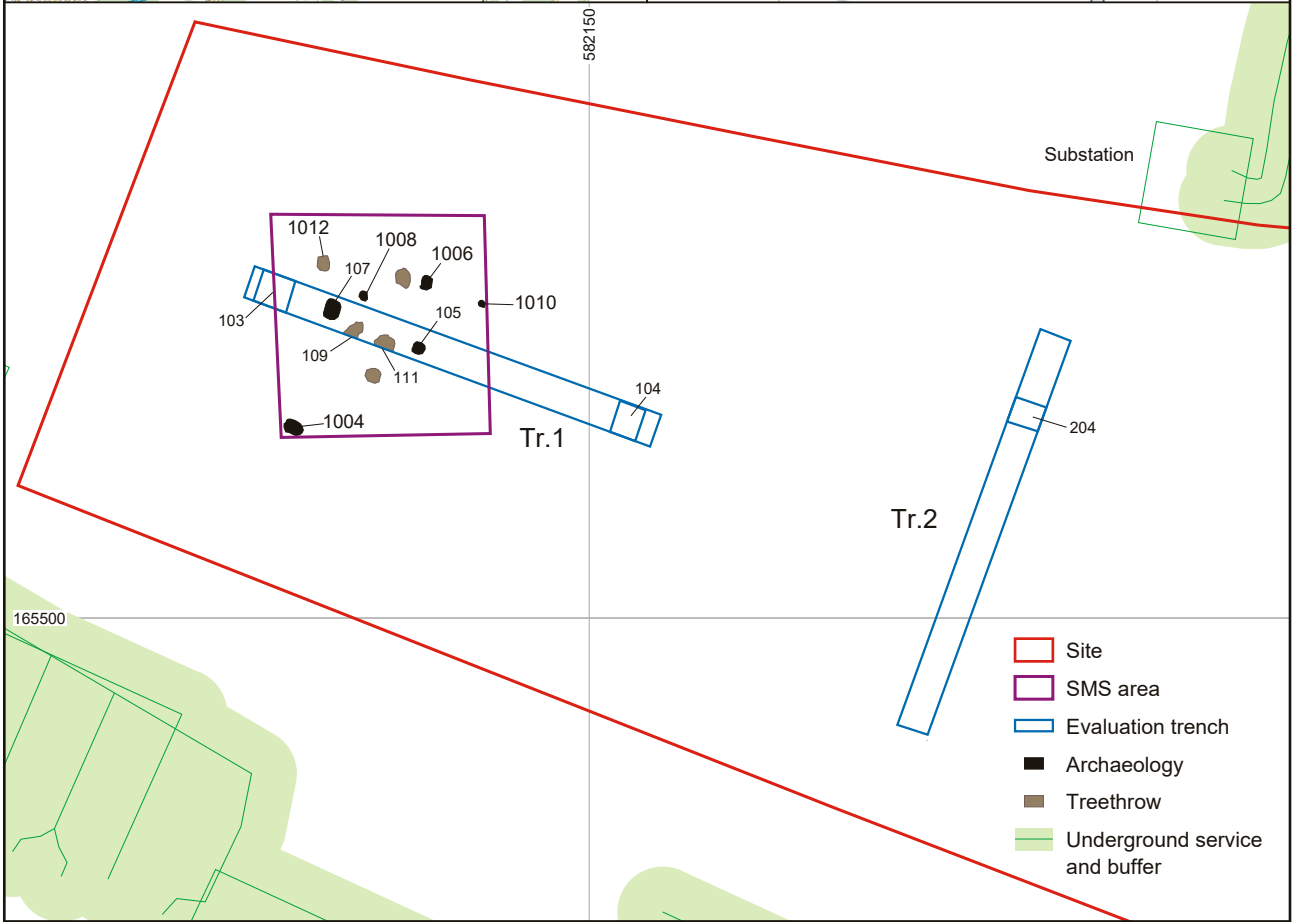
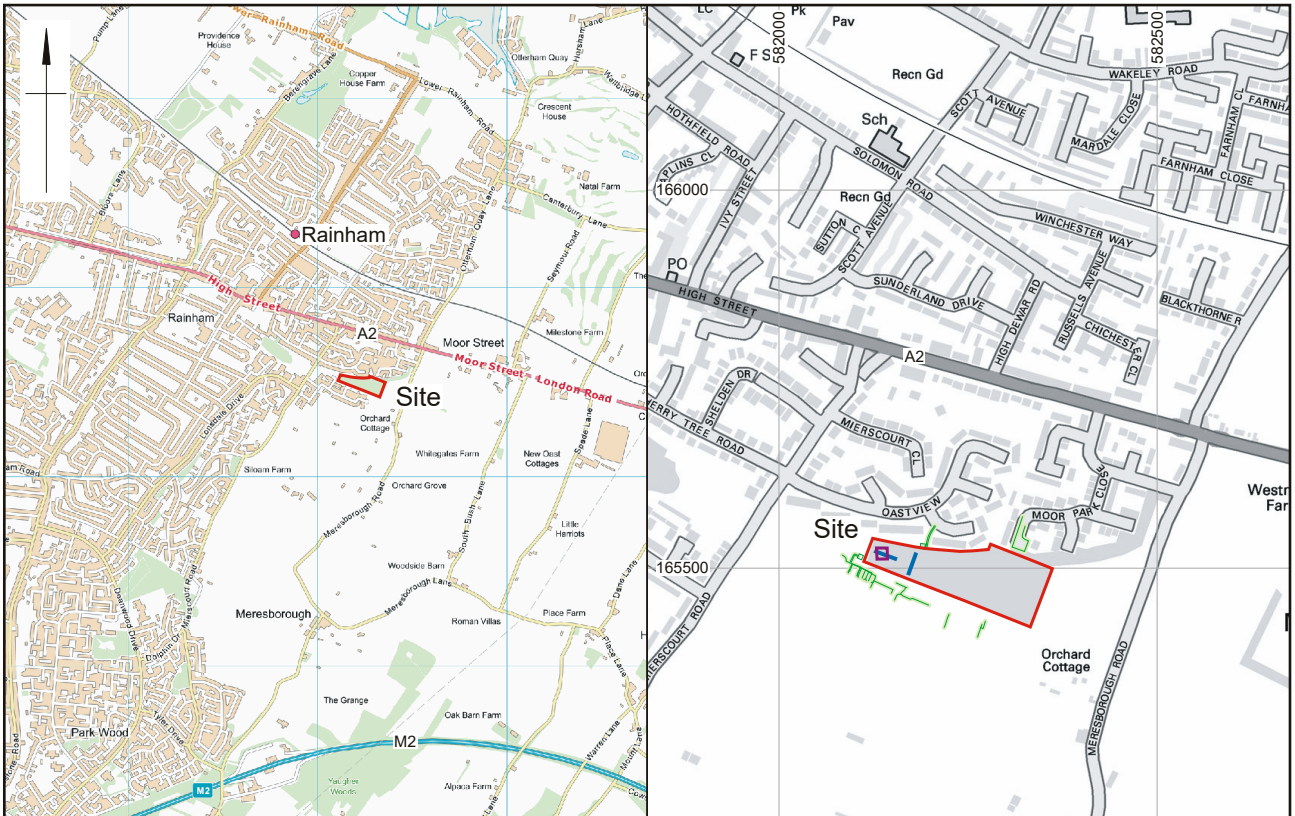
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology



Place of issue or Meopham
publication

Description A4, digital copy, paper copy, blue spine, soft cover, including illustrations

Entered by Emilia Seredynska (e.seredynska@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 9 July 2021



				
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Site location and proposed strip, map and sample location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Section of pit 1004, viewed from the northeast



Plate 2: Section of pit / tree throw 1006, viewed from the west northwest



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Plate 3: Section of posthole 1008, viewed from the northwest



Plate 4: Section of posthole 1012, viewed from the northeast

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FS 606559