



Canterbury Road St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent

Strip, Map and Sample Excavation



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of two small parcels of land covering 0.16 hectares, located at Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent, CT7 0PB. The site was centred on NGR 626757 166234.

The proposed development comprised the construction of 39 residential properties with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

The excavation was preceded by archaeological works, including a Desk Based and archaeological trial trench evaluation which identified archaeological features in the western corner and along the eastern boundary of the site, and which were further investigated during this.

The strip, map and sample excavation identified a total of ten archaeological features, comprising three ditches, six pits/postholes and a quarry pit. The pits, postholes and ditches could not be dated during the excavation although a small collection of abraded prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered, indicating some activity was present in the area. The quarry pit was tentatively dated to the medieval period and is believed to represent a chalk extraction pit.

The excavation was undertaken between the 17th and 25th May 2021

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Canterbury Road St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent

Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of two small parcels of land covering 0.16 ha, located at Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent, CT7 0PB. The site was centred on NGR 626757 166234 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprised the construction of 39 residential properties with associated infrastructure and landscaping. A planning application (TH/17/1447) submitted to Thanet District Council, was granted (09/04/2020) subject to conditions. The following condition related to archaeology:

Condition 16 Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to, and agreed in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.

GROUND:

To ensure that the archaeological history of the site is recorded in accordance with the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by archaeological works, including a Desk Based Assessment (DBA; RPS 2021) and archaeological trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021a) which identified archaeological features in the western corner and along the eastern boundary of the site.
- 1.1.4 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The County Archaeologist for Kent County Council (KCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken between the 17th and 25th May 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the excavation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. This document forms the final phase of reporting for the project, with no further work required, and details the future of the archive, leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site, centred at NGR TR 26752 66232, is located on the southeast fringe of St Nicholas-at-Wade, Thanet, Kent and is approximately 1.35ha in area. The site is former agricultural



land enclosed by hedgerow and bounded to the southeast by the A28 Canterbury Road and to the northeast by Manor Road. A residential plot and ancillary farm buildings lie to the southwest, whilst a new housing estate under development is located on the adjacent plot to the northwest.

- 1.3.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS Website 2017) shows the solid geology of the study site as Margate Chalk Member, with superficial deposits represented by the southern limit of Head 2, clay and silt in the area.
- 1.3.3 No site specific or British Geological Survey geotechnical data is currently available for the study site.
- 1.3.4 The study site lies on a gentle southwest-facing slope. The southwestern extent of the site lies at approximately 21m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), rising to approximately 24m AOD at its north-eastern extent.
- 1.3.5 The nearest watercourse is the Wade Marsh Stream, approximately 1km west of the study site. The North Kent coast lies 3km north of the site.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (RPS 2021), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

- 2.2.1 In February 2021 Wessex Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at the site. The evaluation comprised 11 trenches (30m by 1.8m), two trenches were excavated in two halves and the majority of trenches were moved slightly due to on site obstructions. A total of 10 archaeological features, including ditches, postholes and a possible sunken feature building, were recorded during the evaluation in Trenches 1-3, 9 and 11. Due to a lack of dating evidence only the possible SFB has been tentatively dated to the medieval period, while the remaining features are undated.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Early prehistoric period (900,000 - 4,000 BP)

- 2.3.1 There are no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic findspots recorded on the site or wider 1km study area. The lack of evidence can be partly attributed to the paucity of archaeological fieldwork in the area, however the limited potential of the site is supported by its identification within the Palaeolithic Character Area 3, as assessed by the Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project. PCA 3 is ascribed a low to moderate potential for the presence of Palaeolithic material that would be of very low importance due to having been reworked and derived.
- 2.3.2 On balance, the available evidence indicates an overall low potential for Early Prehistoric remains on the study site. The presence of a small number of residual lithics at depth cannot be ruled out.



Neolithic, Bronze Age & Iron Age (4,000-AD43)

- 2.3.3 The HER records no evidence of Neolithic activity on the study site or 1km study area.
- 2.3.4 The HER records some limited evidence of Bronze Age activity in the study area. A flint scraper and pottery sherds were found during archaeological evaluation in 2004, 300m north of the site (TR26NE252/EKE11263, TR 2667 6650), while cropmarks of an enclosure, ring ditch and pit are recorded 400m southwest of the study site (TR26NE28, TR 2643 6602). Further cropmarks of four dark spots located in close association with several ring ditch cropmark features may represent the remains of Bronze Age barrows, 600m ENE of the study site (TR26NE93, TR 2725 6634).
- 2.3.5 A fragment of Bronze Age copper alloy sword is also recorded to the east of the study site by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (MKE80168, TR 27400 66000). The plotted position should be regarded with a degree of caution due to inaccuracy of the associated NGR; particularly in the case of treasure trove entries, which are placed within a 1km grid square.
- 2.3.6 The sole HER record of an Iron Age feature within the study area is a length of ditch recorded adjacent to the Thanet Way, 1km north of the study site, that contained worked flints and Iron Age pottery (TR26NE204, TR 2719 6709).
- 2.3.7 The remaining Iron Age evidence is represented by a small number of isolated, residual finds of coins recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Single copper alloy coins are recorded 400m south of the site (MKE74470, TR 26840 65880), 500m southwest of the site (MKE74469, TR 27110 65850), 900m west of the study site (MKE108896, TR 2583 6614) and 900m ESE of the site (MKE74092, TR 27100 65400).
- 2.3.8 Two silver Iron Age coins are also recorded in the study area but are only located to a 1km accuracy (MKE74398 & MKE74402, TR 26000 66000).
- 2.3.9 The limited HER evidence can be attributed in part to the lack of archaeological investigation that has taken place in the study area, as the wider landscape of Thanet is known to have been occupied and utilised during these periods. On balance, a low to moderate potential can be ascribed to the site for Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains.

Roman (AD43-410)

- 2.3.10 The major Roman sites in the region are the fort and port at Richborough (Rutupiae) and the fort of Reculver (Regulbium), whilst Perkins (2001, 43) has stated that Thanet was 'a populous island landscape liberally sprinkled with villas and farming settlements.'
- 2.3.11 A major road from the walled Roman town at Canterbury leads toward Thanet (Margary 1967, 40- 1: Roman Road No.11 Canterbury to Upstreet), and an associated route may have continued east towards Margate approximately on the line of the current A28 at the southern site boundary.
- 2.3.12 The HER records a Roman settlement site 1km northwest of the site, adjacent to the Thanet Way (TR26 NE202, TR 2620 6704). Remains included a rammed chalk foundation, well, midden deposits and cremation.
- 2.3.13 A small number of residual Roman copper alloy coin findspots are also recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme to the northwest of the site (MKE108853 & 108854, TR 2666 6630; MKE108950- 108952, TR 2650 6660), and approximately 800m southeast of the site (MKE73566/MKE74239 - 74242, TR 27200 65500).



- 2.3.14 A Roman copper alloy brooch was identified approximately 400m southwest of the site (MKE114023, TR 26400 66100).
- 2.3.15 Although there is a paucity of recorded Roman settlement evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site, its proximity to a possible Roman road suggests that, overall, a low to moderate potential can be ascribed for this period. Evidence of field systems and agricultural activity is perhaps most likely to be represented.
- Saxon (AD410-1066)*
- 2.3.16 Evidence of Saxon/Early Medieval activity in the 1km study area is represented by a small number of isolated, residual finds rather than direct settlement evidence.
- 2.3.17 An Early Medieval copper alloy brooch findspot is recorded approximately 200m south of the study site (MKE80177, TR 26800 66000), with a second example 500m northwest of the study site (MKE74078, TR 26500 66500). A further brooch and gold finger ring are recorded approximately 600m southeast of the site (MKE74017 & MKE74040, TR 26500 66700).
- 2.3.18 The focus of Medieval activity in the locale would have been the Grade 1 Listed, 12th century Church of St Nicholas-at-Wade, 550m NNW of the site (TR26NE1082, TR 26514 66699). To the northeast of the church, the farmhouse at Crumps Farm may have 15th century origins (TR26NE84, TR 2660 6676).
- 2.3.19 The HER records that a 12th-13th century midden was uncovered at Sun Cottages during a watching brief in 2003, 400m north of the site (TR26NE250, TR 26665 66621).
- 2.3.20 A length of ditch recorded adjacent to the Thanet Way, 1km north of the study site, was found cutting through a horizon rich in 13-14th century medieval pottery and artefacts (TR26NE204, TR 2719 6709).
- 2.3.21 The HER also contains a number of residual Medieval findspots in the study area recorded via the Portable Antiquities scheme, including: a copper alloy knife to the southwest of the study site (MKE113962, TR 26700 66100); a copper alloy harness mount and two buckles to the northwest of the site (MKE108856, MKE108857 & MKE108859, TR 2666 6630); a copper alloy scabbard chape, approximately 600m northwest of the site (MKE80164, TR 26300 66500); a copper alloy harness pendant approximately 700m ESE of the site (MKE80167, TR 27400 66000) and a 13th-14th century lead alloy seal matrix, 700m north of the site (MKE108838, TR 2695 6683).
- 2.3.22 The available evidence indicates the study site lay beyond the core of settlement in these periods and most likely lay in the agricultural hinterland of St Nicholas-at-Wade. Overall, a low archaeological potential can be ascribed for Saxon/Early Medieval and Medieval remains. Evidence of field systems and agricultural activity is perhaps most likely to be represented.
- Post Medieval & Modern (AD1066-present)*
- 2.3.23 The HER records no Post Medieval or Modern activity on the study site. The Kent Historic Landscape Character data identifies the site within the boundary of 'Post 1810 settlement (general)'.
- 2.3.24 The site can be identified on the 1769 Andrews, Dury and Herbert Map of Kent to the south of the settlement of St Nicholas-at-Wade, on undeveloped open ground. The 1801 Ordnance Survey Drawing and 1839 Tithe Map show no change to the site. The associated
-



Tithe apportionment provides additional detail on land use and ownership, confirming the site's agricultural character.

- 2.3.25 There are subsequently no notable changes on the study site until 1960, when rows of large glasshouses are shown on aerial photography at the southwest boundary. The glasshouses are still present by 1969.
- 2.3.26 By 1995 the glasshouses are no longer present, and the entirety of the site comprises three enclosed fields.
- 2.3.27 Aside from removal of field boundaries, there are no further changes up to the present day.
- 2.3.28 The available evidence indicates that the study site has comprised agricultural land throughout the Post Medieval and Modern periods, with the only development being mid-20th century glasshouses at the southwest boundary. A low archaeological potential for significant remains can therefore be identified for these periods. Evidence of agricultural land use, former field division and possibly remnants of the glasshouses is most likely to be represented.

LiDAR Plot

- 2.3.29 The LiDAR plot shows evidence of former field boundaries and soil marks probably associated with the mid-20th century glasshouses. No certain archaeological features predating these periods are apparent.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and *KCC Manual of specification Part B: strip, map and sample requirements*, 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 defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) were to:

- determine the date, nature and extent of any structures that may be present fronting the present roadway at the south of the site,
- determine the date, extent and character of the features found during the evaluation;
- determine any evidence for landscape organisation, and its development from the Romano-British to the Saxon period;



- determine any evidence for landscape organisation, and its development from the Saxon to medieval period and into the Post medieval period

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 2021b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The SMS comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of two areas, one in the north and one in the south of the site, where archaeological features were identified during the previous evaluation. The northern area originally measured approx. 1600m² while the southern area measured 520m², a combined area of 2120m². The areas were excavated in the approximate positions shown in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b), but both were subject to minor alterations due to on site obstructions.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig.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 was reached or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including 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.

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

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). 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), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The County Archaeologist for KCC monitored the works 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 County Archaeologist for KCC.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 The archaeological excavation identified a total of 10 archaeological features across the site, comprising three ditches, six pits/postholes and a quarry pit. The features were predominantly focussed in the northern half of Area 1 and none have been solidly dated.
- 5.1.2 The site and area locations are presented on **Figure 1**, with the archaeological results detailed on **Figure 2**.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

- 5.1.3 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphy of the excavation was largely consistent with the previous evaluation. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a layer of dark grey brown topsoil overlying deposits of mid/dark red brown silty clay subsoil. Natural deposits of mid red brown silty clay with common chalk inclusions and sparse small-medium subangular flints was recorded in both areas (BGL).

5.3 Archaeological features

Area 1

- 5.3.1 Area 1 was located in the western corner of the site and contained a total of three ditches and six pits/postholes.
- 5.3.2 North-northeast/south-southwest aligned ditch terminal 2007 was recorded extended from the western boundary of the area and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch measured



at least 2.5m long, 0.48m wide and 0.09m deep, with shallow concave sides and an undulating base. The ditch was identified but not excavated during the previous evaluation.

- 5.3.3 Predominantly north-northeast/south-southwest aligned ditch 2031 (**Plate 1**) was recorded in the western half of the area and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch ran for at least 17m, continuing beyond the northern boundary of the site, and measured up to 0.74m wide and 0.1m deep, with shallow concave sides and a concave base. The south-southwest terminal of the ditch was approximately 2m from the terminal of ditch 2007 and the two likely formed part of the same field system. A small quantity of undated animal bone was recovered from the fill. The ditch was excavated during the previous evaluation as ditch 212 in Trench 2.
- 5.3.4 Shallow linear ditch 2032 (**Plate 2**) was recorded running across the northeast corner of the area on a northwest/southeast alignment and contained a single secondary fill. The ditch measured at least 22.5m long, up to 0.56m wide and 0.1m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base. A single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill. The ditch was excavated during the previous evaluation as ditch 208 in Trench 2.
- 5.3.5 Small posthole 2011 (**Plate 1**) was recorded near the western edge of the area, directly adjacent to ditch 2031, and contained a single deliberate backfill. The posthole was circular in shape, measuring 0.34m in diameter and 0.17m deep, with steep concave sides and a concave base.
- 5.3.6 Pit or large posthole 2015 (**Plate 3**) was recorded in the northern half of the area, directly adjacent to postholes 2017 and 2019 to the north and contained a single deliberate backfill. The pit was circular in shape, measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.14m deep, with steep concave sides and a flat base. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the backfill.
- 5.3.7 Postholes 2017 and 2019 were located adjacent to each other and directly north of pit or large posthole 2015, each containing a single deliberate backfill. The two postholes were sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and concave bases. Posthole 2017 measured 0.24m long, 0.23m wide and 0.06m deep while posthole 2019 measured 0.24m long, 0.24m wide and 0.09m deep.
- 5.3.8 Sub-circular pit 2025 (**Plate 4**) was recorded in the northern half of the area and contained a single secondary fill. The pit measured 0.4m long, 0.56m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately sloped concave sides and a concave base.
- 5.3.9 Sub-circular posthole 2027 was recorded in the northeast corner of the area, adjacent to ditch 2032, and contained a single deliberate backfill. The posthole measured 0.3m long, 0.26m wide and 0.09m deep with moderately sloped concave sides and a concave base. Two sherds of abraded prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill.

Area 2

- 5.3.10 Area 2 was located on the southeast boundary of the site. A single large quarry pit 2004 was recorded across the majority of the southern half of the area (**Plates 5 & 6**). The quarry pit measured at least 17.8m long and at least 11m wide and at least 0.61m deep, with shallow to moderately sloped sides and a flat base. The quarry pit was previously excavated during the previous evaluation as a suspected SFB 903, and due to its size a machine slot was excavated across it during the excavation. A small collection of animal bone, CBM, marine shell, medieval pottery and a single flint were recovered from a machine excavated

slot in the pit, while additional animal bone, medieval pottery and lava quern fragments were recovered during the evaluation.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Small quantities of finds, totalling just 316 g, were recovered from subsoil 2002 and six of the cut features. The finds comprise animal bone, ceramic building material, flint, pottery and marine shell; the quantities present are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Finds by material type and feature

Feature	Layer	Material	No. pieces	Wt. (g)	Description
Subsoil	2002	Ceramic building material	2	18	peg-hole roof tile fragments
		Pottery	4	29	2 sherds (19 g) later prehistoric fine sand & flint tempered 1 sherd (10 g) early Roman fine greyware
pit 2004	2006	Pottery	6	43	medieval Tyler Hill ware
		Flint	1	15	flake
		Ceramic building material	5	125	peg-hole roof tile fragments
		Marine shell	8	27	oyster - 2 left valves and scraps. mussel - 1 valve
		Animal bone	6	12	badly eroded cattle tooth & long bone scraps (sheep/goat sized)
ditch 2009	2010	Animal bone	11	26	badly eroded teeth & long bone scraps
pit 2015	2016	Pottery	1	9	Roman greyware
ditch 2021	2021	Pottery	1	4	later prehistoric fine sand & flint tempered
pit 2023	2024	Pottery	1	3	later prehistoric fine sand & flint tempered
posthole 2027	2028	Pottery	2	5	later prehistoric fine sand & flint tempered
Total:			48	316	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery is the most closely datable component of this small assemblage. The later prehistoric sherds (context 2002, pits 2015 and 2023, ditch 2021 and posthole 2027) are all plain bodies in handmade, fine sand and flint tempered fabrics. They are likely to be of Iron Age date, belong within the second half of the first millennium BC, when such mixed-tempered fabrics became common in east Kent (Leivers 2015, 178; Seager Smith 2015, 198), but, in the absence of diagnostic sherds, they cannot be more closely dated within this period (the 5th – 1st centuries BC). Extensive surface abrasion and edge damage suggests that the sherds might be residual in the contexts in which they were found, so although they serve to indicate Iron Age activity in the vicinity, they cannot be considered to provide reliable dates for pits 2015 and 2023, ditch 2021 and posthole 2027.

6.2.2 The two Roman sherds also indicate activity of this date in the area. One of these, a rim (subsoil 2002) from a fine Thameside greyware Continental style carinated bowl (Monaghan



1987 130, class 4H2) can be dated to between AD 70/90 – 130. The second, a greyware body sherd from pit 2015, cannot be more closely dated within the period (1st – 4th centuries AD).

- 6.2.3 The remaining sherds, all from pit 2004, are of medieval date. They comprise five plain body sherds and part of the pinched base of a jug in a moderately coarse, sandy fabric made at the Tyler Hill kilns near Canterbury (Canterbury fabric code M1. This fabric dates to between 1225 and 1375.

6.3 Ceramic building material

- 6.3.1 Pieces of medieval or later peg-hole roof or wall tiles came from context 2002 and pit 2004 (Table 1). Tiles of this type developed in the 12th century and continue with little typological change to the present day, making it impossible to date these small pieces with any greater precision.

6.4 Flint

- 6.4.1 A single prehistoric flint flake came from pit 2004. Its presence suggests low-level prehistoric activity in the vicinity but, given the medieval and/or later pottery and ceramic building material recovered from this feature, it is clearly residual in this context.

6.5 Animal bone

- 6.5.1 The animal bone (pit 2004 and ditch 2009) is very much eroded. Both features contained cattle teeth (**Table 1**). The long-bone fragments from the pit probably belong to a sheep/goat-sized mammal, while those from the ditch are burnt and from a larger (cattle-sized) animal.

6.6 Marine shell

- 6.6.1 The oyster and mussel shells from pit 2004 indicate the exploitation of the local coastal resources. Both species are commonly used as a food, but the shells may owe their presence here to the medieval and later practice of manuring agricultural land with domestic waste and/or seaweed and other coastal debris collected from the foreshore.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits needing environmental sampling were recorded during the excavation.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The excavation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The excavation identified several archaeological features in Trenches 1, 2 and 9 which were the focus of the excavation. The archaeological features recorded during the excavation were focussed in the northern half of Area 1, with a single large quarry pit recorded in Area 2. Dating evidence was sparse throughout, with only the quarry pit producing enough material for a tentative medieval date.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The ditches in the north of Area 1 likely represent field boundaries, although their shallow nature could indicate they are actual the remains of hedgerows rather than boundary



ditches. None of the ditches were dated by archaeological material or correspond with known historical field boundaries or the Lidar data. Ditches 2007 and 2031 appear to form the entranceway to a field system or enclosure that continued to the north and west. Ditch 104, recorded during the evaluation was not identified during the excavation. It is possible that the ditch was simply a geological variance or, considering the shallow nature of the feature and neighbouring ditches, it may simply not have survived to a depth significant enough to be identified.

8.2.2 The series of pits and postholes show no clear pattern, although pit/posthole 2015 and postholes 2017 and 2019 may form part of a former fence line.

8.2.3 The possible SFB identified in evaluation Trench 9 was revealed to be a quarry pit of probable medieval date. The quarry pit covered approximately half of the excavated area of Area 2 and its full width and breadth were not recorded, with it likely continuing out of the site to the southeast. Although there is no direct evidence of quarrying recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, there is a chalk extraction pit marked on the 1905 Ordnance Survey Map 1.25km to the southeast at Monkton and a possible extraction pit at the junction between Canterbury Road and The Length 350m to the northeast.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held in the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Meopham and Salisbury. The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting museum. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **site code 245441**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently 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 A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g. site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).



9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e. the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

Finds

- 9.3.4 It is not recommended that any of the finds be retained for future assessment.

Documentary records

- 9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the County Archaeologist for KCC 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*.

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 (e.g., 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 2021a *Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished report ref. 245440.4

Wessex Archaeology 2021b *Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation*. Unpublished report ref. 208582.01



APPENDICES

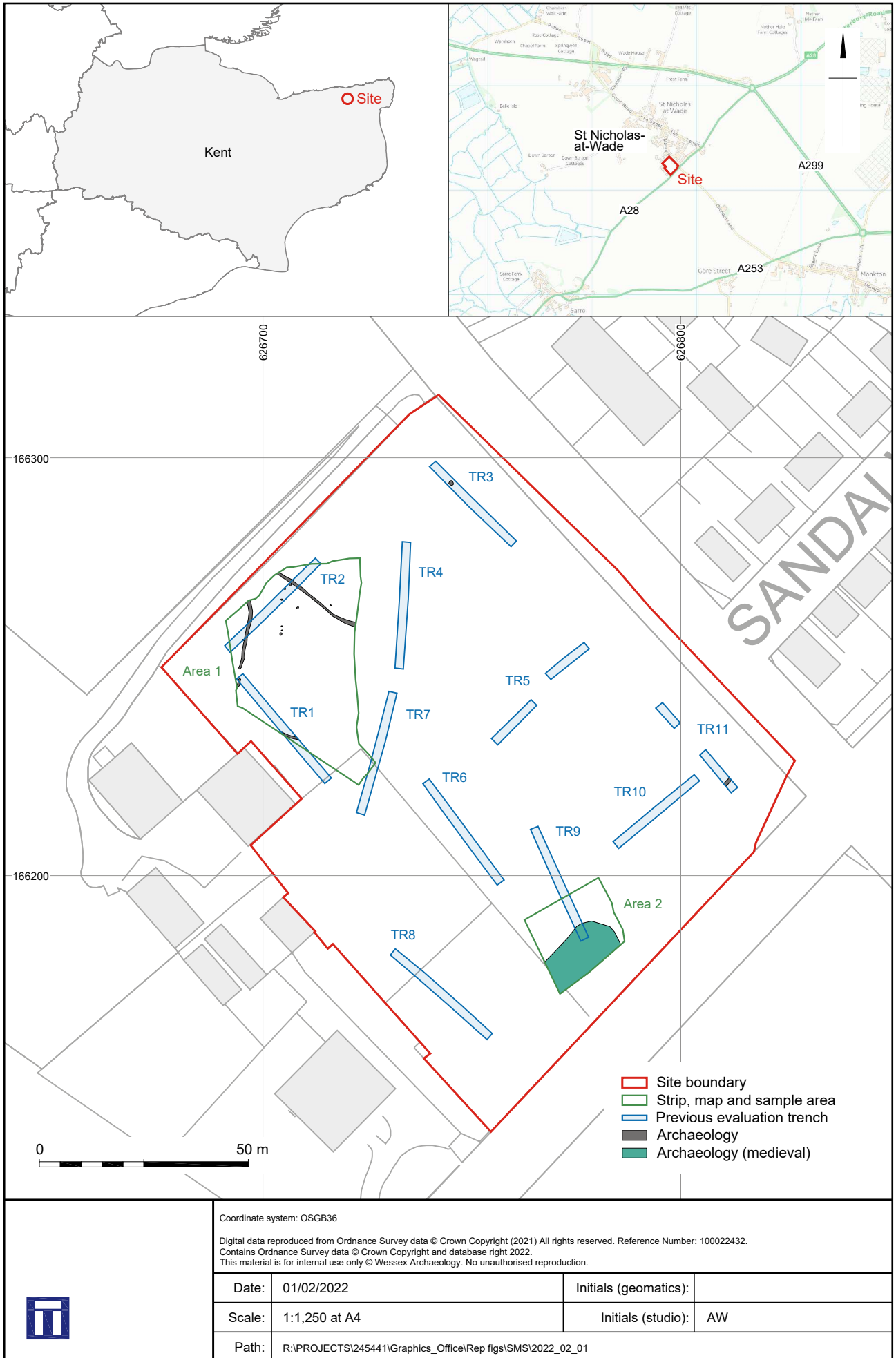
Appendix 1 Kent Historic Environment Record Form

Site Name: Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade	
Site Address: Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent	
Summary of discoveries: Ditches, pits, postholes, quarry pit	
District/Unitary: Thanet District Council	Parish: St Nicholas-at-Wade
Period(s): Undated, medieval	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 626757 166234 (TR 26752 66232) (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Excavation	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 17 th May 2021 To: 25 th May 2021	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: Margate Chalk Member with superficial deposits of Head 2 present at the southern limit of the site (BGS viewer)	
Title and author of accompanying report: Title: Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent: Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Authors: Andrew Souter	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) The proposed development comprised the construction of 39 residential properties with associated infrastructure and landscaping. The excavation was preceded by archaeological works, including a Desk Based and archaeological trial trench evaluation which identified archaeological features in the western corner and along the eastern boundary of the site, and which were further investigated during this. The strip, map and sample excavation identified a total of ten archaeological features, comprising three ditches, six pits/postholes and a quarry pit. The pits, postholes and ditches could not be dated during the excavation although a small collection of abraded prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered, indicating some activity was present in the area. The quarry pit was tentatively dated to the medieval period and is believed to represent a chalk extraction pit.	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology Meopham Office	
Contact at Unit: Rob De'Athe	Date: 01/02/2021



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-504244
Project Name	Open Area Excavation at Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade
Activity type	Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	245441
Planning Id	TH/17/1447
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	17-May-2021 - 25-May-2021
Location	Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade NGR : TR 26757 66234 LL : 51.3499166002586, 1.25501040286932 12 Fig : 626757,166234
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Kent District : Thanet Parish : St. Nicholas-at-Wade
Project Methodology	Excavation of two small areas totaling 0.16ha were excavated by a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist.
Project Results	The strip, map and sample excavation identified a total of ten archaeological features, comprising three ditches, six pits/postholes and a quarry pit. The pits, postholes and ditches could not be dated during the excavation although a small collection of abraded prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered, indicating some activity was present in the area. The quarry pit was tentatively dated to the medieval period and is believed to represent a chalk extraction pit.
Keywords	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Extractive Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD



Site location, area layout and previous evaluation trenches

Figure 1

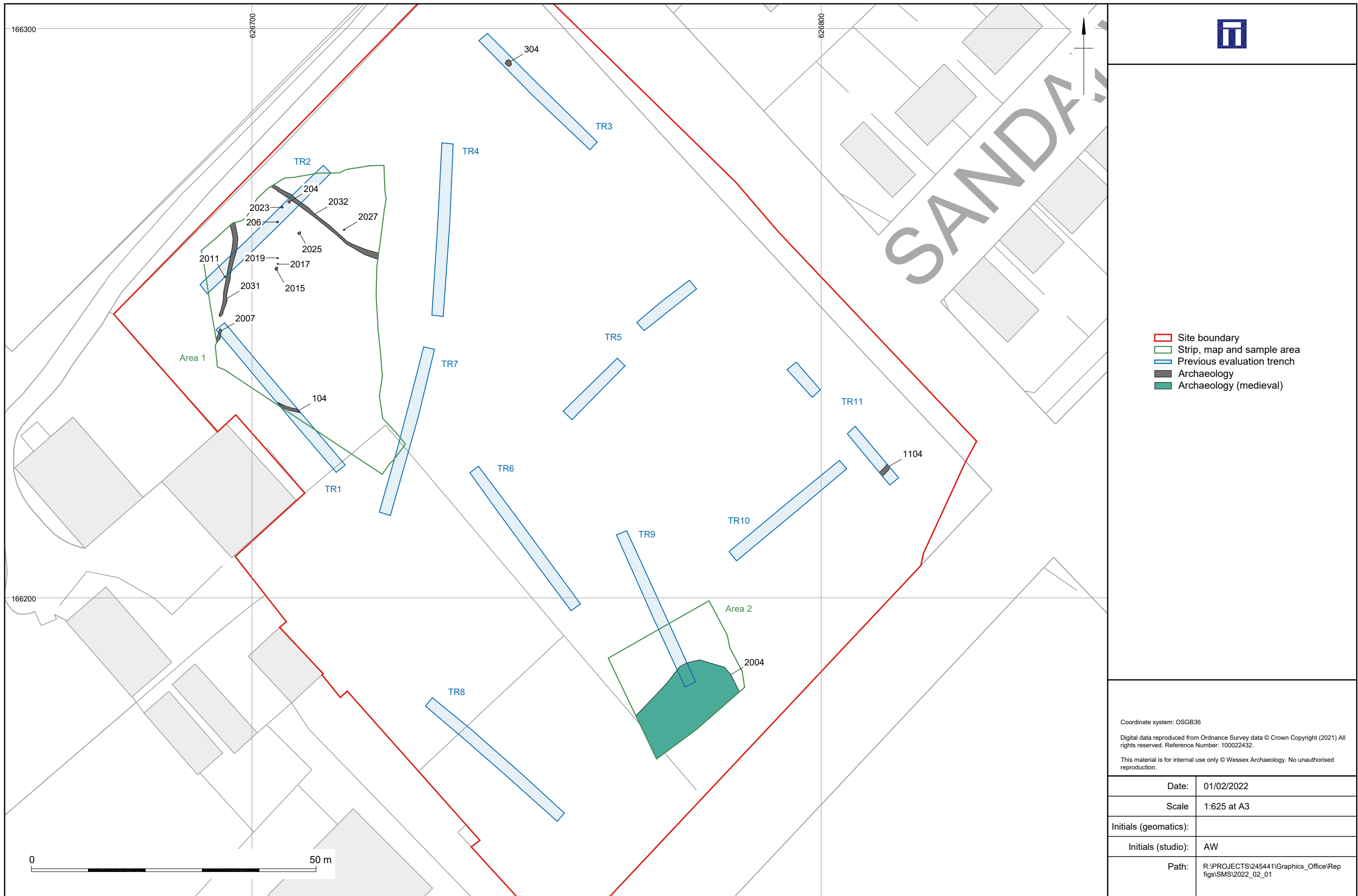




Plate 1: Posthole 2011 and ditch 2031, viewed from the north-northeast (0.5 m and 0.2 m scales)



Plate 2: Ditch 2032, viewed from the northwest (0.5 m scale)


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Plate 3: Pit 2015, viewed from the north-northwest (0.5 m scale)



Plate 4: Pit 2025, viewed from the southeast (0.5 m scale)



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Plate 5: Quarry pit 2004, viewed from the northeast (1 m and 2 m scales)



Plate 6: Machine slot through quarry pit 2004, viewed from the west-southwest (2 m scale)

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