



## Kent International Gateway, Bearsted, Kent

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





**KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY, BEARSTED,  
KENT**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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KENT****Archaeological Evaluation Report****CONTENTS**

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**KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY, BEARSTED,  
KENT****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of Kent International Gateway to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed new freight centre. Specifically this focused on **Field 1** centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 882547, **Field 3** TQ818551 and **Field 9** TQ 812555, of the proposed scheme. The evaluation was carried out through trial trenching (two trenches each in **Fields 1** and **9**, and one in **Field 3**) targeted on geophysical anomalies. These anomalies represented possible linear/enclosure features that were identified by a recent geophysical survey. The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches within the proposed area for development. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2009.

The Site was considered, following a Desk-based Assessment, to have a moderate to high potential for Iron Age and Romano-British activity, with low potential for all other periods.

The two targeted trial trenches in **Field 1** measured 50m x 1.8m and 40m x 1.8m respectively. The geophysical anomalies in **Field 3**, currently under crop, were evaluated by a single trench measuring 20m x 1.8m. In **Field 9** two trial trenches (both measuring 40m x 1.8m) were targeted on the geophysical anomalies.

The trenches in **Field 1** and **Field 3** were found to contain no archaeological features although several pieces of worked Prehistoric flint were recovered from the topsoil of both trenches in **Field 1**. No evidence of the geophysical anomalies was observed.

**Field 9** contained archaeological features of Middle/Late Iron Age date in both trenches, although these had been heavily truncated by modern farming practices. The features, primarily linear in nature were in keeping with the anomalies detected during the geophysical survey.

The evidence from this targeted evaluation would appear to suggest that in **Field 9** there is evidence of Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure activity. The presence of pottery sherds in the ditches and the topsoil may however be indicative of an occupation site (albeit plough damaged). Equally the sherds may have simply been discarded in the ditches by those farming the land, either way it could be indicative of occupation either on the site or nearby. It should also be noted that the smallness and partly abraded nature of some of the sherds within the ditch fills might suggest that they are residual. Whilst in **Field 1**, although no actual archaeological features were identified, the presence of worked flint in the topsoil would appear to suggest that some form of activity, be it settlement or agricultural was taking place in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods within the immediate environs.

The state of preservation of the remains identified in **Field 9** suggest that they had been badly affected by modern ploughing.

# **KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY, BEARSTED, KENT**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

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The evaluation was undertaken by Jonathan Smith (Project Supervisor), assisted by Simon Flaherty. This report was written by Jonathan Smith. Finds were assessed by Sue Nelson and the graphics prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex and Mark Williams.



# KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY, BEARSTED, KENT

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Kent International Gateway (their Client) to undertake a targeted archaeological trial trench evaluation on land proposed for development as a new freight centre, focussed on **Fields 1, 3 and 9** of the proposed scheme.

1.1.2 The area evaluated extended across land which had not been previously developed, and it was therefore considered that any proposed development could impact upon underlying archaeological features and deposits. This work follows the completion of a geophysical survey of the footprint of the development (DUAS 2009), which identified archaeological potential within specific areas.

1.1.3 CgMs Consulting recommended to the Client that a targeted archaeological evaluation of the Site should be undertaken in line with government policy, as set out in PPG16 and Kent County Council's archaeological policies.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2009) detailing the method by which the archaeological evaluation would be undertaken, was submitted to and approved by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer (acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority) prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

#### 1.2 Site location, description, topography.

1.2.1 **Field 1** centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 882547 (see **Figure 1**) is currently utilised for pasture. To the south it is bounded by the A20. The eastern boundary is marked by Junction 8 connecting the A20 and M20. The north-western edge is bounded by further pasture. The specific area evaluated is c. 53-55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The field is generally flat with a moderate slope downwards from east to west within the western half of the field.

1.2.2 **Field 3** is centered on NGR TQ818551 and is currently under wheat crop. It is bounded to the north by the M20 and to the south by the A20. Farmland bounds the eastern and western extent of the field. The specific area evaluated is c. 51m aOD. The field slopes gently from the north-west down towards the south-east.

1.2.3 **Field 9** is centered on NGR TQ 812555 is currently harvested arable land. It is bounded woodland to the east and the south. Pasture bounds the field to the west, whilst a railway line bounds it to the north. Disturbance probably associated with the construction of the railway line was detected along the

northern boundary by the geophysical survey. A large copse of trees lays to the immediate south-east of the trenches. The specific area evaluated is c. 58-60m aOD. The field is generally sloping to the north-west with a roughly level plateau covering the eastern half.

### 1.3 Geological Background

- 1.3.1 The local geology for the KIG footprint comprises sands derived from the Folkestone Beds overlying Gault Clay.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment detailing the archaeological and historical background within a one kilometer radius (the study area) of the Site (WSP 2005) was prepared as part of the preparation for the current development proposal. A summary of the DBA information is presented below:

### 2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A number of finds of general prehistoric date are recorded on the KSMR within a buffer zone around the KIG footprint, including a plano-convex knife and scraper from Bearsted around 1km to the south-west (KSMR 32496), and during archaeological investigations to the south of Snarkhurst Wood (KSMR 29074) within the route of the CTRL on the northern side of the M20 from the KIG site (see **Figure 1**).
- 2.2.2 A single find of Neolithic date is recorded on the KSMR, a flint axe recovered c.500m to the west of the KIG area close to Ware Street (KSMR 32474).
- 2.2.3 Five sites of Bronze Age activity are known in the area including the findspot of a Late Bronze Age bronze socketed axe c.1km to the south-west (KSMR 34480) on the eastern edge of Bearsted. Archaeological investigations to the south of Snarkhurst Wood recorded Bronze Age activity in the form of a flint scatter directly to the north of the KIG area (KSMR 31018). The evaluation of the site of the Hollingbourne Services (Junction 8 of the M20) (KSMR 28545) c.200m to the north of the eastern end of the KIG area also recorded Bronze Age activity, as did the investigations at Thurnham Roman Villa c.750m to the north-west of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 31022). Close to the location of White Heath at the eastern end of the KIG area a pair of Bronze Age round barrows (burial mounds) were excavated in 1846 in the area of the former Union Workhouse (KSMR 34554).

### 2.3 Iron Age

- 2.3.1 The KSMR records a number of sites of Iron Age date, all of which would appear to date from the later part of the period, some of the sites indicating transitional activity demonstrating a continuation of settlement into the Roman period.
- 2.3.2 A Late Iron Age pottery scatter (KSMR 32522) was recovered from a site within the centre of Bearsted c.1km to the south-west of the KIG area. The



archaeological evaluation of the Hollingbourne Services indicated Later Iron Age activity (KSMR 31039) as did investigations undertaken by Mr. V. J. Newbery at Snarkhurst Wood KSMR 29074 undertaken prior to the construction of the Maidstone Bypass /M20 in the 1950s and the recent CTRL work, both sites lying on the northern side of the M20 in close proximity to the KIG area. A Belgic ditch was recorded on the northern edge of the KIG area to the south of the above sites (KSMR 34478) during the construction of the Bearsted Bypass (precursor to the M20). A Belgic rubbish pit has also been recorded c.800m to the south of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 34567).

- 2.3.3 Excavations on the site of the Thurnham Roman Villa (SAM KE299) in 1999 in association with the CTRL works revealed evidence for an earlier Late Iron Age enclosed settlement having been present at the site (see **Figure 1**).

## 2.4 Roman

- 2.4.1 A number of findspots of Roman date are recorded on the KSMR within the search area. These include scatters of Roman pottery, which are likely to indicate settlement sites, within the centre of Bearsted c.750m to the south-west of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 32522); within Eyhorne c.1km to the east of the eastern end of the area (KSMR 34560); to the south of White Heath c.200m due south of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 34556); and c.750m to the south of the eastern end of the area (KSMR 34572). A coin hoard was discovered c. 400m to the south of the eastern end of the area in 1959 near Old Mill Farm (KSMR 34564), which comprised 5740 Antoninian coins dating from between 218 – 282 AD. The site of a possible Roman Water Mill has also been postulated to lie close to Old Mill Farm c.500m to the south of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 34588). Excavations on the site of the Thurnham Roman Villa (SAM KE299) in 1999 in association with the CTRL works revealed evidence for an earlier Late Iron Age enclosed settlement having been present at the site.
- 2.4.2 A group of three Roman cremation urns was discovered at Crismill Farm on the southern edge of the KIG area adjacent to Crismill Lane in 1926 (KSMR 34472), two of which were dated to the early 2nd century AD. A number of other fragments of Roman pottery were also found in this area.
- 2.4.3 The site of the Thurnham Roman Villa (SAM KE299) lies c.1km to the north-west of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 32504). The site was partially excavated during works associated with the CTRL (KSMR 31023). The building is likely to have been a high status structure (two tessellated pavements and painted wall plaster have been discovered at the site). Excavations have taken place in 1833, 1933 and in 1958 (during the construction of the Maidstone Bypass) which had all revealed evidence for outlying buildings, but not the main structure. Further excavations at the site were undertaken in 1999 during works associated with the CTRL demonstrated that the structure developed into a large winged corridor villa with bath house during the third century. The investigations also revealed evidence for an associated early Roman temple that continued in use for much of the Roman period. Excavations on the site of the Thurnham Roman Villa (SAM KE299) in 1999 in association with the CTRL works revealed evidence for an earlier Late Iron Age enclosed settlement having been present at the site.

- 2.4.4 The site of a Roman building lies close to Gore Wood c.550m to the north of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 31785) and some 900m to the east of the Roman Villa, which was identified through the presence of large worked stones in association with Roman tile. Excavations on the site of the Thurnham Roman Villa (SAM KE299) in 1999 in association with the CTRL works revealed evidence for an earlier Late Iron Age enclosed settlement having been present at the site.
- 2.4.5 The archaeological investigations to the south of Snarkhurst Wood prior to the construction of the Maidstone Bypass/M20 in the 1950s and the recent CTRL work (directly to the north of the eastern end of the KIG area) indicated a continuation of the Late Iron Age settlement into the Roman period (KSMR 31019). The archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the Hollingbourne Services also revealed Roman features (KSMR 29074).

## 2.5 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.5.1 There is little Anglo-Saxon evidence recorded on the KSMR within the search area. The find of an Anglo-Saxon coin dating to AD 587 in the garden of Eyhorne House was made in 1845 c.900m to the east of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 34561).
- 2.5.2 The excavations undertaken in 1842 of the Bronze Age round barrows in the area around White Heath (on the southern edge of the eastern half of the KIG area) also revealed Saxon burial urns within the mounds (KSMR 34557). These were identified through the presence of associated Saxon shield bosses and spearheads.

## 2.6 Medieval

- 2.6.1 Numerous medieval sites are recorded on the KSMR, the majority relating to surviving structures (listed buildings) within the villages of Hollingbourne, Thurnham and Bearsted. All of the medieval buildings recorded on the KSMR are Grade II Listed, unless otherwise stated.
- 2.6.2 Listed Buildings of medieval origin within the search area include the two churches of Thurnham St. Mary the Virgin (Grade I Listed) in the centre of Thurnham c.1200m to the north of the western end of the KIG area which is likely to be of 12th century origin (KSMR 34473) and the Church of Holy Cross (Grade I Listed) on the eastern side of Bearsted c.550m to the south of the KIG area (KSMR 34485). Holy Cross Church has much 13th century fabric, and also a probable late Saxon arch demonstrating an early date for the church.
- 2.6.3 Other buildings with medieval origins include The Old Manor House (KSMR 40850) and the Limes (KSMR 40851) both c.200m to the south of the western end of the KIG area on The Street in Bearsted. Also on The Street in Bearsted is The Old Bakery (KSMR 40873). To the east of these the line of the road turns into Roundwell, on the southern side of which stands the house called Roundwell, another medieval building c.200m to the south-west of the KIG area (KSMR 40985).
- 2.6.4 Some 400m to the south of the centre of the KIG site lies Nether Milgate (KSMR 40975). Chapel Lane Farm lies c.750m to the west of the western

end of the KIG area on the north-western edge of Bearsted (KSMR 40979), and close to the south of this lies Stocks House (KSMR 40992). Howe Court lies c.500m to the north of the centre of the KIG area on Crismill Lane (KSMR 40980).

- 2.6.5 Another group of buildings dating from the medieval period lie around Plantation and Roseacre Lanes in Bearsted (c.1100m to the south-west of the western end of the KIG area) which are The Old Plantation (KSMR 40855), 34 Plantation Lane (KSMR 40856), 19 Roseacre Lane (KSMR 40860) and 21 Roseacre Lane (KSMR 40861).
- 2.6.6 The medieval moated enclosure at Ripple Manor (SAM 12721) is also included on the KSMR, which lies c.1km to the north of the central part of the KIG area (KSMR 34469). The site also includes evidence for a deserted medieval settlement to the south-west, which was presumably associated with the manor. The site of Corbier Hall (SAM KE309) is also recorded on the KSMR located c.700m to the north-west of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 34466). This site was also originally a moated manor house, although no visible remains of the moat or former structure are visible on the ground surface, although have been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The site of the former Mott Hall lies c.500m south-west of the KIG area within Bearsted, which is another moated site that previously had a building within (KSMR 34483). A number of fishponds have been recorded in the area around this moated manor site.
- 2.6.7 The find of a medieval spearhead was recovered from c.1100m to the south-west of the western part of the KIG area on the eastern side of Bearsted (KSMR 34497). Medieval activity has been recorded at Eyhorne Street c.900m to the east of the eastern end of the KIG area during works at the Coach House in the form of a medieval rubbish pit that pre-dated the building.
- 2.6.8 Medieval activity has been recorded during the archaeological investigations to the south of Snarkhurst Wood (KSMR 29074), possibly indicating agricultural processes. The evaluation at Hollingbourne Services (KSMR 28545) indicated structural evidence. A possible medieval building was also revealed during the excavations at Thurnham Roman Villa (KSMR 31024).

## **2.7 Post – Medieval**

- 2.7.1 Archaeological investigations close to St. Mary the Virgin church in Thurnham during works associated with a cess pit revealed burials of likely post-medieval date (KSMR 31106). Investigations at Holy Cross Church on the eastern side of Bearsted also recorded a number of burials, many of which were undated, but all considered likely to be post-medieval date (KSMR 31173).
- 2.7.2 The archaeological excavations undertaken to the south of Snarkhurst Wood also recorded post-medieval activity including a trackway and the remains of field systems (KSMR 31020).
- 2.7.3 Three sites are recorded on the KSMR associated with the glass making industry that was established in the area utilising the natural sands of the area. The remains of a sand pit lie close to Commonwood on the southern

central edge of the KIG area on the south side of Roundwell (KSMR 29846). The Hollingbourne Sand Mines are located some 200m to the south-east of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 29848), which reputedly supplied raw materials for the glass used in the Crystal Palace of 1850. These mines are thought to have been almost entirely destroyed by the construction of the M20. There are also collapsed sand workings at Hog Hill c.400m to the south-west of the western end of the KIG on the northern side of Bearsted (KSMR 29845).

## 2.8 Modern

- 2.8.1 A field boundary of modern date and pit were recorded during evaluation work in advance of the CTRL in 1999 close to Crismill Lane to the north of the KIG area (KSMR 31021).
- 2.8.2 Two sites associated with the defence of Britain during World War II are recorded on the KSMR within the search area, including the site of a tank trap c.200m to the west of the western end of the KIG area, to the north of Bearsted (KSMR 32829). A Royal Ordnance Corps Monitoring Post is also recorded to the south of Ware Street c750m to the west of the KIG area (KSMR 31642).

## 2.9 Undated

- 2.9.1 Undated sites recorded on the KSMR within the search area include undated burials revealed at Bearsted Holy Cross (KSMR 31173), discussed above, and most likely to date from the Post-medieval period.
- 2.9.2 An undated double ditched rectangular enclosure was recorded as a cropmark on aerial photographs of the north-western part of Bearsted prior to development of the area (KSMR 28916). The site has subsequently been destroyed and no further investigation occurred.
- 2.9.3 A linear earthwork is recorded on the KSMR located directly to the west of the western end of the KIG area (KSMR 34508), but no further information is given regarding the site.
- 2.9.4 A substantial ditch lies within a relic piece of woodland within Milgate Park to the west of Caring Lane c.750m to the south of the central part of the KIG area (KSMR 30139). The ditch is likely to represent part of the former boundary that surrounded the parkland and as such is probably of medieval date.

## 2.10 Historical Background

- 2.10.1 Hollingbourne is recorded twice in the Domesday Book, with lands in the parish belonging both to the Archbishop of Canterbury and also to the Archbishop's Monks (Morris, 1983). The lands of The Archbishop include mention of a church, but not many inhabitants. The lands of the Monks includes numerous inhabitants, a church, woodland and 2 mills, which would have presumably been sited to the south of the parish (and the KIG area). A third manor of Allington is also recorded as lying within Hollingbourne and owned by the Bishop of Bayeux, which again had a fair sized population, and included a church and 2 mills (*ibid*). Having three records may suggest that Hollingbourne was a disparate settlement, similar to as exists today,

with the main village of Hollingbourne, Eyhorne Street to the south and Broad Street to the east.

- 2.10.2 Thurnham is recorded in the Domesday Book as being part of the lands owned by the Bishop of Bayeux (Morris, 1983). The record includes a fair number of inhabitants, which probably represents a dispersed arrangement of settlement, similar to as exists today, with Thurnham in the north of the parish, and areas of settlement to the south (Sutton Street / Milgate Park area) and east (Ware Street area). The record includes a church and a mill. A settlement of Aldington in Thurnham is also recorded, again belonging to the Bishop of Bayeux, with a smaller population than that of the main manor of Thurnham, but again including a church and a mill.
- 2.10.3 Bearsted does not appear to be recorded in the Domesday Book, which is surprising as the church at Holy Cross is known to contain Saxon fabric and there are preconquest references to a settlement having existed here.
- 2.10.4 The Castle at Thurnham is likely to have been built following the Norman Conquest in some time around 1090, which would explain why it is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (Ward, 1999). It is situated at the top of the North Downs scarp directly to the north of Thurnham village centre overlooking the Vale of the River Len (*ibid*).
- 2.10.5 There are Anglo-Saxon references to Hollingbourne dating to the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when Aethelstan gave his land to Christchurch at Canterbury for the support of the Monks (Garnham-Wright, undated). This would appear to correspond with the land ownership given in the Domesday Book.
- 2.10.6 The parishes of Bearsted, Thurnham and Hollingbourne contain numerous buildings with medieval origins as discussed above, suggesting that the existing settlement centres have remained as such since at least the medieval and perhaps late Saxon periods. All three parishes lie within the KIG area, with the closest settlements being those of Bearsted, Sutton Street in Thurnham and Eyhorne Street.
- 2.10.7 The Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS) holds a number of estate plans and tithe maps that cover the KIG area. The earliest estate plan dates from 1692 (CKS ref. U1258 P1) and shows the eastern half of Thurnham parish, running east from the western edge of Longham Wood and Sutton Street. The map is not clear, but later versions of the map dating from 1707 (CKS ref. U1258 P2) and 1746 (CKS ref. U1258 P3) both show the area in more detail. The central part of the of the KIG area is shown on the plan, and indicates that the area to the south of Longham Wood as far south as the Maidstone road contains 'Messuages or tenements and Lands called Bertey belonging to the heirs of Henry Hall Gent.'. This area covers the lands now belonging to Barty Farm. To the east of this runs 'How Court Lane', now Crismill Lane, with a number of fields divisions shown on either side that appear similar to the layout today (although the lack of clear scale on the map makes it difficult to be accurate). Also shown on the map is part of the Roundwell road and its junction with Sutton Street, which also shows a number of the listed buildings in this area, including Roundwell and Wrights Cottage.



- 2.10.8 No other estate maps of Hollingbourne or Bearsted could be found that showed the KIG site area.
- 2.10.9 The 1840 Tithe maps of Bearsted, Thurnham and Hollingbourne show the KIG site area. The land is shown predominantly as agricultural land, with a number of areas of woodland in the western half of the site in Thurnham parish. A number of farm buildings are shown, including those at Barty Farm, around Crismill and at Wood Cut. The majority of the field boundaries shown on these maps have been removed, although the boundary to the east of Woodcut Farm is still extant, as are those around Crismill Lane (as mentioned above).
- 2.10.10 The Hollingbourne 1840 Tithe Map shows the Hollingbourne Union Workhouse (originally located in the area of the existing White Heath, directly to the south of the KIG area on the northern side of the Maidstone / Ashford road. The Workhouse was built in 1836 serving the surrounding parishes to the north, south and east, including Thurnham but not Bearsted which was presumably part of Maidstone Union. The workhouse was extended between 1838 and 1839 with the addition of a hospital, school, chapel and extra accommodation for pregnant women (Atkinson, 2002). It was used as an emergency hospital during World War I, but was under utilized following this, so that the land and workhouse were sold off in 1921 and the buildings demolished in 1922 (*ibid*).
- 2.10.11 Early Ordnance Survey maps indicate little change in the arrangement of fields from the 1840 Tithe maps, until the construction of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway through the centre of the KIG area in 1884, which included the construction of Bearsted and Thurnham Station, to the west of the KIG area. The A20 Maidstone bypass, that follows the route of the extant M20, was constructed in the late 1950s. The M20 was constructed in the early 1990s. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link was opened in 2003. The construction of these major transportation routes have all resulted in the change of the majority of the field layouts in and around the KIG area.

## 2.11 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.11.1 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the 2.5km buffer zone of the KIG site area, including watching briefs, geophysical surveys, trial trench evaluations, finds analysis and publications. Some of the major reports that have been produced most recently were completed as part of the works associated with the CTRL.
- 2.11.2 The results of a number of these previous archaeological investigations have been recorded as archaeological sites on the KSMR, including the watching briefs undertaken near to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Thurnham (KSMR 1538) and that at Bearsted Holy Cross Church (KSMR 1352), both undertaken in 2000 and both of which recorded that inhumations were exposed or disturbed. A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Thurnham Castle including recording and earthworks surveys in 2003 (KSMR 2628), a conservation report on flint remains in 2003 (KSMR 2629), an archaeological evaluation in 2004 (KSMR 5283), and two stages of archaeological geophysical survey in 2004 (KSMR 5333 and 5359). A book on Thurnham Castle was published in 1999 (KSMR 6233). The concentration of archaeological investigation in this area demonstrates



the archaeological visibility of the site and its significance as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 12844).

- 2.11.3 Other work undertaken within Thurnham, includes watching briefs undertaken at Court Farm in 2002 (KSMR 2491), at White Horse Wood to the west of the Castle in 2001 and 2002 (KSMR 4978 and 2208), and at the Black Horse Public House in 2004 (KSMR 5291). An archaeological evaluation was also undertaken at White Horse Wood in 2001 (KSMR 1963).
- 2.11.4 The majority of the archaeological investigations are associated with watching brief work on developments undertaken in small areas or associated with single properties. Other than the larger scale investigations undertaken at Thurnham Castle, and as part of the work for the CTRL, few large area investigations have been undertaken. It is also worth noting that the works undertaken as part of the CTRL have revealed a considerable amount of archaeological remains.
- 2.11.5 Watching briefs that have occurred within small areas or single properties within the 2.5km buffer zone include those undertaken at Detling c.2.km to the northwest of the KIG area, including to the east of Hockers Lane in 1999 (KSMR 1680 – note that the grid reference for this site is incorrect), at The Old Vicarage on The Street in 2004 (KSMR 5217) and during the construction of a footbridge over the A249 in 2002 (KSMR 2419). Watching briefs have been undertaken at Eyhorne Street c.1km to the east of the eastern end of the KIG area, at the Coach House at Coutams Hall in 2002 (KSMR 2150), close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ripple Manor in 2004 (KSMR 5476) c.1km to the north of the centre of the KIG area and at the Cross Keys on The Street in Bearsted in 2002 (KSMR 2127).
- 2.11.6 Archaeological investigations were undertaken during the 1950s prior to the construction of the Maidstone Bypass now the M20. The reports on these investigations are not recorded on the KSMR, although the results of the work is (see above).
- 2.11.7 Archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the CTRL works include those to the west of Sittingbourne Road 2.5km to the north-west of the KIG area in 1999 and 2000 (KSMR 1681 and 2526); works undertaken at the site of the Thurnham Roman Villa in 1995, 1998 and 1999 (KSMR 1679, 1677 and 1678); at Crismill Lane in 1999 (KSMR 1676); on land to the south of Snarkhurst Wood directly to the north of the KIG area in 1995 and 1999 (KSMR 627, 1675 and 2514); and on land to the east and west of Eyhorne Street c.750m to the east of the KIG area in followed by a watching brief in 2001 (KSMR 1672, 1673 and 2524).
- 2.11.8 Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a trial trench evaluation of land to the west of Sittingbourne Road (OAU, 1999a). The evaluation revealed a sub-circular medieval ditched enclosure with pottery dating from the 11th and 12th centuries and a number of other medieval ditches and pits possibly suggesting domestic activity. The function of the enclosure was unclear due to its relatively isolated position and it is suggested that it may represent a stock enclosure, pillow mound (associated with rabbit husbandry) or a woodland management feature. Post-medieval ditches and a quarry pit were also found.

- 2.11.9 The investigations of the Thurnham Roman Villa site were undertaken by Oxford Archaeological Unit, and comprised an initial trial trench evaluation followed up by area excavation (OAU, 1997 and 1998a). The evaluation confirmed the presence of the Roman Villa, as well as indications of ancillary buildings around it. The evaluation also extended to the site of Corbier Hall, and part of the former Moat was exposed. The subsequent excavation phase at the site indicated possible Mid Bronze Age activity. A Late Iron Age enclosed settlement pre-dating the villa site was also present and the evidence suggested continuous occupation of the site from this period through until the early 4th century. The development of the villa included an early Roman proto-villa, later stone built winged corridor villa with bath house, associated temple or shrine and numerous ancillary buildings. By the late third century and early fourth the temple site fell into disuse and collapsed. The main villa site would appear to have had numerous changes of use with one of the rooms used as a smithy.
- 2.11.10 The excavations (OAU, 1998a) also investigated an area to the south of Corbier Hall, which indicated it fell into disuse in the 14th century. Later agricultural features, including drainage ditches were also recorded in this area. Geophysical Surveys of Bradford also undertook a geophysical survey of Corbier Hall prior to excavation and trial trench evaluation (GSB, 1994a). Further evaluation of an adjacent site at Honeyhills Wood did not reveal any further archaeological deposits. The Crismill Lane investigation comprised a trial trench evaluation of an area to the east of Crismill Lane by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU, 1998b). Nine evaluation trenches were opened, but only a single undated possible pit or ditch containing burnt flint was recorded. A modern feature was also noted. No subsequent excavation of this area was undertaken.
- 2.11.11 The investigations to the south of Snarkhurst Wood comprised an archaeological evaluation in 1995 (OAU, 1995) and a strip, map and sample exercise in 1999 by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU, 1999b). The evaluation identified a Late Iron Age / Early Roman settlement. Later Roman pottery was absent, perhaps suggesting that the settlement was abandoned by this date. Undated features could indicate earlier prehistoric activity, but this was not confirmed. A few medieval pottery sherds were recovered from across the site area, which may represent a manuring scatter associated with agricultural practices. The subsequent stages of excavation revealed a scatter of Early Bronze Age pottery and flint, indicating activity of this date in the vicinity. The excavation also revealed more evidence for the Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement, including structural evidence, a possible furnace indicating industrial activity, a single cremation burial and rubbish pits.
- 2.11.12 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1994 of land to the east and west of Eyhorne Street (GSB, 1994b and 1994c) which revealed a series of possible archaeological features. Subsequent trial trench evaluation by Wessex Archaeology in 1999 (WA, 1999) revealed finds of Late Bronze Age date, that suggested an occupation site to the north on higher ground. Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity was also indicated by finds. The trial trench evidence suggested that the features revealed by geophysical survey were likely to be geological in origin.

2.11.13 A report was prepared in 2002 on the possible Roman building found c.900m to the east of the Thurnham Roman Villa c.750m to the north of the eastern end of the KIG area (KSMR 2333). An evaluation was undertaken to the rear of the Limes in Eyhorne Street in 2004 (KSMR 5556). Reports have been prepared on investigations of the buildings at Merriams Farm on Caring Lane to the south of the KIG area in 2000 and 2001 (KSMR 1507 and 1593).

### 3 AIMS

#### 3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- To assess and clarify the nature of the anomalies (archaeological or otherwise) detected during the Geophysical Survey
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the targeted areas of the Site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.1.2 The work was undertaken during 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2009.

4.1.3 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches numbered one to five in predetermined locations (see **Figure 1**).

4.1.4 **Trench 1** was opened in **Field 3** and was 30m x 1.8m.

4.1.5 **Trench 2** was opened in **Field 1** measuring 40m x 1.8m and **Trench 3** was also opened in **Field 1** measuring 50m x 1.8.

4.1.6 **Trench 4** and **Trench 5** were both opened in **Field 9** and measured 40m x 1.8m.

4.1.7 The trial trenches were machine excavated using the rear arm of an excavator employing a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision to the first archaeological horizon or geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

4.1.8 Any subsoil or interface between topsoil and geological deposits were stored separately from the topsoil.

- 4.1.9 Archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A comprehensive photographic record was maintained to show all aspects of the work in digital format with significant deposits recorded using black and white images.
- 4.1.10 All trenches were surveyed using a Leica GX1200 GPS and related to the Ordnance Survey national grid and Datum.
- 4.1.11 Following the completion of the work and with approval from the Kent County Council's Archaeological Officer, the trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil. Any subsoil or interface between geological deposits and the topsoil were firmly compacted, prior to the leveling and reinstatement of the topsoil.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section provides a descriptive summary of the information derived from the evaluation trial trenches and contained in the archive of written, drawn and photographic records. The archive is held by Wessex Archaeology under project code **70270**.
- 5.1.2 The results of the evaluation trial trenches are summarized below. Tabulated trench summaries, giving brief soil descriptions, dimensions and finds information are provided in **Appendix 1**. A plan showing the location of the trenches is provided on **Figure 1**.

### 5.2 Soil profile

- 5.2.1 Across the Site the topsoil was a mid greyish brown silty loam with common root disturbance and occasional flint inclusions in **Fields 1** and **3**. No inclusions were noted in the topsoil of **Field 9**. A mid yellowish silty sand subsoil was noted in **Trench 1** but no subsoil was present in any of the other trenches. In each of the trenches, the upper layers of the silty sand interface with the topsoil were removed by machine under constant archaeological supervision. This was to ensure a clear view of any potential features cutting the underlying geology.

### 5.3 Evaluation trenches

- 5.3.1 **Trench 1** measured 30m x 1.8m on a north-west/south-east alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m. The topsoil (**101**) reached a maximum depth of 0.29m and the subsoil (**102**) extended to a depth of 0.44m. Inclusions of sub angular and rounded flint gravels 35mm-55mm were encountered in the natural geology of this trench. These inclusions were not encountered in any of the other trenches. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench, and no artifacts were recovered. No evidence for the cause of the geophysical anomaly was noted.
- 5.3.2 **Trench 2** measured 40m x 1.8m on a west-north-west/east-south-east alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. The topsoil (**201**) reached a depth of 0.32m. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench. The topsoil contained 2 prehistoric flint flakes. No

evidence for the cause of the geophysical anomaly was noted, other than possibly the dense network of rabbit burrows located close by.

- 5.3.3 **Trench 3** measured 50m x 1.8m on a north-west/south-east alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. The topsoil (**301**) reached a depth of 0.29m. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench. The topsoil contained 2 prehistoric flint flakes and a fragment of fire fractured flint. No evidence for the cause of the geophysical anomaly was noted, other than possibly the dense network of rabbit burrows located close by.
- 5.3.4 **Trench 4** measured 40m x 1.8m on a north-east/south-west alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m. The topsoil (**401**) reached a depth of 0.30m. A single linear feature [**403**] was identified towards the north-eastern end of the trench. Secondary deposit (**404**) within feature [**403**] contained 27 sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. The topsoil (**401**) contained 7 sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. Linear feature [**403**] corresponded with the anomaly detected in the Geophysical Survey.
- 5.3.5 **Trench 5** measured 40m x 1.8m on a north-west/south-east alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.37m. The topsoil (**501**) reached a depth of 0.21m. A linear ditch [**503**] aligned north-west/south-east terminates in **Trench 5**. Its single secondary deposit (**504**) contained no anthropogenic evidence and is undated. A second intervention through the same feature [**505**] contained secondary deposit (**506**) also contained no anthropogenic evidence and is undated. Irregularly shaped feature [**507**] contained a single secondary deposit (**508**) that again contained no anthropogenic evidence and is undated. Linear [**509**], a gully, was aligned north-east/south-west and its single secondary deposit (**510**) contained Late Iron Age pottery. Linear [**511**], also a gully, was on a similar alignment and its single secondary deposit (**512**) contained Late Prehistoric pottery. Also aligned north-east/south-west linear [**513**], another gully had a single secondary deposit (**514**) which contained late prehistoric pottery and Middle/Late Iron Age pottery.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds, in a restricted range of material types (pottery, worked flint, burnt, unworked flint) was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in four of the five trenches excavated. The date range of the assemblage is prehistoric, possibly extending into the immediate post-conquest period (later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD).
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1:** All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint	Pottery
201		2/12	
301	1/123	4/74	
401			7/367



404			27/201
501			8/108
510			1/2
512			1/3
514			4/13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1/123</b>	<b>6/86</b>	<b>48/694</b>

## 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The primary dating evidence for the Site is provided by the pottery, although its usefulness in this respect is limited by the scarcity of diagnostic pieces, combined with the known longevity of certain ware types within the later prehistoric period in Kent. Three broad ware types were identified: grog-tempered wares; flint-tempered wares (some containing glauconitic sand); and sandy wares (some containing glauconitic sand). The only vessel forms represented are jars, with beaded or everted rims.

6.2.2 All these ware types have a currency in Kent throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, in some cases from the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium. Glauconitic wares, however, are more specifically characteristic of the Middle/Late Iron Age, and the vessel forms would support this date range. Although no wheelthrown, 'Romanised' wares were identified, the possibility that some of the wares present could span the conquest period cannot be ruled out.

6.2.3 All of the pottery came from contexts in **Trenches 4 and 5**, within **Field 9**.

## 6.3 Worked and Burnt Flint

6.3.1 The worked flint consists entirely of waste flakes. In the absence of tools or other utilised pieces, these can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age. These pieces came from topsoil in **Trenches 2 (Field 1)** and **3 (Field 1)**.

6.3.2 The burnt, unworked flint, recovered from topsoil in **Trench 3**, is of uncertain date and origin.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The targeted evaluation trial trenches (**Trenches 2 and 3**) in **Field 1**, have demonstrated that the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey were not archaeological. Only residual flint artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, although these are indicative of prehistoric activity having taken place in the general environs. No geological evidence was identified to explain the geophysical anomalies, but there were extensive rabbit warrens within **Field 1** in very close proximity to the trenches which might explain the ground disturbance identified.



- 8.1.2 **Trench 1** in **Field 3** identified no archaeological features and no residual finds were encountered in the topsoil (**101**) or subsoil (**102**). No visible feature, archaeological, or geological was observed that corresponded with the geophysical anomaly.
- 8.1.3 In **Field 9**, **Trenches 4** and **5** did identify archaeological features that corresponded approximately with the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. The density of archaeological remains is higher in **Trench 5** than in **Trench 4**.
- 8.1.4 **Trench 4** contained linear feature **[403]**. The interface with the underlying sandy silt geology was extremely diffuse necessitating a box intervention. Upon full excavation it became apparent that the diffuse interface was most likely to be the result of bioturbation. This has led to a possible interpretation of a tree-throw. However, in light of the geophysical survey results a linear field boundary is the most probable interpretation as the anomaly coincides with feature **[403]** and continues beyond the edges of **Trench 4** in a north-west/south-east alignment. The bioturbation is probably as a result of vegetation intruding into the linear whilst it was still in use or just going out of use. Pottery retrieved from secondary deposit **[404]** although partially abraded was secure within the context and of sufficient size to give a reasonably confident Middle/Late Iron Age dating. **Trench 4** also contained some geological disturbance just north-east of the trench centre.
- 8.1.5 **Trench 5** contained five archaeological features. Features **[509]**, **[511]** and **[513]** were all linear gullies aligned north-east/south-west and can all be assigned an approximate Middle/Late Iron Age date. Just enough distance remained between the two to suggest the gullies may have divided by a boundary hedgerow, although no evidence for root disturbance was observed to confirm this. Alternatively linear gullies **[509]** and **[511]** could mark a narrow trackway along the edge of a field although given the relative shallowness of the gullies this maybe less likely. It is of note that these three linear gullies run exactly perpendicular to linear feature **[403]** in **Trench 4** and may well represent a continuation of a field that **[403]** may demarcate. Features **[509]**, **[511]** and **[513]** all correspond approximately with anomalies detected in the geophysical survey.
- 8.1.6 It is important to note that all of the pottery sherds recovered from these gullies were small enough to perhaps be considered as residual. Their size could, however, be due to the extensive damage that all of the archaeological features have suffered from ploughing in **Field 9**. Larger sherds may well have been disturbed by the plough in such shallow gullies, indeed larger sherds were retrieved from the surrounding topsoil **[501]**.
- 8.1.7 Two other features were observed in **Trench 5**. Feature **[507]** contained no anthropogenic evidence and only survived to a depth of 0.12m beneath the topsoil (**401**). Likewise despite two interventions **[505]** and **[503]** in a similar linear feature no anthropogenic evidence was recovered. Indeed they are aligned with the geological disturbance in **Trench 4**. However, given the level of truncation by modern farming and the presence of known archaeology in the form of the gullies within **Trench 5** it would be unwise to discount these features as definitely being geological. Neither of these two

features corresponds with any of the anomalies detected in the geophysical survey.

- 8.1.8 In light of the features encountered in **Trench 4** and **Trench 5** it seems probable that a rudimentary Middle/Late Iron Age field system survives at least in part in **Field 9** although it has been heavily truncated. Although fragments of a storage vessel were retrieved from topsoil [401] in **Trench 4** no evidence of settlement was encountered.

## 9 ARCHIVE

### 9.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the County Museum Service or similar repository to be agreed with the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor

### 9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 The Evaluation project archive, consists of:

One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings  
Digital data (site photographs, survey data, word and pdf files)

- 9.2.2 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the site code **72070**.

### 9.3 Copyright

- 9.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. 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 shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

### 9.4 Security Copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## **10 REFERENCES**

CgMs Kent International Gateway: Deposit Model 2009

WSP Kent International Gateway: Desk- Based Assessment 2005

<http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/files/kentgateway/Environmental%20Statement/Chapters/13%20-%20Cultural%20Heritage/Appendices/Appendix%20-13-4.doc>

**APPENDIX 1 - Table of Trench Descriptions**

<b>TRENCH 1</b>	Dimensions 20m x 1.8m x 0.64m	Ground level 51.032m aOD
Context	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown, silty loam – typical topsoil. Loose compaction with angular and sub angular flint inclusions	0.00-0.29m
102	Subsoil – Thin layer of mid yellowish brown silty sand. Identical to natural except with less inclusions.	0.29-0.44m
103	Natural – degraded chalk with periglacial striations. 20% Occasional flint angular and sub angular inclusions 20-45mm	> 0.44m

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	Dimensions 40m x 1.8m x 0.45m	Ground level 54.616 aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
201	Topsoil – Mid brownish grey silty loam – typical topsoil. 5% Angular and sub angular flint inclusions. Loose compaction.	0-0.30m
202	Natural – Yellowish brown silty sand, 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions.	> 0.30m

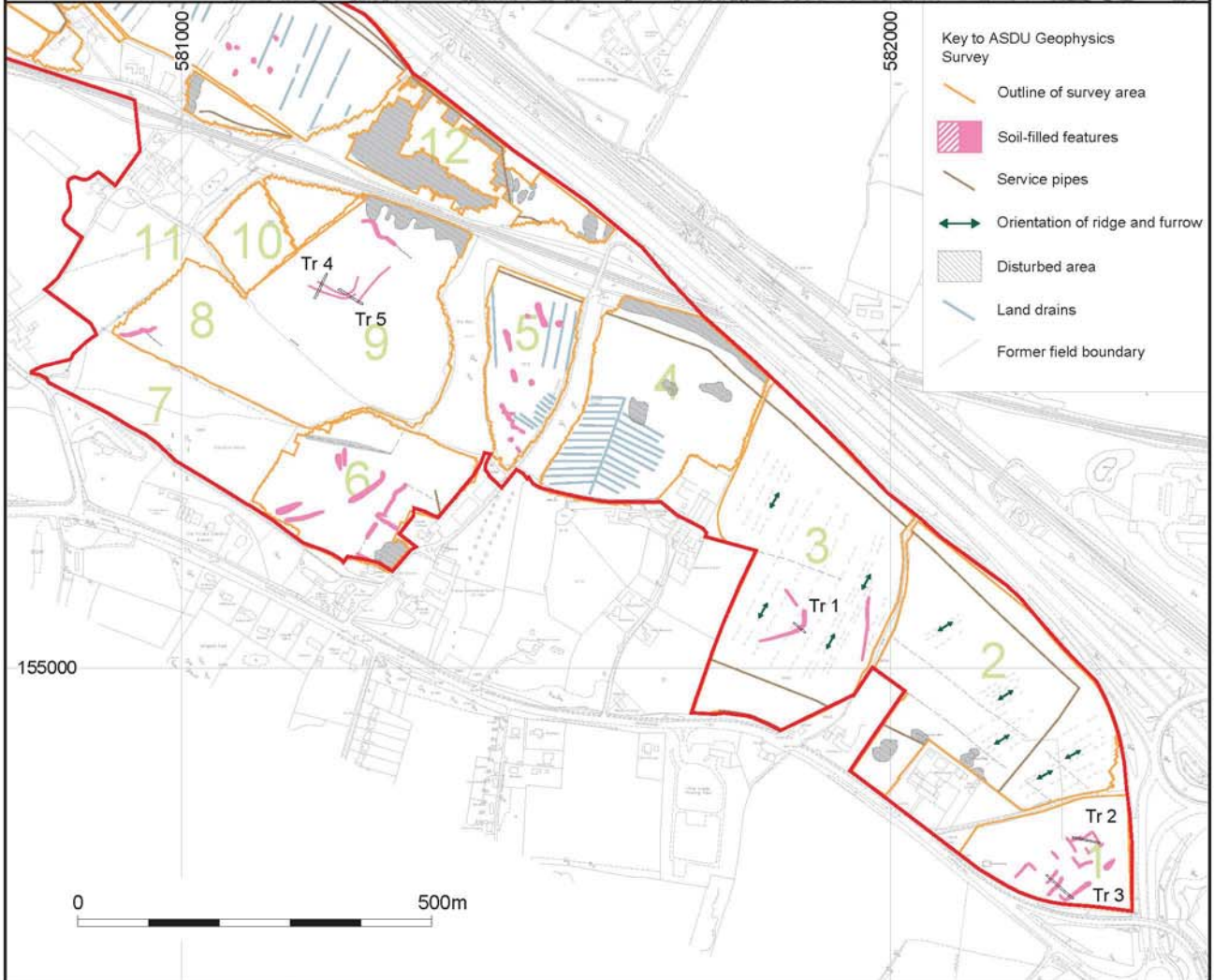
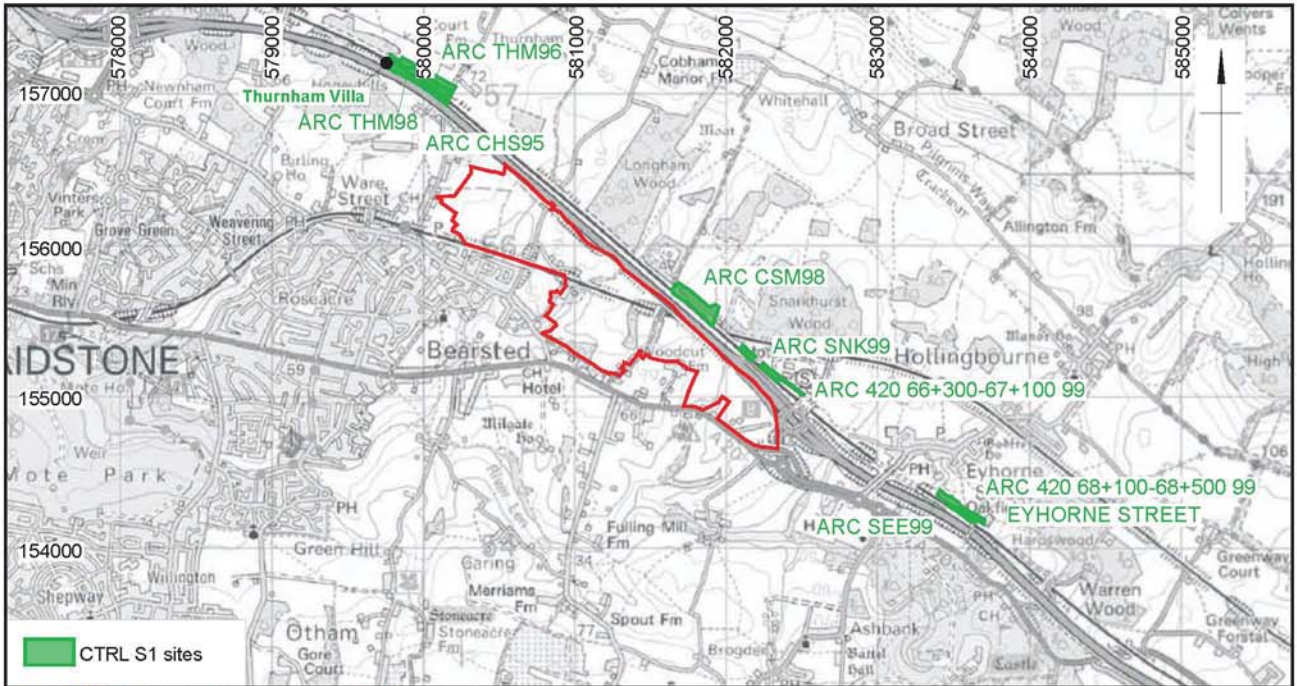
<b>TRENCH 3</b>	Dimensions 50m x 1.8m x 0.45m	Ground level 53.495m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
301	Topsoil – light greyish brown silty loam. 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions 30mm. Loose compaction.	0-0.29m
302	Natural – Yellowish brown silty sand with 3% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	> 0.48m

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	Dimensions 40m x 1.8m x 0.43m	Ground level 58.649m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
401	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam – typical topsoil. Loose compaction. Contained modern scraps of glass plastic etc.	0m-0.30m
402	Natural – Yellowish brown silty sand with 3% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	> 0.30m

403	Cut of Linear – Irregular sides and base.	0.30- 0.69m
404	Secondary deposit – Greyish brown sandy silt with 1% sub-angular and rounded flint pebbles 20–25mm poorly sorted	0.30- 0.69m

<b>TRENCH 5</b>	Dimensions 40m x 1.8m x 0.37m	Ground level 60.235m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
501	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown, silty loam – typical topsoil. Loose compaction.	0-0.21m
502	Natural – reddish brown, silty sand 2% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	> 0.21m
503	Cut of possible linear, irregular shape, shallow sided with irregular base.	0.21- 0.29m
504	Fill of possible linear <b>[503]</b> Mid Greyish brown silty sand	0.21- -0.29m
505	Cut of possible linear, same as <b>[503]</b>	0.21- 0.25m
506	Secondary fill of possible linear <b>[505]</b> mid greyish brown silty sand.	0.21- 0.25m
507	Cut of feature, irregular shape, concave edges and base.	0.21- – 0.35m
508	Secondary fill of feature <b>[507]</b> Mid greyish brown silty sand, 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	0.21- -1.35m
509	Cut of linear gully, concave edges and base.	0.21- 0.33m
510	Secondary fill of linear gully <b>[509]</b> mid reddish brown silty sand, 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	0.21- 0.33m
511	Cut of linear gully, concave edges and base.	0.21- – 0.27m
512	Secondary fill of linear gully <b>[509]</b> dark reddish brown silty sand, 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	0.21- 0.27m
513	Cut of linear gully, concave edges and base.	0.21- 0.43
514	Secondary fill of linear gully <b>[509]</b> , mid reddish brown silty sand, 1% angular and sub angular flint inclusions	0.21- 0.43



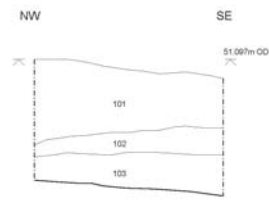
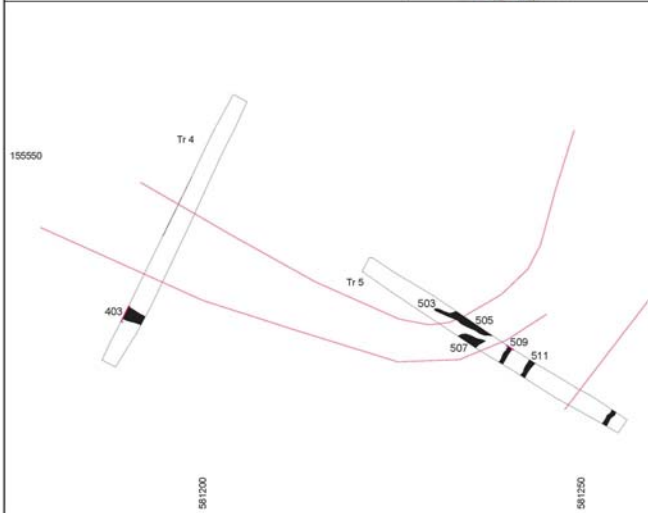
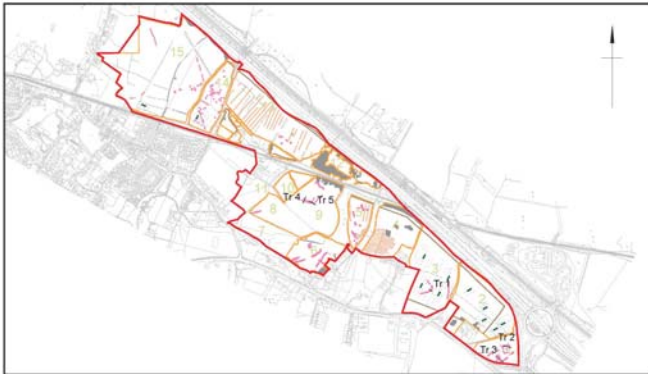


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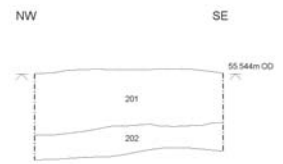
Site and trench location in relation to CTRL section 1 investigations

Figure 1

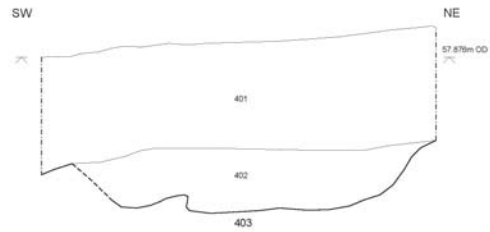




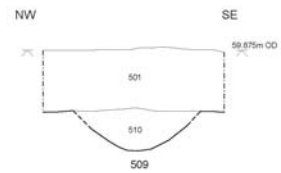
SW facing representative section of Trench 1



SSW facing representative section of Trench 2



SE facing section of Linear feature 403, Trench 4



SW facing section of Linear feature 505, Trench 5

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Plate 1: SE facing section of linear feature 403

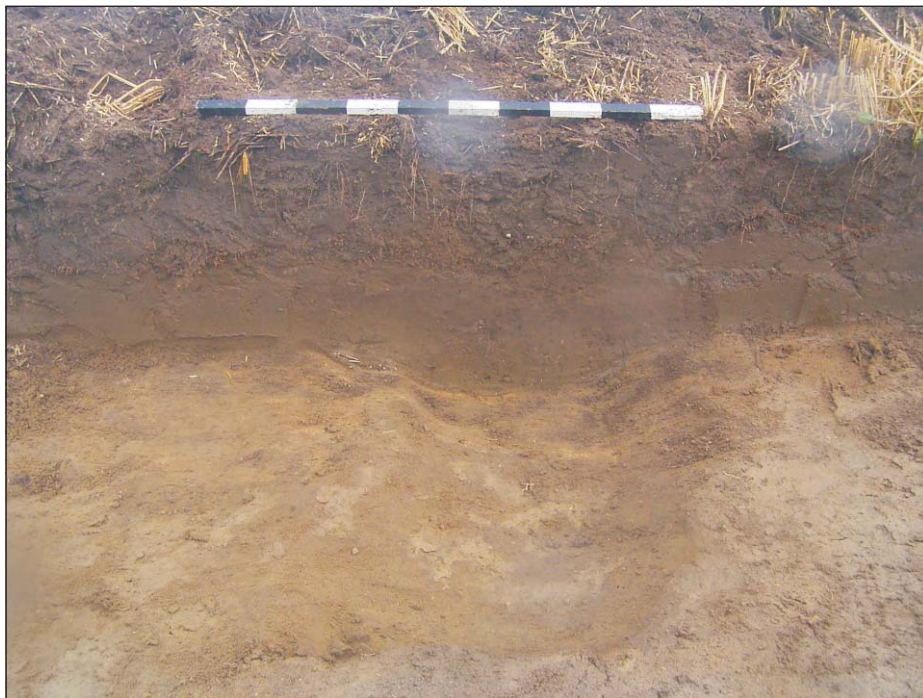


Plate 2: SW facing section of gully 513

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