A21 Tonbridge-to-Pembury Dualling Scheme, Kent

Post-Excavation Final Report

Volume 1: Excavations

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A21 Tonbridge-to-Pembury Dualling Scheme, Kent

Post-Excavation Final Report

Volume 1: Excavations

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty PLC on behalf of Highways England to undertake the archaeological mitigation for the construction of the A21 Tonbridge-to-Pembury Dualling Scheme in Kent. The scheme extends over 4km from TQ599447 in the north to TQ611417 in the south. Fieldwork was undertaken between 2014 and 2017 at 14 archaeological sites designated for strip, map and sample and watching brief excavations, and five sites that were designated for trial-trench evaluations. A range of archaeological remains dating from early prehistory to the post-medieval/early modern period have been encountered. Discoveries of note include Mesolithic flint scatters, a Bronze Age burnt mound, a series of mid–late Iron Age fire-pits, a late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure and associated field boundaries, a series of medieval fire-pits and a post-medieval brickworks.

The post-excavation assessment (PXA) presented the results from the fieldwork and the preliminary assessment of the finds and environmental remains, and was divided into six volumes. Volume 1 covered the majority of the excavated sites along the scheme, and included the archaeological remains spanning the prehistoric to medieval periods. Volume 2 included the results from the excavation of the post-medieval brickworks and associated sites, and on the 18th/19th-century Grade II listed Burgess Hill Farm. Volume 3 contained the figures for volumes 1 and 2, while volume 4 contained the plates for all volumes. Volume 5 comprised the results from the trial-trench evaluation sites, and volume 6 the finds and environmental specialist assessment reports from all the sites along the scheme.

The PXA was accompanied by the Updated Project Design (UPD) that constituted volume 7. Volume 7 reviewed the significance of the sites in the light of the assessment results, and presented the UPD for post-excavation analysis and publication, which was accepted. Following completion of the post-excavation analysis, summaries of the prehistoric to medieval remains were prepared for publication in Archaeologia Cantiana for 2021, and the excavations at the Castle Hill brickworks and other post-medieval sites relating to the Somerhill Estate, namely Burgess Hill Farm and a trackway in Burgess Rough for publication as an Oxford Archaeology monograph.

To ensure that a full factual record of the work, including the results of the post-excavation analysis was preserved, the PXA has been updated to become the Post-Excavation Final Report presented here. This follows the format of the PXA, but includes the full finds and environmental analyses and scientific dating in volume 6, and has added the new dating evidence to the site narratives for volumes 1, 2 and 5 where appropriate. Figures in volume 3 and have also been updated, and new figures and plates generated by the analysis have been added to volumes 3 and 4 respectively. For academic discussion of the results the reader is referred to the published reports.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Balfour Beatty and Highways England, on whose behalf Balfour Beatty were acting, for commissioning this project. Julia Baker, A21–Scheme Environmental Manager, managed the archaeological mitigation for Balfour Beatty. OA is grateful to Wendy Rogers, who monitored the work on behalf of Kent County Council, for her advice and guidance. Tony Hanna of WSP was the A21–Scheme Principal Archaeologist monitoring the works on behalf of Balfour Beatty, and OA is also grateful to Jenny Wylie of Arcadis, who monitored the work on behalf of Highways England.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Tim Allen and the fieldwork was directed by Mariusz Gorniak. Survey and digitizing was carried out by David Jamieson, and subsequent work on the figures by Ben Brown, Gary Jones, Lucy Gane and Charles Rousseaux. Photography of finds was by Magdalena Wachnik.

Thanks are extended to the OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, to those led by Sharon Cook who, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and to those led by Susan Rawlings who prepared the photos and archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

Tim Allen is also grateful to all of the contributors, and to Toby Martin, who wrote the stratigraphic narrative for the brickworks, to Robert McIntosh, who brought together the evaluation reports, to Kirsty Smith for advice on the documentary research, and to Martyn Allen for pulling together the reports and for additional editing.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Balfour Beatty PLC on behalf of Highways England to undertake the archaeological mitigation connected with the construction of the A21 Tonbridge-to-Pembury Dualling Scheme in Kent (Fig. 1). The scheme extended over 4km from TQ599447 in the north to TQ611417 in the south. The archaeological work began in autumn 2014 and was completed on site in autumn 2017, and consisted of investigation of sites in advance of the construction programme. In consequence, some of the sites were excavated in parts over a considerable period of time, as areas were required to enable different phases of construction work to commence.

1.1.2 In total, 14 archaeological sites, covering more than 20ha, were subject to strip, map and sample (SMS) and watching-brief excavations (Fig. 2). Eight sites form the basis of this volume. Each has been previously written up as an individual Archaeological Characterisation Report approved by Tony Hanna of WSP (A21 Principal Archaeologist acting for Balfour Beatty), Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council (KCC), Jenny Wylie of Arcadis acting for the Highways Agency and by Julia Baker of Balfour Beatty.

1.1.3 As agreed in the Summary of Results of Archaeological Mitigation and Outline Proposal for Post-Excavation (OA 2017a), these reports are presented, largely unchanged (apart from figure numbers and referencing), in the chapters below. Where sites were excavated in parts, however, a more coherent narrative combining the various reports for each site has been prepared. The figures, plates and specialists' reports for these sites are presented separately as volumes 3, 4 and 6, respectively. The sites reported in volume 1 comprise:

- IA1 (Woodland Creation area 1)
- IA2 (Woodland Creation area 2)
- IA3 (Woodland Creation areas 3, 4, 5 and Balancing Pond 2)
- IA4 (New Compound, Fairthorne Junction and Heathland Creation)
- Carpenters Wood
- IA5 (Woodland Translocation Receptor area WC6a)
- IA7 (Woodland Creation area 6b–c)
- Robingate Wood Storage Lay Down Area

1.1.4 Four sites at WC2 Brickworks, Castle Hill Wood, Burgess Rough and Burgess Hill Farm revealed considerable post-medieval remains, including a 19th/20th-century brick-working factory and a farmhouse and stables (Burgess Hill Farm). The brickworks formed part of site IA2 but is reported on separately owing to the considerable quantity of surviving structural and artefactual remains. Burgess Hill Farm consisted of a complex of Grade II listed buildings demolished to make way for the scheme. The barn and stable were dismantled for re-erection at the Weald and Downland Museum, West Sussex, while the other buildings were recorded prior to demolition, and were reported upon separately (OA 2017h). Following demolition to ground level, the below-ground remains of the farmhouse, barn hand stable were investigated

by archaeological trenching and subsequent excavation of small areas. The results of the excavations at these sites are presented in volume 2 of the PXA.

1.1.5 Two sites, one around the former buildings at North Lodge, the other at IA6 south of Pembury Walks, were designated for SMS excavation, but no archaeological remains were identified. These sites form no further part of this report.

1.1.6 Five additional sites that were under woodland when construction began were subject to trial-trench evaluations. None of the evaluations produced archaeological results meriting further archaeological mitigation. The results of the evaluations are reported on in volume 5.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The A21 Dualling Scheme is located in the central northern part of the Weald in Kent. The specific geology and topography of each site is reported in each chapter below, though the geology of the A21 Dualling Scheme is largely characterised by Wealden Group mudstone, sandstone and siltstone (BGS nd). These sedimentary bedrocks occur across much of the Weald. Ashdown Formation mudstone, sandstone and siltstone occurs at the northern end of the scheme, closest to Tonbridge. Wadhurst Clay Formation (mudstone) is found south-east of Tonbridge and makes up much of the geology along the northern half of the scheme, while Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation (interbedded sandstone and siltstone) underlies most of the southern half.

1.2.2 The overlying soils along the scheme varied slightly between the northern and southern ends, but were generally slowly permeable, seasonally wet and slightly acid loams and clays (CSAI nd). These soils are generally typical of the pastural and woodland habitats that are currently found on either side of the A21. Much of the archaeology described below related to the translocation of woodland areas along the scheme.

1.2.3 The topography of the land along was scheme is fairly undulating and ground heights range from *c* 37m aOD at the northern end to *c* 103m aOD at the southern end. The area is dominated by a ridge of high land (*c* 120m aOD) that extends SW/NE and is characterised by Castle Hill hillfort just to the west of the scheme.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The archaeological potential of the development area was assessed by Atkins for the Public Enquiry and was set out in the Environmental Statement, Chapter 13 (HA 2013).

1.3.2 Mesolithic flints have been found within 500m, and in some cases, within 200m of the A21 scheme towards the southern end (ibid., 13.5.9, fig. 13.1.b, AR 7–9 and 57). Neolithic material has been recovered from Castle Hill during limited excavations (ibid., fig. 13.1.a, SM1 and AR28), but is otherwise restricted to the Pembury area (ibid., 13, 6.10).

1.3.3 Bronze Age barrows have been identified within the wider area around Pembury (ibid., 13.6.10 and fig. 13.1.b, AR3.5). A hillfort survives at Castle Hill immediately adjacent to the A21 on the western side, some 1.5km NNW of Middle Lodge. This has provided evidence of middle Iron Age activity, with radiocarbon dates in the 3rd century cal. BC (Money 1975).

1.3.4 No Roman or early medieval sites or finds have been discovered from the development area or surrounding study area.

1.3.5 Agricultural activity dating to the medieval period onwards is evident within the wider area in the form of earthworks. There are also remains of a medieval bloomery. In the Domesday Book, there are references to the Lowry of Tonbridge and Richard of Tonbridge and the accounts show that the majority of land within the study area was relatively unpopulated throughout the medieval period, while Tonbridge had a higher population.

1.3.6 Post-medieval activity in the A21 scheme area is mainly represented by the built heritage. This includes the Grade II listed 17th-century manor at Somerhill Park, and other listed buildings along the A21 and in Tonbridge and Pembury. Somerhill Park incorporates Somerhill Manor House, Lake Bridge and Lake Cottage.

1.4 Scheme methodology

1.4.1 A Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Design (hereafter DAMD) was prepared at the commencement of the fieldwork (WSP 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Mitigation was prepared by Oxford Archaeology setting out how the DAMD would be implemented (OA 2015a). Modifications to the WSI were necessitated by the constraints of woodland translocation and were set out in an Addendum (OA 2015b).

1.4.2 All fieldwork took place in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework Section 12 (DCMS 2015) and the MoRPHE Project Manager's guide (HE 2015), following the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), of which OA is a Registered Organisation. The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the standards and guidance for archaeological excavation and archiving (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

1.4.3 All the archaeological work undertaken the A21 Tonbridge-to-Pembury Dualling Scheme has been monitored by Tony Hanna of WSP, Principal Archaeologist for the A21 scheme, Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for KCC and Jenny Wylie of HHJV, henceforth referred to as the Monitoring Archaeologists. Julia Baker, Environmental Manager for Balfour Beatty, has also been included in all consultations and communications.

1.4.4 At all sites, the topsoil and subsoils were stripped by machine with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. No mechanical diggers were permitted to track over the exposed surface. The soil strip reached either the depth of natural geology or man-made deposits if the latter were encountered first. However, as mentioned above, in some areas such as the SMS trenches, soil was only stripped to the depth required for construction, leaving behind the lower levels of subsoil.

1.4.5 The stripped surface and the resulting spoil was monitored for finds. The edges of all potential features were cleaned as necessary by hand, marked and flagged on the ground. The marked features were surveyed using GPS-survey equipment and plotted on the site CAD plan.

1.4.6 Following soil machining, a representative group of features were investigated by excavating interventions. Descriptions of the features were recorded on pro-forma context sheets. The features were photographed in digital and black-and-white. Section and plan drawings were made of all excavated features, which were surveyed in the interventions with GPS. The surveyed data was then plotted onto the site CAD plan.

1.5 Character of the archaeology

1.5.1 The geophysical surveys carried out prior to the scheme produced results that were difficult to interpret, and did not identify clear archaeological enclosures or occupation sites (OA 2009). A number of responses were identified that were suggested to represent archaeological features, although the author of the report noted that even these were not certain, representing areas of diffuse response rather than discrete anomalies. There was, therefore, little guidance from the geophysical survey as to the nature and distribution of archaeological features, and in the event, as is shown by the interpretation sections of the reports presented below, the geophysical survey did not prove a good guide to the location and identification of archaeological features.

1.5.2 Throughout the scheme, numerous soil marks were identified in the underlying natural following removal of topsoil and subsoil. These included features that were regular in plan and those that were more irregular. Upon examination, some proved to be probable variations within the underlying geology, or sinkholes, but as the latter were regular in plan, it was usually not possible to recognise them without hand-investigation.

1.5.3 There were very few finds dating earlier than the post-medieval period found along the scheme, as is shown by the context tables following the reports presented below, and by the assessments in volume 6. The lack of finds made it difficult to distinguish which features were of natural or archaeological origin in the field, a problem that continued in post-excavation. From the paucity of finds it is clear, however, that the landscape crossed by the scheme did not include dense occupation sites of any period, other than perhaps the Mesolithic, and that the archaeological features were dispersed and generally related to `off-site' or transient activities.

1.5.4 Charcoal was found in many features, but as this is a characteristic of both man-made features and tree-throw holes of all periods, it did not help in determining what should be excavated. Tree-throw holes often contain finds of earlier prehistoric date, so a proportion of these needed to be investigated in any case. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal was carried out at an early stage in the fieldwork to determine whether a particular type of feature that was occurring widely (called a 'fire-pit' on this project) was of ancient or relatively recent date. These proved to be ancient and this work determined that all features of this type should be excavated. However, radiocarbon dating of a larger number of undated features during fieldwork was neither appropriate nor cost-effective.

1.5.5 The linear nature of the scheme, and the often piecemeal approach to the stripping of the sites along the route caused by construction constraints, also hindered the ability to view large areas at once, and to target sampling by hand-excavation.

1.5.6 As a result, a fairly high proportion of the features that were investigated are undated, and their interpretation as man-made or of natural origin is uncertain. In the plans of each area, dated features are coloured by phase, and undated features that are believed with confidence to be of archaeological origin are shaded in grey.

1.6 Approach to the post-excavation and presentation of results

1.6.1 The approach to post-excavation was set out in the Summary of results of Archaeological Mitigation and Outline Post-Excavation Assessment proposal (OA 2016d). This explained the dispersed nature of the archaeological remains, and highlighted the individual

sites of archaeological potential along the scheme. It was clear from this that there was a lack of contemporary archaeological sites (other than the fire-pits) in different areas of the scheme.

1.6.2 As agreed with the Monitoring Archaeologists, the PXA consisted of six volumes. Volumes 1 and 2 presented the results of the investigations in each area of the scheme subject to archaeological mitigation, volume 3 the figures and volume 4 the plates, while volume 5 dealt with the evaluations of sites not accessible earlier, and volume 6 presented the assessments of the finds and environmental remains recovered. These were accompanied by the Updated Project Design (volume 7), which assessed the significance of the discoveries in relation to research aims and objectives, set out the justification for further post-excavation analysis where appropriate, and the proposals for publication of the significant results.

1.6.3 It was agreed that, following the post-excavation analysis, the results and their discussions should be published, and the results for the prehistoric to medieval periods will be available as an article in Archaeologia Cantiana (Allen 2021). Results for the post-medieval brickworks at Castle Hill, Burgess Hill Farm and for a trackway in Burgess Rough are due to be published as an OA monograph (Allen and Martin forthcoming).

1.6.4 As the publications are in a more summary form than the detailed narratives provided in the PXA, it was decided to update the PXA volumes by incorporating the results of the post-excavation analysis to present a full account of the archaeology of the scheme in this Post-Excavation Final Report. This document, therefore, follows the same format as the PXA, but includes additional results in volume 6, and has added the new dating evidence to the site narratives for volumes 1, 2 and 5 where appropriate. Figures in volume 3 and have also been updated, and new figures and plates generated by the analysis have been added to volumes 3 and 4 respectively.

2 IA1 (WOODLAND CREATION AREA 1)

2.1 Project details and background

2.1.1 Site IA1 consisted of two parts, a trapezoidal area on the west where geophysical survey was undertaken to inform the Environmental Statement, and which was subsequently designated for SMS excavation, and a longer strip (also known as Woodland Creation area 1 or WC1) to the north and east alongside the existing A21 that was not suitable for geophysical survey, and so was classified as an area of uncertain archaeological potential in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013). The area for SMS excavation included the flood compensation pond, the longer strip most of the haul road and the strips adjacent to the existing A21.

2.1.2 The methodology set out in the Environmental Statement for determining the appropriate level of archaeological mitigation for areas of uncertain archaeological potential was to undertake further archaeological evaluation by trenching (HA 2013). Due to the urgent need for a haul road, however, there was not time to conduct further evaluation, and so a combination of archaeological watching brief supplemented by limited SMS excavation was proposed in the WSI (OA 2015a) and was approved by the Monitoring Archaeologists. When the strips between the haul road and the existing A21 were required for construction, it became clear that it would be quicker, and more cost-effective, to omit further evaluation and instead mitigate these small areas using SMS excavation.

2.1.3 The three main elements requiring archaeological mitigation in IA1 were subdivided as archaeological mitigation was carried out in stages between 2015 and 2017 according to the needs of the construction programme. The haul road was divided into south, central, north, and 'Pond' sections, the strips adjacent to the A21 included north and south sections and the flood compensation pond involved both SMS and later trenching (Fig. 3). As a result, a number of archaeological characterisation reports have previously presented the results of the excavations in these areas (OA 2015c; 2015d; 2016a; 2017c; 2017d; 2017e).

2.1.4 The haul road stretched the full length of the site. The southern and central sections were monitored between January and February 2015, and the northern section between April and June 2015. The northern section was excavated alongside the SMS areas adjacent to the A21, which were both monitored in May 2015.

2.1.5 The final works comprised the stripping of a flood compensation pond (hereafter known as the 'pond') that was dug to deal with water run-off from the road. The pond was excavated in two halves in August 2015 by SMS excavation, but due to the presence of modern contamination in the western part, mitigation of this part of IA1 was delayed. Removal of the contaminated materials showed that modern disturbance had destroyed any archaeological features that may have existed in this area, but test-pitting to test the depth of contaminated soil revealed that waterlogged deposits were present at depth, and it was agreed with the Principal Archaeologist for the scheme and the KCC Monitoring Archaeologist that the area would be subject to a watching brief during the excavation for the pond. Further geotechnical test-pits were dug in September 2015 to sample the deposits, but were not all archaeologically monitored, and conditions for recording and retrieval of environmental samples were not ideal. As a result, following the bulk excavation of the upper deposits from the pond area in

July 2016, further trenches were dug across two channels within the base of the pond to retrieve environmental data and dating information.

2.2 Location

2.2.1 IA1 extended for *c* 480m along the south-western side of the A21, from TQ 59668 44820 in the north-west to TQ 60167 44606 in the south-east. The pond was excavated to the south of the northernmost section of the haul road, centred at TQ 59768 144702.

2.3 Scope of works

2.3.1 The south section of the haul road comprised a curving strip just over 100m long east/west, 4m wide on the east and 8m wide on the west, with an additional area extending from the centre towards the south-east (Fig. 4). It covered a total area of 843m^2. This part of the site was urgently required for construction, and the approach taken here was to excavate a sample of the features exposed in each day's stripping as soon as possible (OA 2014a, 6.6.7).

2.3.2 A short gap of a few metres was left between the south and central sections of the haul road. The central section measured 144m long (north-west/south-east), 8.3m wide, and covered an area of 1076m^2. The north section of the haul road continued north-west without a break from the central section. This measured 95m long and *c* 7m wide, covering an area of 665m^2.

2.3.3 The SMS areas were positioned parallel to and in between the A21 and the haul road, and were divided from each other by a gas main. The southern SMS length lay alongside the haul road south section and measured 75m long and 20m wide, covering an area of *c* 1500m^2. The northern SMS area lay adjacent to the central and north sections of the haul road. It measured 166m long, north-west/south-east, 17.65m wide, and covered *c* 1900m^2. Here, the soil strip mostly reached the depth required for construction purposes only, leaving behind the lower levels of subsoil (known as 'B-horizon').

2.3.4 The pond and associated works consisted of five areas (Figs and 6). To the north, an extension to the haul road was excavated, continuing from the north haul road section, and to the west, a small keyhole-shaped trench with a northern extension was excavated. A long, narrow strip was excavated to the east of the pond for a north/south section of haul road. This measured just less 200m long and *c* 5m wide and revealed a small number of features in the central part of its length.

2.3.5 The pond comprised two, irregular, 'D-shaped' areas, divided by a water main. Contaminated ground was found in the western half of the pond, which halted further stripping while the soil was tested, and a strategy agreed for its removal. Test-pits dug to investigate the depth of contaminated ground were monitored archaeologically to determine whether archaeological features were likely to survive beneath the contamination, and these revealed the presence of deeply buried organic deposits. During the bulk excavation of the pond, provision was made for archaeological investigation of the waterlogged deposits, resulting in the excavation of two trenches, each across a separate channel (Fig. 6).

2.3.6 In addition to the main aims for each excavation area, further objectives were designed to investigate the organic remains discovered in the pond, including:

- to establish the environmental significance of deposits with evidence of potential by targeted environmental sampling, processing and assessment;
- to determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
- to assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
- and, to place any archaeological discoveries into the local and, where appropriate, regional/national context, and to assess the implications of any such discoveries.

2.4 Results

Haul road south section

2.4.1 Altogether, 18 soil marks were exposed as stripping progressed, all sealed by the old topsoil (Fig. 4). The group consisted of discrete soil marks, some irregular in plan, some roughly oval. They did not form any recognisable structures in plan. Of these, nine features were sampled by hand excavation.

2.4.2 In the north-western part of the area, three irregular oval features (225, 226 and 227) appear to represent natural formations, most likely tree-throw holes. None of the features contained any artefactual material. Cut 225 was an irregular oval, with moderately steep, asymmetrical sides and a very undulating base, and was 0.25m deep. It had only a single fill, a friable, yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent pieces of sub-angular sandstone, but no other inclusions. Feature 226 was oval in plan measuring 1.55m by 0.7m. It had asymmetrical, moderately steep sides and an undulating base. Its single fill was a silty sand with small or medium pieces of sub-angular sandstone, but no other inclusions. Feature 227 was also an irregular oval, measuring 2.2m by 1.12m. Its cut had asymmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a slightly concave base. Its fill was a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sandstone fragments and included a thin layer containing charcoal flecks towards the top.

2.4.3 In the central part of the haul route was another oval feature (603) measuring *c* 0.7m long. It had a regular profile of moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a flat base. The feature was 0.12m deep and its single fill consisted of loose sand with occasional pieces of sandstone. This feature was possibly a pit, though it did not produce any finds.

2.4.4 The southernmost feature (601) was another irregular oval, 1.1m long, 0.47m wide and 0.15m deep. It had a very irregular and asymmetrical profile and a single fill containing occasional pieces of sub-angular sandstone.

2.4.5 Four features were sampled in the east-west length of haul route. Feature 602 was elongated in plan, measuring 3.37m by 1.0m. Only one quadrant was dug, showing the feature to be shallow and irregular in profile with a single fill (603).

2.4.6 East of 602 two amorphous features, 608 and 610, were sampled. Feature 608 continued southwards beyond the stripped area, and the exposed part was 1.35m long. It had asymmetrical sides, one steep and the other moderately steep, and an uneven, concave base.

Feature 610 had similarly asymmetrical and uneven, shallow profile. Both features contained only single fills containing only small or medium-sized sub-angular pieces of sandstone.

2.4.7 The last of the sampled features, 604, also continued southwards beyond the investigated area. The exposed part was 0.85m across. This was 0.7m deep, with steep, asymmetrical sides and a concave base. No inclusions were present in its single fill.

2.4.8 In the southern part of the area three parallel, ESE/WNW plough marks were also exposed, but were not investigated by hand.

2.4.9 No finds were recovered from any of the features and given the lack of dating evidence, no environmental samples were taken.

Haul road central section

2.4.10 A total of nine features were exposed in the area. Four features in the south-eastern part were amorphous in plan and contained homogeneous fills devoid of any inclusions. These were similar to natural features investigated previously in this and other areas and are interpreted as variations in the natural.

2.4.11 Of the other five exposed features, three in the south-eastern part of the strip were designated for investigation by hand-excavation of interventions.

2.4.12 None of the excavated features contained any artefactual material. Moreover, considering small amount of organic material in the excavated fills, their homogeneity and sandy character, it was decided that environmental samples from such deposits are unlikely to produce any valuable data.

2.4.13 Feature 612 was sub-oval in plan, with somewhat wavy edges, and extended northwards beyond the edge of the area. It was 2.26m long north-west/south-east and 1.12m wide. Cut 612 proved to have asymmetrical, stepped and moderately steep sides and an undulating base. Its single fill 611 was a friable, homogeneous, medium greyish-brown sandy silt with rare small flecks of charcoal and occasional small pieces of sub-angular sandstone. There were no finds. This feature was most likely a tree-throw hole.

2.4.14 Just west of 612 was a larger oval feature measuring 3.2m long east/west and 1.36m wide. One quadrant was initially excavated whose single fill 614 was a friable brown clayey sand with only occasional angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone, and no finds. Although it was 0.44m deep the profile was irregular and undulating, suggesting that this was a tree-throw hole. As a result, no further excavation was carried out.

2.4.15 The third feature was 615, which was 1.94m long, north-west/south-east, and was 0.54m wide, with a slight curve in plan, and a friable, brown clayey sand with a moderate number of angular pieces of sandstone. This was different to the fill of other natural features. A section was cut across 615, which proved to be 0.33m deep, but had an asymmetrical and slightly undercut profile, and no finds, so was probably another example of the variation in the natural.

2.4.16 Three features uncovered in the north-western part of the central strip contained frequent modern finds on the surface of their fills, and so were not excavated by hand. Instead a machine excavator was used to investigate the lower parts of their fills, which proved to be modern throughout. These are described individually below:

2.4.17 Linear feature 617 ran north-east to south-west across the trench, continuing beyond the investigated area in both directions. This feature had relatively straight parallel sides, was 1.85 m wide and sloping sides to a rounded base. Its fill was a mixture of friable, dark brown sandy clay with moderate amount of modern brick fragments and rusted pieces of metal and patches of very dark brown clayey sand.

2.4.18 Just south of this, feature 618 was ovoid in plan, measuring 0.86 by 0.77m. Its fill was very similar to that of 617.

2.4.19 South of 618 and east of linear feature 617 was oval feature 619. It was 1.69m long (WNW/ESE) and 1.3m wide. Its fill was friable, dark brown sandy clay with occasional pieces of modern ceramic building material (CBM) and large numbers of small rusted nails.

Haul road north section

2.4.20 No archaeological features were uncovered in this area. A series of parallel marks on a north-west to south-east alignment were observed and planned, but investigation of a couple of these showed that they were filled with subsoil, and probably represent tyre ruts, perhaps from an earlier phase of dualling of the A21.

The southern SMS area

2.4.21 One linear feature (620) orientated north/south was uncovered (Fig. 4). It extended over 3.5m and continued after a gap for a longer distance at the southern end of the area. It was 0.2m wide, 0.1m deep with steep sides and an irregular but concave base. Its single fill was a friable whitish-yellow silt with small sandstone inclusions. A brick was recovered from the fill at the south end, showing that this feature was post-medieval.

2.4.22 A single pit with some evidence of burning (622), sub-circular with steep sides and an uneven but concave base, was found in the middle of the area. It was 1.12m in diameter and 0.09m deep. Its single fill was a firm brownish-grey sandy clay with occasional flints and small stones and moderate charcoal flecking and charcoal pieces. Unlike the pits with *in situ* burning found elsewhere along the A21 scheme, this pit lacked heat-affected natural indicating that the burnt material is not *in situ*.

2.4.23 One other pit (624) was also found in the north-east of the area and was ovoid in plan with irregular steep sides and a pointed base. Its single fill was a light yellow/brown silt with light yellowish-clay inclusions. It was 0.7m by 0.6m and up to 0.12m deep. There were no finds. This may have been a tree-throw hole rather than a pit.

2.4.24 Only part of feature 625 lay within the trench, but the exposed part was semi-circular. It was 2.02m by 0.8m and 0.15m deep with shallow sides and a regular flat base, but with extensive root damage at the south end. The fill was a firm greyish-brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecking. There were no finds.

2.4.25 Several other tree-throw holes were identified across the area but none were excavated.

The northern SMS area

2.4.26 Several small and irregular soil marks were found in the southern part of this area, all of which were clearly recent tree-throw holes, and so were not excavated.

2.4.27 The middle of the area had a very large modern disturbance aligned roughly north-east/south-west (Fig. 4). A sondage was machine excavated to a depth of around 3.5m, but the bottom was not found. The modern disturbance consisted of dark made-ground and contained modern, heavy duty, rusted cable.

2.4.28 To the north of the modern disturbance, linear feature 633 extended north-east to south-west across the stripped area in line with a disused cable pole. The feature had a flat base, regular angled sides and was 0.3m deep and 0.4m wide. The fill was yellowish-brown clayey silt with some sandstone lumps, charcoal flecks and CBM. Modern glass and brick were found in the fill. This is the same feature as ditch 617 found in the haul route.

2.4.29 Located between the large modern disturbance and linear feature 633 is a large ditch 629 aligned east-west, running from the east side of the strip for 12m and ending within the stripped area in line with an adjacent tree-throw hole 636.

2.4.30 Ditch 629 was first investigated by a machine-dug slot to establish its overall dimensions, and then the terminus was additionally hand-dug. The machine slot revealed that the ditch had moderately sloping sides with a gently concave base and a clear step on the north-east side close to the base. The north-east edge of the ditch undercut the natural somewhat before changing to a moderate slope higher up. It was 2.2m wide and 0.6m deep, and there were three fills. The primary fill was a firm, light blueish-grey sandy clay with yellow mottling and occasional charcoal and sandstone flecking. This was 0.1m deep. The middle fill was a firm yellowish-grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal and sandstone flecks, also 0.1m deep. This appears to represent weathering from the sides of the ditch. The top fill was a firm light blueish-grey sandy clay with yellow mottling and occasional charcoal and sandstone flecks and was 0.4m deep.

2.4.31 Later disturbance had truncated the ditch at the terminus, and here it only survived to 1.3m wide and 0.14m deep, with a gently sloping concave base. Only the primary fill survived here, but this contained a piece of fragmented modern brick. Its relationship with feature 636 was obscured in section by two large pieces of sandstone, but the fill of ditch 629 appeared to be identical to the fill of tree-throw hole 636.

2.4.32 Tree-throw hole 636 had an irregular ovoid shape in plan and a very irregular shallow concave base. It measured 1.7m by 0.9m and was 0.12m deep. Its single fill was a firm light bluey grey sandy clay with medium yellow and brown mottling, and charcoal and sandstone flecking, the same as the fill of adjacent ditch 629.

2.4.33 Ditch 629 contained a single piece of modern brick in the primary fill, indicating that it had filled fairly recently. Although no relationship was established between the ditch and tree-throw hole 636, they had the same fill, indicating that they were probably of a similar date. This may mean that the ditch terminated at this point because the tree was still standing when it was dug.

Haul road to the north of WC1 pond

2.4.34 Removal of topsoil and subsoil exposed three linear features on a broadly east/west alignment: 640, 643 and 645, with two broader features 648 and 651 to the north. Features 640 and 643 were straight and broadly in line with a gap of 0.5m between them, 645 lay 1.1m south of 643, was offset slightly to the north, and was curved.

2.4.35 Feature 640 was 0.62m long, 0.32m wide but only survived 0.04m deep, with several small hollows in the base (Plate 1). Feature 643 was 1.6m long, 0.30m wide and up to 0.10m deep, with sloping sides, a V-profile and a base sloping down gently westwards (Plate 2). Both features had irregular edges and similar fills Like 643, feature 645 was V-profiled, and was 1.5m long, but was narrower (0.15m wide at most) and shallower (0.05m) than 643 (Plate 3).

2.4.36 Features 648 and 651 were irregular ovals in plan, although 648, which was 0.6m long, up to 0.32m wide and 0.08m deep, had a defined profile with sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 4). In contrast, 651, which lay partly under the northern baulk, was 1.18m east-west and at least 1.1m wide but had very shelving sides and a sloping base that was only a maximum of 0.10m deep and was in general only half that depth.

2.4.37 All these features had similar fills. The primary fill was a plastic grey sandy clay (numbered 652 in 643, 653 in 645, 647 in 648 and 650 in 651); only feature 640 did not appear to contain this. This was followed in all features by a brick red/orange firm but friable burnt clay (numbered 639 in 640, 642 in 643, 644 in 645, 646 in 648 and 649 in 651). Amorphous lumps of fired clay were recovered from fill 646. In features 640 and 643 this was overlain by a black charcoal layer (numbered respectively 638 and 641), which was sampled for environmental remains. A fragment of barbed wire was recovered from fill 638.

North/south haul road to the east of the pond

2.4.38 An almost circular pit 654, 1.62m across north-south and 1.48–1.58m east-west, was found halfway down the route (Plate 5). The northern half was excavated, and it proved to be 0.15m deep with sloping sides and a slightly undulating flat base. The fill 655 was a brownish-yellow silty clay with few inclusions and no finds.

2.4.39 Part of an oval feature 656, which was orientated ENE-WSW, and was at least 1.05m long and 0.60m wide, was exposed within the haul route and was excavated (Plate 6). It proved to have a sloping side and a flattish base, and in the baulk appeared to be at least 0.3m deep, but had been severely truncated during machining, so that only the bottom 0.07–0.09m of fill survived within the haul route. The only excavated fill was 657, a dark yellowish-brown silty clay some 0.2m thick with frequent lumps and fragments of reddened clay and charcoal. In section, it was clear that this was the base of a tree-throw hole, layer 657 running down the north side of the feature and across the base. It was overlain by three further fills, a V-profiled brown silty clay with occasional patches of reddened clay on the south, a yellow very gravelly silty clay in the centre, and a yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional gravel on the north. There were no finds.

2.4.40 Feature 658 was an oval pit orientated NNE-SSW cut by a modern drainage ditch, and was 1.7m long and 1.25m wide (Plate 7). The southern half was excavated, and it proved to be regular in profile and 0.26m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The only fill was 659, a greyish-brown silty clay with very occasional fragments of gravel. Struck flint was recovered from the fill.

2.4.41 The strip was monitored to the south of this, but no further archaeological features were observed.

WC1 Pond: eastern half

2.4.42 Only a small number of soil marks were revealed following stripping. The site was divided east-west by two lengths of ditch, ditch 660 entering the site from the north and 662

from the south. Ditch 660 was 16m long and 662 12.5m long, with a gap of 30m between them. These features were both oriented broadly NNE-SSW, and were roughly in line, and although their orientations did not exactly match, they probably belonged to a single former boundary. Roughly midway between them were a couple of irregular soil marks that probably represent tree-throw holes but were not excavated.

2.4.43 To the east of 662 was a scatter of features, three of which (664, 666 and 668) were excavated. An irregular linear soil mark west of 662 was deemed to be a variation in the natural and was not excavated.

2.4.44 West and south-west of the terminus of ditch 660 was a group of irregular features, which were clearly either variations in the natural or possibly tree-throw holes. In the absence of charcoal or any finds, none of these was excavated. Instead it was decided to concentrate investigation upon a concentration of potential features exposed in the western part of the pond (see 2.4.52 below).

2.4.45 Ditch 660 was orientated north-east to south-west and was 0.90–0.98m wide and 0.21m deep, with a broad V-profile, the sides somewhat bowed so that it was almost bowl-profiled (Plate 8). The interface between the cut and primary fill was marked by a concentration of iron-staining. The upper fill 661 was a light yellowish-grey silty sand with fragments of decayed sandstone only 0.10m deep, the primary fill below was eroded natural light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

2.4.46 Posthole or stakehole 664 was sub-circular, 0.20m in diameter and 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a sloping, almost pointed base (Plate 9). The edges were marked by concentrations of iron-staining. Its single fill 665 was a grey silty clay with small sub-rounded stones blackened by staining. There were no finds.

2.4.47 Ditch 662 was orientated north/south and was 1.04–1.14m wide and 0.37m deep, with sloping sides and a cupped base (Plate 10). There was a single fill 663, which was a soft grey clayey silt with occasional lumps of decayed sandstone and manganese staining. No finds were recovered from this.

2.4.48 Pit 666 was circular, 0.48m in diameter but only 0.08m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 11). Its single fill 667 was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with charcoal, but there was no reddening to the natural in the base or sides of the pit, so this material was dumped rather than generated *in situ*. No finds were recovered from the fill.

2.4.49 Feature 668 was a narrow gully orientated NNE/SSW, which was cut at the southern end by a modern pipe trench (Plate 12). It was 0.45m long, petering out at the north end, and varied from 0.23–0.28m wide. The sides were sloping and the base flat, and it was up to 0.07m deep. There was a single fill 669, which was a greyish-brown silty clay with small stones and an intermittent layer of degraded wood lumps down the west side. There were no other finds. The degraded wood suggests that this feature was of recent origin.

2.4.50 In the northern part of the pond, a short linear feature (670), measuring 1.24m long and averaging 0.42m wide, was investigated west of ditch 660. This proved to have uneven sides and a pointed base 0.12m deep where sectioned, with a fill of greyish-brown silty clay, charcoal, burnt sandstones and degraded wood fragments, but no finds (Plate 13). South of the hand-dug length, the feature broadened with indistinct sides and burnt soil patches, suggesting that this was in fact a tree-throw hole.

2.4.51 Ditch 671 was an east-west field boundary just over 1m wide and 0.32m deep, of which a 1m-length was excavated. It had sloping sides, the southern side being steeper than the north, and a shelving base, so that the deepest point was at the bottom of the south side. There was one fill, a brownish-grey sandy clay with iron staining, and brick rubble was recovered, indicating a recent date

WC1 Pond: western half

2.4.52 Although the westernmost part of the pond was covered by contaminated soil, a triangle on the east, 28m wide on the north and tapering on the south, lay outside the contaminated area and was stripped to natural, here consisting of an alluvial clay, under archaeological supervision. This revealed a greater concentration of potential archaeological features, and of the ten plotted soil marks six were excavated. A couple of other soil marks (one numbered 681) were also cleaned up, but were clearly irregular, so were not planned or further investigated.

2.4.53 In the north-east corner of the area was a large sub-circular feature 686, apparently flanked by two smaller features 684 and 685.

2.4.54 Pit 686 was sub-rectangular and 1.5–1.6m across, with a shallow extension at the north-west corner. The western half was excavated, and it had sloping sides curving in to a flat base. There were two fills, 688 overlain by 687, both of similar depth, and both containing much charcoal and both burnt and unburnt stones.

2.4.55 The smaller features were 4.2m apart (centre to centre). Feature 684 was oval, 0.75m long and 0.6m wide, 685 was sub-circular and 0.5m across. The south end of 684 was excavated, and it proved to be only 0.05 m deep with an irregular profile and base (Plate 14). The single fill was a brown sandy with charcoal, which had stained the fill dark grey or black in places, but no finds. This feature was tree-throw hole 685, which had distinct patches of charcoal visible in a matrix of light greyish-brown silty clay on the surface, was also tested by excavation, and the patches proved to dive down and around, so were clearly burnt-out tree-roots.

2.4.56 Around 10m south of these were a pair of small oval pits or postholes 680 and 682, only 2.5m apart. Feature 680 was 0.31m long and 0.24m wide, and was 0.07m deep, with near-vertical sides and a slightly cupped base (Plate 15). Its fill (683) was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional lumps of charcoal and frequent lumps of burnt and unburnt sandstone, but there were no finds.

2.4.57 Feature 682 was 0.3m east/west and 0.2m north/south and had a grey silty clay fill with occasional lumps of charcoal and patches of darker grey clay. This lay at the south end of a larger shallow pit 0.55m across, with a very light grey silty clay fill (Plate 16). There were no finds. This may either have been a very regular tree-throw hole or a posthole with a post-pipe at the south end.

2.4.58 Some 4m south of these was crescent-shaped soil mark 678, and 5m west of this a circular feature 679. Soil mark 678, a greyish-brown silty clay, was irregular and thought to represent a tree-throw hole, so was not investigated, but the western half of 679 was excavated, and was generally 0.4m deep, but deeper on the north, with a steep-sided and undulating base (Plate 17). The fill was a mottled yellow and grey clayey silt without inclusions

or finds. The irregularity on the north suggested that this too may have been a tree-throw hole.

2.4.59 Over 12m farther west was irregular tree-throw hole 677, which was not excavated, and south-east of this a figure-of-eight shaped soil mark 676, whose north-eastern half was excavated. This had a patchy fill of mottled light grey and yellow silty clay, greyer and with small fragments of manganese concretions or 'pebbles' in the centre, but no other finds (Plate 18). Following excavation, this feature was considered to have been caused by tree-root action mixing the natural and mineralisation.

2.4.60 Lastly, 10m south of 676 was a sub-circular, or more accurately seven-sided, pit 673, some 0.6m across, whose west half was excavated (Plate 19). It had near-vertical sides and a flat base but was only 0.06m deep. There were two fills, the first 674 a layer of black silt and much charcoal covering all the base except around the north edge, and overlain by layer 675, a thin skim of greyish-white sandy clay with small sandstone fragments. Burnt stones were found in layer 674, and the base of the pit was reddened by heat (although not visible on the photograph), suggesting that there had been *in situ* burning. This was therefore probably a fire-pit.

WC1 Pond: the channels

2.4.61 A series of test-pits were dug through the contaminated soils in the western pond to establish the depth of contamination, and some of these exposed waterlogged deposits at depth, which rapid assessment suggested were well-preserved (Fig. 5; OA 2017e, Appendix B). Following removal of the contaminated soils, the western pond was excavated by machine, but on the information obtained from the test-pits, was halted just above the level of waterlogged deposits, and thereafter the machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision. Two channels were exposed close to the base of the proposed pond, and trenches were then dug by hand to excavate and sample them.

2.4.62 In Trench 1, the eastern edge of a channel running north-south was exposed towards the west end of the trench (Fig. 6). A total of 5.4m of the channel was exposed within the trench and the channel continued westwards beyond the limits of excavation.

2.4.63 The 'cut' (20009) was steep, and was not bottomed, but was exposed to a depth of more than 1m (Plate 20–2). Six fills were exposed, the sequence (lowest to highest) being 20008, 20007, 20006, 20005, 20004, 20003 and 20002 (Fig. 7, section 20000).

2.4.64 Layer 20008 was confined to the east edge of the cut, against which it filled the full exposed depth of the channel. It was a mottled, light yellow-and-blue silty clay.

2.4.65 West of 20008, and sloping down westwards, was 20007, a blueish-grey clay with some lenses of sandstone fragments and organic material. This was up to 0.47m thick as exposed. A sequence of column and incremental samples were taken for environmental remains (Fig. 7) and these showed that waterlogged plant and insect remains were well-preserved (volume 6, chapters 13, 16 and 17). A waterlogged oak acorn cup from this deposit was radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1050–1270 (SUERC-75175 (GU45043); 849 ±31 yrs BP).

2.4.66 Deposit 20007 was overlain by 20006, a dark grey silty clay with frequent wood and other organic material. There was a concentration of wood at the east end, ie close to the edge of the cut. This deposit thickened as it extended west to 0.58m but was not bottomed. The top of this deposit was relatively flat. A sequence of column and incremental samples

were taken for environmental remains and these showed that waterlogged plant and insect remains were well-preserved. A waterlogged twig with buds gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1220–1390 (SUERC-75176 (GU45044); 718 ±31 yrs BP), while charred glume bases and rachis of *Triticum spelta* gave a date range of cal. AD 1275–1400 (SUERC-94076 (GU55251); 642 ±24 yrs BP).

2.4.67 The character of deposit 20006, and the concentration of wood close to its edge, suggests accumulation in relatively slow-moving water, with driftwood being stranded in the shallow water near the side of the channel.

2.4.68 Deposit 20005 accumulated in the slight hollow in the top of 20006 but did not reach the edge of the cut on the east. It was a light blueish-grey clay and was only 0.13m thick.

2.4.69 It was overlain by 20004, a light greenish-blue clay of similar thickness to 2005, and again without visible organic remains. This layer however extended farther eastwards, cutting slightly into the top of layer 20008. This perhaps indicates a phase of flooding and limited erosion. Both 20005 and 20004 are interpreted as alluvial fills.

2.4.70 Over 20004 at the west edge of the exposed channel was layer 20003, a mottled light grey and brown silty clay with much manganese. This was abutted on the east by layer 20002, a light blueish-grey silty clay with rare organic material. Both layers were around 0.34m thick. The distinction between 20002 and 20003 was dashed on section and may be due to post-depositional changes such as the accumulation of manganese, rather than reflecting a true stratigraphic relationship.

2.4.71 Channel 20009 cut layer 20001, a mottled light grey and light brownish-yellow silty sand with frequent manganese, which is interpreted as an earlier floodplain deposit in the valley of the river Bourne subject to mineral leaching.

2.4.72 In Trench 2, a continuation of the western channel was found, this time 8m wide, and here the cut was numbered 20105. The cut was again steep, but the upper part of the channel was mixed by the bulk excavation activity, and fewer fills were exposed, primarily 20107 overlain by 20108. As neither appeared to be rich in organic material, and a sequence had been obtained from Trench 1, this cut of the channel was not sampled.

2.4.73 Channel 20105 cut a yellowish-grey silty clay (20100) on the east side, which was up to 0.74m thick on the west, thinning as it ran east. Here it overlay yellow and grey gravel (20106), which was not bottomed. The gravel is interpreted as a Pleistocene deposit in the valley of the river Bourne, overlain by a floodplain deposit (20100).

2.4.74 A second channel (20101) was found to the east, also cutting 20106 and 20100. This channel was 3.65m wide and 0.76m deep, with steep sides curving in to a flattish base. There were four fills, the sequence (bottom to top) being 20102, 20103, 20204 and 20109.

2.4.75 The lowest fill (20102) was a yellowish-grey clayey silt, similar to the natural through which the channel was cut, and this was thickest at the sides (up to 0.78m).

2.4.76 It was overlain in the centre by 20103, a deposit of black organic material up to 0.5m thick, but generally around 0.35m thick, indicating slow accumulation and peat formation. A sequence of column and incremental samples were taken for environmental remains and these showed that waterlogged plant and insect remains were well-preserved (Volume 6,

Section 13.4). A waterlogged twig from this layer gave a date range of cal. AD 1670–1940 (SUERC-76048 (GU4512); 116 ±35 yrs BP), with a 62% chance that the date lies after AD 1800.

2.4.77 This was in turn overlain by layer 20104, another layer of yellowish-grey clayey silt including sandstone fragments, which extended eastwards beyond the limits of the cut, and was up to 0.44m deep in the centre of the trench. This suggests a phase of high energy flooding, depositing alluvium over and beyond the cut.

2.4.78 This alluviation was followed by a layer of dark grey silt with much organic material (20109), representing another phase of slow accumulation in the hollow in the centre of the channel. A sequence of column and incremental samples were taken for environmental remains and these showed that waterlogged plant and insect remains were well-preserved (Volume 6, section 13.4). A waterlogged hazel nutshell and ivy seeds gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1640–1940 (SUERC-75174 (GU45041); 217 ±30 yrs BP).

2.4.79 This deposit was not obviously disturbed, but its surface had been exposed by the bulk stripping, and very small fragments of CBM found in the bulk soil sample show that there was some low-level contamination in the top.

2.5 Interpretation

WC1 haul road and SMS adjacent to the A21

2.5.1 Archaeological features were very rare in all the trenches excavated across the haul road and the SMS adjacent to A21 areas. The only dateable features included two post-medieval ditches, one each in the northern and southern parts of the SMS area. These probably represent part of the post-medieval field system that was in place prior to the previous dualling at this end of the A21.

2.5.2 Three man-made features were exposed towards the north-west end of the haul road central section. These included one probable ditch and two oval-shaped pits. The fills of each of these features contained numerous pieces of CBM, rusted iron nails and fragments of unidentified iron objects, which indicates that they were fairly modern in date.

2.5.3 A large area of modern disturbance was discovered in the central part of the northern SMS trench. This was probably created during the initial phase of dualling of the A21. The presence of modern cables indicates that it was backfilled very recently. Close by, linear feature 633 was aligned with a disused cable pole and included the modern glass and brick in its backfill, suggesting that it too was probably a 20th-century service trench.

2.5.4 Three undated pits were found in the southern SMS trench. Although no finds were recovered, one (622) contained charcoal, though there was no evidence of *in situ* burning.

2.5.5 Most of the soil marks in the haul road and SMS trenches were natural features, though most were sealed by the subsoil (B-Horizon) layer. Three features in the haul road central section were hand-excavated as they appeared to be fairly regular in plan, but all were found to have very irregular profiles and sterile fills indicating that they were tree throws. Another, similar feature in the haul road south section contained a layer of charcoal which may have been created by tree clearance. In the same trench, feature 608 may have been a gully, though it was heavily truncated, and its interpretation remains uncertain.

WC1 Pond

2.5.6 Two trenches were excavated in the western part of IA1 to mitigate the archaeology in advance of the construction of a flood compensation area to alleviate excess rain water running off from the road. The excavated area was split in two because of an existing watermain that extended across the area.

2.5.7 One fire-pit (673) was uncovered. This feature was of the type observed in other sites along the scheme and this was the most north-easterly example. The function of these pits is unclear, and they may relate to charcoal production, perhaps for iron production and smithing sites that are well represented in the High Weald. This feature was not dated, but radiocarbon dates from other examples indicate that they were in use in the Iron Age and the medieval periods.

2.5.8 Four other pits were found, three (654, 658 and 686) were *c* 1.5m across and one (666) was slightly smaller. Pit 658 contained one fresh, worked flint tool, though it was not closely datable. None of the other pits contained finds, though pits 686 and 666 contained burnt material. A lack of *in situ* burning evidence suggests that these were not fire-pits.

2.5.9 Two probable postholes (680 and 682) and one probable stakehole (664) were identified but did not contain finds. While the stakehole was isolated, the postholes were located as a pair only 2.5m apart.

2.5.10 Four ditches or gullies were discovered in the eastern half of the pond. Three appeared to be field boundaries, probably of fairly recent date. A short gully section (668) was truncated and its purpose was unclear.

2.5.11 Most soil marks in the pond trenches proved to be natural features. These varied between geological features (eg 681) and tree-throw holes. The latter tended to have irregular plans and profiles, though some were more regular in shape. Although none of these features contained dateable finds, they suggest that much of the area was forested, perhaps from the early Holocene until quite recently. Small amounts of charcoal in several tree-throw holes may indicate indirect evidence for intentional tree clearance, though it may also be residual material incorporated by tree-rooting or worm action.

Organic deposits

2.5.12 Borehole information from the first phase of test-pitting (TPS 1–15) established that an organic deposit existed below the contaminated ground in the centre of the western pond, centred on TP5 and TP8, and with a probable continuation in TP6 and TP7. To clarify the potential of the deeply buried organic deposit, the excavation of further test pits SC4–6 was monitored, and an additional test-pit (called OA1) was dug near to TP5 specifically to examine this deposit.

2.5.13 Test-pits SC1, 2 and 3 were dug prior to the archaeological monitoring on Monday 22nd July 2016. These test pits lay south-west of those in which the previous borehole investigation had suggested that the organic deposits were most obvious, and monitoring showed that the organic deposits were more widely spread.

2.5.14 One further test-pit (OA1) was dug specifically by OA between the location of earlier test-pits TP5 and TP8 to recover some of the organic deposit to assess whether this was preserved to merit further investigation. Test-pit OA1 contained 1.4m of redeposited modern material (696), overlying 0.8m of alluvium equivalent to that in SC4, SC5 and SC6 (697). Below this was an organic deposit (698) some 0.6m thick overlying the sandy gravel (699). This

consisted of a humic clay with peaty lenses and wood. It also included a significant proportion of gravel, so it was not possible to recover an intact sample in this test-pit. Sufficient material was, however, recovered to demonstrate that the organic preservation was good, and that the potential for environmental information from waterlogged plant remains, and most probably pollen, was high.

2.5.15 After the test-pitting phases were complete, two trenches were excavated across the area of organic layers revealing two channels. Trench 2 revealed most of the depositional sequence within the exposed northern part of channel 20009/20105, and trench 1 was located to the south. The earliest context appeared to start with a significant deposit of material (20008), very similar to the natural, aligning the eastern edge of the channel, perhaps indicating deposition by erosion of the side at a time of low flow. Overlying this, layer 20007 had the character of a fluvial deposit of moderate flow, in that it included lenses of sandstone and some organic material. The character of layer 20006, following 20007, suggested accumulation in relatively slow-moving water. The concentration of wood close to the edge of the channel indicated driftwood that had stranded in the shallow water. This was followed by two thin layers of clay, 20005 and 20004, both probably representing flooding and fluvial deposition close to the edge of the active channel. Layers 20003 and 20002 overlay 20004 and likely represent deposition of fluvial sediments above the level of permanent water level, although the blueish-grey colour of layer 20002, and the preservation of occasional organic material within it, indicates that this was under water for much of the time at the margins of the channel basin.

2.5.16 Environmental samples from lower layer 20007 (a *Quercus* acorn cup) and secondary layer 20008 (a twig with buds) from channel 20009 gave radiocarbon dates of cal. AD 1050–1270 and cal. AD 1220–1390 respectively, indicating that the channel was silting up with organic-rich sediments during the medieval period.

2.5.17 In contrast to channel 20009/20105, a more complete sequence was identified in channel 20101. The fills reflect the deposition of eroded material once the original erosive force of the water creating the channel had ceased (layer 20102), followed by a phase of slow deposition under standing water represented by organic layer 20103. This appeared to have been followed either by a reactivation of the channel or by flooding, which deposited eroded natural from upslope (layer 20104), following which there was a further phase of slow accumulation in standing water (layer 20109).

2.5.18 Channel 20101 contained two clearly separated phases of well-preserved organic deposition. An environmental sample (*Quercus* acorn) from lower layer 20103 provided a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 1678–1940 and a second sample (*Corylus* nutshell and *Ranunculus* seeds) from the uppermost layer 20109 gave a radiocarbon date of AD 1640–1940.

2.5.19 The uppermost deposits recorded in channel 20101 was organic, so bulk stripping had clearly removed all of sealing alluvium from this channel. The uppermost deposits in channel 20009/20105 were cleaner and may represent the start of alluviation sealing this channel, but no deposits were seen that overlay the edge of the channel cut, so the interpretation of these fills remains uncertain. For both channels, it is not clear whether the full depth of the channel was seen, and both may have been truncated by the later modern disturbance that led to backfilling with modern material. The maximum depth of made ground recorded was 1.7m, although this depth of made ground was only recorded in one of the test-pits. CBM was

recorded in the bulk sample from deposit 20109, and this may have derived from the base of this modern disturbance.

2.5.20 The extent of the organic deposits is uncertain, as the test pits were not dug for this purpose. Nevertheless, the test-pits that did record organic deposits should give an approximate plan of the occurrence of channels. If the evidence of the test-pits in which organic deposits have previously been identified is accurate, it would suggest that channel 20101 can be traced south-south-eastwards for at least 15m. To the north, this channel was visible in the stripped surface after bulk excavation curving slightly north-eastwards but was not visible north of a temporary haul route visible in the photograph. Channel 20009/20105 appears to have run along the western edge of the trench and may have continued westwards towards the present course of the Bourne. The distribution of test-pits with organic remains would suggest a curving outline, widest just south of Trench 2, whose edge ran south-westwards and north-westwards.

2.5.21 It is clear that channel 2009/20105 was the principal waterway in the medieval period, and may have continued to flow in the post-medieval period, while 20101 was a minor tributary that was primarily of post-medieval date.

2.6 Conclusions

WC1 Pond

2.6.1 The trenching confirmed the presence of well-preserved environmental remains, including waterlogged plant and insect remains, and assessment and analysis have also demonstrated the survival of preserved pollen.

2.6.2 Radiocarbon dates have established the medieval date of the silting of one of the channels, and has confirmed the post-medieval date of the other, smaller channel. The duration of waterlogged deposition has been established by the dating of the earliest and latest exposed waterlogged deposits represented in each sequence.

2.6.3 Analysis of the waterlogged plant and insect remains from the medieval waterlogged deposits was undertaken, together with pollen analysis (see volume 6 sections 13.4, 6 and 17), but due to the relatively recent date of the deposits in the other channel, these were not considered sufficiently significant to merit more detailed examination.

2.6.4 The medieval channel has allowed the examination of the environment over at least a couple of centuries within the medieval period, in other words an environmental succession within the channel. This has demonstrated not only the local and wider environment, but has included evidence of domestic activity in the close vicinity, probably upstream (see volume 6, section 17). This is most likely to derive from Bournemill, which is documented evidence from the late 14th century, and the environmental evidence probably provides indirect evidence for occupation at least a century earlier than this. Of even greater significance is the dating of charred seeds of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta)* to the 14th century, as this crop has not been reliably identified in the medieval period in Britain previously. For a fuller consideration of this, see volume 6, section 13 and Allen (2021).

2.7 IA1 context inventory

WC1 Haul road south

Area description		Total area (ha)	-
Site forms a sub-L-shaped trench located on the south-western side of the A21 Pembury Road, just north of a side-road/trackway that cuts through May's Wood (TQ 6012 4460). The site slopes very gently in a south-easterly direction.		Avg. depth (m)	0.37
		Width (m)	4–8
		Length (m)	*c* 100

Contexts

Context no.	Type	width x length	depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
225	Cut of tree-throw	-	0.25	Tree-throw with yellow/brown silty sand and roots	-	-
226	Cut of tree-throw	-	-	Tree-throw with brown silty sand	-	-
227	Cut of tree-throw	-	0.3	Tree-throw with grey/brown sandy silt	-	-
600	Cut of natural	0.47 x 1.1	0.15	Probable animal burrow	-	-
601	Animal burrow	1.10	0.15	Ovoid to irregular natural feature. Moderately firm dark greyish-brown clayey silt, light brown mottling, rare sub-angular mud stone pebbles (2%).	-	-
602	Tree Bowl	1.0 x 3.37	0.28	Natural irregular shaped feature, flat bottom, gentle sloped sides. Moderately firm greyish-brown mottled pale brown (10%), slightly clayey silt.	-	-
603	Tree Root	0.5 x 0.7	0.12	Flat bottom with straight steep sides. Natural disturbance, possibly from tree root. Moderately firm brownish-grey clayey silt with dark brown mottles (10%).	-	-
604	Animal Burrow	0.86 x 1.06	0.70	Natural feature, sub ovoid, sides steeply slope with a convex base. Friable light brown grey sandy silt.	-	-
605	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	Worked flint	-
606	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
607	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
608	Cut of gully	1.35	0.30	Concave base and a moderately steep concave sides. Possible terminus of ditch. Aligned east to west.	-	-
609	Fill of 608	1.35	0.30	Only fill of 608. Moderately firm, dark brown clayey silt. Rare sub-angular large dark grey mud stone pebbles.	-	-

610	Animal Burrow	1.70	-	Animal burrow, possibly associated with small tree throw. Moderately firm light brown clayey silt, trace of fine sand, common black concretions (Mg/Fe) and pale brown mottling.	-	-

WC1 Haul road central		
Area description	**Total area (ha)**	0.11
Site forms a narrow linear trench located on the south-western side of the A21	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.47
	Width (m)	8.3
	Length (m)	143.65

Contexts

Context no.	Type	width x length (m)	depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
605	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
606	Layer	-	0.15–0.35	Subsoil	-	-
607	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
611	Fill of tree throw 612	-	0.50	Only fill of tree bole 612. Friable grey brown sandy silt. Rare charcoal and stone inclusions.	-	-
612	Cut of tree throw	1.12 x 2.26	0.50	Tree bole. Sub ovoid, shallow slopes and irregular base.	-	-
613	Cut of tree throw	1.36 x 3.21	0.44	Cut of tree bole. Irregular shape with several vertical breaks, uneven sides.	-	-
614	Fill of tree throw 613	-	0.44	Only fill of tree bole 613. Friable brown clayey sand. Occasional sandstone inclusions.	-	-
615	Cut of tree throw	0.54 x 1.94	0.33	Cut of tree bole. Ovoid shape with concave base and irregular shaped sides.	-	-
616	Fill of tree throw 615	-	0.33	Only fill of tree bole 615. Friable brown clayey sand. Occasional sandstone inclusions.	-	-
617	Ditch	1.85 x 5.0+	-	Cut of linear features. Friable dark brown sandy clay. CBM and Metal inclusions.	Metal, CBM	modern
618	Pit	0.77 x 0.86	-	Pit with friable dark brown sandy clay. CBM and metal inclusions. No fill number assigned.	Metal, CBM	modern

619	Pit	1.30 x 1.69	-	Fill of 617 Friable dark brown sandy clay. CBM, metal, and organic inclusions. Possible modern midden.	Metal, CBM	modern

WC1 SMS adjacent to the A21 and haul road north section		
Area description	**Total area (ha)**	0.4065
Site consists of two trenches adjacent to the A21 Pembury Road, and the northern section of the haul road trench just to the south (TQ 60000 44680).	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
	Width (m)	7.0–20.0
	Length (m)	336.0

Contexts

Context no.	Type	width x length (m)	depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
605	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil: friable, dark grey/brown, slightly clayey silt	-	-
606	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil (B-horizon): firm, brown with mottled light brown clay silt	-	-
607	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: firm, light brown/yellow, slightly silty clay	-	-
620	Cut of possible gully	0.2	0.04–0.10	Very shallow gully with irregular, concave base (may have been a furrow)	-	-
621	Fill of possible gully 620	-	0.04–0.10	Soft, fine-grained, white/light yellow silt	-	-
622	Cut of Pit	1.12 x 1.2	0.09	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and uneven base	-	-
623	Fill of pit 622	-	0.09	Firm, brown/grey sandy clay with occasional flint and small stones; includes sizeable quantity of charcoal	-	-
624	Cut of tree throw	0.6 x 0.7	0.12	Oval feature with pointed base and irregular sides	-	-
625	Cut of pit	0.8 x 2.02	0.15	Oval pit with poorly defined sides	-	-
626	Fill of pit 625	-	0.15	Firm, grey/brown silty/sandy clay with small stones and flecks of charcoal	-	-
627	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
628	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
629	Cut of ditch	2.2	0.60	Ditch with sloping sides and concave base	-	-

630	Fill of ditch 629	-	0.1	Basal fill: firm, light blue/grey sandy clay with yellow mottling	-	-
631	Fill of ditch 629	-	0.1	Middle fill: firm, blue/grey sandy clay with charcoal flecks and some sandstone	-	-
632	Fill of ditch 629	-	0.40	Top fill: firm, light blue/grey sandy clay with yellow mottling, charcoal flecks and occasional sandstone	-	-
633	Cut of linear	0.4	0.30	Linear feature with flat base and straight, sloping sides	-	-
634	Cut of ditch	1.3	0.14	Linear feature with concave base and gently sloping sides	-	-
635	Fill of ditch 634	-	0.14	Firm, light blue/grey sandy clay with yellow/brown mottling and occasional charcoal	-	-
636	Cut of tree throw	0.9 x 1.7	0.12	Irregular oval feature with uneven base	-	-
637	Fill of tree throw 636	-	0.14	Firm, light blue/grey sandy clay with yellow/brown mottling, and occasional charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments	-	-

WC1 pond							
Area description						**Total**	–
Located at the north-west end of the A21 scheme. Area stripped prior to the construction of a pond. Main features in the area were pits with burnt material and numerous tree-throw holes and other natural features indicating the presence of a wooded area here.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
						Width (m)	–
						Length (m)	–
Contexts							
Context no.	**Type**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**D (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
605	Topsoil		1.80	0.22	Topsoil in Area IA2. Friable dark greyish-brown, slightly clayey silt.	-	-
606	Subsoil		1.80	0.35	Subsoil. Moderately firm brown, mottled light brown (10%) clayey silt.	-	-

607	Natural				Firm light brownish-yellow mottled pale yellow (25%), occasional iron (Fe), concretions (5%).	-	-
638	Fill of 640				Fill of cut 640. Loose black with very frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
639	Fill of 640				Fill of cut 640. Firm brick red/orange fire effected clay.	-	-
640	Cut of irregular linear				Pyrotechnical installation/burnt out hedge or fence line.	-	-
641	Fill of 643?				Probable fill of cut 643. Loose black with very frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
642	Fill of 643?				Probable fill of cut 643. Firm brick red/orange fire effected clay.	-	-
643	Cut of irregular linear				Pyrotechnical installation/burnt out hedge or fence line.	-	-
644	Fill of 645?				Fill of cut 64645? Firm brick red/orange fire effected clay.	-	-
645	Cut of Linear				Pyrotechnical installation/burnt out hedge or fence line.	-	-
646	Fill of 648?				Fill of cut 648. Firm brick red/orange fire effected clay.	-	-
647	Fill of 648?				Primary fill of 648. Plastic grey sandy clay.	-	-
648	Cut of feature				Irregular ovoid feature.	-	-
649	Fill of 651?				Fill of cut 651. Firm brick red/orange fire effected clay.	-	-
650	Fill of 651?				Primary fill of 651. Plastic grey sandy clay.	-	-
651	Cut of feature				Irregular ovoid feature.	-	-
652	Fill of 643				Primary fill of 643. Plastic grey sandy clay.	-	-
653	Fill of 645				Primary fill of 645. Plastic grey sandy clay.	-	-
654	Cut of Pit				Cut of bottom part of pit. Rounded shape. Flat base and slightly concave sides.	-	-
655	Fill of Pit 654				Only fill of pit 654. Very hard brownish-yellow silty clay. Rare stone inclusions.	-	-
656	Cut of Pit	0.70	0.90	0.15	Cut of pit. Irregular shape with sloping base to west and sloping sides.	-	-

657	Fill of Pit 656	0.70	0.90	0.15	Only fill of pit 656. Firm mottled light red to dark brown heat affected clay. Charcoal fleck inclusions.	-	-
658	Cut of Pit	1.65	1.25	0.27	Cut of pit. Sub-circular shape with flat base and moderate sloping sides.	Flint	-
659	Fill of Pit 658	0.94	1.30	0.24	Only fill of pit 658. Plastic greyish-brown silty clay with manganese fleck and chunks inclusions.	Flint	-
660	Cut of Ditch	1.02	0.95	0.20	Cut of ditch. Linear shape, flat base and moderately sloping sides.	-	-
661	Fill of ditch 660	1.02	0.95	0.20	Only fill of ditch 660. Firm light yellowish-grey silty sand. Moderate sandstone and occasional quartz, iron stone, manganese inclusions.	-	-
662	Cut of a Linear		1.25	0.38	Cut of a linear feature. Linear shape, concave base and medium sloping sides.	-	-
663	Fill of linear 662		1.25	0.38	Only fill of linear 662. Soft grey clayey silt with occasional manganese inclusions.	-	-
664	Cut of Post hole	0.15	0.15	0.16	Cut of post hole. Sub-circular shape, concave base and steep/vertical sides.	-	-
665	Fill of post hole 664	0.15	0.15	0.16	Only fill of post hole 664. Firm grey silty clay. Small stone inclusions.	-	-
666	Cut of Pit	0.50	0.50	0.08	Cut of pit containing evidence of burning. Sub-circular, flat base and steep sides.	-	-
667	Fill of pit 666	0.50	0.50	0.08	Only fill of pit 666. Loose dark greyish-brown silty clay. Patches of white sandy clay and charcoal inclusions.	-	-
668	Cut of Linear	0.24	0.24	0.08	Possible Linear cut. Sub-circular shape. Flat Base and moderate sides.	-	-
669	Fill of linear 668	0.24	0.24	0.08	Fill of linear 668. Firm greyish-brown silty clay. Degraded wood and small stone inclusions.	-	-
670	Cut of tree bole	1.24	0.42	0.12	Cut of tree bole. Almost linear shape. Concave base and uneven/moderate sides. No fill number assigned, fill is firm, greyish-brown silty clay with charcoal, degraded wood and burnt stone inclusions.	-	-
671	Cut of Linear	1.01	1.16	0.33	Cut of a field boundary. Linear aligned east to west. Concave base and moderate slope.	-	-

672	Fill of linear 671	1.01	1.16	0.33	Only fill of linear 671. Firm greyish-brown sand clay with 10% silt. Manganese and iron panning inclusions.	-	-
673	Cut of Pit	0.52	0.52	0.06	Cut of burnt pit with clay cap. Sub-circular shape. Flat base and steep sides.	-	-
674	Fill of Pit 673	0.52	0.52	0.05	Primary fill of pit 673. Loose dark greyish-black sooty silt. Charcoal and stone inclusions.	-	-
675	Fill of Pit 673	0.52	0.52	0.02	Upper clay cap of burnt pit 673. Firm light greyish-white sandy clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	-	-
676	Cut for Rooting	2.50	1.50	0.25	Rooting. Irregular shape aligned north-east to south-west. Pointed base and moderate to steep sides. Fill is a mid to hard greyish-light yellow silty clay manganese and frequent pebble inclusions.	-	-
677	Tree bole cut	2	0.50		Tree bole cut. Curvilinear shape (unexcavated). Fill is firm light greyish-brown silty clay.	-	-
678	Cut of Tree bole	0.45	0.40		Tree bole cut. Sub-oval (unexcavated). Fill is firm greyish-brown silty clay.	-	-
679	Cut of Tree Bole	0.60	0.50	0.20	Tree bole cut. Oval shaped with a tapered rounded base and moderate to steep sides.	-	-
680	Bowl shaped cut	0.26	0.25	0.07	Small bowl shaped cut. Oval shape with concave base, moderate sides.	-	-
681	Cut of Tree Throw	1.65	0.70		Tree throw cut (unexcavated). Irregular oval shape. Fill is a whitish grey silty sand. Small manganese flecks inclusions.	-	-
682	Cut of Tree Throw	0.25	0.20	0.035	Cut of an oval shaped tree throw. Concave base and concave sides. Fill is a Mid to hard light grey silty clay. Moderate charcoal and stone (some burnt) inclusions.	-	-
683	Fill of 680	0.26	0.25	0.07	Only fill of cut 680. Firm dark greyish-brown silty clay with white and pink patches. Occasional charcoal and frequent burn and unburnt limestone inclusions.	-	-
684	Cut of Tree Throw	0.50	0.60	0.04	Irregular shaped cut. Flattish base and gentle sloped sides. Fill is a friable orangey brown sandy clay. Frequent	-	-

					charcoal fragment and sandstone inclusions.		
685	Cut of Tree Bole	0.60	0.70		Cut of an unexcavated tree bole. Sub-oval in shape. Fill is a firm light greyish-brown silty clay.	-	-
686	Cut of Pit	1.50	1.60	0.28	Cut of burnt pit. Rounded shape. Flat base and gradual sloping sides.	-	-
687	Fill of Pit 686	1.50	1.60	0.15	Upper fill of pit 686. Mid to hard grey silty clay. Frequent sandstone and charcoal inclusions.	-	-
688	Fill of Pit 686	1.30	1.30	0.12	Lower fill of pit 686. Mid to hard light greyish-yellow silty clay. Moderate charcoal and stone inclusions.	-	-
689	Fill of TPW4			0.60	Lower fill of TPW4. Loose greyish-blue sandy gravel. River bed deposit.	-	-
690	Fill of TPW5			2.10	Upper fill of TPW5. Plastic mottled greyish-blue silty clay. Alluvial deposit.	-	-
691	Fill of TPW5			0.40	Lower fill of TPW5. Loose greyish-brown gravel. Organic lenses. River bed deposit	-	-
692	Fill of TPW6			0.20	Upper fill of TPW6. Stiff plastic brownish-yellowish-red silty clay. Redeposited clay.	-	-
693	Fill of TPW6			0.20	Middle fill of TPW6. Friable dark brown humic sandy silty clay. Buried topsoil.	-	-
694	Fill of TPW6			1.80	Middle fill of TPW6. Stiff mottled yellowish-blue silty clay. Alluvial deposit.	-	-
695	Fill of TPW6			0.50	Lower fill of TPW6. Loose grey silty sand. Organic lenses and wood fragment inclusions.	-	-
696	Fill of TPOA1			1.40	Fill of TPOA1. Firm mixed reworked clay/soil building rubble. Brick and concrete inclusions. Made ground.	-	-
697	Fill of TPOA1			0.80	Same as 690, 694 and 700	-	-
698	Fill of TPOA1			0.60	Spongy dark brown fibrous clay. Organic layers. Wood fragment inclusions.	-	-
699	Fill of TPOA1				Fill of TPOA1. Loose mid grey blue sandy gravel. River bed high velocity deposit.	-	-
700	Fill of TPW4			1.20	Fill of TPW4. Plastic mottled greyish--blue and orange silty clay. Alluvium.	-	-

WC1 pond: channel excavation						
Area description						
Located at the north-west end of the A21 scheme. Flood compensation area previously stripped to a depth of 1.5m, then two trenches dug east-west to find and sample organic deposits. Two channels located, both containing organic deposits.						
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**W x L (m)**	**D (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
20001	Floodplain deposit		0.85+	Mottled light grey and light brownish-yellow silty sand. Cut by 20009	-	-
20002	Fill of 20009		0.34	Light blueish-grey silty clay, occ. organic material	-	-
20003	Fill of 20009		0.3	Mottled light grey and brown silty clay, frequent manganese	-	-
20004	Fill of 20009		0.13	Light greenish-blue clay	-	-
20005	Fill of 20009		0.13	Light blueish-grey clay	-	-
20006	Fill of 20009		0.32	Dark grey silty clay, frequent wood and other organic material, some stone lenses (**sample 1166 radiocarbon dated**)	-	cal. AD 1050–1390
20007	Fill of 20009		0.26+	Blueish-grey clay, some organic material and stone lenses (**sample 1170 radiocarbon dated**)	-	cal. AD 1220–1270
20008	Fill of 20009		0.7	Mottled light yellow and blue silty clay. A slump of natural	-	-
20009	Western channel cut	5.4+	1.1+	Sloping side (45 degrees) on east, not bottomed. Extends westwards.	-	-
20100	Floodplain deposit		0.74	Yellowish-grey silty clay, overlying natural gravel. Cut by 20101 and 20105	-	-
20101	Eastern channel cut	1.9+ x 3.64	0.98	Steeply sloping sides curving to a flattish bottom	-	-
20102	Fill of 20101		0.78	Yellowish-grey clayey silt	-	-
20103	Fill of 20101		0.36	Black waterlogged organic peat (**sample 1176 radiocarbon dated**)	-	cal. AD 1678–1940
20104	Fill of 20101		0.44	Yellowish-grey clayey silt with white and yellow sandstone inclusions	-	-
20105	Western channel cut	8.0	1.0+	Sloping eastern side, not bottomed	-	-
20106	Natural		0.28+	Yellow and grey gravel	-	-
20107	Fill of 20105		1.0+	Yellowish-grey clayey silt	-	-
20109	Fill of 2010		0.35+	Dark grey silt with organic material **(sample 1174 radiocarbon dated**)	-	cal. AD 1640–1940

3 IA2 (WOODLAND CREATION AREA 2 WITHOUT BRICKWORKS AND CLAY PITS)

3.1 Project details and background

3.1.1 IA2 comprised five areas, or stages of work, that were subject to archaeological mitigation (Fig. 8). These included the former 19th/20th-century brickworks, the claypits, WC2 haul road, WC2A laydown area, and WC2 north.

3.1.2 The very north-west end of IA2 (between WC1 north and WC1) was excluded from archaeological monitoring in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013), though WC2 north, WC2 haul road, and WC2A laydown area were all designated for archaeological SMS excavation. The results of the work in each of these individual areas has previously been reported on (OA 2015e; 2015f; 2015g; 2015h).

3.1.3 The requirements for archaeological mitigation were set out in the DAMD v.6 (WSP 2015) and expanded upon in the WSI v.6 (OA 2015a).

3.1.4 The line of the WC2 haul road was stripped and characterised in December 2014. In January 2015, the laydown area immediately south-west of the haul road was also stripped and recorded. This was subsequently used as a temporary storage area to the west of the haul route and the existing A21. Machine soil-stripping in WC2 north began on 11th June 2015, though due to interruptions the archaeological work was completed by late July 2015. WC2 north was separated from the haul road to its south-west by a *c* 2m-wide unstripped area.

3.2 Location

3.2.1 IA2 stretched continuously along the south-west side of the current route of the A21 for *c* 370m from TQ 60218 44554 in the north-west to TQ 60499 44315.

3.3 Scope of works

3.3.1 WC2 north was located just south-west of the current A21 carriageway, at the north-western end of the site. The trench was roughly rectangular, measuring *c* 96m long and 35m, and covering *c* 0.27ha.

3.3.2 Archaeological monitoring of the WC2 haul road was carried out from the south-east end of the site up to the north-west edge, adjacent to WC2 north. The section of haul route beyond this part crossed an area designated as requiring no further archaeological mitigation in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013). The trench measured about 4m wide. The south-eastern half of this trench revealed features associated with the brickworks and claypits. Therefore, this report is concerned with features primarily found in the north-western half of WC2 haul road.

3.3.3 As WC2 laydown area was only to be used by the scheme for materials storage, it was not otherwise impacted by construction (Fig. 9). As a result, stripping was limited to the area required for the laying down of geotextiles and foundations for hard-standing. Any archaeology below the depth of the topsoil was recorded but preserved *in situ*.

3.3.4 The topsoil was not removed from the remainder of this area (WC2A south) and, instead, geotextile was laid directly upon the existing ground surface for materials to be placed on top. There was no need for archaeological mitigation of this area.

3.4 Results

WC2 North

3.4.1 An elongated feature 1911, 3.66m long and 1.14m wide, was located in the northern part of the area (Fig. 9). It was the most visible part of what was suspected to be a larger, linear feature, but which was not well defined to plan. When excavated, however, it proved to be very shallow (0.09m) with an irregular profile, comprising steep, asymmetrical sides and an undulating base. Its single fill (1910) was a friable, fine-grained, pale greyish-and greyish-yellow silty clay with very rare small flecks of charcoal. The feature is interpreted as consisting of one or more tree-throw holes.

3.4.2 South-east of 1911, five small circular soil marks were exposed. These formed an irregular line on a NNE alignment, and thus could have represented a row of postholes.

3.4.3 Feature 1905 was irregularly oval in plan, measuring 0.22m by 0.5m. It had asymmetrical sides (steep and gently sloping) and a very irregular, undulating base. Its single fill was a friable, 0.1m thick, light greyish-brown silty clay with no inclusions. This feature was very similar to numerous other small tree-throw holes excavated in other parts of the A21 Dualling Scheme.

3.4.4 Feature 1907 was circular in plan and 0.18m in diameter. Its profile was regular with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a slightly undulating base (Fig. 11, Section 1402). The single fill was a friable, light yellowish-brown silty clay, 0.06m thick, with occasional, small, rounded pieces of sandstone. The feature was possibly a pit.

3.4.5 Feature 1909 was amorphous in plan and measured 0.41m by 0.21m. It had asymmetrical sides and a very irregular, undulating base. Its single fill was a friable, light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. This feature was interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

3.4.6 The two other features in this line were not excavated, as they appeared to be amorphous in plan, and their fills were very similar to those of the tree-throw holes described above.

3.4.7 South of these features, the natural was covered by deposit 1904. This was a thick (0.5m), firm, light blueish-grey clay with light brown patches and no inclusions. The feature was 11.3m wide and 12.6m long, and continued south-westwards beyond the area. One sondage was excavated to investigate its profile, character and date. This showed that 1904 was a geological formation with diffuse edges, whose fill continued below the surrounding natural.

3.4.8 East of 1904, a linear feature (orientated north-east/south-west) proved to be very shallow (0.03m), with an irregular profile and a sterile fill. It was probably of natural origin and therefore not fully recorded.

3.4.9 Between 15m and 30m south of this feature were six, irregular, elongated oval or linear features, most of which shared a roughly north-east alignment. These were also believed to be of natural origin, although one of them contained a piece of late 19th-century pottery.

3.4.10 A longer feature was traced for 13.3m, extending south-westwards beyond the investigated area. This was tested by a machine-cut intervention, which proved it to have an irregular profile, suggestive of a natural origin.

3.4.11 A line of modern postholes (the fills of which contained pieces of concrete) was also found on the same alignment as the above crossing the site, and these were not investigated.

3.4.12 South of the modern postholes, and extending into the western baulk of the area, was feature 2319. It was sub-oval in plan, 1.04m wide and extended 0.74m from the baulk (Plate 1). The profile was concave, with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base, and it was 0.2m deep. There was only one fill, a firm light greyish-brown silty clay with manganese flecking. It was probably a pit but had suffered from bioturbation.

3.4.13 At the south-eastern corner of WC2 north, a series of thin NNW/SSE lines, 0.03m wide, were found cut into the natural geology. These were numbered collectively as feature 2324. Some of them had slightly pointed bases, while others had more of a U-shaped profile, some were closely spaced, and some were spaced more than 1m apart. Most of the lines were so shallow and diffuse that no clear pattern was evident among them. They may have been the wheel-ruts of an old trackway, or perhaps plough marks.

3.4.14 Just north-west of 2324, close to its western edge, was ditch 2306. This extended from the edge of the A21 for at least 12m on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured 0.8m wide and 0.14m deep (Plate 24). It had a flat base and concave sloping sides with sharp breaks of slope (Fig. 11, Section 1802). Its single fill was a firm, light, brownish-yellow silty clay with manganese flecking, very similar to the surrounding natural. This ditch petered out at the south-east end and appears to have been truncated either by agricultural activity, or perhaps by the original construction works associated with the current A21 carriageway.

3.4.15 At the very south-east edge of the area, ditch 2316 was intermittently visible for 30m on a north-east/south-west alignment. Three slots (2317, 2308, and 2314) were excavated through it (Plates 25 and 26) and showed that the feature was between 0.7 and 1.2m wide and around 0.2m deep with a concave base and gradually sloping sides. Cut 2317 was excavated through the terminus, which proved to be tapering. All the excavated slots had a single fill of firm silty clay, varying in colour from greyish-brown to yellowish-brown, with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill of cut 2308 contained a 20th-century bottle, while 2314 produced an animal bone. The continuation of this ditch (cut 224) was also observed in the WC2 haul route (see below).

3.4.16 A group of probable pits were located just north of ditch 3216. Feature 2312 was aligned north-east/south-west. It was 3m long, 2m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig. 11, Section 1804). Its single fill was a friable silty clay with a mottled light grey and yellowish-brown silty clay with manganese flecks. It was interpreted as a pit.

3.4.17 Pit 2310, located north-west of 2312, was a sub-circular feature, measuring 0.9m by 0.85. It was 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 11, Section 1804). The only fill was a firm light greyish- brown silty clay, with sub-angular/rounded stones and some chalk fragments. It was also stained by manganese flecking.

3.4.18 Feature 2304 was located to the east of feature 2310. It was sub-oval in plan, measured 0.8 by 0.6m and was only 0.05m deep, with gently sloping sides and a broad flat base (Plate 27). Its single fill 2305 was a firm, light yellowish-grey silty clay with charcoal flecks. This was probably man-made, perhaps a truncated pit.

3.4.19 East of 2304, and just north of ditch 2316, was a small circular fire-pit (2321) (Plate 28). It had a diameter of 0.75m and was 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 10; Fig. 11, Section 1808). There were two fills. The lower fill, which was 0.07m thick, was a firm red clay, very rich in charcoal. A clear, orangey-red 'halo' around the edges of the feature indicated burning *in situ*. The burnt fill was overlain by a firm brownish-grey silty clay with a few small angular stones some 0.08m thick. An environmental sample was taken from the burnt deposit.

WC2 Haul Road

3.4.20 The north-western stretch of the haul road strip did not contain any of the large clay pits found in the south-east section. Here, six soil marks were uncovered, all of which cut the natural geology (Fig. 9). The northernmost feature was a very irregular shape that protruded from the northern trench edge. It contained crushed tarmac in its upper fill and was clearly modern and therefore not investigated further. Of the other five features, three were selected for investigation by hand.

3.4.21 To the south-east of the modern feature and another amorphous soil mark, a semi-circular feature was found extending south-west from the trench edge. This feature (220) was sectioned, and its profile proved to be very shallow and undulating. Its single light greyish-brown fill contained no finds or other inclusions, and it was cut by a modern ceramic land-drain. It may have represented a pit or tree-throw though its other half was not located in the WC2 laydown area.

3.4.22 Feature 228 was also semi-circular in plan, also extending from the southern edge of the haul road trench. It was 1.5m long and 0.3m deep, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides and a concave base. Its single fill 229 was loose, medium brownish-grey silty clay with patches of decayed organic material and contained fragments of mid-20th-century pottery. This was clearly a modern feature and possibly relates to the final phase of use of the brickworks.

3.4.23 The last of the investigated features was a linear orientated north-east/south-west. The feature was clearly a continuation of ditch 2316 found in WC2 north. Cut 224 was 0.36m wide and 0.36m deep with steep asymmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base. It was filled with two deposits, the upper of which was a friable, dark brownish-grey silty clay with frequent, moderately sorted sub-angular pieces of mudstone, 0.16m thick. The lower fill was 0.2m thick and consisted of greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds. An environmental sample was taken from the lower fill.

WC2 Laydown area

3.4.24 Most of this trench was characterised by the modern clay pits that extended south-west from their main area closer to the A21. The limit of the area of clay extraction appears to have been marked by ditch 705 (Fig. 9). This feature was orientated north-east/south-west. Ditch 705 ended with a bulbous terminal to the south-west. It was just over 1m wide and was traced for 13.7m, continuing north-eastwards into the line of the haul route. This part of the haul route was not planned, as it was sealed off due to contaminated water in a clay extraction pit.

3.4.25 Ditch 705 had symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and was filled with a friable, brownish-black sandy clay with a large quantity of waterlogged material (706; see Plate 29)

containing frequent modern waste and rubble, including pieces of leather, aluminium housewares, pieces of glass and ceramic, plastic, stone cobbles and modern CBM. As the fill was clearly modern, excavation was halted only partway down the ditch.

3.4.26 Feature 702 was found in the southern half of the trench and appears to have been a hearth or a small fire-pit, similar to features found elsewhere along the scheme. The feature was sub-circular, 1.6m long and 1.4m wide (Fig. 10). It was half-sectioned and found to be 0.3m deep with gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a slightly undulating base (Plate 30). The natural of the base was burnt to an orange-red to colour to a depth of 0.05m (Fig. 11, Section 106). The primary fill 701 was a friable, dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. A charcoal sample (1010) from this fill produced a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 1220–1300 (SUERC-74085 (GU44320R); 782 ±29 yrs BP). The primary fill was overlain by a thinner layer (703) of yellowish-brown clayey silt with well-sorted charcoal flecks. This upper fill may be interpreted as a gradual silting of the feature after it had gone out of use.

Claypits trench (*Features at the north-west end)*

3.4.27 Two features were found at the far north-western end of the claypits trench beyond the area of clay extraction, and potentially relate to some of the features discovered in the WC2 north, WC2 haul road and WC2A laydown trenches (Fig. 9).

3.4.28 The more northerly of the two features (2326) was a fire-pit with a burnt and reddened base. The feature was circular, measuring 1.45m east/west and 1.42m north/south, and was 0.23m deep (Fig. 10). It had vertical–steep, slightly concave sides which sharply transitioned to a flat base. The pit was filled by a firm, mottled yellow and pinkish-red sandy silty clay (2325) with occasional patches of charcoal, mainly around the edges of the feature. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

3.4.29 The more southerly feature was ditch 2328, which was orientated WSW/ENE. It was traced for 17.72m between the western edge of site and the edge of a claypit to the east. The ditch appears to have been truncated by the claypit, though it may originally have drained into it. A 1m, hand-dug intervention across ditch 2328 showed that it was 1.16m wide and 0.31m deep with sloping concave sides and a dished base cut into the natural clay. This feature was filled by 2327, a soft, light yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, fragments of mudstone and very occasional flecks of burnt clay. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The ditch was on a similar orientation to ditch 705 in the WC2 laydown area, though their alignments did not quite match.

3.5 Interpretation

Medieval (*13th century AD)*

3.5.1 Fire-pit 702 in the WC2 laydown area was the only archaeological feature in IA2 that was conclusively dated as pre-modern. It was similar in shape and size to other fire-pits found along the scheme and its base exhibited the scorched-red colour typical of these features. A sample of charcoal produced a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1220–1300 (SUERC-74085) indicating that it was in use during the 13th century AD. The pit was seemingly isolated, though the area was clearly heavily truncated by the claypits and other modern features that may have obscured further evidence of medieval activity.

Undated

3.5.2 Two other fire-pits were found in IA2, one (2321) in WC2 north and one (2326) at the northernmost end of the claypits trench. As with fire-pit 702, these were similar in size and shape to other features of this type, with evidence for *in situ* burning in their bases. Neither of these fire-pits were dated by finds or radiocarbon analysis. Initially, they were thought to be prehistoric, as other fire-pits along the scheme have proven to be of this date. However, their proximity to fire-pit 705 may suggest that these were contemporary, representing a discrete area of 13th-century activity.

3.5.3 Several ditches were found each of the trenches that may have been part of an earlier field boundary alignment or perhaps demarking a trackway. Three ditches (705, 2328, and 224/2316) were oriented WSW/ENE, while ditch 2306 was orientated NNW/SSE and its southerly alignment may have continued to bring it into contact with at least one of the other three ditches. Although these ditches were not dated, their character is similar to two field boundary ditches found in WC1 to the north-west (OA 2017), and may have been part of a similar, perhaps contemporary, field-system. It may also be significant that the line of modern postholes found in WC2 north was also on the same alignment as three of the ditches.

Modern

3.5.4 Alongside the posthole line in WC2 north, several other features were clearly modern and probably represent activity peripheral to the clay extraction pits, or with the original construction of the A21.

Natural features

3.5.5 The remaining features at the site all appear to be three-throw holes.

3.6 Conclusions

3.6.1 The three fire-pits discovered in the northern half of IA2 represent the most significant archaeology in IA2. Only one was securely dated to the 13th century AD; the other two may also be medieval, though it is possible that they are Iron Age, as with some of the other examples found along the scheme. The area has clearly suffered from the digging of the clay-extraction pits in the southern half of the site, which have almost certainly truncated any possible earlier remains. On their own, the fire-pits are not particularly significant features, but considered alongside the other examples of this feature type on the scheme, they offer an important opportunity to improve our understanding of the exploitation of local woodland resources for industrial purposes during the late prehistoric and medieval periods.

3.6.2 The field boundary ditches remain undated, though their presence should also be considered alongside other evidence for field-systems along the scheme.

3.7 IA2 context inventory

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">WC2 north</th></tr>
<tr><td>Area description</td><td>Total area (ha)</td><td>0.27</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Northern end of WC2 area designated for SMS, just west of the A21 carriageway. Thirty-eight soil marks exposed, of which 14 excavated and eight were probably of archaeological origin.</td><td>Avg. depth (m)</td><td>0.45</td></tr>
<tr><td>Width (m)</td><td>31–2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Length (m)</td><td>95.5</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Contexts</td></tr>
</table>

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1901	Topsoil	-	0.23–0.25	Friable, medium brownish-grey silty clay with occasional, mostly rounded and sub-rounded pieces of sandstone	-	-
1902	Subsoil	-	0.18–0.2	Friable, yellowish-brown silty clay with relatively frequent manganese stains and small-small/medium sized pieces of mostly sub-rounded sandstone	Worked flint	-
1903	Natural geology	-	> 1.0	Firm, patches of light greyish-yellow and light brownish-yellow with irregular stripes of very light grey silty clay and patches of coarse sand	-	-
1904	Geological deposit	> 8.9	0.5		-	-
1905	Cut of natural feature	0.5	0.06	Irregular, elongated oval with asymmetrical sides – northern steep, southern gently sloping, imperceptible breaks of slope and an undulating base	-	-
1906	Fill of natural feature	0.5	0.06	Friable, light greyish-brown silty clay with occasional manganese stains, no inclusions – single fill of 1905	-	-
1907	Cut of possible pit	0.18	0.06	Round in plan, with moderately7 steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope and an undulating base	-	-
1908	Fill of possible pit	0.18	0.06	Firm, light yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional well sorted small sized sandstones. Single fill of 1907	-	-
1909	Cut of natural feature	0.41	0.15	Amorphous in plan, asymmetrical and irregular sides, a sloping down, irregularly undulating base	-	-
1910	Fill of natural feature	0.41	0.15	Friable, light greyish-and light yellowish-brown silty clay with very occasional flecks of charcoal. Single fill of 1909	-	-
1911	Cut of natural features	3.66	0.09	Irregular linear in plan with steep sides and an undulating base	-	-
1912	Fill of natural feature	3.66	0.09	Firm, dark yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional manganese stains. Single fill of 1911	-	-
2301	Natural geology	-	-	A firm medium yellow clay, covering the whole area	-	-
2302	Subsoil	-	0.3	A friable light brown-grey clayey silt with small stone inclusions	Worked flint, glass	-
2303	Topsoil	-	0.2	A friable grey-brown silty clay with small stone inclusions	Worked flint	-
2304	Cut of possible pit	0.8 x 0.6	0.05	Sub-oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base	-	-
2305	Fill of possible pit	0.8 x 0.6	0.05	A firm medium to light yellowy grey silty clay with charcoal fleck inclusions	-	-
2306	Cut of ditch	0.8 x 20	0.14	Linear feature with a flat base and slightly concave sides	-	-
2307	Fill of ditch	0.8 x >20	0.14	A firm light brownish-yellow silty clay with moderate manganese flecks	-	-
2308	Cut of ditch	1.2	0.22	Linear feature with gradually sloping sides and a concave base	-	Modern
2309	Fill of ditch	1.2	0.22	A firm medium greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Glass bottle	Modern
2310	Cut of pit	0.9 x 0.7	0.12	Sub-circular pit with a concave base and moderately sloping sides	-	-
2311	Fill of pit	0.9 x 0.7	0.12	A firm light greyish-brown silty clay with small stone inclusions, both sub-rounded and sub-angular, manganese flecking	-	-
2312	Cut of pit	3 x 2.2	0.12	An elongated pit, with an uneven base and gently sloping sides	-	-
2313	Fill of pit	3 x 2.2	0.12	A friable light greyish-yellowy brown silty clay with manganese fleck inclusions	Worked flint	-

2314	Cut of ditch	0.8	0.24	Linear feature with sloping regular sides and a concave base	-	Modern
2315	Fill of ditch	0.8	0.24	A firm medium yellowy brown slightly silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks	Animal bone	Modern
2316	Group number – ditch	-	-	Group number for linear feature, cuts 2308, 2314, and 2317	Worked flint, glass	Modern
2317	Cut of ditch	0.7	0.17	Linear feature with a flat base and gradually sloping sides	-	Modern
2318	Fill of ditch	0.7	0.17	A firm light brownish-yellow silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	-	Modern
2319	Cut of possible pit	1.04 x 0.74	0.2	Sub-oval feature with a concave base and moderately sloping sides	-	-
2320	Fill of possible pit	1.04 x 0.74	0.2	A firm light greyish-brown silty clay with manganese flecks	-	-
2321	Cut of 'burning pit'	0.75 x 0.75	0.15	A circular feature with steep sides and a flat base. An orangey red halo (head exposed natural) around the edges	-	-
2322	Fill of 'burning pit'	0.75 x 0.75	0.08	A firm medium brownish-grey silty clay with some very small angular stones	-	-
2323	Fill of 'burning pit'	0.75 x 0.75	0.07	A firm red clay with heavy charcoal flecking	-	-
2324	Sondage	-	-	Sondage dug through potential features	-	-

WC2 Haul Road

Area description	Total area (ha)	0.19
Site forms a long, narrow linear trench located on the south-western side of the A21 Pembury Road, just south of a side-road/trackway that cuts through May's Wood (TQ 6030 4445).	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	4.5
	Length (m)	420

Contexts

Context no.	Type	width x length (m)	depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
220	Cut of gully	0.1	0.3	Modern field drain	Ceramic pipe	Modern
221	Fill of tree throw 220	-	0.3	Firm, grey/brown silty clay	-	-
222	Fill of tree throw 222	-	0.16	Friable, dark brown/grey silty clay; cuts ditch 224	-	-
223	Fill of 224	-	0.31	Firm, grey/brown silty clay	-	-
224	Cut of ditch	0.36	0.31	Steep-sided ditch with flat base; cut by tree throw 222	-	-
225	Natural feature	-	0.25	Probable tree throw, filled with friable, yellow/brown silty sand	-	-
226	Natural feature	-	-	Probable tree throw, filled with firm, brown silty sand	-	-
227	Natural feature	1.2 x 2.2	0.3	Irregular feature, probably a tree throw, filled with friable grey/brown sandy silt	-	-

228	Cut	1.5 x 1.5	0.3	Sub-circular pit with sloping sides and concave base	-	-
229	Fill of 228	-	0.3	Loose, brown/grey silty sand with black mottling	Clay pipe	Post-med./ modern

WC2A Laydown Area		
Area description	Total area (ha)	0.2
Site forms an irregular trench next to the haul road trench in WC2. The site is located on the south-western side of the A21 Pembury Road, just south of a side-road/trackway that cuts through May's Wood (TQ 6032 4442).	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	28.65
	Length (m)	110

Contexts

Context no.	Type	width x length (m)	depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
-	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil: friable, dark grey/brown, slightly clayey silt	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil (B-horizon): firm, mottled, light brown clay silt	-	-
-	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: firm, light brown/yellow, slightly silty clay	-	-
701	Fill of hearth 702	-	0.08	Friable, dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks (**sample 1010 radiocarbon dated**)	-	cal. AD 1220–1300
702	Cut of hearth	1.4 x 1.6	0.15	A small pit with sloping sides and a slightly undulating base that had been burnt an orange/red colour	-	13th century AD
703	Fill of hearth 702	-	0.07	Thin layer of yellow/brown clay silt with charcoal flecks	-	13th century AD
704	Burnt natural in base of hearth 702	-	0.04	See context 702 description	-	13th century AD
705	Cut of ditch	1.0	1.03	Friable, brown/black sandy clay with a large quantity of waterlogged material	-	20th century
706	Fill of ditch 705	-	1.03	Fill of modern ditch containing 20th-century material	Modern waste and rubble	20th century

WC2 Claypit trench							
Contexts							
Context	Type	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

2325	Fill of 2326	1.45	1.42	0.23	Firm mottled yellowish-brown/ pinkish red sandy silty clay with occ. Charcoal and burnt clay inclusions	-	-
2326	Burnt pit	1.45	1.42	0.23	Circular steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit with *in situ* scorching	-	-
2327	Fill of 2328	1.16	-	0.31	Soft light yellowish-brown silty clay with occ. charcoal flecks and v. occ. Burnt clay and mudstone	-	-
2328	Linear	1.16	-	0.31	North-east to south-west ditch with concave and convex sloping sides and dished base.	-	-

4 IA3 (WOODLAND CREATION AREAS 3, 4, 5 AND BALANCING POND 2)

4.1 Project details and background

4.1.1 This section details the work undertaken on the site of IA3, including subsidiary areas WC3, WC4, WC5a, WC5b and Balancing Pond 2. Previous reports have been produced that deal with these areas individually (OA 2015i; 2015j; 2015k—though see below for WC4).

4.1.2 IA3 was identified in the Environmental Statement and referenced in the DAMD v.6 as a site designated for SMS excavation (HA 2013; WSP 2015), which set the requirements for archaeological mitigation and these were expanded upon in the WSI v.6 (OA 2015a).

4.1.3 The archaeological SMS was undertaken in several phases, as areas became free from environmental and/or construction constraints (Fig. 12). IA3 consisted of a *c* 500m strip of land alongside the A21 that was divided into north (extending from Burgess Hill Farm to the site exit next to the former Burgess Hill Cottage), middle (extending to a water main running from the area between WC5a and Balancing Pond 2) and south (ending at the north edge of Potter's Wood) sections. This work began on 1st June 2015 and was completed on 7th August 2015.

4.1.4 Woodland Creation Receptor sites WC3 and WC5a were located immediately to the east of IA3. The design of these receptor sites included rides that could not be stripped and low mounds where topsoil would provide local landscaping. The areas of archaeological investigation were therefore only part of the total area. In addition, due to the fragility of the woodland soils, it was not possible to expose the receptor sites for more than a couple of days, so excavation and recording within these areas had to proceed piecemeal.

4.1.5 When stripping for woodland translocation began, it soon became clear that removal of topsoil and subsoil for the limited needs of translocation would not reach the natural geology in some areas. An addendum to the WSI was therefore written to clarify those areas in which stripping to natural for archaeological purposes would be necessary, and those areas where stripping would stop at the depth required for woodland translocation (OA 2015b). The criteria for selection for stripping to archaeological levels were:

- areas of specific archaeological potential identified from geophysical survey;
- areas of enhanced archaeological potential, defined by proximity to the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Castle Hill;
- and, areas of enhanced vulnerability, mainly the edges of plateaus and slopes.

4.1.6 The result of this was that WC3 was designated as an area for full SMS because of its proximity to Castle Hill, and Area WC5a on the grounds of specific archaeological potential, ie geophysical anomalies. WC4 was not targeted for SMS excavation and here stripping did not reach the natural or reveal any archaeological features (this area is therefore not considered further in this report). Woodland Creation Receptor sites WC3 and WC5a were stripped prior to IA3 between the 27th February and the 27th March 2015.

4.1.7 Archaeological work on Balancing Pond 2 was undertaken in two phases, beginning on the 9th June and completed on 14th July 2015.

4.1.8 Woodland translocator site WC5b became subject to additional watching brief works after the initial phase of fieldwork at IA3 was concluded. The work was completed in September–October 2017.

4.2 Location

4.2.1 IA3 was centred at NGR TQ 61040 43849 some 200m south-west of the Iron Age hillfort on Castle Hill, separated from it by the existing A21. Areas WC3 and WC5a were located on the east side of the existing A21, centred at NGR TQ 61100 43930 and TQ 61180 43750 respectively. Balancing Pond 2 was centred at NGR TQ 61210 43686. WC5b was located a few meters east of IA3-South and about 40m south of Balancing Pond 2 (Fig. 12).

4.3 Scope of works

4.3.1 IA3 formed a very elongated and irregular rectangle (orientated north-west to south-east) with uneven sides and a break in between IA3-North and IA3-Middle (Fig. 12). The area is as much as 61m wide in IA3-North, narrowing to 38m or less in IA3-Middle, and widening again to as much as 56m in IA3-South. Excluding the 15m-wide break in between IA3-North and IA3-Middle, the investigated strip was 481m long and covered 1.825ha.

4.3.2 The IA3 strip was located on the north-east side of the present A21 carriageway, separated from the road by a bund between 5m and 30m wide in IA3-Middle and IA3-South. The bund remained undisturbed between the northbound and southbound carriageways.

4.3.3 No surface archaeological features were recorded during archaeological walkover survey in the area (OA 2015b). Prior to the current construction, the area consisted of grassland and arable fields with underground installations associated with Burgess Hill Farm.

4.3.4 Geophysical survey recorded four discrete magnetic anomalies of probable archaeological origin in the southern part of IA3-Middle, but only one of these lay within the stripped area, the others lying beneath the bund on the western side. Two further geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin were indicated in IA3-South, one close to the north end and the other halfway along on the east side (OA 2009).

4.3.5 WC3 lay on the eastern slope of Castle Hill, dropping from west to east. The site occupies an area of 1.75 ha. WC5A lay on a small plateau between two lower-lying valleys and sloped gently from west to east. This site covered an area of 0.82 ha. Balancing Pond 2 was 69m wide east/west, 70m long north/south, and covered 0.33ha. WC5b comprised an irregularly shaped trench, the main part of which was *c* 40m long and between 3m and 8m wide, though the trench extended slightly farther north and south at both ends.

4.4 Results

IA3-North

Bronze Age burnt mound

4.4.1 South of where the level plateau of Burgess Hill Farm began to slope down to the east and south, a group of features characterised by fills containing much charcoal and burnt stone was uncovered. The charcoal and burnt-stone deposit also extended above the limits of the features and was first exposed within the lower part of the subsoil, but because this contained frequent patches of modern and Victorian CBM, to which the reddened burnt stone initially

appeared similar, the top of the charcoal and burnt-stone layer was removed by machine. As the deposits persisted, however, they were more closely examined, and left for more detailed investigation.

4.4.2 The northernmost of the group was pit 2045 (Fig. 18; Fig. 20, Section 1515; Plate 35). The pit was sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.32m by 2.34m, with almost vertical sides 0.68m deep, a gradual break of slope and a flattish base. There were four fills. The basal fill 2046 was a firm, light grey with mottled light brownish-yellow silt with a moderate number of charcoal flecks and burnt, round and angular pieces of sandstone. This was thickest (0.24m) on the eastern side, and thinned westwards, petering out before the western edge. It was sealed by deposits 2047 and 2062. Fill 2047 was up to 0.09m thick and consisted of a friable, blackish-red sandy silt with very frequent charcoal flecks that covered only the central part of the pit. A hazel charcoal sample has produced a radiocarbon date range of 1400–1200 cal. BC (SUERC-73970 (GU44329); 3034 ±30 yrs BP). Fill 2062 formed the main fill of the pit and consisted of 70% burnt and cracked pieces of sandstone, and charcoal flecks in a matrix of firm silty clay and small patches of sand. This fill was reddish-black with blueish grey patches.

4.4.3 The main fill 2062 was cut by 2049, a re-cut within pit 2045. The re-cut was sub-circular, 0.88 in diameter and 0.37m deep. The re-cut was filled with a firm, dark grey silty clay with very frequent, poorly sorted, angular pieces of burnt sandstone (70–75%) and a large amount of charcoal. This was numbered 2050. A radiocarbon date range of 1400–1220 cal. BC (SUERC-90233 (GU53053); 3045 ±22 yrs BP) was obtained on a sample of charred birch. Both fills 2062 and 2050 were sealed by deposit 2070, which covered the whole of the pit to a depth of 0.10m. This deposit was very similar to fill 2062 but had fewer sandstones. Three quarters of the feature was excavated, and samples were taken from each deposit for environmental analysis, but there were no finds.

4.4.4 About 0.5m south of pit 2045 was a larger pit 2099=2504 (Plates 36 and 37). This was sub-oval in plan, 5.1m long and 3.5 wide and 0.9m deep, with steep, stepped sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flattish base (Fig. 20, Section 1528). From the south-eastern side, a linear ditch 2041 extended down the slope (Plate 38). The eastern half of the pit was exposed first and had several fills. The basal fill 2503 was a firm, dark grey to black silty clay with patches (including large fragments) of charcoal and heat-affected pieces of sandstone and was 0.15m thick. On the lower sides a thin layer of eroded natural, consisting of yellowish-brown, slightly sandy clayey silt, had accumulated over 2503. It and layer 2503 were sealed by fill 2502, which consisted of 65% burnt sandstones, patches of charcoal and whitish (burnt?) pieces of mudstone in a matrix of firm greyish-brown silty clay. This was 0.35m thick.

4.4.5 Layer 2502 was overlain by 2501, a firm, very dark brownish-black silty clay with very frequent charcoal flecks, frequent heat-exposed pieces of sandstone and weathered (burnt?) mudstone. This was 0.45m thick, and was sampled for environmental remains. A sample of charred maple gave a radiocarbon date range of 1435–1300 cal. BC (SUERC-90232 (GU53052); 3113 ±22 yrs BP). This was overlain by deposit 2500, which consisted of a firm, bluish yellow clayey silt with occasional small-sized angular burnt sandstones and occasional patches of manganese. A small sherd of probable late Iron Age or early Roman pottery came from this fill. It had a diffuse boundary with the overlying deposit 2098, a firm, brownish-yellow slightly silty clay some 0.1m thick, very similar to the natural clay into which the pit was cut, but somewhat lighter in colour and slightly siltier.

4.4.6 Because of the similarity of the top fill to the surrounding natural, the western limits of this pit were unclear, and as time was pressing, the western part of the pit was largely excavated by machine. In that part of the feature, deposit 2503 was numbered 2512, 2502 was numbered 2510 and 2511, 2501 was numbered 2507 and 2500 was numbered 2506. This last deposit was here 0.65m deep. A localised collapse was described as deposit 2509. Importantly, in the machine-excavated part, the northern side had only one clearly defined and long step. No finds were recovered from any of the fills, but a bulk sample for environmental remains was taken from 2512, and monoliths through deposits 2506 and 2098. Birch charcoal from 2512 gave a radiocarbon date range of 1450–1300 cal. BC (SUERC-90228 (GU53051); 3125 ±22 yrs BP), with a 71% chance that the date lay between 1450 and 1370 BC.

4.4.7 Linear feature 2041 ran down the slope from the south-east corner of pit 2099. This was 1.3m wide, with steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and an undulating base but was only 0.53m deep, much shallower than the pit (Fig. 19, Section 1513). A section excavated at the junction of the pit and the ditch did not show any cut, but only a continuation of the same feature. The single fill of the ditch was a friable, greyish-black silty clay with charcoal (possibly also ash) and rounded and angular pieces of burnt sandstone. This was numbered 2042 and is equivalent to 2501 within the pit. An environmental sample from the deposit was taken, but again there were no finds.

4.4.8 The ditch shallowed as it ran downhill, and 1.6m to the south-east it appeared to fork. The southern arm (2088) was 1.53m wide and 0.22m deep, with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. The northern arm (2086) was 0.65m wide and only 0.13m deep (Fig. 19, Section 1527; Plate 39). The single fills of both (respectively 2089 and 2087) were very similar, consisting of a firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay with very frequent angular pieces of burnt sandstone, but 2087 also included pieces of burnt/weathered mudstone. Both ditches shallowed as they extended south-eastwards and petered out after *c* 3m.

4.4.9 Adjacent to pit 2045 were stakeholes 2084 (Plate 40). The larger one had steep symmetrical sides and a pointed base and was 0.16m deep. It was filled with a firm, dark brown silty clay and charcoal and occasional pieces of burnt sandstone, but no finds. Another smaller stakehole was visible adjacent.

4.4.10 Just north of the forking ditches and close to pit 2045 was a similar circular feature 2082, 0.21m in diameter and filled with dark brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and frequent pieces of angular burnt sandstone. No finds were visible in the surface, and this feature was not excavated.

4.4.11 Some 8m to the north-east of the burnt pits was 2080, a feature 1.2m wide and surviving 2.26m long and 0.45m deep, with traces of burning in its fill (Fig. 13; Fig. 19, Section 1526; Plate 41). It was truncated on the south-west by a modern land-drain, and beyond this probably by levelling associated with Burgess Hill Farm, and may once have been the terminal of a ditch. There were three fills. On the northern side and extending partly across the base of the feature was a firm, pale blueish-yellow clay (very clean and homogeneous). Overlying this was a friable, mottled yellowish-grey clay with charcoal flecks and occasional burnt sandstones, up to 0.35m thick. The upper fill was a firm, light yellowish-grey silty clay with

15% small angular burnt sandstones and occasional charcoal flecks and possible pockets of ash. This layer was up to 0.2 thick. There were no finds in any of the fills.

4.4.12 In the central part of IA3-North, an infilled pond was investigated. The feature was still clearly visible on the surface as a depression in the ground 25m long and 18m wide. During the machine topsoil strip, modern (20th-century) machinery and rubble were recorded in the layers covering the pond. Below this a machine-cut slot was excavated through the feature, revealing a sequence of fills. The uppermost fills also contained pieces of modern equipment and were not recorded in detail. However, the lower deposits were of greater potential. The lowest deposit in the pond (2094) was a friable, brownish-blue silty clay 0.4m deep, and this was overlain by further layers of silty clay (2093 and 2092), indicating natural silting up. There were no finds, but these layers were waterlogged, preserving large pieces of wood. Samples of the wood were taken from layer 2093. It is possible that in times of heavy rainfall the pond drained south-eastwards along a natural channel visible as a wide slightly darker band of silt.

4.4.13 Fire-pit 2035 was uncovered to the south of the pond (Plate 31). It was oval in plan, 1.3m in diameter and survived to 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 18; Fig. 19, Section 1522). Traces of burning *in situ* around the cut were clearly visible as a thin orangey red 'halo', and the natural at the base was also scorched red. There was a single fill of friable, dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and a moderate amount of sub-angular sandstone.

4.4.14 Farther south was another feature with traces of burning *in situ*, numbered 2037 (Plate 33). It was oval in plan with gently sloping sides (slightly asymmetrical), and a slightly undulating, concave base. This feature was truncated by a modern land-drain, and only 0.02m of silty clay with frequent pieces of charcoal survived.

4.4.15 South-west of these were two natural features, whose tops were cleaned in plan but were not excavated, and a larger geological deposit some 15m across, which when tested proved to be shallow with a very silty sterile clay fill.

Modern and natural features

4.4.16 Numerous soil marks were identified following the site strip, with many of geological origin or tree-throw holes mostly in the north-west corner of the trench (Fig. 13). Other features close to Burgess Hill Farm were mostly of recent date. A drain fragment on a WNW-ESE alignment was numbered 2036 (Plate 32). It was made of two lines of red bricks bonded with mortar two courses high, sitting on a base of perpendicularly laid bricks and covered with red tiles. The feature was clearly associated with the Burgess Hill Farm buildings, and so was recorded in detail.

4.4.17 Farther east, a modern drain leading to a soak-away manhole was uncovered. Both were clearly of 20th-century date and associated with Burgess Hill Farm. They were photographed and recorded on the CAD plan.

4.4.18 South-west of the drain, two small postholes numbered 2012 and 2014 were excavated. The first had a diameter of 0.13m and was 0.13m deep, the second was oval, 0.24m by 0.19m in plan, and was 0.12m deep. Both were filled with friable, light grey slightly silty clay with rare manganese stains, and 2014 contained small fragments of modern CBM, which were not retained.

4.4.19 South of the post-holes, a curvilinear feature 2016, 0.97m long and 0.58m wide was explored. It had asymmetrical steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base. The fill was a firm, greyish-brown silty clay with manganese stains, pieces of mudstone, and a fragment of ceramic pipe. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole of recent date.

4.4.20 South of the tile and brick drain a line of small postholes orientated NNW/SSE was uncovered. These were clearly modern, as the uppermost fill of a couple of them contained pieces of concrete, modern CBM, and coal fragments.

4.4.21 Two modern land-drains on the same alignment were also uncovered.

4.4.22 Five natural features, including one elongated example, were recorded on the CAD plan south of the modern post-holes.

4.4.23 Along the north-west side, where IA3 reached the greatest elevation, thirteen soil marks were uncovered some 10m from the existing A21. They were not characterised by interventions as it was evident from their plans and fills, they were further tree-throw holes.

4.4.24 In this part of IA3, the topsoil was relatively thin but sealed a thick subsoil that contained frequent building material and domestic waste material. This overlay a colluvial deposit, presumably derived from higher up the eastern slope of Castle Hill before the current A21 carriageway was constructed.

IA3-Middle

4.4.25 There were few features in IA3-Middle but most were tree-throw holes (Fig. 14). Four features were likely to be of archaeological origin, and there were several land-drains (of which one large Victorian example was recorded in detail at the request of Wendy Rogers: see below).

4.4.26 Altogether, seven land-drains were unearthed in the area, all on a NNE-SSW or north-west to south-east alignment. Each was clearly of recent origin, and had typically vertical sides, sharp breaks of slope and a flat base. One of the land-drains however was much larger than the others, containing a ceramic conduit 0.3m in diameter, and was constructed of pairs of semi-cylindrical pipes each 0.32m long. This was recorded as feature 2034. Examples of the pipes were retained. This land-drain is likely to be of Victorian date.

4.4.27 Within the northern half of the area, a linear feature orientated north-east to south-west weathered out after being exposed for several days. To the south-west it was very shallow, but an intervention dug across the central part showed the cut (numbered 2031) to be 0.48m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloping, slightly asymmetrical sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill was a friable, light grey silty clay very similar to the natural geology. No artefactual material was present. A second section excavated against the eastern baulk revealed a very shallow (0.04m deep) diffuse cut 2033. The feature appears to have been heavily truncated by ploughing at either end. There were no finds

4.4.28 Just north of 2031 was a fire-pit 2028 (Fig. 18; Plate 44). It had with moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base, and was up to 0.13m deep. A 0.09m thick, reddish-orange 'halo' around the edges was an evidence for *in situ* burning of the surrounding natural soil. There were two fills: a lens of white silty clay at the bottom, overlain by a friable, dark greyish-brown very silty clay with very frequent charcoal flecks and

small pieces of possible slag. A charcoal sample from fill 2029 provided a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1040–1210 (GU44321); 899 ±26 yrs BP.

4.4.29 In the central-southern part of the area, a 6m-long and 0.45m-wide ditch (2027) was exposed (Fig. 19, Section 1508; Plate 43). It shared approximately the same orientation as linear 2031 some 45m farther north, but it was considerably shorter. The feature gradually shallowed at both ends, suggesting that most of it had been truncated. Where sectioned, the cut was 0.22m deep, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a slightly concave base. Its single fill was a firm, brown silty clay with frequent manganese stains, and like the fill of ditch 2031, very similar to the natural geology, and visually the feature was recognised initially only due to the manganese.

IA3-South

4.4.30 Altogether forty-three soil marks were uncovered in IA3-South, of which 20 were recognised as tree-throw holes (Fig. 15). Ten of the soil marks in the natural geology were immediately identified as modern disturbance (recent marks of dumper tracks).

4.4.31 In the north-western part of the area, two discrete features were excavated.

4.4.32 Feature 2022 was a slightly irregular oval in plan, measuring 0.3m by 0.2m and 0.31m deep. In section, it had a pointed base, moderately steep and asymmetrical sides, and was filled with firm, greyish-yellow clay with charcoal flecks and pockets of ash. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

4.4.33 About 10m to the south, feature 2018 was investigated. It was almost circular, measuring 0.85m by 0.81m, with steep sides, a sharp break of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 18; Fig. 19, Section 1506). The natural geology on the edges of the feature was slightly scorched, creating thin orangey red patches. The basal fill (2021) was a friable, brownish-black silty clay with frequent charred remains/ charcoal and occasional small stones and was 0.17m thick. This was sealed by a friable, greyish-brown silty clay (2020) with patches of clay oxidised by heat exposure and occasional manganese stains. This was 0.14m thick, as was the uppermost fill of 2018, deposit, 2019, a firmer light orange-brown to yellowish-brown silty clay with stones and frequent manganese. Feature 2018 is interpreted as a man-made pit subject to limited *in situ* burning, but there were no finds to date it. Environmental samples were taken from the fills.

4.4.34 Farther south-east, feature 2068 was a slightly irregularly oval measuring 2.0m by 0.9m (Plate 48). In section the feature was 0.2m deep, with an irregular, undulating profile, and it was filled with a firm, light grey chalky clay. This feature is interpreted as being of geological origin.

4.4.35 A land drain running north-east to south-west was uncovered south of this in the central part of the area and continued across Pond 2. This was not further investigated.

4.4.36 A group of four features was investigated in the central part of IA3-South: 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2010. The first, 2004, was only 0.05 deep with very indistinct edges and was interpreted as a geological formation. Feature 2005 was circular in plan, measuring 1.15m by 1.38m and 0.14m deep with a flat base, gently sloping sides, and imperceptible breaks of slope in section (Fig. 18; Fig. 19, Section 1501). Its single fill was a firm, brown, slightly silty clay with rare small stones. This feature is interpreted as a man-made pit of unknown date and function. Feature 2007 was sub-circular, 0.68m by 0.62m across and 0.14m deep with vertical to steep

sides and a very irregular base. Its lower fill consisted of a friable, light greyish-yellow, slightly silty clay with frequent manganese. The upper fill was a firm, medium to dark, brownish-grey, slightly silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole. The last of the group, feature 2010, measured 0.47m by 0.76m. It was rather amorphous in plan, with gentle slopes and a slightly concave base. Its single fill was a friable, light to medium brownish-grey, clayey silt, with rare pieces of modern CBM and frequent manganese. The feature was interpreted as a modern disturbance in the natural geology.

4.4.37 Some 10m to the east was feature 2069. It was a slightly curved oblong 5.0m long and 1.0m wide, and was 0.5m deep with asymmetrical, steep and almost vertical sides and a concave base. Its single fill was a friable yellowish-grey clay with occasional manganese stains and a few small/medium rounded sandstones. The feature is interpreted as of geological origin.

4.4.38 Pit 2063 lay nearly 20m to the south-east. Although the edges were somewhat indistinct, excavation demonstrated that it was ovoid in plan, measuring 2.80m by 2.30m and 0.52m deep, with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, gradual break of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 18; Fig. 19, Section 1520; Plate 46). Three-quarters of the pit were excavated, and five fills were distinguished. Basal fill 2075 was a firm brown silty clay 0.16m thick, with blueish grey patches of clay and frequent pieces of charcoal and manganese stains. On the north this fill was sealed by a deposit 2073, similar to the basal fill but without any charcoal. Both deposits were overlain by a firm, compact, brown clayey silt 0.42m thick, containing very frequent flecks and larger fragments of charcoal and manganese stains. This fill was recut by 2091, and was numbered as 2065 and 2072. Fill 2065 contained base fragments of prehistoric pottery, and hazel charcoal from the fill returned a radiocarbon date range of 400–230 cal. BC (SUERC-902379 (GU53057); 2280 ±21 yrs BP).

4.4.39 The uppermost fill of 2063 was a firm, very hard, light brownish-grey silty sand with frequent manganese stains numbered 2064 and was 0.08m thick. Recut 2091 was not clearly visible in plan but had asymmetrical sides and a slightly undulating base. It was 1.53m wide, 0.32m deep and it was filled with two very similar deposits (2074 and 2071): a firm, light orange-brown silty clay with blueish grey patches and occasional pieces of charcoal.

4.4.40 Because prehistoric pottery was present in pit 2063, all adjacent features with even a slight possibility of being man-made were investigated, including feature 2076 to the south (Plate 49). This was an irregularly curved, elongated oval with asymmetrical sides and a sloping base in section. There was only one fill, a firm, yellowish-light grey silty clay with manganese stains and without finds. This feature is interpreted as of geological origin.

4.4.41 Due to the discovery of linear features very similar to the natural farther north (see IA3-Middle, 2031 and 2027), and the presence of prehistoric pit 2063, after the excavation of the hand-dug interventions had been completed the adjacent area was stripped by machine in spits to check for further features or finds, but none were present.

4.4.42 East of 2076, a north-south linear feature was exposed and was traced for nearly 45m before petering out on the south. As with 2031 and 2027, it became visible only after the machine stripped surface had weathered. This feature was clearly a continuation of a narrow ditch excavated in Pond 2 farther to the north (2118/2107). The ditch was of varying depth. For most of its length the feature was very shallow (only a couple of centimetres deep), but it was deeper in places, and here two interventions were excavated, 2052 and 2066 (Fig. 18).

These were respectively 0.3m and 0.47m wide (Fig. 19, Section 1519). The bases varied from concave (almost pointed) to flat (Plates 45 and 47). Both cuts had the same fill, a firm, very compact, pale slightly brownish-yellow silty clay with relatively frequent manganese stains. At the bottom of one intervention several *c* 0.5m lengths of roundwood were present (others had been found in the ditch in Pond 2). The wood was preserved due to waterlogged clay at the base of the fill. A charcoal sample from fill 2067 produced a radiocarbon date of 170 cal. BC–cal. AD 20 (SUERC-73971 (GU44330); 2048 ±28 yrs BP).

4.4.43 Just east of the ditch, feature 2060 was investigated (Fig. 18). This was sub-oval, measuring 2.2m by 1.54m, and survived 0.14m deep and had an undulating base. It was filled with dark greyish-brown slightly silty clay with relatively frequent charcoal flecks and burnt sandstones. The feature is interpreted as a possible man-made pit, but there were no finds.

4.4.44 In the south-western corner of the area, a sherd of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery was found on the surface of elongated sub-oval feature 2044. However, after hand investigation it became obvious that the soil was subsoil in a dumper track made the previous year.

Area WC3

4.4.45 This area was split into two with a total area of 7283m^2. There was a broadly rectangular northern segment orientated ENE/WSW that measured 113m by 60m and an irregular area south of this that was around 98m by 52m in size. The northern area appeared to contain a concentration of archaeological features at the eastern end (Fig. 16). This consisted of ditch 1111, pit 1103 and natural features 1107 and 1109.

4.4.46 Ditch 1111 was traced for around 18m in length and varied in width from 1.5m to 3m. It was investigated by a single slot near to the western end and had a flat-bottomed profile with regular steep sides. The fill (1112) was a yellowish-grey silty clay, and there were no finds. This feature followed the general line of slope downhill from west to east and was presumably for drainage. A sherd of either Roman or early post-medieval pottery was found on the surface of the fill, but it is uncertain whether this came from the subsoil (1106) above or dates the feature.

4.4.47 Fire-pit 1103 measured 1.4m in diameter and only 0.07m in depth (Fig. 18; Fig. 22, Section 701). It showed clear evidence of *in situ* burning in its base (1105) and was filled with a charcoal-rich but otherwise sterile, dark grey clayey silt (1104).

4.4.48 Feature 1107 was small and shallow with a fill of brownish-grey sandy clay with charcoal flecks, but no finds. This is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

4.4.49 Feature 1109 was linear in plan and over 2m wide, but shallow, and had very irregular profile and a sterile fill. This is interpreted as of natural origin.

4.4.50 Feature 1114 was a tree-throw hole of very irregular profile, and was not fully recorded, although it was plotted on the CAD plan and photographed.

4.4.51 Similarly, 1115 was an area of reddened soil that was originally thought possibly to represent a fire-pit, but when investigated proved to be due to chemical staining.

4.4.52 The southern area had one pit (1128) near to its north-east corner and two natural features at its southern limit (1116 and 1117). Pit 1128 was circular in plan with a diameter of

0.9m and a depth of 0.16m (Fig. 18; Fig. 22, Section 707). It was filled (1129) with a charcoal-rich, mottled, yellowish-grey clayey silt.

4.4.53 Tree-throw holes 1116 and 1117 were varied in plan, one amorphous and the other broadly linear. Neither had well-defined profiles cuts and both were filled with sterile similar yellowish-grey clay. The fill of 1116 included charcoal, probably from burning of the tree-roots, while 1117 had extensive evidence of rooting. Due to its length, this was thought possibly to belong to a former hedge-line.

Area WC5a

4.4.54 This area was rectangular in plan, was orientated ENE/WSW and measured 90m by 36m with an area of 3580m^2. Despite its size, only two possible archaeological features were identified (Fig. 17).

4.4.55 Feature 1017 was identified close to the middle of the eastern end of this area. It was sub-oval, 1m long and 0.3m wide. When tested, it proved to be made up of mixed natural-clay strata, suggesting some form of localised geological outcrop here.

4.4.56 Feature 1018 was found against the northern edge of the area towards the east end and lay within the base of the subsoil. It was amorphous, measuring approximately 1.1m by 1m, and was 0.15m deep with a very irregular profile. It was filled with charcoal and ash suggestive of a burnt-out tree root-bowl.

4.4.57 One modern land-drain ditch ran north east/south-west across the area. It continued into IA3 South. This linear feature cut a couple of natural features in BP2 and a ditch.

Balancing Pond 2 (*BP2)*

4.4.58 A north/south orientated ditch, 70.3m long, running across the central part of BP2, and extending both directions beyond the investigated area was uncovered (Fig. 15). The feature was cut into the natural geology. Five interventions were excavated across the feature to cover, as required by the WSI, 10% of its length.

4.4.59 The northernmost intervention was set against the northern edge of the stripped area to reveal the full stratigraphic sequence of the feature. Cut 2129 exposed a 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep. The cut had symmetrical and steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. The cut was clearly under the subsoil layer and it was cutting the natural geology. It was filled with deposit 2130, a firm, light yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and some manganese stains. An environmental sample was taken from the feature's fill.

4.4.60 An intervention in the central part of the ditch exposed cut 2126. The cut was 0.4m wide and only 0.17m deep. The excavated slot intentionally slightly overcut the linear feature, as its edges were not very clear because the feature’s single fill 2127 was very similar to the surrounding natural geology of brownish-yellow, slightly silty clay with occasional stains of manganese.

4.4.61 Two interventions excavated in the southern part of the ditch exposed cuts 2122 and 2107. The first was 0.62m wide, 0.23m deep, with moderately steep sides, and a pointed base. The second was 0.57m wide, 0.3m deep, with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and a pointed base. Both cuts were filled with a light greyish-yellow, slightly silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and moderate amount of manganese stains.

4.4.62 The southernmost intervention across the ditch was set against the southern baulk of the investigated area. It showed cut 2118 and the same stratigraphic sequence as the northernmost intervention. The cut was 0.45m wide and 0.18m deep with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and a concave base. It was filled with a light yellowish-grey, slightly silty clay with occasional charred pieces of timber (0.05–0.07m large). This fill was sampled for environmental assessment.

4.4.63 A linear feature orientated ENE-WSW was recorded in the southern part of the stripped area. It was 6.2m long and with both ends gradually disappearing rather than forming termini. An intervention set across the central part of the feature exposed the profile of cut 2124. It had steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a concave base—the edges of the cut were very unclear, as the feature's single fill (a light yellowish-brown slightly silty clay with occasional manganese stains) was quite diffused with the natural geology. The feature is interpreted as a natural (geological) phenomenon, caused by the sloping ground in that area.

4.4.64 Thirty-two discrete features were uncovered in the area BP2, with the majority being natural formations: tree throws, tree boles, animal borrows, and geological formations (shallow undulations in the natural geology filled with more silty deposits). Thus, of the total number of the discrete features, eight features were selected for characterisation by interventions.

4.4.65 Feature 2120 was uncovered in the south-western part of the area. It was irregularly oval in plan, 3.0m by 1.6m large, with very asymmetrical sides gradual breaks of slope, and a strongly undulating base. It was filled with a 0.36m thick deposit 2121, composed of a firm, medium greyish-yellow clay with frequent manganese stains and no other inclusions. The feature was interpreted as a geological formation.

4.4.66 Feature 2109 was located in the eastern-central part of the investigated area. It had a regular shape (almost oval) in plan, measuring 0.76m by 0.7m (Fig. 18), with asymmetrical sides (eastern gently sloping, western very steep). It was filled with deposit 2110 which was composed of patches of a firm brownish-orange clay and a friable dark greyish-brown silty clay, with occasional manganese stains and rare small-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Although the fill was disturbed by rooting activity, the regular nature of the feature suggests that it was a pit.

4.4.67 Circular pit 2131 was recorded to the east of feature 2109. The pit had a clear, 0.03m wide, orangey-red 'halo' around its edges, suggesting burning *in situ* (Fig. 21, Section 1613). The feature measured 0.68m by 0.64m (Fig. 18). It had symmetrical, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a slightly undulating base. The feature had two distinctive fills. Primary fill 2133 was a 0.04m thick, friable clayey silt with a large amount of charcoal. The deposit was sealed by secondary fill 2134, composed of a light grey, slightly clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks. Environmental samples were taken from the fills.

4.4.68 About 12m north-eastwards, another pit with a large amount of charcoal in its fill was uncovered. Feature 2116 formed an oval shape in plan, measuring 0.63 by 0.56m; with slightly asymmetrical sides (western moderately steep, eastern steep), gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 18; Fig. 21, Section 1605). It was filled with deposit 2117, a 0.16m thick, friable, greyish-silty clay with charcoal. The feature had no traces of burning *in situ*. An environmental sample was taken from the fill, and charred oak submitted for dating gave a radiocarbon date

range of 360–100 cal. BC (SUERC-90242 (GU53059); 2145 ±22 yrs BP), with a 75% chance that the date lies between 215 and 100 BC.

4.4.69 North-eastwards of the above described, an intervention was excavated across a slightly irregular oval shaped feature (deposit 2115). The feature appeared to be very shallow (0.02m), with irregular profile, and with no inclusions. The feature was interpreted as geological formation.

4.4.70 Also, in the north-eastern quarter of BP2, a 9.3m by 4.9m ovoid fill in a geological undulation of the natural geology was exposed of feature 2128. A sondage excavated through the feature revealed a 0.04m deep deposit, sealing the natural geology.

4.4.71 Within geological formation 2128, feature 2111 was uncovered. It formed an irregular oval in plan; it had asymmetrical sides (northern moderately steep, southern steep), and a slightly concave and sloping base (Fig. 21, Section 1604). The feature was filled with three deposits. Upper fill 2112, a 0.04m-thick, firm, light greyish-yellow, slightly silty clay with patches of sand and frequent charcoal flecks. This layer had clear evidence of burning. Context 2112 was overlying the middle fill of the feature—deposit 2113—composed of a sandy clay with charcoal (*c* 30% of the fill content). The primary fill of the feature—deposit 2114—was a firm, orangey-yellowish-light brown clay with darker patches composed of a silty clay. There is no concussive interpretation of the feature's character. It was recorded as a man-made pit, but the possibility that it was a tree-throw hole cannot be excluded.

4.4.72 The north-western quarter of Pond 2 had the densest concentration natural features (not-excavated). Among those, one feature appeared to represent a man-made feature: pit 2104 was oval in plan, measuring 0.98 by 0.6m, 0.22m deep. It had symmetrical, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a slightly concave base. The pit was filled with two deposits. The upper, secondary fill was a firm, dark greyish-black silty clay with a moderate amount of manganese stains and frequent pieces of charcoal. Also, orangey-red patches (a result of burning *in situ*) were clearly visible within the deposit. It was sealing the primary fill of the pit, which was composed of a firm, yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional patches of manganese.

Area WC5b

4.4.73 Although 14 soil marks were observed after the initial stripping of WC5b, the trench was found to be devoid of archaeological features (for further details see archive)

4.4.74 Two linear features, each located near the western and eastern ends of the trench, were possibly part of the same feature and in plan, they resembled ditches. However, excavation of the western feature (2143), showed that it had an irregular profile with asymmetrical sides that were steep and undulating. No finds were recovered from the single silty clay fill which closely resembled that of the surrounding natural features in the trench. It seems likely that the linear represents a relict palaeo-channel. The second linear was not excavated.

4.4.75 A sub-circular feature (2145), located near the western end of the trench was half-sectioned. The feature measured *c* 1.1m wide and 0.08m deep, and it had a flattish, undulating base. It is probably the remains of a tree-throw hole. A small quantity of charcoal was recovered from its fill.

4.5 Interpretation

General character of the site

4.5.1 The distribution of features varied across the site. Soil marks appeared to be densest in the southern part of the site. Many of these may have been natural features, such as tree-throw holes, though the discovery of prehistoric and medieval features in this area may suggest that some of the undated features were contemporary with activity in these periods.

4.5.2 Two ditch sections in IA3-Middle were undated, but their common alignment suggests that they may have been part of a relict field-system as they were not seen on early OS maps. The only other feature in this area dated to the medieval period (11th–13th century; see below).

4.5.3 In the northern part of the site (IA3-North), modern features relating to Burgess Hill Farm to the north and a possible Bronze Age structure was identified (see below).

Bronze Age (*1500–800 BC)*

4.5.4 A group of features in the north-western part of IA3-North represent middle Bronze Age activity. Pit 2045 measured almost 2.5m across and 0.68m deep, and contained several fills with quantities of fire-cracked sandstone and charcoal. Two environmental samples produced radiocarbon dates of 1400–1200 cal. BC and 1400–1220 cal. BC, showing that it was in use during the Middle Bronze Age.

4.5.5 The feature group to the south of pit 2045 consisted of another deep, sub-square pit 2099, whose charred fills also produced two radiocarbon dates, in this case of 1450–1300 cal. BC and 1435–1300 cal. BC. The dates fall in the earlier part of the range of those from pit 2045, and although the pits may have been contemporary, the emphasis of the dates from pit 2099 was on the earlier part of their range, between 1450 and 1370 cal. BC, making it possible that this pit was earlier than 2045, the two being used successively. A gully leading from pit 2099 containing quantities of burnt stone like those in 2099 and 2045 and charred plant remains. A possible late Iron Age/early Roman pottery sherd was found in a late recut in the top of one of the pits, but this does not provide firm dating for the underlying complex.

4.5.6 The middle Bronze Age radiocarbon dates strongly indicate that this feature complex is an example of a Bronze Age burnt mound, which often also have very few finds. There are few examples of such features known in Kent, though the number is increasing. This example has recently been compared to others in Kent and beyond (Allen 2021).

Iron Age (*800 BC–AD 43)*

4.5.7 Pit 2063 in IA3-South was dated using hazel charcoal to 400–230 cal. BC in the middle Iron Age, with a 75% chance that the date lay between 400 and 350 cal. BC. It also contained pottery sherds from the base of a vessel in one of its fills. Dating of the context containing the pot base has now demonstrated that it is probably of middle Iron Age date, although the fabric had suggested an earlier date. This pit lay close to several other features in the area, but none were dated, so it is uncertain whether any of these were contemporary.

4.5.8 On the east edge of Balancing Pond 2 another pit containing charcoal was also radiocarbon-dated to the middle Iron Age, in this case to 355–100 cal. BC, but with a 75% chance that the date lies between 215 and 100 cal. BC, ie later than pit 2063. This pit was chosen for dating in order to test whether the oak-dominated charcoal assemblage did

correspond in date to that of the Iron Age fire-pits along the scheme, which it did, supporting the view that the charcoal in part represents the make-up of the local environment in this period, although deliberate selection of oak for a variety of purposes using charcoal is still possible.

4.5.9 A straight north/south ditch extended through Balancing Pond 2 and was picked up again to the south in IA3-South. The ditch was fairly narrow and shallow, measuring *c* 0.2–0.3m deep and 0.5m wide. Its fills were often sterile, containing only flecks of charcoal, though preserved wood was found in the clays at its base. A wood sample from ditch 2066 produced a radiocarbon date of 170 cal. BC–cal. AD 20 (SUERC-73971) suggesting that it was beginning to silt up in the late Iron Age.

4.5.10 No other Iron Age features were identified at the site, but the absence of any finds in either pit 2116 or ditch 2066 shows that other undated features found in this area could also have been of Iron Age origin, but were clearly in an area at some distance from settlement.

Roman (*AD 43–410)*

4.5.11 No Roman features were identified at the site, though a few sherds of pottery were recovered either residually, as in pit 2505 or from the subsoil. These may suggest a low level of activity in the area during this period.

Medieval (AD 410–1550)

4.5.12 Fire-pit 2028 was dated to the 11th–13th centuries by radiocarbon analysis of a charcoal sample from its fill. The pit was circular with steep sides and a flat base, and there were clear traces of burning around the edges as well as a lens of white silty clay material at the base of the pit, above burnt natural (Fig. 19, Section 1509). The fill contained charcoal flecks and small pieces of slag-like material that proved to be natural iron concretion.

4.5.13 This is one of several medieval fire-pits that have been identified across the dualling scheme, and radiocarbon dating has been crucial in differentiating these from numerous mid–late Iron Age examples. The Iron Age fire-pits are thought possibly to represent features associated with charcoal production and it is possible that the medieval fire-pits were utilised for a similar industrial purpose.

Modern

4.5.14 Several modern features were discovered at the site, and these were almost exclusively related to activity associated with Burgess Hill Farm to the north of IA3-North. A line of postholes extended south from the northern edge of the trench and were aligned with a modern land drain that came close to the eastern side of the Bronze Age complex. To the east of the posthole alignment was another land drain and associated soakaway. In this area, were three small pits or postholes that contained fragments of modern CBM and a linear feature that contained a fragment of clay pipe.

4.6 Conclusions

4.6.1 The evidence for a possible Bronze Age burnt mound is interesting and regionally significant. These features vary in terms of surviving remains, though many consist of pits, sometimes located close to water (Pitts 2009; Raymond 1997). There are very few examples

of prehistoric burnt mounds in Kent, though those that are known range in date from the Neolithic (Parfitt 2006) to the late Bronze Age (Simmonds *et al*. 2011, 69–71, 189–90).

4.6.2 Archaeological remains of Iron Age date, although relatively few, add to the evidence from IA4 and elsewhere on the dualling scheme, and shed light on the use of the hinterland of the Iron Age fort at Castle Hill, whose radiocarbon dates overlap with those at the site.

4.6.3 The medieval fire-pit is one of a group now identified all along the scheme. These provide evidence for the exploitation of the medieval woodland landscape in the hinterland of Tonbridge during this period (Allen 2021).

4.7 IA3 context inventory

IA3							
Area description						**Total area (ha)**	1.8248
Area IA3 extended from Burgess Rough to Potters Wood and from the current A21 carriageway to areas WC3A, WC3B, WC4, WC5A, WC5B and Balancing Pond 2 (BP2). It covered 18,248 square meters—495m long and 61m wide in its widest point. IA3 consisted of IA3-North: (covering Burgess Hill)—sloping down to the east and south; IA3-Middle—gently sloping down eastwards and southwards; and IA3-South sloping down from the north from Potters Wood.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
						Width (m)	61
						Length (m)	79
Contexts							
Context no	**Type**	**W x L (m)**	**D (m)**	**Description**	**Sub-area**	**Finds**	**Date**
2001	Layer	-	0.11	Topsoil: friable, dark brown silty clay.	IA3-S	Pottery, animal bones, worked flint	-
2002	Layer	-	0.15–0.35	Subsoil: friable, brown/grey silty clay with some manganese stains.	IA3-S	Worked flint	-
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: firm, mixed pale grey/yellow–pale yellow/brown clay with frequent manganese stains in places.	IA3-S	-	-
2004	Layer	0.76 x 0.80	0.02–0.05	Firm, yellow/brown clay with frequent manganese stains.	IA3-S	-	-
2005	Cut of pit	1.15 x 1.38	0.14	Shallow circular pit with a flat base and gently sloping sides. Imperceptible breaks of slope. Filled by 2006	IA3-S	-	-
2006	Fill of pit 2005	1.15 x 1.38	0.14	Firm, brown silty clay with rare small stones.	IA3-S	-	-
2007	Natural feature	0.68 x 0.62	0.14	Irregular/sub-circular tree-throw hole. Feature has vertical–steep sides and a very undulating base. Filled by 2008 and 2009.	IA3-S	-	-
2008	Fill of natural feature 2007 (upper)	0.42	0.09	Firm, medium-to-dark brown/grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.	IA3-S	-	-
2009	Fill of natural feature 2007 (lower)	0.68 x 0.62	0.14	Friable, light grey/yellow silty clay with frequent manganese.	IA3-S	-	-
2010	Cut of pit	0.47 x 0.76	0.04	Amorphous in plan with gentle slopes and a slightly concave base. Filled by 2011.	IA3-S	-	Modern

2011	Fill of pit 2010	0.47 x 0.76	0.04	Friable, light-to-medium brown/grey clay silt with frequent manganese.	IA3-S	Pieces of CBM	Modern
2012	Cut of posthole	0.13	0.14	Sub-circular posthole with vertical-to-very steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly concave base. Filled by 2013.	IA3-N	-	Modern?
2013	Fill of posthole 2012	0.13	0.14	Friable, light-to-medium grey silty clay with rare manganese.	IA3-N	-	Modern?
2014	Cut of posthole	0.19 x 0.24	0.12	Sub-oval posthole with steep sides and gradual breaks of slope, a sloping base. The feature is possibly related to 2012. Filled by 2015.	IA3-N	-	Modern
2015	Fill of posthole 2014	0.19 x 0.24	0.12	Friable, light-to-medium yellow/grey silty clay with chalk fragments and moderate amount of manganese.	IA3-N	Pieces of CBM	Modern
2016	Cut of natural feature	0.97 x 0.58	0.21	Sub-oval tree-throw with asymmetrical steep, vertical and convex sides, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base. Filled by 2017.	IA3-N	-	-
2017	Fill of natural feature 2016	0.97	0.21	Firm, grey/brown silty clay with some manganese and chalk. Very dry conditions.	IA3-N	Clay pipe	Modern
2018	Cut of pit (fire-pit?)	0.85 x 0.81	0.31	Round pit with steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base. Evidence of *in situ* burning. Filled by 2019, 2020 and 2021.	IA3-S	-	-
2019	Fill of pit 2018 (upper)	0.81	0.12	Uppermost fill. Friable to moderately firm, orangey light brown to yellowish-brown, silty clay. with medium sized stones and frequent manganese. Fill of 2018	IA3-S	-	-
2020	Fill of pit 2018 (middle)	0.81	0.14	Friable, orange/grey/brown silty clay with patches of heat exposure and occasional manganese stains. Sealed by 2019 and sealing 2021	IA3-S	-	-
2021	Fill of pit 2018 (primary)	0.81	0.17	Friable, dark brown/black silty clay with frequent charred remains/charcoal and occasional small-sized stones. Natural next to the deposit only slightly scorched.	IA3-S	Layer of charcoal	-
2022	Natural feature	0.30 x 0.20	0.06	Irregular sub-oval feature with a pointed base and moderately steep and asymmetrical sides; filled with firm, grey/yellow clay and charcoal flecks with pockets of possible ash.	IA3-S	Charcoal flecks	-
2023	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2024	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026	Fill of ditch 2027	2.1 (slot) x 0.45	0.20	Firm, brown silty clay with frequent manganese stains—very similar to the natural geology (differentiated by the manganese).	IA3-M	-	-
2027	Cut of ditch	2.1 (slot) x 0.45	0.22	NE-SW linear with moderately steep, symmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a slightly concave base. Filled by 2026.	IA3-M	-	-
2028	Cut of fire-pit	1.25 x 1.25	0.22	Circular pit with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base. Traces of burning *in situ* around the edges. Filled with 2029.	IA3-M	-	11th–13th century
2029	Fill of fire-pit 2028	1.25 x 1.25	0.14	Friable, dark grey/brown silty clay with very frequent charcoal flecks and small pieces of possible slag. There was a lens of white silty clay material at the bottom of	IA3-M	-	cal. AD 1040–1210

				the pit, on top of the burnt natural (**sample 1068 radiocarbon dated**).			
2030	Natural geology affected by heat	-	0.09	Very firm, orange/brown clay. Heat-affected earth under pit 2028.	IA3-M	-	11th–13th century
2031	Cut of ditch/gully	1.8 (slot) x 0.48	0.10	Gently sloping ditch or gully with slightly asymmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a slightly concave base. Filled by 2032	IA3-M	-	-
2032	Fill of ditch/gully 2031	7.60 x 0.60	0.10	Friable, light grey silty clay—very similar to the natural geology (hill-wash deposit?).	IA3-M	-	-
2033	Cut of ditch	0.4 wide	0.04	Very shallow, ditch, possibly a continuation of 2031. Fill very difficult to describe as it diffuses with the natural geology.	IA3-M	-	-
2034	Structure—land drain	0.46 wide	0.54	Land drain with vertical sides, sharp breaks of slopes, and a flat base with a 0.3m wide ceramic pipe. This is made of two half cylinder shaped sections (each 0.32m long).	IA3-M	CBM	Modern
2035	Cut of (fire?) pit	1.3 x 1.3	0.10	Oval pit with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The feature was truncated by machine strip. Traces of burning *in situ* around/under the edge. Filled with 2077.	IA3-N	-	-
2036	Structure – land drain	1.35 (slot) x 0.38	0.28	E-W land drain made of red brick, tiles and mortar. Two courses lines of bricks, 0.15m apart, on one line capped with tiles. Cut for the structure filled with 2039 and the space in between the bricks and tiles filled with 2040.	IA3-N	CBM	Modern
2037	Cut of pit	1.00 x 0.80	0.06	Oval pit with gently sloping sides and a slightly undulating, concave base. Truncated by modern land-drain.	IA3-N	-	-
2038	Heat-affected natural geology	1.00 x 0.80	0.06	Orange/red, heat-affected earth with very thin remains of a charcoal-rich layer above in pit 2037.	IA3-N	-	-
2039	Fill above of land-drain 2036	2.20 x 0.38	0.08	Friable, light yellow/brown silty clay.	IA3-N	Pieces of CBM, animal bones and a flint flake	Modern
2040	Fill of land-drain 2036	1.10 (slot) x 0.11	0.11	Firm, dark grey/brown silty clay.	IA3-N	-	Modern
2041	Cut of curvilinear feature	1.25–1.5 x 1.15–1.30 (slot)	0.53	Curvilinear feature with irregular edges, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base with a 0.05m deep undulation in the central part. The west-facing section had symmetrical, moderately steep sides and a flat base with two 0.1m deep undulations at both ends. The western part was notably shallower at 0.24m deep. Filled with 2042	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2042	Fill of curvilinear	1.5 x 1.30 (slot)	0.53	Friable, grey/black silty clay with ash and angular pieces of sandstone (heat-affected).	IA3-N	-	?MBA

	feature 2041						
2043	Geological deposits	7.00 x 8.00	-	Patches of firm, light grey, chalky clay with manganese flecks. Very irregular and amorphous in plan.	IA3-N	-	-
2044	Deposit—dumper track fill	0.6 x 5.0	0.08	Elongated sub-oval feature with parallel, slightly wavy sides. Filled with a yellow/brown silty clay.	IA3-S	Post-medieval pottery sherd	Modern
2045	Cut of pit	2.32 x 2.34	0.68	Sub-circular pit with almost vertical sides. Gradual break of slope and a flattish, slightly undulating base. Filled by 2046, 2047 2048, 2062 and 2070. Recut of 2049 with fill 2050. Possible burnt mound.	IA3-N	-	Middle Bronze Age
2046	Fill of pit 2045	1.92 x 2.34	0.24	Firm, light grey with mottled brown/yellow silt with some charcoal flecks and burnt sandstone. Deposit varied in thickness between 0.09m and 0.24m. Cut by 2049 and sealed by 2047, 2048, and 2062.	IA3-N	<S.1073>	Middle Bronze Age
2047	Fill of pit 2045	1.92 x 0.62	0.07	Friable, dark black/red sandy silt with very frequent charcoal flecks. Only found in the central part of the pit above 2046. Cut by 2047 and sealed by 2048 (**sample 1074 radiocarbon dated**).	IA3-N	<S.1074>	1400–1200 cal. BC
2048	Main fill of pit 2045	2.32 x 1.05	0.45	Firm, yellow/brown with green/grey mottling silt with very frequent, burnt sandstone pieces and charcoal. Probably the same as 2062. Cut by 2049. Sealed by 2070 and sealing 2047 and 2046.	IA3-N	-	Middle Bronze Age
2049	Cut of pit	0.88 wide	0.37	Sub-circular pit with very steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flattish, slightly undulating base. Filled by 2050; cuts 2058, 2062, 2047 and 2046.	IA3-N	-	-
2050	Fill of recut pit 2049	0.88	0.37	Firm, dark grey silty clay with very frequent, poorly sorted, angular pieces of burnt sandstone, and charcoal. Sealed by 2070.	IA3-N	<S.1076>	-
2051	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-
2052	Cut of narrow ditch	0.30 x 2.5 (slot)	0.12	Ditch with moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and a concave base (almost pointed in some parts). Filled with 2053. Pieces of timber forming a layer (2054) at the base.	IA3-S	-	-
2053	Fill of narrow ditch 2052	0.30 x 2.5 (slot)	0.02–0.04	Firm, very compact, pale brown/yellow silty clay with relatively frequent manganese stains. Pieces of timber at the bottom of 2053.	IA3-S	-	-
2054	Timber in narrow ditch	0.2 x 1.1	0.04	Layer of timber at the bottom of ditch 2052. Possibly a decayed and waterlogged root rather than intentionally used timber	IA3-S	-	-
2055	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2056	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2057	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2058	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2059	VOID	-	-	-	-	-	-
2060	Cut of a natural feature /possible pit	2.20 x 1.54	0.14	Asymmetric, sub-oval pit.	IA3-S	-	-
2061	Fill of natural feature	2.30 x 1.54	0.14	Firm, dark grey/brown silty clay with relatively frequent charcoal flecks and heat-affected sandstone. Disturbed by dumper track 2044.	IA3-S	-	-

	/possible pit 2060						
2062	Fill of pit 2045 (upper)	2.32 x 0.45	0.42	Firm, dark red/black silty clay with blue/grey patches and some sand. Very frequent burnt and cracked pieces of sandstone, plus charcoal. Cut by 2049.	IA3-N	<S.1077>	Bronze Age?
2063	Cut	2.80 x 2.30	0.52	Sub-oval pit with slightly diffused edges, symmetrical, moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a flat base. Filled with 2064, 2065, 2072, 2073, and 2075.	IA3-S	-	Bronze Age?
2064	Fill of pit 2063	0.42 x 2.3	0.14	Firm, light brown/grey silty sand with frequent manganese stains; sealing 2065, uppermost fill of pit 2063. Cut by 2049.	IA3-S	-	Bronze Age?
2065	Fill of pit 2063	0.15 x 2.3	0.42	Hard, brown clay silt with frequent charcoal pieces (some large) and heavy manganese stains. Sealed by 2064; sealing 2075; cut by 2091. The deposit may be equal to 2072.	IA3-S	Pottery Sherds, <S.1069>	Bronze Age?
2066	Cut of ditch	2.0 (slot length) x 0.47	0.22	Ditch with asymmetrical sides and a flat base. Filled with 2067	IA3-S	-	Late Iron Age
2067	Fill of ditch 2066	2.0 (slot length) x 0.47	0.22	Firm, grey/brown silty clay with occasional manganese stains; traces of roots in the fill with some charcoal flecks (**sample 1072 radiocarbon dated**).	IA3-S	<S.1072>	170 cal. BC–cal. AD 20
2068	Natural deposit	2.00 x 0.90	0.20	Elongated, irregular feature with asymmetrical and undulating profile filled with a firm, light grey chalky clay	IA3-S	-	-
2069	Geological deposit	5.00 x 1.00	>0.50	Yellow/grey clay with occasional manganese stains and a couple of rounded sandstones.	IA3-S	-	-
2070	Fill of pit 2049	2.32 x 1.78	0.10	Firm, dark grey clay with frequent burnt sandstones and pieces of charcoal. Seals 2050 and 2048.	IA3-N	Worked flint, <S.1075>	-
2071	Fill of pit 2091	0.83	0.11	Firm, light brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks; seals 2074.	IA3-S	-	-
2072	Fill of pit 2063	0.75	0.32	Hard, light brown/grey silty clay with frequent manganese stains. Cut by 2091; seals 2073	IA3-S	-	Bronze Age?
2073	Fill of pit 2063	-	0.28	Compact, brown with mottled patches of blue and light yellow/brown silty clay with rare manganese stains.	IA3-S	-	Bronze Age?
2074	Fill of pit 2091	-	0.36	Firm, light orange/brown silty clay with blue/grey patches and occasional pieces of charcoal.	IA3-S	-	-
2075	Fill of pit 2063 (basal)	-	0.16	Firm, brown silty clay with blue/grey patches and frequent pieces of charcoal and manganese stains. Sealed by 2065 and 2073; cut by 2091.	IA3-S	-	Bronze Age?
2076	Tree-throw	2.50 x 0.70	0.40	Natural feature with firm, light grey/yellow silty clay and manganese stains.	IA3-S	Flint flake	-
2077	Fill of (fire?) pit 2035	1.3 x 1.3	0.10	Friable, dark grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate amount of sub-angular sandstone.	IA3-N	-	-
2078	Cut of pit	1.00 x 0.60	0.08	Sub-oval pit with shallow sides and flat base.	BP2	-	-
2079	Fill of pit 2078	1.00 x 0.60	0.08	Firm, grey/brown silty clay with burnt red clay patches and manganese stains.	BP2	-	-

2080	Cut of ditch(?)	1.2 x 2.26	>0.4	Possible ditch truncated by modern activity with slightly asymmetrical sides and an undulating base. Possibly a terminal or a natural feature; filled by 2081, 2096, 2095.	IA3-N	-	-
2081	Fill of ditch(?) 2080	2.15 x 0.56	0.35	Friable, yellow/grey silty clay with occasional angular pieces of sandstone (some with probable traces of heat exposure) and a moderate amount of charcoal flecks. Considerable rooting; sealed by subsoil and 2096.	IA3-N	-	-
2082	Cut of posthole	0.21 x 0.21	-	Unexcavated circular posthole. Probably related to burnt mound features and/or posthole 2084	IA3-N	-	-
2083	Fill of posthole 2082	0.21 x 0.21	-	Firm, brown silty clay with occasional pieces of charcoal.	IA3-N	-	-
2084	Cut of posthole	0.17 x 0.17	0.16	Circular posthole with conical, slightly undulating sides; filled with 2085.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2085	Fill of posthole 2084	0.17 x 0.17	0.16	Firm, dark brown silty clay with moderate number of pieces of charcoal and occasional pieces of sandstone; fill of 2084.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2086	Cut of ditch	1.25 x 1.15 (slot)	0.13	Ditch with slightly undulating base, gradual and imperceptible breaks of slope; steep (SSW) and gently sloping (NNE) sides; merging with 2088; filled with 2087.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2087	Fill of ditch 2086	1.25x1.15 (slot)	0.13	Firm, dark grey/brown silty clay with very frequent, heat-exposed angular pieces of sandstone and occasional pieces of chalk.	IA3-N	Worked flint	?MBA
2088	Cut of ditch	1.53	0.22	Ditch with a concave base, symmetrical, moderately steep sides and imperceptible breaks of slope; filled by 2089; merges with 2086	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2089	Fill of ditch 2088	1.53	0.22	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay with very frequent angular pieces of heat-exposed sandstone.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2090	Deposit /Cut	0.42	-	Sub-circular deposit with diffuse edges, filled with dark brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and frequent pieces of angular, heat-exposed pieces of sandstone. Might be part of gully 2086.	IA3-N	-	-
2091	Cut of pit	>1.53 x >0.93	0.32	Circular pit with regular but asymmetrical sides; cuts 2072, 2073, 2075, 2065 and 2064.	IA3-S	-	-
2092	Layer in pond	>6.5	0.15	Friable, dark brown/green waterlogged silt with large amount of organic material, including two large pieces of wood. Seals 2093.	IA3-N	-	-
2093	Layer in pond	>6.5	0.35	Friable, dark green/blue silty clay with large amount of organic material. Sealed by 2092 and sealing 2094	IA3-N	-	-
2094	Layer in pond or fill of possible palaeo-channel	>6.5 x 0.3	0.4	Friable, brown/blue silty clay. Sealed by 2093.	IA3-N	-	-
2095	Fill of ditch(?) 2080	2.22 x 0.55	0.1	Firm, pale blue/yellow clay (very clean and homogeneous) on the NE side of 2080. Sealed by 2081 and 2096. Possible clay lining of ditch associated with burnt mound.	IA3-N	-	-
2096	Fill of ditch(?) 2080	1.25 x 0.72	0.2	Firm, light yellow/grey silty clay with moderate amount (15%) of small, angular pieces of sandstone (some burnt) and some small pieces of charcoal. Possible presence of ash. Seals 2081 and 2095.	IA3-N	-	-

2097	Layer (Natural deposit)	-	-	Firm, blue/grey with patches of light brown/yellow clay.	IA3-N	-	-
2098	Deposit	-	-	Firm, brown/yellow silty clay. Seals 2097 and partially masks some archaeological features in the 'burnt mound' area.	IA3-N	<S.1087>	-
2099	Cut of pit	4.0 x 5.0	0.9	Sub-oval pit with steep sides and a flattish base; cut by 2505; filled by 2501 and 2502.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2500	Fill of pit 2505	-	0.2	Firm, blue/yellow clay silt with occasional heat-exposed sandstone fragments and occasional patches of manganese. Feature has diffuse edges, merging with 2097.	IA3-N	Pottery (LIA/ER), worked flint	?MBA
2501	Fill of pit 2099	-	0.4	Firm, dark brown/black silty clay with very frequent charcoal flecks, heat-exposed pieces of sandstone and weathered mudstone. Similar to deposit in pit 2045 and in gully 2041.	IA3-N	<S.1086>	?MBA
2502	Fill of pit 2099 (lower)	-	0.35	Firm, grey/brown silty clay with very frequent heat-affected pieces of sandstone and patches of charcoal, plus some white (burnt?) mudstone.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2503	Fill of pit 2504	-	0.15	Moderately firm, dark grey/black silty clay with patches of burnt charcoal (including some larger fragments) and moderate number of heat-affected pieces of sandstone.	IA3-N	-	-
2504	Cut of pit	2.7 (long)	0.2	Pit with moderately steep/very steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base. The feature was only partly exposed. Filled by 2503; cuts 2097.	IA3-N	-	-
2505	Cut of pit	3.0 x 4.0	0.3	Pit recutting 2501. Masked partly by 2098 but probably sub-oval with gently sloping, slightly undulating sides and a slightly undulating base. Filled by 2500.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2506	Fill of pit 2508 (upper)	2.1 (wide)	0.45	Friable, light yellow/grey clay silt with small, angular pieces of sandstone and occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by 2097; sealing 2507.	IA3-N	<S.1084>	?MBA
2507	Fill of pit 2508 (basal)	2.7 (wide)	0.16	Friable, grey/black, clay silt with frequent small burnt stones and charcoal flecks. Sealed by 2506.	IA3-N	-	-
2508	Cut of pit	2.7	0.6	Pit not clear in plan but has moderately steep, symmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. Cuts 2511 and 2510 in pit 2516.	IA3-N	-	-
2509	Fill of pit 2513/ 2516	0.43 wide	0.3	Firm, blue/grey clay with manganese and very occasional charcoal flecks. Collapsed side of pit 2516; overlies 2510.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2510	Fill of pit 2513/ 2516	0.85	0.45	Firm, grey silty clay with moderate amount of heat-exposed sandstone and charcoal flecks. Probably equal to 2511; overlies 2512; cut by 2508; middle fill of 2516.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2511	Fill of pit 2513/ 2516	0.4 wide	0.42	Firm, grey silty clay with moderate amount of heat-exposed sandstone and charcoal flecks. Probably equal to 2510; overlies 2512; cut by 2508; middle fill of 2516.	IA3-N	-	?MBA
2512	Fill of pit 2513/ 2516	2.1 wide	0.4	Firm, dark grey/black silty clay with frequent charcoal (including some sizeable chunks) and some heat-exposed sandstone.	IA3-N	<S.1085>	?MBA
2513	Cut of pit	3.3lon g 2.7	1.2	Sub-rectangular pit with asymmetrical, moderately steep and very steep (irregularly stepped) sides,	IA3-N	-	-

				gradual breaks of slope and a slightly concave base. Filled by 2512, 2511, 2510, 2509. Recut by 2508.			
2514	Cut of possible posthole	0.18 wide	0.07	Feature with diagonal sides, though the base is not clear. It is either a shallow post-hole or bioturbation.	IA3-N	-	-
2515	Layer	-	0.24	Natural geology consisting of a firm, grey/brown clay and shale.	IA3-N	-	-
2516	Cut of (fire) pit	-	-	Equal to 2513.	IA3-N	-	-
2517	Fill of pit 2099	-	0.4	-	IA3-N	-	-
2140	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	WC5B	-	-
2141	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	WC5B	-	-
2142	Layer	-	-	Natural clay geology	WC5B	-	-
2143	Natural feature	1.0	0.37	Probable water channel.	WC5B	-	-
2144	Fill of 2143	-	0.37	Firm, brown silty clay fill of natural feature.	WC5B	-	-
2145	Natural feature	1.1	0.08	Probable tree-throw hole.	WC5B	-	-
2146	Fill of 2145	-	0.08	Firm, mottled brown clay silt fill of natural feature with manganese and charcoal.	WC5B	-	-

WC3		
Area description	**Total area (ha)**	0.728
Receptor site for translocation. Located to the east of A21, east of Burgess Hill Cottage and Burgess Hill Farm, and to the north of WC4. One fire-pit, one shallow pit and one northwest – southeast running probable boundary ditch. No other archaeological features were identified.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	52 & 60
	Length (m)	98 & 113

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1101	Topsoil	-	0.2	Friable, medium brownish-grey humic clay.	-	Modern
1102	Natural	-	-	Medium to light yellow clay, with some grey mottling and moderate manganese inclusions.	-	-
1103	Cut	1. 4	0.07	Pit cut, circular in plan with flat base, probable fire-pit	-	-
1104	Fill	0.87	0.04	Fill of 1103. Compact dark greyish-clayey silt, medium frequency inclusions of charcoal.	-	-
1105	Layer	1.4	0.05	Lower fill of 1103. Heat affected sandy clay natural. Some animal disturbance.	-	-
1106	Subsoil	-	0.30	Tenacious light yellowish-brown sandy clay	Pottery: Roman or Post-med	-
1107	Natural feature	0.6	0.05	Small natural hollow. Asymmetrical sides, steep to northeast but very shallow to southwest. Irregular but level base.	-	-
1108	Fill	-	0.05	Single fill of 1107. Firm brownish-grey sandy clay. Natural depositional fill with no finds. Infrequent charcoal and pebble inclusions.	-	-
1109	Natural feature	2.2	0.19	Natural geological cut. Irregular sides and base.	-	-

1110	Fill	-	0.19	Friable brownish-yellow, with blue grey mottling, silty clay, frequent manganese inclusions. Fill of 1109.	-	-
1111	Cut	2.08	0.08	Ditch orientated northwest/southeast with regular, steep sides and a flat level base.	-	-
1112	Fill	-	0.08	Firm yellowish-grey silty clay, with moderate manganese inclusions. Single fill of 1112.	-	-
1113	Small find	-	-	Finds reference context number	pottery	Roman
1114	Natural feature	1	0.2	Amorphous natural feature in plan with irregular sides and base. Filled with a brownish-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks.	-	-
1115	Natural feature	1.3	0.08	An irregular shaped spread of reddish-brown sandstone. Geological.	-	-
1116	Natural feature	2.2	0.1	Amorphous in plan with steep symmetrical sides and irregular base. Compact, light yellowish-brown silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks.	-	-
1117	Natural feature	1.1	0.12	Linear feature with very irregular sides and base. Moderately compact mottled yellow brown sandy clay fill with extensive rooting. Possibly an old hedge line.	-	-
1118	Layer	-	0.12	Spread of charcoal mixed with colluvial subsoil layer. Moderately compact charcoal filled colluvial topsoil. Sample taken 1032.	-	-
1119–1127		-	-	Voided		
1128	Cut	0.92	0.16	Sub circular pit cut with a gently sloping bowl-shaped profile	-	-
1129	Fill	-	0.16	Mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with charcoal inclusions. Fill of 1128	-	-

WC5A						
Area description					**Total area (ha)**	0.358
Receptor site for translocation. Located to the east of A21 and Castle Hill Farm. South of WC4 and north of WC5b. No archaeological features present.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3–0.5
					Width (m)	36
					Length (m)	90
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1008	Topsoil	-	0.2	Friable dark greyish-brown silty clay.	-	Modern
1009	Subsoil		0.3	Tenacious light brown sandy clay	Worked flint, pebble hammer	-
1010	Natural	--	-	Moderate compaction light yellowish-brown clay.	-	-
1017	Deposit	1.0	0.3	Irregular spread of light burning, consists of friable dark greyish-brown sandy clay, heavily rooted.	-	Modern
1018	Natural feature	1.1	0.15	Irregular tree-throw with burning, filled with a very mixed, black, grey-blue, mid brown silty clay	-	-

Balancing Pond 2		
Area description	**Total area (ha)**	0.332
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Area located south east of Burgess Cottage, north west of Potters Wood. Balancing Pond 2 for A21 Dualling Scheme.	**Width (m)**	69
	Length (m)	70

Contexts

Context no	Type	L x W (m)	D (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2101	Natural geology	-	-	Firm, orangey-yellowish-light brown clay with patches of light grey silty clay	-	-
2102	Subsoil B-Horizon	-	0.26	Friable, dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-
2103	Topsoil	-	0.15–0.17	Friable, dark brownish-grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of sandstone	-	-
2104	Cut of pit	0.98 x 0.6	0.22	Oval in plan; with symmetrical moderately steep sides, imperceptible break of slope, and a slightly concave base. Filled with 2105 and 2106	-	-
2105	Primary fill of pit	0.98 x 0.48	0.09	Firm, medium yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional patches of manganese. Fill of 2104. Sealed by deposit 2106	-	-
2106	Secondary fill of pit	0.98 x 0.6	0.13	Firm, dark greyish-black silty clay with moderate amount of manganese stains and frequent pieces of charcoal. Orangey red patches of burning clearly visible within the deposit. Fill of 2104. Sealing 2105; sealed by 2102	-	-
2107	Cut of ditch	0.57 wide	0.3	Linear in plan, orientated N-S; symmetrical, moderately steep sides, a pointed base. Filled with 2108 deposit	-	-
2108	Single fill of ditch	0.57 wide	0.3	Firm, fine grained, medium greyish-yellow slightly silty clay with frequent manganese stains. Single and homogeneous fill of ditch 2107	-	-
2109	Pit / Tree throw ?	0.76 x 0.7	0.14	Irregular oval in plan; with asymmetrical sides (eastern gently sloping, western very steep), a slightly convex, gently sloping down base. Filled with 2110 deposit	-	-
2110	Fill of pit / tree throw ?	0.76 x 0.7	0.14	Not homogeneous – patches of firm brownish-orange clay and friable dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional manganese stains and rare small sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pieces of sandstone; disturbed by floral rooting activity. Single fill of 2109	-	-
2111	Cut of pit / tree throw	0.76 x 0.55	0.26	Irregular oval in plan; with asymmetrical sides (northern moderately steep, southern steep), a slightly concave and sloping down base; filled with three deposits (2112, 2113, and 2114)	-	-
2112	Upper fill of pit / tree throw	0.5 wide	0.07	Firm, light greyish-yellow slightly silty clay with some sand and frequent charcoal flecks – evidence for burning. Upper fill of 2111.	-	-
2113	Middle fill of pit / tree throw	0.5 wide	0.04	Sandy clay with charcoal (*c* 30%); sealed by fill 2112, sealing 2114. Middle fill of 2111.	-	-
2114	Lower fill of pit / tree throw	0.5 wide	0.2	Firm, orangey-yellowish-light brown clay with darker patches of silty clay. Sealed by 2113. Lower fill of 2111	-	-
2115	Natural deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellowish-brown with light grey patches clay with relatively frequent patches of manganese. A heat affected natural geology. Related to 2111	-	-
2116	Cut of pit	0.63 x 0.56	0.14	Oval in plan; with slightly asymmetrical sides (western moderately steep, eastern steep), gradual break of slope, and a flat base. Filled with 2117. No traces of burning *in situ*. Filled with 2117	-	-

2117	Fill pit	0.63 x 0.56	0.14	Friable, charcoal with silty clay. Single fill of 2116	-	-
2118	Cut of ditch	0.45 wide	0.18	Linear in plan; with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and a concave base. Filled with 2118	-	-
2119	Fill of ditch	0.45 wide	0.18	Firm, light yellowish-grey slightly silty clay with occasional, *c* 0.05–0.07m large charred pieces of timber. Single fill of 2118	-	-
2120	Natural feature	3.0 x 1.6	0.36	Irregular oval in plan; with undulating, asymmetrical sides, and an undulating base. Filled with 2121 deposit	-	-
2121	Fill of natural feature	3.0 x 1.6	0.36	Firm, medium greyish-yellow clay with frequent stains of manganese and no other inclusions. Single fill of 2120	-	-
2122	Cut of ditch	0.62	0.23	Linear in plan with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and a pointed base. Filled with 2123 deposit	-	-
2123	Fill of ditch	0.62	0.23	Firm, light greyish-yellow slightly silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and manganese stains. Single fill of 2122	-	-
2124	Cut of linear feature	0.3	0.15	Linear in plan, with steep sides, gradual break of slope, and a concave base. Edges very unclear. Filled with 2125	-	-
2125	Fill of linear feature	0.3	0.15	Firm, light yellowish-brown clay with occasional manganese stains; very unclear transition in between the deposit and the natural geology. Single fill of 2124.	-	-
2126	Cut of ditch	0.4 wide	0.17	Linear in plan; with moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a deep concave base. Filled with 2137 deposit.	-	-
2127	Fill of ditch	0.4 wide	0.17	Firm, yellowish-light grey with patches of brownish-yellow silty clay with stains of manganese. Single fill of 2136	-	-
2128	Geological feature	9.3 x 4.9	0.14	Undulation in natural geology (glacial or more likely periglacial), filled with firm, light grey clayey silt with occasional manganese stains	-	-
2129	Cut of ditch	> 2.05 x 0.55	0.25	Linear in plan; with symmetrical, steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. Filled with 2130	-	-
2130	Fill of ditch	> 2.05 x 0.55	0.25	Firm, light yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and some manganese stains. Single fill of 2129	-	-
2131	Cut of pit	0.68 x 0.64	0.13	Round in plan; with symmetrical moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a slightly undulating base. Filled with deposits 2133, and 2134	-	-
2132	Heat affected natural geology	0.7 x 0.66	0.03	Firm orangey red clay below the edges of 2131 pit.	-	-
2133	Primary fill of pit	0.68 x 0.64	0.04	Friable, black silt with large amount of charcoal. Lower fill of 2131	-	-
2134	Secondary fill of pit	0.68 x 0.64	0.09	Firm, light grey slightly clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks. Upper fill of 2131.	-	-

5 IA4 (NEW COMPOUND, FAIRTHORNE JUNCTION AND HEATHLAND CREATION)

5.1 Project details and background

5.1.1 IA4 comprised six areas, or sections, that were subject to archaeological investigation (Fig. 23). These include the New Compound area (hereafter 'NC'), which was divided into north and south sections, the NC north-east extension, the Heathland Creation area, and Fairthorne Junction phase 1 (IA4-FJ1) and phase 2 (IA4-FJ2). Several site-specific archaeological characterisation reports have previously summarised the results of work undertaken in these areas (OA 2014a; 2015l; 2015m; 2016b; 2016c; 2017b; 2017f).

5.1.2 The NC north section and the Heathland Creation area were subject to geophysical magnetometer survey, which had indicated numerous possible archaeological features (OA 2009). The site was therefore designated for SMS excavation in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013). The requirements for archaeological mitigation were set out in the DAMD v.6 (WSP 2015) and expanded upon in the WSI v.6 (OA 2015a).

5.1.3 Archaeological excavation was undertaken in several stages, owing to different areas being required for construction work at different times. This largely conformed to the areas stated above. The NC north section was excavated in December 2014, the NC north-east extension in January 2015, the NC south section between January and February 2015, the Heathland Creation area between April and May 2015, IA4-FJ1 between June and July 2015, and IA4-FJ2 between July and August 2015.

5.2 Location

5.2.1 IA4 extended for *c* 260m along the eastern side of the A21, from TQ 61278 43394 in the north to TQ 61347 43152 in the south. The site was centred approximately at TQ 61400 43293 and covered an area totalling *c* 3.4ha. IA4 extended for *c* 260m along the eastern side of the A21.

5.3 Scope of works

NC north section

5.3.1 Based on the low number of potential features revealed by the geophysical survey along the line of the A21 road scheme (OA 2009), it was initially proposed that a characterisation sample of five interventions per hectare be excavated (OA 2014a). In this area, however, at least 16 archaeological features were evident after only 0.3ha had been stripped and it was clear that a pro-rata sample would not be adequate to characterise the archaeology.

5.3.2 Since the site was also urgently required for the construction of a compound, it was agreed that a total of nine interventions should be excavated and it was hoped that this would be sufficient not only to characterise the features, but also to complete the archaeological investigation of this area. However, it was further recognised that the remaining area needed to be stripped due the presence of archaeology across the site and an area totalling 1.1ha was excavated.

5.3.3 The trench was an irregular shape, roughly aligned north-west to south-east. It measured *c* 55m at its southern end, *c* 72m across its central portion, narrowing to *c* 25m at its north-western end.

NC south section

5.3.4 This area extended immediately to the south from the boundary of the NC north section trench for *c* 73m and measuring *c* 65m WSW/ENE at its southern limit. An extension, 43m long and 5.25m wide, was excavated from the south-western corner of the trench. The total area exposed by the trench covered 0.59ha.

NC north-east extension

5.3.5 A small area covering 0.042ha was excavated immediately to the north-east of NC north section after the latter was signed off for construction work. This trench was an irregular shape, measuring 43.6m long east/west and 21.6m wide.

5.3.6 Only a limited hand-excavated sample was necessary to characterise the archaeology in this area.

*IA4-FJ*1

5.3.7 IA4-FJ1 was located adjacent to the A21. The excavated area was stripped in two phases of mitigation work as the area closest to the road was required for construction work. The total area measured *c* 226m long and varied between 10m and 45m wide.

*IA4-FJ*2

5.3.8 IA4-FJ2 was effectively an extension to the east of IA4-FJ2, together creating an irregular, semi-circle-shaped trench to the west of the New Compound trenches.

5.3.9 The investigated area was 54m wide at its greatest extent, 227m long NNW/SSE, and covered 0.85ha.

5.3.10 During the fieldwork, the discovery of two surface scatters of worked flint necessitated modification to the agreed number of hand-excavated interventions, and a further strategy for excavation and recording the scatters was agreed.

Heathland Creation area

5.3.11 The Heathland Creation area was located along the eastern side of IA4. It consisted of a rectangular trench measuring 101.7m long, north/south, and 34m wide, east/west.

5.3.12 After initial stripping, a sample of the archaeological features was excavated, though only minimal dating evidence was retrieved. This led to the submission of a Further Archaeological Mitigation Design (OA 2016c). Subsequently, a second phase of excavation of the fenced-off features was undertaken from 9th to 14th July 2015 and completed on 27th July 2015.

5.4 Methodology for the excavation of the flint scatters

5.4.1 The excavation of two flint scatters in IA4-FJ2 followed the OA Detailed Mitigation for flint scatters, which can be summarised as follows:

- each square metre was excavated using small hand-tools only;

- all the material was recorded stratigraphically with finds plotted in 3D;
- the deposits from all spits containing flint material were sampled for sieving (each sample is 40 litres, comprising *c* 70% of each spit volume);
- a sample of metre squares were designated for environmental microanalysis;
- and, charcoal samples and monolith column samples were taken from the deposit containing pieces of flint, from the underlying geology, and from the overlying 'subsoil'.

5.5 Results

NC north section

5.5.1 This area of the site consisted of two main elements: a sub-circular enclosure in the north-western part of the trench and a pair of ditches that appeared to mark out a field on the eastern side of the trench.

5.5.2 The sub-circular enclosure measured 57m east-west and had two certain entrances, one on the eastern and one on the southern side (the latter entrance was discovered during work on IA4-FJ2—see below). Another possible entrance was present on the western side (Fig. 24). The eastern side of the sub-circular enclosure was represented by two curvilinear ditches, whose terminals were separated by a gap *c* 12m wide. The ditch was 0.74m deep in cut 359, and (although the oblique section does not show it) the profile was steep-sided towards the base, broadening higher up (Fig. 29, Section 174; Plate 50). Here, the ditch contained four fills. The lower three fills consisted of light grey silty sand, while the upper fill was a firm brown silty clay. Worked flints were recovered from each of the fills in this section, 34 in total, some of which were burnt, while charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments were also present. No other finds were recovered from this ditch section. At the terminal (312) the ditch shallowed rapidly, and although it measured 2.2m across it was only 0.15m deep (Fig. 29, Section 168). A similar shallowing was observed at the south-west entrance (Plate 53, see 5.5.54 below).

5.5.3 The southern terminal (322) was slightly deeper than the northern terminal at 0.32m deep (Fig. 29, Section 169). The ditch appeared to be shallow along the south-east side, varying between 0.22m in section 356 and 0.32m in cut 351 (Fig. 29, Sections 171 and 172), although it was 0.58m deep in cut 558 at the south-western entrance (see 5.5.52 below). It is possible that the narrower slot and lower fills were not recognised in these sections as they were difficult to distinguish from the surrounding natural. A lump of slag and a sizeable quantity of charcoal was found in cut 351 (fill 353) on the south-east side.

5.5.4 The northern half of the western side of the enclosure was not observed during the initial stripping of the haul route into this area from the west. The ditch, however, clearly continued south from where it was cut by pit 320 (cut 318, Plate 51), and here it was 0.24m deep. This ditch appears to have deepened significantly as it ran south, from only 0.24m deep in cut 318 to around 0.8m deep in cuts 573 and 567 close to the southern terminus (Fig. 29, Section 167; Plates 52 and 53; see also 5.5.53–4 below). A single worked flint was recovered from fill 319 in cut 318 of the ditch.

5.5.5 Part of the north-western arc of the enclosure ditch was also seen, firstly in section in the northern limit of the haul route, and later during excavation of a water main north of the main excavation (see 5.5.60 below). Here the ditch was 0.85m deep. It is possible that the

intervening stretch of ditch across the haul road was truncated during machining before the feature was recognised. Weather conditions were also difficult during this work and the ditch was difficult to observe due to ground-water flooding. Alternatively, the shallow depth recorded in cut 381 may indicate that this was close to a terminus, and that there had been a gap here for an entrance.

5.5.6 Radiocarbon dates were recovered from two fills of the enclosure ditch. One charcoal sample, recovered from the primary fill (323) of the southern terminal 322, provided a later Iron Age date of 210–50 cal. BC (84.9%) (SUERC-73969 (GU44328); 2130 ±30 yrs BP). Another charcoal sample from the middle fill (353) of cut 351 provided an early Roman date of cal. AD 80–250 (SUERC-73964 (GU44327); 1836 ±30 yrs BP).

5.5.7 Pit 320, which cut 318, the western side of the sub-circular ditch, was 0.23m deep with two fills. One (321) included a concentration of charcoal and seven worked flints (Fig. 29, Section 158). A sample of ivy (Hedera) charcoal from this provided a date range of cal. AD 1030–1210 (Beta-565026; 910 ±30 yrs BP).

5.5.8 The interior of the sub-circular enclosure contained three curvilinear gullies (382), two of which were in alignment (306/373 and 515), and two postholes (369 and 371) about 10m north-west of the eastern entrance (Fig. 30, Sections 177 and 178; Plate 54). The two aligned gullies appeared to terminate about 2m from each other and may have formed a small entrance, perhaps for a circular structure. The two postholes were located close to this possible entrance and may represent the surviving remains of a structure. The gullies measured 0.34–0.47m wide and 0.12–0.19m deep, and contained a friable, dark brown clay sand (Fig. 30, Sections 179 and 182).

5.5.9 Pit 364 was the only other excavated feature located within the sub-circular enclosure. It was 0.6m by 0.7m wide, 0.12m deep and contained two silty clay fills (Fig. 30, Section 175). The upper fill (365) contained a concentration of burnt material and sandstone fragments.

5.5.10 Pit 341 lay close to a tree-throw hole (329) just outside the eastern entrance of the sub-circular enclosure (Fig. 29, Section 164; Plate 55). This feature was sub-oval in plan, measuring 1.55m by 1.67m across and 0.31m deep, and contained two loose, yellow/grey silty sand fills. Pit 341 contained numerous pieces of iron pan, some of which looked to have been deliberately angled downwards, while the upper fill (339) contained 25 fragments of worked flint, one of which had been burnt. The flints have been dated to the late Mesolithic period (see Volume 6). Tree-throw hole 329 also contained worked flints of similar date. In order to clarify whether the struck flints indicated a rare example of a Mesolithic pit, or whether they were residual in a later feature, hazel charcoal from the lower fill of the pit (340) was submitted for radiocarbon dating, and gave a date range of 1620–1505 cal. BC (SUERC-90238 (GU53058); 3287 ±23 yrs BP) at the start of the middle Bronze Age. This showed that there was activity on the site at this time, although the Mesolithic flints had clearly been redeposited in the pit.

5.5.11 A north/south aligned field boundary (304/366/391/402) was located close to the eastern side of the trench (Fig. 25). The ditch continued south from the edge of the trench for *c* 55m before it reached a gap of about 4m between it and another ditch section to the south. The southern section turned 45 degrees to the east and appears to have formed the southern boundary of a field. The width of the north/south ditch ranged between 0.53m and 1.02m,

being narrowest towards the southern end, though it was fairly shallow along its full length, varying between 0.21m and 0.3m (Fig. 29, Section 151; Plate 56).

5.5.12 A series of non-linear features were identified as soil marks to the west of ditch 304/366/391/402. Two of these (393 and 395) have been interpreted as pits. Pit 393 was sub-oval in plan, measuring 2.2m long and 1.8m wide. It reached 0.1m deep and contained a soft, black, silty clay fill with a concentration of charcoal and some burnt sandstone (Fig. 30, Section 186). It is possible that this feature was a fire-pit. Its shallow depth suggests that it was heavily truncated. Pit 395 was oval in plan, measuring 2.1m long and 1.24m wide. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base that reached 0.4m deep and was filled with a mixed brown and light grey clay sand deposit. A small posthole (388) was located a few meters north-east of pit 393, though it was not obviously associated with any other feature. The remaining features in this area appeared to be natural. The most notable of these was feature 398/506/510, which appears to have been an animal burrow.

5.5.13 Another set of features was observed as soil marks to the east of field boundary ditch 304/366/391/402. Only one of these, ditch 509, was excavated. Ditch 509 was oriented NE/SW, though its southern alignment petered out before it reached the southern section of field boundary 304/366/391/402. Ditch 509 was quite wide and deep, measuring 1.42m and 0.52m respectively, and it contained three sandy silt fills, though none produced any finds (Fig. 30, Section 191).

5.5.14 Two clusters of natural features were located in the central part of the trench: one to the east consisting of 315, 324, 327, 332 and 346, and one to the west consisting of 378, 383, 384, 385 and 390. Most of these were probably three-throw holes judging by the irregular and undulating character of their plans and profiles.

NC south section

5.5.15 A total of 53 soil marks were exposed across this trench. Of these, 14 (including a possible structure comprising eight individual features) were designated for hand-excavation (Fig. 26). Most of the unexcavated features were either amorphous or irregular in plan, though some were oval/sub-oval. The fills of these soil marks were mostly composed of homogeneous grey/brown silty sand. A few contained patches of charcoal or traces of burning. However, investigation of similar features in NC north section shown that these was characteristic of tree-throw holes.

5.5.16 In the central- and north-western part of the site, an extensive layer of grey silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal was found below the ploughsoil. This was tested by means of a 2m-wide machine-excavated sondage that showed the layer to be *c* 0.4m thick with occasional charcoal flecks and angular pieces of sandstone. Several natural features were clearly cut into this layer, but no man-made features were exposed. It seems likely that the layer was a natural (?colluvial) deposit.

5.5.17 In the centre of the site, cut into the grey layer, a sub-rectangular feature (517) was investigated (Plate 57—not shown on plan). It was 1.82m long, 0.96m wide and up to 0.26m deep, with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes and an undulating base. The single fill 518 was a friable, light greyish-brown silty sand with only occasional small, sub-rounded pieces of sandstone, and no finds or environmental remains. The feature is interpreted as tree-throw hole.

5.5.18 Two postholes (525 and 527) were excavated just a few metres apart in the south-western part of the site. Both measured approximately 0.8m in diameter and 0.35m deep. The features had steep sides, though 527 was more angled. Each contained a single fill of friable, dark grey/brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. The fill of posthole 525 included a void.

5.5.19 Towards the eastern side of the trench lay a series of features, comprising one large central feature (521) surrounded by eight smaller features (Plate 58). Pit 521 was sub-rectangular and measured 2.38m by 1.97m. It was 0.3m deep with moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base. It contained a single fill (522) consisting of a friable, dark grey/brown silty sand with moderate amounts of sub-angular and angular pieces of sandstone (most with traces of burning) and a thick patch of charcoal. The base was orange-red, indicating *in situ* burning, and an environmental sample of the charcoal was taken. No finds were recovered though the feature seems to represent a hearth.

5.5.20 The remaining features in this group all appeared to be natural, most likely tree-throw holes. The most notable of these was an elongated feature (531), located to the north of the central pit, which was symmetrical but quite amorphous in plan. It was 2.28m long (north-west to south-east), 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep. It had gently sloping sides, an undulating base, and its single fill was a friable, light–mid grey/brown clayey sand with occasional small pieces of sub-rounded sandstone. Just south of this, oval feature 538 was exposed. It measured 0.19m by 0.12m and 0.07m deep and had asymmetrical stepped sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill of friable, grey/brown sandy silt with occasional, small sub-rounded pieces of sandstone. To the west of 531 was an oval feature (536), which was 0.71m long and 0.1m deep. It had asymmetrical, moderately steep sides and an undulating base. Its single fill (537) was composed of friable, orange-grey sandy silt with very occasional small pieces of sandstone. This is also likely to be a tree-throw hole.

5.5.21 Four sub-circular features formed a slightly irregular square around central pit 521 with sides orientated north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east. Two of the four were investigated by hand. Feature 534 was oval, 0.8m long, 0.6m wide and 0.45m deep. It was very irregular in profile and had a single fill of dark grey silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. There were no finds. This was probably of natural origin, but due to root-disturbance this is not certain. Feature 529 was a slightly curved oval, measuring 0.58m by 0.86m across and was 0.2m deep, with asymmetrical, moderately steep sides and an undulating base. Its single fill 530 was friable, mottled grey silty sand with only occasional sub-rounded pieces of sandstone.

5.5.22 In the south-west corner, a ditch (519) was uncovered crossing the stripped area on a north-west to south-east orientation. The exposed length was 7m, and it was 0.8m wide and survived 0.25m deep, with symmetrical, moderately steep sides with sharp breaks of slopes and a flat base. Its single fill was a greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefactual material was present.

5.5.23 A south-west extension to the site revealed a concentration of soil marks, though most of these appeared to be natural features. Two parallel, north-west/south-east aligned ditches were found in this south-west area: one just within the main trench and one within the extension. Ditch 519 extended beyond the trench boundaries at both ends. It was 0.25m deep with 45^{o} sides and a flat base. Ditch 542 extended to a terminal at its north-west end, but

reached a similar depth as 519, with steep sides and a concave base. Both contained friable, grey/brown silty sand fills with occasional sub-rounded pieces of sandstone. Neither produced any finds, and although they were similarly aligned, it is uncertain whether they were related.

5.5.24 Farther south-west, part of a curvilinear ditch (544) was uncovered. This feature extended north-east to south-west, and then turned to continue south-east beyond the limits of the stripped area. The exposed part of the ditch was 1.2m long, 0.75m wide and 0.45m deep. It had almost straight sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a flat base. It contained one fill (545), consisting of a sterile grey/brown clay sand with occasional pieces of sandstone. Another short ditch section (540) was found in the south-western corner of the extended area, though on closer inspection this may have been a natural feature.

NC north-east extension

5.5.25 The most notable feature in this trench, and the only one of certain archaeological origin, was the continuation of the north/south field boundary ditch (304/366/391/502) found in NC north section (Fig. 25). In the NC north-east extension, the ditch extended the full length of the trench, curving slightly as it extended to the north but remained fairly consistent in width. Excavation of this ditch farther south in NC north produced some CBM, which suggested that the feature is Roman, medieval or later. It was not further investigated in this trench.

5.5.26 An elongated, oval soil mark (523) was exposed in the south-eastern part of the extension area. The feature measured 2.9m long and 0.7m wide, and it was oriented north-west to south-east. An intervention was excavated along its long axis, which showed that the cut had a moderately steep side with an undulating base, *c* 0.3m deep. Its single fill (524) did not contain any artefactual material and inclusions were limited to occasional angular pieces of mudstone. The irregularity of this feature suggests that it was a tree-throw hole.

5.5.27 At least four other soil marks were observed across the site. Two of these were very irregular and were almost certainly tree-throw holes. A circular feature to the west was found to be 0.35m in diameter and it contained charcoal flecks. The feature was part-excavated with a trowel but proved to be only 0.07m deep. There were no finds and it is now thought to be a natural feature, similar to others in this area.

IA4-FJ1

<u>Features associated with the A21 cutting</u>

5.5.28 The western part of IA4-FJ1 was truncated by 2210, a *c* 14m-wide modern cut for the current A21 carriageway (Figs 24 and 26). Even though the ground in that part of IA4-FJ1 was naturally sloping down towards the south-west, the cut had deepened the existing slope. No subsoil above the natural geology was present within the cut and the natural was overlain by topsoil. Two linear features were truncated by the A21 cut.

5.5.29 A large pit (2206) was discovered in the southern corner of the trench (Fig. 24). The feature was extending both westwards and southwards beyond the stripped area. It was slightly amorphous in plan with moderately steep sides and an uneven, concave base. The pit was filled with a friable, grey/brown silty sand with concentrations of charcoal, pieces of tarmac, modern CBM and concrete. The feature was most likely a waste pit dug during construction works for the current A21 carriageway.

5.5.30 In the central part of the A21 cut, another large pit was present. The feature (2008) was 27m long and 15m wide and it extended westwards beyond the trench. It was filled with a friable, brown silty sand with pieces of modern CBM and tarmac. Due to the presence of modern material, the feature was not excavated.

5.5.31 In between the two modern pits described above, a 0.5m-thick and 5m-wide layer (2207), consisting of redeposited natural silty sand, was uncovered. The feature extended westwards beyond the investigated area. The deposit formed a type of embankment for the current A21 carriageway. It is possible that pits 2206 and 2208 were the source of material for the embankment. The feature was sealing the natural geology and was overlain by topsoil.

Archaeological and natural features

5.5.32 To the east of the A21 cut, a total of 40 features were revealed. Of these, twelve were selected for characterisation by interventions. Two features represented ditches and each ditch was investigated by two separate interventions.

5.5.33 A north-west/south-east-orientated ditch was uncovered in the southern part of the strip. The north-western part of the feature was truncated by the A21 cut. To the south-east, the ditch continued into area IA4-FJ2. Two interventions were excavated across the linear feature in IA4-FJ1. In cut 2222, the ditch was 0.72m wide with almost symmetrical, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 31, Section 1705). The cut was filled with a single deposit (2223), consisting of a friable, grey/yellow and dark grey sandy silt with a moderate amount of small, angular pieces of sandstone.

5.5.34 In cut 2225, the ditch was 1.1m wide with slightly asymmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a slightly uneven but flat base (Fig. 31, Section 1706; Plate 61). It contained a single fill (2224) of friable, grey/brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small, angular pieces of sandstone (concentrated in the lower part of the deposit). The fill also contained one flint scrapper.

5.5.35 About seven meters north of the ditch, a small rounded feature measuring 0.38m by 0.21m was investigated. It had steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. It was filled with deposit 2332—a firm, grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, manganese stains, and small, sub-angular pieces of sandstone. The feature had the appearance of a posthole, though no similar features were found in the vicinity.

5.5.36 In the central-southern part of the trench, two sub-circular features were excavated. Pit 2211 measured 1.84m long, 1.12m wide and 0.42m deep, with moderately steep, slightly undulating sides (eastern slightly steeper), gradual breaks of slopes, and a slightly uneven base (Fig. 31, Section 1701; Plate 59). It contained three deposits, including a basal fill (2212), 0.12m thick, consisting of a friable, yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized pieces of sandstone. Secondary fill 2213 was 0.21m thick, made of friable, dark orange/brown silty sand with frequent small–medium, sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of sandstone and manganese stains. Upper fill 2214 was 0.36m thick, composed of a friable, pale greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small-small/medium sized, sub-angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone.

5.5.37 Pit 2227, just south-west of feature 2211, appeared to be more irregular in plan. The pit was 1.6m by 1.2m and had moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a slightly uneven base (Fig. 31, Section 1707). The pit was filled with 0.4m-thick deposit

(2226) of friable grey/brown sandy silt with frequent small–medium, angular pieces of sandstone. The layer also contained patches of clay.

5.5.38 In the northern half of the trench, the density of uncovered features increased. However, five of these proved to be tree throws.

5.5.39 Feature 2229 was amorphous in plan with asymmetrical, gently sloping sides, and an undulating base. It measured 3.0m by 1.5m across and 0.2m deep. The feature was filled with a firm, light greyish-yellow silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks and occasional sandstone pebbles. The fill (2230) also contained a flint denticulate of later prehistoric date.

5.5.40 Feature 2233 was amorphous in plan and its silty fill strongly suggested a natural origin. Nonetheless, one piece of worked flint was recovered.

5.5.41 Feature 2204, measured 0.64m by 0.57m and was circular in plan. It had steep sides and an undulating base. It was filled with a single deposit consisting of a firm, yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional pieces of angular sandstone.

5.5.42 Feature 2205 measured 0.44m by 0.4m. It was ovoid in plan with moderately steep sides and an undulating concave base. The feature was filled with a 0.22m thick, heterogeneous deposit with patches of light brown/yellow silty clay in light yellow/brown silty sand with occasional pieces of small, angular pieces of sandstone.

5.5.43 Feature 2234 measured 1.38m by 0.88m. It was circular in plan with slightly asymmetrical, steep sides and an undulating base. It was filled with a firm brown silty clay with some manganese stains.

5.5.44 Feature 2209 was elongated and amorphous in plan with asymmetrical sides, very gently sloping and uneven, and an undulating base. The feature was filled with a friable, grey sandy silt with occasional patches of manganese staining.

5.5.45 Several other features in the northern half of the strip were very irregular and nothing in their fills suggested that they were man-made. None of these features were sampled.

5.5.46 Feature 2220 in the northern half of the strip was circular, measuring 1.38m by 0.88m. It had slightly asymmetrical, steep sides and an undulating base (Fig. 31, Section 1708). It was filled with a single, 0.26m-thick deposit (2228) consisting of a firm, light grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and a few heat-exposed, sub-angular pieces of sandstone. An environmental sample was taken from its fill. The feature is interpreted as a possible pit.

5.5.47 A slightly curved linear feature, extending from the NNW to the south, was uncovered in the northern half of IA4-FJ1. The feature was truncated on both sides by the modern cut for A21 carriageway. Two interventions across the feature were excavated. The first intervention exposed a 0.75m wide cut (2237) with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 32, Section 1711). The feature was cut into natural geology and tree-throw hole 2235. The cut was filled with a 0.3m-thick layer (2238) of friable, brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks that contained a flint knife of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The second intervention exposed a 0.26m-wide cut (2215) with asymmetrical sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base (Fig. 31, Section 1704; Plate 60). It was filled with deposit 2221 which was composed of grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular pieces of sandstone (some with traces of burning).

5.5.48 Another curvilinear feature was exposed in the north-eastern part of the trench. It was orientated north-east/south-west, with its terminal part in the latter end. The feature extended towards IA4-FJ2. One intervention near the terminal revealed a 0.35m-wide cut (2218) with a moderately steep, undulating western side, a steep southern side, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly undulating base. The cut was filled with 0.35m-thick deposit (2219) composed of a firm, grey/brown sandy silt with small sandstones and a moderate amount of charcoal. Medium-sized, sub-angular pieces of sandstone were present in the lower part of the fill.

5.5.49 Feature 2217 was located roughly on the projected line south-westwards of the curvilinear feature. It was elongated and slightly curving. Its cut had symmetrical, moderately steep, slightly convex sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base (Fig. 31, Section 1702). It was filled with deposit 2216, a firm, yellow/brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of sub-angular, medium-sized pieces of sandstone (most frequent in the basal part). The feature is interpreted as a pit and is quite likely associated with the curvilinear ditch described above.

IA4-FJ2

Southern entrance of the sub-circular enclosure and features in its south-west interior

5.5.50 The site comprised the southernmost part of the large sub-circular enclosure mostly excavated in NC north section (see above). This comprised opposing terminals that together formed an entrance (Fig. 24).

5.5.51 The eastern enclosure ditch terminus (558) was 1.5 wide and 0.58m deep, with steep sides that flared towards the top. The base was concave and contained four fills. The basal fill was 0.19m thick and was a friable, brownish-orange sandy clay with some grey silt patches and occasional small sandstones. It was sealed by a friable, dark brownish-grey and very dark grey silty sand, 0.12m thick, rich in charcoal and manganese. It also contained occasional small sandstones. Both deposits filled the lower part of the cut. The third fill was 0.21m thick and was very similar to the layer below, but darker. The uppermost fill was 0.22m thick and was like the underlying fill but was light brown and contained occasional charcoal flecks. There were no finds in any of the fills.

5.5.52 The western terminal (567) was half-sectioned. It measured 0.8m deep with stepped sides (very steep at the bottom, flaring out higher up) and a slightly concave base (Plate 52). The lower four fills were all silty sands, but these varied in colour. The basal fill was 0.12m deep with firm orange-brown lenses. The next fill was 0.09m thick and consisted of friable, light brownish-orange with some clay and very occasional small sandstone. This was in turn sealed by another friable fill, pale creamy orange in colour with mottled grey patches and laminated bands, and occasional small sandstone fragments. This was 0.24m thick. All three fills lay within the steeper, lower part of the cut. The fourth fill was a friable, pale orange-grey mottled with darker orange-grey patches and was 0.29m thick. This contained occasional small sandstones. The uppermost fill was 0.25m thick and was a friable, dark orange-grey sandy clay with frequent medium-sized pieces of sandstone. There were no finds in any of the fills.

5.5.53 The second excavated section of the western enclosure ditch (cut 573) was 1.8m wide and 0.78m deep. Its profile was similar to that of the other slots, with a concave base and steep sides lower down and wider, more sloping sides towards the top (Plate 53). There were

seven fills, all but the last of which contained occasional sandstone fragments. The basal fill was 0.22m thick, pale greyish-brown with orange-brown banding, and was a friable, sandy silt. It was sealed by a friable, light brownish-orange sandy silt, and was only 0.07m thick. A layer of firm mottled, pale orange and orange-grey silty sand had eroded in from the north-east (inner side), and was up to 0.26m deep, but it did not cover the whole of the underlying deposit. Both fills were overlain by a firm, greenish grey-brown sandy clay 0.49m deep. The clayey fill reflects the nature of the ditch sides above this level, and the eroded gentler profile of the ditch. The overlying fill consisted of another friable silty sand 0.24m thick. This was pale green-mottled with patches of orange ochre and clay, sealed by a friable, dark orangey grey sandy clay 0.23m thick, and the latest fill was a firm, dark grey silty sand, rich in charcoal and manganese. There were no finds in any of the fills.

5.5.54 Eleven soil marks were also exposed inside the enclosure in this trench and two more within the entrance. Of these, six were investigated by hand-dug interventions. These were interpreted as tree-throw holes based on their irregular shapes and their sterile, silty fills. These features were plotted by GPS on the site plan and one was excavated. Feature 561 was oval, 1.3m long and 0.3m deep with asymmetrical but generally steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a strongly undulating base. It was filled with a friable, light yellowish-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks in the southern part and a few small sandstone fragments.

5.5.55 A 5.0m-long ditch section (551/553) was located just south of feature 561. This ranged between 0.8m and 0.9m wide, and 0.15m wide, and it was filled with friable, mottled light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional small pieces of sandstone.

5.5.56 Adjacent to the north-eastern terminus was circular feature 555. It was 0.45m in diameter and 0.3m deep with symmetrical sides, an imperceptible break of slope, and a slightly concave base. It contained two fills, both 0.15m thick. The primary fill was a friable, light orange-brown silty clay mottled with light brownish-yellow clay, with occasional small, sub-rounded sandstone fragments. This fill was interpreted as the possible remains of a clay lining. It was overlain by a friable, greyish-brown silty clay with large fragments of charcoal. The feature was interpreted as a pit.

5.5.57 Two small, irregular features north of the gully were judged to be of natural origin and were not investigated. One further probable tree-throw hole was planned south of the gully but was not further investigated.

5.5.58 In the space between the terminals of the enclosure ditch were two intercutting features, and these were investigated. Feature 565 was 0.7m wide and 1.2m long and was aligned NNE/SSW. It was 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled with a friable, light grey sandy clay with greyish-brown patches with some manganese stains and occasional small sandstones. No finds were recovered. At its northern end, the feature was truncated by feature 563. This was sub-circular, approximately 1m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and an irregular, concave base. It was filled with friable, brownish-grey sandy clay with light grey mottles, and included occasional manganese and small sandstones, but no finds.

Watching brief on the water pipe north of the compound access

5.5.59 Excavation of the trench north of the access road to NC north section required the further stripping, revealing the continuation of the enclosure ditch on the western side of the

enclosure. Here, the ditch turned north-eastwards. Although it was monitored during topsoil stripping, no hand-excavation was undertaken. It was, however, noted that the ditch had a V-shaped profile and was 0.85m deep. No finds were seen or retrieved from sorting the spoil.

Other features in IA4-FJ2

5.5.60 A total of 156 features were exposed across the remainder of IA4-FJ2, and of these, 50 were excavated. Six interventions were cut through three linear features (two in each), and two flint scatters were fully excavated in gridded, 1m squares and in spits 0.1m deep (see below).

5.5.61 At the northern end of IA4-FJ2 were a group of five small–medium-sized features were uncovered close to the large sub-circular enclosure. Feature 2239 was sub-circular, 0.2m in diameter and only 0.1m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill consisted of a friable grey sandy silt with mottled yellow patches and occasional sub-rounded, small fragments of sandstone. There were no finds.

5.5.62 Feature 2240 was elongated and irregular in plan and had irregular shallow sides and an undulating base. Its single fill was a friable yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional manganese flecks and contained no finds. This feature was most likely natural.

5.5.63 Feature 2241 was 1.7m long and 0.35m wide, fairly regular, but with asymmetrical, moderate-to-steep sides and an undulating base. Its single fill consisted of a friable light yellowish-grey sandy silt with *c* 30% angular sandstone inclusions (0.05–0.15m). There were no finds. It is interpreted as a probable animal burrow.

5.5.64 Feature 2042 was sub-oval (0.8m by 0.4m) with shallow (0.1m) irregular sides and an undulating base. Its single fill consisted of a friable sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds. The feature is interpreted a tree-throw hole.

5.5.65 South of these seven features were uncovered. After surface cleaning, most appeared to have irregular shapes and their fills strongly resembled natural features excavated in the area. However, a couple of flint flakes were found in the lower subsoil layer just above them, and therefore one (2249) was investigated.

5.5.66 Feature 2249 was a short linear feature, but due to heavy disturbance its full plan could not be established. The clearest part was 0.64m wide with steep, slightly undulating sides, and a slightly concave base (Fig. 32, Section 1714). It was filled with a light yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent darker grey patches and charcoal flecks (probably drawn down into the deposit by bioturbation). No flints were found within it.

5.5.67 The possible terminus of a short ditch or gully was visible within feature 2258, but the feature proved to be amorphous in plan with diffuse edges, and with moderate to steep undulating sides and an irregular concave base. The only fill was a firm, light brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular sandstones, but no finds. The feature is interpreted as a large tree-throw, pre-dating cut 2249.

5.5.68 To the south of this feature, tree-throw hole 2256 was investigated and found to be 0.22m deep. West of this a larger linear soil mark was tested by slot 2244 but proved to be a modern land drain.

5.5.69 Fire-pit 2748 was located immediately south of the enclosure entrance (Plate 62). It was sub-circular, measuring 2.1m by 1.9m across and 0.19m deep (Fig. 32, Section 1747). It

had steep sides and a concave base. At its base, the natural had been reddened, indicating *in situ* burning. It contained a lower (main) fill, 0.12m thick, consisting of a very dark brownish-black silty clay with <50% inclusions of charcoal and burnt pieces of sandstone. This was sealed by a firm grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. The feature is interpreted as a fire-pit or hearth, similar to others found along the scheme.

5.5.70 Fire-pit 2745 was located just a couple of metres south eastwards of 2748. It was sub-circular, measuring 3.01m by 2.82m across, with shallow, concave sides and an undulating base (Plate 63). The base was heat-affected. It contained two fills, the lower one a very dark brownish-black silty clay, 0.13m thick, with <50% inclusions of charcoal and fire affected pieces of sandstone. The upper fill was a firm greyish-brown silty clay 0.1m deep, with occasional inclusions of charcoal and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. No finds were recovered. However, a charcoal sample from the primary fill (2746) was radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1160–1270 (SUERC-73961 (GU44324); 827 ±27 yrs BP).

5.5.71 Farther south-east, feature 2744, a regular oval 1.96m by 1.82m across, was investigated, as it had frequent patches of charcoal flecks in its surface. It proved to be shallow (0.19m deep), with a very undulating base and a single fill devoid of finds. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole, with the charcoal suggesting deliberate clearance.

5.5.72 Feature 2741 lay south-west of 2744. It was also oval, measuring 1.45m by 0.58m, but was irregular in plan with asymmetrical and irregular sides and a sloping base. It was filled with a friable, light greyish-brown clayey silt with inclusions of manganese and sandstone. The feature appears to represent another tree-throw hole.

5.5.73 Farther west, the north-east end of gully 2218 found in IA4-FJ1 was uncovered, and hand-dug slot 2253 was excavated. The gully was 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep with a bowl-profile and contained the same single fill as 2218 (Fig. 31, Section 1703). There were no finds.

The later Mesolithic flint scatter

5.5.74 In the northern half of the trench, about 25–30m south of the sub-circular enclosure, a group of ten small features was exposed (Fig. 24). They did not form a pattern and their varying shapes and common fill (a brown silt overlying the natural geology) suggested a natural provenance. However, two worked flints were recovered from the surface of this area during soil-stripping, and several more from surface cleaning. The area was therefore considered to represent a flint scatter and was subsequently gridded into squares and excavated in accordance with the WSI (OA 2015a).

5.5.75 Due to the late discovery of this scatter, and consequent shortage of time due to construction pressure, it was suggested that only every alternate square should be excavated by hand in spits, the other squares being removed by shovel spits and sieved for flints. It quickly became apparent that the depth of the scatter was only a maximum of three spits, each 0.05m, thick and the flints had mostly not penetrated the surface of the underlying natural geology (Plate 64).

5.5.76 Two fairly distinct scatters were identified together comprising 242 worked flints. The main scatter (Flint Scatter 1) was centred upon feature 2753. Here, frequent pieces of worked flint were recorded on the surface during the initial cleaning of the area. The main deposit containing struck flints was a firm yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of

manganese. This horizon may represent the remains of an ancient land surface. Flint Scatter 1 measured approximately 9.0m by 5.0m, the main deposit being up to 0.2m deep, though generally shallower. The overall shape and the distribution of struck flints by type are illustrated in Figure 138, and the scatter is discussed in detail in volume 6 section 7. Only a couple of worked flints were recorded in the underlying geology, and these had clearly been carried down in root holes.

5.5.77 In total, 42 1m^2 squares were excavated by hand for Flint Scatter 1. These were excavated in spits 0.05m deep, resulting in 68 spits in total and producing 235 pieces of worked flint. Three pieces of worked flint were also recorded on the surface of the natural geology just west of Flint Scatter 1. They were most likely outliers from the main scatter.

5.5.78 Beyond the main scatter, five pieces of worked flint were found to the north and NNE that may indicate one or more further flint-working events in the area.

5.5.79 Feature 2750 just to the north of the gridded area had two pieces of flint on its surface. This was sub-circular and approximately 1.1m in diameter, with shallow moderately steep, asymmetrical sides, and an undulating base, and was 0.11m deep. It had a single fill of firm brown sandy silt. The feature was a tree-throw hole, but the flints in its fill (11 in total) were similar to those of the adjacent scatter, so this feature was also excavated completely in spits (Fig. 24).

5.5.80 Seven pieces of worked flint were recovered in Flint Scatter 2, which was centred upon 2756. Here, the flint was found in a firm, light yellow/grey silty sand, 0.05m thick, with occasional inclusions of manganese and charcoal flecks.

Features in the central area (Figs 24 and 26)

5.5.81 East of the flint scatter and south of the large sub-circular enclosure was a curving ditch (2717), roughly aligned SSE. A few discrete features were located close to the projected line of the ditch.

5.5.82 Feature 2743 was irregular in plan, measuring 1.0m by 0.96m, and had almost vertical sides. The feature was not fully excavated, as its geological character became quite evident after reaching 0.5m deep. Its fill consisted of a fine light blueish-grey sterile clayey silt.

5.5.83 Feature 2729 was 2.1 by 1.7m across and 0.7m deep, oval in plan with steep sides and a strongly undulating base. Its single fill consisted of a firm brown clayey silt with light grey silt patches and pieces of sandstone. There were no finds, and the feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

5.5.84 Feature 2717 was 20m long, very shallow and was disturbed by later tree-throw holes. A single intervention showed that the feature was 1.02m wide and 0.24m deep, with sloping concave sides and an irregularly flat base (Fig. 32, Section 1736). Its single fill was a friable light grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of sandstone, manganese and ironstone. There were no finds or any environmental material. This feature could be a man-made ditch or a geological formation.

5.5.85 Farther south and south-west two other elongated, possible linear features were investigated. Feature 2711 was an irregular linear, aligned north/south, measuring 4.2m long and 0.98m wide. It had asymmetrical sides and a concave base. Its single fill was a compacted,

light greyish-brown clayey silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone. There were no finds.

5.5.86 Feature 2711 appeared to be cut into feature 2713. This was sub-circular, 1.4m by 1.2m in diameter, with steep and somewhat irregular concave sides and a flattish base. Its lower fill was a 0.21m thick, friable light-yellow clayey silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone. The upper fill was 0.32m thick and was a friable light greyish-yellow clayey silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone and manganese. Neither fill contained any finds.

5.5.87 Feature 2713 may have been a man-made pit. The cut of 2711 within its upper fill was not very clear, and it is also possible that 2713 could have been a sump associated with 2711.

5.5.88 Feature 2299 was also linear, 5.85m long and 1.18m wide (Fig. 32, Section 1732). The excavated intervention was set across the north end of the feature, which was 0.22m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, a compacted light grey sandy silt with orangey light brown patches of sand and frequent inclusions of manganese and sub-angular pieces of ironstone. This is interpreted as a ditch, but there were no finds.

5.5.89 In the central, northern part of IA4-FJ2, a group of 15 features resembling postholes was uncovered. They did not form a clear pattern, but nine of them were investigated.

5.5.90 Feature 2727 was sub-oval, measuring 0.36 by 0.32m, and was 0.43m deep, with steep sides, and a pointed base. It had a firm greyish-brown silty clay fill with rare inclusions of sand, charcoal and pieces of sandstone, but no finds.

5.5.91 Just south west of 2727 was feature 2723. It was oval, 0.54 by 0.48m across and 0.61m deep and had almost vertical and convex sides and a flat base (Fig. 32, Section 1738). The feature contained a firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, ironstone and sand lenses, but no finds.

5.5.92 Feature 2719 was sub-circular, measuring 0.65m by 0.52m across and was 0.15m deep, with shallow concave sides and a flat base. It was filled with firm light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of manganese, but no finds.

5.5.93 Feature 2721 was sub-circular, measuring 0.42 by 0.37m across, and was 0.2m deep with moderate-to-steep convex sides, and a pointed base. It had a similar fill to 2719, but also contained occasional charcoal flecks and pieces of sandstone.

5.5.94 Farther south circular feature 2732 was explored. It was 0.17m in diameter and 0.11m deep, with steep sides and slightly concave base (Fig. 32, Section 1742). The fill was firm light grey silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds.

5.5.95 Feature 2736 was sub-circular, measuring 0.45 by 0.36m across, and was 0.43m deep, with steep, straight sides, and a slightly concave base. It was filled with soft (loose) brown sandy silt with inclusions of manganese and sandstone, but no finds. The excavator distinguished a possible post-pipe within the fill.

5.5.96 Feature 2734 measured 1.25 by 0.86 and formed an oblong. It was 1m deep and had asymmetrical sides (very steep and stepped), and a flattish base. There was only one fill, a firm grey silty clay with inclusions of manganese and pieces of sandstone. A piece of modern glass was found midway down the fill, but was thought to have been intrusive, as the fill was disturbed by rooting. This may have been a pit of undefined function.

5.5.97 Feature 2738 was sub-circular, 0.8m in diameter, with shallow concave sides and a slightly concave base. The single fill was a friable yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and pieces of sandstone, but no finds. This feature seems to represent a pit.

5.5.98 The southernmost feature of the group was 2730. This was oval and measured 0.63 by 0.41m across and 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a concave base. It contained a friable greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds. The feature was either a pit or a large posthole.

5.5.99 South-east of the possible posthole group was a large (6.2m by 2.85m) amorphous feature 2706, which was explored by a single transverse slot. Its location corresponded with a magnetic anomaly of probable archaeological origin recorded by the geophysical survey (OA 2009). It proved to be 0.32m deep with concave sides and a flat base. The feature had two fills, the lower of which was a compacted, dark grey sandy silt, 0.32m thick, with frequent charcoal flecks and sub-angular pieces of ironstone; the upper fill was only 0.15m thick and consisted of a brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

5.5.100 In the central part of IA4-FJ2, two linear features were investigated. The first (2071) was 5m long, 1.1m wide, and 0.42m deep. It had asymmetrical sides (steep and moderate steep-convex) and a slightly concave base. It contained two deposits, side by side, one a friable light yellowish-brown silty clay, the other was a friable, light yellow silt. This was probably either a tree-throw hole or a periglacial frost-fracture.

5.5.101 The second linear was irregular in plan, measured 4.58m by 0.79m and was 0.19m deep with moderate concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a single compacted, brown silty clay fill with rare inclusions of angular sandstone but no finds. The feature is interpreted as being of natural origin.

5.5.102 Farther south, a set of 22 features was uncovered. They did not form any pattern and were spaced over quite a large area. Seven of them were selected for characterisation and these included a few linear soil marks.

5.5.103 A ditch aligned south-west/north-east measured 14m in length. Two interventions were excavated, one (2284) across the central part and the other (2286) at the south-western terminus. The first intervention (2284) revealed a cut 0.91m wide and 0.36m deep. It had moderately steep, convex sides, and a concave base. It was filled with a firm light grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of iron accreted sub-angular sandstone. There were no finds. Excavation at the terminus showed that it was 0.58m wide and 0.18m deep, with one steep and one convex side and a flat base. The terminus itself was poorly-defined, probably because the cut shallowed at the end. The cut was filled with a firm, light grey sandy silt with dark grey and orangey-brown patches, frequent sub-angular pieces of ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds.

5.5.104 Feature 2283 was excavated to the east of this ditch. It was amorphous in plan and almost 2m across, 0.3m deep, with shallow irregular sides and an undulating base. Its only fill was a friable, light yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional angular pieces of sandstone, but no finds. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

5.5.105 Feature 2297 was investigated just to the south of tree-throw hole 2283. It was oval, 0.5m by 0.33m across and was 0.19m deep, with concave sides and an undulating base.

It was filled with a brown silty clay with infrequent inclusions of manganese. There were no finds, though it was interpreted as a pit.

5.5.106 A larger pit (2295) was located to the south-west of 2297. It measured 2.19m by 0.87m and 0.22m deep with straight sides and a flat base). It contained a single fill of firm, grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of manganese, sub-angular pieces of sandstone and occasional charcoal flecks. A flint knife was recovered from the fill, perhaps indicating a prehistoric date.

5.5.107 West of the pit, a sub-oval spread of friable greyish-brown silty clay some 2.09m wide and 0.12m thick was investigated. This feature (2282) contained no finds and was interpreted as the fill of a natural depression or a shallow tree-throw hole.

5.5.108 South-east of 2282, Pit 2290 and ditch 2292 were investigated. Pit 2290 was 1.03m long, 0.88m wide and only 0.12m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of firm greyish-brown silty clay with inclusions of manganese and occasional pieces of sandstone, but no finds. Ditch 2292 was orientated north-west/south-east, where the end of the feature was unclear, perhaps being truncated as it shallowed. The excavated intervention was 1m long and 0.52m wide, and the cut had fairly steep and concave sides and a pointed base. The primary fill was a firm yellowish-grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of manganese, and was 0.15m thick, the secondary fill was a friable bioturbated dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of manganese and sand and was 0.18m thick. Neither fill produced any finds.

Southern features

5.5.109 This area had a greater concentration of possible features and included part of a ditch also found in IA4-FJ1 to the west and in the south-west extension of NC south section (Fig. 26).

5.5.110 Tree-throw 2277 was 2.1m long and 0.9m wide and curved slightly towards the south-west at both ends (Plate 65). A slot was excavated across the middle, where it proved to be 0.45m deep, with steep irregular sides and a concave base. The dark fill was friable dark grey silt with much charcoal along the north-east edge and was lighter grey with only occasional charcoal to the south-west. Throughout there were occasional fire-affected sandstones, but no finds.

5.5.111 Fire-pit 2273 was oblong, measuring 0.79 by 0.58m, and 0.1m deep with shallow irregular sides. Its irregular base was partly reddened by *in situ* burning (Plate 66). Its single fill was a dark brown silty clay with red patches and frequent charcoal inclusions, but no finds. An environmental sample was taken from the fill.

5.5.112 Fire-pit 2264 was sub-oval, 0.83m by 0.7m across and 0.15m deep, with shallow irregular sides and an irregular but flattish base (Fig. 32, Section 1719). The base was partly reddened by *in situ* burning and the single fill was friable, dark grey clayey silt with charcoal flecks and fired clay and sandstone inclusions.

5.5.113 Feature 2278 was located to the south-west of fire-pit 2273. It was sub-oval measuring 2.04 by 1.21m across, and was 1m deep, with a conical profile, ie steep sides and a narrow concave base. It was filled with sandstone lumps coated with ironstone in a matrix of friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt. There were very occasional flecks of charcoal but no finds. The character of this feature is uncertain.

5.5.114 Around 10m to the south was sub-circular feature 2275. This feature measured 3.34m by 2.94m across and 1m deep with sloping sides and a narrow flattish base. It contained a single fill of angular sandstones and ironstones in a matrix of firm, brown, silty clay, and there were no finds. Like feature 2278, this feature may either have been a pit or was of geological origin.

5.5.115 Tree-throw 2280 lay just to the east of feature 2278. It was 2.3m by 1.15m across and curved slightly at the ends. A slot across its dark fill showed that it was 0.51m deep with concave sides and base. The main fill was dark brownish-grey sandy silt and charcoal, with occasional sub-angular pieces of sandstone, but no finds.

5.5.116 Eight further soil marks in this area were planned, and one was selected for characterisation. Its excavation proved that it represented a patch of silt within the natural geology. As the other soil marks were all similar in character, none were further investigated.

5.5.117 Two slots were excavated across ditch 2269 to discover the relationship between it and features 2267 and 2262. Feature 2267 was irregularly linear in plan, measuring 1.1 by 0.43m, with moderate concave sides, and a flat base. Its single fill was composed of a 0.08m thick, firm light grey sandy silt with yellow mottling and inclusions of ironstone lumps (<30%). Ditch 2269 cut feature 2267. It was 0.44m deep with moderately steep, straight sides and a pointed base. Its single fill consisted of a firm, light grey sandy silt with orange sandy patches and inclusions of iron stone (<30%). A second slot across the ditch (2260) showed that both the ditch and pit 2262 were partly sealed by a thin subsoil layer, below which the features were separate. Cut 2260 was 0.83m wide and 0.34m deep, with straight, moderate steep sides and a pointed base (Fig. 32, Section 1717). It was filled with firm, mottled light greyish-brown silty clay with infrequent manganese flecks. Pit 2262, adjacent to the ditch, was oblong and measured 2.4m by 1.16m. It was 0.28m deep with concave sides and a flat base (Fig. 32, Section 1718). The basal fill was 0.04m thick and was a firm, brown silty clay with occasional manganese and small pieces of sandstone. The upper fill was 0.26m thick and contained only flecks of sandstone.

5.5.118 Tree-throw 2271 was found just north of feature 2267. It was sub-rectangular, measuring 1.8 by 0.79m, with shallow, irregular sides and an undulating base. Its single fill was 0.15m thick and was a firm, light grey sandy silt with orange patches and sub-rectangular pieces of ironstone.

Heathland Creation area

5.5.119 There were three main concentrations of potential archaeology in this area, and one or two more isolated features. The concentrations comprised a large fire-pit and two smaller features with charcoal and burnt clay in the north-east, a cluster of pits or tree-throw holes in the south-west, and a group of features at the south-east edge of the area (Fig. 25).

Features in the north-east

5.5.120 Fire-pit 1436 was a large circular feature, 2.2m by 2.05m and 0.2m deep with steep, symmetrical sides and a broad largely flat base, but with one or two hollows within. The surface of the natural at the base of pit 1436 was heavily burnt (Plate 68). Fill 1437 was a blackish-brown silty clay with much charcoal and burnt (reddened) angular stones. There were no finds.

5.5.121 Pit 1438 lay 4m to the south east of fire-pit 1436. It was a circular pit, 0.5m in diameter and 0.15m deep with symmetrical, moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill (1439) was a moderately compact, light brownish-yellow silty clay with occasional burnt angular stones. There were no finds.

5.5.122 Pit 1440 was a large sub-circular pit located 2m to the south-east of pit 1438. It was 1.2m in diameter, 0.25m in depth and had a single fill (1441). This was a firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent flecks and chunks of charcoal and frequent pieces of burnt stone. The edges of the pit were steep-sided, sloping down into a concave base. The edges were not heat-affected in any way.

Further investigation of the central cluster of features

5.5.123 On the west edge of the site large circular fire-pit 1407 was half-excavated (Fig. 25). It measured 2.2m in diameter with two fills (1409/1408), the lower of which consisted of thick patches of charcoal in a sandy silt matrix. Below this the natural was scorched (1412), clear evidence for *in situ* burning (Fig. 33, Section 1002). This feature had a well-defined flat-based profile typical of many of the fire pits here. Charcoal from the fill gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1050–1270 (SUERC-73960 (GU44323); 843 ±30 yrs BP).

5.5.124 East of this, pit 1415 was excavated on the west side. The feature had a fairly steep south side and a more gently sloping north side. The base was flattish, but stepped down slightly towards the south end, where it was deepest (0.92m). The sections of the north and south halves of the pit were offset, and so were recorded separately, but both halves show three main fills. In the southern half, these were successively 1446, 1448 and 1449, and in the northern half 1450, 1451 and 1452. These fills are all parts of what was recorded as a single fill 1418 in 1415, towards the bottom of which were found several lenses of charcoal, nine residual struck flints and three sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. A charcoal sample (1044) from fill 1418 produced a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 1150–1260 (90.2%) (SUERC-73972 (GU44331); 850 ±30 yrs BP).

5.5.125 Primary fill 1446 was a friable, light brownish-yellow clayey silt, with large sandstone inclusions, which became thicker as it ran northwards. On the south edge, where it was thinnest, it was overlain by layer 1447 running down the edge of the feature, a compact, dark brown to brown clayey silt, with both sandstone pieces and charcoal flecks. Abutting this, and above fill 1446, was a firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay 1448, with large sandstone inclusions, and the top fill 1449 was a firm, light greyish-brown silty clay with orange flecks, sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks.

5.5.126 The sequence farther north was a friable, medium to dark brownish-grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks 1450, overlain by a friable, brownish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks 1451, and overlain in turn by a firm, brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks 1452. Layer 1452 was interrupted by 1416=1455, and a similar fill to the north was numbered 1454. These fills were level, and 1452/1454 was twice as thick as the layers below. No finds were recovered from either of the fills.

5.5.127 Feature 1417=1455 was the same as feature 1416. It was up to 1.38m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sides at its deepest, and more shelving sides farther to the east (Fig. 33, Sections 1005 and 1006). The northern edge had a moderate gradient, but the southern edge was irregular. Its single fill (1419=1453=1456) varied from dark brown with bluish-black

mottling to dark grey in colour, and from a silty sand to a clayey silt, with a large amount of charcoal throughout. It also contained occasional mudstone pieces and three further sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. Despite the large amounts of charcoal, there was no evidence of *in situ* burning.

5.5.128 Pit 1444 lay just north-east of feature 1415=1443 and 1416=1417=1455. It was ovoid in plan and its western edge had a near-vertical gradient that sloped very close to the irregularly concave base. The east edge is quite irregular, and almost stepped. The pit was 1.23m by 1.46m in plan and 0.41m deep, and contained only one fill, a friable, dark orange-brown silty sand with large pieces of sub-angular sandstone, smaller pieces of mudstone and frequent manganese flecking throughout (Fig. 34, Section 1013). There were no finds. The profile of this feature suggests that it may have been a tree-throw hole.

5.5.129 Features 1462, 1464 and 1466 were recorded as a series of intercutting pits just south of 1415=1443, 1466 cutting both 1462 and 1464. 1462 was the southernmost, and its north-east side was interrupted by pit 1466. The surviving south-west side had a stepped profile, very steep at the top, then shelving, then sloping again lower down. This feature was not bottomed. It had a single brown clayey silt fill 1463, with charcoal flecks and rare sandstone fragments (Fig. 34, Section 1017). There were no finds.

5.5.130 In the middle of the trench, a darker circle of friable, greyish-brown silty clay and charcoal (numbered 1460) was seen in the base, and was half-sectioned, but did not produce any finds. This had a regular plan, being 0.42m in diameter and 0.2m deep, but while its southern side sloped down to a concave base, the northern side and northern half of the base were very irregular.

5.5.131 Feature 1464 lay farther north, and very close to the edge of 1415. It was an irregular sub-circular feature 1.2m in diameter, with asymmetrical sides, bowl-shaped in profile on the south east and far more irregular on the north-west (Fig. 34, Section 1017). Its single fill 1465 was a friable, light yellowish-grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks, but no finds.

5.5.132 Feature 1466 lay between 1462 and 1464. It was 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep with a wide V-shaped profile (Fig. 34, Section 1017). Its single fill 1467 was a firm, greyish-brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying 1467 on both the north and south was a firm, dark brownish-black silty clay 1471, which contained charcoal fragments and a single small sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. This may have been filling a hollow caused by the erosion of the upper part of feature 1466.

5.5.133 East of 1466 was feature 1468, which had a diameter of 1.3m and steep sloping, but asymmetrical sides, the southern of which had a stepped profile. The sides of this feature were difficult to establish for certain due to disturbance from rooting. This feature was 0.3m deep and only contained a single fill 1469, a friable, yellowish-grey sandy silt, with both manganese flecks and rare small stones, but no finds. Pit 1468 may be a continuation of feature 1462 or 1464, but later feature 1466 had removed any direct relationship between them.

5.5.134 Just to the south of 1462 and 1468 was a linear feature 458, which was 0.98m wide and 0.21m deep. It had symmetrical moderately sloping sides and the base sloped very slightly to the north. Its bottom fill 1459 was a friable, yellowish-brown silty clay; this was

overlain by 1470, a friable greyish-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking like the fill of 1460. There were no finds.

5.5.135 Layer 1470 curved northwards across the initial trench, ending at a deeper patch of dark soil just beyond it. This curving and irregular layer, which also filled irregular feature 1460, is reminiscent of a tree-throw hole fill.

5.5.136 Given the strong evidence that this was an area of tree-throw holes, and the very limited recovery of further finds from these features, the dark patch of soil to the west was not further investigated.

Features farther south-east

5.5.137 Against the eastern baulk, two possible pits and a curvilinear feature were identified, with some smaller possible features in the vicinity. The curvilinear feature and the possible pits were excavated (1426, 1429 and 1430). Possible pit or ditch terminus 1429 ran out from the eastern baulk (Fig. 25). It measured 0.92m long by 0.82m wide and was 0.24m deep with a shallow and flattened 'U' shaped profile. The fill was a pale greyish-brown silty sand (1428). South of this feature 1426 proved to be a tree-throw hole. It measured 2.2m by 1.2m by 0.38m deep. The fill was a light greyish-brown silty sand very similar to 1428, but the cut was irregular in form. The third feature investigated was curvilinear feature 1430. This proved to be subsoil in a hollow, probably due to a tree-root. None of these features yielded any artefactual material.

5.6 Interpretation

Late Mesolithic–Early Neolithic (*6500–3300 BC)*

5.6.1 Worked flint finds were found in a variety of contexts across the site, some of which date to the later Mesolithic. Rarely were these finds recovered in concentrations that point to clear evidence for a focus of activity in this period, and with much of the material a distinction between the later Mesolithic and the Early Neolithic was not clear.

5.6.2 The clearest evidence of Mesolithic activity was found in IA4-FJ2 in the form of at least two flint scatters. The material was found within limited areas of approximately 9m by 5m and 3m by 3m of the layer overlying the natural geology, probably a relict B-horizon, and a rapid scan of the material has indicated that it is fresh in appearance, with no significant wear or plough-damage identified, so is unlikely to have moved far from where it was originally deposited.

5.6.3 A total of 242 worked flints was recovered by hand, and soil sieving recovered a further 388 small fragments and tools. The assemblage includes flakes, cores, small debitage, as well as broken and complete tools. A Late Mesolithic date (*c* 6500–4000 BC) has been assigned to this material (volume 6). Although material of this period has commonly been recovered from field-walking and as residual finds in this part of Kent (eg Wymer 1975), the discovery of an *in situ* assemblage is very rare in the county.

5.6.4 A scatter of worked flint was also recovered from other features in IA4-FJ2, which is likely to represent peripheral activity of the same period, though due to the absence of diagnostic forms it could represent transient activity of the Early Neolithic period.

5.6.5 Elsewhere, a collection of 92 worked flints was also recovered during excavation of a pair of pits or tree-throw holes in NC north and in the adjacent part of the later Iron Age sub-circular enclosure. These flints are considered to date to the late Mesolithic period (*c* 5500–4000 BC), although an Early Neolithic date (*c* 4000–3300 BC) is also possible.

5.6.6 Another small, worked flint assemblage was also recovered from the Heathland Creation area. Again, the finds recovered from medieval pit 1415=1443 were clearly residual, and represent further activity on the IA4 plateau in the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

Later prehistoric–Early Roman (1620 BC–AD 250)

5.6.7 Although no artefacts of the early part of the middle Bronze Age were recovered from this site, radiocarbon dating established that there had been a pit of this period on the site, which is not surprising given that ring ditches and round barrows are known in the surrounding area. Activity of this period is often scattered rather than concentrated, and were further radiocarbon dating carried out, it is possible that more features of this period would be identified along the scheme.

5.6.8 The most notable feature identified in IA4 was the sub-circular enclosure in the north-western part of the trench, mostly in the NC north section with a small part also excavated in IA4-FJ2. Two environmental samples provided radiocarbon dating for the feature. One from the primary fill indicates that it was beginning to silt up in the later Iron Age, probably during the 2nd century BC (SUERC-73969: 210–50 cal. BC), while a sample from one of the upper fills gave an early Roman date (SUERC-73964: cal. AD 80–250), suggesting that it was still open in the 2nd century AD. Although there was a comparative lack of finds from the enclosure ditch, there was a sizeable assemblage of worked and burnt flints, mostly from cut 359 on the eastern side. The flints have been dated to the late Mesolithic period (volume 6). As mentioned above, this material is clearly residual.

5.6.9 The enclosure had an entrance on the eastern side and the southern side. The eastern entrance was the larger of the two, measuring *c* 6m across, while the southern entrance was 3.3m wide. The relative shallowness of the ditch may explain why the feature was not picked up by the geophysical survey. However, the ditch was found to be deeper on the eastern side and it is possible that the lower fills in other sections were not recognised due to poor weather conditions and the similarity between the lower sandy fills and the surrounding natural geology. Cuts dug across the ditch along the southern part of the enclosure shared a common depth and profile, indicating that it was originally narrow and very steep-sided, though the upper part had eroded to a wider and less steep profile.

5.6.10 The fills were generally similar in character, sandy lower down with no finds and little charcoal, suggesting initial rapid silting from the ditch sides. The laminations and banding observed suggest standing water on occasions and in-washing following rainfall, all of which is consistent with natural silting. A deposit in the western ditch may indicate the collapse of up-cast back into the ditch, suggesting that there may have been an inner bank. The fills had more clayey in the upper fills, consistent with slower natural silting and again with periodic standing water from rainfall. The presence of charcoal indicates activity in the vicinity, and possibly that the ditch was no longer a significant boundary. The general absence of finds suggests only very limited or occasional use of the enclosure.

5.6.11 Few of the features in the interior were man-made, the majority being tree-throw holes of unknown date. Despite the lack of any finds, however, the gully is likely to have been contemporary with the enclosure, as it is aligned between the eastern terminal of the southern entrance and the west ends of the gullies defining a small curvilinear enclosure to the north. This may mark an internal division within the enclosure, or a structure. The short gully just outside the southern entrance may have been associated, intended to constrain access towards the south.

5.6.12 Just outside the site, and only 120m from the northern edge of the enclosure, fire-pit 66004 (see volume 5) was dated to 170 cal. BC–cal. AD 10 (SUERC-73959(GU44322); 2063 ±28 yrs BP), a date overlapping with those of the enclosure, and likely to represent contemporary outside it. No other Iron Age fire-pits were found in IA4, the remainder lying farther to the south or north.

Medieval (12th–13th century AD)

5.6.13 Medieval activity was found in the Heathland Creation area in the eastern part of the site. This was characterised by a group of pits in the central northern part of the trench. These features varied in size and some were found to intercut.

5.6.14 Pit group 1415-7 was initially recorded as three separate features, though it was noted that all three were related and may have been later disturbed by tree-roots. The largest 'pit' (1415=1443) included several fills that were angled on the southern side of the feature, suggesting that it may have been disturbed by the base of a tree (Fig. 34, Section 1015). A vertical fill (1432) represented a block of redeposited natural sands and a thin band of dark soil with charcoal (1447) filled a fissure. An environmental sample from this fill (equal to 1418) produced a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 1150–1260 (90.2%), consistent with the date range of the small quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery also recovered from the feature (volume 6).

5.6.15 Although the character of pit 1415 and several of the other features in this area is uncertain, owing to the irregular character of the cuts and fills, fire-pit 1407 was certainly archaeological. This feature was located a few meters west of the main group and had a more regular, circular plan. It had a broad, flat base that had clearly been burnt and one of its fills (1408) contained a large quantity of charcoal (Fig. 33, Section 1002). A sample of this material produced a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1150–1270 (93.1%), almost identical to that in pit 1415, and confirming the presence of further activity in this area during the later 12th and 13th centuries.

5.6.16 Another fire-pit (1436) was located about 20m north of the pit group. This feature was very similar in size and profile to fire-pit 1407 (Fig. 34, Section 1009). The feature was not dated as it did not produce any finds, though it contained a concentration of charcoal and the underlying natural had been scorched. Initially, this feature was thought to date to the middle Iron Age, similar to other fire-pits at WC6a and Robingate Wood. However, the proximity of this feature to the medieval pit group to the south and, particularly, its similarity with fire-pit 1407 suggests that it was also probably medieval. Notably, two smaller pits just over 4m to its south-east both contained much burnt material and charcoal, though neither had any evidence of *in situ* burning. It seems likely that these were contemporary and related to fire-pit 1436. Two further fire-pits in IA4 have been dated to the medieval period, both lying on the west side of the site. Fire-pit 320 gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1030–1210, and fire-pit 2745 a range of cal. AD 1160–1270.

Post-medieval

5.6.17 Two ditches were recorded at IA4 that probably represented field boundaries. One ran southwards from the NC north-east extension into NC north for about 80m before turning east from where it extended into the Heathland Creation area for several meters. The ditch was fairly narrow and shallow. A gap in its north/south section, close to where it turned east suggests the presence of an entranceway into a field. A small amount of CBM was recovered from one of its fills which may be consistent with the date of the ditch.

5.6.18 The second ditch was located in the southern part of the site but was aligned north-west/south-east. It was traced in a straight line for almost 90m through IA4-FJ1, IA4-FJ2 and NC south. The ditch did not produce any finds and it was only found cut an undated tree-throw hole. The character of the ditch was fairly similar to the field boundary to the north, albeit on a different alignment, and may be contemporary.

5.6.19 The dating of these ditches is uncertain. The recovery of CBM from the ditch in the northern part of the site may date it, though it may equally be an intrusive fragment. It is not significant that the northern ditch appears to enclose an area with 12th–13th century activity, as further features of this date have also been found to the west of this. Map-regression analysis has not identified these ditches as field boundaries in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Modern

5.6.20 A group of three features in IA4-FJ1 (2206, 2207, and 2208) were of modern date and were associated with original construction of the A21 carriageway. Two large pits contained pieces of modern building/road materials (inducing tarmac and concrete) and an embankment was made of redeposited soil. All three features were located alongside the A21 and were found within cut 2210, which appears to have been a cut for the road. The cut also truncated almost all natural and archaeological features within a 15m-wide strip.

Undated

5.6.21 A large sub-rectangular feature with evidence of *in situ* burning was found in NC south. The feature was filled with charcoal and burnt stones and was most likely represents a hearth. No datable material was recovered from its fill. Several smaller features around it were interpreted as being of natural origin, although it is possible that four of these, which appeared to form a square, could represent small post-holes and perhaps formed a structure around the hearth.

Natural features

5.6.22 Just over 50 tree-throw holes and other features of natural origin represent the vast majority of soil marks found across the site. Most were very poorly dated. Their distribution was varied, though there was a notable concentration in IA4-FJ2 and comparatively few in the Heathland Creation area. Only a sample of these features were excavated and very few were datable. Nonetheless, it seems likely that this area may have been fairly heavily wooded in the past.

5.7 Conclusions

5.7.1 The archaeology of the site includes later Mesolithic flint scatters and a pit of the early middle Bronze Age, a later Iron Age/early Roman enclosure, 12th/13th-century fire-pits and a pit group, plus field boundaries and a possible hearth/structure of uncertain date.

5.7.2 The later Iron Age enclosure is an important addition to the archaeology of the hinterland of Castle Hill fort, with whose radiocarbon dates it overlaps. The absence of settlement evidence associated with it may reflect its proximity to the hillfort, such that those using the enclosure returned to the hillfort at night, and it functioned as a specialist pastoral enclosure rather than an independent farmstead. This enclosure is a valuable addition to the Iron Age and early Roman archaeology of the High Weald, and indeed of West Kent, where contemporary sites are comparatively rare (though see Booth 2011, 259–64). The other features also contribute to our understanding of human activity and land-use in the region.

5.7.3 The majority of the features described above were undated, but were probably natural or geological in origin, including over 50 tree-throw holes. Some of the latter may well have been ancient, but in the absence of artefactual dating evidence are not worthy of further investigation.

5.7.4 The most significant archaeological features, including the Mesolithic flint scatters, the late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure and the Iron Age and medieval fire-pits, are now published (Allen 2021).

5.8 IA4 context inventory

New Compound north section						
Area description				**Total area (ha)**		1.1
Site east of the A21 and west of Tudeley Woods, to the north of Half Moon Lane (NGR 561475 143325). The land is relatively flat and slopes marginally from north to south.				**Avg. depth (m)**		0.4
				Width (m)		c 60m
				Length (m)		c 190m
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Length x width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil: friable dark brown sandy silt	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: friable, yellow/brown sandy silt	Worked flint	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural geology varied considerably, but generally consisted of sandy silt with some clay	-	-
304	Cut of ditch	0.84	0.25	Linear with sloping sides and flat base	-	Roman–post-medieval?
305	Fill of ditch 304	-	0.26	Friable, red/brown clay sand with some large stones	-	Roman–post-medieval?
306	Cut of ditch	0.47	0.19	Curvilinear feature with steep, irregular sides and concave base	-	Later Iron Age

307	Fill of ditch 306	-	0.19	Friable, dark brown clay sand with some large sandstones	-	Later Iron Age
308	Layer	-	0.5	Compact black silt; layer of burnt material, possibly the remains of a natural feature	-	-
309	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
310	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
311	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
312	Cut of ditch terminus	2.2	0.15	Terminus of curvilinear ditch with flat but uneven base	-	Later Iron Age
313	Fill of ditch 312	-	0.03	Upper fill of ditch 312; loose, dark grey/brown clay silt with frequent small stones	-	Later Iron Age
314	Fill of ditch 312	-	0.1	Primary fill of ditch 312; loose, brown/yellow clay/sandy silt with small stones	-	Later Iron Age
315	Cut of tree throw	1.0 x 1.8	0.2	Irregular, oval tree-throw with concave base and sloping, irregular sides; appears to have truncated ditch terminal 312	-	-
316	Fill of tree throw 315	-	0.22	Primary fill; loose, light brown/grey silty sand	-	-
317	Fill of ditch 322	-	0.15	Secondary fill; loose, brown/yellow clay silt	-	Later Iron Age
318	Cut of ditch	0.88	0.27	Ditch with moderately sloping sides and concave base; heavily truncated by machine and cut by pit 320	-	Later Iron Age
319	Fill of ditch 318	-	0.27	Friable, light brown clay sand with sandstones	Worked flint	Later Iron Age
320	Cut of pit	1.58	0.23	Circular pit with concave sides; cuts ditch 318; heavily truncated by machine	-	Later Iron Age/early Roman
321	Fill of pit 320	-	0.23	Friable, black/brown clay sand with high concentration of charcoal and some burnt clay	Worked flint	Later Iron Age/early Roman
322	Cut of ditch terminus	1.2	0.32	Rounded ditch terminal of curvilinear enclosure, with sloping sides and a concave base	-	Later Iron Age
323	Fill of ditch 322	-	0.14	Primary fill of ditch terminal; firm, dark brown/grey clay silt with some stone fragments (**sample 1007 radiocarbon dated**)	Worked flint	350–300 cal. BC (10.5%); 210–50 cal. BC (84.9%)
324	Cut of tree throw	0.5 x 1.8	0.13	Irregular tree-throw with moderately sloping sides	-	-
325	Fill of tree throw 324	-	0.04	Primary fill; firm, grey/brown silty clay with small amounts of charcoal and burnt sandstone	-	-

326	Fill of tree throw 324	-	0.09	Secondary fill; dark silty clay with high concentration of charcoal, burnt stone and clay	-	-
327	Cut of tree throw	0.4 x 1.1	0.1	Irregular oval feature	-	-
328	Fill of tree throw 327	-	0.1	loose, yellow/brown silty sand with frequent sandstone	-	-
329	Cut of tree throw	1.0 x 2.5	0.75	Irregular, L-shaped feature with uneven base	-	Later Iron Age
330	Fill of tree throw 329	-	0.43	Primary fill; firm, light yellow/brown silty sand with sandstone fragments and iron pan	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age
331	Fill of pit 320	-	0.03	Loose, dark red clay sand	-	Later Iron Age
332	Cut of pit	0.6 x 0.6	0.25	Circular pit with steep sides and flat base; cuts tree-throw 334	-	-
333	Fill of pit 332	-	0.25	Loose, yellow/brown silty sand with sandstone	-	-
334	Cut of tree throw	1.0 x 1.4	0.25	Irregular feature cut by pit 332	-	-
335	Fill of tree throw 334	-	0.2	Loose, brown/yellow silty sand with sandstone	-	-
336	Cut of tree throw	1.8 x 0.7	0.3	Irregular feature with varied sides and undulating base	-	-
337	Fill of tree throw 336	-	0.28	Primary fill; firm, light grey/white silty sand	-	-
338	Fill of tree throw 336	-	0.45	secondary fill; firm, brown/grey silty clay with charcoal flecks	-	-
339	Fill of pit 341	-	0.19	Secondary fill; loose, yellow/grey silty sand with stones and charcoal flecks	Worked flint and burnt flint	-
340	Fill of pit 341	-	0.2	Primary fill; loose, yellow/grey silty sand with some stones	Worked flint and burnt flint	-
341	Cut of pit	1.55 x 1.67	0.31	Sub-oval pit with gently sloping sides and concave base; possibly used as a dump for iron pan	-	-
342	Fill of tree throw 329	-	0.12	Secondary fill; firm, grey/brown clay and silt sand with fragments of iron pan	-	-
343	Fill of tree throw 346	-	0.19	Upper fill; loose, grey/dark orange/brown sandy silt	-	-
344	Fill of tree throw 346	-	0.15	Middle fill; firm, light grey/white sand with some small stones	-	-

345	Fill of tree throw 346	-	0.09	Primary fill; firm, pink/orange/brown clay and silt sand with some mottling	-	-
346	Cut of root bowl	0.61 x 0.77	0.67	Elongated and stepped natural feature	-	-
347	Cut of ditch	1.21	0.24	Part of sub-circular enclosure; feature has concave base and shallow, irregular sides	-	Later Iron Age
348	Fill of ditch 347	-	0.24	Friable, light red/brown clay sand	-	Later Iron Age
349	Cut of linear	1.17	0.25	Part of sub-circular enclosure; feature has concave base and irregular sloping sides	-	Later Iron Age
350	Fill of linear 349	-	0.25	Friable, light blue/grey silty sand with frequent sandstone inclusions	-	Later Iron Age
351	Cut of linear	1.42	0.32	Ditch with gradually sloping sides, though steep at the top, and a slightly concave base	-	Later Iron Age
352	Fill of linear 351	-	0.27	Secondary ditch fill; firm, dark brown silty clay with some sandstone	-	Later Iron Age
353	Fill of linear 351	-	0.05	Charcoal-rich, primary ditch fill; firm, brown/black silty clay (**sample 1006 radiocarbon dated**)	Iron slag	cal. AD 80–250
354	Layer	0.56 x 0.76	0.08	Charcoal deposit; friable, dark brown/black sandy silt	-	Later Iron Age
355	Fill of ditch 356	-	0.22	Friable, grey/brown silty sand with stones	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age
356	Cut of ditch	2.35	0.22	Ditch section of sub-circular enclosure with gently sloping sides and flat base	-	Later Iron Age
357	Fill of ditch 358	-	0.1	Grey/brown silty sand with small stones	-	-
358	Cut of ditch	1.4	0.1	Ditch section of sub-circular enclosure with gently sloping sides and flat base	-	-
359	Cut of ditch	2.7	1.2	Ditch section of sub-circular enclosure with concave sides	-	Later Iron Age
360	Fill of ditch 359	-	0.13	Primary fill of enclosure ditch; firm, light grey silty clay with sandstones	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age
361	Fill of ditch 359	-	0.21	Second fill of enclosure ditch; firm, light grey/brown silty clay	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age
362	Fill of ditch 359	-	0.25	Third fill of enclosure ditch; firm, light grey/brown silty sand	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age
363	Fill of ditch 359	-	0.3	Top fill of enclosure ditch; firm, brown silty sand	Worked flint and burnt flint	Later Iron Age

364	Cut of pit	0.6 x 0.7	0.6	Shallow, sub-square feature, possibly a hearth	-	-
365	Fill of pit 364	-	0.03	Friable, black silty clay with quantity of burnt clay and burnt sandstone	-	-
366	Cut of ditch	0.8	0.3	Cut of straight ditch with straight sides	-	Roman–post-medieval?
367	Fill of ditch 366	-	0.3	Yellow/brown sandy silt with frequent sandstone slabs	-	Roman–post-medieval?
368	Fill of pit 364	-	0.06	Firm, grey/brown silty clay with some sandstone	-	-
369	Cut of posthole	0.37	0.14	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and flat base	-	Later Iron Age
370	Fill of posthole 369	-	0.14	Friable, grey/brown sandy silt with some stones and charcoal flecks	-	Later Iron Age
371	Cut of posthole	0.34	0.09	Sub-circular posthole with sloping sides and flat base	-	Later Iron Age
372	Fill of posthole 371	-	0.09	Friable, grey/brown sandy silt with some stones and charcoal flecks	-	Later Iron Age
373	Cut of gully	0.34	0.12	Terminal of curvilinear gully with moderately sloping sides and flat base	-	Later Iron Age
374	Fill of gully 373	-	0.06	Second fill of gully (roundhouse?); friable, grey/brown sandy silt with some stones and charcoal	-	Later Iron Age
375	Fill of gully 373	-	0.06	Primary fill of gully; friable, light grey/brown sandy silt with stone and charcoal flecks	-	Later Iron Age
376	Fill of ditch 377	-	0.17	Second fill of enclosure ditch; friable grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal and stones	-	Later Iron Age
377	Cut of ditch	2.3	0.53	Curvilinear ditch with moderately sloping sides gently breaking into a flat base	-	Later Iron Age
378	Cut of tree throw	0.35 x 1.0	0.18	Steep, irregular feature	-	-
379	Fill of tree throw 378	-	0.18	Charcoal-rich fill of tree-throw; firm grey/black silty clay	-	-
380	Fill of ditch 377	-	0.37	Primary fill of enclosure ditch; friable, blue/grey sandy silt with orange/brown patches and some charcoal	-	Later Iron Age
381	Fill of gully 382	-	0.08	Fill of gully (roundhouse?); friable, grey/brown sandy silt	-	Later Iron Age
382	Cut of gully	-	0.08	Curvilinear roundhouse gully with shallow sides and flattish base	-	Later Iron Age

383	Cut of tree throw	0.7 x 0.93	0.32	Three-throw with very irregular base	-	-
384	Cut of tree throw	1.03 x 2.27	0.13	Three-throw with irregular base	-	-
385	Cut of posthole	0.4 x 0.5	0.42	Deep, vertical-sided posthole	-	-
386	Fill of posthole 385	-	0.42	Soft, loose, dark brown silty clay with small stones	-	-
387	Cut of root bowl	0.64 x 0.68	0.06	Shallow, sub-circular feature with undulating base	-	-
388	Cut of pit/posthole	0.47 x 0.56	0.26	Small, sub-circular pit with sloping sides and a tapered, rounded base	-	-
389	Fill of pit 388	-	0.26	Moderately compact, grey/brown silty sand with charcoal and sandstone fragments	-	-
390	Cut of tree throw	0.6 x 1.8	0.15	Irregularly shaped feature with undulating base	-	-
391	Cut of ditch	1.02	0.22	North/south linear with gently sloping sides and a flat base	-	-
392	Fill of ditch 391	-	0.22	Friable, brown/grey sandy clay with stones and charcoal	-	Roman–post-medieval?
393	Cut of fire-pit	1.8 x 2.2	0.1	Shallow, sub-oval feature with large quantity of charcoal—possibly a tree-throw	-	Roman–post-medieval?
394	Fill of fire-pit 393	-	0.1	Fill of possible fire-pit; soft, black silty clay with flecks of red (burnt) sandstone	-	-
395	Cut of pit	1.24 x 2.1	0.4	Oval but relatively symmetrical pit with a slightly concave base	-	-
396	Fill of pit 395	-	0.4	Friable, brown and light grey clay sand with occasional sandstone and a patch of charcoal	-	-
397	Fill of linear 398	-	0.35	Primary ditch fill; firm, yellow/grey silty sand with occasional manganese flecks	-	-
398	Cut of linear	1.1	0.35	Ditch terminal with concave sides and flat base with an 'ankle break'	-	-
399	Cut of posthole	0.75 x 0.8	0.7	Circular posthole with steep and slightly concave base	-	-
400	Fill of posthole 399	-	0.7	Friable, dark brown sandy clay with some small sandstones	-	-

501	Fill of ditch 502	-	0.26	Fill of probable field boundary ditch; friable, brown/grey sandy clay with some charcoal and stones	CBM	Roman–post-medieval?
502	Cut of ditch	0.53	0.26	Probable field boundary ditch truncated by tree-throw	-	Roman–post-medieval?
503	Cut of pit	1.6 x 3.6	0.3	Irregular, oblong feature with uneven base	-	-
504	Fill of pit 503	-	0.18	Primary pit fill; loose, yellow/brown silty sand with grey/white mottling	-	-
505	Fill of pit 503	-	0.24	Upper pit fill; compact, red/brown silty clay with sandstone slabs	-	-
506	Cut of natural feature	c 2m	0.65	Large feature with undulating base that is either a tree-throw or an animal burrow	-	-
507	Fill of natural feature 506	-	0.3	Primary fill of natural feature; firm, light grey/white sandy silt with some charcoal and sandstone	-	-
508	Fill of natural feature 506	-	0.35	Secondary fill; firm brown silty sand with some sandstone fragments	-	-
509	Cut of ditch	1.42 x 1.78	0.52	Ditch terminal with steep slope and a flat base	-	-
510	Cut of tree-throw	4.1	0.55	Possible tree-throw and/or animal burrows with irregular shape, sloping sides	-	-
511	Fill of tree-throw 510	-	0.55	Moderately firm, light brown sandy silt with small amount of charcoal	-	-
512	Fill of ditch 509	-	0.12	Top fill of ditch terminal; friable, dark grey/brown sandy silt with stones	-	-
513	Fill of ditch 509	-	0.18	Middle fill of ditch terminal; Grey/brown sandy silt with small amount of charcoal and stones	-	-
514	Fill of ditch 509	-	0.32	Primary fill of ditch terminal; friable, grey/brown and light grey/blue sandy silt with brown/orange patches, some charcoal and stones	-	-

New Compound south section						
Area description					Total area (ha)	c 0.4
Southern half of the New Compound site. Lies east of the A21 and west of Tudeley Woods, to the north of Half Moon Lane (TQ 61445 43250). The land is relatively flat and slopes marginally from north to south.					Avg. depth	c 0.4
					Width (m)	c 60
					Length (m)	c 190
Context	Type	W x L (m)	D (m)	Description	Finds	Date
301	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil: friable dark brown sandy silt	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: friable, yellow/brown sandy silt	Worked flint	-

303	Layer	-	-	Natural geology varied considerably, but generally consisted of sandy silt with some clay	-	-
517	Cut of tree-throw	0.26 x 1.82	0.23	Irregular feature with concave base with ridge in centre (southern side was deeper and longer)	-	-
518	Fill of tree-throw 517	-	0.23	Loose, light grey/brown sand	-	-
519	Cut of ditch	0.8	0.25	Ditch with straight, 45–degree sides and flat base	-	-
520	Fill of ditch 519	-	0.25	Compact, grey/brown silty clay	-	-
521	Cut of hearth /pit	1.97 x 2.38	0.2	Sub-square pit or hearth with curving corners and a flat base	-	-
522	Fill of hearth /pit 521	-	0.2	Firm, dark grey/brown loamy sand with lots of charcoal	Worked flint	-
525	Cut of posthole	0.8 x 0.8	0.35	Circular posthole with steep sides and concave base	-	-
526	Fill of posthole 525	-	0.35	Loose, dark grey/brown silty sand with charcoal	-	-
527	Cut of posthole	0.7 x 0.8	0.45	Circular posthole with steep sides and concave base	-	-
528	Fill of posthole 527	-	0.45	Loose, dark grey/brown silty sand with charcoal	-	-
529	Cut of tree-throw	0.58 x 0.86	0.2	Irregularly shaped feature with undulating base, flat in places	-	-
530	Fill of tree-throw 529	-	0.2	Loose, mottled, light grey/dark grey silt with some stones	-	-
531	Cut of tree-throw	0.9 x 2.28	0.43	Elongated feature, wider at one end, sloping to base in centre	-	-
532	Fill of tree-throw 531	-	0.25	Light grey/brown silt with some stones	-	-
533	Fill of tree-throw 531	-	0.18	Mid–dark grey silt with some stones	-	-
534	Cut of tree-throw	0.6 x 0.8	0.45	Irregular oval feature with one vertical and one sloping side	-	-
535	Fill of tree-throw 534	-	0.45	Compact, dark grey/black silty sand with lots of charcoal, particularly nearer the base	-	-
536	Cut of tree-throw	0.79	0.1	Oval feature with undulating base	-	-
537	Fill of tree-throw 536	-	0.1	Loose, dark grey silt with small stones	-	-
538	Cut of tree-throw	0.7 x 1.46	0.12	Irregular oval feature with undulating base	-	-
539	Fill of tree-throw 538	-	0.12	Loose, dark grey/brown silt with some stones	-	-
540	Cut of tree-throw	0.85 x 1.6	0.52	Rectangular feature with vertical sides and a very uneven base; originally though to be a ditch but likely to be a tree-throw	-	-

541	Fill of tree-throw 540	-	0.52	Loose, red/brown sandy clay	-	-
542	Cut of ditch	0.9	0.26	Ditch with concave base and moderately steep sides	-	-
543	Fill of ditch 543	-	0.26	Friable, grey/yellow silty sand with lens of silty clay and some sandstones	-	-
544	Cut of ditch	0.75	0.48	Ditch with straight sides and flattish base	-	-
545	Fill of ditch 544	-	0.48	Moderately compact light grey/brown clay sand with occasional sandstone fragments	-	-
546	Fill of ditch 544	-	0.1	Compact, blue/grey silty sand with sandstones and iron pan	-	-
547	Fill of tree-throw 548	-	0.14	Dark grey silty sand	-	-
548	Cut of tree-throw	1.0 x 1.14	0.14	Irregular feature with gently sloping sides and a concave base	-	-
549	Fill of ditch 550	-	0.2	Friable grey/brown sandy silt with some charcoal flecks	-	-
550	Cut of ditch	0.43	0.2	Ditch with shallow sides sloping to a flat base	-	-

New Compound NE Extension						
Area description					Total area (m^2)	415
Site forms a small, north-east extension to IA4, Northern Compound. The site is located east of the A21 and west of Tudeley Woods (TQ 61397 43360). The land is relatively flat.					Avg. depth (m)	c 0.4
					Width (m)	c 21.6
					Length (m)	c 43.6
Contexts						
Context	Type	L x W	D (m)	Description	Finds	Date
301	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil: friable dark brown sandy silt	Worked flint	-
302	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: friable, yellow/brown sandy silt	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
523	Cut of tree-throw	0.7 x 2.9	0.3	Irregular oval pit with undulating base	-	-
524	Fill of tree-throw 523	-	0.3	Loose, yellow/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks	-	-

Fairthorne Junction, phase 1 (IA4-FJ1)						
Area description					**Total**	6571 m^2
Adjacent to the current A21 carriageway (ENE of the road). In between Potters Wood and Dislingbury Road.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	38
					Length (m)	211
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Length x width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2201	Natural geology	-	-	Slightly undulating, firm, mottled grey and medium light brownish-yellow silty sand with moderate amount of angular pieces of sandstone. Not homogeneous - patches	-	-

				of more silty and clayey deposit (probably results of periglacial processes)		
2202	Subsoil B-Horizon	-	0.26	Friable, medium to dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone	Worked flint	-
2203	Topsoil	-	0.3	Friable, dark greyish-brown silty sand	Worked flint	-
2204	Natural feature	0.64 x 0.57	0.16	Circular in plan; steep sides, and an undulating base in section; filled with single deposit - firm, medium yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional pieces of angular sandstone	-	-
2205	Natural feature – tree throw	0.44 x 0.4	0.22	Ovoid in plan; moderately steep sides and undulating concave base in section; filled with not homogeneous deposit – patches of light brownish-yellow slightly silty clay in light yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional pieces of small-medium sized angular pieces of sandstone	-	-
2206	Modern pit	45 x 9	0.55	Elongated – extending westwards beyond the stripped area – slightly amorphous in plan; moderately steep sides and an undulating concave base; filled with friable, medium greyish-brown silty sand with moderate number of charcoal pieces, tarmac and concrete. Most likely a waste pit dug during construction of an earlier phase of A21 carriageway	Pieces of tarmac, concrete, CBM	modern
2207	Embankment for A21	62 x 5	0.5	Firm, light yellowish-brown sandy clay with moderate amount of small sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Sealing natural geology, sealed by topsoil	-	modern
2208	Pit	27 x 15	1.2	Semi-circular – extending westwards beyond IA4-FJ1. Filled with friable medium brown silty sand with pieces of modern CBM and tarmac.	-	modern
2209	Tree throw	2.5 x 1.0	0.3	Elongated amorphous in plan; asymmetrical – very gently sloping and unevenly moderately steep sides with a very undulating base in section; filled with friable medium grey sandy silt with occasional patches of manganese stains	-	-
2210	Cut for A21 carriageway	211 x 14	4.0	Cut for A21 carriageway, *c* 14m from the western edge of the investigated area. Truncates several features	-	modern
2211	Cut for pit	1.84 x 1.12	0.42	Oval in plan; moderately steep, slightly undulating, sides – eastern side slightly steeper – and an undulating base, gradual breaks of slope in section; filled with three deposits	-	-
2212	Basal fill of pit	1m	0.12	Friable, yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized pieces of sandstone. Basal fill of 2211	-	-
2213	Middle fill of pit	1.75	0.21	Friable, dark orangey brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized, sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of sandstone and manganese stains. Secondary fill of 2211	-	-
2214	Main fill of pit	1.45	0.36	Friable, pale greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small-small/medium sized, sub-angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Upper fill of 2211	-	-
2215	Cut of ditch	>2 x 0.85	0.27	Linear in plan; orientated NNW-SSE; asymmetrical sides (western steep, eastern moderately steep) imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base in section; filled with deposit 2221	-	-
2216	Fill of linear feature	3.2 x 1	0.26	Moderately firm, medium yellowish-brown sandy silt with moderate amount of sub-angular, medium sized pieces of sandstone (most frequent at the basal part). Single fill of 2217	-	-

2217	Cut of linear feature	3.2 x 1	0.26	Slightly curved linear in plan; moderately steep (slightly convex) sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base in section. Filled with deposit 2216	-	-
2218	Cut of ditch	>7 x 1	0.35	Terminal part of curvilinear in plan; moderately steep, undulating western side, steep southern side, gradual break of slope, and a slightly undulating base in section. Filled with deposit 2219	-	-
2219	Fill of ditch	>7 x 1	0.35	Firm, medium greyish-brown sandy silt with small sized sandstones and moderate amount of charcoal flecks; also medium sized sub-angular pieces of sandstone at the bottom of the fill	-	-
2220	Cut of natural feature/pit?	1.38 x 0.88	0.26	Circular in plan; with slightly asymmetrical steep sides, and undulating base in section. Filled with 2228 deposit	-	-
2221	Fill of ditch	0.85 wide	0.27	Firm, medium greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small-medium sized sub-angular pieces of sandstone (some with traces of heat exposure). Single fill of 2215	-	-
2222	Cut of ditch	> 2 x 0.72	0.25	Linear in plan; almost symmetrical, moderately steep sides, and a flat base in section. Filled with 2223 deposit	-	-
2223	Fill of ditch	> 2 x 0.72	0.25	Patches of friable, greyish-yellow and dark grey sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of sandstone. Single fill of 2222	-	-
2224	Fill of ditch	>2 x 1.1	0.35	Friable, medium greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of sandstone (concentrated in the lower part of the deposit Filled of 2225	Flint scraper	-
2225	Cut of ditch	>2 x 1.1	0.35	Linear in plan; slightly asymmetrical sides – NE steeped, SW moderately steep, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly undulating base. Filled with deposit 2224	-	-
2226	Fill of pit/natural feature	1.6 x 1.2	0.4	Friable, medium greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium sized, angular pieces of sandstone. Not homogeneous – patches of clayey material. Fill of feature 2227	-	-
2227	Cut of pit	1.6 x 1.2	0.4	Circular in plan; with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly undulating base. Filled with deposit 2226	-	-
2228	Fill of natural feature/pit	1.38 x 0.88	0.26	Firm, light greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and a few heat-exposed sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Fill of 2220	-	-
2229	Cut of irregular feature	3.0 x 1.5	0.2	Amorphous in plan; with asymmetrical gently sloping sides, and an undulating base. Filled with 2230 deposit	-	Late prehistoric
2230	Fill of irregular feature	3.0 x 1.5	0.2	Firm, light greyish-yellow slightly silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. Quite diffuse edge with natural geology. Fill of 2229	Worked flint, burnt flint	Late prehistoric
2231	Cut of natural feature / post-hole	0.38 x 0.21	0.15	Oval in plan; with steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, and a concave base. Either an animal disturbance in natural geology or a post-hole. Filled with 2332	-	-
2232	Fill of natural feature / post-hole	0.38 x 0.21	0.15	Firm, greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, manganese stains, small sized sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Single fill of 2231	-	-

2233	Natural feature	4.0 x 2.5	-	Amorphous in plan; filled with firm, greyish-brown silty clay.	Worked flint	-
2234	Natural feature	2.75 x 2.5	0.25	Elongated, irregular ovoid in plan; asymmetrical sides – moderately steep and gently sloping – imperceptible breaks of slope, and an undulating base in section. Filled with a firm medium greyish-and yellowish-brown silty clay (patches) with some manganese stains.	-	-
2235	Natural feature	0.8	0.25	Irregularly circular in plan; steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and a sloping down, undulating base. Filled with firm, yellowish-light grey silty clay with occasional stains of manganese. Feature 2237 is cut into this deposit	-	-
2236				Equal to 2235	-	-
2237	Cut of ditch	> 2.0 x 0.75	0.3	Slightly curvilinear in plan; with symmetrical, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base. Cut into natural geology and natural feature 2235. Filled with 2238	Flint knife	Neolithic–Early Bronze Age
2238	Fill of ditch	> 2.0 x 0.75	0.3	Friable, medium brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. Single and homogeneous fill of 2237		Neolithic–Early Bronze Age

Fairthorne Junction, phase 2 (IA4-FJ2)		
Area description	**Total (ha)**	0.849
East of the current A21 carriageway. In between Potters Wood and Dislingbury Road. Includes the SW quadrant of sub-circular enclosure investigated in May–June 2015. The uppermost part of a low hill sloping down in all directions from the centre of the area.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
	Width (m)	54
	Length (m)	227

Contexts

Context no	Type	Length x width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
551	Cut of ditch	1.02 x 0.8 - whole feature 5.0m long	0.15	Sublinear, orientated NE-SW, asymmetrical sides – moderately steep and gently sloping, a slightly undulating base. Filled with 552. Terminal part of a short linear feature. Part of the same feature as 553.	-	-
552	Fill of ditch	1.02 x 0.8	0.15	Friable, mottled light grey – medium brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional small pieces of sandstone, single fill of terminal part of short linear 551.	-	-
553	Cut of ditch	0.92 x 0.9 - whole feature 5.0m long	0.2	Sublinear, orientated NE-SW, asymmetrical sides – steep and gently sloping – a strongly undulating base (convex), very gradual breaks of slope. Filled with 554. Terminal part of a short linear feature. The same feature as 551.	-	-
554	Fill of ditch	0.92 x 0.9 - whole feature 5.0m long	0.2	Friable, yellowish-light grey silty clay with rare, small sized, sub-rounded pieces of sandstone; single fill of 553.	-	-
555	Cut of pit	0.45	0.15	Round, symmetrical sides, imperceptible break of slope, a slightly concave base; filled with 556 and 557.	-	-
556	Fill of pit	0.12	0.15	Friable, greyish-light brown silty clay mottled with light brownish-yellow clay, with occasional small/medium sized sub-rounded pieces of sandstone. Overlain by 557. Primary fill of pit 555. Possible remain of clay lining.	-	-
557	Fill of pit	0.34	0.15	Friable, greyish-brown silty clay with charcoal chunks. Main fill of pit 555; overlying 556.	-	-
558	Cut of enclosure ditch terminus	2.75 x 1.5	0.58	Sublinear, orientated E-W, slightly asymmetrical sides – northern gradually sloping from steep to gently steep (gradual), southern also gradually sloping, from very steep	-	-

				to gently sloping; gradual breaks of slopes, and a concave base. Filled with: 559, 581, 560, and 582.		
559	Upper fill of enclosure ditch terminus	2.75 x 1.03	0.22	Friable, light brownish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, manganese, and small-medium sized pieces of sandstone. Overlying 581. Fill of 558.	-	-
560	Middle fill of enclosure ditch terminus	2.75 x 1.32	0.21	Friable, light brownish-grey with patches of mottled yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional medium and small sized pieces of sandstone and rare manganese. Overlain by 581, overlying 582. Fill of 558.	-	-
561	Natural feature	1.3 x 0.3	0.3	Oval, asymmetrical sides – moderately steep and very steep - gradual breaks of slopes, and a strongly undulating base. Filled with 562. Tree-throw hole.	-	-
562	Fill of natural feature	1.3 x 0.3	0.3	Friable, light yellowish-brown silty clay with a moderate amount of charcoal flecks in southern part and rare rounded small sized pieces of sandstone. Single fill of 561	-	-
563	Cut of natural feature	1.08 x 0.94	0.25	Irregularly circular, an irregularly asymmetrical concave base, asymmetrical sides – very steep and steep. Filled with 564, cuts the terminal part of linear 565. Tree-throw	-	-
564	Fill of natural feature	1.08 x 0.94	0.25	Friable, medium brownish-grey mottled with light grey sandy clay with occasional manganese and small sized pieces of sandstone.	-	-
565	Cut of terminal of short linear	0.55 x 0.3 (whole feature: +1.2 x 0.7)	0.17	Linear, aligned north-south, with a moderately steep side, an imperceptible break of slope, and a flat base. Only half section excavated. Truncated by 563. Filled with 566.	-	-
566	Fill of terminal of short linear	0.55 x 0.3 (whole feature: +1.2 x 0.7)	0.17	Friable, light grey mottled with medium greyish-brown patches sandy clay with some manganese stains and occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Single fill of 565; cut by 563.	-	-
567	Cut enclosure ditch terminal	1.55 (exc. slot) x 1.28 (half section)	0.8	Orientated WNW-ESE; half section excavated. Sub-linear, stepped sides (moderately steep and very steep at the bottom) with relatively sharp breaks of slopes, and a slightly concave base. Filled with 572, 571, 570, 569, 568	-	-
568	Basal fill of enclosure ditch terminus	0.91 x 0.4	0.12	Firm, pale greyish-brown with orangey brown lenses of silty sand with lenses – fluvial activity – with no inclusions, sealed by 569. Basal fill of 565.	-	-
569	Lower fill of enclosure ditch terminus	1.14 x 0.42	0.09	Friable, light brownish-orange silty sand with some clay and very occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Sealing 568, sealed by 570. Lower fill of 565.	-	-
570	Lower fill of enclosure ditch terminus	1.6 x 0.72	0.24	Friable, pale creamy orange with mottled grey patches, laminated band of silty sand with occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Sealed by 571, sealing 569. Lower fill of 567.	-	-
571	Middle fill of enclosure ditch terminus	1.6 x 0.85	0.29	Friable, orangey pale grey mottled with orangey medium grey patches silty sand with occasional small-medium sized pieces of sandstone. Sealed by 572 and sealing 570. Fill of 567.	-	-
572	Upper fill of enclosure ditch terminus	1.57 x 1.28	0.25	Friable, dark orangey grey sandy clay with frequent medium sized pieces of sandstone. Seals 571 sealed by subsoil. Fill of 567.	-	-

573	Cut of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 1.8	0.78	Slightly curvilinear, aligned NW-SE; with symmetrical, undulating, convex sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a slightly concave base. Filled with 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580.	-	-
574	Basal fill of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 0.34	0.22	Pale greyish-brown with orangey brown banding, friable, sandy silt with occasional medium sized pieces of sandstone – a result of fluvial activity. Sealed 575. Fill of 573.	-	-
575	Basal fill of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 0.25	0.07	Friable, light brownish-orangey silty sandy clay with occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Seals 574, overlain by 576 and 577. Fill of 573.	-	-
576	Fill of ditch enclosure	0.2 x0.33	0.49	Firm, greenish-greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Some slump material into the ditch. Above 575 and earlier than 577. Fill of 573.	-	-
577	Lower fill of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 1.12	0.26	Firm, pale creamy orange mottled with patches of orangey grey silty sand with occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Secondary fill of 573. Sealed by 578, sealing 575 and later than 576. In cut 567 considered as part of 570. Fill of 573.	-	-
578	Middle fill of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 1.63	0.24	Friable, orangey pale green mottled with patches of medium ochre orange silty sand with clay and occasional medium sized pieces of sandstone. Sealing 577 and 576, sealed by 579. Fill of 573.	-	-
579	Upper fill of enclosure ditch	2.0 x 1.78	0.23	Friable, dark orangey grey sandy clay with occasional small-medium sized pieces of sandstone. Secondary fill of 573. Sealing 578.	-	-
580	Upper fill of enclosure ditch	0.54	0.2	Firm, dark greyish-brown and very dark grey silty sand rich in pieces of charcoal and manganese. Above 579, fill of 573. Interpreted as 'intentional backfill'.	-	-
581	Fill of enclosure ditch terminus	2.0 x 1.3	0.12	Friable, dark brownish-grey and very dark grey silty sand rich in charcoal and manganese; also, occasional small sized pieces of sandstone. Overlain by 559, overlying 582 and 560. Fill of 558.	-	-
582	Lower fill of enclosure ditch terminus	2.0 x 1.29	0.19	Friable, brownish-orange with some grey patches sandy clay with some patches of silt and occasional small-medium sized pieces of sandstone. Sealed by 560. Fill of 558.	-	-
2239	Bioturbation	0.2	0.1	Sub-circular in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Deposit consists of a friable mid grey sandy silt with mottled yellow variation throughout and minimal sandstone inclusions. Interpreted as the result of animal activity and non-anthropogenic.	-	-
2240	Tree-throw	0.6 x 0.3	0.1	Irregular in plan with irregular shallow sides and an irregular base. Deposit consists of a friable medium yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional manganese flecks.	-	-
2241	Bioturbation	1.7 x 0.35	0.35	Linear in plan with irregular moderate to steep sides and a undulating base. Deposit consists of a friable light yellow-grey sandy silt with 30% angular sandstone inclusions (0.05m – 0.15m). A probable animal burrow and non-anthropogenic.	-	-
2242	Tree-throw	0.8 x 0.4	0.1	Sub-oval in plan with shallow irregular sides and an undulating base. Deposit consists of a friable (colour not recorded) sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-

2243	Bioturbation	0.2	0.1	Sub-circular in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Deposit consists of a friable mid yellowish-grey sandy silt with manganese flecks. Non-anthropogenic.	-	-
2244	Modern disturbance	0.7 x 0.7	0.17	Square in plan with straight steep-shallow sides and a V–shaped base. Capping deposit appears to be a deliberate modern backfill consisting of mixed topsoil and natural. Most likely derived from an earlier phase of modern mechanical excavation.	-	Modern
2245	Void	-	-	-	-	-
2246	Void	-	-	-	-	-
2247	Ditch	1.0+ x 0.98	0.18	Recorded as 2218	-	-
2248	Void	-	-	Fill of intervention 2247	-	-
2249	Terminus of linear	0.64 x 0.83+	0.31	Linear (?) in plan, with steep, slightly undulating sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a concave base containing a single deposit 2250. Cut into 2259.	-	-
2250	Fill	0.64 x 0.83	0.31	Firm light yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent darker grey variation and charcoal flecks probably drawn down into deposit via bioturbation. Single fill of 2249, probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2251	Pit/ tree-throw?	0.78+ x 0.62+	0.35	Sub-oval in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base, however, prominent bioturbation was noted along the majority of feature edge. Described as a possible pit but might be more likely represent a tree-throw where said tree has colonised the terminus of linear 2253. Contains a single deposit 2252. Truncates 2253.	-	-
2252	Deposit	0.78+ x 0.62 +	0.35	Firm light grey-brown silty clay with occasional manganese and sandstone lumps and flecks. No anthropogenic components were noted in the matrix. Single fill of probable tree-throw 2251.	-	-
2253	Gully	0.75+ x 0.28+	0.16	Linear in plan terminus with moderate concave sides and a concave base, containing a single deposit 2254 and truncated by 2251. Probable field drainage/boundary gully.	-	-
2254	Deposit	- x 0.75+	0.16	Firm light grey-brown silt clay deposit with occasional inclusions of manganese flecks and sub-angular pieces of sandstone. Single fill of gully 2253 cut by 2251. Probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rain wash. No anthropogenic components were evident.	-	-
2255	Geological feature	8+ x 2m+	?+	Roughly linear in plan with near vertical straight edges. Deposit consists of a very clean grey sandy clay. Interpreted as a weakness in natural sandstone beds scoured out by glacial action and filled via a colluvial or windblown process.	-	-
2256	Tree-throw	1.12 x 0.46	0.22	Sub-oval in plan with moderate concave-irregular sides and a concave base. Filled by 2257. Edges heavily bioturbated.	-	-
2257	Deposit	1.12	0.22	Friable light yellowish-grey silt clay with occasional sandy silt and sub-angular sandstone inclusions. Derived from tree-throw related bioturbation. Single fill of 2256.	-	-
2258	Tree-throw	2.2+ x 0.70+	0.33+	Irregular diffused linear in plan with moderate steep, undulating sides and an irregular concave base; containing	-	Early prehistoric

				a single deposit 2259. Initially interpreted as a ditch in plan, however, deposits in section point towards an interpretation as a large tree throw.		
2259	Tree-throw deposit	2.2+ x 0.70+	0.33+	Firm light brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone. Single fill of 2258	Flint	Early prehistoric
2260	Ditch	1.48+ x 0.83	0.34	Linear in plan with straight, moderate steep sides and a pointed base; containing a single fill (2261). Probable field drainage/boundary ditch. Same as 2269.	-	-
2261	Secondary deposit	1.48+	0.34	Firm mottled light greyish-brown silty clay with infrequent inclusions of manganese flecks - filling ditch 2261. Probably derived from rain wash of upcast derived from 2260. No anthropogenic components evident	-	-
2262	Pit?	2.4 x 1.16	0.28	Oblong in plan with moderate concave sides and a flat base; containing deposits 2263 and 2266. Possible pit of indeterminate use.	-	-
2263	Deposit	0.87+	0.04	Firm medium brown silty clay deposit with occasional manganese and sandstone flecks. Basal fill of possible pit 2262, probably derived from breakdown of feature edges via rain wash. No anthropogenic components evident.	-	-
2264	Fire-pit	0.83 x 0.78	0.15	Sub-oval in plan with shallow irregular sides and an irregularly flat base; containing deposit 2265. Although interpreted as a fire-pit, the cut could be entirely produced by later bioturbation of *in situ* burning spread.	-	-
2265	*In situ* burning	0.83	0.15	Friable dark grey clay-silt with charcoal flecks and fired clay and sandstone inclusions. Single fill of 2264	-	-
2266	Secondary deposit	2.4	0.26	Firm mottled grey-brown silt clay with occasional inclusions of manganese and sandstone flecks. No anthropogenic material is evident within the matrix. Signifies the final disuse deposit of possible pit 2262 and is probably derived by a breakdown of feature edges via rain wash.	-	-
2267	Gully/ natural feature?	1.1+ x 0.43	0.08	Linear in plan, with moderate concave sides and a flat base containing single deposit 2268. Possible drainage gully but interpreted as a natural feature.	-	-
2268	Secondary deposit	1.1+	0.08	Firm light grey sand-silt with yellow mottling and inclusions of iron stone lumps (<30%); no anthropogenic components evident. Interpreted as a slow silting of natural hollow via colluvial action. Single fill of 2267.	-	-
2269	Ditch	1.1+ x 1.1	0.44	Linear in plan with moderate straight sides and a pointed base; containing single deposit 2270. Probable field boundary/drainage ditch. The same feature as 2260.	-	-
2270	Secondary deposit	1.1+	0.44	Firm light grey sand-silt with orange patches and inclusions of iron stone (<30%); no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash. Single fill of 2269.	-	-
2271	tree-throw?	1.8 x 0.79	0.15	Sub-rectangular in plan with shallow, irregular sides and an irregular base; containing single deposit 2272. Interpreted as a tree-throw or other natural non-anthropogenic feature.		
2272	Bioturbation deposit	1.8	0.15	Compacted light grey sandy silt with orangey patches and inclusions of sub-rectangular iron stone (<40%); no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Probably derived from bioturbation relating to 2271. Single fill of 2271.	-	-

2273	Fire-pit	0.79 x 0.58	0.1	Oblong in plan with shallow irregular sides and an irregular base containing single deposit 2274. Although interpreted as a fire-pit, the cut could be entirely produced by later bioturbation of *in situ* burning spread.	-	-
2274	*In situ* burning	0.79	0.1	Dark brown silt-clay with patches of red and frequent inclusions of charcoal lumps and flecks. Single fill of 2273	-	-
2275	Pit	3.34 x 2.94	0.99	Sub-circular in plan with moderate-steep convex sides and moderately flat base containing single deposit 2276. Although no anthropogenic components were evident within 2276 the profile of the feature may indicate its potential as a storage pit.	-	-
2276	Secondary deposit	3.34	0.99	Firm medium brown silty clay with well-defined lenses of redeposited angular sandstone and iron stone chunks. Appears to mostly derive from a breakdown of upcast from 2275 to the north-east of in plan and a subtler breakdown of in plan edges via rain wash. Single disuse deposit of pit 2275.	-	-
2277	Tree-throw	2.1 x 0.9+	0.45	Sub-circular feature with steep irregular sides and a concave base containing a single deposit 2281.	-	-
2278	Tree-throw/ Pit	2.04 x 1.21	1.0	Sub-oval in plan with steep convex sides and concave base containing single deposit 2279. Interpreted as a tree-throw, however, given its shape and dimensions the feature could be a bioturbated pit.	-	-
2279	Bioturbation deposit	2.04	1.0	Friable light brown-grey sand-silt containing inclusions of sandstone (<25%) and charcoal (<1%). Single fill of tree-throw 2278.	-	-
2280	tree-throw	2.3 x1.15	0.51	Sub-circular in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Deposit consists of a medium brownish-grey sandy silt with inclusions of sub-angular sandstone lumps (<5%) and charcoal flecks (<5%).	-	-
2281	Tree-throw deposit	2.1	0.45	Friable dark grey organic-silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal and fire affected sandstone. Single fill of tree-throw 2277.	-	-
2282	Bioturbation	2.09	0.12	Sub-circular/irregular deposit of friable greyish-brown silty clay.	-	-
2283	Tree-throw	1.9+	0.3	Irregular in plan with shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. Deposit consists of a friable light yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional inclusions of angular sandstone.	-	-
2284	Ditch	1.0+ x 0.91	0.36	Curvilinear in plan with moderate convex sides and a concave base; containing single deposit 2285; the same feature as terminus 2286. Probable boundary/drainage ditch.	-	-
2285	Secondary fill	1.0+	0.36	Compacted light grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of iron accreted sub-angular sandstone; no anthropogenic components evident within matrix. Single fill of 2284. Probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2286	Ditch terminus	1.0+ x 0.58	0.16	Terminus of curvilinear in plan with moderate steep, convex sides and a flat base containing a single deposit 2287; the same feature as 2284. Probable boundary/drainage ditch terminus.	-	-
2287	Primary deposit	1.0+	0.16	Compacted light grey sandy silt with dark grey and orange patches. Frequent inclusions of sub-angular ironstone lumps and infrequent charcoal flecks. Single fill of 2286,	-	-

				probably the result of a primary slumping of edges and bioturbation.		
2288	Bioturbation	4.58 x 0.79	0.19	Irregular linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a sloping base, containing single deposit 2289. Interpreted as the remains of a hedgerow.	-	-
2289	Bioturbation deposit	4.58	0.19	Compacted medium brown silty clay with rare inclusions of angular sandstone; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Single fill of 2288 probably derived from hedgerow related bioturbation.	-	-
2290	Pit	1.03 x 0.88	0.12	Sub-circular in plan, moderate concave sides and a flat base containing, single fill 2291. Possible pit of unknown function.	-	-
2291	Secondary deposit	1.03	0.12	Firm medium greyish-brown silty clay with inclusions of manganese and occasional lumps of sandstone; no anthropogenic material. Single fill of 2290 probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2292	Ditch terminus	1.0+ x 0.52	0.27	Irregular linear in plan with steep-moderate concave sides and a pointed base; containing two deposits 2293 and 2294. Probable field drainage ditch terminus.	-	-
2293	Primary deposit	1.0+	0.15	Firm yellowish-grey silt clay with frequent inclusions of manganese; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. A basal fill of ditch terminus 2292, possibly derived from dirty redeposited natural scoured out of the ditch base via flowing water accumulating in the ditch terminus. Alternately, deposit could be the bioturbated and oxidised true edge of ditch cut.	-	-
2294	Secondary deposit	1.0+	0.18	Friable bioturbated dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of manganese and sand stone; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Disuse deposit of 2292 probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rain wash.	-	-
2295	Pit	2.19 x 0.87	0.22	Oval in plan with moderate straight sides and a flat base, containing a single deposit 2296.	SF13	-
2296	Secondary deposit	2.19	0.22	Compacted medium grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of manganese, sub-angular sand stone lumps and occasional charcoal flecks. A single flint backed knife was recovered (SF13). Single fill of 2295 probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	Flint knife	Prehistoric
2297	Pit/post-hole	0.5 x 0.33	0.19	Sub-circular in plan with steep-moderate concave sides and an undulating base containing single deposit 2298. Possible post-hole or pit of undetermined use.	-	-
2298	Secondary deposit	0.5	0.19	Firm medium brown silty clay with infrequent inclusions of manganese; no anthropogenic material Single fill of 2297, probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2299	Ditch	5.85m x 1.18m	0.22	Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a flat base, containing single deposit 2700. Possible boundary ditch.	-	-
2700	Secondary deposit	5.85	0.22	Compacted light grey sandy silt with orange patches and frequent inclusions of manganese and sub-angular ironstone lumps; no anthropogenic material evident. Single fill of 2299 probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2701	Tree-throw	2.2 x 1.1+	0.42	Linear in plan with steep-moderate convex sides and a concave base, containing two deposits 2702 and 2703.	-	-

2702	Tree-throw deposit	0.72+	0.42	Friable light yellowish-brown silty clay; no anthropogenic material evident. Lower fill of 2701.	-	-
2703	Tree-throw deposit	0.53+	0.42	Friable light-yellow silt; no anthropogenic material. Upper fill of 2701	-	-
2704	Natural feature	0.5+ x 1.66	0.28	Irregular in plan with shallow irregular sides and a base containing as single deposit 2705. Probable natural depression.	-	-
2705	Colluvial deposit.	0.5+	0.28	Compacted light brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-angular ironstone lumps; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Single fill of 2704, probably derived from colluvial action.	-	-
2706	Modern pit	6.2 x 2.85	0.32	Irregular in plan with moderate concave sides and flat base containing two deposits 2707 and 2708. Possible brick-pit?	-	-
2707	Dump deposit	6.2	0.32	Compacted Dark grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks and sub-angular ironstone lumps. Lower fill of 2706.	-	-
2708	Tertiary deposit	4.65	0.15	Firm mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Upper fill of 2706 probably derived from a combination of ploughing and colluvial action on surrounding topsoil.	-	-
2709	Gully	0.7+ x 0.14	0.22	Linear in plan with straight vertical sides and a flat base containing single deposit 2710. Mostly machined away but possible drainage gully.	-	-
2710	Dump deposit	0.7+	0.22	Compacted medium brownish-orange clay with medium grey patches; no anthropogenic material. Single fill of 2710, probably derived from a deliberate backfill of redeposited natural clay.	-	-
2711	Ditch/ tree-throw?	4.2+ x 0.98	0.38	Irregular linear in plan with undercut steep concave and steep straight sides and concave base; containing single deposit 2712. Interpreted as a ditch however could be the remnants of large tree-throw of which 2713 could be a part.	-	-
2712	Tree-throw deposit	0.98+	0.38	Compacted light greyish-brown clayey silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix.	-	-
2713	Pit/ tree-throw?	1.4 + x1.22	0.56	Sub-circular in plan with steep concave-irregular sides and flat-irregular base containing three deposits - 2714, 2715 & 2716 Interpreted as a pit however it may be more likely to be a large tree-throw of which 2711 would also be a part.	-	-
2714	Tree-throw deposit	0.94	0.21	Friable light-yellow clay silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Lower fill of 2713	-	-
2715	Tree-throw deposit	0.34	0.32	Friable light greyish-yellow clay silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone and manganese; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Upper fill of 2713 truncated by 2711. Possibly the same feature as 2714.	-	-
2016	Tree-throw deposit	0.47	0.26	Friable light greyish-yellow clay silt with rare inclusions of sub-angular sandstone and manganese; no anthropogenic material evident Equal to 2715. within matrix. Upper fill of 2713 truncated by 2711.		
2717	Ditch/ geological?	1.06+ x 1.02	0.24	Irregular linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a flat-irregular base, containing single deposit 2718. Possible boundary/field drainage ditch, but more likely a weakness in the natural geology.	-	-

2718	Secondary deposit	1.06+	0.24	Friable light grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone, manganese and ironstone; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Single fill of 2717. Probably derived from colluvial action.	-	-
2719	Pit/post-hole	0.65 x 0.52	0.15	Sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides and a flat base, containing a single deposit (2720). Most likely a post-hole/pad.	-	-
2720	Secondary deposit	0.65	0.15	Firm light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of manganese; no anthropogenic material evident within matrix. Single fill of 2719 probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash after post removal/degradation.	-	-
2721	Post-hole	0.42 x 0.37	0.2	Sub-circular in plan with moderate-steep convex sides and a pointed base, indicating the potential for a driven stake, containing a single deposit 2722.	-	-
2722	Secondary deposit	0.42	0.2	Firm light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of manganese, occasional charcoal flecks and sandstone. Single fill of 2721, probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash after post removal/degradation.	-	-
2723	Post-hole	0.54 x 0.48	0.61+	Oval in plan with steep convex sides - a base not very clear but recorded as flat - containing single deposit 2724.	-	-
2724	Deliberate backfill	0.54	0.61+	Firm dark greyish-brown silt clay with inclusions of of occasional charcoal, ironstone and sand lenses. Single fill of 2723, probably derived from a deliberate backfill after post removal as no post-pipe is in evidence.	-	-
2725	Pit	2.28 x 1.53	0.18	Oval in plan with shallow concave sides and a flat base containing single fill 2726. Possible storage pit. Filled by 2726	-	-
2726	Secondary deposit	2.28	0.18	Compacted mid brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks and occasional sandstone lumps. A single flint tool was also recovered. Single fill of 2725. Disuse deposit probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	Flint tool	-
2727	Post-hole	0.36 x 0.32	0.43	Sub-oval in plan with steep convex sides and pointed base containing single deposit 2728. Exhibits some bioturbation but likely a post-hole.	-	-
2728	Deliberate backfill	0.36	0.43	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare-inclusions of sand, charcoal and sandstone. Single fill of post-hole 2727, probably derived from a deliberate backfill of feature upcast as packing for now disintegrated post.	-	-
2729	Tree-throw	2.1 x 1.7	0.7	Oval in plan with steep sides and an undulating base. Deposit consists of a firm medium brown clayey silt with inclusions of light grey silt patches and sandstone; no anthropogenic components were evident within matrix.	-	-
2730	Pit	0.63 x 0.41	0.3	Oval in plan with moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope and a concave base containing single deposit 2731. Pit of undetermined function.	-	-
2731	Secondary deposit	0.63	0.3	Friable medium greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks. Single fill of 2730, probably derived from a breakdown of feature edges via rainwash.	-	-
2732	Post-hole	0.17 x 0.16	0.11	Circular in plan with steep sides and slightly concave base containing single fill 2733.	-	-
2733	Secondary fill	0.17	0.11	Firm light grey silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of 2732 probably derived from a	-	-

				breakdown of feature edges via rainwash after post removal or disintegration.		
2734	Pit	1.25 x 0.86	1	Oblong in plan with asymmetrical sides - very steep and stepped with an irregularly flat base containing single fill 2735. Probable pit of undetermined use.		-
2735	Deliberate backfill?	1.25	1	Firm medium grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of manganese and sandstone lumps. All anthropogenic material recovered appears to have been dragged down via much later bioturbation. Single fill of 2734. Poorly sorted inclusions indicate that deposit is the result of deliberate backfill.	Glass	-
2736	Post-hole	0.45 x 0.35	0.43	Sub-circular in plan with steep straight sides and concave-flat base containing a group of deposits 2737.	-	-
2737	Deliberate backfill	0.45	0.43	Loose medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of manganese and sandstone; no anthropogenic components evident within matrix. Recorded as single fill of 2736, however, this can be broken down into a deliberate back fill abutting a post-pipe void with a darker disuse deposit capping the two.	-	-
2738	Pit? /tree-throw	0.79 x 0.69	0.17	Sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides and a concave-flat base containing single deposit 2739. Pit of undetermined use or possible small tree-throw hole.	-	-
2739	Deposit	0.79	0.17	Friable mid yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and sandstone lumps. Single fill of 2738 either derived from breakdown of feature edges via rainwash or a tree-throw deposit.	-	-
2740	VOID	-	-	VOID	-	-
2741	Tree-throw	1.45+	0.58	Irregular-oval in plan with asymmetrical sides - moderate steep, undulating and irregularly convex, sharp break of slope, and a sloping base. Deposit consists of a friable light greyish-brown clayey silt with inclusions of manganese and sandstone; no anthropogenic material.	Worked flint	-
2742	Tree-throw	3.60 x 1.92	0.46	Irregular in plan with diffused sides and a flat base. Deposit consists of a firm medium brownish-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and sandstone lumps.	-	-
2743	Geological feature	1.0+ x 0.96	0.5+	Linear in plan with straight sides – base not exposed. Deposit consists of a fine light blueish grey clayey silt. May be formed by a glacial process or colluvial silting of a geological fissure.	-	-
2744	Tree-throw	1.96 x 1.82	0.19	Irregular in plan/spread with a bioturbated dark brown silty clay deposit with frequent inclusions of charcoal.	-	-
2745	Fire-pit	3.01 x 2.82	0.19	Sub-circular in plan with shallow, concave sides and an undulating base, containing two deposits 2746 and 2747. The base of cut is moderately fire affected natural sandy silt.	-	later 12th–13th century AD
2746	*In situ* burning	3.01	0.13	Very dark brown-black silt-clay with <50% inclusions of charcoal and fire affected sandstone lumps. Lowest fill of 2745 (**sample 1114 radiocarbon dated**).	CBM	cal. AD 1160–1270
2747	Tertiary deposit	2.1	0.1	Firm medium greyish-silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and sub-angular sandstone lumps. Upper fill of 2745 probably derived from a combination of ploughing and colluvial action capping depression left by 2747.	-	later 12th–13th century AD

2748	Fire-pit	2.1 x 1.9	0.19	Sub-circular in plan with shallow moderately steep sides and a concave base, containing two deposits 2749 and 2751. At the base fire affected natural clay.	-	-
2749	*In situ* burning	2.1	0.12	Very dark brownish-black silty clay with <50% inclusions of charcoal and fire affected sandstone lumps. Lowest fill of 2748.	-	-
2750	Bioturbation/ Geological	1.1	0.11m	Irregular in plan with shallow irregular sides and very undulating base. Deposit consists of a firm medium brown sandy silt. Either the result of a tree-throw or glacial action.	Flint	Early prehistoric
2751	Tertiary deposit	1.33	0.07m	Firm medium grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and sub-angular sandstone lumps. Upper fill of 2748.	-	-
2752	Cleaning up context	-	-	Arbitrary number given to unplotted surface finds of Late Mesolithic flint debitage associated with flint scatter layer 2753	Worked flint, burnt flint	Early prehistoric
2753	Ancient land surface	8.0+ x 3.0+	0.2+	Colluvial spread of firm medium-light yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of manganese and charcoal flecks. Flint tool and debitage horizon.	Worked flint, burnt flint	Late Mesolithic
2754	Natural geology	-	-	Hard, light yellow sand layer below 2753 and 2756. Some flints dragged down into this deposit via bioturbation and gravity	-	-
2755	Cleaning context	-	-	Arbitrary number given to unplotted surface finds of Late Mesolithic flint debitage associated with scatter layer 2756.	-	-
2756	Ancient land surface	1.0+ x 2.0+	0.05	Colluvial spread of firm medium light yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of manganese and charcoal flecks. Discreet flint tool and debitage horizon.	Worked flint, burnt flint	Late Mesolithic

Heathland Creation Area

Area description	**Total (m^2)**	3382
The Heathland Creation area is to the east of the temporary site compound. It is centred on NGR 56145 14325 and sits upon a plateau of higher ground half way along the A21.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.29
	Width (m)	34.0
	Length (m)	101.65

Contexts

Context no	**Type**	**Width x length (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Area**	**Finds**	**Date**
1401	Layer	-	0.12	A friable, medium brown sandy peat top soil. With a lot of organic material inclusions.	IA4	Struck flint, burnt flint, clay pipe	
1402	Layer	-	0.17	Friable, light to medium brown sandy silt sub-soil. With small sub-rounded sandstones pieces.	IA4	Worked flint	
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural comprised of a friable, pale greyish-yellow with medium purplish grey mottled sandy silt. With small sandstone inclusions.	IA4	-	

1404	Cut	1.18m x 0.58m	0.16m	A rectangular pit with symmetrical gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by 1405. Located in the middle of the west of the area, north of 1410.	IA4	-	
1405	Fill	1.18m x 0.58m	0.16m	A friable medium greyish-brown sandy silt with rare CBM fragments. Fill of 1404.	IA4	-	
1406	Treethrow	1.8m x 1.3m	-	Un-excavated treethrow. Dark grey silty sand fill with frequent charcoal inclusions.	IA4	-	
1407	Cut	2.2m x 2.2m	0.12m	A circular fire-pit with steep symmetrical sloping sides and a broad flat base. Heat-affected sides and base. Filled by 1408 and 1409. Located in the north-western part of the area, west of 1416.	IA4	-	12th–13th century AD
1408	Fill	2.2m	0.12m	A friable, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with thick patches of charcoal. Fill of 1407. (**Sample 1042 radiocarbon dated**).	IA4	Charcoal	cal. AD 1050–1080 (2.3%); cal. AD 1150–1270 (93.1%)
1409	Fill	2.2m	0.1m	A friable, medium greyish-brown sandy silt, with frequent charcoal flecking. Fill of 1407.	IA4	-	12th–13th century AD
1410	Cut	0.82m x 0.76m	0.11m	A sub-rectangular pit with a steep sloping south side and shallow sloping north side and a level, slightly concave base. Filled by 1411. Located in the middle of the west of the area, south of 1404.	IA4	-	
1411	Fill	0.82m x 0.76m	0.11m	A friable medium greyish-brown sandy silt, with some small pieces of sandstone. Fill of 1410.	IA4	-	
1412	Layer	1.07m x 1.2m	0.07m	A firm, medium red sandy clay, with no visible inclusions.	IA4	-	
1413	Cut	0.58m x 1m	0.13m	A rectangular pit, with very steep symmetrical sides and a broad flat base. Filled by 1414.	IA4	-	
1414	Fill	0.58m x 1m	0.13m	A firm, dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with no visible inclusions. Fill of 1413.	IA4	-	
1415	Cut	3.5m x 3m	0.8m	A sub-circular pit, with irregular but steep south side, sloping north side and a level base. Filled by 1418, 1432, 1433 and 1419, north side filled by 1416. Located in the north west of the area. Equivalent to 1443	IA4	-	12th–13th century AD
1416	Cut	2.5m x 1.1m	0.66m	A sub-oval apparent cut with steep sloping sides and a concave base. The south edge was steeper than the north. Equivalent to 1417 and 1455. Filled by 1419= 1456. Located in the north west of the area, within tree-throw 1415.	IA4	-	
1417	Cut	1.4m x 1.2m	0.42m	A sub-oval apparent cut with symmetrical sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by 1420. Equivalent to 1416 = 1455. Located in	IA4	-	

				the north west of the area within tree-throw hole 1415.			
1418	Fill	-	-	A friable, medium greyish-brown sandy silt, with burnt stone, charcoal and ash. Fill of 1415. (**Sample 1044 radiocarbon dated**).	IA4	Medieval pottery, flint, charcoal	cal. AD 1150–1260 (90.2%)
1419	Fill	-	-	A friable, dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with frequent charcoal inclusions. Fill of 1416.	IA4	-	
1420	Fill	-	-	A moderately compact, dark greyish-brown silty sand, with dense irregular charcoal inclusions. Fill of 1417.	IA4	-	
1421	Layer	-	-	A firm, reddish-yellow, mottled with blueish white, silty clay. No visible inclusions.	IA4	-	
1422	Fill	2.5m x 0.5m	-	A firm, light grey sandy silt, with orange mottling. From un-excavated linear running south east to north west.	IA4	-	
1423	Fill	2m x 0.9m	-	A friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt, with rare manganese flecks. An un-excavated sub-rectangular pit like feature.	IA4	-	
1424	Fill	1.7m x 1.3m	-	A friable, light yellowish-brown sandy silt, with rare manganese flecks. An un-excavated sub-circular pit.	IA4	-	
1425	Fill	0.4m x 0.66m	-	A friable, medium yellowish-brown sandy silt, with rare manganese flecking. An un-excavated sub-circular small pit-like feature.	IA4	LIA.ERB Pottery scraps	
1426	Cut	2.2m x 1.2m	0.38m	A very irregular shaped pit in both plan and section. Filled by 1427. Located in the middle of the east of the area, north of 1430.	IA4	-	
1427	Fill	-	0.38m	A friable, mottled light greyish-brown silty sand, with large but rare sub-rounded sandstone pieces. Fill of 1426.	IA4	-	
1428	Fill	0.92m	0.24	A loose, pale greyish-brown silty sand, with occasional angular sandstone fragments. Fill of 1429.	IA4	-	
1429	Cut	0.92m x 0.82m	0.24m	A ditch terminus, with symmetrical shallow curving sides and a slightly concave base. The terminus is tapered with a rounded end. Filled by 1428. Located in the middle of the east of the area, north of 1426.	IA4	-	
1430	Layer	1m	0.1m	A friable, greyish-brown sandy clay, with no visible inclusions.	IA4	-	
1431	Layer	-	0.1m	A loose, pale whitish grey silty sand, with no visible inclusions.	IA4	-	
1432	Fill	0.8m x 1.8m	0.7m	A moderately compact, blueish yellow silty sand, with pebble inclusions. Fill of 1415.	IA4	-	12th–13th century AD

1433	Fill	0.4m	1m	A moderately friable, yellowish-brown sandy silt, with both occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of 1415.	IA4	-	12th–13th century AD
1434	Cut	1.2m x 0.8m	0.28m	An irregular oval shaped feature, with asymmetrical irregular sides and an undulating base. Filled by 1435. In the north of the middle of the area, south east of 1417.	IA4	-	
1435	Fill	1.2m x 0.8m	0.28m	A friable, mottled dark yellowy brown silty sand, with rooting, charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. Fill of 1434.	IA4	-	
1436	Cut	2.05m x 2.1m	0.2m	A sub-circular pit with irregular sides but a largely level base. Heat-affected sides and base. Filled by 1437. Located in the very north of the area, north west of 1438.	IA4	-	
1437	Fill	2m x 2m	0.2m	Firm blackish brown silty clay with much charcoal and burnt stones.	IA4	-	
1438	Cut	0.5m x0.5m	0.15m	A circular feature, with steep only slightly sloping sides and a broad flat base. Filled by 1439. Located in the very north of the area, north west of 1440.	IA4	-	
1439	Fill	0.5m x0.5m	0.15m	A friable, brownish-light-yellow silty clay, with occasional burnt angular stones. Fill of 1438.	IA4	-	
1440	Cut	1.2m x 0.68m	0.36m	A sub-circular pit, with symmetrical sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by 1441. Located in the very north of the area, south east of 1438.	IA4	Burnt Stone	
1441	Fill	1.2m x 0.68m	0.36m	A firm dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and chunks, and frequent medium to large pieces of angular burnt limestone. Fill of 1446.	IA4	Burnt Stone	
1442	Fill	0.6m x 0.55m	0.1m	A loose, light greyish-brown silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecks.	IA4	-	
1443	Cut	2.63m	0.92m	A sub-circular tree-throw hole, = 1415, with a flat base and a slightly irregular, gradually sloping sides. The south side is considerably steeper than the north. Filled by 1449, 1448, 1447, 1446.	IA4	-	
1444	Cut	1.23m x 1.46m	0.41m	A sub-ovoid pit, with a concave base offset to the east side of the feature. Both sides steep and sloping, the west side becomes more gradual that the east before the base. Filled by 1445. Located in the north west of the area, north of 1417.	IA4	-	
1445	Fill	1.23m	0.41m	A friable, dark yellowy, orangey brown silty sand with frequent large sub-angular sandstone pieces, occasional medium sized sub-rounded mudstone and frequent manganese flecks. Fill of 1444, equivalent to 1418	IA4	-	

1446	Fill	1.03m	0.44m	A friable, light brownish-yellow, very fine clayey silt, with occasional large fragments of sandstone. Fill of 1443, equivalent to 1418.	IA4	-	
1447	Fill	0.2m	0.32m	A compact, dark to medium brown clayey silt, with orangey flecks. It had occasional large fragments of charcoal, common sandstone fragments and frequent charcoal flecks. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1448	Fill	1m	0.29m	A firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay, with common large fragments of sandstone. Fill of 1443, equivalent to 1418.	IA4	-	
1449	Fill	1.41m	0.38m	A concreted, light greyish-brown silty clay with orangey flecks. It had large fragments of both sandstone and charcoal as inclusions. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1450	Fill	1.18m	0.23m	A friable, medium to dark brownish-grey fine clayey silt, with frequent flecks of charcoal. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1451	Fill	1.52m	0.19m	A friable, brownish-grey silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1452	Fill	0.82m	0.4m	A firm, brown clayey silt, with grey mottling and charcoal flecks. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1453	Fill	1.38m	0.42m	A firm, dark grey silty clay, with frequent charcoal. Fill of 1443.	IA4	-	
1454	Fill	0.46m	0.24m	A firm, light brown silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks. Fill of 1443. Same as 1452.	IA4	-	
1455	Cut	1.84m x 1.84m	0.68m	A sub-ovoid apparent cut with irregular sloping sides of varying gradients but with a flat base. Within tree-throw hole 1415, and equivalent to 1416. Filled by 1456 and 1457.	IA4	-	
1456	Fill	1.84m	0.38m	A friable dark brown silty sand, with blueish black mottling. It had inclusions of large amounts of charcoal flecks and occasional mudstones. Fill of 1455, equivalent to 1419.	IA4	Pottery	
1457	Fill	1.84m	0.3m	A moderately firm, orangey brown silty sand, with occasional mudstones and sandstone fragments. Fill of 1455.	IA4	-	
1458	Cut	0.98m	0.21m	An elongated oval shaped feature with symmetrical moderately sloping sides and a slightly uneven level base. Filled by 1459 and 1470.	IA4	-	
1459	Fill	0.86m	0.15m	A friable, yellowy brown silty clay, with no visible inclusions. Fill of 1458.	IA4	-	
1460	Cut	0.42m x 0.4m	0.2m	A circular pit, with asymmetrical irregular sides and a concave base. Filled by 1461.	IA4	-	
1461	Fill	0.42m	0.2m	A friable, light greyish-brown silty clay, with no visible inclusions. Fill of 1460.	IA4	-	

1462	Cut	1.36m	0.27m	An irregular sub-circular pit, with gradually sloping symmetrical sides and a concave base. Filled by 1463.	IA4	-	
1463	Fill	1.36m	0.27m	A brownish-clayey silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and rare sandstone fragments. Fill of 1462.	IA4	-	
1464	Cut	1.2m x 1.2m	0.4m	An irregular sub-circular shaped feature, with uneven sloping sides and an uneven roughly concave base. Filled by 1465.	IA4	-	
1465	Fill	1.2m	0.4m	A friable, light yellowy grey sandy silt, with charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of 1464.	IA4	-	
1466	Cut	0.8m	0.26m	A feature unseen in plan, but with steep asymmetrical irregular sides and a concave base. Filled by 1467.	IA4	-	
1467	Fill	0.65m	0.28m	A firm, greyish-brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of 1466.	IA4	-	
1468	Cut	1.3m	0.4m	A rounded feature with asymmetrical steep sloping sides, the south side is stepped. The base was flat. Filled by 1469.	IA4	-	
1469	Fill	1.3m	0.5m	A friable, yellowish-grey sandy silt, with manganese flecks and rare small stones. Fill of 1468.	IA4	-	
1470	Fill	0.98m	0.07m	A friable, greyish-brown silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecking. Fill of 1458.	IA4	-	
1471	Layer	1.8m	0.17m	A firm, dark brownish-black silty clay, with regular charcoal fragments.	IA4	LIA/ERB Potsherd	
1472	Cut	1.38m	0.42m	Feature with moderately sloping sides, same as 1416. The south side was more irregular than the north, it had a concave base. Filled by 1453.	IA4	-	

6 CARPENTERS WOOD

6.1 Project details and background

6.1.1 SMS excavation was undertaken at Carpenters Wood (centred at NGR 561200 143300) in October 2017. Initially, the site was not designated for archaeological mitigation in advance of woodland translocation. However, owing to the use of the site as a soil storage area prior to landscaping, the topsoils had become compacted along its eastern side and this was confirmed by a test-pitting survey. Due to the possibly of surviving archaeological remains, as indicated by discoveries at nearby sites, it was agreed that the potential for damage to any underlying archaeology was enough to warrant excavation. The work revealed two ditches and a posthole, though it was not possible to date any of the features.

6.2 Scope of works

6.2.1 Evaluation trenches were excavated at Well Wood in 2015, immediately south-east of Carpenters Wood (Fig. 35), and it was initially anticipated that proposed landscaping at Carpenters Wood would not impact any surviving archaeology (HA 2013, fig. H.5.2). However, the site was used as a soil storage area, which resulted in the underlying soils becoming compacted. Subsoiling for the woodland translocation required a depth of 1m. Furthermore, the discovery of prehistoric and medieval activity on the same plateau in IA4 during 2014 and 2015, only 85m to the east (see above), suggested that further archaeological remains might be found in Carpenters Wood.

6.2.2 Since the depth of the topsoils at Carpenters Wood had become uncertain, a contour survey of the site was undertaken. A series of test-pits were dug to determine the topsoil depth and to assess the risk to any underlying archaeological remains. The results of this survey indicated that the topsoils in the eastern part of the site were less than 1m thick (Fig. 36). Given the urgent requirement for landscape planting at the site, and the relatively limited area involved, an SMS excavation over 2,150m^2 was carried out between the 12th and 26th October.

6.2.3 The requirements for this work were set out in the DAMD v.6 (WSP 2015) and expanded upon in the WSI v.6 (OA 2015a).

6.3 Archaeological and historical background

6.3.1 No archaeological remains were previously known from the site.

6.3.2 A geophysical survey was carried out in 2009 as part of preparation work immediately east of the site, to the west of the A21 (OA 2009). Much of this area was crossed by several metal pipes, and Carpenters Wood was obscured by dense vegetation. Based on these results, the site was not designated for further archaeological mitigation (HA 2013, fig. H.5.2).

6.3.3 Archaeological remains were discovered during excavation at IA4, some 85m to the east, and in Potters Wood (see above and volume 5). These sites lie near Castle Hill Iron Age hillfort, *c* 550m to the north-west of Carpenters Wood. Previous excavations have provided evidence of Neolithic occupation on the hilltop, while hillfort ramparts were construction in the middle Iron Age and remained in use into the late Iron Age (Money 1975).

6.4 Results

6.4.1 Topsoil and overburden stripping revealed three archaeological features. Ditches 1662 and 1663 were both aligned NNW-SSE, roughly parallel to each other (Fig. 37; Plate 71 (see inventory for cut numbers of both ditches)). Ditch 1662 was 58m long and had an irregular profile with an average width of 0.75m (Fig. 38, sections 480 and 481). It was 0.25m deep and contained a firm, light brown-grey sandy silt with a small amount of charcoal and siltstone. No finds were recovered.

6.4.2 Ditch 1662 was truncated at its northern end by a large modern pit and it possibly continued farther to the north as ditch 1656, which was found close to the northern end of the trench. A 3m gap was exposed in the northern half of the ditch. However, cut 1614 revealed a gently shallowing profile suggesting that the gap may have been caused by later truncation to the feature, rather than it being a deliberately constructed entrance (Fig. 38, section 482). Similarly, the southern end of the ditch was only 0.03m deep (cut 1658) and it may have originally extended farther south.

6.4.3 Ditch 1663 was located *c* 4m to the east of ditch 1662 (Fig. 37). The ditch's width ranged from 4.28m to 1.63m, and it reached a depth of 0.63m. It had fairly steep, symmetrical sides and a flattish base (Fig. 38, section 486). The ditch was exposed over 32m long and its southern alignment continued beyond the limit of the trench. It was quite heavily disturbed by modern truncation at this end. The northern end of the feature was truncated by a large modern pit, but its profile was observed in section in northern edge of the trench (Fig. 38, section 484; Plate 73). The ditch contained a firm, light brown sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of siltstone. In cuts 1626 and 1643, primary, secondary and tertiary fills were distinguished though none of the deposits contained any finds.

6.4.4 Posthole 1634 was located about 8m west of ditch 1662. It was rectangular in plan measuring 0.21m wide with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.3m deep (Plate 76). The posthole contained a firm, dark grey/brown sandy silt fill with patches of silty clay. No finds were recovered from the feature, though its fill was rich in organic material.

6.4.5 Nine 'natural-looking' features (1616, 1636, 1638, 1640, 1641, 1648, 1650, 1652, 1654) were sampled for worked flints. Each was filled with mixed sandy silt deposits, though none produced any finds. The features were either geological formations or tree-throw holes.

6.5 Discussion

6.5.1 The SMS excavation revealed three archaeological features, including two ditches and a posthole. Ditches 1662 and 1663 were roughly parallel but it is uncertain whether these were related. The features were spaced about 4m apart and possibly defined a north/south trackway. However, the ditches differed greatly in depth and profile, and thus may represent different phases of activity. Ditch 1662 was difficult to interpret due it being heavily truncated by later activity, though ditch 1663 was substantial and its regular profile perhaps suggest that it was a field boundary. Posthole 1634 was very regular in plan and may have been a relatively modern feature.

6.6 Carpenters Wood context inventory

Carpenters Wood		
Area description	**Total area m^2**	2,150

The site lies west of the Fairthorne Junction on the A21 carriageway and comprises the eastern part of Carpenters Wood mitigation area. The bank of Castle Hill Farm access road lies to the west. The central eastern part of Carpenters Wood consists of made-up ground more than 0.7m thick, while the northern and southern edges of the site consist of woodland.	**Depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	47.0
	Length (m)	120.0

Contexts

Context	Type	W x L (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1610	Cut of ditch	0.82	0.24	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, steep and convex sides, an undulating and concave base, gradual and sharp breaks of slopes, filled with 1611	-	-
1611	Fill of ditch	0.82	0.24	Firm, compact, light brownish-grey sandy silt, single fill of 1610	-	-
1612	Cut of ditch	0.85	0.13	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, asymmetric sides – asymmetric and steep, asymmetrically concave base with a strong concave undulation in the southern part of the intervention, filled with 1613	-	-
1613	Fill of ditch	0.85	0.13	Firm, compact, light brownish-grey sandy silt, single fill of 1612	-	-
1614	Cut of ditch	0.62	0.06	Terminal part of NN-SSE aligned linear, asymmetric sides, a slightly undulating base, not a deliberate terminus but a shallowing up part of the linear with most of the cut truncated by recent construction activity, filled with 1615	-	-
1615	Fill of ditch	0.62	0.06	Firm, compact, light brownish-grey sandy silt, single fill of 1614	-	-
1616	Cut of natural feature	0.74	0.05	Elongated, aligned E-W, very gently sloping sides, a flattish—slightly undulating base, filled with 1617	-	-
1617	Fill of natural feature	0.74	0.05	Firm, mottled, light grey and grey, sandy silt, fill of 1616, cut by 1618	-	-
1618	Cut of ditch	0.78	0.23	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, moderately steep, slightly asymmetric sides, an undulating base, cutting 1617	-	-
1619	Fill of a ditch	0.78	0.23	Firm, compact, light brownish-grey sandy silt, single fill of 1618	-	-
1620	Layer Made up ground /deposit	-	0.75	Firm, compact, mottled/mixed patches of silty sand and sandy clay (olive brown, brown, and greyish-brown) with a layer of mulch at its base (up to 0.25m thick). Overlaying either old topsoil 1621 or subsoil 1622, recently placed layer, present in the central and western part of the site	-	-
1621	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Firm, dark brown silty sand with humus, occasional pieces of siltstone, occasional pieces of charcoal. Victorian and modern pieces of CBM, truncated in some parts of the site by the recent construction works, overlaying either subsoil 1622 or natural geology 1623	-	-
1622	Layer Subsoil	-	0.2	Compact, firm greyish-brown slightly sandy silt with angular pieces of siltstone, occasional random pattern charcoal flecks, overlain by 1621, overlaying 1623, depth increased from the eastern (where the deposit is absent) to the western part of the site	-	-
1623	Layer Natural geology	-	-	Compact, firm light brownish-yellow slightly sandy silt and grey silt (thick undulating lenses of these two horizons forming amorphous patches on surface	-	-
1624	Cut of ditch	4.28	0.63	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, extending northwards beyond LOE, cutting natural geology 1623 and subsoil 1622,	-	-

				moderately steep, symmetric sides, a flattish base, filled with 1625		
1625	Fill of ditch	4.28	0.63	Firm, compact light brown sandy silt with relatively frequent small-small/medium sized angular pieces of siltstone, no other inclusions, homogenous	-	-
1626	Cut of ditch	2.7	0.48	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, a gently sloping western side, eastern side truncated by tree-throw 1630, a slightly concave base, filled with 1627 and 1628	-	-
1627	Fill of ditch	2.05	0.32	Firm, light greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate number of angular pieces of siltstone, lower fill (secondary) of 1626 ditch, overlain by 1628, cut by 1629 and 16030	-	-
1628	Fill of ditch	0.74	0.27	Firm, compact, dark brownish-grey sandy tils with pieces of siltstone, overlaying 1627, cut by 1629 and 1630, tertiary fill of 1626	-	-
1629	Deposit	1.12	0.14	Firm, compact, mottled medium blueish grey and light orangey yellow sandy silt and clay with occasional pieces of sandstone and siltstone—fill of modern truncation (no cut number given). Truncating deposits 1627, 1628, and 1631	-	-
1630	Cut of tree-throw	1.22	0.35	Elongated, aligned N-S, asymmetric sides—gently sloping slightly convex and vest steep, a flat and concave vase (irregular), filled with 1631, cutting 1627, and 1628	-	-
1631	Fill of tree-throw	1.22	0.35	Firm, brownish-grey sandy silt with moderate number of angular pieces of siltstone, fill of 1630	-	-
1632	Cut of ditch	1.63	0.36	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flattish base, filled with 1633	-	-
1633	Fill of ditch	1.63	0.36	Firm, compacted, patches of light brown and brown sandy silt and large patches of grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate number of angular pieces of siltstone, fill of 1632	-	-
1634	Cut of posthole	0.3	0.21	Square, almost vertical side, stepped on eastern side, a flat base, filled with 1635	-	-
1635	Fill of posthole	0.3	0.21	Firm, dark grey and brown sandy silt with patches of silty clay, fill of 1634	-	-
1636	Cut of tree-throw	0.68	0.21	Irregular oblong, asymmetric sides—steep and gently sloping, a flat and concave base, filled with 1637	-	-
1637	Fill of tree-throw	0.68	0.21	Firm, light olive grey sandy silt, fill of 1636	-	-
1638	Cut of tree-throw	0.87	0.17	Slightly irregular feature with a steep and gently sloping side, sloping down to a flattish base, and filled with 1639	-	-
1639	Fill of tree-throw	0.87	0.17	Firm, mottled and patched light brown and brown sandy silt with several small/medium sized angular pieces of siltstone at its base, fill of 1638	-	-
1640	Layer /geological feature	0.45	0.06	Irregular elongated, a very gently sloping side, a flattish base, filled with lenses of grey and light yellowish-brown silt and sandy silt – part of natural geology	-	-
1641	Geological feature	2.08	0.1	Irregular 'oval', a moderately steep side, a slightly undulating base, filled with 1642	-	-
1642	Fill of geological feature	2.08	0.1	Friable, light brownish-grey, sandy silt, fill of 1641	-	-
1643	Cut of ditch	2.36	0.35	Linear, aligned NNW/SSE, steep sides—an undulating base (possibility there is a re-cut), gradual breaks of slopes, filled with 1644, 1645 and 1646, truncated by the recent construction work (deposit 1647)	-	-

1644	Fill of ditch	0.68	0.35	Firm, light brownish-yellow sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of siltstone, primary fill of 1643, overlain by 1645 and 1646	-	-
1645	Fill of ditch	2.0	0.35	Firm, light brownish-yellow silty sand with frequent manganese flecks, secondary fill of 1643, overlain by 1647, overlaying 1644	-	-
1646	Fill of ditch	1.78	0.22	Friable, dark yellowish-brown sandy silt with frequent manganese flecks, upper fill of 164, overlaying 1644 and 1645, truncated by 1647	-	-
1647	Modern deposit	3.0	0.12	Firm, very compacted, dark blueish grey silty clay and sandstone gravel (mixed deposit), recently deposited context—result of truncation—overlaying 1646, 1645, and 1644	-	-
1648	Cut of geological feature	0.9	0.2	Elongated, asymmetric (the whole feature's dimensions: 6m long, 2.6m wide), a gently sloping side, an undulating base, filled with 1649	-	-
1649	Fill of geological feature	0.9	0.2	Firm, light grey with light brownish-grey lenses, very occasional angular pieces of siltstone	-	-
1650	Cut of geological feature	1.32	0.18	Irregular feature with moderately steep and gently sloping side, a concave undulating base, filled with 1651	-	-
1651	Fill of geological feature	1.32	0.18	Firm, lenses of light grey and light brownish-grey slightly sandy silt with very occasional small sized angular pieces of siltstone	-	-
1652	Cut of tree-throw	1.02	0.11	Amorphous, a gently sloping side, a strongly undulating base, filled with 1654	-	-
1653	Fill of tree-throw	1.02	0.11	Firm, dark brown thin lens in the upper part (0.03m thick) and a mottled light grey and grey slightly sandy silt (0.08m thick), very occasional charcoal flecks in random pattern, fill of 1652	-	-
1654	Cut of tree-throw	1.9	0.18	Amorphous (kidney-shaped) feature extending northwards beyond LOE, an irregular side—moderately and very steep, a concave slightly undulating base, filled with 1655	-	-
1655	Fill of tree-throw	1.9	0.18	Firm, greyish-brown and light grey slightly sandy silt (mottled), fill of 1654	-	-
1656	Ditch terminus	0.51	0.07	Sublinear, aligned NNW-SSE (terminal/rounded part at the NNW side), a very gently and moderately steep sloping side, a flattish base, filled with 1656, truncated on its northern and southern parts by recent construction work	-	-
1657	Fill of ditch terminus	0.51	0.07	Firm, light grey and light brownish-yellow (mottled) sandy silt with occasional small sized angular pieces of siltstone, fill of 1656	-	-
1658	Cut of ditch terminus	0.4	0.03	Sublinear, aligned NNW/SSE, gently sloping side, flat base, filled with 1659	-	-
1659	Fill of ditch terminus	0.4	0.03	Firm, light brownish-grey sandy silt, fill of 1658	-	-
1660	Cut of ditch	0.9	0.14	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a flattish base, filled with 1661	-	-
1661	Fill of ditch	0.9	0.14	Firm, light olive grey sandy silt with sub angular pieces of siltstone, fill of 1660	-	-
1662	Group – ditch	0.74	0.24	Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, 158m long, at its northern part truncated by a large modern pit—there is a possible terminal part of 1662 just north of the truncation (with the	-	-

				terminus the feature would be *c* 163m long), it has a break in its central-northern part—or a very shallowing up section at the southern part the ditch shallows up with its terminus within the site, running parallel to ditch 1663, cutting natural geology 1623, seven interventions excavated: 1656, 1610, 1612, 1614, 1618, 1660, and 1658—probably a hedge-grow ditch (marking a field boundary),		
1663	Group – ditch	4.28	0.63	Linear, 123m long, aligned NNW-SSE, extending northwards and SSE beyond the LOE; truncated in a couple of sections by modern/recent construction work digging, cutting natural geology 1623 and subsoil 1622, four interventions excavated: 1624, 1632, 1626, and 1643—probably a drainage ditch on a field boundary	-	-

7 IA5 (WOODLAND TRANSLOCATION RECEPTOR AREA WC6A)

7.1 Project details and background

7.1.1 Area IA5 centred at NGR TQ 61096 42884 (Fig. 2). The site was designated for archaeological SMS excavation in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013, fig. H5.2) and was also a Woodland Translocation Receptor site. As a result, only some parts of the site were stripped. A total of eight areas were monitored in January–February and May–June 2015, while a ninth area was investigated later in September–October 2017. The excavation of a wildlife pond was monitored in May 2016.

7.1.2 When translocation began, it was realised that stripping for translocation would not necessarily require removal of all the subsoil and thus might not reach the level at which archaeological features would be exposed. Consequentially, it was decided to excavate only targeted areas to natural. An Addendum to the WSI was therefore prepared (OA 2015b) setting out the basis for selection of targeted areas, which were based upon the following criteria:

- concentrations of possible features suggested by the geophysical survey (OA 2009);
- areas of enhanced vulnerability, where erosion was most likely to have removed the overlying subsoil and thus expose any archaeological features or deposits.
- enhanced archaeological potential (defined by proximity to the Iron Age hillfort at Castle Hill);

7.1.3 The last of these criteria did not apply to area WC6a/IA5. The Addendum was agreed by the Principal Archaeologist Tony Hanna of WSP, by Jenny Wylie of HHJV and by Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council.

7.1.4 The eastern part of IA5 had been subject to geophysical survey prior to the Public Enquiry (OA 2009, figs. 7 and 13), and this had indicated several discrete anomalies potentially of archaeological origin. These were considered when deciding upon targeted areas within the site for stripping to natural. The western part had not been surveyed.

7.1.5 The areas not required for translocation meant that only parts of area IA5 were stripped to natural under close archaeological supervision. Much of the remaining area was targeted for stripping to natural either because of geophysical anomalies or areas of enhanced vulnerability. In the remaining parts of the area, an occasional watching brief was maintained upon soil stripping in case this exposed any archaeological features, which were then excavated and recorded in the same manner as features in the Targeted Areas within IA5.

7.1.6 Soil stripping, translocation of woodland soils, and archaeological work in the area began on 31st January 2015 and the first stage of work was completed on 25th February 2015. A second stage took place between 8th and 10th June 2015 (Fig. 39, Areas 6–7).

7.1.7 The excavation of a wildlife pond in the north-west corner of the area was monitored in November 2015 but was halted due to bad weather. The excavation resumed and was completed on 23rd May 2016. This proved to occupy the same location as a previous pond, which is marked on the Tithe Map of 1838 and early OS maps up until the early 20th century.

7.1.8 A penultimate phase of stripping and translocation of woodland soils took place on 20th June 2016 and a final phase was undertaken in September–October 2017.

7.1.9 Initially, the area within IA5 under archaeological investigation consists of eight plots of translocation ground, covering in total 15,089m^2. The plots were exposed and excavated from east to west and are numbered accordingly. A ninth area was later excavated adjacent to the western sides of plots 1 and 2. This plot consisted of two trenches. One was very irregular, linear slot consisting of a straight and a curving section, measuring approximately 170m long and varying width between 2.5m and 10m. The second trench lay just to the south of the first. It was sub-triangular and measured *c* 15m by 30m.

7.2 Scope of Works

7.2.1 IA5 (WC6a) is within a field designated as requiring archaeological SMS investigation (HA 2013). Therefore, in the areas designated for excavation, the soil strip was taken either to the surface of man-made deposits or, failing that, the surface of the natural geology. However, because it was judged that any features depper than 0.6m of subsoil would be protected from future damage from tree-roots, soil stripping was halted at that depth.

7.2.2 The excavation of a wildlife pond, up to 2.8m deep, offered the opportunity to excavate in an area of colluvial accumulation. As mentioned above, the new pond proved to overlie an earlier pond whose depth was almost as great, so the opportunity to record a sequence through deep colluvial deposits did not occur.

7.3 Results

Description of the revealed features

7.3.1 In IA5, the topsoil is a friable dark brown sandy silt, 0.12–0.15m deep, and is a plough-soil. This overlies a friable light brown silty sand of varying depth, reaching a maximum depth of 0.35m over most of plots 3 and 4. This is interpreted as a colluvial-derived subsoil (B-horizon). In the south-westernmost part of the area (Plots 5 and 6) this deepened to more than 0.45m, ie below 0.6m from the current ground surface, and so was not bottomed. In the northern part of the area the subsoil seals the natural geology, a firm, brownish-yellow clayey sand with frequent pieces of weathered mudstone.

Plot 1

7.3.2 Plot 1 did not contain any features (Fig. 40).

Plot 2

7.3.3 Plot 2 contained eight potential features, which were concentrated in the west half of the area, in two groups (Fig. 40).

7.3.4 In the northern group, feature 467 was sub-circular and 1.68m in diameter (Plate 77). It had steep, symmetrical sides, gradual break of slope and a slightly concave base. The feature was 0.28m deep and filled with three deposits (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 224). The lowest fill 470 was a friable, dark grey silt with much charcoal only 0.04m thick. There were patches of scorching on the natural below the feature, but no concentrated burning. Deposit 470 was sealed by 469, a firm, light yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional small/medium-sized sandstones, some 0.16m thick. This contained a crested flint blade of probable Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. It was sealed by 468, a friable grey silt with ash containing occasional

small stones and charcoal flecks. This deposit was 0.18m thick. Environmental samples were taken from the fills.

7.3.5 To the south was sub-circular feature 471, which was 1.12m long, 0.98m wide, and 0.18m deep with a shallow bowl profile (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 225). There were two fills, the lower (473) a firm, dark orangey grey, slightly clayey sand 0.05m deep. This contained one sub-rounded burnt sandstone. The upper fill 472 was a friable, light yellowish-brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks and a thin lens of charcoal at the base.

7.3.6 Farther south-east was feature 408, 2.26m long and 0.5m wide but amorphous in plan. It was 0.18m deep, with asymmetrical, moderately steep and steep sides and an undulating base. Its irregular plan suggested a natural origin, but unusually for such features contained two fills. The lower fill 409 was friable, orange-brown sandy clay 0.1m thick, with flat pieces of sandstone at its base. The upper fill 410 was friable, greyish-brown sandy clay 0.17m thick, with occasional small sandstones and occasional charcoal flecks.

7.3.7 Farther south-west feature 465 was an irregular circle 0.3m in diameter. The feature had very steep sides, gradual break of slope, and a flat, slightly sloping base, badly disturbed by tree roots and animal burrows. The single fill 466 was a friable, very dark greyish-brown sandy clay 0.11m thick, with frequent small charcoal flecks and sub-rounded pieces of burnt sandstone.

7.3.8 Just south of 465 was an irregular oval feature 462, 2.12m long by 1.62m wide and 0.05m deep, filled with a sterile dark brown sandy clay. The feature was not fully investigated, but it was quite clearly a tree throw hole, though its fill contained a sherd of possibly Early Bronze Age pottery.

7.3.9 South of feature 462, an oval soil mark with irregular edges was investigated and proved to be very shallow (0.05m), with a silty brown fill containing occasional charcoal flecks. This was probably a shallow tree-throw hole. The feature was not recorded in detail.

7.3.10 South of this, two circular features were uncovered. They contained a sterile greyish-brown silty clay fill, which suggested that they were probably of geological origin. These features were therefore not excavated but were recorded on the site plan.

7.3.11 In the south-western part of the plot was a second group of features, all in a roughly north-south line just over 8m long. Four of these were spaced 2–2.5m apart, the fifth (and northernmost) was only 1m from its neighbour. Four of these features were investigated. All were sub-rectangular or sub-circular in plan and were steep or near-vertical sided and deep for their size, but the fills and profiles varied. None contained any finds to date them.

7.3.12 Feature 1362 was 0.55–0.60m across and was 0.27m deep, U-profiled towards the bottom and with flaring sides higher up (Plate 78). It had a single brownish-grey clayey silt fill with occasional charcoal flecks. 1364 was 0.36m by 0.3m across and 0.37m deep, and had two dark fills, the lower a reddish-brown sandy clay, the upper greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (Fig. 44, Section 261). Posthole 1367 was 0.36 by 0.26m across and 0.23m deep with a U-profile. The posthole contained two fills, 1368 and 1369, the lower a pale white and yellowish-brown sandy clay, the upper fill identical to that of posthole 1364 (Fig. 44, Section 260). Posthole 1377 was around 0.5m in diameter and 0.41m deep vertical-sided towards the top and stepping in to a near-vertical slope down to a pointed base (Fig. 43; Plates 79 and 80).

Plot 3

7.3.13 Plot 3 contained twelve possible features (Fig. 40). At the north-eastern end was sub-circular feature 453, measuring 1.59m by 1.42m and 0.12m deep (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 219). It had moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. The single fill 454 was a friable, dark grey silty clay with much charcoal and occasional small sandstone pieces (Plates 81 and 82). The natural geology below the cut was oxidised orange-red by burning *in situ* to a depth of 0.06m. Such features on this scheme are described as fire-pits. An environmental sample was taken from the main fill, and a sample of charred birch wood gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1050–1260 (SUERC-90234(GU53054); 857 ±26 yrs BP) in the medieval period, with a 90% chance that the date lies between AD 1150 and 1260.

7.3.14 South-west of this was an uneven oval soil mark of brown, friable silt. Rapid testing of the deposit revealed a shallow feature with undulating base. The deposit was interpreted as of natural provenance, so was not investigated further.

7.3.15 About 8m farther south-westwards was feature 447, a small oval measuring 0.47 by 0.39m. This was 0.13m deep, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides and a concave base (Plate 83). Its single fill 448 was friable, greyish-brown silty clay with occasional light grey mottles, containing randomly distributed small pieces of sandstone. The feature could have been a tree-throw hole or a pit.

7.3.16 In the centre of the area was an irregular silty soil mark with occasional sandstone fragments, 2m long and 0.4m wide. This was interpreted as of natural origin, so it was not further investigated.

7.3.17 About 20m SSW was 411, a sub-circular pit 0.57m in diameter. This was 0.14m deep with slightly asymmetrical sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base (Fig. 44, Section 204). There was only one fill 412, a friable, light greyish-brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional, small pieces of sandstone.

7.3.18 In the northern part of the plot, an oval feature 461 measuring 2.05 by 1.7m was uncovered (Fig. 43). The feature was cut into natural geology, which at this point was weathered mudstone. At the edges of the cut the natural geology was oxidised by burning *in situ* to a depth of 0.07m (Plate 84). The main fill consisted of brownish-black sandy silt with much charcoal. Because at this early stage of the mitigation only a sample of each type of feature was being selected for excavation, 461 was cleaned up and recorded in plan but was not excavated.

7.3.19 Five sub-circular or oval soil marks, the smaller less than 0.3m across and the largest up to 0.6m long, were exposed at the western edge of the area. They did not form any pattern, and their fills were all brown clayey sand with occasional small pieces of sandstone. These fills strongly suggested a geological origin, so none was excavated.

Plot 4

7.3.20 Plot 4 contained ten possible archaeological features (Fig. 41). In the eastern corner of the area was an irregular oval soil mark 415, 2.78m long and 1.52m wide (Fig. 43). This was 0.72m deep with steep sides (on ESE side slightly concave), gradual break of slope, and an undulating base (Fig. 44, Section 205; Plate 85). There were three fills. The lower fill 423 was 0.33m thick, and was a firm, dark brownish-yellow clayey sand with light blue mottling and ferrous flecks from iron panning. This layer was heavily disturbed by roots and contained two

flint flakes. It was very similar to the natural geology. The middle fill 422 was reached the surface of the feature around the sides. It was composed of very firm, pale grey clayey silt with no inclusions, and was 0.34m thick. It resembled the natural geology, but contained seven struck flints (four chips). A shallow upper fill, 414, overlay the centre of fill 422. Despite its natural appearance, 415 was probably a pit of early prehistoric date.

7.3.21 Fill 422 was cut by feature 413, which was also oval in plan, measuring 2.3m by 1.0m. It was only 0.18m deep, with steep rather symmetrical sides and a gently sloping base. Its single fill 414 was a friable, dark brownish-black clayey sand with frequent small lumps of charcoal and small angular fragments of burnt sandstone, from which an environmental sample was taken (see Plate 85). Burning had reddened the top of fill 422 in feature 415 beneath, indicating *in situ* burning. There was one struck flint, perhaps derived from 415 below. This feature is interpreted as a fire-pit.

7.3.22 About 15m to the west was sub-circular fire-pit 419, which measured 0.9m by 0.71m across (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 207). It was cut into the weathered natural mudstone, which was reddened around the edges of the pit, and was 0.17m deep with steep symmetrical sides and a slightly undulating base (Plate 86). The lower fill 421, which was 0.08m thick, consisted of friable, dark grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pieces of sandstone and very frequent fine pieces of charcoal. An environmental sample was taken from the context. The upper fill 420 was firm light greyish-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, occasional small sandstones and two flint chips. This deposit was very similar to the natural geology and was probably redeposited natural mixed with cultural material.

7.3.23 Feature 444 lay farther to the north-west. It formed an irregular oblong, 2.7m long and 1.18m wide. The feature was 0.2m deep and had gradually sloping, asymmetrical sides and an undulating base, with relatively frequent small circular deep undulations, the remains of tree roots. Its single fill (445) was a friable, dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks (Plate 87). The feature was interpreted as a large tree-throw hole.

7.3.24 Fire-pit 417 was exposed in the south-western part of the area. This was 1.6m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly undulating base (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 206). It was cut into natural, which was scorched by heat (burning *in situ*) to a depth of 0.05m (Plate 88). The feature had one fill, 416, a friable greyish-brown sandy silt with fine charcoal (*c 3*0%) and occasional small angular pieces of sandstone. A charcoal sample taken from 416 produced a radiocarbon date of 375–195 cal. BC (Beta-405801; 2210 ±30 yrs BP) in the middle Iron Age. Two small soil marks lay immediately south and west of 417, but were judged to be patches in the natural, so were not investigated.

7.3.25 Some 16m farther north three features were exposed: 449, 450, and 451. Feature 449 was amorphous in plan, 1.32m by 1.01m across and 0.66m deep. It had irregular steep sides, and an undulating base. Its single fill 456 was a homogeneous, friable dark sandy clay with occasional small angular pieces of sandstone and very rare charcoal flecks. This was probably a tree-throw hole. Feature 450 was also amorphous in plan, 1.86m by 1.16m across with a brown clayey silt fill and occasional small angular pieces of sandstone. The fill strongly suggested that it was natural, so it was not excavated. Feature 451 lay east of 450 and was

0.48m in diameter with a dark brown clayey sand fill. Rapid testing showed that it was an infilled animal burrow, so it is not shown on the plan.

7.3.26 Two more features 0.3–0.4m in diameter with homogeneous silty fills and no inclusions were uncovered 12m east of fire-pit 417. These were rapidly tested, and confirmed to be small tree-throw holes, so were not further recorded.

Plot 5

7.3.27 In the southern part of Plot 5 (Fig. 42) a deep colluvium was uncovered. Because the impact depth of the translocation process did not exceed 0.6m below the pre-translocation ground level, the soil strip was conducted only to the maximum impact depth. The colluvial deposit below topsoil was more than 0.4m deep. Consequently, the southernmost part of the site was not stripped down to level of natural geology.

7.3.28 Altogether, 27 features were exposed of which seven were designated for interventions.

7.3.29 Feature 442 lay in the south-east corner of the plot, only 10m west of 417. It was circular, 1.2m in diameter (Fig. 43), and around the edge was a halo of scorched orangey-red natural 0.04m wide caused by *in situ* burning. It was filled with friable, blackish brown sandy clay with much small charcoal and with occasional angular burnt pieces of sandstone (Plate 89). This feature was clearly a fire-pit, but because only a sample of these features was designated for intervention it was not excavated.

7.3.30 Slightly farther west, a linear feature 440 was uncovered running south-north and terminating within the area. To the south it continued below the unexcavated subsoil. The terminus was not excavated as the ditch was narrowing and shallowing northwards; it is possible that this was not a genuine terminus, simply the ditch rising and petering out. A 2m long intervention was excavated partway along, where it was 0.8m wide, and was 0.2m deep with even sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 90). Its single fill was a homogeneous firm light greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. There were no finds. This feature is interpreted as either a drainage or field boundary ditch.

7.3.31 North-east of the ditch there were three irregular oval soil marks, none more than 1m across, and all containing a homogeneous, very silty fill with no inclusions. Their fills suggested that they were of natural origin, so they were planned, photographed and described, but not excavated.

7.3.32 Farther west were two intercutting features, 438 cutting 436. Feature 436 was nearly circular, 1.2m by 1.3m across, and was 0.35m deep with stepped sides (eastern side truncated by 438) and a slightly concave base (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 214). Its single fill 437 was friable, yellowish-brown clayey sand with some darker brown mottling, rare small flecks of charcoal and occasional pieces of weathered sandstone. This is interpreted as a tree throw-hole. Later feature 438 was oval, 0.84m by 1.44m across, and was 0.32m deep, with sloping asymmetrical sides and a flat base. Its single fill 439 was a friable brown clayey sand with no inclusions apart from angular pieces of mudstone at the base. A flint denticulate of early prehistoric date was recovered from this feature.

7.3.33 Approximately 10m farther west was an amorphous soil mark some 0.5m across, the soil being a silt without visible inclusions. This was judged to be a patch in the natural, and so was not excavated.

7.3.34 West of this was a group of eighteen small circular or oval soil marks, only one exceeding 0.3m across, in an area measuring *c* 20m by 10m. Each was filled with firm, greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional small pieces of sandstone, but they did not form any clear pattern. Because of the possibility that these represented stakeholes, five of them were excavated. Feature 424 was oval, measuring 0.32m by 0.22m, and was 0.26m deep, with very steep parallel sides. Feature 426 was also oval, 0.3m by 0.16m across, and was 0.09m deep, with one side moderately steep and another undercut (Plate 91). Its base was very undulating. Feature 428 was 0.16m in diameter and 0.18m deep, with steep sides, undercutting profile, and a pointed base. Feature 430 was an irregular oval measuring 0.42m by 0.26m, and was 0.16m deep, with steep sides, and a very undulating base. Its fill also contained occasional charcoal flecks. Feature 432 was 0.2 in diameter and 0.18m deep, with one vertical side and one undercutting, and a flat base. None contained any finds.

7.3.35 Because of the irregular and often undercutting profiles of this sample, these features were interpreted as area of bioturbation, caused perhaps by tree-rooting or animals.

7.3.36 A sub-circular soil mark was recorded north-west of this, some 2m across.

7.3.37 Some 15m farther west, and right on the edge of Plot 5, another pit 435 was excavated. This was circular, around 0.6m in diameter, and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 43; Fig. 44, Section 213; Plate 92). The single fill (434) was a mottled light and dark grey sandy silt with much charcoal and some small burnt sandstones, but no finds. A charcoal sample from fill 434 produced a radiocarbon date of 3530–3370 cal. BC (83.5%) (SUERC-73962 (GU44325); 4693 ±30 yrs BP), placing it in the earlier Neolithic.

Plot 6

7.3.38 Plot 6 was devoid of any features that could be classified as possibly archaeological (Fig. 42).

Plot 7

7.3.39 Area 7 in the western part of WC6a contained only one feature at its northern end (Fig. 42). Feature 480 was crescent-shaped with slightly wavy edges, 3.2m long and up to 1.18m wide, and one quarter was excavated. It proved to be 0.15m deep, with asymmetrical sides and a very undulating base. The sole fill was friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks 0.15m thick. There were no finds. This was probably a tree-throw hole.

Plot 8

7.3.40 Area 8 in the north-western part of WC6a contained ten soil marks of possible archaeological origin, all of which were investigated (Fig. 42). Four features in a roughly south-north line, 1349–51 and 1360, all proved to be tree-throw holes, even though 1349 was linear and regular in plan, with a light brown silty clay, unlike 1350 and 1351, which were sub-circular with light yellowish-grey silty clay. 1351 contained rare charcoal flecks, but there were no finds from any of these three features. 1360 was V-shaped in plan and had a grey clayey silt fill burnt pink in places, with occasional lumps of charcoal. The fill continued beneath the natural.

7.3.41 Some 4m east of 1349 was a probable posthole 1371, 0.3m in diameter and 0.21m deep, with very steep sides and a slightly cupped base (Plate 93). The single fill was a friable dark brown sandy clay with frequent angular sandstones, but no finds.

7.3.42 Fourteen metres east of the first line of tree-throw holes were another four features aligned roughly south-north. At the south were two features close together, 1370 and 1375. 1370 was a very irregular soil mark with a fill of yellowish-brown clay and manganese flecking and was clearly of natural origin. 1375 was circular, 0.9m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The fill was a greyish-brown slightly clayey sand with small sandstone lumps, and there were no finds. This may have been a pit or of geological origin.

7.3.43 Around 8m to the north was 1352, a sub-circular feature, 0.48m by 0.42m across and 0.18m deep, with one steep and one sloping side and a flat base (Fig. 44, Section 253; Plate 94). The fill was a dark brown sandy clay with frequent large pieces of charcoal (up to 2mm across) and angular stones, some burnt. There were no finds.

7.3.44 The northernmost feature in this line was 1373, which was aligned WNW-ESE, was 3m long and 0.7m wide, with a tapering terminus at the west end. and a squared one at the east. The western terminus was excavated and proved to be only 0.12m deep with sides sloping to a pointed base. It was filled with light greyish-brown silty clay and contained occasional small angular stones. There were no finds. At the eastern end the ditch appeared to be even shallower; the squared eastern end may not be genuine, and it is possible that this feature had originally run farther eastwards but had been removed during machining of the overlying subsoil.

7.3.45 Some 16m east of pit 1352 was feature 1357, a figure-of-eight soil mark whose long axis was east-west. It was 1m long and 0.7m wide, the eastern part of the 8 being wider than the western. The eastern part was 0.18m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base, the western part was 0.25m deep with irregular sides and a pointed base. Both fills were slightly clayey sands, the lower fill light yellowish-grey, the upper fill dark, grey-black in colour. The lower fill contained occasional charcoal flecks, the upper fill common charcoal, but neither fill produced any finds. This may represent a pit disturbed by a tree that was later burnt out or may possibly all be a tree-throw hole.

7.3.46 A small triangular extension was stripped on the east side of Area 8 in July 2016 (Fig. 42) but did not reveal any archaeological features. The northern two-thirds of this area lay on ground sloping down northwards, and here the depth of colluvium exceeded 0.6m, so that the stripping ended within this, and did not uncover the natural. The southernmost third did reach natural, but no possibly archaeological features were found.

Plot 9

7.3.47 Plot 9 consisted of two trenches located in the eastern part of IA5. The plot contained 21 soil marks of possible archaeological origin. In total, ten archaeological features were identified.

7.3.48 Parts of three linear features were identified in this plot. A ditch terminal was located in the northern trench, protruding northwards for about 8m from the southern edge of the excavation but was partly truncated by a modern tree. The feature was excavated in two sections. The ditch measured about 1.15m across close to terminal 3106 (Plate 95) and 1.8m across in section 3108, though it was notably wider in between these two sections where the ditch was truncated. Its depth varied between 0.2m and 0.3m and it contained a single light brown sandy silt in both sections (Fig. 45, Sections 451 and 452). No finds were recovered from either section.

7.3.49 In the southern, sub-triangular trench, two linear features were discovered. One was oriented north/south (3119), while the other was east/west aligned (3117). North/south ditch 3119 may have been a continuation of terminal 3106 identified in the northern trench, as the two features were closely aligned. Ditches 3117 and 3119 may also have been part of the same feature. However, the area where the ditches would have met was not excavated, so their relationship could not be discerned, though it must be noted that neither feature continued on alignment past the unexcavated area and it may be assumed that the ditch turned here. Both ditches 3117 and 3119 were notably shallow, measuring 0.08m and 0.05m deep respectively, and it seems likely that both has been severely truncated.

7.3.50 Pits 3114 and 3103 were found less than 10m apart in the south-eastern part of the northern trench. Pit 3114 had a slightly irregular shape, measuring 1.3m by 1.45 across. It was excavated to a depth of 0.18m and was found to have sloping sides with a flat base (Fig. 45, Section 455). Pit 3114 contained two fills: a firm, dark basal fill with a fairly large quantity of charcoal and an upper fill of light grey sandy silt with yellow and white mottling (Plate 96). Pit 3103 was sub-circular and measured 1.75m by 2.1m (Fig. 43). It was 0.24m deep and contained two sandy silt fills with small quantities of charcoal (Fig. 45, Section 450).

7.3.51 Plot 9 contained four postholes. Two of these, 3121 and 3123, were located next to each other in the southern trench, adjacent to ditch 3119, and it is possible that they were related. These features ranged in width from 0.44m to 0.58m and between 0.08m and 0.16m deep. Both contained firm, yellow/brown silts. Posthole 3110 appeared to be isolated about 6–7m north-west of ditch terminal 3106. The feature measured 0.5m by 0.55m across and 0.12m deep. Posthole 3112 was located in the south-western part of the trench, close to pit 3114, and measured 0.4m by 0.4m across and 0.18m deep. Both features contained a firm grey/brown sandy silt, with 3110 also containing a small quantity of charcoal.

7.3.52 The remaining soil marks in plot 9 were found to be natural features. Three, 3125, 3131 and 3133, were half-sectioned and proved to be tree-throw holes.

The wildlife pond

7.3.53 A wildlife pond intended to reach a maximum depth of 2.8m was excavated in the north-west corner of area IA5, targeted upon the lowest-lying part of the area (Fig. 39). Initial topsoil clearance in November 2015 exposed a variety of soils including organic materials, but hand-investigation of a small slot suggested that these were backfill, probably or recent date. Further excavation had to be abandoned due to the high (winter) water table.

7.3.54 Excavation resumed in May 2016, by which time checking of historic maps had established that the new pond overlay an earlier pond marked on the Tithe Map of 1838 and on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition OS maps, but not evident thereafter. The pond had been backfilled with soil and rubbish during the 20th century. A sondage dug through the modern backfill was monitored archaeologically to determine whether environmental deposits of interest might survive below the earlier pond, but this established that the historic pond was over 2.6m deep, so archaeological monitoring was abandoned.

7.4 Interpretation

7.4.1 A total of 48 features are numbered on the plan, of which 13 were not of archaeological origin: one was an animal burrow, and twelve were tree-throw holes. Other

tree-throw holes were plotted but not numbered, and this area was probably at one time covered by trees.

7.4.2 Of the exposed features, only two (possible fire-pit 467 and pit 471), certainly corresponded to geophysical anomalies identified by the survey. Both contained much burnt material. A third anomaly was of the same size and shape as fire-pit 413, which lay adjacent, so it is possible that this was plotted incorrectly. Another seven fire-pits and pits with burning were not identified by the geophysical survey, while nine geophysical anomalies plotted within the stripped areas did not prove to correspond to archaeological features. The poor correspondence between the geophysical survey and the excavated results is probably due to the unsuitability of the soils in this area for geophysical survey, and the relatively thick depth of topsoil and subsoil. It is noticeable that the identified anomalies lay in plots 2 and the very east corner of plot 4, ie where the subsoil was shallower. The geophysical survey report notes that the features plotted were not very clearly differentiated from a generally raised level of response in the areas around them and may have been due to magnetic material in the soils rather than archaeological features (OA 2009, 4.1.13 and 4.1.16).

7.4.3 The largest category of archaeological feature was fire-pits, comprising six certain examples (413, 417, 419, 442, 453 and 461) and one possible example (467). There were only flint chips or single pieces associated with any of the certain examples, but they all involved burning *in situ*, and were generally circular. Charcoal from one of these (417) was later radiocarbon-dated to the middle Iron Age, contemporary with Castle Hill hillfort, and subsequently another (453) was dated to the medieval period, but at the time of excavation the significance of these features had not been recognised, and so two of the larger examples were not excavated and sampled for environmental remains. A crested blade of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date came from the middle fill of feature 467, which may therefore be earlier than the others, and perhaps not of the same type, but this single find may also be residual.

7.4.4 Six pits of varying size (435, 465, 471, 1352, 3103 and 3114) contained charcoal, burnt stone or both, but lacked the evidence of *in situ* burning, and so the fills represent infilling from burning elsewhere. Charcoal from pit 435 was dated to the early Neolithic; the others remain undated. These latter features may be associated with the fire-pits, or with earlier prehistoric activity, but none contained any finds.

7.4.5 Six other pits or probable pits were found (411, 415, 438, 447, 1375 and the eastern part of feature 1357). Pits 415 and 438 contained respectively nine and one struck flints but were very different. Pit 415 was conical in profile and deep, while 438 was broad and shallow, though in both the fills were without other evidence of cultural activity. The flint from pit 438 was of early prehistoric character, and this cut tree-throw hole 436 which contained charcoal. The flints from 415 could not be closely dated. In the absence of finds or significant quantities of charcoal in the other four pits, their date and function is likely to remain unclear.

7.4.6 Sparse activity of early prehistoric date is indicated in this part of the scheme. The group from pit 415 may genuinely date this feature, perhaps indicating a second early Neolithic feature on the site. The single flint from 438, like that from 467 and the chips from 419, may be residual.

7.4.7 Nine probable postholes were investigated, four (1362, 1364, 1367 and 1377) in a line towards the east side of the site, and one example (1371) farther west. The line of four were accompanied by a fifth unexcavated example, and the spacing was generally 2–2.5m between

them, except for an intermediate 1367, which was the smallest of those excavated. The main postholes were all fairly substantial, measuring between 0.30m and 0.60m across and between 0.27m and 0.41m deep. The stripped area extended sufficiently far north and south to be confident that the line did not extend farther in either direction. It is possible that the line of five form the east side of a rectangular structure 8m long, whose other sides lie beneath the un-investigated area to the west of Plot 2, but if so, the date and character of this possible building remains unknown. The single posthole (1371) was on the other side of the site, and excavation of the surrounding area shows that it was an isolated example.

7.4.8 One ditch (440; Fig. 44, Section 215) and one linear that may once have been longer (1373) were plotted, the ditch aligned south-north, the other WNW/ESE. These are not at right angles to one another, so do not form a coherent system, nor is either parallel to the posthole line described above. Neither feature was dated, and comparison with historic maps has not identified either as relating to known historic boundaries. Their date and purpose therefore remain uncertain. Three linear features in plot 9, including a ditch terminal in the northern trench, may have been part of the same boundary system.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 A representative sample of all the feature types was investigated within the areas stripped to natural, and a number of possible features were also investigated and then discounted.

7.5.2 The struck flints from this area indicate activity of various periods in prehistory, but no concentrations sufficient to date the features in which they were found with confidence. Radiocarbon dating has however confirmed that at least one pit is of early Neolithic date, and some of the other features containing charcoal or struck flint may have been of similar date.

7.5.3 Radiocarbon dating has also provided dates for two of the fire-pits at this site, one Iron Age and one medieval, and it is unfortunate that not all of the examples from this site were sampled, as they constitute the greatest concentration of any excavation area along the A21 scheme. The couple that have been dated have demonstrated that similar activities, though using different fuel wood, were being carried out in this landscape both in the Iron Age and the medieval periods, and add to the evidence for the use of the hinterland of Iron Age Castle Hill hillfort, and in the medieval period for the hinterland of Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

7.5.4 The significant archaeological features identified in IA5, most notably the fire-pits, have been included in Allen (2021).

7.6 IA5 context inventory

WC6–A						
Area description					**Total**	> 15,089m^2
Area IA5 was monitored for stripping in advance of woodland soils and tree stump translocation from Well Wood to the north-east. The site is located west of the A21 carriageway and west of North Lodge. It contained nine plots and one wildlife pond that were excavated across an area *c* 285m in length.					**Avg. depth (m)**	> 0.6
					Width (m)	*c* 130
					Length (m)	*c* 285
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width x length (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

403	Natural	-	-	Hard, dark brown/yellow clay sand. Frequent degraded sandstone inclusions. Patches of almost pure sand intermittent.	CBM	-
408	Tree throw	0.56 x 2.26	0.19	Very irregular curvilinear feature. Uneven base and sides. Possible tree-throw hole.	-	-
409	Fill of 408	0.56 x 2.26	0.1	Bottom fill of 408, friable orange/yellow with blue/grey mottling of sandy clay. Flat pieces of sandstone lying at base.	-	-
410	Fill of 408	0.56 x 2.26	0.17	Moderately friable, grey/brown sandy clay, with occasional sandstone and charcoal flecks. Top fill of 408.	-	-
411	Cut of pit	0.57 x 0.52	0.14	Slightly irregular oval pit. Concave base and steep symmetrical sides.	-	-
412	Fill of pit 411	0.57 x 0.52	0.14	Moderately compacted, light grey/brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Only fill of pit 411.	-	-
413	Cut of pit	1 x 2.3	0.18	Oval-shaped pit. Symmetrical, concave sides with flat and level base.	-	-
414	Fill of pit 413	1 x 2.3	0.18	Moderately compacted, dark brown/black clayey sand. Frequent square pieces of heat-affected sandstone. Sample taken (1013).	Worked flint	-
415	Tree throw	2.78 x 1.52	0.72	Irregular oval-shaped tree throw. Level but irregular base with symmetrical steep sides.	-	? Early prehistoric
416	Fill of hearth 417	1.6 x 1.56	0.19	Friable, grey/brown sandy silt with a sizable quantity of charcoal **(radiocarbon sample taken)**.	-	380–190 cal. BC
417	Cut of hearth	1.6 x 1.56	0.19	Circular cut of hearth. Moderately sloping symmetrical sides and a flat base. Interface with natural is heat-affected, changing the colour of the natural to red.	-	Mid–late Iron Age
418	Layer	0.43 x 0.4	0.05	Heat-affected natural beneath fill 417; scorched, red clay sand.	-	Mid–late Iron Age
419	Cut of fire-pit	0.9 x 0.71	0.17	Oval cut of hearth. Irregular base and sides due to being cut into bedrock.	-	-
420	Fill of fire-pit 419	0.9 x 0.71	0.08	Upper fill of hearth 419. Moderately compacted, light grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecking.	Worked flint and burnt flint	
421	Fill of fire-pit 419	0.57	0.08	Lower fill of hearth 419. Friable, dark grey silty clay, very rich in charcoal.	-	
422	Fill of 415	2.78 x 1.52	0.34	Extremely hard, pale white/grey silty sand with no obvious inclusions. Heat-affected from above.	Worked flint and burnt flint	? Early prehistoric
423	Fill of 415	2.78 x 152	0.34	Hard, dark brown/yellow clayey sand with some whitish-blue mottling. Occasional iron-pan flecks.	Worked flints	? Early prehistoric
424	Tree throw	0.32 x 0.22	0.26	Oval-shaped cut of large root. Asymmetrical sides.	-	-
425	Fill of 424	0.32 x 0.22	0.26	Moderate-to-highly compacted, grey/brown sandy clay with small stones and roots.	-	-
426	Animal burrow	0.3 x 0.16	0.09	Oval in plan but undercuts natural sharply to the north-west. Irregular sides and base. Animal burrow.	-	-
427	Fill of 426	0.3 x 0.16	0.09	Moderately compacted, grey/brown silty clay with some charcoal flecking.	-	-
428	Animal burrow	0.16 x 0.16	0.18	Oval in plan but undercutting natural to the west. Irregular sides. Animal burrow.	-	-

429	Fill of 428	0.16 x 0.16	0.18	Moderately compacted, grey/brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks.	-	-
430	Tree throw	0.42 x 0.26	0.16	Extremely irregular in plan and profile. Tree-throw hole.	-	-
431	Fill of 430	0.42 x 0.26	0.16	Moderately compacted, grey/brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking.	-	-
432	Cut of pit	0.2 x 0.22	0.18	Oval in plan but very irregular sides and base. Undercutting natural towards south. Root system.	-	-
433	Fill of pit 432	0.2 x 0.22	0.18	Moderately compacted, grey/brown silty clay and moderate charcoal flecking.	-	-
434	Fill of hearth 435	0.58 x 0.6	0.14	Friable, mottled, light and dark grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal inclusions. (**Sample 1018 radiocarbon dated**).	Worked flint	3630–3580 cal. BC (11.9%); 3530–3370 cal. BC (83.5%)
435	Cut of hearth	0.58 x 0.6	0.14	Near circular hearth. Steep symmetrical sides and a flat base.	-	Early–Middle Neolithic
436	Cut of pit	1.2 x 1.2	0.35	Sub-circular pit with irregular sides and flat base.	-	-
437	Fill of pit 436	1.2 x 1.2	0.35	Friable, yellow/brown clayey sand with dark brown mottling, degraded sandstone and charcoal inclusions.	-	-
438	Cut of pit	1.52 x 0.84	0.32	Irregular ovoid with sloping sides and a flat base.	-	? Early prehistoric
439	Fill of pit 438	1.44 x 0.84	0.32	Light grey silty clay with charcoal and fired-clay flecks/amorphous lumps.	Worked flint, fired clay	?Early prehistoric
440	Cut of ditch	0.8	0.2	Straight, 45–degree sides and concave base.	-	-
441	Fill of ditch 440	0.8	0.2	Firm, light grey/yellow sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	-	-
442	Pit	1.2 x 1.2	-	Not excavated. A circular pit containing burnt material. Black/brown deposit with some charcoal and burnt sandstone inclusions.	-	-
443	Tree throw	2.37 x 0.47	-	Not excavated. Elongated oval cut running NW-SE. Mottled, light-to-medium and dark grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks.	-	-
444	Cut of pit	2.7 x 1.18	0.2	Irregular ovoid. Gradually sloping sides and irregular base with extensive rooting.	-	-
445	Fill of pit 444	2.7 x 1.18	0.2	Friable medium-to-dark grey/brown silty clay with mottled red tinge. Some small sandstone and charcoal inclusions.	-	-
446	Tree throw	2.52 x 1.06	-	Not excavated. Elongated ovoid running NE-SW. Mottled, light-to-dark grey silty clay with some charcoal inclusions.	-	-
447	Cut of pit	0.47 x 0.39	0.13	Oval in plan with a bowl-shaped cut and a concave base.	-	-
448	Fill of pit 447	0.47 x 0.39	0.13	Friable, grey/brown silty clay, slightly mottled with light grey clay with small sandstone inclusions.	-	-
449	Cut of pit	1.32 x 1.01	0.66	Extremely irregular in shape, steep irregular sides, undercutting in some places, and a concave base.	-	-
450	Tree throw	1.86 x 1.61	-	Not excavated. Irregular oval in plan. Friable, dark brown sandy clay fill.	-	-
451	Animal burrow	0.46 x 0.48	-	Sub-circular in plan. Only partially excavated as quickly discovered to be an animal burrow.	-	-
452	Fill of 451	0.46 x 0.48	-	Friable, dark black/brown sandy clay.	-	-

453	Cut of pit	1.59 x 1.42	0.12	Circular shallow and bowl shaped. Irregular due to cut into sandstone.	-	-
454	Fill of pit 453	1.59 x 1.42	0.12	Friable, medium-to-dark grey silty clay with small sandstone and frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
455	Layer	1.59 x 1.42	0.06	Firm, light orange/red burnt sandstone.	-	-
456	Fill of pit 449	1.32 x 1.01	0.66	Friable, dark brown sandy clay with occasional, small sandstone inclusions.	-	-
461	Hearth	2.05 x 1.7	-	Not excavated. Oval in plan. Charcoal-rich fill overlying burnt sandstone.	-	-
462	Tree Throw	2.12 x 1.62	-	Not excavated. Irregular ovoid in plan, friable fill of dark brown sandy clay	Pottery	? Early Bronze Age
463	Cut of posthole	0.36 x 0.32	0.12	Sub-circular feature with steep sides and irregular base.	-	-
464	Fill of posthole 463	0.36 x 0.32	0.12	Friable, dark brown/black clayey sand with occasional pieces of charcoal.	-	-
465	Cut of posthole	0.3 x 0.3	0.11	Sub-circular feature with vertical side to SW and sloping on all other sides, and a concave base.	-	-
466	Fill of posthole 465	0.3 x 0.3	0.11	Friable, dark black/brown sandy clay with charcoal and burnt sandstone inclusions.	-	-
467	Cut of pit	1.68 x 1.68	0.28	Oval pit with steep sides and a curved base.	-	-
468	Fill of pit 467 (upper)	1.68 x 1.68	0.18	Friable, light-to-medium grey ash(?) with some small sandstones and charcoal flecks.	Flint/stone	Early prehistoric
469	Fill of pit 467 (middle)	1.68 x 1.19	0.16	Firm, light yellow/brown clayey silt with some small to medium sandstones.	-	-
470	Fill of pit 467 (lower)	1.68 x 1.48	0.04	Friable, dark grey silt with very frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
471	Cut of pit	1.12 x 0.98	0.18	Sub-circular feature with shallow sides and a concave base.	-	-
472	Fill of pit 471	1.12 x 0.98	0.14	Friable, light yellow/brown clay sand with lens of charcoal towards the bottom of the fill.	-	-
473	Fill of pit 471	1.12 x 0.98	0.05	Firm, dark orange/brown clay sand.	-	-
480	Tree throw	3.2 x 1.25	0.15	Irregular circle in plan with a very irregular base and sides. Friable, light grey/brown sandy silt fill with moderate charcoal flecking	-	-
1349	Natural feature	1.9	0.1	Linear cut with irregular sides and base, filled with a hard, light brown silty clay. It is likely to be a natural feature.	-	-
1350	Natural feature	0.75	0.25	Irregular in plan and profile. Filled with a light yellow/grey silty clay. It is likely to be a tree throw.	-	-
1351	Natural feature	0.3	0.2	Possible tree throw. Filled with a light yellow/grey silty clay.	-	-
1352	Cut of pit	0.48	0.18	Sub-rectangular pit with a steep-sided, U-shaped profile.	-	-
1353	Fill of pit 1352	-	0.18	Dark brown sandy clay fill of pit 1352.	-	-
1354	Layer	-	?	Clay sand geological formation (Tonbridge sand formation).	-	-
1355	Layer	-	0.15	Grey/brown clay silt subsoil.	-	-

1356	Layer	-	0.15	Dark grey/brown clay silt topsoil.	-	-
1357	Cut of pit	1	0.25	Figure-of-eight-shaped feature with irregular profile. It is possibly a pit cutting a tree throw.	-	-
1358	Fill of pit 1357	-	0.15	Loose, light yellow/grey clay sand lower fill of 1357.	-	-
1359	Fill of pit 1357	-	0.25	Loose, dark black/grey clay sand upper fill of 1357.	-	-
1360	Natural feature	0.72	0.19	Natural feature, probable burnt root.	-	-
1361	Fill of 1360	-	0.19	White clay silt fill of 1360 with red/black mottling.	-	-
1362	Cut of pit /posthole	0.6	0.27	Oval-shaped pit/posthole with flaring, 'V'-shaped profile.	-	-
1363	Fill of pit /posthole 1362	-	0.27	Brown/grey clay silt fill of 1362.	-	-
1364	Cut of posthole	0.36	0.37	U-shaped cut of posthole.	-	-
1365	Fill of posthole 1364	-	0.14	Dark red-brown sandy clay lower fill in posthole 1364.	-	-
1366	Fill of posthole 1364	-	0.24	Dark grey/brown sandy clay upper fill in posthole 1364.	-	-
1367	Cut of posthole	0.35	0.23	U-shaped cut of posthole.	-	-
1368	Fill of posthole 1367	-	0.15	Mottled, pale grey/brown sandy clay lower fill in posthole 1367.	-	-
1369	Fill of posthole 1367	-	0.12	Brown/grey clay silt upper fill in posthole 1367.	-	-
1370	Natural feature	1.4	?	Probable tree-throw with friable, yellow-brown silty clay.	-	-
1371	Cut of posthole	0.3	0.21	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile.	-	-
1372	Fill of posthole 1371	-	0.21	Friable, dark brown sandy clay fill of 1371.	-	-
1373	Cut	3	0.12	Very shallow cut of ditch terminus.	-	-
1374	Fill of ditch 1373	-	0.12	Light grey/brown silty clay fill of terminus 1373.	-	-
1375	Cut	0.9	0.3	Probable circular pit that continues into unstripped and backfilled areas. It has a rounded and flat, U-shaped profile.	-	-
1376	Fill of pit 1375	-	0.3	Grey/brown clay sand fill of 1375.	-	-
1377	Cut of posthole	0.51	0.41	U-shaped posthole, sub-circular in plan.	-	-
1378	Fill of posthole 1377	-	0.41	Brown/grey silty clay fill of posthole 1377.	-	-
3100	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-

3102	Natural	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
3103	Cut of pit	1.75 x 2.1	0.24	Circular pit with undulating base.	-	-
3104	Fill of pit 3103	-	0.2	Firm, light yellow sandy silt with some charcoal.	-	-
3105	Fill of pit 3103	-	0.24	Firm, light brown/grey sandy silt with some charcoal.	-	-
3106	Cut of ditch	1.15	0.3	Concave ditch terminal.	-	-
3107	Fill of ditch 3106	-	0.3	Firm, light brown sandy silt with white flecks and some stones.	-	-
3108	Cut of ditch	1.8	0.2	Shallow, flat-bottomed ditch.	-	-
3109	Fill of ditch 3108	-	0.2	Firm, light, grey/brown sandy silt.	-	-
3110	Cut of pit /posthole	0.5 x 0.55	0.12	Circular, concave posthole.	-	-
3111	Fill of pit /posthole 3110	-	0.12	Firm, grey/brown sandy silt with small quantity of charcoal.	-	-
3112	Cut of posthole	0.4 x 0.4	0.18	Circular, concave posthole.	-	-
3113	Fill of posthole 3112	-	0.18	Firm, dark grey/brown sandy silt.	-	-
3114	Cut of pit	1.3 x 1.45	0.18	Irregular pit with flat base and sloping sides.	-	-
3115	Fill of pit 3114	-	0.07	Firm, dark basal fill with large quantity of charcoal.	-	-
3116	Fill of pit 3114	-	0.11	Firm, light grey with yellow and white mottling sandy silt (Upper fill).	-	-
3117	Cut of ditch	1.18	0.08	Curvilinear ditch aligned ENE/WSW with flat base and shallow sides.	-	-
3118	Fill of ditch 3117	-	0.08	Firm, brown/grey clay silt.	-	-
3119	Cut of ditch	0.71	0.05	NW/SE ditch with broad, undulating base and shallow sides.	-	-
3120	Fill of ditch 3119	-	0.05	Firm, brown/grey clay silt.	-	-
3121	Cut of pit /posthole	0.55 x 0.58	0.16	Sub-circular pit with rounded base and convex sides.	-	-
3122	Fill of pit /posthole 3121	-	0.16	Firm, light yellow/brown silt.	-	-
3123	Cut of pit /posthole	0.44 x 0.55	0.08	Pit or posthole with shallow, concave profile.	-	-
3124	Fill of pit /posthole 3123	-	0.55	Firm, yellow/brown sandy silt.	-	-
3125	Tree-throw	1.15 x 2.35	0.63	Irregular tree-throw hole with uneven base.	-	-
3126	Fill of tree-	-	0.12	Firm, red/brown clay silt basal fill with occasional charcoal.	-	-

	throw 3125 (base)					
3127	Fill of tree-throw 3125 (lower)	-	0.4	Firm, light-brown, sandy silt secondary fill.	-	-
3128	Fill of tree-throw 3125 (middle)	-	0.3	Firm, olive-grey sandy silt.	-	-
3129	Fill of tree-throw 3125 (mid–upper)-	-	0.5	Firm, light grey clay silt fill, rich with charcoal.	-	-
3130	Fill of tree-throw 3125 (upper)	-	0.15	Firm, dark grey/black sandy silt with lots of charcoal.	-	-
3131	Tree throw	0.44 x 0.85	0.11	Oval pit elongated base and shallow, rounded sides.	-	-
3132	Fill of 3131	-	0.11	Firm, light grey/brown sandy silt.	-	-
3133	Tree throw	1.5	0.18	Irregular tree throw.	-	-
3134	Fill of 3132	-	0.18	Firm/compacted, light yellow/grey sandy silt with stones.	-	-

8 IA7 (WOODLAND CREATION AREA 6B-C)

8.1 Project details and background

8.1.1 IA7 was centred at NGR TQ 61080 42400 and was located west of the current A21 carriageway and the adjacent Middle Lodge Wood, and north of Longfield Road (Fig. 46). IA7 was mitigated in four stages of archaeological work. These included an evaluation on the eastern side of the site, adjacent to the A21, the main WC6b-c area which consisted of 11 trenches and included four Targeted Archaeological Areas (see below), the WC6b-c laydown area and Middle Lodge Pond. Individual reports on each of these stages of work have previously been produced (OA 2015n; 2015o; 2015p; 2015q).

8.1.2 All the open-area trenches in IA7 were designated for archaeological SMS excavation in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013). The detailed requirements for this type of excavation are set out in the DAMD v.6 (WSP 2015) and expanded upon in the WSI (OA 2015a).

WC6b-c (*IA7 main area)*

8.1.3 It was initially intended that WC6b-c would be stripped of topsoil and subsoil to natural. When translocation began, however, it was realised that stripping for translocation would not necessarily require the removal of all the subsoil, and thus might not reach the level at which archaeological features would be exposed. It was then decided to excavate only targeted areas of the site (henceforth TAAs) to the natural, and an addendum to the WSI was therefore prepared (OA 2015b) setting out the basis for selection of targeted areas. These were based on the following criteria:

- concentrations of possible features suggested by the geophysical survey (OA 2009);
- areas of enhanced vulnerability, where erosion was most likely to have removed the overlying subsoil and thus expose any archaeological features or deposits;
- and, enhanced archaeological potential, defined by proximity to the Iron Age hillfort at Castle Hill (the last of these criteria did not apply to WC6b-c).

8.1.4 A total of four Targeted Archaeological Areas (TAAs) were identified within IA7, and the Addendum was agreed by the Principal Archaeologist, Tony Hanna of WSP, by Jenny Wylie of HHJV and by Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council.

8.1.5 The southern part of IA7 had been subject to geophysical survey prior to the public enquiry (OA 2009, figs. 7 and 13), but large parts of this area was obscured by modern interference, due to the previous use of the area as a fairground. Several discrete anomalies, potentially of archaeological origin, were identified and particularly towards the eastern side. These were considered when deciding upon targeted areas for soil stripping. The northern part of the site was not surveyed.

8.1.6 This part of the scheme had also been subject to a walkover during preparation for the public enquiry in 2009, but no features of archaeological interest were found.

8.1.7 The areas not required for translocation meant that only parts of area IA7 were stripped to natural under close archaeological supervision. Parts of the remaining area were targeted for stripping to natural, either because of geophysical anomalies or areas of

enhanced vulnerability. In the remaining parts of the area an occasional watching brief was maintained during soil stripping, in case exposed archaeological features were found. Most of the exposed archaeological features were excavated and recorded in the same manner as features in the TAAs within IA7, as these had to be dealt with during the very short period when the stripped surface was exposed before being covered by woodland soils.

8.1.8 In total, nine areas were stripped during translocation (Translocation zones T1–T9 and Plot 10), and some of these also included parts of TAAs 1–4. Soil stripping, translocation of woodland soils, and archaeological work in the area began on 5th January 2015 and the first stage of work was completed on Monday 2nd March 2015. A second stage took place between 1st and 6th June 2015 (T9 and TAA 3). A third stage took place in September–October 2017 (TA 10).

8.1.9 Within the stripped areas, the selection of features for characterisation was discussed on site with Wendy Rogers from KCC. Jenny Wylie from HHJV also visited the site and commented on the archaeological investigation of the area. Within the WC6b-c area, a drainage trench was also excavated during 2015. This was archaeologically monitored by OA, and the features uncovered within the trench are also dealt with in this report.

WC6b-c laydown area

8.1.10 WC6b-c laydown area was intended for a storage platform located in the south-eastern part of Area WC6C, west of the existing A21 and north of Longfield Road.

8.1.11 Soil stripping and archaeological work in the area began on 2nd February 2015 and was completed on 4th February 2015.

Middle Lodge Balancing Pond

8.1.12 Middle Lodge Balancing Pond was investigated in stages. After initial stripping and characterisation in May 2015, it became clear that further archaeological mitigation was required to complete the characterisation of features in this area, and so an Archaeological Characterisation Report and Further Archaeological Mitigation Design was prepared (OA 2015p) setting out how this would be achieved. The report was approved, and further archaeological mitigation took place between 2nd and 14th July 2015 (OA 2015q).

8.2 Scope of works

8.2.1 The entire IA7 site measured 250m wide from east to west and 512m long from north to south, covering 8.1ha (Fig. 46). Within the site, ten zones (T1–T9 and plot 10) were stripped of topsoil and upper subsoil to act as receptor sites for woodland translocation, covering 2.867ha in total. About 45% of these areas, or 1.36ha, fell within the TAAs designated for archaeological SMS (TAA1–4).

8.2.2 In the TAAs, the soil strip was taken either to the surface of man-made deposits or, failing that, the surface of the natural geology. However, because it was judged that any features buried below more than 0.6m of subsoil would be protected from future damage from tree-roots, soil stripping was halted at that depth.

8.2.3 The WC6b-c laydown area consisted of a triangular-shaped trench, 53m long north/west, 34m wide, and covered 0.09ha. About three metres farther east, a strip-trench

was excavated for the associated storage platform. This measured 41m long NNW/SSE, 1.85m wide and covered 0.0075ha.

8.2.4 Middle Lodge Pond consisted of an irregular D-shaped trench that was about 100m long north/south and covered *c* 0.5ha.

8.3 Results

8.3.1 Due to the variable nature of soil stripping across the site, it was difficult to know how much of the potential archaeology was discovered, which provides problems for the interpretation of the revealed features. There were clearly areas of activity and blank areas, but due to the absence of finds it is unclear whether the clusters of possible features represent activity of one or more periods, and so whether any genuine foci of activity existed.

WC6b-c (*IA7 main area)*

8.3.2 The topsoil across the site was 0.12–0.19m deep and overlay a friable, yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil containing degraded pieces of sandstone and occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit formed a subsoil that varied in depth across the site from 0.25m in the north to 0.4m in the south. The subsoil sealed the natural Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, into which the archaeological features were cut.

8.3.3 In the south-western part of the site, mostly across T8/TAA4, the subsoil sealed a thick colluvial deposit of brown, sterile and relatively homogeneous silty sand. This deposit was stripped to a depth of 0.6m below the current ground surface, but continued below that depth. Therefore, no archaeological features were exposed. The depth of the deposit was tested in two machine-dug sondages, where it proved to be at least 1.5m deep.

8.3.4 Forty-five features were recorded within WC6b-c. More soil marks were exposed within the stripped areas, but where these were classified on site immediately after exposure as tree-throw holes, animal burrows and natural hollows or other geological formations. The speed of exposure and assessment of each small area (5m by 10m on average) made it impractical to record all the non-archaeological soil marks by GPS. Such features were generally recorded using digital and black-and-white photographs, and brief descriptions were recorded on OA Watching Brief sheets. Of the exposed soil marks, 23 were designated for characterisation by hand-dug interventions, and one was tested but not fully recorded.

Translocation zone 1 (T1) and Targeted Archaeological Area 1 (TAA1)

8.3.5 The whole of this area was stripped under archaeological supervision, mapped and sampled. Six soil marks were uncovered, five of which were classified as natural features (Fig. 47).

8.3.6 At the northern end of the trench, a linear feature aligned NNW-SSE was revealed. This was 5.3m long and extended beyond the stripped area in both directions. Two interventions were excavated across it. The first intervention, cut 404 had a symmetrical and regular profile 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately steep sides and a convex base (Fig. 52, Section 201). The singe fill was a friable, soft, yellowish-brown silty sand with angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone, occasional charcoal flecks and one small piece of ironstone. The second slot, cut 406, had one gently sloping and one moderately steep side, and a concave base (Plate 97). The fill was the same as in cut 404. No finds were recovered from either cut, so this ditch is undated.

Translocation zone 5 (T5) and Targeted Archaeological Area 3 (TAA3)

8.3.7 Translocation zone 5 ran along the north-east edge of WC6b-c forming a rectangle that extended into TAA 3. Five features were selected for characterisation in this area.

8.3.8 Feature 1337 was oval, 0.49 by 0.6m across and 0.11m deep with symmetrical, slightly concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 52, Section 248). There were two fills. The lower fill was a firm, light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and manganese flecks and was 0.04m thick. The upper fill was a firm, brownish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and manganese flecks. Neither fill contained any finds. The feature was interpreted as a small pit.

8.3.9 Some 2.4m to the north-east was a sub-circular posthole (1340) measuring 0.3m by 0.4m across and 0.2m deep. The feature was somewhat disturbed by rooting (Fig. 52, Section 249). It had two adjacent fills, consisting of friable silty clays and small quantities of charcoal (Plate 98).

8.3.10 Five metres to the south-west, another small feature was uncovered and was numbered 1347. It was 0.19m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with asymmetrical sides (vertical and steep) and a concave base (Plate 99). It was filled with a friable, greyish-brown silty clay with frequent manganese flecks and rare pieces of charcoal. The feature was interpreted as a posthole or small pit.

8.3.11 Feature 1343 lay just over 8m to the south-east of 1340, and was an irregular oval measuring 0.45 by 0.4m. It was 0.22m deep, with one steep side, one stepped side and a sloping base. Its single fill consisted of a friable, light greyish-yellow silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. The feature was interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

8.3.12 Between 1337 and 1347 was a large irregular oval feature (1345) measuring 4.3m long and 0.9m wide (Fig. 47). It was 0.3m deep with steep sides and a slightly undulating base. Its single fill was a friable, light yellowish-grey silty clay with manganese flecks (Plate 100).

Translocation zone 7 (T7) and Targeted Archaeological Area 3 TAA3).

8.3.13 Translocation zone 7 lay to the south of zone 5 and consisted of a large sub-square area that included a substantial part of TAA 3 at its east end. Due to safety concerns, archaeological monitoring of the soil strip was restricted, and very adverse weather led to rapid flooding. Consequentially, it was not possible to record over half of this area.

8.3.14 Seven features were exposed in the southern part of zone T7/TAA3, and six of these were characterised by hand-dug interventions (Fig. 48).

8.3.15 Feature 1325 was a short linear soil mark 3.0m long and 0.5m wide. Its terminal profile was 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Plate 101). It was filled with a firm, light greyish-yellow silty clay with frequent manganese flecks, and no finds. The regularity of its shape might suggest a man-made feature, but the fill is more characteristic of natural features on the scheme.

8.3.16 Just north of this was 1335, a sub-rectangular irregular feature just under 3m long and 1.2–1.5m wide. This was 0.2m deep with moderately steep sides and an undulating base and was filled with a firm yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The feature was clearly an old tree-throw hole.

8.3.17 Farther south was oval feature 1327, which was 2.6m by 1.25m across and contained a firm, light grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks. When tested, however, it proved to have irregular and undulating edges, so was interpreted as a burnt-out tree-throw hole. There were no finds. In consequence, it was described and photographed but was not fully recorded.

8.3.18 Adjacent to 1327 was a smaller soil mark numbered 1328. This was sub-oval, measured 1.3 by 0.8m across and was 0.2m deep. It had steep sides and an undulating base and contained two fills (Plate 102). The lower fill was a firm, dark greyish-black sandy silt with very frequent pieces of charcoal. The upper fill was a firm, light yellow silty clay without any inclusions. Neither fill contained any finds. The feature was interpreted as another tree-throw hole.

8.3.19 North-east of that, a large soil mark 1331 was investigated by digging three slots across it. When originally stripped, it was believed that its full extent had been exposed, but after weathering for 24 hours it was clear that it continued farther east, by which time the true limit at this end could not be exposed due to translocated soils. It was therefore at least 4.5m long and 2m wide and was a slightly curving oval (Plate 103). It had steep sides and a slightly undulating concave base, and a single firm, brown sandy clay fill (Fig. 52, Section 245). The fill contained pockets of light brown sand, occasional small sub-angular pieces of sandstone and small charcoal flecks, suggesting deliberate infilling, but there were no finds. The feature was interpreted as a man-made pit (or possibly a curvilinear ditch).

8.3.20 Farther north, feature 1333 was 0.45m wide and at least 2.1m long, but like 1331 its continuation to the east was only realised after weathering and could not then be traced further. It was 0.23m deep with one steep and one nearly vertical side and a slightly sloping base, and had a firm, light greyish-yellow silty clay fill with flecks of manganese, but no finds. It might have been a gully, but the fill and profile suggest rather a geological origin.

8.3.21 West of 1333 was feature 1323, which measured 1.7m by 0.5m and was 0.2m deep. It formed an elongated, slightly irregular oval with a somewhat undulating base, steep sides, and a gradual break of slope. Its single fill consisted of firm, yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds. This may have been man-made but was probably a tree-throw hole.

Translocation zone 9 (T9) and Targeted Archaeological Area 3 (TAA3)

8.3.22 Translocation zone 9 was irregular in shape but lay almost entirely within TAA 3. Nineteen features were exposed in the area and ten of them were selected for characterization by hand-dug interventions.

8.3.23 An east/west shallow ditch was investigated in the eastern part of the area (Fig. 48). The feature continued both east and west of the stripped area and was curving southwards just before the western baulk. It was at least 13m long and 0.86m wide. Two interventions were excavated across it, and both showed it to be 0.15m deep.

8.3.24 The first intervention (500) revealed a wide V-shaped profile (Fig. 52, Section 230; Plate 104), with a sterile but firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay fill.

8.3.25 The second intervention across the ditch (1002) targeted its intersection with linear feature 1004. Here the fill was similar but lacked the charcoal flecks and included patches of manganese. Ditch 1002 the fill of linear 1004.

8.3.26 Linear feature 1004, which ran NNE-SSW, was only *c* 8m long, and very shallow at both ends, possibly indicating that it had once been longer, but had been truncated by deep ploughing. Where investigated, it was 0.14m deep with a steep east side, and was filled with a firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay with rare manganese stains and occasional small pieces of sandstone, but no finds.

8.3.27 Some 10m farther west was another linear, this time orientated NNW-SSE, and ending on the south within the stripped area. It continued NNW beyond T9, so was at least 9m long and was 0.82m wide. Two interventions were excavated across this feature.

8.3.28 The first intervention (cut 1006) was 0.14m deep with had sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 105). It was filled with a firm, yellowish-brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks, but no finds. The second intervention 1314 at the terminal showed that this was 0.16m deep with slightly steeper sides and an undulating base, the last probably due to disturbance from a later tree-throw hole 1316 (Plate 106).

8.3.29 Feature 1316 was 1.3m by 0.5m across. It had uneven sides and an undulating base, and was filled with a friable, light greyish-brown silty clay with patches of light grey clay and occasional flecks of manganese. There were no finds and this was probably a geological feature or a tree-throw hole.

8.3.30 Just west of 1316 was feature 1312. This was sub-rectangular but somewhat irregular and measured 1.8m by 0.7m across and 0.37m deep. It had one steep and one sloping side and a strongly undulating base, and contained a friable, greyish-light brown silty clay fill with occasional small sized pebbles, but no finds. This feature was also interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

8.3.31 Within the area surrounded by ditches 1006 and 1002 were several small irregular soil marks, but the fills of these were all sterile and of clearly geological origin, so they were not further investigated.

8.3.32 Some 25m south-west of ditch 1006 was another group of soil marks, two of which were selected for characterisation.

8.3.33 Feature 1321 survived as a short linear 3.0m long, 0.38m wide and only 0.03–0.06m deep, orientated ENE-WSW (Plate 107). The feature may have been originally longer, but it had been truncated by deep ploughing. In section, it had a gently concave base. It was filled with a friable, light yellowish-grey silty clay with patches of redeposited natural, but no finds.

8.3.34 Several metres to the south-west was fire-pit 1318, which was circular (1.56m by 1.5m) and was 0.08m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 51; Fig. 52, Section 238). The natural soil at the base and around the edges were burnt to an orange-red colour (Plate 108). The pit contained two fills, neither of which contained any finds. The lower fill (1320) was 0.03m thick, and was a friable, dark greyish-black silty clay with much charcoal, and the upper fill (1319) was a friable, light brownish-grey silty clay with charcoal flecks, and was 0.05m thick. Environmental samples were taken from both deposits and a sample of Quercus charcoal (1051) from fill 1320 gave a radiocarbon date of 400–200 cal. BC (SUERC 75173 (GU45040); 2249 ±30 yrs BP), dating the use of the feature to the middle Iron Age.

8.3.35 A scatter of four small irregular soil marks was seen some 5m south and south-west of 1318, but none contained finds or charcoal, and all were judged to be of natural origin.

8.3.36 Translocation zone T9 extended south-westwards beyond TAA 3, and two further features were exposed at the end of this and were characterised by hand-dug interventions.

8.3.37 A linear feature 1307 aligned north-west to south-east ran for 5m and terminated at the north-west end within the stripped area. To the south-east it continued beyond the limits of the stripped area but did not reappear in the Middle Lodge Balancing Pond 13m farther south. The ditch was 0.8m wide, and an intervention 2.1m long was cut across it. It proved to be 0.10m deep, with one side steeper than the other, and had a flat base (Plate 109). The single fill was a friable, light brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pieces of siltstone, but no finds. The feature was interpreted as a ditch.

8.3.38 East of the ditch, oval feature 1309 was investigated. This was slightly irregular in plan, measuring 1.37 by 1.5m, and was only 0.11m deep, with gently sloping sides and an undulating base (Fig. 51; Fig. 52, Section 235). Its eastern side was disturbed by bioturbation. The feature had two fills, neither of which contained any finds. The main fill was friable, greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pieces of sandstone and occasional charcoal flecks. Down the east side this fill overlay a band of similar soil only 0.03m thick, but dark grey to black in colour, and containing much charcoal. However, no evidence of *in situ* burning was present. This feature was interpreted as a man-made pit.

Drainage trench

8.3.39 A drainage trench was dug along the eastern edge of IA7 up to the centre of TAA3, and along these two features were uncovered. One of these was investigated by a hand-dug intervention.

8.3.40 Feature 1304 was aligned north-west to south-east and extended beyond the drainage trench in both directions. It was 0.65m wide and 0.35m deep, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides and a concave base (Plate 110). There were two fills of similar thickness, the lower a friable, homogeneous, yellowish-brown sandy clay, the upper fill a friable, yellowish-brown silty clay with blueish grey mottling and manganese staining. Neither fill contained any finds. Feature 1304 was interpreted as a ditch of elongated pit.

Translocation zone 8 (T8) and Targeted Archaeological Area 4 (TAA4).

8.3.41 Below the topsoil most of the area had a layer of colluvial subsoil continuing below 0.6m deep, so the natural was not reached. Only one feature, 479, was partly exposed within the stripped area (Fig. 49). This tree-throw hole was exposed part measured 1.8m by 0.6m and was curvilinear (Fig. 52, Section 227). It was 0.5m deep and contained a single sterile fill (478) of friable, light yellowish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

Wildlife pond trench

8.3.42 A wildlife pond was dug at the west edge of the area, and in a low-lying location towards the bottom of a slope, in May 2016 (Figs 46 and 47). Stripping was monitored archaeologically. Below the topsoil, this revealed redeposited soil containing modern rubbish to the full depth of the pond, a maximum of 2.7m. There is no evidence from historic maps to indicate a recent feature in this location, so this appears to indicate either dumping of material or deliberate levelling up in recent times. Due to the clearly modern character of the deposit, this was not recorded in detail.

Plot 10

8.3.43 This plot was stripped and monitored during the final phase of excavation in September/October 2017, and consisted of two areas. One was sandwiched between T7 and T9 on a ENE/WSW alignment. It was broadly rectilinear with irregular sides and measured about 80m long and *c* 12m across its widest point. The second area was located just to the east of T7 on a NNE/SSW alignment. It was sub-rectangular, though much of the central part of the area was not excavated as it was not necessary for the requirements of the woodland translocation. The second area measured *c 6*0m long, *c* 19m wide at the southern end and *c* 27m wide at the northern end.

8.3.44 Excavation revealed two field boundaries (1500/1505 and 1516), a fire-pit (1510) and two pits (1508 and 1518). These features are almost certainly related to activity previously identified in T7 (TAA3), T9 and Middle Lodge Pond (Pond 3).

8.3.45 Field boundary ditch 1516 was found to cut the natural geology in a straight, NE/SW direction. It measured 0.68 wide and 0.17m deep. It had a steep-sided profile with a flat base and contained a firm, brown clay silt with mudstones and occasional charcoal fragments (Fig. 53, Section 467).

8.3.46 Field boundary ditch 1500/1505 was located in the adjacent trench, farther to the north of ditch 1516, and was aligned WSW/ENE. The ditch was excavated in two sections that showed the ditch to vary in width between 1.08m and 1.5m and in depth between 0.4m and 0.6m, being slightly wider and deeper towards the western end (Fig. 53, Section 464). The middle part of the ditch was not revealed due to the unexcavated, central area of the trench. Although both ditch sections were clearly part of the same features, their fills slightly differed between a friable dark yellow/brown clay sand with some pebbles and charcoal fragments in the eastern end and a firm, grey/brown sandy silt in the western end.

8.3.47 Fire-pit 1510 was located just less than 10m east of ditch 1516. It was 1.65m wide and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill of friable, black clay silt with a sizeable quantity of charcoal, predominantly beech charcoal (Fig. 53, Section 466). The ground beneath this fire-pit had clearly been exposed to heat as it had reddened compared to the surrounding geology. A sample of beech charcoal provided a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1200–1290 (SUERC-90236 (GU53056); 777 ±32 yrs BP).

8.3.48 Pit 1518 was only partially revealed by the excavation and was located *c* 10m south-east of fire-pit 1510. The pit was slightly oblong in shape, 1.02m wide and 0.62m deep (Fig. 53, Section 468). It had asymmetrical sides that were either vertical or very steep and a roughly flat base. The feature contained a firm, brown with mottled grey clay silt with manganese flecks and occasional charcoal pieces. Because the feature protruded from the edge of the trench, and therefore was not fully observed, it is possible that it was a ditch terminal rather than a pit.

8.3.49 Pit 1508 was located immediately south of ditch 1505. It was oval with shallow sides and a rounded base, and measured 0.65m by 0.4m and 0.17m deep. It contained a firm, yellow/brown sandy silt.

WC6b-c laydown area

8.3.50 In total, four soil marks were exposed by the stripping of the laydown area, all of which lay in the triangular area, while the narrow strip parallel to the main area was devoid of features.

8.3.51 Two of the soil marks resembled the variations in geology or tree-throw holes previously seen on the scheme and were not investigated further. Another two were hand-excavated and recorded. One, however, was quickly confirmed as a tree-throw hole and was not recorded in detail.

8.3.52 Fire-pit 805 was located in the south-eastern corner of the area and was half-excavated. The feature was 1.2m in diameter and 0.1m deep with slightly asymmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a relatively flat base. The natural at the base of the feature was burnt pinkish-red to a depth of 0.02m, indicating that there had been *in situ* burning. The single fill was a dark grey sandy silt with large amount of charcoal (*c* 40%), but there were no finds. An environmental sample was taken from the deposit. This feature was smaller than other fire-pits found at the site.

Middle Lodge Pond

8.3.53 Middle Lodge Pond was characterised by a concentration of archaeological and natural features (Fig. 50). Only a small fraction of the soil marks uncovered were investigated by hand-excavation. These included three pits (1813, 1816 and 1818), a fire-pit (1808), four ditches or gullies (1804, 1806, 1822 and 1826) and six tree-throw holes (1805, 1811, 1812, 1815, 1820 and 1825).

Pits and fire-pits

8.3.54 Pit 1813 was located on the east side of the stripped area, and was cut into the eastern end of tree-throw hole 1815. It measured 1.54m by 1.12m in plan and was 0.12m deep. The bulk of the fill was a greyish-black silty clay, which did not contain any finds. There was no evidence of any *in situ* burning, but the fill (1814) was rich in fragments of beech charcoal up to 0.03m across. A sample of beech charcoal was submitted for radiocarbon dating to compare the date of pits containing predominantly beech charcoal with fire-pits dominated by the same species, and this gave a radiocarbon date range of cal. AD 1485–1645 (SUERC-90235 (GU53055); 332 ±20 yrs BP) in the early post-medieval period.

8.3.55 Pit 1816 was sub-square with no evidence of *in situ* burning. It was 2.20m by 1.6m with a depth of 0.3m, and the cut had been disturbed by roots (Fig. 51; Fig. 54, Section 1204). Its fill (1817) was a light greyish-yellow silty clay with rare flecks of charcoal, but no finds. It was cut by a pit 1818 on the north-east side

8.3.56 Pit 1818 cut pit 1816, measured 1.8m long by 1.4m wide and was 0.24m deep. It contained two fills (1819 and 1824) The earlier fill (1819) was a greyish-yellow silty clay mottled with red patches and contained charcoal; the upper fill (1824) was a brownish- yellow silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments. The pit showed no evidence of *in situ* burning. The lower fill might represent dumped material from a hearth nearby, the upper fill was probably due to natural silting. There were no finds.

8.3.57 Fire-pit 1808 was located at the south-west edge of the pond and was circular, 1.6m in diameter and 0.18m deep (Fig. 54, Section 1202; Plate 112). There was evidence of *in situ* burning in the form of a reddened clay in the base of the pit, which contained two fills (1809 and 1810). The lower fill (1810) was a brownish-yellow silty clay with frequent chunks of charcoal; the upper fill (1809) was similar but contained only occasional lumps of charcoal. One flint bladelet was recovered from sieving of an environmental sample.

Linear features

8.3.58 Two of the four excavated ditches or gullies 1804 and 1806 contained struck flints. Both were located on the southern side of the pond and had the same north/south orientation, perhaps indicating that they had been parts of a field-system.

8.3.59 Ditch/gully 1804 was approximately 3m long and 0.4m wide with a depth of 0.15m. Around 50% of it was excavated running from its mid-point to its southern terminus. Its single fill (1803) was a light to mid greyish-brown silty clay. A single flint was recovered from the top of the fill during cleaning prior to excavation. The flint was a broken backed knife of probable Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

8.3.60 Ditch 1806 (=1859) was approximately 15m long and 0.3m wide, and survived 0.18m deep (Fig. 54, Section 1201). A 2m-long intervention was excavated at the northern end of the feature. It contained a brownish-grey sandy clay fill (1807) that yielded a single struck flint.

8.3.61 The other two linear features (1822 and 1826) were found in the north-east part of the pond. They were initially thought to be parts of an enclosure, but further stripping demonstrated that the western feature did not continue, and simply represents a short length of gully.

8.3.62 Ditch or gully 1822 was a shallow cut which ran south-westwards for around 5.20m from the north-east edge of the pond. It was 0.55m wide but only survived 0.06m deep, and its fill (1823) was a yellowish-brown sandy clay that did not contain any finds. It cut the southern side of tree-throw hole 1820.

8.3.63 Gully 1826 was located 2.3m west of 1822. It was 3.60m long by 0.50m wide with a varied depth of between 0.08m to 0.15m (Fig. 54, Section 1207). It was orientated east-west and was filled (1827) by a yellowish-grey silty clay with angular sandstone pebbles 0.02–0.05m across. There were no finds.

Tree-throw holes

8.3.64 Several features tested proved to be tree-throw holes. Feature 1805 lay just north-west of ditch 1803, and was 2.2m by 1.6m and 0.5m deep. It was half-sectioned and contained a greyish-brown, silty clay which had frequent flecks of manganese. It was sub-oval in plan and had very irregular sides and base due to rooting.

8.3.65 Features 1811 and 1812 both lay just south of gullies 1822 and 1824/1826 at the north-east edge of the site, and were thought possibly to represent postholes associated with an entrance between them. 1811 was sub-circular and measured 0.53m by 0.48m in plan, and proved to have steep sides and an irregular base. There was evidence of rooting in the cut, which was 0.13m deep. It contained a light-mid greyish-brown, silty clay fill with frequent manganese inclusions. This was probably a tree-throw hole rather than a posthole.

8.3.66 Adjacent feature 1812 had diffuse edges, and so was probably overcut during excavation. The resulting plan was 0.72m by 0.76m and the section shows that it was 0.35m deep with two fills: the lower one a light yellowish-brown silty clay that was rich in manganese, the upper one a light to mid greyish-brown silty clay. There were no finds in either fill. Evidence of rooting survived in places at the edges of the irregular cut, suggesting that this feature was a tree-throw hole rather than a posthole.

8.3.67 Feature 1820 was suspected in plan to be part of the entrance formed by gullies 1822 and 1824/1826, as it ran north-west at 90 degrees from the terminus of gully 1822. However,

this feature proved to be irregular in profile, and was most probably caused by tree rooting. It was 0.87m by 1.08m and 0.32m deep. It contained one fill (1821) which was a yellowish-brown silty clay with manganese throughout. The section showed that the edge of this feature was cut by gully 1822.

8.3.68 Feature 1815 lay farther to the south and was cut on the eastern side by pit 1813 (see above). It had a regular plan, and was sub-rectangular, 3.68m long by 1.12m wide. It was thought to be a pit, but excavation showed it to be a large tree-throw hole of irregular profile up to 0.58m deep, which had a single greyish-brown silty clay fill.

8.3.69 Feature 1825 was found in the south-east part of the site. It was half-sectioned and found to be a tree-throw hole. It was 1.06m by 0.89m and 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill that was a light greyish-brown, silty clay.

Description of features investigated by further archaeological mitigation (Phase 2)

8.3.70 In total, 21 further hand-dug interventions were excavated. The stripped area contained several archaeological and natural features (Fig. 50). Not all the potential features uncovered were excavated, but five pits: 1831, 1837, 1840, 1849 and 1867; five linear features: 1843, 1845, 1851, 1853 and 1855; and six tree-throw holes: 1828, 1830, 1858, 1861, 1866 and 1870 were sampled, and are described below.

8.3.71 In addition to these, further mitigation slots were dug into the following five features within the originally characterised area: three pits, 1872, 1873 and 1876 and two ditches or gullies, 1859(=1806) and 1863.

8.3.72 Pit 1831 was found in the south of this area. It was sub-oval, 1.92m long by 1.13m wide and 0.42m deep, with a concave base and gently sloping sides (Fig. 51; Fig. 54, Section 1209). The feature contained five fills. The bottom fill 1832 was a firm medium yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent large pieces of sandstone and occasional small stones. The second fill 1833 was a friable dark brownish-grey silty sand, with large pieces of charcoal, some pieces of sandstone, occasionally heat affected. The third fill 1834, was a friable dark brownish-grey layer of charred remains with large pieces of charcoal. The fourth fill 1835 was a firm orangey brown silty clay with rare manganese and sandstone inclusions. The fifth and top fill 1836, was a friable dark brownish-grey silty, sandy clay with charred remains. Included in this fill were frequent large pieces of charcoal and occasional sandstone, some of which is heat-affected.

8.3.73 Pit 1837, which lay in the centre of the area, was a rounded teardrop shape in plan with varied sides and a base heavily disturbed by animal burrows. It was 4m long and 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep. It had two fills. The lower fill 1838 was a firm yellow sandy silt with frequent manganese flecks and appeared to be a natural fill. The upper fill 1839 was a firm light yellowish-grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks. It had however been heavily disturbed by extensive animal burrows. This fill was probably of natural in formation.

8.3.74 Pit 1840, which also lay in the centre of the area, was sub-ovoid with steep sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.89m by 0.72m and 0.25m in depth, and had two fills (Fig. 54, Section 1215). The lower fill 1841 was a firm yellowish-brown silty sandy clay, with occasional small mudstones and manganese flecks. It was a natural deposit. The upper fill 1842 was a friable pale brownish-grey silty clay with occasional sandstone pieces, frequent manganese flecking and occasional mud-stones. It appeared to be an intentional backfill.

8.3.75 Pit 1849, which was located on the west side of the characterised (Phase 1) area, was sub-oval, and had uneven sides and a flat base. It was 1.24 by 1.26m and 0.2m deep. Its single fill was a firm light greyish-brown silty sandy clay with both charcoal and manganese flecks and sub-angular sandstone pieces. This may have been an intentional backfill. A sample was taken from this layer and produced three struck flints, two flakes and a blade.

8.3.76 Pit 1867 was located in the west of the area. It was sub-circular with a concave base and steep sides and was 1.75m by 1.8m and 0.82m in depth. It contained two fills. The lower fill 1868, was a friable yellow silty clay with paler patches, which included larger lumps of manganese and traces of iron staining. The fill was of a natural origin. The upper fill 1869, was a firm greyish-white silty clay with frequent manganese flecking, indicative of a natural fill.

8.3.77 Pit 1872, which lay in the northern part of the Phase 1 stripped area, was a sub-triangular feature with sloping slides and a U-shaped profile. It measured 0.7m by 0.55m, and was 0.1m deep. Its single fill 1871, was a firm greyish-brown sandy silt with few angular stones slightly pitched, possibly indicating intentional backfill.

8.3.78 Pit 1873 was an elongated pit running on a north-south alignment for 2m, and was truncated at the north end by circular pit 1876. Pit 1873 was 0.4m in width and 0.2m in depth and had sloping sides and a flat base. Its two fills 1874 and 1875 were indistinguishable except for the interruption between them caused by the cutting of pit 1876. They both consisted of a friable yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks and appeared to have formed naturally.

8.3.79 Circular pit 1876 had gently curving sides and a concave base, was 0.8m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Its single fill was a friable medium reddish-grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecking and appears to be a dump of material from a fire.

8.3.80 Seven sections were excavated through linear features, although interventions 1845, 1851 and 1853 were all through different lengths of what was probably the same feature. All five identified linear features were on the same orientation or at right angles to this.

8.3.81 Linear feature 1843 ran on a north-west/south-east alignment and continued under the bulk towards the north west, with 2.6m of its length visible. It had sloping sides, a concave base and a curved end. Its single fill was a firm light greyish-brown silty sandy clay with manganese flecks and medium to large stones and appears to be a natural deposit.

8.3.82 Interventions 1845, 1851 and 1853 were all through the same north-east/south-west linear feature, located in the southern part of the middle of phase 2. All three interventions showed very shallow sides, 1845 had a concave base but 1851 and 1853 had flat bases. Each was regular and unvaried. All three contain a single fill of firm brownish-light yellow silty clay with angular stones. The fills of 1845 and 1851 both contained moderate charcoal flecking, but the fill of 1853 contained none.

8.3.83 Linear feature 1855 ran on a north-west/south-east alignment, protruding 2m from the south-east edge of the pond (Phase 1). It was 1.34m in width, 0.47m deep and had a V-shaped profile with slightly sloping sides (Fig. 54, Section 1217). This feature was found in the south east of phase 1 and contained two fills. The bottom fill 1856 was a friable brownish-orange silty clay with occasional manganese, sub angular pebbles and angular sandstone pieces, formed by natural deposition. The top fill 1857, was a friable brownish-grey clayey silt with frequent fragments and flecks of manganese and small pieces of iron stone throughout.

8.3.84 Shallow ditch or gully 1859 ran on a north west/south east alignment and is the same feature as 1806 in the south-eastern part of the originally stripped (Phase 1) area. it was 20m long, 0.23m wide and 0.12m in depth, with a V-shaped profile and variable but consistently steep sides. Its single fill was a firm light greyish-brown silty clay with manganese flecks, pieces of charcoal and occasional quartz pebbles. The fill appears to have formed through natural deposition.

8.3.85 Linear feature 1863 was situated at the south-west corner of the originally stripped area (Phase 1) and extended north-west/south-east for 4m. It was 0.56m in width and 0.31m deep and had steep sides and an irregular base due to animal burrowing. There were two fills 1864 followed by 1865. The bottom fill was a firm yellowish-grey sandy clay with occasional manganese and contained a flint denticulate. The top fill was a firm dark brownish-grey sandy clay with moderate manganese inclusions. These were probably formed by natural silting.

Natural features

8.3.86 Seven natural features were investigated, comprising six tree-throw holes and one animal burrow. Four of the tree-throw holes 1828, 1830, 1858 and 1866, conformed to a similar type of very large tree-throw holes, the tree-fall resulting in multiple layers. The other two tree-throw holes conformed to the more common, smaller tree-throw holes previously recorded in the area.

8.3.87 Features 1828, 1830, 1858 and 1866 were all located in the north-western part of the further archaeological mitigation area (Phase 2 strip), with no obvious relation between them. All four features had varied sides with uneven bases, ranging from 1.8m to 5m in diameter and 0.4m to 0.7m in depth.

8.3.88 Tree-throw hole 1828 was sub-oval with varied sides and an irregular base. It measured 1.8m in diameter and 0.39m in depth. Its single fill was a firm medium brownish-beige silty clay with occasional fragments of charcoal, and rare limestone fragments, ironstone and manganese.

8.3.89 Tree-throw hole 1830 was sub-oval with varied sides and an irregular base. It was 1.9m by 2.3m and 0.4m in depth. Its two fills were both friable. The top fill was a dark blackish-brown silt with charcoal inclusions, the lower fill was a medium brownish-grey silty sand with sandstone inclusions.

8.3.90 Tree-throw hole 1858 was an irregular oval with varied sides and an irregular base. It was 5m in diameter and 0.7m at its deepest point. The feature contained three fills. The top was a friable medium yellow sandy clay with sandstone inclusions, the middle was a dark grey silty clay with decomposing plant inclusions, and the bottom layer was a friable medium yellowish-grey silty sand with sandstone inclusions.

8.3.91 Tree-throw hole 1866 was an irregular oval with varied sides and an uneven base. It measured 3.1m by 2.8m and was 0.82m deep. It contained three fills. The top fill was a friable pale yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent charcoal and heat affected sandstone inclusions. The middle fill was a firm darkish brownish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal. The bottom fill was a firm orangey-brown silty clay with occasional sandstone pieces and rare charcoal.

8.3.92 Features 1861 and 1870 were both smaller tree-throw holes, similar to many other examples excavated elsewhere along the A21 scheme.

8.3.93 1861 was an irregular oval with variable sides and a pointed base. it was 1.25m by 0.6m and 0.1m in depth. Its single fill was a firm yellowish-light brown silty clay with burnt angular stones and rare charcoal.

8.3.94 Sub-circular tree-throw hole 1870 lay at the very south-west corner of the stripped area (Phase 2). It had asymmetrical sides and an irregular base, measuring 1m in diameter and 0.28m in depth. Its single fill was a silty clay mixed with charcoal and manganese with colours ranging from greyish-brown to yellowish-brown. No *in situ* burning was present.

Recent features and animal burrows

8.3.95 Feature 1862, which lay in the south-east part of the original stripped area (Phase 1) was believed to be a pit but upon investigation was identified as the entrance to an animal burrow. It measured 1m in diameter and 0.5m of its depth was excavated. It was an oval shape in plan, had undulating diffuse edges and a base that carried on diagonally downwards beneath the natural for an unknown distance. Its fill was a firm mix of topsoil and natural.

8.3.96 Features 1847 and 1848 were initially believed to be potential pits, but when cleaned it became obvious that they were unmarked geo-technical test pits from an earlier phase of the project. They were located in the north-eastern corner of phase 2. Feature 1847 was rectangular, 2m by 3.2m and filled with a mixture of churned topsoil and natural geology. This is identical to previously marked geo-technical test pits that were uncovered. Pit 1848 was 1.5m by 3.5m, rectangular and contained an identical fill to 1847.

Middle Lodge evaluation

8.3.97 A total of 20 trial trenches were excavated along the eastern side of the site. Full details of the results of these excavations are available in the combined A21 evaluation report (OA 2015e). The following narrative provides a summary of the significant archaeological features discovered.

Trench 74

8.3.98 Pit 74003 was located in the centre of trench 74 at the southern end of the site and was slightly truncated by both edges of the trench. It was circular and 2m in diameter with steep to vertical sides and a flat base and survived 0.16m deep. The base and sides of the feature had been heat-affected by *in situ* burning, creating a band of light to medium red fired clay with some sandstone lumps 0.04m thick (74006). Basal fill 74005 consisted of a firm, dark blackish-grey silty clay with very frequent charcoal inclusions. It covered almost the entirety of the base, being 1.8m by 2m in plan, and was 0.03m deep. No finds were recovered from this layer, but an environmental sample of the fill was taken. Charred plant remains from the sample gave a radiocarbon date of cal. 180 BC–AD 10 (94%) (SUERC-73963; 2068 ±30 yrs BP). Fill 74004 was the top fill of pit 74003 and comprised a firm light to medium brownish-grey silty clay fill with occasional charcoal and burnt sandstone inclusions. This again covered most of the pit, being 1.8m by 1.92m in plan and was 0.14m in depth. There were again no finds, but an environmental sample was taken.

8.3.99 Pit 74008 was located to the north of trench 74 and was partially truncated by the trench, it was sub-rectangular with steep sides and an irregular base, 0.25m in depth and 1m by 0.66m in plan. It had a single fill that was a friable light brownish-grey sandy silt with heavy rooting and parts of an articulated sheep skeleton.

Trench 76

8.3.100 Feature 76003 was an irregular ovoid with a level but irregular base and bowl-shaped sides, it was 1.1m by 0.7m and 0.15m in depth. Its single fill was a firm light greyish-yellow silty clay with manganese flecks and some root disturbance. Very faint feature in colour but very obvious in texture. There were no finds.

8.3.101 Ditch 76005 extended south-west/north-east across the trench, sloping gently upwards towards the southwest end until it dissipates 1.24m from the trench edge. In plan, the ditch was 0.4m wide with a flat base and bowl-shaped sides, but had been truncated during machining, as it was clear in section as 0.73m in width. The same ditch can be seen in trench 78 to the north. The single fill of ditch 76005 was a firm light-to-medium greyish-brown silty clay and did not contain any finds.

Trench 78

8.3.102 Ditch 78003 extended north/south across the trench, it is the same ditch as 76005 in trench 76. It is 0.8m in width, 0.2m deep and has sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill was a friable light orangey grey clayey silt with frequent manganese inclusions, but again there were no finds.

Trench 86

8.3.103 Pit 86003 was 2.2m in width, 1.1m in depth and sub-triangular in plan. It had steep sides and a relatively flat base. It contained two fills and had a recut (86011) which contained a further three fills. The bottom fill (86008) of pit 86003 was a friable, light grey sandy silt, 0.1m in depth. Overlying this was fill 86007, which was a friable light greyish-yellow sandy silt 0.14m in depth, it contained both CBM and pottery. Recut 86011 had moderately steep sides and concave base, it was 1.9m in width and 0.8m in depth. The bottom fill of recut 86011 (86006) was a friable, light yellowish-grey sandy silt, 0.2m in depth. Overlying this fill 86005 was a friable, light yellowish-red sandy silt, 0.2m in depth. The top fill of recut 86011 (86004) was a friable, light brownish-red sandy silt 0.5m in depth, it contained both CBM and pottery.

8.3.104 Posthole 86009 was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.22m and a depth of 0.14m. It had near vertical sides and a slightly undulating concave base. Its single fill (86010) was a medium greyish-brown sandy clay.

8.3.105 Natural feature 86012 was an irregular, oval shape measuring 1.2m in width and 0.2m in depth. It had gently sloping sides and an undulating base. Its single fill was a light brownish-brown sandy silt with CBM flecks. Pottery of 19th-century date came from this fill.

8.4 Interpretation

General character of the site

8.4.1 As with other sites on the dualling scheme, most of the soil marks found in IA7 were of natural origin, primarily representing tree-throw holes. The greatest concentration of features appeared to be in the south and eastern parts of the site, particularly in and around Middle Lodge Pond, supporting the results of the earlier geophysical survey (OA 2009).

Later Iron Age (400BC–AD10)

8.4.2 Two fire-pits were dated by radiocarbon analysis to the later Iron Age. The earlier of the two (pit 1318) was located in Translocation zone 9 in the eastern part of IA7. An oak charcoal sample dated the use of the feature to cal. 400–200 BC, placing it in the middle Iron Age. The later pit (74003) was identified in evaluation trench 74, located *c* 60m east of T9. An oak charcoal sample from the fill of this feature was dated cal. 180 BC–AD 10, placing it in the late Iron Age. Although the dating of the two IA7 fire-pits shows that the features were not contemporary, both fall within a middle–late Iron Age pattern of fire-pit use found across the scheme. None have been found to date before 400 BC and the latest potentially extend into the early part of the 1st century AD, but no later.

8.4.3 Along with fire-pit 1808 at Middle Lodge Pond and fire-pit 1510 at WC6b-c plot 10, a total of four fire-pits were found at IA7. Fire-pit 805 was comparatively small and shallow, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.08m deep. However, the size and shape of these features was fairly similar to fire-pits found in other areas on the A21 Dualling Scheme. These features tend to be circular in plan, ranging in width between 1.5–2.0m and have shallow, concave profiles, generally with flat bases.

8.4.4 The function of these pits is unclear, though they may relate to charcoal production, perhaps for use at iron-working sites in the High Weald. That some of these features cut tree-throw holes suggests phases of activity that post-date woodland clearance in the area. Small amounts of charcoal in several tree-throw holes may be evidence of intentional tree clearance, though it may also be residual material incorporated into fills.

Undated features

8.4.5 Several linear features were identified at Middle Lodge Pond, in Translocation zone 9 and in evaluation trenches 76 and 78. These were found to be aligned north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east, which suggests that they may have formed part of a relict field-system. Two ditches investigated in Middle Lodge Pond shared common orientations, fill, and profile, and both contained struck flint of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date, but none of those investigated produced any further dating evidence or had stratigraphic relationships with other datable features. Most of the ditches in IA7 were severely truncated, resulting in the loss of much of their lengths.

8.4.6 Several pits were also identified in this area of the site. These were largely undated, though they may represent activity associated with the possible field-system, and/or with the fire-pits (depending on whether the latter were contemporary with the field-system). One of the pits (1849) in Middle Lodge Pond contained three struck flints, two flakes and a flint blade; these may indicate an early prehistoric date, or may have been residual. The discovery of a partial sheep skeleton within a pit in evaluation trench 74 may be evidence of local animal husbandry, though this may be a modern burial.

8.5 Conclusions

8.5.1 The archaeology indicates that activity in this area was fairly sparse and that it was quite possibly wooded for most of its history. However, the identification of several ditches suggests the presence of a field system, although this remains undated. Struck flints show that earlier prehistoric activity was present, and it is possible that the area witnessed phases of woodland clearance and regeneration over time, two of the more active phases being in the

later Iron Age, the medieval period and the early post-medieval periods, when the fire-pits and other pits suggest the manufacture of charcoal (see Allen 2021).

8.6 IA7 context inventory

IA7							
Area description				**Total area (ha)**		8.0552	
West of the A21 and north of Longfield Road, ie north-west of the Longfield Junction and west of the former Middle Lodge Wood.				**Avg. depth (m)**		-	
				Total stripped area (m²)		28,670	
				Total targeted area (m²)		13,646	
Contexts							
Context no	**Type**	**Length x width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**	**Area**
401	Topsoil	-	012–0.19	Friable, dark brown sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub-angular fragments of sandstone; also, occasional charcoal flecks.	-		A1
402	Subsoil	-	0.39	Friable, yellow/brown silty sand with moderate amount of degraded pieces of sandstone (sub-angular) and occasional charcoal flecks.	-		A1
403	Natural geology	-	–	Firm, dark brown/yellow clay sand with sub-angular pieces of sandstone; lenses of clear sand within.	-		A1
404	Cut of linear	1.1 x 0.6	0.12	Gently curving, NNW-SSE aligned linear with moderately steep sides and imperceptible breaks of slope, and an asymmetrically convex base; filled with 405. The whole feature extends in both directions beyond the exposed area (>5.3m long). It is the same feature as 406.	-		A1
405	Fill of linear	1.1 x 0.6	0.12	Friable, soft, yellow-brown, silty sand with moderate amount of angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone (small-small/medium sized), occasional charcoal flecks, and one small piece of ironstone.	-		A1
406	Cut of linear	0.5 x 0.45	0.1	Linear feature with asymmetrical sides (WSW gently sloping, ENE moderately steep), an imperceptible break of slope, and a concave base; filled with 407. Part of the same feature as 404.	-		A1
407	Fill of linear	0.5 x 0.45	0.1	Friable, soft, yellow/brown silty sand with occasional small sized angular and sub-angular pieces of sandstone, and rare charcoal flecks.	-		A1
478	Fill of pit?	+1.8 x 0.6	0.5	Friable, light yellow/grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks; fill of 479.	-		T8.A4
479	Cut of pit?	+1.8 x 0.6	0.5	Crescent-shaped pit extending beyond the topsoil-stripped area. It has asymmetrical sides (eastern stepped and western vertical), gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base; filled with 478.	-		T8.A4
500	Cut of shallow ditch	2.0 (slot) x 0.86	0.15	Linear feature with moderately steep sides and a flat base; filled with 1001. Gradual SE break of slope, though NW slope is not precipitable. It is the same linear as 1002.	-		T9.A3
1001	Fill of shallow ditch	2.0 (slot) x 0.86	0.15	Firm, yellow/brown sandy clay with moderate amount of charcoal flecks. Apparently modern-like 'appearance' to the fill.	Metal		T9.A3
1002	Cut of ditch	1.8 x 0.5	0.15	Ditch exposed for *c* 20m; slightly curvilinear and aligned roughly east-west, with gently sloping sides and very slightly undulating base; filled with 1003. It cuts the fill of feature 1004. It is the same as ditch 500.	-		T9.A3
1003	Fill of ditch	1.8 x 0.5	0.15	Firm, yellow/brown sandy clay with occasional patches of manganese.	-		T9.A3

1004	Cut of linear	1.54 x 0.5	0.08	Linear with moderately steep sides. It is aligned north/south, and is *c* 15m long. It slowly shallows at both ends and is filled with 1005.	-		T9.A3
1005	Fill of linear	1.54 x 0.5	0.08	Firm, yellow/brown sandy clay with rare manganese stains and occasional pieces of small sized sandstone; cut by 1002.	-		T9.A3
1006	Cut of ditch	1.84 x 0.82	0.14	Linear (>6.0m length exposed) aligned north/south and extending in both directions beyond the topsoil-stripped area. It has symmetrical, moderately steep sides, with a gradual break of slope and a concave base. It is the same as 1314.	-		T9.A3
1007	Fill of ditch	1.84 x 0.82	0.14	Firm, yellow/brown clay sand with moderate amount of charcoal flecks. Fill of 1006.	-		T9.A3
1301	Topsoil			(no description)	-		
1302	Subsoil			(no description)	-		
1303	Natural geology			(no description)	-		
1304	Ditch cut	>1.16 x 0.65	0.35	Linear, aligned NW-SE, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides, an imperceptible break of slope and a concave base. Extends in both directions beyond the land-drainage trench. It is filled with 1305 and 1306.	-		LDT
1305	Lower fill of ditch	0.65	0.17	Friable, yellow/brown with blue/grey mottling silty clay with moderate amount of manganese stains. It is the lower fill of 1304 and is sealed by 1306.	-		LDT
1306	Upper fill of ditch	0.55	0.18	Friable, yellow/brown sandy clay, with roots. The fill is homogeneous with no inclusions; it is the upper fill of 1304, sealing 1305.	-		LDT
1307	Cut of ditch	2.1 x 0.8	0.1	Linear with slightly asymmetrical sides, a flat base, and imperceptible breaks of slope. Filled with 1308.	-		T9.A3
1308	Fill of ditch	2.1 x 0.8	0.1	Friable, light brown sandy silt and occasional sub-angular pieces of siltstone.	-		T9.A3
1309	Cut of pit?	1.37 x 1.5	0.11	Pit that is slightly irregularly oval in plan with gently sloping and undulating western side, an imperceptible break of slope and an undulating base. The eastern side is not clear due to bioturbation. There is no evidence of *in situ* burning. Filled with 1310 and 1311.	-		T9.A3
1310	Main fill of pit?	1.37 x 1.45	0.11	Friable, grey/brown silty clay with occasional pieces of sandstone and charcoal flecks; it seals 1311 and is the main fill of 1309.	-		T9.A3
1311	Fill of pit?	0.5 wide	0.03	A lens of charcoal at the western side of 1309.	-		T9.A3
1312	Tree-throw	1.8 x 0.7	0.37	Irregular, elongated oval feature with asymmetrical sides (steep and moderately steep) and a strongly undulating base. It is filled with 1313 and may be two tree-throw holes.	-		T9.A3
1313	Fill of tree-throw	1.8 x 0.7	0.37	Friable, light brown/grey silty clay with occasional, small-sized pebbles. Single fill of 1312.	-		T9.A3
1314	Cut of ditch terminus	+12 x 0.47	0.14	Linear aligned N-S with steep sides, an irregularly undulating base (bioturbation), and filled with 1315. The feature is truncated by tree-throw 1316. The same ditch as exposed in cut 1006.	-		T9.A3
1315	Fill of ditch terminus	+12 x 0.47	0.14	Friable, light grey/brown with patches of lighter grey silty clay; flecks of manganese in root holes; fill of 1314.	-		T9.A3
1316	Tree-throw	1.3 x 0.5	0.16	Feature with amorphous, irregular and asymmetrical sides, an undulating base, and filled with 1417; cuts 1315.	-		T9.A3
1317	Fill of tree-throw	1.3 x 0.5	0.16	Friable, light brown/grey silty clay with frequent manganese patches and occasional small-sized pieces of sub-rounded sandstone. Fill of 1316.	-		T9.A3

1318	Fire-pit cut	1.56 x 1.5	0.08	Slightly irregularly pit with moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a flat base. It is filled with 1319 and 1320. Evidence of burning *in situ* on the edges (thin orange/red layer of oxidized clay).	-	Middle Iron Age	T9.A3
1319	Upper fill of fire-pit cut	1.56 x 1.5	0.05	Friable, light brown/grey silty clay with moderate amount of charcoal flecks. Upper fill of 1318 sealing 1320.	-	Middle Iron Age	T9.A3
1320	Main fill of fire-pit	1.56 x 1.5	0.03	Friable, dark grey/black silty clay with a large amount of charcoal (**sample 1051 radiocarbon dated**). Fill of 1318, sealed by 1319.	-	400–200 cal. BC	T9.A3
1321	Cut of linear	2.1 x 0.38	0.06	Linear with slightly asymmetrical sides (southern gently sloping; northern moderately steep), imperceivable breaks of slope, and a slightly concave base. Filled with 1322.	-		T9.A3
1322	Fill of linear	2.1 x 0.38	0.06	Friable, light yellow/grey silty clay with patches of redeposited natural geology. Fill of 1321.	-		T9.A3
1323	Cut of linear	1.7 x 0.5	0.2	Linear with a slightly undulating base, steep sides (SW side not clear in plan), and a gradual break of slope; filled with 1324.	-		T7.A3
1324	Fill of linear	1.7 x 0.5	0.2	Firm, light grey/yellow silty clay with occasional manganese flecks; fill of 1323.	-		T7.A3
1325	Cut of linear	3.0 x 0.5	0.17	Linear with rounded termini, a flat base, moderately steep northern side, and a steep eastern side. The western side is unclear due to bioturbation but has a gradual break of slope. It is filled with 1326.	-		T7.A3
1326	Fill of linear	3.0 x 0.5	0.17	Firm, light grey/yellow silty clay with frequent manganese flecks. Fill of 1325.	-		T7.A3
1327	Natural feature	2 x 1.2	0.1	Firm, light grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks; irregular and undulating edges—spread of burnt material in natural feature (geological?).	-		T7.A3
1328	Tree-throw/pit?	1.3 x 0.8	0.2	Sub-oval pit or tree throw with steep sides and an undulating base. It is filled with 1329 and 1330.	-		T7.A3
1329	Fill of tree-throw/pit?	1.3 x 0.4	0.2	Firm, dark grey/black sandy silt with lots of charcoal. It is overlain by 1330 and is filled by 1328.	-		T7.A3
1330	Fill of tree-throw/pit?	1.3 x 0.4	0.2	Firm, light yellow silty clay with no inclusions. Overlaying 1329, fill of 1328.	-		T7.A3
1331	Cut of large pit/ditch?	>4.45 x 2.0	0.55	Slightly curving feature, either a ditch or a pit (not fully exposed as a part of the area was already backfilled with translocated soils). It has slightly asymmetrical sides (SE very steep, NW moderately steep), a slightly undulating, concave base. It is filled with 1332—three slots excavated including the terminal. 1323 could be a part of 1331, but the area in between could not be explored.	-		T7.A3
1332	Fill of large pit/ditch?	>4.45 x 2.0	0.55	Firm, brown sandy clay with occasional, small charcoal fragments and pockets of light brown deposit. Occasional small and medium-sized sub-angular pieces of sandstone.	-		T7.A3
1333	Cut of linear (ditch?)	>2.1 x 0.45	0.23	Short linear (?ditch) with a slightly sloping base, asymmetrical sides (both fairly steep) with gradual breaks of slope; filled with 1334.	-		T7.A3
1334	Fill of linear (ditch?)	>2.1 x 0.45	0.23	Firm, light grey/yellow silty clay with flecks of manganese; fill of 1333.	-		T7.A3
1335	Tree-throw	2.4 x 0.9	0.2	Irregular oval feature with asymmetrical, moderately steep sides and an undulating base; filled with 1336.	-		T7.A3
1336	Fill of tree-throw	2.4 x 0.9	0.2	Firm, yellow/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks; fill of 1335.	-		T7.A3
1337	Cut of pit	0.49 x 0.6	0.11	Oval pit with a concave base and symmetrical, moderately steep, slightly concave sides with imperceptible breaks of slope; filled with 2229 and 1338.	-		T5.A3

1338	Upper fill of pit	0.4	0.07	Firm, light-to-medium brown/grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and manganese. Overlaying 1339.	-		T5.A3
1339	Basal fill of pit	0.49 x 0.6	0.04	Firm, light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and manganese. Overlain by 1338.	-		T5.A3
1340	Cut of post-hole	0.3 x 0.4	0.2	Circular posthole with very steep symmetrical sides and a slightly irregular, concave base; filled with 1341 and 1342.	-		T5.A3
1341	Fill of post-hole	0.35	0.2	Friable, dark black/grey silty clay with a large amount of charcoal. Almost vertical relationship with fill 1342.	-		T5.A3
1342	Fill of post-hole	0.3	0.2	Friable, blue/grey with dark yellow mottling silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Almost vertical relationship with 1341.	-		T5.A3
1343	Tree-throw	0.45 x 0.4	0.22	Irregular oval feature with sloping base and asymmetrical sides (one is steep and the other is stepped); filled with 1344.	-		T5.A3
1344	Fill of tree-throw	0.45 x 0.4	0.22	Friable, light grey/yellow silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks; fill of 1343.	-		T5.A3
1345	Natural feature?	0.9 x 4.3	0.3	Irregular linear with moderately steep, symmetrical sides and a slightly undulating base; filled with 1346.	-		T5.A3
1346	Fill of natural feature?	0.9 x 4.3	0.3	Friable, light yellow/grey silty clay with a moderate amount of manganese flecks; fill of 1345.	-		T5.A3
1347	Cut of stake-hole?	0.19	0.25	Circular posthole with asymmetrical sides (one is vertical and the other is steep), a gradual break of slope and a concave base; filled with 1348.	-		T5.A3
1348	Fill of stake-hole?	0.19	0.25	Friable, grey/brown silty clay with frequent manganese flecks and rare pieces charcoal; fill of 1347.	-		T5.A3
1500	Cut of ditch	1.08	0.4	NE-SW aligned ditch with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Same as 1505.	-		Plot 10
1501	Fill of ditch 1500	-	0.4	Friable, dark yellow/brown clay sand with some small pebbles and charcoal flecks.	-		Plot 10
1502	Layer	-	-	Dark grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (old topsoil).	-	modern	Plot 10
1503	Layer	-	0.15	Friable, brown clay silt with some sand.	CBM	modern	Plot 10
1504	Layer	-	0.3	Friable, dark brown silty sand with occasional pebbles (new topsoil).	-	modern	Plot 10
1505	Cut of ditch	1.5	0.6	NE-SW aligned, V-shaped ditch with rounded base and steep, straight sides. Same as 1500.	-		Plot 10
1506	Fill of ditch 1505	-	0.6	Firm, grey/brown sandy silt.	-		Plot 10
1507	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		Plot 10
1508	Cut of pit	0.65 x 0.4	0.17	Oval pit with rounded base and shallow sides.	-		Plot 10
1509	Fill of pit 1508	-	0.17	Firm, yellow/brown sandy silt.	-		Plot 10
1510	Cut of fire-pit	1.65	0.13	Slightly oval pit with moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Upper part clearly truncated by ploughing.	-		Plot 10
1511	Fill of fire-pit 1510	-	0.13	Friable, black clay silt with charcoal.	-		Plot 10
1512	Layer	-	0.08	Natural layer underlying fire-pit 1511. Appears to have been heat-affected as it consists of a firm, red silty clay.	-		Plot 10
1513	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil/ploughsoil—friable, dark brown clay silt.	-		Plot 10
1514	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil—firm, brown silty clay with some stones.	-		Plot 10

1515	Layer	-	-	Natural geology—firm, light brown/orange silty clay with some stones. Overlain by 1514.	-		Plot 10
1516	Cut of ditch	0.68	0.17	NE-SW aligned ditch with moderately steep western side, steep eastern side and flat base.	-		Plot 10
1517	Fill of ditch 1516	-	0.17	Firm, brown clay silt with mudstones and occasional charcoal flecks.	-		Plot 10
1518	Cut of pit	1.02	0.62	Probable pit (or possibly a ditch) extending past the edge of the trench. The feature has asymmetrical sides that are either vertical or very steep, and a flattish base.	-		Plot 10
1519	Fill of pit 1518	-	0.62	Firm, brown with mottled grey clay silt with frequent manganese flecks and occasional charcoal pieces.	-		Plot 10

IA7: WC6C Lay Down Area

Area description		
Area WC6C-LD is located on the southern slope of a slight elevation, close to a wide depression, nearer the A21, which used to be a pond (TQ 60997 42277).	**Total area (ha)**	0.09
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38
	Width (m)	34.0
	Length (m)	53.0

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Length x width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
801	Layer	-	0.28	Friable, brown sandy silt with small amounts of charcoal and stones	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.1	Friable, yellow/brown sandy silt with small amounts of charcoal and stones	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Friable, light orange/yellow clay sand with frequent stones	-	-
804	Fill of fire-pit 805	-	0.09	Friable, dark grey/black sandy silt with high quantity of charcoal; material burnt *in situ*	-	-
805	Cut of fire-pit	1.14 x 1.22	0.08	Sub-circular pit with flat base and shallow sides	-	-
806	Base of fire-pit 805	-	0.04	Firm, orange/red clay sand with some charcoal on top; the area is a layer of scorched natural at the base of the cut that shows that material was being burnt *in situ*	-	-

ML-BP Phase 1

Area description		
Located at the Pembury end of the A21 near translocation on middle lodge. Area stripped prior to the construction of a pond. Main features in the area were pits with burnt material and numerous tree-throw holes and other natural features indicating the presence of a wooded area here.	**Total area (ha)**	0.338
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	50
	Length (m)	95

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1801	Subsoil	-	0.26	Friable, mid greyish-brown, silty clay.	-	Modern

1802	Natural	-	-	Medium to light yellow silty clay, with some occasional to frequent sandstone inclusions 0.10m in size.	-	-
1803	Fill		0.15	Firm, light to medium greyish-brown, silty clay. Some manganese flecking throughout. Lower part of fill sandier than the upper fill. Sole fill of [1804]. Excavated by mattock and trowel, mixed conditions.	Flint	-
1804	Cut	3.0x0.4	0.15	Cut of linear extending N-S. Concave base with steep sides. Sharp break of slope. One fill (1803). Believe to be a gully with some root disturbance.	-	-
1805	tree-bowl	2.2x1.6	0.5	Fill of tree-bole: firm, medium grey-brown, silty/sandy clay with flecks of manganese throughout. Sub-oval with an uneven cut. 0.80m of feature excavated. Evidence of rooting present.	-	-
1806	Cut	15.0x0.3	0.18	Linear running N-S, with 45–degree sides and a v-shaped profile. 2m excavated. Filled by (1807). Rises in some place so not visible. No terminus visible. Possible field boundary	-	-
1807	Fill		0.18	Sole fill of [1806]. Friable, mid-brownish-grey, sandy silt. Some manganese flecks. Excavated by trowel, dry conditions.	Flint	-
1808	Cut of fire-pit	1.6	0.18	Circular fire-pit. Flat base with slopes slightly to the centre. Steep sides with a sharp break in slope at the top. Filled by 1810 and 1809. Burnt pit possibly for charcoal making.	-	-
1809	Fill of fire-pit		0.16	Soft, fine grained fill. Brownish-yellow, silty clay. Lumps of redeposited natural with occasional charcoal. Excavated using a mattock and a trowel in mixed weather. Upper fill of 1808. Man-made deposit following use of pit.	-	-
1810	Fill of fire-pit		0.08	Friable, greyish-black fill. Charcoal rich silty clay. 80% charcoal. Excavated using a mattock and trowel. Lower fill of 1808. Samples taken <1048>	Flint	-
1811	Tree-bowl	0.53x0.48	0.13	Sub-circular with steep sides and an irregular base. Evidence of rooting. One fill; friable, light mid greyish-brown, silty clay. Frequent manganese. Excavated using a trowel. Mixed weather.	-	-
1812	Tree-bowl	0.76x0.72	0.35	Sub-circular (heavily overcut). Flat base with steep sides. Evidence of rooting in and around feature. Two distinct fills. The upper fill is friable silty clay that is light-mid greyish-brown with manganese inclusions. The lower fill is a firm light yellowish-brown with frequent manganese. Excavated using a trowel in mixed conditions.	-	-
1813	Cut	1.54x1.12	0.12	Oval cut with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Part of cut machined away during initial soil strip. Filled by (1814). Large pit filled with a charcoal rich deposit cut by modern plough marks on NE side. Cuts [1815]	-	-
1814	Fill		0.12	Sole fill of [1813]. Friable mid greyish-black, silty clay fill. Frequent large bits of charcoal >0.03m. Excavated using a mattock and trowel in mixed conditions. Man-made deposit. Samples taken <1047>	-	-

1815	tree-bowl	3.68x1.12	0.58	Oval cut with mainly vertical sides. Irregular base due to rooting. Cut by [1813] on eastern side. One fill which is friable-firm, light -mid greyish-brown, silty clay. Frequent manganese. Excavated using a mattock and a trowel.	-	-
1816	Cut	2.2x1.6	0.3	Square cut with a flat base and moderate sloping sides. Some tracing of roots. Cut by [1818] and filled by (1817). Pit, use unknown.	-	-
1817	Fill		0.3	Friable, light greyish-yellow, silty clay. Some sub-rounded stones 0.05m. Rare charcoal flecks and rare bits of natural. Excavated using a mattock, shovel and trowel in damp conditions.	-	-
1818	Cut	1.4x1.8	0.24	Square pit, with a flat base and concave sides. Cuts [1816] and filled by (1819) and (1824). Burning pit.	-	-
1819	Fill		0.24	Friable, fine grained fill. Greyish-yellow with reddened soil. Some bits of natural in the fill. Silty clay with rare stone inclusions 0.02–0.10m. Excavated using a mattock and trowel in damp conditions. Lower fill of [1818]. Man-made deposit.		
1820	Cut	1.08x0.87	0.32	Sub-circular, with a rounded base Moderate sloping sides. Filled by (1821). Cut by linear [1822]. Evidence of rooting. Determined following more investigation that the feature is a tree-bowl.	-	-
1821	Fill		0.32	Firm, mid yellowish-brown sandy clay deposit. Frequent manganese inclusions. Small piece of charcoal found at the base. Excavated using a mattock and trowel in damp conditions. Fill of tree-bowl [1820].	-	-
1822	Cut	5.20x0.55	0.06	Linear running SW-NE into baulk of pond. Flat base with steep sides. Filled by (1823) and cuts [1820]. Very shallow linear possibly a ploughmark or gully.	-	-
1823	Fill		0.06	Firm, mid yellowish-brown, sandy clay. Some manganese. Excavated using a mattock and a trowel in damp conditions. Sole fill of [1822]	-	-
1824	Fill		0.2	Friable, fine grained, mid brownish-yellow, silty clay. Occasional charcoal. Excavated using a mattock and trowel in damp conditions. Upper fill of [1818]. Natural deposition.	-	-
1825	tree-bowl	1.06x0.89	0.28	Sub-oval/irregular. Varied sides but mainly steep side. Irregular base due to rooting. Evidence of rooting in cut. The fill is friable to firm. Light greyish-brown, silty clay. Frequent manganese. Excavated using a mattock and trowel in damp conditions.	-	-
1826	Cut	3.60x0.50	0.08–015	Linear running NW-SE. Rounded ends. Concave base with varied sides (vertical to gradual). Base is quite stoney on NW end. Possibly a gully or ploughmark. Filled by (1827).	-	-
1827	Fill		0.08–0.15	Only fill of linear [1826]. Friable, light yellowish-grey silty clay. Sub rounded stones 0.02–0.05m. Excavated by trowel in damp conditions. Natural deposit.	-	-

ML-BP Phase 2						
Area description					**Total area (ha)**	0.1066
Located at the Pembury end of the A21 near translocation on middle lodge. Area stripped prior to the construction of a pond. Main features in the area were pits with burnt material and numerous treethrows and other natural features indicating the presence of a wooded area here.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	27
					Length (m)	79
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**L x W (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1828	Cut	1.8x1.8	0.39	Sub-oval with an undulating base and sloping but varied sides. Filled by (1929). Determined upon excavation that this feature was a tree-bowl.	-	-
1829	Fill		0.39	A firm, brown-beige silty clay with occasional fragments of charcoal, and rare limestone fragments, ironstone and manganese. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions. Fill of Tree-bowl [1828].	-	-
1830	Tree-bole	1.9x2.3	0.4	Sub-oval/irregular, with varied sides and an irregular base due to rooting. The fills are friable. The top fill is a dark black-brown silt with charcoal inclusions, the lower fill is a medium brown-grey silty sand with sandstone inclusions. Excavated by hand in bright but rainy conditions.	-	-
1831	Cut	1.92x1.13	0.42	Sub-oval with a concave base and gently sloping sides. Filled by (1832), (1833), (1834), (1835) and (1836).	-	-
1832	Fill		0.16	A firm medium yellowy brown silty clay with frequent large pieces of sandstone and occasional small stones. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1833	Fill		0.13	A friable dark brownish-grey silty sand, with large pieces of charcoal, occasional heat affected sandstone and occasional pieces of sandstone. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1834	Fill		0.13	A friable dark brown-grey layer of charred remains with large charcoal inclusions. Excavated in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1835	Fill		0.15	A firm orangey brown silty clay with rare manganese and sandstone inclusions. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	Animal bone	-
1836	Fill		0.09	A friable dark brownish-grey silty, sandy clay with charred remains. Frequent large pieces of charcoal, rare heat affected sandstone and occasional sandstone. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1837	Cut	4x1.2	0.6	A rounded teardrop with varied sides and a base heavily disturbed by animal burrows. Filled by (1838) and (1839).	-	-
1838	Fill		0.5	A firm medium yellow sandy silt with frequent manganese flecks. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in very hot and dry conditions.	-	-

1839	Fill		0.3	A firm light yellowy grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks. Disturbed by animal burrow. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1840	Cut	0.89x0.72	0.25	Sub-oval with a concave and steep, but sloping sides. Filled by (1841) and (1842).	-	-
1841	Fill		0.08	A firm yellowy brown silty sandy clay, with occasional small mud-stones and manganese flecks. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1842	Fill		0.19	A friable pale brownish-grey silty clay with occasional sandstone pieces, frequent manganese flecking and occasional mud-stones. Deliberate backfill. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1843	Cut	0.94x2.6	0.41	Linear running NW-SE with a rounded end, concave base and sloping sides. Filled by (1843).	-	-
1844	Fill		0.41	A firm light greyish-brown silty sandy clay with manganese flecks and medium to large stones. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1845	Cut	20x0.55	0.1	Linear running NE-SW with a concave base and very shallow sides. Same as [1851] and [1853]. Filled by (1846).	-	-
1846	Fill		0.1	A firm brownish-light yellow silty clay with rare moderately sized charcoal pieces and angular stones. Natural fill. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1847	Geo-Test Pit	3.2x2	-	A back filled geo-technical test pit. Rectangular, with loose mixed topsoil and natural fill.	-	-
1848	Geo-Test Pit	3.5x1.5	-	A back filled geo-technical test pit. Rectangular, with loose mixed topsoil and natural fill.	-	-
1849	Cut	1.24x1.26	0.2	Sub-oval with a flat base and uneven sides, north side variable. Filled by (1850).	-	-
1850	Fill		0.2	A firm light greyish-brown silty sandy clay with both charcoal and manganese flecks and medium sub-angular sandstone pieces. Intentional backfill. Excavated in very hot dry conditions.	Flint blade /possible glass?	-
1851	Cut	20x0.6	0.05	Linear running NE-SW with a flat base and very shallow sides. Same as [1845] and [1853]. Filled by (1852).	-	-
1852	Fill		0.05	A firm brownish-light yellow silty clay with angular pieces of sandstone and rare charcoal flecking. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1853	Cut	20x0.44	0.06	Linear running NE-SW with a flat base and very shallow sides. Same as [1845] and [1851]. Filled by (1854).	-	-
1854	Fill		0.06	A firm brownish-light yellow silty clay with angular sandstone pieces. No visible charcoal flecks. Natural deposit. Excavated in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1855	Cut	2x1.34	0.47	Linear feature running NW-SE. V shaped profile with slightly bowled sides. Filled by (1856) and (1857).	-	-

1856	Fill		0.18	A friable brownish-orange silty clay with occasional manganese, sub angular pebbled and angular sandstone pieces. Natural deposit, excavated by hand in very hot dry conditions.	-	-
1857	Fill		0.29	A friable medium brownish-grey clayey silt with frequent fragments and flecks of manganese and small pieces of iron stone. Natural deposit, excavated by hand in hot dry conditions.	-	-
1858	Tree-bole	5x5	0.7	Very large irregular oval. Irregular base and sides. Contained three layers, the top was a friable medium yellow sandy clay with sandstone inclusions, the middle was a dark grey silty clay with decomposing plant inclusions, and the bottom layer was a friable medium yellowy grey silty sand with sandstone inclusions.	-	-
1859	Cut	1.16x0.23	0.12	Linear running NW-SE with a V shaped profile, and variable but steep sides. same as [1806]. Filled by (1860).	-	-
1860	Fill		0.12	A firm light greyish-brown silty clay with manganese flecks, pieces of charcoal and occasional quarts pebbles. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in dry and hot conditions.	-	-
1861	Tree-bole	1.25x0.6	0.1	Irregular oval with a pointed base and steep variable sides. It had a firm yellowish-light brown silty clay with burnt angular stones and rare charcoal.	-	-
1862	Animal Burrow	1.04x1.04	0.49	Irregular oval with undulating diffuse edges and no base. Firm mixed fill.	-	-
1863	Cut	0.56x2.3	0.31	Linear running NE-SW, with an irregular base, due to animal disturbance and steep sides. Filled by (1864) and (1865).	-	-
1864	Fill		0.23	A firm yellowish-grey sandy clay with occasional manganese. Intentional backfill. Excavated by hand in overcast conditions.	Worked flint	-
1865	Fill		0.09	A firm dark brownish-grey sandy clay with moderate manganese inclusions. Natural backfill. Excavated by hand in overcast conditions.	-	-
1866	Tree-bole	3.1x2.82	0.72	Irregular oval with varied sides and an uneven base. Contained three fills. Top fill was a friable pale yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent charcoal and heat affected sandstone inclusions. the Middle fill was a firm darkish brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal. The bottom fill was a firm orangey brown silty clay with occasional sandstone pieces and rare charcoal.	-	-
1867	Cut	1.75x1.8	0.82	Sub-circular with a concave base and steep sides that become dramatically steeper half way down. Filled by (1868) and (1869).	-	-
1868	Fill		0.45	A friable yellow with paler patches silty clay with larger lumps of manganese and traces of iron staining. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in hot and dry conditions.	-	-

1869	Fill		0.35	A firm greyish-white silty clay with frequent manganese flecking. Natural deposit. Excavated by hand in hot dry conditions.	-	-
1870	Tree-bole	0.98x0.98	0.28	Sub-circular with varied sides and an undulating base. Fill is a silty clay mixed with charcoal and manganese colours ranging from greyish-brown to yellowy brown.	-	-
1871	Fill		0.1	A firm medium greyish-brown sandy silt with few angular stones slightly pitched. Possibly intentional backfill. Excavated by hand in ideal conditions.	-	-
1872	Cut	0.7x0.55	0.1	Sub-triangular with steep sloping sides and a U-shaped profile. Filled by (1871).	-	-
1873	Cut	2x0.4	0.2	Linear pit running north-south, with sloping sides and a flat base. It is filled by (1874) and (1875) and cut by pit [1876].	-	-
1874	Fill		0.2	A friable medium yellowy grey sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Same as (1875). Natural deposit. Hand excavated in overcast conditions.	-	-
1875	Fill		0.2	A friable medium yellowy grey sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Same as (1874). Natural deposit. Hand-excavated in overcast conditions.	-	-
1876	Cut	0.8x0.8	0.2	Circular with gently curving sides and a concave base. Filled by (1877). Truncates (1874) and (1875).	-	-
1877	Fill		0.2	A friable medium reddish-grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecking. Intentional backfill. Excavated by hand in overcast conditions.	-	-

9 ROBINGATE WOOD STORAGE LAY DOWN AREA

9.1 Project details and background

9.1.1 OA monitored the stripping of an area for a storage lay down area in Robingate Wood (RGW-LD). This was located in the northern part of Robingate Wood, west of the A21 carriageway and south of Longfield Road, and centred at NGR TQ 61160 42160 (see Fig. 55).

9.1.2 The area was formerly woodland, from which the trees and the associated woodland soils were translocated to a new receptor area north of Longfield Road. Due to the presence of woodland and the fragility of the soils, it was not possible to evaluate this area prior to translocation and its archaeological potential remained unknown in the Environmental Statement (HA 2013). Thus, the lay-down area became an area for archaeological investigation by watching brief and sample excavation immediately following the completion of translocation.

9.1.3 The detailed requirements for archaeological mitigation are set out in the DAMD v.6 prepared by WSP (2015) and expanded upon in the WSI v.5 (OA 2014b). Soil stripping and archaeological work in the area began on 9th February 2015 and archaeological investigation was completed on 13th February 2015.

9.2 Results

Description of the revealed deposits and features

9.2.1 About 0.1m of woodland soil had already been stripped for the translocation of woodland soils from donor sites to receptor sites. The woodland soil sealed a former ploughsoil, which consisted of a friable, dark greyish-brown sandy loam with small pieces of mostly sub-angular sandstone. The layer varied in thickness varies across the area from 0.1m to 0.2m. It overlay a friable, dark yellowish-brown, relatively sterile silty sand, a B-Horizon soil averaging 0.25m deep. This in turn overlay a light yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional iron stain lenses, the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand, which contained frequent traces of disturbance by tree-throw holes, roots and animal burrows. Within the deposit there are patches of light grey sandy silt containing weathered fragments of mudstone.

9.2.2 In the south-eastern part of the area, where the natural geology is rising eastwards, a slight depressing in the natural geology was filled with colluvial deposits (Plate 113). Two sondages were excavated across these deposits, which showed that the colluvium was *c* 0.35m thick and consisted of a several mixed layers forming undulating and wavy lenses (Plate 114). Uppermost was layer 916, a friable, yellowish-brown mottled with dark brown sandy clay up to 0.06m deep. This overlay layer 919, which was 0.21m thick, and consisted of a friable dark greyish-black clayey sand with frequent small pieces of sub-angular sandstone and frequent charcoal fragments. This in turn sealed layer 918, a friable, light yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional small angular pieces of sandstone. This was *c* 0.3m thick and overlay the natural geology.

9.2.3 One flint blade was recovered from layer 916, but there were no other finds.

9.2.4 Four oval features were visible in the surface of the colluvium, whose fills included significant quantities of charcoal, and so two of them were designated for hand-dug interventions (features 905 and 914).

9.2.5 Feature 905 was oval, 2.05m long and 0.8m wide with wavy edges and had steep sides and an undulating base. The feature was 0.32m deep. Its single fill was a friable, greyish-brown silty sand with frequent patches of charcoal, but no artefacts. It is interpreted as a tree-throw hole, the charcoal being related to tree clearance in the area.

9.2.6 The northernmost feature exposed within the colluvium, 914, was oblong in plan and was 0.2m deep, with asymmetrical sides (steep and moderately steep) and an uneven, undulating base. It too had a single dark greyish-brown silty sand fill with lenses of charcoal but no other finds and is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

9.2.7 An environmental sample was taken each of these features to check their interpretation.

9.2.8 Another of these soil marks (917) was half-sectioned in the longer trench cut across the colluvial hollow beneath. This showed that the charcoal was part of colluvial layer 919, sealed by layer 916 but revealed where the machine had dug slightly deeper in exposing the colluvial hollow (Plate 114). The last soil mark was similar in size and fill to the others and was not investigated.

9.2.9 In the western part of the area a few amorphous features were exposed but were not investigated, as their fills were all homogeneous silts with no inclusions, consistent with variations in the natural seen in adjacent parts of the site. Another of the exposed soil marks in this part of the site was a tree-throw hole whose topsoil fill showed that it was clearly of recent date.

9.2.10 A line of seven circular postholes orientated NNW-SSE, all 0.3m in diameter, was revealed in the north-eastern part of the area (Fig. 56). Only one of these (907) was chosen for sample characterisation, and was 0.2m deep, with vertical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly convex base (Plate 115). Its single fill was friable dark brownish-grey silty sand with a small amount of gravel and occasional small/medium sized pieces of concrete. This set of postholes appear to belong to a modern fence line, whose line is marked on recent OS maps.

9.2.11 One of the modern fence post-holes was cut into the fill of a shallow sub-circular fire-pit (908), which was 1.0m long and 0.8m wide, and whose edges were burnt a dark orangey-red (Fig. 57; Plate 116). The pit was cut into the natural geology, and in profile it had moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base. The fill was *c* 70% charcoal in a matrix of firm, dark greyish-brown silty sand, with occasional sub-angular pieces of sandstone. There was no artefactual material. The burning at the edges was 0.03m thick. Feature 908 is very like other features with burning *in situ* excavated in areas WC6C, WC6A and WC2. A charcoal sample (1020) provided radiocarbon dates of 330–200 cal. BC (70.4%) or 390–340 cal. BC (25%) (Beta-405802; 2240 ± 30 yrs BP).

9.3 Interpretation

9.3.1 The watching brief and sample characterization on the storage lay down area in Robingate Wood area uncovered several natural features sealed by the subsoil (B-Horizon) in the western part of the area and cut into natural geology, plus a prehistoric and several undated features in the northern part of the main trench.

9.3.2 One circular feature (908) appeared to represent a shallow pit with clear evidence of burning *in situ*. Its fill (909) contained large amounts of charcoal, and two struck flints were recovered from sieving of a sample of the charcoal. Radiocarbon dating of material in its fill provided a clear middle Iron Age date.

9.3.3 The colluvial deposits in the south-eastern part of the site contained relatively frequent lenses and fragments of charcoal, but no consistent horizon could be established. The mixed nature of the soils and charcoal lenses suggested either that the material had been dumped, or more likely, that the soils and charcoal had been moved by colluvial action from farther upslope to the east. One flint blade of either Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was found in the uppermost layer of the hollow, but in view of the mixed fills, this too was probably residual.

9.3.4 Seven post-holes forming an east/west running line at the north-western part of the site were identified as remain of modern fence.

9.4 Robingate Wood context inventory

Robingate Wood Storage Lay Down Area		
Area description	**Total area (ha)**	0.096
The site is located in the northern part of Robingate Wood to the west of the A21 and south of Longfield Road (TQ 61160 42160). An area of former woodland, the trees and soils were translocated to a new receptor area north of Longfield Road. The underlying geology is Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
	Width (m)	23.3
	Length (m)	56.5

Contexts

Context no.	Type	W x L (m)	D (m)	Description	Finds	Date
901	Layer	-	0.7	Friable, dark grey/brown sandy loam	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.25	Friable, orange/brown silty sand	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Firm, light brown/yellow silty sand with grey clay lenses	-	-
904	Fill of tree throw 905	-	0.32	Friable, grey/brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and stones	-	-
905	Tree throw	0.8 x 2.05	0.32	Irregular oval-shaped feature with a flat base that has signs of rooting	-	-
906	Fill of posthole 907	-	0.2	Friable, dark brown/grey silty sand (slightly gravelly)	Concrete	Modern
907	Cut of posthole	0.3 x 0.3	0.2	Circular posthole with vertical sides and slightly convex base	-	Modern
908	Cut of hearth	1.5 x 1.55	0.15	Circular fire-pit with flat base and shallow sides; burnt stone and rooting observed in the	-	Middle Iron Age

				base; close to series of postholes, one of which cuts the hearth		
909	Fill of hearth 908	-	0.07	Secondary fill of hearth consisting of firm, dark grey/brown silty sand with a concentration of charcoal and some sandstone fragments (**radiocarbon dated**)	Struck flint	390–340 cal. BC (25%); 330–200 cal. BC (70.4%)
910	Fill of hearth 908	-	0.05	Upper fill of hearth consisting of friable, yellow/brown silty sand with charcoal flecks	-	Middle Iron Age
911	Fill of hearth 908	-	0.03	Basal fill of hearth consisting of a thin layer of burnt material; soft, light orange/red sandy clay; the underlying natural has been scorched	-	Middle Iron Age
912	Fill of posthole 913	-	-	Hard, dark grey silty sand (not excavated)	-	-
913	Cut of posthole	0.27 x 0.28	-	Circular posthole found as part of a group near hearth 908 (not excavated)	-	-
914	Cut of pit	1.05 x 1.9	0.2	Oval pit with uneven base and shallow, moderately sloping sides	-	-
915	Fill of pit 914	-	0.2	Firm, dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional charcoal	-	-
916	Colluvial layer	-	0.06	An irregular layer lying across the eastern side of the site; contains intermittent patches of charcoal-rich material; moderately compact, yellow/brown sandy clay with dark brown mottling	Worked flint	Early prehistoric
917	Tree throw	1.01 x 4.6	0.3	Irregular feature with uneven base; overlain by colluvial layer 916	-	-
918	Fill of tree throw 917	-	0.3	Lower fill of tree throw; friable, light yellow/brown sandy clay with some sandstone fragments	-	-
919	Fill of tree throw 917	-	0.23	Upper fill of tree throw consisting of burnt material; friable, dark grey/black clay sand with some sandstone	-	-

10 CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF THE CHARACTER OF ACTIVITY BY PERIOD

10.1 Late Upper Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic

10.1.1 Single instances of flint artefacts of these periods have been found in IA3, IA5 and (possibly) IA7, and other less diagnostic pieces datable only as 'early prehistoric' may also belong to these periods, but there are no concentrations, and the struck flints are not believed to date the features in which they occur. They represent chance losses by mobile hunter-gatherers in the scheme area.

10.2 Later Mesolithic

10.2.1 One *in situ* flint scatter of this date, and another probably indicated by sizeable groups of struck flint in two adjacent tree-throw holes and a ditch, have been found in IA4, a plateau on a slight elevation halfway along the scheme. These represent knapping scatters and activity areas of the late Mesolithic period. A couple of other features within IA4 (2227 and 415) also contain small groups of flint that could have been of the same period. This plateau appears to have been a focus for activity of this period on two or more occasions, perhaps indicating that the plateau was a favoured stopover in the territory of a group of hunter-gatherers.

10.2.2 A scatter of other flint dated as `early prehistoric' that may be of this period has come from features on other areas along the scheme, with slightly higher numbers in the sites closest to IA4, that is IA5 and IA7 to the south, and IA3 and Burgess Hill Farm to the north. Almost all of this material comprises single instances in features. Mesolithic flints were also found during the excavations at Castle Hill fort (Money 1975). The generally southerly distribution of this material matches the pattern of previous findspots of Mesolithic material in the vicinity of the scheme (HE 2013, fig. H1.1–3). Almost all the flints not from the main scatters could however also be of early Neolithic date.

10.2.3 The pebble macehead found in IA6, which is a complete and well-preserved example, probably also dates to the later Mesolithic, although a Neolithic or early Bronze Age date is also possible. This object would best be explained as part of the wider evidence of transient activity by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers based on the plateau at IA4.

10.3 Early Neolithic

10.3.1 This period is only known within the scheme due to the radiocarbon-dating of a pit in IA5, although it is possible that a couple of other features containing small groups of flint, one (pit 1849) in IA7, the other (feature 415) in IA5, could also be of this date. Other pits with single struck flints along the scheme could also be Neolithic, but the flints could easily be residual, and more likely represent the residue of surface activities.

10.3.2 Limited activity of Neolithic date was reported from Money's excavations at Castle Hill fort (Money 1975), but it is uncertain whether this was of early or later Neolithic date. A few flint tools, comprising an axe and two scrapers, have been recovered as surface finds from the Pembury area east of the south end of the scheme.

10.4 Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

10.4.1 In terms of features, the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period is possibly represented by a pit on IA3, and by a tree-throw hole in IA5, though in neither case is the pottery

sufficiently diagnostic to be certain. There are also a couple of flint tools diagnostic of these periods, a complex tool from Burgess Hill Farm and a knife from the IA2 brickworks. A core from IA3 may also be from these periods. Overall this represents only low-level activity, possibly focussed around Castle Hill, where pottery of possibly late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date was found (Money 1975).

10.4.2 Surface finds from the vicinity of the scheme include a flint arrowhead and a couple of flint scrapers. A mound in Tudeley Wood some 500m from the scheme has tentatively been identified as a barrow on morphological grounds, but this has not been confirmed by geophysical survey or excavation.

10.5 Later Bronze Age

10.5.1 The later Bronze Age is represented by a burnt mound complex of middle Bronze Age date in IA3, and by a few struck flints of later Bronze Age character from sites to the north at Burgess Rough platform and IA1.

10.6 Early Iron Age

10.6.1 This period may not be present on the scheme. A pit in IA3, some 350m south of the burnt mound, contained a pottery base variously ascribed to the early Bronze Age or the early Iron Age, and if confirmed as Early Iron Age, would represent the only feature of this phase.

10.7 Middle and late Iron Age

10.7.1 A sub-circular enclosure around 55m in diameter was dug on the plateau at IA4, with entrances on the east, south-west and (probably) on the north-west. There were gullies and defining a smaller enclosed area inside, and a pair of postholes within this enclosure indicate that there may have been a building present. No pottery or other Iron Age finds were recovered from this enclosure, suggesting that it may have seen little occupation, but a radiocarbon date from charcoal at the terminus on the east gave a date of 210–50 cal. BC. A radiocarbon date of 80–220 cal. AD came from a secondary fill, showing that this enclosure remained visible, and was probably also used, in the Roman period. A couple of sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were found east of the enclosure in IA4, one in the top of an undated pit, the other residual in a medieval feature.

10.7.2 To the north of the enclosure in IA3 and Pond 2, a long N-S linear boundary ditch contained waterlogged and charred twigs that gave a radiocarbon date of 170 cal. BC-20 cal. AD, and so was contemporary with the enclosure. Two parallel lengths of ditch to the west of this boundary on a north-east to south-west alignment may represent associated elements of a field system, though neither was dated, and a sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery from the top of the burnt mound complex towards the north end of IA3 may also indicate activity of this date.

10.7.3 A spread of shallow circular and sub-circular fire-pits was found scattered throughout the length of the scheme, and charcoal from five of these, one from Potters Wood just north of IA4, and four from sites to the south (IA 5 (1), IA 7 (2) and Robingate Wood (1)) have been radiocarbon-dated to the middle-late Iron Age. A characteristic of all of these is a predominance of oak in the charcoal, and other (as yet undated) fire-pits dominated by oak charcoal suggest that the distribution may also include IA3. Fire-pits were also found farther

north at Castle Hill Wood and at IA1, but were not sampled. These indicate a widespread woodland activity in the hinterland of the enclosure, probably evidence of charcoal-burning.

10.7.4 All these elements represent contemporary activity in the hinterland of the scheduled Castle Hill fort, whose radiocarbon dates also demonstrate use in the middle and late Iron Age. No previous evidence of activity in the area, whether findspots or cropmarks, have been found (HE 2013).

10.8 Roman

10.8.1 The sub-circular enclosure in IA4 was still a visible earthwork in this period, and a radiocarbon date from its middle fill indicates that it was being visited in the Roman period. Slag from a smithing hearth-bottom may indicate small-scale repair of iron tools in this period, and a couple of sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were recovered from east of the enclosure (see 10.7 above).

10.8.2 Otherwise, a single sherd of pottery of late Iron Age or early Roman date from the top of the burnt mound complex in IA3 is the only other possible evidence of this period along the scheme. Although Roman finds have come from the area of natural springs at Tunbridge Wells, no other finds are known from the vicinity of the scheme, and the A21 results are consistent with the previous sparse evidence of Roman activity in the Central High Weald in this part of Kent.

10.9 Early medieval

10.9.1 No evidence of activity was recovered from the scheme.

10.10 Later medieval

10.10.1 The only artefactual evidence from this period consisted of a group of intercutting pits or tree-throw holes in IA4, which produced a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 1050–1260 and a few sherds of pottery of the same date range.

10.10.2 A scatter of further fire-pits dominated by non-oak charcoal, principally beech or birch, was found throughout the scheme, and four of these (IA2 (1), IA3 (1) and IA4 (2)) have been radiocarbon-dated to between cal. AD 1050 and 1300. These appear to be concentrated in the northern half of the scheme, but charcoal from other fire-pits (as yet undated) suggests that this activity may also have extended farther south into IA5 and IA7.

10.10.3 This indicates a further phase of woodland exploitation and charcoal-burning in the hinterlands of Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

10.10.4 A palaeochannel of the river Bourne was found at IA1, and waterlogged fills of this have given radiocarbon dates spanning the medieval period between cal. AD 1050 and 1400. Preservation of waterlogged seeds and insects is good, and it is likely that pollen will also be preserved, providing an opportunity for further information upon the contemporary environment around Tonbridge.

10.10.5 Tonbridge was an important settlement with a castle, and controlled a significant area (the Lowry of Tonbridge) in the medieval period, but until the 13th century rural settlement consisted of isolated farms rather than villages. Very little evidence of

surrounding settlement or other activity has been identified in the area of the scheme, and none has previously been firmly dated to the medieval, rather than the post-medieval period.

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