Post-Excavation Assessment

Bronze Age to Iron Age Remains at Site A3 Orbital Park Phase 1 Ashford, Kent

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Bronze Age to Iron Age Remains at Site A3, Orbital Park Phase 1, Ashford, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East carried out a strip, map and sample excavation between 21st September and 30th October 2015 at Site A3, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent. Salmon Harvester Properties Ltd commissioned and funded this Archaeological work sub-contracted to Oxford Archaeology East by Weiser Construction acting as the principle contractor. The site comprised 1.25 hectares of undeveloped land within an industrial park on the southern outskirts of Ashford that is proposed for further development of industrial units.

The current works constitute a westward extension of a 1.5 hectare site excavated by Oxford Archaeology South in 2010 (Site A3, Orbital Park Phase 2). The adjacent site revealed Iron Age settlement activity comprising ditched boundaries, ring gullies, round houses and pits. The pottery recovered indicated a Middle to Late Iron Age date for these remains. Indications of an earlier field system dating to the Bronze Age were also encountered. Iron Age and Bronze Age ditches were mapped leading west from the previous excavation into the current area of investigation.

The 2015 OA East excavations identified Middle Bronze Age ditched boundaries extending across the site, one of which contained a bronze palstave axe. A single beaker pit lay adjacent to one of these.

Two substantial enclosures from which small quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered were also found, while a single cremation burial pit was revealed in the northeastern corner of the site.

The excavations in the southern part of the site revealed a (presumably) ritual complex comprising three adjacent square ditched enclosures of varying, but similar, form and dimension. These were themselves bounded on the northern and western sides by further ditch segments. The enclosure ditches were fully excavated and yielded very small quantities of Late Iron Age pottery. Examples of similar Late Iron Age enclosures have been encountered elsewhere, sometimes associated with cremation burial sites, and it is possible that these represent mortuary enclosures associated with a nearby, as yet unidentified, burial site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Between the 21st September and 30th October 2015 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a second phase of 'Strip, Map & Sample' excavation at Site A3, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent (NGR TR 03083 40498; Fig. 1). Salmon Harvester Properties Ltd commissioned and funded this Archaeological work, sub-contracted to Oxford Archaeology East by Weiser Construction acting as the principle contractor, in respect of a proposed commercial development on the site (Planning Application: 07/00446/AS). The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for the Orbital Park development prepared by AECOM (then Scott Wilson) (Williamson 2008) and approved by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team (KCC/HCT).

1.1.2 The site comprises an undeveloped plot of land within the Orbital Industrial Park on the southern edge of the market town of Ashford. The first phase of archaeological excavation for the development scheme was carried out on a 1.5ha plot of land immediately to the east of the site by OA South in 2010 (Anker & Biddulph 2011). Significant archaeological settlement remains spanning the Iron Age were encountered alongside Bronze Age ditched boundaries.

1.1.3 The total area of this second phase of 'Strip, Map & Sample' excavation was approximately 1.2ha and comprised three separate areas (Areas 1, 2 and 3) corresponding to the proposed locations of the commercial buildings as part of the development. Preservation in situ was agreed with KCC/HCT beneath the access road and car parking areas of the development, where the density of archaeological remains were low and/or the construction levels of the development did not impact the archaeological horizons.

1.1.4 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in English Heritage's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment,* specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises an undeveloped plot of land within the Orbital Industrial Park immediately to the north of Bad Munstereifel Road (A2070) and on the southern edge of the market town of Ashford, at a height of approximately 40m OD (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Weald Clay Formation - mudstone. Superficial deposits are indicated to comprise Alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel (www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, accessed 2nd November 2015).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment for the site was prepared as part of the Written Scheme of Investigation by Scott Wilson for Salmon Harvester Properties Ltd (Williamson 2008) detailing the archaeological potential of the site and should be referred to for the full background. A further Desk-Based Assessment was prepared for the Post-excavation Assessment Report for the first phase of excavation by OA South (Anker & Biddulph 2011). These documents should be referred to for more detailed background information.

Recent excavations in the wider vicinity

1.3.2 The southern margins of Ashford have witnessed significant development in recent years leading to many more later prehistoric sites being identified through excavation in the wider vicinity of the site. Excavations of a wide swathe of land extending to the south of the site at Cheesemans Green (De'Athe 2011) has identified settlement remains and field boundaries dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. Further later prehistoric remains have been revealed on excavations at: Bilham Farm, Park Farm, Waterbrook Park Farm and Brisley Farm to the west of the site (Stevenson 2004; Powell 2012; Wessex 2008; Stevenson 2012) Foster Road and Hunter Avenue to the north (Boyer & Payne 2011).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Iain Williamson of AECOM for commissioning the work on behalf of Salmon Harvester Properties Ltd who funded the work. Richard Mortimer managed the project and Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council monitored the works. Thanks is also extended to John Canny and Weiser Construction for their helpful accommodation of the archaeological works on site. The fieldwork was supervised by the author and excavated by Adam Tuffy, Andrew Greef, Denis Sami and Lindsey Kemp. The site survey was conducted by Gareth Rees and Dave Brown. The georectified photography and processing was carried out by Lindsey Kemp. The illustrations were produced by Charlotte Walton and Séverine Bézie. Thanks are extended to the various specialists for their contributions.

2 Project Scope

2.1.1 This report deals solely with the 2015 excavation undertaken by OA East at Orbital Park, Ashford. Relevant parts of the previous phase of work undertaken by OA South immediately to the east of the site (Anker & Biddulph 2011) will be referred to during the assessment where appropriate.

3 Interfaces, Communications and Project Review

3.1.1 The Post-Excavation Assessment has been undertaken principally by Graeme Clarke (GC) and edited and quality assured in-house by Project Manager Richard Mortimer (RM) and Post-Excavation Editor Rachel Clarke (RC). It will be distributed to the Client (Salmon Harvester Properties Ltd and Weiser Construction), their archaeological consultant Iain Williamson (IW) of AECOM, and Wendy Rogers (WR) from KCC for comment and approval.

3.1.2 Following approval of the Post-Excavation Assessment discussions will be had where appropriate between GC, RM, RC, IW and WR to discuss post-excavation analysis. Further discussions will be had with the participants of the first phase of excavation (OA South; Anker & Biddulph 2011) and the participants of the anticipated final phase of excavation (OA South/OA East) with the aim of drawing the results and analysis of all the fieldwork together for an archive report and publication article.

3.1.3 In addition, following approval of the Post-Excavation Assessment, specialist meetings will be arranged to discuss and timetable the analysis stage of the work. Following these meetings, the post-excavation analysis and publication timetable will be finalised.

3.1.4 Meetings will be arranged as necessary/where appropriate at relevant points during the post-excavation analysis with IW and WR, or be conducted via email or telephone as appropriate.

4 Research Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording produced for the Orbital Park development (Williamson 2008) identified a suite of research aims that were designed to provide a framework for the subsequent assessment and analysis of results. A further Archaeological Method Statement (OA 2010) was produced for the first phase of excavation on the plot of land immediately to the east of the site that refined these research aims. Based on the first phase of excavation (Anker & Biddulph 2011) additional research priorities were identified, and a set of questions detailed, as part of the post-excavation assessment for that phase, these are included below.

4.2 Original Objectives (Williamson 2008)

4.2.1 To establish a phased plan of the archaeological deposits revealed following machine excavation of topsoil and overburden.

4.2.2 To refine the chronology of the archaeological phasing.

4.2.3 Investigate the function of structural remains and determine the activities taking place within the defined area and its environs.

4.2.4 To identify and characterise remains of Bronze Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Balancing Pond and Keel Toys sites. The archaeological contractor should be aware of the evolving research themes presented for the South East Regional Research Framework in terms of the development of late prehistoric settlement patterns, land use and the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition.

4.2.5 To contributing to the regional chronology and pottery type series for the Middle to Late Bronze Age period.

4.2.6 To identify and characterise remains of Iron Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Boys Hall moat and Waterbrook Farm.

4.2.7 To identify and characterise potential palaeo-environmental remains on the site and undertake an appropriate programme of environmental sampling in order to increase the understanding of the palaeo-environment of the area.

4.2.8 To identify and characterise medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the adjacent Boys Hall Scheduled Monument, in order to asses the extent and importance of the monument with the local landscape and settlement pattern of the period.

4.3 Aims of fieldwork (OA 2010)

General aims:

4.3.1 Define and outline the implementation of a strip, map and sample strategy of mitigation in order to ensure preservation by record where known archaeological deposits will be impacted upon.

4.3.2 Record the nature, depth and extent of features and deposits previously identified within the defined area of the strategy.

4.3.3 Record the location, nature, depth, extent, date and significance of any additional archaeological deposits within the defined area of the strategy.

4.3.4 Signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources are allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory proper standard.

4.3.5 Make available the results of the investigation.

Specific aims:

4.3.6 Establish a phased plan of archaeological deposits revealed following machine excavation of topsoil and overburden.

4.3.7 Refine the chronology of the archaeological phasing and investigate the function of structural remains and to determine the activities taking place within the defined area and its environs.

4.3.8 Identify and characterise remains of Bronze Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Balancing Pond and other sites.

4.3.9 Contribute to the regional chronology and pottery type series for the Middle to Late Bronze Age period.

4.3.10 Identify and characterise remains of Iron Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Boys Hall Moat and Waterbrook Farm.

4.3.11 Identify and characterise potential palaeo-environmental remains on the site and undertake an appropriate programme of environmental sampling in order to increase the understanding of the palaeo-environment of the area.

4.3.12 Identify and characterise medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the adjacent Boys Hall Scheduled Monument in order to asses the extent and importance of the monument with the local landscape and settlement pattern of the period.

4.4 Questions raised by the first phase of excavation (Anker & Biddulph 2011)

4.4.1 Where was the focus of Neolithic activity? What activities were being carried out?

4.4.2 How does the Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence fit with current understanding of contemporaneous activity in the region?

4.4.3 When was the Iron Age settlement established? How long was it occupied?

4.4.4 What was the economic basis of the site? How was it organised? What was the function of the ditches (eg to form enclosures, provide drainage, or mark boundaries)?

4.4.5 What does the middle Iron Age pottery reveal about the introduction of ceramic traditions, particularly grog-tempering, and their spread across the region? What implications are there for the dating of late Iron Age sites?

4.4.6 How do Westhawk Farm and Orbital Park compare in terms of settlement size, organisation, morphology and economy?

4.4.7 How does the settlement at Orbital Park compare with contemporary sites in other parts of Kent, such as Farningham (Philp 1984), White Horse Stone, Aylesford (Hayden 2006), and, closer to Ashford, Beechbrook Wood (Brady 2006)? Do they share aspects of, say, settlement organisation or chronology?

4.4.8 Why was the settlement abandoned? Characterisation of the soil from the monoliths suggests that the site became increasingly wet towards the end of the Iron Age. Is this supported by the pattern of deposition in features across the site (eg alluvial deposits in

the latest ditches)? Can we see evidence of rising water levels leading to a change in the pattern of late Iron Age/early Roman settlement? Or was abandonment related to a re-organisation of settlement in the decades following the Roman conquest, and re-settlement of the rural population into larger centres, including Westhawk Farm?

4.5 South East Research Framework Research Agenda (Anker & Biddulph 2011)

4.5.1 The previous Post-excavation Assessment Report also identified additional research priorities with reference to the South East Research Framework Research Agenda:

- The location and distribution of Middle Iron Age settlement;
- Continuity or discontinuity of sites;
- The character and location/zoning of structures within settlements;
- The size, variability, filling and filling of pits; and
- The transition from the Middle to Late Iron Age.

5 Summary of Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological works uncovered evidence for activity spanning the Early Bronze Age to Late Iron Age periods with the majority of features dating to the Late Iron Age. Summaries and descriptions of the features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section with a context inventory presented in Appendix A, Table 6. Feature locations are shown in Figures 2-5 and selected sections presented as Figure 6.

5.1.2 Lastly this section provides a brief outline discussion of the Bronze Age and Iron Age remains encountered on the site.

5.1.3 The proposed development area was subject to three open-area excavations referred to as Areas 1, 2 & 3, totalling approximately 1.2 hectares (Fig. 2). The archaeological works uncovered evidence for:

- Late Iron Age enclosure and cremation burial with Bronze Age ditches in Area 1;
- post-medieval and modern boundary ditches in Area 2; and
- a Late Iron Age ritual complex, enclosure and further ditches, Bronze Age ditches and pits in Area 3.

5.1.4 The chronological phasing presented below is largely based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent, similarity of alignment of linear features. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided by stratified artefacts.

5.1.5 Three periods of activity have been identified:

- Period 1: Bronze Age (*c.*2500-700BC)
- Period 2: Later Iron Age (100BC-AD*c.*50)
- Period 3: Post-medieval & modern (*c.*1500-present)

5.2 Period 1: Bronze Age (c.2500 – 700BC)

Beaker pit 169 and surrounding features (Fig. 5)

5.2.1 This pit was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile and contained a charcoal rich sandy silt upper fill (134) that yielded nine (42g) Early Bronze Age decorated beaker pottery sherds and a residual lightly re-touched (denticulated) Neolithic flint flake. The lower fill (170) was relatively sterile light grey silty clay and contained one further flint flake. A second nearby pit (**238**) of similar dimensions also contained a charcoal rich dark grey sandy clay fill yielding a Neolithic flint blade.

5.2.2 Three short narrow ditch lengths in this area (**183**/**185**, **173**/**175** & **181**) may relate to either this Beaker phase or the subsequent Middle Bronze Age phase. The ditches were all shallow, narrow linear features up to 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep, with U-shaped profiles. The fills consisted of firm grey silty clay containing no finds.

Middle Bronze Age ditches

Ditches 1 & 2

5.2.3 Parallel ditches 1 & 2 (**18**/**20**/**32** & **22**/**39** respectively) were revealed running on a north to south alignment in Area 1 which continued south to Area 3 (**233** & **235**). Ditch 1 measured up to 0.61m wide and 0.3m deep and contained firm greyish brown silty clay fills (19/21/33). Ditch 2 measured up to 0.55m wide and 0.26m deep and contained firm greyish brown silty clay fills with occasional flint gravel inclusions (23/40). The fills of ditch 2 yielded four small sherds (5g) of Early Bronze Age pottery.

Ditch 3

5.2.4 This ditch (**65**/**75**/**82**/**119**/**135**/**177**/**230**/**239**/**241**/**243**/**249**), first recorded in the previous phase of excavation to the north-east, ran from northeast to southwest across Area 3. The ditch measured up to 1.38m wide and 0.56m deep towards the northeastern end of the site where it had a U-shaped profile. The ditch narrowed to the southwest where it measured 0.25m wide and 0.12m deep with a more V-shaped profile. The fills consisted of a firm silty clay fill (66/76/83/136/178/231/232/240/242/244/246/250) with occasional gravel inclusions that varied from a light olive brown to a greyish brown. The fill of ditch cut **241** contained twelve Middle Bronze Age pottery fragments (38g). Twelve fragments (36g) of residual Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the fill of cut **177** in the vicinity of Beaker pit **169** and surrounding features. A single residual Neolithic narrow flint flake was recovered from the fill of cut **119**.

Ditches 4 & 5

5.2.5 Parallel ditches 4 & 5 (**106**/**114** & **110**/**116** respectively) were revealed within Area 3 on a north-west to south-east alignment and terminated to the south of the later Iron Age ritual complex (see below). Ditch 4 measured up to 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep and contained firm pale olive brown and mid grey silty clay fills (107/115). Ditch 5 measured up to 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep and contained firm pale olive brown silty clay fills with rare gravel inclusions (111/117/118). A Middle Bronze Age palstave axe (Sf 1; Plate 1) was recovered from the fill (118) of ditch 5 at its terminus. These ditches were truncated by Iron Age ditch **108**/**112**.

Further ditches

5.2.6 Ditch **61** (parallel to ditch 3) was exposed within the north-east corner of Area 3 a short distance before terminating and, although undated, is almost certainly contemporary. The ditch measured 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with a V-shaped profile. The fill (62) consisted of firm light olive brown silty clay.

5.3 Period 2: Later Iron Age (100BC-AD*c.*50)

Area 1 (Fig. 3; Plate 2)

Enclosure 1

5.3.1 This feature (**24**/**34**/**36**/**41**/**46**) comprised the southern and eastern sides of a ditched enclosure that extended north beyond the limit of excavation where it had been recorded during the OA South excavation. The ditch measured up to 1.42m wide and 0.5m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (25/26/27/35/37/38/42/47) consisted of firm silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions that varied between a brownish grey and an orange brown colour. The fill of cut **41** yielded a fragment (15g) of Late Iron Age pottery. A residual fragment (4g) of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a Neolithic flint blade were recovered from the fill of cut **34**.

5.3.2 A further ditch segment (**28**) to the south was excavated that may also belong to this period. The ditch measured 0.45m wide and 0.1m deep with a U-shaped profile and contained a fill (29) consisting of firm light grey silty clay.

Cremation (Plate 3)

5.3.3 A cremation burial pit (**7**) was excavated on the northwestern edge of the area, the fill (6) of which consisted of firm dark grey silty clay and contained frequent charcoal with 100g of cremated human bone fragments. The circular pit measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.15m deep with vertical sides merging sharply with a flat base. It is currently undated.

Area 3 (Fig. 5; Plate 2)

Ritual Complex (Plates 4 & 5)

Enclosures

5.3.4 A group of features was revealed in the central part of Area 3 the layout of which suggests a ritual function. Three adjacent square ditched enclosures (**84**, **104**/**105** & **133**) were set out on a west-southwest to east-northeast alignment. They enclosed approximately 3m^2, 5m^2 & 4m^2 areas respectively. Within the enclosures there was no evidence for any internal features or structural remains. The central enclosure was recorded cutting the alignment and fills of Middle Bronze Age ditch 3.

5.3.5 The eastern enclosure comprised a narrow ditch (**84**) up to 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. A 1m wide entrance was located on the northern corner of the enclosure. The single fill (excavated in 1m segments: 85-97) consisted of firm dark brownish grey clayey silt.

5.3.6 The central enclosure comprised two opposing L-shaped narrow ditches (**104**/**105**) up to 0.6m wide and 0.17m deep with U-shaped profiles. Entrances, approximately 1m wide, were located at the eastern and western corners of the enclosure. The single fill (excavated in 1m segments: 147-155 & 156-164) consisted of firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

5.3.7 The western enclosure consisted of a wider ditch (**133**) up to 1m wide and 0.34m deep with a continuous circuit. The single fill (excavated in 1m segments: 189-200) consisted of firm brownish grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions.

Boundary ditch segments

5.3.8 The three enclosures lay within an area defined by a series of ditch segments. Ditch segment **201** bounded the western side with the northern side bounded by ditch segments **203** and **98**/**100**/**102**.

5.3.9 Ditch segment **201** measured 6.5m long, 0.38m wide and 0.1m deep with a U-shaped profile. The single fill (202) consisted of firm pale olive brown silty clay.

5.3.10 Ditch segment **203** measured 14m long, 1m wide and 0.44m deep with a U-shaped profile containing two fills. The upper fill (excavated in 1m segments: 204-216) consisted of soft mid-brownish grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The lower fill (excavated in 1m segments: 218-228) consisted of firm mid-yellowish brown clayey silt.

5.3.11 Ditch segment **98**/**100**/**102** measured 4.5m long, and up to 0.8m wide by 0.25m deep, with a flat based U-shaped profile. The fills (99/101/103) consisted of firm pale olive brown silty clay.

Finds

5.3.12 The fills of all the features comprising the ritual complex contained very small assemblages of pottery. Four fragments (7g) of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill of enclosure **84**. Residual Early Bronze Age fragments were recovered from the fills of enclosures **104**/**105** (eleven fragments; 68g) and **133** (six fragments; 36g). The fill of ditch **203** contained two fragments (5g) of Iron Age pottery with two residual fragments (3g) of Early Bronze Age pottery in the fill of ditch **98**/**100**/**102**.

Ditch 6

5.3.13 This ditch (**69**/**124**/**138**/**141**/**179**) ran from east-northeast to west-southwest across Area 3 with a continuation recorded for a short distance across the first excavation stage to the north-east of the site. The ditch measured up to 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (70/123/137/140/180) consisted of firm silty clay with rare gravel inclusions that varied between a greyish brown and a dark grey colour. A single small fragment (1g) of prehistoric pottery, not closely datable, was recovered from the fill of cut **138**.

5.3.14 Ditch **63**/**80** ran parallel to and to the south of Ditch 6 and was recorded during the previous phase of excavation. The ditch measured up to 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep with a V-shaped profile. The fills (64/81) consisted of firm light olive brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.

Enclosure 2

5.3.15 This feature (**67**/**73**/**77**/**122**) comprised part of the southern and western sides of a ditched enclosure that extended north beyond the limit of excavation where it was also recorded during the previous excavation phase. The ditch measured up to 1.55m wide and 0.6m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (68/74/78/79/121) consisted of firm silty clay with rare gravel inclusions that varied between an olive brown and a dark greyish brown colour. Two (2g) small Late Iron Age pottery fragments were recovered from the fill of cut **73**. The fill of cut **73** also contained three fragments (35g) of residual Early Bronze Age pottery where this enclosure truncated Middle Bronze Age ditch 3. In addition, the fill of cut **122** contained three fragments (7g) of residual Bronze Age pottery.

Ditch 7

5.3.16 Three sections of this ditch (**125/167/171**) were excavated with the fill of cut **125** yielding two Iron Age pottery fragments (8g) and a piece of irregular flint waste. Three

residual fragments (3g) of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a flint flake were recovered from the fill of cut **171** where this ditch truncated the Bronze Age ditches surrounding Beaker pit **169**. This ditch appeared to be a possible reinstatement of heavily truncated ditch **165**. The ditch measured up to 1.02m wide and 0.38m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (126/166/168/172) consisted of greyish brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.

Further ditches

5.3.17 Ditch **108**/**112** entered the site from the south and truncated Bronze Age ditches 4 & 5. The ditch measured up to 0.9m wide and 0.33m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (109/113) consisted of firm grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.

Pits 71 & 142

5.3.18 A single isolated circular pit (**71**), that measured 1.1m in diameter and 0.1m deep, was excavated within Enclosure 2; it contained a charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay fill (72). A second isolated circular pit (**142**), that measured 1.2m in diameter and 0.5m deep, was excavated at the south-western corner of the Area and contained a succession of three charcoal-rich silty clay fills. Both these pits remain undated and may belong within the broader Bronze Age phase.

5.4 Period 3: Post-medieval & modern (*c.* 1500 – present)

Ditch 8 (Figs. 3 & 4)

5.4.1 A boundary ditch (**5**/**9**/**10**/**43**/**48**/**50**/**53**/**55**/**57**) ran parallel with the modern boundary of the site in Area 1 on a north-east to south-west alignment. This boundary continued beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation where it was recorded as a potential Iron Age ditch during the previous excavation phase. This ditch continued into Area 2 (Plate 6) where it turned to the south-east respecting the current western boundary of the site. The ditch measured up to 1.1m wide and 0.32m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fills (4/8/11/44/49/51/54/56/58) consisted of firm grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. The excavated fills contained post-medieval tile fragments (not retained).

5.4.2 A recently backfilled modern feature (**60**), that measured 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep, was encountered that ran from south-west to north-east across Areas 2 & 3. The soft greyish brown silty clay backfill (59) contained brushwood and plastic refuse. This probably represents the gradually infilled remnant of the 1990s evaluation trenching.

5.5 Discussion

Early Bronze Age activity

5.5.1 Beaker pit **169** is the only feature of Early Bronze Age date to have been identified in either phase of the investigation and no Early Bronze Age remains were cited in the desk-based assessment within the wider area around the site. Indeed, Beaker pits and pottery are rarely found in the region (see Appendix B.3). The pottery assemblage suggests domestic occupation raising the possibility of further Early Bronze Age settlement remains within the vicinity.

Middle Bronze Age boundaries

5.5.2 The excavations identified three Middle Bronze Age 'double ditched' boundaries extending across the site, one of which contained a bronze palstave axe (Sf. 1) at its terminus. Indications of an earlier field system dating to the Bronze Age were also encountered during the previous phase to the east of the site. That investigation recovered a globular urn from near the terminus of ditch **1628** which may have formed

part of a fourth 'double ditched' boundary. Bronze Age field ditches have also been revealed at the Boys Hall Moat excavation (Heyden 2000) immediately to the northeast of the site and in the wider vicinity (see section 7.2).

5.5.3 While ditch 3 has been demonstrated to represent a Middle Bronze Age boundary within the recent excavation, it was interpreted as Iron Age within the previous excavation phase to the north-east (ditch **2714**, Phase B, Fig. 2; Anker & Biddulph 2011). It is possible therefore that during the analysis stage of the works further boundaries may be reassigned a Middle Bronze Age date.

Iron Age ritual complex

5.5.4 The excavations revealed a (presumably) ritual complex comprising three adjacent square ditched enclosures of varying, but similar, form and dimension. These were themselves bounded on the northern and western sides by further ditch segments. The enclosure ditches were fully excavated and yielded very small quantities of Late Iron Age and residual Bronze Age pottery. Examples of similar Late Iron Age enclosures have been encountered elsewhere (see Section 7.3), sometimes associated with cremation burial sites, and it is possible that these represent mortuary enclosures associated with a nearby, as yet unidentified, burial site.

Iron Age? cremation

5.5.5 A single undated human cremation burial pit was revealed in the north-eastern corner of the site. No human remains or features associated with funerary activity were encountered during the previous excavation phase to the east. However, a small group of five cremations, and possible evidence for pyre activity, were found at the Boys Hall Moat excavation, immediately to the north-east of that site. These burials dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (100BC-AD70), and the undated cremation revealed on the current site could feasibly be associated with the Iron Age ritual complex.

Iron Age enclosures

5.5.6 Two substantial enclosures from which small quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered were also found. No settlement remains were encountered within their circuits. The previous excavation Phase (Phase 2) comprised direct settlement activity commencing in the Middle Iron Age and continuing into the Late Iron Age when the site was abandoned. The enclosures on its western periphery probably represent livestock enclosures associated with the Late Iron Age phase of the settlement.

6 Factual Data and Assessment of Archaeological Potential

6.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The Excavation Record

6.1.1 The written and drawn elements of the contextual record form the main components of the excavation data and are sufficient to form the basis of the site narrative. The phases of activity on the site span the Bronze Age to Late Iron Age and post-medieval/modern periods. Whilst all of these periods will be addressed by the aims and objectives of the post-excavation analysis, the main areas of research will focus on the Late Iron Age with further stratigraphic analysis of the site and documentary research of the area.

6.1.2 The greatest potential for fulfilling the original aims and objectives of the excavation set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Post-excavation Assessment report on the first phase of excavation lies in the study of the archaeological features and finds assemblages associated with:

1) the Early Bronze Age pit, surrounding features and Middle Bronze Age ditches in Areas 1 & 3; and

2) the Late Iron Age enclosures, cremation & pits in Areas 1 & 3.

6.1.3 Additional aims and objectives will be set out in Section 7 associated with the ritual complex identified in Area 3.

Condition of the Primary Excavation Sources and Documents

6.1.4 The records are complete and have been checked for internal accuracy. Written and drawn records have been completed on archival quality paper and are indexed. All paper archives have been digitised into the individual site Access database. Site drawings have been digitised in AutoCAD.

Type	Excavation
Context Register	7
Context numbers	250
Context records	235 (15 void records)
Plan Registers	2
Plans at 1:10	1
Plans at 1:20	42
Plans at 1:50	4
Plans at 1:100	2
Sections register sheets	3
Sections at 1:10	83
Sections at 1:20	14
Sample Register sheets	5
Photo Register sheets	10
Black and White Films	2
Digital photographs	145 shots
Small finds register sheets	1

Table 1: Quantity of written and drawn records

6.1.5 All primary records are retained at the offices of OA East, Bar Hill. The county HER Event number ASORB10 is allocated and all paper records, finds and environmental remains are stored under this HER code. The site code XKTORB15 is allocated to the digital records retained at OA East.

6.1.6 The site data is of sufficient quality to address all of the project's Research Objectives and form the basis of further analysis and targeted publication of the key features, finds and environmental assemblages.

Finds and Environmental Quantification

6.1.7 All finds have been washed, quantified and bagged. The catalogue of all finds has been entered onto an MS Access database. Total quantities for each material type are listed below.

Category	Weight (g)
Pottery	351
Worked flint	42
Cremated human bone	95
Small finds (number)	1

Table 2: Finds quantification

6.1.8 Environmental bulk samples were collected from a representative cross section of feature types and deposits. Bulk samples were taken to analyse the preservation of micro- and macro-botanical remains as well as for finds retrieval.

Sample type	*Cremation*	*Pit*	*Ditch*	*Total*
Flotation	4	5	26	**35**

Table 3: Quantification of samples by feature type

Range and Variety

6.1.9 Features on the site included: Bronze Age pits and field boundary ditches; Late Iron Age ritual complex ditches; undated cremation pit and further pitting activity; Late Iron Age enclosure ditches and field boundaries.

Condition

6.1.10 The survival of the archaeological features was on the whole good. However there was a paucity of artefactual remains with only a few fragmentary sherds of prehistoric pottery and the occasional flint flake recovered from the fills of features. No animal bone was present on the site and the fills of features appeared to be sterile of ecofacts with the exception of charcoal fragments present within the Bronze Age and Iron Age pits.

6.2 Artefact Summaries

Palstave

Summary

6.2.1 A complete unlooped palstave with shield decoration was recovered, well-stratified, from context 117 within Middle Bronze Age ditch 5 on the site. It is without doubt of Middle Bronze Age date, with shield decoration regarded as an early feature of the type, suggesting that this example can be dated *c*.1500 – 1300 BC.

Statement of Potential

6.2.2 Prehistoric metalwork is always of interest and the corpus of such items from Kent is not large, and as such, this has potential to further inform the dating and interpretation of the site and will add to local and regional knowledge.

Lithics

Summary

6.2.3 A small assemblage of seven pieces (42g) of struck flint was recovered from the excavation, from both pit and ditch contexts. The assemblage is composed primarily of flakes and blades, with one lightly re-touched (denticulated) piece. The overall impression is of a Neolithic assemblage, some of it diagnostically earlier Neolithic. The majority was recovered from Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and therefore represents residual material, with even that from the earliest features, the Beaker pit(s), liable to be residual.

Statement of Potential

6.2.4 This is a small, residual assemblage with no context producing more than one piece. It demonstrates land-use in the Neolithic period but there is no potential for further analysis.

Pottery

Summary

6.2.5 A total of 87 sherds weighing 351g were collected from 20 excavated features. The pottery is fragmentary and no complete vessels were recovered. The sherds are mostly small and poorly preserved and the average sherd weight is 4g. With the exception of the Beaker pottery almost all the tentative pottery dating is based on fabric types as few diagnostic sherds were recovered.

6.2.6 Beaker pit deposits are fairly unusual in Kent but, like the more commonly found examples in East Anglia, appear to contain material derived from reasonably mature midden deposits. Middle Bronze Age pottery in Kent is characterised by flint-tempered fabrics. The evidence from the site suggests potential Middle Bronze Age activity, though the widespread use of flint as temper in prehistoric pottery means that the dating of this assemblage must remain tentative. The presence of sandy and shell-tempered sherds within the fills of some of the ditches indicates possible later Iron Age activity at the site, though again the absence of diagnostic sherds means dating is uncertain.

Statement of Potential

6.2.7 The Beaker pit and other contemporary sherds are rarely found in the region and are therefore of interest and should be compared with assemblages on nearby sites.

6.3 Environmental Summaries

Human skeletal remains

Summary

6.3.1 An isolated, unurned and undated cremation burial (7), was identified during the excavation. A total of 95g of human bone was analysed. The thinness of the skull and the gracile nature of the limb shafts suggesting that they were the remains of an immature individual, probably under the age of about 10years.

Statement of Potential

6.3.2 No further analysis of the cremated bone is necessary although radio carbon dating of the cremated bone is recommended to ascertain which period the burial is contemporary to within the landscape.

Environmental samples

Summary

6.3.3 Thirty-five bulk samples were taken during excavations at the site. Nine samples were taken from seven Bronze Age features including pits and ditches. Only sparse charcoal fragments were preserved. Similarly, none of the thirteen Iron Age ditch samples contained any plant remains. The only potential Iron Age feature with any significant remains consisted of the fill of pit **71** that produced 80ml of charcoal.

Statement of Potential

6.3.4 Despite extensive sampling at the site it is evident that plant remains have not been preserved and therefore there is no potential for further analysis. The paucity of preserved remains recovered from the adjacent settlement area during the previous phase of excavation suggests that the lack of preservation is probably due to the acidic nature of the soil.

7 Updated Research Aims and Objectives

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The research aims and objectives identified for the project as a whole are detailed in Section 4. The Post-excavation Assessment Report for the first phase of excavation of the main part of the Iron Age settlement should be referred to for a full description of the updated aims and objectives relating to the Iron Age settlement (Anker & Biddulph 2011, 19).

7.1.2 The original aims most relevant to this phase of the excavation are further repeated below with summary statements outlining potential examples for further analysis to help achieve these objectives.

7.1.3 This phase of the investigation has revealed significant additional remains comprising an Iron Age ritual complex and a Bronze Age field system with an associated palstave. Additional research aims resulting from these are also given below.

7.2 Original aims of fieldwork (OA 2010)

Bronze Age remains

Identify and characterise remains of Bronze Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Balancing Pond and other sites.

7.2.1 The Middle Bronze Age field boundary encountered in the first phase of excavation continued across the current excavation. Further remains included earlier, Beaker pits and further Middle Bronze Age 'double ditched' boundaries, one of which yielded a palstave axe at its terminus.

Field systems

7.2.2 This excavation has produced further evidence for Bronze Age field systems that complements that from other sites within the local landscape such as the adjacent Boys Hall Moat excavation (Heyden 2000). An excavation at Hunter Avenue, 1.5km to the

north of the site, revealed evidence for a field system dated to the Bronze Age (Boyer & Payne 2011). The Brisley Farm excavation, 4km to the west of the site, identified a Bronze Age field system and trackways (Stevenson 2012). Combined this suggests extensive exploitation of the landscape in this period.

Settlement

7.2.3 The excavations at Foster Road, 0.5km to the north of the site, has revealed Middle Bronze Age settlement including a roundhouse with a field system and enclosures in use to the Late Bronze Age. An excavated area at Waterbrook Park Farm, 0.5km to the south of the site, revealed settlement remains dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition including roundhouse gullies and posts. These remains were centred on a small plateau on the East Stour River flood plain.

Contribute to the regional chronology and pottery type series for the Bronze Age period.

7.2.4 The Early Bronze Age pottery from the Beaker pit is found rarely in the region and is therefore of interest and can be compared with nearby sites. The assemblage suggests domestic occupation rather than funerary activity.

7.2.5 Middle Bronze Age pottery in Kent is characterised by flint-tempered fabrics. The evidence from the site suggests potential Middle Bronze Age ditches at the site with a number of fragments also occurring residually in Iron Age contexts.

Iron Age settlement

Identify and characterise remains of Iron Age date placing them within their local and regional context and their relationship with remains recorded at the adjacent Boys Hall Moat and Waterbrook Farm.

7.2.6 No further settlement remains were encountered in the western part of the site, establishing a western limit to the Iron Age settlement activity excavated by OA South. This limit may be associated with the gradual fall in gradient across the site towards the flood plain of the River Stour to the west.

7.2.7 The Iron Age remains included ditches that contained small quantities of fragmentary pottery in comparison to the large amounts of Iron Age pottery recovered from ditches excavated at Boys Hall Moat considered to be part of a field system of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date.

7.2.8 The single cremation burial pit was similarly un-urned to the group of five cremations excavated at Boys Hall Moat, with both examples containing possible evidence for pyre activity. These burials may possibly be associated with the ritual complex.

7.2.9 The excavations at Waterbrook Park Farm to the south of the site revealed settlement remains dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition including roundhouse gullies and posts. Settlement activity dating to the 1st century AD was also uncovered.

7.2.10 Iron Age remains in Ashford have also been encountered at Cheeseman's Green, Foster Road, Bilham Farm, Hunter Avenue, Park Farm, Brisley Farm and The Limes (referenced in Section 1.3.2).

7.2.11 Interestingly, possible breaks in activity in the Early to Middle Iron Age before a Late Iron Age reoccupation was identified at the Foster Road, Waterbrook Park Farm and Brisley Farm excavations.

Further aims

Identify and characterise potential palaeo-environmental remains on the site and undertake an appropriate programme of environmental sampling in order to increase the understanding of the palaeo-environment of the area.

7.2.12 No faunal remains were recovered from the site and may be due to naturally acidic conditions in the underlying silty clay geology. Thus the 35 bulk environmental samples taken also contain sparse environmental remains due to these ground conditions.

7.3 Additional Research aims

7.3.1 Additional research aims have been identified as a result of the identification and excavation of the (presumably) Late Iron Age ritual complex. A further objective will also be to place the potentially ritual deposition of the Middle Bronze Age palstave into its local and regional context.

The ritual complex

7.3.2 What examples of similar enclosures have been encountered elsewhere in southern England that can help to characterise this ritual complex and place it within the local and regional ritual landscape?

7.3.3 Can the complex be associated with the cremation burial excavated at the site and those excavated at Boys Hall Moat?

Local examples of ritual complexes

7.3.4 Possible Late Iron Age mortuary enclosures have been revealed on excavations at The Limes, Kingsnorth Road, 3km to the west of the site. Human cremated bone was found to be scattered across the site (Gray 2015; Wilkinson forthcoming).

7.3.5 An octagonal temple or shrine within a rectangular enclosure was revealed within a planned Roman settlement and possibly a small town dating to the 1st-3rd century AD during the excavation at Westhawk Farm, 3km west of the site (Booth *et al.* 2008).

Regional examples of Iron Age ritual complexes

7.3.6 Two further examples of groups of three aligned small square enclosures, identified through excavation, are given below with a further example identified through aerial survey. Other similar examples of this type of square enclosure associated with shrines or cremation burials in the region are also described.

'Arras' type barrows

7.3.7 Features of this type have been interpreted as Late Iron Age 'Arras' type barrows including those excavated at: Harford Farm, Caistor St Edmund & Valley Belt, Trowse, Norfolk (Ashwin & Bates 2000); or Bardyke Field, Maxey, Cambridgeshire (Pryor & French 1985). These sites are summarised below.

7.3.8 The Harford Farm excavation revealed six small square-ditched enclosures dated to *c.* 50 BC-AD 50, located on the site of an earlier Bronze Age barrow field. Five were interpreted as having a ceremonial function. These were also postulated to have possibly contained cremations that may have been truncated by ploughing. Evidence also showed some enclosure ditches may have had an inner bank. There was a near-total absence of artefacts recovered from these features with only a small assemblage of of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. One square enclosure, of different form, was surrounded by a narrow segmented trench with evidence for post settings and interpreted as a post-in-trench wall or fence. This example was considered to be an open air shrine with a surrounding screen or fence. Only one isolated cremation burial of contemporary date was found on the site, which also contained a Colchester type brooch.

7.3.9 The excavations at Valley Belt recorded two adjacent square-ditched features that were considered, with reference to the Harford Farm examples, to probably represent further square barrows of Early Romano-British date. A small amount of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the ditches, indicating a later Iron Age date.

7.3.10 The excavation at Bardyke Field revealed three small aligned square ditched enclosures similar to the ones excavated at the site. Each enclosure measured *c.* 6m square with enclosure ditches of varying width and depth. The ditches were completely excavated but only yielded two flint flakes, small bone fragments and a small fragment of pottery. The enclosures were truncated by a ditch and a pit dated to the mid-1st century AD. No internal features were present. These were interpreted as small barrows of the Yorkshire 'Arras' type and originally to have had low mounds within the enclosures containing a shallow grave. Three further (but separate) square enclosures were also recorded in the near vicinity. Other monuments encountered on this site included a cursus, a henge, Neolithic pit circles and other circular monuments probably representing Bronze Age barrows.

7.3.11 The Cambridgeshire HER (CHER 08278; TL 303 700) describes crop-marks of three aligned square barrows of unknown date, but with no central burials visible, at Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire.

Shrines or mortuary enclosures

7.3.12 Other examples have been interpreted as shrines or mortuary enclosures associated with cremation or inhumation burial sites as those excavated at: Westhampnett, West Sussex (Fitzpatrick 1997); Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire (Horne (ed.) 2009); and Hinxton Road, Duxford, Cambridgeshire (Lyons 2011). These sites are summarised below.

7.3.13 The Westhampnett site included shrines, pyres and many cremation burials. The four small square ditched enclosures excavated were considered to be examples of shrines, and similar to the multiple examples known from the Iron Age hillfort of Danebury, Hampshire (Cunliffe 1984) and Cadbury Castle, Somerset (Alcock 1973). The Danebury examples were interpreted as trench built structures. The Westhampnett enclosures are also considered to be foundation trenches for close set planks. Fired clay (possibly daub) as well as small quantities of pottery were found in the shrine ditches. The enclosures were all grouped together on one side of the cremation cemetery. One cremation burial was found in the centre of one of the square enclosures along with a post-hole at each corner.

7.3.14 Excavations on the Biddenham Loop identified a possible ritual complex of two small square enclosures enclosed by a larger ditched enclosure. A further third square enclosure was identified on the same alignment close by from a previous excavation (Luke 2008). Small pits were located within the enclosures but did not yield any finds. This complex was described as similar to examples associated with burials excavated in the north of France.

7.3.15 Excavations at Hinxton Road, Duxford revealed a small rectangular ditched enclosure interpreted as the foundation trench for a short-lived timber-framed shrine of the Late Iron Age period. Only a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and a large mammal rib was recovered from the ditch fill. The southern wing of the ditch showed evidence for three post-holes and yielded some burnt clay fragments probably of daub. Post-holes were also recorded within and close to the enclosure ditch. This feature was associated with an inhumation burial ground which continued to be used into the Early Roman period. One cremation (and two further possible examples) was present on the site. The shrine lay on the site of an earlier Middle Iron Age burial ground with an earlier structure and pits containing ritual deposits.

Shrines within settlements

7.3.16 Further examples excavated within settlements, with no associated burials, have been interpreted as shrines as at Stansted Airport (Havis & Brooks 2004) and Caesar's Camp, Heathrow Airport (Grimes & Close-Brooks 1993). These sites are summarised below.

7.3.17 A square ditched enclosure (with a post at each corner and an entrance on the western side) was recorded during excavations at Stansted Airport. Evidence for the rebuilding of the southern side was found. This was considered to be the foundation trench for a post built structure, a focus for a surrounding settlement of Late Iron Age date and an example of a shrine in use through to the Roman period.

7.3.18 The Excavation at Caesar's Camp revealed a 'concentric-rectangle' enclosure resembling Romano-Celtic temples but considered to be the remains of a timber building of Middle or Late Iron Age date.

Is the palstave an example of special deposition of metalwork?

7.3.19 Does the palstave further indicate this site (in addition to the Iron Age ritual complex) to have been a 'special' place?

7.3.20 The previous Post-excavation Assessment Report highlighted 'the importance that the area had in terms of ritual deposition of prestige metalwork; there is a concentration of metalwork deposits at the junction of the Great Stour and East Stour Rivers (Yates 2004, 14).' This junction is in the heart of Ashford, approximately 3km to the northwest of the site.

8 Methods Statements for Analysis

8.1 Stratigraphic Analysis

8.1.1 Contexts, finds and environmental data will be analysed using an MS Access database. The specialist information will be integrated to aid dating and complete more detailed phasing of the site. A full stratigraphic narrative will be produced and integrated with the results of the specialist analysis and will form the basis of the archive report (see below).

8.2 Illustration

8.2.1 The existing CAD plans and sections will be updated with any amended phasing and additional sections digitised if appropriate. Report/publication figures will be generated using Adobe Illustrator. Finds recommended for illustration will be drawn by hand and then digitised, or where appropriate photography of certain finds-types will be undertaken.

8.3 Documentary Research

8.3.1 Primary and published sources will be consulted where appropriate using the Kent Historic Environment Record and other resources and will also include aerial photographs and reports on comparable sites locally and nationally in order to place the site within its landscape and archaeological context. This evidence will be collated and where relevant reproduced in the full grey literature report and any subsequent publication.

8.4 Artefactual Analysis

8.4.1 All the artefacts and environmental remains have been assessed/analysed with recommendations for any additional work given in the individual specialist reports (Appendices B1-3). Further work is recommended as follows:

Palstave:

- The archival catalogue entry should be updated to include a more detailed and expanded consideration of its typology and dating, accessing seminal works such as Schmidt and Burgess (1981).

- A brief illustrated report should be prepared for inclusion into any proposed publication, placing the artefact in its local and regional context.

Lithics:

- No further work other than incorporation into archive report.
- Natural, unworked flints have been discarded.

Pottery:

- The Beaker pit and other contemporary sherds are rarely found in the region and are therefore of interest requiring detailed description and comparison with the known local site at Beechbrook Wood (Edwards 2006).
- The remaining earlier and later prehistoric pottery requires a note with detailed fabric descriptions.
- Incorporation of further work with a fully illustrated sherd catalogue into the archive report.
- ***Illustration***: A maximum of 4 sherds require illustration.

8.5 Ecofactual Analysis

8.5.1 All environmental remains have been assessed/analysed with detailed recommendations for any additional work given in the individual specialist reports (Appendices C1-2). Further work is recommended as follows:

Human skeletal remains:

- Radiocarbon dating of the cremated bone.
- Incorporation of further work into archive report.

Environmental samples:

- No further work other than incorporation into archive report.

9 Report Writing, Archiving and Publication

9.1 Report Writing

9.1.1 A task list of further work recommended by specialists on the assemblages recovered during this phase of works, and to be incorporated within the overall archive report, are identified in Table 5. These tasks are for the analysis and initial reporting of this phase of work only. They form an additional body of work to those identified for the OA South excavation for the completion of the overall archive report and publication. The full list of tasks for the entire project are detailed in the Post-excavation Assessment Report for the first phase of works (Anker & Biddulph 2011).

9.1.2 The archive report will be prepared, incorporating all the phases of fieldwork once complete. It is proposed that a monograph will be produced which summarises the results of all the excavations comprising HER Event number ASORB10, and focus on the key aspects of the site (see below).

9.2 Storage and Curation

9.2.1 Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Ashford Museum under the county HER code ASORB10. A digital archive will be deposited with OA Library/ADS. KCC requires transfer of ownership prior to deposition (see Section

11). During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

9.2.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

9.3 Publication

9.3.1 As was stated in the Post-excavation Assessment for the previous phase, it is proposed that the results of the project, incorporating all phases of fieldwork, should be published as an Oxford Archaeology monograph under the provisional working title 'Ashford in the Bronze Age & Iron Age: excavations at Orbital Park, Ashford'.

10 Resources and Programming

10.1 Project Team Structure

10.1.1 The project team resulting from the current excavation is presented below.

Current phase of excavation			
Name	**Initials**	**Project Role**	**Establishment**
Richard Mortimer	RM	Project Manager	OAE
Liz Popescu	EP	Post-excavation and Publication Manager	OAE
Rachel Clarke	RC	Post-excavation Editor	OAE
Graeme Clarke	GC	Project Officer & Author	OAE
Sarah Percival	SP	Prehistoric pottery Specialist	OAE
Chris Howard-Davies	CHD	Metalwork specialist	OA North
Natasha Dodwell	ND	Human skeletal remains specialist	OAE
Gillian Greer	GG	Illustrator (including finds)	OAE
Katherine Hamilton	KH	Archive supervisor	OAE

Table 4: Project team

10.2 Stages, Products and Tasks

Task No.	**Task**	**Staff**	**No. Days**
Project Management			
1	Project management	RM EP	3
2	Team meetings	RM EP GC	2
3	Liaison with relevant staff and specialists, distribution of relevant information and materials	GC RM	3
Stratigraphic analysis of current phase for archive report			
4	Integrate ceramic/artefact dating with site matrix	GC	1
5	Update database and digital plans/sections to reflect any changes	GC	1
6	Finalise site phasing	GC	1
7	Add final phasing to database	GC	1
8	Compile group and phase text	GC	1
9	Compile overall stratigraphic text and site narrative to form the basis of the full/archive report	GC	4

Task No.	Task	Staff	No. Days
10	Review, collate and standardise results of all final specialist reports and integrate with stratigraphic text and project results	GC	1
Illustration further work			
11	Prepare draft phase plans, sections and other report figures	GG	1
12	Select photographs for inclusion in the report	GC	0.5
13	Illustrate prehistoric pottery: 4 sherds	GG	1
Artefact studies			
14	Pottery: archive catalogue, research, report *etc*	SP	1
15	Palstave: Complete archive entry	CHD	1
16	Palstave: Brief report for publication	CHD	2
17	Cremation: 1 x C14 sample for dating at £300	GC	-

Table 5: Task list

* See Appendix D for product details and Appendix E for the project risk log.

10.3 Project Timetable

10.3.1 Compilation of a final archive report is normally completed within 1 year of the approval of the Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design. However, in this case, a further phase of fieldwork is anticipated to be carried out on the final parcel of land within the development comprising HER Event number ASORB10 (the project), from 2016 at the earliest. Therefore submission of the archive report will be within 1 year of the approval of the Post-excavation Assessment for this final phase. Consequently, a publication proposal will be submitted from 2018 at the earliest, with the aim of publishing a monograph on the Iron Age settlement and Bronze Age remains.

11 OWNERSHIP

11.1.1 All artefactual material recovered will be held in storage by OA East and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to the relevant authority to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated. It is Oxford Archaeology Ltd's policy, in line with accepted practice, to keep site archives (paper and artefactual) together wherever possible.

Appendix A. Context Summary with Provisional Phasing

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
1	1				layer	topsoil		mid brown	silty clay	rare flint, rare gravel	firm				
1	2				layer	subsoil		dark grey	silty clay	rare gravel	firm				
1	3				layer	natural		orange	silty clay	rare flint, rare gravel	firm				
1	4	5	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
1	5	5	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.8	0.25	linear	U-shaped
1	6	7	7	2	fill	pit	cremation	dark grey/mid grey	silty clay	frequent HSR fragments, burnt clay fragments, charcoal fragments	firm				
1	7	7	7	2	cut	pit	cremation					0.5	0.15	circular	square
1	8	9	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
1	9	9	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.7	0.2	linear	U-shaped
1	10	10	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.85	0.2	linear	U-shaped
1	11	10	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
1	18	18	ditch 1	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.3	linear	U-shaped
1	19	18	ditch 1	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay		firm				
1	20	20	ditch 1	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.3	linear	U-shaped
1	21	20	ditch 1	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay		firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
1	22	22	ditch 2	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.3	linear	U-shaped
1	23	22	ditch 2	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay		firm				
1	24	24	enc. 1	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.4	0.5	linear	U-shaped
1	25	24	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	orange brown	silty clay		firm				
1	26	24	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	disuse	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
1	27	24	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	orange brown	silty clay		firm				
1	28	28	28	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.45	0.1	linear	U-shaped
1	29	28	28	2	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay		firm				
1	32	32	ditch 1	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.61	0.28	linear	U-shaped
1	33	32	ditch 1	1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey brown	silty clay	rare flint gravel inclusions	firm				
1	34	34	enc. 1	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.42	0.35	linear	U-shaped
1	35	34	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions,	firm		0.21		
1	36	36	enc. 1	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.65	0.25	linear	U-shaped
1	37	36	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay	rare flint gravel inclusions	firm				
1	38	34	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions	firm				
1	39	39	ditch 2	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.26	linear	U-shaped

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
1	40	39	ditch 2	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions, rare charcoal	firm				
1	41	41	enc. 1	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.9	0.5	linear	U-shaped
1	42	41	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay		firm				
1	43	43	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.91	0.13	linear	U-shaped
1	44	43	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions	soft				
1	46	46	enc. 1	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.98	0.18	linear	U-shaped
1	47	46	enc. 1	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions	firm				
1	48	48	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					1.1	0.18	linear	U-shaped
1	49	48	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions	firm				
2	50	50	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.67	0.32	linear	U-shaped
2	51	50	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions	firm				
2	52	50	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	clayey silt	occasional flint gravel inclusions	friable				
2	53	53	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.62	0.14	linear	U-shaped
2	54	53	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay		firm				
2	55	55	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.84	0.18	linear	U-shaped

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
2	56	55	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
2	57	57	ditch 8	3	cut	ditch	boundary					0.99	0.1	linear	U-shaped
2	58	57	ditch 8	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional flint gravel inclusions, occasional charcoal	firm				
2	59	60	60	3	fill	ditch	silting	greyish brown	silty clay	brush wood, plastic rubbish	soft				
2	60	60	60	3	cut	ditch	boundary					1.8	0.5	linear	U-shaped
3	61	61	61	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.15	linear	V-shaped
3	62	61	61	1	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	63	63	63	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.1	linear	V-shaped
3	64	63	63	2	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	65	65	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					1	0.5	linear	U-shaped
3	66	65	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	67	67	enc. 2	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.55	0.55	linear	U-shaped
3	68	67	enc. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	69	69	ditch 6	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.7	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	70	69	ditch 6	2	fill	ditch	silting	greyish brown	silty clay	rare flint gravel inclusions	firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	71	71	71	2	cut	pit	unknown					1.1	0.1	circular	flat based U-shaped
3	72	71	71	2	fill	pit	disuse	dark grey	silty clay	frequent charcoal	firm				
3	73	73	enc. 2	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.72	0.54	linear	flat based V-shaped
3	74	73	enc. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	75	75	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					1	0.35	linear	U-shaped
3	76	75	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	77	77	enc. 2	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.3	0.6	linear	flat based V-shaped
3	78	77	enc. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay		firm				
3	79	77	enc. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	80	80	80	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.4	0.15	linear	V-shaped
3	81	80	80	2	fill	ditch	silting	light olive brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	82	82	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.7	0.35	linear	U-shaped
3	83	82	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	84	84	ritual	2	cut	ditch	structure					0.5	0.16	linear	U-shaped

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	85	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	86	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	87	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	88	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	89	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	90	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	91	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	92	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	93	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	94	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	95	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	96	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	97	84	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	clay silt		firm				
3	98	98	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.8	0.22	linear	flat based U-shaped

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	99	98	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	100	100	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.75	0.24	linear	flat based U-shaped
3	101	100	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	102	102	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.75	0.25	linear	flat based U-shaped
3	103	102	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	104	104	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.15	right angled L shape	U-shaped
3	105	105	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.17	right angled L shape	U-shaped
3	106	106	ditch 4	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.5	0.18	linear	U-shaped
3	107	106	ditch 4	1	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	108	108	108	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.9	0.33	linear	U-shaped
3	109	108	108	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
3	110	110	ditch 4	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.25	linear	U-shaped
3	111	110	ditch 4	1	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	112	112	112	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.1	0.45	linear	U-shaped
3	113	112	112	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
3	114	114	ditch 4	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	115	114	ditch 4	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
3	116	116	ditch 5	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.7	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	117	116	ditch 5	1	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown	silty clay		firm				
3	118	116	ditch 5	1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	119	119	ditch 3	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.68	0.54	linear	V-shaped
3	121	122	enc. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark greyish brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	122	122	enc. 2	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.55	0.46	linear	U-shaped
3	123	124	ditch 6	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay		firm				
3	124	124	ditch 6	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.6	0.23	linear	U-shaped
3	125	125	ditch 7	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.02	0.38	linear	U-shaped
3	126	125	ditch 7	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare gravel inclusions	soft				
3	133	133	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1.0	0.34	linear	U-shaped
3	134	169	169	1	fill	pit	silting	dark brown grey	sand silt	moderate charcoal flecks	soft				
3	135	135	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					1.38	0.56	linear	U-

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
															shaped
3	136	135	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	firm				
3	137	138	ditch 6	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay		firm				
3	138	138	ditch 6	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.8	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	139	122	encl. 2	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay		firm				
3	140	141	ditch 6	2	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay		firm				
3	141	141	ditch 6	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.75	0.14	linear	U-shaped
3	142	142	142	2	cut	pit	unknown					1.2	0.5	circular	square cut
3	143	142	142	2	fill	pit	disuse	greyish brown	silty clay	frequent charcoal	firm				
3	144	142	142	2	fill	pit	disuse	orange brown	silty clay	frequent charcoal	firm				
3	145	142	142	2	fill	pit	disuse	greyish brown	silty clay	frequent charcoal	firm				
3	146	112	112	2	fill	ditch	silting	orange brown	silty clay		firm				
3	147	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	148	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	149	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
								brown							
3	150	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	151	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	152	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	154	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	155	104	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	156	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	157	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	158	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	159	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	160	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	161	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	162	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	163	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	164	105	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	165	165	ditch 7	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.8	0.3	linear	U-shaped
3	166	165	ditch 7	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale brown	silty clay		firm				
3	167	167	ditch 7	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.8	0.3	linear	U-shaped
3	168	167	ditch 7	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale greyish brown	silty clay		firm				
3	169	169	169	1	cut	pit	unknown					0.6	0.22	sub-circular	U-shaped
3	170	169	169	1	fill	pit	disuse	light grey	silty clay		firm				
3	171	171	ditch 7	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.7	0.25	linear	U-shaped
3	172	171	ditch 7	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale greyish brown	silty clay		firm				
3	173	173	173	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.35	0.1	linear	U-shaped
3	174	173	173	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	175	175	175	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.35	0.1	linear	U-shaped
3	176	175	175	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
3	177	177	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.35	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	178	177	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey	silty clay		firm				
3	179	179	ditch 6	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.75	0.25	linear	U-shaped
3	180	179	ditch 6	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale greyish brown	silty clay		firm				
3	181	181	181	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.3	0.1	linear	U-shaped
3	182	181	181	1	fill	ditch	silting	pale grey	silty clay		firm				
3	183	183	183	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.3	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	184	183	183	1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay		firm				
3	185	185	185	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.3	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	186	185	185	1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay		firm				
3	189	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	190	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	191	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	192	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	193	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	194	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	195	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	196	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	197	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	198	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	199	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	200	133	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	brownish grey	sandy clay	rare gravel inclusions	firm				
3	201	201	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					0.38	0.1	linear	U-shaped
3	202	201	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	pale olive brown	silty clay		firm				
3	203	203	ritual	2	cut	ditch	boundary					1	0.44	linear	wide U-shaped
3	204	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	205	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	206	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	207	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	208	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	209	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	210	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	211	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	212	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	213	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	214	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	215	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	216	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	sand silt	occasional gravel inclusions	soft				
3	218	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	219	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	220	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	221	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	222	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	223	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	224	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
3	225	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	226	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	227	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	228	203	ritual	2	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellow brown	clay silt		firm				
3	230	230	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.5	0.3	linear	V-shaped
3	231	230	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown yellow	sandy silt		soft				
3	232	230	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay		soft				
3	233	233	ditch 1	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.48	0.15	linear	U-shaped
3	234	233	ditch 1	1	fill	ditch	silting	dark brownish grey	clay silt		firm				
3	235	235	ditch 2	1	cut	ditch	boundary					1.1	0.18	linear	U-shaped
3	236	235	ditch 2	1	fill	ditch	silting	dark brownish grey	clay silt		firm				
3	237	238	238	1	fill	pit	disuse	dark grey	sandy clay		firm				
3	238	238	238	1	cut	pit	unknown					0.88	0.19	sub-circular	Irregular cut
3	239	239	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.25	0.12	linear	U-shaped
3	240	239	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	clay		firm				

Area	Cxt.	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Breadth	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile
								grey							
3	241	241	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.4	0.25	linear	V-shaped
3	242	241	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	clay		firm				
3	243	243	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.34	0.17	linear	V-shaped
3	244	243	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	firm				
3	245	119	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	light brown grey	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	friable				
3	246	119	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay	occasional gravel inclusions	firm				
3	249	249	ditch 3	1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.64	0.52	linear	V-shaped
3	250	249	ditch 3	1	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey brown	clay silt	occasional gravel inclusions	firm				

Table 6: Context inventory

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Palstave

By Chris Howard-Davis

Quantification and evaluation

B.1.1 A complete unlooped palstave with shield decoration was recovered, well-stratified, from context 117 within a Middle Bronze Age ditch 5 on the site. It is without doubt of Middle Bronze Age date, with shield decoration regarded as an early feature of the type (Group III: https://finds.org.uk/guides/bronzeage/objects/axes), suggesting that this example can be dated c 1500 – c 1300 BC (Needham 1996). A close comparator can be seen in Evans 1881 (fig. 60), coming from Harston, Cambs.

Description

B.1.2 L: 130mm; W blade: 52mm; W septum: 22mm; W butt: 21mm; Max th: 25mm; Wt: 268g.

ASORB10, 117, Sf 1, earlier part of Middle Bronze Age.

Conservation

B.1.3 The object is in good condition and has been conserved.

Potential

B.1.4 Prehistoric metalwork is always of interest and the corpus of such items from Kent is not large, and as such, this has potential to further inform the dating and interpretation of the site and will add to local and regional knowledge.

Proposed further work

B.1.5 The archival catalogue entry should be updated to include a more detailed and expanded consideration of its typology and dating, accessing seminal works such as Schmidt and Burgess 1981. A brief illustrated report should be prepared for inclusion into any proposed publication, placing the artefact in its local and regional context.

Complete archive catalogue entry	1 day	CHD
Write brief report for inclusion in publication	2 days	

Outline catalogue

B.1.6 Complete palstave, with some surface deterioration, slight damage to blade edge and butt, but in generally good condition. Side seams survive as low, but well-defined ridges and there is a large blow-hole close to the septum on one side. There is shield decoration below the stop ridge, formed by a low converging continuation of the flanges, and the shield is bisected by a well-marked mid-rib, which continues as a less well-marked rib down as far as the bevelled, convex blade, which has flaring tips. The shield motif is present on both sides. The convex blade has some evidence of hammering, and there are occasional hammer or cut marks along the upper and lower edges of the object.

B.2 Flintwork

By Richard Mortimer

Introduction and Quantification

B.2.1 A small assemblage of seven pieces (42g) of struck flint was recovered from the excavation, from both pit and ditch contexts (Table 7). No one context contained more than a single piece.

Raw materials and Condition

B.2.2 The flint is from a variety of good quality but generally small flint nodules and pebbles, most still exhibiting some cortex, some of it thick and white. There is light re-patination on some pieces and the majority are in good condition.

Composition and Dating

B.2.3 The assemblage is composed primarily of flakes and blades, with one lightly re-touched (denticulated) piece. The overall impression is of a Neolithic assemblage, some of it diagnostically earlier Neolithic. The majority was recovered from Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and therefore represents residual material, with even that from the earliest features, the Beaker pit(s), liable to be residual.

Statement of potential

B.2.4 This is a small, residual assemblage with no context producing more than one piece. It demonstrates land-use in the Neolithic period but there is no potential for further analysis.

Recommendations for further work

B.2.5 No further work recommended. Natural, unworked flints have been discarded.

Feature type	Feature Group	Cut	Context	Weight (g)	Chip	Irregular waste	Flake	Narrow flake	Blade	Blade like flake	Retouched flake	Natural	Total worked flint
Subsoil			2	47								1	0
Ditch	Encl. 1	34	38	4					1			0	1
Ditch	Ditch 8	43	44	7								1	0
Ditch	Ritual	84	85	5								1	0
Ditch	Ritual	84	87	20								1	0
Ditch	Ritual	84	92	1								1	0
Ditch	Ditch 7	125	126	4		1						0	1
Pit		169	134	3							1	0	1
Pit		169	170	3			1					0	1
Ditch	Ditch 7	171	172	23			1					0	1
Pit		238	237	1					1			0	1
Ditch	Ditch 3	119	245	4				1				0	1

Table 7: The flint assemblage catalogue

B.3 Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

B.3.1 A total of 87 sherds weighing 351g were collected from 20 excavated features and from subsoil (Table 8). The pottery is fragmentary and no complete vessels were recovered. The sherds are mostly small and poorly preserved and the average sherd weight is 4g. With the exception of the Beaker pottery almost all the tentative pottery dating is based on fabric types as few diagnostic sherds were recovered.

Methodology

B.3.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

Area	Group	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spotdate	Quantity	Weight (g)
1		**2**	Subsoil	2	Later Iron Age	1	8
	Ditch 1	**32**	Ditch	33	Later Iron Age	1	1
	Enc. 1	**34**	Enclosure ditch	38	Mid Bronze Age	1	6
	Ditch 2	**39**	Ditch	40	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	3	4
	Enc. 1	**41**	Enclosure ditch	42	Later Iron Age	1	15
3	Enc. 2	**73**	Enclosure ditch	74	Later Iron Age	2	2
					Not closely datable	1	8
	Enc. 2	**77**	Enclosure ditch	79	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	3	35
	Ritual	**84**	Ditch	88	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	3	13
				93	Later Iron Age	2	4
				95	Iron Age	2	3
	Ritual	**98**	Ditch	99	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	2	3
	Ritual	**105**	Ditch	163	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	3	11
				164	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	8	57
	Enc. 2	**122**	Enclosure ditch	121	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	1	3
					Mid Bronze Age	2	4
	Ditch 7	**125**	Ditch	126	Iron Age	2	8
	Ritual	**133**	Ditch	196	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	1	5
				199	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	5	31
	Ditch 3	**135**	Ditch	136	Not closely datable	2	3
	Ditch 6	**138**	Ditch	137	Not closely datable	1	1
	Beaker pit	**169**	Pit	134	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	9	42
	Ditch 7	**171**	Ditch	172	Mid Bronze Age	3	3
	Ditch 3	**177**	Ditch	178	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	12	36
	Ritual	**203**	Ditch	207	Not closely datable	1	1
				209	Iron Age	1	4
				228	Iron Age	1	1
	Ditch 2	**233**	Ditch	234	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	1	1
	Ditch 3	**241**	Ditch	242	Mid Bronze Age	12	38
Total						**87**	**351**

Table 8: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature

Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

B.3.3 Grog tempered possible undecorated Beaker pottery was recovered from **39** (Ditch 2) in Area 1.

B.3.4 Area 3 produced a larger and more convincing Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (LNEBA) assemblage comprising decorated body sherds and rims from a minimum of four Beakers. Twelve sherds weighing 36g including a pinched-out base and a body sherd decorated with plain incised bands came from the fills of ditch **177** which formed part of Mid Bronze Age ditch 3. A further 22 sherds weighing 120g and including a rim from a globular beaker with heavy channelled decoration and a body sherd from a second vessel with short tooled marks all over were recovered from ditch sections **84**, **98**, **105** and **133** which form the possible ritual enclosure. Pit **169**, the only such feature on the site to produce prehistoric pottery, contained nine sherds weighing 42g including rims from two vessels, a globular Beaker with elaborate comb-impressed decoration and a pinched out cordon below the rim, and a possible short necked Beaker decorated with plain incised bands. Undecorated body sherds in grog-tempered fabrics were found in small quantities in Ditch 1, cut **233** and Enclosure 2, cuts **77** and **122**.

B.3.5 The diagnostic rim, body and base sherds within the assemblage suggest at least two globular vessels of Clarke's East Anglian group, with curving bodies, out-turned rims and pinched bases (Clarke 1970, fig.VII; Needham 2005, fig.10), plus a possible short necked Beaker of the style formerly known as primary southern (Clarke 1970). The assemblage is almost certainly derived from occupation rather than funerary activity and compares well with domestic Beaker deposits found in a series of pits at Beechbrook Wood, Hothfield on the line of High Speed 1 (Edwards 2006) suggested to have been deposited around 2200-2100 BC (Garwood 2011,118). Both sites featured a mix of globular and necked forms, and both are found in a mix of sand, flint and grog tempered fabrics.

Later prehistoric

B.3.6 A small group of eighteen flint tempered body sherds weighing 51g have been spot dated to the Mid Bronze Age (1600-1250BC Champion 2011, 156). These include twelve found in cut **241** of Ditch 3 and smaller quantities from Ditch 7 and Enclosures 1 and 2. Contemporary sherds in similar fabrics were recovered from Tutt Hill, Westwell (Morris 2006, 4).

B.3.7 Four sandy body sherds with sparse flint found in ritual feature cuts **84** and **203** may be earlier Iron Age (550-330BC Champion 2011, 156). The remaining nine sherds 38g made of sandy and shell-tempered fabrics are Mid to Late Iron Age 300BC -100BC. These include one undiagnostic rim from subsoil 2 and scattered body sherds from ditch 1, enclosures 1 and 2 and ritual feature cuts **84** and **203.**

Discussion

B.3.8 Beaker pit deposits are fairly unusual in Kent but, like the more commonly found examples in East Anglia, appear to contain material derived from reasonably mature midden deposits (Garwood 2011, 119). Beaker sherds have also been found in ditches at Beechbrook Wood and at Holm Hill, Harrietsham (Champion 2011, 179).

B.3.9 Mid Bronze Age pottery in Kent is characterised by flint-tempered fabrics (Champion 2011, 156). Work along the route of High Speed 1 produced ample evidence of Middle Bronze Age ditches, trackways and settlement clusters on at least three sites on the Wealden Greensand, including Tutt Hill north-west of Ashford (Champion 2011, table 4.8). The evidence from ASORB10 suggests potential Mid Bronze Age activity at the

site though the widespread use of flint as temper in prehistoric pottery means that the dating of this assemblage must remain tentative.

B.3.10 The presence of sandy and shell-tempered sherds within the fills of some of the ditches indicates possible later Iron Age activity at the site, though again the absence of diagnostic sherds means dating is uncertain.

Statement of research potential and recommendations

B.3.11 The Beaker pit and other contemporary sherds are rarely found in the region and are therefore of interest, requiring detailed description and comparison with the known local site at Beechbrook Wood (Edwards 2006).

B.3.12 Four sherds will require illustration and full illustrated sherd catalogue.

B.3.13 The remaining earlier and later prehistoric pottery requires a note with detailed fabric descriptions.

B.3.14 The proposed analysis should take a maximum of one day.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human Skeletal Remains

By Natasha Dodwell

Introduction

C.1.1 An isolated, unurned cremation burial (**7**), thought to be mid to late Iron Age in date was identified during the excavation.

Methodology

C.1.2 The feature, which was truncated to an unknown degree was excavated and processed in accordance with current guidelines (McKinley and Roberts 1993, McKinley 2004).

Results

C.1.3 A total of 95g of human bone was analysed, the thinness of the skull and the gracile nature of the limb shafts suggesting that they were the remains of an immature individual, probably under the age of about 10years. The bone fragments were generally very small (the largest fragment was only 25.43mm), the majority of fragments being recovered in the 5-10mm fraction. Identifiable fragments included limb shafts, skull fragments and a fragment of tooth crown. All fragments were a buff white colour indicative of high temperatures on the pyre.

context	Cut	samples	Largest fragment	Weight of bone			Total bone weigh t
				>10mm	5-10mm	<5mm	
6	7	1-4	25.43mm	10g	54g	31g	95g

Table 9: Summary table of bone weight and fragmentation

Recommendations

C.1.4 No further analysis of the cremated bone is necessary although if funds allow radio carbon dating of the cremated bone is recommended to confirm that the burial is contemporary to surrounding features in the landscape.

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Thirty-five bulk samples were taken during excavations at the site from Bronze age and Iron Age features that include a possible Iron Age ritual complex. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

C.2.2 The total volume (up to nineteen litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through

10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Tables 10 and 11. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.2.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as cereal grains and artefacts have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-10, ### = 11-50, #### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

C.2.4 Preservation of plant remains is poor with only a single charred grain and occasional charcoal fragments recovered. The results are discussed by phase:

Period 1: Bronze Age (c.2500-700BC)

C.2.5 Nine samples were taken from seven Bronze Age features including pits and ditches. Only sparse charcoal fragments were preserved.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	% context sampled	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
6	19	18	Ditch	2	19	10	0	0
7	23	22	Ditch	2	19	5	+	0
10	66	65	Ditch	2	17	20	0	+
18	118	116	Ditch	2	15	5	0	+
20	117	116	Ditch	10	2	5	0	0
21	136	135	Ditch	<10	16	10	+	0
24	134	169	Pit	100	4	5	+	+
26	170	169	Pit	25	15	1	0	+
36	237	238	Pit	<10	16	5	+	0

Table 10: Environmental samples from Bronze Age features

Period 2: Late Iron Age (100BC-ADc.50)

C.2.6 Four samples taken from fill 6 of cremation burial **7** contain only sparse flecks of charcoal in addition to calcined bone.

C.2.7 Of the thirteen ditches sampled, only Sample 17, fill 113 of boundary ditch **112** contains any preserved plant remains in the form of a single charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain. Fill 72 of isolated pit **71** (Sample 17) within enclosure 2 produced 80ml of charcoal as evidence of the burning of wood. Sample 23 was taken from fill 143 that

was described as 'one of three charcoal-rich fills' from pit **142** but was found to contain only sparse charcoal flecks. It is possible that the charcoal content of this deposit had degraded resulting in unconsolidated charcoal that passed through the sieves during processing.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	% context sampled	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Pottery	Burnt mammal bones
1	6	7	Cremation	100	9	15	0	++	+	0	0
2	6	7	Cremation	100	10	5	0	++	+	0	0
3	6	7	Cremation	100	8	5	0	+	+	0	0
4	6	7	Cremation	100	9	5	0	++	+	0	0
8	25	24	Ditch	2	16	10	0	0	0	#	0
11	68	67	Ditch	2	17	10	0	0	0	0	0
12	72	71	Pit	50	19	45	0	++++	++	0	0
13	74	73	Ditch	2	13	10	0	+	0	0	0
14	79	77	Ditch	2	15	10	0	0	0	0	#
15	81	80	Ditch	2	15	10	0	0	0	0	0
19	95	84	Ditch	60	16	20	0	0	+	#	0
25	86	84	Ditch	30	18	30	0	0	+	0	0
16	99	98	Ditch	2	17	10	0	+	+	0	0
28	99	98	Ditch	<10	19	1	0	+	0	0	0
35	152	104	Ditch	<10	16	10	0	0	0	0	0
34	157/161?	105	Ditch	<10	18	5	0	0	0	0	0
17	113	112	Ditch	2	16	10	#	0	+	0	0
29	196	133	Ditch	<10	17	30	0	+	0	0	0
30	200	133	Ditch	<10	17	40	0	0	0	0	0
22	137	138	Ditch	<10	16	20	0	0	0	#	0
23	143	142	Pit	10	17	60	0	+	+	0	0
27	172	171	Ditch	2	16	1	0	0	0	0	0
32	202	201	Ditch	<10	13	30	0	0	0	0	0
31	204	203	Ditch	<10	-	60	0	0	0	-	-
33	204	203	Ditch	<10	15	10	0	0	0	0	0

Table 11: Environmental samples from Iron Age features

Period 3: Post-medieval & modern (c.1500-present)

C.2.8 A single sample (5) taken from fill 8 of post-medieval ditch **9** did not contain any preserved remains.

Statement of potential and recommendations

C.2.9 Despite extensive sampling at the site it is evident that plant remains have not been preserved. The paucity of preserved remains recovered from the adjacent settlement area (Anker & Biddulph 2011) suggest that the lack of preservation is probably due to the acidic nature of the soil but it is also likely that the features sampled were not related to the disposal of burnt domestic waste. The single barley grain recovered from ditch **112** cannot be considered significant and could possibly be a modern contaminant.

C.2.10 The samples have been processed in full and no further work is required.

Appendix D. Product Description

Product number: 1
Product title: Full archive report
Purpose of the Product: To analyse the site and address the research aims and objectives stated in this report and to disseminate to the local community
Composition: Grey literature archive report deposited at Kent HER and ADS/OA online library
Derived from: Analysis of site records, specialist reports and data and background research
Format and Presentation: Grey literature client report
Allocated to: GC, RM
Quality criteria and method: Checked and edited by RC RM
Person responsible for quality assurance: RM
Person responsible for approval: RM
Planned completion date: 2017

Product number: 2
Product title: Publication report
Purpose of the Product: To disseminate the findings of the archaeological investigations to the local community
Composition: Published report, in accordance with the relevant journal and EH guidelines
Derived from: Analysis of site records, specialist reports and data and background research of all phases of fieldwork by OA East & OA South
Format and Presentation: Oxford Archaeology monograph
Allocated to: GC, RM, EP (OA East) & Katrina Anker, Edward Biddulph, Alex Smith (OA South)
Quality criteria and method: Checked and edited by EP
Person responsible for quality assurance: EP
Person responsible for approval: EP
Planned completion date: (at earliest) 2018

Appendix E. Risk Log

Risk Number: 1
Description: Specialists unable to deliver analysis report due to over running work programmes/ ill health/other problems
Probability: Medium
Impact: Variable
Countermeasures: OA has access to a large pool of specialist knowledge (internal and external) which can be used if necessary.
Estimated time/cost: Variable
Owner: SP/CHD
Date entry last updated: April 2016

Risk Number: 2
Description:non-delivery of full report due to field work pressures/ management pressure on Co-authors
Probability: Medium
Impact: Medium - High
Countermeasures: Liaise with OA Management team
Estimated time/cost: Variable
Owner: GC RM
Date entry last updated: April 2016

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APPENDIX G. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-229637		
Project Name	Bronze Age & Iron Age Remains at Site A3, Orbital Park Phase , Ashford, Kent		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	19-09-2015	Finish	30-10-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ASORB10	Planning App. No.	07/00446/AS
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits/ditches	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Bronze axe/pot/flint	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Pits/ditches	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery/flint	Iron Age -800 to 43
Ditches	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	CBM	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Kent	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Ashford Borough	Land at Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent	
Parish	Sevington		
HER	Kent HER		
Study Area	1.2ha	National Grid Reference	TR 03083 40498

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Wendy Rogers (Kent County Council)
Project Design Originator	Iain Williamson (AECOM formerly Scott Wilson)
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer (OAEast)
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke (OA East)

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Ashford Museum	OA East	Ashford Museum
ASORB10	XKTORB15	ASORB10

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☒	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☒ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☒ Survey

Notes:

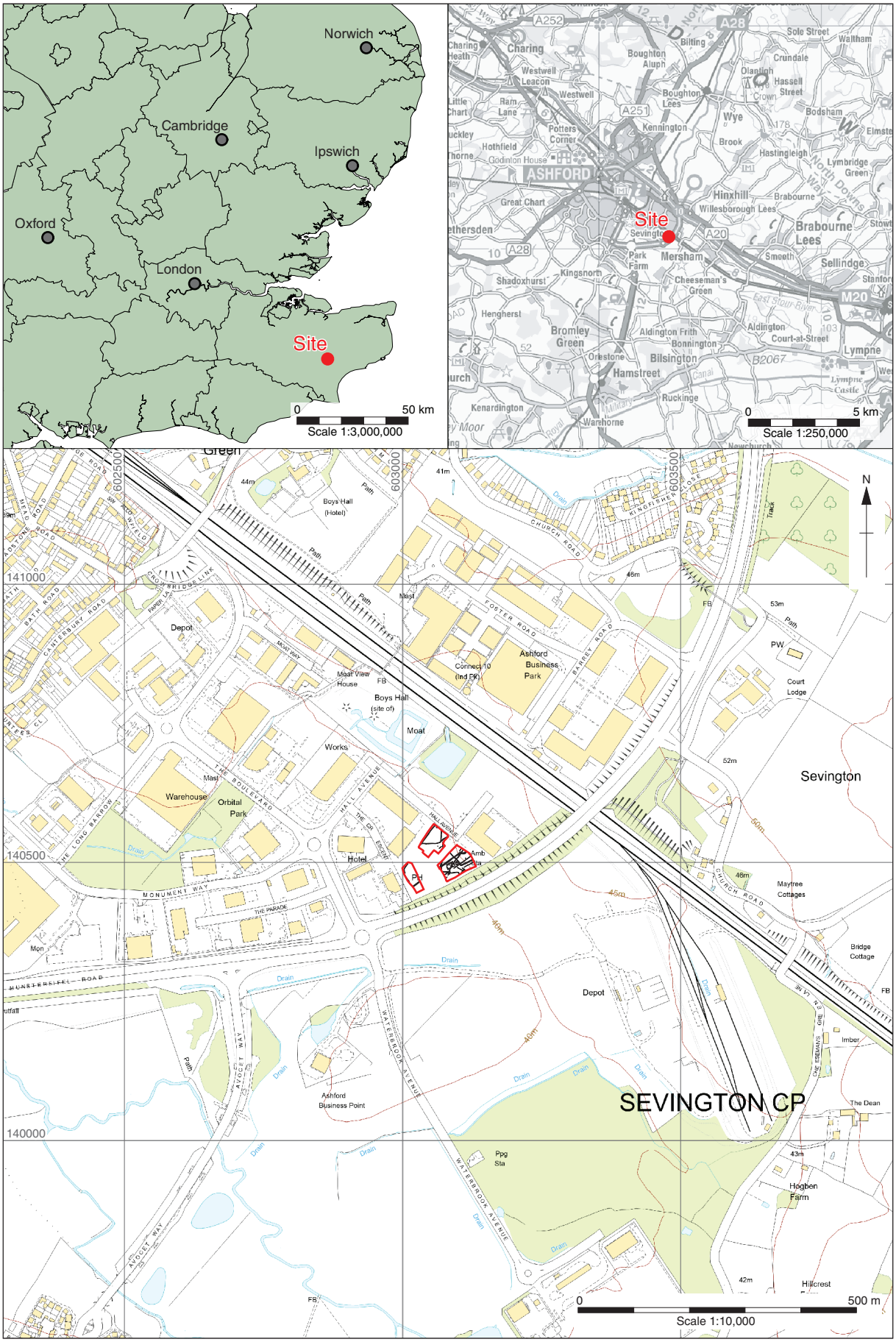

Figure 1: Site location showing excavated areas (red)

Figure 2: Overall site plan with excavation areas (1-3) in relation to OA South 2010 Orbital Park excavation, with preliminary phasing

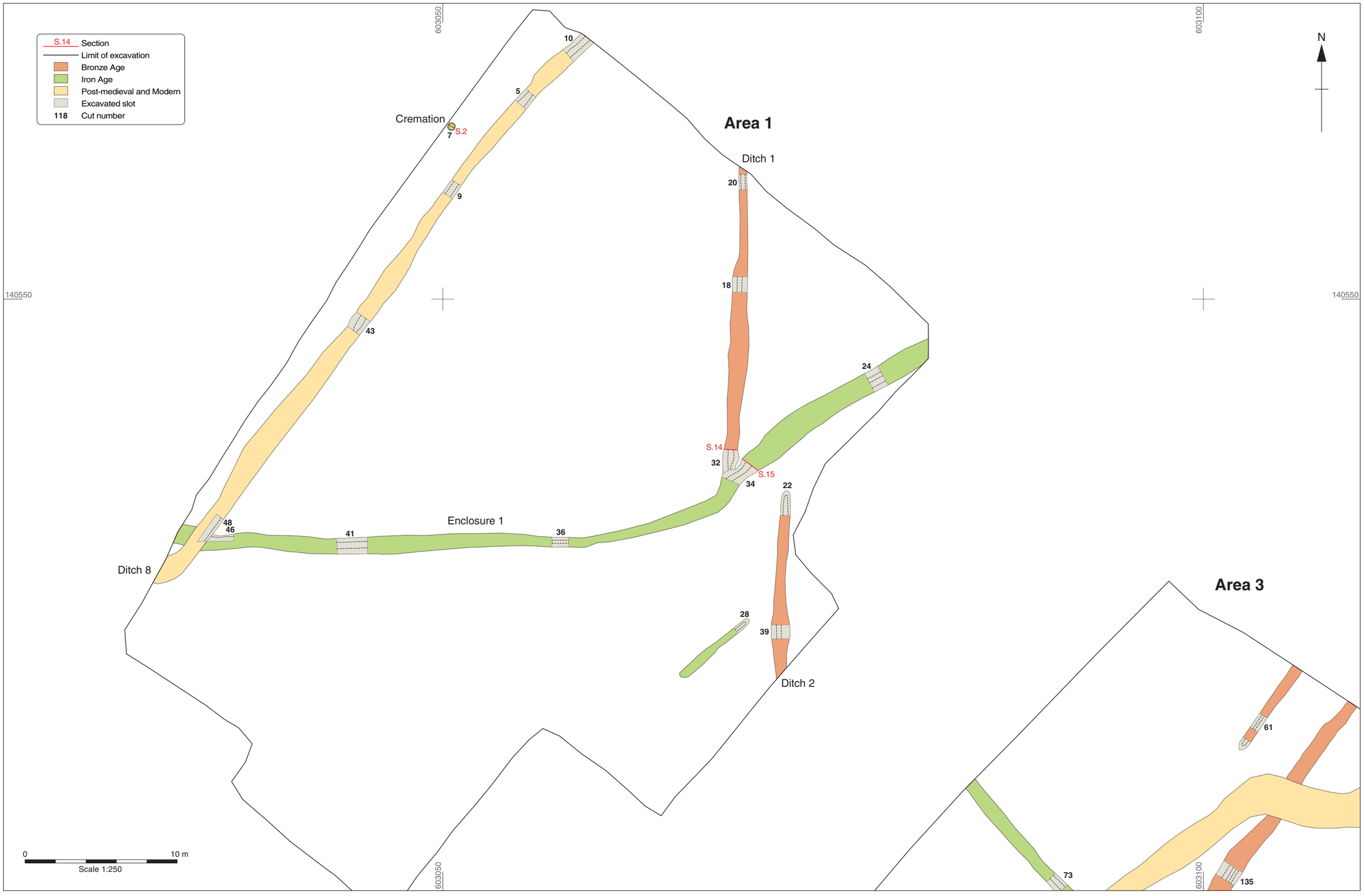

Figure 3: Area 1 excavation plan, with preliminary phasing

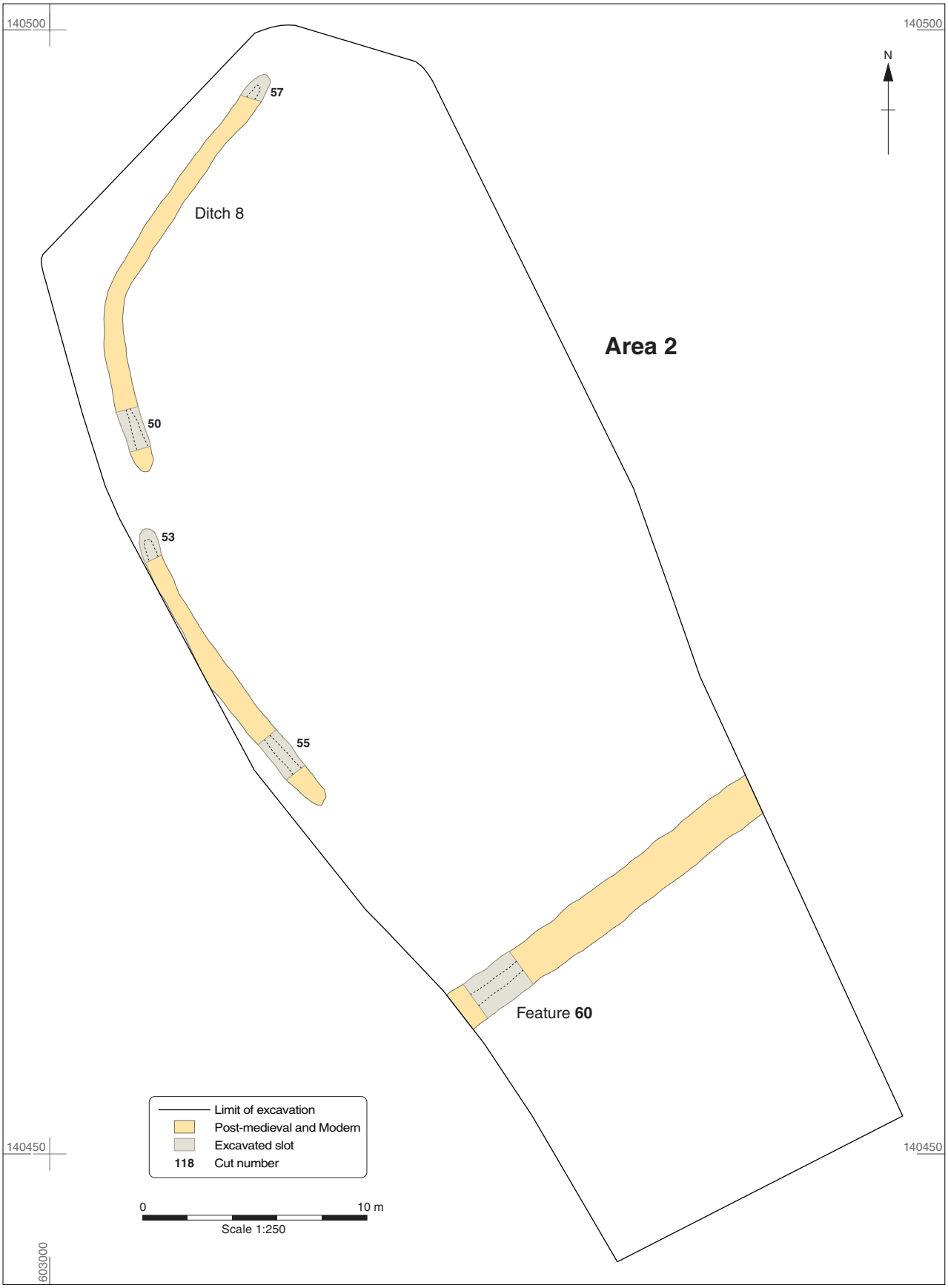

Figure 4: Area 2 excavation plan, with preliminary phasing

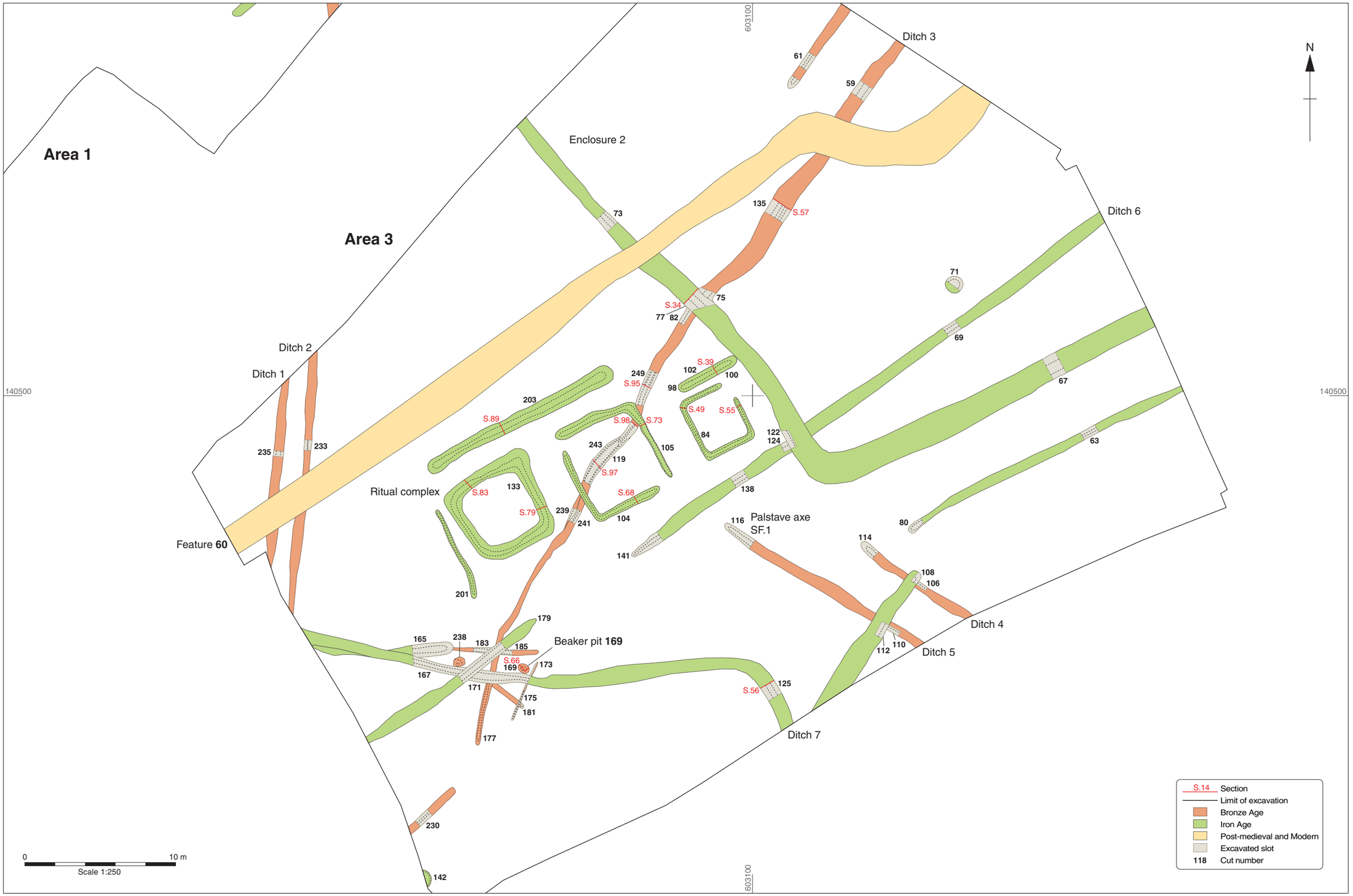

Figure 5: Area 3 excavation plan, with preliminary phasing

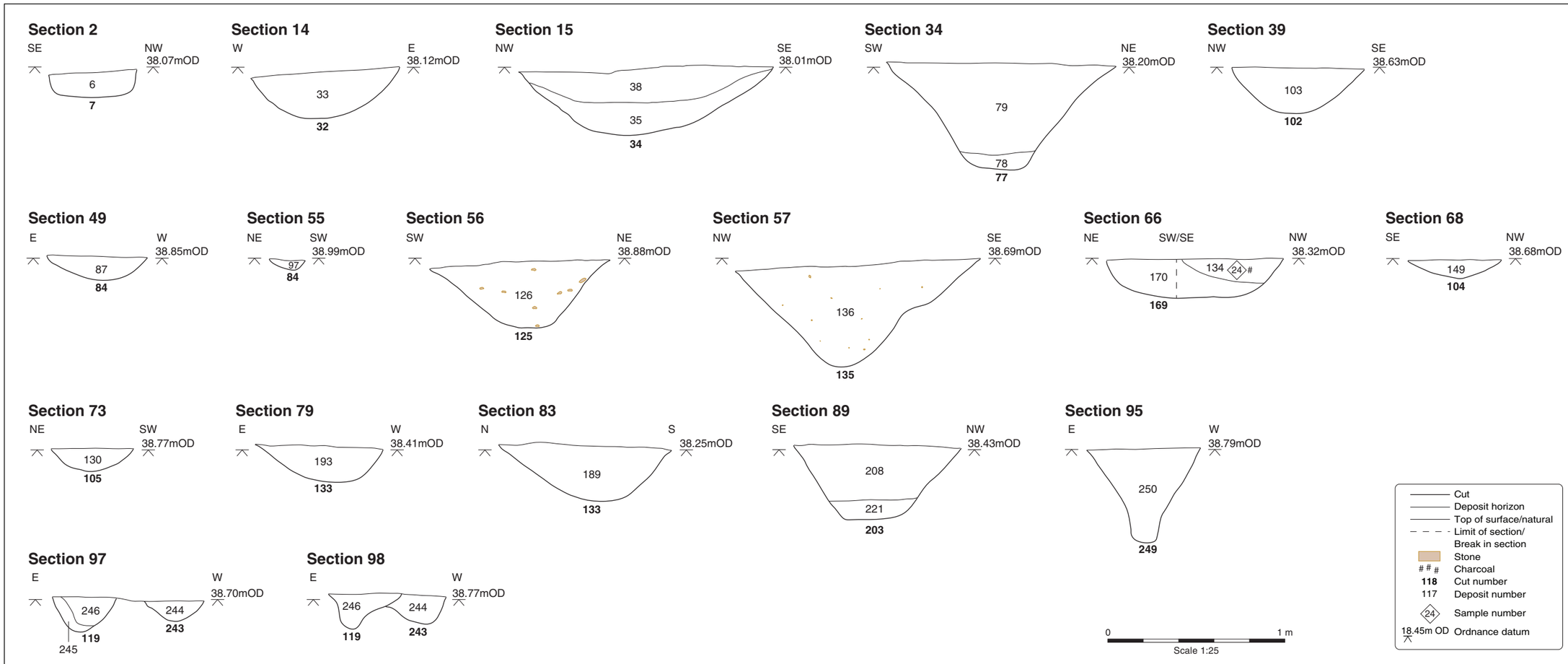

Figure 6: Selected sections

Plate 1: Small find 1 from Ditch 5 (**116**), Middle Bronze Age palstave axe

Plate 2: Area 1, looking east

Plate 3: Cremation **7**, looking west

Plate 4: Ritual complex in Area 3, looking south

Plate 5: Ritual complex in Area 3, in plan

Plate 6: Area 2, looking south

Plate 7: Working shot of ritual complex, looking west

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