

**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land at The Millworks, Highstreet, Brasted,
Kent.**

NGR TQ 470 551

**by
Tom Collie MA**

**Project No. 3132
Site Code: MWB 07**

September 2007

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And
Diccon Hart**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at The Millworks, Brasted, Kent. The work was undertaken on the 19th- 21st September 2007 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd and Kent County Council. Eight trenches were excavated revealing a small gully in trench 1, a brick lined well in trench 2 and three pits containing post-medieval finds in Trench 8. Heavy petro-chemical contamination was encountered in the remaining trenches along with significant layers of made-ground.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at The Millworks, High Street, Brasted, Kent (Fig 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- 1.2 The site is bounded by the high street to the south, by the river Darent to the north and by domestic housing to the east and west.
- 1.3 Proposals for the redevelopment of the site include the construction of a number of dwellings in the south and centre of the site, with landscaping of the remainder of the site (planning ref: SE/06/02188). Due to the archaeological potential of the site Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group advised that the following condition be attached to any consent for the scheme:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of

- i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

- 1.4 A specification outlining the requirements of the evaluation was duly prepared by KCC. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Collie on 19th- 21st September 2007. On site assistance was provided by David Atkins and David Honess. The project was managed by Diccon Hart.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed archaeological background to the site can be found within the archaeological desk based assessment (CgMs Consulting Ltd. 2007). The results of this assessment are summarised below with due acknowledgement.

- 2.2 A number of flint implements of Palaeolithic to Mesolithic date have been found to the southwest and south of the site. As such the site was thought to have a moderate archaeological potential for the early prehistoric periods.
- 2.3 There was no evidence, apart from a single find recorded on the SMR for the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. The site was deemed to have a low archaeological potential for these periods.
- 2.4 There was no evidence identified from the Roman through to the AngloSaxon / Early Medieval Periods for which the site had a very low archaeological potential.
- 2.5 A limited potential was identified for the late Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The site was agricultural / horticultural land until the 19th century. A 19th century Mill Race crosses the site.
- 2.6 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 287, Sevenoaks) the site is located across two geological boundaries. The underlying geology is River Terrace Gravels which is overlain by alluvial clay associated with the River Darent.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Seven trenches were originally planned to be excavated across the site, each measuring 2m by 12m (see Figure 2). However, on the recommendation of Adam Single, Archaeological officer from Kent County Council, a further trench measuring 11.5m by 2m (Trench 8) was excavated at the southern end of site. Some modification to the suggested trench positions was necessary due to on site obstructions. This was true in the case of trench 7, which was moved 6m to the north in order to avoid a live electricity cable.
- 3.2 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated to the top of the underlying geology or archaeological horizon. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance

with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.

- 3.4 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditching, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

4.0 RESULTS

Trench 1 (see figures 3 and 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Made-ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete and small/medium brick fragments	Tr.	Tr	0.53m
1/002	Deposit	Deposit Dark greyish green firm silty clay with occasional small charcoal flecks and occasional small flint (< 0.01m) – highly contaminated with petrohydrocarbons	Tr	Tr.	1.24m
1/003	Natural geology	Alluvial clay Mid firm orangey brown with patches of firm grey blue clay silt,	Tr	Tr.	1.24+
1/004	Cut	Cut of channel Linear running north-west/south east with shallow concave base and moderate concave sides.	2m	0.9m	0.52m
1/005	Fill	Secondary fill of channel Dark brown black firm silty clay containing small fragments of CBM and small angular flint fragments	2m	0.9m	0.32
1/006	Fill	Primary fill of channel Greenish blue firm clay silt	2m	0.9m	0.2m

Trench 1 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.24m (c. 88.62m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the northern end of this trench (see appendix 1 for results).

Natural geology was encountered at the southern trench end at 88.52m OD in the form of alluvial clay. This was not seen in the northern end of the trench since contaminated clay was visible. It is clear that the natural geology sloped downwards towards the river.

Trench 1 revealed a linear feature [1/004], encountered at a maximum height of 88.52m OD and containing distinctive fills, [1/005] and [1/006]. [1/005]

contained medieval pot and ceramic building material (CBM). The depth and size of this feature suggests it was previously used as some form of channel, possibly associated with the water-meadows that occupied this site in the late medieval and post-medieval period.

Trench 2 (see figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Made-ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete, gravels and small/medium brick fragments.	Tr.	Tr	0.33m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil Mid brown firm clay silt	Tr.	Tr	0.7m
2/003	Deposit	Natural geology Mid brown orange firm silt clay	Tr	Tr.	0.7m+
2/004	Cut	Cut for well Circular cut with vertical sides housing well [2/005]	1.4m	1.4m	NFE*
2/005	Masonry	Brick lined well Mid orange red brick bound with a hard yellow grey lime mortar	1.4m	1.4m	NFE
2/006	Fill	Fill of brick lined well Firm grey black clay silt containing modern glass sherds and occasional small gravels which also held a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbons.	1.4m	1.4m	NFE

* = Not Fully Excavated

Summary

Trench 2 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m (c. 89.70m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the western end of this trench

(see appendix 1 for results)

Natural geology was encountered at the eastern trench end at 89.80m OD descending to 89.70m OD in the west. It is notable here that the natural geology is not revealed to be blue green alluvial clay suggesting that this area of site was outside the previous water-meadows mentioned in the DBA (CgMs Consulting Ltd. 2007).

The only archaeological feature that was present within this trench was a small brick-lined well, encountered at a maximum height of 89.72m OD. Both the bricks and the bonding mortar along with the finds from the fill within the well suggest this feature dated from the 19th century.

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Made-ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete, gravels and small/medium brick fragments.	Tr.	Tr	0.64m
3/002	Layer	Deposit Dark grey green firm clay silt with occasional small charcoal flecks which a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbon.	Tr.	Tr	1.06m+
3/003	Deposit	Natural geology Mid brown firm clay silt with small patches of grey clay silt	6m	Tr.	0.64m- 1.06m+

Summary

Trench 3 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum height of 1.05m (c. 88.81m OD)

Natural geology was encountered at the western trench end at 88.93m OD but was not revealed in the east. Instead, contaminated deposit [3/002] was observed at 88.81m OD. This contaminated deposit was significantly thicker in depth towards the eastern trench end indicating a slump in the natural geology towards the river.

No geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in this trench. A buried concrete footing some 0.3m below ground level (BGL) was uncovered 3m from the western trench end and adjacent to this ran an active service pipe from the northeast to the south west.

No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 4

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
Context	Layer	Made ground Mid brown yellow/orange hard mixture of gravels, brick fragments, sand and concrete hardcore.	Tr.	Tr	0.96m
4/002	Layer	Contaminated natural geology Firm grey black sandy clay holding a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbons	6m	Tr	0.96+m
4/003	Deposit	Natural geology Friable mid brown grey silty sand with occasional small angular flint.	6m	Tr.	0.96m+

Summary

Trench 4 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.96m (c. 88.06m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the northern end of this trench (see appendix 1 for results)

Natural geology was encountered at the southern trench end at 88.33m OD descending to 88.06m OD in the north. Contaminated natural geology extended from the southern end for 6m displaying a definite slump towards the north and the river.

No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Made ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete, gravels and small/medium brick	Tr.	Tr.	1.6m

fragments.

5/002	Layer	Contaminated geology Firm grey blue sandy clay holding a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbons	natural	Tr.	Tr.	1.6m+
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Summary

Trench measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m (c. 88.13m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the western end of this trench (see appendix 1 for results).

Natural geology was encountered at the western trench end at 88.29m OD descending to 88.13m OD in the east.

No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	
6/001	Layer	Made ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete, gravels and small/medium brick fragments.	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m	
6/002	Layer	Contaminated geology Firm grey blue sandy clay holding a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbons	natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m+

Summary

Trench 6 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m (c. 88.86m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the southern end of this trench

(see appendix 1 for results)

Natural geology was encountered at the southern trench end at 88.86m OD descending to 88.78m OD in the north.

A live water service pipe ran northwest/south east directly through the middle of the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Made ground 0.2m reinforced concrete with associated hardcore base comprising of mid grey friable sandy silt containing concrete, gravels and small/medium brick fragments.	Tr.	Tr.	0.4m
7/002	Deposit	Contaminated made ground Friable black silt sand gravel holding a strong odour of petro-hydrocarbons	Tr.	Tr.	0.5m
7/003	Deposit	Made ground Dumped deposit of firm mid brown silt clay with occasional small tile fragments	Tr.	Tr.	0.85m
7/004	Layer	Alluvial clay Mid blue grey firm clay.	Tr.	Tr.	0.85m+

Summary

Trench 7 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m (c. 89.00m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the southern end of this trench (see appendix 1 for results)

Natural geology was encountered at the southern trench end at 89.04m OD descending to 89.00m OD in the north.

A live service pipe ran east/west 1m from the northern trench end. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 8 (see figures 3 and 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Fill	Fill of pit [8/002] Mid grey brown firm clay silt containing irregular small sandstone (<0.5m), occasional small charcoal flecks, post-medieval pot, CMB fragments and small sherds of post-medieval glass.	3.15m	0.7	1.35m
8/002	Cut	Pit Oval shaped pit with steep concave sides and a shallow concave irregular base.	3.15m	0.7m	1.35m
8/003	Fill	Fill of [8/004] Light grey firm silt clay containing one small fragment of post-medieval CBM.	1.25m	0.6m	0.08m
8/004	Cut	Small pit base Oval shaped pit base with shallow concave sides and an irregular shaped base.	1.25m	0.6m	0.08m
8/005	Fill	Fill of [8/006] Dark grey brown firm silty clay containing occasional small post-medieval pot and CBM fragments	1.15m	0.75m	0.4m
8/006	Cut	Small pit Circular in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base.	1.15m	0.75m	0.4m
8/007	Deposit	Made ground Hard dark brown grey silt containing gravels, broken brick fragments and sand.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
8/008	Deposit	Subsoil Mid brown firm silt clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
8/009	Deposit	Natural geology Mid orange firm silt clay with patches of grey green firm silt clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.80m+

Summary

Trench 8 measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (c. 89.46m OD).

A geo-archaeological test pit was excavated in the northern end of this trench (see appendix 1 for results)

Natural geology was encountered at the northern trench end at 89.51m OD descending to 89.44m OD in the south.

Four features were encountered in this trench, all between c. 89.52m OD and 89.43m OD. These included a concrete foundation and three pits; [8/002], [8/004] and [8/006]. Pit [8/002] contained pottery dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period, pit [8/004] contained peg-tile fragments and is thought to be contemporary with pit [8/002], and pit [8/006] contained finds dated to the 19th century. The fourth feature revealed in this trench was a long concrete footing, similar to that found in Trench 3, which ran parallel to and spanned the entire length (11.5m) of the eastern side of the trench. It is likely that this concrete footing may have been the foundations for outbuildings such as sheds or workshops.

5.0 THE FINDS by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of finds. These are quantified in Table 1.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
1/005	3	14	4	18						
2/002	2	108								
2/005			1	628						
2/006			1	28					1	4
8/002	7	34	14	506	1	68	1	20	1	6
8/003	1	4								
8/005	3	44	1	110						

Table 1: Finds Assemblage

5.1 Ditch fill [1/005] produced three sherds of abraded medieval pottery. These consist of two medium/coarse sand tempered cooking pot sherds and an undiagnostic sherd in a fine/medium sand tempered fabric. All can be placed within a C13th- mid 14th century date range. The same fill produced a number of small fragments of medium fired peg tile in a wide variety of fabrics: coarse sand, medium sand, fine sand and 'silty'. Although impossible to date closely these would not be out of place with the pottery from this context.

5.2 Pit fill [8/002] also appears to be of medieval date though the finds are a little mixed. The majority of the pottery from this fill consists of medium sand tempered cooking pot sherds with rare shell inclusions to

2mm. Although small, the sherds are relatively fresh and suggest a 13th- mid 14th century date. However, there is a single unabraded sherd from a well fired sparse fine sand tempered cooking pot with patchy glaze on the interior base. This sherd is much more likely to be of mid 14th- mid 15th century date suggesting the other pottery may either be residual or an old vessel in contemporaneous use. This context also produced quite a large assemblage of medium/well-fired peg tile, most of which is unabraded. Two fabrics are represented: eight pieces tempered with moderate medium sand with occasional sub-rounded milky quartz inclusions to 2mm and seven pieces tempered with sparse fine sand with occasional voids. Both fabrics would be in keeping with a 14th to 15th century date. Other finds from [8/002] include a single piece of fuel ash slag, an amorphous piece of iron and an intrusive 19th century aqua glass bottle fragment.

5.3 Scoop fill [8/003] produced a single small abraded peg tile fragment in a sparse fine sand tempered fabric with occasional sub-rounded quartz inclusions to 1mm. This fabric is a hybrid of those noted in [8/002] and is also likely to be of a similar date.

5.4 The remaining contexts all appear to be of late post-medieval date. Deposit [2/002] contained two salt-glaze drain fragments of later 19th- 20th century date. The sample of brick from well wall [2/005] consists of a fragment from a well-fired brick tempered with sparse fine/medium sand and moderate slag and white clay pellets to 5mm. A mid 18th- 19th century date is probable. The fill of the well [2/006] produced a fragment of low-fired brick tempered with moderate medium sand with white clay inclusions to 10mm and a fragment from a green wine bottle. Both are of 19th century date. Pit fill [8/005] produced a small assemblage of 19th century pottery, consisting of two sherds of unglazed earthenware flower pot and a sherd from a late slipware bowl. The peg tile fragment in this fill is tempered with fine/medium sand with iron oxide inclusions to 5mm, is hard-fired and patchily self-glazed and may be a residual earlier post-medieval piece.

5.5 The finds assemblage from the site does not hold any potential for further analysis.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 The programme of trenching has demonstrated that the nature of the natural geology changes significantly between trenches 2 and 7 and trenches 8 and 1 respectively. The orange silt clay encountered in both trenches 2 and 8, seen at a maximum height of 89.80m OD (Trench 2) and a minimum height of 89.44m OD (Trench 8) clearly is not evident in the next trenches directly to the north (Trench 7 and Trench 1).

Alluvial clay is revealed (at a maximum height of 89.04 in trench 7 and a minimum height of 88.13m OD in trench 5) in all trenches other than Trench 4, where river gravels and sand are uncovered. These were encountered at 88.06m OD. It is possible that the area of water meadows mentioned in the DBA (CgMs 2007) may have extended up to the area between trench 8 and 1 and between 7 and 2.

- 6.2 The geoarchaeological test pitting undertaken on the site has demonstrated that, though the palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological potential of the majority of the site may be considered low, the presence of a peat horizon with intact upper contact in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 5 may indicate the survival of a palaeo-landsurface in the eastern-central area of the site. As yet, however, the exact, extent, date and palaeoenvironmental potential of this deposit remains to be determined.
- 6.3 No early prehistoric remains were observed within the river terrace gravels. Moreover, no evidence of any later prehistoric or Roman activity was forthcoming during the investigation.
- 6.3 Archaeological features recorded on the site seem to be concentrated in the south east of the site (Trenches 2 and 8). Generally, these remains appear to be of late medieval/early post-medieval and include two small pits and a linear feature. An additional pit and well also attest to at least limited activity of 19th century date. No clear evidence of any milling was observed on the site.
- 6.4 Available information regarding the impact of the proposed development indicates that the bulk of the development will be concentrated in the south and central areas of the site, with landscaping to the north.
- 6.5 While details regarding the foundation design are not currently available, it is understood that foundations will comprise piles and ground beams. To the north of the site, the deeper sequences of made ground (up to c. 2.0m), in conjunction with the nature of groundworks (landscaping) and the general absence of archaeological features in this area would tend to suggest minimal impact on the archaeological
- 6.6 Generally speaking, the depth of overburden decreases towards the south of the site. Thus the peat horizon observed in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 5 lies at around 88.64m OD (c. 1.20m below ground level), though it should be noted that this is sealed by organic silts to c. 88.84m OD (c. 1.00m below ground level), whereas to the south in Trench 8, the late medieval/post-medieval features described above lie within c. 0.80m below ground level (c. 88.50m OD).

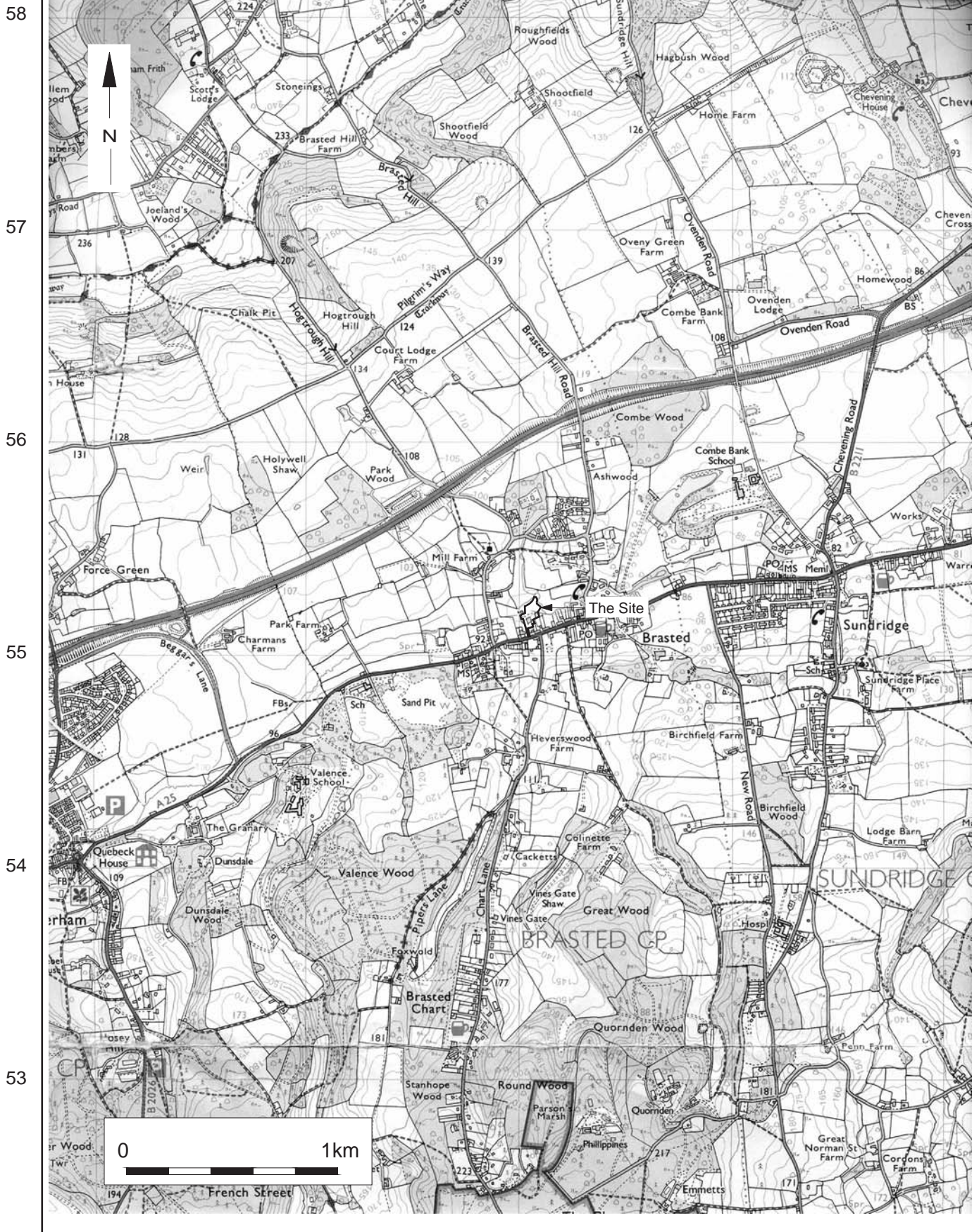
- 6.7 Again, it should be stressed that details of the development impact are not currently available. However, it may be considered that the peat horizon may be affected by the development (if only by piling), while the shallower depth of overburden observed to the south in the vicinity of Trench 8 leaves the archaeological features in this area perhaps more susceptible to groundworks.

REFERENCES

CgMs Consulting Ltd. 2007, An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of land at the Millworks, High Street, Brasted, Kent; CgMs Consulting Ltd grey report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Adam Single of Kent County Council and Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting Ltd. is gratefully acknowledged.



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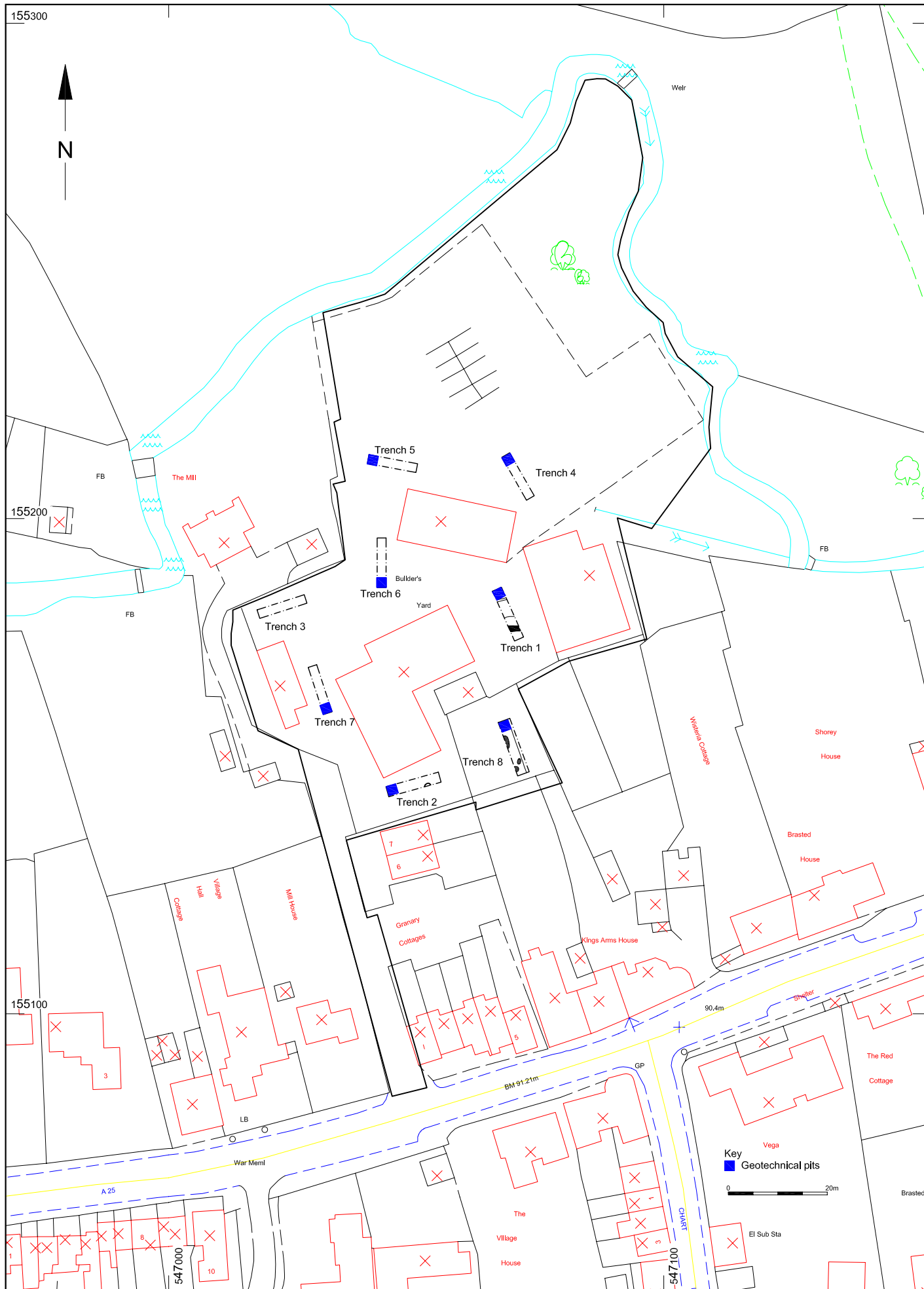
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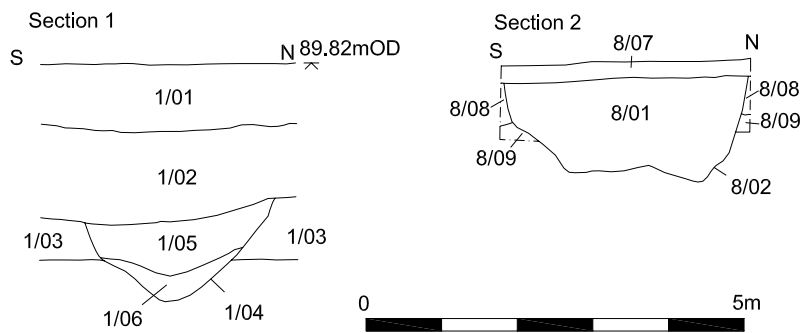
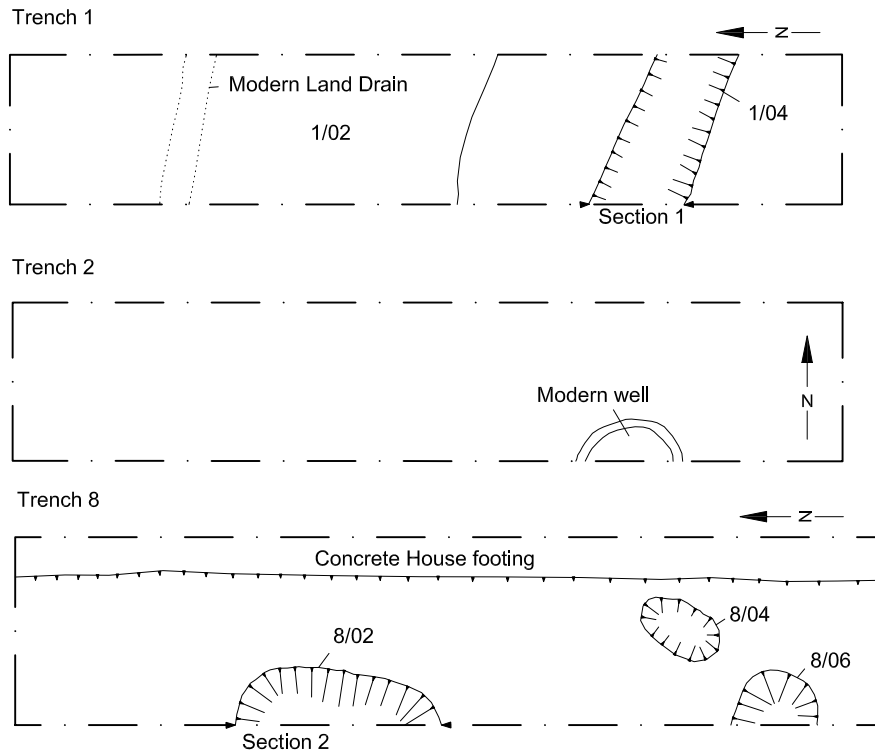
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© Archaeology South-East			Land at Millworks, High Street, Brasted	Fig. 1
Ref: 3132	Sept 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location	

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© Archaeology South-East			Land at Millworks, Highstreet, Brasted, Kent		Fig. 2
Ref: 3132	Sept 2007	Drawn by: SM	Trench Location Plan		



APPENDIX 1:

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING UNDERTAKEN AS A COMPONENT PART OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND AT THE FORMER MILL WORKS, BRASTED HIGH STREET IN KENT

Application: SE/06/02188

Commissioning Agent: Archaeology South East [ASE]

AUTHOR: C. A. PINE.

Site: Land at the site of Former Mill Works, Brasted High Street Kent.

Site centred at: NGR 547052 155185

ASE Project Site code: MWB 07

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Table: 1b. Trial Pit log GTP 2

Table: 1c. Trial Pit log GTP 3

Table: 1d. Trial Pit log GTP 4

Table: 1e. Trial Pit log GTP 5 [Includes **Plate 1:** South facing section to TP5]

Table: 1f. Trial Pit log GTP 6

Table: 1g. Trial Pit log GTP 7

Introduction:

This summary report presents details of the findings of a programme of Geoarchaeological investigation, by test pit excavation at the study site.

The work was guided by a 'Specification' for survey works provided by Kent County Council [KCC].

It was anticipated that during the course of archaeological evaluation key sediment sequences specifically terrace gravels that might contain lithic artefacts could be present within the site area. The presence of sediment units that might have the potential to contain key environmental indicators or provide benign preservational environments, particularly for organic artefacts should also be assessed. Review of existing geotechnical data for the site [Southern Testing 2007] suggested peat / organic deposits may be present within the central east part of the site area.]

It is understood this Geoarchaeological summary report is to form a component part of the archaeological investigation report to be submitted by Archaeology South East [ASE].

Although no specific provision / requirement was made within the specification for sample analysis selected 'pinch' / 'sub' samples from key representative sedimentary units were to be collected for laboratory based description to supplement field based descriptions.

Aims and objectives of the survey:

The primary objectives of the field evaluation were:

- Provide an initial assessment as to likely mode of deposition for sediment bodies/units at the site.
- Assess the Geoarchaeological and palaeogeographic significance / potential of sediment bodies / units present at the site.
- Determine the presence of, or potential for, undisturbed primary context archaeological remains / artefacts in the sediments encountered.
- Assess and attempt preliminary integration of the site stratigraphic model with selected key area sites of known Geoarchaeological and palaeogeographic significance.
- To assess the nature and significance of key sediment units, particularly alluvial sediments if present, at the site that may be under threat of impact from proposed development works.

Summary local geology and topography.

The British Geological survey fro the area [Sheet 287 Sevenoaks, Solid & Drift edition] suggests the site is underlain by surface / drift geology comprising of probable Pleistocene River Terrace Gravels overlain by alluvial clay silts deposited by the River Darent with these drift deposits in turn overlying Hythe Beds

The site is generally level with slight slope from the southern margin of the site to the northern boundary that lies proximal to the modern course of the River Darent. The general approximate altitude of the site is c. +90.00m OD. The site lies to the north of Brasted High Street [A25] with the site centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference of approximately TQ 470 552.

Presently the site is a disused builder's merchants yard with low weight buildings occupying the south half of the site. Ground surfaces are generally concrete skimmed with probable re-enforcing due to heavy vehicular traffic operating within main site areas. [See Figure 1]

Methodology:

Field work / survey were undertaken by C. A. Pine on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st September 2007.

Seven purposive test pits were excavated using a JCB excavator fitted with an approximately 1.80m wide toothed grading bucket. Machining was undertaken within previously excavated / recorded archaeological survey pits at locations where nil archaeology had been recorded / observed. [For Test Pit 1-7 locations see Plan at Figure 1]. Machining was in less than 5cm spits.

At test pit locations selected sections were hand trowelled to section heights of less than c.1.20metres below ground level. All observations below c. 1.20meteres were made from observations from the side of test pits and from arisings. At c. 10cm intervals arisings were closely examined by hand / eye specifically for artefacts.

At key sections [TP5] controlled samples were recovered d for possible future analysis.

Recording was undertaken using standard sedimentological terminology and colours recorded using a standard Munsell colour chart.

Selected section faces at each test pit location were photographed using digital [6mpg] camera; these photographs are presently held by the author and may be passed to ASE as a part of the site archive.

The results of the survey are presented below:

RESULTS:

Table 1a: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 1

[TP1] Ground level at +89.19m OD [N. End of Archaeological Survey Trench 4]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
IV	0.00-0.30 [+88.89m OD]	Upper c. 10cms tarmac capping on 'type 1' substrate / fill with abundant modern brick fragments / block ceramic pipe [Fill / modern] 0.30 sharp horizontal contact
III	0.30-1.00/1.20 [+88.09mOD]	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown to 10YR 4/2 dark greyish lose friable clay silt becoming 10YR 5/2 greyish brown clay silt. Matrix supports abundant modern inclusions [ash clinker ferrous debris] Matrix is moderately dense firm and compact [Re-deposited made ground] 1.00 / 1.20 dipping north - south irregular moderately sharp contact.
II	01.20-2.40 [+86.79m OD]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown mottled with to 10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown coarse granular silt. Matrix supports frequent angular occasionally sub rounded clast of various lithologies [sandstone flint / includes modern brick fragments and pumice block] No / nil structure. [Disturbed re-deposited fill] 2.40? Nature of contact obscured by water / appears moderately sharp?
I	2.40-3.00	7.5YR 5/6 strong brown to 5YR 5/6 yellowish red coarse sands with weak lenses of 7.5YR 6/4 light brown clay silt. The silt / clay / silt fraction is weakly laminated. [Fluvial / re-worked sorted river gravels]
	3.00 [+86.19m OD]	No further excavation due to collapse of test pit and rapid water ingress

Table 1b: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 2.

[TP2] Ground level at +89.56m OD [West. end of Archaeological Survey Trench 5]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
V	0.00-0.40 [+89.19m OD]	Re-enforced concrete [Yard / turning area] Hoggin / make up predominantly type 1 crush. [Fill / modern] 0.40 sharp horizontal contact
IV	0.40-0.75/0.95/1.20 [+88.56m OD]	10YR 3/2 dark grayish brown silt. Matrix is moderately firm and compact and supports frequent modern inclusions [brick pumice block salt glaze pipe] [Made ground] 0.75/0.95/1.20 moderately sharp undulating contorted contact
III	0.75/0.90-1.70 [+87.86m OD]	10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown fibrous clayey silt becoming organic rich down profile [strong Hydrocarbon odor from organic silt fraction] Matrix supports frequent sub angular to angular clasts and occasional modern timber fragments [pine with stamp marks with ferrous nails] seen in association with part wood [not timber] fragments. Re-deposited / disturbed / part contaminated peat / organics 1.70 moderately sharp horizontal contact
II	1.70-2.00 [+86.79m OD]	10YR 6/2 light brownish grey sand with frequent sub angular sandstone clasts [Clasts exhibit increase in sphericity as clast size increases]. [Water sorted head / solifluction gravels] [+87.56m OD] 2.00 [approximately depth obscured by water level] diffuse contact
I	2.00-2.80	As 1.70 though slight colour change in sand fraction to 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown
	2.80 [+86.76m OD]	No further excavation due to side collapse and water ingress

Table 1c: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 3.

[TP3] Ground level at +89.99m OD [South end of Archaeological Survey Trench 6]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
V	0.00-0.45 [+89.54m OD]	Re-enforced concrete [Yard / turning area] Hogging / make up predominantly type 1 crush. [Fill / modern] 0.45 sharp horizontal contact
IV	0.45-0.60/0.75 [+89.29m OD]	10YR 3/2 dark grayish brown silt. Matrix is moderately firm and compact and supports inclusions [brick / some plastic] Becomes 10YR 4/2 dark greysih brown in patches and colour change increases / more noticeable with depth. At south end of TP at 0.60 t0 0.80 there is a discrete area of 10YR 5/1 grey sandy silt that is weakly laminated. [Made ground adulterating colluvial / alluvial silts] 0.60.0.75 diffuse undulating contact
III	0.75-0.90 [+89.09m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey sandy silt. The matrix is moderately firm weakly laminated compact sandy silt with slight vertical rooting. [Alluvial silt] 0.90 moderately sharp contact
II	0.90-1.50/1.80 [+88.30m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey sands /silty sands. Matrix is moderately dense firm and compact with weak discontinuous horizontal laminations. At base of unit there are areas where the matrix has a weak block structure. [Desiccated alluvial silts] 1.50/1.80 moderately sharp gently undulating contact
I	1.80-2.50 [+87.49m OD]	10YR 4/4 dark yellow coarse sands with diamict of gravels of variable lithologies and sphericity All size fractions <1cm to > 6cm are variable between occasionally well rounded to angular. [Terrace gravels? - Water sorted head / solifluction gravels]
	2.50	No further excavation due to side collapse and water ingress

Table 1d: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 4

[TP4] Ground level at +90.12m OD [South end of Archaeological Survey Trench 7]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
V	0.00-0.30/45 [+89.72m OD]	Upper c. 20cms / 44cms of re-enforced concrete on modern crushed brick and type 1 fill [Fill / modern] 0.40 sharp horizontal contact
IV	0.40-0.60 [+89.52m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey mottled with 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown mottled clay silt with very weak sand content. Moderately dense firm and compact and supports occasional modern brick / ferrous fragments. [Re-deposited desiccated alluvium] 0.60-diffuse horizontal contact.
III	0.60-1.00 [+89.12m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey mottled with 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay silt with matrix supporting frequent sub angular to occasionally well rounded flint and mudstone clasts to maximum 3cm diameter. The unit is weakly bedded with structure defined by finer gravel clasts [Alluvial silts with alluvial gravels] 1.00 diffuse horizontal contact
II	1.00-1.80 [Approx +88.30m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey with 10YR 5/2 greyish brown coarse sands with weak sub angular flint gravels with maximum clast size of c. 4cms. At east facing section there is a discrete pocket of 10YR 5/3 brown sand and silt that is strongly laminated with sparse manganese and very sparse [single fragment of charcoal [Note charcoal may not be in primary context and may be derived from upper levels] [Variable energy / re-worked sorted fluvial silts sands and gravels] Contact obscured
I	1.80-2.60 [+87.52m OD]	10YR 6/6 brownish yellow coarse sand supporting predominantly sub rounded flint clasts to 5cm maximum diameter. Fluvial sands and gravels
	2.60	No further excavation due to side collapse and water ingress

Table 1e: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 5

[TP1] Ground level at +89.84m OD [N. End of Archaeological Survey Trench 1]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION	Retained samples
VI	0.00-0.60 [+89.24mOD]	Upper c. 10cms tarmac capping on 'type 1' substrate / fill [Fill / modern] 0.60 sharp horizontal contact	
V	0.60-1.00 [+88.84m OD]	10YR 4/1 dark grey to 10YR 3/1 very dark grey [as mottling] coarse silt. [Appears re-deposited?] Contains brick and cement block fragments and organic flecking. Matrix is moderately firm and compact though with pockets that are loosely compacted. Within area of east and west facing sections there are intrusive lobes of concrete to 0.90m [as seepage from surface concrete installation?] [Fill / modern] 1.00 undulating diffuse / gradual transition.	S1 0.80-1.00
IV	1.00-1.70 [+88.19m OD]	S[2] 10YR 5/2 greyish brown [very fine sandy silt] becoming [S 2/3/4] 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown [organic silt] to [S 5/6/7/8] 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown organic silt / well humified peat/ with frequent wood and stem fragments Palaeo-landsurface? overlain by low energy fluvial silts	S2 1.00-1.10 S3 1.10-1.20 S4 1.20-1.30 S5 1.30-1.40 S6 1.40-1.50 S7 1.50-1.60 S8 1.60-1.70
		1.60/70 Sharp gently undulating contact	
III	1.70-1.90 [Approx +88.04m OD]	10YR 5/1 grey coarse sand with pockets of 10YR 5/2 greyish brown silt. Matrix moderately firm and compact and supports occasional sub angular to sub rounded flint clasts to 2cm diameter. Contact obscured / probably sharp / sub horizontal?	S9 1.70-2.00
II	1.90-2.20 [+ 87.90m OD]	As overlying unit though wit rapid increase in clast size of flint gravel fraction to small cobble [c. 7cm diameter] Fluvial sands and gravels 2.20 Contact obscured [appears rapid transition]	
I	2.20-2.50	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown coarse sand with frequent sub angular flint gravels Fluvial sands and gravels	
	2.50 [+87.34m OD]	No further excavation due to side collapse and water ingress	

Table 1f: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 6

[TP6] Ground level at +90.28m OD [North end of Archaeological Survey Trench 8]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
V	0.00-0.40 [+89.88m OD]	10YR 4/3 brown coarse silt with sparse modern CBM. Matrix is loose and friable and moderately heavily rooted. [Topsoil] [Topsoil modern] 0.40 diffuse / gradual transition
IV	0.40-0.75/0.90 [+89.38m OD]	10YR 5/3 brown silt. Moderately firm and compact with matrix supporting sparse sub angular flint and mudstone / quartz clasts to 3cm diameter. Head deposit gravels 0.90-diffuse horizontal contact.
III	0.90-1.20/1.40 [+88.98m OD]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown silt to clay silt with weakly defined pockets of granular 5/4 yellowish brown clay silt. Re-worked Head deposit gravels 1.20/1.40 diffuse undulating contact
II	1.20/1.40- 1.60/1.80 [+88.58m OD]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown silt that are weakly laminated [in discrete pockets only] The matrix is moderately firm and compact and supports frequent sub angular to sub rounded flint clasts. Becoming more dense and firm and compact with depth with depth [at west facing section there is a discrete area, c. 70cms in diameter that is clast supported]. Re-worked Head deposit gravels 1.60/1.80 diffuse contact
I	1.60/1.80-2.50	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish coarse sand with frequent sub angular flint / sandstone clasts Less than 4cm in diameter. Matrix is loose and un-cohesive. Re-worked Head deposit gravels
	2.50 [+87.78m OD]	No further excavation due to side collapse

Table 1g: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 7

[TP7] Ground level at +90.61m OD [West end of Archaeological Survey Trench 2]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION
IV	0.00-0.25 [+ 90.36m OD]	Part concrete / tarmac / stone [as patio] cover overlying type 1 fill and made ground. [Made ground] 0.25 sharp horizontal
III	0.25-1.00 [+89.61m OD]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silt mottled with 10YR 5/2 grayish brown coarse silt. There are pockets of 5YR 5/6 yellowish red coarse sandy silts towards the base of the unit. Matrix is loosely compacted with sparse rooting in upper c. 25cms of the unit. Re-worked Head deposit gravels 1.00-diffuse horizontal contact.
II	1.00-1.70 [+88.91m OD]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown silt to clay silt with weakly defined pockets of granular 5/4 yellowish brown silt sand. The coarser sediment fractions exhibit weak horizontal laminations. Re-worked Head deposit gravels 1.70 diffuse undulating contact
I	1.70- 2.55	7.5 YR 5/6 strong brown to 5YR 5/6 yellowish red silt becoming sand towards base of unit. The matrix supports frequent sub rounded to sub angular predominantly flint casts with some sub rounded to occasionally stone clasts present towards and increasing in frequency towards the base of the unit. The matrix is loosely compacted Re-worked Head deposit gravels
	2.55 [+88.06m OD]	No further excavation

Discussion: Recorded Stratigraphy

Upper Units I and II at all test pit locations show disturbance and indicate the site has undergone considerable landscaping / modification to surface profile. Modern clasts contained within the disturbed upper units indicate this modification has happened in the relatively recent past [c. last 50-75 years]. The generally flat topography of the site with variation in elevation of only c. 1.00 metre between the north [+89.56m OD at top of TP 2] and south [+90.61m at TP 7] again suggests levelling has occurred.

Heavy disturbance in the area of TP 1 [disturbance / made ground recorded to c. 2.40m below ground level [+86.79m OD]] and to 1.70m Below ground level in TP 2 may record an episode of mass filling / import of material. It is considered probable that this general site area would have been made up with imported material as part of general site levelling.

In the north of the site area, at depths of greater than c. 2.00 metres below ground level [c. +87.50m OD] disturbed ground contacts and overlies fluvially sorted gravels. The lack of sphericity and structure within the gravels suggests that gravels are head / solifluction gravels that have undergone some weak hydrological sorting.

- The palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential of the north of the site area [Area A at Figure 2] is considered low

Test Pits 7 and 6 within the south of the site exhibit broadly similar stratigraphy. At this location disturbance / import of material is generally absent apart from modern ground surface covering. At both these test pit location a thin unit of made ground overlies variable silts / gravels. These sediments are interpreted as being re-worked / modified head deposits. Lack of structure suggests some slight re-working has occurred as a result of gentle down slope migration with some sorting of finer silts / sand fractions as drainage water and possibly fluvial flood waters seeps / migrates through interstitial voids within the sediment matrix.

- The south area of the site palaeoenvironmental potential is considered as low with archaeological potential at contact to natural lying at approximately +89.50m OD being considered as moderate.

Within Test pit 5, located within the east centre of the site [see Figure 1] made ground contacts, at approximately +88.84m OD [1.00 metres below ground level] a fine sandy silt, interpreted as an alluvial silt that in turn seals a moderately well preserved peat rich silt [Unit IV at Table 1e and see also Plate 1] . The nature of the upper contact to the peat suggests it has not been truncated.

Plant / organic preservation appears moderate to good with plant fragments being preserved to allow identification of contributing vegetation. The c. 80cm deep peat / organic silt unit overlies and appears to have developed on a probable fluvial silt [Unit III at Table 1e] that in turn overlies fluvial sands and gravels.

This *in situ* developed peat / organic horizon suggests an episode of relative sediment stability / accumulation within what was at previous phases a fluvially fluxed environment. The characteristics of the unit suggest it may represent a palaeo-landsurface that would have been available for probable pre-historic exploitation.

The extent of the peat unit is not confirmed though it is considered probable that Unit III at Table 1b in Test Pit 2 may represent an eroded re-deposited part of this organic unit. Weak organic traces within the south end of Trench 4, though absent at Test Pit 1 in the north, suggest that within the site area preservation of the peat unit is likely to be confined to a limited area. The limited extent is in part due to previous phase of disturbance within the site. A possible extent of the organic unit, within the site area is given at Figure 2].

Whilst, due to disturbance phases within the site area this organic unit may only be preserved within a discrete area of the site it is considered possible that this unit extends both eastwards and westwards away from the site and be present extensively at between c. +88.50 to +88.00 metres within the existing valley system.

- The palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential of the centre / east centre of the site area [Area C at Figure 2] is considered moderate to high.

Recommendations for further work.

Given the low palaeoenvironmental and palaeogeographic potential / significance of the majority of the site area site it is considered that no additional Geoarchaeological survey is required within areas A and B of the site area [as shown at Figure 2]

It is recommended that samples recovered from Unit IV at Test Pit 5 should undergo preliminary assessment to confirm that identification of plant macro fossils may be made.

Concurrently samples should be assessed for the suitability of submission for C14 age determination. If suitable submission samples are present age determinations should be sought on a minimum of 2 samples.

Subject to the dates, accuracies of dates, received the significance of this unit may be re-assessed and if required a suitable mitigation strategy, in advance of ground works commencing, may be put in place.

According to information received from the archaeological consultants, CGMS, the existing planning consent allows for the preservation *in situ* of the peat unit and any associated palaeo-landsurfaces and this therefore represents a suitable mitigation strategy. CGMS observe that:

- the approved development involves the insertion of twelve 300mm D piles in Area C with a total impact of less than one square metre.
- all piles will be augured and there will be no dewatering of any kind
- all pile caps, ground beams and services will be set within made ground.
- elsewhere the existing hardstanding will be removed and the underlying fill (made ground) capped with c500mm of clean topsoil

If a mitigation strategy involving preservation *in situ* can not be secured, then an archaeological response might be required. In this event, if ground works are to commence in advance of age determinations being received [presently approximately 8 weeks from submission] then provision should be made for comprehensive recovery of additional column samples plus associated bulks from 'Area C' of the site. In addition consideration should be given to monitoring of ground works / reductions etc in this area if the peat organic unit is to be impacted upon during construction.

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Pine C. A. 2007; *Summary report on the results of geoarchaeological test pitting undertaken as a component part of archaeological evaluation at land at Mandeys, Brasted High Street, Kent.* Internal unpublished report produced as a report component for Archaeology South East.

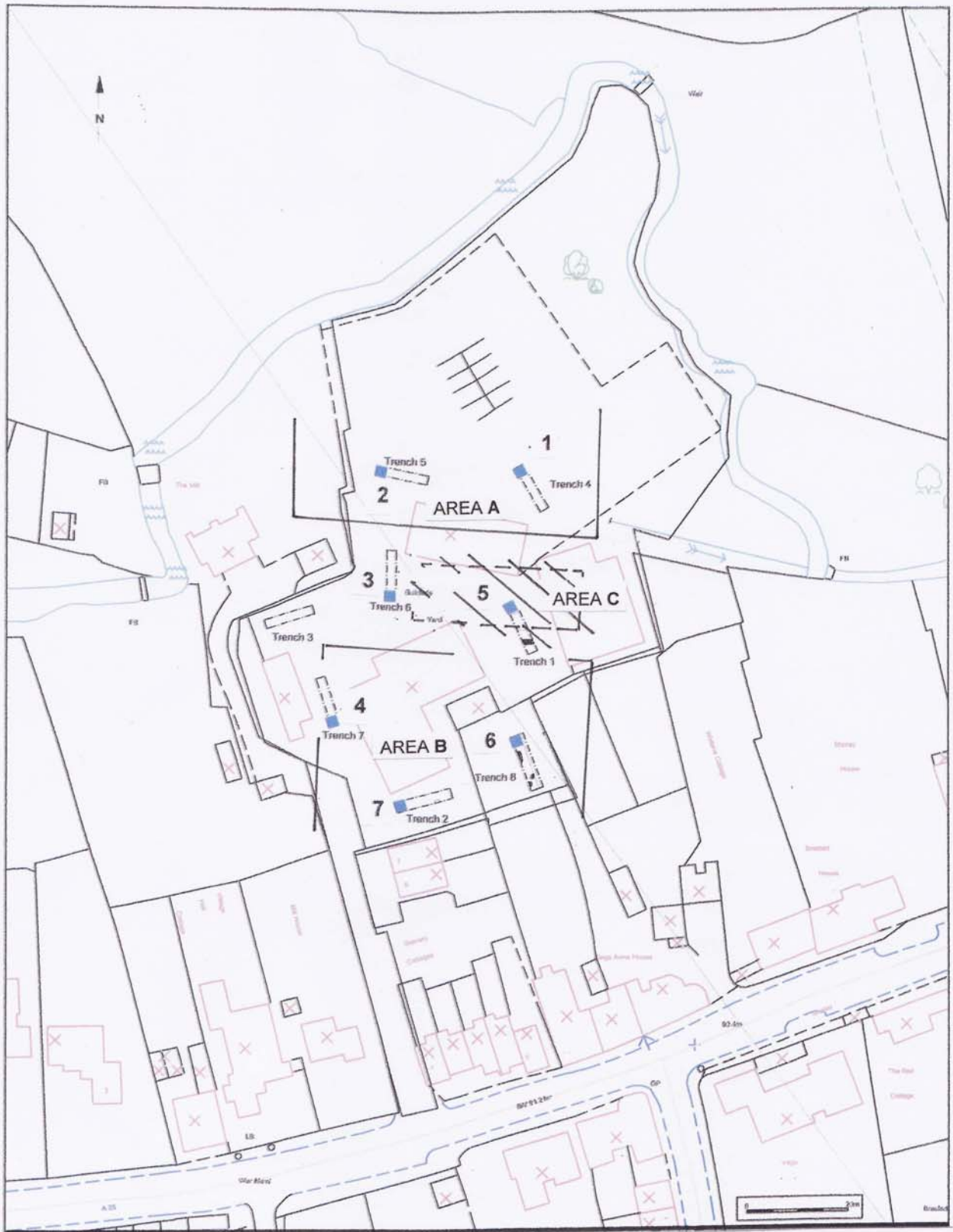


Figure 2

Site Areas A,B and C.

[Area C: hatched area shows suggested extent of possible palaeo-landsurface]

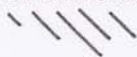


Table 1e: Stratigraphic description for Test Pit 5

[TP1] Ground level at +89.84m OD [N. End of Archaeological Survey Trench 1]

UNIT	DEPTH BGL [approx OD]	DESCRIPTION	Retained samples
VI	0.00-0.60 [+89.24mOD]	Upper c. 10cms tarmac capping on 'type 1' substrate / fill [Fill / modern] 0.60 sharp horizontal contact	
V	0.60-1.00	10YR 4/1 dark grey to 10YR 3/1 very dark grey [as mottling] coarse silt. [Appears re-deposited?] Contains brick and cement block fragments and organic flecking. Matrix is moderately firm and compact though with pockets that are loosely compacted. Within area of east and west facing sections there are intrusive lobes of concrete to 0.90m [as seepage from surface concrete installation?] [Fill / modern]	S1 0.80-1.00
IV	[+88.84m OD]	1.00 undulating diffuse / gradual transition.	S2 1.00-1.10
	1.00-1.70	S[2] 10YR 5/2 greyish brown [very fine sandy silt] becoming [S 2/3/4] 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown [organic silt] to [S 5/6/7/8] 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown organic silt / well humified peat/ with frequent wood and stem fragments Palaeo-landsurface? overlain by low energy fluvial silts	S3 1.10-1.20 S4 1.20-1.30 S5 1.30-1.40 S6 1.40-1.50 S7 1.50-1.60 S8 1.60-1.70
III	[+88.19m OD]	1.60/70 Sharp gently undulating contact	
II	1.70-1.90	10YR 5/1 grey coarse sand with pockets of 10YR 5/2 greyish brown silt. Matrix moderately firm and compact and supports occasional sub angular to sub rounded flint clasts to 2cm diameter. Contact obscured / probably sharp / sub horizontal?	S9 1.70-2.00
	[Approx +88.04m OD]	As overlying unit though with rapid increase in clast size of flint gravel fraction to small cobble [c. 7cm diameter] Fluvial sands and gravels 2.20 Contact obscured [appears rapid transition]	
I	2.20-2.50	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown coarse sand with frequent sub angular flint gravels Fluvial sands and gravels	
	2.50 [+87.34m OD]	No further excavation due to side collapse and water ingress	

Plate 1:

Test Pit 5: South facing section

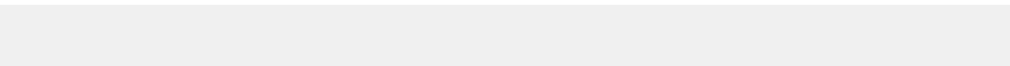


APPENDIX 2 Oasis Summary Form

Project details

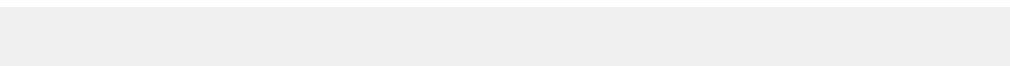
Project name	An archaeological evaluation at land at the Millworks, Highstreet, Brasted, Kent.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the land at the Millworks, Brasted, Kent. The work was undertaken on the 19th to the 21st September 2007 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd and Kent County Council and eight trenches were excavated. One small gully containing post-medieval pot and CBM was uncovered in trench 1, a brick lined well was revealed in trench 2 and 3 pits containing post-medieval archaeology were found in Trench 8. Heavy petro-hydrocarbon contamination was revealed in the remaining trenches along with significant layers of dumped and made-ground.
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2007 End: 21-09-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	mwb 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	CHANNEL Medieval

Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval/Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS BRASTED Land at Millworks, Highstreet, Brasted, Kent
Postcode	TN16 1XX
Study area	70.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 470 551 51.27552489 0.107737294042 51 16 31 N 000 06 27 E Point
Height OD	Min: 88.06m Max: 89.80m



Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
----------------------	------------------------

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Tom Collie

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Archive ID MWB 07

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','other'

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID MWB 07

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID MWB 07

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological evaluation at the land at Millworks, High Street, Brasted, Kent.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Collie, T

Other bibliographic details A4 grey lit report with plans

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Portslade, Brighton

Description A4 report complete with trench analysis, plans and section drawings.

Entered by Tom Collie (thjcollie@hotmail.com)

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