

**Link Park, Lympne, Kent.
Archaeological Evaluation Report**

Site Code: LPK07

Planning Application Reference: Y07/0607/SH

NGR: 611097 135968

**ASE Project no. 2961
ASE Report No. 2007256**

OASIS ID: archaeol6-39840



November 2007

by Deon Whittaker

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Summary

Archaeology South-East (ASE), part of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, (Institute of Archaeology), were commissioned by Somerston Capital Ltd., on behalf of their client Phides Estates (Overseas) Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Link Park Lympne, Kent (centred NGR: 611097 135968). Eight 10 x 2 metre trenches were excavated along the proposed route of an access road. Artefacts including, lithic waste flakes, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval pottery fragments, and a Mesolithic flint core, was exposed. No features were found.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by Somerston Capital Ltd. on behalf of their client Phides Estates (Overseas) Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Link Park, Lymgne, Kent (NGR: 611097 135968), (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site comprises a grassed field diagonally bisected by a former runway and taxiway. It is bounded to the west by Otterpool Lane, to the south by Link Park Industrial Estate and to the north and east by a large bund. The former taxiway runs northwest to southeast.
- 1.3 Following on from previous watching brief (Priestley–Bell 2001) and evaluation work (Johnson 2001) to the south and east of the site, the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken on the site where a Planning Condition exists in accordance with PPG16 guidelines.
- 1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the manual 'Specification for Archaeological Work in Kent' (KCC) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
- 1.5 A specification for the work was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.
- 1.6 The access road proposed for development runs close to known archaeological remains established by the previous watching brief and evaluation (Johnson 2001, Priestley-Bell 2001).
- 1.7 This evaluation was carried out by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) and Dave Honess (Assistant Archaeologist) between 5th and 7th November 2007.

2.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

- 2.1 The site lies on Pleistocene Head Brickearth with Lower Greensand according to British Geological Survey 1:50,000 drift geology map 305/306. The site slopes gently from the south to the north, the centre point being approximately 101.00 metres AOD. The East Stour River lies just over 1 km to the north and the sea is approximately 1 km to the south. The Link Park industrial estate lies immediately south with a large bund to the east and north, and Otterpool Lane forming the western boundary.

- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2001 (Johnson 2001) provided evidence for three Bronze Age linears, two, parallel, forming a possible drove way and a third perpendicular to the others. A pit and a post hole were also excavated. Most features were found to contain Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pot fragments and worked flakes ascribed to the Bronze Age. This evaluation was carried out to the south and west of the current site. The perpendicular linear runs just east of the current site and judging by the orientation of the suspected drove way, it passes to the north and north east of the current evaluation trenches. The features identified probably represent elements of a field system.
- 2.3 An archaeological watching brief identified a ditch, probably an extension of the postulated field system, with a further pit or posthole (Priestley-Bell 2001).
- 2.4 The site is roughly bisected by a northwest to southeast runway between Trenches 4 and 5, a northeast - southwest oriented taxiway intercepted by Trench 5 and a known electricity cable running through the west end of Trench 8. The airfield was created in 1916, its military use suspended in 1919. In 1920 it became a customs clearance point and a popular venue through the 1930s. The RAF returned in 1937, bombing in 1940 resulted in its temporary closure. After the war, the airfield reverted to civilian use. In 1967 an all weather concrete runway was constructed, followed by a passenger terminal in 1969. From 1968 the airfield went into decline (Collyer 1992).
- 2.5 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment was carried out by ASE in July 2005. The following SMR data is derived from that source with due acknowledgement.
- 2.6 The Kent Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at County Hall, Maidstone, was consulted. Details were taken of all sites recorded within c. 1km of the appraisal site boundary (hereafter referred to as the Study Area). Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Ancient Woodland and Conservation Areas are present. These designations and others such as Archaeologically Sensitive Areas and Areas of High Archaeological Potential are typically detailed in District Council Local Plans and County Council Plans.
- 2.7 The Registered Park and Garden at Port Lympne lies within 0.5km of the southwest corner of the Site. Nine Listed Buildings are identified within the Study Area. Additionally, five areas of ancient woodland lie within c. 1km of the Site: Hill Hurst Wood to the southwest, Lympne Park Wood to the southeast, Folks Wood and Kiln Wood to the east and Harringe Brooks Wood to the west.
- 2.8 Archaeological periods represented

The time-scales of the archaeological periods referred to are given below. The periods are given their usual titles.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic	(c. 700,000 BC – c.10.000 BC)
Prehistoric: Mesolithic	(c. 10,000 BC – c. 4,300BC)
Prehistoric: Neolithic	(c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300BC)
Prehistoric: Bronze Age	(c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC)
Prehistoric: Iron Age	(c. 600 BC – c. AD 43)
Romano-British	(c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)
Anglo-Saxon	(AD 410 – AD 1066)
Medieval	(AD1066 – AD 1485)
Post-medieval	(AD1485 to AD 1900)
Modern	(AD 1901 to present)

2.8.1 Palaeolithic

The Kent SMR records no finds of Palaeolithic date within the Study Area.

2.8.2 Mesolithic

The Kent SMR records one Mesolithic site within the Study Area. This relates to a tranchet axe found within Lympne Parish, but without a precise location (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 17).

2.8.3 Neolithic

The Kent SMR records one Neolithic site. This relates to an unpolished flint axe found by workmen at Otterpool Quarry in 1967 (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 12).

2.8.4 Bronze Age

The Kent SMR records two Bronze Age sites. These relate to a possible barrow ditch (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 13) and evidence of occupation at Link Park (Johnson 2001, Priestley-Bell 2001, Kent SMR TR 13 NW 68).

2.8.5 Iron Age

The Kent SMR records no Iron Age sites within the Study Area.

2.8.6 Other Prehistoric

Two unspecific prehistoric sites are recorded. These relate to a concentration of worked flint (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 47) and prehistoric pottery found on the ridge above Stutfall Castle (Kent SMR TR 13 SW 36).

2.8.7 Romano-British

The Kent SMR records four Roman sites. These relate to the route of Stane Street (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 53), and finds of Roman material

(including tile, pottery and coins) found to the east of Lympe village (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 48, TR 13 NW 50 and TR 13 NW 14).

2.8.8 Anglo- Saxon

Four Anglo-Saxon entries are listed. A possible 7th-century inhumation cemetery at Shepway Cross 0.9km southeast of the Site (Kent SMR 13 NW 54) and 6th- to 7th-century internments to the south of the Site in 1828 (Kent SMR 13 SW 2). Anglo-Saxon vases were found just south of Shepway Cross (Kent SMR 13 SW 25) and metal detectorists unearthed an early to mid 6th-century gilded silver disc brooch 0.2km northwest of the Site (Kent SMR TR 13 NW 85).

2.8.9 Medieval

The Kent SMR records four sites of medieval date. Two of these relate to the moated site at Bellevue, lying at the southwest corner of the former airfield (Kent SMR TR 134 SW 43 and TR 13 NW 18). The remaining entries relate to Grade I and II standing buildings.

2.8.10 Post-medieval

The Kent SMR records eight post-medieval. Two of these relate to tombs within St Stephen's Church (Kent SMR TR 13 SW 39 and TR 13 SW 40) and one relates to a 16th-century cartographic source that depicts a warning beacon with Lympe Parish (Kent SMR 13 SW 18). Four entries relate to Grade II Listed Buildings.

2.8.11 Modern

The Kent SMR records 15 modern entries. Of these, 13 sites relate to Lympe Airfield and associated. Two entries relate to a war memorial erected in Lympe in 1923 (Kent SMR TR 13 SW 38) and a 20th-century wellhead at Lympe Castle (Kent SMR TR 13 SW 41).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Aims (as outlined in the Specification)

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the likely impact of the proposed and previous development on archaeological deposits.

3.2 The methodology comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of eight evaluation trenches measuring 20.0m by 1.8m and totalling approximately 160m in length (Fig. 2). These trenches were placed to cover the proposed route of an access road. Trenches were laid by using a DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

- 3.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless 1.8 metre wide ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.4 The trenches were excavated until the archaeological horizon was reached. Machine excavated sondages were located at both ends of Trench 1 and the east end of Trench 4 to clarify the depth of the head deposit.
- 3.5 Trenches were cleared of spoil and scanned with a metal detector. Areas were hand cleaned where there were faint suggestions of features.
- 3.6 Topsoil and subsoil was stockpiled separately alongside each trench and was backfilled in the appropriate sequence. Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but no reinstatement was required. No constraints were present on site.

4.0 Results

- 4.1 The trench locations are shown on Fig. 2. All trenches were located in the previously agreed locations.
- 4.2 The general stratigraphic sequence recorded across the site was:
 - **Context [001]** – Firm, mid brown topsoil, average depth 0.20m. partially truncated prior to evaluation by undergrowth clearance. Occasional inclusion of sub-rounded flint pebbles 20 – 40mm.
 - **Context [002]** – Firm mid greyish brown, clayey silt subsoil, average depth 0.25m. Inclusions of frequent iron pan / staining and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles 10 – 40mm.
 - **Context [003]** – Firm mid orange brown, clayey silt natural, becoming gradually more reddish with depth. Occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles 10 – 40mm.
- 4.3 The above deposits were recorded across the site and are referred to in this report with the trench number prefixed e.g. [8/002].
- 4.4 Several artefacts of varying dates were recovered from the subsoil [002].
- 4.5 No archaeological remains were exposed in the Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 revealed. Trench 5 contained rubble backfill in the previous taxiway which had previously had the concrete surface removed, with the archaeological horizon completely truncated.

4.6 Stratigraphic Sequence / Results:

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Depth below g/s
[1/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.1m
[1/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.1-0.28m
[1/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.28-1.1m

Summary

Natural geology was encountered at 100.58m AOD at the west and 100.50m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features were observed although fragments of prehistoric and medieval pottery and flint flakes were recovered from the subsoil [1/002]. A sondage was dug to 1.1m depth.

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Depth below g/s
[2/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.13m
[2/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.13-0.48m
[2/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.48 – 0.5m

Summary

Natural was encountered at 100.3m AOD at the west and 100.44m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features were observed although fragments of CBM and flint flakes were recovered from context [2/002].

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Depth below g/s
[3/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.15m
[3/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.15-0.37m
[3/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.37-0.4m

Summary

Natural was encountered at 100.3m AOD at the west and the east end of the trench at ground level was 100.61m AOD.

No features or finds were identified. The west-most 2 metres were left at a depth of 0.12m on discovery of services.

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
[4/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.13m
[4/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.13-0.35m
[4/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.35-1.27m

Summary

Natural was encountered at 100.35m AOD at the west and 100.15m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features were observed although fragments of possible Late Bronze Age pottery, iron artefacts and a flint flake were recovered from context [4/002]. A sondage was dug to 1.1m depth. Dead service electric cables probably used for airfield lighting were removed during excavation.

A 1 by 0.5 metre slot was dug to a depth of 0.20m through a concentration of pottery fragments at the request of the county archaeologist due to the possibility of an associated feature. Hand cleaning of the area revealed no discernable feature and the slot revealed no edge or stratigraphy.

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
[5/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.13m
[5/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.13-0.5m
[5/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.5 @LOE

Summary

Natural was encountered at 100.03m AOD at the west, 99.54m AOD in the centre and 99.81m AOD at the east end of the trench.

The archaeological horizon appears to have been entirely truncated by the cut for the excavation of the taxiway and backfilled with modern rubble / cbm / hardcore, [5/005]. In section this rubble deposit was 10m wide and 0.4m deep.

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
[6/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.12m

[6/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.12-0.45m
[6/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.45 @LOE

Summary

Natural was encountered at 99.55m AOD at the west and 99.5m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed although fragments of possible Iron Age pottery and flint flakes were recovered from context [6/002].

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
[7/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.15m
[7/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.15-0.3m
[7/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.3-0.55m

Summary

Natural was encountered at 99.22m AOD at the west and 99.15m AOD at the east end of the trench.

No features of archaeological significance were observed although one, probable Late Iron Age pot sherd was recovered from context [7/002].

Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Max Width	Max Length	Max Depth
[8/001]	Layer	Topsoil	1.8m	25m	0-0.15m
[8/004]	Layer	Redeposited Natural	1.8m	25m	0.15-0.3m
[8/002]	Layer	Subsoil	1.8m	25m	0.15-0.3m
[8/003]	Deposit	Natural Geology	1.8m	25m	0.3-1.15m

Summary

Natural was encountered at 98.75m AOD at the west and 98.19m AOD at the east end of the trench.

A sondage was dug to 1.15m depth to clarify the stratigraphic sequence and revealed topsoil, overlying, a mid orange brown, clayey silt with sandstone [8/004], overlying the natural geology [8/003]. No features were observed although fragments of medieval pottery, cbm and flint flakes were recovered from context [8/002].

6.0 Finds

6.1 Quantification

Table 1. Finds Quantification

Context	Pot	(g)	CBM	(g)	Flint	(g)	FCF	(g)	Fe	(g)	?Slag	(g)
1/002	1	<2										
1/002	4	4	3	<2	2	4						
2/002			1	10	1	<2						
4/002	1	2			1	<2			4	8	13	4
5/002			1	22								
6/002	7	8			2	8						
7/002	1	16										
8/002	2	<2	5	32	7	41	1	4				
Total	16	30	10	64	13	53	1	4	4	8	13	4

6.2 Prehistoric Pottery by Louise Rayner

6.2.1 A small collection of pottery, some of possible prehistoric date, was recovered. All are small abraded pieces and mostly occur only as single fragments within contexts, making identification and dating difficult.

6.2.2 A flint-tempered fragment from [4/002] is almost certainly prehistoric and probably Later Bronze Age in date, although it could be earlier. Single fragments were also recovered from [1/002], [7/002], and [8/002] but their attribution is less certain. The grog-tempered sherd from [7/002] is possibly Late Iron Age. Lastly seven shattered fragments from a single sherd in [6/002] are possibly also Iron Age but could be later. The sherds are reduced with a sandy fabric and little else particularly diagnostic.

6.3 The post-Roman pottery

6.3.1 The fragments in [1/002] with flint-and-sand temper are likely to be early medieval in date. A small fragment green glazed pottery was recovered from [8/002]. The fragment is too small to be diagnostic of form; it is probably medieval in date.

6.4 The CBM

6.4.1 Ten pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 64 grams were recovered from four separate contexts. Context [1/002] contained three small fragments, one of which probably derives from a tile, the

remaining two from brick. The tile fabric is similar to that of the tile in [2/002]; the brick fabric is similar to that found in [8/002]

6.4.2 [2/002] contained a piece of tile in a sparse, fine sandy fabric with occasional clay pellet inclusions c0.5mm.

6.4.3 [5/002] contained a single tile fragment in a medium- coarse sandy fabric with frequent white inclusions and sparse iron rich inclusions of less than 0.5mm.

6.4.4 [8/002] contained four tile fragments. Three are of a fine sandy fabric with lighter clay marbling and clay pellet inclusions up to 3mm; the remaining tile fabric is similar to the tile from [2/002]. A single, abraded brick fragment was also recovered. The fabric is medium sand with frequent iron rich inclusions less than 0.5mm.

6.4.5 The fragments are too small to be indicative of date but are likely to be post-medieval

6.5 The Flint by Lucy Allott

6.5.1 A small assemblage of worked flint was collected from context [002] in trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8. The majority are non-diagnostic flakes and broken flakes on a range of different flint raw materials. Some of these retain some cortex on their dorsal surfaces, all pieces have relatively fresh surfaces and none display rounded or abraded edges. An end-struck flake with a small amount of semi-abrupt retouch along one edge was present in context [6/002]. A small, well worked bladelet core (measuring 26 x 25 x 24mm) was collected from context [8/002]. The striking surface and several other unworked surfaces show moderate patination. This piece may be Mesolithic in date.

6.6 The Metalwork

6.6.1 Four highly corroded iron fragments were recovered from [4/002]. One is possibly a circular sectioned nail stem; the remaining three are unidentifiable amorphous lumps. Several small pieces of ferrous material, possibly metalworking waste were also recovered from this context. None of the metalwork is indicative of date.

6.7 Environmental

6.7.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

7.0 Interpretation

- 7.1 The overall stratigraphy of the site suggests that natural substrate [003] is relatively consistent across the site and occurred at a depth of 0.20-0.40m. A number of finds of prehistoric, medieval and post medieval dates were recovered from the overlying subsoil, [002]. No associated features were present.
- 7.2 The small flint assemblage, recovered from the subsoil suggests some prehistoric, possibly Mesolithic activity in the vicinity
- 7.3 There was no evidence of any features associated with the potential Bronze Age field system identified in the earlier evaluation to the east (Priestley–Bell 2001). However, the fragment of Late Bronze Age pottery recovered from Trench 4 and the potentially Bronze Age flint tempered sherds from Trenches 1, 7 and 8 indicate some, albeit limited, activity of this date in the vicinity.
- 7.4 Limited truncation of the natural substrate can be expected to the south where the taxiway intercepts the runway and the runway extends to the south east (Fig. 2). There have been trial pits or limited service trenching around the eastern end of the proposed road. The other dead cables encountered were variously in the topsoil or within context [002].

8.0 Impact Assessment and Confidence Rating

- 8.1 The results suggest that there are not likely to be significant archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the evaluation area
- 8.2 The linear arrangement of the eight 20m trenches has effectively covered the impact area of the proposed route. The trenches were excavated slowly and carefully under constant archaeological supervision. Hand cleaning resulted in a good collection rate for unstratified artefact. Confidence in the evaluation methodology and results is high.

References

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SMR Summary Form

Site Code	LPK07					
Identification Name and Address	Link Park, Lympe					
County, District &/or Borough	Shepway District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 611097 135968					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2961					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. November 2007	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Somerton Capital Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary.						
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), part of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, (Institute of Archaeology), were commissioned by Somerton Capital Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Link Park Lympe, Kent (centred NGR: 611097 135968). Eight 10 x 2 metre trenches were excavated along the proposed route of an access road. Artefacts including, lithic waste flakes, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval pottery fragments, and a Mesolithic flint core, was exposed. No features were found.</p>						

Appendices

OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-39840

Project details

Project name	Link Park Lympne
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by Somerston Capital Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Link Park Lympne, Kent (centred NGR TR 113 358). Eight 10 x 2 metre trenches were excavated along the proposed route of an access road. A silty deposit, containing lithic waste flakes, LBA, Iron Age and Mediaeval pottery fragments, and a Mesolithic core, was exposed. No features were found.
Project dates	Start: 05-11-2007 End: 07-11-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD ASHFORD link park lympne kent
Postcode	CT21 4
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 113 358 51.0819154002 1.017181334050 51 04 54 N 001 01 01 E Point
Height OD	Min: 98.19m Max: 101.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Somerston Capital LTD

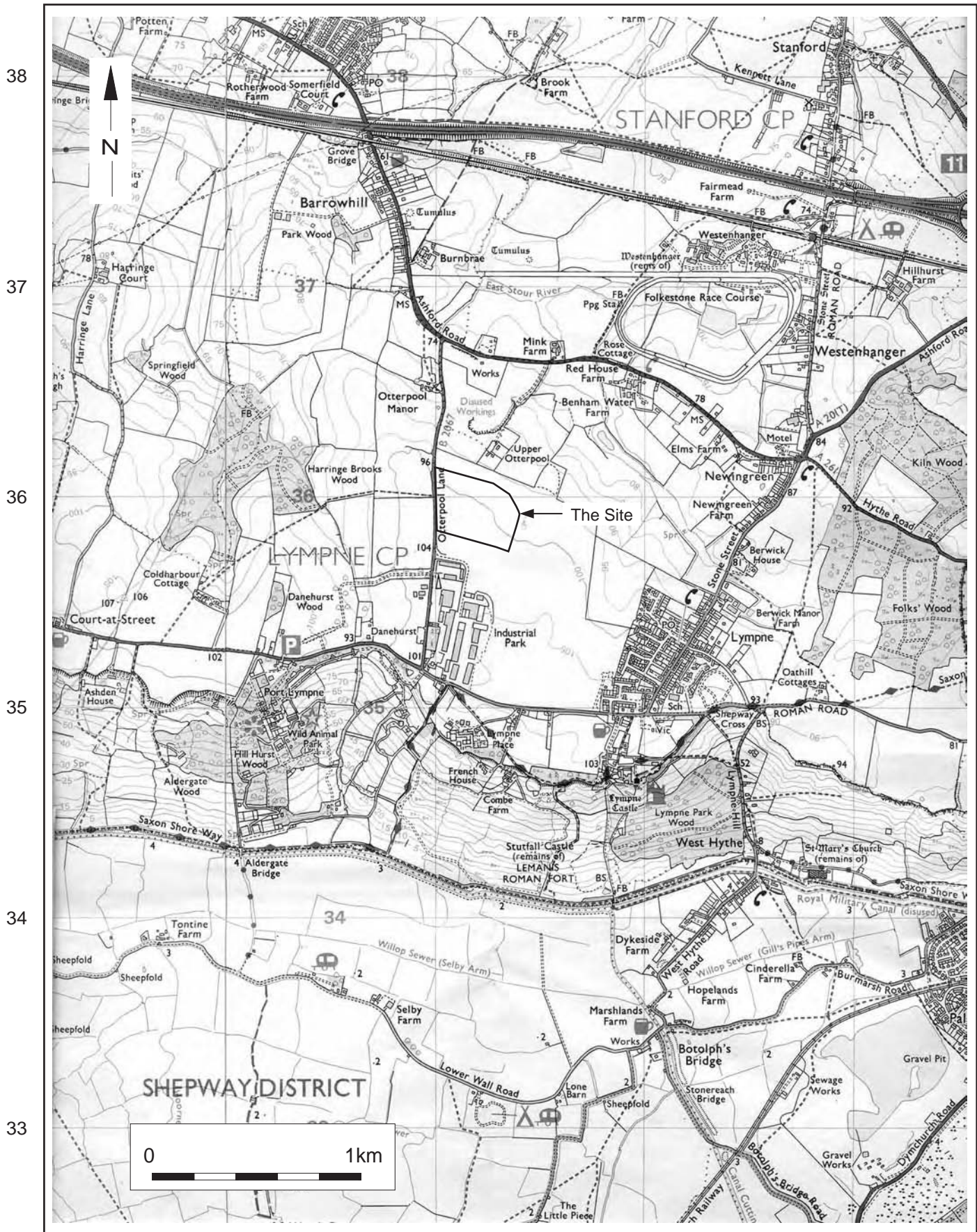
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient Local Museum
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Deon Whittaker
Date 2008
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Description A4 card cover bound Word Processed in Ariel pnt12
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Entered on 27 March 2008



© Archaeology South-East			Link Park, Lymington	Fig. 1
Ref: 2961	Nov 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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