



Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BN

Archaeological evaluation report

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Appendix 1. Kent County Council Historic Environment Record Form

Summary

Between 4 and 6 September 2023, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation at Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BN (NGR 581137 140672).

The work was commissioned by Canham Homes Ltd as part of preparatory works for the erection of 23 dwellings with all necessary infrastructure (Planning Application Ref. 21/016328/FULL).

The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 12 trenches, conducted to assess the potential, character and extent of any buried archaeological remains on site.

The evaluation revealed that the site has low archaeological potential. Linear features were observed to run across the site in a NW-SE direction downhill, and although those sample excavated produced no dating evidence, it is highly probable that many of these features are twentieth century in date, relating to the former orchard on site. Some of the linear features may be earlier in date, such as those located outside the footprint of the orchard, within the south-east side of the site. Other features recorded comprised a pair of undated post-holes towards the centre of the site, and a modern post-hole which was associated with a modern levelling deposit to the rear, south-east side of the existing barn on site.

Project contributors

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Post-excavation:	Caroline Russell

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The project was commissioned by Canham Homes Ltd. The client supplied the plant, machine operator and welfare.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Between 4 and 6 September 2023, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation at Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BN (NGR 581137 140672; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Canham Homes Ltd as part of preparatory works for the erection of 23 dwellings with all necessary infrastructure (Planning Application Ref. 21/016328/FULL; Figure 2).

1.1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (SBC). The planning application was granted permission, subject to conditions including the following archaeological condition, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF 2021):

19. Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure:

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) Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;

iii) Programme of post-excavation assessment and publication.

Reason: to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined, recorded, reported and disseminated. Such details are fundamental to the application and are therefore required prior to its commencement.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 12 archaeological trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development. This report sets out the results of the evaluation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located at the south-western extent of Frittenden village, within the Low Weald, approximately 10km north-west of the town of Tenterden.

1.2.2 The PDA forms a rectangular area of largely undeveloped ground that covers approximately 1.5ha. It is bounded by Cranbrook Road to the north-west, a belt of woodland to the north-east and south-east, with open pastures to the south-west. The PDA is mainly laid to grass scrubland, with an area of hardstanding and a barn located within its north-eastern corner and a small pond located roughly off-centre, to the east. A field bank subdivides the north-eastern third of the site.

1.2.3 The PDA lies at a height of approximately 40–46m above Ordnance Datum (OD), on ground that rises from south-east to north-west.

1.2.4 The British Geological Society (BGS on-line) records the underlying bedrock geology within the PDA as the Weald Clay Formation, comprising limestone within the north-western third of the site and mudstone elsewhere. No overlying superficial deposits are mapped.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The proposed development does not affect or impact upon any World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield or Registered Park and Garden (NHLE on-line).

1.3.2 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent County Council (KCC) Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, the CAT Annual Reports on-line and grey literature report lists and reports have been checked. The HER and reports search covers a radius of 1km around the PDA (centred on NGR 581137 140672), although features and sites located further afield have also been considered. These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report. A desk-based assessment (DBA)

produced for the site in 2020, updated 2021 (RPS) forms the main reference for this section. The DBA concluded that the PDA has low archaeological potential for all periods (RPS 2021).

- 1.3.3 There is a general paucity of HER data located in the Frittenden area as little to no modern archaeological investigations have been undertaken in vicinity of the PDA.

Prehistoric (500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 1.3.4 There is no evidence of prehistoric activity in vicinity of the PDA. In addition, the underlying geological resource is archaeologically sterile and therefore the geoarchaeological potential of the area is considered to be very low.

Romano-British (AD 43–450)

- 1.3.5 The earliest archaeological evidence in proximity to the site comprises the finding of two Roman urns in the mid nineteenth century, of fabric similar to Upchurch ware, which were recovered from a deep shaft, approximately 15 feet deep, in a wood (Leggs Wood?) located c 900m south-west of the PDA (HER TQ84 SW3). The urns were dated by type to the late first or early second century AD. Further surveying of the hole from which they were recovered indicated the presence of decayed vegetable matter and also timberwork, suggesting a possible ritual function of the pit.

- 1.3.6 Whilst of much later construction, lumps of Roman concrete were identified within the foundation fabric of the medieval Church of St Mary during nineteenth-century reconstruction works (HER TQ84 SW212). The presence of Roman concrete suggests the nearby location of a Roman-period structure.

Anglo-Saxon (450–1066) and Medieval (1066–1540)

- 1.3.7 No Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains are reported within proximity to the PDA. The earliest documentary evidence for a settlement at Frittenden comes from a Saxon charter of 804 (Frittenden Historical Society 2020).

- 1.3.8 Frittenden is not recorded as a settlement in the Domesday survey of 1086; the closest settlement recorded is that of the small village of Castweazel, located approximately 3.5km south-east of the PDA (Open Domesday 2023).

- 1.3.9 The Church of St Mary (HER TQ84 SW212), located approximately 300m north-east of the PDA, is a Grade II* Listed building recorded to have been founded by c 1200 and would have formed the focal point of the small settlement. The church, other than the fifteenth-century tower, was rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

- 1.3.10 Evidence of ridge and furrow agricultural activity, of possible medieval date, is recorded approximately 800m to the north of the PDA (HER TQ84 SW27).

- 1.3.11 The site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland during both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

Post-medieval (1540–1900) and modern (1900–present)

- 1.3.12 The PDA is likely to have remained under agricultural activity during the early post-medieval period. To the north-east of the PDA, there are a number of Listed buildings of post-medieval date which line the main thoroughfare of The Street.

- 1.3.13 The eighteenth-century Street Farm (HER MKE82208) is located c 300m to the north-east of the PDA. The associated Street Farm Cottage is a Grade II Listed building of similar date (HER TQ84 SW206).

- 1.3.14 An overview of historic maps dated between 1769 and 1900 indicate the PDA remained part of open, undeveloped land, during this period of time. The 1839 tithe map records the plot as forming part of land utilised for both hops and arable farming.

- 1.3.15 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1894 shows the PDA as open ground located within a large field parcel with a previous central field boundary, as shown on the earlier 1839 tithe map, as having been removed. The nineteenth-century Parsonage Farm (HER MKE82207) is shown on the opposite side of Cranbrook Road. No significant changes are noted in later OS maps (1898–1940).

- 1.3.16 The former location of a Second World War air raid shelter is recorded to the rear of the village hall (HER TO84 SW241), c 300m north-east of the PDA. It was archaeologically recorded prior to its removal.
- 1.3.17 An aerial photograph from 1960 shows the PDA as having been sub-divided, forming part of three different field parcels. At this time, the main field parcel, occupying the north-west portion of the PDA was utilised as an orchard.
- 1.3.18 Between 1970 and 2018, field boundaries within the site have been installed and later removed, with the orchard removed by 1993. The modern agricultural building was constructed in the north-eastern corner of the site by 2003 and a pond was installed within the site by 2018.
- 1.3.19 LiDAR data for the PDA has identified the presence of a modern north–south boundary and pond within the PDA, plus traces of the former orchard and east–west orientated field boundary as shown on twentieth-century mapping. A potentially locally significant historic hedgerow is located within the north-western boundary of the site with Cranbrook Road and is to be retained as part of development proposals.
- 1.3.20 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent HER. These records should be consulted by the appointed archaeological contractor prior to commencement of the fieldwork so an understanding of the surrounding archaeological resource and the general historical and topographical landscape can be made.

1.4 Objectives

- 1.4.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a), is 'to determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices'.
- 1.4.2 An evaluation is further explained as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'.
- 1.4.3 An evaluation may therefore result in the need for an agreed mitigation strategy and the implementation of further archaeological works with a specific written scheme of investigation potentially required to fulfil planning conditions. Additional mitigation measures may, for example, include preservation in situ and/or archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.
- 1.4.4 The principal objectives of the evaluation work are to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site and to ascertain their extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition.
- 1.4.5 Other objectives are to:
 - understand the nature, character, date and extent of any prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains on site;
 - place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within the context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

1.5 Methodology

- 1.5.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CAT 2023a) and the methods of practice outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a). It comprised the machine excavation of 12 trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development (Figure 2). All trenches were proposed to be 30m long. However, Trenches 3 and 5 had to be shortened by about 10m due to the presence of an existing interior boundary.

- 1.5.2 The trench footprints and surrounding areas were scanned using a suitably calibrated Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanner by a qualified operative.
- 1.5.3 Mechanical excavation was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was the higher. Ground reduction was undertaken using a 13 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.
- 1.5.4 The features and deposits encountered were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 1.5.5 A full colour digital photographic record of the fieldwork was produced. The photographic record comprises part of the site archive.
- 1.5.6 In addition to the archaeological evaluation, the machine excavation of three test pits was monitored for site investigation works on 6 September. Two test pits were opened within trenches in locations devoid of archaeology (the east end of Trench 2 and the south end of Trench 8) and the third was opened outside Trench 11, north of its east end. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were found in the third.

1.6 Health, safety and welfare

- 1.6.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2023b) and the CAT health and safety general policy (CAT 2022).
- 1.6.2 All CAT operatives hold valid Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is AcclaimSSIP (Safety Schemes In Procurement) accredited.
- 1.6.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool scanner.

1.7 Project archive

- 1.7.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020b), with the archive name 'Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BN', CAT site code EV FAF 23, and archive number 5061.
- 1.7.2 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made.
- 1.7.3 No finds were recovered from the fieldwork and no environmental samples were taken.
- 1.7.4 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be prepared and transferred to an approved local archive receiving body as recommended by KCC.

2 Archaeological Results

2.1 Trench 1 (Plate 1 and Figure 3)

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 46.44m-47.08m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
100	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.20m-0.28m thick.		Modern
101	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.13m-0.15m thick.		Undated
102	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.33m-0.43m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
103	Deposit - derived from former orchard	Quite heavily rooted deposit similar to subsoil. Recorded as a patch that runs N-S through the middle of Trench 1, 0.30m BGL. Measured 1.8m long x 2m wide. Same as (203).		Modern

2.1.1 In Trench 1, the natural geological deposit (102) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.33m Below Ground Level (BGL). It was overlain by a subsoil (101) and topsoil (100).

2.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 1.

2.2 Trench 2 (Plate 2 and Figure 3)

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 45.71-46.44m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
200	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.27m-0.32m thick.		Modern
201	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.14m-0.17m thick.		Undated
202	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.43m-0.46m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
203	Deposit - derived from former orchard	Quite heavily rooted deposit, similar to subsoil (201) but with large amounts of manganese flecks. Recorded 0.29m BGL, running through the east half of Trench 2. Measured 3.40m long. Same as (103).		Modern

2.2.1 In Trench 2, the natural geological deposit (202) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.43m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (201) and topsoil (200).

2.2.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 2.

2.3 Trench 3 (Plates 3-4 and Figures 3-4)

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

	Length: 20m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 44.70m - 45.56m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
300	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.25m-0.30m thick.		Modern
301	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.10m-0.20m thick.		Undated
302	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.36m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
303	Fill of [304]	Light grey, firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks.		Modern?
304	Cut of linear feature - interpreted as	Runs WNW-ESE. Steep, almost vertical sides and flat bottomed, with sharp break of slope at top and abrupt at		Modern?

	Length: 20m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 44.70m - 45.56m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
	possible drainage for former orchard	base. Measured at least 5m long, 0.43m wide and 0.27m deep. Investigated with a hand excavated slot.		

2.3.1 In Trench 3, the natural geological deposit (302) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.36 m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (301) and topsoil (300).

2.3.2 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were recorded in Trench 3. A linear feature [304] cut the natural deposit (302) to run WNW-ESE across the west side of the trench. It was recorded as being modern in date and interpreted as possible drainage for the former orchard on site.

2.4 Trench 4 (Plate 4 and Figure 4)

Table 4. Trench 4 contexts

	Length: 28.68m	Width: 2m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 41.84m - 43.50m OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
400	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.30m-0.32m thick.		Modern
401	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.17m-0.22m thick.		Undated
402	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm/compact silty clay, 0.40m-0.52m BGL.		n/a
403	Geology - iron pan deposit	Greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and rare charcoal flecks. Located approx. 5m from south end of Trench 4.		n/a
404	Deposit - surface and levelling	Levelled area with gravels and modern rubble material, including brick, tile and mortar. Located close to north end of Trench 4. Associated with barn.		Modern
405	Geology - discoloured natural deposit	Stained natural from deposit (404) above.		n/a
406	Fill of [407]	Poured concrete fill.		Modern
407	Cut of post-hole	Post-hole likely associated with barn. Measured 0.26m x 0.25m in plan.		Modern

2.4.1 In Trench 4, the natural geological deposit (402) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.40m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (401) and topsoil (400).

2.4.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 4. Modern activity at the north end of the trench was noted by the presence of a levelling deposit/surface (404) associated with the existing barn to the immediate north, and a concrete-filled post-hole [407] directly to the south of deposit (404).

2.5 Trench 5 (Plate 6 and Figure 4)

Table 5. Trench 5 contexts

	Length: 19m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 40.23-41.02m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
500	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.28m-0.30m thick.		Modern
501	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.13m-0.15m thick.		Undated
502	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm/compact silty clay, 0.37m-0.40m BGL.		n/a
503	Geology - iron pan deposit	Patch of greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and rare charcoal flecks. Located within east half of Trench 5.		n/a

2.5.1 In Trench 5, the natural geological deposit (502) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.37m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (501) and topsoil (500).

2.5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 5.

2.6 Trench 6 (Plates 7-8 and Figure 3)

Table 6. Trench 6 contexts

	Length: 830m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 45.26m-46.30 OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
600	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.16-0.26m thick.		Modern
601	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.11-0.20m thick.		Undated
602	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.44m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
603	Fill of [604]	Mid greyish brown, firm silty clay with very common manganese flecks.		Undated (Modern?)
604	Cut of linear feature - ditch	Linear feature aligned NW-SE. Concave sides and base with sharp break of slope at top and gradual break of slope at bottom. Measured 0.84m wide x 0.28m deep.		Undated (Modern?)

2.6.1 In Trench 6, the natural geological deposit (602) was encountered at a depth of 0.44m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (601) and topsoil (600).

2.6.2 An undated linear feature cut the natural deposit (602) to run NW-SE across the east side of Trench 6. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 6.

2.7 Trench 7 (Plate 9 and Figures 3-4)

Table 7. Trench 7 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 42.93m-44.67 OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
700	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.25m-0.29m thick.		Modern
701	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.12m-0.20m thick.		Undated
702	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.38m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a

2.7.1 In Trench 7, the natural geological deposit (702) was encountered at depth of 0.38m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (701) and topsoil (700).

2.7.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 7. A narrow linear feature was recorded running NW-SE through the north half of the trench. It was interpreted as a possible modern service/drainage gully, which appears to align with the excavated linear features in Trenches 6 and 9 to the north and south respectively.

2.8 Trench 8 (Plate 10 and Figure 3-4)

Table 8. Trench 8 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 43.01m-44.72 OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
800	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.26m-0.30m thick.		Modern

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 43.01m-44.72 OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
801	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.20m thick.		Undated
802	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.54m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a

2.8.1 In Trench 8, the natural geological deposit (802) was encountered at a depth of 0.54m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (801) and topsoil (800).

2.8.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 8.

2.9 Trench 9 (Plates 11-12 and Figure 5)

Table 9. Trench 9 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 41.70m-43.12m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
900	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.17m-0.22m thick.		Modern
901	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.13m-0.18m thick.		Undated
902	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.40m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
903	Fill of [904]	Light grey, firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks.		Modern?
904	Cut of linear feature - service/drainage gully	Linear feature aligned NNW-SSE. Concave sides and base with sharp break of slope at top and gradual break of slope at base. Measure 0.43m wide x 0.15m deep.		Modern?

2.9.1 In Trench 9, the natural geological deposit (902) was encountered at a depth of 0.40m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (901) and topsoil (900).

2.9.2 No features, deposits or finds of significance were recorded in Trench 9. Three narrow linear features, each aligned NW-SE or NNW-SSE, cut the natural deposit (902). One of these features [904] was hand investigated. It aligned with a linear feature in Trench 7 to the north but there was no continuation of it observed within the east end of Trench 11 to the south. The other two linear features in Trench 9 could not be followed through to any other trench. All three were interpreted as modern service/drainage gullies.

2.10 Trench 10 (Plates 13-14 and Figures 3-5)

Table 10. Trench 10 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 41.41m-42.86m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
1000	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.22m-0.24m thick.		Modern
1001	Void			
1002	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.10m-0.14m thick.		Undated
1003	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.34m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
1004	Fill of [1005]	Mid grey, firm silty clay with common manganese flecks and charcoal flecks.		Modern?
1005	Cut of post-hole	Measured 0.51m wide and 0.14m deep.		Modern?
1006	Fill of [1007]	Mid grey, firm silty clay with common manganese flecks and charcoal flecks.		Modern?

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 41.41m-42.86m OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
1007	Cut of post-hole	Oval plan. Measured 0.75m x 0.47m x 0.29m in depth. Steep sides and a slightly concave base, with a sharp break of slope at the top and abrupt break of slope at the base.		Modern?
1008	Fill of [1009]	Light grey, friable clayey silt with orange flecks.		Modern?
1009	Cut of linear feature - service/drainage gully	Linear feature aligned broadly N-S. Measured 1m wide. Not fully excavated due to time constraints and surety that it was a modern feature. Sharp break of slope at top with the exposed sides being very gradual.		Modern?

2.10.1 In Trench 10, the natural geological deposit (1003) was encountered at a depth of 0.34m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (1002) and topsoil (1000).

2.10.2 No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 10. The natural deposit (1003) in Trench 10 was cut by post-holes [1005] and [1007] towards the west end of the trench and a narrow linear feature ran north-south through the east end of the trench [1009]. All three features were hand investigated and interpreted as modern with the linear feature suspected as being a service/drainage gully.

2.11 Trench 11 (Plates 15-16 and Figure 5)

Table 11. Trench 11 contexts

	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: W-E	Ground level: 40.04m-41.02 OD (E-W)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
1100	Deposit - topsoil	Greyish brown, friable clayey silt, 0.25-0.35m thick.		Modern
1101	Deposit - subsoil	Light brown/grey, firm silty clay, 0.20m-0.21 thick.		Undated
1102	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.53m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a
1103	Fill of [1104]	Light grey firm silty clay with common manganese flecks.		Undated
1104	Cut of linear feature - possible drainage	Linear feature aligned NW-SE. Measured 0.60m wide and 0.12m deep. Concave sites and base with a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope at the base.		Undated

2.11.1 In Trench 11, the natural geological deposit (1102) was encountered at a depth of 0.53m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (1101) and topsoil (1100).

2.11.2 No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 11. The natural deposit (1003) in Trench 11 was cut by a NW-SE aligned linear feature [1104], 0.60m wide. This was hand excavated and found to be shallow, only 0.12m deep. It was interpreted on site as possible drainage associated with the former orchard on site.

2.12 Trench 12 (Plates 17-18 and Figure 5)

Table 12. Trench 12 contexts

	Length: 29.50m	Width: 1.80m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 40.02m-41.19 OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
1200	Deposit - topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick.		Modern
1201	Deposit - subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, with occasional ceramic building material, 0.40m-0.60m thick.		Undated
1202	Fill of [403]	Mid grey brown with manganese flecking and very rare flint.		Undated

	Length: 29.50m	Width: 1.80m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 40.02m-41.19 OD (S-N)
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
1203	Cut of linear feature	Gentle sloping sides and slightly curved base, with gradual break of slope at top and bottom. Measured 0.97m wide and 0.27m deep.		Undated
1204	Geology - bedrock	Yellowy orange, firm silty clay, 0.55m-0.75m BGL. Contains greyish white/whitish grey clay patches with orange flecking.		n/a

- 2.12.1 In Trench 12, the natural geological deposit (1204) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.55m BGL. It was overlain by a subsoil (1201) and topsoil (1200).
- 2.12.2 No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded in Trench 12. The natural deposit (1204) in Trench 12 was cut by a NW-SE aligned linear feature [1203], 0.97m wide and 0.27m deep. This was hand excavated and found to be shallow, only 0.12m deep. It was interpreted on site as possible drainage associated with the former orchard on site.

3 Conclusion

3.1 Interpretation

- 3.1.1 Twelve trenches were opened to expose a stratigraphy across the site comprising topsoil, subsoil and the natural bedrock deposit of Weald Clay Formation.
- 3.1.2 Five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8) were devoid of features. The most common type of feature was the linear, which was recorded in all seven of the remaining trenches. Trench 9 contained three linear features, whilst the others produced one each. These features were aligned NW-SE, or broadly so, running downslope to the SE. Some features could be seen to continue into adjacent trenches. A number were sample hand excavated. They varied in profile and width (measuring between 0.43m and 1.00m wide) and were all relatively shallow (measuring between 0.12m and 0.27m deep). As no dating evidence was recovered from any of the hand excavated slots, the linear features are all effectively undated. Some of these linear features are, however, likely to relate to the orchard on site, which was planted sometime between 1940 and 1960 and was grubbed out sometime between 1970 and 1993 (see Figures 8-11 of the desk-based assessment report; RPS 2021). Strips along the north-east and south-east sides of the site were not planted with trees and this correlates with the findings for Trenches 4 and 5 to the north-east, as they contained no linear features. However, linear features were recorded in Trenches 11 and 12 to the south-east, which would suggest that not all linear features may have served as possible drainage for the former orchard.
- 3.1.3 The only other features recorded on site were two undated post-holes in Trench 10 and a modern concrete-filled post-hole in Trench 4, which was located adjacent to a modern levelling deposit associated with the post-1993 construction of the barn that occupies the north-east corner of the site.

3.2 Development impact

- 3.2.1 The proposed development comprises the erection of 23 dwellings with all necessary infrastructure (Planning Application Ref. 21/016328/FULL; Figure 2).
- 3.2.2 The natural bedrock of Weald Clay Formation was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.33m-0.55m below ground level. Proposed groundworks within the site will be of sufficient depth to impact features that cut into the natural bedrock. However, the trenching has demonstrated low archaeological potential within the areas evaluated.

3.3 Confidence rating

- 3.3.1 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and conducted under good weather conditions.
- 3.3.2 The evaluation is considered to have satisfactorily determined the presence/absence of archaeology within the twelve trenches opened within the footprint of the proposed development.

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