



# Land to the rear of Dubris Close, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3FJ

## Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Project Code: EX DCW 22  
 Planning Ref: 22/00602 (Dover District Council)  
 Client: Mitchell Design and Construction Ltd

NGR: 631098 144344 (centred)  
 Report no. 2023/39  
 Archive no. 4851

Prepared by: Julie Martin and Laura O'Shea-Walker

October 2023

### Document Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Approved by	Position	Comment	Date
01	Caroline Russell	Project Manager		25.10.2023

#### Conditions of Release

This document has been prepared for the titled project, or named part thereof, and should not be relied on or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd being obtained. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person by whom it was commissioned. This document has been produced for the purpose of assessment and evaluation only. To the extent that this report is based on information supplied by other parties, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by the client, whether contractual or otherwise, stemming from any conclusions based on data supplied by parties other than Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd and used by Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd in preparing this report. This report must not be altered, truncated, precised or added to except by way of addendum and/or errata authorized and executed by Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd.

© All rights including translation, reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd  
 92a Broad Street · Canterbury · Kent · CT1 2LU  
 +44 (0)1227 462 062 · admin@canterburytrust.co.uk · canterburytrust.co.uk  
 Registered Charity no: 278861 · Company Registered no: 1441517 (England)



## CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
Contributions and acknowledgements.....	2
1 Introduction.....	3
2 Project objectives.....	3
3 Heritage setting.....	4
4 Methodology.....	5
5 Archaeological Results .....	7
6 Flintwork (Chris Butler) .....	15
7 Prehistoric pottery (Barbara McNee).....	19
8 Romano-British pottery (Martha Carter and Marion Green).....	20
9 Cremated human bone (Adelina Teoaca) .....	21
10 Other finds .....	22
11 The environmental remains (Enid Allison).....	23
12 Archaeological significance .....	24
References.....	31

## List of Figures

- Figure 1. Site location plan
- Figure 2. Excavation phase plan
- Figure 3. Plan of Phase 0 features and deposits
- Figure 4. Plan of Phase 1 features and deposits
- Figure 5. Plan of Phase 2 features and deposits
- Figure 6. Plan of Phase 3 features and deposits within Area A
- Figure 7. Plan of Phase 3 features and deposits within Area B

## List of Plates

- Plate 1. General view of site, pre-excavation, looking west.
- Plate 2. Overhead view of stripped Areas A and B.
- Plate 3. View of compact flint deposit (1111), looking south-east. Scale 2m.
- Plate 4. Working shot of site, with compact flint deposit (1111) in foreground, looking north-east. Scale 2m.
- Plate 5. Excavation intervention [1093] through ring-ditch 'A' (right) and earlier pit [1097] (left), looking north-west. Scale 1m.
- Plate 6. Excavation intervention [1093] through ring-ditch 'A' (left) and earlier pit [1097] (right), looking south-east. Scale 1m.
- Plate 7. Overhead view of excavated interventions through ring-ditch 'A', looking north-east. Scale 2m.
- Plate 8. View of excavated interventions through ring-ditch 'A', looking south. Scale 1m.
- Plate 9. Excavation intervention [1045] through ring-ditch 'A', looking east. Scale 1m.
- Plate 10. Pre-excavation view of ring-ditch 'B' with cremation pit [1036], looking west. Scale 1m.
- Plate 11. Overhead view of excavated interventions through ring-ditch 'B', looking north-east. Scale 2m.
- Plate 12. View of excavated interventions through ring-ditch 'B', looking south-east. Scale 1m.
- Plate 13. Excavation intervention [1101] through ring-ditch 'B', looking south-west. Scale 1m.
- Plate 14. Cremation pit [1036], looking west. Scale 0.5m.
- Plate 15. Overhead view of ring-ditch 'A', looking north-west.
- Plate 16. Overhead view of ring-ditch 'B', looking north-east.
- Plate 17. Overhead view of ditch G8 (foreground) and ring-ditch 'A', looking north-north-east. Scale 2m.

## List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Context concordance

Appendix 2: The flint assemblage

Appendix 3: Prehistoric pottery assemblage

Appendix 4: Romano-British pottery assemblage

Appendix 5: Materials recovered from bulk environmental samples

## Summary

*Between July and August 2022, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land to the rear of Dubris Close, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3FJ (NGR 631098 144344 centred). The work was commissioned by Mitchell Design and Construction Ltd as part of pre-application preparations to erect a commercial building with associated parking. The planning application (22/00602) was validated on 10 May 2022, with permission granted on 13 December 2022.*

*The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. A previous evaluation within the site revealed the presence of archaeological features, including a substantial ditch, likely associated with prehistoric activity.*

*This report provides a post-excavation assessment of archaeological data and artefactual material recovered during the strip, map and sample excavation.*

*The investigation revealed two ring-ditches representing former round barrows, along with a scattering of shallow truncated pits, post-holes and linear features. A cremation burial was identified within the interior of the smaller ring-ditch, from which the possible remains of a collared urn of early Bronze Age date were recovered. A small assemblage of pottery along with lithics recovered from both ring-ditches suggest an early to middle Bronze Age date and included residual Neolithic flints and ceramics. Struck flints of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic/early Neolithic date were also recovered from the site and indicate the presence of earlier prehistoric activity. A significant amount of the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint assemblage comprised debitage that may have been produced using a punch, which is unusual for this period.*

*Later activity within the site is represented by the presence of a possible Iron Age ditch, along with late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery which was found in the upper deposits of the large ring-ditch and scattered across the interior surface of this monument.*

*The remaining features on site comprise several ditches and pits of uncertain date.*

*The siting of these two Bronze Age round barrow monuments, on what is known as 'the 400 foot plateau' above the Dour Valley, presents new evidence for a hitherto unknown funereal landscape in the local area. As such, this activity represents significant new later prehistoric evidence within the Dour Valley area.*

*Upon assessment, it is evident that the recovered information from the project is of significant heritage value at the regional level and warrants publication.*

## Contributions and acknowledgements

The post-excavation assessment report was compiled by Julie Martin (Project Officer) and Laura O'Shea-Walker (Project Support). Contributors comprised: Chris Butler (flintwork); Barbara McNee (prehistoric pottery); Martha Carter and Marion Green CAT (Romano-British pottery); Andy Linklater CAT (Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material); Adelina Teoaca CAT (cremated human bone); and Enid Allison CAT (environmental remains).

The project was managed by Caroline Russell. The strip, map and sample excavation was directed by Julie Martin, with assistance from Tom Axtell, George Carstairs, Matt Charlwood, Mark Denyer, Jack Goodman, Ross Lane, Jamie Purnell and Dale Robertson. Surveying was undertaken by Matt Charlwood, Mark Denyer and Ross Lane.

Bulk and small finds processing was supervised by Adelina Teoaca and undertaken by Rosalind Mocroft. Bulk sample processing was supervised by Enid Allison and undertaken by Hlib Khandryha. Marion Green carried out spot-dating of the pottery.

The work was commissioned by Mitchell Design and Construction Ltd.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Between 13 July and 19 August 2022, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land to the rear of Dubris Close, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3FJ (NGR 631098 144344 centred; Figure 1; Plate 1). The work was commissioned by Mitchell Design and Construction Ltd (the Client) as a pre-application planning measure for a proposal to erect a commercial building for flexible use within Class E (g), B2 and B8, with associated parking.
- 1.2 Previous archaeological fieldwork on the site comprised a 38 trench evaluation undertaken by CAT in March 2007 (Holman 2007). It identified archaeological remains within two areas. Following on from this evaluation work, the Kent County Council (KCC) Principal Archaeological Officer recommended, in correspondence dated 17 March 2022, that the site be investigated by targeting two specific areas for strip, map and sample excavation, with a contingency to extend out from the known archaeology as necessary.
- 1.3 The excavation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) and approved by the Kent County Council (KCC) Principal Archaeological Officer. Two areas were excavated (Figure 1; Plate 2): Area A was located towards the southern corner of the PDA and comprised a rectangular plot measuring 22.87m x 13.25m, whilst Area B, north of Area A, formed a roughly L-shaped area measuring approximately 105.5m by up to 69.82m.
- 1.4 The planning application (Ref. No. 22/00602) was received by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dover District Council, in May 2022 and granted permission on 13 December 2022, with conditions including:

*17. Prior to the first use of the development hereby approved – or within 8 months of the granting of planning permission – whichever comes sooner, an archaeological Post Excavation Assessment Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall include an Updated Project Design in relation to archaeology and accompanying timetable for any further analysis and publication of the findings of the archaeological investigations and for deposition of the resulting archaeological archive. The analysis, archaeological publication and the deposition of the archive shall be funded by the developer in accordance with the programme and timetable set out in the Updated Project Design. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly recorded.*

- 1.5 This post-excavation assessment report covers the results from the archaeological excavation undertaken at the site.

## 2 Project objectives

- 2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were to contribute to the heritage knowledge of the area and to ensure the preservation by record of the buried archaeological resource where the proposed development would result in its permanent damage or loss (CAT 2022).

- 2.2 More specific objectives to be addressed by the archaeological investigation were to (*ibid*):
- excavate and record the archaeological remains exposed;
  - investigate the date and function of the remains and the activities that they represent;
  - establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed;
  - prepare a report on the results of the fieldwork that is compliant with relevant guidance and good practice, including ClfA standards and KCC reporting specifications; and
  - provide a resource for future outreach and education.

### 3 Heritage setting

#### 3.1 Location, topography and geology

- 3.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on land, known as ‘the 400 foot plateau’, which lies above the North Downs dip slope overlooking the Dour valley. The PDA gently slopes downhill from a height of 126m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the south-west end to approximately 121m OD at the north-east extent and is associated with a dry chalk valley running on a north-east to south-west alignment.
- 3.1.2 The PDA comprises a sub-rectangular plot of open ground, under grass, covering an area of approximately 1.4 hectares. It is bounded by the Honeywood Parkway development to the north-west, north-east and south-east and by a thin strip of woodland to the south-west.
- 3.1.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS online), the underlying bedrock geology comprises Upper Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member, overlain by superficial clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits of the Clay-with-Flints Formation.

#### 3.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.2.1 The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential with a number of excavations having been undertaken in the immediate vicinity, largely due to on-going development of the White Cliffs Business Park since the turn of the twenty-first century (Grigsby 2022).
- 3.2.2 In considering the archaeological and historical background for the site, the results of the 2007 archaeological evaluation of the site by CAT (Holman 2007) and the 2016 excavation by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2016) to the immediate north-east, are mentioned below.
- 3.2.3 Results from the 2007 evaluation indicate that the south-west end of the site appears to have been landscaped with the topsoil having apparently been removed. It seems likely that this occurred at the same time as a large hole was excavated within the site and filled with modern material – this activity may have related to the construction of a nearby school.
- 3.2.4 During this evaluation phase, trenching in the central area of the site revealed seven features comprising four possible ditches, a post-hole and two indeterminate shallow features or probable pits.
- 3.2.5 None of the linear features identified in this area could be identified elsewhere on the site. This may in part be due to the natural Clay-with-Flints geology which, during machining,

- tore into the surrounding ground surface and inhibited the visual assessment of exposed deposits. Recovered finds from some of the linear features suggest that they may be prehistoric in date.
- 3.2.6 The evaluation identified a north-west to south-east aligned ditch located in the centre of the site. No finds were recovered. During the 2022 excavation phase, this feature was identified as forming part of ring-ditch 'B'.
- 3.2.7 Two distinct features were located at the north end of the site. A very substantial ditch was located in the north-west corner and was initially assumed to be natural. A machined slot and subsequent hand excavation clearly showed a substantial linear feature, which the 2016 ASE excavation revealed to extend into land to the north (ASE 2016; para. 3.2.11). Excavations in 2020, on the north side of Honeywood Parkway, revealed the same substantial linear feature which was interpreted here as a natural palaeochannel likely to have been later used as a boundary in the Iron Age (Martin and O'Shea-Walker 2021).
- 3.2.8 A much smaller ditch was located in the north-west area of the site and also appeared to run northwards. This feature contained a small assemblage of probable Neolithic flints and several fragments of prehistoric pottery.
- 3.2.9 A heavily truncated pit was located towards the south-western end of the site and contained a small quantity of very crude prehistoric pottery and some burnt flint.
- 3.2.10 The 2016 archaeological excavation by ASE, to the immediate north-east of the present site, revealed Mesolithic to early Neolithic evidence including elongated pits which may have held posts, located within the north end of the site, as well as a collection of three post-holes identified within the southern area of the site (ASE 2016).
- 3.2.11 Middle and late Iron Age activity was also identified on that site in the form of a field boundary system (*ibid*). Features included a c 2m wide and 1.2m deep ditch, identified towards the south-east end of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment, leading towards the road. Twenty sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery were recovered alongside a collection of presumably residual worked flints. Another ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment was identified towards the north-west and lay perpendicular to this ditch, suggesting that they may have formed part of a field system; however, the profile of the second ditch was very different and measured only 0.3m deep.
- 3.2.12 Later activity within the 2016 excavation site comprised a single sherd of Roman pottery, recovered from one of three pits identified in the south-west area of the site (*ibid*).

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.2.1 The post-excavation assessment has been carried out according to Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).
- 4.2.2 All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a WSI (CAT 2022) produced by CAT and submitted to and approved by the LPA.



4.2.3 The fieldwork was also carried out in accordance with the accepted professional standards set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2020a). CAT is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.

## 4.2 Fieldwork methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken within two areas of the PDA. Area A covered an area of approximately 312m<sup>2</sup> whilst Area B was significantly larger and covered an area of approximately 4530m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1; Plate 2).

4.2.2 Site stripping comprised the machine reduction of the excavation areas using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All overburden (topsoil, subsoil and colluviums/hillwash) was removed in spits of c 50–100mm until the top of either the first significant archaeological horizon or underlying geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Following machine clearance, all exposed archaeological features were mapped using a differential Global Positioning System (GPS) and their relative positions digitally plotted using AutoCAD.

4.2.4 After initial stripping and mapping of archaeological features, a sampling strategy was employed to examine those features where the recovery of stratigraphic data and associated datable artefacts could provide sufficient information to characterise past activity on the site. Excavation was directed in particular towards the understanding of the chronological development, function, status and landscape setting of the identified features.

4.2.5 Archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand, in stratigraphic order where possible, to determine extent, form, character and date. Recording of all contexts was undertaken using standard CAT pro-forma sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10. Artefacts were retrieved from stratified archaeological contexts and bagged, labelled and stored as appropriate. Retrieval of finds from non-stratified deposits was carried out on an opportunistic basis. Photographic coverage employed colour digital images.

4.2.6 Artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation were cleaned and marked with relevant site and context references, provisionally identified and dated. Finds processing was undertaken concurrently with the excavation to ensure the rapid identification and spot dating of artefacts. This information was communicated to field staff at the earliest possible time to assist in the successful completion of the excavation objectives.

4.2.7 Bulk soil samples were taken from archaeological deposits and features under advisement from CAT's Environmental Officer, Dr Enid Allison, following on-site discussion of the date and quantity of artefacts and environmental evidence present, physical and stratigraphic associations and context interpretation.

4.2.8 The finds assemblages and environmental samples have been rapidly assessed in respect to archaeological context by subject specialists. This work has included preliminary quantification, categorising and cataloguing of the material, and the provision of a scoping opinion, based on expertise, as to its contribution to the site interpretation.

- 4.2.9 The site archive, including all the project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with ClfA’s standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2020b). Site code ‘DCW EX 22’ was provided by CAT and all records are referenced to this code.

## 5 Archaeological Results

### 5.1 Stratigraphic data

- 5.1.1 All stratigraphic data from the 2022 excavation has been entered onto a secure password protected online resource (Integrated Archaeological Database; IADB) under the project name DCW EX 22. The project archive is presently held at the office of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).
- 5.1.2 Contexts, representing deposits (denoted by round brackets in the text, e.g. (1000)) and cuts (denoted by square brackets, e.g. [1000]), have been combined into sets that represent stratigraphic units, for example a post-hole. In some cases these can be considered as individual features. Sets are denoted by the relevant cut number and are denoted in bold font in the text, e.g. **1000**.
- 5.1.3 During the initial analysis and construction of a site narrative, the sets have been combined into higher levels of related activity forming groups, considering where possible the known or suspected chronology of the features. These will comprise groups of pits, linear features (ditches and gullies), or groups of features in a similar area or stratigraphic position, etc. Some groups may only contain one set, for example individual features that cannot be related to anything else due to their isolation, lack of dating evidence or both. The content of the groups will rely on comparative analysis of the nature, distribution and dating of similar features.
- 5.1.4 A list of contexts, with set and group allocations, is presented in Appendix 1.

### 5.2 Context quantification

- 5.2.1 The summary of results from the archaeological excavation is based on dating of the ceramic and finds assemblages, along with evidence from stratigraphic relationships. A small amount of diagnostic pottery was recovered from the archaeological features, which made phasing the archaeology extremely difficult. For this reason, lithic analysis was used to augment the ceramic dated material, where deposited in the interventions.
- 5.2.2 A total of 151 contexts were generated during the archaeological excavation. Context 1003 has since been voided. Context summaries are shown in Tables 1–3 and involve an element of interpretation.

Context type	Quantity
Deposit	97
Cut	52
Interface	1
Void	1

Table 1. Summary of context types

Cut type	Quantity
Cremation	1
Ditch intervention	6
Ditch terminus	6
Hollow	1
Pit	15
Post-hole	2
Ring-ditch intervention	16
Geological feature	5

Table 2. Summary of cut types

Deposit type	Quantity
Fill	84
Layer	13

Table 3. Summary of deposit types

- 5.2.3 The 150 contexts have been combined into 67 sets, representing individual archaeological features, deposits or interventions. Sets have been combined into 16 groups (prefixed G) deriving from a geological phase or one of four main activity phases spanning from the prehistoric to the present day (Table 4).

Phase	Date	Associated groups
0	Geological	G1, G2
1	Early to middle Bronze Age	G3, G4, G5, G6
2	Late Iron Age to early Romano-British	G7, G8, G13
3	Undated	G9, G10, G11, G12, G14, G15
4	Post-medieval to Modern	G16

Table 4. Phasing

- 5.2.4 Group descriptions are presented below by phase and discussed in stratigraphic sequence from earliest to latest.

### 5.3 Site narrative

#### Phase 0 – Geological (Figure 3)

*G1: Natural superficial deposit: Sets 1004, 1011, 1111 and 1113*

- 5.3.1 The bedrock geology of Upper Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member was not encountered on site.
- 5.3.2 The natural geological horizon exposed across the site was a superficial deposit of Clay-with-Flints Formation, comprising mid yellow brown stiff clay with occasional to abundant small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular flints, and patches of manganese. There were localised variations in both colour and compaction, with outcrops of bluish grey firm clay being present and the clay being noticeably more compact in association with flint patches and spreads.
- 5.3.3 One very distinct thin spread of flints **1111** was recorded directly south-west of Ring- Ditch 'A' in Area B (Plates 3 and 4). Comprised of small to medium sized flints compacted into the underlying clay, this natural deposit could easily have been misinterpreted as a deliberately laid, man-made surface, if similar geological anomalies had not been previously identified on other archaeological sites within White Cliffs Business Park (Martin and O'Shea-Walker

2021). A flint scraper and two pieces of flint debitage were recovered from flint deposit **1111**.

*G2: Natural features and deposit: Sets **1010, 1057, 1065, 1072, 1074, 1115, 1121 and 1143***

- 5.3.4 During the excavation work, seven natural features (**1010, 1057, 1065, 1074, 1115, 1121** and **1143**) were investigated along with an amorphous deposit **1072**.
- 5.3.5 The features were poorly defined with irregular edges and contained yellowish and greyish brown silty clay fills with flint and manganese inclusions. They mostly appear to represent natural in-filled hollows. Feature **1074**, however, appears to represent a tree throw; it had very irregular sides and an uneven base, and contained a mixed fill of dark yellow, mid grey and dark brown silty clay. In terms of finds, a very small and intrusive pottery sherd of possible Neolithic date was recovered from feature **1143** in Area A.
- 5.3.6 Deposit **1072** was identified in Area B. It comprised an amorphous patch of pale grey brown silty clay with common manganese and occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flints; no associated cut was recorded. An intrusive assemblage, including three struck Palaeolithic flints and eight early Iron Age pottery sherds, were recovered from this deposit.

**Phase 1 – Early–Middle Bronze Age (c 2500–1250 BC)** (Figure 4)

- 5.3.7 The earliest features recorded during the archaeological excavation indicate prehistoric activity in the form of a large pit (G3), two ring-ditches (G4 and G5) and a cremation pit (G6).
- 5.3.8 In addition to the prehistoric features identified during the excavation, an assemblage of prehistoric struck flint was recovered from this phase of fieldwork, mainly from later features and deposits within the site. As previously mentioned (para. 5.3.6), three Palaeolithic flints were recovered from deposit **1072** (G2) as intrusive material. A background scatter of flint of Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic date was also identified from across the site. However, the majority of the flintwork assemblage comprises a collection of debitage dated to the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age to later Bronze Age.
- 5.3.9 A few small sherds of possible Neolithic date are included in the pottery assemblage from the site. This pottery and some of the early prehistoric flintwork may indicate the presence of limited Neolithic activity within the surrounding area of the site.

*G3: Early pit: Set **1097***

- 5.3.10 The earliest identified archaeological feature comprised a large pit, later cut by ring-ditch 'A' (Plates 5 and 6). The pit measured approximately 4.70m long, at least 2.22m wide and 0.70m deep, and had gentle sloping sides and a flat base. It contained three fills, including a basal fill of dark bluish grey soft clay. The main infill deposits comprised silty clay with common manganese flecks and occasional sub-angular flint. A large flint assemblage (approximately 1kg), which almost exclusively comprised flint debitage, was recovered from the pit along with a small collection of burnt flint. Ten pottery sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date were recovered from the upper fill (1094) of the pit, six of which were very small. The pottery sherds appear to be intrusive finds as they suggest a much later date that appears to contradict the stratigraphic relationship of this feature with the later ring-ditch.

*G4: Ring-ditch 'A': Sets **1025, 1045, 1048, 1063, 1093, 1126, 1132 and 1147***

- 5.3.11 A large ring-ditch (ring-ditch 'A') (Plates 7–9, 15 and 17) was partly exposed along the north-west edge of the site's limit of excavation, on the higher ground close to the ridgeline of the north-east facing hill slope. Eight interventions (**1025, 1045, 1048, 1063, 1093, 1126, 1132 and 1147**) were excavated through the feature.
- 5.3.12 Ring-ditch 'A' had an external diameter of approximately 18m and an internal diameter of roughly 14.5m. The ring-ditch measured between 1.38 and 2.34m wide and between 0.92 and 1.25m deep. The internal edge of the ditch was near vertical in places, with an external edge not quite as steep. The base was flat to concave in profile and very narrow. The ditch contained up to seven fills, mainly comprising deposits of silty clay with inclusions of manganese and sub-angular flints. The majority of the fills appear to have derived as a result of erosional infilling.
- 5.3.13 A very small assemblage of tiny pottery sherds of largely indeterminate prehistoric date were recovered from the excavated ditch fills. One worn sherd is of possible early Neolithic date, whilst one decorated pottery sherd may possibly derive from a Beaker pot of early Bronze Age date (2200–1700BC). Fills within interventions **1025, 1063 and 1132** contained a total of 34 Romano-British pottery sherds (mainly of first- to second-century date), suggesting that the ditch was partially infilled around the late Iron Age to early Roman period. A large assemblage of flintwork was recovered from the ditch fills and included flint debitage of flakes and blades as well as bladelets, cores and several flint scrapers. A large assemblage of burnt flint was also recovered, in particular from intervention **1093**. In addition, three small unidentified iron objects were recovered from the middle fill of intervention **1132**.
- 5.3.14 No surviving burials were found within the interior of the monument; to confirm this, the 360° tracked excavator was brought back in to remove any residual surface deposits, thus ensuring that it was not sealing any earlier features. Whilst an undated pit (**1039**) does occupy a central position within the ring-ditch, it produced no indication that it was a cremation pit.

*G5: Ring-ditch 'B': Sets **1069, 1071, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1086, 1101 and 1103***

- 5.3.15 Located approximately 47m east of ring-ditch 'A' was the much smaller ring-ditch 'B' (Plates 10–13 and 16), through which eight interventions were excavated (**1069, 1071, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1086, 1101 and 1103**).
- 5.3.16 The ring-ditch was fully exposed and had an external diameter of roughly 8.5m and an internal diameter of 6.6m. Its circular ditch measured between 0.84 and 1.22m wide and between 0.34 and 0.55m deep. It had a varying, though generally steep-sided profile and flattish base. The ring-ditch was heavily truncated and contained a single fill of grey and reddish brown firm silty clay with inclusions of manganese, sub-angular flints and charcoal. Small pottery sherds of both indeterminate prehistoric and early Bronze Age date were recovered from interventions **1076, 1078, 1080 and 1086**. A large assemblage of flintwork was recovered from all the excavated ditch interventions and included flint debitage of flakes and blades, as well as bladelets, cores and a Mesolithic/early Neolithic tranchet axe sharpening flake.
- 5.3.17 A single feature was located within the interior of the ring-ditch (cremation pit G6).

*G6: Cremation pit: Set 1036*

- 5.3.18 A cremation pit **1036** was located slightly south-east of centre within the interior of ring-ditch 'B' (Plates 10 and 14). The pit survived as a shallow, roughly circular feature. It measured 0.80m long, 0.70m wide and up to 0.09m deep. A layer of flint nodules, loosely arranged as flint packing material, was placed around the base of the pit. A mixed deposit of cremated remains, charcoal fragments and brown friable silty clay formed the main fill of the pit. Featureless, vitrified pottery sherds, weighing 74g, recovered during sampling of the pit, are thought to represent the possible remains of a collared urn of early Bronze Age date (2000–1700BC). This internment may represent a secondary burial, with the main (presumably central) burial having long been destroyed, possibly by human activities such as ploughing, for instance.

**Phase 2 – Late Iron Age/early Romano-British (120 BC – 200 AD)** (Figure 5)

*G7: Residual layers: Sets 1110 and 1112*

- 5.3.19 A layer of light yellowish grey brown stiff silty clay, up to 0.32m thick, with sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and manganese inclusions, sealed natural deposits in the main excavation area, localised around ring-ditch 'A'. These layers spread across the internal area within the monument and over the ring-ditch itself, settling into the partially infilled ditch at the northern extent of the feature. A single sherd of early Romano-British pottery (first century AD) and a small collection of struck flints were recovered from layer **1110**.

*G8: Ditch: Sets 1129, 1135, 1138 and 1141*

- 5.3.20 A north-east to south-west aligned ditch, with a terminus at its north-east end, was identified to the south-west of ring-ditch 'A' (Plate 17). The ditch may represent the surviving remains of a field system or enclosure. Four interventions were excavated through the feature (**1129, 1135, 1138** and **1141**).
- 5.3.21 The ditch was traced for approximately 14.10m in length and measured between 1.58 and 1.90m wide and between 0.37 and 0.55m deep. It had steep sides and a wide, flat base. It contained two fills of greyish and yellowish brown firm silty clay with inclusions of manganese, sub-angular flint and rare charcoal fragments. A large quantity of struck flints (comprising mainly flint debitage and three scrapers), an assemblage of burnt flints (over 1.4kg) and a small collection of largely indeterminate prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered from the ditch fills. Whilst two small sherds from intervention **1129** are thought to be of possible Neolithic and early Bronze Age date, the fabric of six indeterminate prehistoric sherds retrieved from intervention **1141** is suggestive of a later Iron Age date. Ditch terminus **1138** cut layer **1110** (G7), which places the linear feature stratigraphically later than ring-ditch 'A'.

*G13: Surface deposit: Sets 1024, 1026 and 1089*

- 5.3.22 Deposit **1024** sealed the upper fills of ring-ditch 'A' and comprised dark grey brown silty clay with flints. Finds recovered from this deposit included sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, along with a large assemblage of struck flints (comprising mainly flint debitage and one flint scraper).
- 5.3.23 Partially sealing the north end of ring-ditch 'A', deposit **1026** comprised light greyish brown firm silty clay with common inclusions of sub-angular flint, manganese and

charcoal. Finds recovered from this deposit included 25 sherds of Romano-British pottery and some worked flints.

- 5.3.24 Included within this group is dump deposit **1089** which sealed both ditch intervention **1093** and earlier pit **1097**. Up to 0.12m thick, it comprised a dump of burnt flint (over 3kg) in dark grey firm and friable silty clay, with common sub-angular flint and charcoal inclusions. Two sherds of very crumbly, prehistoric pottery of indeterminate date were recovered, along with 11 pieces of flint debitage.

### **Phase 3 – Undated** (Figures 6 and 7)

- 5.3.25 A scattering of discrete features was identified across the site. These features produced little, if any, artefactual evidence and their placement in the landscape offers little information as to their use or intention. Where cultural material was recovered, there remains a high chance of residuality, as well as likely intrusive activity.

#### *G9: Ditches: Sets **1082, 1084, 1105, 1107 and 1109***

- 5.3.26 Two ditches of short lengths were identified within the site. Each had been heavily truncated and their function remains uncertain.
- 5.3.27 Two interventions, **1082** and **1084**, were excavated through a ditch located approximately 14m to the south of ring-ditch 'B'. The ditch was traced on a north-east to south-west alignment for approximately 5.4m in length and was 0.65–0.72m wide and up to 0.20m deep. The ditch extended beyond the south-western boundary of the site and terminated at its north-eastern end. The ditch had gradual sloping sides and a wide, flattish base. It contained a single fill of light to dark greyish brown firm silty clay with rare flints and charcoal fragments.
- 5.3.28 Located over 8m to the south-east of ditch **1082/1084** was a second ditch through which three interventions, **1105, 1107 and 1109**, were excavated. The ditch was traced on a curving north-east to south-west alignment for approximately 5.5m in length and was 0.49–0.82m wide and up to 0.15m deep. The ditch had gradual sloping sides and a flat to concave base. It contained a single fill of light grey firm silty clay with manganese flecks, sub-angular flints and rare charcoal flecks. A struck flint was also recovered.

#### *G10: Curvi-linear: Sets **1088, 1099 and 1117***

- 5.3.29 Located approximately 10m to the south-west of ring-ditch 'B', three interventions **1088, 1099 and 1117**, were excavated through a shallow curvi-linear feature that cut geological deposit **1004**. The feature measured between 0.50 and 0.80m wide and 0.10–0.14m deep. This feature had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of light to dark grey brown firm silty clay with common rounded and sub-angular flints, rare charcoal, manganese.
- 5.3.30 This feature appeared semi-circular in plan and may represent the surviving remnant of a heavily truncated, small ring-ditch. However, it curved around a feature that was interpreted as a possible tree throw (**1074**; G2), rather than a burial.

#### *G11: Pits/Post-holes: Sets **1006, 1008, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1053, 1119 and 1123***

- 5.3.31 A group of eight pits/post-holes were identified across the site. Each feature cut geological deposit **1004** (G1). No obvious spatial relationships were identified.

- 5.3.32 A pair of features, **1006** and **1008**, were located in Area A. Neither produced finds. Pit **1006** was roughly circular and measured 1.18m long, 1m wide and 0.15m deep. The pit was heavily truncated and had shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of dark reddish brown firm clay with common manganese and occasional sub-angular flints. It is possible that this pit could have been a natural feature as it was similar to other outcrops of reddish brown firm clay.
- 5.3.33 Immediately adjacent was smaller pit/post-hole **1008**, which measured 0.60m long, 0.52m wide and 0.31m deep. It had steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of dark brown firm clay with abundant manganese.
- 5.3.34 Located in Area B, a cluster of three discrete features, **1017**, **1019** and **1021**, cut geological deposit **1004** (G1) to the north-east of ring-ditch 'A'. Pit **1017** was sub-circular and measured 0.47m wide and 0.15m deep, with even sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of mid yellowish grey brown compact silty clay with flint inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.35 Located to the south of pit **1017**, pit **1019** was sub-rectangular and measured 0.77m wide and 0.20m deep. It had even sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill of mid yellowish grey brown compact silty clay with rounded and sub-angular flints. A single piece of burnt flint was recovered.
- 5.3.36 Pit **1021** was located to the west of pits **1017** and **1019**. It was sub-circular and measured 0.90m long, 0.77m wide and 0.20m deep. It had even sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill of light grey brown firm sandy clay with common sub-angular flints, a large number of which were embedded in its edges. A flint fragment was recovered.
- 5.3.37 Possible post-hole **1053** was located close to the eastern exterior edge of ring-ditch 'A'. It was roughly circular and measured 0.26m long, 0.24m wide and only 0.06m deep. Heavily truncated, it had an irregular profile. It contained a yellowish brown loose silty clay with flint and chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.38 Pit **1119** was located over 18m south-east of ring-ditch 'B'. It was roughly circular and measured 1.18m long, 0.95m wide and 0.12m deep. The pit had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of light yellowish brown silty clay with rare flints and daub flecks. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.39 Pit **1123** was located over 20m south of ring-ditch 'B'. It was ovoid and measured 1.60m long, 0.52m wide and 0.10m deep. The pit had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of light grey firm silty clay with common sub-angular flints and rare manganese flecks. No finds were recovered.
- G12: Pits/Post-holes: Sets **1023**, **1039**, **1041**, **1047**, **1055**, **1067** and **1149***
- 5.3.40 A group of seven pits/post-holes were identified as either cutting the uppermost fills of ring-ditch 'A' (G4) or were located within the interior area of the ring-ditch. No obvious spatial relationships were identified.
- 5.3.41 Pit **1023** was sub-circular and measured 0.90m long, 0.46m wide and only 0.06m deep, having been heavily truncated. It had gradual sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of dark brown grey firm silty sandy clay and charcoal, with common angular flints and four worked flints.



- 5.3.42 Pit **1039** occupied a central position with the interior of the ring-ditch. It was sub-oval and measured 0.80m long, 0.75m wide and only 0.54m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, neither of which was sampled. The primary fill comprised mottled blue grey and reddish brown soft clay with occasional manganese and rare charcoal. The upper fill comprised greyish brown firm silty clay with common manganese, occasional flint, including some very large nodules, and rare charcoal. A very small sherd of Romano-British date (first century AD) and three sherds of likely Anglo-Saxon date were recovered from its fill, along with seven flint flakes. The date range of these pottery sherds suggest likely intrusive activity.
- 5.3.43 Pit **1041** was ovoid and measured 0.80m long, 0.42m wide and 0.23m deep, with very steep sides and a flat base. It cut an upper fill (1027) of ring-ditch 'A' and was sealed by later deposit **1026**. It contained a single fill of light grey firm silty clay with common manganese and occasional sub-angular flint. A small collection of struck flints and a single sherd of early Romano-British pottery (mid to late first century AD) were recovered from its fill.
- 5.3.44 Pit **1047** was roughly circular and measured 0.54m long, 0.51m wide and 0.11m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It cut an upper fill (1058) of ring-ditch 'A'. It contained a single fill of dark yellow brown firm silty clay with charcoal flecks and sub-angular flints. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.45 Pit **1055** was sub-circular and measured 0.70m long, 0.56m wide and 0.13m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a flattish base. It cut an upper fill (1051) of ring-ditch 'A'. It contained a single fill of very dark grey compact sandy clay with charcoal, struck flint, burnt flint and sub-angular flints. A very small pottery sherd of indeterminate prehistoric date was also recovered. An environmental sample taken from the fill of this pit produced charred cereal grains of potential significance in terms of dating of this feature.
- 5.3.46 Pit **1067** was oblong and measured 1.34m long, 0.52m wide and 0.10m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It cut an upper fill (1042) of ring-ditch 'A'. It contained a single fill of dark yellow brown firm silty clay with sub-angular flints and charcoal flecks. Burnt flints and some struck flints were recovered.
- 5.3.47 Pit **1149** was sub-circular and measured 1.81m long, 1.06m wide and 0.65m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It cut an upper fill (1130) of ring-ditch 'A'. It contained a single fill of dark grey brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints. A very small assemblage of Romano-British pottery (first to second century AD) and some struck flints, including a flint scraper, were recovered from its fill.

*G14: Colluvium: Set **1002***

- 5.3.48 A layer of colluvium or hillwash, **1002**, comprising mid stiff brown silty clay, between 0.25 and 0.60m thick, sealed most of the archaeological features across the site and was itself sealed by subsoil **1001**. Finds recovered from this deposit comprised two sherds of indeterminate prehistoric pottery (early Neolithic or early Iron Age), three post-Roman pottery sherds, struck and burnt flint, and fragments of ceramic building material.

*G15: Later pit: Set **1015***

- 5.3.49 Pit **1015** was partly exposed, extending out of the north-west side of Area B, near the north corner. It was roughly sub-oval and measured 1.85m long, 0.78m wide and 0.41m

deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It cut colluvium layer **1002** (G14). It contained three fills. The basal fill comprised mid greyish brown silty clay with abundant manganese flecking and occasional sub-rounded flint, and perhaps represented an erosional infill. The secondary fill comprised bright orange firm clay with occasional manganese flecking and was similar to a clay lining deposit. The uppermost fill comprised light reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecking and sub-rounded flints. No finds were recovered.

#### **Phase 4 – Post-Medieval (AD 1550-1940) to Modern (AD 1940–present)**

- 5.3.50 The remaining deposits from the site are of likely Post-medieval to modern date and are associated with the former agricultural use of the land.

##### *G16: Overburden: Sets 1000 and 1001*

- 5.3.51 Overburden, comprising deposits of subsoil and topsoil, formed the final layers in the stratigraphic sequence and represent the only likely Post-medieval to modern deposits recorded within the site. The subsoil **1001** comprised a layer of mid brown stiff silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, small sub-angular flints and a collection of struck flints including a flint scraper. The topsoil **1000** was darker and greyer in appearance and measured up to 0.25m thick.

#### **5.4 Statement of potential**

- 5.4.1 The stratigraphic data has the potential to contribute to understanding past land use and activity during the prehistoric period within this area of Whitfield.
- 5.4.2 Post-excavation assessment has determined that the stratigraphic integrity of the recorded data is good.

## **6 Flintwork (Chris Butler)**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 An assemblage of 1218 pieces of worked flint weighing 20.495kg was recovered during the excavation at Dubris Close, Whitfield (Appendix 2). In addition, there were 10 pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint weighing 221g.
- 6.1.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of each piece, counting the number of pieces of each type of worked flint present, noting details of the range and variety of pieces, general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. A handwritten archive of the assemblage and excel spreadsheet was produced at this stage. Unworked flint was discarded. Classification follows Butler (2005). The flintwork is tabulated in Table 5.

### **6.2 The raw material**

- 6.2.1 The raw material was a mix of types, mostly a light to dark grey, or mottled grey colour, with black coloured pieces being next most common, all of which appeared to have derived from the Chalk. There were smaller quantities of grey-white and blue-grey patinated pieces, also from a Chalk origin. Only some 30 pieces of Bullhead flint were found. There was little evidence that gravel flint had been utilised for flintworking with only a few pieces noted amongst the debitage.

6.2.2 There were also six pieces that had a creamy white gloss patination, which are probably of Palaeolithic date. Three of these came from the amorphous deposit (1072) and comprised a soft hammer-struck flake, a flake fragment (recent break) and a cortical natural fragment with a series of regular removals along one edge. The latter may have been intended as a scraper, but there was no evidence of additional retouch or utilisation. The other pieces were a large hard hammer-struck flake from (1001), a hard hammer-struck flake from (1111), and a soft hammer-struck blade from (1003).

Form	Quantity
Hard hammer-struck flakes	457
Soft hammer-struck flakes	349
Hard hammer-struck blades	2
Soft hammer-struck blades	26
Soft hammer-struck bladelets	6
Flake/blade fragments	260
Bladelet fragments	5
Chips	38
Shattered piece	1
Axe thinning flake	1
Core rejuvenation flakes	8
Cores	20
Core fragments	19
End scrapers	14
Side scraper	1
Horned scraper	1
Miscellaneous retouched pieces	5
Piercer	1
Backed blade	1
Fabricator	1
Tranched adze sharpening flake	1
Core tool fragment	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1218</b>

Table 5. The flintwork assemblage

### 6.3 The debitage

6.3.1 The debitage comprises predominantly flakes, with much smaller numbers of blades and bladelets. The flakes are predominantly (57%) hard hammer-struck pieces, defined by having large bulbs of percussion, broad platforms and numerous hinged or broken distal ends. Soft hammer-struck flakes have diffuse bulbs of percussion, with a pronounced lip at the junction with the platform. An unusual and significant feature of many of the soft hammer-struck pieces is the presence of a small projection on the platform lip. This is normally associated with the use of a punch, and an indication of a careful and systematic flintknapping process in use during the Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods. However, the other attributes of these flakes would better assign them to the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age, and therefore it is proposed that we are seeing the use of a punch, possibly of copper-alloy, in this later period.

6.3.2 Many of the flakes had remaining amounts of cortex on the dorsal side, and many of the flakes are longer than they are broad, some almost being blade-like and many of the flakes are of a large size. Few pieces have evidence for prepared platforms. A number of flakes had evidence of retouching or utilisation indicating they had been used for some task before being discarded.

- 6.3.3 Only 28 blades were recovered, mostly being soft hammer-struck, with some having prepared platforms. A number of the blades have been modified with retouch along a lateral edge. Only six bladelets were recovered, together with five bladelet fragments.
- 6.3.4 A total of 260 flake/blade fragments were recovered, mostly undiagnostic fragments, however a few could be identified as having derived from blade production. Most had clearly broken during flake/blade production rather than through use. Four fragments had evidence of being retouched or utilised.
- 6.3.5 Only a small number of chips (38) were recovered. This is probably not a true reflection of their presence or absence, but probably an indication of the excavation and recovery techniques employed. A high number of chips were noted in groups derived from soil samples, so they may have been present in many contexts but not recovered.
- 6.3.6 A total of 20 cores were recovered, comprising four single-platform flake cores, eight two-platform flake cores and eight multiple-platform (three or more platforms) flake cores. There were also 19 core fragments. Most of the cores are quite rough, with little evidence for systematic core reduction, and only one two-platform flake core and a couple of the core fragments had evidence for platform preparation. Only one core fragment had abrasive damage suggesting it had been later used as a hammerstone. Eight 'core rejuvenation' pieces were also found, but most of these are probably simply first removals from a new platform rather than purposeful rejuvenation of the core as a result of a more methodical core reduction process. The exception was a rejuvenation flake from a blade core with platform preparation from (1068), which is probably Mesolithic.

#### 6.4 The implements

- 6.4.1 A total of 24 implements were recovered during the fieldwork, making up less than 2% of the assemblage, which is a lower proportion than normally found in a prehistoric flint assemblage not associated with a specific manufacturing process utilising flint tools.
- 6.4.2 The predominant implement type was the scraper of which 16 were found; 14 being end scrapers, with a single side scraper and a single horned scraper. Most of the end scrapers were fairly simple, expedient types with semi-abrupt or abrupt retouch around the distal end of a flake or blade, or fragment. There was no uniformity of types, and they were probably being made and then discarded after a single use. The horned scraper from (1051) has abrupt retouch forming a deep concave area leaving two projecting 'horns' and is normally associated with localised production in the later Bronze Age.
- 6.4.3 Other implements include a single piercer manufactured on a flake fragment from (1110), and a number of retouched flakes and blades, including a backed blade from (1127) (probably residual Mesolithic), two retouched blades from (1140), a retouched flake from (1024) and a retouched flake and blade from (1027). A soft hammer-struck blade from (1051) had a possible denticulated lateral edge, although this had been worn either through use or later damage. Most of these appear to be expedient tools with little evidence of protracted use or curation.
- 6.4.4 An end fragment from a fabricator was found in (1090), a fragment from a core tool was recovered from (1051) and a possible tranchet adze sharpening flake came from (1068).

## 6.5 Discussion

- 6.5.1 A small number of heavily patinated pieces were found, including three from the amorphous deposit (1072); the remainder probably being residual. These pieces are clearly different to the remainder of the assemblage and represent Palaeolithic activity, although it is difficult to be more specific than that from the small number of undiagnostic pieces found.
- 6.5.2 There is a background scatter of flintwork that dates from the Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic periods, generally found residual in numerous contexts but with no apparent concentration. This earlier flintwork includes some blades, bladelets, one or two cores and core rejuvenation pieces, together with one or two of the scrapers, the retouched blades and the possible tranchet adze sharpening flake. The quantity of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic material is not large and does not indicate extensive activity in this period at the site.
- 6.5.3 The majority of the assemblage can be attributed to the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age and into the later Bronze Age; large sized debitage, predominantly hard hammer-struck, but with a significant amount of debitage produced using a punch, perhaps of copper-alloy. Many of the longer flakes and bladelike pieces have been produced in this manner. The cores are mostly multiple platform flake cores, but few have indications of a systematic core reduction strategy and most of the potential core rejuvenation pieces are probably accidental.
- 6.5.4 The large number of flakes, blades and fragments, combined with the presence of cores and 'rejuvenation' pieces indicates that flint knapping was taking place on the site. The lack of chips in the assemblage is probably due to the excavation techniques employed rather than a lack of the chips themselves, or perhaps that the knapping was taking place away from the features into which the larger debitage was subsequently deposited. Some groups of debitage, for example that from (1127), the fill of ditch [1129]), contain pieces that appear to have derived from the same knapping episode, although no refits were achieved. However, this activity would probably relate to later activity rather than being associated with the construction of the ring ditches.
- 6.5.5 The range of implements is limited, scrapers predominate, with just a single piercer and a few retouched pieces, but this is in character with later prehistoric assemblages where the range of implement types is small. Most appear to be expedient types, and few have any evidence of extensive use or curation. The proportion of implements to debitage is also low (2% rather than the more normal 4% expected) and may be because the site was related to ritual rather than settlement activity. It seems likely that most implements were being made and used at the site and quickly discarded after use.

## 6.6 Recommendations

- 6.6.1 The flintwork has all been identified and summarised by context. The assessment of the assemblage has identified three phases of activity. The first phase comprises a few pieces that are Palaeolithic in date, with the second being a background Mesolithic/Early Neolithic assemblage. Both of these phases only have a few pieces, but indicate activity in these periods. No further work is recommended for the flintwork from these phases.
- 6.6.2 The majority of the assemblage derives from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age, continuing into the late Bronze Age. This activity is probably associated with the construction of the ring ditches and later activity around them. Of interest is the

suggestion that a significant amount of the debitage may have been produced using a punch, which is unusual for this time period. Further analysis of the later prehistoric flintwork in association with other dating evidence may better define the dating and characterize the activity represented and allow comparison with other excavated ring ditch sites.

6.6.3 In the event of publication, some 24 pieces could be illustrated.

## 7 Prehistoric pottery (Barbara McNee)

### 7.1 Introduction

71.1 A total of 60 prehistoric pottery sherds, weighing 159g, and with a lower than average mean sherd weight of 2.6g, were hand recovered during the archaeological excavation (Appendix 3). In addition, there are a number of tiny sherds from sampling. The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

### 7.2 Fabrics

7.2.1 F/1: A crumbly fabric containing common (25%) poorly sorted flint up to 4mm in size. Clay matrix is silty.

7.2.2 F/2: Moderate (10%) reasonably sorted flint up to 1–2mm in size. Clay matrix is silty.

7.2.3 F/3: Moderate (10%) reasonably sorted flint up to 2mm in size and can include linear voids (leached out organic matter, grass?). Clay matrix is silty.

7.2.4 F99: Applies to tiny sherds, and it is therefore difficult to determine which fabric group the sherd belongs to. However, the presence of flint has been observed.

7.2.5 Q/1: Groundmass of fine–medium sand sized quartz, can contain rare flint detritus.

7.2.6 FSa/1: Sparse (7%) poorly sorted flint up to 4mm in size. The clay matrix consists of very fine sand.

7.2.7 GF/1: Sparse (7%) quite poorly sorted grog up to 1mm in size, and sparse (7%) sub-angular flint up to 2mm in size. The clay matrix is silty.

7.2.8 GFSa/1: Groundmass of very fine sand with sparse (7%) fine inclusions of grog and flint.

### 7.3 Discussion

7.3.1 The pottery was recovered from several contexts across the site. The condition is poor, and the sherds have suffered abrasion to exterior and interior surfaces, as well as sherd edges. The dating is tentative, as the assemblage contained worn featureless sherds, and close dating cannot be achieved with any degree of confidence when small body sherds alone are represented. There are no diagnostic rims within the assemblage; however, the presence of four tiny decorated sherds would suggest early prehistoric activity. The vessels have been made using fabric group (GF/1), and this fabric recipe finds similarities with Beaker pottery from other Kentish sites, for example Thanet Earth (McNee 2019). There is evidence of combed decoration, and toothed combs were commonly used to create complex patterns on the exterior surface of Beaker vessels. The sherds derive from ring

ditch fills (1075, 1077 and 1125), which is described as part of a possible early-middle Bronze Age ring ditch. A further possible early Bronze Age sherd was recovered from the primary fill of a linear ditch (context 1128). One small sherd with possible decorated punch marks also derived from this context; the fabric group (FSa/1) is, however, more in keeping with that of an earlier Neolithic tradition.

#### 7.4 Sherds from samples

- 7.4.1 A total of 9 sherds, weighing 12g, were recovered from the processing of environmental sampling. In addition, there was a bag containing several vitrified pottery crumbs derived from cremation (context 1034). The fabric is difficult to identify as the inclusions have leached out; however, it is possible the crumbs once belonged to a grog tempered vessel. Grog is particularly common in the early Bronze Age period in Britain (Woodward 2002, 109), although a grog tempered late Iron Age pot cannot be excluded. It is interesting to note, that on other Kentish sites, for example Neats Court, the apparent 'leaching' out of grog inclusions is solely related to Collared Urn vessels (McNee 2016). Collared Urns are often associated with burials (Gibson 2002, 96), and therefore, the bag of crumbs could belong to an early Bronze Age Collared Urn.

#### 7.5 Summary and recommendation

- 7.5.1 This small pottery assemblage is an indicator of settlement or use within the Whitfield area during the prehistoric period. It is significant due to the presence of an earlier prehistoric phase. Possible Beaker sherds can be phased to approximately 2200-1700 BC. There are hints of an earlier Neolithic presence, based on fabric and one decorated sherd (context numbers 1002, 1024, 1127, 1128, 1142 and 1146). A broad date range of between 4000-3350 cal BC is suggested.
- 7.5.2 The broad fabric groups (see above) may suggest the presence of a number of later ceramic phases, although this is inconclusive. Fabric group's (F/1 and F/2) are commonly utilised throughout the late Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age (contexts 1072 and 1094). Sandy sherds could suggest a later Iron Age phase (fabric group Q/1, contexts 1024 and 1140).
- 7.5.3 There is little potential for further analysis due to the condition of the pottery, and the lack of diagnostic sherds, and therefore no further work is recommended for the prehistoric pottery assemblage. It is recommended that all the prehistoric material be retained for long-term storage, and in the event of further excavations being carried out on the site, the assemblage should be re-analysed with any additional prehistoric pottery that might be recovered.

## 8 Romano-British pottery (Martha Carter and Marion Green)

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The excavation yielded 75 sherds (360g) of pottery from 10 contexts (Appendix 4). The assemblage was rapidly scanned to establish the condition of the sherds and a broad date. The work also ascertained the fabrics and forms present. The condition of the pottery is consistently poor, and generally of a small size.

## 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 Recording and analysis of the pottery was carried out according to the standards outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020c) and the guidelines written for the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery, and Medieval Pottery Research Group and funded by Historic England (Barclay *et al* 2016). The whole assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight per fabric. Sherds were analysed macroscopically to identify the nature, frequency, size, and form of inclusions within the fabric.
- 8.2.2 The pottery was fully listed by fabric and form with every context group spot dated. This data was inputted in an Excel spreadsheet to form part of the digital archive. The fabrics are according to the CAT fabric reference collection, which are prefixed with a period letter code.

## 8.3 Discussion

- 8.3.1 The overall assemblage has a date range of first to second century AD. The majority of the sherds are undiagnostic body sherds, although a few bases and rims are present. Pottery from contexts 1037, 1040 and 1110 are limited to the first century AD, whilst context 1031 has the broadest date range of first to third century AD. The remaining contexts (1024, 1026, 1027, 1130, 1060 and 1148) are all datable to the first to second century AD. According to the minimum requirement of 25 sherds for an accurate date of context, set out in the guidelines written by the PCRG, SGRP and MPRG, only context 1026 can be dated with particular certainty.
- 8.3.2 A flange sherd present in context 1031 is worth noting; the form of flange would suggest a late Roman vessel and is possibly an Oxford colour coat fabric (LR10), although the surface is very abraded.

## 8.4 Potential of the ceramic assemblage

- 8.4.1 From a ceramics perspective, there is little which will increase current knowledge and understanding of pottery in Kent. No further analysis is recommended.

# 9 Cremated human bone (Adelina Teoaca)

## 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 A quantity of cremated human bone was assessed from sample <2> of fill (1034), pit [1036] (G6). The total weight of cremated material was 213g, suggesting that the sample does not represent a complete individual.
- 9.1.2 More than 75% of the bones are between 2mm and 5mm in size, indicating a high degree of fragmentation.
- 9.1.3 All bones within the sample were white in colour, suggesting extended exposure to a temperature higher than 600 degrees until the bone was fully oxidized. One small fragment had a blueish-green stain, indicating that the bone had perhaps touched a copper alloy object.



9.1.4 The larger elements were identified as skull and long bone fragments. The transverse cracking and crazing present on the bone suggests that it contained a high amount of collagen at the time of the cremation.

9.1.5 No further work is recommended on the cremated bone.

## 10 Other finds

### 10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The remaining finds from the excavation were individually examined and identified, and then assessed by material group.

### 10.2 Registered finds

10.2.1 Three unidentifiable iron finds were recovered during the excavation and grouped under one registered find number (SF11). They weighed 12.5g in total and were recovered from the middle fill (1131) of intervention [1132] through ring-ditch 'A' (G4); this intervention also produced intrusive Romano-British pottery sherds from its final fill (1130).

### 10.3 Fire-fractured flint

10.3.1 In addition to the 10 pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint recorded as part of the flintwork assemblage (Chapter 6), a further 102 fire-fractured flints (weighing over 9.1kg) were recovered during the excavation. Most were recovered from ring-ditch 'A' (G4) and from a nearby late Iron Age/early Romano-British surface deposit **1089** (G13).

### 10.4 Post-Roman Pottery (Andy Linklater)

10.4.1 Seven sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 55.99g in total, were recovered from two contexts during the excavation (Table 6): colluvial deposit **1002** (G14) and fill (1037) of pit **1039** (G12).

10.4.2 Both contexts produced pottery sherds likely to date to the Anglo-Saxon period, between around the 8th and 9th centuries AD. The remaining two pottery sherds are from deposit **1002** and date to the Post-medieval period.

Context	Amount	Weight (g)	Comments
1002	2	9.3	1x sherd: dark fine/coarse sandy fabric; poss. Ipswich Ware c.8th - c.9th 1x sherd: dark grey, grog tempered, poss. Roman late c.3- c.4, though more likely Anglo Saxon c.8th - 9th.
1002	1	5	1x sherd: abraded, late c.17th - early/mid c.18th, internally glazed
1002	1	4.09	Mid/late c.19 - early/mid c.20. Orange/red sandy flowerpot.
1037	3	37.6	2 conjoining sherds. Poss. 1 vessel Dark grey, grog tempered, pale grey/brown outer, poss. Roman late c.3- c.4, though more likely Anglo Saxon c.8th - 9th.

Table 6. Post-Roman pottery assemblage

## 10.5 Ceramic Building Material (Andy Linklater)

- 10.5.1 Four fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), weighing 161g in total, were recovered from two contexts during the excavation (Table 7). Three brick fragments were retrieved from colluvial deposit **1002** (G14), whilst a larger fragment of tile was recovered from late Iron Age/early Roman surface deposit **1026** (G13). All four fragments were believed to be late Post-medieval in date.

Context	Amount	Weight (g)	Comments
1002	3	27.5	Late Post-medieval brick.
1026	1	134	Late Post-medieval pantile type roof tile fragment.

Table 7. Ceramic building material assemblage

## 10.6 Recommendations

- 10.6.1 Due to the size and nature of the aforementioned assemblages, little further archaeological information will be gained from additional assessment and analysis.

# 11 The environmental remains (Enid Allison)

## 11.1 Introduction and methodology

- 11.1.1 Twenty-five environmental samples (BS/GBA samples sensu Dobney et al. 1992) from the fills of ring-ditches 'A' and 'B' and a cremation burial, all thought to be early–middle Bronze Age in date, a late Iron Age–early Romano-British linear ditch, and several undated pits, were processed to recover biological remains and artefacts.
- 11.1.2 Volumes for individual samples are provided in Appendix 5. Each sample was soaked overnight in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate) before carrying out wet sieving with flotation for recovery of biological material (Kenward *et al.* 1980). Flots were collected on 0.3mm mesh and heavy residues on nested 2mm and 1mm sieves. All fractions were air-dried.
- 11.1.3 The dried residue fractions >2mm have been sorted in their entirety for biological remains and cultural material. Fragments of heat-affected clay and burnt flint were weighed and discarded. The fine residue fractions (>1mm) were scanned briefly under low power stereoscopic microscope (x10) to ascertain their contents and to check the efficiency of flotation but they have not been systematically examined at this stage. The dried flots were also briefly scanned (x10) and abundance of remains was recorded semi-quantitatively on a five-point scale as: trace (negligible amount), occasional +, moderately frequent ++, frequent +++, abundant ++++ (see Appendix 5).

## 11.2 Results

- 11.2.1 The remains noted in the >2mm residue and flot of each sample are summarised in Appendix 5, organised by phase and group.
- 11.2.2 A limited range of cultural material was recovered from the heavy residue fractions >2mm. Burnt flint fragments (and in one case also other burnt stone) were present in 21 samples, potential flint tools or debitage in four samples, fragments of heat-affected clay in five

samples, and pot in six samples. Fragments of calcined bone weighing 213g were recovered from the fill of cremation burial **1036** (G6).

- 11.2.3 The sample flots are predominantly small (5 – 70ml), the only exception being the flot from a sample taken from an area of charcoal and burnt clay in the basal fill of ring-ditch A (**1045**, G4) which has a volume of 150ml. The majority of the flots contain material that is clearly, or is very likely to be, relatively recent. This includes uncharred seeds (some fresh), fine modern roots, *Caecilioides acicula* (a small snail that burrows to depths of well over a metre), earthworm egg capsules, and clearly modern invertebrates (ants, beetles, soil-living millipedes). Such signs of bioturbation commonly occur on archaeological sites and since a very limited range of taxa is involved, there is no difficulty in distinguishing the recent material from any ancient remains present.
- 11.2.4 Small to moderate amounts of finely comminuted charcoal are present in all the flots. Moderately to poorly preserved charred cereal remains are relatively common in one sample from an undated pit (**1055**, G12). Other charred plant remains in the same sample include occasional cereal/grass stem nodes, weed seeds, tree buds and a thorn. A second undated pit (**1149**, G12) produced occasional poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp.) glume bases. Charred plant remains other than charcoal (fragmentary cereal grains, ?grass stems, rhizomes, and hazelnut shell) are rare in nine other sample flots. No charred plant remains other than charcoal were seen in the remaining 14 flots.

### 11.3 Conclusions

- 11.3.1 The flot from sample <3> (**1055**, G12) has a moderate potential for archaeobotanical analysis. The charred cereal remains are moderately to poorly preserved which may limit close identification, however. The feature is currently undated but the charred grains can be used for radiocarbon dating if necessary. The remaining sample flots have a very low or no potential for archaeobotanical analysis. The charcoal from the cremation deposit is probably too highly fragmented for species identification of the types of wood used as fuel (transverse sections >4mm are usually required for reliable identifications of most taxa).

## 12 Archaeological significance

### 12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 For the purpose of assessment, the significance of the archaeology encountered during excavation has been qualitatively gauged in reference to criteria set out in Table 8.

Level	Criteria
Very high	Archaeological remains of International/National significance such as:  Evidence associated with designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wrecks, Registered Battlefields or Listed Buildings Non-designated remains of equivalent status to the above, such as those identified in national research frameworks as being significantly rare
High	Archaeological remains considered as being of particular significance according to national and regional and/or academic research frameworks, making a special contribution to knowledge of past societies
Moderate	Archaeological remains considered as being of District, Regional or academic

	significance, adding comparative data for developing knowledge of past societies
Low	Archaeological remains considered as being of local significance, such as:  Sites of a local or parish value or interest for education or cultural appreciation Sites so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade.
Negligible	Archaeological remains considered as being of little or no significance, or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade.

Table 8. Levels of archaeological significance

12.1.2 The significance of the archaeological data has been assessed for each phase (Table 9). The excavation produced archaeological data of moderate to high significance, where significance refers to the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest.

Phase	Period	Summary	Significance
0	Geological	Natural superficial Clay-with-Flints	Negligible
1	Early–Middle Bronze Age	Two ring-ditches and a cremation burial	High
2	Late Iron Age/early Romano-British	Ditch and deposits	Moderate
3	Undated	Pits, post-holes and ditches	Moderate
4	Post-medieval to Modern	Overburden	Negligible

Table 9. Archaeological significance by phase

12.1.3 Recovered artefactual material was processed, categorised and quantified, and an assessment made in accordance with Historic England’s guide (2015). A summary of the potential intrinsic significance of each material class and requirement for further analysis is shown in Table 10.

Category	Principal Assessor	Significance	Analysis
Flintwork	C Butler	High	No
Pottery – Prehistoric	B McNee	Moderate	No
Pottery – Romano-British	M Carter and M Green	Moderate	No
Cremated human bone	A Teoaca	High	No
Other finds	CAT	Low	No
Environmental data	E Allison	Low	No

Table 10. Artefactual significance by material class

12.1.4 For flintwork, it was recommended that the later prehistoric flintwork be further analysed in association with other dating evidence in order to ‘better define the dating [of the flintwork] and to characterize the activity represented and allow comparison with other excavated ring ditch sites.’ However, refinement on dating is not likely achievable on considering that a small amount of diagnostic pottery was recovered from the archaeological features.

12.1.5 Of the environmental remains, just the one flot sample has the potential for archaeobotanical analysis and this has been identified as of only moderate potential. Furthermore, the discrete feature sampled is undated. Whilst the charred grains could be used for radiocarbon dating, it is already known that this pit post-dates the infilling of ring-

ditch 'A', which was continuing to occur into the late Iron Age/Romano-British period. No further analysis of the environmental data shall therefore occur.

## 12.2 Geological

- 12.2.1 Excavations within the site revealed an underlying geological deposit of Clay-with-Flints which was located at a depth range of between approximately 0.40–0.70m below present ground level.
- 12.2.2 A notable geological deposit within the site was that of a spread of abundant and tightly compacted flints that was identified close by to the remains of ring-ditch 'A'. Whilst this spread of flint material looks like a laid metalled surface, comparable deposits have been identified within the White Cliffs Business Park and have been interpreted as having a natural origin. For instance, excavations in 2020 to the north-east of the PDA revealed a similar spread of flints adjacent to a palaeochannel. This deposit was interpreted as relating to wind action which had removed the surrounding soft sediment from what was likely a waterborne deposit, leaving a layer of stone *in situ* (Martin and O'Shea-Walker 2021, 25).
- 12.2.3 A number of geological features and deposits were identified across the site and they appear to represent localised variations in colour and composition, and natural infilled hollows in the clay.

## 12.3 Prehistoric

- 12.3.1 A large collection of prehistoric flintwork was recovered during the excavation. This included a small number of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints, recovered as residual finds, and a larger assemblage of later Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints, some of which may have been contemporary with the ring-ditches.
- 12.3.2 Surface scatters of worked flints occur widely on the hills above Dover and the immediate area around the site has produced surface finds of Lower/Middle Palaeolithic flint implements and debitage, as recorded in the Kent HER and elsewhere (Cuming 2015, appendix 5, 18; Parfitt 2004). These include Palaeolithic flints recovered from upper soil deposits within a site to the immediate south-east of the PDA (Parfitt 2017) and two hand-axes found during a watching brief on land to the immediate north-west of the PDA (Parfitt 2010).
- 12.3.3 Mesolithic flints (and features) have been found at the White Cliffs Business Park during archaeological investigations to the north-east of the PDA in 2016 (ASE) and large quantities of flintwork of Neolithic to Bronze Age date have been discovered from topsoil deposits in the immediate vicinity of the site (Parfitt 2017) and in the general surrounding area.
- 12.3.4 The majority of the flintwork assemblage from the site derives from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age, continuing into the late Bronze Age and is likely associated with the construction of ring-ditches and later activity within the site, as well as the surrounding area. Associated with this assemblage, of particular interest is the possibility that much of the flint debitage may have been produced using a punch, which is considered unusual for this time period (see Chapter 6).

- 12.3.5 The few Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints, along with flints of Neolithic to Bronze Age date, found during excavations on land off Dubris Close add to the growing corpus of prehistoric flintwork from the local area.
- 12.3.6 The earliest features revealed during the excavation comprised a large pit, two ring-ditches and a cremation pit. In addition, several undated features of possible prehistoric date were identified across the site, along with finds of indeterminate prehistoric pottery and worked flints, much of which had potentially been disturbed by natural erosion and agricultural activity.
- 12.3.7 The upper fill of a large pit produced pottery sherds of later Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, yet stratigraphically the pit appears to pre-date ring-ditch 'A'. Therefore, the small collection of pottery sherds has been assumed to represent intrusive activity, possibly as a result of plough action.
- 12.3.8 Ring-ditch 'A' was significantly larger than ring-ditch 'B', however both have been dated to the early–middle Bronze Age. The location of the two ring-ditches found during this excavation has presented a new aspect, literally, to the positioning of Bronze Age barrows in and around Dover. While most of the barrows found in the locality are positioned on the dip slope overlooking the Dour Valley and the coast, these two monuments appear to have been positioned away from the valley and coast to be seen up on the skyline as viewed from the north and north-east. Bronze Age barrows, positioned upon the hills overlooking the Dour valley, provide some of the clearest evidence for habitation in the area during this period. Firm evidence for Bronze Age activity in the bottom of the Dour valley, which could be broadly contemporary with the known round barrows, is limited and scattered (Parfitt 2018b).
- 12.3.9 Whilst little datable ceramic material was recovered from either ring-ditch, their form along with a sizeable and possibly contemporary lithic assemblage, indicate an early to middle Bronze Age date is most likely for both features.
- 12.3.10 A cremation pit, identified within the interior of ring-ditch 'B', is probably contemporary with the monument. It produced vitrified pottery fragments from a possible collared urn of early Bronze Age date (see Chapter 7) and this therefore suggests the cremation pit is potentially contemporary with the ring-ditch.
- 12.3.11 A collection of pits and ditch lengths were identified across the site. No spatial relationships could be clearly discerned and most of these features remain undated, although some cultural material was recovered from several pits. The high incidence of residuality and intrusiveness across the site suggests that these features cannot be confidently assigned to any one phase. Similar poorly dated archaeological features have been identified during investigations elsewhere across the White Cliffs Business Park and surrounding area, and these have generally been assumed to be of prehistoric date.
- 12.3.12 Evaluation trenching across the PDA in 2007 revealed several features of possible prehistoric date including what appeared to be a substantial ditch in the north-east corner of the site (Holman 2007). No further traces of this ditch were encountered during the excavation phase.

- 12.3.13 Evaluation work approximately 600m west of the present site produced a small number of archaeological features of possible prehistoric date, suggestive of boundary ditches relating to a field system (Parfitt 2004). Closer to the PDA, several pits, post-holes and small ditches were identified on the new Dover Leisure Centre site, to the immediate south-east of the PDA in 2017 and 2018. A substantial assemblage of prehistoric struck flints was also recorded here; however, none of these excavated features could be closely dated. Most failed to produce any datable finds at all and in those which did, the quantities of material were very small and quite possibly residual (Parfitt 2017 and 2018a). A similar scenario is presented within the current site.
- 12.3.14 Remains of late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity have been recorded in the nearby area, including during an excavation in 2016, 30m south of the northern end of the PDA, where two middle/late Iron Age ditches were identified (ASE 2016). Excavations off Honeywood Parkway, 100m north-east of the site boundary, revealed a palaeochannel and later prehistoric occupation (mainly Iron Age) in the form of pits and post-holes, along with an extensive and patchy spread of burnt and natural flint which may have represented the remains of a burnt mound (O'Shea-Walker and Holman, *forthcoming*). A site to the west of the palaeochannel revealed late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity, as represented by a pit and ditches (L-P Archaeology 2006), with the latter characteristic of a middle to late Bronze Age field system (Yates 2007; Rady *et al* 2010).
- 12.3.15 The early to middle Bronze Age archaeology from the site contributes to wider research frameworks and is of high significance as the ring-ditches provide new and unique evidence of funerary activity within this area above the Dour valley. Much of the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint debitage recovered from the ring-ditches may have been produced using a punch, which is considered unusual for this time period and therefore indicates that this assemblage is of high significance. The residual prehistoric flint assemblage, along with features of general or potential prehistoric date, are of moderate significance. The prehistoric features and finds assemblages add greatly to the growing corpus of information relating to the early occupation and exploitation of the Whitfield plateau and results confirm earlier conclusions that occupation was present across this high clay plateau-land throughout the prehistoric period.

## 12.4 Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 12.4.1 Few features and deposits of late Iron Age/Romano-British date were identified during the 2022 excavations, although pottery from this period was fairly well represented. A residual amount of late Iron Age to Romano-British activity was clustered around and recovered from the upper deposits within ring-ditch 'A', suggesting activity in the nearby area at this time. A linear feature to the south-west of ring-ditch 'A' has been assigned a possible late Iron Age date, although this is tentative at best due to high levels of residuality and intrusiveness across the site. Consequently, there is little definitive evidence for sustained activity from this period.
- 12.4.2 The Richborough to Dover Roman road runs north–south across the Downs, a short distance to the east of the site and several Romano-British archaeological remains are recorded within proximity to the site. Investigations within the adjacent site in 2016 revealed three pits, identified within the south-west end of the site, one of which produced Roman pottery (ASE 2016). During the 2022 excavations, late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery was recovered from at least two of the pits, but these features remain undated due to high levels of residuality and intrusiveness within the site.

- 12.4.3 Residual late Iron Age/early Romano-British finds have been recovered from a palaeochannel over 100m to the north-east of the site (Martin and O'Shea-Walker 2021). The same feature can be traced further to the south-west, where it was recorded as a possible boundary ditch. Sherds of Iron Age pottery and a sherd from a late Iron Age/early Roman jar were recovered from interventions through this feature during a 2019 evaluation (ASE 2019, 14).
- 12.4.4 An extensive evaluation to the south-east of the PDA provided clear evidence for Romano-British occupation, including two Roman-period cremation burials, a ditch, pits and post-holes, along with significant amounts of pottery (Parfitt 2010).
- 12.4.5 Although evidence of late Iron Age/Romano-British habituation has been recorded on several adjacent sites, there is no clear evidence that any of the cut features exposed during the excavation were of this date. Nevertheless, it may be suspected that some of the undated features located may belong to this period.
- 12.4.6 Whilst the late Iron Age/early Romano-British archaeology of the site largely comprises residual material, its presence contributes to understanding the extent of occupation in the Whitfield area during this period and is of moderate significance.

## 12.5 Post-Roman

- 12.5.1 A layer of colluvium was identified during the 2022 excavation and sealed most features across the site. Struck flints and fragments of Roman and post-Roman material were recovered from this deposit.
- 12.5.2 A similar colluvial deposit was identified during archaeological investigations over 100m north-east of the PDA. Here, the colluvium sealed earlier features and was dated to the later Iron Age or early Romano-British period (O'Shea-Walker and Holman, *forthcoming*).
- 12.5.3 Much like the results from archaeological investigations in the surrounding area, no later features were positively identified within the PDA suggesting the area was utilised as agricultural land from at least the medieval period onwards, and the present site is likely to have originally been part of the associated estate of Archer's Court; a post-medieval (or earlier) farmstead located approximately 800m to the north-west.
- 12.5.4 This PDA has clearly been subject to obvious truncation, both in recent memory, with the removal of the topsoil, and also historically. The environmental assemblage has indicated bioturbation has occurred within the site with most of the sampled features having produced evidence of modern insects and plant remains alongside more ancient examples. This is to be expected given the previous usage of the land in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Truncation of the former upstanding Bronze Age monuments is likely to have occurred during the Post-medieval period, when the site formed part of arable farmland.

## 12.6 Publication proposal

- 12.6.1 Publication of the project results is recommended and is suggested to take the form of an article within *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the journal of the Kent Archaeological Society.



## 12.7 Online resources

- 12.7.1 All digital project data will be available online through the Integrated Archaeological Database (IADB). This password protected resource can be accessed online by prior arrangement. The database is primarily intended for enabling interested finds specialists and other academics to access the primary site data for the purpose of research.
- 12.7.2 Following completion of the project, an OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) record will be generated.
- 12.7.4 A brief summary document outlining the excavation results will be provided to KCC for integration into the HER.

## References

- Archaeology South-East (ASE) 2016, Post-excavation assessment and updated project design report – Land at Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover Kent, CT16 3FH (ASE Report No: 2016176)
- Barclay, A, Knight, D, Booth, P, Evans, J, Brown, D H, and Wood, I, 2016, *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group.
- BGS on-line, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, British Geological Survey  
(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)
- Butler, C, 2005, *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Stroud, Tempus Publishing Ltd.
- Cuming, P (ed) 2015, Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project: Final Report Version 2.1, Kent County Council  
([https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/stourbasin\\_he\\_2017/downloads.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/stourbasin_he_2017/downloads.cfm)).
- CifA 2020a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CifA 2020b, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CifA 2020c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CAT 2022, Land to the rear of Dubris Close, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3FJ. Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished CAT document.
- Dobney, K, Hall, A R, Kenward, H K, and Milles, A, 1992, 'A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology', *Circaea, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology* **9** (for 1991), 24–6
- Gibson, A, 2002, *Prehistoric pottery in Britain and Ireland*. Stroud: Tempus.
- Grigsby, J, 2022, Land at Dubris Close, Honeywood Parkway, Dover, Kent CT16 3FH: Updated Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. Unpublished CAT report no. 2022/17
- Historic England 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.
- Holman, J, 2007, An archaeological evaluation of the proposed Barwicks development on the Whitecliffs Industrial Estate, Whitfield, Dover. Unpublished CAT client report no. 2007/13

- Kenward, H K, Hall, A R, and Jones, A K G, 1980, A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal microfossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits, *Science and Archaeology*, **22**, 3-15
- Martin, J and O'Shea-Walker, L, 2021, Land off Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3FH – Assessment Report. Unpublished CAT client report no. 2021/1
- McNee, B L, 2016, Neats Court, Queenborough Road, Sheppey, Early Prehistoric Pottery Report. Unpublished report for SWAT.
- McNee, B L, 2019, 'Earlier Prehistoric Pottery' in, J Rady and J Holman. *Beneath the Seamark: 6,000 years of an Island's History. Archaeological Investigations at 'Thanet Earth', Kent 2007-2012.* Canterbury Archaeological Trust Volume 2, Specialist Reports, 644-682.
- O'Shea-Walker, L and Holman, J *forthcoming* Archaeological investigations at Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield in *Archaeologia Cantiana*
- Parfitt, K, 2004, Evaluation trenching at Perrys Motor Sales Ltd, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield. Unpublished CAT report no. 2004/40
- Parfitt, K, 2010, Report on evaluation trenching in 2010, off Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover (proposed development for Holdingmaatschappij Hulssems BV). Unpublished CAT client report no. 2010/12
- Parfitt, K, 2017, Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, near Dover: Evaluation report. Unpublished CAT client report no. 2017/95
- Parfitt, K, 2018a, New Leisure Centre, Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Dover – watching brief assessment report. Unpublished CAT client report no. 2018/89
- Parfitt, K, 2018b, Coxhill Mount, River, Dover – evaluation report. Unpublished CAT client report no. 2018/185
- Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, 1995, second edition; revised 1997. *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication.* Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers Nos 1 and 2. Oxford.
- Rady, J, *et al* 2010, Excavations at Thanet Earth 2007–2008: Assessment Report. Unpublished CAT report no. 2010/78
- Woodward, A. 2002. Inclusions, Impressions and Interpretation. In A.Woodward and J.D. Hill (eds.) *Prehistoric Britain: The Ceramic Basis.* Oxford: Oxbow Books, 106-119.

Yates, D, 2007, Land, power and prestige. Bronze Age field systems in Southern England. Oxbow Books




**C.A.T.**  
 Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk

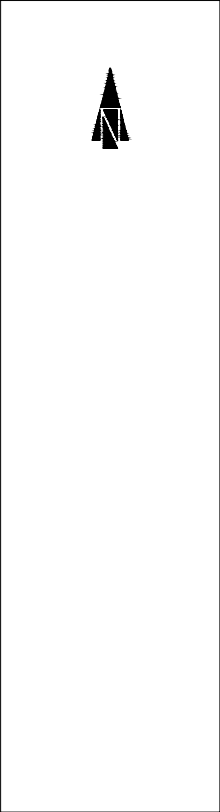
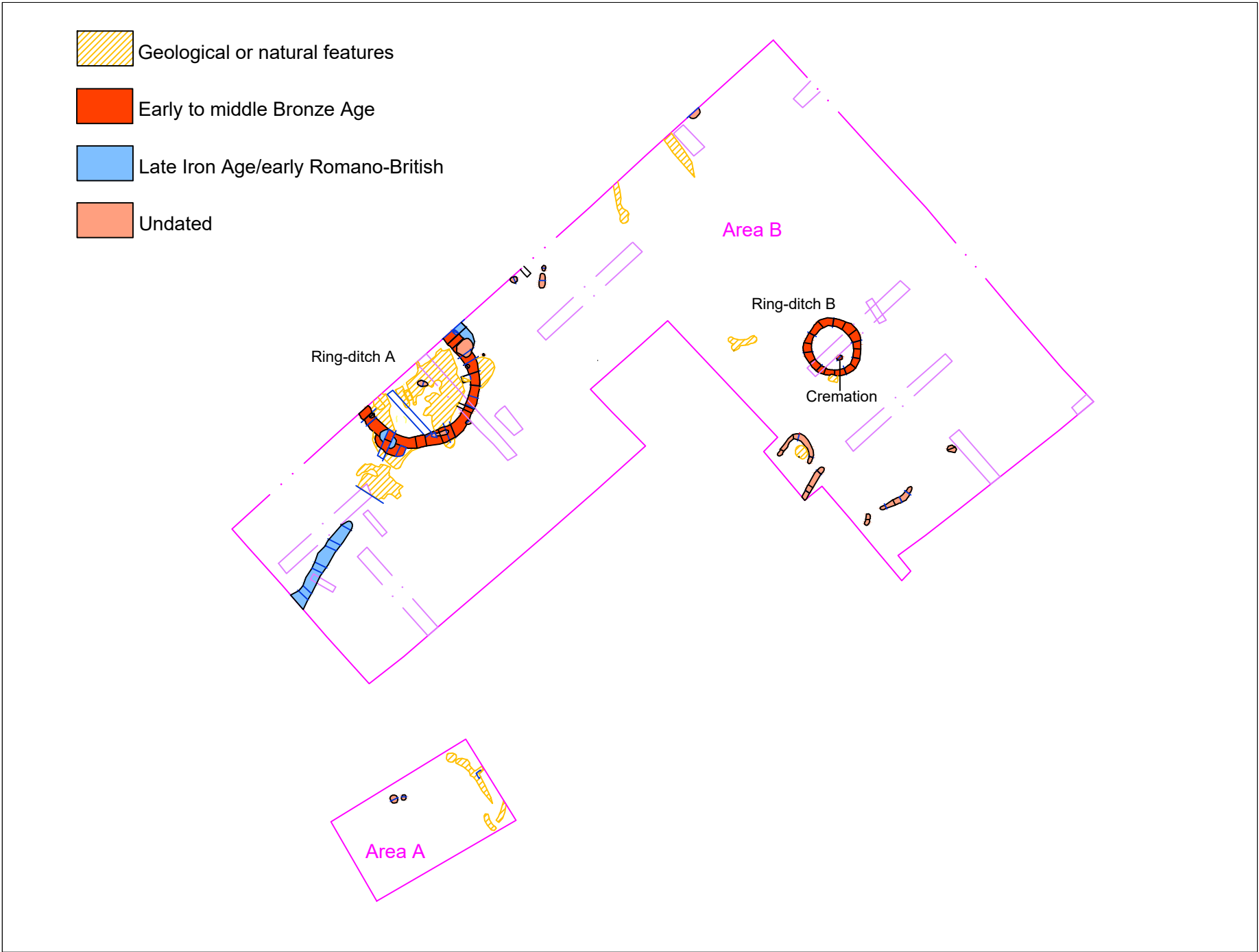
**PROJECT**  
 Dubris Close, Whitfield

**COMMENTS**  
 Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LOW	<b>SCALE(S)</b> 1:2000 @ A4
<b>DATE</b> 15/02/2023	<b>LAST REVISION</b> 23/03/2023
<b>CHECKED</b> ---	

**REF/DRG NO.**  
 DCW EX 22 Fig 1 Site location plan.dwg

Figure 1. Site location plan



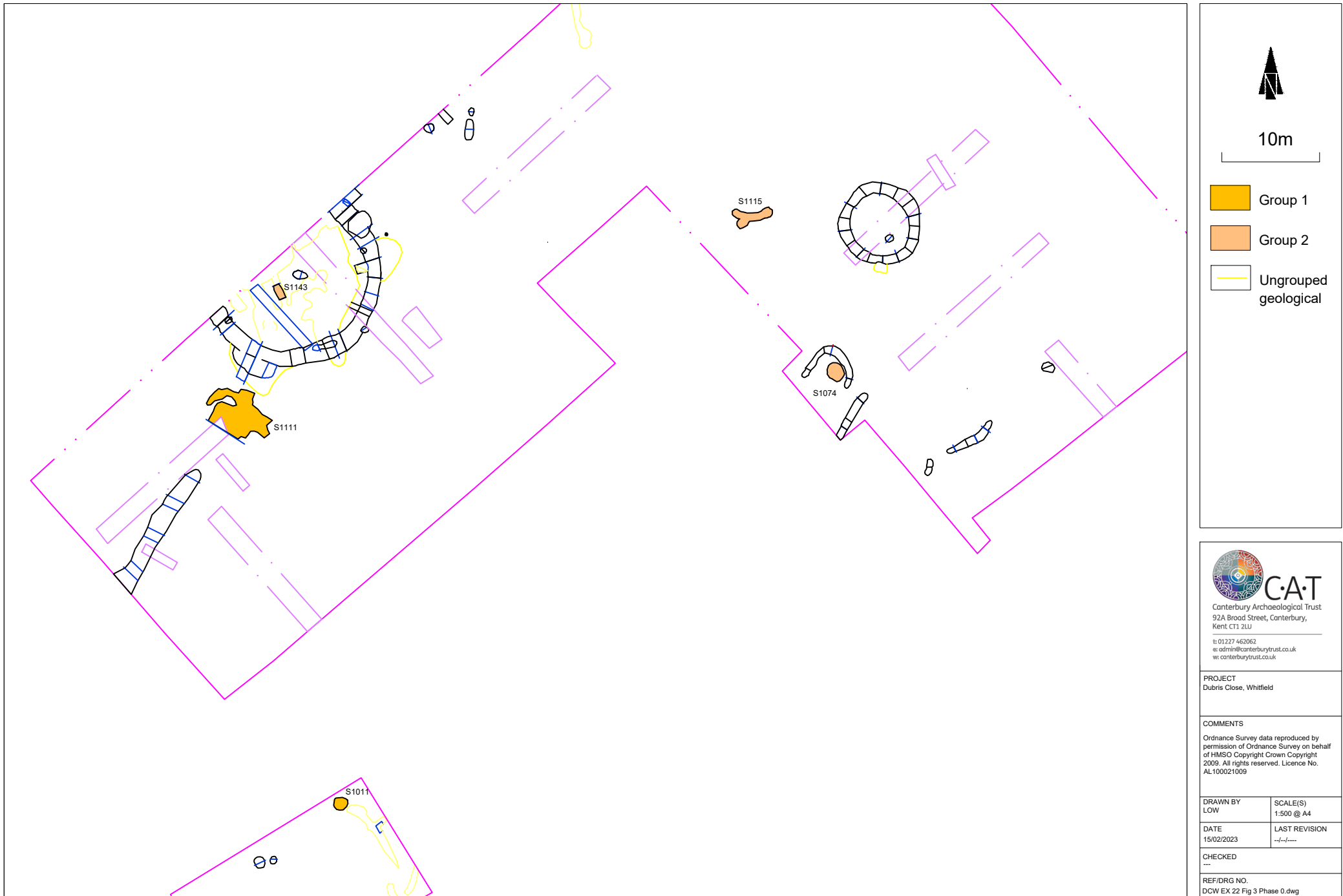

**C.A.T.**  
 Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk



**PROJECT**  
 Dubris Close, Whitfield

**COMMENTS**  
 Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009

DRAWN BY LOW	SCALE(S) 1:750 @ A4
DATE 15/02/2023	LAST REVISION -/-/-
CHECKED ---	
REF/DRG NO. DCW EX 22 Fig 2 Final phase plan v2.dwg	

Figure 2. Excavation phase plan



  
 10m  


- Group 1
- Group 2
- Ungrouped geological

  
**Canterbury Archaeological Trust**  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk

**PROJECT**  
Dubris Close, Whitfield

**COMMENTS**  
Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LOW	<b>SCALE(S)</b> 1:500 @ A4
<b>DATE</b> 15/02/2023	<b>LAST REVISION</b> -/-/-
<b>CHECKED</b> ---	
<b>REF/DRG NO.</b> DCW EX 22 Fig 3 Phase 0.dwg	

Figure 3. Plan of Phase 0 features and deposits: Geological

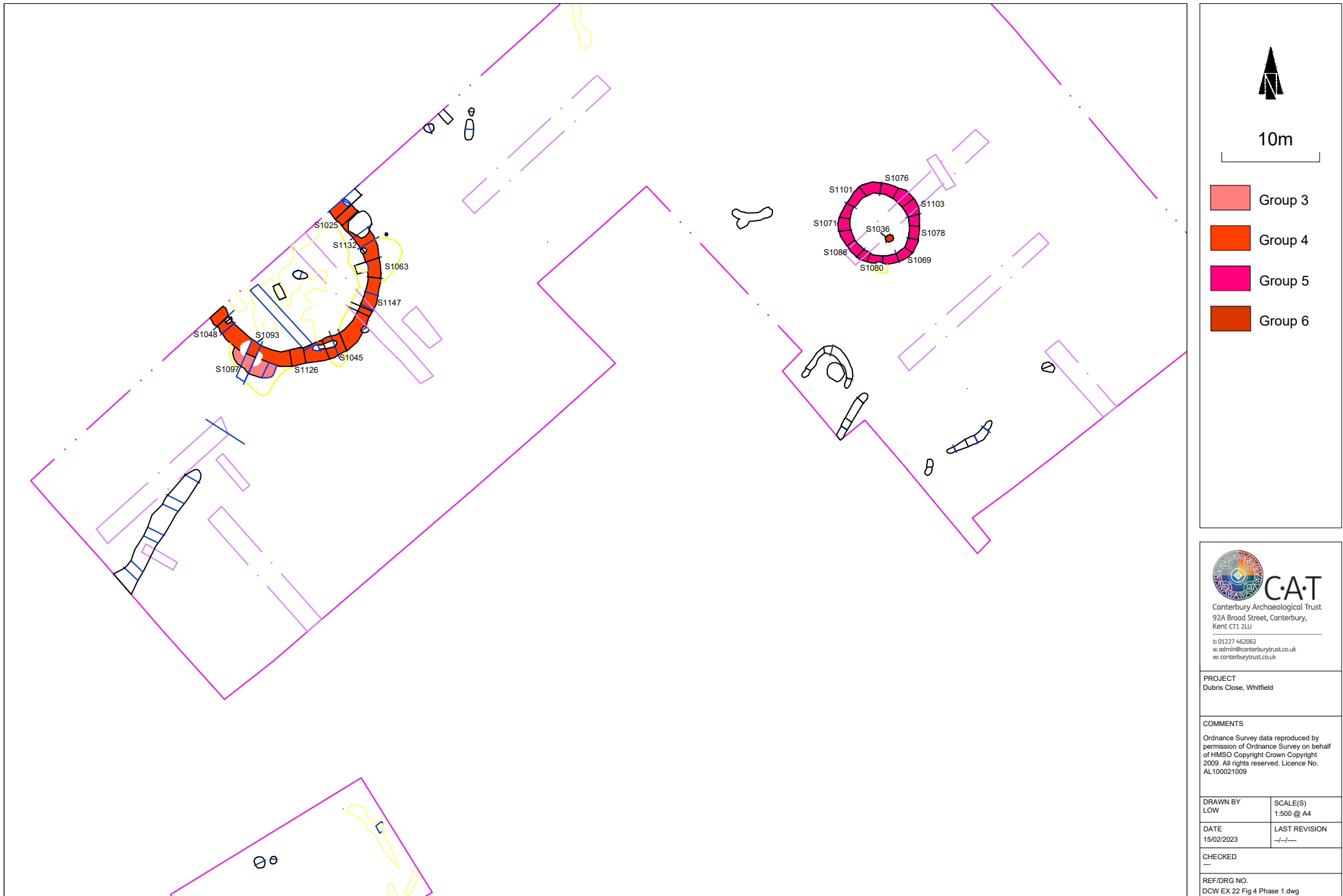
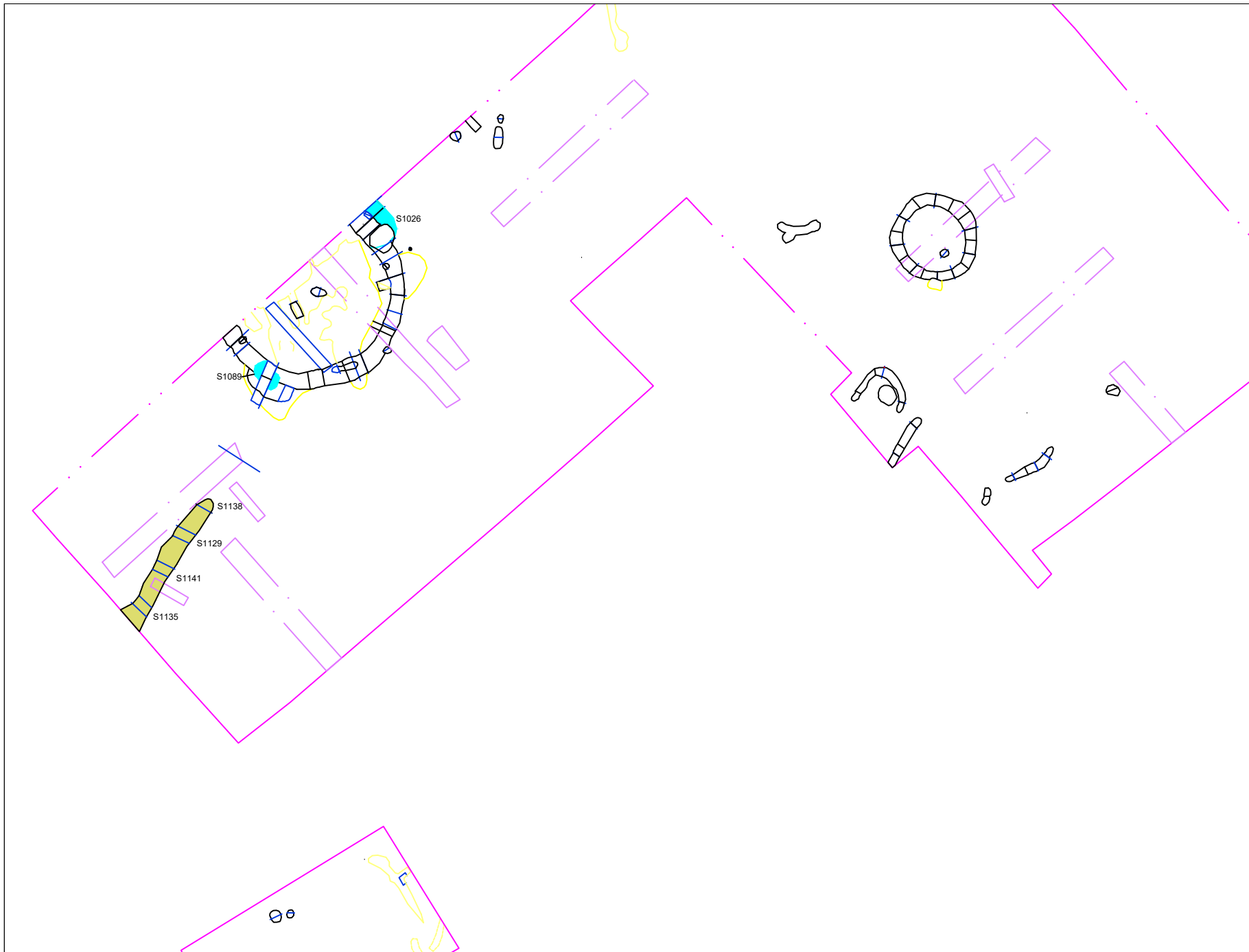






Figure 4. Plan of Phase 1 features and deposits: Early to middle Bronze Age





  
 10m  


 Group 8  
 Group 13



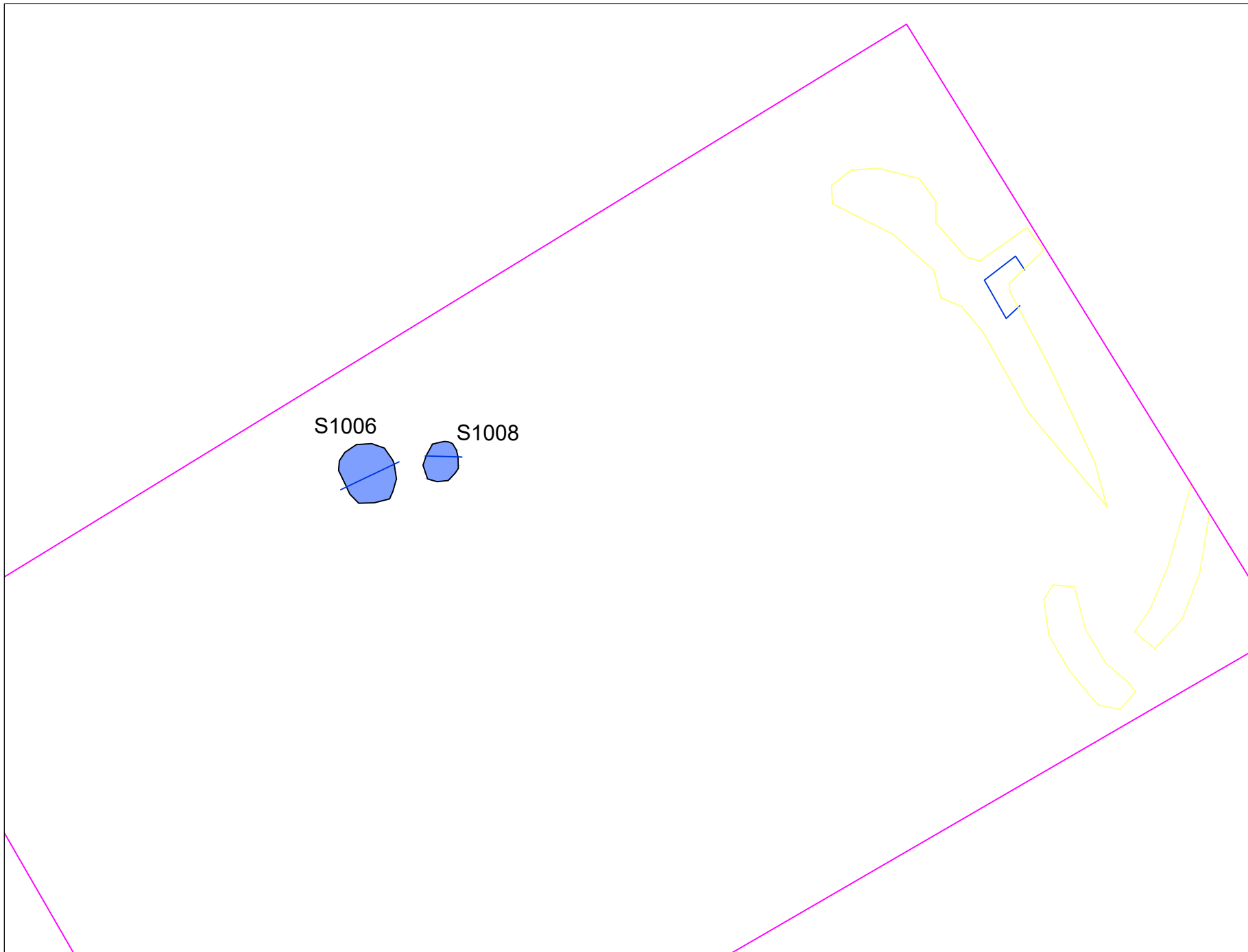
**C.A.T.**  
 Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk



**PROJECT**  
Dubris Close, Whitfield


**COMMENTS**  
Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009


DRAWN BY LOW	SCALE(S) 1:500 @ A4
DATE 15/02/2023	LAST REVISION -/-/-
CHECKED ---	
REF/DRG NO. DCW EX 22 Fig 5 Phase 2.dwg	

Figure 5. Plan of Phase 2 features and deposits: Late Iron Age to early Romano-British



  
 2m  


 Group 11

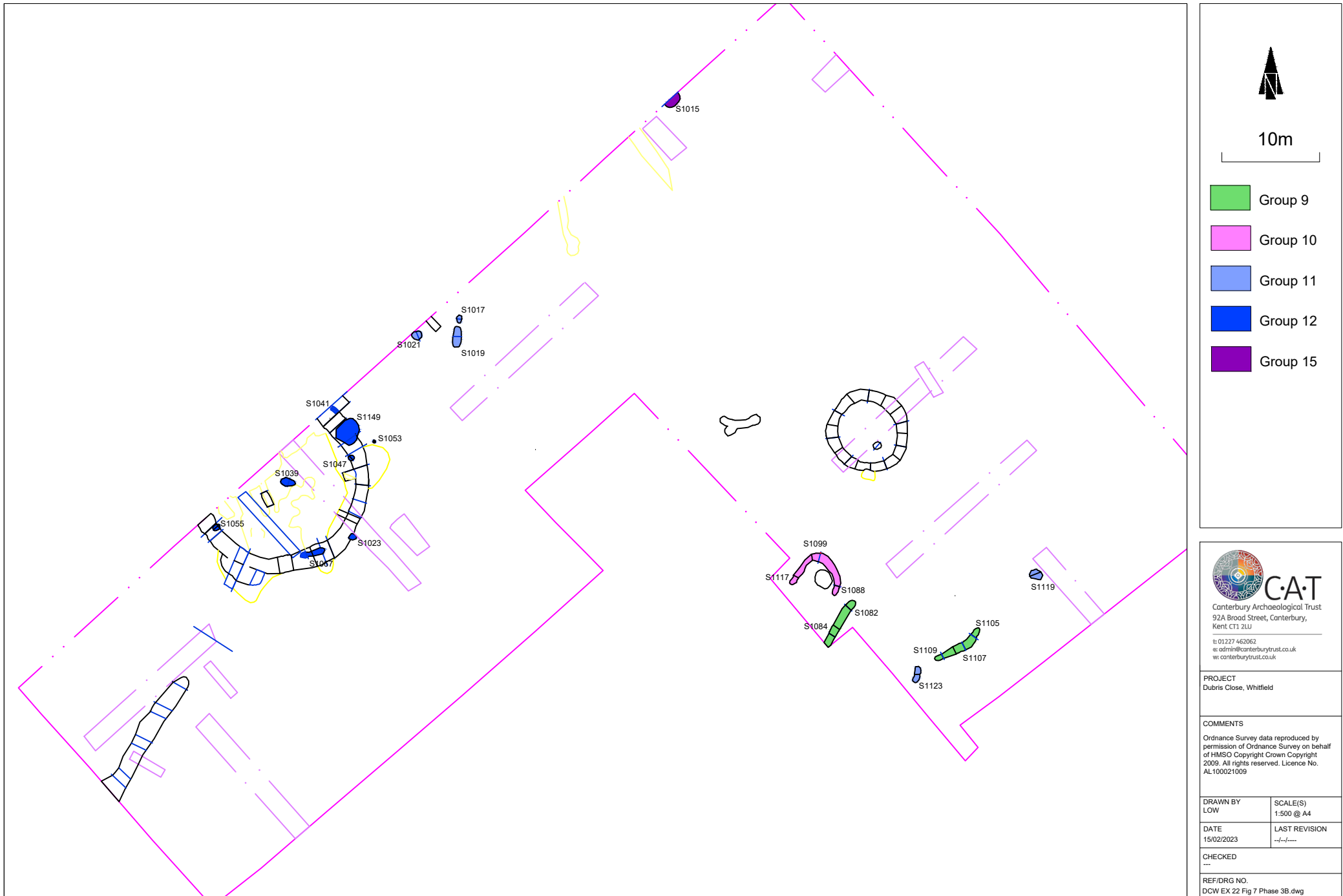
  
 Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk



**PROJECT**  
 Dubris Close, Whitfield

**COMMENTS**  
 Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009

DRAWN BY LOW	SCALE(S) 1:100 @ A4
DATE 15/02/2023	LAST REVISION -/-/-
CHECKED ---	
REF/DRG NO. DCW EX 22 Fig 6 Phase 3A.dwg	

Figure 6. Plan of Phase 3 features and deposits within Area A: Undated



  
 10m  


- Group 9
- Group 10
- Group 11
- Group 12
- Group 15


**C.A.T.**  
 Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
 92A Broad Street, Canterbury,  
 Kent CT1 2LU  
 t: 01227 462062  
 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk  
 w: canterburytrust.co.uk

**PROJECT**  
Dubris Close, Whitfield

**COMMENTS**  
Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009

<b>DRAWN BY</b> LOW	<b>SCALE(S)</b> 1:500 @ A4
<b>DATE</b> 15/02/2023	<b>LAST REVISION</b> -/-/-/-
<b>CHECKED</b> ---	
<b>REF/DRG NO.</b> DCW EX 22 Fig 7 Phase 3B.dwg	

Figure 7. Plan of Phase 3 features and deposits within Area B: Undated

## Appendix 1: Context concordance

Context	Type	Description	Set	Group	Phase
1000	Deposit	Topsoil	1000	16	4
1001	Deposit	Subsoil	1001	16	4
1002	Deposit	Colluvium	1002	14	3
1003	Void	Void	N/A	N/A	N/A
1004	Deposit	Natural Geology	1004	1	0
1005	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1006	11	3
1006	Cut	Cut of Pit	1006	11	3
1007	Deposit	Fill of Post Hole	1008	11	3
1008	Cut	Cut of Post Hole	1008	11	3
1009	Deposit	Natural Feature	1010	2	0
1010	Cut	Natural Geology	1010	2	0
1011	Deposit	Natural Geology	1011	1	0
1012	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1015	15	3
1013	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1015	15	3
1014	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1015	15	3
1015	Cut	Cut of Pit	1015	15	3
1016	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1017	11	3
1017	Cut	Cut of Pit	1017	11	3
1018	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1019	11	3
1019	Cut	Cut of Pit	1019	11	3
1020	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1021	11	3
1021	Cut	Cut of Pit	1021	11	3
1022	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1023	12	3
1023	Cut	Cut of Pit	1023	12	3
1024	Deposit	Layer	1024	13	2
1025	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1026	Deposit	Layer	1026	13	2
1027	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1028	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1029	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1030	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1031	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1032	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1033	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1025	4	1
1034	Deposit	Cremation	1036	6	1
1035	Deposit	Cremation	1036	6	1
1036	Cut	Cremation	1036	6	1
1037	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1039	12	3
1038	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1039	12	3
1039	Cut	Cut of Pit	1039	12	3
1040	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1041	12	3
1041	Cut	Cut of Pit	1041	12	3
1042	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1045	4	1
1043	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1045	4	1
1044	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1045	4	1

## Appendix 1: Context concordance

Context	Type	Description	Set	Group	Phase
1045	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1045	4	1
1046	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1047	12	3
1047	Cut	Cut of Pit	1047	12	3
1048	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1048	4	1
1049	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1048	4	1
1050	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1048	4	1
1051	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1048	4	1
1052	Deposit	Fill of Post Hole	1053	11	3
1053	Cut	Cut of Post Hole	1053	11	3
1054	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1055	12	3
1055	Cut	Cut of Pit	1055	12	3
1056	Deposit	Fill of Hollow	1057	2	0
1057	Cut	Cut of Hollow	1057	2	0
1058	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1059	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1060	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1061	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1062	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1063	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1063	4	1
1064	Deposit	Natural Geology	1065	2	0
1065	Cut	Natural Geology	1065	2	0
1066	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1067	12	3
1067	Cut	Cut of Pit	1067	12	3
1068	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1069	5	1
1069	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1069	5	1
1070	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1071	5	1
1071	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1071	5	1
1072	Deposit	Layer	1072	2	0
1073	Deposit	Fill of Tree Throw	1074	2	0
1074	Interface	Tree Throw	1074	2	0
1075	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1076	5	1
1076	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1076	5	1
1077	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1078	5	1
1078	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1078	5	1
1079	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1080	5	1
1080	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1080	5	1
1081	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1082	9	3
1082	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1082	9	3
1083	Deposit	Fill of Linear Ditch	1084	9	3
1084	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1084	9	3
1085	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1086	5	1
1086	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1086	5	1
1087	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1088	10	3
1088	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1088	10	3
1089	Deposit	Layer	1089	13	2
1090	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1093	4	1

## Appendix 1: Context concordance

Context	Type	Description	Set	Group	Phase
1091	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1093	4	1
1092	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1093	4	1
1093	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1093	4	1
1094	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1097	3	1
1095	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1097	3	1
1096	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1097	3	1
1097	Cut	Cut of Pit	1097	3	1
1098	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1099	10	3
1099	Cut	Ditch	1099	10	3
1100	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1101	5	1
1101	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1101	5	1
1102	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch B	1103	5	1
1103	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch B	1103	5	1
1104	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1105	9	3
1105	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1105	9	3
1106	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1107	9	3
1107	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1107	9	3
1108	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1109	9	3
1109	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1109	9	3
1110	Deposit	Layer	1110	7	2
1111	Deposit	Layer	1111	1	0
1112	Deposit	Layer	1112	7	2
1113	Deposit	Layer	1113	1	0
1114	Deposit	Fill of Natural Feature	1115	2	0
1115	Cut	Cut of Natural Feature	1115	2	0
1116	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1117	10	3
1117	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1117	10	3
1118	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1119	11	3
1119	Cut	Cut of Pit	1119	11	3
1120	Deposit	Fill of Natural Feature	1121	2	0
1121	Cut	Cut of Natural Feature	1121	2	0
1122	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1123	11	3
1123	Cut	Cut of Pit	1123	11	3
1124	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1126	4	1
1125	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1126	4	1
1126	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1126	4	1
1127	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1129	8	2
1128	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1129	8	2
1129	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1129	8	2
1130	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1132	4	1
1131	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1132	4	1
1132	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1132	4	1
1133	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1135	8	2
1134	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1135	8	2
1135	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1135	8	2
1136	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1138	8	2

Appendix 1: Context concordance

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Set</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Phase</b>
1137	Deposit	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1138	8	2
1138	Cut	Cut of Ditch Terminus	1138	8	2
1139	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1141	8	2
1140	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1141	8	2
1141	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1141	8	2
1142	Deposit	Fill of Ditch	1143	2	0
1143	Cut	Cut of Ditch	1143	2	0
1144	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1147	4	1
1145	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1147	4	1
1146	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1147	4	1
1147	Cut	Cut of Ring Ditch A	1147	4	1
1148	Deposit	Fill of Pit	1149	12	3
1149	Cut	Cut of Pit	1149	12	3
1150	Deposit	Fill of Ring Ditch A	1132	4	1







### Appendix 3: Prehistoric pottery assemblage

Context	Set	Group	Sherd no.	Weight (gms)	Early date	Late date	Spot date	Comments
1072	1072	2	2	13	Earliest Iron Age	Early Iron Age	800-600 BC	Crumbly body sherds
1072	1072	2	6	12	Earliest Iron Age	Early Iron Age	800-600 BC	Crumbly body sherds
1142	1143	2	1	3	Early Neolithic?	Middle Neolithic?	After 3700 BC as decorated	Body sherd, possible evidence of tooled decoration
1094	1097	3	1	13	Late Bronze Age	Early Iron Age	1100-600 BC	Worn flat bottomed base sherd
1094	1097	3	1	8	Earliest Iron Age	Early Iron Age	800-600 BC	Either a flat bottomed base or shoulder angled sherd
1094	1097	3	2	24	Earliest Iron Age	Early Iron Age	800-600 BC	Rim probably belongs to PRN 2, would have been a fine thin walled pot
1094	1097	3	6	11	Late Bronze Age	Early Iron Age	1100-600 BC	Crumbs
1146	1147	4	1	4	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Worn sherd possibly from neck area, fabric can occur in the earlier Neolithic
1125	1126	4	1	2	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age	2200-1700 BC	Tiny sherd, could be Beaker, evidence of impressed decoration
1125	1126	4	2	3	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Tiny sherds
1044	1045	4	1	2	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Body sherd
1044	1045	4	2	1	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	2 x tiny joining rim sherds from fine thin walled pot, cup? Accessory pot?
1125	1126	4	1	5	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumb of prehistoric pottery
1085	1086	5	4	4	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbly body sherds
1075	1076	5	1	2	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age?	2200-1700 BC	Tiny fingernail decoration
1077	1078	5	1	2	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age?	2200-1700 BC	Possible combed decoration
1079	1080	5	1	1	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age	2200-1700 BC	Crumb of prehistoric pottery
1034	1036	6 n/a		74	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age	2000-1700 BC	Bag of featureless vitrified crumbs, Collared Urn? See text
1140	1141	8	6	15	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbly body sherds, fabric may suggest a later Iron Age date
1127	1129	8	4	8	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbs, fabric occurs in the early Neolithic and early Iron Age
1128	1129	8	1	4	Early Neolithic?	Middle Neolithic?	After 3700 BC as decorated	Tiny worn body sherd, does this have small punch marks?
1128	1129	8	1	2	Early Bronze Age	Early Bronze Age?	2200-1700 BC	Possible combed decoration
1127	1129	8	2	1	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbs of prehistoric pottery
1128	1129	8	2	1	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbs of prehistoric pottery
1054	1055	12	1	1	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumb of prehistoric pottery

### Appendix 3: Prehistoric pottery assemblage

1024	1024	13	5	5 Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate Iron Age	Tiny sherds could be later Iron Age
1024	1024	13	5	9 Earliest Iron Age	Early Iron Age	800-600 BC	Body sherds
1024	1024	13	4	2 Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbs, fabric occurs in the early Neolithic and early Iron Age
1089	1089	13	2	3 Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Crumbs of prehistoric pottery
1002	1002	14	2	10 Indeterminate	Indeterminate	indeterminate prehistoric	Worn body sherds, fabric occurs in the early Neolithic and early Iron Age

Appendix 4: Romano-British pottery assemblage

Context	Set	Group	Quantity	Weight (g)	Fabric	Form	Date	Period	Comments
1027	1025	4	2	6	R16	RIM	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	2	1	R16	BODY	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	1	3	R42 (prob)	BODY	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	2	1	S1	BODY	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	1	1	S2	BODY	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	6	17	B1	BODY	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1027	1025	4	2	20	B1	RIM	late 1st-mid 2nd AD	ROM	
1031	1025	4	3	5	R16	BODY	late 1st-3rd AD	ROM	
1031	1025	4	2	10	B1	BODY	late 1st-3rd AD	ROM	
1031	1025	4	1	15	?LR10	FLANGE	late 1st-3rd AD	ROM	flange form suggests LR vessel, fabric v. worn
1060	1063	4	2	11	B1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1060	1063	4	1	6	B1	BASE	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1060	1063	4	3	23	S1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1130	1132	4	1	4	R16	BODY	late 1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1130	1132	4	2	5	S1	BODY	late 1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1130	1132	4	3	1	S2.1	BODY	late 1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1110	1110	7	1	1	B1	BODY	1st cent. AD	ROM	
1037	1039	12	1	3	B1	BODY	1st cent. AD	ROM	
1040	1041	12	1	4	R42 (prob)	RIM	mid-late 1st cent. AD	ROM	
1148	1149	12	3	8	S1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1148	1149	12	2	2	S2.1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1148	1149	12	1	7	?R42	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	v.worn
1024	1024	13	2	14	B1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1024	1024	13	1	16	B1	BASE	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1024	1024	13	4	22	S1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1026	1026	13	18	113	B1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1026	1026	13	1	14	B1	BASE	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1026	1026	13	1	1	S2.1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1026	1026	13	2	2	R16	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	
1026	1026	13	3	24	S1	BODY	1st-2nd AD	ROM	

*Fabrics*

LR10 = oxford c.c.

B1 = CAT grogged

R16 = CAT Upchurch

R42 = CAT southern Gaulish Samian

S1 = sandy

S2 = pink buff sandy

S2.1 = pink buff other

Appendix 5: Materials recovered from bulk environmental samples

Weights are to the nearest gram. Remains in the sample flots have been recorded semi-quantitatively as follows: trace (insignificant amount); + occasional, ++ moderately frequent; +++ frequent, ++++ abundant											
Context	Sample	Set	Group	Phase	Description of deposit	Sample volume (litres)	Weight >2mm residue (kg)	Contents >2mm heavy residue other than natural stone	Flot (ml)	Contents sample flot	Potential for specialist archaeobotanical work
1042	<14>	1045	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch A slot [1045]	18	4.7	Burnt flint 320g; heat-affected (reddened) flint 215g; small fragments of heat-affected clay ++;	80	Charcoal +++; charred plant remains +; ?trace charred ?hazelnut shell; uncharred seeds +; modern millipedes +; earthworm egg capsules +; fine roots +++; mineral material ++++	V LOW
1044	<15>	1045	4	1	Area of charcoal and burnt clay in basal fill of Ring Ditch A slot [1045]	16	1.39	Burnt flint 52g; heat-affected (reddened) flint 215g; small fragments of heat-affected clay ++;	150	50% SCAN: Charcoal ++++; charred ?root fragments; charred seeds +; charred ?grass stem fragments +; mineral material +++	V LOW
1044	<16>	1045	4	1	Basal fill of Ring Ditch A slot [1045]	18	2.4	Burnt flint 25g	10	Charcoal; uncharred modern seeds +; fine roots +; mineral material ++	NONE
1050/1051	<19>	1048	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch slot [1048]	20	2.17	Burnt flint 79g; notched flint fragment (kept to see if worked) 1g	60	Charcoal ++; trace charred ?hazelnut shell/?fruitstone; trace charred seeds; fine roots +; mineral material ++++	V LOW
1061	<12>	1063	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch A slot [1063]	14	0.67	Burnt flint 13g; small fragments heat-affected clay 5g	30	Charcoal ++; uncharred seeds +; modern millipedes +; earthworm egg capsules +; fine roots +++; mineral material ++	NONE
1062	<13>	1063	4	1	Fill in base of Ring Ditch A slot [1063]	15	1.48	Burnt flint 25g	15	Charcoal +; modern seeds +; fine roots +; mineral material ++	NONE
1125	<20>	1126	4	1	Basal fill of Ring Ditch A slot [1126]	18	3.6	Pot 3g	5	Charcoal +; earthworm egg capsule +; mineral material +	NONE
1144	<27>	1147	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch A	19	1.1	Burnt flint 27g	20	Charcoal ++; uncharred modern seeds +; modern ant fragments +; mineral material ++	NONE
1145	<28>	1147	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch A	19	0.91	Burnt flint 83g	30	Charcoal ++; charred hazelnut shell fragment +; uncharred seeds (some clearly modern) +; fine roots +; mineral material +++	NONE
1146	<29>	1147	4	1	Fill of Ring Ditch A	19	0.87	Burnt flint 270g	15	Charcoal +; fine roots +; mineral material +++	NONE
1068	<4>	1069	5	1	Back fill of Ring Ditch B slot [1069]	16	0.35	Burnt flint 31g	30	Charcoal fragments ++; uncharred seeds +; <i>Caecilioides acicula</i> +; clearly recent invertebrate remains (millipedes +, beetle sclerites +, ants +); fine roots +++; mineral material +++	NONE
1070	<5>	1071	5	1	Fill of Ring Ditch B slot [1071]	21	0.78	NO BIOLOGICAL OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	30	Charcoal +; trace poorly preserved charred cereal grain; uncharred seeds +; modern ant +; modern beetle ( <i>Sitona</i> ) +; fine roots +++	NONE
1075	<6>	1076	5	1	Fill of Ring Ditch B slot [1076]	20	0.4	Burnt flint 16g	75	Charcoal ++; charred tuber +; trace possible poorly preserved charred plant material; earthworm egg capsules +; fine roots +++	V LOW
1079	<7>	1080	5	1	Fill of Ring Ditch B slot [1080]	18	0.74	Burnt flint 32g; pot 1g	25	Charcoal ++; trace charred plant remains (poorly preserved cereal grain and ?grass stem node); uncharred seeds +; fine roots +	NONE
1092	<9>	1093	5	1	Basal fill of Ring Ditch A	18	0.61	Small fragments heat-affected clay +++	40	Charcoal +; modern ant +; trace coal; mineral material +++	NONE
1102	<11>	1103	5	1	Fill of Ring Ditch B [1103]	22	0.37	Burnt flint 23g	60	Charcoal ++; charred cereal grain fragments +; trace ?charred hazelnut shell; uncharred seeds +; fine modern roots +++; mineral material ++++	V LOW
1034	<2>	1036	6	1	Fill of cremation burial [1036]	16	3.9	Burnt flint 19g; other heat-affected stone fragments 19g; flint chips 15g; poorly preserved pot 74g; calcined bone fragments 213g	70	Charcoal ++; poorly preserved cereal grain +; charred ?rhizome fragment +; uncharred recent seeds ++; uncharred recent plant material ++; <i>Caecilioides acicula</i> +; other terrestrial snail fragments +; earthworm egg capsules +; fine roots +++	V LOW
1127	<21>	1129	8	2	Fill of ditch	15	0.47	Burnt flint 61g; pot 1g	25	Charcoal +; fine roots ++; mineral material ++; modern millipede segments +	NONE
1128	<22>	1129	8	2	Fill of ditch	18	0.66	Burnt flint 24g; small ?pot fragments <1g	25	Charcoal +; modern millipede +; fine roots +++; mineral material ++	NONE
1136	<25>	1138	8	2	Fill of ditch terminus	17	0.56	Burnt flint 13g	30	Charcoal ++; fine roots ++; mineral material ++; modern millipede segments +	NONE
1140	<26>	1141	8	2	Fill of ditch	20	2.21	Burnt flint 152g	50	Charcoal +; fine roots ++; mineral material ++	NONE
1089	<10>	1089	13	2	Dump layer sealing ditch [1093]	5	0.25	Burnt flint 71g; pot 2g	25	Charcoal +; charred grass stem nodes +; modern seeds +; earthworm egg capsules +; modern parasitic wasp head; fine roots ++; mineral material ++	NONE
1022	<1>	1023	12	3	Fill of pit or post hole [1023]	14	1.14	Heat-affected (reddened) flint 4g; flint flake (x1) 5g;	40	Charcoal ++; modern seeds +; fine roots +++; earthworm egg capsules ++	NONE
1054	<3>	1055	12	3	Fill of pit [1055] cut into surface of ring ditch	19	4.4	Burnt flint 191g; other burnt stone 27g; possible struck flint fragments 39g; heat-affected clay fragments 9g; trace pot;	60	Charcoal ++; charred cereal grains (moderately to poorly preserved) +++; charred cereal/grass stem nodes +; charred seeds +; charred thorn; charred tree buds; uncharred seeds +; modern ant fragments +; fine roots +++	MODERATE
1148	<30>	1149	12	3	Fill of pit	20	1.33	Burnt flint 27g	70	Charcoal ++; charred cereal remains (glume bases +, ?grain fragment +); uncharred seeds +; fine roots +; mineral material ++++	V LOW