



2–28 Campbell Road,
Gravesend,
Kent,
DA11 0JY

Archaeological evaluation report

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Summary

On 30 and 31 October 2025 Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JY (NGR: 563847 173539). The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Kent Plan Properties Ltd in support of planning application reference 20240611, submitted to Gravesham Borough Council.

The proposed development area is located within an area of archaeological potential associated with Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity. Find-spots of Anglo-Saxon coins and pottery, and inhumation burials and masonry likely associated with the earlier, medieval St Mary's Church have been found in nearby vicinity of the site.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated, two of which measured 10m in length with the third measuring 20m. Each trench was cut to a width of 2m.

Underlying bedrock geology, comprising weathered chalk, was exposed within trench 1 at a depth range of 0.83–1.21m below ground level (18.30–18.57m OD) and within sondages in trenches 2 and 3 at a depth of 1.2–1.4m below ground level (18.30–18.44m OD).

Thick sequences of subsoil deposits were recorded within each trench, mainly represented by deposits of sandy clay with chalk and flint inclusions, with inclusions of marine shells recorded in trench 3. Although not shown on current geological mapping, the lower subsoils identified during the evaluation are suggestive of periglacial Head deposits, with upper deposits likely representative of former ploughsoils of unknown date.

A possible palaeochannel was identified in trench 1 at a depth of 0.89m below ground level. A slot excavated through this feature revealed a very uneven base and irregular edges.

A possible quarry was recorded in trench 2 at a very shallow depth of just 0.25m below ground level. Finds recovered from this feature suggest a possible medieval/post-medieval date although the finds could be residual in a much later feature.

A series of archaeological features was recorded in trench 3 where a wide ditch was exposed in section (at a depth of 0.40m below ground level). It may represent a former substantial boundary ditch. A further possible linear feature was recorded to the south, but this was very unclear in both section and plan. Each linear feature produced finds dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods, however the second linear feature may have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence suggesting a potential modern date.

A cluster of three post-holes were recorded at the north end of trench 3, one of which was identified at a depth of 0.40m below ground level.

An associated small finds assemblage contained a collection of four sherds of medieval pottery dated to between the eleventh and thirteenth century, as well as some fragments of glazed floor tile. These finds appear to represent residual evidence of medieval activity in the nearby area, with the presence of a glazed floor tile suggestive of a significant structure. However, they may also be present as a result of the manuring of agricultural land.

The evaluation has revealed no evidence for significant occupation activity on the site of any period, with most of the features identified as likely relating to agricultural activity. The shallow depth of these features, at 0.25–0.40m BGL, indicate that the proposed development will impact upon the buried archaeological resource.

Project contributors

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Fieldwork:	George Carstairs and Charles Stagg
Post-excavation:	George Carstairs and Laura O'Shea-Walker

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The evaluation was monitored by Jake Warrender, Archaeological Officer at the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 On 30 and 31 October 2025 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JY (NGR: 563847 173539, Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned by Kent Plan Properties Ltd in advance of ‘the demolition of existing garages and erection of a terrace of five 2-storey houses with landscaping, access, parking, refuse, recycling and cycle storage’ (Planning Application Ref. 20240611).
- 1.1.3 Under the Town and Country Planning Act, Gravesham Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) granted planning permission for the proposed development on 11 October 2024, subject to conditions.
- 1.1.4 Condition 11 relates to archaeological matters and states:
- No development other than demolition to ground level only shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:
- i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
 - ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record, in accordance with adopted Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy Policies CS19: Development and Design Principles and CS20 (Heritage and the Historic Environment), saved Gravesham Local Plan First Review Policy TC7 and section 16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021.
- 1.1.5 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located within an area of archaeological potential associated with Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity. Find-spots of Anglo-Saxon coins and pottery, and inhumation burials and masonry likely associated with the earlier, medieval St Mary’s Church have been found in nearby vicinity of the site.
- 1.1.6 The Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) act as archaeological advisers to the LPA. Due to the potential impact that the proposed works may have on the buried archaeological resource, and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2024), Iceni Projects, who are acting as archaeological consultants on behalf of the client (Kent Plan Properties Ltd), commissioned CAT to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation to determine the presence or absence of potential archaeological remains in advance of development works.
- 1.1.7 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Iceni Projects 2025) approved by KCC HCG and involved the excavation of three evaluation trenches.
- 1.1.8 This report sets out the results of the evaluation to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource surviving within the proposed development area. The results will

enable the LPA to formulate the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works that might be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidelines.

- 1.1.9 The archaeological evaluation was monitored by a Senior Archaeological Officer at KCC HCG and conforms to the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2023a-b), Historic England (2015), and the KCC Manual of Specifications Part B: Evaluation – trial trenching requirements.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The PDA is located in central/west Gravesend and forms an area of hardstanding bounded by residential properties to the north, east and south, and by Campbell Road and residential properties to the west.
- 1.2.2 Bedrock geology within the PDA is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation with no overlying superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2025).
- 1.2.3 The PDA is situated on generally level ground at an approximate height of c 19m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

2 Archaeological background

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has been compiled from the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) and other sources mainly within a 500m search radius of the PDA (NGR 563847 173539; centred). The archaeological and historical background has been reproduced from the recent WSI (Iceni Projects Ltd 2025).

2.2 Archaeological and historical setting

Prehistoric (c 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence of archaeological activity within proximity of the PDA comprises flint scatters or lithic assemblages of flint flakes, blades, core and burnt flint, recovered during excavations at London Road, Rosherville, located 460m north of the PDA. The assemblage suggests a main date of mid to late Bronze Age, although it remains possible that some of the assemblage may derive from the Mesolithic/Neolithic periods (PCA 2024).
- 2.2.2 Two post-holes were recorded during a watching brief at London Road, Rosherville, 450m north of the site. Although no datable evidence was recovered, the aforementioned recovery of Mesolithic/Neolithic/Bronze Age lithic assemblages suggests a prehistoric date (PCA 2024).
- 2.2.3 The find-spot of a Bronze Age Rapier fragment (HER TQ67 SW102) was found roughly 500m south-west of the PDA.

Romano-British (AD 43–450)

- 2.2.4 The PDA is located approximately 1.5km north-east of the major Roman thoroughfare of Watling Street, a section of which ran from Rochester to London (Margary 1955).
- 2.2.5 Roman coins have been found in the Perry Street area (HER TQ67 SW33) and coins, pottery and other articles were recovered from Cold Harbour in the Northfleet parish (HER TQ67 SW115), located south-west of the PDA.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 450–1066) and medieval (AD 1066–1540)

- 2.2.6 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Gravesend as a relatively small settlement with a population of 12 households and one church. Northfleet, located to the north-west of the PDA, was larger, with a population of 43 households, a mill, a fishery and a church.
- 2.2.7 A coin hoard and silver pendant cross, dated to the ninth century, were recovered during excavations in a field in 1835 or 1838 (HER TQ67 SW5), located roughly 300m south of the PDA. The hoard consists of 552 Saxon coins dated from 814 to the end of the ninth century, and are mainly attributed to Burgred, King of Mercia.
- 2.2.8 Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds have been recovered from Northfleet (HER TQ63 SW73), located 500m south-west of the PDA.
- 2.2.9 The present St Mary's Church (HER TQ67 SW182) is thought to be of sixteenth-century date, however an earlier church is thought to have existed at an uncertain location (HER TQ67 SW182), but possibly within a parcel of glebeland (mapped in 1803), located 75m east of the PDA. It has been suggested the church was rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1510 having been destroyed by fire in c 1509/10 and demolished by order of King Henry VIII in 1544. However, burials were still being held at the original site in 1598, and foundations were identified in 1797, with gravestones excavated in 1822.
- 2.2.10 An archaeological evaluation in 2017 at the former White Post public house, located 75m east of the PDA (in the area believed to be close to the earlier St Mary's Church), recovered inhumation burials and masonry dating from the eleventh to fifteenth centuries (Kent Archaeological Projects 2017; TQ67 SW130 and TQ67 SW1491).

Post-medieval and Modern (AD 1540–present)

- 2.2.11 During the post-medieval period, Gravesend continued to expand from a minor medieval settlement and by the mid to late eighteenth century it had grown in importance, both militarily and defensively, due to its strategic position by the Thames Estuary opposite Tilbury Fort in Essex.
- 2.2.12 A map of 1769 shows the grid-like settlement of Gravesend with development shown to the immediate south-west of the town, roughly within the north-east end of Pelham Road (formerly known as Manor Road). The PDA is shown as located within a swathe of undeveloped land to the south-west of this development and north-east of settlement at Perry Street.
- 2.2.13 The introduction of the railways in the mid nineteenth century added to the expansion of Gravesend, evidenced by an increase in housing (particularly terraced), farmsteads and outfarms.
- 2.2.14 Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps plot the development of Gravesend and the area around the PDA. The First Edition OS map (surveyed 1863–65) shows the PDA then formed part of a large undeveloped field located off Manor Road (later to be renamed Pelham Road). The Second Edition revised 1895 OS map shows development immediately east of the PDA at Pelham Terrace and the road re-named as Pelham Road, but with the PDA still shown as undeveloped.
- 2.2.15 Further, significant expansion was made in the twentieth century with the town developing into a residential and commercial area. The Third Edition OS map (revised 1915–16) shows an increase in housing in the local area and the beginnings of the newly formed Campbell Road with the PDA shown as undeveloped but possibly used as access. The revised 1931–32 OS map shows the area as covered in mainly housing development with development completed along Campbell Road and the PDA being used as a garaging area.

- 2.2.16 Aerial photographs and satellite images of the PDA indicate it has been used as a garaging area throughout much of the twentieth century with the garages demolished sometime between 2022 and March 2024.

3 Objectives and Methodology

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 Archaeological field evaluation is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) as 'a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which seeks to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts. It may form a single or final phase of work within a defined area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water' (CIfA 2023a). The purpose is to 'determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area' (CIfA 2023a).
- 3.1.2 The principal aim of the evaluation trenching was to determine the nature and extent of survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The purpose was to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposits, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains present.
- 3.1.3 The general objectives included to establish:
- Identification of the earliest archaeological deposits.
 - Identification of the latest archaeological deposits.
 - The nature and character of archaeological deposits encountered.
 - The extent of modern disturbance.
- 3.1.4 Site-specific objectives comprised:
- Establish the nature, extent and significance of any sub-surface archaeological remains present across the site.
 - What is the level of truncation associated with the present building on the site?
 - To what extent will the proposed development impact any subsurface archaeological remains present on the site.
 - Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity present on the site?
 - Are any isolated prehistoric finds present?
 - If prehistoric remains are present, what is their nature and how to they compare to the known prehistoric archaeology in the area?
 - Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the present site?
 - Are they any isolated Roman finds present?
 - If Roman remains are present, what is their nature and how to they compare to the known Roman archaeology in the area?
 - Are there any medieval remains present, especially relating to any burial remains related to the former St Mary's Church?
 - What is the nature and extent of post-medieval development of the site and what type of occupational evidence and potential industries are represented?
 - Do post-medieval remains truncate earlier remains?

- 3.1.5 The results of the evaluation trenching would inform on the potential for surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area and enable the LPA and KCC HCG Senior Archaeological Officer to determine the scope of any further archaeological mitigation that may be required.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (Iceni Projects Ltd 2025). All archaeological work was undertaken by professional archaeologists in the employ of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.
- 3.2.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the accepted professional standards set out in the ClfA *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023b). Canterbury Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation with ClfA and conforms to their Code, regulations and standards and guidance.
- 3.2.3 The KCC HCG Senior Archaeological Officer was informed of the start date of the work and progress during the fieldwork.
- 3.2.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of three evaluation trenches using a 14-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were opened at their proposed positions as specified in the WSI (Iceni Projects Ltd 2025), with trenches measuring approximately 10 and 20m in length and 2m in width.
- 3.2.5 Mechanical excavation was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was the higher. The underlying geological deposits were not overly reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present ground surface.
- 3.2.6 Following mechanical clearance, the exposed sections in each trench were photographed and the trenches recorded using *pro forma* trench recording sheets. The trenches were surveyed using a Leica GS16 GNSS with Smart Net, tied to the OS National Grid (EPSG: 27700 OSGB36). A full digital photographic record of the evaluation was maintained. The digital photographic record comprises part of the site archive.

3.3 Health, safety and welfare

- 3.3.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2025a), and CAT's Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare (CAT 2025b).
- 3.3.2 All CAT and plant operatives were inducted on site safety procedures before commencement of works. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is Acclaim SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accredited.
- 3.3.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool.

3.4 Project archive

- 3.4.1 The project archive has been prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (AAF 2011; ClfA 2020).

- 3.4.2 The archive name '2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend', CAT site code EV 2-28CRG 25, and archive number 54300 have been used.
- 3.4.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using QGIS.
- 3.4.4 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered. No environmental samples were taken during the evaluation.
- 3.4.5 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body, as recommended by KCC HCG.

4 Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation results are presented in trench tables listed below. Context data is expressed as thickness of deposit/feature and depth below ground level (BGL) in metres to the top of the deposit.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2 and Photos 3–5) was roughly north-west to south-east aligned and located parallel to the south-west boundary of the site. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TR 1						
Length: 10m		Width: 2m		Orientation: NW–SE		Ground level: 19.58m OD (NW) 19.18m OD (SE)
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Provisional dates	
100	Hardstanding	Concrete	0.14–0.17	-	Modern	
101	Bedding layer	Chalk	0.16–0.19	0.14–0.17	Modern	
102	Ploughsoil/ disturbed subsoil?	Dark greyish brown soft compacted sandy clay with frequent white chalk flecks and lumps and occasional small angular flints	0.34–0.35	0.33–0.35	Undated	
103	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown soft compacted sandy clay with occasional small white chalk flecks and lumps and occasional small angular flints	0.06–0.19	0.39–0.70	Undated	
104	Palaeochannel?	Mid reddish brown soft compacted sandy clay with occasional small white chalk flecks and lumps, occasional small angular flints within an irregular linear 'feature', c 4m wide	0.32+	0.89	Undated	
105	Geology	Pale yellowish brown soft compacted friable sandy clay and weathered chalk and small angular flints	-	0.83–1.21	-	

- 4.2.2 Geology comprised friable sandy clay with chalk and flints (105), encountered at a depth range of 0.83–1.21m BGL (18.30–18.57m OD).
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded within this trench.
- 4.2.4 A wide and very irregular feature was identified in the base of the trench. It contained a sterile fill and has been interpreted as a possible palaeochannel (104). A slot excavated through this feature revealed a very uneven base and irregular edges.

- 4.2.5 This was sealed by a subsoil of sandy clay (103), possibly a Head deposit up to 0.19m thick, in turn sealed by a further deposit of darker sandy clay (102) which may represent a former ploughsoil or bioturbated subsoil, up to 0.35m thick.
- 4.2.6 A bedding deposit of chalk (101) topped by a surface of hardstanding (100) formed the final deposits in the stratigraphic sequence.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 (Fig 2 and Photos 6–9) was roughly east–west aligned and located across the north end of the site. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TR 2						
	Length: 10m	Width: 2m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 19.85m OD (W) 19.82m OD (E)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
200	Hardstanding	Concrete	0.13–0.14	-	Modern	
201	Bedding layer	Pale yellowish chalk	0.12–0.23	0.13–0.14	Modern	
202	Fill of 203	Dark greyish brown soft compact sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks and lumps, occasional medium angular flints. Finds: shell, CBM, flint	0.68	0.25	Med/Post med	
203	Quarry?	Steep, concave sides with flattish/undulating base. 5.5m wide	0.68	0.25	Med/Post med	
204	Geology or subsoil?	Light orangish brown soft compact sandy clay with common chalk and small rounded and angular flints	-	0.37–0.93	-	
205	Ploughsoil?	Dark greyish brown soft compacted sandy clay with frequent white chalk flecks and lumps and occasional small angular flints	0.23	0.32	Undated	
206	Geology	Pale yellowish brown soft compact sandy clay with very common chalk and occasional small angular flints	0.18+	1.15	-	
207	Geology	Mid orangish brown soft compacted sandy clay and weathered chalk with angular flints	0.19+	1.33	-	

- 4.3.2 Geological deposits varied within the trench. Identified within a sondage at the west end of the trench, the earliest deposit comprised orangish brown sandy clay and weathered chalk (207), encountered at a depth of 1.33m BGL (18.44m OD). This was sealed by yellowish brown sandy clay with very common chalk inclusions (206), encountered at a depth of 1.15m BGL (18.62m OD). Within the eastern half of the trench base, possible geology here was very similar to (206) and comprised light orangish brown sandy clay with common chalk and flint (204). This deposit was quite shallow in places and was encountered at a depth range of 0.37–0.93m BGL.
- 4.3.3 Spread across part of the trench was a large dark brown deposit within a possible quarry pit [203] that was traced for a width of 5.5m. Finds recovered from this feature suggest a possible medieval/post-medieval date. This was sealed by a layer of sandy clay (205) which may represent a former ploughsoil, up to 0.23m thick.
- 4.3.4 A bedding deposit of chalk (201) topped by a surface of hardstanding (200) formed the final deposits in the stratigraphic sequence.

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 (Fig 2 and Photos 10–16) was north–south aligned and located within the east end of the site. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 2.

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR 3	Length: 20.90m	Width: 2m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 19.90m OD (N) 19.52m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
300	Tarmac	-	0.09–0.19	-	Modern	
301	Bedding layer	-	0.09–0.18	0.09–0.19	Modern	
302	Hardstanding	Concrete	0.02	-	Modern	
303	Bedding layer	-	0.06	0.02	Modern	
304	Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with chalk and rooting. Finds: clay pipe and peg tile	0.14–0.36	0.08–0.35	Undated	
305	Fill of 306	Mid-dark grey brown sandy clay wilt with occasional chalk	0.57	0.40	Undated	
306	Post-hole	Vertical sides with slightly rounded base. 0.34m wide. Cuts 316	0.57	0.40	Undated	
307	Fill of 308	Mid-dark grey brown sandy clay wilt with occasional chalk	0.17	-	Undated	
308	Post-hole	Steep sides with slightly rounded base. 0.30m wide	0.17	-	Undated	
309	Fill of 310	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with chalk.	0.18	-	Undated	
310	Post-hole	Steep sides with slightly flat base. 0.49m wide	0.18	-	Undated	
311	Fill of 315	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with chalk. Finds: CBM. 1.90m wide	0.38	0.40?	Med/Post-med	
312	Fill of 315	Dark-mid grey brown sandy clay silt with chalk. 1.90m wide	0.40	-	Med/Post-med	
313	Fill of 315	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with lenses of occasional chalk. 0.46m wide	0.05	-	Med/Post-med	
314	Fill of 315	Dark-mid grey brown sandy clay silt. 1.36m wide	0.40	-	Med/Post-med	
315	Linear feature?	NW–SE aligned. 2.40m wide. U-shaped profile with gentle to concave sides and rounded base. Cuts 317 (although may cut from higher up – 304). Identified in section	1.00	0.40?	Med/Post-med	
316	Subsoil	Orangish brown sandy clay silt with occasional chalk and marine shell	0.40+	0.40–0.48	Undated	
317	Disturbed subsoil?	Mid yellowish grey brown sandy clay silt	0.90+	0.37–0.40	Undated	
318	VOID	-	-	-	-	
319	VOID	-	-	-	-	
320	Fill of 321	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with chalk. Finds: pottery, animal bone	0.95	0.40	Med/Post-med	
321	Boundary ditch	NW–SE aligned with V-shaped profile with moderate to steep sides and concave base. 2.60m wide (in section)	0.95	0.40	Med/Post-med	
322	Geology	Buff/cream weathered chalk with flint nodules	-	1.20–1.40	-	

- 4.4.2 Geology comprised weathered chalk with flint nodules (322) encountered within a sondage at the south end of the trench at a depth of 1.20–1.40m BGL (18.30m OD).
- 4.4.3 Geology was sealed by an orangish brown sandy clay silt subsoil (316), at least 0.40m thick, which extended across the north part of the trench base. This was cut by three small discrete post-holes, [306], [308] and [310], identified at the north end of the trench.
- 4.4.4 Appearing to seal subsoil deposit (316) was a disturbed subsoil deposit (317). This had been cut by a possible linear feature [315] which was unclear in plan. It may have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence, but this remained unclear. It appeared to contain four fills from which finds of animal (cattle) bone, burnt flint and CBM (floor tile) were recovered, suggesting a possible medieval/post-medieval date. A wide linear feature [321] was identified to the north, the base of which was aligned north-west to south-east. This feature appeared to be much wider and more substantial in section. A small assemblage of finds was recovered and comprised some fragments of medieval/post-medieval tile and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

- 4.4.5 A layer of buried topsoil (304), up to 0.23m thick, sealed the fills of the three post-holes and two linear features.
- 4.4.6 Bedding layers (301) and (303) sealed the buried topsoil and were in turn topped by a surface of hardstanding (302) and tarmac (300).

5 Finds

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered during the evaluation (see Table 4).

Table 4. Finds assemblage

Context	Material	Description	Quantity	Weight	Spot date
202	CBM	Red fabric, abraded fragments	2	30	Med/Post-med
202	Shell	1 x mussel, oyster left valve and fragments and 1 x snail	5	22	-
202	Pottery	Medieval	3	39	11 th –13 th century
311	Animal bone	Cattle vertebra fragments	6	119	-
311	Flint	Burnt	1	8	-
311	CBM	Floor tile orange fabric with green glaze extant, pipe fragment pinkish-cream fabric with abundant small quartz, has extant edge	2	113	Med/Post-med
320	CBM	Tile fragments, red-orange tile, no surviving edges each 12mm thick	3	139	Med/Post-med
320	Pottery	Medieval	1	8	11 th –13 th century

- 5.1.2 The finds suggest activity within the site dates from no earlier than the medieval period.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Interpretation

- 6.1.1 According to modern geological mapping (BGS 2025) superficial geology is not mapped within this area, with geology comprising chalk bedrock.
- 6.1.2 Bedrock geology of weathered chalk with sandy clay was identified within trench 1 at a depth range of 0.83–1.21m BGL (18.30–18.57m OD). Weathered chalk was exposed within a sondage in trench 2 at a depth of 1.33m OD (18.44m OD) and was sealed by sandy clay with very common chalk inclusions, identified at a depth of 1.15m BGL (18.62m OD). Weathered chalk was exposed within a sondage in trench 3 at a depth of 1.2–1.4m BGL (18.30m OD).
- 6.1.3 Trench 1 did not contain archaeological features, however a possible wide palaeochannel was exposed within the central area of the trench at a depth of 0.89m BGL.
- 6.1.4 Thick sequences of deposits were recorded within each trench, mainly represented by sterile deposits of sandy clay with chalk and flint inclusions in trenches 1 and 2, with the additional presence of occasional marine shell in a subsoil deposit identified in trench 3.
- 6.1.5 Although current geological mapping suggests superficial geological deposits are not present in this area, it would appear that a potential isolated pocket of periglacial Head deposits extends across the site, identified at a depth of 0.37–0.93m BGL.

- 6.1.6 Whilst medieval activity has been identified to the east of the PDA and associated with the former site of the earlier St Mary's Church, no evidence of burials, including cuts for graves, or masonry remains were encountered during the evaluation. The small finds assemblage did contain a collection of four sherds of medieval pottery dated to between the eleventh and thirteenth century, as well as some fragments of glazed floor tile. These finds appear to represent residual evidence of medieval activity in the nearby area, with the presence of a glazed floor tile suggestive of a significant structure. However, they may also be present as a result of the manuring of agricultural land.
- 6.1.7 According to historic mapping, since at least the mid to late eighteenth century this ground appears to have formed part of undeveloped agricultural land situated between Gravesend and Perry Street. The disturbed subsoils identified during the evaluation are suggestive of former ploughsoil deposits of unknown date, through which several archaeological features had been cut.
- 6.1.8 A possible quarry was recorded in trench 2 at a very shallow depth of just 0.25m BGL and was traced for a width of 5.5m. Finds recovered from this feature suggest a possible medieval/post-medieval date although the finds could be residual in a much later feature.
- 6.1.9 A series of archaeological features was recorded in trench 3 where a wide ditch was exposed in section (at a depth of 0.40m BGL), roughly mid trench, the base of which was shown in plan as a narrow feature aligned roughly north-west to south-east. It may represent a former substantial boundary ditch. A further possible linear feature was recorded to the south, but this was very unclear in both section and plan. Each linear feature produced finds dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods, however the second linear feature may have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence suggesting a potential modern date.
- 6.1.10 A cluster of three post-holes were recorded at the north end of trench 3, one of which was identified at a depth of 0.40m BGL. They did not form a coherent spatial pattern in plan and no finds were recovered.
- 6.1.11 Throughout the course of the evaluation no finds or features of obvious prehistoric or Roman-period date were identified other than a single burnt flint which is often associated with prehistoric activity, but not exclusively so.
- 6.1.12 The exposed archaeological remains in trenches 2 and 3 cannot be directly associated with activity related to the medieval St Mary's Church; no early masonry was observed and no human remains were encountered. However, the finds assemblage did contain two fragments of a green glazed floor tile which may have come from an ecclesiastical building or another locally significant structure.
- 6.1.13 The possible quarry pit in trench 2 was sealed by modern deposits whilst the archaeological features in trench 3 were sealed by a post-medieval/early modern deposit of sandy clay silt that contained fragments of clay pipe and peg tile.
- 6.1.14 Modern truncation levels across the site measured 0.08–0.35m BGL indicating there has been minimal disturbance to earlier underlying deposits.

6.2 Development impact

- 6.2.1 The proposed development is for the creation of a new terraced housing with associated landscaping and access. Expected groundworks are anticipated to involve potential reduction of ground levels or possible piling, as well as the cutting of trenches for foundations, drainage and other services. Such groundworks are highly intrusive.
- 6.2.2 The archaeological evaluation has revealed no evidence for significant occupation activity on the site of any period, with most of the features identified as likely relating to agricultural

activity. The shallow depth of these features, at 0.25–0.40m BGL, indicate that the proposed development will impact upon the buried archaeological resource.

6.3 Confidence rating

- 6.3.1 The evaluation is considered to have satisfactorily determined the extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition of the archaeological remains present within the proposed development area. However, the cuts of archaeological features in trench 3 were not always very clear in section and therefore the stratigraphic sequence is questionable here.
- 6.3.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted under fair weather, in dry ground conditions.

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Appendix 1. Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend	
Site Code: EV 2–28 CRG 25	
Site Address: 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend	
Summary: On 30 and 31 October 2025, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land on land at 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JY. The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Icen Projects, on behalf of clients Kent Plan Properties Ltd, in support of planning application reference 20240611, submitted to Gravesham Borough Council. Three evaluation trenches were excavated, two of which measured 10m in length with the third measuring 20m. Each trench was cut to a width of 2m.	
District/Unitary: Gravesham	Parish: Gravesend
Period(s): Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern	
NGR: 563847 173539 (centred)	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 30 and 31 October 2025	
Unit undertaking recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU Tel: (01227) 462062 · email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk	
Geology: Chalk overlain by possible Head deposits of sandy clay and silt	
Title and author of accompanying report: 2–28 Campbell Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JY - Archaeological evaluation report. G Carstairs and L O'Shea-Walker	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate): Underlying bedrock geology, comprising weathered chalk, was exposed within trench 1 at a depth range of 0.83–1.21m BGL (18.30–18.57m OD) and within sondages in trenches 2 and 3 at a depth of 1.2–1.4m BGL (18.30–18.44m OD). Thick sequences of subsoil deposits were recorded within each trench, mainly represented by deposits of sandy clay with chalk and flint inclusions, with inclusions of marine shells recorded in trench 3. The subsoils identified during the evaluation are suggestive of Head deposits, with higher deposits likely representative of former ploughsoils of unknown date. A possible quarry was recorded in trench 2 at a very shallow depth of just 0.25m BGL. Finds recovered from this feature suggest a possible medieval/post-medieval date although the finds could be residual in a much later feature. A series of archaeological features was recorded in trench 3 where a wide ditch was exposed in section (at a depth of 0.40m BGL). It may represent a former substantial boundary ditch. A further possible linear feature was recorded to the south, but this was very unclear in both section and plan. Each linear feature produced finds dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods, however the second linear feature may have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence suggesting a potential modern date.	

A cluster of three post-holes were recorded at the north end of trench 3, one of which was identified at a depth of 0.40m BGL.

An associated small finds assemblage contained a collection of four sherds of medieval pottery dated to between the eleventh and thirteenth century, as well as some fragments of glazed floor tile. These finds appear to represent residual evidence of medieval activity in the nearby area, with the presence of a glazed floor tile suggestive of a significant structure. However, they may also be present as a result of the manuring of agricultural land.

The evaluation has revealed no evidence for significant occupation activity on the site of any period, with most of the features identified as likely relating to agricultural activity. The shallow depth of these features, at 0.25–0.40m BGL, indicate that the proposed development will impact upon the buried archaeological resource.

Location of archive/finds: Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU

Contact at Unit: Caroline Russell

Date: 14/11/2025

Appendix 2. OASIS record

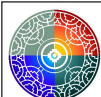
OASIS ID (UID)	canterbu3-538413
Project Name	2-28 Campbell Road, Gravesend - Archaeological evaluation report
Sitename	2-28 Campbell Road, Gravesend
Sitecode	EV 2-28 CRG 25
Project Identifier(s)	2-28 Campbell Road, Gravesend
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	20240611
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	30-Oct-2025 - 31-Oct-2025
Location	2-28 Campbell Road, Gravesend NGR: TQ 63847 73539 LL: 51.43715593697783, 0.355922333793017 12 Fig: 563847,173539
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Kent Local Authority District: Gravesham Parish: Gravesham, unparished area
Project Methodology	Three evaluation trenches were excavated, two of which measured 10m in length with the third measuring 20m. Each trench was cut to a width of 2m.
Project Results	Underlying bedrock geology, comprising weathered chalk, was exposed within trench 1 at a depth range of 0.83–1.21m below ground level (18.30–18.57m OD) and within sondages in trenches 2 and 3 at a depth of 1.2–1.4m below ground level (18.30–18.44m OD). Thick sequences of subsoil deposits were recorded within each trench, mainly represented by deposits of sandy clay with chalk and flint inclusions, with inclusions of marine shells recorded in trench 3. Although not shown on current geological mapping, the lower subsoils identified during the evaluation are suggestive of periglacial Head deposits, with upper deposits likely representative of former ploughsoils of unknown date. A possible palaeochannel was identified in trench 1 at a depth of 0.89m below ground level. A slot excavated through this feature revealed a very uneven base and irregular edges. A possible quarry was recorded in trench 2 at a very shallow depth of just 0.25m below ground level. Finds recovered from this feature suggest a possible medieval/post-medieval date although the finds could be residual in a much later feature. A series of archaeological features was recorded in trench 3 where a wide ditch was exposed in section (at a depth of 0.40m below ground level). It may represent a former substantial boundary ditch. A further possible linear feature was recorded to the south, but this was very unclear in both section and plan. Each linear feature produced finds dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods, however the second linear feature may have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence suggesting a potential modern date. A cluster of three post-holes were recorded at the north end of trench 3, one of which was identified at a depth of 0.40m below ground level. An associated small finds assemblage contained a collection of four sherds of medieval pottery dated to between the eleventh and thirteenth century, as well as some fragments of glazed floor tile. These finds appear to represent residual evidence of medieval activity in the nearby area, with the presence of a glazed floor tile suggestive of a significant structure. However, they may also be present as a result of the manuring of agricultural land. The evaluation has revealed no evidence for significant occupation activity on the site of any period, with most of the features identified as likely relating to agricultural activity.

Keywords	Quarry - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Kent Plan Properties Ltd
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Caroline Russell
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 14-11-2025:1631



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**C.A.T**
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PROJECT 2-28 Campbell Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JY	DRAWN BY LOW	SCALE(S) 1:1500@A4
COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2023. CRS: OSGB36 / British National Grid	DATE 13/11/2025	LAST REVISION -/-/-
CHECKED —	REF/DRG NO. EV 2-28CRG 25_Fig01	

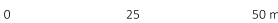


Figure 1. Proposed development location

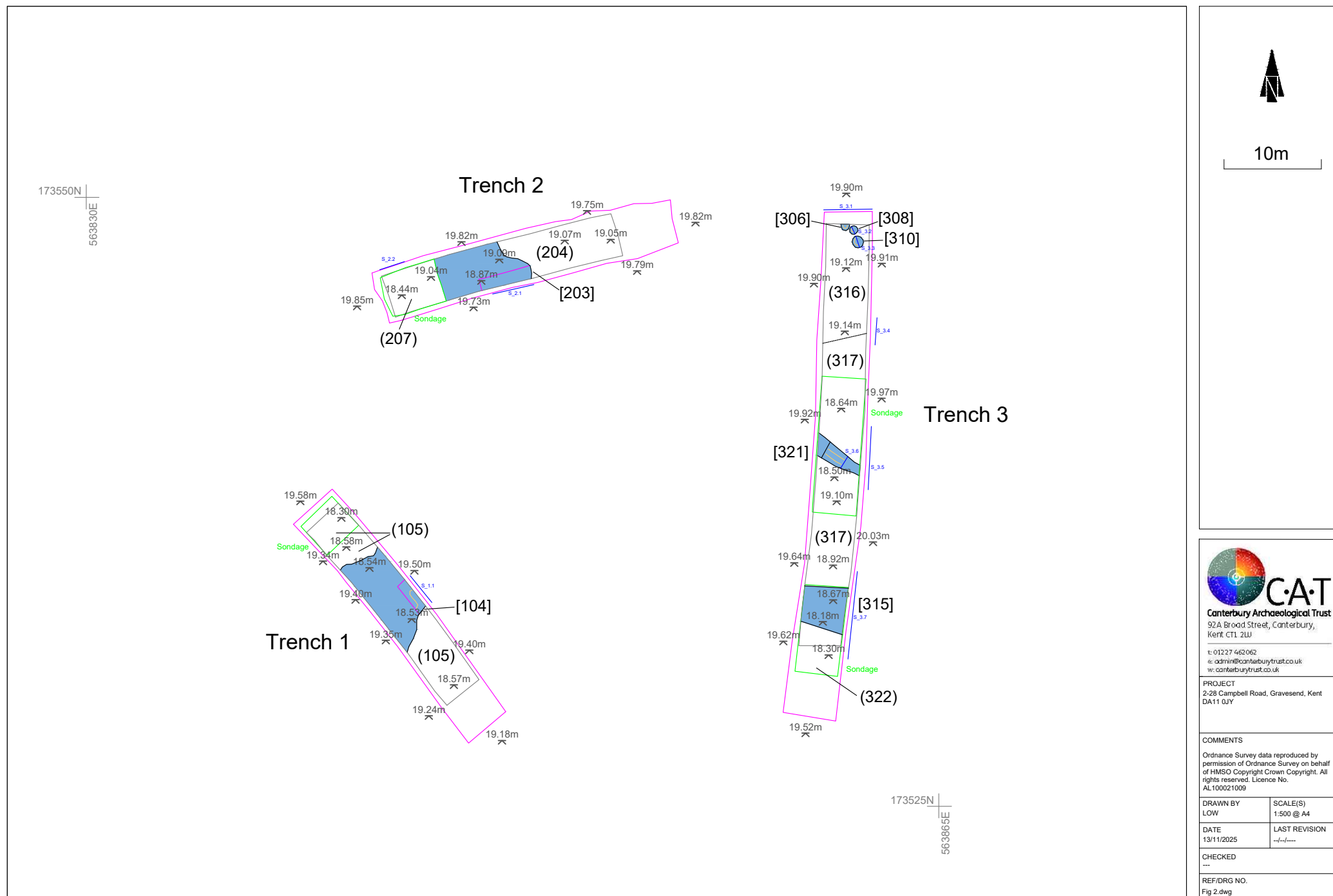


Figure 2. Results of archaeological evaluation

Photographs



Photo 1. Location of proposed development area, looking south-west



Photo 2. Location of proposed development area, looking north-east



Photo 3. View of excavated Trench 1, looking north-west. Scale 1m



Photo 4. View of excavated Trench 1, looking south-east. Scale 1m



Photo 5. View of intervention through possible palaeochannel [104] in Trench 1, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Photo 6. View of excavated Trench 2, looking east. Scale 1m



Photo 7. View of excavated Trench 2, looking west. Scale 1m



Photo 8. View of intervention through ditch [203] in Trench 2, looking south. Scale 1m



Photo 9. View of sondage through west end of Trench 2, looking north. Scale 1m



Photo 10. View of excavated Trench 3, looking north. Scale 1m



Photo 11. View of excavated Trench 3, looking south. Scale 1m



Photo 12. Oblique view of west facing section of excavated Trench 3, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Photo 13. Oblique view of west facing section of excavated Trench 3, looking south-east. Scale 1m



Photo 14. View of intervention through ditch [321] in Trench 3, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m



Photo 15. Half-sectioned post-holes [306] and [308] in Trench 3, looking north. Scale 0.5m



Photo 16. Half-sectioned post-holes [308] and [310] in Trench 3, looking east. Scale 0.5m