

8. Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

8.1 This visibility study and visual impact assessment used 'The Guidelines for Visual Impact Assessment' produced jointly by The Landscape Institute and The Institute for Environmental Assessment, Second Edition, 2002 as background.

8.2 The identification of the potential visual impact is carried out as follows :-

- i. In order to assess the degree of visual impact of a development it is necessary to identify its visibility from its surroundings. This is usually done as a two-stage process identifying:-
 - a. The "visual envelope" (VE), i.e. the area from which the site is thought to be visible due to ground formation and vegetation.
 - b. The "zone of visual influence" (ZVI), i.e. the area from which the site is actually visible and will affect the observer's visual amenity.
- ii. A desk-top study of OS data is carried out to determine the maximum area from which the site may be visible. There are often many areas where it would appear that a view could be obtained, when in reality the site is obscured. The VE is used as a starting point for identifying the visibility of the site from its surroundings.
- iii. Using the VE as a guide, surveys are undertaken to identify and record the ZVI of the site. Undertaken initially by car, walking public rights of way and open access land this determines which parts of the VE actually have a view of the site, i.e. within the ZVI, taking into account intervening buildings, structures and tree cover. The ZVI is the area within the VE where changes would be noticeable and could have the potential to affect the observer's visual amenity. A judgement needs to be made of the spread for the ZVI, beyond which views are considered to be negligible i.e. from such a distance the site is just discernable. The worst case scenario should be considered in line with the EIA regulations. Field surveys are best carried out in early springtime when leaves are off the trees and weather conditions are clearer. If this is not possible, i.e. in winter, then the screening effect of deciduous trees must be considered.
- iv. Viewpoints within the ZVI are identified and photographs taken. Where the ZVI is large and/or the view from some of the viewpoints is very similar not every viewpoint will be recorded and representative viewpoints are chosen to illustrate the visual impact. A viewpoint schedule defines the impact from each location in terms of sensitivity and magnitude that the development would have on that viewpoint. Tables 1 and 2 below identify the factors which are taken into account when determining the sensitivity of the viewpoint and the magnitude of impact. This is recorded on the viewpoint schedule and the significance of the visual effect is calculated using the matrix on Table 3.

8.3 The assessment of visual sensitivity is described in sections 7.31 to 7.35 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2nd Edition and set out in Table 1 below :-

Table 1 : Sensitivity of viewpoint

Sensitivity of Viewpoint	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Number of users/frequency of use	Heavily used, many people	Frequently used	Infrequently used, few people	Rarely used
Period of use	Lengthy periods of time spent looking at views, e.g. home and garden	Moderate length of time, e.g. right of way	Very little time	
Is attention focussed on the landscape ?	Yes, e.g. rights of way, view from residential property	Sometimes e.g. country road, outdoor sport facility	No e.g. view from place of work, busy road	
Movement of users	Sedentary (e.g. seat)	Transitory (e.g. country road)	Rapid transitory (e.g. motorway, high speed train).	
Publicity (Reference to viewpoint)	Noted in literature or art, identified on maps or guides	Known as a local viewpoint	Not known or definable as a viewpoint	

8.4 The assessment of the Magnitude of Impact on the Visual Amenity is described in sections 7.36 to 7.37 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2nd Edition. With magnitude of impact the scale of the development in the landscape is important, this is set out in Table 2 below :-

Table 2 : Magnitude of Impact from the site at each viewpoint

Magnitude of Impact (or change to view)	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Proportion of field of view occupied by site	Site dominates view	Site is a notable component of the view	The site is a small part of a wider or panoramic view	Site is barely identifiable
Proximity to site	Near (e.g. under 1km)	(e.g. 1km-2.5km)	Far (e.g. over 3km)	Site over 4km
Orientation to site	Directly facing site	In general direction of site	Site at edge of range of view	Site barely visible
Context of view	Few detractors (e.g. rural, little development)	Occasional detractor (e.g. another development)	Other detractors (e.g. urban)	View currently dominated by other detractors
Extent of the site visible	The whole site or a large proportion of it	Around half of the site	Less than half to a small proportion of the site	Site is only identified by one or two of its components
Presence of intervening factors restricting view	Site is within an open view with few or no intervening factors	View of site is limited by intervening factors	View of site is largely obscured by intervening factors	Intervening factors detract one from noticing site
Integration of the development in terms of colour, form, line etc.	Will look very odd in the landscape – stick out like a sore thumb!	Will be noticeable as a negative change	Will blend in well with its surroundings	Will be indistinguishable from its surroundings
Primary/secondary elements visible	e.g. more than 3 primary and some secondary	e.g. 1 or 2 primary and some secondary	e.g. 1 or 0 primary, occasional secondary	
Use of lighting	24 hours	Part of the night e.g. dawn and dusk	Occasionally	Never

Primary elements:	Secondary elements:
Elements which are generally considered to be visually intrusive by nature of their form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture in comparison with the surrounding landscape.	Elements which are generally considered to be less intrusive due to their intermittent or transient nature or where they represent a change to the current view which is not entirely out of character.

8.5 The notes which accompany the Visibility Photograph Sheets identify and assess the significance of the effect on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact is normally assessed as negative, although where it is positive this will be stated.

8.6 The assessments of sensitivity of the ZVI and the magnitude of impact are used to determine the significance of the overall visual effect as the following table illustrates :-

Table 3: Significance of Visual Effect

SENSITIVITY MAGNITUDE	NEGLECTIBLE	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	SIGNIFICANCE
LOW	1	3	5	7	SLIGHT 1 - 3
MEDIUM	2	4	6	8	MODERATE 4 - 6
HIGH	3	5	7	9	SUBSTANTIAL 7-9

9. Visibility Study (see Drawing No. 922/PL7, Visibility Photographs and Visual Assessments)

- 9.1 Using the 1/10,000 scale Ordnance Survey sheets, Drawing No. 922/PL7 was produced, under licence, in order to identify areas of high ground, significant ridgelines, areas of woodland/vegetation and potential views into and from the Application Site. A desk-top exercise identified areas for further investigation and these included the following :-
- i. Areas on the periphery of the site, i.e. areas on and adjacent to Bay Road, Bay Lane, the public footpath to the south, the school and Leisure Centre, Barnaby Mead and the open area in the north western corner adjacent to Shreen Water.
 - ii. Areas of high ground to the north east (Barrow Street); east (Knapp Hill); south east (adjacent A3081); south (Duncliffe Hill and Hunger Hill); south west (Hartmoor); and west (Quarr and West Barton). Due to the elevation of these areas in relation to the Application Site it was anticipated that views of the site from these locations would be unlikely.
- 9.2 The above areas were visited, footpaths walked and, as a result, some areas were eliminated (specifically those mentioned in 9.1ii above), and the public viewpoints included in Section 9.5 were identified.
- 9.3 Drawing No. 922/PL7 illustrates the spatial elements which have a bearing on the potential visual impact of the proposals. This drawing is based on the topographic Plan No. 922/PL6 and includes :-
- i. Areas of existing vegetation.
 - ii. Land below the general Application Site level of 80m AOD.
 - iii. Land above and below this level.
 - iv. The principal ridgelines dashed in purple
 - v. The location of the principal public viewpoints.

- 9.4 Also shown on the drawing is the calculated Visual Envelope shaded in blue and Zone of Visual Influence shaded in yellow. The former covers an area of approximately 4km x 2.5km stretching from the southern part of Gillingham north eastwards to the high ground just north of North End. The Zone of Visual Influence, resulting from the Visibility Study, is limited to an area approximately 1km north to south from Fairy Crescent to the School/Leisure Centre and 0.5km west/east as shown.
- 9.5 The following photographs demonstrate and assess the potential visual impact of the proposals. The location of each is shown on Drawing Nos. 922/PL3 and PL7.



VIEWPOINT A – looking through the gap between the buildings at Bay Farm. **Major visual impact** during construction but mitigated by proposed green space and planting between this viewpoint and closest houses.



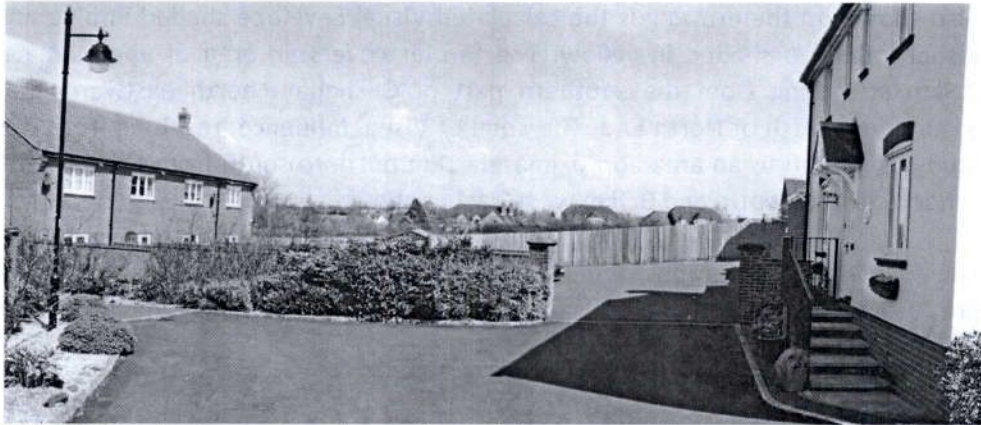
VIEWPOINT B – looking east along the northern edge of Barnaby Mead towards the north western corner of the Application Site. **No visual impact** as housing will be hidden by houses on right.



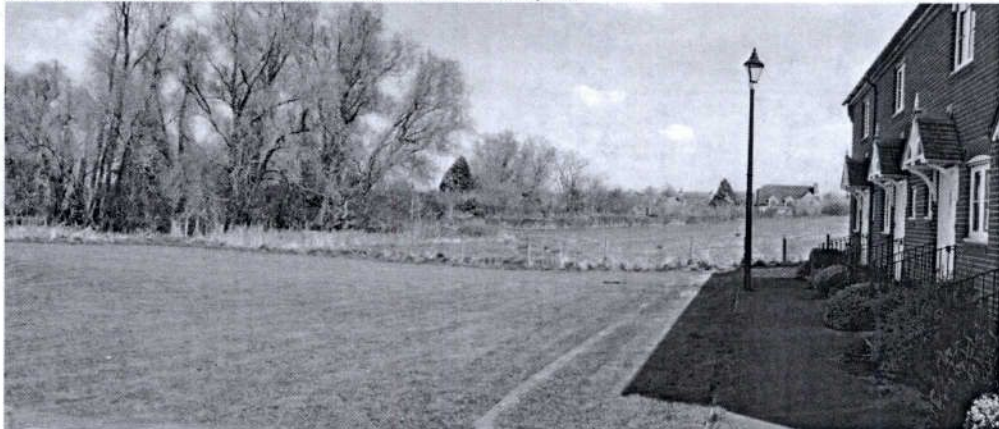
VIEWPOINT C – looking east from Barnaby Mead, the Application Site is behind the houses; the two bungalows to the right, Nos. 18 and 19, were part of the original scheme, the house to the left is part of the recent development. The new residences will be seen behind and above the bungalows. **Medium visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT D – a view east from the Barnaby Mead area looking to Bay Farm and the properties on Bay Lane. **Medium visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT E – looking east from the northern cul-de-sac in Barnaby Mead to The Gate House, The Cedars and Lime Tree House on Bay Lane. **Medium visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT F – looking north east along the frontage of Nos. 3-6 Barnaby Mead towards the northern section of the adjacent field which is outside of the Application Site. **No visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT G – looking south east towards the northern section of the Application Site towards Bay Lane and the school. **Medium visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT H – a similar view but from within the field north of the Application Site adjacent to Shreen Water, illustrating a view from the properties on Bay Road (see below).



VIEWPOINT I – a reverse view from the above viewpoint illustrating the vegetation adjacent to Shreen Water which, even in winter, provides a degree of screening (see Viewpoints M-O below for assessment).

NOTE: there now follow three views from just inside the eastern boundary to illustrate views from the properties on Bay Lane. These views are all assessed as they are at present.



VIEWPOINT J – a view inside the 3-4m high eastern boundary hedge adjacent to The Cedars giving an illustration of the view from the upper floor windows. **Major visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT K – a similar view from adjacent The Gate House but where the boundary hedge is approximately 1½m high. **Major visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT L – a view from adjacent to Bay Farm looking west across the Application Site towards Barnaby Mead. **Major visual impact.**

There now follow five sought-after views along and adjacent to Bay Road to the north, illustrating views from the properties and adjacent public areas.



VIEWPOINT M – looking south over the fence on Bay Road. **Minor** visual impact.



VIEWPOINT N – looking south across Bay Road from adjacent No. 4 Shreen Way. **Minor** visual impact.



VIEWPOINT O – a view at the entrance to Shreen Way looking south east. **Minor** visual impact.



VIEWPOINT P – a view from Lodbourne Gardens adjacent to No. 21. **Minor** visual impact.



VIEWPOINT Q – a view through the gap at the western end of Elm View Terrace. No visual impact from public area but there will be views into site from houses with **Medium** visual impact.

The following two views are taken from within the grazing area under the Applicants' ownership to illustrate potential views from the school and particularly the tennis courts.



VIEWPOINT R – looking north west from the eastern boundary of the field with the houses in Barnaby Mead to the left of view. **Minor visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT S – a similar view from near the gate into the tennis courts, the new development will be partially screened by the hedgerow to the left and the vegetation south of Bay Farm. **Minor visual impact.**



VIEWPOINT T – an open view from the eastern end of the public footpath which runs along the southern boundary of the Application Site. **Major visual impact** but this will be mitigated at this point by the southern section of the proposed landscape buffer strip.



VIEWPOINT U – a similar view at the western end of the public footpath which will have views of the boundary treatment of the closest properties. **Major visual impact.**

9.6 From the foregoing the potential visual impact can be summarised as follows :-

- i. **Major** visual impact from properties along the western boundary and to a lesser degree from the properties on Bay Lane, due to the inclusion of a planted buffer between their boundary hedges and the new properties.

- ii. **Major** visual impact from the public footpath to the south.
- iii. **Medium/Minor** visual impact for properties on Bay Road and adjoining housing areas.

9.7 The above photographs illustrate the views from public areas and, in the case of the properties of Bay Lane, assess likely views from their houses. During the Visibility Study it was apparent that there would also be views from the upper windows of adjacent houses in Barnaby Mead, on Bay Lane and on the east side of Fairy Crescent. It is anticipated that the viewers would experience greater visual impact than those from adjoining public areas.

10. Assessment of effect of Visual Impact

10.1 Without any form of planting and mitigation the new development would have a **major** visual impact at its boundary, especially during the construction stage. Inclusion of new planting as a buffer will lessen this impact, although until the planting has matured it will only have minor screening qualities.

10.2 The notes which accompany the Visibility Photograph Sheets identify and assess the significance of the effect on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact is normally assessed as negative, although where it is positive this will be stated.

10.3 The assessments of sensitivity of the ZVI and the magnitude of impact are used to determine the significance of the overall visual effect as the following table illustrates :-

Table 1 : Sensitivity of viewpoint

Sensitivity of Viewpoint	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Number of users/frequency of use	Heavily used, many people	Frequently used	Infrequently used, few people	Rarely used
Period of use	Lengthy periods of time spent looking at views, e.g. home and garden	Moderate length of time, e.g. right of way	Very little time	
Is attention focussed on the landscape ?	Yes, e.g. rights of way, view from residential property	Sometimes e.g. country road, outdoor sport facility	No e.g. view from place of work, busy road	
Movement of users	Sedentary (e.g. seat)	Transitory (i.e. public right of way)	Rapid transitory (e.g. motorway, high speed train).	
Publicity (Reference to viewpoint)	Noted in literature or art, identified on maps or guides	Known as a local viewpoint	Not or definable as a viewpoint	

NOTE: the colours above are green for general areas and orange for the public footpaths.

Using Table 1 in paragraph 8.3 the Sensitivity of the viewpoints is assessed as follows :-

i.	Number of users/frequency of use	Medium
ii.	Period of Use	High
iii.	Focus of attention	High
iv.	Movement of users	High/Medium
v.	Reference to viewpoint	Low/Negligible

The overall sensitivity is determined as **Medium**

10.3 This assessment is consistent with the Guidelines as examples of visual impact receptors of high sensitivity include residential properties and public rights of way in locations where there are important views or which run on the periphery of open spaces within defined settlements.

10.4 The assessment of the Magnitude of Impact on the Visual Amenity is described in sections 7.36 to 7.37 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2nd Edition. With magnitude of impact the scale of the development in the landscape is important, this is set out in Table 2 below :-

Table 2 : Magnitude of Impact from the site at each viewpoint

Magnitude of Impact (or change to view)	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Proportion of field of view occupied by site	Site dominates view	Site is a notable component of the view	The site is a small part of a wider or panoramic view	Site is barely identifiable
Proximity to site	Near (e.g. under 1km)	(e.g. 1km-2.5km)	Far (e.g. over 3km)	Site over 4km
Orientation to site	Directly facing site	In general direction of site	Site at edge of range of view	Site barely visible
Context of view	Few detractors (e.g. rural, little development)	Occasional detractor (e.g. another development)	Other detractors (e.g. urban)	View currently dominated by other detractors
Extent of the site visible	The whole site or a large proportion of it	Around half of the site	Less than half to a small proportion of the site	Site is only identified by one or two of its components
Presence of intervening factors restricting view	Site is within an open view with few or no intervening factors	View of site is limited by intervening factors	View of site is largely obscured by intervening factors	Intervening factors detract one from noticing site
Integration of the development in terms of colour, form, line etc.	Will look very odd in the landscape – stick out like a sore thumb!	Will be noticeable as a negative change	Will blend in well with its surroundings	Will be indistinguishable from its surroundings
Primary/secondary elements visible	e.g. more than 3 primary and some secondary	e.g. 1 or 2 primary and some secondary	e.g. 1 or 0 primary, occasional secondary	
Use of lighting	24 hours	Part of the night e.g. dawn and dusk	Occasionally	Never

Primary elements:	Secondary elements:
Elements which are generally considered to be visually intrusive by nature of their form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture in comparison with the surrounding landscape.	Elements which are generally considered to be less intrusive or where they represent a change to the current view which is not entirely out of character.

Table 2 in paragraph 8.4 is used to identify the magnitude of visual impact from the site at each viewpoint. This has been individually assessed on the Visibility Photographs. Below is an assessment of the overall magnitude of the development :-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| i. Proportion of field of view | Low |
| a. proximity to site | High |
| b. orientation | High/Medium |
| c. context of view | Low |
| d. extent of site visible | High |
| e. presence of intervening factors | High |

- ii. Integration of development
 - a. primary/secondary elements visible
 - b. use of lighting

Negligible
 Medium
 Medium

The overall magnitude is therefore assessed as **Medium**

10.6 Using the above tables and overall assessments the sensitivity of the potential visual impact has been determined as **medium** and the magnitude as **Medium** due to the setting of the new development in relation to its location in which is out of view from all but a few localised viewpoints around the periphery.

10.7 The assessments of the overall sensitivity of the ZVI and magnitude of impact are used in the table below to determine the significance of the overall effect.

Table 3: Assessment of potential significance of visual impacts

SENSITIVITY	NEGLIGIBLE	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
MAGNITUDE				
NEGLIGIBLE	0	2	4	6
LOW	1	3	5	7
MEDIUM	2	4	6	8
HIGH	3	5	7	9

SIGNIFICANCE
NEGLIGIBLE 0
SLIGHT 1 - 3
MODERATE 4 - 6
SUBSTANTIAL 7-9

10.8 Field Survey Sheet

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

NOTE: (Black is all options, **Green** is site specific)

FIELD SURVEY SHEET	SHEET NO: 1
Project: Proposed Residential Development for the Ridgeway Will Trust Job No. 922	
Location: Bay, Gillingham, Dorset	
Date: March 2010	

Visual Assessment Criteria:

Pattern:	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal	
Scale:	Intimate	Small	Medium	Large	Vast
Texture:	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough	
Colour:	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	
Complexity:	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	
Remoteness:	Wild	Remote	Vacant	Active	
Unity:	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic	
Form:	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous	Sloping
Enclosure:	Expansive	Open	Enclosed	Constrained	
Diversity:	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	
Balance:	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	
Movement:	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy	
Visual Dynamic:	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled	

Perception:

Security:	Intimate	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Stimulus:	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity:	Inaccessible	Remote	Vacant	Peaceful	Busy
Pleasure:	Unpleasant	Pleasant	Attractive	Beautiful	

11. Summary and Conclusions

- 11.1 Having studied and assessed the history and the relevant documents we conclude that the development will fulfil the requirements of each in that the area has been identified as suitable land for housing and the scheme would be designed to include green infrastructure proposals for the construction of the riverside space/public areas, plus future planting within and on the periphery of the site.
- 11.2 The recent housing at Barnaby Mead has raised the skyline and encloses the area adjacent to the Shreen Water. The group of large willows at the north of the site also contribute to this sense of enclosure and serve to restrict any link with the countryside to the north, thus giving the site the feel of an adjunct to the housing areas at Lodbourne and Bay.
- 11.3 The scale of the development that would be considered for the site should take account of the scale of the Bay Hamlet and the adjoining new housing, and also continue the riverside corridor to the north with additional pedestrian links to the existing public footpath network.
- 11.4 The new development should include a fair complement of planting to break-up and soften the area and to provide a green fringe to supplement the existing hedges, particularly those along the boundary with the properties on Bay Lane.
- 11.5 As a result we conclude that the development is likely to have the following impacts :-
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Landscape Character | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Negligible magnitude- Low sensitivity- resulting in Slight significance |
| Visual | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Medium sensitivity- Medium magnitude- resulting in Moderate significance |
- 11.6 Given this we have no hesitation in supporting this submission.

**A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO
BARNABY MEAD, GILLINGHAM, DORSET
centred on NGR ST 81055682**

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Report No. 5301/2/0

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A proposed development of land adjacent to Barnaby Mead, Gillingham, Dorset

centred on NGR ST81022682

Results of archaeological trench evaluation

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by means of trench excavation of land adjacent to Barnaby Mead, Gillingham, Dorset (NGR ST81022682) was carried out by AC archaeology during July 2001. The site covers an area of approximately 1.8 hectares and is located in the eastern half of a larger pasture field. The north of the proposed development site extends onto the River Shreen flood plain, but to the south, above an abrupt break in slope the land rises. There are no previously recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the proposed development area, but it lies immediately to the south of where evidence for an early Neolithic settlement was identified during the construction in 1912 of the Gillingham Grammar School swimming pool.

The fieldwork comprised the machine-excavation of eight trenches totaling 240m in length, positioned throughout the application area. Evidence for medieval settlement activity, including the presence of late Saxon pottery was present in the south east part of the area. A well-constructed trackway, partly visible as an earthwork, was recorded in the central area of the site. This may be of Roman date. No evidence for Neolithic activity was present.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological field evaluation, by means of trench excavation, of the proposed residential development of land adjacent to Barnaby Mead, Gillingham, Dorset (NGR ST81022682). The work was carried out by AC archaeology during July 2001. The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.

1.2 The evaluation has been commissioned by Messrs Brimble, Lea and Partners, Chartered Architects and Planning Consultants, acting as agents to the proposed developers of the site. The work has been carried out to provide supporting information for a public inquiry into a planning appeal (planning application ref 2/2000/0782 [20]), and has been requested by North Dorset District Council acting on the advice of the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council.

1.3 The site covers an area of approximately 1.8 hectares and is part of a larger field which extends to the west beyond the application area. The boundaries consist of wire fences bordering residential properties to the east and hedgelines bounding fields to the south and southeast. The northern boundary lies within low-lying ground adjacent to the River Shreen. The proposed development area slopes down gradually from the south before dropping more abruptly onto the flood plain of the River Shreen. The current land-use on

the site is short pasture, with an overhead power line crossing through the northern portion. The site lies between approximately 70mOD and 80mOD to the south, the underlying geology consisting of Kimmeridge Clay.

1.4 The aims of the investigation were:

- 1 to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits on the site by the least destructive means and to determine their date, nature and function;
- 2 to determine the level and potential for survival of any archaeological deposits, and;
- 3 to assist in determining whether the investigated areas contain any archaeological constraints to development, thus forming the basis on which any proposals for archaeological mitigation works could be developed.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 There are no previously recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the proposed development area. However, the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, immediately to the south of where evidence for an early Neolithic settlement was identified during the construction of the Gillingham Grammar School swimming pool in 1912 (Dorset SMR ref. Gillingham, 134). The swimming pool has now fallen into disuse, but its location is shown on Fig. 2.

2.2 Neolithic remains identified on that site comprised evidence for timber revetments preserved beneath a c. 3m thick clay alluvial deposit (Crocker 1998). Associated artefacts included worked flint, burnt stone and animal bone. It is considered likely that only part of the settlement was identified at that time, with similar deposits possibly continuing into the low-lying ground that includes the northern portion of the current site.

3. Methodology

3.1 The evaluation conformed to a written scheme of works prepared by *AC archaeology* (2001), submitted to and approved by the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council prior to commencement on site. The work comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches (Fig. 2) with a total length of 240m; an approximate 2% sample of the proposed development area. In addition, a further 30m length of trench was held in reserve to be used in the event of significant findings, of which 9.5m length was excavated adjacent to Trench 5 (see section 4 below).

3.2 In all trenches, excavations initially involved the machine-removal of topsoil and soil overburden in level 100mm spits, which could be demonstrated to be of later post-medieval or modern date. Machining was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a Massey Ferguson wheeled mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machine-excavation generally ceased on the top of archaeological soil deposits or natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. Exceptions to this comprised trenches in the northern portion of the site where deep alluvial deposits were present. In these instances machine-cut sondages were excavated in the relevant trench until at such time as the layer sequence was confirmed.

3.3 Clarity of features, where present, was initially good, although where archaeological features were identified full hand-cleaning was carried out. All spoilheaps were scanned for the recovery of displaced pre-modern finds.

3.4 The site was recorded in accordance with AC *archaeology's* standard recording system. Trench plans were produced at 1:20 or 1:50, with sections of features drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 dependent on the level of detail required. Sections showing the full layer sequence for each trench were either produced at 1:20, 1:50 or on trench record forms. A colour transparency and monochrome print photographic record was also taken. All site levels were related to Ordnance Datum and trench locations to published property boundaries.

3.5 The archive has been prepared using the unique site code reference AC696.

4. Results

The location of all trenches excavated is shown on Fig. 2, with relevant detailed plans and sections included on Figs. 3 to 5. Descriptions of archaeological features are referenced as 'F' numbers (eg. F403) when excavated, and by 'context number.' (eg. context 100) when recorded in plan only. Layers are also shown as context numbers. The results of the evaluation are presented in trench order below.

4.1 Trench 1 (section on Fig. 3)

This trench had plan dimensions of 40m x 1.60m and was aligned approximately northeast to southwest. It was located towards the base of the north-facing slope, on the edge of the flood plain. A regular sequence of deposits was identified in the trench which are set out in Table 1 below. The trench was generally excavated to a depth of 300mm onto the top of alluvial deposits, with a deeper sondage dug through these deposits towards the northeast end (context 103). Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the top of alluvial layer 102 (see below) and were retrieved from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 104). No dating evidence was recovered from context 103. No archaeological features were present.

Table 1: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 1

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
100	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
101	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
102	300 - 900mm	Yellowish-brown silty clay with orange flecking. Contains frequent lenses of small to medium angular and sub-angular gravels	Upper alluvial deposit, medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from exposed surface
103	900 - 1000mm+	Regular deposit of dark grey silty clay with regular gleying and manganese flecking. Contains thick bands of sand with frequent gravels and grit	Alluvium

4.2 Trench 2

This trench had plan dimensions of 30m x 1.60m and was aligned approximately northwest to southeast. It was located along a moderate north-facing slope above the flood plain. A regular sequence of deposits was identified in the trench, similar to those in

Trench 1 (see above). The results are set out in Table 2 below. The trench was generally excavated to a depth of 400mm onto the top of alluvial deposits in the southeast half of the trench and up to 1m, partly through these deposits in the northwest half. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 204). No archaeological features were present.

Table 2: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 2

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
200	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
201	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
202	300 - 600mm	Yellowish-brown silty clay with orange flecking. Contains frequent lenses of small to medium angular and sub-angular gravels	Alluvial deposit, medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from exposed surface in other trenches
203	600 - 1000mm +	Dark grey silty clay with gleying and manganese flecking	Alluvium

4.3 Trench 3 (section on Fig. 3)

This trench had plan dimensions of 40m x 1.60m and was aligned approximately northwest to southeast. It was located along a moderate north-facing slope and on the edge of the flood plain. The layer sequence identified was similar to that in Trenches 1 and 2, although in this instance the edge of the alluvium was identified towards the centre of the trench with natural Kimmeridge clay recorded in the southwest half (see Fig. 3). The trench was generally excavated to a depth of 300mm onto the top of natural clay and alluvial deposits in the southwest half of the trench, with a deeper sondage into the alluvium at the northeast end of the trench. The results are set out in Table 3 below. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was the top of alluvial layer 302 (see below) and were retrieved from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 106). In the northwest half of the trench a stone-lined field drain (context 305) was present. This was aligned approximately north to south, unexcavated and recorded in plan only. The drain had a width of 300mm and was visible along the base of the trench for a distance of c. 6m. The drain was composed of pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. No finds were recovered from this feature..

Table 3: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 3

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
300	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
301	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
304	300mm+	Southeast half of trench. Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay
302	300 - 600mm	Northwest half of trench. Yellowish-brown silty clay with orange flecking. Contains frequent lenses of small to medium angular and sub-angular gravels	Upper alluvial deposit, medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from exposed surface
303	600 - 3000mm+	Northwest half of trench. Regular deposit of dark grey silty clay with regular gleying and manganese flecking. Contains narrow horizontal bands of sand with frequent gravels and grit. The base of the deposit was not reached	Alluvium

4.4 Trench 4

This trench had plan dimensions of 20m x 1.60m and was aligned approximately northeast

to southwest. It was located on the crest of a moderate north-facing slope. The trench was generally excavated to a depth of 400mm, partly into the top of the natural clay. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was retrieved from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 405). In the central area of the trench two stone-lined field drains (contexts 403 and 404) were present, which were aligned approximately northwest to southeast, unexcavated and recorded in plan only (see Fig. 2). The drains each had a width of 300mm and crossed the trench at right angles. The drains were composed of pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. No finds were recovered from these features.

Table 4: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 4

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
400	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turflite within trench, present across whole of site
401	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
402	300mm+	Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay

4.5 Trench 5 (overall plan and detailed plan and section on Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately northeast to southwest and originally had plan dimensions of 30m x 1.60m. Following the identification of a stone trackway (see below) and its associated deposits, an extension to this trench at right angles was excavated heading to the northwest for a distance of 9.5m, in order that a full profile of the trackway could be recorded. The basic layer sequence is shown in Table 5, with more detailed descriptions of archaeological features and deposits described by context below.

Table 5: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 5

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
500	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turflite within trench, present across whole of site
501	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal. This layer becomes deeper to north west where it overlies bank deposit (context 509)	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
502	300mm+	Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay

The trackway and associated deposits

The trackway (context 503) was aligned approximately east to west with a flanking ditch (F504 and context 506) on each side. Along the northern edge of the track a prominent earthwork bank is present formed with compacted silty clay soil (context 509). Investigation was limited to the excavation of a section through F504, cleaning and planning in detail of a sample area of the trackway and the recording of a section showing the full deposit sequence (both shown on Fig. 4c). The trackway, bank and ditches were all sealed by the subsoil layer (context 501).

Context 503 - was approximately 3.2m wide, was slightly cambered on each side and consisted of small to medium sized limestone rubble rammed into the natural underlying clay. Its survival was best at the intersection of the original trench and the extension. Throughout the remainder of the extension the limestone rubble was less compacted into the clay.

On the northern side of the track (downslope) flanking ditch F504 was present. This was

approximately 1m wide with a depth of 400mm. The profile (Fig. 4c) showed as moderate to steep sloping with a moderate break at the bottom onto a flat base. A single fill was present (context 505), composed of a dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent orange mottling, occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. It was evident that part of the trackway had slumped into the ditch along its southern edge. Small quantities of animal bone were recovered, but no datable artefacts.

On the southern side of the track (upslope) flanking ditch context 506 was present. This was not excavated but was clearly visible in plan (Fig. 4a & b). Its width was 600mm, and the fill was composed of a dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent orange mottling, occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. No artefacts were present on the exposed surface.

The material forming the adjacent bank (context 509) was composed of a dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent orange mottling, occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks; identical to adjacent ditch fill of F504 (context 505). The bank had a surface width of 4.10m and the material forming the bank had a maximum thickness of 300mm. It was possible to plot the bank as a surface earthwork westwards beyond the vicinity of the trench (see Fig. 2 and section 6 below).

Other features

A modern clay-filled east to west aligned land drain (context 507 Fig.4a) was present cutting through many of the deposits described above. A northeast to southwest ceramic drain (context 508) was also present towards the centre of Trench 5.

Towards the southwest end of the trench a stone-lined drain was present (context 510) on an east to west alignment. This had a width of 200mm and was visible for a distance of 3m within the trench. As with similar examples in other trenches, the drain was composed of pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.6 Trench 6 (plan and sections Fig. 5)

This trench had plan dimensions of 20m x 1.60m and was approximately northeast to southwest aligned, located close to Bay Farm on land sloping gradually down to the north. A probable occupation layer (context 601), rather than an agricultural subsoil, was present throughout this trench, the deposit containing comparatively large quantities of artefacts. The recorded general layer sequence is shown in Table 6 below. A box section (context 609) was excavated in an area of dark silty clay soil and charcoal mixed with natural clay, which revealed no clearly defined cut. This may represent a burnt spread on top of the natural clay.

Table 6 : The recorded layer sequence for Trench 6

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
600	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
601	150 - 500mm	Firm, mid to dark-grey compact silty clay containing occasional charcoal, gravel and limestone	Occupation deposit containing significant quantities of artefacts
602	500mm+	Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay

Archaeological features and deposits of more than one phase were present in this trench.

the earliest phase comprising those features either sealed by layer 601 or where the relationship is unclear, but the ceramic evidence indicating an earlier date. The later phase is represented by those features or deposits either cutting occupation soil 601 or where they overlie early deposits.

Medieval

Features allocated to this phase are described from northeast to southwest.

F603 - was a shallow posthole probably circular in plan, but continuing beyond the southeast trench edge. Its visible diameter was 400mm and its depth was 90mm. The fill (context 604) was composed of a dark grey silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and rare gravels. Animal bone and medieval pottery were recovered.

F605 - a small pit or posthole, probably oval in plan but continuing beyond the northwest trench edge. Its exposed length was 700mm, with a width of 600mm, the profile showing as steep-sloping onto a flat base at a depth of 260mm. The fill (context 606) was composed of a mottled orange-grey compact silty clay containing rare gravels and occasional charcoal flecks. Small quantities of ceramic building material were recovered.

F617 - poorly defined feature of uncertain function, only partly exposed within a box section. Part of an edge was visible consisting of moderate to steep-sloping sides onto a flat base at a depth of 200mm. The fill (context 618) was composed of a soft grey silty clay containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks. No artefacts were recovered.

F612 - approximately northwest to southeast aligned ditch located towards the centre of the trench and beneath stone lined drain context 616. It had a projected width of 1.6m and depth of 450mm, the profile showing as initially gradually sloping, then becoming moderately sloping onto a slightly rounded base. Two fills were present, the primary fill (context 613) was composed of a compact silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks, limestone fragments and gravel. Against the southwest edge of the ditch a dumped deposits of large limestone rubble was present (context 614) below context 613. Medieval pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone were recovered from context 613.

Structure 610 - towards the southwest end of the trench a northwest to southeast aligned wall foundation was present. It was composed of angular and sub-angular limestone blocks and fragments with no bonding material evident. There was no corresponding wall further along the trench to the northeast and no associated surfaces. No artefacts were recovered from this feature. Investigation was limited to cleaning and recording only.

Late medieval / post-medieval

Features and deposits allocated to this phase include three stone-lined drains (contexts 607, 608 and 616) similar to recorded examples in other trenches. Contexts 607 and 616 were on parallel northwest to southeast alignments, with context 608 at a right angle to these two. Each of the drains were composed of pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. The cuts were partly exposed in section (Fig. 5), initially consisting of steep-sloping edges. No finds were recovered from these features.

A narrow band of gravel (context 611), possibly representing a pathway, was present at the southwest end of the trench, which was partly sealing wall [610] (see above). The layer was visible in section for a distance of 1.8m with an average thickness of 80mm. It

was composed of unconsolidated small flint and limestone fragments. Medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit. A narrow layer of 70mm thickness (context 619) was present immediately overlying the gravel, composed of a dark brown silty clay containing rare small gravels and charcoal flecks. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

4.7 Trench 7

This trench had plan dimensions of 30m x 1.60m and was approximately northwest to southeast aligned, located on land sloping gradually down to the north. The trench was excavated to a depth of 350mm onto the top of the natural clay. The recorded layer sequence is described in Table 7 below, with individual archaeological features and deposits revealed described individually in text. Medieval and post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 705).

Table 7 : The recorded layer sequence for Trench 7

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
700	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
701	150 - 350mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal.	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
712	350mm+	Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay

Archaeological features

Within the centre of the trench a poorly-defined, irregular sub-linear feature was present (F708). It had a northwest to southeast length of c. 4.5m and maximum width of 700mm. The edges were also irregular in profile, the thickness of deposit was 120mm. The fill was composed of a very dark grey-black silty clay containing very frequent charcoal and rare gravels. Three box sections were excavated at intervals across the deposit (contexts 704, 706 and 707) to attempt to establish the nature and function of the feature and for finds retrieval. Quantities of late Saxon or early medieval pottery were recovered.

Three approximately west to east aligned drains were present at intervals throughout the trench (F702, and contexts 710, and 711). A section was hand-excavated across F702 in order to establish a depth, profile and method of construction for this common feature type. This drain had a width of 300mm and exposed length of c. 2m. The profile (Fig. 5) showed as steep sloping onto a flat base, present at a depth of 270mm. The construction method comprised pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. A silted fill was present within the stones (context 703), composed of a mottled mid orange-brown silty clay with no coarse components. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Contexts 710 and 711 were unexcavated and recorded in plan only (see Fig. 5). The drains each had a width of 300mm and were composed of pitched limestone slabs along each edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. Medieval pottery was recovered during cleaning adjacent to context 710 (context 709 in finds table).

4.8 Trench 8

This trench had plan dimensions of 30m x 1.60m and was approximately east to west aligned, located on land sloping gradually down to the north. The trench was excavated to a depth of 350mm onto the top of the natural clay. Medieval and post-medieval pottery

were retrieved from the adjacent displaced spoil (context 805). Along the southern trench edge a stone-lined drain (context 804) was exposed. This was approximately east to west aligned, unexcavated and recorded in plan only (see Fig. 2). The drain was not fully exposed in width, but was constructed using pitched limestone slabs along the exposed edge, with a flatter, horizontal slab on the top. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Table 8: The recorded layer sequence for Trench 8

Context	Depth below ground surface	Description	Interpretation
800	0 - 150mm	mid-brown friable silty clay loam containing rare gravels and charcoal flecks	Topsoil and turfline within trench, present across whole of site
801	150 - 300mm	Firm, dark yellowish-brown silty clay with bluey-grey mottling, containing rare gravels and charcoal	Subsoil horizon within trench, present across most of site
802	300mm+	Yellowish-brown and mottled grey clay	Natural Kimmeridge Clay

5. The Finds by M. Laidlaw

5.1 Introduction

This section describes the artefactual evidence recovered during the evaluation. A restricted range of material types are present comprising mostly pottery, with smaller quantities of animal bone, ceramic building material, slag, burnt flint and ironwork also present. The bulk of the pottery is early medieval in date.

All finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context. The pottery has been scanned by context in order to provide basic dating information, and also broad details of fabric types present. The finds are discussed by material type below, summarising the nature, date range and condition of the artefacts. All finds are quantified in Table 9 below.

Table 9 : Overall finds table, weight in grammes. (CBM = Ceramic Building Material)

Context	Animal Bone		CBM		Medieval pottery		Post-medieval pottery		Fe slag	Burnt Flint		Metal
	Nos	Wt	Nos	Wt	Nos	Wt	Nos	Wt	Nos	Nos	Wt	Nos
102					1	42	2	29				
104					1	39	3	300				
204					2	17	4	197				
302			1	71	11	34			1			
306					1	25	1	10				
405					3	20	3	54				
505	2	17										
601	7	118	2	78	18	140	4	93				
604	1	19			6	34						
606					2	9						
611					2	15	1	19				1 Fe nail
613	10	305			12	45	1	6				
615	1	39	1	124	3	38						
701			3	57	7	45				1	7	
704					22	250						
705			4	466	7	79	7	95				
706					11	42						
707					6	42						
709					3	32						
805							7	92				
Totals	21	498	11	796	118	948	33	895	1	1	7	1 Fe

5.2 Animal bone

A small quantity of animal bone fragments was recovered from Trenches 5 and 6, comprising, ribs, vertebrae and longbone fragments of a large animal (the longbone fragments are not yet fused) and a horse tooth. Possible traces of butchery marks are

visible on two of the longbone fragments.

5.3 Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material comprises seven tile fragments and four fragments of brick. On the basis of surviving dimensions, fabric types and associated pottery it is likely that the tile fragments are medieval in date and the brick fragments post-medieval. The tile fragments are in a moderately hard, fine sandy fabric and were recovered from the upper alluvium in trench 3, and subsoil layers within trenches 6 and 7. The brick fragments were found in ditch F612, and in the subsoil and spoil heap of trench 7.

5.4 Pottery

The ceramic assemblage ranges in date from late Saxon/early medieval to post-medieval, with the bulk attributed to the early medieval period. The majority of sherds are small, often abraded, body sherds with few diagnostic vessel forms being present.

Medieval

A total of 118 sherds weighing 948 grammes was attributed to the medieval period mainly on the basis of fabric type. The pottery was divided into two broad fabric groups: Group FL (flint-tempered) and QU (quartz tempered) then subdivided into eight separate fabric types dependent on the frequency and size of inclusions.

Flint-tempered fabric

- FL1 Hard, fine textured matrix containing moderate, poorly sorted angular flint <3mm. Dark grey with pale brown surfaces
- FL2 Hard, coarse textured matrix containing moderate, well-sorted flint <2.5mm; moderate well-sorted quartz <1.5mm; sparse degraded rock <2mm. Very dark grey.
- FL3 Hard, moderately fine matrix containing sparse-moderate flint <3mm; sparse quartz <1mm; rare degraded rock 1mm. Generally fired orange-brown.
- FL4 Hard, coarse textured matrix containing sparse to moderate flint <2mm; moderate poorly-sorted quartz <2mm; sparse degraded rock <2.5mm; rare iron ore. Variable firing buff or pale grey to dark orange-brown.

Sandy fabrics

- QU1 Hard, coarse fabric, soapy surface texture, contains moderate sub-rounded quartz <4mm, rare flint <3mm, rare degraded rock <3mm. Fired orange brown
- QU2 Hard, moderately coarse matrix containing common, well-sorted quartz 0.5mm. Variable firing buff to dark grey.
- QU3 Hard, fine matrix containing moderate, poorly-sorted quartz <1.5, mainly 0.25mm. Generally micaceous and fired orange-brown to dark grey.
- QU4 Hard, moderately coarse matrix containing common, well-sorted quartz 0.25mm. Variable firing buff to orange brown.

The largest quantity of flint tempered sherds was attributed to the coarse fabric FL4 with smaller quantities assigned to the finer version FL3. It is possible that due to the similarity of the fabrics that they may be derived from the same source and are variations of the same fabric, with a range of coarseness. Only one rim sherd was present, from a simple everted rimmed jar, the remaining pieces comprising small plain body sherds. Flint tempered fabrics are common throughout Dorset in the early medieval period and similar vessel forms and fabrics have been recorded in Gillingham (Mephams 1992, fabric F401,

Hawkes 1992 fabrics 3.4 and 7): Milborne Port (Barnes, Richards and Tatler 1989) and Sherborne Castle (Harrison and Williams 1979). Mephams (*ibid.*) suggests that the degraded rock is sandstone with a likely source on the Upper Greensand, which outcrops within 5km of Gillingham.

Only three small body sherds were attributed to fabric FL1 and these are very similar to the coarse flint gritted fabric F400 from Chantry Fields, Gillingham (Mephams, *ibid.*). Likely dates for these flint tempered fabrics on the basis of other similar fabrics from Dorset are 12th/early 13th century.

A total of 24 sherds was attributed to the distinctive coarse fabric FL2. The sherds comprising body and base sherds probably represent just one vessel with a slightly saggy base. This fabric stands out from the other medieval fabric types within the assemblage and it is possible that it may be slightly earlier in date. One other body sherd with coarse quartz, flint and degraded rock (fabric QU1) may be of a similar late Saxon/early Medieval date. This fabric is closely comparable to pottery recovered from St. Peter's Church, Shaftesbury, and is dated as 10th to early 11th century (Keen, 1977).

Three sandy fabrics, most likely derived from a similar source, were recorded and may be divided into very coarse (QU2), moderately fine (QU3), and moderately coarse (QU4). This range of sandy fabrics is closely comparable to other sandy fabrics recorded in Gillingham (Mephams *ibid.*, fabrics Q400, Q401 and Q402 and Hawkes *ibid.*, fabrics 1 and 2). Mephams has also noted that the fabric is commonly found in 13th century and later contexts in Salisbury and that it may originate from the Laverstock kilns.

Vessel forms are scarce and include plain everted rimmed jars, one flanged bowl and one jug with a rounded rim. Decoration is limited to a small number of glazed sherds and one sherd with traces of a red painted strip. The vessel forms and the red painted decoration are consistent with sandy fabrics of south Wiltshire, south Dorset and the Poole Harbour area in the late 13th/14th centuries. The finer fabric QU4 is often micaceous and is similar to fabrics recorded in Wiltshire, for example from 13th/14th century contexts at Trowbridge (Mephams *ibid.*)

The late Saxon/early Medieval pottery was recovered mainly from Trench 7, particularly from spread 704 (17 sherds) and one sherd from the metalised surface 611. The other flint-tempered sherds were dispersed in small quantities within Trenches 3, 6 and 7 with the largest concentration from the subsoil of Trench 6 and the pit F605. The flint tempered sherds were often found associated with the sandy fabrics which were dispersed in very small quantities across the trenches, with the exception of eight sherds recovered from the subsoil 601 no more than three sherds were recovered from each of the stratified features.

Post-medieval

The bulk of the pottery attributed to the post-medieval period comprises glazed earthenwares, including products of the Verwood kilns and redwares of unknown source. Other later wares include 17th/18th century stonewares and black glazed earthenware.

Table 10: Summary of fabric types

Fabrics	Nos	Wt (g)
<i>Medieval</i>		
FL1	3	7

FL2	24	240
FL3	7	62
FL4	33	196
QU1	1	10
QU2	32	341
QU3	13	57
QU4	5	35
<i>Post-medieval</i>		
Earthenwares	27	839
Industrial wares	6	56
Totals	151	1843

5.5 Other finds

The other finds recovered in small quantities comprise two small iron nails from metallised surface 611, one small slag fragment possibly derived from ironworking recovered from the alluvium of Trench 3, and one fragment of burnt flint from the subsoil of Trench 7.

6. Review of Secondary Sources

6.1 Following completion of the evaluation and after consultation with the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, a limited review of other sources of information relevant to the site has been carried out. This comprised a survey by sketch plotting of earthworks visible as surface features, and a review of historic maps and aerial photographs held in Gillingham Museum.

6.2 The survey of surface earthworks within the development area has revealed a prominent bank on the north side of the trackway identified in Trench 5 (see above and Fig. 2). The bank is prominent for a distance of c. 15m east to west. To the east of this a gap, then the alignment is continued by a low scarp. The earthwork does not align with the existing field entrance, but continues south of that point where its presumed alignment would take it beneath Bay Farm. A possible rectangular raised platform was also present in the area around Trench 6 (see Fig. 2).

6.3 Early maps reviewed as part of this exercise comprised the 1624 Map of the Royal Forest of Gillingham, the Gillingham Tithe map of 1841 and the 1902 Ordnance Survey 25" map. The 1624 map appears to show two buildings at Bay Lane. It is conceivable that one of these may represent a precursor to the farmhouse of Bay Farm, as the current farmhouse known by a date stone to have been constructed in 1760 (Ms Ridgley *pers. comm.*). In 1841 the field containing the development area is the same shape as today, as it was in 1902. The fieldname on the Tithe map apportionment is 'Home Mead' and the land-use described as meadow.

6.4 An aerial photograph taken in 1984 and currently held in Gillingham Museum (ref. P1998.1965), shows the scarp and bank adjacent to the trackway, and also reveals that the track continues to the west as a parchmark (see Fig. 2) heading towards the bungalow at the western end of the field. Other parchmarks visible on the aerial photograph are plotted onto Fig. 2. These comprise what appear to be former field boundaries in the northern part of the field all aligned approximately northwest to southeast, at least two of which continue the line of existing boundaries. Boundaries in the location of the parchmarks are

not shown on the 1841 and 1902 maps.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation has established evidence for in situ archaeological activity in three areas of the site. First, in Trench 6 close to Bay Farm, where deposits associated with medieval settlement were identified. Secondly, in Trench 7, where an amorphous feature contained quantities of late Saxon or early medieval pottery, and finally in Trench 5, where a stone trackway and associated ditches and a bank were recorded. Across the remainder of the site only limited evidence for activity was revealed, comprising many stone-lined field drains of late-medieval or post-medieval date and small quantities of pottery collected from topsoil, subsoil and alluvial layers within trenches.

7.2 The medieval settlement evidence in Trench 6 comprised a limestone wall foundation and a sequence of cut features present at intervals throughout the trench. Comparatively large quantities of associated artefacts were also recovered. The trench was located in an area visible as a raised earthwork platform, the extent of which is shown on Fig. 2. Map evidence provides evidence for settlement at Bay Lane in 1624, although not necessarily in this precise location. Pottery recovered from deposits in Trench 6 suggests a 13th century emphasis, with material extending into the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. The structures shown on the map may therefore relate to Medieval buildings.

7.3 Late Saxon or early medieval pottery was recovered from an amorphous feature in Trench 7, residually in later features and deposits in Trench 6 and from the upper alluvium in the low-lying ground in Trench 3. Although no clearly-defined features of this date were recognised on the site, the size of sherds and quantities present do suggest settlement of this date within the vicinity. Material of this date is rare in North Dorset and throughout the county. Its presence, therefore, is of some significance. Gillingham is thought to have originated as a Saxon settlement, and so far only limited activity of this date has been identified either within or close to the present town.

7.4 The construction of trackway identified in Trench 5 appears to be too elaborate to represent a simple farm track through a field. The track is over 3m wide and constructed with limestone rubble rammed into the clay, with flanking ditches either side and a prominent earthwork bank positioned on the downslope side. Components of the trackway can be seen as surface features along the full length of the field, comprising the prominent earthwork bank, a scarp to the east and a parchmark plotted from aerial photographs continuing to the west where it meets the River Shreen next to the bungalow at the western end of the field (see Fig. 2). It was not possible to obtain a date for the track during the current exercise, but the map evidence suggests it pre-dates 1624. The size and method of construction is characteristic of minor Roman roads, and if the alignment were to continue further westwards it would run close to the known large Romano-British settlement at Common Mead Lane, joining onto Langham Lane, thought by Penn (1980) to be the route of a Roman road, and eventually on to Ilchester. However, before the road reaches Common Mead Lane, it would have to cross both the River Shreen and the River Stour in locations where crossing points have not been previously identified.

7.5 Despite the presence of Neolithic remains identified during the excavation of the swimming pool immediately to the north of the site, no deposits of this date were recovered during the current exercise. Only limited excavations to any great depth was

carried out in the low-lying ground, so although it is thought unlikely that the Neolithic deposits extend into the current site, their presence cannot yet be discounted. It can be suggested with some confidence, however, that deposits of this date are not present within the upper 3m of the deposit sequence.

7.6 There is clearly some specific archaeological interests on the site of Medieval or earlier date. Much of the archaeological evidence in the central and southern portions of the field is too close to the surface to survive substantial earthmoving and construction activities.

8. Acknowledgments

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