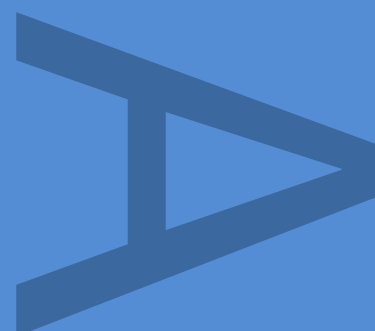


ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, ALTON,  
HAMPSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION

REPORT NO: R12459

MAY 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**ST. LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** SLAH16

**Central NGR:** 471694 139624

**Commissioning Client:** Property Services, Hampshire County Council

**Written/Researched by:** Thomas Hayes BA(Hons), MRes

**Project Manager:** Paul McCulloch BA (MCIfA)

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**May 2016**



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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**Site Name: St Lawrence Primary School, Amery Hill, Alton, Hampshire**

**Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation**

### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4452
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Hayes		29.04.2016
Graphics Prepared by:	J Simonson		28.04.2016
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		28.04.2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		06.05.2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**Figure 1: Site Location**

**Figure 2: Trench Location**

**Figure 3: Trench Plan and Section**



## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (West) was commissioned by Hampshire County Council Property Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St. Lawrence C of E Primary School, Alton, Hampshire (471694 139624). The evaluation was required by the Hampshire County Council Senior Archaeologist in advance of construction of a proposed extension to the school.

One evaluation trench was opened, targeting the proposed location of the school extension. The historic churchyard of St. Lawrence's Church (immediately to the south of the Site) is believed to have extended into what is now the playground of the St. Lawrence Primary School and to where the evaluation trench was located. This report concerns the results of the evaluation, which was carried out between the 30<sup>th</sup> of March and the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016.

Trench 1 had a depth of cover (comprising tarmac and sub-soil) above natural geology; a mixed head deposit, comprising clay, gravel and chalk. A small post-medieval tile lined pit was identified, cut into an area of wider post-medieval disturbance. Another feature was investigated but was likely to be the result of a natural process.

The archaeological evaluation appears to have demonstrated that there are no surviving significant archaeological resources relating to St. Lawrence's Church or churchyard, or of any other period, within the area targeted by the evaluation.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Hampshire County Council Property Services to carry out an archaeological evaluation at St Lawrence C of E Primary School, Alton, Hampshire, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site is the subject of permitted development proposals to extend the existing school buildings.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was required by Hampshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist, advisor to HCC Property Services, in order that the archaeological implications of the proposed extension are understood and that, if necessary, an appropriate scheme in mitigation of the impact of the proposal on archaeological resources could be determined.

2.1.3 This document sets out a methodology for the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of an 8m X 2m trench aimed at determining the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the footprint of the proposed extension.

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

2.2.1 St Lawrence CE Primary School, Church Street, Alton, Hampshire, lies in the historic core of Alton, north of St Lawrence Church and partially over the church's former churchyard and burial ground.

2.2.2 The topography of the Site is fairly flat and is located on a relatively elevated position on the north side of historic Alton. Ground level within the site is at approximately 110m above OD.

2.2.3 Underlying natural deposits are likely to comprise superficial Head deposits overlying Chalk.

### **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.3.1 The Site lay within the former extensive churchyard and burial ground of St Lawrence. The Church was established in the 11th century by the monks of New Minster, Winchester, and forms a focus, along with the market place, of the historic medieval core of Alton, which developed to the north of the strategic route from Winchester to London. The Alton Extensive Urban Survey (English Heritage) identifies the area of St Lawrence Church as of high archaeological importance.

## **3 AIMS**

### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the character, extent, date, condition and significance of archaeological resources that may have survived within the Site, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains.

3.1.2 This report, which details the results of the evaluation, aims to provide sufficient information so that the Local Planning Authority can determine if further archaeological work is required.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The following provides a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a site diary, trench recording sheets, context sheets and digital photographs. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trench in **Appendix 2**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **SLAH16** and will in due course be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

4.1.2 The evaluation revealed limited archaeological resources dating to the post-medieval period and recovered a small quantity of ceramic building material.

### **4.2 Methodology**

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2016), which was approved on Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council, in advance of the commencement of works.

4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench, measuring 8m x 1.8m (**Figure 2**). The location of the trench was intended to address the potential impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological resources.

### **4.3 Summary of Deposition Sequence**

4.3.1 Trench 1 was located immediately to the south of the school's reception. The trench had an average depth of cover (tarmac surfacing and subsoil) of 0.44m below ground level (BGL) above the natural geology (**Figure 3**). The subsoil was a mixed sandy clay that had been contaminated by the tarmac. The natural geology encountered was a mixed head deposit, comprising clay, gravel and chalk (**Plates 1 and 2**).

4.3.2 A substantial amount of post-medieval disturbance was identified during the evaluation. An indistinct linear feature [007], (the result of general ground disturbance, rather than being a specific cut feature), containing post-medieval ceramic building material was located along the eastern edge of the trench (**Figure 3 & Plate 1**). Post-medieval pit [005] was cut through the area of earlier post-medieval disturbance (**Plates 3 and 4**). This pit was lined with reused post-medieval peg tiles and contained an orange clay fill (a representative sample of the tiles were retained).

4.3.3 A large pit feature [010] was identified in the north-west end of the trench, projecting under the northern baulk (**Plate 5 and 6**). Two distinct fills were excavated, however no artefacts were recovered. Furthermore the eastern edge of the feature was relatively irregular. Owing to the irregular edges and lack of artefactual evidence [010] this feature may have been a natural anomaly (**Figure 3**).

#### **4.4 Discussion**

4.4.1 The trench demonstrated a significant amount of post-medieval disturbance. The features identified were either, irregular and undated, or can be securely dated to the post-medieval period. No evidence of any medieval deposits associated with the church or churchyard were identified during the course of the evaluation.

4.4.2 The tile lined pit and area of disturbed ground could be indicative of either post-medieval industry or land management. The tile lined pit could be a remnant part of an earth closet or other form of waste disposal; however apart from the reused peg tiles, no other artefacts were recovered that could more accurately characterize the feature.

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

4.5.1 The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological resource pre dating the post-medieval period. Importantly, no significant archaeological resources of any kind were identified that relate to the medieval church or churchyard (specifically, no inhumation burials) located immediately adjacent to the south of the Site. This indicates that the historic churchyard is either unlikely to have extended as far north as the Site, or that any archaeological resource had been removed by post-medieval activity. This suggests that it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains are to extend into the footprint of the proposed extension.

## **5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION**

### **5.1 The Site Archive**

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited, in accordance with the provisional arrangements made at the onset of the evaluation, with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

### **5.2 Copyright**

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Hampshire County Council, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the Hampshire and Archaeology and Historic Building Record).

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

### **5.3 Contents of Archive**

<b>Items</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Sheets</b>
Trench Recording Sheets	1	1
Context Register	1	1
Context Sheets	10	10
Digital Photographic Register	1	2
Digital Photographs	64	n/a
Drawing Register	1	1
Drawings	2	3

## **6 ACKNOWLEDEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Andrew Turner of Hampshire Property Services for commissioning the archaeological evaluation and Neil Adam, Hampshire County Council Senior Archaeologist, for monitoring works. The evaluation was supervised by Thomas Hayes with assistance from Dominic McAtominey. This report was prepared by Thomas Hayes with Illustrations prepared by Jennifer Simonson. The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

## **7            BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage, Alton Extensive Urban Survey Assessment

PCA 2016, St. Lawrence CE Primary School, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2BY: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation. PCA project document.

## Appendix 1: Context Index

Context No	Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description
001	1		2	Layer	Modern Tarmac Surface
002	1		2	Layer	Subsoil
003	1		2	Layer	Natural
004	1	1		Fill	Clay fill of [005]
005	1	1		Cut	Post-medieval peg tile lined pit
006	1	1		Layer	Fill of [007]
007	1	1		Layer	Post-medieval linear feature/disturbance
008	1			Layer	Uppermost fill of [010]
009	1			Layer	Lower fill of [010]
010	1	1		Layer	Undated pit (possibly natural)



## Appendix 2: Site Photographs



*Plate 1 West facing pre-excavation shot of Trench 1 (Post-med pit [005] in foreground)*





*Plate 2 East facing post-excitation view of Trench 1*





*Plate 3 South facing view of tile lined post-medieval pit [005]*





*Plate 4 Tiles lining pit [005]*





*Plate 5 North-west view of possibly natural pit [010]*



*Plate 6 West facing view of the western end of Trench 1*



## Appendix 3: OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: preconst1-249992

#### Project details

Project name	St. Lawrence Primary School, Alton, Hampshire: an Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (West) was commissioned by Hampshire County Council Property Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St. Lawrence C of E Primary School, Alton, Hampshire (471694 139624). The evaluation was required by the Hampshire County Council Senior Archaeologist in advance of construction of a proposed extension to the school. One evaluation trench was opened, targeting the proposed location of the school extension. The historic churchyard of St. Lawrence's Church (immediately to the south of the Site) is believed to have extended into what is now the playground of the St. Lawrence Primary School and to where the evaluation trench was located. This report concerns the results of the evaluation, which was carried out between the 31st of March and the 1st of April 2016. Trench 1 had a depth of cover (comprising tarmac and sun-soil) above natural geology; a mixed head deposit, comprising clay, gravel and chalk. A small post-medieval tile lined pit was identified, cut into an area of wider post-medieval disturbance. Another feature was investigated but was likely to be the result of a natural process. The archaeological evaluation appears to have demonstrated that there are no surviving archaeological resources relating to St. Lawrence's Church or churchyard within the area targeted by this evaluation. It is therefore likely that the historic churchyard did not extend as far north as the site or that any surviving archaeology had been truncated during the post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2016 End: 01-04-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SLAH16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Permitted Development - Recommendation of the Senior Archaeologist
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE EAST HAMPSHIRE ALTON St. Lawrence Primary School, Alton, Hampshire

Postcode	GU34 2BY
Study area	0.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 71694 39624 51.150853716475 -0.9748379069 51 09 03 N 000 58 29 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 111.64m Max: 111.82m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Thomas Hayes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Authority
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hampshire County Council Property Services

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Physical Archive ID	SLAH16
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	SLAH16
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	SLAH16
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Aerial Photograph", "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ST. LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hayes, T.
Date	2016

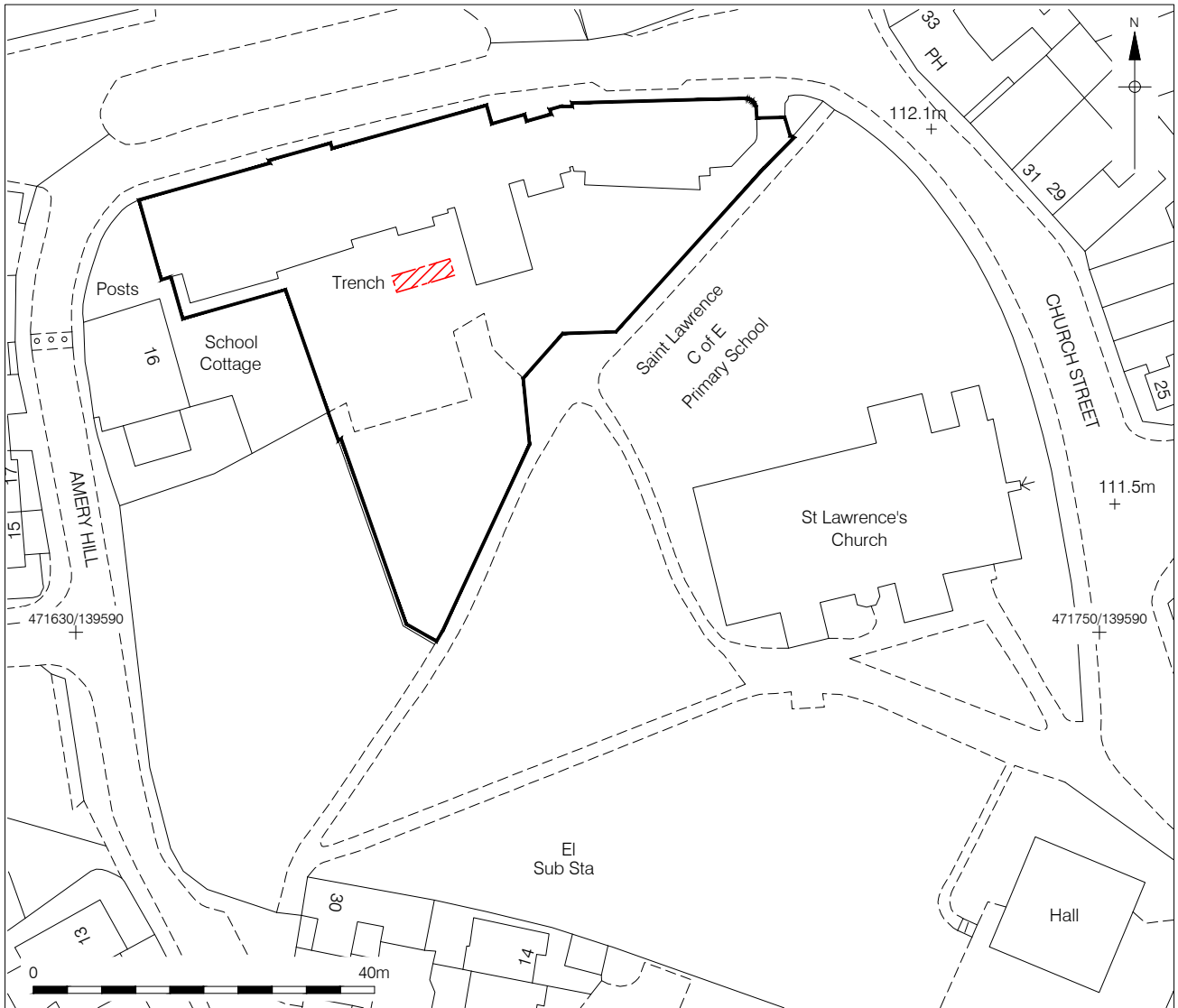
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.  
Place of issue or publication Winchester  
Entered by Thomas Hayes (thayes@pre-construct.com)  
Entered on 29 April 2016





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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000 and 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:800 at A4

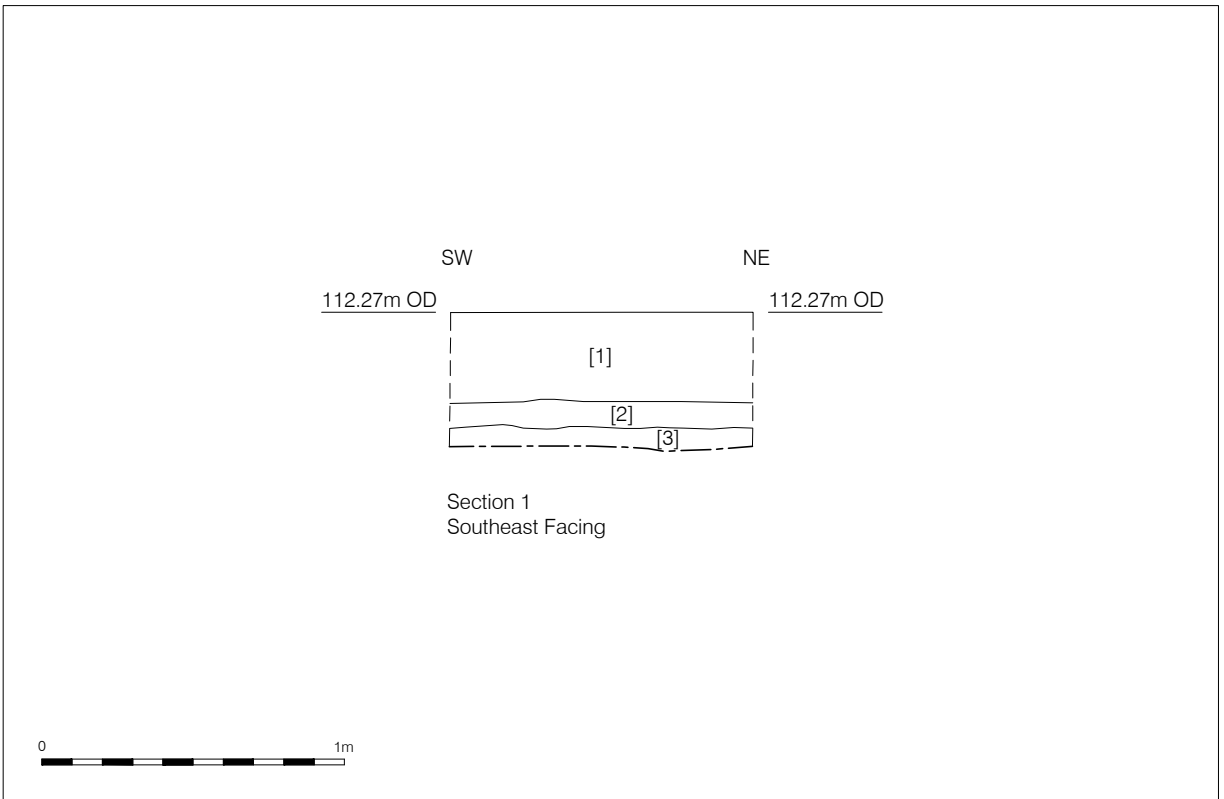
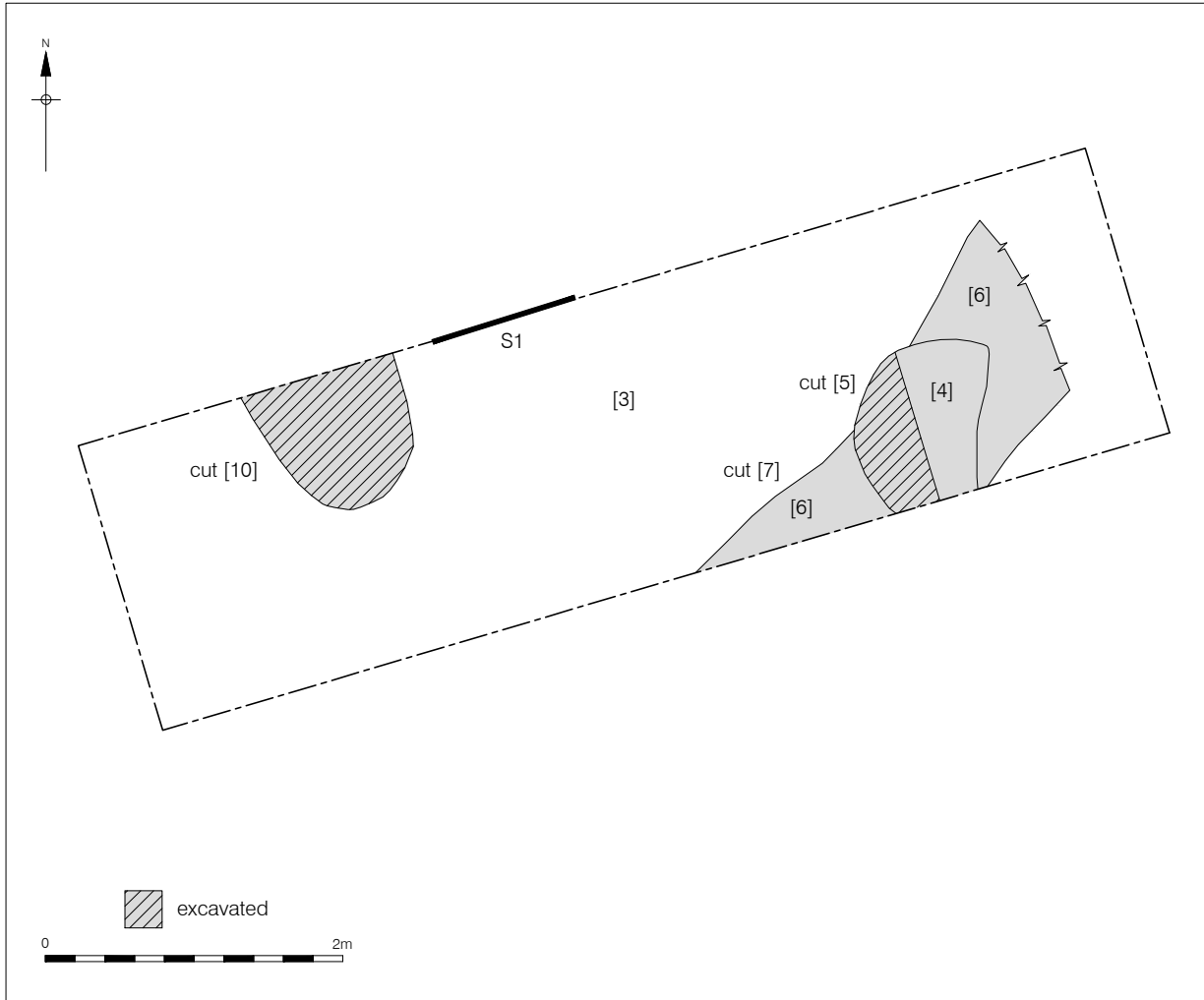


Figure 3  
Trench Plan and Section  
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

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