

**A Summary of an Archaeological Watching Brief at Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey**

**National Grid Reference: SU 9989 5061**

**Site code: SSPC08**

**Client: Concept Site Investigations**

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**September 2008**

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the results obtained during an archaeological watching brief conducted during a geotechnical ground investigation at various locations within Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey (Figure 1). The investigation took place between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and was supervised by the author.
- 1.2 The watching brief was instigated in response to a planning condition issued by Surrey County Council and the fieldwork followed the method statement prepared for the site.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.3 Concept Site Investigations limited carried out the geotechnical investigation on behalf of their client, Arup. The investigation was intended to open nine test pits by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. However, two of these (TPs 4 and 5) were abandoned and one (TP 8) was relocated due to the discovery of an archaeological feature. It was repositioned at a parallel location 1.90m to the east and allocated the number TP08A.
- 1.4 The numbering system for the test pits employed by the contractor is used throughout this report and the test pits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All data was entered onto *pro-forma* context sheets using standard recording methods following English Heritage and IFA guidance papers<sup>2</sup>. In addition a photographic record was made using digital format where appropriate.
- 1.5 The test pits generally measured between 0.50m to 0.80m wide and between 2.30m to 3.00m in length. They were excavated to a depth of either 2.0m or 4.0m depending on requirements and in the case of the deeper (4.0m) test pits, natural clay or sandy gravel deposits were observed at different locations at approximately 1.10m below ground level.
- 1.7 The test pits were located and levelled by the geotechnical engineers using a TST survey (Figure 2). The following table shows the relevant dimensions and details of the test pits:

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<sup>1</sup> Mayo, C. August 2008. *Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. Unpublished report.

<sup>2</sup> English Heritage Guidance Papers (revised June 1998) and Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993. *Standards in Archaeological Practice*.

<i>TP no.</i>	<i>Dim 1</i>	<i>Dim 2</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Max depth</i>	<i>OD height @ GL</i>
<b>1</b>	2.3m	0.7m	N-S	4.0m	38.44m
<b>2</b>	2.7m	0.8m	NE-SW	4.0m	41.80m
<b>3</b>	2.6m	0.6m	NW-SE	4.0m	33.87m
<b>4</b>	test pit not excavated				33.43m
<b>5</b>	test pit not excavated				37.06m
<b>6</b>	2.7m	0.7m	NE-SW	4.0m	32.91m
<b>7</b>	2.6m	0.5m	NE-SW	2.0m	32.39m
<b>8</b>	2.6m	0.6m	N-S	1.1m	33.86m
<b>8a</b>	3.0m	0.6m	N-S	4.0m	33.89m
<b>9</b>	2.4m	0.5m	E-W	2.0m	36.76m

**Table 1: Details and dimensions of monitored test pits**

## **2 Test Pit Descriptions**

### **2.1 Test Pit 01 (Figure 3 and Appendix1: Plate 2)**

- 2.1.1 The lowest deposit observed in TP01 was a natural mid orangey brown clay layer [3], the top of which was at 36.74m OD, and continued beyond the base limit of excavation.
- 2.1.2 This in turn was overlain by a 0.90m thick mid greenish grey clay layer [2] containing very occasional CBM fragments and is interpreted as a modern re-deposited layer. The top of this layer was at 37.64m OD.
- 2.1.3 Layer [2] was overlain by 0.65m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty sand [1] containing frequent fragments of CBM. It is interpreted as modern made ground, at a height of 38.29m OD. This in turn was sealed by a 0.15m thick modern concrete slab, the top of which forms the current ground level at 38.44m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

### **2.2 Test Pit 02**

- 2.2.1 The lowest deposit observed in TP02 was a natural light blue grey clay [16], the top of which was recorded at 39.30m OD.
- 2.2.2 This in turn was overlain by a 1.50m thick natural mid orangey brown sandy clayey gravel layer [15] the top of which was at 40.80m OD.
- 2.2.3 This in turn was overlain by 0.40m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty sand [14] containing moderate fragments of CBM, which is interpreted as modern made ground at a height of 41.65m OD. This in turn was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil covered by grass the top of which forms the current ground level at 41.80m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

### **2.3 Test Pit 03**

- 2.3.1 The lowest deposit observed in TP03 was a natural mid orangey brown sandy gravel clay [11], the top of which was recorded at 32.87m OD.
- 2.3.2 This in turn was overlain by a 0.90m thick mid greyish brown silty sand layer [10] containing occasional CBM fragments and which is interpreted as modern garden soil. The top of this layer was at 33.77m OD.
- 2.3.3 This was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of topsoil covered by grass, the top of which forms the current ground level at 33.87m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

### **2.4 Test Pit 06**

- 2.4.1 The lowest deposit seen in TP06 was a natural mid blueish grey clay [21], the top of which was recorded at 31.81m OD.
- 2.4.2 This was overlain by a 0.70m thick mid orange brownish grey clay layer [20], which is interpreted as a modern re-deposited layer. The top of this layer was at 32.21m OD.
- 2.4.3 Layer [20] was sealed by a 0.40m thick rubble layer covered by a modern concrete slab, topped by tarmac, which forms the current ground level at 32.91m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

### **2.5 Test Pit 07 (Figure 3)**

- 2.5.1 The lowest deposit seen in TP07 was a natural mid yellowish brown sand [6], becoming progressively more clayey towards the base and containing occasional medium flint nodules. The top of this layer was recorded at 31.81m OD.
- 2.5.2 This was overlain by a 0.50m thick dark greyish brown silty sand layer [5] interpreted as a modern garden soil, recorded at an upper level of 31.89m OD.
- 2.5.3 Sealing the layer [5] was a 0.40m thick layer of mid yellowish brown sandy silt [4] containing occasional fragments of CBM. It is interpreted as a layer of modern made ground, at 32.29m OD.
- 2.5.4 This was overlain by a layer of topsoil covered by grass, which forms the current ground level at 31.39m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

### **2.6 Test Pit 08 (Appendix1: Plate 1)**

- 2.6.1 TP08 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m below ground level, at 32.79m OD, but excavation was halted on the discovery of an archaeological feature.
- 2.6.2 The feature [7] was a brick built drain aligned approximately northwest by southeast. A total of 2.60m of the drain gully's upper surface was exposed in the base of the test pit at 32.79m OD and it was 0.52m wide east-west. The bricks were orange red 3033-fabric measuring 203mm by 60mm by 111mm. The bricks were un-frogged and

machine made, and have been spot dated to 1850+<sup>3</sup>, although probably from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. No construction cut for [7] was exposed in the narrow trench, but the mid yellow brown sandy clay backfill [9] of the cut was observed butting up to drain [7] on both its eastern and western sides.

- 2.6.3 Overlaying the drain and its construction backfill was a 1.0m thick mid greyish brown silty sand layer [8] containing occasional fragments of CBM and very occasional fragments of clay tobacco pipe, spot dated to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>4</sup>. The top of this layer was recorded at 33.76m OD.
- 2.6.4 This in turn was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of modern topsoil covered by grass at the current ground level, 33.86m OD.

## **2.7 Test Pit 08A**

- 2.7.1 TP08A replaced the aborted TP08 and was located 1.9m to its east. The lowest deposit seen was a natural mid orange brown sandy gravel [13] containing frequent medium sub-angular pebbles. It was recorded at an upper height of 32.79m OD.
- 2.7.2 Overlying [13] was a 1.00m thick dark greyish brown silty sand layer [12] containing moderate fragments of CBM, which is interpreted as modern made ground. The top of this layer was at 33.79m OD.
- 2.7.3 This in turn was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of topsoil covered by grass, forming the current ground level at 33.89m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

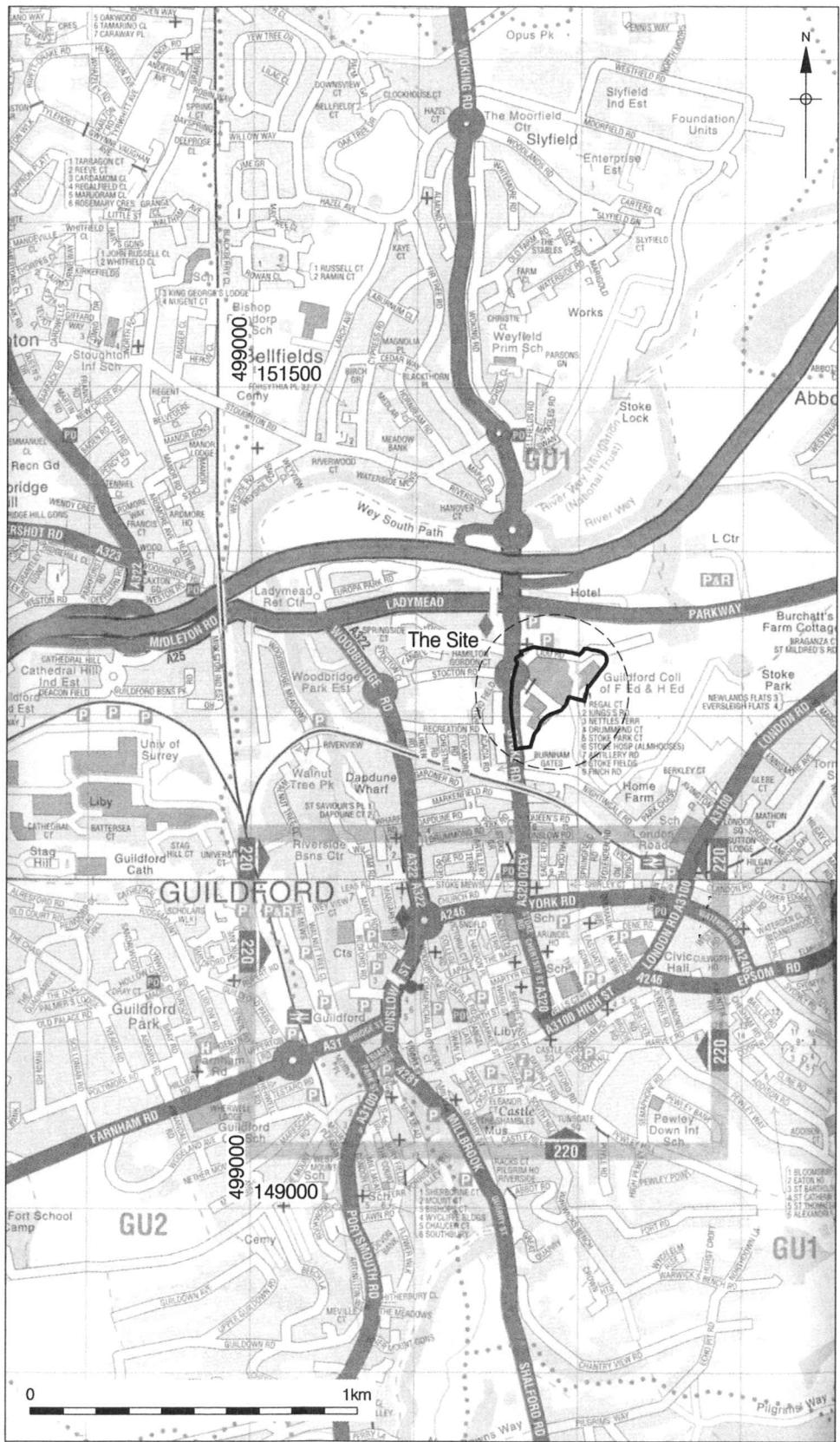
## **2.8 Test Pit 09 (Figure 3)**

- 2.8.1 TP09 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.0m below ground level. The lowest deposit observed was a natural mid orange brownish grey sandy clay layer [19], the top of which was recorded at 35.46m OD.
- 2.8.2 Layer [19] was overlain by a 0.40m thick dark greyish brown silty sand layer [18] interpreted as a modern garden soil, the top of which was at 35.86m OD.
- 2.8.3 The above was sealed by a 0.75m thick mid greenish grey clayey sandy layer [17] containing occasional fragments of modern CBM. This was interpreted as a dump layer of modern made ground the top of which was at 36.61m OD.
- 2.8.4 This in turn was overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of modern gravel topped by tarmac the top of which forms the current ground level at 39.76m OD. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

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<sup>3</sup> Haywood, K. *pers. comm.* PCA brick and stone specialist. August 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Jarret, C. *pers. comm.* PCA finds specialist. August 2008

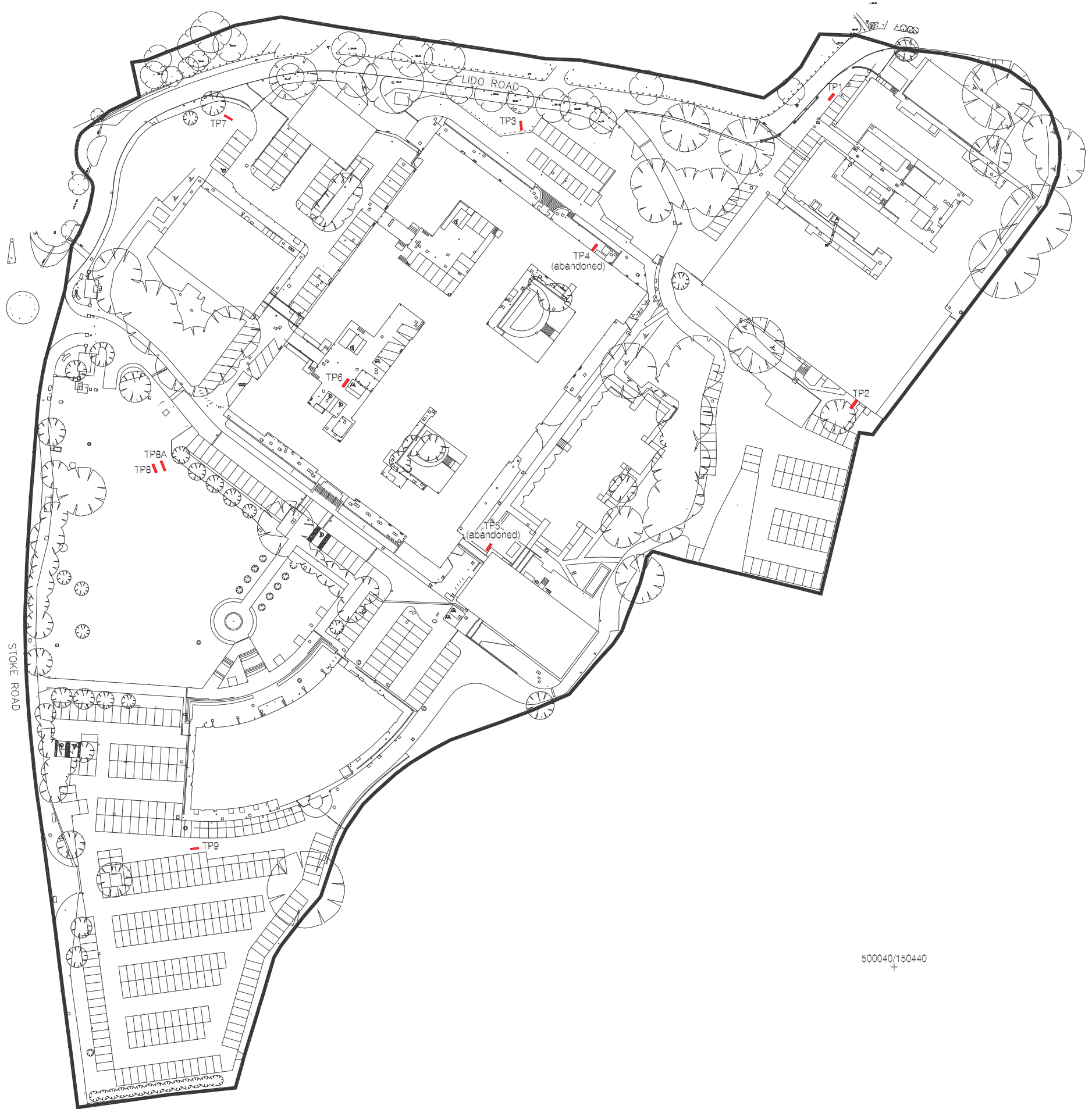


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



500040/150720

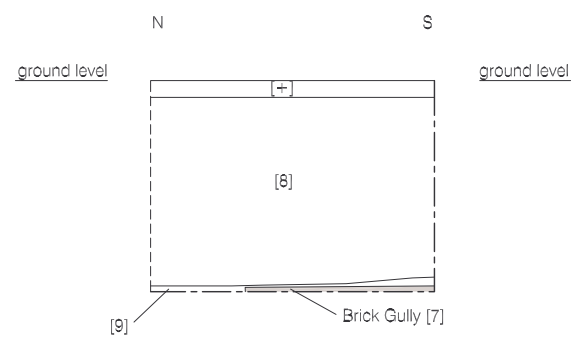
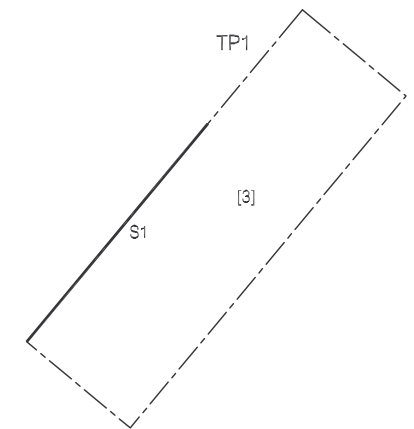
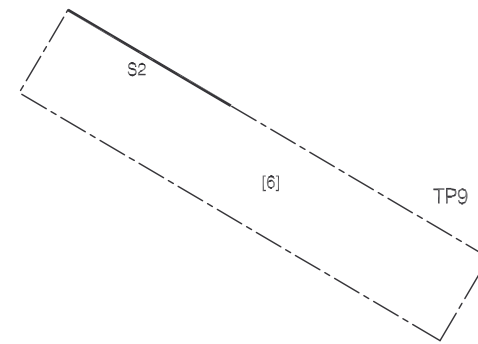
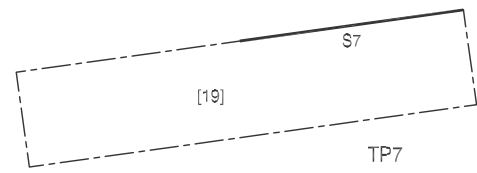
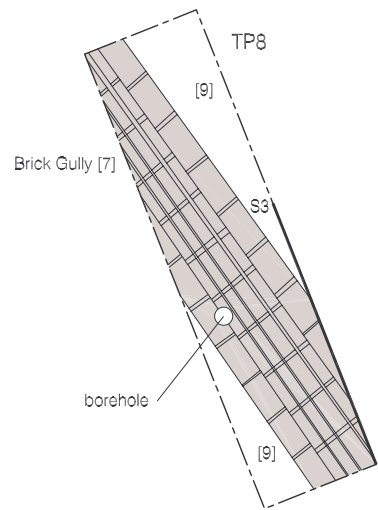


500040/150440

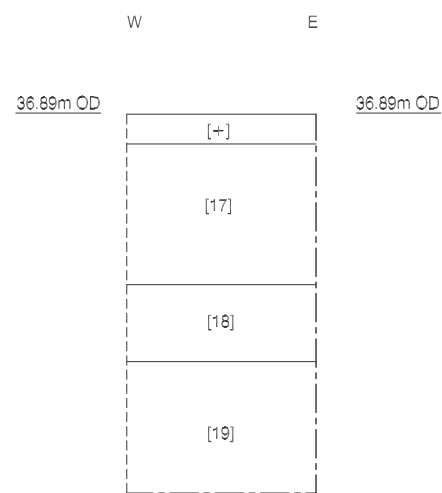


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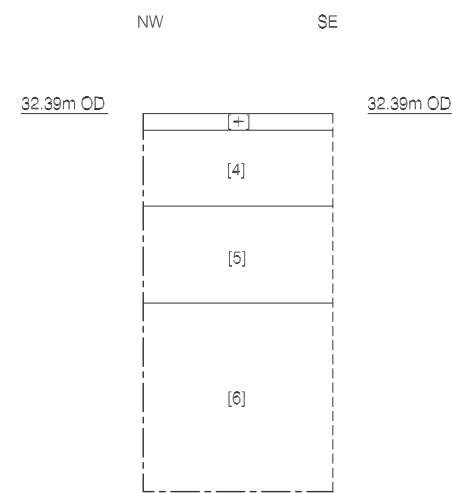
Figure 2  
Test Pit Location  
1:1,250 AT a3



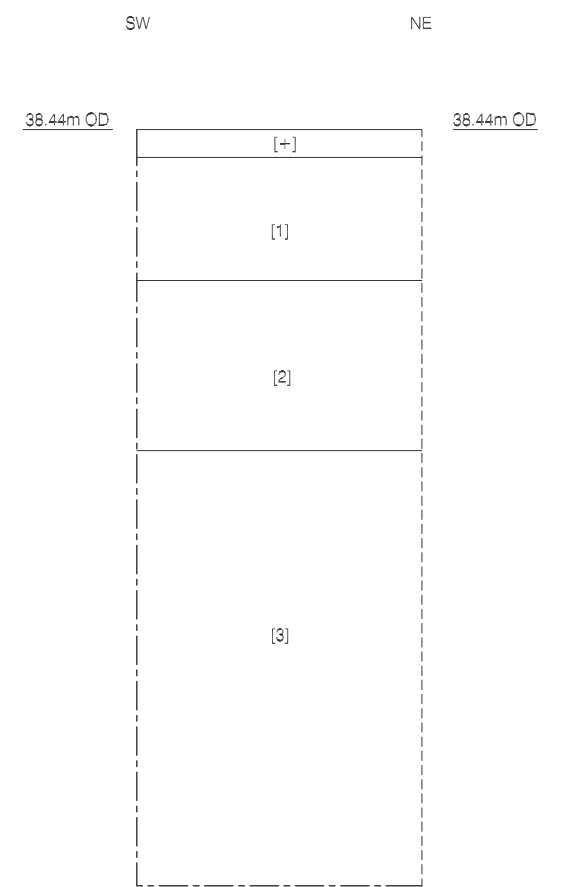
Section 3  
Test Pit 8  
West Facing



Section 7  
Test Pit 9  
South Facing



Section 2  
Test Pit 7  
South West Facing



Section 1  
Test Pit 1  
South East Facing



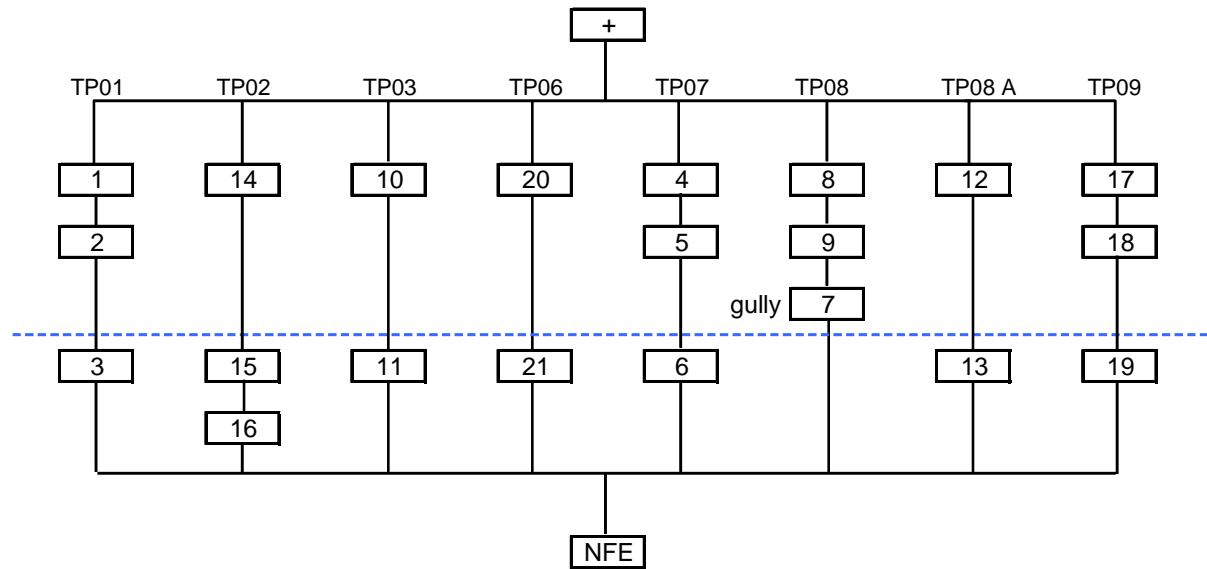
### **3 Conclusions**

- 3.1.1 What is evident from the monitored test pits and observed stratigraphy is the varied nature of the underlying drift geology across the site. What is consistent, however, is the depth at which the natural layers are encountered; approximately 1.0m below ground level. The upper layers consist of alluvial deposits of clays and sandy gravels which overlie deposits of London Clay, encountered at 2.50m below ground level and observed in TP02 as layer [16].
- 3.1.2 Only one test pit, TP08, revealed any archaeological features: a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick drain / gully, which suggests 19<sup>th</sup> century building foundations may survive at the site. Generally, however, there was a negative result for any archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period.
- 3.1.3 Made ground deposits were observed in all trenches except for TP03 with a thickness varying between 1.55m (TP01) and 0.40 (TPs 02 and 07). Two trenches (TPs 03 and 09) revealed a layer which was interpreted as a buried garden soil horizon.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

SITE	CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
<b>Guildford College SSPC 08</b>	1	Layer	TP 01	Mod. Made ground
	2	Layer	TP 01	Re-deposited clay
	3	Layer	TP 01	Natural Clay
	4	Layer	TP 07	Made ground
	5	Layer	TP 07	Garden soil
	6	Layer	TP 07	Nat. sandy clay
	7	Masonry	TP 08	Brick drain culvert
	8	Layer	TP 08	Garden soil
	9	Fill	TP 08	Backfill for c/cut for [7]
	10	Layer	TP 03	Garden soil
	11	Layer	TP 03	Nat. sandy gravel
	12	Layer	TP 08A	Made ground
	13	Layer	TP 08A	Nat. sandy gravel = [11]
	14	Layer	TP 02	Made ground
	15	Layer	TP 02	Nat. sandy/clayey gravel
	16	Layer	TP 02	Nat. Blue clay
	17	Layer	TP 09	Made ground
	18	Layer	TP 09	Garden soil
	19	Layer	TP 09	Nat. sandy/clayey gravel = [15]
	20	Layer	TP 06	Re-deposited clay
	21	Layer	TP 06	Nat. blue clay = [16]

## APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



### APPENDIX 3: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: Test Pit 08 looking north showing drain [7] (Scale is 1.0m)



Plate 2: Test Pit 01 looking north ( Scale is 1.0m)

## APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-48253**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief at Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted during a geotechnical ground investigation at various locations within Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey. The watching brief was instigated in response to a planning condition issued by Surrey County Council and the fieldwork followed the method statement prepared for the site. Concept Site Investigations limited carried out the geotechnical investigation on behalf of their client, Arup. The investigation was intended to open nine test pits; however, two of these were abandoned and one was relocated due to the discovery of an archaeological feature. It was repositioned at a parallel location. The test pits generally measured between 0.50m to 0.80m wide and between 2.30m to 3.00m in length. They were excavated to a depth of either 2.0m or 4.0m depending on requirements and in the case of the deeper (4.0m) test pits, natural clay or sandy gravel deposits were observed at different locations at approximately 1.10m below ground level.
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2008 End: 14-08-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SSPC 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	GULLY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY GUILDFORD GUILDFORD Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey
Postcode	GU1 1HD
Study area	4.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 9989 5061 51.2453885157 -0.568717230962 51 14 43 N 000 34 07 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.39m Max: 40.80m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Arup Associate
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo

Project supervisor	Stuart Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Geotechnical contractors
Name of sponsor/funding body	Concept Site Investigations

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#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Plan', 'Section'

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Summary of an Archaeological Watching Brief at Guildford College, Stoke Park Campus, Guildford, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Watson, S
Date	2008
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