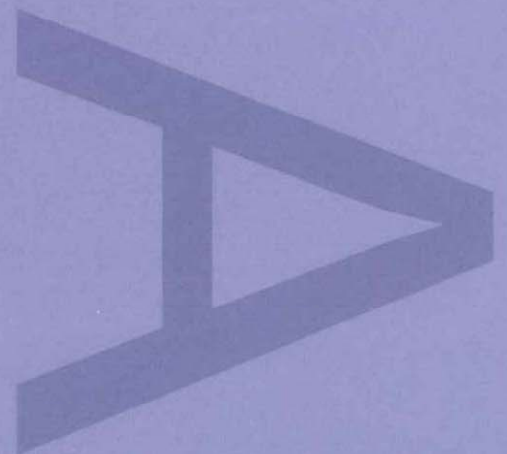
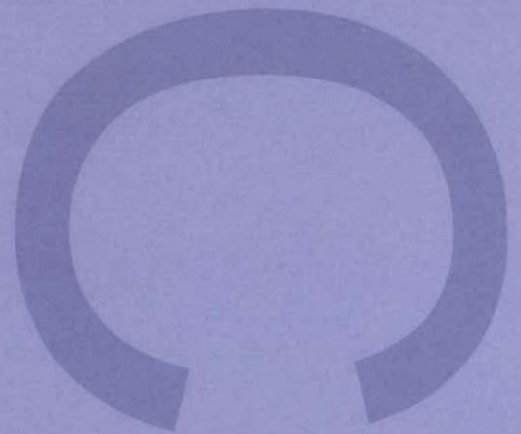
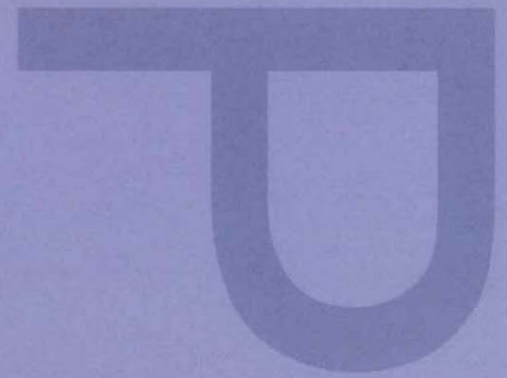


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
HOWARD SCHOOL, DERWENT
WAY, GILLINGHAM, KENT**



MAY 2009

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

LAND AT HOWARD SCHOOL, DERWENT WAY,
GILLINGHAM, KENT

Type of project

EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K2034
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Guy Seddon		28/5/09
Graphics Prepared by:	Josephine Brown		29/5/09
Graphics Checked by:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	29/5/09
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	29/5/09

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

Land At Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent
Archaeological Evaluation

**An Archaeological Evaluation At Howard School, Derwent Way,
Gillingham, Kent**

Site Code: KHOW 09

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 8070 6607

**Written and Researched by Guy Seddon
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited,
May 2009**

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Play Football Limited

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
May 2009**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	METHODOLOGY	7
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND	8
5	GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND.....	9
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	10
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
8	CONCLUSIONS	11
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	14
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	5
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION	6
FIGURE 3: TRENCH 7, SECTION 7.....	12
FIGURE 4: TRANSECTS.....	13

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX	16
APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX	17
APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	19

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 5th and 8th May 2009 on land at Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent.
- 1.2 A total of 15 evaluation trenches, each measuring 1.80m by 20m, were excavated across the site with the objective of establishing the nature of a large, long, U-shaped hollow and to evaluate the presence/absence of archaeological horizons prior to the redevelopment of the site.
- 1.3 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed within any of the trenches. Instead chalk bedrock was observed within all the trenches beneath 30-40cm of topsoil.
- 1.4 It is interpreted that the U-shaped hollow was originally the end of a dry river valley which was subsequently quarried and landscaped into its present state.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 5th and 8th May 2009 on land at Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent (Fig. 1). The project was designed and managed by Peter Moore of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and was commissioned by Play Football Ltd. The site was supervised by Guy Seddon.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted prior to the construction of ten artificial five-a-side football pitches and associated changing and car parking facilities at the site.
- 2.3 The site was located to the north of the present school buildings on playing fields immediately to the south of the A2 London Road, and was centred on National Grid Reference TQ 8070 6607. It covered an area of approximately 2.8 hectares and consisted of a large and long U-shaped hollow containing two large and one small terraces. The contour maps of the area and the geology maps indicate that the site lies at the head of a dry valley dropping northwards to the Medway¹.

¹ Mason 2008

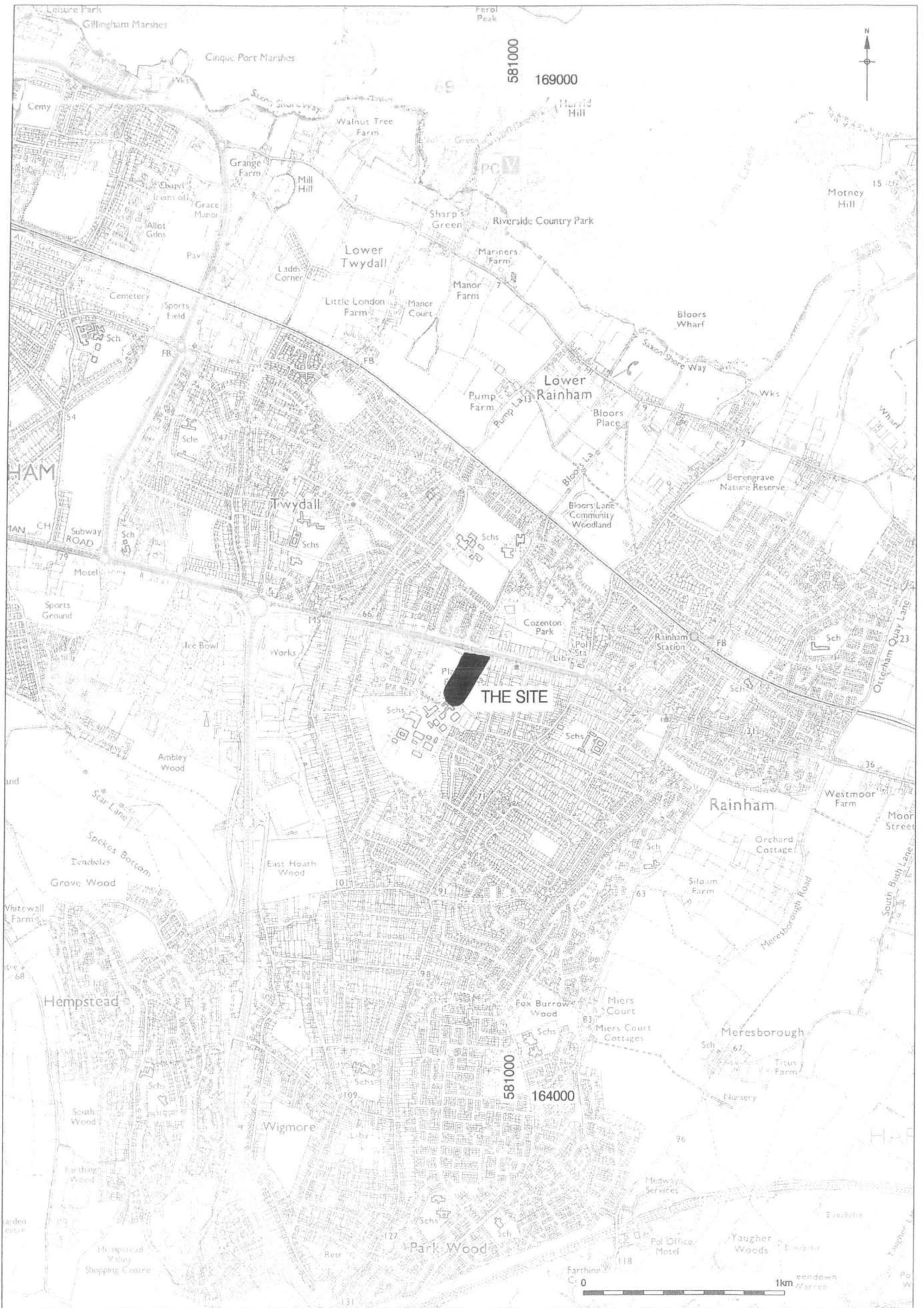


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4

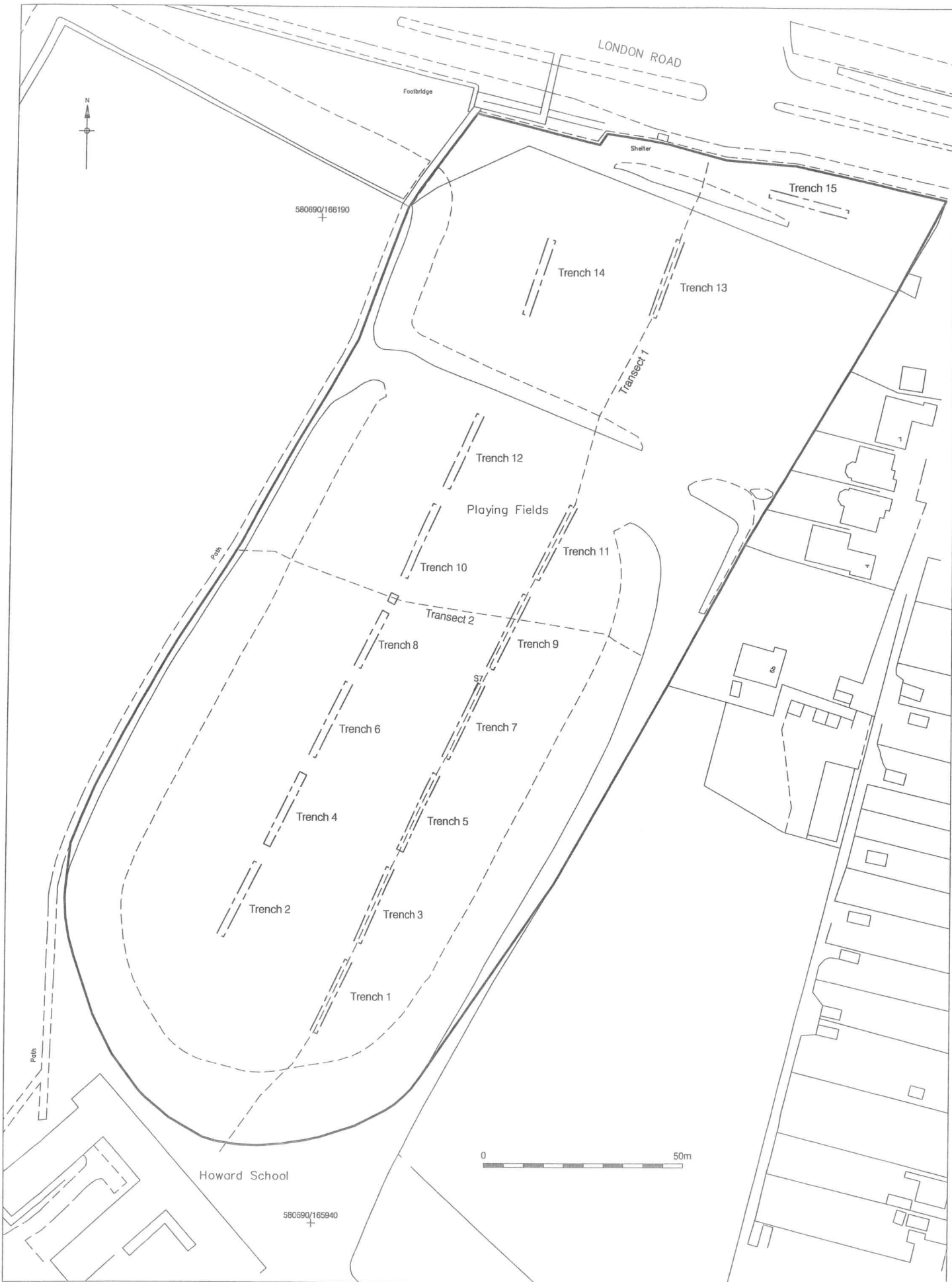


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,250 at A4

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the specification² prepared by Simon Mason, Kent County Council, and the written scheme of investigation³ proposal prepared by Peter Moore of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 3.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove non-archaeological soils down to the highest archaeological horizon or natural level. A total of 15 trenches were opened across the study site (figure 2) configured to evaluate right across the site with particular attention as to the levels of natural (Fig. 2).
- 3.3 Features identified within the trenches were then to be cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. The soils were assigned individual context numbers.
- 3.4 Heights above Ordnance Datum and the trench locations were recorded on site by the use of GPS.
- 3.6 After recording the trenches were then backfilled under supervision.

² ibid

³ Moore 2009

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The development of the land has been permitted by Medway Council under consent MC07/05681007. Condition 18 requiring a programme of archaeological works has been attached to the consent following recommendations by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council.
- 4.2 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Upper Chalk with a strip of Head present through the northern part of the site.
- 5.2 No geotechnical information is available for the site but it was been observed on site, and the school is aware⁴ that areas of the school grounds land have been subjected to terracing operations in the past.

⁴ Dave Collins pers. comm.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The archaeological and historical background to the area is thought to be one of an intensively occupied landscape in the prehistoric and Roman periods between the North Downs and the coastal marshlands. The main Roman road between London and Canterbury (then Watling Street and now the route of the A2), formed a focus for rural settlement and trade and forms the northern boundary of the subject site.
- 6.2 In the Saxon period a number of estates were formed between the Downs and coast with estate centres lying close to the route of the road and cemeteries lying mostly to the north. The site has been open agricultural land since at least the 19th century though it is unclear if the woodland, which by this time lay immediately to the southwest, may have extended into the site at an earlier date.
- 6.3 The site lies at a prominent point overlooking the Medway, and the distinctive cut back into the slope and terracing is believed at the school to have resulted from landscaping in the 1930's.⁵ Kent CC suggested that the site lies at the head of a dry valley, so the current landscape may have resulted from the terracing of an existing feature.

⁵ Ibid.

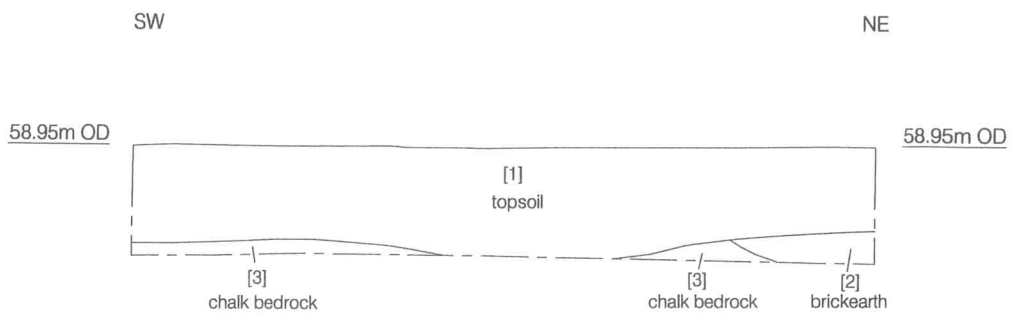
7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- 7.1 All trenches consisted of 30-40cm of topsoil [1] over chalk bedrock [3] (Fig. 3 – a sample section). There was no subsoil and the chalk surface was relatively smooth with occasional patches of brickearth [2] present. There was no evidence for any “cut and fill” methodology in the terracing, rather the steps were rock-cut covered in the same 30-40cm of topsoil.
- 7.2 The hollow and three terraces dropping downwards towards London Road would therefore be the result of modern quarrying and landscaping. The hollow had a maximum height of 65.27m AOD at the southern end and a minimum height of 53.74m AOD at the northern end (Fig. 4 – N-S and E-W transects across the hollow and through the trenches).
- 7.3 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts found or observed.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 From geological maps⁶ it appears that the study site probably started life as the head of a dry river valley. The natural hollow that this produced was then utilised as an open chalk quarry, which was then landscaped and flattened in the recent past for use as the school playing ground. As a result of this any archaeological features that may have been present in the past have long since been totally removed.

⁶ Mason 2008.

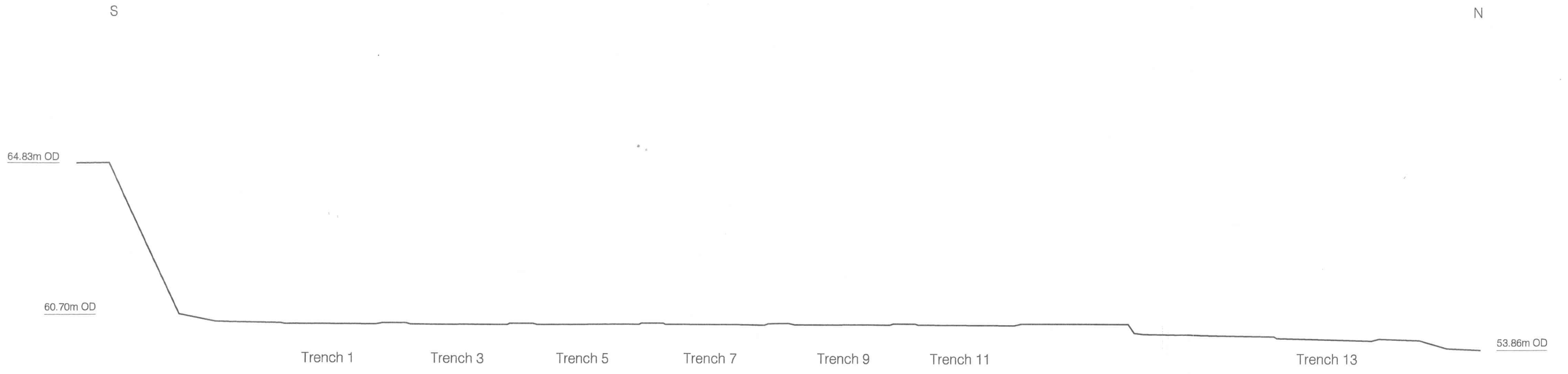


Section 7
Trench 7, South east facing

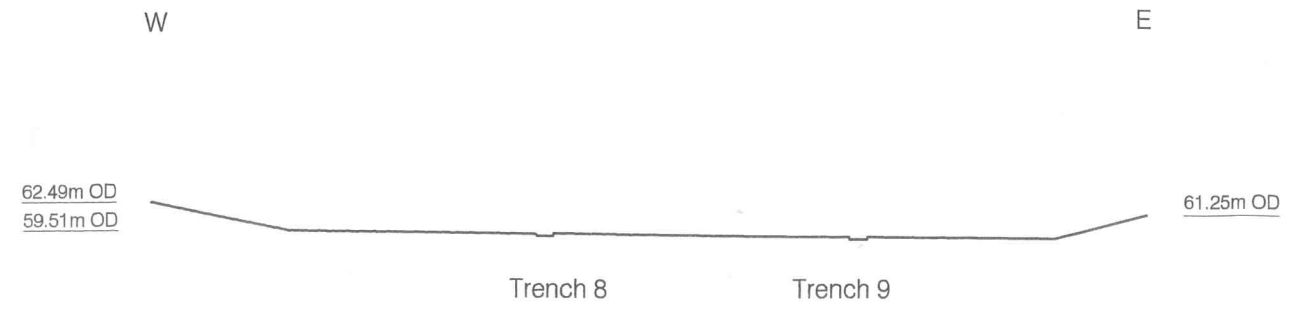


© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009

Figure 3
Section 7
1:20 at A4



Transect 1



Transect 2



Figure 4
Transects
1:800 at A3

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Steve Bennett of Play Football Ltd for commissioning the work and the staff of Howard School for all their help on site especially Deputy Head Dave Collins. We would also like to thank Simon Mason of Kent County Council for his help in designing the project and Ben Found for his monitoring. The author would like to thank Aiden Turner and Sarah Barrowman for their help in the field, Josephine Brown for the illustrations and Peter Moore for project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mason, S, 2008, "Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching in advance of the construction of ten artificial five-a-side football pitches, changing rooms, clubhouse, access and parking at The Howard School, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Medway. Manual of Specification: Part A – Site Specific Requirements, Part B – Evaluation Trial Trenching Requirements" Kent County Council unpublished report.

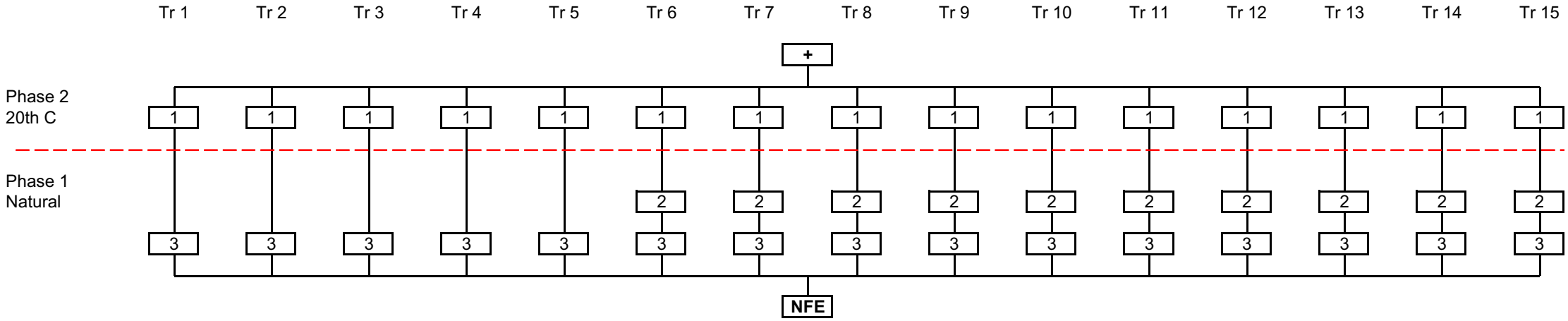
Moore, P, 2009, "Written Scheme of investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluations at Howard School, Derwent Way Gillingham, Kent", Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1 - CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
KHOW 09	1	*	1 to 15	Layer	Topsoil	06/05/2009	2	
KHOW 09	2	6 to 15	6 to 15	Layer	Natural Brickearth	06/05/2009	1	
KHOW 09	3	1 to 15	1 to 15	Layer	Natural Chalk Bedrock	06/05/2009	1	

APPENDIX 2 - SITE MATRIX

KHOW 09
MATRIX

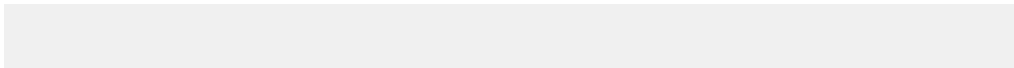


APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

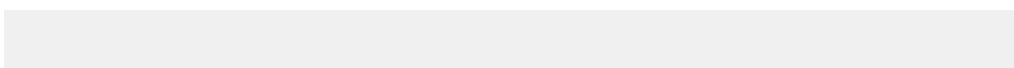
8 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) |
[Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

8.1.1 Printable version



8.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-60076



Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 5th - 8th May 2009 on land at Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent. A total of 15 evaluation trenches measuring 1.80m by 20m were excavated across the site with the objective of establishing the nature of a large hollow that was U-shaped in plan and to ascertain the presence/absence of archaeological horizons prior to development. The site consisted of a large hollow which is now interpreted as the end of a dry river valley which was subsequently quarried and landscaped into its present state. No archaeological features or artefacts were found.

Project dates Start: 05-05-2009 End: 08-05-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes KHOW 09 - Sitecode

Land At Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent
Archaeological Evaluation

Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	QUARRY Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Football Pitches
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY GILLINGHAM Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent
Postcode	ME8 0XX
Study area	2.80 Hectares

Land At Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent
Archaeological Evaluation

Site coordinates TQ 8070 6607 51.3643535882 0.596019369462 51 21 51 N 000 35
45 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.74m Max: 65.27m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project design originator Peter Moore

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Type of sponsor/funding body Development Corporation

Name of sponsor/funding body Play Football Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Howard School, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Seddon, G

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or London
publication

Description Unpublished client report.

Entered by Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 29 May 2009

9 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Friday 3
February 2006

Cite only: /d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page

P C A

PRE - CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 0207 732 3925 0207 639 9091

FAX: 0207 639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

