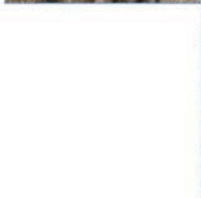
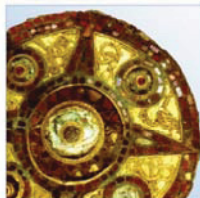
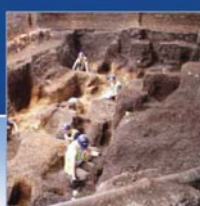


# New Brompton Academy, Gillingham, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application Number: MC/11/1218  
National Grid Reference Number: TQ 7675 6786  
AOC Project No: 30772  
Site Code: MRG 11  
Date: August 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# New Brompton Academy, Gillingham, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>BAM Construction Ltd Centrium Griffiths Way St Albans AL1 2RD</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>TQ 7675 6786</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>30772</b>
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<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>August 2011</b>

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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**Date:** August 2011

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**Date:** August 2011

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## Contents

### Page

List of illustrations .....	ii
1. Introduction.....	4
2 Historical and Archaeological Background .....	5
Prehistoric .....	5
Roman.....	6
Early Medieval and Medieval.....	6
Post-Medieval.....	7
3 Strategy .....	11
4 Results .....	13
5. Finds.....	19
6. Conclusion .....	19
7. Publication .....	19
8. Bibliography.....	20
Appendix A – Context Register.....	23
Appendix B – OASIS Form .....	25

### List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Detailed Site Location Plan
Figure 3	Trench 1: Plan and Sections
Figure 4	Trench 2: Plan and Section
Figure 5	Sample Sections

## Non-Technical Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at the site of New Brompton Academy, Gillingham, Kent. The work was undertaken on behalf of Bam Construction Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation comprised of ten machine excavated trenches. None of the trenches contained significant archaeological remains. One of the trenches contained evidence of previous agricultural activity in the form of plough scars and one trench contained a modern post hole. Modern and post medieval brick and tile were observed in made ground and topsoil indicating a likelihood that modern landscaping has occurred.*

*No further work has been requested by the archaeological officer for the evaluated areas. A programme of watching briefs is due to be carried out on the main school sites during slab removal and ground works. The results of these will be the subject of subsequent reports.*

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Site Location**

- 1.1.1 New Brompton College is located in Gillingham within the district of Medway, Kent. The school site is situated on the western side of Marlborough Road, centred on national grid reference (NGR) TQ 7675, 6786 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The school site is approximately 12.3ha in size and is defined by Marlborough Road to the east and Sally Port Gardens to the north. The open ground of the Great Lines bounds the western limit of the site, while the southern boundary is formed by a pathway leading across the Great Lines from Longhill Avenue.
- 1.1.3 The school buildings are clustered in the centre of the school site with asphalt playground / sports courts to the south and a car park to the north-east of the buildings. The northern and southern areas of the site are grassed playing fields with additional land to the south, outside the fenced boundary; this is currently overgrown and not in use by the school (Figure 2).
- 1.1.4 The current proposed development scheme comprises the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and construction of a new suite of school buildings and facilities with associated access, car parking and sports pitches.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is Medway Council. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Ben Found, Archaeological Officer with Kent Heritage Conservation Group
- 1.2.2 The site is located within the Brompton Lines Conservation Area, designated by Medway Council due to the presence of the military infrastructure and landscape of barracks, bastions, forts and fields of fire associated with the defence of Chatham Dockyard from Tudor times onwards (Medway Council 2006).
- 1.2.3 There are no Statutory Listed Buildings within the bounds of the proposed development site. In addition the site does not contain, lie within or within the immediate vicinity of any Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or currently designated World Heritage Sites. However, the proposed development site does lie within the area of the Proposed Chatham World Heritage Site (Chatham World Heritage 2009).
- 1.2.4 Consultation with Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, indicated that there are currently no areas or sites of archaeological priority / importance (as designated by Kent County Council or detailed in the Medway Local Plan) within or within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.
- 1.2.5 The current proposed development scheme comprises the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and construction of a new suite of school buildings and facilities with associated access, car parking and sports pitches.
- 1.2.6 Following consultation with Ben Found of Kent Heritage Conservation Group, a desk-based assessment was decided as the most appropriate first stage in the archaeological process. The desk based assessment (AOC 2009) recommended a programme of archaeological evaluation and monitoring be undertaken within the areas of proposed groundworks. This programme of works would identify and record the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits and can be used to inform on a programme archaeological mitigation, such as archaeological watching brief or excavation, if the results indicate this is necessary.

- 1.2.7 The first phase of archaeological works was an evaluation through trial trenching of two areas to the south and north of the existing school buildings that are presently accessible and will be within the footprint of future works. The evaluation comprised of 10 trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide. Following this a programme of watching briefs will be maintained during the grubbing out of foundations as part of the demolition of existing school buildings.
- 1.2.8 This reports details the results of the archaeological evaluation. The archaeological evaluation conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines.
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
  - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
  - Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008)
  - Kent County Council Manual of Specifications for Evaluation Trenching (KCC 2006)
  - Communities and Local Government - Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG 2010).

### **1.3 Geology and Topography**

- 1.3.1 The site is located on higher ground overlooking the Old Bourne/Brook, which feeds into the Medway to the west. River valleys were attractive areas due to the utilisation of their natural resources, their use in trade and communication and as sites for settlement, ritual and industrial activity.
- 1.3.2 The geology map provided by the Kent Historic Environment Record indicates that the underlying geology of the proposed development site is primarily formed of the Seaford Chalk Formation, comprising a firm white chalk deposit with seams of nodular and tabular flint, which was laid down in the Late Cretaceous Period between 88.5- 83 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2009). These chalk deposits were a valuable natural resource and was mined and exploited for use in the cement industry during the post-medieval period (Medway Council 2009). The presence of dene holes recorded in the surrounding vicinity suggesting some form of chalk mining in this area possibly during the Roman and medieval periods, if not earlier.

## **2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

The following information is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2009).

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies on the southern side of the Medway Valley, which has been subject to human settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. The site is located on higher ground overlooking the Old Bourne/Brook which feeds into the Medway to the west.
- 2.2 Some of the earliest remains of human activity have been recovered in Kent and many examples of Palaeolithic stone hand-axes have been recorded across the Medway area, including six Palaeolithic handaxes and debitage and other Lower / Middle Palaeolithic finds found in the area of the Chatham Lines. More implements dated to the Palaeolithic period have also been recorded in Chatham and Gillingham including 13 handaxes and a collection of flint flakes.
- 2.3 Within the wider area there is a potential that additional preserved Palaeolithic evidence survives within the river terrace gravels of the Medway Valley, although the nature and extent of this evidence is not known. Evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity, and the natural environments of these periods, may survive within the alluvial and peat deposits in this area;

this could be associated with the utilisation of the marshy, flood plain environments that existed along the river valley.

- 2.4 Evidence for Bronze Age activity has been recovered in the form of metal implements. A middle Bronze Age rapier measuring approximately 36cm long was found in Chatham High Street, c. 350m to the south-west of the proposed development site and a bronze palstave was found at Chatham Hill, c. 450m to the south-east of the proposed development site. A gold armilla bracelet, thought to date from either the Bronze Age or Iron Age was discovered in 1872 near the Brompton Lines, c. 500m to the north-west of the proposed development.

## Roman

- 2.5 Julius Caesar led exploration parties into Kent in 55 and 54 BC and after Britain became part of the Roman Empire in AD 43, Kent was split into two halves; the western half was controlled from Medway's first walled town, Rochester, which was known as 'Durobrivae', meaning 'the stronghold by the bridges' (Medway Council 2009).
- 2.6 Watling Street, which followed the approximate route of the modern A2, c. 150m to the south of the proposed development site, originated as a Roman road leading from Rochester ('Durobrivae') to London ('Londinium'); this would have been a main trade route from the channel ports to the city of London.
- 2.7 Evidence of Roman settlement has been discovered some 650m to the north-west of the proposed development site and comprised of the foundations of three Romano-British buildings. The inside of these walls were covered in a painted fresco of fine white plaster. Large quantities of broken tiles, pottery and coins depicting Claudius, Vespasian, Domitian (1<sup>st</sup> century) and Faustina (2<sup>nd</sup> century) were also recovered, along with cremation remains. The painted walls and recovery of pottery and glassware indicates that it may have been a villa but Captain James Douglas, the original excavator, suggested that it may have been a watchtower, based on its prominent position (Baldwin 1998). It was probably occupied from the late first/early second century to the third century or later and may have been associated with burials found in the area (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 2).
- 2.8 Further evidence of Roman funerary practises come from a Romano-British cemetery, c. 300m to the west of the proposed development site; here 11 inhumation burials were excavated in addition to pottery of Castor ware and Samian ware types. Romano-British cremation urns have also been discovered within the study area, c. 550m to the west and 550m to the north of the proposed development site.

## Early Medieval and Medieval

- 2.9 An early-medieval (Anglo-Saxon) barrow cemetery was discovered in 1756, during the construction of the defences at the Chatham Lines, c. 600m to the north-west of the proposed development site. Hasted (1798) records that initial excavation revealed 10 or 12 graves containing human skeletons, some of them buried with different pieces of armour, a part of a helmet, the head of a spear, the umbo of a shield, a large sword, and numerous coloured beads (Hasted 1798a, 191-226). A 'tumuli' or barrow containing a cremation urn was also discovered. Further graves were excavated by Captain James Douglas in the following years, and by 1782 some 86 burials had been recorded including finds of swords, spearheads, brooches, buckles and glassware (Baldwin 1998) Roman coins, were also found in the area.

- 2.10 Documentary evidence indicates that Douglas conducted his excavations not only alongside the ditches of the fortifications but also up on the hillside of the Great Lines, a 'short distance north east of the Naval War Memorial' (Baldwin 1998).
- 2.11 Other isolated burials have been discovered in the Chatham area and are also believed to be early Christian in date. One of these is recorded beside Watling Street, between Woodlands Lane and Featherby Road, c. 1.5km to the south-east of the proposed development site (Baldwin 1998).
- 2.12 The town of Chatham most likely originated as a mid-Saxon settlement (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 1). Chatham is first recorded in AD 880, as 'Cetham', taking its roots from the Saxon language either from 'cyte', (a cottage) or 'cet' (wood), and 'ham', (a village) meaning 'the village of cottages' or 'wood or forest settlement' (Hasted 1798a, 191-226; Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 3). By the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Chatham was ranked as a half Hundred within the Hundred of Chatham and Gillingham, and by AD 947 a church is documented (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 3-4).
- 2.13 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records a church, a mill, 16 carucates (c. 480 acres) of arable land, 20 acres of meadow, five fisheries and woodland for the pannage of one hog within the Hundred of 'Ceteham' (Hasted 1798a, 191-226). Chatham remained a small settlement based on an agricultural and fishing economy throughout the medieval period, although two merchant ships transporting wool from Chatham are mentioned in 1275. It was not until the dockyards and anchorage at Chatham were established in the Elizabethan period that the town really began to expand (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7-8).
- 2.14 The proposed development site is now located within the parish of Gillingham, which is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, as the manor of 'Gelingeham' in the Hundred of Chatham. The lands of Gillingham at this time were held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, as they had been long before the Norman Conquest (Hasted 1798b, 191-226).
- 2.15 'Upbery' was a sub-manor in the western part of the parish of Gillingham and the manor house is thought to have been located in the area now occupied by the Naval War Memorial c. 350m to the west of the site. The manor was granted to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Sexburg on the Isle of Shepey in c. 1122, until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII in 1536. In 1602 the manor was left in a will to the principal and scholars of Brazen Nose College, in Oxford (Hasted 1798b, 226-249) in whose hands it remained, while being lease out, until it was destroyed as part of land clearance for the expansion of the Dockyard defences.
- 2.16 It is not known if there was a small settlement or hamlet associated with Upbery Manor, however Upbery rectory and church are mentioned by Hasted in 1798 (Hasted 1798b, 226-249); though this might be referring to a church at Gillingham. The proposed development site would likely have lain within the agricultural hinterland of the manor at this time. This manor later gave its name to 'Upbury Manor Secondary School', which was built within the proposed development site in 1957.

### **Post-Medieval**

- 2.17 The first documentation relating to the navy's use of Chatham for the storage of ships is dated 1547 and records the use of 'storehouses for winter storage of ships'. Chatham (or 'Jillingham' or 'Gillyngeham Water') was considered to be safer than Portsmouth in 1550 and in 1567 the Naval Headquarters were established at Chatham (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7 - 8).
- 2.18 Reclamation of land previously comprising intertidal marshland along the western bank of the Medway may have begun as early as the Late Middle Ages and this provided space for additional housing and wharves (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7 - 8). In 1580, a new wharf



and crane were built in the area now known as Old Gun Wharf and in the following years many more wharves, mast ponds and storehouses were constructed. Chatham dockyard soon overtook Woolwich and Deptford in importance and during the Dutch Wars (1652-1674) Chatham dockyard became the most important Royal Yard in the country. (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7-8).

- 2.19 Given the importance of the Chatham Dockyards it became necessary for defences to be constructed to protect the naval ships and commercial interest of the docklands. Upnor Castle (outside the study area) was built on the western bank of the Medway in 1559 to protect the Chatham anchorage and the dockyard and in 1649 Gillingham Fort was built above the dockyard. Following the significant raid by a Dutch fleet in 1667, the fort was strengthened and acquired the name Gillingham Castle.
- 2.20 In the 18<sup>th</sup> century new fortifications were constructed on the hillside on the landward side of the dockyard to provide protection from landward attack. Work on the Brompton Lines defence system (also known as the Chatham Lines or Cumberland Lines) began in 1756 following the threat of invasion by the French during the Seven Years War.
- 2.21 During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and Napoleonic period the dockyard was extensively rebuilt to cope with the expansion of the Navy and was subject to extension and fortification each time invasion threatened: including during the American Revolutionary War (1775-83) and the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15). The Lines were again extended in the 1890s with a series of forts (outside the study area) in a semi-circle approximately two miles outside Chatham; these comprise the last traditional fortifications to be constructed in Britain (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 9; Medway Council 2006).
- 2.22 Fort Amherst, c. 650m to the north-west of the proposed development site, was formed from the (refortified) earlier Amherst Redoubt along with a series of batteries and bastions. A system of underground tunnels built between 1776 and 1805 linked different areas of the fort and was designed for protection should the fort be held under siege. Unlike many other forts built in this period, Fort Amherst was not subject to Victorian modernisation, and therefore, comprises a good surviving example of Georgian military architecture (Fort Amherst Online 2009).
- 2.23 A large number of the structures in Chatham were built from timber and little survives of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century architecture as the town suffered considerable damage from a fire which swept through the streets in June 1800 and from another fire twenty years later (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 4-6). However, occupation evidence from this period has survived in a collection of pits c. 800m to the west of the proposed development site, containing post-medieval artefacts including mid-18th century pottery and clay tobacco pipes from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 2.24 Evidence for chalk extraction and associated activities is recorded within 1km of the site in the form of limekilns, chalk pits and lime works recorded c. 650m and 550m to the south-west and 650m to the south-east of the proposed development site. An undated dene hole was also discovered in 1884, less than 50m to the east of the site, in the grounds of the hospital; while there is no firm evidence from this dene hole, it is possible that it may have originated as a clay extraction pit.
- 2.25 A brickfield is recorded c. 450m to the south-west of the proposed development site. Agricultural activities are indicated by windmills and a maltings, which would have processed the crops produced in the surrounding fields.
- 2.26 Surviving 19th century architecture within 1km of the site includes 8 Grade II Listed buildings. The closest of these to the site are Thorney Lodge c. 200m to the south of the proposed development site, and the Medway Hospital Laundry Water Tower, c. 150m to the east of the proposed development site; while the majority of the Listed Buildings are located within the town of Chatham between 600-700m to the west / south-west of the proposed development site.

- 2.27 The Grade II Listed Medway Hospital Laundry Water Tower c. 150m to the east of the proposed development site is visible from within the site. This square brick tower with lead pyramidal roof was built around 1900 and was part of the former military hospital that stood on the site. The Royal Naval Hospital itself was constructed between 1899 and 1905, replacing the original naval hospital in Chatham. The hospital was transferred to the National Health Service in 1961 and since then many of the original buildings have been replaced.
- 2.28 The Brook Low Level pumping station c. 600m to the west of the proposed development site is a designated Scheduled Monument. The monument comprises a small pumping house constructed from brick with a slate roof. It was built in 1925 when the pumps were installed.
- 2.29 The Medway area was a prime target for attack during the both the First and Second World Wars due to its importance as a naval base and as it could be flown over by the Luftwaffe en-route to London; the river Medway would have been easy to follow from the air. Two communal air raid shelters are recorded c. 350m and 600m to the north-west of the proposed development site, but there would have been many more at the time.
- 2.30 The docklands and Brompton Lines barracks, along with an aircraft factory in Rochester comprised important strategic assets. As a result, a considerable number of defences were built in the area; a number of these military features survive within the study area, particularly in the area of the Brompton Lines; these include:
- Sentry Boxes, probably dating from the First World War, c. 50m to the east and 300m to the south-east of the proposed development site;
  - A line of spigot mortar anti-tank defences c. 500m to the north-west of the proposed development site;
  - A pillbox c. 500m to the north-west of the proposed development site;
  - Second World War anti-tank brickhouse / blockhouses with placements for two and six pounder guns, c. 600m to the west and c. 500m to the north-west of the proposed development site.
- 2.31 The Grade II Listed Naval war memorial c. 350m to the west of the proposed development site forms a striking landmark comprising an obelisk memorial by Sir Robert Latimer, built in 1920 and dedicated to those who lost their lives in the First World War. This is enclosed by a semi-circular stone crescent screen, which records the Royal Navy personnel killed during the Second World War (Medway Council 2006).
- 2.32 There is a long history of rumours connected to the existence of tunnels relating to Fort Amherst and the dockyard defences which are said to underlie parts of the Great Lines, including the area of the proposed development site.
- 2.33 Consultation with archaeological officers at Kent County Council has confirmed that there are no known tunnels recorded on the Kent Historic Environment Record database as lying within or within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.
- 2.34 However, there are a number of bricked up or blocked tunnel entrance in and around the Great Lines areas which could indicate the presence of tunnels underlying this area. Of particular note are several bricked up / blocked entrances to tunnels noted c.120m to the south of the proposed development site on Chatham Hill.
- 2.35 The tunnels are described on a local history website as comprising of a large bricked-up entrance with two smaller tunnel entrances nearby; one of which has been blocked up with a large chalk bolder. The large bricked-up entrance is carved into the bottom of the chalk cliff under Mount

Pleasant, is large enough for a train or tram and is thought to lead to the Medway Hospital (Ross 2003).

2.36 Another entry on the website gives more detail about the two smaller entrances, as follows:

*'I used to play in these tunnels which were also accessible via a farm that used to be on the lines known as Cheeseman's farm, long since gone and the expansion of Upbury Manor school has covered the original site of the farm. The farm had a spiralling stairway down to the network of tunnels under the lines, one of which came out at the bottom of Chatham Hill...There were tunnels that branched off in all directions, only a few could be explored that hadn't caved in. One led out to the Luton Arches, behind the Billboard [close to junction of Chatham Hill and the London, Chatham, and Dover railway line to the south of the proposed development site]...this one would gradually increase in accent, then open up in to a great big chamber, with lots of other tunnels coming off it, a hub so to speak...from the entrance at the Great Lines, there is a tunnel that goes South on a downward slope to a T junction that runs East/West. Off this tunnel there are chambers which had empty boxes/chests, but smelled of sulphur'* (Anon. 2005)

2.37 The location of Cheeseman's Farm is not known and is not shown or labelled on the available mapping data; however it could be a six sided enclosure shown on aerial photographs as lying in the south of the proposed development site.;

2.38 The provenance of this description has not, as yet, been confirmed through archaeological investigations. However, if accurate and relating to a site within the proposed development site, it would suggest a possible network of tunnels partly underlying the site; most probably in the southern area. The nature and extent of these tunnels are unknown at this stage.

2.39 Upbury Manor Secondary School was constructed within the proposed development site between 1957 and 1959 by Kent County Council and Gillingham Borough Council. When the school opened there were 650 pupils enrolled and by 1974 there were approximately 1700 (Gillingham Public Libraries 1974).

## 3 Strategy

### 3.1 Aims of the Investigation

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To disseminate the results of the investigation to all interested parties.

#### 3.1.1 The specific aims of the investigation are:

- To determine whether evidence for prehistoric activity is present within the development site.
- To determine whether the evidence for Roman activity in the locality extends into the site and, if present, to characterise the nature of this activity.
- To determine whether any evidence for early medieval activity in the locality extends into the site and, if present, to characterise the nature of this activity.
- To determine whether any evidence of 18<sup>th</sup> century - Second World War date relating to the anti invasion defences of the area survive within the development site (in particular the tunnels and stair well reputed to have been located at Cheesmans Farm)

#### 3.1.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

## 3.2 Methodology

#### 3.2.1 The evaluation consisted of archaeological trial trenching (archaeological evaluation). The evaluation involved the machine excavation of 10 trenches (Figure 2), excavated under archaeological supervision.

#### 3.2.2 All machining was carried out using a 9 Tonne tracked excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeological Project Officer and Project Supervisor.

#### 3.2.3 The site code MRG 11 was used as the site identifier for all records produced.

#### 3.2.4 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using two temporary benchmarks established on site having moved the level from a BM on 52 York Avenue. The value of the BM was 64.69mOD whilst the TBM on site were valued at 60.21mOD and 52.17mOD.

#### 3.2.5 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).

#### 3.2.6 All of the work was carried out in line with:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).

- Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008)
- Kent County Council Manual of Specifications for Evaluation Trenching (KCC 2006)
- Communities and Local Government - Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG 2010).

3.2.7 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. ( ), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [ ].

3.2.8 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

3.2.9 The evaluation was conducted by Catherine Edwards under the overall management of Alan Ford, Project manager. The site was monitored by Ben Found Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2 & 3)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.20m	51.75m – 51.55m	Mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint. Topsoil.
101	0.13m	51.55m – 51.42m	Mid orange grey sandy clay with frequent chalk, flint and occasional CBM. Re-deposited natural.
108	0.37m+	51.42m	Orange brown silty clay and white flint and chalk. Natural.

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the northwest corner of the site, (Figure 2 & 3). The trench was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.

4.1.2 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was (108), a natural orange brown silty clay and white chalk and flint, recorded at a height of 51.42 – 51.63mOD. Cutting into the natural were three linears [103], [105], and [107]. All three were aligned northeast-southwest across the trench and measured 1.19m, 0.91m and 0.85m wide. All three had sharp sloped sides and an uneven base and were recorded at an upper height of 51.65mOD. The linears were filled by (102), (104) and (106), a mid orange brown silty clay at a depth of 0.36m, 0.24m, 0.28m respectively. These linears have been interpreted as natural undulations or linear pockets of varying natural deposits. Overlying this was (101), a 0.13m thick layer of re-deposited natural which in turn was overlaid by (100), a 0.20m thick layer of modern topsoil recorded at a height of 51.75m – 51.91mOD.

4.1.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 1.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Fig 2 & 4)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
200	0.14m	51.64m – 51.50m	Grey sandy silt with occasional flint. Topsoil.
201	0.17m	51.50m – 51.33m	Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Re-deposited natural.
202	0.15m	51.33m – 51.18m	Chalk nodules within a light brown silt. Re-deposited natural.
203	0.13m	51.18m+	Mid orange brown silty clay and yellow sand and chalk nodules. Natural.

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the northern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7) and was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.

4.2.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 2 was (203), a natural mix of orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with sand and flint, recorded at a varying height of 51.18m-51.00mOD. Cutting into (203), were approximately 13 plough scars. The scars have been given the group number [204]. The scars were aligned roughly east-west and measured 4.0m x 0.10m. The scars indicate that the site had undergone agricultural activity.

4.2.3 Overlying the natural was layer (202), a 0.15m thick deposit of chalk within a light brown silt. This deposit has been interpreted as a layer of re-deposited natural, used to landscape the playing fields. Overlying (202) was (201), a 0.17m thick layer of mid orange brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk and flint. This has also been interpreted as a layer of re-deposited natural. Overlying these deposits was (200), a 0.14m thick layer of grey sandy silt with occasional flint recorded at a height of 51.64mOD

4.2.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 2.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Fig 2 & 5)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
300	0.13m	51.46m – 51.33m	Grey sandy silt with occasional flint. Topsoil.
301	0.13m	51.33m – 51.20m	Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Re-deposited natural.
302	0.30m	51.20 – 50.90m	Chalk nodules within a light brown silt. Re-deposited natural.
303	0.04m	50.90m+	Mid orange brown silty clay and yellow sand and chalk nodules. Natural.

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the northern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7) and was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.

4.3.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was (303), a natural mix of orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with sand and flint, recorded at a varying height of 50.90m-51.36mOD.

4.3.3 Overlying the natural was layer (302), a 0.30m thick deposit of chalk within light brown silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit has been interpreted as a layer of re-deposited natural, used to landscape the playing fields. Overlying (302) was (301), a 0.13m thick layer of mid orange brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk and flint. This has also been interpreted as a layer of re-deposited natural. Overlying these deposits was (300), a 0.13m thick layer of grey sandy silt with occasional flint recorded at a height of 51.46mOD.

4.3.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 3.

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Fig 2 & 6)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
400	0.20m	51.81m – 51.61m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick. Topsoil.
401	0.19m	51.61m – 51.42m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional tile. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
402	0.09m	51.42m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint. Natural.

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the northern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7), was orientated north-south and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was (402), a natural mix of orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with sand and flint, recorded at a varying height of 51.42m-50.29mOD.
- 4.4.3 Overlying the natural was layer (401), a 0.19m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or a disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (401) was (400), a 0.20m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 51.81mOD.
- 4.4.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 4.

#### 4.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2 & 7)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
500	0.19m	60.18m – 59.99m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick. Topsoil.
501	0.12m	59.99m – 59.87m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional tile. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
502	0.08m	59.87m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint. Natural.

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7), was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.5.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 5 was (502), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint, recorded at a varying height of 59.87m-60.29mOD.
- 4.5.3 Overlying the natural was layer (501), a 0.12m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or a disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (501) was (500), a 0.19m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 60.18mOD.
- 4.5.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 5.



## 4.6 Trench 6 (Fig 2 & 8)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
600	0.25m	61.15m – 60.90m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile. Topsoil.
601	0.14m	60.90m – 60.76m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional tile. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
602	0.05m	60.76m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint. Natural.

- 4.6.1 Trench 6 was located in the southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7), was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.6.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 6 was (602), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint, recorded at a varying height of 60.76m-60.85mOD.
- 4.6.3 Overlying the natural was layer (601), a 0.14m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or a disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (601) was (600), a 0.25m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 61.15mOD.
- 4.6.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 6.

## 4.7 Trench 7 (Fig 2 & 8)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
700	0.30m	60.91m – 60.61m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile, brick and oyster shell. Topsoil.
701	0.18m	60.61m – 60.43m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
702	0.03m	60.43m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint. Natural.

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 was located in the southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7), was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.7.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 7 was (702), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint, recorded at a varying height of 60.43m – 60.06mOD.
- 4.7.3 Overlying the natural was layer (701), a 0.18m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or a disturbed natural horizon. Cutting into (701) was [703], a small modern post hole measuring 0.22m diameter. The post was filled with loose brown silt with modern brick used as packing. The post hole may have once held sports posts in place.
- 4.7.4 Overlying (701) was (700), a 0.30m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 60.91mOD.
- 4.7.5 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 7.

## 4.8 Trench 8 (Fig 2 & 8)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
800	0.28m	60.32m – 60.04m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick. Topsoil.
801	0.16m	60.04m – 59.88m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional tile. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
802	0.06m	59.88m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with dense flint. Natural.

- 4.8.1 Trench 8 was located in southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7), was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.8.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 8 was (802), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with dense flint, recorded at a varying height of 59.88 – 60.62mOD.
- 4.8.3 Overlying the natural was layer (801), a 0.16m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (801) was (800), a 0.28m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 60.32mOD.
- 4.8.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 8.

## 4.9 Trench 9 (Fig 2 & 8)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
900	0.28m	61.34m – 61.06m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick. Topsoil.
901	0.14m	61.06m – 60.92m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
902	0.03m	60.92m+	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with dense flint. Natural.

- 4.9.1 Trench 9 was located in southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7) and was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.9.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 9 was (902), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint, recorded at a varying height of 60.92 – 60.88mOD.
- 4.9.3 Overlying the natural was layer (901), a 0.14m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (901) was (900), a 0.29m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 61.34mOD.
- 4.9.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 9.

#### 4.10 Trench 10 (Fig 2 & 8)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
1000	0.55m	60.56m – 60.01m	Grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick. Topsoil.
1001	0.13m	60.01m – 59.88m	Light yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional tile. Possible subsoil or disturbed natural.
1002	0.03m	59.88m	Mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with dense flint. Natural.

- 4.10.1 Trench 10 was located in the southern section of the site (Figure 2 & 7) and was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30.00m by 1.80m.
- 4.10.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 10 was (1002), a natural mixed orange brown silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk nodules with flint, recorded at a varying height of 59.88 – 60.72mOD.
- 4.10.3 Overlying the natural was layer (1001), a 0.13m thick deposit of yellow orange brown clay silt with occasional post-medieval tile. This deposit could be interpreted as a layer of disturbed subsoil or a disturbed natural horizon. Overlying (1001) was (1000), a 0.55m-0.28m thick layer of grey brown silt with inclusions of tile and brick at a upper height of 60.56mOD.
- 4.10.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 10.

## 5. Finds

- 5.1 Post medieval tile fragments including peg tile and occasional modern brick fragments were recorded on site. These fragments were recorded within the topsoil, re-deposited natural and disturbed natural horizons and provided an indication of modern landscaping activity. The finds were noted on site but were not retained due to their modern nature.
- 5.2 No other finds were recorded on site.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully established the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site. None of the archaeological trenches contain significant remains.
- 6.2 The natural horizon was established on site in all trenches; this natural varied between orange brown silty clay with flint and chalk nodules and flint. The heights of the natural varied between the two areas of evaluation due to the natural slope within the general area. The natural deposit was recorded at an upper height of 60.92mOD in the southern area and 51.42mOD in the northern area.
- 6.3 The only archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 2 and comprised of plough scars. The scars ran east-west through the trench. There was no dating evidence recovered from the scars but they appear to have been formed prior to the deposition of the re-deposited natural recorded within the trench. The presence of these scars indicate that a period of agricultural activity had taken place on site prior to more recent landscaping.
- 6.4 The modern landscaping was observed in all trenches and especially those located within the northern area, as well as Trench 10 located within the southern area. This landscaping is likely to have been carried out during the construction of the school and the playing fields.
- 6.5 A watching brief has already been requested by the archaeological officer within the footprint of the existing school buildings upon their demolition. No further archaeological work is required within the two evaluated areas.

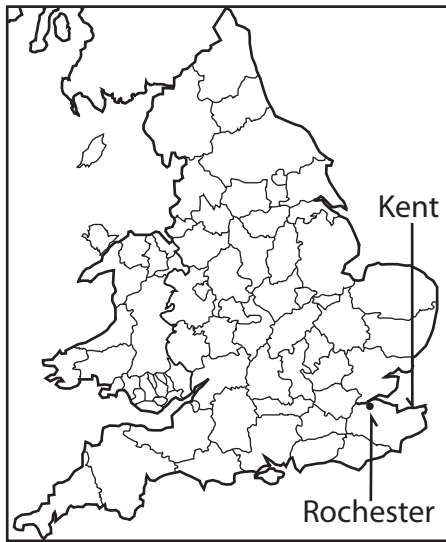
## 7. Publication

- 7.1 A paper copy of the evaluation report will be issued to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council and to the Kent HER on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A third digital copy of the report will also be submitted to Kent HER.
- 7.2 An OASIS form has also been completed, (Appendix B) and an electronic copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

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Approximate Site Location  
Within England & Wales

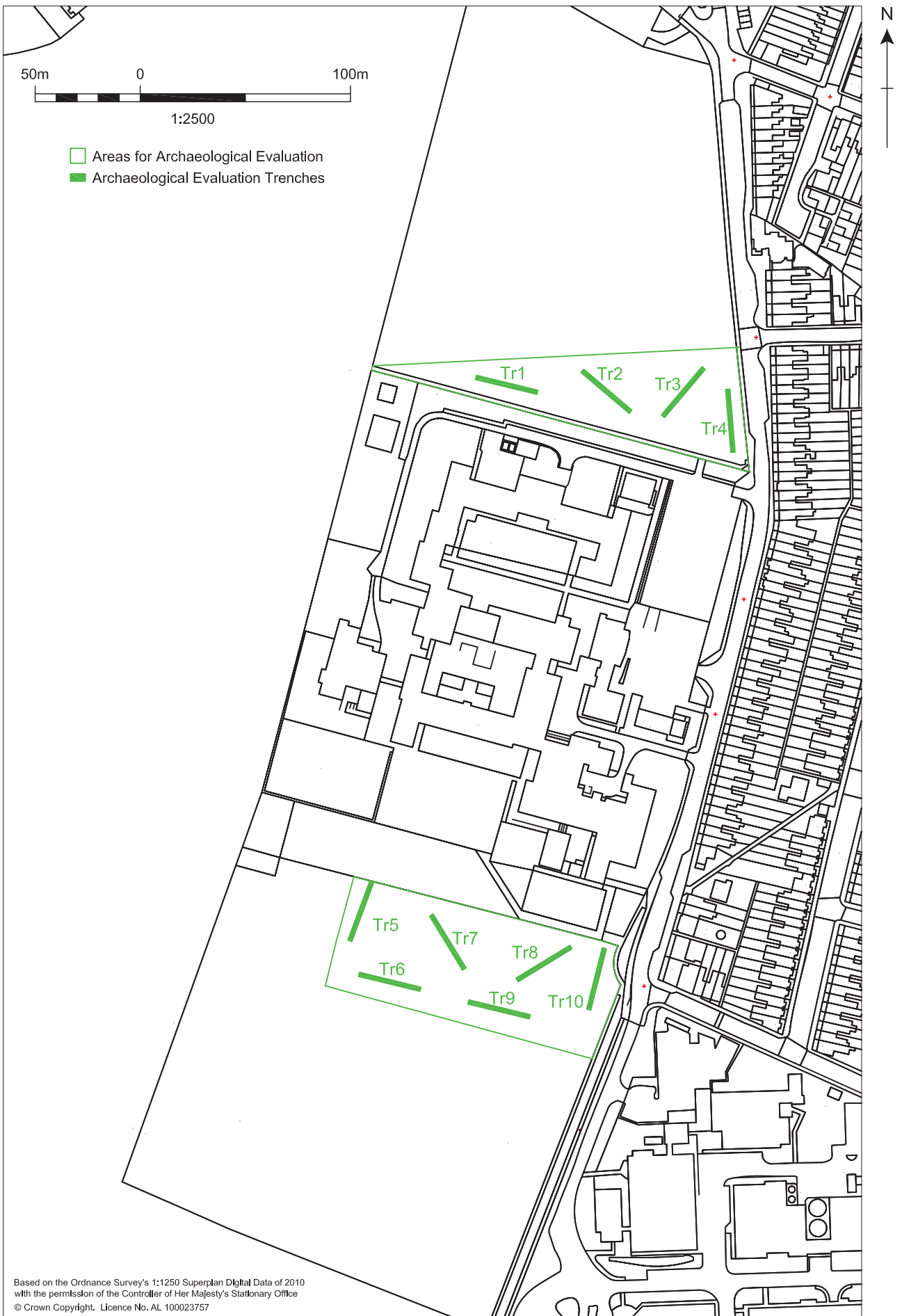


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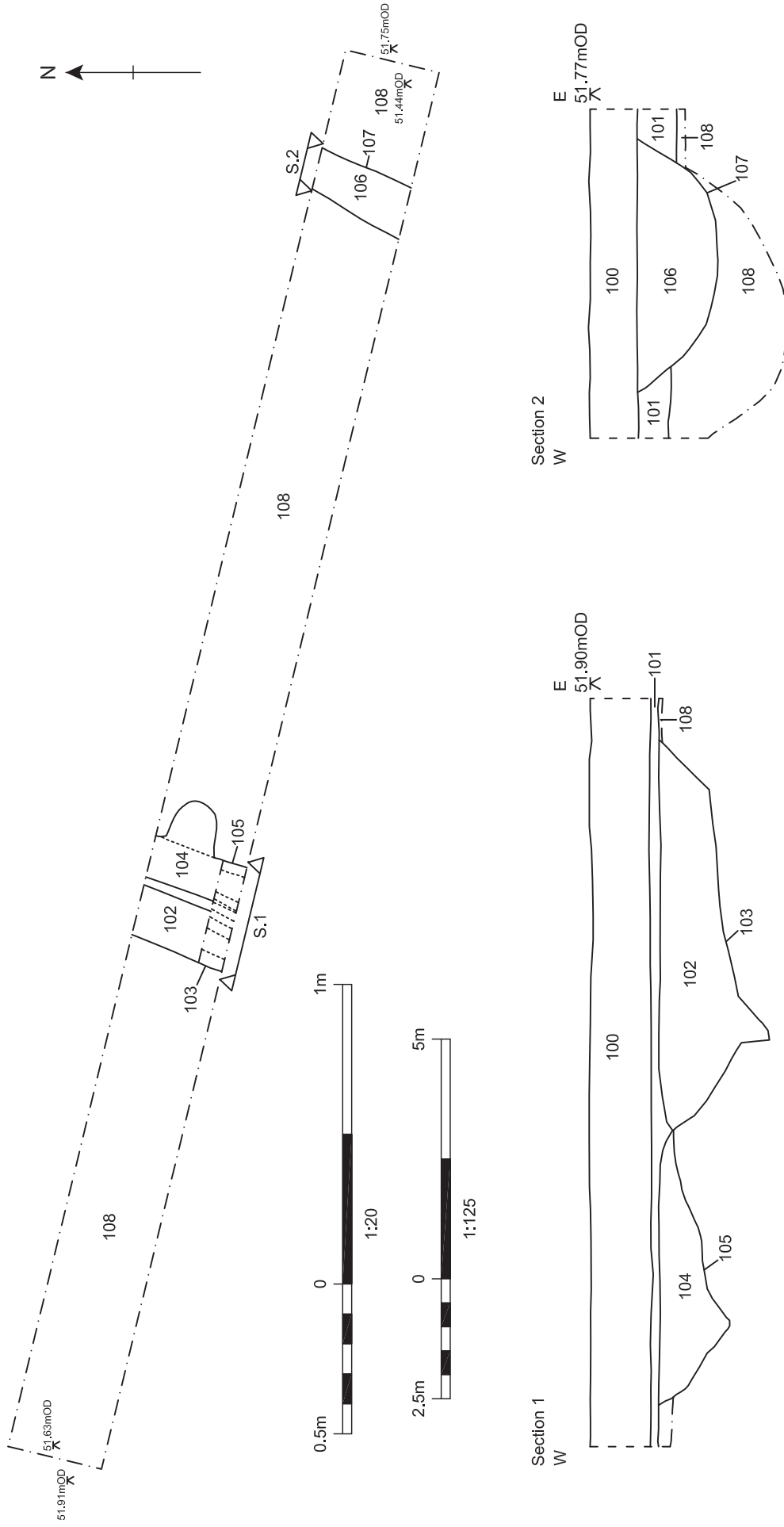
**Figure 1:** Site Location



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Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan





**Figure 3:** Trench 1: Plan (1:125) and Sections (1:40)

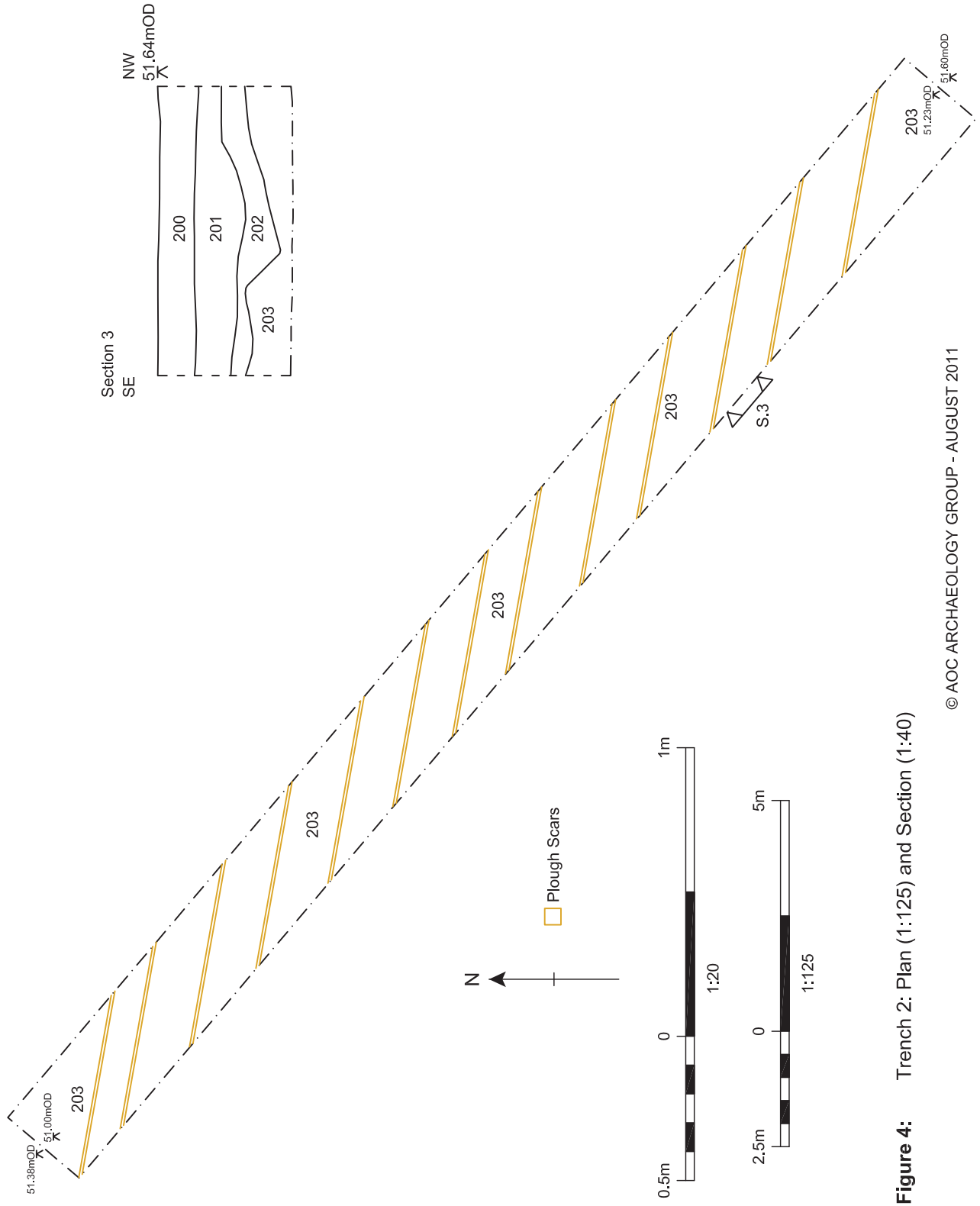
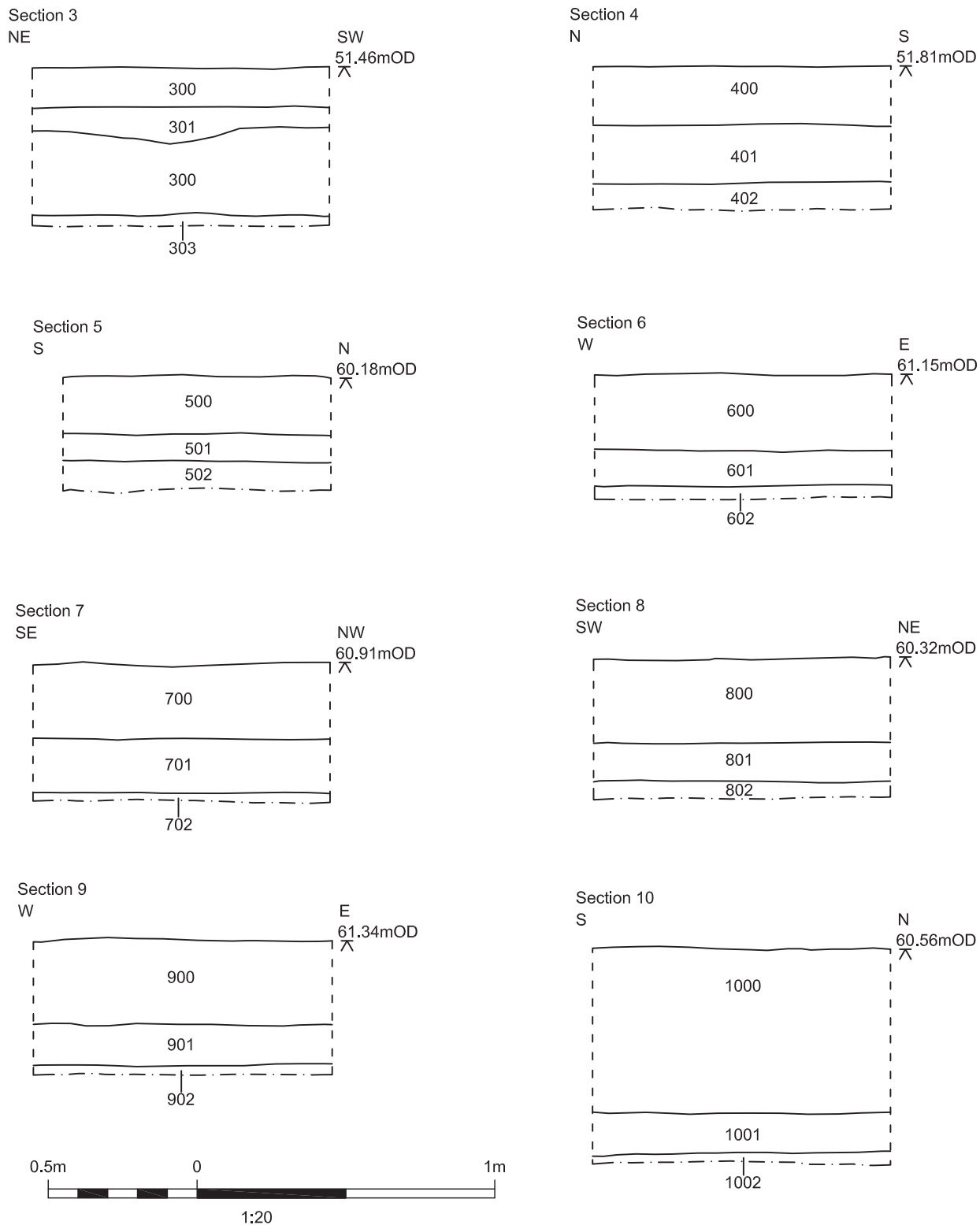


Figure 4: Trench 2: Plan (1:125) and Section (1:40)



**Figure 5:** Sample Sections



## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
101	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
102	Linear fill	1.80m	1.19m	0.36m
103	Linear cut	1.80m	1.19m	0.36m
104	Linear fill	1.80m	0.91m	0.24m
105	Linear cut	1.80m	0.91m	0.24m
106	Linear fill	1.80m	0.85m	0.28m
107	Linear cut	1.80m	0.85m	0.28m
108	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.37m+
200	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.14m
201	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.17m
202	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.15m
203	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
204	Plough Scars	30.00m	1.80m	NFE
300	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
301	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
302	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.30m
303	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.04m
400	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
401	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.19m
402	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.09m
500	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.19m
501	Possible subsoil or disturbed natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.12m
502	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.08m
600	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.25m
601	Possible subsoil or disturbed natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.14m
602	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.05m
700	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.30m
701	Possible subsoil or disturbed natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.18m
702	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.03m
703	Post hole	30.00m	1.80m	NFE
800	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.28m

801	Possible subsoil or disturbed natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.16m
802	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.06m
900	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.28m
901	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.14m
902	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.03m
1000	Topsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.55m
1001	Re-deposited natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
1002	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.03m

## Appendix B – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-105529**

### Project details

Project name            New Brompton Academy

Short description of the project    A archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of New Brompton College, Gillingham. The evaluation comprised of ten trenches located within areas of proposed sports pitches. Plough marks were recorded in one trench but no further significant archaeology was recorded. A watching brief is due to follow.

Project dates            Start: 27-07-2011

Previous/future work            No / Yes

Any associated project codes    30772 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Any associated project codes    MRG11 - Sitecode reference

Type of project            Field evaluation

Site status                Conservation Area

Current Land use        Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type        PLOUGH SCARS Uncertain

Monument type        POST HOLE Modern

Significant Finds        NONE None

Methods techniques        & 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)  
planning process

### Project location

Country England

Site location KENT MEDWAY GILLINGHAM New Brompton Academy

Postcode ME7 5HT

Study area 12.30 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 7675 6786 51.3816822370 0.540222686242 51 22 54 N 000 32 24 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 51.42m Max: 60.92m

### Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology  
Organisation

Project brief Kent County Council  
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology  
originator

Project director/manager Alan Ford

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards



Type of Contractor  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of BAM Construction Ltd  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive As yet undetermined  
recipient

Physical Contents 'other'

Digital Archive As yet to be confirmed  
recipient

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'  
available

Paper Archive As yet undetermined  
recipient

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title NEW BROMPTON ACADEMY, GILLINGHAM, KENT: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2011

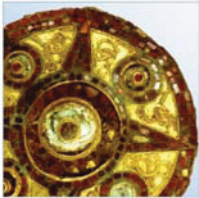
Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

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