

HERITAGE NETWORK



HEATH SPORTS CLUB
Baldock Road
Royston, Hertfordshire

HN875

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

HEATH SPORTS CLUB Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire

Project ref.:HN875
LPA ref.: 1/00847/09
HER consultation no.: 129/10

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Royston Tennis Club

by

Helen Ashworth BA (Hons) AIFA

Report no. 615

August 2010

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Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork	Page 3
Section 3	Discussion.....	Page 7
Section 4	Bibliography.....	Page 9
Section 5	Illustrations	following Page 10
Appendix	OASIS summary sheet.....	Page 11
Addendum	Monitoring and Recording	Page 13

The front cover shows the four evaluation trenches

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by James Snee. The report was written by Helen Ashworth and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Christine Knight, Royston Tennis Club; Andy Instone, Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council; and Peter Wilson, machine driver, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Heath Sports Club, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Herts
Village/town:	Royston	Parish:	Royston
Planning reference:	1/00847/09	NGR:	TL 34835 40560
Client name and address:	Royston Tennis Club, The Heath Sports Centre, Baldock Road, Royston, SG8 5BJ		
Nature of work:	Extension to tennis courts	Current land use:	Grassland
Site Status:	AAS 9	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPG16)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	2046m ²	Size of area investigated:	96m ²
Site code:	HN875	HER reference:	129/10
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation	Archive recipient:	North Herts Museums Service
Start of work:	18/08/2010	Finish of work:	20/08/2010
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Modern
OASIS UID:	heritage1-80233	Significant finds:	n/a
Monument types:	Ditch		
Physical archive:	N/A		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of an extension to the existing tennis courts at Heath Sports Club, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Royston Tennis Club to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

The site lies on the western edge of Royston, on the south side of Baldock Road. Ten HER entries are located within a 500m radius of the site centre. These range in date from the Neolithic to the modern period. Despite the defined archaeological potential of the site, which lies on the northern edge of Therfield Heath, an area known to have attracted activity from the Neolithic period onwards, the four evaluation trenches revealed only slight evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period.

The earliest feature on the site was an undated ditch on the north side of the existing tennis courts. This had been truncated by later ploughing. Two modern features were also recorded, a large hollow, filled with demolition debris, presumed to be from the World War 2 prisoner of war camp and a linear feature of unknown purpose.

On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter archaeological remains, particularly relating to the prisoner of war camp, was considered to be *Moderate* to *High*. Monitoring of the preliminary groundworks noted further modern demolition debris, also assumed to be from the PoW camp.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Royston Tennis Club, to cover a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of the proposed extension of the tennis courts at The Heath Sports Centre, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire.

1.2 The planning permission for the development (ref: 1/00847/09) granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), was subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16* (PPG16), since superseded by the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). Condition 6 of the planning consent states that:

No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing.

1.3 The investigation forms part of an incremental process that could include further stages of field investigation, analysis and report preparation, leading to the publication of the findings and the deposition of the project archive with an approved repository. The extent of the present stage of work was defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to the NHDC (ref: AI 21/9/09). A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated July 2010.

1.4 The Heath Sports Centre lies on the western edge of Royston, on the south side of Baldock Road. It occupies an area of green space known as Therfield Heath that also includes the site of Royston Golf Club. The present study area, which is occupied by Royston Tennis Club, lies on the east side of the access road to the Sports Centre, between the pavilion and the Baldock Road, centred on NGR TL 34835 40560 (Figure 1).

1.5 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 9, which defines Therfield Heath. The area is considered to form one of the best surviving ancient landscapes in the county and includes a Neolithic long barrow (SM17), a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (SM97), a length of Iron Age Boundary Ditches (SM125), medieval stock pens and ridge and furrow cultivation terraces. There is also evidence of a possible Roman Camp (HER7196) and Roman Road (HER4631) in the vicinity and the Heath was home to a prisoner of war camp (HER11401) during the Second World War.

1.6 The proposed development entails the replacement and extension of the existing tennis courts and the erection of perimeter fencing and lighting columns.

1.7 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered. It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the archaeological landscape of Therfield Heath from the prehistoric period onwards.

1.8 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to

determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area lies on gently sloping ground at the northern edge of Therfield Heath at approximately 67mAOD. The land rises steeply to the south and slopes more gently to the north.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Upton 1 Association (342a), described as *Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk. Mainly on moderately steep, sometimes very steep land. Deeper fine silty calcareous soils in coombes and dry valleys* (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of chalk ascribed to the Holywell Nodular Chalk formation, described as hard nodular chalk (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience). The overlying superficial deposit comprises a mixture of sand, gravel and clay, the result of solifluction of hillwash (ibid).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.5 The trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. The trenches were opened using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.9m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon. Topsoil and subsoil were separated, as was asphalt and chalk overburden.

2.6 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.7 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:20 and 1:100.

RESULTS

2.8 Four evaluation trenches were excavated around the outside of the existing tennis courts and within the area of the proposed extension (Figure 2).

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located to the north of the existing courts. It was aligned east - west and measured 15m in length, 1.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m.

2.10 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil, 0.10m in depth, below which was observed a thin layer of redeposited chalk, 0.05m in depth (Plate 1). Beneath this was the subsoil, a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt matrix, with frequent chalk inclusions, 0.25m in depth.

2.11 The natural chalk was reached at a depth of 0.40m. No significant archaeological features, deposits, or finds were located in the trench.

Trench 1 data:

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	W-E	
Level at W End of Trench(mOD)			Top	67.27	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	66.96
			Base	66.84			Base	66.63
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Max Depth			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil	15+	1.6+	0.10			
-	Layer	Re-deposited chalk	15+	1.6+	0.05			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt subsoil, with frequent chalk	15+	1.6+	0.25			
-	Natural	White (7.5YR 8/1) chalk natural	15+	1.6+	>0.05			

Trench 2

2.12 Trench 2 was located to north of the existing tennis courts and approximately 12m to the south-east of Trench 1, and aligned east to west. It measured 15m in length, 1.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m. The stratigraphy comprised a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil, 0.20m deep, which contained occasional chalk fragments. Below this was a layer of white (7.5YR 8/1) redeposited chalk, 0.27m in depth, which overlay context (203), a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) firm sandy silt containing occasional small stones and with a maximum depth of 0.10m. This has been interpreted as a buried soil (Figure 3, Plate 6). The natural chalk was encountered at a depth of 0.47m.

2.13 The base of a linear feature, cut [201], was encountered at the western end of the trench, below (203). This crossed the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 1.50m in width and 0.15m in depth (Figure 3, Plate 5). It contained fill (202), a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) firm sandy silt. No finds were present to date the feature.

2.14 Ditch [201] was cut by a series of plough marks, [204], which were aligned approximately east west and contained material similar to (203).

Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.64	Orientation	W-E	
Level at W End of Trench(mOD)			Top	66.97	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	66.59
			Base	66.33			Base	66.11
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Max Depth			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil, with occasional chalk	15+	1.6+	0.20			
-	Layer	White (7.5YR 8/1) redeposited chalk	15+	1.6+	0.27			
201	Cut	Linear feature, aligned NE-SW, with concave sides and base. Contains (102)	1.6+	1.5	0.15			
202	Fill	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) firm sandy silt with frequent small to medium chalk fragments. Fill of [201]. No finds present to date the feature.	1.6+	1.5	0.15			
203	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) firm sandy silt with occasional small stones. Buried soil below (202).	15+	1.6+	0.10			
204	Feature	Series of ploughmarks, aligned approximately east west and containing material identical to (203).	3	0.10	Not excavated			

Trench 3

2.15 Trench 3 was located to the east of the existing tennis courts, approximately 13.90m south of Trench 2 and was aligned north-east – south-west (Figure 2, Plate 3). It measured 15m in length, 1.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. The stratigraphy consisted of a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil, 0.10m in depth, above a layer of white (7.5YR 8/1) redeposited chalk, up to 0.30m in depth. The natural chalk was encountered at the southern end at a depth of 0.50m, and at a depth of 0.90m at the northern end.

2.16 A large natural hollow, or possible pit, context [301], was encountered at the northern end (Figure 4). This measured over 12m in width and up to 0.90m in depth. It had gently sloping sides and an irregular flattish base. The feature was filled with modern demolition debris, possibly from the Prisoner of War camp that is believed to have been located nearby.

2.17 No other significant features, deposits or finds were present in the trench.

Trench 3 data:

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.90	Orientation	N-S		
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	66.59	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	66.94
			Base	65.77				Base	66.32
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Max Depth				
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil	15+	1.6+	0.10				
-	Layer	White (7.5YR 8/1) redeposited chalk	15+	1.6+	0.30				
301	Feature	Possible natural hollow backfilled with demolition debris, comprising brick & concrete fragments, possibly from the PoW camp on Therfield Heath.	unknown	12	Max 0.90				

Trench 4

2.18 Trench 4 was located to the east of the existing tennis courts, approximately 7.5m south of Trench 3 and was aligned north - south (Plate 4). It measured 15m in length, 1.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The stratigraphy consisted of a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil, 0.10m in depth, above a layer of greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt, containing frequent chalk fragments, gravel and modern rubble, 0.15m in depth. The natural chalk was encountered at a depth of 0.25m.

2.19 A linear feature, cut [401], was encountered at the southern end of the trench, cut into the redeposited chalk (Figure 5, Plate 7). This crossed the trench on an east – west alignment and measured 0.45m in width and 0.80m in depth, with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained fill (402), a firm greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt, with tip layers of chalk rubble, containing chalk fragments and modern ceramic building material.

2.20 No other significant features, deposits or finds were present in the trench.

Trench 4 data

Length (m):	15	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	67.20	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	67.28
			Base	66.47			Base	66.90
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Max Depth			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt topsoil	15+	1.6+	0.30			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt	15+	1.6+	0.50			
401	Cut	Linear feature, with vertical sides and flat base. Contains fill (402).	1.6+	0.45	0.80			
402	Fill	Firm greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt with frequent chalk fragments and modern ceramic building material.	1.6+	0.45	0.80			

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 9, which defines Therfield Heath. The area is considered to form one of the best surviving ancient landscapes in the county and includes a Neolithic long barrow (SM17), a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (SM97), a length of Iron Age Boundary Ditches (SM125), medieval stock pens and ridge and furrow cultivation terraces.

3.2 Evidence for Roman activity has been recorded from the immediate vicinity of the present site, including coins and other evidence of occupation (HER1489) from the west side of Briary Lane, approximately 500m to the east, and two parallel ditches (HER12143), one of which produced a sherd of Roman pottery, approximately 150m to the east. Baldock Road is thought to follow the line of a Roman road (HER4631). The site of a supposed Roman camp (HER7196), located approximately quarter of a mile from Royston on the Baldock Road, was shown to the Society of Antiquaries in 1744. No other evidence for this feature has yet been discovered.

3.3 Ivy Farm (HER15989) is a 19th century farmstead on the north side of Baldock Road approximately 400m to the north-west. Archaeological evaluation at the farm revealed a possible east – west aligned trackway (HER16210) and rubbish pits of 19th/20th century date (HER16211).

3.4 During the Second World War a prisoner of war camp, known as Camp 29 Royston West, was set up on Therfield Heath (HER11401). Features relating to this camp, including concrete settings which may represent the base of a watchtower, were identified during archaeological investigations at Therfield Heath car park in 2001, approximately 50m to the west of the present site.

Research Design

3.5 The aim of the present evaluation has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

3.6 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the archaeological landscape of Therfield Heath. In particular there was the potential to place the results in the wider context of the prehistoric landscape and of regional land use from the Romano-British period onwards.

Conclusions

3.7 Despite the defined archaeological potential of the site, which lies on the northern edge of Therfield Heath, an area known to have attracted activity from the Neolithic period onwards, the four evaluation trenches revealed only slight evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period.

3.8 The earliest feature on the site was a linear ditch, cut [201], at the western end of Trench 2. This was aligned north-east to south-west and was covered by a buried soil, context (203). It had clearly been truncated by later ploughing. No finds were recovered from its fill to date the feature.

3.9 A large natural hollow or possible pit, feature [301], was encountered in Trench 3. This had been filled with modern demolition debris, comprising concrete and brick rubble, which may have come from the World War 2 Prisoner of War camp on Therfield Heath.

3.10 A modern linear feature, cut [401], was observed at the southern end of Trench 4. This ran east - west and contained modern ceramic building material. It may also be related to the prisoner of war camp.

3.11 No other features, deposits or finds were encountered during the present project.

3.12 The trenches were targeted evenly across the site in areas that would be subject to disturbance from the development groundworks. An area of 96m² was investigated, representing approximately 5% of the area directly affected by the extension to the tennis courts.

Impact of the proposed development

3.13 The specification for the construction of the tennis courts requires the laying of 0.30m of sub-base and surfacing materials. Because of the slope on the site which falls towards the north, the potential impact of groundworks is greatest towards the south, where up to 0.50m of overburden will have to be removed to achieve the required finished levels. At the northern end of the site the levels will need to be built up by approximately 0.15m. The construction works also include the excavation of a perimeter drain, which may be positioned below the aggregate sub-base, and the installation of fencing and lighting. On this basis the risk that the proposed development will impact buried archaeological remains may be considered to be *High* at the southern end of the site, reducing to *Low* at the northern end.

3.14 The present project has demonstrated that features of archaeological significance are present on the site and these have the potential to provide further information on the previous exploitation of Therfield Heath, particularly in the recent past. Little is known about the Prisoner of War camp believed to have been located nearby and features such as [301] and [401] may provide further information on its layout.

3.15 On this basis, the significance of any potential remains encountered during the groundworks for the extension to the tennis courts may be considered to be *High*.

3.16 Given the nature of the recorded features, it is considered that any further intervention that may be required by the planning authority could be limited to the monitoring of groundworks.

Confidence Rating

3.17 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed two linear features, one of which was demonstrably modern and the other undated, and a natural hollow or large pit which had been backfilled with demolition debris, possibly from the nearby World War 2 Prisoner of War camp.

3.18 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4 Bibliography

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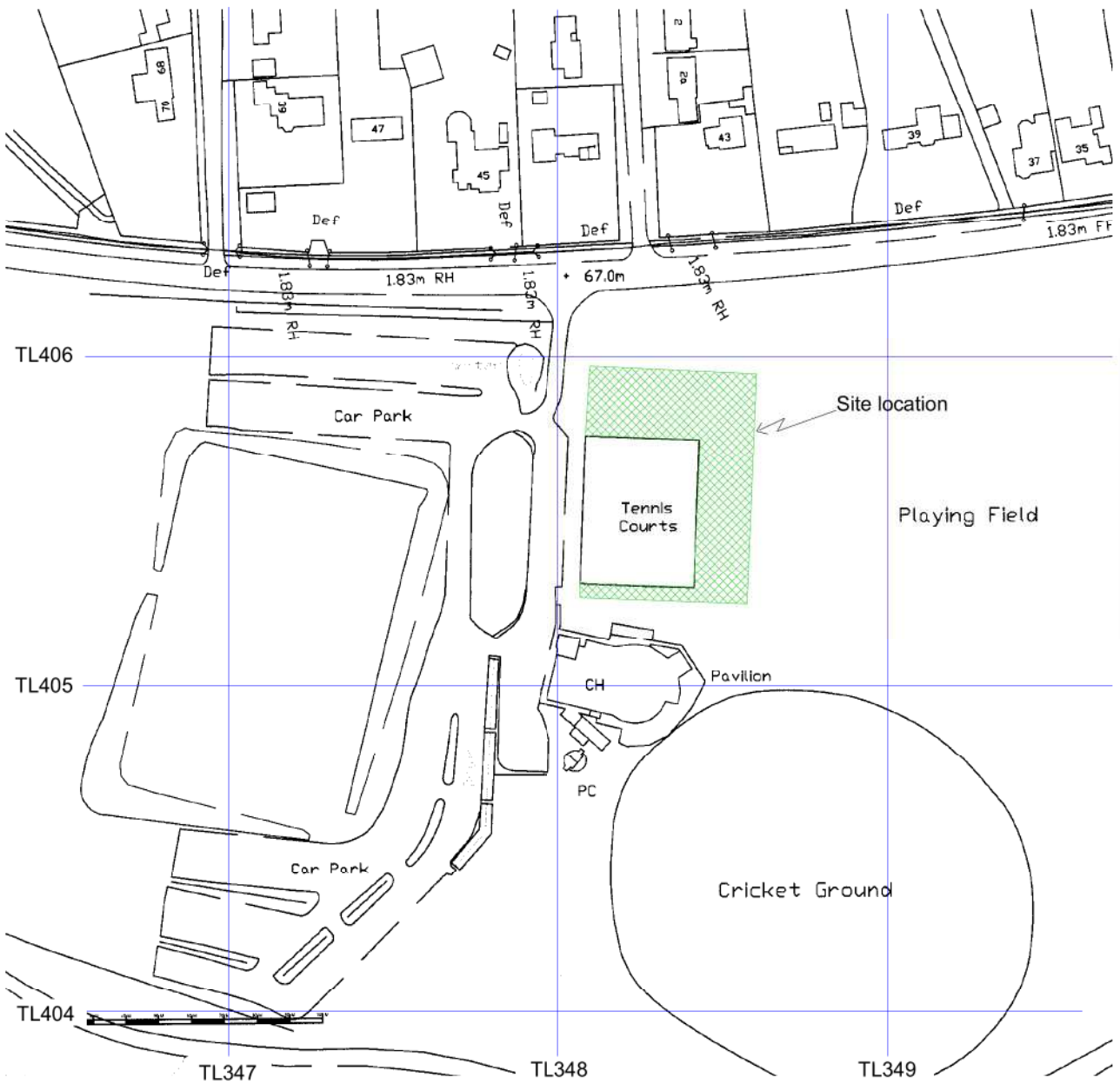
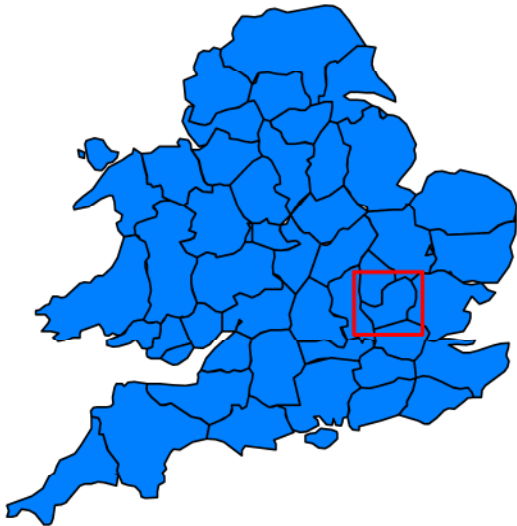
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Snee, J. 2010 *Heath Sports Club, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire – Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network

www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience

5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Trench 2 plan and section
Figure 4	Trench 3 plan and section
Figure 5	Trench 4 plan and section
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking east
Plate 2	Trench 2, looking east
Plate 3	Trench 3, looking north
Plate 4	Trench 4, looking north
Plate 5	Cut [201], looking east
Plate 6	Sample section, Tr. 2, showing buried soil (203)
Plate 7	Cut [401], looking west

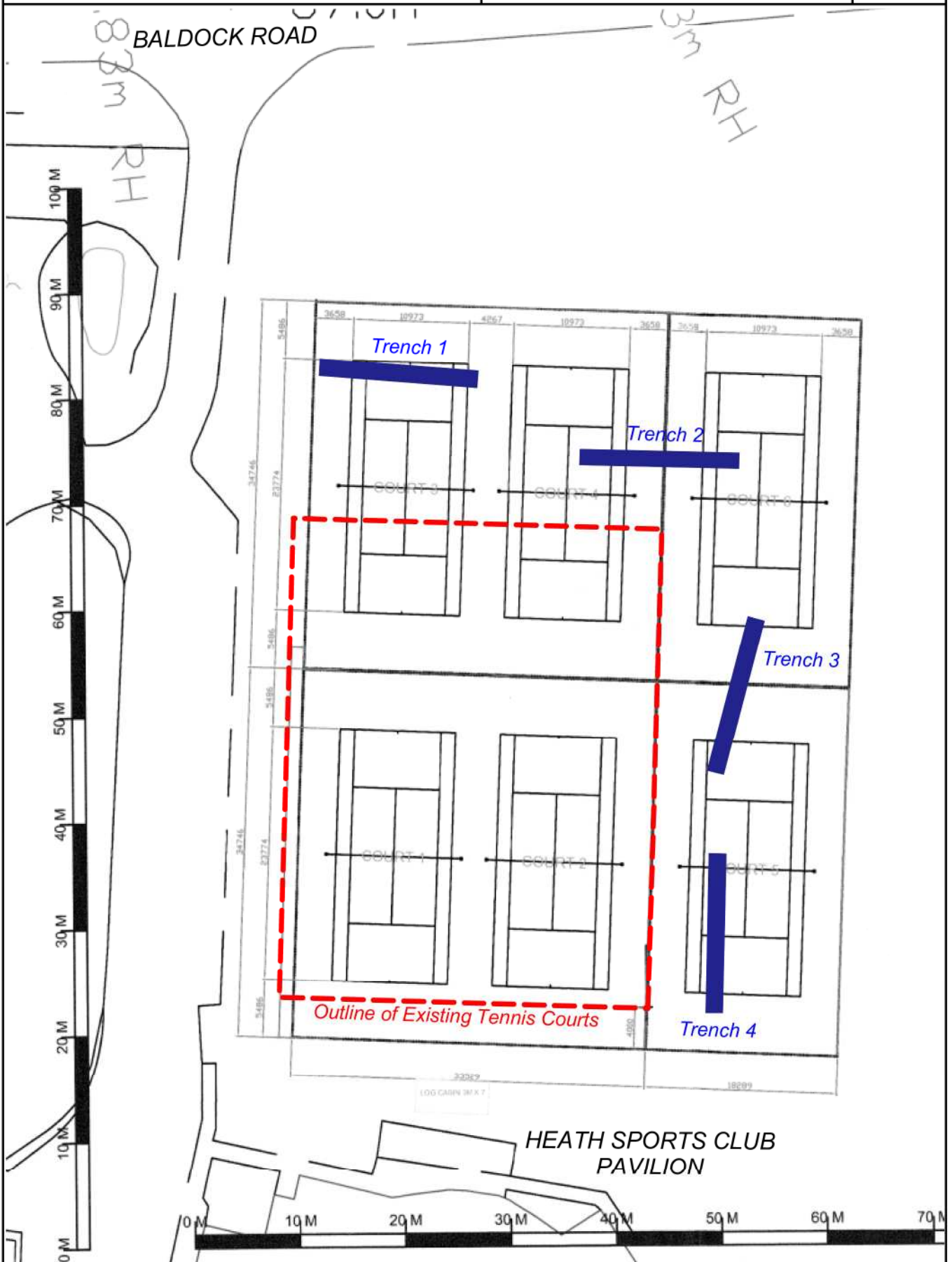


Site Location

Scale 1:2000

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Figure 1

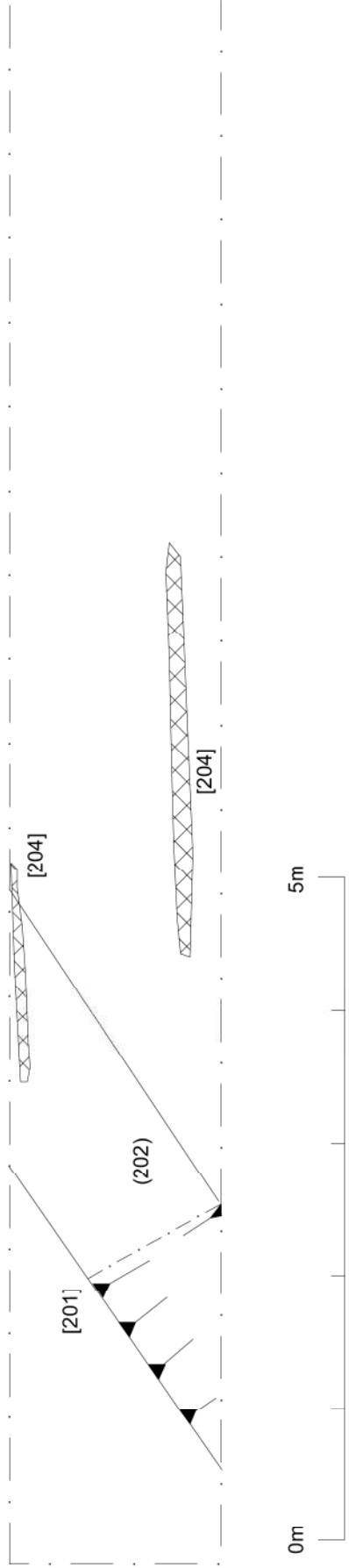


Trench Location Plan

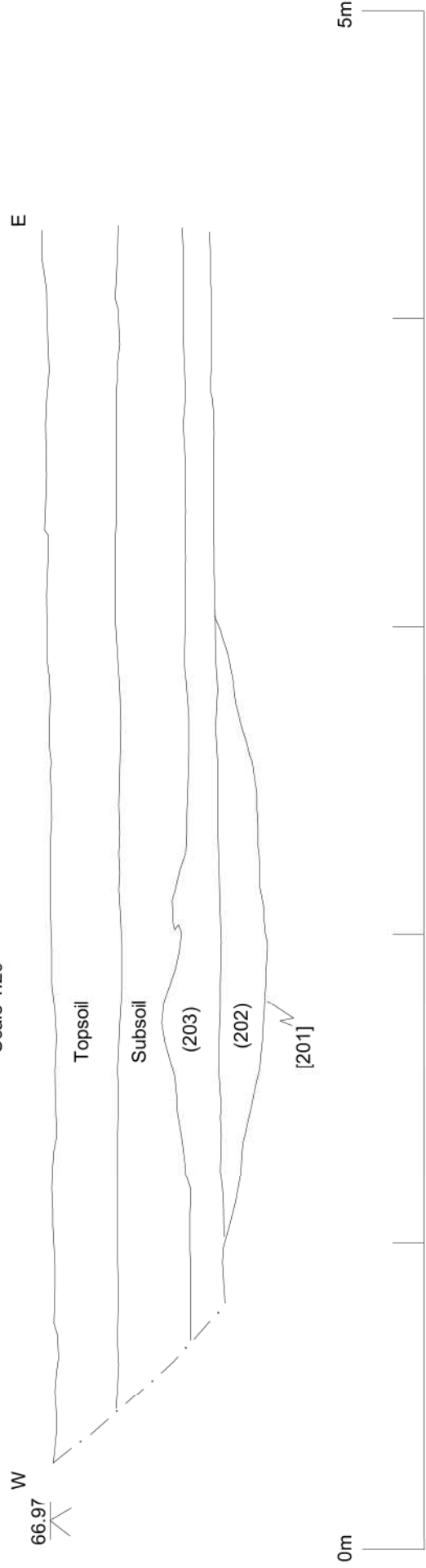
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Figure 2

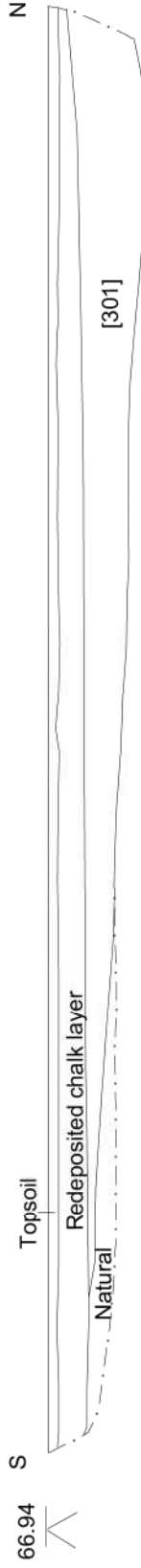
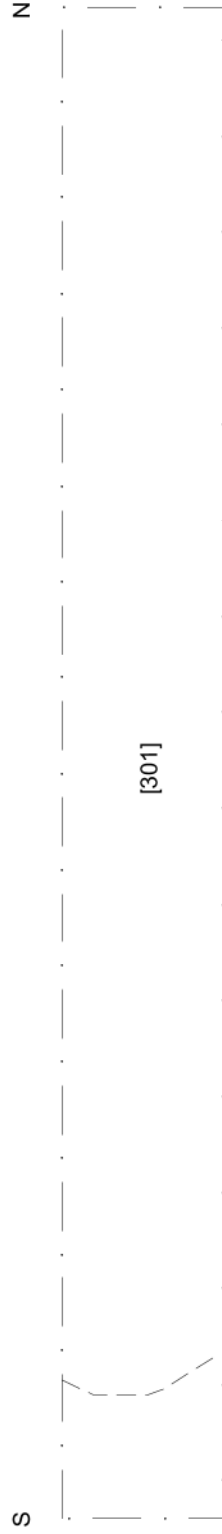
Scale 1:50



Scale 1:20



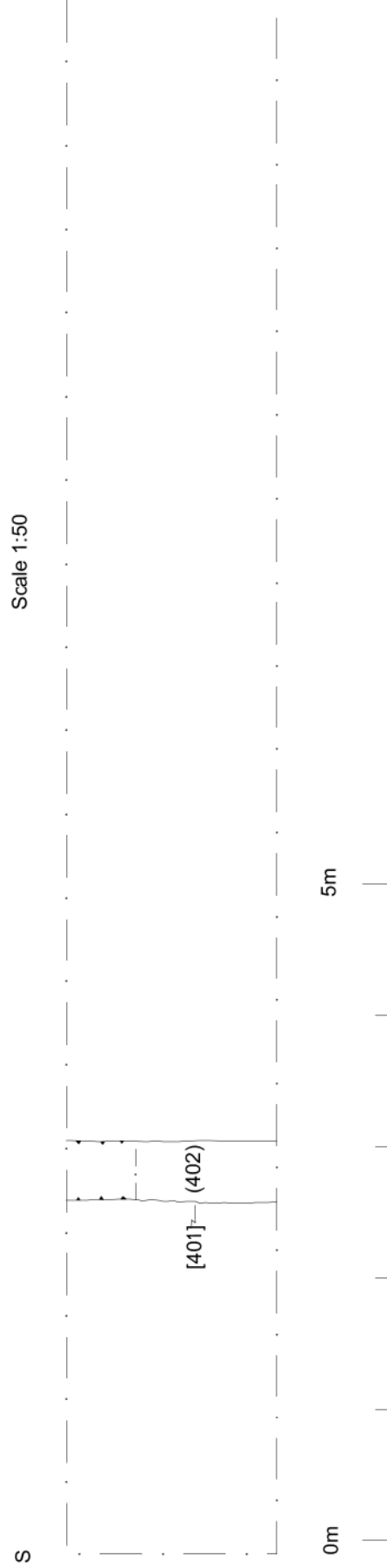
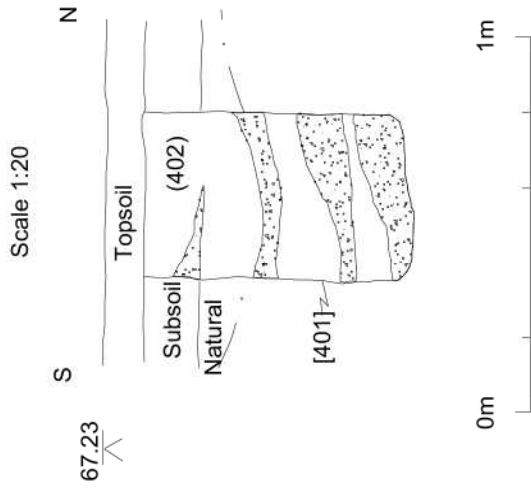
Trench 2, plan and section



66.94



Trench 3, plan and section



Trench 4, plan and section of feature [401]



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking north



Plate 5: Cut [201], looking east



Plate 6: Sample section, Trench 2, showing buried soil (203)



Plate 7: Cut [401], looking west

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-80233</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Royston, Royston Tennis Club, Heath Sports Centre, Baldock Road
Short description of the project	In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed extended tennis court area at Heath Sports Club, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Royston Tennis Club to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. The site lies on the western edge of Royston, on the south side of Baldock Road and on the northern edge of Therfield Heath. Ten HER entries are located within a 500m radius of the site centre. These range in date from the Neolithic to the modern period. Despite the defined archaeological potential of the site, which lies on the northern edge of Therfield Heath, an area known to have attracted activity from the Neolithic period onwards, the four evaluation trenches revealed only slight evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period. The earliest feature on the site comprised an undated ditch on the north side of the existing tennis courts. This had been truncated by later ploughing. Two modern features were also recorded, a large hollow, filled with demolition debris from the World War 2 prisoner of war camp and a linear feature of unknown purpose. Monitoring of the preliminary groundworks noted further modern demolition debris, also assumed to be from the PoW camp.
Project dates	Start: 18-08-2010 End: 20-08-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IIN875 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 1 - Heathland
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	LINEAR Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
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	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE ROYSTON Royston Tennis Club, Baldock Road
Postcode	SG8 5BJ
Study area	2046.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 34835 40560 52.0465725965 -0.033597316494 52 02 47 N 000 02 00 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design	Heritage Network

originator	
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	North Herts Museums Service
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Heath Sports Club, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.615
Date	2010
Place of issue or publication	Heritage Network
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 13 pages, 6 figures, 8 photographic plates

Addendum

Monitoring and Recording

1. On the basis of the conclusions of the evaluation stage of the present project, a programme of monitoring of the development groundworks was requested by the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to the NHDC. It was agreed that this would focus on the areas where there was a potential impact on archaeological features and deposits identified in the evaluation.
2. On the 21st and 22nd September 2010, Heritage Network staff attended the site to monitor the preliminary groundworks.
3. The removal of topsoil to the east of the existing tennis courts revealed a slightly raised area of rubble rich overburden, approximately 18m wide, which also contained localised patches of ash and cinder. This appeared to be oriented east west and was adjacent to Trench 3 of the evaluation, which had contained significant amounts of demolition debris. The brick fragments observed in the rubble were consistent with those found during the evaluation. Although disturbed and ephemeral this material is likely to be associated with the World War II prisoner of war camp that formerly occupied this part of Therfield Heath.
4. The preliminary strip of the area to the south of the existing tennis courts did not reveal any potential archaeological features. A second strip over the same area confirmed the absence of archaeological deposits and demonstrated that the bank was formed of natural chalk bedrock that had been cut away to terrace the site.

Illustrations

Figure A1Composite plan including deposits observed during monitoring of groundworks

Plate A1 Rubble deposit after removal of topsoil, looking north

Plate A2 Chalk bank after removal of overburden, looking west

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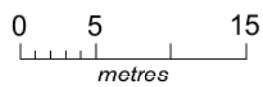
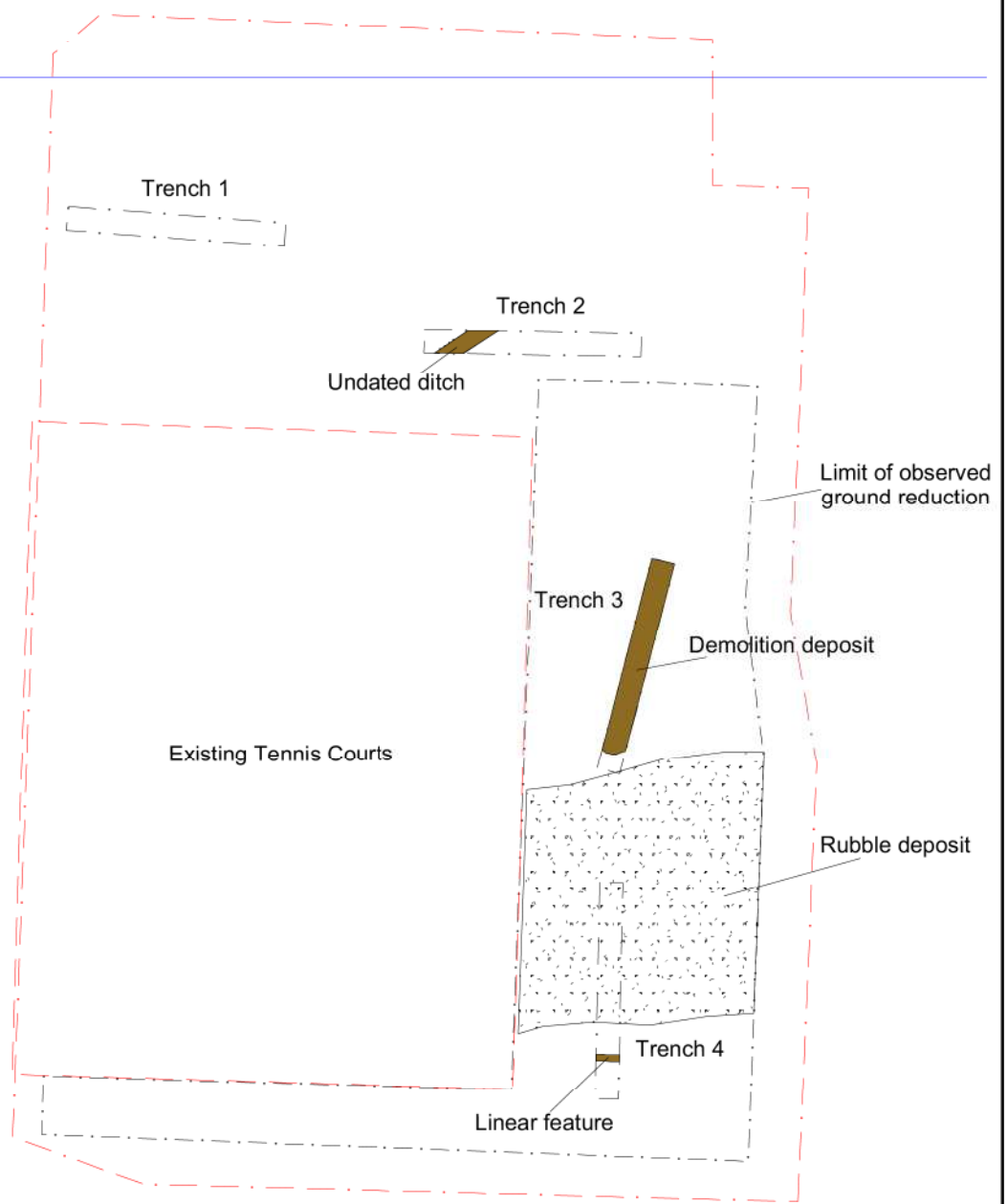




Plate A1: Rubble deposit after removal of topsoil, looking north.



Plate A2: Chalk bank after removal of overburden, looking west.