OPENVIEW SPORTS GROUND, EARLSFIELD SW18

LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY

January 2007

OPENVIEW SPORTS GROUND, EARLSFIELD SW18

LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: OVS 06

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 2654 7313

PLANNING REF: PA/05/2536

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Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation that took place at Openview Sports Ground, Earlsfield, London Borough of Wandsworth, between the 11th December and the 18th December 2006. The work was carried out as part of the planning process prior to the construction of new facilities and playing pitches.

There was some potential for prehistoric finds. There was low potential for finds from any other period up to post-medieval and historic maps show the land has been in open use for agricultural purposes until the end of the 19th century.

The evaluation consisted of 9 trial trenches each measuring 2m wide by between 10-30m in length, a total area of some 520 square metres. A geophysical survey was previously carried out to determine the extent of the underlying archaeological features, and to inform on the locating of the trial trenches in order to best record the potential archaeology. The geophysical survey identified a number of potential archaeological features: these included two possible enclosures, pits and linear features.

Each trench was excavated by machine down to the level of the natural Head deposit. There were no significant finds. A simple sequence of topsoil and underlying subsoil was removed to expose archaeological features cutting the natural Head deposit. Investigation of the features identified by the geophysical survey revealed the potential enclosure features as natural gravel anomalies within the Head deposit. Two small pits produced late post-medieval finds and the linear features were identified as modern field drains. A single flint core of Mesolithic or Neolithic date was found residually within one of the fairly recent features.

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Fig 3 based on a Site Survey by Premier Surveys Ltd., Ref. 3527_2 (Feb. 2005)

1. Introduction

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation that took place at Openview Sports Ground, Earlsfield SW18, prior to the construction of new facilities and playing pitches (Planning Ref. 2005/2536).

1.2 The development area covered an approximately rectangular plot of land with overall dimensions of about 220m by 160m (approximately 3.2 ha), roughly centred at NGR TQ 2654 7313 (Figures 1 & 2).

1.3 The site was considered to have potential for archaeological remains, in particular of prehistoric date. The historical and archaeological background has been considered in a previous desk-based assessment (*Compass Archaeology, April 2005*), and a subsequent geophysical survey has also been undertaken (*Stratascan September 2006, Job No: J2213*).

The plot lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Wandsworth UDP Proposals Map (APA 4 [43]).

1.4 English Heritage (GLAAS) advised that archaeological field evaluation of the site should be undertaken as a condition of planning consent. This advice was set out in a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* (October 2005) and refined in subsequent discussions.

1.5 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 11th and the 18th December 2006. The evaluation consisted of machine clearance of nine trial trenches, covering an overall area of *c* 520 square metres, followed by hand investigation, recording of deposits and remains and the recovery of dating and environmental evidence. There was a contingency for a further 120 sq. metres of trenching if significant features needed further investigation, however this was not required.

2. Acknowledgements

Compass Archaeology is grateful to Capita Symonds for commissioning the archaeological assessment on behalf of the DfES, and to the following individuals:

Lucy Rutland, Project Manager, Capita Symonds

Jon Cotton, Senior Curator (Prehistory), Museum of London

Steve Irons & colleagues at the Openview Sports Ground.

Archaeological measures on this site were supported by Diane Walls, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, English Heritage.

3. Site location and geology

3.1 The redevelopment covers an approximately rectangular plot of land with overall dimensions of about 220m by 160m (approximately 3.2 ha), bordered by Openview to the west and Fieldview to the east.

3.2 The site is located on a gentle southwest-facing slope above the Wandle Valley, at between about 13.0m and 18.0m OD (approximately centred at NGR TQ 2654 7313). The British Geological Survey (*Sheet 270,* 1998) indicates that this area overlies a natural Head deposit, described as sand, silt and clay. This deposit was punctuated by sporadic gravel patches throughout the site.

4. Archaeological and historical background

The background to the site has been described in the desk-based assessment, supplemented by the geophysical survey, and is briefly summarised below.

4.1 Archaeological evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site is quite limited, with some scattered prehistoric finds on the nearby gravel terraces. Roman, Saxon and medieval references are also scarce, and tend to indicate settlement located either in the Wandle Valley or in small settlements such as Garret's Green to the southwest. Map evidence shows that most of the area round the site remained open land until the mid 19th century, though presumably in agricultural use. The site itself was occupied by fields until *c* 1900, and had become a sports ground by 1910.

4.2 The assessment concluded that based upon available evidence the site had a relatively low potential for archaeological remains, although noting that landscape features of prehistoric or Roman date may be present on the site. It also considered that potential archaeological deposits and features might be quite close to the present surface, and so likely to be affected by a range of groundworks.

4.3 The more recent geophysical survey defined a number of anomalies that may represent archaeological remains, as well as other responses that probably relate to modern pipework or to other buried metal objects.

4.4 Potential archaeological features that were defined by geophysics included two large (*c* 10-15m) curvilinear traces, which it was suggested could be the ditches of prehistoric round barrows. There were also several linear anomalies in the north and east of the survey area: some of these may be of agricultural origin although there was little that can be related to historic maps. Two localised anomalies in the southern part of the site represented by discrete spots were thought likely to represent pits, which could be archaeological or of fairly recent date.

5. Aims and objectives of the evaluation

5.1 The archaeological brief

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*).

Thus the objective will be to establish information on as many of the research questions as possible, whilst primarily answering the terms of the brief which is to provide information on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (*eg*, preservation *in situ* or archaeological rescue excavation), or for no further action.

5.2 Archaeological research questions

The site presents an opportunity to address a number of research questions. These include both general issues and specific queries highlighted by the results of the geophysical survey:

- Has there been any change to the natural topography of the site, for example reworking or truncation of the natural slope?

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* or residual, and does the former include the curvilinear and other features highlighted by the geophysical survey?

  Also, how does any prehistoric evidence relate to previous finds in the area, including Palaeolithic artefacts from Wandsworth Common and later prehistoric remains in the Wandle Valley?

- Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and can this be used to indicate the nature of local activity (*eg,* settlement or agriculture)? Can such evidence be related to the geophysics findings?

- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this appear to be purely agricultural? Can any features be related to geophysics anomalies or to other mapped historic field boundaries?

6. Methodology

6.1 Initial clearance of the trial trenches was undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator working under archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed by machine down to the level of the natural Head deposit

6.2 Following initial machine clearance archaeological deposits and features were be selectively excavated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence. Additional techniques were applied where appropriate (for example, environmental sampling or metal detecting). Particular attention was given to evidence for *in situ* human activity.

6.3 Archaeological contexts were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and where necessary drawn in plan and/or section. The trench positions were recorded on a general site plan, and related with appropriate accuracy to the Ordnance Survey grid.

The recording system used follows the MoL Site Manual for on-site work. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork record was supplemented by photography.

6.4 The objective of the evaluation was to define the character, extent and significance of potential remains, and to recover dating and environmental evidence, rather than to fully excavate.

7. The archaeological evaluation

The proposed evaluation consisted of eleven trial trenches, each *c* 2m wide and between 10m and 30m in length. These were located across the site as shown on Figure 3, with particular emphasis on the sampling of potentially significant geophysics anomalies. In two areas on the eastern side of the site trenches were joined to form a T-shape. Use of the contingency (up to two 30m trenches or equivalent) was to be determined subject to the initial findings on site.

In each trench a simple sequence of deposits was revealed. This consisted of the sod layer of the playing fields overlying a clean dark brown topsoil layer [C1], which in turn overlay – and presumably truncated – a light orange/brown subsoil layer [C2]. The lowest deposit exposed was an orange sandy clay layer with some gravel [C3] representing the top of the natural Head deposit.

7.1 Trench 1 (Figs 4-6)

This northeast-southwest running trench was located in the centre of the site towards the northwest boundary (Fig 1). Its principle measurements were 2m wide by 30m in length. Sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine from a pre-excavation level of 44.95m OD in the northeast end of the trench, sloping gradually to 44.3m OD in the southwest end of the trench.

The exposed profile was approximately 0.65m thick. The natural Head deposit [C3] was uncovered at 44.28m OD in the northeast end of the site and at 43.6m OD at the southwest end, sloping in line with the general topography of the site. The overlying

subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.25m thick and was overlain/truncated by a topsoil and sod layer 0.4m thick.

Two linear features running in a northwest-southeast direction were exposed at the level of the natural Head deposit. The northern feature was entirely modern and probably relates to drainage works conducted during the 1980's. The drain was recorded on plan but not assigned a context number or investigated further. The southern feature [C11] was again a field drain, though of a somewhat earlier date, probably dating to the early 20th century based on map evidence and ceramic finds from the fill [C10] of the drain construction cut.

There were no further features or significant finds in the trench. The simple sequence of subsoil and topsoil layers probably represent the fact that the site has been open or agricultural land for some time.

7.2 Trench 2 (Figs 7-9)

Located centrally towards the western site boundary and running in a northwest-southeast direction, Trench 2 again measured 2m wide by 30m in length. The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine from a present ground level of 44.5m OD at the southeast end of the trench, sloping to 43.95m OD at the northwest end.

The exposed profile was similar to that of the nearby Trench 1. The natural Head deposit [C3] was exposed approximately 0.6m below present ground level, at approximately 43.89m OD at the southeast end of the trench sloping to 43.44m OD at the northwest end and in line with the topography of the site. Overlying the natural was the generic orange/brown subsoil layer [C2] approximately 0.28m thick. The subsoil was truncated by the reworked topsoil [C1] and sod layer some 0.35m thick.

The trench contained no features or significant finds. The subsoil and topsoil deposits are representative of the open use/agricultural function of the site in recent history. The geophysical survey identified an anomaly in the form of a three-quartered curvilinear feature. The trench was positioned to contain within it the northwest and southeast returns of the feature. However, there was no evidence of a cut feature along the length of the trench. The anomaly identified in the geophysical survey appeared as expected in the northwest of the trench and again in the centre as a stony outcrop within the natural Head deposit. Investigations revealed both areas to be natural geological formations and may represent part of the Kempton Park River Terrace Gravels as detailed in 2.2 above.

7.3 Trench 3 (Figs 10-12)

Trench 3 was located by the northwest boundary of the site within the footprint of a proposed pavilion/ clubhouse development. The trench measured 2m wide by 30m in length running in a northeast-southwest direction. The present ground surface prior to excavation was at 43.49m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping to 42.8m OD at the south end of the trench.

The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine to the level of the natural Head deposit [C3]. This was recorded approximately 0.6m below present ground level at 42.89m OD at the north of the trench, sloping along the general line of the topography to 42.58m OD at the south of the trench. The overlying subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.1m – 0.25m thick, its varying thickness can be put down to truncation due to reworking of the above topsoil over time. The subsoil contained no finds. The topsoil and sod layer truncated/overlay the subsoil and had a combined thickness of some 0.4m, creating an overall trench profile *c* 0.6m thick. The topsoil contained fragments of 19th century and later ceramic sherds.

The trench contained no cut features, deposits or significant finds.

7.4 Trench 4 (Figs 13-15)

Trench 4 was located centrally by the northwest site boundary. Its principle measurements were 2m wide by 30m in length, running in a northwest-southeast direction. The present ground surface prior to excavation was recorded at 44.75m OD at the northwest end of the trench, sloping gently to 44.84m OD at the southeast.

Overlying subsoil, topsoil and sod layers were excavated by machine to the depth of the natural head deposit [C3]. This was exposed at 44.2m OD at the northwest end of the trench. At this point on the site the slope of the natural Head deposit was negligible, and was recorded at 44.19m OD at the southeast end of the trench. The overlying subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.2m thick and contained no finds. This was truncated by the topsoil [C1] and overlying sod layer some 0.4m thick, which contained some modern brick and pottery fragments.

The trench contained a single cut feature [C9], previously shown as a linear anomaly by the geophysics survey. Excavations revealed this to be a field drain which, based on map evidence, is likely to date to the early 20th century.

There were no other cut features or significant finds within Trench 4. The geophysical survey had identified another curvilinear anomaly. The positioning of the trench was designed to catch the northern and southern returns of this possible enclosure. However, as with Trench 2, the anomaly proved to be a natural geological formation and probably represented a patch of natural River Terrace Grave within the natural Head deposit.

7.5 Trench 5 (Figs 16-18)

The trench was located in the northeast corner of the site and consisted of two by 20m lengths of trenching by 2m wide, positioned so as to form a single T shaped trench. The trenches ran northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast respectively.

The present ground surface was recorded at 44.59m OD and 44.04m OD at either end of the northwest-southeast running trench, sloping to the southwest. Present ground surface in the northwest-southeast running trench was recorded at 44.32m OD and 44.65m OD, representing a slope to the southeast.

The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine to the level of the natural Head deposit [C3]. This was exposed at *c* 0.5m below present ground across the trench. The overlying subsoil layer [C2] was approximately 0.25m thick and was truncated by the topsoil [C1] and overlying sod layer a further 0.25m in thickness, creating an overall trench profile some 0.5m thick.

The trench contained two cut features consisting of a north-south linear feature that was identified by the geophysical survey, and an east-west running field drain [C7]. The north-south feature was, judging by its fill, a late 20th century field drain and was not recorded. [C7] was identical to the drain found in Trench 4 and is presumably an offshoot of this drain, datable by map evidence to the early 20th century.

The geophysical survey also identified an anomaly at the intersection of the two trenches, possibly related to ground disturbance; however, there was no evidence of any features or deposits in section or cutting the natural.

There were no other cut features, deposits or significant finds. The revealed sequence of deposits again represents land in open use for some time.

7.6 Trench 6 (Figs 19-25)

Trench 6 was located centrally by the eastern site boundary. The trench measured 2m wide by 30m in length running in a northwest-southeast direction. The present ground surface was recorded at 42.91m OD at the northwest end of the trench sloping slightly to 43.25m OD at the southeast end.

The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed to the depth of the natural Head deposit [C3]. The deposit became visible approximately 0.5m below present ground level at 42.46m OD at the northwest end of the trench, sloping to 42.74m OD at the southeast end. The overlying subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.2m thick and was truncated by the reworked topsoil layer [C1]. The topsoil and sod layer had a thickness of 0.3m giving a combined trench profile 0.5m thick.

The trench contained two sub-circular features both cutting the natural Head deposit. [C13] and [C15] were located mid way along Trench 6, approximately 1m apart. [C13] was a small sub-circular feature 0.6m in diameter; the cut had a depth of 0.4m. It was filled by a grey/brown clayey silt [C12]. The fill contained a fragment of a clay pipe stem and sherds of late post-medieval ceramics. A small opposed platform flint core dating to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period was recovered towards the base of the fill. The flint measured up to 24mm by 33mm and is derived from a secondary source, probably the local Wandle Gravels (Jon Cotton *pers comm*).

[C15] was located 1m southeast of [C13], and was a similar shape, though with more rounded corners, 0.55m in diameter. It was filled by a grey/brown clayey silt that contained no finds. In profile the cut had a depth of 0.35m. The function of the two pits is uncertain, thought the clay pipe and ceramic finds date one pit certainly to the post-medieval period. It is likely that the pits are related to sporting activities; indeed the area around Trench 6 was used at one stage for tennis courts.

The trench contained no further features, deposits or significant finds.

7.7 Trench 7 (Figs 26-28)

The trench was located in the southeast of the site. Running in a northwest-southeast direction the trench measured 2m wide by 30m in length. The present ground surface was recorded at 45.43m OD at the northwest end of the trench sloping to 46.31m OD at the southeast end.

The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine to expose the natural Head deposit [C3] which became visible at 44.37m OD at the northwest end of the trench, sloping to 45.53m OD at the southeast end. The overlying subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.3m thick and contained no finds. The subsoil was truncated by the overlying topsoil layer [C1]. The combined thickness of the soil profile was 0.8m.

The trench contained a modern plastic field drain and an early 20th century drain [C17] similar to those in trenches 1, 4 and 5. The geophysical survey identified a small circular anomaly at the southeast end of the trench. Investigations revealed this to be a natural geological formation of stones and pebbles within the Head deposit.

There were no further features, deposits or significant finds.

7.8 Trench 8 (Figs 29-32

Trench 8 was located in the southeast corner of the site and consisted of a 2m by 20m trench and a 2m by 10m trench intersecting to form an inverted T shaped trench. The present ground surface was recorded at 46.97m OD at the northwest end of the trench, sloping to 47.32m OD at the southeast end.

The natural Head deposit [C3] was exposed by machine approximately 0.7m below present ground level at 46.22m OD at the northwest end of the trench, sloping to 46.61m OD at the southeast end. The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine to the depth of the natural Head deposit. The exposed profile was 0.7m thick, consisting of 0.3m of subsoil [C2] and 0.4m of topsoil [C1] and sod layer. The topsoil layer contained fragments of brick and other modern ceramic artefacts.

The trench contained no features, deposits or significant finds. The geophysical survey had identified a circular anomaly in the northwest end of the trench, similar to that seen in Trench 7. Again investigations revealed it to be a natural deposit of stones and pebbles within the natural Head deposit.

7.9 Trench 9 (Figs 33-35)

Trench 9 was located in the southeast of the site running in a northeast-southwest direction and measured 2m wide by 10m in length. The present ground surface prior to excavation was fairly level at 47.5m OD across the trench.

The sod, topsoil and subsoil layers were removed to the level of the natural Head deposit which was exposed at 46.85m OD across the trench. The overlying subsoil [C2] was approximately 0.35m thick and was truncated by the topsoil layer [C1]. The sod and topsoil layer was approximately 0.4m thick.

The trench contained no features, deposits or finds. The large anomaly in the southeast of the site identified by the geophysical survey probably represents slight variations in the natural Head layer.

8. Assessment of the results of the archaeological evaluation

The archaeological evaluation gave the opportunity to address the research questions posed in section 5.1 above. Those questions are reiterated below, followed by the findings.

- *Has there been any change to the natural topography of the site, for example reworking or truncation of the natural slope?*

There was no evidence of any reworking of the natural topography. The natural slope and level of the natural Head deposit below recent ground remains constant throughout the site.

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either in situ or residual, and does the former include the curvilinear and other features highlighted by the geophysical survey?*

  Also, how does any prehistoric evidence relate to previous finds in the area, including Palaeolithic artefacts from Wandsworth Common and later prehistoric remains in the Wandle Valley?

There was no evidence of *in situ* prehistoric activity. A single residual flint core was recovered from a small circular pit cut [13] (Fig 22), and does not have any direct relevance to other prehistoric finds in the area.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and can this be used to indicate the nature of local activity (eg, settlement or agriculture)? Can such evidence be related to the geophysics findings?*

There was no evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity.

- *What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this appear to be purely agricultural? Can any features be related to geophysics anomalies or to other mapped historic field boundaries?*

Evidence for post-medieval activity is provided by two small sub-circular pits [13] and [15] (Figs 22 & 24). The pits produced fragments of tile and clay pipe stems. The features bear no relation to historical field boundaries and are probably the truncated remains of pits related to previous sporting activities, e.g. goal posts. The linear features identified by the geophysical survey were identified as modern field drains relating to the initial development of the site in the early 20th century.

9. Conclusion

The site contained no significant features or deposits. The simple sequence of subsoil and topsoil layers overlying the natural Head deposit represent how the land was in open/agricultural use in recent history. The geophysical survey identified anomalies with archaeological potential. These included two curvilinear enclosure features, a series of linear features crossing the site and several small circular features. The curvilinear features were investigated and identified as natural gravel deposits within the natural Head deposit, while the linear features proved to be ceramic land drains dating to the 20th century and probably relating to the initial development of the site.

Two pit features within Trench 6 produced finds dating to the late post-medieval period and may represent the remains of post pits truncated by later cultivation. The only notable find was a flint core recovered from one of these pits. Though dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period, this was a residual find and not representative of prehistoric activity on the site, rather it shows that there was some prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site and the general surrounding area.

Further anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were not archaeologically significant, instead representing geological variations in the natural Head deposit.

It is therefore suggested that no further archaeological work should take place in relation to this planning application.

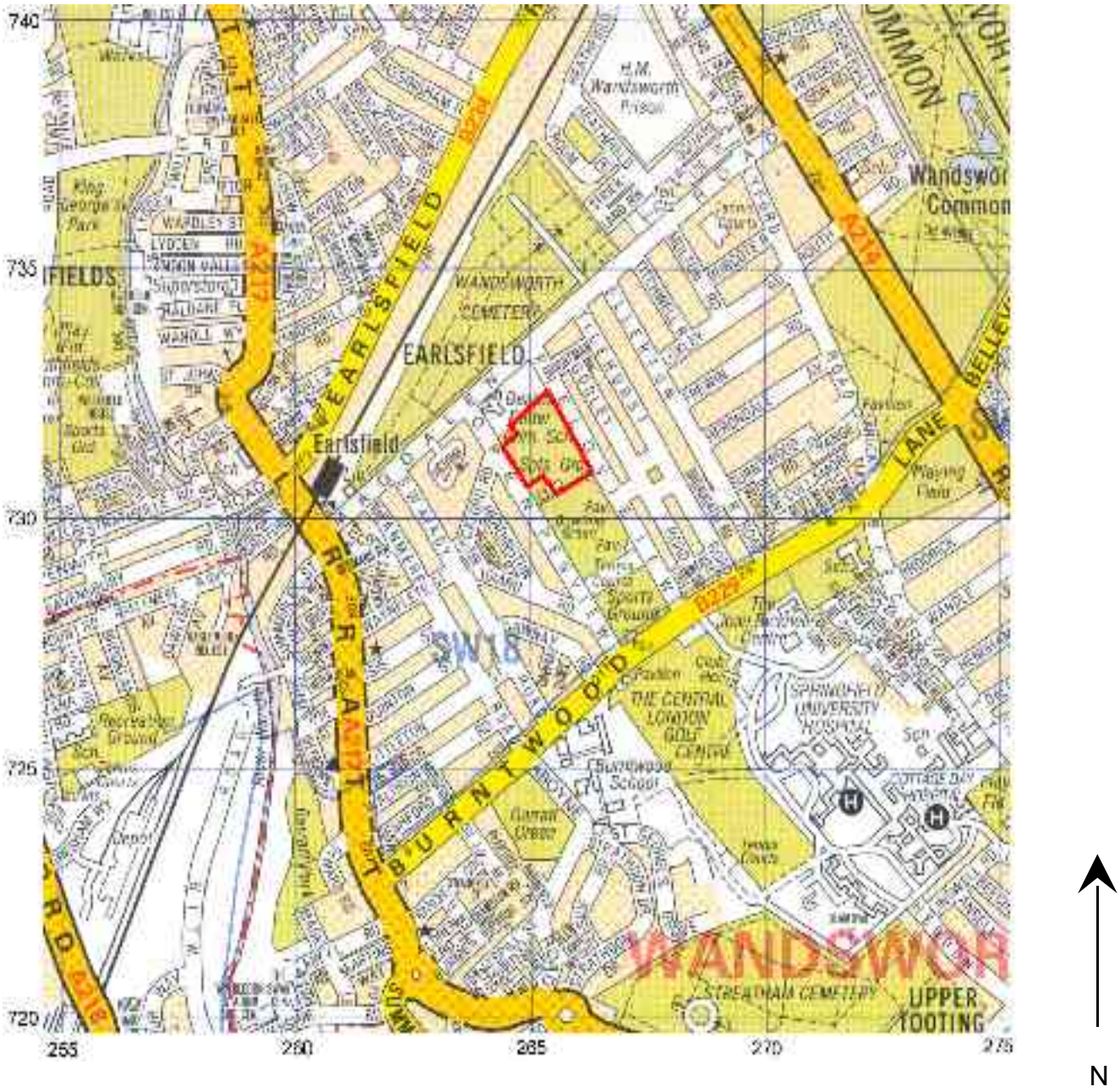

Fig 1 Site location

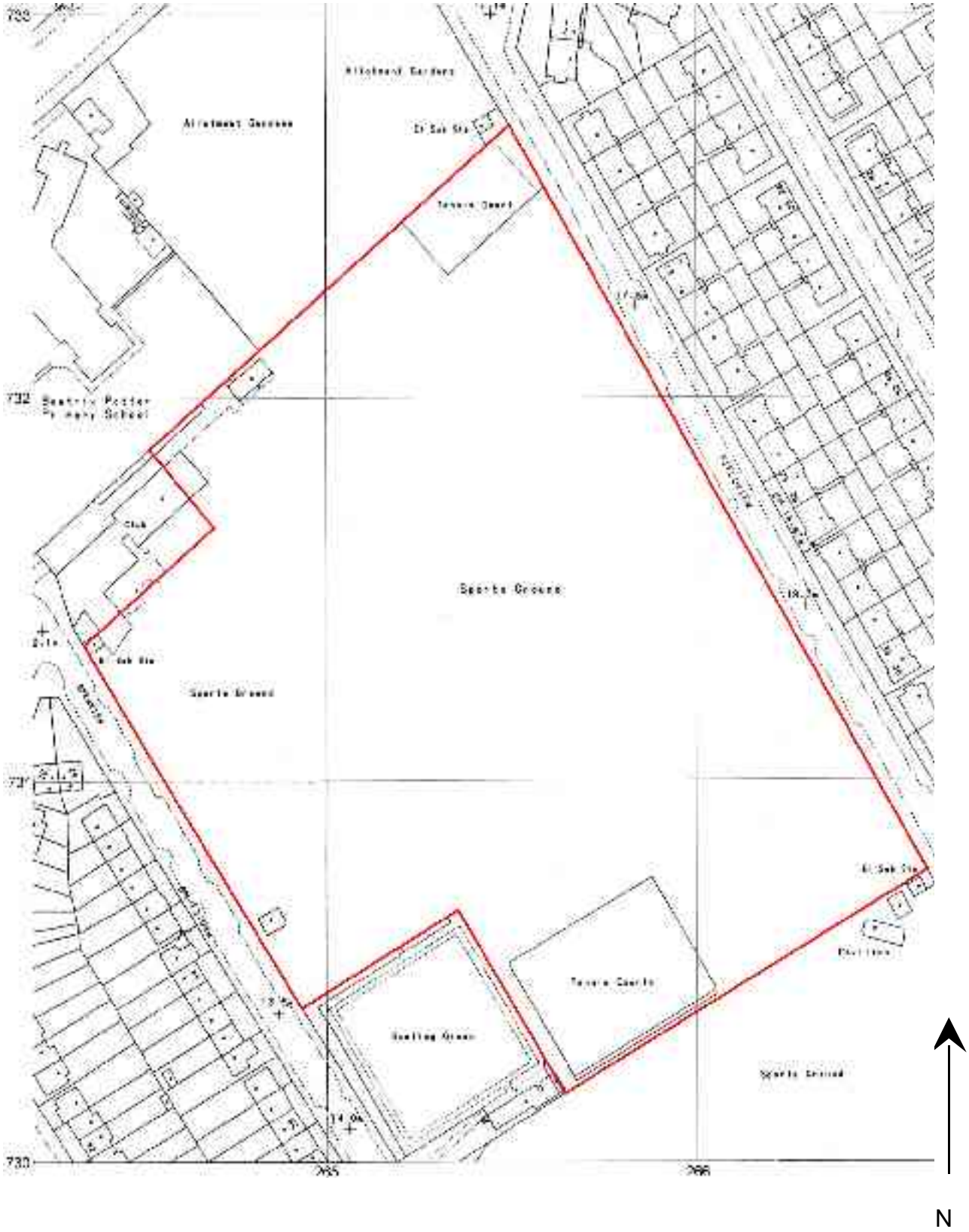

Fig 2 Extract from the recent 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map (Plans TQ 2673 SE and SW) showing the site boundary and the current layout of the sports ground

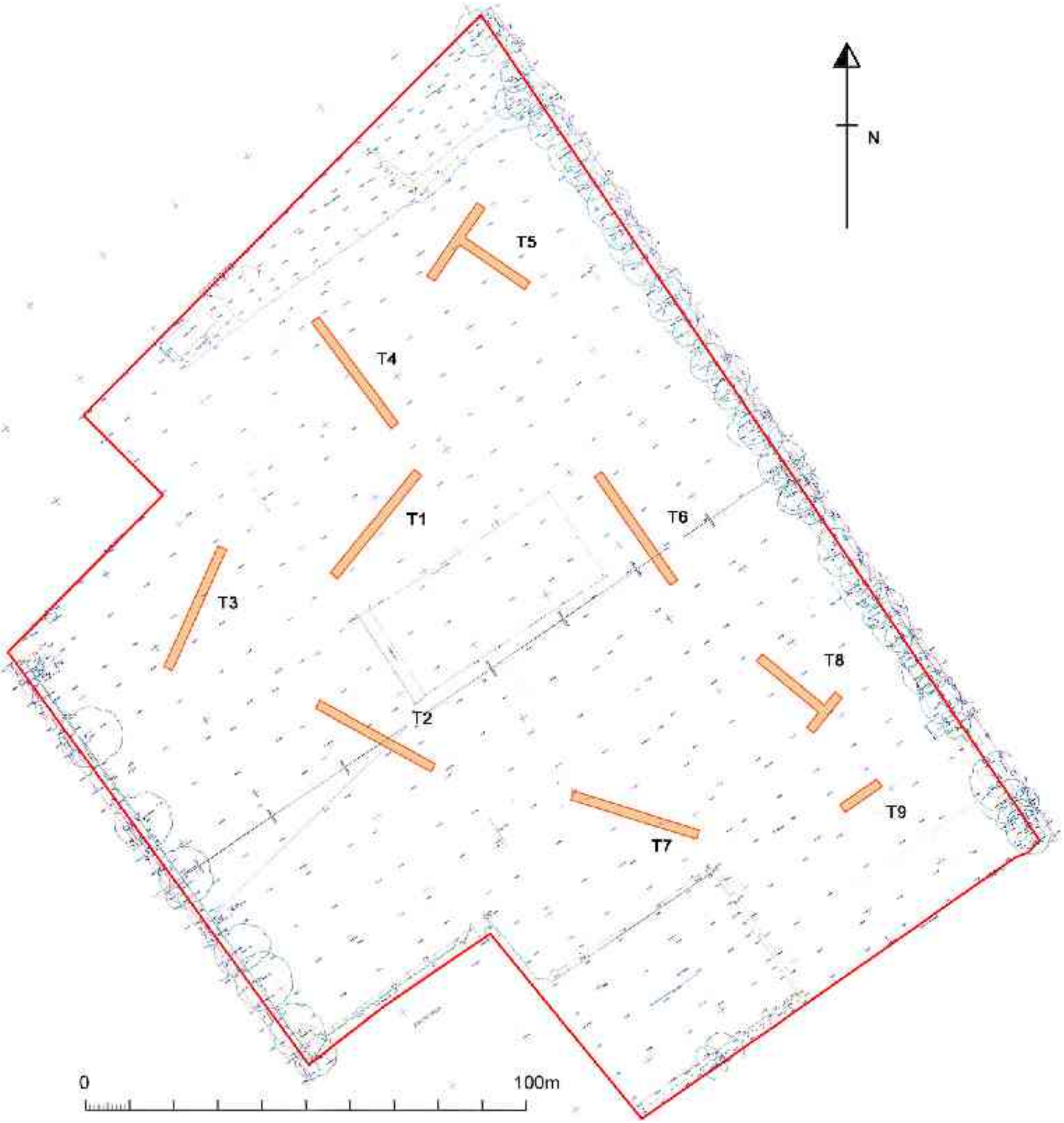

Fig 3 View of evaluation trenches 1– 9 in relation to the site survey plan

Fig 4 View of Trench 1 looking northeast

Fig 5 View of deposits in northwest facing section of Trench 1

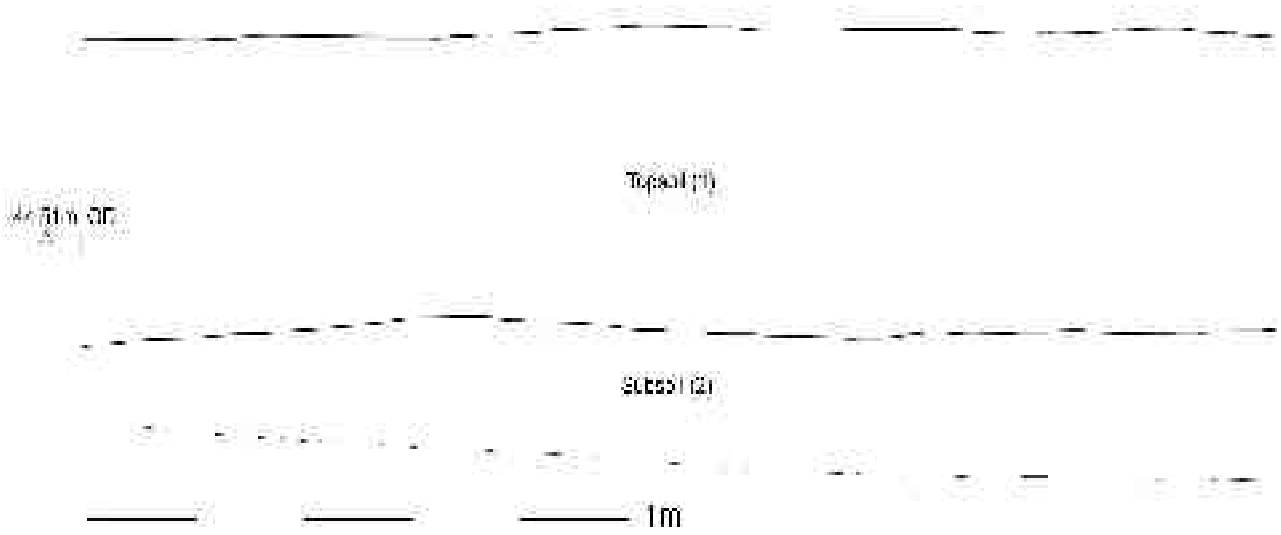

Fig 6 View of deposits shown in Fig 5

Fig 7 View of Trench 2 looking northwest

Fig 8 View of deposits in northeast facing section of Trench 2

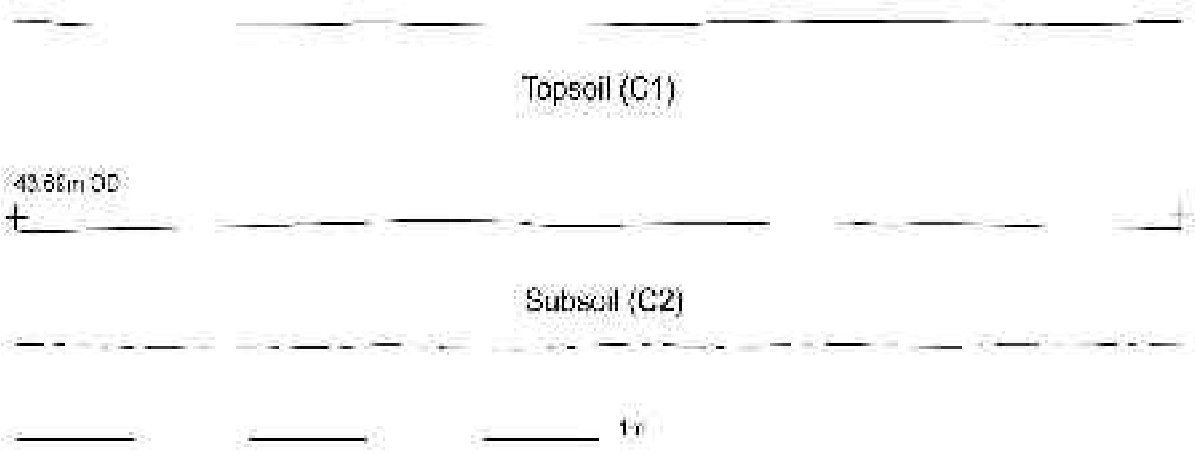

Fig 9 View of deposits in fig 8

Fig 10 View of Trench 3 looking southwest

Fig 11 View of deposits in northwest facing section of Trench 3

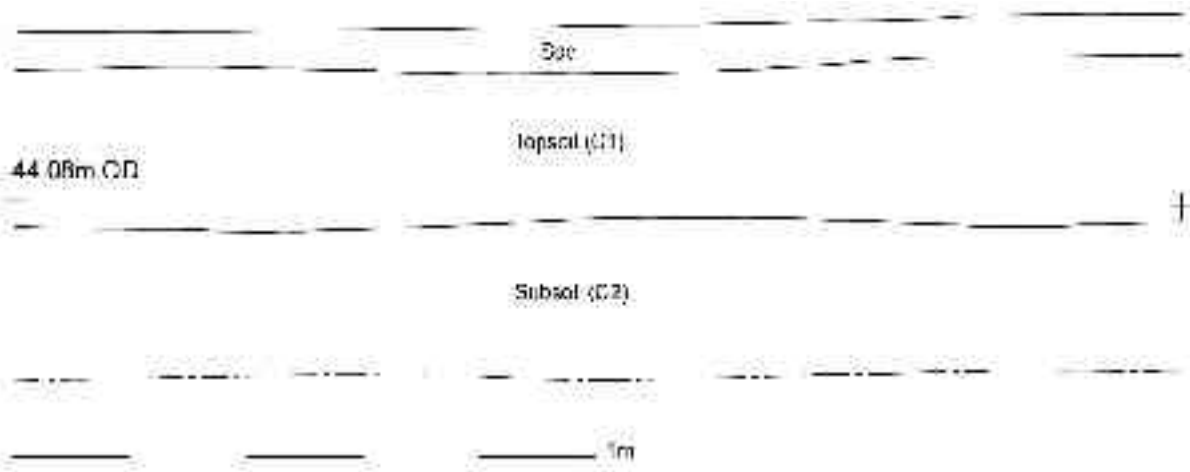

Fig 12 View of deposits in fig 11

Fig 13 View of Trench 4 looking northwest

Fig 14 View of southwest facing section of Trench 4 showing drain cut [9]

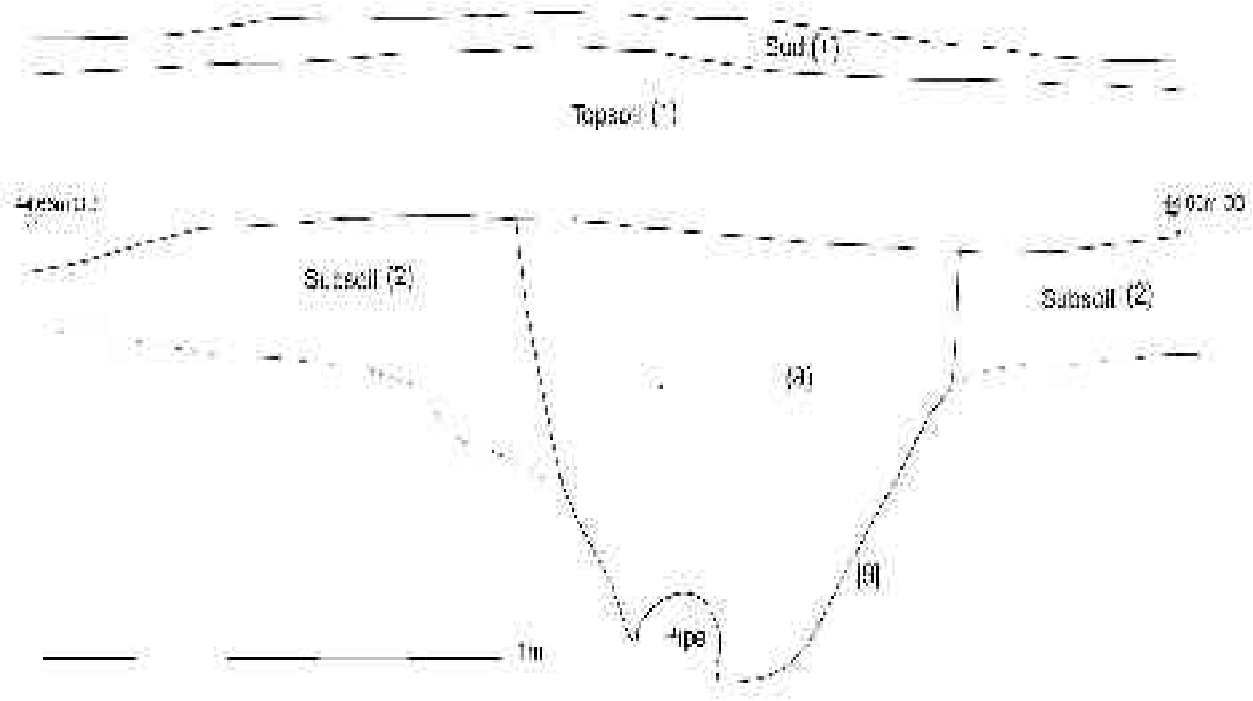

Fig 15 View of deposits in fig 14 showing drain cut [9]

Fig 16 View of Trench 5 looking northwest

Fig 17 View of southwest facing section of Trench 5 showing drain cut [7]

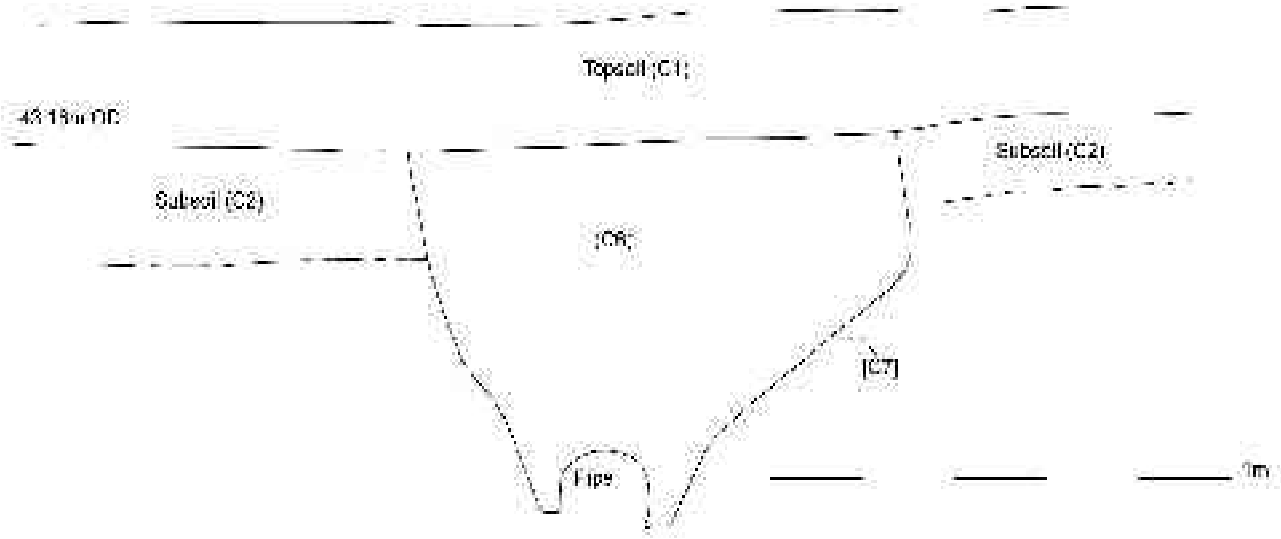

Fig 18 View of deposits in fig 17 showing drain cut [7]

Fig 19 View of Trench 6 looking northwest

Fig 20 View of deposits in northeast facing section of Trench 6

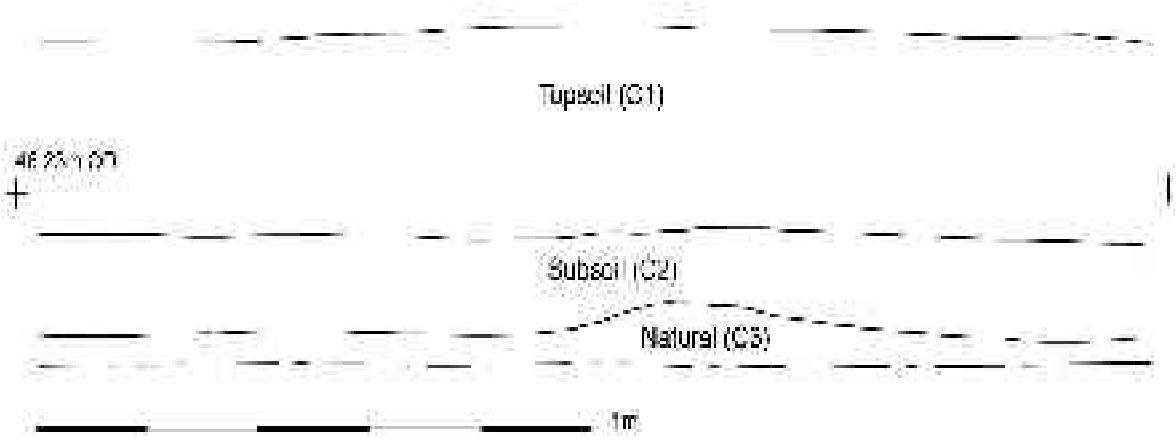

Fig 21 View of deposits in fig 20

Fig 22 View of northeast facing section of cut [13]

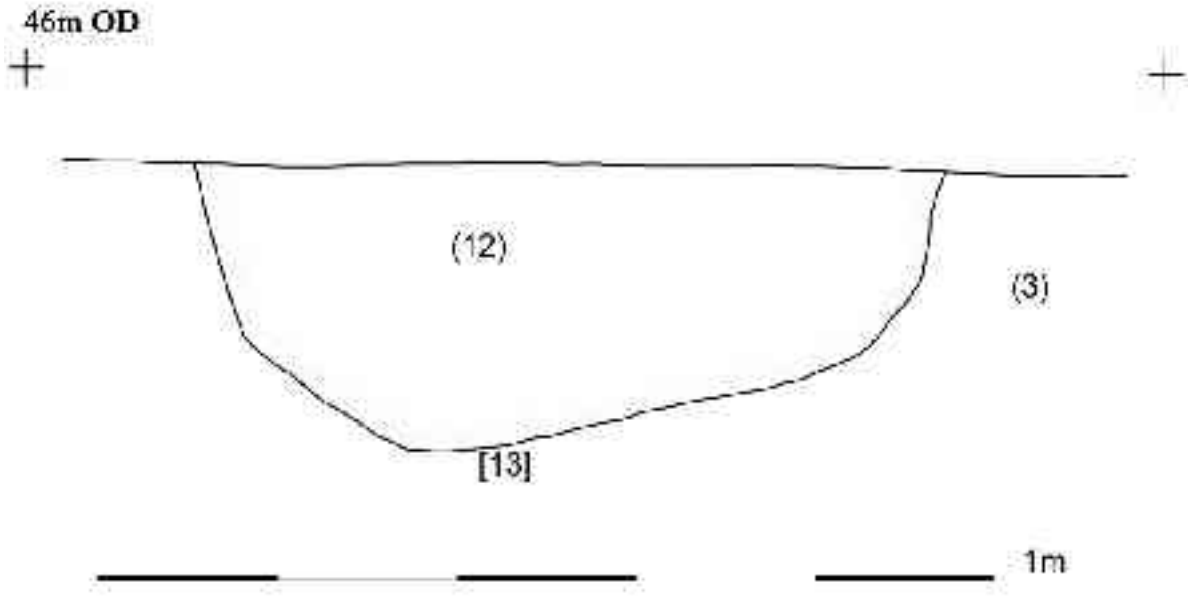

Fig 23 Detail of cut [13] as shown in fig 22

Fig 24 View of northeast facing section of cut [15]

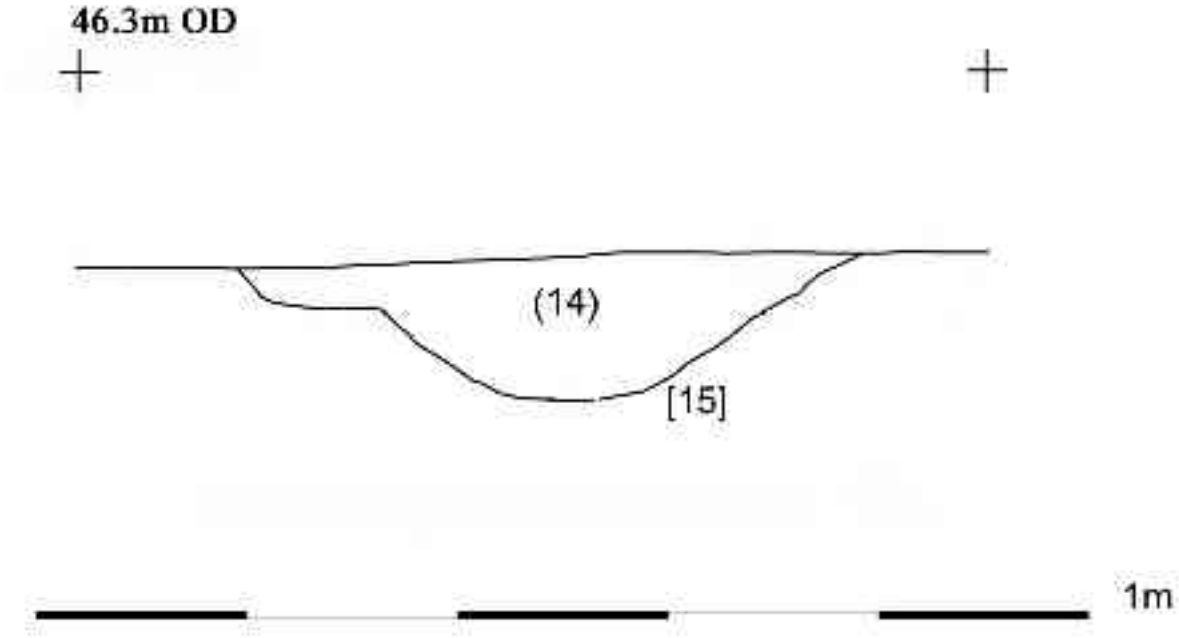

Fig 25 Detail of cut [15] as shown in fig 24

Fig 26 View of Trench 7 looking northwest

Fig 27 View of deposits in northeast facing section of Trench 7

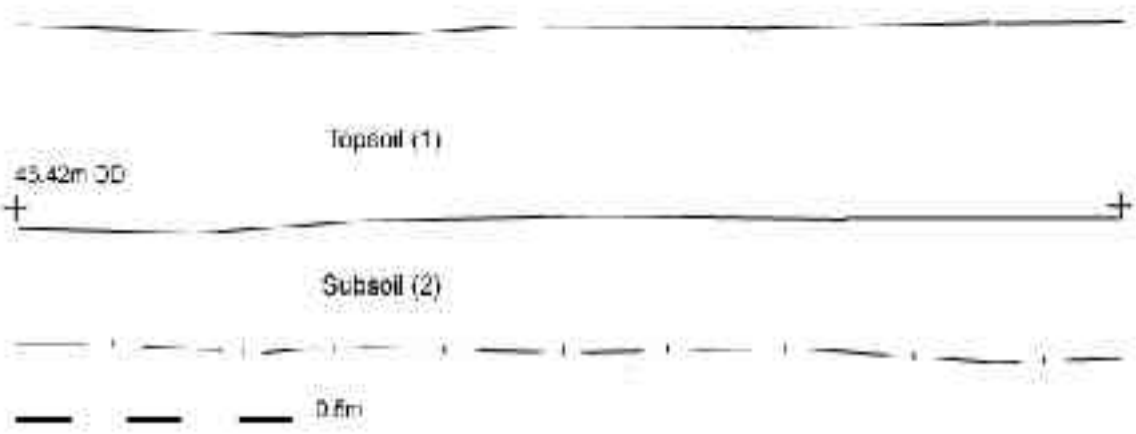

Fig 28 View of deposits in fig 27

Fig 29 View of Trench 8 looking southeast

Fig 30 View of Trench 8 looking northeast

Fig 31 View of deposits in northwest facing section of Trench 8

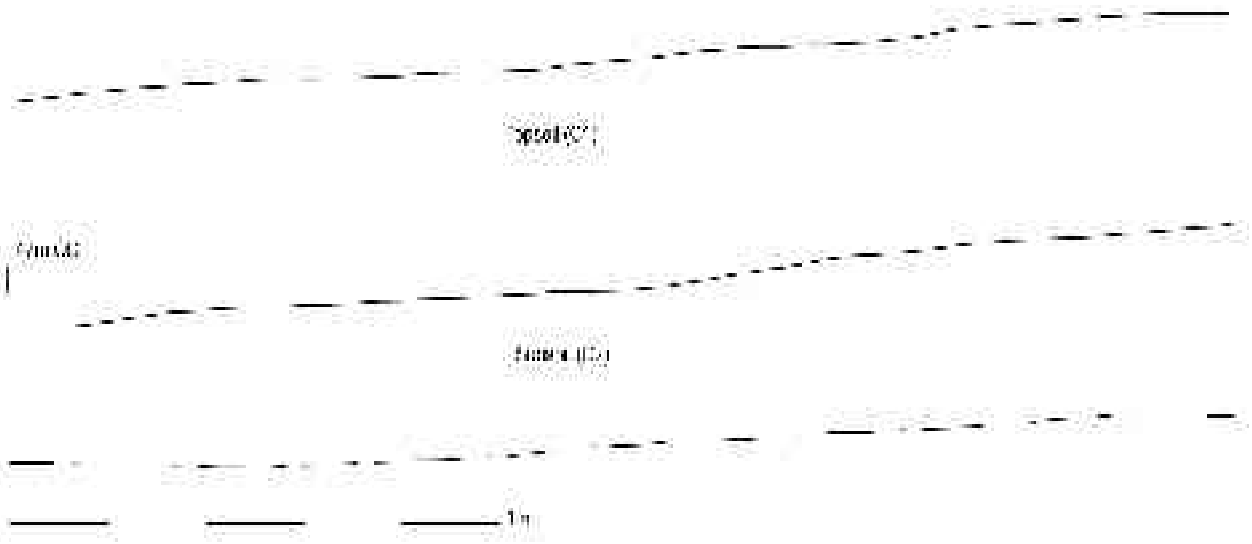

Fig 32 View of deposits shown in fig 31

Fig 33 View of Trench 9 looking northeast

Fig 34 View of deposits in northwest facing section of Trench 9

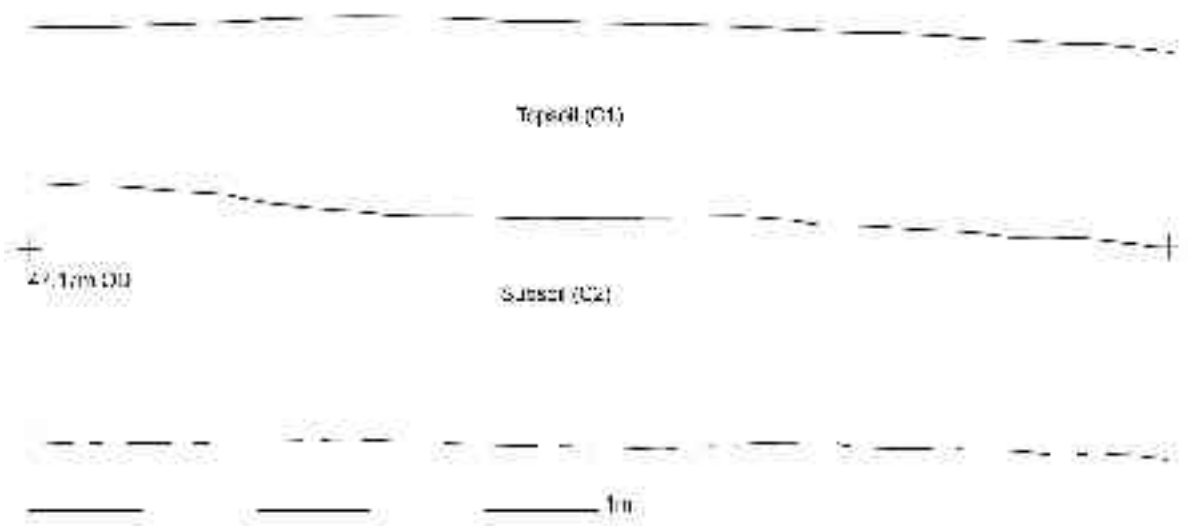

Fig 35 View of deposits shown in fig 34

Appendix I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

Project details

Project name	Openview Sports Ground
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of 9 trenches each measuring 2m wide and between 10-30m in length, a total area of 520 square metres. A geophysical survey carried out prior to excavation showed several anomalies consisting of two possible enclosures, several pit shaped features and linear features. Investigations revealed the enclosure shaped features to be variations in the natural Head deposit and were not archaeologically significant. Two small pit features were excavated containing post med CBM. One pit contained a residual flint core dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period. The linear features were early 20th century field drains.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2006 End: 18-12-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OVS 06 – Site code
Any associated project reference codes	PA/2005/2536 – Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 – Recreational usage
Monument type	PIT/POST-HOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAINS Modern
Significant Finds	CBM AND CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	RESIDUAL FLINT CORE Neolithic
Methods & techniques	'Geophysical Survey','Sample Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Development type	Clubhouse and new sports pitches
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH WANDSWORTH Openview sports ground
Postcode	SW18
Study area	3.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 2654 7313 51.4425048401 -0.179037866488 51 26 33 N 000 10 44 W Point
Height OD	Min: 43.44m Max: 47.02m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Colin Reid
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	Flint core
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Media available	'Geophysics','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Openview sports ground, Earlsfield, SW18
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Reid, C
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology
Description	A4 in-house developer report, 39 pages, spiral bound

Appendix II London Archaeologist Summary

Openview sports ground, Openview, Earlsfield SW18.
TQ 2654 7313. CA (Colin Reid). Evaluation, December 2006.
Capita Symonds. OVS 06

Summary.

An archaeological evaluation prior to construction of new playing pitches and related facilities. There was potential for prehistoric finds. An earlier geophysical survey identified several anomalies of archaeological potential.

9 machine dug trenches revealed a broadly comparable sequence across the site, with subsoil and topsoil overlying the natural Head deposit. Two pits produced later post-medieval finds and a residual Mesolithic or Neolithic flint core. Linear features crossing the site were identified as 20th century land drains, the remaining anomalies were identified as gravel patches within the natural Head deposit.