Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation at Dunningford School, South Hornchurch

NGR: 551840 185360
(TQ 51840 85360)

Planning Reference P1689.11

ASE Project No: 5560
Site Code: DNS12

ASE Report No: 2012177
OASIS id: archaeol6-132807

By Alice Thorne
With contributions by
Louise Rayner

Illustrations by Justin Russell

August 2012

An Archaeological Evaluation at Dunningford School, South Hornchurch

NGR: 551840 185360
(TQ 51840 85360)

Planning Reference P1689.11

ASE Project No: 5560
Site Code: DNS12

ASE Report No: 2012177
OASIS id: archaeol6-132807

By Alice Thorne
With contributions by
Louise Rayner

Illustrations by Justin Russell

August 2012

Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at the site of the former Dunningford School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham Road, South Hornchurch.

Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site. Although the site had been subject to significant modern disturbance and truncation, a single fragment of Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a north-west to south-east orientated ditch. A second, undated linear feature running in a parallel alignment was identified approximately 20m to the north. Three abraded fragments of Late Iron Age / Roman pottery were also recovered from diffuse and poorly-defined features. Two small pits or areas of root disturbance were also identified, one of which contained a possible fragment of Roman CBM.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at the site of the former Dunningford Primary School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham Road, Elm Park, South Hornchurch (NGR: 551840 185360; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012), the underlying bedrock geology is clay, silt and sand of the London Clay formation, overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Hackney Gravel Member.

1.2.2 The site is situated to the north of the A125, in the Elm Park area. It encompasses approximately 2 hectares, within the bounds of the former Dunningford Primary School (now demolished) and its associated playing fields.

1.2.3 The site lies in the valley of the River Beam, which flows from south to north, to the west of the study site. Topographically, the site rises from north-west to south-east; the playing fields to the east rise from c.47m AOD to c.49.5m AOD adjacent to the site of the former school buildings, the area of which was level at c.49.3-49.9m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The work represents the start of the first phase of a new residential development (Planning ref: P1689.11).

1.3.2 A schedule of planning conditions has been issued, including Condition 24 which specifies that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological field evaluation and survey in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The results of the field evaluation should inform a mitigation strategy to either conserve archaeological assets or ensure their recording through excavation prior to the development.

The investigation results should be assessed, any significant results analysed and published and the archive securely deposited. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological evaluation to inform determination of any detailed planning consent.

1.3.3 On the basis of this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of trial trenching was prepared by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their clients (CgMs 2012).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The broad aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ*.

1.4.2 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

1.4.3 The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and assess the potential for survival of archaeological remains.

1.4.4 The specific objectives of the investigation were to:

1) To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
2) To establish the environmental context of any archaeological deposits present within the site.
3) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
4) Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
5) Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect affect of the proposed development should also be considered.

.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, undertaken by Archaeology South-East between the 13th and the 22nd of August 2012. Andy Leonard project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Archaeologically there is thought to be some potential for prehistoric and later remains associated with the gravel terrace and the nearby watersource.

2.2 Bronze Age

2.2.1 Approximately 2km to the south, along Rainham Road, an important Late Bronze Age landscape was uncovered, including a ring fort with associated field-systems, droveways and cremations (Guttman & Last 2000). The exceptional remains included a clay sword mould.

2.2.2 Advice from English Heritage has indicated the presence of cropmarks around Rainham Road and also further north.

2.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman

2.3.1 Some evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman field systems have been uncovered in the broad vicinity of the site, including at 22-26 Osborne Road *c*. 2km to the north-east (Maloney & Holroyd 2009) and at the LESSA sports ground *c*. 2km to the south (Maloney 1999)

2.4 Recent Development

2.4.1 According to historic mapping, the site remained undeveloped farmland until the layout of the school in the early 1960s, with school buildings and areas of hard standing to the east, and playing fields to the west. The site has since been cleared of buildings (CgMs 2012).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Constraints on Fieldwork

3.1.1 Upon arrival at site it was found that a subcontractor had commenced groundwork. Much of the topsoil across the site had been stripped, and the surface of the subsoil was exposed to heavy rutting from machine movement. The presence of large spoil heaps, active machinery and an ongoing spoil grading operation required alterations to the planned locations of some trenches. An abandoned site compound, with associated welfare cabins and marketing suite was located in the south-west corner of the site.

3.2 Size and Location of Evaluation Trenches

3.2.1 Twenty-three trenches were machine excavated. The majority of these were 20m in length; however, due to the aforementioned constraints, Trenches 13 and 19 were each split into two lengths of 10m. Three further trenches, 21, 22 and 23, measured 10m in length. The location of the trenches, including the revisions to locations made in consultation with CgMs and Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (hereafter GLAAS), are shown on Figure 2.

3.3 Excavation and Recording Methodology

3.3.1 All trenches were set out using GPS survey equipment and excavated using a 20 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.10m wide flat blade ditching bucket.

3.3.2 Trenches were CAT scanned prior to excavation, and all machining was carried out under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

3.3.4 All trenches were left open for at least a day to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. All discrete features were half-sectioned, recorded and then the remainder of the fill removed. Linear features were sample sectioned.

3.3.5 All contexts were recorded using pro-forma Archaeology South-East context sheets. Trenches were planned and levelled using GPS survey equipment. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features and trenches were digitally photographed.

3.3.6 Upon agreement with CgMs the majority of the trenches were left open, to be backfilled by the onsite contractor.

3.4 Site Archive

3.4.1 Archaeology South-East informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) that the fieldwork would be taking place and that an archive would be generated. The site code DNS12 has been assigned to the archive by the LAARC. It is currently held at the offices of ASE and it is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with the LAARC on completion of all stages of fieldwork and reporting. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	78
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	5
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	97
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Geology and Overburden

4.1.1 Where surviving, the overburden on site comprised a dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt topsoil, measuring between 0.25m to 0.30m in thickness (Trenches 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 13a, 14, 19b, 21). This contained occasional late post-medieval to modern CBM fragments. The topsoil was found to overly an irregular subsoil deposit, consisting of a mid orangish brown sandy clayey silt, measuring between 0.05 to 0.15m thick. The colour and composition of this layer often varied between trenches, and even within the length of a single trench, reflecting variability in the underlying natural geology. It is thought to represent a ploughed and bioturbated interface at the surface of the natural geology.

4.1.2 Where the surface of the subsoil had been exposed by the subcontractors topsoil strip, it had been subject to machine rutting, and was found to vary between 0.10m to 0.25m depth (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15).

4.1.3 Within the area of Trenches 22 and 23 the topsoil and subsoil deposits remained *in situ*, but there were significant areas of truncation resulting from the construction and demolition of school buildings and services.

4.1.4 Within the south-west corner of the site, an abandoned contractor's compound was located. A thick layer of modern hardcode overlying terram sheeting was located within Trenches 12, 13b and part of Trench 11. The terram had been laid partially over thin surviving deposits of topsoil and subsoil and partially over the stripped surface of the natural geology.

4.1.5 There was also evidence of substantial areas of ground truncation within Trenches 16, 17, 18, 19a and 20. In these trenches, deposits of made ground, comprising a loose sandy silty gravel, containing clay lumps and modern rubble, were observed to a depth of 0.40m-1.30m. The imprint of a toothed bucket was clearly visible at the base of several of the trenches.

4.1.6 The underlying natural geology comprised the surface of the Hackney Gravels, predominately gravels and silts of a variable orangish-brown hue. This deposit continued very frequent areas of geological variability and discolouration. Frequent outcrops of orangish yellow or pale grey sand were identified, and occasional ironstone outcrops caused localised reddish-brown staining. The surface of this deposit is thought to have undergone some reworking from within a periglacial context, and irregular narrow seams of a pale grey sand which were identified within several of the trenches derive from sediment contraction under extreme frozen conditions (Peter Allen pers. com.). Within some trenches a fine mid orangish brown sandy silty clay was identified, which in several trenches (3, 12, 13a, 14) was observed overlying the Hackney gravels. This deposit is thought to represent a windblown sediment such as a Brickearth.

4.2 **Trench 1** (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Two features were investigated within this trench. Feature [1/004] comprised a sub-oval feature with a tapered profile and a concave base, and was filled by [1/005], a mid orangish brown sandy silty clay, containing a small fragment of CBM. This was too small to be identified with certainty although it was thought to be of possible Roman date. Feature [1/006] was sub-circular in plan, with a tapered sides and a slightly steeper south-western edge. It was filled by a very similar mid orangish brown sandy silty clay, [1/007]. These features may represent pits, although their fairly irregular and poorly defined edges could also suggest an area of possible burrowing or root intrusion. Following recording, both features were 100% excavated.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
1/004	Cut	Possible Pit?	0.70m	0.54m	0.19m
1/005	Fill	Possible Pit?	0.70m	0.54m	0.19m
1/006	Cut	Possible Pit?		0.60m	0.19m
1/007	Fill	Possible Pit?		0.60m	0.19m

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.3 **Trench 2** (Figure 4)

4.3.1 A modern machine-cut trench was observed in the easternmost extent of this trench, orientated on a south-west to north-east alignment. This was found to cut the line of a smaller linear feature, [2/004], orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. This had straight parallel sides, with tapered edges and a broad rounded point at the base. It was filled by [2/005], a friable mottled mid orangish brown fill comprising frequent rounded to sub angular flint nodules contained within a gravelly sandy silt matrix. Following the initial excavation and recording of a 1m wide slot though the feature, a further 0.80m of fill was excavated along the length of the feature in an attempt to recover dating evidence. Unfortunately no artefactual material was recovered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/004	Cut	Ditch		0.52m	0.22
2/005	Fill	Ditch		0.52m	0.22

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.4 **Trench 5** (Figure 5)

4.4.1 A north-west to south-east orientated linear feature, [5/004], was observed within this trench. This feature had straight parallel sides, a concave profile with a concave base, and was filled by [5/005], a friable mottled mid orangish brown fill, including frequent rounded to sub angular flint nodules within a gravelly sandy silt matrix. A single fragment of pottery, likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date and probably from a large Bucket Urn of Deverel-Rimbury type was obtained from this fill.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
5/004	Cut	Ditch		0.50m	0.20m
5/005	Fill	Ditch		0.50m	0.20m

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5 **Trench 7** (Figure 6)

4.5.1 Two possible features were identified within Trench 7. A broad sub-oval feature, [7/004], was partially exposed extending from the north-western baulk of the trench. A 1m slot though the feature provided evidence of a fairly well defined cut or edge with a shallow concave profile, measuring a minimum of 3.40m in width and 0.26m in depth. It was filled by [7/005], a friable light greyish brown sandy silt, containing frequent iron panning with substantial root and worm disturbance. One fragment of heavily abraded later Iron Age/ early Roman pottery was recovered from this fill.

4.5.2 Feature [7/006] comprised an even more poorly defined feature. It measured approximately 1.30m wide by a maximum of 0.19m deep, and possibly follows a north-south orientation. It had a diffuse shallow concave profile, and was filled by [7/007], a light greyish orange sandy silt, containing occasional sub rounded pebbles and frequent fine rootlets. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this fill, both Roman grey wares. The bead-and-flanged- rim type suggests a mid-late Roman date and is thought to be later than the sherd in neighbouring feature [7/004]. Despite the suggestion of a linear orientation, this feature was not found to continue through to Trench 19b, located immediately to the south-east. The poorly-defined and shallow characteristics of this feature may indicate an area of root disturbance incorporating residual Roman material, rather than a deliberately cut feature.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
7/004	Cut	Spread?		3.40m	0.26m
7/005	Fill	Spread?		3.40m	0.26m
7/006	Cut	Probable rooting		1.30m	0.19m
7/007	Fill	Probable rooting		1.30m	0.19m

Table 5: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 8 (Figure 7)

4.6.1 A north-west to south-east orientated ditch, [8/003], was observed within this trench, which is thought to be a continuation of the feature identified in Trench 5. This feature had straight parallel sides, a tapered profile with a broad rounded point at the base, and was filled by [8/004], a friable mottled mid orangish brown fill, comprising frequent rounded to sub angular flint nodules contained within a gravelly sandy silt matrix. No dating evidence was obtained from this feature.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max Deposit Thickness m
8/001	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
8/003	Cut	Ditch		0.60m	0.26m
8/004	Fill	Ditch		0.60m	0.26m

Table 6: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 19b (Figure 8)

4.7.1 Trench 19b was re-located to run adjacent to Trench 7, in order to test for further potential archaeology within this area of the site. One possible feature was investigated, but is thought to represent an area of rooting disturbance. Deposit [19b/004] had very poorly-defined and irregular edges, and seemed to lie within a wide, shallow concave hollow. It comprised a mottled mid greyish brown to pale greyish brown slightly sandy silt, containing moderate rounded to sub angular flint pebbles and nodules. Fine rootlets were present within the deposit. No artefactual material was located.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
19b/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
19b/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
19b/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
19b/004	Deposit	Probable rooting		1.90m	0.16m

Table 7: Trench 19b list of recorded contexts

4.8 **Other Trenches** (Figure 2)

4.8.1 Trenches 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13a, 13b 14, 16, 17, 18, 19a, 20, 21, 22, and 23 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The contexts recorded in these trenches are tabulated below in Table 8.

4.8.2 A substantial cut was observed crossing Trenches 2, 4, 10 and 13a on a north-east to south-west axis. An exploratory slot excavated in Trench 10 confirmed the presence of modern glass and iron within the fill of the feature. The 1.80m wide straight cut with vertical sides, was characteristic of a modern machine dug trench. Hand excavation ceased at a depth of 0.60m.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3	001	Deposit	Tracked Subsoil	0.20m	7.90
3	002	Deposit	Natural	-	7.70
4	001	Deposit	Redeposited Topsoil	0.50m	9.05
4	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.12m	8.55
4	003	Deposit	Natural	-	8.43
6	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	9.87
6	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30m	9.67
6	003	Deposit	Natural	-	9.37
9	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	9.52
9	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.18m	9.17
9	003	Deposit	Natural	-	8.99
10	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.24m	8.74
10	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.22m	8.50
10	003	Deposit	Natural	-	8.28
10	004	Cut	Machine Trench	1.80m	8.41
10	005	Fill	Machine trench	1.80m	8.41
11	001	Deposit	Hardcore	0.72m	7.87
11	002	Deposit	Natural	-	7.15
12	001	Deposit	Hardcore	0.55m	8.96
12	002	Deposit	Natural	-	8.41
13a	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	8.98
13a	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	8.68
13a	003	Deposit	Natural	-	8.58
13b	001	Deposit	Hardcore	0.30m	9.14
13b	002	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20m	8.84
13b	003	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	8.64
13b	004	Deposit	Natural	-	8.54
14	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25m	9.65
14	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.14m	9.40
14	003	Deposit	Natural	-	9.26
15	001	Deposit	Tracked Natural	0.15m	9.23
15	002	Deposit	Natural	-	9.08
16	001	Deposit	Made Ground	0.85m	9.57
16	002	Deposit	Natural	-	8.72
17	001	Deposit	Made Ground	0.60m	9.53
17	002	Deposit	Natural	-	8.93

18	001	Deposit	Made Ground	0.90m	9.99
18	002	Deposit	Natural	-	9.09
19a	001	Deposit	Made Ground	1.30m	10.14
19a	002	Deposit	Natural	-	8.84
20	001	Deposit	Made Ground	0.90m	10.21
20	002	Deposit	Natural	-	9.31
21	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	10.45
21	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.13m	10.05
21	003	Deposit	Natural	-	9.92
22	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	10.19
22	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	9.89
22	003	Deposit	Natural	-	9.79
23	001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	10.34
23	002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	9.99
23	003	Deposit	Natural	-	9.89

Table 8: Other trenches list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the evaluation, which is quantified by context in Table 9.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)
1/002			3	86		
1/005				1	<2	
5/005	1	28				
7/002			4	76		
7/005	1	26				
7/007	2	14				
10/004					1	1380
14/001			2	96		
Total	4	68	9	259	1	1380

Table 9: Quantification of finds

5.2 **The Pottery** by Louise Rayner

5.2.1 The earliest sherd, from ditch fill [5/005], is a possible rim from a thick-walled vessel in a very coarse flint-tempered fabric. This is likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date and probably from a large Bucket Urn of Deverel-Rimbury type based on the wall thickness and apparent flat rim.

5.2.2 A single later Iron Age/early Roman rim sherd from a beaded-rimmed jar in an unsourced oxidised fabric was recovered from context [7/005].

5.2.3 Context [7/007] produced one rim sherd and one body fragment, both in Roman grey wares. The external surfaces of the rim sherd are in poor condition but it is unclear whether due to soil conditions or use (part of the rim also shows evidence of burning). The bead-and-flanged- rim type suggests a mid-late Roman date. The sherd is certainly likely to be later than the sherd in [7/005].

5.3 **The CBM** by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 Nine fragments of ceramic building material, primarily roofing tile, were recovered, weighing 258g in total. Subsoil [1/002] contained three well fired tile fragments in a fine sand tempered fabric with very occasional iron rich inclusions of under 0.5mm. A date of 18th century or later is probable. Possible pit fill [1/005] contained a small tile chip of possible Roman date, although the fragment is too small to be certain. Subsoil [7/002] contained three tile fragments in a fine sand tempered fabric with occasional coarser sand temper, also of 18th -19th century date. The only brick fragment was recovered from this context; an abraded fragment of similar date abundantly tempered with coarse sand and iron rich inclusions up to 5mm. A further piece of 18th-19th century tile came from topsoil [14/001], together with a fairly

low fired tile fragment in a dense, silty fabric which may be slightly earlier in date.

5.4 The Iron by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 A large, heavily concreted and corroded modern iron strap was recovered from [10/004].

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Modern truncation

6.1.1 Previous groundwork on the site included topsoil removal and machine tracking of the exposed subsoil horizon. An abandoned contractor compound in the south–west corner of the site and ground truncation in the area of Trenches 16, 17, 18, 19a and 20, where the surface of natural geology had been truncated to a depth of between 0.40m to 1.30m, seem likely to have removed any extant archaeological remains.

6.1.2 However, in most areas, truncation did not reach natural geology and cut features were shown to survive to a reasonable depth in a number of trenches on the western half of the site, including in some areas of prior topsoil stripping.

6.2 Potential archaeological features

6.2.1 Feature [5/004] comprised a north-west to south-east orientated ditch which appeared to continue south-east to Trench 8, where ditch [8/003] ran on the same alignment and had a very similar profile and dimensions. A second undated ditch, also with a similar profile and dimensions was identified in Trench 2, orientated on a parallel alignment approximately 20m to the north. The only dating evidence associated with these features is a single abraded but relatively large sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery recovered from fill [5/005]. Although the dating of the features remains open to question, as the sherd could easily be residual, they are broadly consistent with the types of boundaries which define field-systems and trackways in the later prehistoric period.

6.2.1 Feature [7/004] was only partially exposed within Trench 7, its wide, shallow and fairly well-defined profile and slightly curving edge in plan may indicate an area of spread or trample. The single pot sherd recovered from this feature was of Late Iron Age to early Roman date whereas that from an adjacent feature, [7/006], a possible area of root disturbance, was thought to come from the mid/later Roman period. Two possible pits or areas of root disturbance, located in Trench 1, were poorly dated but one contained a tiny fragment of CBM of possible Roman date.

6.2.2 None of these possible, but uncertain Late Iron Age/Roman features necessarily indicates intensive human occupation of the site but the pottery does indicate some activity in the vicinity over quite a wide date range.

6.2.3 The features were sealed by between 0.25m (Trench 8) and 0.60m (Trenches 5 and 6) of overburden and occurred at between 7.50mAOD (Trench 1) and 9.32mAOD (Trench 8).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2012, British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

CgMs 2012. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Former Dunningford School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham road, Elm Park, South Hornchurch. Unpublished Document

Guttman, EBA, and Last, J, 2000, A Late Bronze Age Landscape at South Hornchurch, Essex, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 66, 319-360

Maloney, C, 1999, London fieldwork and publication round-up 1998, Vol 9, Supplement 1

Maloney, C and Holroyd, I, 2009, London fieldwork and publication round-up 2008, *London Archaeologist* Vol 12, Supplement 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Adam Single for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DNS12					
Identification Name and Address	Former Dunningford School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham Road, Elm Park South Hornchurch					
County, District &/or Borough	Essex					
OS Grid Refs.	551840 185360					
Geology	Hackney Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5560					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green ✓ Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 13th/08/12 – 22/08/12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	✓ BA	✓ IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at the site of the former Dunningford School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham Road, South Hornchurch.

Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site. Although the site had been subject to significant modern disturbance and truncation, a single fragment of Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a north-west to south-east orientated ditch. A second, undated linear feature running in a parallel alignment was identified approximately 20m to the north. Three abraded fragments of Late Iron Age / Roman pottery were also recovered from diffuse and poorly-defined features. Two small pits or areas of root disturbance were also identified, one of which contained a possible fragment of Roman CBM.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-132807

Project details

Project name	Former Dunningford School
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at the site of the former Dunningford School, Dunningford Close, Upper Rainham Road, South Hornchurch. Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site. Although the site had been subject to significant modern disturbance and truncation, a single fragment of Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a north-west to south-east orientated ditch. A second, undated linear feature running in a parallel alignment was identified approximately 20m to the north. Three abraded fragments of Late Iron Age / Roman pottery were also recovered from diffuse and poorly-defined features. Two small pits or areas of root disturbance were also identified, one of which contained a possible fragment of Roman CBM.
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2012 End: 22-08-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DNS12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING HORNCHURCH Former Dunningford School
Postcode	XXXXXX
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 551840 185360 50 0 50 56 41 N 000 12 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 10.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

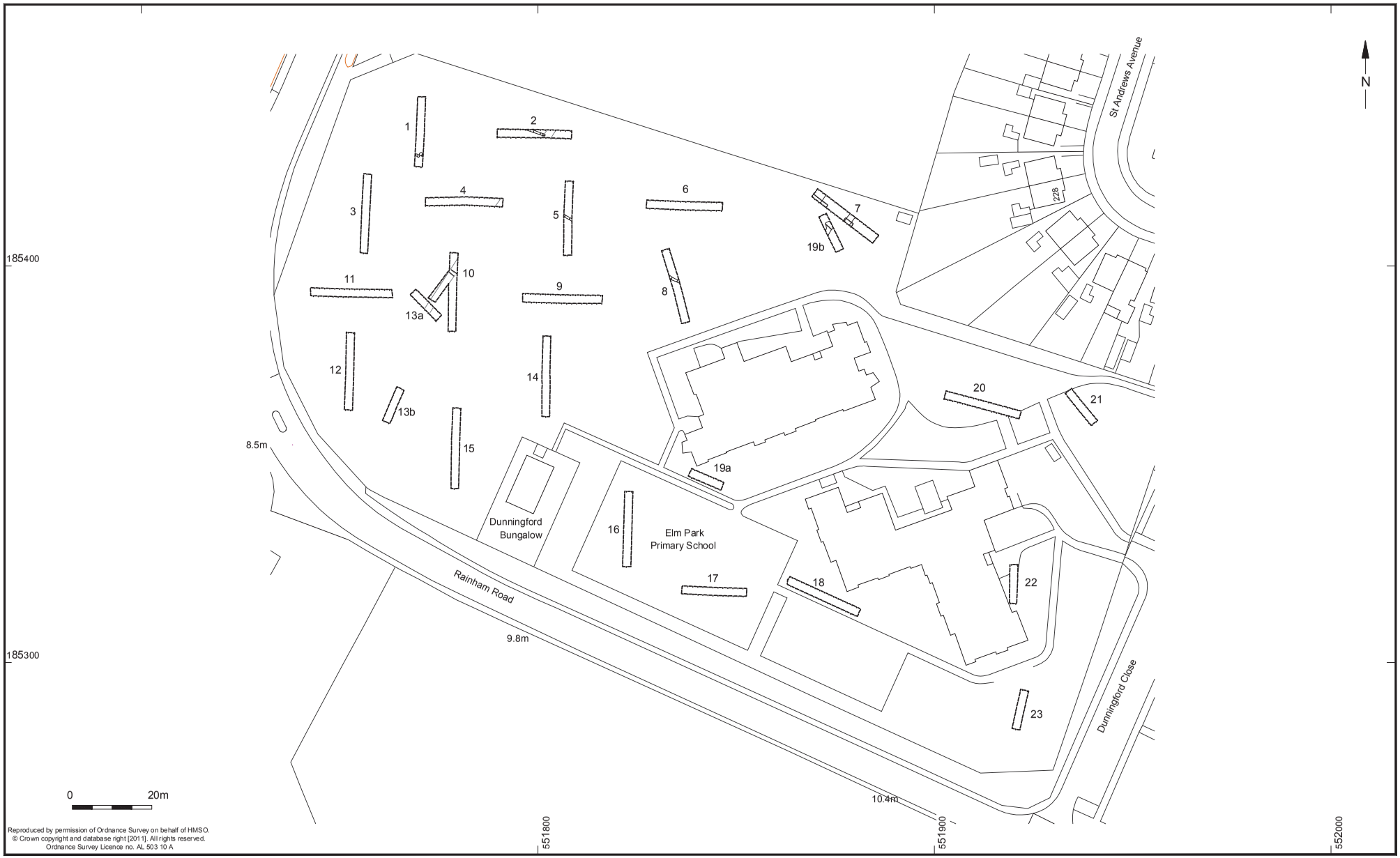
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report","Section","Plan"

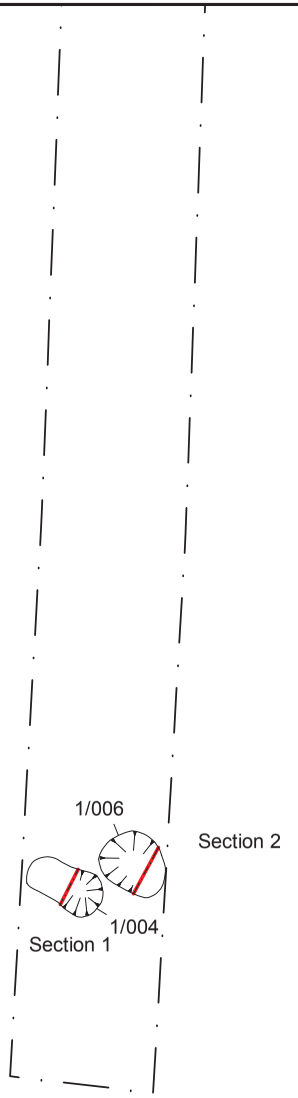
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thorne, A
Other bibliographic details	2012177
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	Grey Literature
Entered by	Alice Thorne (tcrnath@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 August 2012

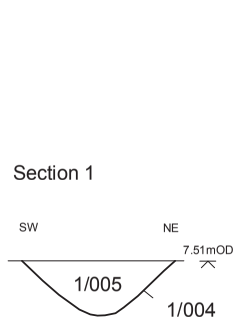
© Archaeology South-East		Dunningford School	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		

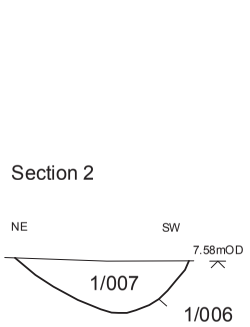


© **Archaeology South-East**		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		



0 2m



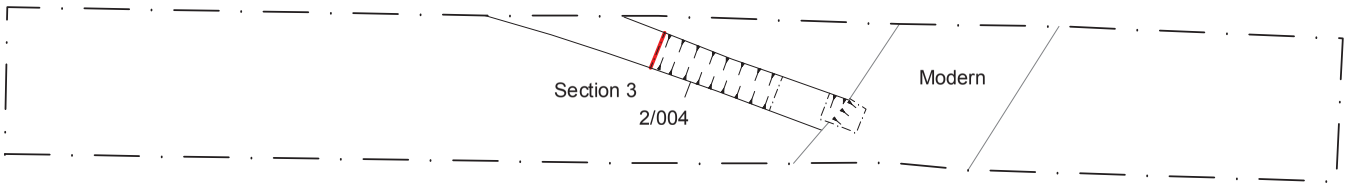


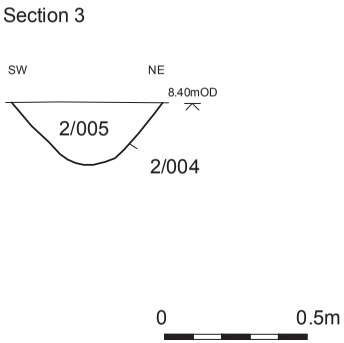
0 0.5m

1/004 looking north-west

1/006 looking south-west

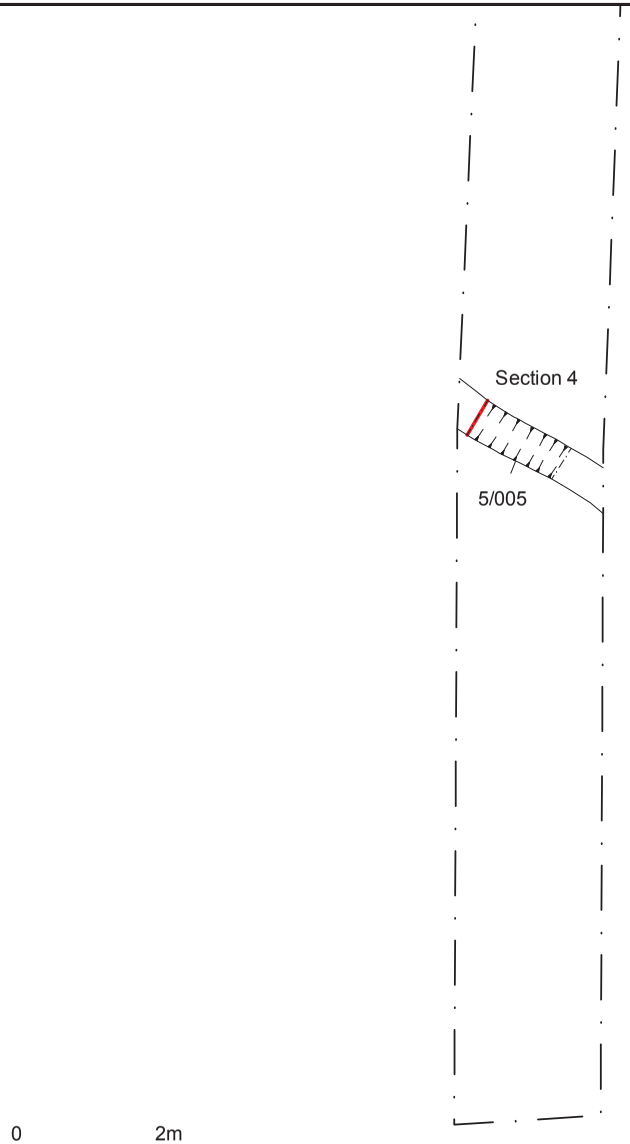
© **Archaeology South-East**		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench1: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		

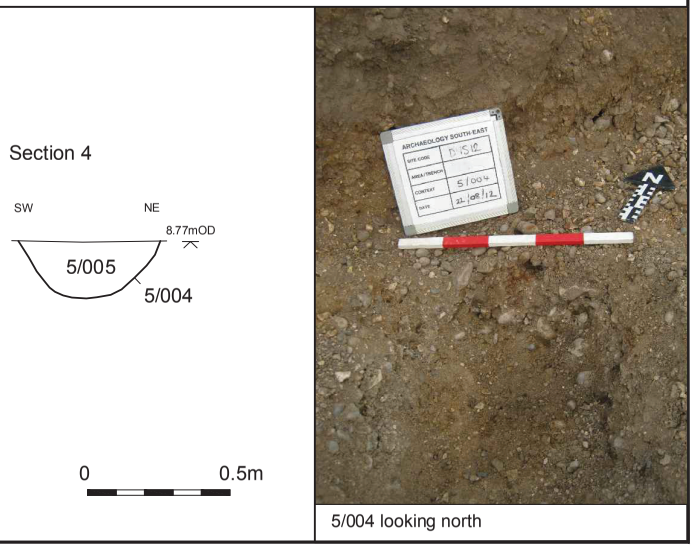




2/004 looking west

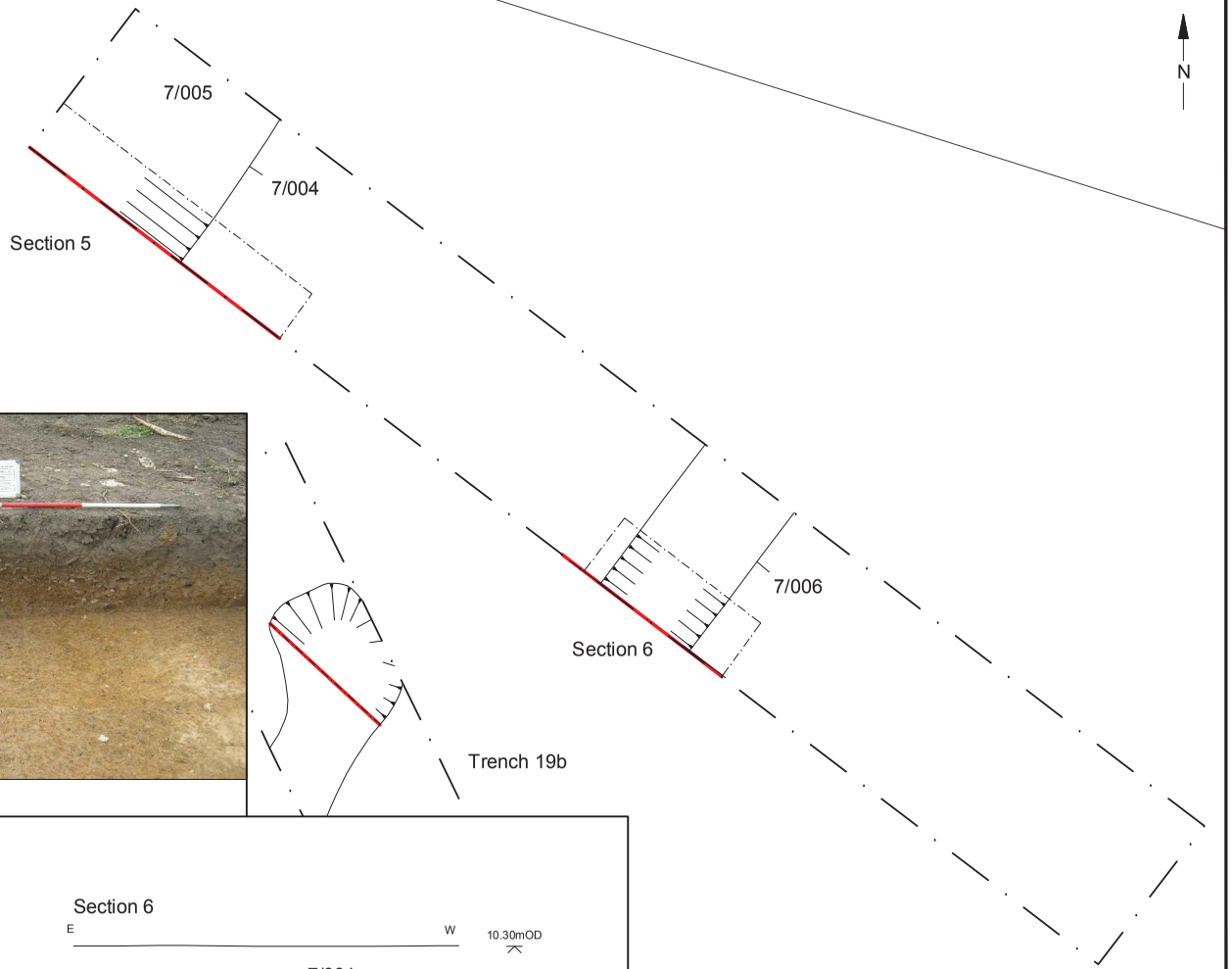
© **Archaeology South-East**		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench 2: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		





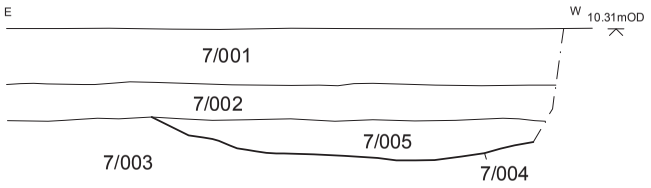
5/004 looking north

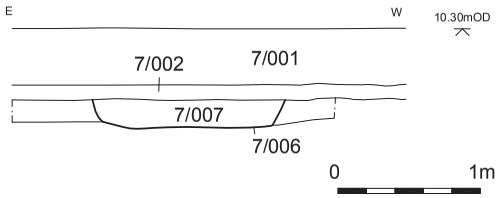
© Archaeology South-East		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench 5: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		



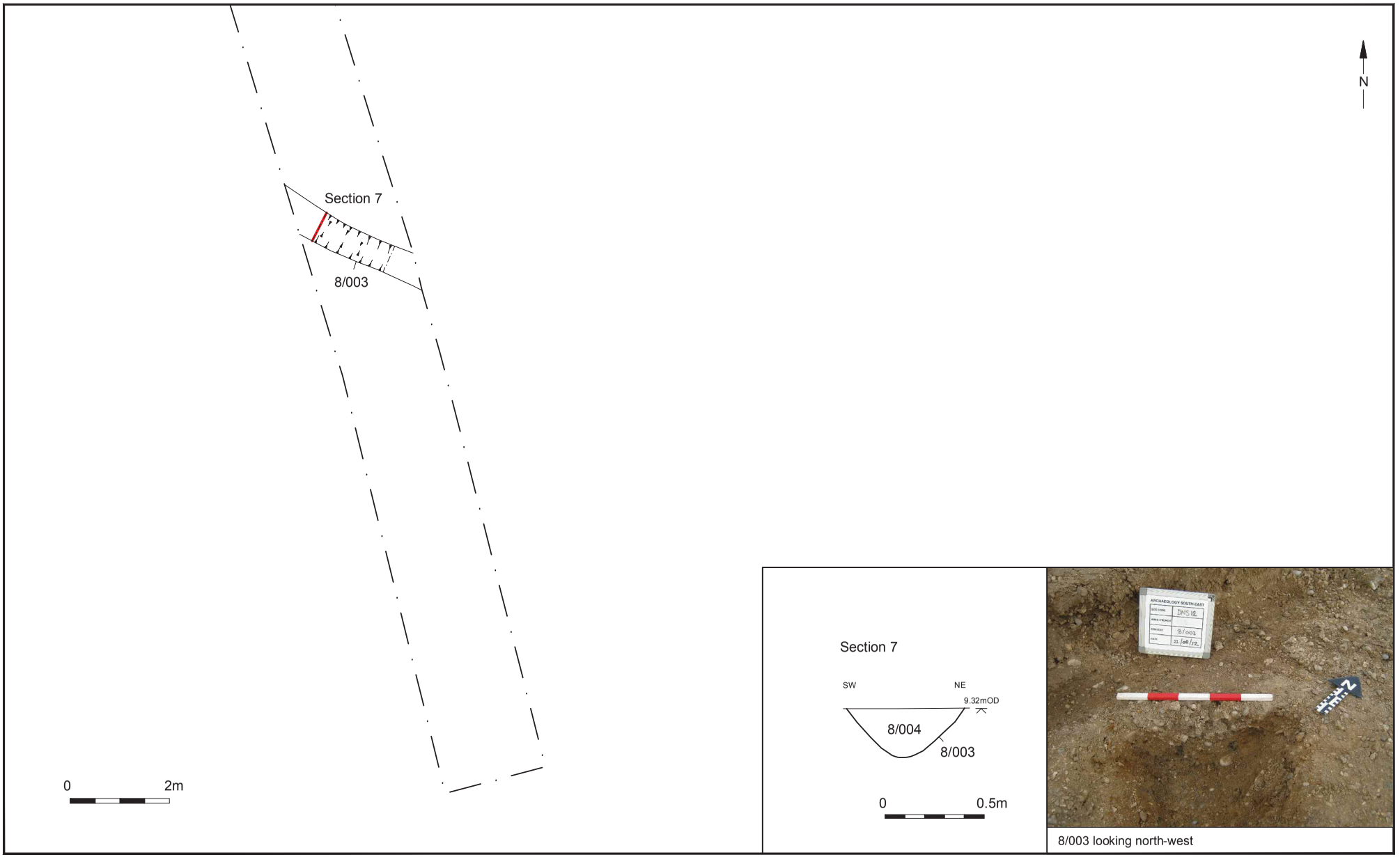
7/004 looking south-west

7/006 looking south-west



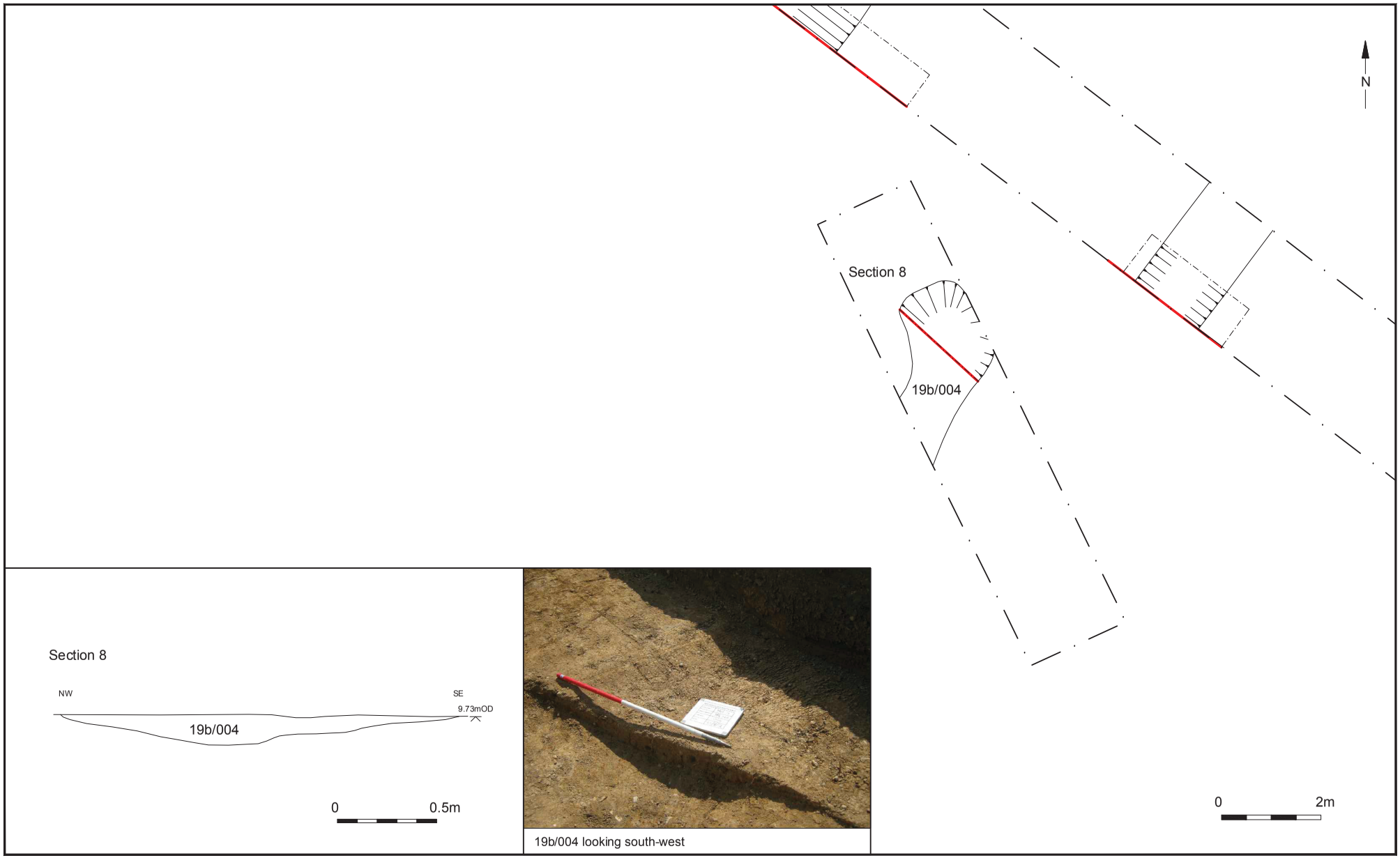


© **Archaeology South-East**		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench 7: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		



8/003 looking north-west

© Archaeology South-East		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench 8: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		



19b/004 looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Dunningford School, Hornchurch	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 5560	Aug 2012	Trench 19b: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2012177	Drawn by: JLR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London