

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
The Larches, Littlebourne Road
Canterbury, Kent**

**NGR: 618095 157993
(TR 1809577993)**

Planning No: PO 4500283175

**ASE Project No: 6605
Site Code: LLR14**

**ASE Report No: 2014050
OASIS id: archaeol6-171026**



By Greg Priestley-Bell

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By Greg Priestley-Bell

February 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out a watching brief on land at The Larches and Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent.

The excavation of a total of approximately 150m of cable trenching, together with a substation base and joint pits was monitored. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out a watching brief on land at The Larches and Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent (NGR 618095 157993; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The southern end of the site is located within the garden of The Larches, a private residence on the north side of the A257 Littlebourne Road, the assumed line of the Roman Road to Canterbury. The greater part of the site lies within the grounds of the neighbouring Polo Farm Sports Club, where groundworks were located in verges beside tennis courts, a hockey pitch and access roads.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates that the site is covered by a superficial deposit of head brickearth overlying gravels with Thanet Beds and chalk underlying.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The work was permitted development, however, Teresa Hawtin, KCC requested that an archaeological watching brief be conducted during the works.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation was to identify and record:

- The character, extent and state of survival of significant archaeological remains within the site;

1.4.2 The specific objectives of the investigation were:

- To identify prehistoric remains relating to the exploitation of the brickearth soils
- To identify remains relating to the nearby Roman Road

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist) between the 31st January and 5th February 2014. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.1.1 An archaeological evaluation of the Polo Farm Sports Club site in 2000 by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) did not reveal any significant archaeological remains, with the exception of a small quantity of medieval pottery and a single piece of worked flint, all from the topsoil (Parfitt, 2000).
- 2.1.2 A subsequent watching brief by CAT in 2005 during the setting out of a new hockey pitch also produced negative results (Guinness, 2005).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The work was carried out according to the Kent County Council *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (KCC 2007). Full details of the techniques used are contained within this document.
- 3.1.2 The monitored groundworks comprised approximately 150m of cable trenching, together with the excavation of joint bays and a mole pit. All groundworks were monitored, with the exception of a 4m wide road crossing predominantly within made ground. Provision was made that in the event that the excavations revealed significant archaeological remains, the contractors would allow sufficient time for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance, within the necessary constraints of site health and safety.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the specification (*ibid.*) using *pro-forma* ASE recording sheets. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record was kept and forms part of the site archive presently held at ASE offices at Portslade, East Sussex - to be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.
- 3.1.5 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector was used where appropriate.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	9
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	7 B+W, 8 CS, 69 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

No significant archaeological deposits or finds were recorded and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

4.1 Sub-station excavation monitored on 31/1/2014

(Figure 2)

4.1.1 The excavation for the sub-station measured 1.85m long, 1.3m wide and 0.65m deep.

4.1.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [01] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints, modern CBM and terram rags.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.60
03	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 2: List of recorded contexts – sub-station

4.2 LV cable trench and HV joint bay excavation monitored on 3/2/2014

(Figure 2)

4.2.1 The LV cable trench measured 0.40m wide and up to 0.70m deep; the joint bay measured 3m long, up to 2m wide and up to 1m deep.

4.2.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [02] consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional modern CBM.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
02	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.40 – 0.50
03	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 3: List of recorded contexts – LV cable trench and HV joint bay

4.3 HV cable trench monitored on 4/2/2014

(Figure 2)

4.3.1 The HV cable trench measured 0.40m wide and up to 1m deep.

4.3.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [09] consisting of mid/dark yellowish brown silty clay with 5% gravel; made ground [08] consisting of mid greyish brown very sandy silt with 40% flint cobbles and gravel.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
08 and 09	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.40 – 0.50
03	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 4: List of recorded contexts – HV cable trench

4.4 Mole pit (unused) excavation monitored on 4/2/2014

(Figures 2 and 3)

4.4.1 The mole pit measured 2m x 2m and was up to 1m deep. The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [07] consisting of mid brownish yellow silty sand with up to 50% gravel and flint cobbles; tarmac layer [06] consisting of 0.30m of very dark greyish black slightly silty sand with 60% stone chippings; brick crush layer [05] consisting of 0.25m of mid yellowish red silty sand with up to 60% brick fragments; topsoil [04] consisting of 0.30m of mid yellowish brown very clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles.

4.4.2 Prior to the development of the site into Polo Farm Sports Club, a lane ran from Littlebourne Road to the former piggery immediately to the north, passing through this location (pers.comm. Polo Farm Sports Club groundstaff). Layer [07] represents the road base for this lane, a buried tarmac road [06]. Brick crush [05] represents a levelling deposit and [04], imported topsoil.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
04	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30
05	Layer	Brick crush	Trench	Trench	0.25
06	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.30
07	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.20
03	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 5: List of recorded contexts – Mole pit

4.5 Sub-station link trenches and joint bay monitored on 5/2/2014

(Figure 2)

4.5.1 The cable link trenches measured up to 0.60m wide and up to 1.1m deep; the joint bay measured 2m long and 1m wide and up to 1.1m deep.

4.5.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [01] consisting of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flints, modern CBM and terram rags.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.60
02	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 6: List of recorded contexts – Sub-station link trenches and joint bay

4.6 LV cable trench (south section in ‘The Larches’ garden) monitored on 5/2/2014

(Figure 2)

4.6.1 The LV cable trench measured 0.40m wide and up to 0.70m deep.

4.6.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [03] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional flints (brickearth); made ground [02] consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional modern CBM.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
02	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.40 – 0.50
03	Deposit	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	n/a

Table 7: List of recorded contexts – LV cable trench (south section)

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological deposits or finds were recorded and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.
- 5.2 The absence of archaeological remains, together with negative results from previous archaeological investigations on the site, suggests that the current work has had minimal detrimental effect on the archaeological record (Parfitt, 2000; Guinness, 2005).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Guinness, A, 2005 An archaeological watching brief at Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent. Canterbury Archaeological Trust unpub rep no 2005/67.

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Parfitt, K, 2000 Report on evaluation trenching at Polo Farm Sports Club, near Littlebourne. Canterbury Archaeological Trust unpub rep no 2000/85.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank UK Power Networks for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, Kent County Council for their guidance and monitoring. The work was carried out by Greg Priestley-Bell. Andy Leonard project managed the excavations and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process. Justin Russell produced the figures.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LLR14				
Identification Name and Address	Land at The Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent				
County, District &/or Borough	Kent				
OS Grid Refs.	618095 157993				
Geology	Head Brickearth overlying gravels with Thanet Beds and Chalk underlying				
Arch. South-East Project Number	6605				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			31-1-14 to 5-2-14		
Sponsor/Client	UK Power Networks				
Project Manager	Andy Leonard				
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell				
Period Summary					
				Modern	
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out a watching brief on land at The Larches and Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of a total of approximately 150m of cable trenching, together with a substation base and joint pits was monitored. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-171026

Project details

Project name	The Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by UK Power Networks to carry out a watching brief on land at The Larches and Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent. The excavation of a total of approximately 150m of cable trenching, together with a substation base and joint pits was monitored. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 31-01-2014 End: 05-02-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LLR14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6605 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	ROAD Modern
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT CANTERBURY CANTERBURY The Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent
Postcode	CT3 4AW
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 18095 57993 51.2786424626 1.12752547721 51 16 43 N 001 07 39 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief	Kent County Council

originator

Project design
originator Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group

Project
director/manager Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Greg Priestley-Bell

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Client

Name of
sponsor/funding
body UK Power Networks

Project archives

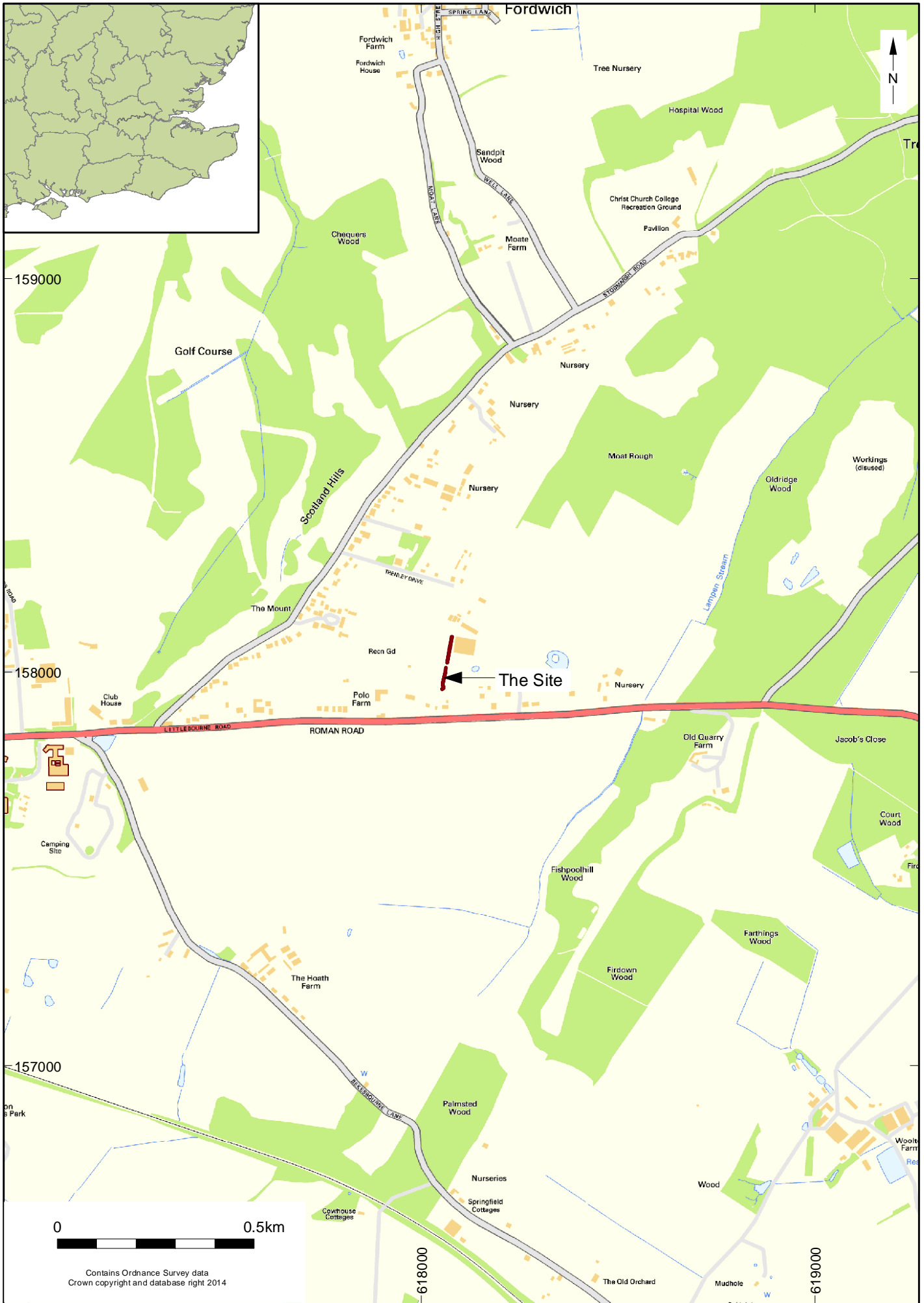
Physical Archive
Exists? No

Digital Media
available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

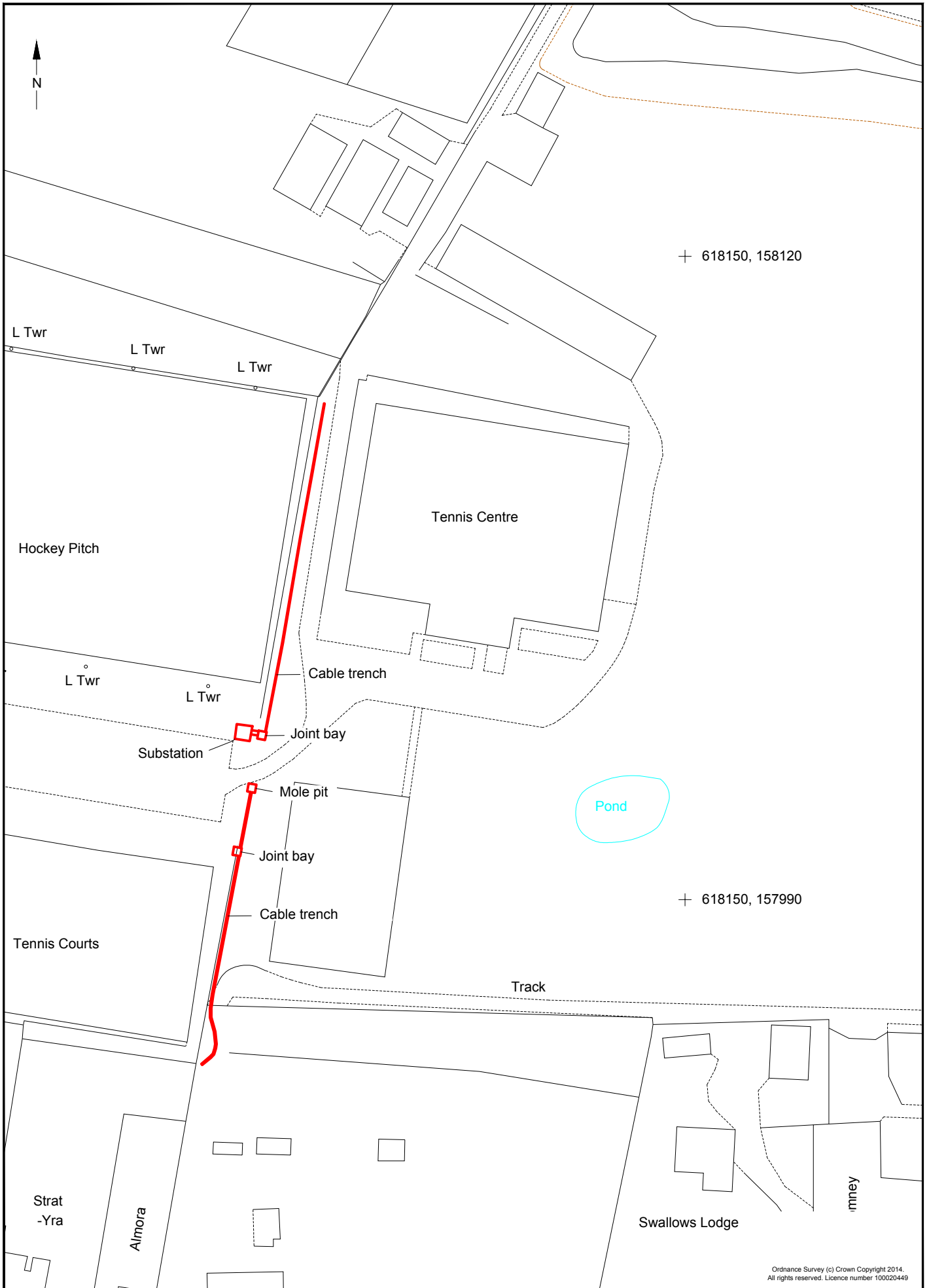
Paper Media
available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Entered by Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)

Entered on 9 February 2014

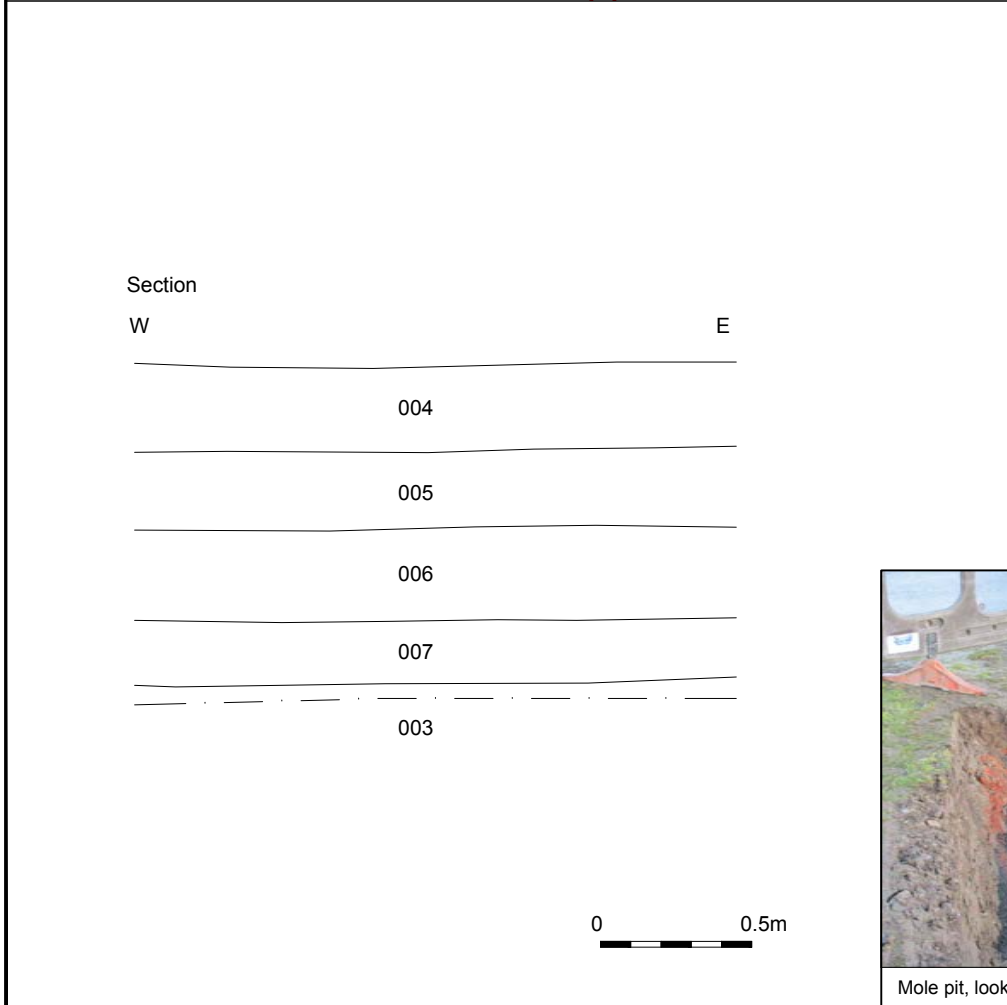
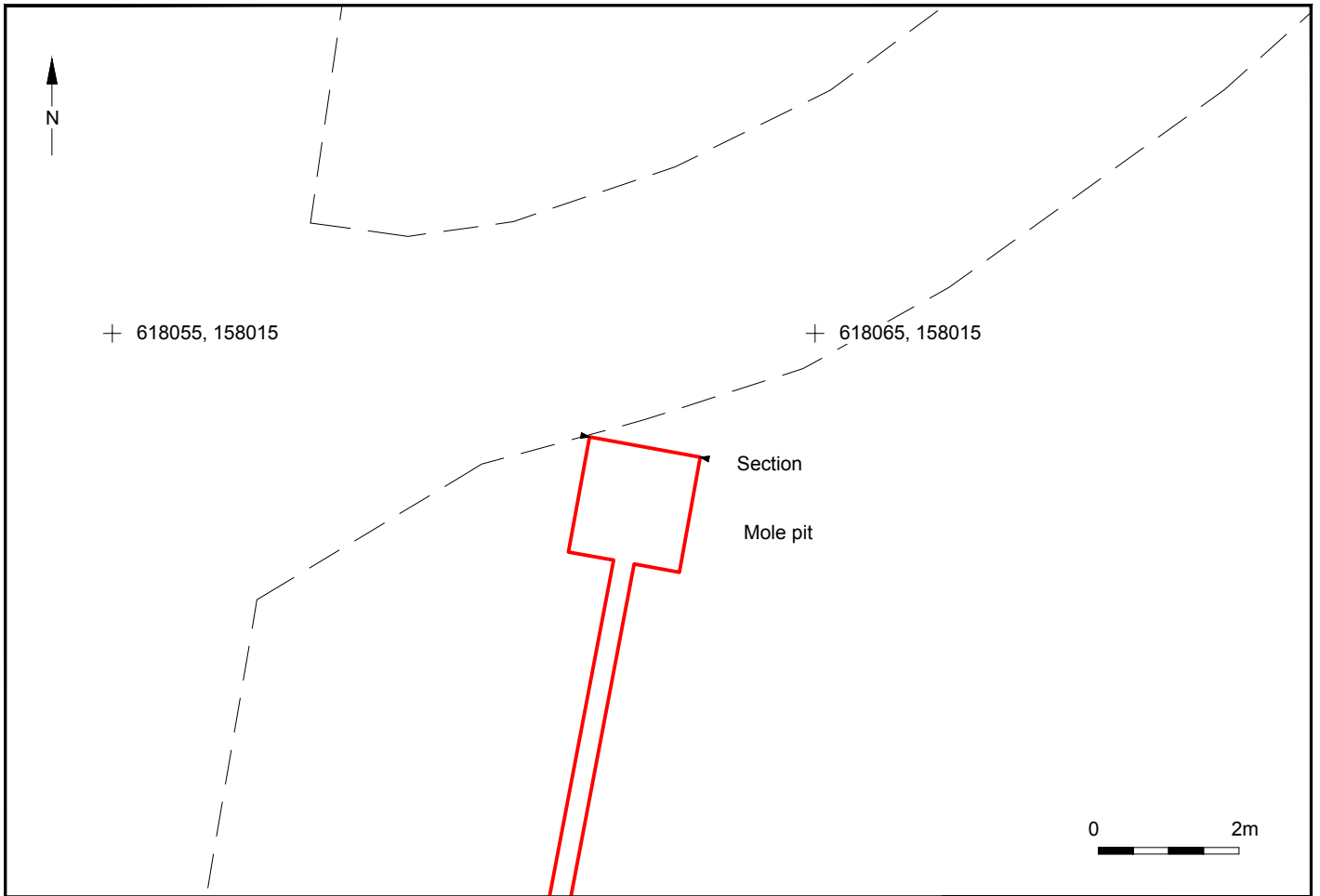


© Archaeology South-East		Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6605	Feb 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014050	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6605	Feb 2014	Plan of monitored works	
Report Ref: 2014050	Drawn by: JLR		



Cable trench looking south



Mole pit, looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Larches, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6605	Feb 2014	Mole pit plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014050	Drawn by: JLR		

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