

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Fordwater School, Chichester
West Sussex**

**NGR: 486290 106469
(SU 86290 06469)**

**ASE Project No: 6702
Site Code: CFH14**

**ASE Report No: 2014135
OASIS id: archaeol6-178204**

By Hayley Nicholls

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May 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations aimed at informing the proposed foundation design of the proposed development at Fordwater School, Summersdale Road, Chichester, West Sussex.

The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits and four bore holes, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features.

Natural deposits of mid orange and mid yellow-orange clay with abundant flint inclusions were recorded in all four boreholes at depths of between 0.6m and 1.25m below existing ground level.

Three of the four bore holes appeared to contain an intact subsoil horizon which would suggest that areas of the site outside of the existing school buildings may be relatively intact, particularly the east of the site towards the scheduled monument. Borehole 4, to the west of the site did not appear to contain a subsoil horizon suggesting that the area which comprises the front of the school, furthest from the scheduled monument may be the most disturbed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.

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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 CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations aimed at informing the proposed foundation design of the proposed development at Fordwater School, Summersdale Road, Chichester, West Sussex. (NGR 486290 106469; Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014, accessed 29/04/2014) the natural bedrock geology of the site comprises Lambeth Group deposits of clay, silt and sand, overlain by superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay.

1.2.2 The site is irregular in shape, bounded by Lloyd Road to the East, Blomfield Road to the South, the rear of properties along Summersdale Road and their associated parking to the west, and by Augusta Court Care Home and grounds to the north. The site covers an area of approximately 1.4ha and lies on relatively flat ground at a height of approximately 31m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 It is proposed to develop the site of Fordwater School, Chichester. The archaeological investigation was undertaken as a phase of pre-application works in order to monitor geotechnical investigations which aimed to inform the proposed foundation design of the proposed development.

1.3.2 The existing Fordwater School building lies adjacent to the Chichester Dyke Scheduled Monument (EH Ref: 1005862) which runs approximately north-south through the eastern area of the school grounds (Figs 1 - 2). The location of the geotechnical investigations lay outside of the Scheduled Area associated with the Chichester Dyke. However, the investigations had the potential to affect any associated archaeological remains which might be present outside of the scheduled area. For this reason, it was deemed appropriate that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken to monitor the geotechnical investigations.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared (CgMs 2014) and approved by John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council and Paul Roberts, English Heritage Inspector of Monuments. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The main objective of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological deposits, finds and features encountered during the course of the geotechnical works, and determine the character, quality and date of each feature or deposit encountered.

1.4.2 The specific research objectives of the watching brief were:

- 1) To determine the presence of any activity on site dating to the prehistoric period. Can this activity be associated with the Iron Age Chichester Dyke Scheduled Monument? Can this evidence assist in establishing the localised extent on the monument?
- 2) To determine the presence of any activity on site dating to the Roman period
- 3) To determine the presence of any activity on site dating to the Anglo-Saxon or medieval period
- 4) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief which was undertaken by Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist) on the 15th April 2014. The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Project Managers, post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following information is paraphrased from the WSI (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A Palaeolithic handaxe was found near Brandy Hole Lane, c. 800m to the west of the site (2343, SU 85545 06715).

2.2.2 A small bifacially worked Palaeolithic flint handaxe was found within a natural feature during archaeological evaluation c. 800m to the south-east of the site (3340, SU 87021 06074). In the same area, two groups of pits provisionally dated to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age were excavated (2466, SU 87010 06120; Kenny, 1997; 9994, SU 86919 05839).

2.2.3 A probable Bronze Age settlement site was recorded during a phase of archaeological evaluation and excavation, located c. 350m to the east of the site. (4017, SU 86694 06512; Wildman, 1998, Priestly Bell, forthcoming).

2.2.4 Six possible Bronze Age cremation burials were excavated during archaeological investigations c. 600m to the south of the site (4011, SU 86618 05962).

2.2.5 A spiral-headed copper alloy pin and a few flint scrapers were found during fieldwalking to the southeast of the site (3343, SU 86816 05668; Kenny 1993). An isolated Bronze Age arrowhead was found in gardens adjacent to Warren farm Lane, c. 650m to the northwest of the site (2389, SU 85700 06860)

2.2.6 The site is located adjacent to the north-eastern corner of a series of dykes known as the Chichester entrenchments. These earthworks define the northern end of an area of land between them and Selsey Bill that is thought to contain the remains of an Iron Age oppidum. Although pre-Roman conquest pottery has been recorded in the general Chichester/Fishbourne area, there is no definite evidence as to where the core of the oppidum was located (Davenport 2003).

2.2.7 Further Iron Age deposits recorded close to the site are the remains of two cremations. The cremations were found in the 1930s close to the entrenchment extending north to south through Havenstoke Park. Two ceramic pots containing cremated bones were found. One pot was badly damaged, however the other was in better condition and could be identified as Belgic, dating to approximately AD40-50 (2444, SU 86403 06315; Williams-Freeman 1934).

2.2.8 To the south of Graylingwell Hospital an Iron Age enclosure ditch was found during an excavation in 1998. This was possibly part of a ditch enclosing a farmstead. The ditch is reported to pre-date the section of entrenchment recorded during the same excavation (4012, SU 86681 05939; Kenny 2001).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Chichester was an important administrative Roman centre called Noviomagus Regnorum and was the civitas capital of the Regni tribe. A settlement was first established here in AD 43-44 as a military supply base, but was abandoned only a few years later. After the supply base was abandoned, a timber-built town developed which was re-built in stone in the later 2nd century. The town was enclosed by ramparts and walls and prospered until the early 5th century. It declined following the Roman withdrawal from Britain at around 410AD. The northern section of the Roman town walls of Chichester are located approximately 800m south of the site.
- 2.3.2 Two Roman roads extending out of Chichester are located in the immediate area. To the west of the site is the line of the Chichester to Silchester Roman road (1104, SU 86103 05275; 7983, SU 85726 07068). To the south-east of the site, outside of the 1km study area is the course of the Roman road from Chichester to London.
- 2.3.3 A consistent scatter of isolated Roman finds and features have been identified in close proximity to the line of the Chichester to Silchester Roman road (2460, SU 85770 06950; 4188, SU 85792 06623; 2478, SU 85400 06600; 2380, SU 85740 06380; 4298, SU 85953 06443; 2388, SU 85637 05888; 2442, SU 86000 06000; 4127, SU 86070 05509; 8224, SU 86083 05531; 8228, SU 86066 05546; 4433, SU 86107 05484).
- 2.3.4 Two gullies, a prominent boundary ditch and two pits suggesting Roman occupation was found c. 500m to the southeast of the site during an evaluation and excavation in 1998 (4013, SU 86613 05938).
- 2.3.5 Within the floodplain of the River Lavant, c. 800m to the southeast of the site, a series of enclosures and ditches, thought to be Roman in date, have been identified (1858, SU 87170 06480; 2322, SU 87300 06400; 9999, SU 86875 05956; 9995, SU 86936 05865).
- 2.3.6 During boring to the east of the water tower within the main Graylingwell Hospital complex in the 1990s an unknown quantity of Roman "tesserae" (surfacing from a floor) were seen within the spoil. Two parallel Roman ditches were found to the north of the hospital chapel during an evaluation in 1998.
- 2.3.7 Roman pottery and tile fragments were found during field walking to the east of St Richard's Hospital (3344, SU 86816 05668, Kenny 1993). There are also historic reports of a Roman pit and scatter of building material also being found in the vicinity of St. Richard's Hospital (3341, SU 86547 05554; 7947, SU 86637 05566).

2.4 Saxon & Medieval

- 2.4.1 The only Saxon remains recorded within the study area is that of an early Saxon spearhead c. 300m to the south of the site (4328, SU 86030 06970).
- 2.4.2 There is limited evidence for late medieval activity within the study area.
- 2.4.3 Two brick cisterns and elements of a conduit, associated with the medieval water supply to Chichester, have been identified c. 650m to the south of the site (7985, SU 86328 05767; 7990, SU 86371 05811; 7991, SU 86270 05828).
- 2.4.4 A large late medieval ditch and pond have been found near Bostolk Road c650m to the southeast of the site (4014, SU 86678 05925; 4406, SU 86739 05866), with fieldwalking also recovering a small assemblage of Medieval pottery at St. Richard's Hospital (3816, SU 86816 05668).

2.5 Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 During the majority of the post-medieval era the site appears to have remained in the agricultural hinterland between the settlements at Chichester, Mid Lavant and East Lavant.
- 2.5.2 The early Ordnance Survey maps do indicate that a potential earthwork feature associated with Chichester Dyke was present on site up until the late 20th century, at which point it is likely to have been removed to facilitate construction of the school complex. The current school complex was constructed in the early 1970s.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The site was excavated and recorded in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2014) and in line with the professional guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).
- 3.1.2 All test pits were dug by hand under constant archaeological monitoring. All spoil was scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 All boreholes were excavated in two parts. The uppermost c. 1m was dug by hand under constant archaeological monitoring. The lower c. 1m was dug by window sampler. The sleeves were opened on site to allow investigation of the deposits. All spoil was scanned for finds.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Test Pit 2 was relocated against an east wall of the school building as its intended location on a north wall would have blocked an exit (Figure 2).
- 3.2.2 Borehole 3 was relocated 0.7m to the north as its intended location lay over a gas main (Figure 2).

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	24
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Photographs	10 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Test Pit 1

4.1.1 The test pit was located against a south facing school wall, and measured 0.6m from north to south and 0.35m from east to west. At its maximum depth the pit measured 0.5m.

4.1.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
101	Layer	Turf	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1
102	Layer	Gravel	Test Pit	0.3	0.04
103	Footing	Concrete foundation	Test Pit	>0.3	0.32
104	Fill	Backfill against [103]	Test Pit	>0.3	>0.4

Table 2: Test Pit 1, list of recorded contexts

4.2 Test Pit 2

4.2.1 The test pit was located against an east facing school wall, and measured 0.45m from north to south and 0.9m from east to west. At its maximum depth the pit measured 0.4m.

4.2.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
201	Layer	Concrete paving slab	Test Pit	0.9	0.04
202	Layer	Sandy base layer for [201]	Test Pit	>0.9	0.05
203	Footing	Concrete foundation	Test Pit	>0.45	0.35
204	Fill	Backfill against [203]	Test Pit	>0.45	>0.3

Table 3: Test Pit 2, list of recorded contexts

4.3 Borehole 1

4.3.1 The borehole was located within a grassy play area to the north of the school buildings.

4.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
301	Layer	Turf	Borehole	Borehole	0.1
302	Layer	Made ground? Mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.3
303	Layer	Subsoil? Mid brown-yellow silt clay with frequent flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.8
304	Layer	Natural orange clay with abundant flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.8

Table 4: Borehole 1, list of recorded contexts

4.4 Borehole 2

4.4.1 The borehole was located towards the edge of a tarmacked playground, to the east of the school buildings, immediately west of the scheduled area.

4.4.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
401	Layer	Turf	Borehole	Borehole	0.15
402	Layer	Made ground? Mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.4
403	Layer	Subsoil? Mid brown-yellow silt clay with frequent flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.45
404	Layer	Natural grey-yellow clay with frequent flint			0.4
405	Layer	Natural orange clay with abundant flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.6

Table 5: Borehole 2, list of recorded contexts

4.5 Borehole 3

4.5.1 The borehole was located close to the centre of the site between two school buildings on an area of raised made ground.

4.5.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
501	Layer	Turf	Borehole	Borehole	0.1
502	Layer	Made ground? Mid brown clay silt with occasional flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.6
503	Layer	Subsoil? Mid brown-orange silt clay with occasional flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.55
504	Layer	Natural orange clay with abundant flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.75

Table 6: Borehole 3, list of recorded contexts

4.6 Borehole 4

4.6.1 The borehole was located within a grassed area to the west of the school buildings.

4.6.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
601	Layer	Turf	Borehole	Borehole	0.1
602	Layer	Made ground? Mid brown clay silt with frequent flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.5
603	Layer	Natural light grey-yellow clay with abundant flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.4
604	Layer	Natural yellow-orange clay with abundant flint	Borehole	Borehole	0.9

Table 7: Borehole 4, list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Geology and stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Natural deposits of mid orange and mid yellow-orange clay with abundant flint inclusions were recorded in all four boreholes at depths of between 0.6m and 1.25m below existing ground level. The test pits were of insufficient depth to encounter the natural deposits.

5.1.2 Three of the four bore holes appeared to contain an intact subsoil horizon which would suggest that areas of the site outside of the existing school buildings may be relatively intact, particularly the east of the site towards the scheduled monument. Borehole 4, to the west of the site did not appear to contain a subsoil horizon suggesting that the area which comprises the front of the school, furthest from the scheduled monument may be the most disturbed.

5.2 Archaeological features and consideration of research aims

5.2.1 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.

5.2.2 The basic aims of the watching brief were achieved in that the character and quality of all deposits was analysed and recorded. The absence of finds prevented the dating of all deposits.

5.2.3 The lack of archaeological finds, deposits or features precluded the watching brief from addressing any of the specific research aims.

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HER Summary

Site Code	CFH14					
Identification Name and Address	Fordwater School, Chichester					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Chichester					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 486290 106469					
Geology	Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6702					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork			WB 15/4/14			
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Hayley Nicholls					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations aimed at informing the proposed foundation design of the proposed development at Fordwater School, Summersdale Road, Chichester, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits and four bore holes, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features.</i></p> <p><i>Natural deposits of mid orange and mid yellow-orange clay with abundant flint inclusions were recorded in all four boreholes at depths of between 0.6m and 1.25m below existing ground level.</i></p> <p><i>Three of the four bore holes appeared to contain an intact subsoil horizon which would suggest that areas of the site outside of the existing school buildings may be relatively intact, particularly the east of the site towards the scheduled monument. Borehole 4, to the west of the site did not appear to contain a subsoil horizon suggesting that the area which comprises the front of the school, furthest from the scheduled monument may be the most disturbed.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-178204

Project details

Project name Watching Brief at Fordwater School, Chichester

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations aimed at informing the proposed foundation design of the proposed development at Fordwater School, Summersdale Road, Chichester, West Sussex. The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits and four bore holes, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features. Natural deposits of mid orange and mid yellow-orange clay with abundant flint inclusions were recorded in all four boreholes at depths of between 0.6m and 1.25m below existing ground level. Three of the four bore holes appeared to contain an intact subsoil horizon which would suggest that areas of the site outside of the existing school buildings may be relatively intact, particularly the east of the site towards the scheduled monument. Borehole 4, to the west of the site did not appear to contain a subsoil horizon suggesting that the area which comprises the front of the school, furthest from the scheduled monument may be the most disturbed. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.

Project dates Start: 15-04-2014 End: 15-04-2014

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CFH14 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER CHICHESTER Fordwater School

Site coordinates SU 86290 06469 50.8507339371 -0.774057430097 50 51 02 N 000 46 26 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design Archaeology South-East

originator

Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Hayley Nicholls
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Digital Archive ID	CFH14
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography
1

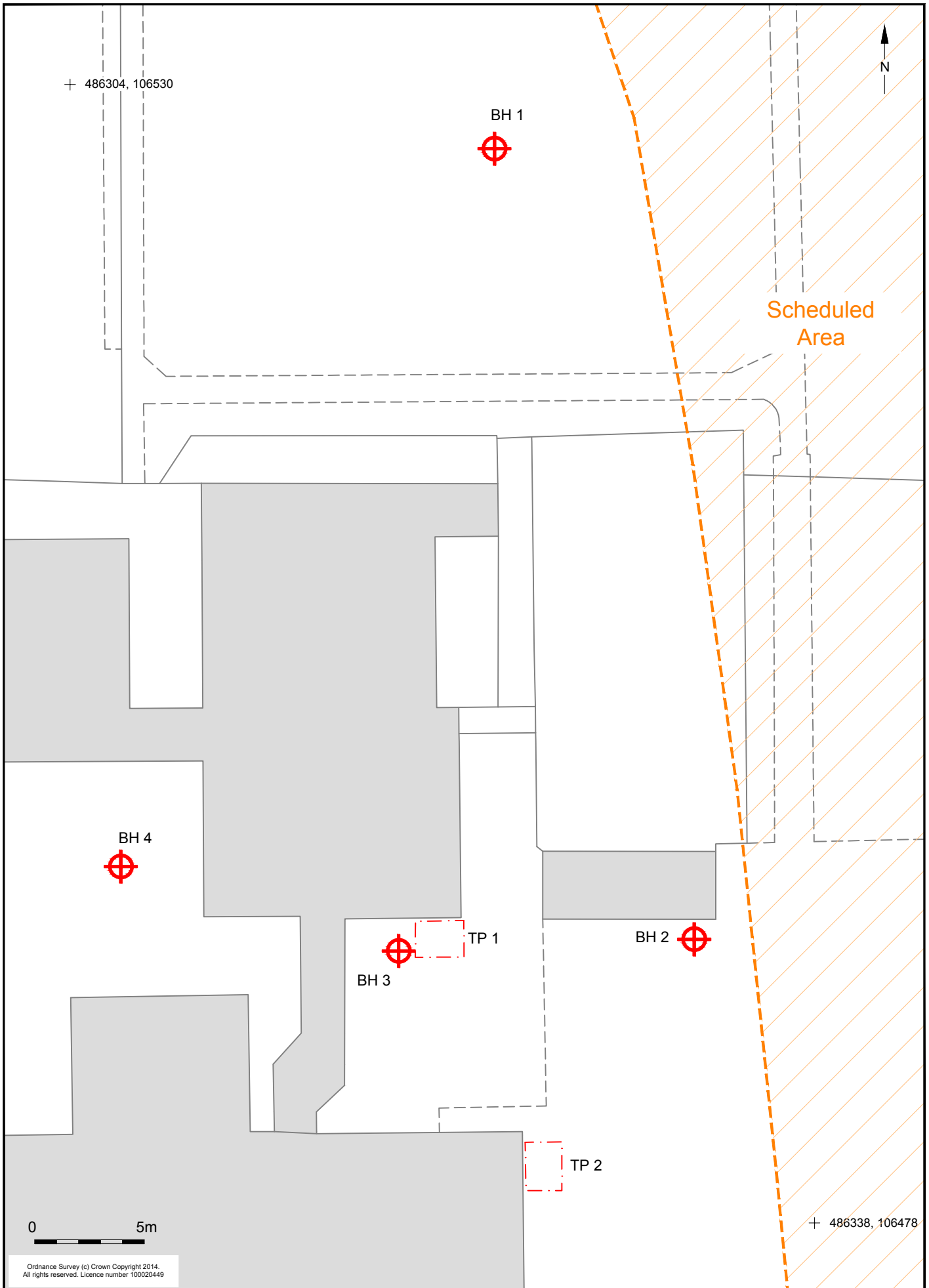
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© Archaeology South-East		Fordwater School, Chichester	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6702	May 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014135	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Fordwater School, Chichester	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6702	May 2014	Site plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: RHC		

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