Archaeology South-East

ASE

The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive
St. Albans, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

ASE Project No: 8355
Site Code: SABS 15

ASE Report No: 2015156

May 2015

THE BEAUMONT SCHOOL, OAKWOOD DRIVE
ST ALBANS
HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NGR: TL 17569 07467

Planning Reference: 5/14/0940

ASE Project No: 8355
Site Code: SABS 15

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Abstract

In April 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St Albans. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for development of land immediately to the south of the existing school buildings and followed an earlier geophysical survey that identified magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

Six trenches, between 20 and 60m in length and 2m in width, were excavated in targeted locations across the site, specifically positioned to investigate the various anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed the presence of extensive areas of modern disturbance and infilling with brick rubble, most likely undertaken to improve ground levels on the site prior to the formation of the existing playing fields, which appears to account for the widespread magnetic anomalies. Faint linear anomalies detected at the northern end of the site, outside the area of modern disturbance, were also shown to be of non-archaeological origin with no visible features noted in the trenches. It is suggested that these anomalies may have been produced by underlying mole drains or running tracks and pitch lines compacted by decades of use and enhanced by line marking paint.

No archaeological finds or features were noted in any of the trenches, indicating that the development will not have any impact on the archaeological record.

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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 to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for development of the site and followed an earlier geophysical survey that identified magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

1.1.2 The proposed development site lies on the eastern outskirts of St. Albans, to the immediate north of the A1057 Hatfield Road, and encompasses the area of the extant school playing field (NGR TL 17569 07467 - Figure 1). It is bounded by the school buildings to the north, by residential development centred around Wynches Farm Drive to the east, by residential development along Hatfield Road to the south and by residential development along Oakwood Drive to the west.

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site sits on relatively level ground, with a slight slope descending from west to east culminating in a very shallow W-E valley on the eastern side of the site. Trench 3 was positioned at the approximate lowest point of the valley within the site boundary; however the ground seemingly descends further and at a steeper rate beyond the site boundary. Drainage ditches carry water along various property/field boundaries in the area east of the school/ north-west of Home Wood. The highest recorded ground levels were at the west end of Trench 1 towards the north-west corner of the site (99.18mAOD) and at the south-west end of Trench 5 towards the south-west corner of site (97.17mAOD). The lowest recorded ground level was at the southern end of Trench 3 at the eastern edge of the site (95.11mAOD).

1.2.2 The superficial geology of the site comprises glacial tills (diamicton) of the Lowestoft formation overlying bedrock deposits of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) (British Geological Survey © NERC 2015). During fieldwork the geology was recorded as light yellow silty clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (5/14/0940) was submitted to St. Albans City & District Council (SACDC) in April 2014 for: *Outline application (means of access sought) for mixed use development (up to a maximum of 75 dwellings including 2 and 2.5 storey dwellings), 6.17ha sports pitches including a hard surfaced area and all weather pitch, 0.74ha woodland, new school parking area, new classrooms and sports hall for the school and new vehicular access and access road from Hatfield Road to serve school and proposed residential development* at *Beaumont School And Land To North Of Winches Farm Hatfield Road St Albans.*

1.3.2 As the site lies in an area of archaeological potential the SACDC District Archaeologist, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. This advice is based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The condition (no. 6) that was subsequently attached to the planning consent states that:

6. No development shall take place on site until the applicants, or their agent or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicants and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason
6. To ensure adequate opportunity is provided for archaeological research on this potentially historically important site to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East on behalf of CgMs Consulting (ASE 2015) and approved by the SACDC District Archaeologist prior to the commencement of works. This WSI pertained solely to archaeological works relating to the construction of the new school infrastructure to the immediate south of the existing school buildings, and residential development between this and Hatfield Road, and was based upon discussions between CgMs Consulting and the SACDC District Archaeologist regarding the nature and scope of work required following an earlier geophysical survey that identified magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin (ArchaeoPhysica 2015).

1.3.4 The results of this evaluation will be used to inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological work required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation in-situ.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation of an area of land prior to its proposed development. It also assesses the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork was directed by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) between the 7th and 10th April 2015 and was managed by Adrian Scruby.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following background is largely drawn from the Desk-based Assessment conducted by CgMs Consulting (2014) for the development area as a whole, in addition to readily available historic mapping.

2.2 The Desk-based Assessment indicated that the site is located in an area largely devoid of significant archaeological remains of all periods and was therefore considered to be of low archaeological potential.

2.3 However, due to the relative proximity to the Iron Age and Roman town of Verulamium the surrounding landscape would have been occupied and farmed during these periods and the potential for as yet unknown remains of these dates to be present was not entirely discounted.

2.4 A geophysical survey was undertaken in early 2015 (ArchaeoPhysica 2015) across the playing field area that identified a series of anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Figure 2). The anomalies to the south of the area where thought to potentially represent a large-infilled feature such as a moat or a large building, although no such features have been previously recorded within the site or are suggested by either historic mapping or documentary sources.

2.5 An analysis of historic mapping reveals a relatively static picture of the site from the mid-18th century through to the mid-20th. The area of the site is depicted as woodland to the immediate south-west of *Winche's Farm* on Dury and Andrew's map of the county from 1766. At this time *Bemonds Farm* lies to the north west of the woodland but this is later depicted as *Beaumont's* and is presumably where Beaumont School derives its name. On Bryant's map of the county, surveyed 1820-1821, *Beaumonts* is first depicted and the wood south-west of *Winches* shown as a regular square abutting Hatfield Road. The woodland is depicted as *Winche's Wood* on the Ordnance Survey map published in 1879 and appears unchanged until the school is first depicted on mapping published in 1938. The playing field to its south is established at this point but covers a smaller area than today, with a slightly truncated *Winche's Wood* surviving for around 20 more years before the playing field is extended to meet Hatfield Road. The site boundaries as existing today are shown on mapping published by the Ordnance Survey from 1960 onwards.

2.6 The presence of woodland shown throughout these periods suggests a lack of significant activity on the site, although it could potentially mask earlier features such as ponds or quarry pits within the wood that are not therefore depicted on the maps. This possibility is potentially relevant in light of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

Previous work in the development area

2.7 The recent geophysical survey represents the only previous work undertaken in the development area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD

3.1 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The main aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the development site.

3.1.2 More specifically the trial trenches aimed to fulfil the following objectives:

- to assess any remains uncovered against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area. to assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- to inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological works that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological record;
- to contribute to towards an improved understanding of settlement and landuse in the St. Albans area from prehistory to the present day with, perhaps, particular emphasis on the Iron Age and Roman period.

3.1.3 Any significant discoveries were to be assessed in terms of their potential to contribute to regional research objectives as identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). However, as no significant remains were uncovered the results of the project have no potential to contribute to any research framework objectives.

3.2 Fieldwork Method

3.2.1 Six trenches measuring between 20 and 60m in length and 2m in width were excavated in targeted locations across the site (Figures 2 and 3). The trenches were specifically positioned and their lengths suitably planned in order to investigate the various anomalies of potential archaeological origin identified by the geophysical survey.

3.2.2 Initial mechanical excavation was carried out under close supervision using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken to varying depths depending on the deposits encountered. In Trenches 1, 2 and 3 mechanical excavation removed the topsoil and the underlying subsoil to reveal the surface of an underlying geological deposit of clay which, after cleaning by hand, was inspected for archaeological features and finds. In trenches 4, 5 and 6 deep deposits of modern demolition material were encountered, meaning the depths of excavation varied in order to ensure the trenches remained safe to work in while attempting to demonstrate the extent of modern truncation present and reveal the depth of the undisturbed geological deposit where possible.

3.2.3 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct, by-laws and

guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2.4 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated. Obviously modern features and disturbances underwent minimal recording only.

3.2.5 The following excavation strategy was adopted for all potential archaeological features: 50% of all contained features and at least a 1m segment of all non-structural linear features was excavated using hand tools. Modern features were excavated as necessary and mechanically when appropriate, in order to confirm their date, their significance and their extent. A deposit of potential archaeological or palaeoenvironmental interest in Trench 3 was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision and bulk sampled after consultation with the SACDC District Archaeologist.

3.2.6 The trenches were accurately located using Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) planning technology, which also enabled the recording of datum levels. An all-features trench plan was also produced using this method with accompanying hand drawn sections drawn at 1:10 scale. A full digital photographic record was created, which includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.

3.2.7 Where large quantities of post-medieval and later finds were present, a sample of the finds assemblage, sufficient to date and characterise the feature, was collected. All finds that were retrieved were identified by context number to a specific deposit, and have been properly processed according to ASE and CIfA guidelines (ASE 2011 and CIfA 2014c).

3.2.8 Environmental samples were taken from well stratified deposits that were deemed to have potential for preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (minimum 40L or 100% of context) were taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 Subject to the landowner's permission, Archaeology South-East will arrange with St. Albans Museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection, currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below:

Number of contexts	23
No. of files/paper record	1 (inc.6 trench record sheets and context sheets where required)
Drawing sheets	2
Photographs	60 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	3.028 kg (recommended for discard)
Ecofactual remains	1 timber fragment (recommended for discard)
	1 flot

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 3 was positioned across the lowest reaches of a broad valley descending west to east across the site. An undated deposit of silt, possibly alluvial but more likely to be colluvial in origin, was encountered at the lowest point in the trench. This was the only context of potential archaeological interest encountered during the evaluation. Therefore the following section provides a summary of the stratigraphy encountered, including deposit descriptions and their general thicknesses; and summaries the extent and depths to which modern truncation was revealed. Detailed results for the individual trenches are provided in Appendix 1.

4..2 Six trenches measuring between 20 and 60m in length and 2m in width were excavated in targeted locations across the site (Figures 2 and 3). Mechanical excavation of the trenches reached depths that varied from 0.5 and 1.4m and was dependant on the extent of modern deposits encountered.

4.3 The existing ground surface was a turfed playing field across the entire site. Mechanical excavation removed an overburden comprising modern topsoil (present in all of the trenches) together with occasional underlying subsoil and modern made-ground layers where present. Modern demolition deposits were encountered in Trenches 4, 5 and 6, which were mechanically excavated to varying depths as appropriate.

4.4 The topsoil consisted of turf above a mid-orange brown, firm sandy silt (recorded together under a single context number). It had a relatively consistent thickness of between 0.2 and 0.4m.

4.5 Subsoil was recorded in the eastern half of Trench 1 (Figure 4), in the central area of Trench 4 (Figure 6) and at the north-west end of Trench 6. In Trench 1 it was recorded as a mid-brown grey, firm sandy silt with occasional medium rounded stones (0.11-0.2m thick); and in trenches 4 and 6 it was recorded as a light yellow brown, firm clay silt (0.17-0.19m thick). One fragment of a post-medieval roof tile was recovered from [1/002] (5.3). These deposits are suggested to represent the truncated remains of earlier topsoil, predating the mid-20th century landscaping that would have occurred during formation of the school playing field.

4.6 Probable evidence of this landscaping was revealed in trenches 3 and 4 (Figures 5 and 6). Here layers of made ground were recorded at varying thicknesses. They were at their thickest c.7m from the north end of Trench 3 (section 3) where they had a combined thickness of 0.68m. The layers were mixed deposits of mid and dark orange brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of modern demolition waste and building rubble. This made-ground was recorded at the north-east end of Trench 4 but thinned as the ground level rose towards the trench centre. This material appears to have been deposited as levelling layers to infill the natural slope present at the eastern edge of the site. This slope/broad valley and associated infill appears to account for the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

4.7 At the lowest point of the valley, in Trench 3, the modern made-ground was revealed to be sealing a layer of undisturbed colluvial silt above the natural

clay (Figure 5, section 3). This comprised light brownish grey silt 0.32m thick from which a fragment of wood was recovered and an environmental sample collected (see section 5.7).

4.8 Trenches 4, 5 and 6 revealed a substantial amount of modern truncation/ infilling (Figures 6-8). A large pit was present at the south-west end of Trench 4 and continued beyond the confines of the trench. The modern material was present directly below the topsoil.

4.9 Trench 5 revealed a substantial modern deposit likely to represent the fill of multiple intercutting pits, present directly below the topsoil along the entire length of the trench. Although small patches of natural clay were revealed in a few locations (between c. 0.5 and 0.8m below ground level), the vast majority of the trench base revealed the continuation of modern backfill (all grouped under single context [5/004] along with the excavated layer), which comprised mixed deposits of clay, silt and gravel all with large quantities of building rubble and mixed domestic waste. A sample of finds was collected from the deposit in order to confirm its 20th century date; this included a fragment of a ceramic jar for Sainsbury's fish paste (5.2), and a stamped glass milk bottle (5.4). At the south-west end of trench 5 a test pit was dug to a depth of 1.4m below ground level, which failed to reveal natural clay.

4.10 Trench 6 revealed similar results (Figure 8). Natural clay was revealed beneath a layer of modern material at approximately 0.6m below ground level. This layer was not excavated along the entire length of the trench, although it was seen to become more substantial towards the south-east end of the trench, where it was revealed in a test pit continuing to a depth of 1.18m below ground level.

4.11 Due to the evident landscaping around the area of Trench 3 and the modern truncation at the south end of the site the underlying geological deposit of light orange yellow silty clay was revealed at varying depths below existing ground level. In Trenches 1 and 2 it was present at c.0.2-0.47m below ground level. In Trench 3 it was present between 0.65 and 1.3m below ground level (with the colluvial silt occurring at a depth of c.1m). In Trench 4 the natural clay was revealed between 0.32 and 0.48m below ground level; and in Trenches 5 and 5, where the majority of truncation had occurred, small remnants were revealed at approximately 0.5-0.8m, but elsewhere truncation had occurred to a much greater depth: unknown in Trench 5 and 1.3m at the south-east end of Trench 6.

4.12 No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in any of the trenches.

5.0 FINDS ANALYSIS by Elissa Menzel

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Land at Beaumont's School, St Alban's. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context (Table 2).

5.1.2 A small assemblage of later post medieval and modern finds was recovered during the evaluation work. They are described below under material subheadings. The assemblage includes isolated and/or undiagnostic finds and given its recent date and small size is not considered to be of significance. Due to their recent date and their lack of significance it is recommended that all finds be discarded.

5.1.3 In addition to the bulk finds listed below, a timber fragment was recovered from silt deposit [3/004] in Trench 3. The analysis of this find is presented alongside the environmental analysis in section 6.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)
1/002			1	176				
3/002			2	2154				
3/003			2	290			1	6
3/004 <1>							1	4
5/004	1	36			1	366		
Total	**1**	**36**	**5**	**2620**	**1**	**366**	**2**	**10**

Table 2: Quantification of bulk finds

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 A single fragment of a squat, white ceramic jar was recovered from deposit [5/004]. The fragment is stamped with a Sainsbury's trademark and "SAINSBURY'S FRESHLY MADE BLOATER PASTE". Bloater paste is a fish spread made from salted and smoked fish. This jar is dates to the late 19th to 20th century.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 Four fragments of CBM and a nearly complete brick weighting a total of 2620g were recovered from three contexts. One fragment of a post-medieval roof tile in an orange fabric was recovered from layer [1/002]. A nearly complete brick dated to the 19th century, and a fragment of modern white ceramic tile was recovered from layer [3/002]. The brick displays a frog with two maker's stamps, one of which is illegible; the other though difficult to distinguish is likely "PBORO". Two fragments of post-medieval bricks, one in an orange fabric, the other a red fabric, were recovered from layer [3/003].

5.4 Glass

5.4.1 A single intact glass milk bottle stamped “KINGSBURY FARM DAIRY ST. ALBANS” was recovered from layer [5/004]. This bottle dates to the middle 20th century.

5.5 Stone

5.5.1 A single piece of coal was recovered from layer [3/003] as well as an undiagnostic fragment of slag from layer [3/004] <1>.

5.6 **The Wood** by Lucy Allott

5.6.1 A single piece of wood was collected from context [3/004] during the evaluation. There is no evidence for wood working on the object and it is not clear whether it derives from a section of trunk or root wood. A small piece of the wood was removed for identification and thin sections of the transverse, tangential longitudinal and radial longitudinal were manually taken and viewed under a transmitted light microscope at x50, 100, 200 and 400 magnifications. Although the piece is well preserved it has not been possible to refine the identification beyond hazel/ alder / hornbeam (Corylus/ Alnus/ Carpinus sp.) as perforation plates (a key diagnostic anatomical feature) are not visible. Further sections could be obtained to help refine this; however, this unworked timber appears to hold limited potential for further study.

5.7 **The Environmental Sample** by Angela Vitolo

Introduction

5.7.1 During evaluation work at the site, one bulk soil sample was taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The sample was taken from a silt deposit of unknown date at the base of a natural valley. It was noted during fieldwork that the grey silt deposit was distinctly different from surrounding sediments. The following report records the contents of this sample and documents any information they provide regarding the local vegetation environment, plant or animal use.

Methodology

5.7.2 The sample was processed by flotation in its entirety; the flot and residue were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residue was passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 1). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and the contents recorded (Table 2). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers et al. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Results and Discussion

5.7.3 The flot was dominated by uncharred vegetation, such as rootlets, twigs and

many uncharred seeds of elder (Sambucus nigra) (a woodland margin tree), bramble (Rubus sp.), and goosefoots (Chenopodium sp.), both of which may grow on disturbed ground. A large number of fungal sclerotia were also seen. Although the deposit was not recorded as waterlogged the presence of an uncharred timber (see Allott) suggests that the base of the valley may be sufficiently wet to preserve these uncharred organics. The roots and seeds could also provide signs of low level disturbance and infiltration of modern contaminants root action.

5.7.4 No charred plant remains were found and the fragments of charcoal recovered from the residues were too few to warrant identification work. Given that the silt contained no evidence for in situ charring and it is likely that wood charcoal fragments accumulated gradually within the deposit the assemblage presents little potential to examine fuel selection. The heavy residue contained industrial waste, such as coal, slag and magnetic material, as well as a small amount of burnt bone and ceramic building material, indicating that the deposit is likely to be of comparatively recent origin, having accumulated in a wet, lower-lying area prior to the infilling of the valley with modern rubble.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Consideration of project aims

6.1.1 The evaluation has achieved its primary aim of determining the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, demonstrating the presence of extensive areas of modern truncation and infilling in the central and southern parts of the site, most likely to improve ground levels prior to the formation of the existing playing fields.

6.1.2 Faint linear anomalies detected at the northern end of the site in trenches 1 and 2, outside the area of modern disturbance, were also shown to be of non-archaeological origin with no visible features noted. It is suggested that these weak anomalies may have been produced by underlying mole drains or running tracks and pitch lines compacted by decades of use and enhanced by line marking paint.

6.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were noted in any of the trenches, indicating that the development will not have any impact on the archaeological record. As no archaeological finds or features were identified the results of the fieldwork will not contribute towards any regional research framework objectives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting (Peter Reeves) for commissioning the work, the staff of the Beaumont School for their assistance throughout the project, and the St Albans City & District Council District Archaeologist (Simon West) for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Adam Dyson, assisted during the fieldwork by Lukasz Miciak, Jesse Bennett and Gemma Ward. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

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Appendix 1: Detailed trench results

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

Heights at W end of trench = 99.18m AOD (top) 98.82m AOD (base)
Heights at E end of trench = 98.48m AOD (top) 98.05m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[1/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.2-0.28m
[1/002]	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown grey, firm sandy silt with occasional medium rounded stones	0.11-0.2m
[1/003]	-	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Heights at W end of trench = 98.62m AOD (top) 98.27m AOD (base)
Heights at E end of trench = 97.76m AOD (top) 97.31m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[2/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.3-0.35m
[2/002]	-	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-

Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Heights at N end of trench = 95.39m AOD (top) 94.68m AOD (base)
Heights at S end of trench = 95.11m AOD (top) 94.27m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[3/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.3-0.35m
[3/002]	Layer	Modern made-ground – mixed deposit of mid brown and grey clay silt with moderate rubble	0.2-0.35m
[3/003]	Layer	Modern made-ground – mixed deposit of mid brown and grey clay silt with moderate rubble	0.48m
[3/004]	Layer	?Colluvium – light brownish grey, compact clay silt	0.32m
[3/005]	-	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-

Trench 4 (Figure 6)

Heights at NE end of trench = 95.30m AOD (top) 94.74m AOD (base)
Heights at SW end of trench = 95.85m AOD (top) 95.35m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[4/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.13-0.23m
[4/002]	Layer	Modern made ground – mixed deposit of mid brown and grey clay silt with moderate rubble	0.29m
[4/003]	Layer	Subsoil – light yellow brown, firm clay silt	0.19m
[4/004]	Layer	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-
[4/005]	Fill	Backfill of modern truncation – mixed deposit of brown clay silt and modern demolition waste	0.30m+

Trench 5 (Figure 7)

Heights at NE end of trench = 96.89m AOD (top) 96.37m AOD (base)
Heights at SW end of trench = 97.17m AOD (top) 96.33m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[5/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.16-0.2m
[5/002]	-	Voided context	-
[5/003]	-	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-
[5/004]	Cut	Backfill of multiple modern truncations – mixed deposit of modern demolition waste	0.3-0.1.2m+

Trench 6 (Figure 8)

Heights at NW end of trench = 96.23m AOD (top) 95.36m AOD (base)
Heights at SE end of trench = 95.77m AOD (top) 94.66m AOD (base of sondage)

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
[6/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid orange brown, firm sandy silt	0.2-0.4m
[6/002]	Layer	Subsoil – light yellow brown, firm clay silt	0.17m
[6/003]	-	Natural – light orange yellow, compact silty clay	-
[6/004]	Layer	Backfill of modern truncation – mixed deposit of brown clay silt and modern demolition waste	0.88m

Appendix 2: HER summary form

Site Code	SABS15					
Identification Name and Address	The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St. Albans, Hertfordshire					
County, District &/or Borough	St Albans City & District Council. Hertfordshire					
OS Grid Refs.	TL 17569 07467					
Geology	Lowestoft Formation overlying bedrock deposits of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	8355					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval					
Type of Site	School playing field					
Dates of Fieldwork	07/04/15	10/04/15				
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby (ASE)					
Project Supervisor	Adam Dyson (ASE)					
Period Summary	MOD					

Summary

In April 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St Albans. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for development of land immediately to the south of the existing school buildings and followed an earlier geophysical survey that identified magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

Six trenches, measuring between 20 and 60m in length and 2m in width, were excavated in targeted locations across the site, specifically positioned to investigate the various anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed the presence of extensive areas of modern truncation and infilling with brick rubble, most likely to improve ground levels on the site prior to the formation of the existing playing fields, which appears to account for the widespread magnetic anomalies. Faint linear anomalies detected at the northern end of the site, outside the area of modern disturbance, were also shown to be of non-archaeological origin with no visible features noted in the trenches. It is suggested that these anomalies may have been produced by underlying mole drains or running tracks and pitch lines compacted by decades of use and enhanced by line marking paint.

No archaeological finds or features were noted in any of the trenches, indicating that the development will not have any impact on the archaeological record.

Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-210111

Project details

Project name	The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St. Albans
Short description of the project	In April 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St Albans. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for development of land immediately to the south of the existing school buildings and followed an earlier geophysical survey that identified magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin. Six trenches, between 20 and 60m in length and 2m in width, were excavated in targeted locations across the site, specifically positioned to investigate the various anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The evaluation revealed the presence of extensive areas of modern disturbance and infilling with brick rubble, most likely undertaken to improve ground levels on the site prior to the formation of the existing playing fields, which appears to account for the widespread magnetic anomalies. Faint linear anomalies detected at the northern end of the site, outside the area of modern disturbance, were also shown to be of non-archaeological origin with no visible features noted in the trenches. It is suggested that these anomalies may have been produced by underlying mole drains or running tracks and pitch lines compacted by decades of use and enhanced by line marking paint. No archaeological finds or features were noted in any of the trenches, indicating that the development will not have any impact on the archaeological record.
Project dates	Start: 07-04-2015 End: 10-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SABS 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8355 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"""Targeted Trenches"""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Status	Complete

Project location

Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE ST ALBANS ST ALBANS The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive
Postcode	AL4 0XA
Study area	3.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 17569 07467 LL - 51.7530763214 -0.296560376699 (decimal) LL - 51 45 11 N 000 17 47 W (degrees) Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 97.17m Max: 99.18m
Status	Complete

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	St Albans City and District Council District Archaeologist
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Status	Complete

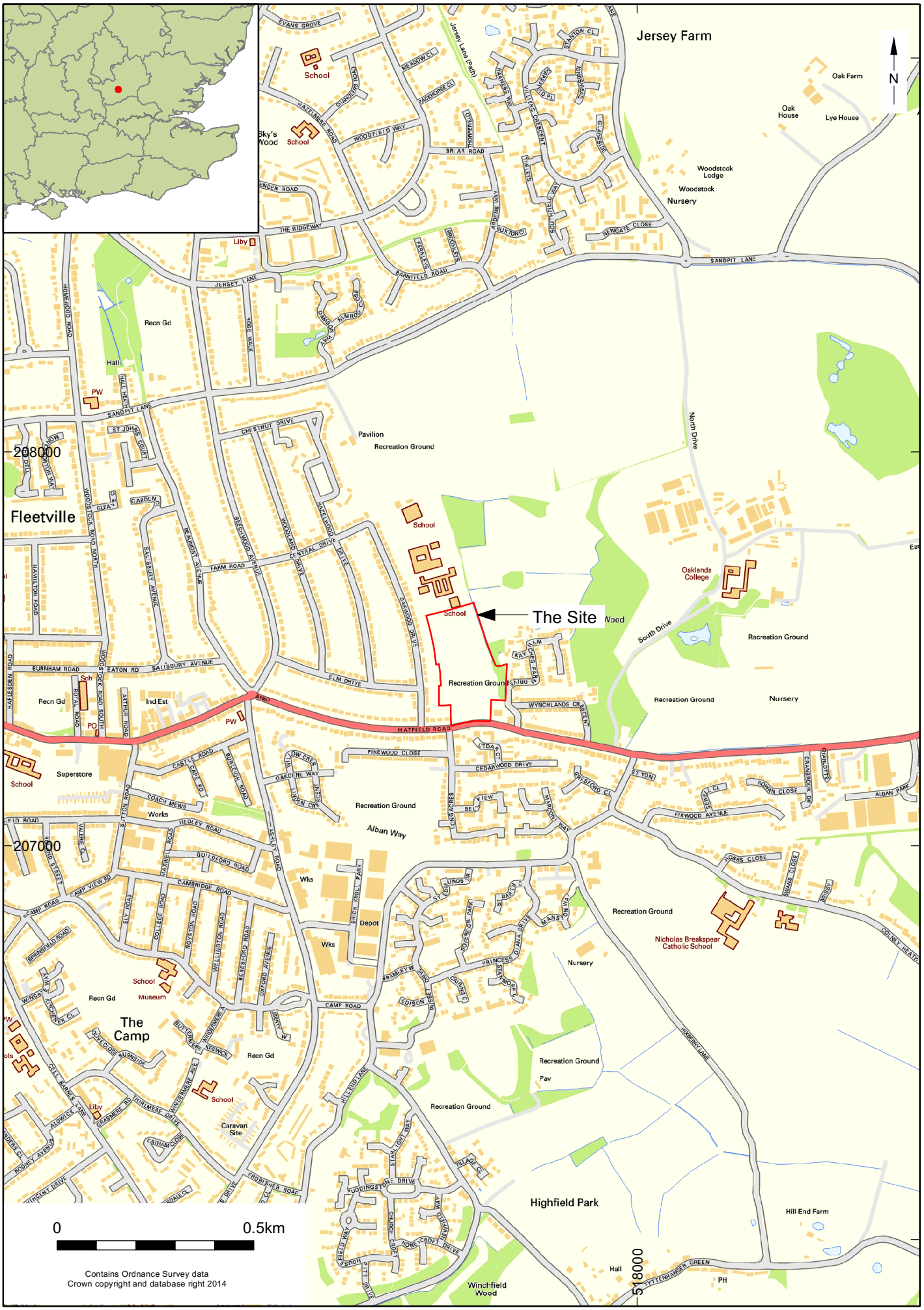
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	'No physical archive'
Digital Archive recipient	St Albans (Verulamium) museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental','Glass'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

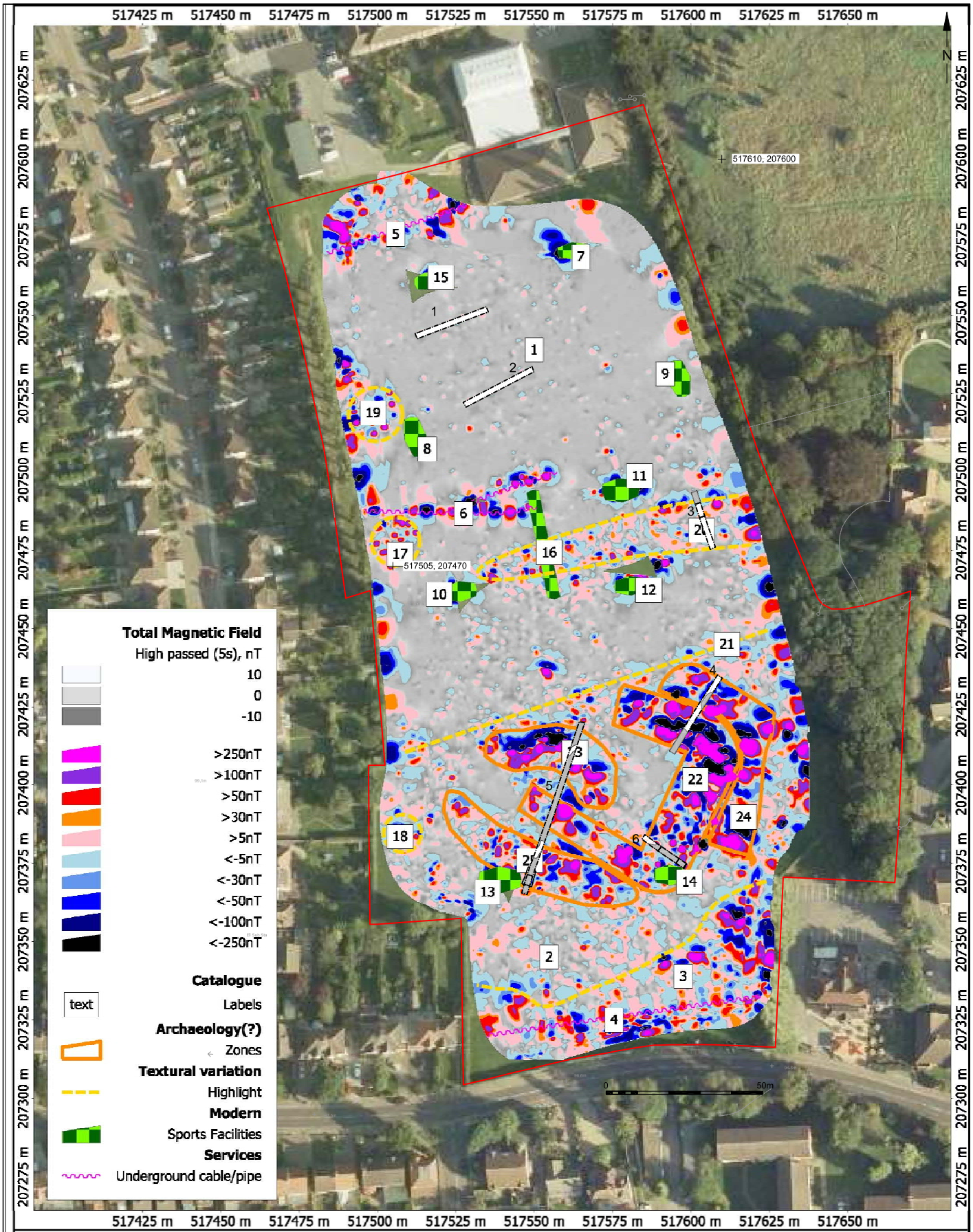
Paper Archive recipient	St Albans (Verulamium) museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental','Glass'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
Status	Complete

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1
Title	The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire - Archaeologica Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number 2015156
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree, Essex
Description	Grey literature report - 28 pages including figures
URL	http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/
Status	Complete



© Archaeology South-East		The Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive, St Albans	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8355	April 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		



BSH141 Beaumont School, St Albans, Hertfordshire
DWG 03 Interpretation

ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

536.60 m Centre Y: 207453.45 m Scale: 1:1500 @ A4 Spatial Units: Meter. Do not scale off this drawing
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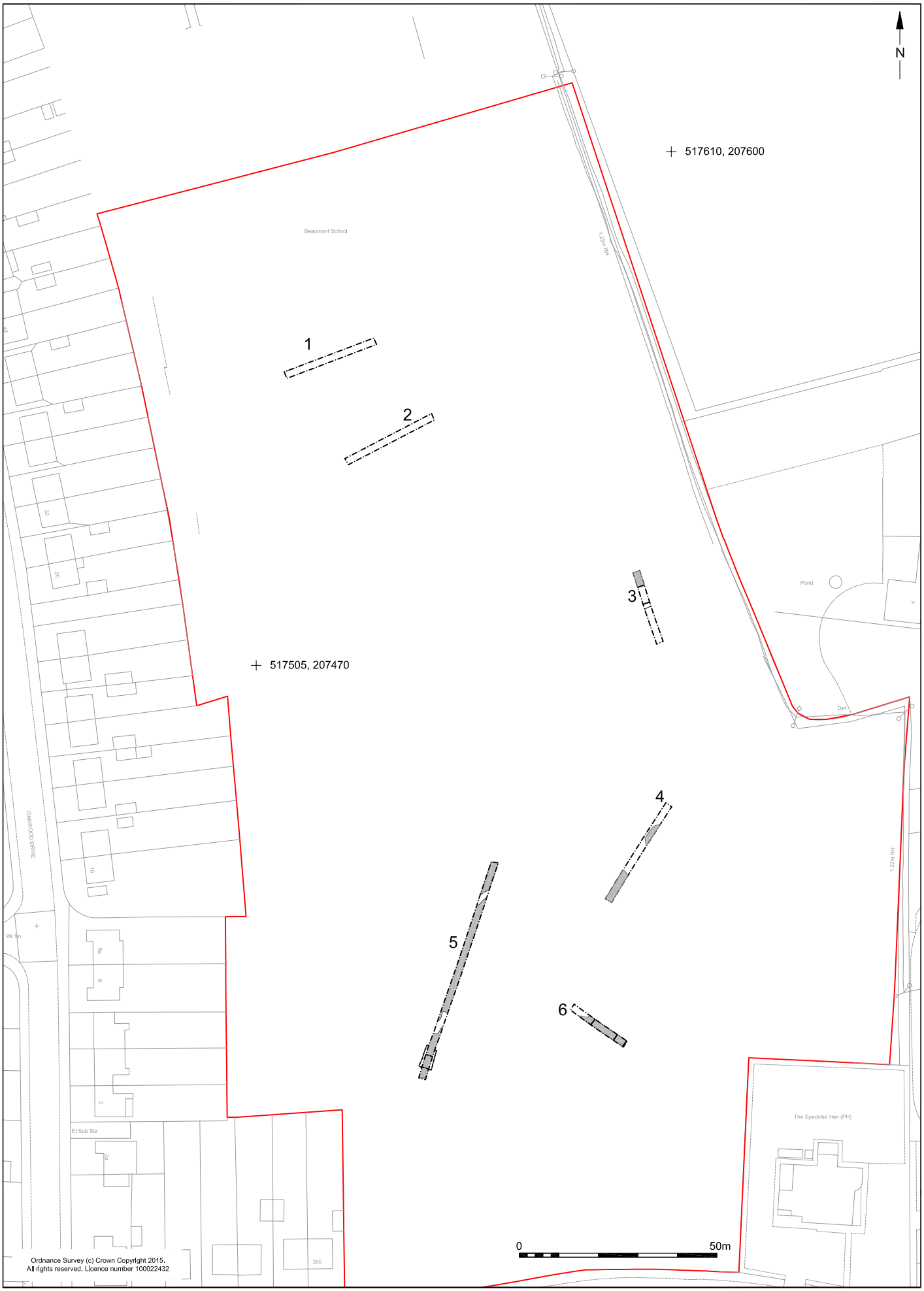
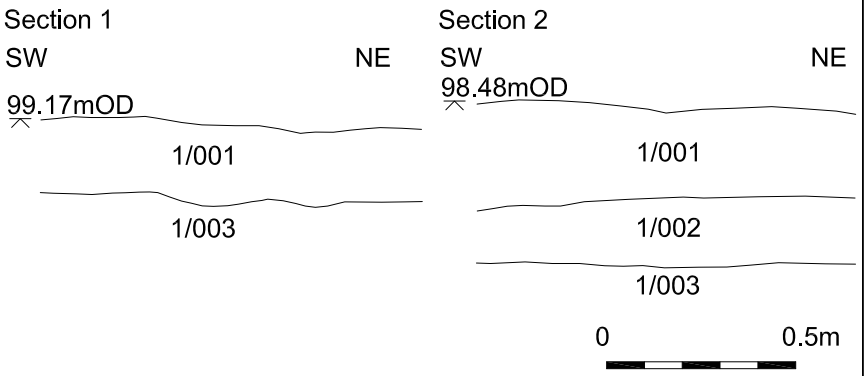
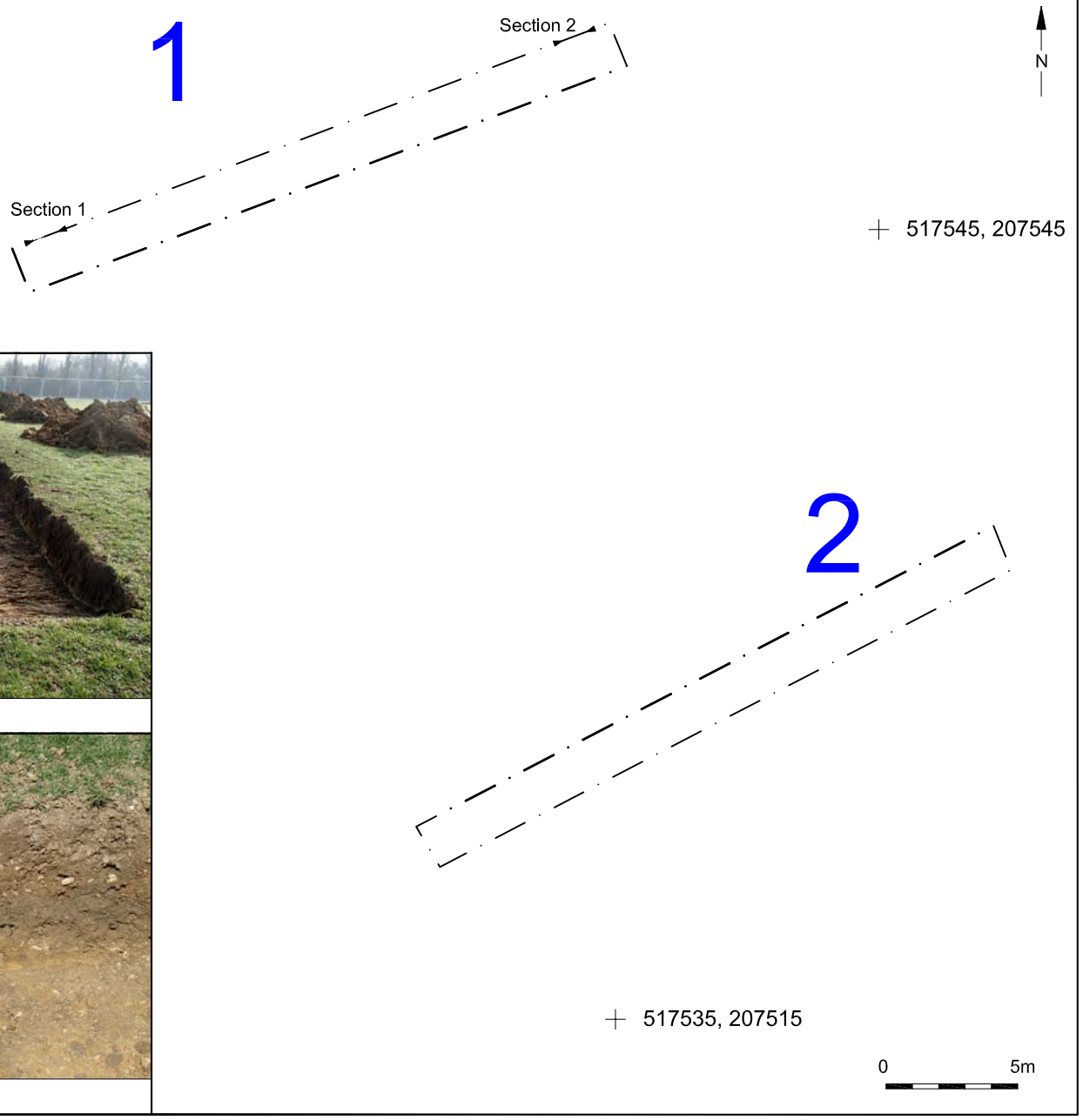
© Archaeology South-East		Beaumont School, St Albans	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench plan with geophysics results	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		Beaumont School, St Albans	Fig.3
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		





Trench 2, under excavation

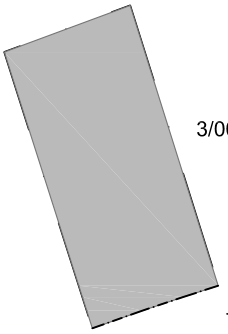
Trench 1, looking north-east

Trench 2, looking north-east

Section 2, looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Beaumont School, St Albans	Fig.4
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench 1 and 2 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 3, looking north



3/003

517605, 207490

Section 3

3/004

517595, 207480

N

Section 3

NE SW 95.25mOD

3/001

3/002

3/003

3/004

0 0.5m

Section 3, looking north-east

0 2m

© **Archaeology South-East**		Beaumont School, St Albans	Fig.5
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench 3 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		

N

Section 4

517595, 207430

modern

Trench 4, looking north

517600, 207415

modern

0 2m

Section 4

NE SW 95.29mOD

4/001

4/002

4/004

0 0.5m

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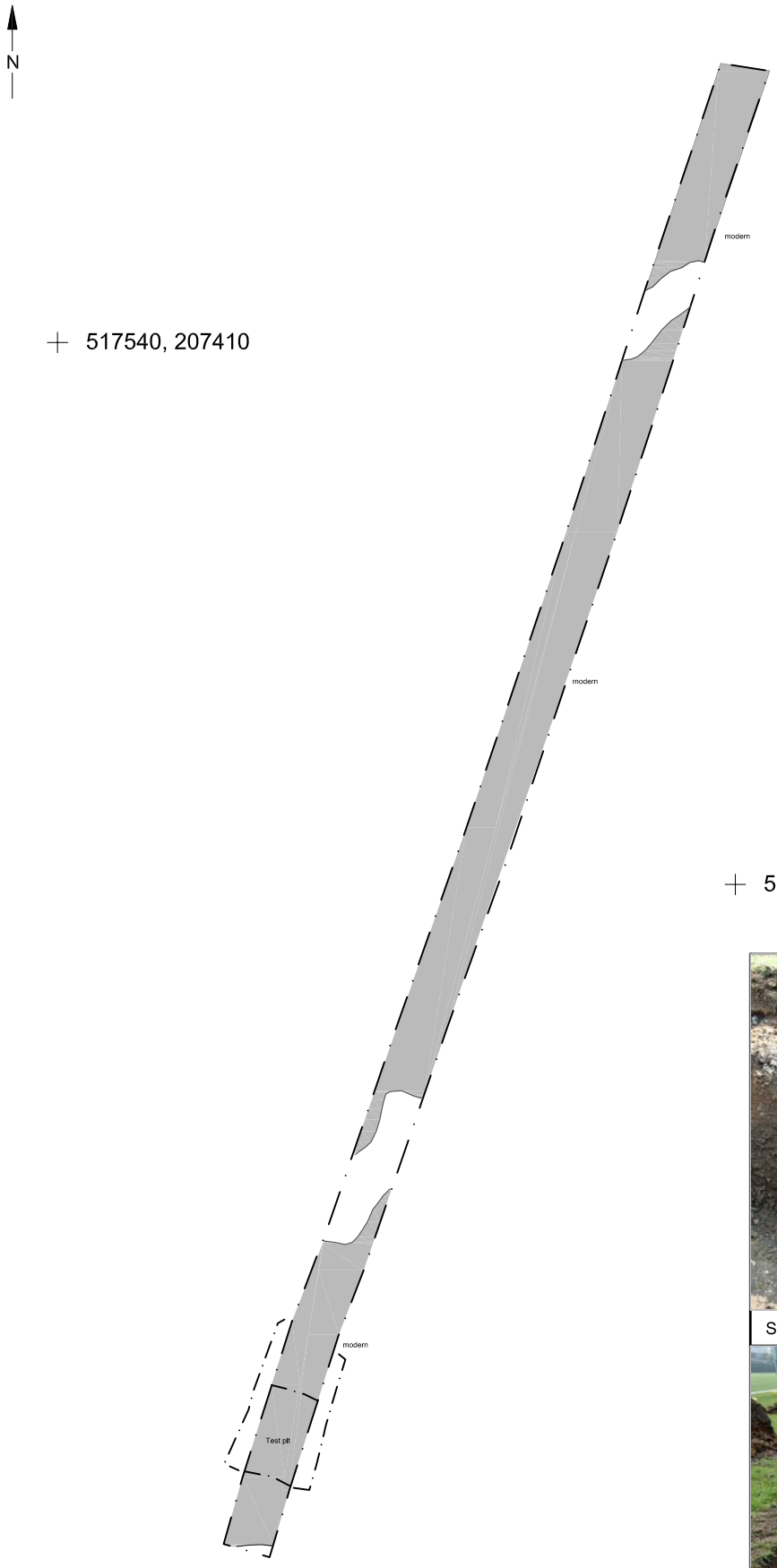
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench 4 : plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		



Trench 5, looking north east

Section of test pit, looking south-east

Trench 5, looking south-west

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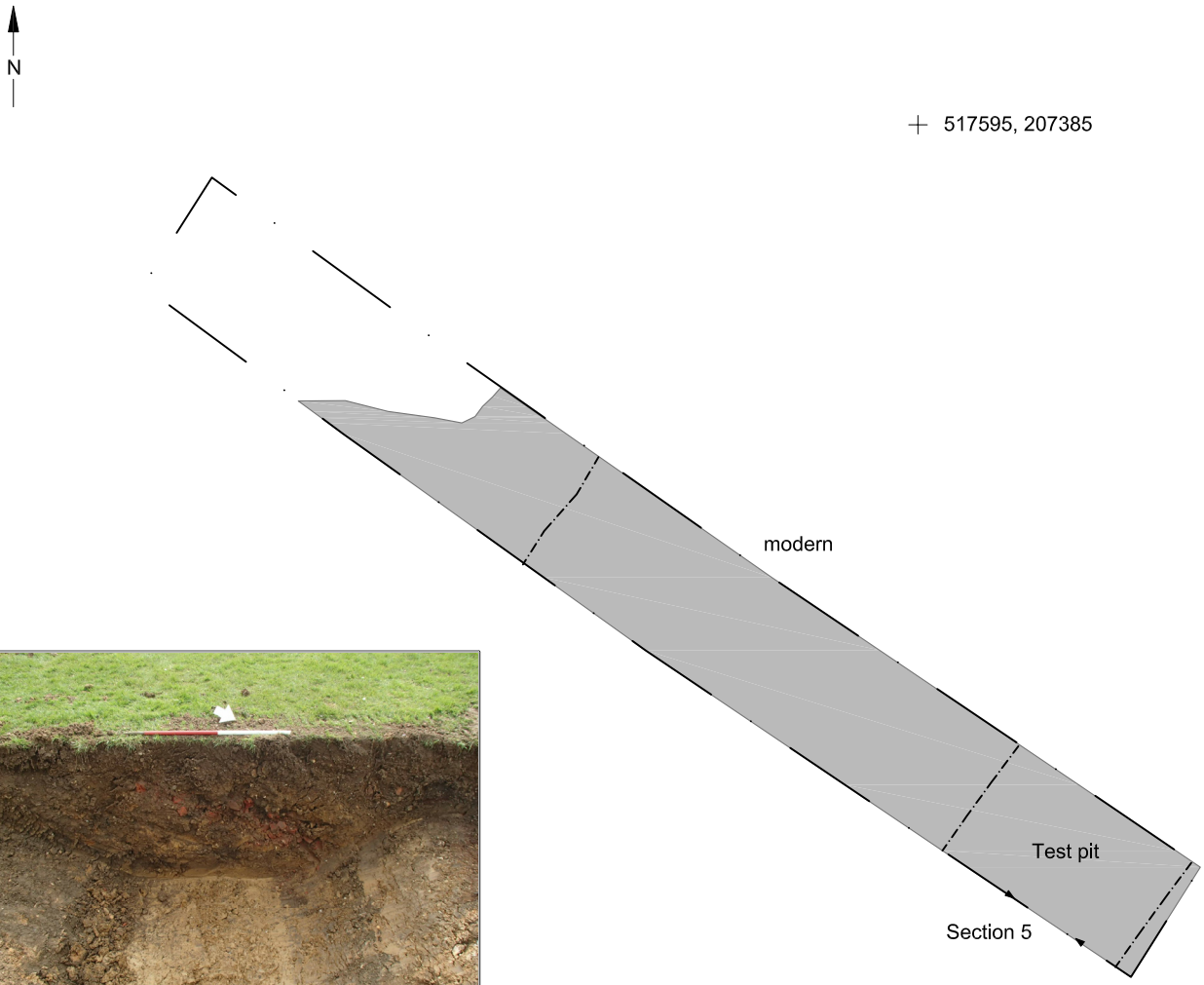
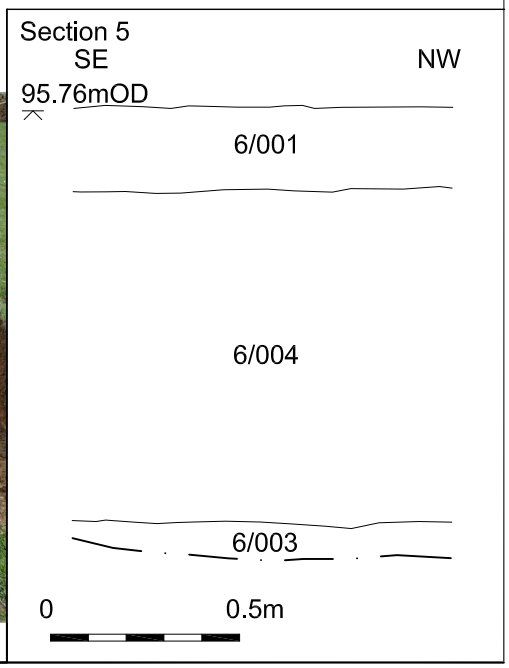
Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench 5 : plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		



Section 5, looking south-west

517585, 207370

Trench 6, looking south-west



0 2m

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Project Ref: 8355	Apr 2015	Trench 6 : plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015156	Drawn by: NG		

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