ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park Park Road, Nayland Colchester Essex, CO6 4JR

Great Horkesley Parish

NGR: TL 9770 3325

Planning Ref: 150470 ASE Project No: 8396 ASE Report No: 2015305

OASIS id: archaeol6-221394 HER Event no: EVT 4318



By Kate Clover

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Date of Issue:	August 2015		

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Archaeology South-East

Eval: Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Nayland, Colchester, Essex ASE Report No: 2015305

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Pomery Planning Consultants Ltd to undertake a trial trenching evaluation at Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Park Road, Nayland, near Colchester, Essex. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new classroom block. The site currently comprises an area of grass verge next to a car-park and to the rear of the main school building. One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. The work was carried out on the 12th and 13th August 2015.

Only post-medieval and modern features were recorded although one feature was undated. The features are likely to relate to the clearance of medieval woodland and the subsequent use of the site as a farm. The limited nature of the archaeological remains suggests low potential for the presence of archaeological remains across the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Pomery Planning Consultants Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Littlegarth School (NGR: TL 9770 3325; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The school is located 7.5km north-west of Colchester and 1km south-east of Nayland, in Great Horkesley parish. The proposed new classroom block is to be situated to the rear of the main school on a wide grass verge next to a carpark (Figure 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology of the site comprises head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel overlying London Clay.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated within the grounds of Horkesley Park. It is surrounded on all sides by open farmland east of Horkesley Road and south of Park Road. The ground slopes down to the north as it approaches the River Stour, ground level varying from 33.58m AOD at the southern end of the trench to 32.9m AOD at the northern end.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been sought from Colchester Borough Council for the construction of a new classroom block for music, art and drama (Planning ref. 150470). In support of this application a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken to establish the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains that might be present.
- 1.3.2 Accordingly a written scheme of investigation (ASE 2015) for archaeological evaluation was compiled and approved prior to fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of the evaluation conducted in August 2015. It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015), based on the brief provided by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council – the Borough's archaeological advisor (CBC 2015).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies in an area of high archaeological interest, as defined in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The site overlooks the River Stour, an area topographically favourable for early occupation. Cropmarks of funerary and ritual features dating mainly from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages are well documented from both sides of the river.
- 2.2.2 Around the school several cropmark sites have been identified by aerial photography, some of which are as yet undated. To the east of the school, at Whitepark Farm, are cropmarks of a rectangular dark patch and linear cropmarks some geological (EHER no. 9267). To the west of the school are cropmarks of a ring ditch with inner marks, and a possible cursus (EHER nos. 9226) as well as linear cropmarks including a double-ditched curving trackway and two further possible ring ditches showing very faint 'pits' (EHER no. 9268).

2.3 Medieval

- 2.3.1 In the medieval period Horkesley Park was a demesne of the manor of Nayland (VCH 2001, 223-226). The school's website states that current site of the school is reported to have been part of a royal hunting ground for King John in the early thirteenth century however no evidence for this has been found during a brief search of secondary sources such as the Victoria County History (VCH 2001).
- 2.3.2 Situated 0.7km to the north of the site, on the bank of the River Stour in Suffolk lies the scheduled monument of Court Knoll an earthwork possibly representing the remains of a Norman motte and bailey castle (Scheduled Monument no. 384529; Fig.1). The Historic England Pastscape website gives the following description:

The great lordship of 'Eiland' ... which belonged to Suain of Essex, lay a cheval on the river [Stour] and was surveyed in Domesday partly under Essex and partly under Suffolk. It derived its name from the present 'Nayland', where the site of 'Court Knoll' is still marked by earthworks on the Suffolk side of the stream...The mansion house of the lordship of Neyland or Eiland as it is called in Domesday book was at Neyland, in a pasture ground still called the Court: but no foundations of any part of it are to be seen except the chapel... Court Knoll, situated 150 m. E. of Nayland Bridge on the floodplain of the River Stour and consisting of a D-shaped earthwork with a mound in the NE. corner, has the superficial appearance of a motte and bailey. In this connection its position at an old crossing of the River Stour is perhaps not without significance. The defences, where best preserved, have an unusual profile comprising a low, faint rampart separated from an outer ditch by a berm...Cut into the bottom of the ditch is a further ditch, presumably a

modern drainage feature, and part dry when visited. A gap in the NW. corner is possibly an original entrance. The mound, which is very vague but appears to be near-circular on plan, measures approx. 40.0 m. in diameter and reaches a maximum height of 1.0 m...There are faint traces of a ditch around the W. side. Of the building discovered in 1924, a scatter of Roman tile and Kentish Ragstone is visible in the ditch E. of the mound. The exact nature of this building is obscure but the presence of Kentish Ragstone suggests an early medieval date. It is, therefore, possibly the chapel referred to by Morant and the mound may mark its site.

(http://www.pastscape.org/hob.aspx?hob_id=384529).

2.4 Post Medieval and Modern

2.4.1 The house forming the main school building dates principally from the Georgian period and is Grade II Listed. The following description of it is taken from the Victoria County History of Essex:

The house formerly known as Horkesley Park, now converted for use as a school, incorporates at its south end a rectangular timber-framed block with rendered walls. The west front of the house may be late 17th- or early 18th-century in origin. The house was remodelled later in the 18th century when the rooms of the eastern front were added, perhaps from designs by William Hillyer. Sir John Soane carried out minor plastering and painting works there in 1786. Additions were made to the north in the earlier 19th century and the interior was drastically remodelled c. 1900. In the later 20th century a wing was added to the north and buildings were put up in the grounds for school use (VCH 2001, 223-226).

- 2.4.2 The school and grounds was previously a farm and historic OS mapping reveals that from at least the 1870s to the 1920s the site was known as 'Red Park'. The OS maps dating from the 1870s and 1880s show the main house with farm buildings laid out to the north-west, surrounded on all sides by trees. Glasshouses are in what is now the main car-park. The 1920s OS map shows a similar layout of buildings, but the trees in between the buildings have been removed. The 1960s OS maps show the site as 'Windy Ridge Farm Home' (http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/ancientroam/historic).
- 2.4.3 Littlegarth School moved to its current site in 1994. Prior to that the site housed a reform school.

2.5 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.5.1 As stated in the WSI (ASE 2015) the aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date and quality. Should archaeological remains have been found, an assessment of their significance would have been made against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 2.5.2 Specific research aims for the initial trenching were:
 - To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits
 - Establish if there are any archaeological features or deposits related to the scheduled monument to the north of the site
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- 2.5.3 In the event that significant discoveries had been made the report would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out 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).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 In accordance with the brief, the evaluation comprised a 5% sample of the site which amounted to a single trench measuring 28m x 1.5m (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated using an 8-tonne tracked excavator equipped with a standard toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were accurately located using a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.4 Machine excavation, under the supervision of an archaeologist, was carried out to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of natural geology, whichever was uppermost. All archaeological deposits and features were hand excavated, including modern features.
- 3.1.5 Excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with this WSI (ASE 2015) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a), the Brief (CBC 2015) and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Colchester Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	18
No. of files/paper record	12
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	21
Bulk finds	XX
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 **RESULTS**

(Figure 3)

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned NNE to SSW and located on a wide grassy verge between a line of fruit trees to the east and a carpark to the west. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.9m. Natural silty clay [1/004] was reached at between 0.75m and 0.9m at the southern end of the trench and was sealed by 0.15m of mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil [1/003]. The subsoil contained flecks of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and charcoal. At the northern end of the trench natural silty clay was encountered at a lesser depth of 0.62m and was sealed by only 0.08m of subsoil.
- No topsoil was observed, however, beneath the turf [1/001] was a thick layer of very compact sandy silt [1/002] varying in thickness, from 0.68m in the southern part of the trench to 0.4m in the northern part of the trench. This layer represents modern made ground and sealed all the features.
- Three features were observed at the extreme southern end of the trench, 4.2.3 cutting into the subsoil [1/003] and natural [1/004] - a pit [1/005], a probable ditch [1/007] and an unknown feature, possibly a shallow pit [1/009].
- 4.2.4 Features [1/005] and [1/007], although adjacent to each other, did not have a relationship, however, both cut feature [1/009].
- The fill of pit [1/005] contained fragments of post-medieval CBM and a fragment of 19th century bottle glass.
- 4.2.6 Probable ditch [1/007] contained flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM.
- The artefactual evidence as well as the fact that both these features cut the subsoil indicates that they are not of any antiquity. Possible pit [1/009] is undated but apparently predates these features.
- To the north of this a row of four parallel gullies [1/011], [1/013], [1/015] and 4.2.8 1/017] cutting across the width of the trench were recorded. They were observed in both the west-facing and east-facing sections of the trench.
- These contained modern made ground [1/002].
- 4.2.10 Other modern intrusions were observed along the northern and central course of the trench.

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Context	Туре	Description	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m OD
1/001	Layer	Turf		0.1	32.9-33.58
1/002	Layer	Made ground – very compact mid-dark grey brown slightly sandy silt. Common charcoal, occasional coal and CBM		0.4-0.68	
1/003	Layer	Subsoil – mid orange brown mottled with grey silty clay. Occasional charcoal and flecks of CBM		0.08-0.15	
1/004	Layer	Natural geology – orangey silty clay			
1/005	Cut	Shallow oval pit with dark fill. Cuts [1/009]	0.78	0.16	32.85
1/006	Fill	Fill of [1/005]. Dark grey brown silty clay. Contains CBM and glass	0.78	0.16	
1/007	Cut	Probable ditch, north edge not clear. Cuts [1/009]. Cut by metal pipe	0.38	0.33	32.85
1/008	Fill	Fill of [1/007]. Mid grey brown mottled with orange silty clay. Contains CBM, occasional charcoal flecks	0.38	0.33	
1/009	Cut	Unknown feature, possibly a shallow pit. Cut by [1/005] and [1/007]	0.5	0.16	32.85
1/010	Fill	Fill of [1/009]. Light grey brown mottled with orange brown silt clay. Rare charcoal flecks	0.5	0.16	
1/011	Cut	One of four parallel gullies. Seen in both sections of the trench but not in plan	0.4	0.11-0.19	32.85
1/012	Fill	Fill of [1/011] – mid brown/grey sandy silt. Charcoal, CBM flecks and fragments	0.4	0.11-0.19	
1/013	Cut	One of four parallel gullies. Seen in both sections of trench but not in plan	0.5	0.11-0.19	32.85
1/014	Fill	Fill of [1/013] – mid brown/grey sandy silt. Contains peg-tile, Fe object and charcoal lumps	0.5	0.11-0.19	
1/015	Cut	One of four parallel gullies. Seen in both sections of trench but not in plan	0.4	0.11-0.19	32.85
1/016	Fill	Fill of [1/015] – mid brown/grey sandy silt. Contains clinker	0.4	0.11-0.19	
1/017	Cut	One of four parallel gullies. Seen in both sections of trench but not in plan	0.5	0.11-0.19	32.85
1/018	Fill	Fill of [1/017] – mid brown/grey sandy silt. Contains CBM flecks	0.5	0.11-0.19	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

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5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 3). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b). No further conservation is required.
- 5.1.2 The assemblage provides post-medieval dating evidence for the site but is too small to be of potential for further analysis. Due to the late date of the material and the size and limitations of the assemblage it is recommended that the material be discarded.

Context	Pottery	Wt	CBM	Wt	Fe	Wt	Slag	Wt	Glass	Wt	F	Wt
		(g)		(g)		(g)	_	(g)		(g)	Clay	(g)
1/002			2	50			1	16				
1/006			1	28					1	32		
1/008	4	15	2	92	2	26					1	4
		8										
1/014			1	12								
1/016							2	4				
Total	4	15	6	182	2	26	3	20	1	32	1	4
		8										

Table 3: Quantification of the hand-collected bulk finds

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x	0.10
220mm)	

Table 4: Finds archive quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Helen Walker

5.2.1 A total of four sherds of pottery weighing 159g were recovered from [1/008]. All the pottery comprises sherds of post-medieval red earthenware. One very thick-walled fragment with a tile-like fabric must come from a very large vessel indeed. It shows an all over glaze, although the internal surface is burnt and abraded so that little of the glaze on the inside surface remains and some of this is discoloured. The other sherds comprise a relatively thick-walled sherd with an all over glaze and two unglazed sherds, one of which has an external surface that has entirely laminated away. Post-medieval red earthenware is not closely datable and these sherds could date anywhere between the 17th and 19th centuries.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Elissa Menzel

5.3.1 A total of six fragments weighing 182g were recovered from four separate contexts. Context [1/002] contained one abraded fragment of dark red brick and one fragment of orange roof tile. The remaining material consists of fragments of orange roof tile. No complete dimensions are measurable and

the fragments are not closely dateable beyond a broad post-medieval bracket.

5.4 The Slag by Elissa Menzel

5.4.1 A total of three fragments of clinker/coke waste from coal burning were recovered from two separate contexts [1/002] and [1/016].

5.5 The Bulk Metal by Elissa Menzel

5.5.1 Two highly corroded fragments of a single iron nail were recovered from context [1/008]. Where visible, the stem section appears to be square. The nail is not inherently dateable.

5.6 The Glass by Elissa Menzel

5.6.1 A single green glass wine bottle fragment (wt 32g) of 19th century date was recovered from [1/006].

5.7 The Fired Clay by Elissa Menzel

5.7.1 One fragment of fired clay was recovered from [1/008]. The fragment is an abraded, amorphous piece which is not diagnostic of function or date.

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6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Natural silty clay was encountered at different depths, being deeper at the southern end of the trench. Subsoil sealed natural ground but was only a maximum of 0.15m thick. The subsoil was sealed by between 0.4 and 0.68m thickness of modern made ground. No topsoil was present, merely turf covering the made ground.
- 6.1.2 The carpark and grass verge are separated from the field to the south by a bank. There is a 1.5m drop in height from the top of the bank to the grass verge below (see front cover photo). This, together with the lack of topsoil present in the trench, suggests that north-facing slope has been cut into, probably in order to create a level area for the carpark or a previous farmyard. The made ground would then have been deposited onto this reduced ground level, filling the four parallel gullies at the same time. A groundsman who has worked at the school for thirty years commented that the ground surface here had not been altered within his memory. This suggests the earthmoving had taken place before Littlegarth School took over the site in 1994.
- 6.1.3 Features exposed within the trench were either undated or modern and are hard to characterise. They may well relate to agricultural operations dating to when the site was a farm. No features could be seen on the historic maps that would correspond with the archaeological features recorded in the trench.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The evaluation demonstrated that truncation has been caused by earth-removal more than 30 years ago in order to create a level area in an otherwise sloping site. Drainage pipes have also caused some disturbance. Truncation by ploughing was not in evidence. Historic maps show the site as covered by trees in the late 19th century; possibly the remnants of parkland. Glasshouses are shown to the north-west. This suggests that this area of the farm has not been ploughed.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 6.3.1 There are few conclusions to be drawn from the features other than that they are post-medieval in date. There was no evidence for any prehistoric or Roman activity. The majority of the site probably consisted of parkland since the medieval period which would not have left much trace in the archaeological record.
- 6.3.2 The trees were cleared to make way for a farmyard sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century and the features found probably relate to this clearance and to the farm.

6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 6.4.1 The truncation evident in the evaluation trench may have impacted upon any potential archaeological remains; however, the only features recorded were modern or post-medieval.
- 6.4.2 The potential impact of the development on archaeological remains is therefore considered to be low.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

6.5.1 To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits

The evaluation was effective in confirming that there had been deliberate terracing into the slope resulting in the removal of topsoil and some of the subsoil. A layer of material had then been deposited. It is likely that any potential shallow archaeological deposits and features would have been destroyed by this action. No colluvial or alluvial deposits were encountered, however the same process would likely have removed these layers. Drainage features were also observed and one was seen to have truncated a modern feature.

6.5.2 Establish if there are any archaeological features or deposits related to the scheduled monument to the north of the site.

The evaluation has established that there are no features or deposits relating to the scheduled monument (Court Knoll) on the opposite side of the river valley.

6.5.3 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

There is no potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

6.5.4 As no archaeological features were uncovered the site has no potential to contribute to any regional research objectives.

6.6 Conclusions

6.6.1 The evaluation indicates low potential for the presence of archaeological remains within this part of the site. Other areas of the school site may have more potential, especially those that have not been subject to ground moving and levelling.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Archaeology South-East

Eval: Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Nayland, Colchester, Essex

ASE Report No: 2015305

EHER Summary

Site name/Address Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Park Road, Nayland, Near				
Colchester				
Parish: Great Horkesley	District: Colchester			
NGR: TL 9770 3325	Site Code: Event 4318			
Type of Work:	Site Director/Group:			
Archaeological Evaluation	Kate Clover, Archaeology South-East			
Date of Work: 12 th -13 th August	Size of Area Investigated: 1.5m x 28m			
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: School			
Further Seasons Anticipated?: unknown	Related HER Nos: EVT 4318			
Final Report: EAH roundup and ASE report	OASIS No: archaeol6-221394			
2015305				
Periods Represented: Post-medieval, Modern				

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Pomery Planning Consultants Ltd to undertake a trial trenching evaluation at Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Park Road, Nayland, near Colchester, Essex. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new classroom block. The site currently comprises an area of grass verge next to a car-park and to the rear of the main school building.

One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. The work was carried out on the 12th and 13th August 2015.

Only post-medieval and modern features were recorded although one feature was undated. The features are likely to relate to the clearance of medieval woodland and the subsequent use of the site as a farm. The limited nature of the archaeological remains suggests a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains across the site area.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: K.Clover	Date of Summary: August 2015

ASE Report No: 2015305

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-221394

Project details

Project name

Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Essex

Short description of the project

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Project dates

Start: 12-08-2015 End: 13-08-2015

Previous/futur

No / Not known

e work

8396 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

Any Evt 4318 - HER event no.

associated project reference codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land

Other 15 - Other

use

Monument

PIT Modern

type

Monument

PIT Uncertain

type

Monument DITC

type

DITCH Modern

Significant

NONE None

Finds

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Significant

NONE None

Finds

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts

type

eic.)

Prompt
Position in the

planning process

Position in the Pre-application

Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Postcode CO6 4JR

Study area 42 Square metres

Site TL 977 332 51.961560960938 0.877912725618 51 57 41 N 000 52 40 E

coordinates Point

Height OD /

Depth

Min: 32.3m Max: 32.8m

Project creators

Name of

Archaeology South-East

Organisation

Project brief originator

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council

Project design ASE

originator

nator

Project

Andrew Leonard

director/mana

ger

Project

Kate Clover

supervisor

Type of

school

sponsor/fundin

g body

Name of

Littlegarth School

sponsor/fundin

g body

g body

Project archives

Archaeology South-East

Eval: Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Nayland, Colchester, Essex

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Physical

No

Archive Exists?

Digital Archive Colchester Museum

recipient

Digital

"other"

Contents

Digital Media

"Images vector", "Survey", "Text"

available

recipient

Paper Archive Colchester Museum

Paper "other"

Contents

Paper Media "Context

available sheet","Correspondence","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","U

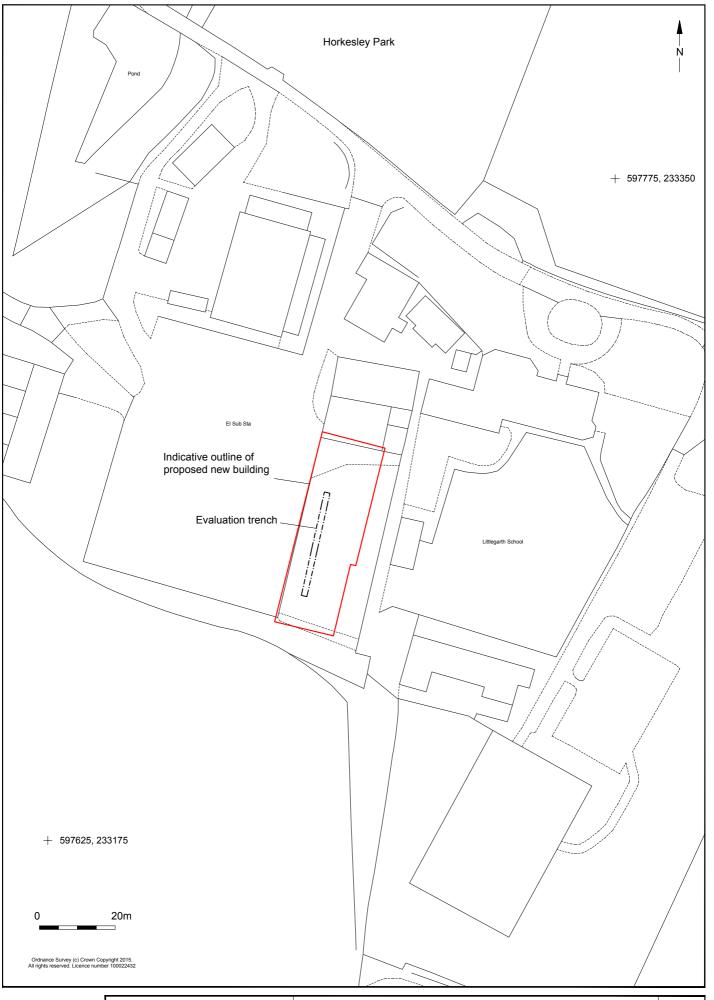
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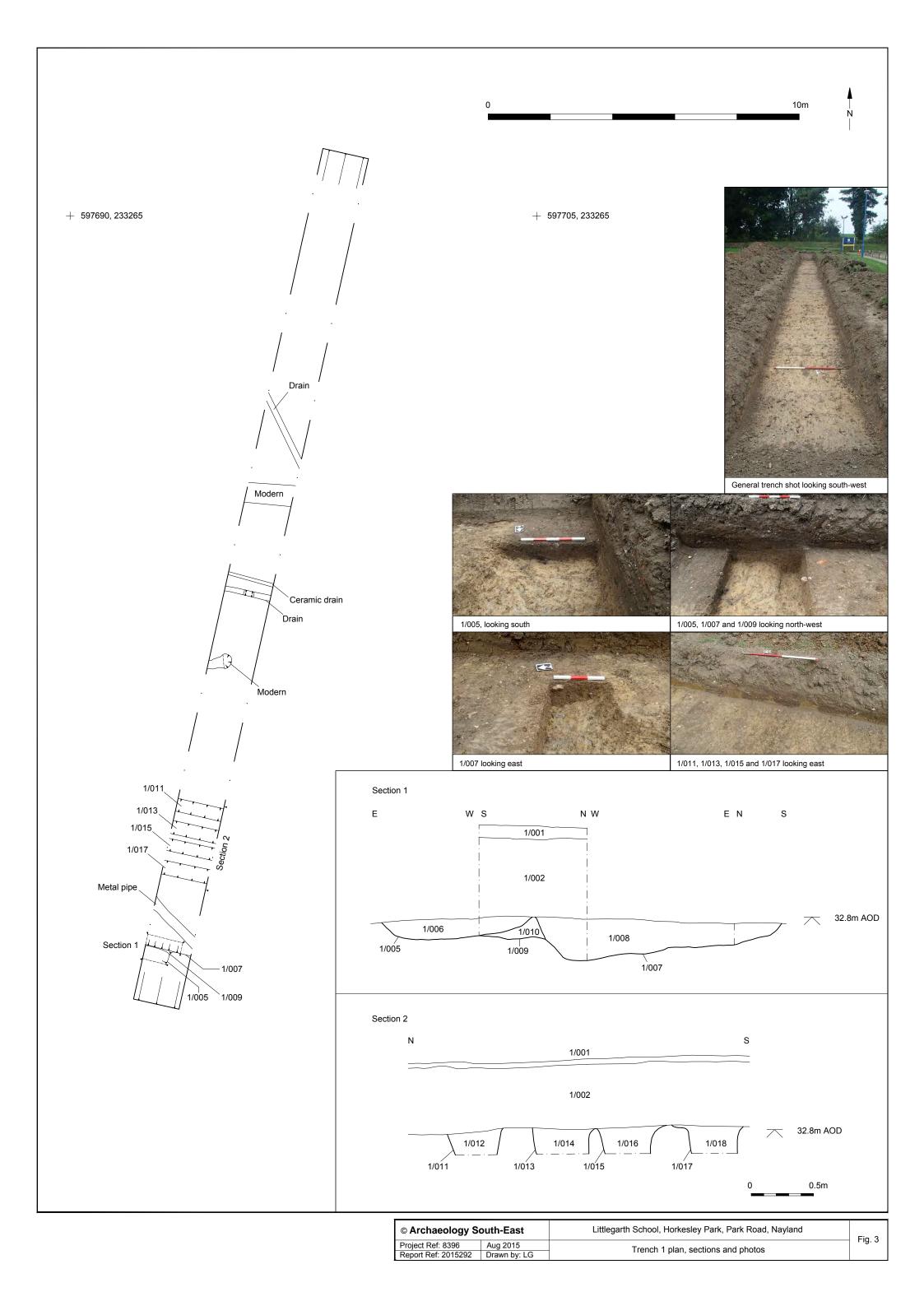
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Archaeology South-East		Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Park Road, Nayland	Fig. 1
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