

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Heathfield Academy
Aberdeen Road, Croydon, CR0 1EQ**

NGR: TQ 532488 164650

Planning Ref: 15/02201/P

ASE Project No: 160255

Site Code: ABN16

ASE Report No: 2016264



By Steve White

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**ASE Report No: 2016264
OASIS ID: archaeol6-257926**

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Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	July 2016		
Revision:			

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a site at Land at Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon in June, 2016. The work comprised of the excavation of three evaluation trenches.

Only one dateable feature was recorded and this is most probably early post-medieval or later. Early maps of the area show that it was agricultural in nature and the recorded features may all pertain to this.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon, NGR: TQ 532488 164650 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the study site was shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (BGS 2016) as Lewis Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated). Overlying the chalk is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and inter-glacial conditions.

1.2.2 Further detail is provided by British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London: 1998) which shows the site lay in an area of Hackney Gravels (sand and gravel).

1.2.3 The site was bound by a public car park to the north, Heathfield Road to the east, Aberdeen Road to the south and South End to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application was submitted (ref: 15/02201/P) for the demolition of the existing buildings on site and the development of new structures.

1.3.2 Planning permission was granted with the following condition:

A) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with a written scheme which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to the local planning authority.

B) If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by the evaluation under Part A, then before development, other than demolition to existing ground level, commences the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing.

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (B), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Written schemes of investigation will need to be prepared and implemented by a suitably qualified archaeological practice in accordance with Historic England Greater London Archaeology guidelines. They must be approved by the planning authority before any on-site development related activity occurs.

Reason

Heritage assets of archaeological interest may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of appropriate archaeological investigation, including the publication of results, in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site in June of 2016 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS 2015).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background section below is primarily drawn from the WSI (CgMs 2015) for the site which in turn was drawn from a Desk-Based Assessment for the site (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 No Palaeolithic or non-residual Mesolithic finds have been recorded near the site.
- 2.2.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age materials have been recovered from the vicinity of site. During the later prehistoric period the site is thought to have lain within marginal woodland or newly cleared agricultural land. Much of the archaeological evidence for this period is concentrated within central Croydon, c. 500m to the south of the study site.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 A pre-Roman road, heading south toward the iron fields of Sussex, is believed to pass near the site. Evidence for a Roman road is suggested along the line of Lower Coombe Street c.500m to the north-west of the site where metalling was recorded during an evaluation exercise.
- 2.3.2 The existence of significant quantities of pottery, coins and human remains, together with settlement/activity features, suggest a settled and farmed landscape at Croydon in the Roman period, with a sizeable settlement focused near Park Street/George Street.
- 2.3.3 The artefactual remains identified within the one kilometre study area search radius comprised of: coins, c.100m to the west of the site (284 Roman coins were found in a broken pot); and a Roman flagon (cream ware) that was uncovered during excavation for a basement nearby.
- 2.3.4 A single Roman inhumation burial was recovered 400m north of the site, on the eastern edge of a later Saxon burial ground.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon & medieval

- 2.4.1 The site of a 5th-7th century AD mixed rite Anglo-Saxon cemetery is the only entry for this period within the study area used in the archaeological desk-based assessment. It was first identified in 1893-4 during development, and was reinvestigated in the 1990s. A total of 250-300 inhumations, and 83 cremations are thought to have lain within the cemetery, accompanied by a large quantity of grave goods.

2.4.2 Croydon developed as a planned medieval town, centred on the Archbishops Palace c.1km to the north of the site. The town was known as Croendene in 1086 at the time of Domesday and a church appears to have existed in Croydon from at least 960AD, though the present one dates from the 12th century with later additions. The Lords of the Manor then and subsequently were the Archbishops of Canterbury. Extensive archaeological evidence of medieval habitation and activity has been found in the historic centre of Croydon, centred c.1km north of the study site. Croydon's entry in Domesday Book (1086) names it as Croindene, and indicates a sizeable settlement in the ownership of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

Archbishop Lanfranc holds Croydon in Lordship. Before 1066 it answered for 80 hides; now for 16 hides and 1 virgate. Land for 20 ploughs. In lordship 4 ploughs; 48 villagers and 25 smallholders with 34 ploughs. A church. A mill at 5s; meadow, 8 acres; woodland at 200 pigs. Restad holds 7 hides of the land of this manor from the Archbishop; Ralph, 1 hide. They have £7 8s in tribute from it. Total value before 1066 and later £12; now £27 to the Archbishop, to his men £10 10s.

2.4.3 A church appears to have existed in Croydon from at least 960AD, although the present foundation dates from the 12th century, with later additions. Extensive archaeological evidence of medieval habitation and activity has been found in the historic centre of Croydon, in proximity to the High Street to the north-west of the study site.

2.4.4 The site lay south and a good distance away from the medieval centre of Croydon, probably in an area of open land. The archaeological potential of the site for the medieval period was classified as low, although evidence of agricultural boundaries and land division could conceivably have been present.

2.5 Post-medieval & modern

2.5.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey shows the site within landscaped gardens.

2.5.2 The 1898 Ordnance Survey shows dramatic development around the site and Aberdeen Road has been constructed. The church on the corner of Aberdeen Road and Heathfield Road has been built and the site is covered by a large warehouse/factory building. The front part of the site (Aberdeen Road) contains a pair of semi-detached houses. No significant changes are subsequently shown on the site on the 1913 Ordnance Survey.

2.5.3 The site remains unchanged by 1955, the factory/warehouse to the rear of the site was enlarged and labelled on the Ordnance Survey as 'Upholstery Works'.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 To establish whether any archaeological evidence survives on the site
- 2.6.2 The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.
- 2.6.3 The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.6.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the prehistoric period
 - To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the Roman period. How do these features relate to those identified nearby? Can these features offer us a better understanding of the contemporary settlement or burial pattern in the local area?
 - To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon period
 - To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the medieval period. Are these features consistent with other medieval features recorded in the vicinity of the site? Do the remains reflect medieval roadside settlement activity as suggested by later cartographic evidence?
 - Can any of the features depicted on pre-1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping be identified in the trenches?
 - To establish the environmental context of the deposits identified, including provision for geoarchaeological sampling/analysis of appropriate deposits at the site
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development
 - Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate construct an archaeological mitigation strategy

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Three trenches were excavated between the 28th and 29th of June, 2016. Trenches 1 and 3 were located as per the WSI (CgMs 2015). Trench 2 was shifted to the south to facilitate car access to the site but kept the same orientation (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 All excavation, recording, backfilling and finds retrieval was conducted according to the WSI (*ibid*).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Digital photos	17
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 Bag CBM
Registered finds (number of)	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefacts

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[1/001]	Layer	Tarmac	10.90	Trench	0.10
[1/002]	Layer	Concrete	10.90	Trench	0.15-0.20
[1/003]	Layer	Crushed brick make up	8.00	Trench	0.30
[1/004]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
[1/005]	Layer	Gravelly subsoil	13.00	Trench	0.40
[1/006]	Layer	Natural gravels	10.70	Trench	>0.10
[1/007]	Layer	Modern made ground	4.10	Trench	0.55

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-east of site, running on a roughly north-east to south-west orientation. It measured 15.00m x 1.80m to a maximum depth of 1.55m
- 4.1.2 The trench consisted of natural gravels ([1/006]) overlain by a gravelly silt subsoil ([1/005]) which was then sealed by subsoil [1/004]. In the south-western 4.10m of the trench these were then directly sealed by a modern made ground ([1/007]). Whereas in the rest of the trench the subsoils were overlain by crushed brick makeup [1/003]; concrete [1/002] and then sealed by tarmac [1/001]. Bioturbation was observed in the south-western most part of the natural deposits.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[2/001]	Layer	Concrete	Trench	Trench	0.23
[2/002]	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.26-0.8
[2/003]	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.34
[2/004]	Layer	Gravelly subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.35-0.37
[2/005]	Layer	Natural gravels	Trench	Trench	>0.10
[2/006]	Fill	Fill of [2/007]	1.10	1.30	0.31
[2/007]	Cut	Pit cut	1.10	1.30	0.31

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-western part of site, and measured 15.00m by 1.80m by a maximum depth of 1.40m. It was situated on a west to east orientation.
- 4.2.2 Trench 2 consisted of natural gravels ([2/005]) overlain by gravelly subsoil [2/004]. This was sealed by subsoil [2/003], which was in turn overlain by made ground [2/002]. This was capped by concrete [2/001].
- 4.2.3 One undated feature, pit [2/007], was partly exposed and was observed cut into the natural at the western end of the trench. This measured 1.30m (E-W) x 1.10m (N-S) x 0.31m (deep). It was sealed by the aforementioned gravelly subsoil [2/004].
- 4.2.4 No finds were recorded in the trench.

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[3/001]	Layer	Demo crush	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
[3/002]	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.18-0.27
[3/003]	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.31-0.34
[3/004]	Layer	Gravelly Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30-0.42
[3/005]	Layer	Natural gravels	Trench	Trench	>0.10
[3/006]	Fill	Fill of [3/007]	1.80	1.00	0.10
[3/007]	Cut	Linear	1.80	1.00	0.10
[3/008]	Fill	Fill of [3/009]	1.85	0.90	0.25
[3/009]	Cut	Pit	1.85	0.90	0.25

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the central eastern part of area of site, and sat on a north-west to south-east orientation. It measured 15.00m by 1.80 by a maximum depth of 1.30m.
- 4.3.2 Trench 3 consisted of natural gravels [3/005] overlain by gravelly subsoil [3/004]. This was then overlain by made ground deposits [3/003] and [3/002], before being capped by demo crush [3/001].
- 4.3.3 Two archaeological features were observed in Trench 3. Pit [3/009] was situated in the south-eastern half of the trench. The half of the pit that was observed measured 1.85m x 0.90m and was 0.25m deep. Two fragments of CBM were recovered from site, and were early post-medieval in date (1450-1666).
- 4.3.4 Linear [3/007] was located in the north-western half of the trench, running perpendicular to the trench orientation on north-east to south-west alignment. It measured 1.80m long by 1.00 wide, with maximum depth of 0.10m. No finds were recovered.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The finds 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 6). The finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	CBM	Weight (g)
3/008	2	294
Total	2	294

Table 6: Finds quantification

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.2.1 One piece of broken brick and a single tile fragment, collectively weighing 294g, were collected from a single evaluation context: [3/008]. The brick was formed of Museum of London (MoL) fabric 3065, which was in use from c.1450-1666 (see Table 7), and the tile from a medium coloured orange fabric (T1). An early post-medieval date is suggested for the CBM, although the material was fragmentary enough to be residual.

Fabric	Description
MoL 3065	Very sandy fabric with frequent quartz (up to 0.8mm), occasional dark red iron oxide (up to 3.0mm) and white flint/shell(?) inclusions
T1	Medium orange fabric with irregular pale (clay?) deposits. Common coarse sub-rounded quartz.

Table 7: CBM fabric descriptions for Heathfield Academy

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence for this site can be described as natural gravels overlain by gravelly subsoil, perhaps better described as an interface between the gravel and the subsoil proper. In Trenches 1 and 2 this gravelly subsoil was then overlain by a general subsoil deposit, which was then sealed by the modern made ground material. In Trench 3 the gravelly subsoil was directly overlain by made ground deposits.

6.1.2 Three features were found. These consisted of two pits ([2/007] & [3/009]) and one linear [3/007].

6.1.3 Datable material was recovered from only one of the features, pit [3/009], this was early post-medieval CBM.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The natural geology was observed at depths of between 1.05m and 1.40m below ground level across site overlain by subsoil in all trenches. This was overlain by modern made ground in all trenches.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

6.3.1 Only one dateable feature was recorded and this was most probably early post-medieval in date, though the fragments of CBM could be residual and the feature therefore later. Early maps of the area (CgMs 2014) indicate that it was agricultural in nature and the recorded features could all pertain to such activity.

6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

6.4.1 Given this interpretation and the low density of archaeological features, development is likely to have minimal impact on archaeological remains.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

6.5.1 To establish whether any archaeological evidence survives on the site:

Three archaeological features were observed.

6.5.2 The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment:

One post-medieval pit was recorded, as well as an undated pit and ditch. These features are interpreted collectively as agricultural features of low significance.

6.5.3 The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological

survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance:

While some degree of truncation was observed, the subsoil horizon appeared intact.

6.5.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the prehistoric period:

No prehistoric activity was observed.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the Roman period. How do these features relate to those identified nearby? Can these features offer us a better understanding of the contemporary settlement or burial pattern in the local area?

No Roman activity was observed.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon period:

No Anglo-Saxon activity was observed.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the medieval period. Are these features consistent with other medieval features recorded in the vicinity of the site? Do the remains reflect medieval roadside settlement activity as suggested by later cartographic evidence?

No medieval activity was observed.

- Can any of the features depicted on pre-1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping be identified in the trenches?

The archaeology could be interpreted as synonymous with a post-medieval field system.

- To establish the environmental context of the deposits identified, including provision for geoarchaeological sampling/analysis of appropriate deposits at the site.

No deposits or features of environmental or geoarchaeological interest were observed on site.

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development:

The modern development of the area has resulted in the build-up of a layer of modern made ground up to c. 1m thick. While some degree of truncation was observed, the subsoil horizon appeared intact.

- Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate construct an archaeological mitigation strategy:

The archaeological remains recorded in the evaluation are interpreted as of late date and of low significance, and it is suggested that they represent elements of post-medieval agricultural activity.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 Only one dateable feature was recorded and this is most probably early post-medieval or later. Early maps of the area show that it was agricultural in nature and the recorded features may all pertain to this.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs 2014 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon CR0 1EQ*

CGMS 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon, CR0 1EQ*

WEB RESOURCES

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/onshore/home.html?src=topNav>
accessed 18/7/16

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and GLAAS for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Steve White. The author would like to thank Tom Rugg for his assistance on site. Antonio Reis produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	ABN16					
Identification Name and Address	Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Croydon					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 532488 164650					
Geology	London clays and gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160255					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	June 2016					
Sponsor/Client	CGMS					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Steve White					
Period Summary						
			PM	Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a site at Land at Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon in June, 2016. The work comprised of the excavation of three evaluation trenches. Only one dateable feature was recorded and this is most probably early post-medieval or later. Early maps of the area show that it was agricultural in nature and the recorded features may all pertain to this.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-257926

Project details

Project name	Evaluation at Heathfield Academy, Croydon
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a site at Land at Heathfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon in June, 2016. The work comprised of the excavation of three evaluation trenches. Only one dateable feature was recorded and this is most probably early post-medieval or later. Early maps of the area show that it was agricultural in nature and the recorded features may all pertain to this.
Project dates	Start: 28-06-2016 End: 29-06-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ABN16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Heathfield Academy
Postcode	CR0 1EQ
Study area	1600 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5324 1646 50.926636982872 0.180733930058 50 55 35 N 000 10 50 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	ABN16

Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	ABN16
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	ABN16
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material"

Project bibliography 1

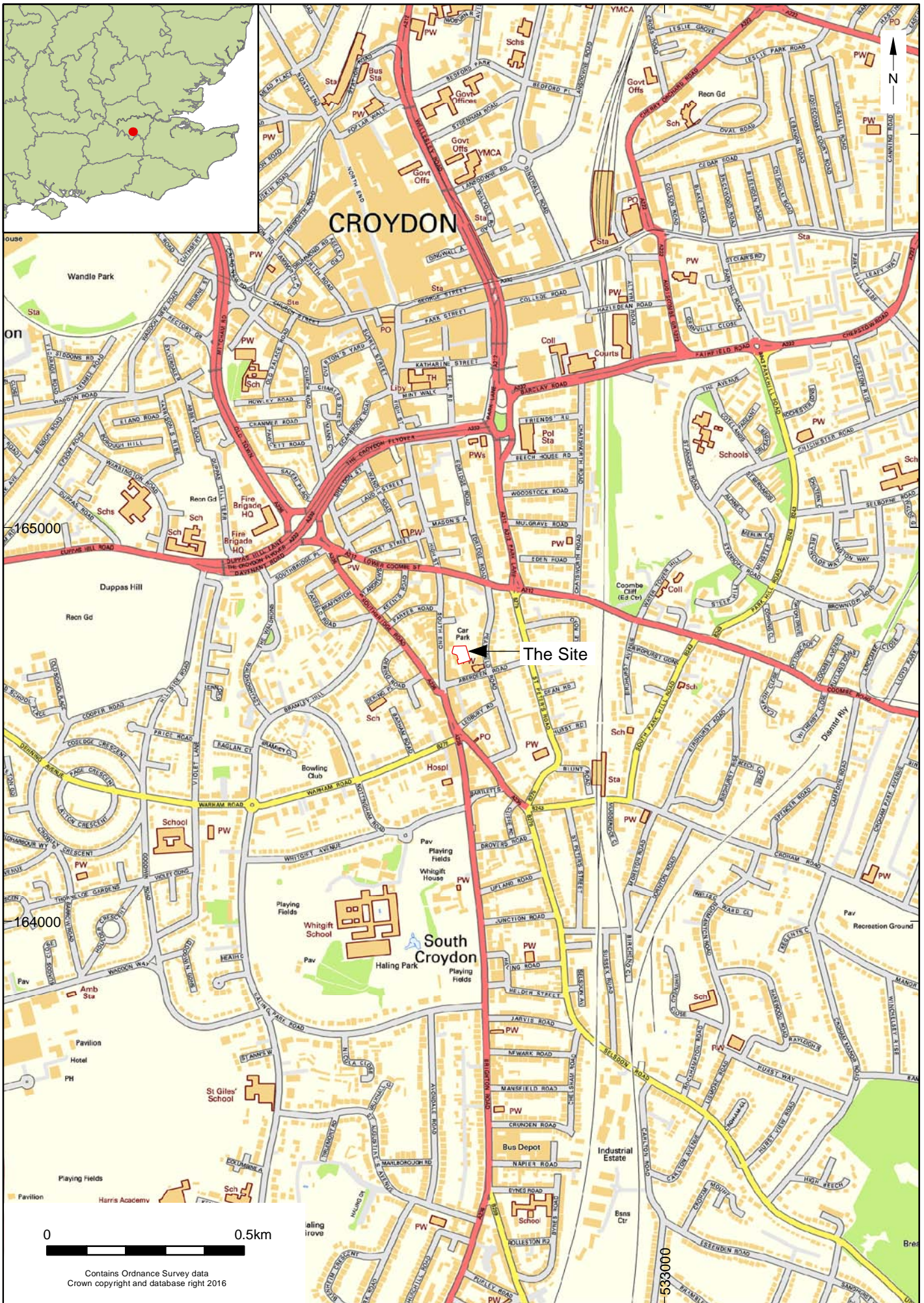
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Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report Land at Heathfield Academy Aberdeen Road, Croydon
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Description grey lit rep

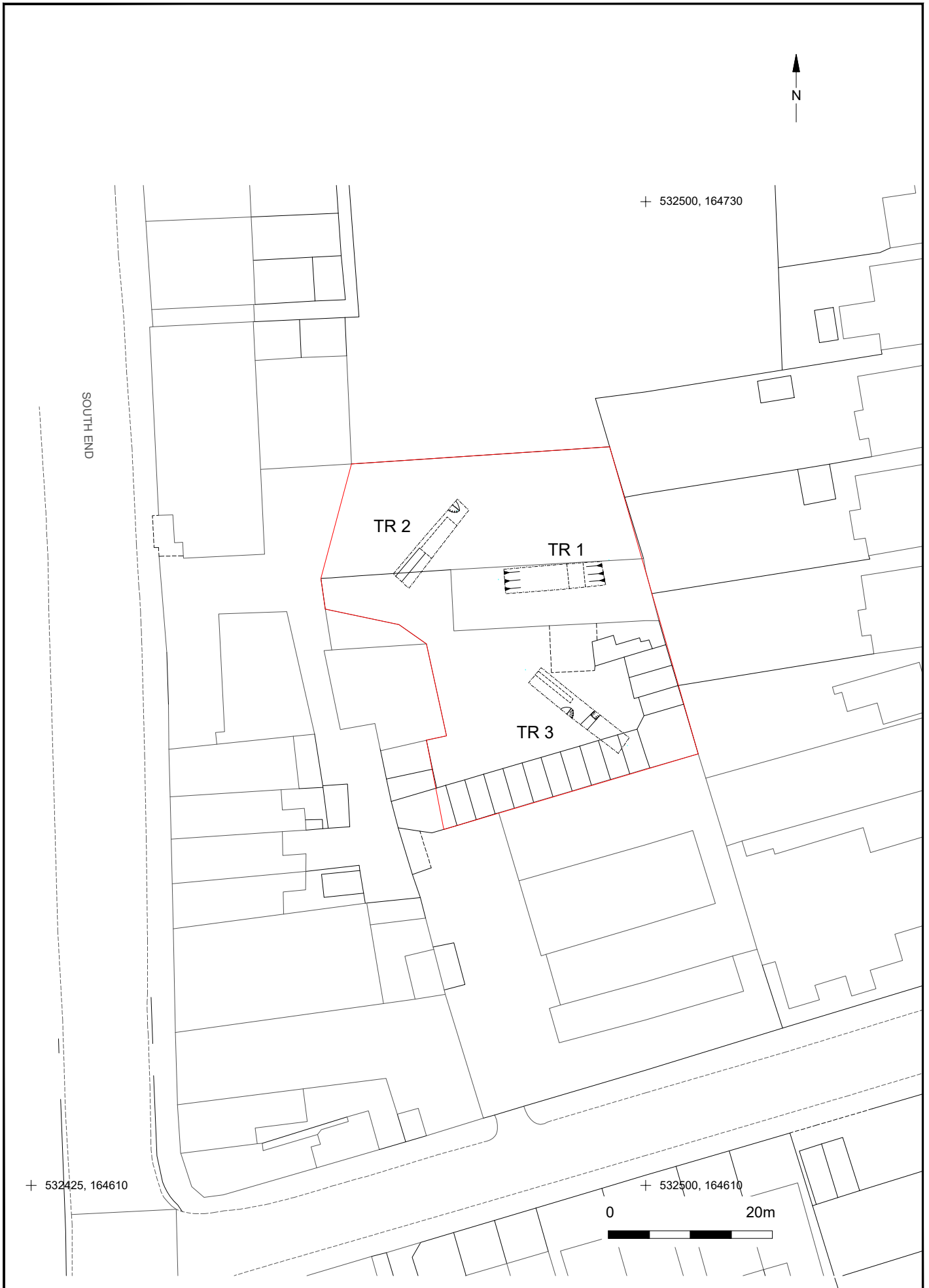
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Entered on 18 July 2016

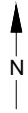


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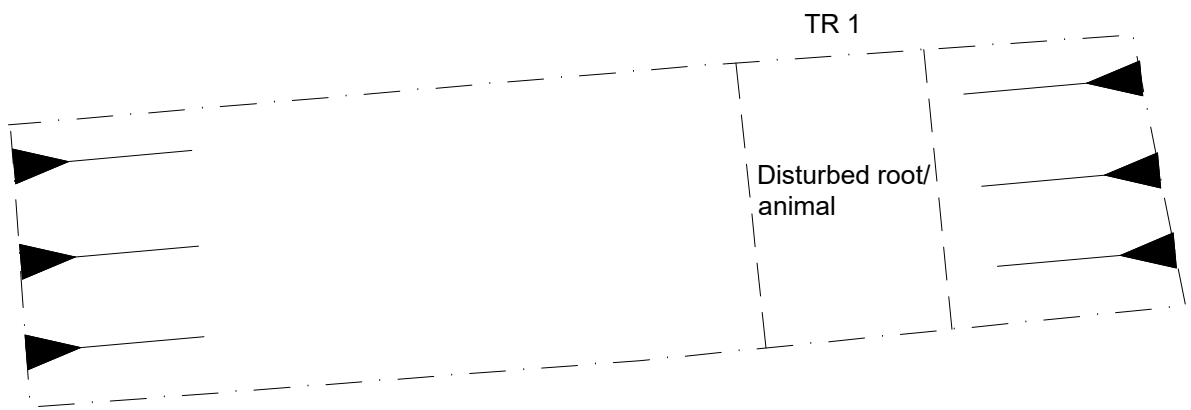
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Project Ref: 160255	July 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016264	Drawn by: AR			



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Project Ref: 160255	July 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2016264	Drawn by: Ar		



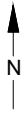
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Hethfield Academy, Aberdeen Road, Croydon	Fig.3
Project Ref: 160255	July 2015	Trench 1, plan	
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+ 532471, 164694



Section 1

2/007

Modern truncation
TR 2

Modern truncation

0 2m

+ 532473, 164683



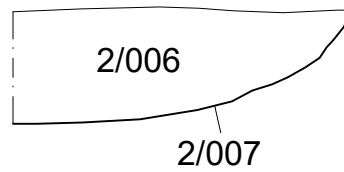
Pit 2/007, looking west

Section 1

NW

SE

48.16 mOD



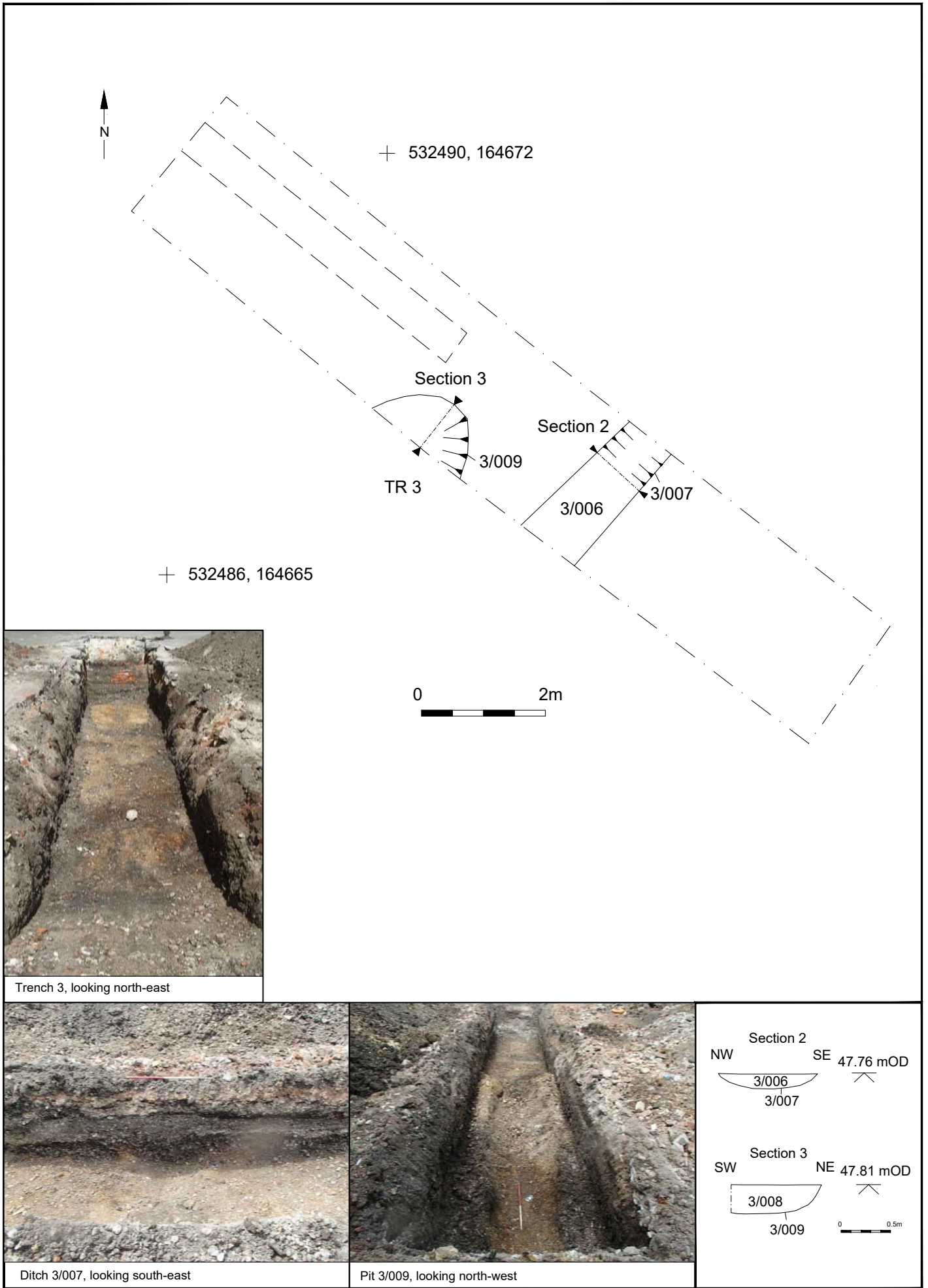
0 0.5m



trench 2, looking east



Trench 2, looking west



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Project Ref: 160255	July 2015	Trench 3, plan sections and photographs	
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