

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Bognor Regis Community College
Swimming Pool Extension, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex.**

NGR SU 9240 0009

By

Samantha Worrall BSc PGCE

Project No. 2245

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with a swimming pool extension at Bognor Regis Community College, Bognor Regis, West Sussex on the 24th April and the 12th of July 2006. No archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Conclusion**

SMR Summary Sheet

- Fig. 1:** Site Location Plan
- Fig. 2:** Site Plan (showing monitored groundworks)
- Fig. 3:** Monitored Groundwork
- Fig. 4:** Monitored Groundwork: Service Trenching

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by John Newson & Co on behalf of their client Bognor Regis Community College to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with a swimming pool extension at Bognor Regis Community College, South Way, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (NGR SU 9240 0009).
- 1.2** West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) advised the local planning authority that an archaeological condition be attached to the planning consent (Planning Ref: BR/430/05) requiring a programme of archaeological work. The recommended programme was in the form of a watching brief.
- 1.3** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements was prepared by the Jon Sygrave of Archaeology South-East, and was duly approved by John Mills (County Archaeologist) of West Sussex County Council.
- 1.4** The fieldwork was undertaken on 24th April and the 12th of July 2006. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is located towards the north of Bognor Regis in South Way, within the complex of the Community College and Sports Centre (Fig. 1).
- 2.2** ASE has undertaken several previous phases of archaeological works near the site. In 1998, in advance of construction works for the new Arena Sports Centre, an evaluation located a series of ditches, pits and postholes (ASE Project No. 844). This was followed by an additional evaluation the aim of which was to further investigate and clarify a number of linear features of ditches encountered during the initial evaluation (ASE Project No. 911).
- 2.3** Based on the results of these previous investigations an archaeological excavation was undertaken in July 1998 (ASE Project No.921). This investigation revealed elements of a Romano-British field system and a number of associated pits and postholes of 1st – 4th century AD date. It is believed that this field system may have been at the south-western edge of a Romano-British settlement. It is possible that the Romano-British settlement may exist beneath the modern College buildings. Ditches believed to form part of a post-medieval field system were also discovered.

- 2.4** In a more recent phase of work at the College (March to May 2005), evaluation trenches excavated beneath the proposed new Vocational Learning Centre and new (replacement) nursery building uncovered evidence of undated, truncated linear ditches (ASE Project No. 2062). It is thought that these ditches may be a continuation of the Romano-British and post medieval field systems recorded beneath the sports arena in the 1998 excavations.
- 2.5** The SMR information was listed in detail in the excavation reports by ASE (Project No. 921) and it is not intended to repeat this information here. However, some important Bronze Age and prehistoric discoveries have been made in close vicinity to the study area.
- 2.6** The most important finds listed on the SMR search (1km radius) included the discovery of two separate Bronze Age hoards. One found in Marshall Avenue (1922), now lost and the other by workmen in 1957 during the excavation of foundations at the Michael Ayres School (approximately 50m north of the study area). It has been suggested that hoards were buried close to settlement areas as it allowed convenient retrieval. Such discoveries suggest that the site is close to a prehistoric settlement. Other prehistoric finds in the area include a Neolithic hand axe (SU 9245 0015), a Mesolithic blade and flint (SU 9209 9940) and some Iron Age pottery (SU SZ 9357 9992). Such finds from the prehistoric period indicate that this land had likely been used fairly intensively and consistently over the past five thousand millennia and was probably an important agricultural area. Evaluation work carried out by ASE in 2005 at North Bersted (ASE Project No. 2092) revealed extensive prehistoric remains including field systems, a possible livestock enclosure and burnt flint mounds, as well as a Romano-British track way and large drainage/defensive linear features. However, no trace of a prehistoric settlement has yet been located in the immediate area around the College.
- 2.7** The later Post Medieval historic landscape is also interesting. An assessment of the cartographic evidence was undertaken in the 1998 excavation report, the results of which showed that the land had been used as arable fields throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Some fields were shown as brick fields, undoubtedly exploiting the natural Brickearth of the area.
- 2.8** According to the Geological Survey of Great Britain Solid and Drift Map (Sheet 317/332), the geology of the area comprises Brickearth overlying Reading Bed Clay.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Watching Brief was undertaken during the excavation of the footings trenches and associated services for the new swimming pool building extension (Figs. 2 & 3 & 4)

3.2 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the ground works.
- To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

3.3 The ground works were carried out using a 5 tonne tracked machine fitted with a 0.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. The footing trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.90m. The service trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m.

3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.

3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept (colour slides and black and white film) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable local museum.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The stratigraphy encountered within the trenches comprised:

- Approximately 0.3m thick. Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional building debris including brick, flints, plastic and glass. Topsoil (Context **001**).
- Approximately 0.3m thick. Mid to orange grey brown silty clay with no visible coarse components. Subsoil (Context **002**).
- Approximately 0.4m exposed. Compact mid orange brown, slightly silty clay, with occasional manganese smears. Brickearth (Context **003**).

4.2 No archaeological remains were observed in either the foundation trenches or the service trenching and no artefacts were recovered. The only disturbances noted were two modern service trenches (see Fig. 3).

4.3 The topsoil within the area of the footings trenches was also stripped, exposing the underlying subsoil. However, no archaeological remains were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Although no archaeological remains were revealed during this watching brief, the ground covered by these works represents only a small area within the Community College campus, which has otherwise generally been found to contain extensive archaeological remains.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BRC 06					
Identification Name and Address	Bognor Community College, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex County Council					
OS Grid Refs.	SU 9240 0009					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2245					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other ✓ College campus		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. ✓ 24 th April 2006 12 th July 2006	Other		
Sponsor/Client	John Newson & Co.					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Sam Worrall					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other ✓ Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with a swimming pool extension at Bognor Regis Community College, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. No archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-27901

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief At Bognor Regis Community College Swimming Pool Extension, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with a swimming pool extension at Bognor Regis Community College, Bognor Regis, West Sussex on the 24th April and the 12th of July 2006. No archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2007 End: 12-07-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2245 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN BOGNOR REGIS Bognor Regis Community College
Postcode	PO21 4
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 4922 1001 50.8869236666 -1.300185428970 50 53 12 N 001 18 00 W Point

Height OD Min: 8.35m Max: 8.35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	west sussex county council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	SAM WORRALL
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Archive ID	BRC 06
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	BRC 06
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media	'Text'

available

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID BRC 06

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Diary','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research','
General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sam Worrall

Date 2006

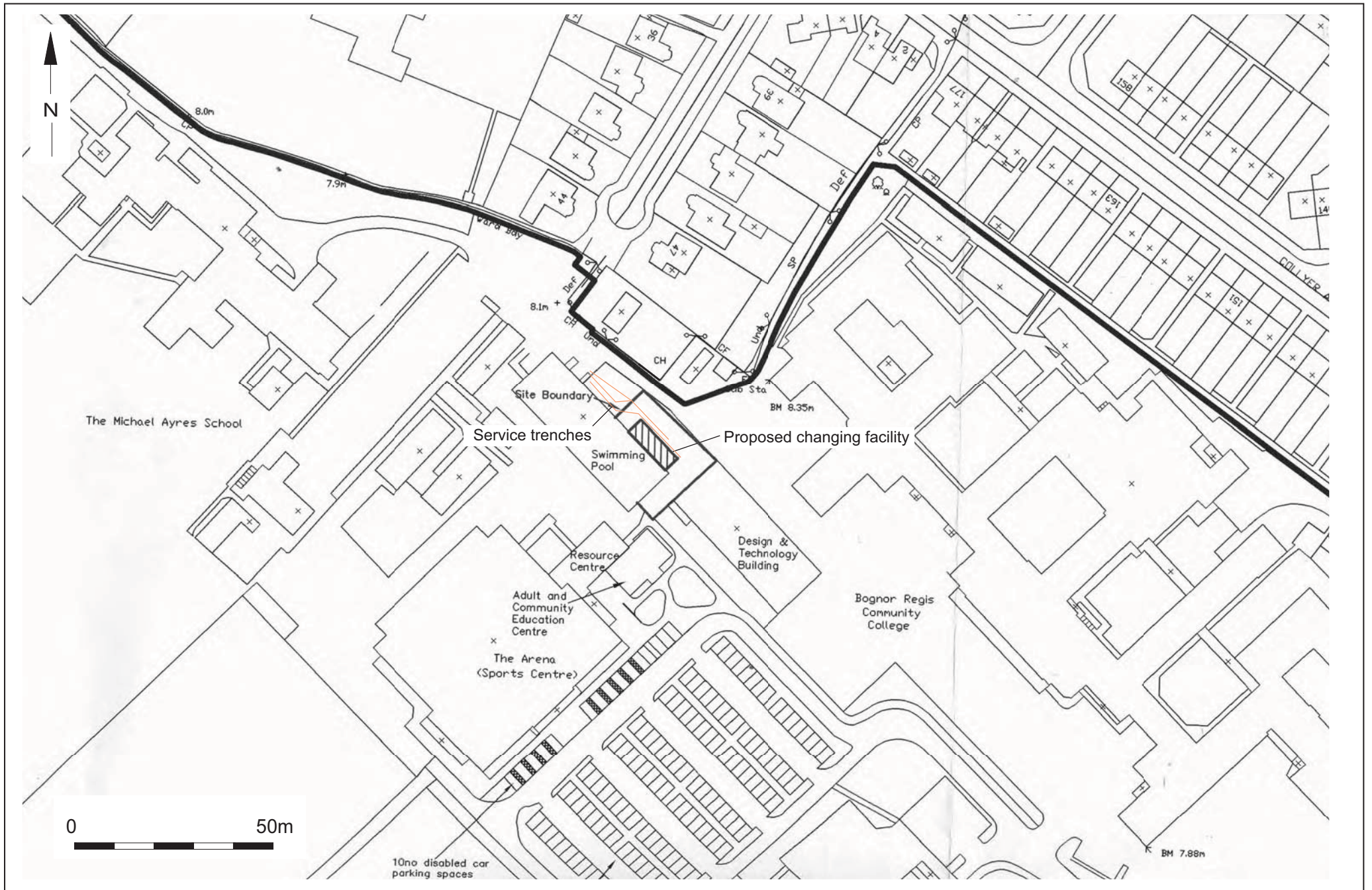
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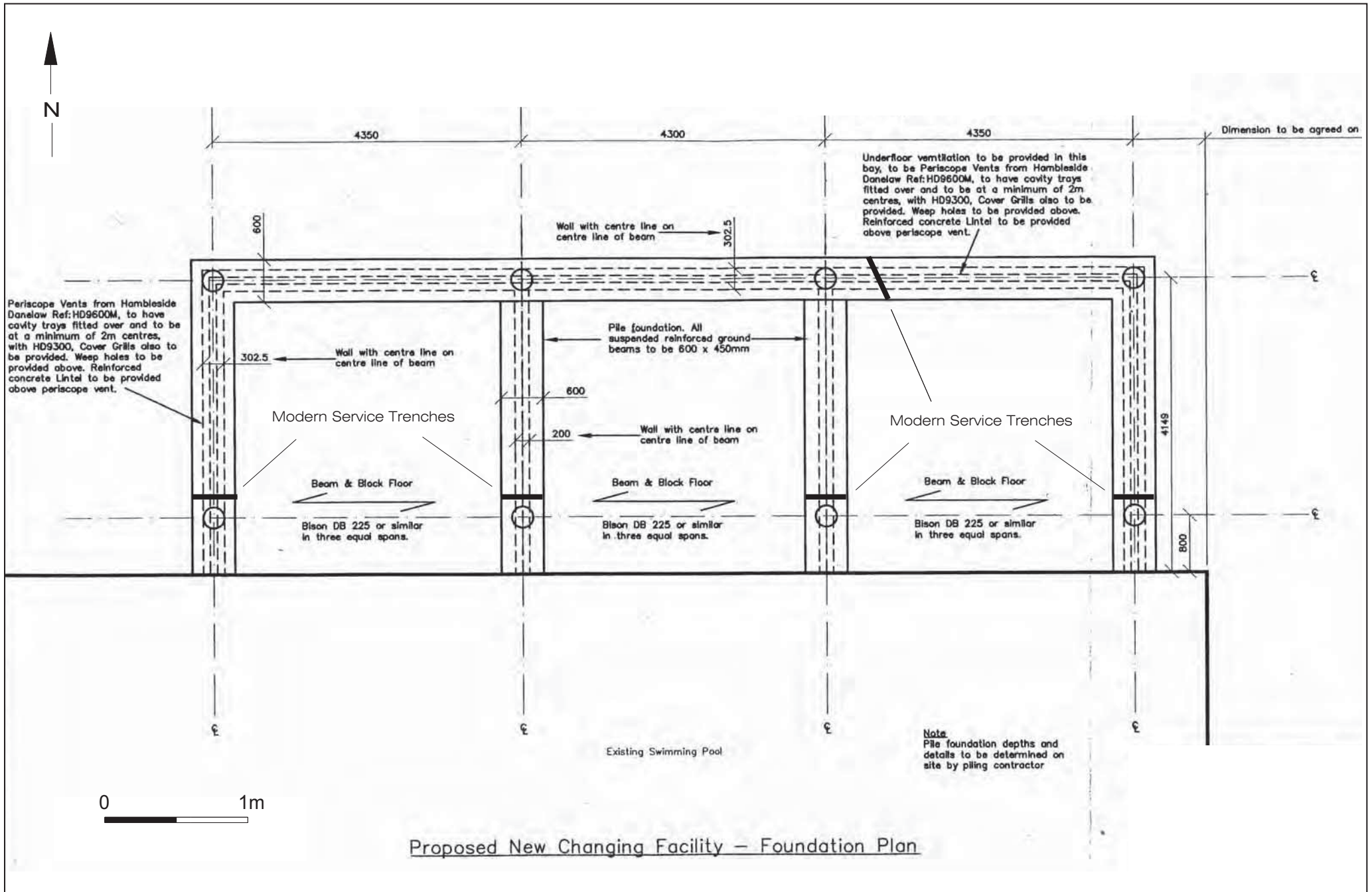
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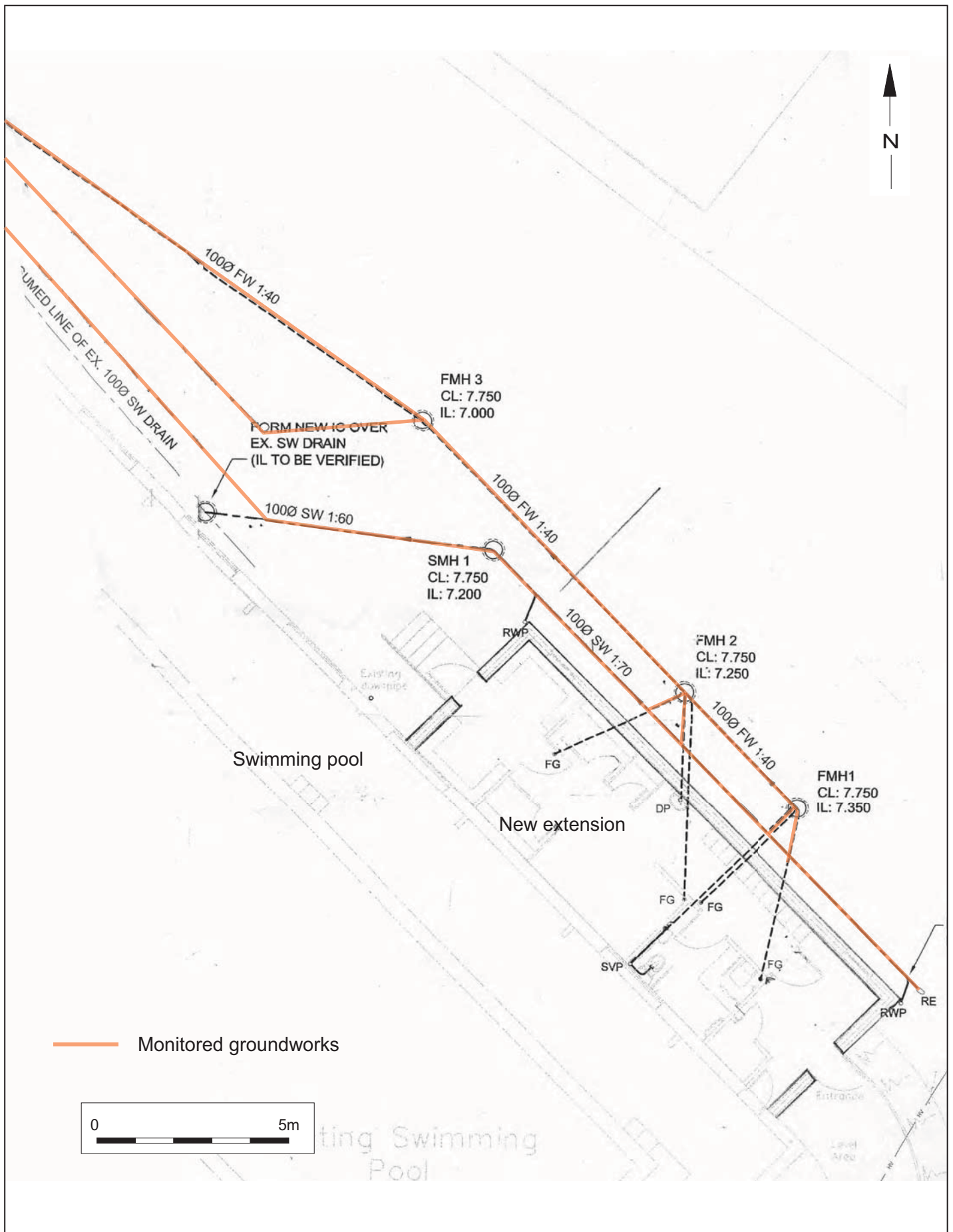
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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Bognor Regis Community College		Fig. 2
Ref: 2245	Aug 2006	Site Plan		



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Bognor Regis Community College	Fig. 3
Ref: 2245	Aug 2006	Monitored Groundworks	



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Bognor Regis Community College	Fig. 4
Ref: 2245	Aug 2006	Monitored Groundworks: Service Trench	

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